



Illinois Policy Legislative Summary

A comprehensive outline of legislative action taken during the 2022 legislative session that has impact for the state's youngest children, their families and those who serve them

2022 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

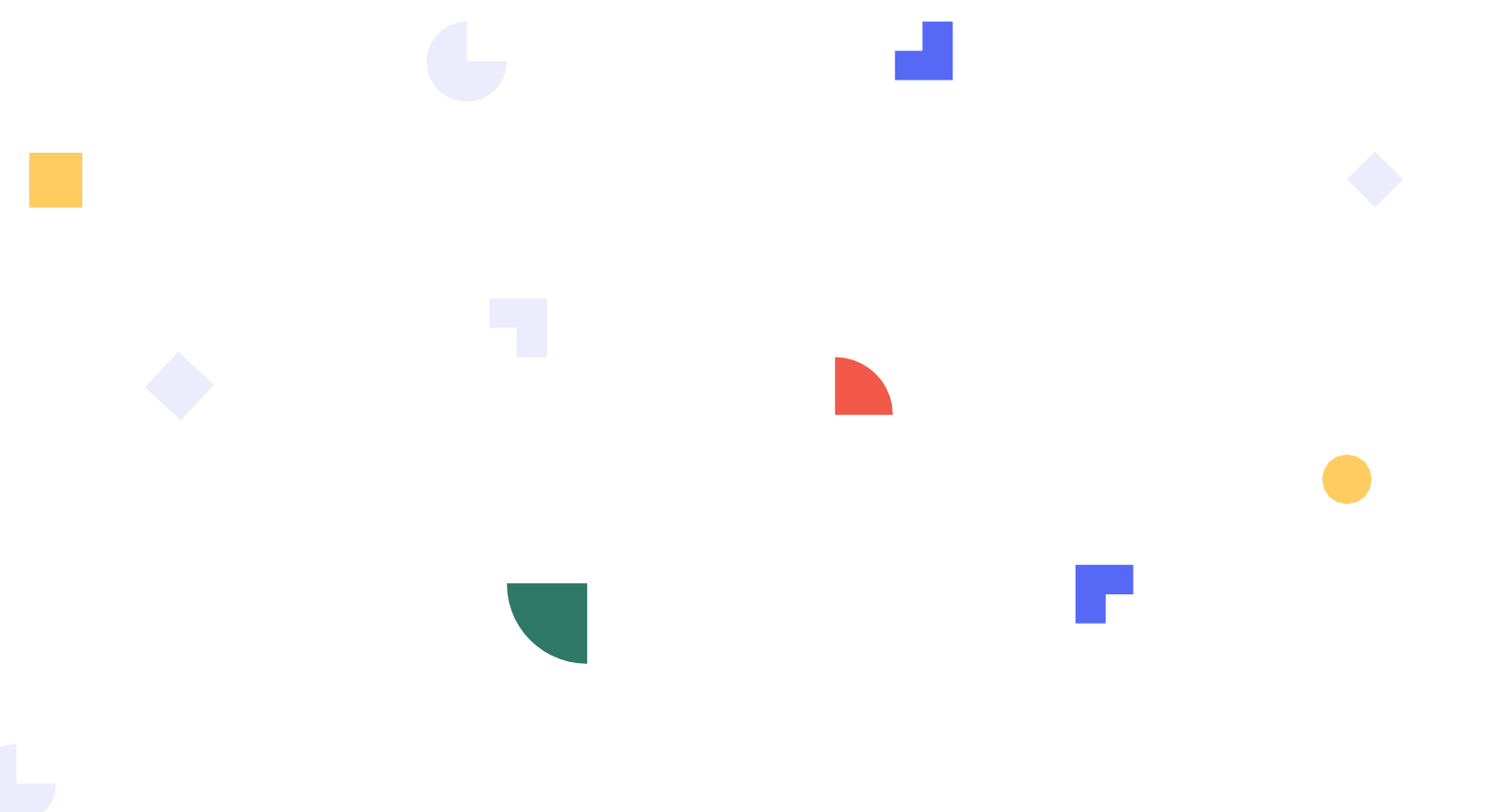


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Start Early's Illinois Policy Agenda

Our vision for Illinois is that its early childhood system is designed, implemented and sustained to equitably provide a continuum of high-quality services to Illinois' children before birth and through age 5. To best support all of our state's families, services must be culturally, linguistically and ability responsive.

Our [Illinois Policy Agenda for Fiscal Year 2021 – Fiscal Year 2023](#) is representative of our work at the federal, state and local levels (including the City of Chicago), and such, is focused on five key priorities – which guide the outline of this summary document.

1. Increase investments in and strengthen the design and implementation of Illinois' core early care and learning programs
2. Strengthen the infrastructure of Illinois' core early care and learning system
3. Recruit and retain a representative, well-compensated and qualified workforce
4. Improve the health, mental health and well-being of young children and their families
5. Improve economic security for families with young children

As outlined in our policy agenda, we will continue to work broadly across child- and family-serving systems to influence policy change and drive investments that help us reach our goals. We also commit to advance policy change through systems building; legislative, administrative and grassroots advocacy; and consultation and thought leadership.

Incorporated in our policy agenda are objectives that support the work of:

- [Start Early's Policy Agenda](#), which articulates our views on critical early childhood issues and the policy levers we aim to pull at the *community, state and federal levels* across three areas: next generation program quality; building connected, comprehensive and equitable systems; and elevating family voice and the role of families
- [Raising Illinois](#), a collective effort to support infants and toddlers through high-quality health care, quality learning experiences and economic security
- Illinois Commission on Equitable Funding for Early Childhood Education and Care, which released a [comprehensive report](#) early last year outlining recommendations for improving and transforming the states early education system

Legislative action aligned with the three above initiatives is notated – example below – throughout this document. This summary represents Start Early-led legislation (which is notated with *) and other legislative changes led by legislators, advocacy partners, state agencies and others.

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All legislative action included in this summary will impact either investments for programs serving young children and families, strong infrastructures for early care and learning systems in which children participate, a qualified and well-compensated early care and learning workforce that serves young children and families, or the improvement of well-being for families and family economic security. Families, early childhood professionals and organizations supporting children and families are welcome to use this information to support and inform their day-to-day professional functions and livelihoods.

Executive Summary

The Illinois General Assembly approved the state's Fiscal Year 2023 spending plan in early April and Governor J.B. Pritzker signed the package into law a few days later.

The final budget ([Public Act 102-698](#)) includes a welcome increase of \$54.4 million (10% increase) in state funding for preschool, evidence-based home visiting services and center-based infant-toddler programs funded by the Early Childhood Block Grant at the Illinois State Board of Education.

It also includes \$7 million (6.4% increase) in additional funding for the Early Intervention program, fully restoring the previous year's funding cut. The legislature also appropriated \$1 million (6% increase) in new funding for Illinois' Department of Human Services' evidence-based home visiting programs, the first funding increase in nearly 20 years.

"This budget makes investments in several early childhood programs, including home visiting, and restores state funding of Early Intervention – which are key supports for our state's youngest learners and their families," Ireta Gasner, Start Early vice president of Illinois policy, said. "Approving a state spending plan requires difficult and critical decisions, and this year, the Pritzker Administration and the General Assembly made decisions that prioritize services for families with young children."

State funding in the fiscal year 2023 budget ([Public Act 102-698](#)) includes:

- **A \$54.4 million (10%) increase in state funding for the Early Childhood Block Grant at the Illinois State Board of Education.**
- **A \$7.0 million (6.4%) increase in state funding for the Early Intervention program at the Illinois Department of Human Services.**
- **A \$536,000 (5.3%) increase for Healthy Families at the Illinois Department of Human Services.**
- **A \$480,000 (7%) increase in state funding for Maternal Child Home Visiting (formerly Parents Too Soon) at the Illinois Department of Human Services.**
- **Level-funding (0.0%) for the Child Care Assistance Program at the Illinois Department of Human Services, though the administration has committed to increasing provider reimbursement rates twice over the next fiscal year**
- **A new \$2.0 million appropriation to the Illinois Department of Human Services for deposit into the Off-Hours Child Care Program Fund (see below for further details)**
- **A \$2.5 million appropriation to the Office of State Treasurer for the Children's Savings Account Program.**

In addition, Start Early and its partners have strongly advocated all year for the need to increase compensation for the early childhood professionals working for community-based organizations. We will continue to strongly encourage the Illinois State Board of Education and the Illinois Department of Human Services to allocate a sizeable portion of these funding increases to boost compensation for teachers and staff working in child care centers, home visitors and Early Intervention professionals.

The following is a comprehensive outline of legislative action taken during the 2022 legislative session that will have an impact on the state's youngest children, their families and those who serve them.

Increase Investments in and Strengthen the Design and Implementation of Illinois' Core Early Care and Learning Programs

HB1571 STATE GOVERNMENT-TECH *

Creates the Off-Hours Child Care Act, an initiative to help first responders and other workers identify and access care during non-standard hours, with the Illinois Department of Human Services' implementation by July 1, 2023, subject to appropriation.

Chief Sponsors

Representative Natalie A. Manley (D)

Senator Suzy Glowiak Hilton (D)

Current Status: Public Act 102-0912

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Strengthen the Infrastructure of Illinois' Early Care & Learning System

HB4242 CHILD CARE-FOSTER YOUTH W/KIDS *

The legislation extends automatic eligibility to the state's child care program for youth in care who are parents themselves, regardless of income, employment or education status. It also makes families enrolled in the Department of Children and Family Services Extended Family Support program automatically eligible for the Child Care Assistance Program. In addition, the new law extends automatic eligibility to the Early Intervention program for infants and toddlers involved in the child welfare system. Finally, the legislation requires the Department of Children and Family Services to reimburse child care providers at the same rates paid to providers by the Illinois Department of Human Services for the Child Care Assistance Program and requires the Department of Children and Family Services to report information on its child care program.

Chief Sponsors

Representative Lakesia Collins (D)

Senator Julie A. Morrison (D)

Current Status: Public Act 102-0926

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HB4999 EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICES *

Codifies into law the state's current 30-day timeline, for when Early Intervention services must be initiated once an Individualized Family Service Plan is approved. Requires the Illinois Department of Human Services to provide parents information about the timely implementation of services that must be initiated for their child once an Individualized Family Service Plan is developed.

Chief Sponsors

Representative Robyn Gabel (D)

Senator Celina Villanueva (D)

Current Status: Public Act 102-0962

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HB5214 SCH CD-INTERPRETER MEETINGS

Provides that any parent who is deaf or does not normally communicate using spoken English is entitled to interpretation services for the following purposes: to develop an individualized educational program, to participate in a multidisciplinary conference, to participate in a 504 mediation session or to participate in a due process hearing.

Chief Sponsors

Representative Elizabeth Hernandez (D)

Senator Karina Villa (D)

Current Status: Public Act 102-1072

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HB5525 COM CHILDREN OF INCARCERATED

Creates the Commission on Children of Incarcerated Parents. Members are appointed by the lieutenant governor. The Commission will be responsible for implementing and coordinating the recommendations of the Task Force on Children of Incarcerated Parents.

Chief Sponsors

Representative Delia C. Ramirez (D)
Senator Mike Simmons (D)

Current Status: Public Act 102-0814

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SB3720 DCFS-BIAS-FREE CHILD REMOVAL

Creates the Bias-Free Child Removal Pilot Program Act. Establishes a diverse steering committee responsible for the successful implementation of a Department of Children and Family Services 3-year pilot in Cook, Champaign and St. Clair counties. Creates a Bias-Free Case Review Team that will review investigations by removing name, race, socioeconomic status, education level of parents, address, and in certain cases, religion, ethnicity and sexual orientation and will focus on evidence, safety factors, risk elements and family strengths. Requires the Department of Children and Family Services to submit an annual evaluation of the pilot programs' effectiveness to the Illinois General Assembly.

Chief Sponsors

Senator Karina Villa (D)
Representative Carol Ammons (D)

Current Status: Public Act 102-1087

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SB3833 ANCRA-MANDATED REPORTERS

Requires physical therapists, physical therapy assistants, occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants to be mandated reporters of suspected child abuse and neglect.

Chief Sponsors

Senator Rachelle Crowe (D)
Representative Katie Stuart (D)

Current Status: Public Act 102-0861

SE Policy Agenda

SB3986 SCH CD-RESTRICT ASSESSMENTS

Known as “Too Young to Test,” the new law prohibits the Illinois State Board of Education from developing, purchasing, or requiring a school district to administer, develop or purchase a standardized assessment for students enrolled or preparing to enroll in prekindergarten through grade 2, other than for diagnostic and screening purposes and the Kindergarten Individual Development Survey.

Chief Sponsors

Senator Cristina H. Pacione-Zayas (D)

Representative Lindsey LaPointe (D)

Current Status: Public Act 102-0875

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Recruit and Retain a Representative, Well-Compensated and Qualified Early Care and Learning Workforce, With a Particular Focus on Those Who Work With Infants and Toddlers

HB1167 EDUCATION-TECH

Ensures that all vaccinated hourly school employees (e.g., classroom teachers, bus drivers or food service providers) and administrative personnel receive COVID-19 related paid leave. The legislation also restores sick leave for employees that are fully vaccinated or have received the required doses to become fully vaccinated and maintains wage protections for all hourly school employees.

Chief Sponsors

Representative Janet Yang Rohr (D)
Senator Don Harmon (D)

Current Status: Public Act 102-0697

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SB3032 STUDENT DEBT ASSISTANCE ACT

Creates the Student Debt Assistance Act, which prohibits institutions of higher education from withholding academic transcripts from current or former students because of any unsettled debt with the institution. It also prohibits institutions from withholding academic transcripts from current or potential employers. This will begin during the 2022-2023 school year, and institutions of higher education are to enact a policy instituting a financial or physical hardship withdrawal process to be publicized on its website and provided during student orientations. Institutions are prohibited from reporting a student's debt to credit reporting agencies, except as provided by federal law.

Chief Sponsors

Senator Laura Fine (D)
Representative Bob Morgan (D)

Current Status: Public Act 102-0998

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SB3914 SCH CD-MENTAL HEALTH DAYS

Adds mental or behavioral health complications as a reason for full-time teachers and other school employees to use earned sick leave.

Chief Sponsors

Senator Meg Loughran Cappel (D)
Representative Barbara Hernandez (D)

Current Status: Public Act 102-0866

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SB3925 HUMAN SERVICE PRO LOAN PROGRAM

Creates the Human Services Professional Loan Repayment Program Act. The program will be administered by the Illinois Student Assistance Commission and will provide student loan repayment assistance to qualified human services professionals working in a community-based agency that contracts with or is grant-funded by a state agency. The program is subject to appropriation and is yet to receive funding

Chief Sponsors

Senator Laura Fine (D)
Representative Lamont J. Robinson, Jr. (D)

Current Status: Public Act 102-1089

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SB954 WEEK OF THE YOUNG CHILD

Declares April 2-8, 2022, as Week of the Young Child and April 30th, 2022, as El Día Del Niño (Children's Day). It recognizes early childhood educators and the importance of investing in them. Urges communities to support high-quality early childhood education for all.

Chief Sponsors

Senator: Cristina H. Pacione-Zayas (D)
Current Status: RESOLUTION ADOPTED

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Improve the Health, Mental Health & Well-Being of Young Children and Their Families in Illinois

HB4306 DCFS-YOUTH IN CARE-MENTAL HLTH

Creates the Holistic Mental Health Care for Youth in Care Task Force. The Task Force will review and make recommendations regarding mental health and wellness services provided to youth in care, including a program of holistic mental health services provided 30 days after the youth is placed in foster care. It will also review capacity levels for mental healthcare providers serving children in care and review payment rates and recruitment to ensure retention of providers, particularly providers of color who serve the diverse population of children in care.

Chief Sponsors

Representative Stephanie A. Kifowit (D)
Senator Julie A. Morrison (D)

Current Status: Public Act 102-0898

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HB4338 INS-PRENATAL VITAMINS COVERAGE

Provides insurance coverage for prenatal vitamins prescribed by a licensed physician if a group or individual policy of accident and health insurance providers coverage for prescription drugs. The new law becomes effective on January 1, 2023.

Chief Sponsors

Representative Barbara Hernandez (D)
Senator Celina Villanueva (D)

Current Status: Public Act 102-0930

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HB4343 DHFS-ESTATE RECOVERY WAIVERS

Known as the Medicaid Omnibus, the legislation makes several changes to the state's Medicaid program to encourage enrollment and make the program more cost-effective. Among the various changes, children and families will benefit from the addition of licensed certified professional midwife services to the program and an increase in the Medicaid reimbursement rates for prenatal and postpartum visits to align with the adult wellness visit rates. It requires the Department of Healthcare and Family Services to evaluate and increase the rate of reimbursement for external cephalic versions, a procedure healthcare providers use for babies who are breech, with the intent to decrease cesarean section procedures. Other changes will support behavioral health services, substance use prevention, the Certified Nursing Assistant Program, ambulance service changes and expand Medicaid coverage for people ages 42 and up who are undocumented.

Chief Sponsors

Representative Greg Harris (D)

Senator Ann Gillespie (D)

Current Status: Public Act 102-1037

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HB4369 LEAD POISONING PREVENTION

Requires the Illinois Department of Public Health to conduct a follow-up on lead mitigation notices by carrying out inspections to ensure the work has been completed and ensure the lead hazard has been sufficiently mitigated.

Chief Sponsors

Representative Lakesia Collins (D)

Senator Mike Simmons (D)

Current Status: Public Act 102-0771

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HB4408 INSURANCE-NALOXONE-NO CO-PAY

Eliminates private insurance copayments for naloxone hydrochloride, an opioid overdose treatment medicine. The legislation also prohibits the Department of Healthcare and Family Services from imposing a copayment on the coverage provided for naloxone hydrochloride under the state's Medicaid program.

Chief Sponsors

Representative Deb Conroy (D)

Senator Laura Ellman (D)

Current Status: Public Act 102-1038

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HB5013 DHFS-PRENATAL/PERINATAL CARE

Requires the Department of Healthcare and Family Services to make changes to its managed care contracts, requiring a Managed Care Organization to pay for preventative prenatal services, perinatal healthcare services, and postpartum services rendered by a non-affiliated provider. This will not apply if the services were not an emergency or the provider has rejected a contract offered in good faith within the last twelve months or had a contract terminated for cause.

Chief Sponsors

Representative Mary E. Flowers (D)
Senator Patricia Van Pelt (D)

Current Status: Public Act 102-0964

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SB2535 CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE-PRESCRIBE

Requires pharmacists and prescribers to inform patients about the risks of addiction that come with taking opioids and to inform the patient that they have the option to receive an opioid antagonist.

Chief Sponsors

Senator Melinda Bush (D)
Representative Deb Conroy (D)
Current Status: Public Act 102-1040

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SB3853 EXTENDED FAMILY SUPPORT SERVCS

Creates a three-year pilot program that provides extra resources to families in the Department of Children and Family Services' Extended Family Support Program, including home visiting services, parent mentors and wraparound case management. The pilot program and implemented supports will be independently evaluated to inform future work.

Chief Sponsors

Senator Julie A. Morrison (D)
Representative Terra Costa Howard (D)

Current Status: Public Act 102-1029

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SB3889 CHILDREN MENTAL HEALTH COUNCIL

Creates changes for the Children’s Mental Health Partnership and the Children’s Mental Health Plan. The law updates and charges the Partnership to advise state agencies on the design and implementation of the long-term and short-term strategies needed to provide comprehensive and coordinated services for children from birth to age 25 and their families with the goal of addressing children’s mental health needs across a full continuum of care, including social determinants of health, prevention, early identification and treatment. The recommendations will then build the Children’s Mental Health Plan of 2022.

Chief Sponsors

Senator Meg Loughran Cappel (D)

Representative Natalie A. Manley (D)

Current Status: Public Act 102-0899

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Improve Economic Security for Families with Young Children

HB4201 HIGHER ED-BENEFITS NAVIGATOR

Requires each public university and community college in Illinois to designate a benefits navigator who will assist students in identifying and applying for benefit programs and campus-wide and community resource support. Each institution will also provide training to the benefits navigator and have them participate in a statewide consortium.

Chief Sponsors

Representative Maurice A. West, II (D)

Senator Cristina H. Pacione-Zayas (D)

Current Status: Public Act 102-1045

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SB157 INC TAX-RIVER EDGE CREDIT

A revenue bill that, among other things, expands the Earned Income Credit benefit for all filers; extends eligibility to the Earned Income Credit for those aged 18-25, those above 65, and Individual Taxpayer Identification Number filers; and provides a one-time child tax credit.

Chief Sponsors

Senator Michael E. Hastings (D)

Representative Michael J. Zalewski (D)

Current Status: Public Act 102-0700

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SB3120 SUPPORT THROUGH LOSS ACT

Requires employers to provide ten work days of unpaid leave for employees who are absent from work due to a miscarriage, an unsuccessful round of intrauterine insemination or other assisted reproductive procedure, a failed or non-finalized adoption match, a failed surrogacy agreement, a diagnosis affecting fertility or a stillbirth. Employees can also utilize this time off to support a spouse or partner experiencing one of these losses. Employers cannot require employees to identify the category to which the leave pertains. It also grants employees a maximum of two work days to attend a funeral or alternative to a funeral, make arrangements necessitated by the death or grieve the death of a covered family member. The bill expands the definition of covered family members to include children, stepchildren, spouses, domestic partners, siblings, parents, parents-in-law, grandchildren, grandparents or stepparents.

Chief Sponsors

Senator Melinda Bush (D)

Representative Anna Moeller (D)

Current Status: Public Act 102-1050

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SB3149 HIGHER ED-CHILD CARE RESOURCES*

Requires the Illinois Student Assistance Commission and higher education institutions to provide information about the Child Care Assistance Program and the federal dependent care allowance to students eligible for Monetary Award Program Grants. The information provided to students will include, at a minimum, information about program eligibility and how to apply.

Chief Sponsors

Senator Celina Villanueva (D)
Representative Will Guzzardi (D)

Current Status: Public Act 102-0829

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SB3991 HIGHER ED SAVINGS PROGRAM*

Requires the Treasurer's Office to report racial, socioeconomic, and ethnic data of participants in the state's Illinois Higher Education Savings Program. The law also gives the Treasurer's Office the option to increase the automatic bonus deposit amounts, originally \$50, in the accounts of children from financially insecure households, if funds are available.

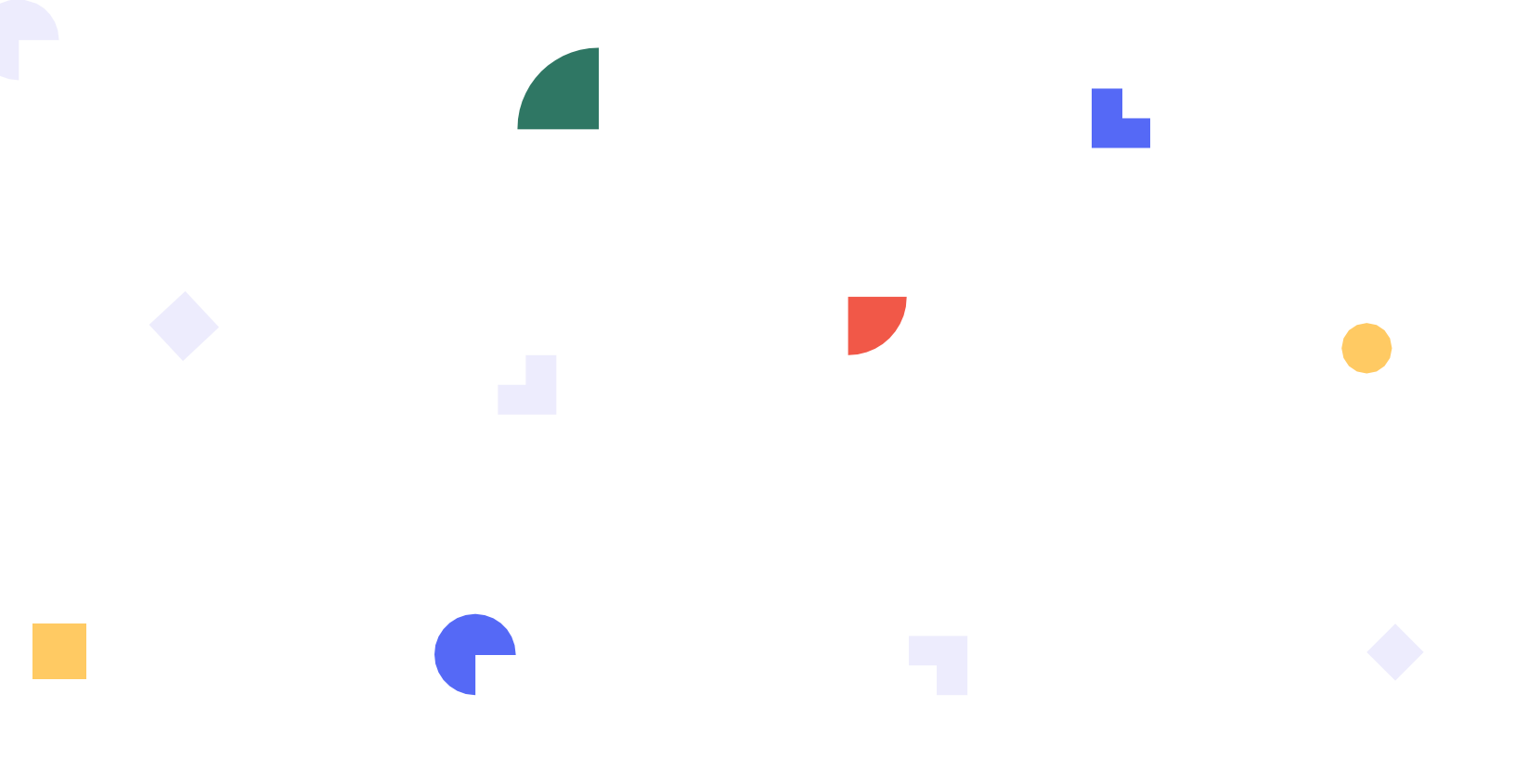
Chief Sponsors

Senator Cristina H. Pacione-Zayas (D)
Representative Lakesia Collins (D)

Current Status: Public Act 102-1047

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