

1 AN ACT regarding education.

2 Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,  
3 represented in the General Assembly:

4 Section 5. The School Code is amended by changing  
5 Section 1C-2 as follows:

6 (105 ILCS 5/1C-2)

7 Sec. 1C-2. Block grants.

8 (a) For fiscal year 1999, and each fiscal year  
9 thereafter, the State Board of Education shall award to  
10 school districts block grants as described in subsections (b)  
11 and (c). For fiscal year 2003 and each fiscal year  
12 thereafter, the State Board of Education shall award to each  
13 school district a general education block grant and an  
14 educational services block grant, determined as provided in  
15 this Section, in lieu of distributing to the district  
16 separate State funding for the programs described in  
17 subsections (d) and (e), excluding any federal funds that the  
18 district is entitled to receive. The State Board of  
19 Education may adopt rules and regulations necessary to  
20 implement this Section. In accordance with Section 2-3.32,  
21 all state block grants are subject to an audit. Therefore,  
22 block grant receipts and block grant expenditures shall be  
23 recorded to the appropriate fund code.

24 (b) A Professional Development Block Grant shall be  
25 created by combining the existing School Improvement Block  
26 Grant and the REI Initiative. These funds shall be  
27 distributed to school districts based on the number of  
28 full-time certified instructional staff employed in the  
29 district.

30 (c) An Early Childhood Education Block Grant shall be  
31 created by combining the following programs: Preschool

1 Education, Parental Training and Prevention Initiative.  
2 These funds shall be distributed to school districts and  
3 other entities on a competitive basis. Eight percent of this  
4 grant shall be used to fund programs for children ages 0-3.

5 (d) The general education block grant shall include the  
6 following programs: REI Initiative, Summer Bridges, Preschool  
7 At Risk, K-6 Comprehensive Arts, School Improvement Support,  
8 Urban Education, Scientific Literacy, Substance Abuse  
9 Prevention, Second Language Planning, Staff Development,  
10 Outcomes and Assessment, K-6 Reading Improvement, Truants'  
11 Optional Education, Hispanic Programs, Agriculture Education,  
12 Gifted Education, Parental Education, Prevention Initiative,  
13 Report Cards, and Criminal Background Investigations.  
14 Notwithstanding any other provision of law, all amounts paid  
15 under the general education block grant from State  
16 appropriations to a school district shall be appropriated and  
17 expended by the board of that district for any of the  
18 programs included in the block grant or any of the board's  
19 lawful purposes.

20 (e) The educational services block grant shall include  
21 the following programs: Bilingual, Regular and Vocational  
22 Transportation, State Lunch and Free Breakfast Program,  
23 Special Education (Personnel, Extraordinary, Transportation,  
24 Orphanage, Private Tuition), Summer School, Educational  
25 Service Centers, and Administrator's Academy. This  
26 subsection (e) does not relieve the district of its  
27 obligation to provide the services required under a program  
28 that is included within the educational services block grant.  
29 It is the intention of the General Assembly in enacting the  
30 provisions of this subsection (e) to relieve districts of the  
31 administrative burdens that impede efficiency and accompany  
32 single-program funding. The General Assembly encourages  
33 school boards to pursue mandate waivers pursuant to Section  
34 2-3.25g.

1 (Source: P.A. 89-397, eff. 8-20-95; 90-548, eff. 1-1-98;  
2 90-653, eff. 7-29-98.)