



Illinois Policy Legislative Summary

A comprehensive outline of legislative action taken during the 2026 legislative session that has impact for the state's youngest children, their families and those who serve them

2026 LEGISLATIVE SESSION



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Start Early's Illinois Policy Agenda

The comprehensive work of Start Early and its Illinois Policy Team is grounded in the fact that the first five years of a child's life are the most critical for healthy development and long-term well-being. To provide a continuum of high-quality early childhood services to children before birth and through age 5, Illinois must have an early care and education system that is designed well and resourced sufficiently. To best support all of our state's families, services must be culturally, linguistically and ability responsive.

Our policy agenda for Fiscal Year 2024 – Fiscal Year 2027 is representative of our work at the federal, state and local levels (including the City of Chicago) and is comprised of the following priorities:

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

As outlined in our [Illinois 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 agenda are objectives that support the work of [Raising Illinois](#), a collective effort to support infants and toddlers through high-quality health care, quality learning experiences and economic security

Legislative action aligned with the three above initiatives is notated 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.

Executive Summary

The Illinois General Assembly approved a Fiscal Year 2027 state budget that includes meaningful funding increases for the Early Intervention program and Child Care Assistance Program. In a year when additional funding for discretionary programs was difficult to secure, Start Early appreciates the commitment to these core early childhood programs demonstrated by the Pritzker administration and the state legislature. Unfortunately, the approved budget does not increase spending for other critical early learning programs – a change from the administration’s multi-year Smart Start Illinois initiative.

“Start Early thanks Governor JB Pritzker and the General Assembly for their continued support for Early Intervention and child care, vital early care and education programs on which thousands of Illinois families with young children rely,” Start Early’s President-elect Celena Sarillo said. **“However, the final budget does not include many of the other early childhood funding priorities backed by families and providers. Over the coming year, we will continue working with policymakers, advocates, and families to improve programs and services, like home visiting and preschool, that are foundational to children’s success in school and in life.”**

This year’s budget formally transfers funding for most of the state’s early childhood programs to the Illinois Department of Early Childhood, marking an important step for the agency after its creation in 2024. Start Early remains committed to working with the state and the Illinois Department of Early Childhood to make Illinois the best state in the nation to raise a family.

The budget package House Bill 111 contains \$55 million in new state funding for the Child Care Assistance Program and \$15 million for the Early Intervention program, funding levels proposed by Governor Pritzker this February. The Child Care Assistance Program dollars will allow the Illinois Department of Early Childhood to manage its caseload and raise reimbursement rates for home providers. Additional funding for the Early Intervention program will enable the Illinois Department of Early Childhood to accommodate anticipated caseload growth and reduce service delays for families through improvements to the program’s infrastructure.

Start Early urges the Illinois Department of Early Childhood to dedicate a share of its Early Intervention appropriation to a provider reimbursement rate increase. While we welcome improvements in the program’s operational infrastructure — especially changes that reduce service delays — the workforce crisis demands a more targeted solution: closing the wage gap identified in the state’s cost model. That gap directly undermines families’ access to services they are legally entitled to receive. **“At a time when federal funding cuts and economic uncertainty have placed real pressure on state budgets, Start Early is thankful that Illinois leaders remained focused on approving a balanced budget that will support families and those who care for them,”** Start Early Vice President of Illinois Policy Ireta Gasner said. **“Crafting a state**

budget under these conditions is a challenge. This budget is a step forward, but much is left to be done.”

The state's annual budget package, [House Bill 111 / Public Act 104-0464](#), sets total spending at \$55.945 billion for fiscal year 2027 to fund the state's operations and expenditures, including but not limited to:

- \$55 million in new state funding (7.1% increase) for the Child Care Assistance Program of which will allow the Illinois Department of Early Childhood to manage its caseload and raise reimbursement rates for home providers
- \$15 million in new state funding (9.3% increase) for the Early Intervention program. Additional funding for the Early Intervention program will enable the Illinois Department of Early Childhood to accommodate anticipated caseload growth and reduce service delays for families through improvements to the program's infrastructure.
- Nearly \$86 million to the Illinois Department of Early Childhood for its annual operations
- Level funding for the Illinois Department of Early Childhood Early Childhood Block Grant, evidence-based Home Visiting programs, and Smart Start Workforce Grants
- Level funding for the Early Childhood Access Consortium for Equity scholarship program at the Illinois Student Assistance Commission

Overview of Newly Enacted State Laws

In addition to approving the budget package during the Spring 2026 legislative session, Governor JB Pritzker enacted several other measures into law. The summary below provides a comprehensive overview of the legislative actions from the 2026 spring and veto sessions that will affect the state's youngest children, their families, and the professionals who support them.

CHILD WELFARE & SAFETY

[House Bill 2190 \(Public Act 104-0583\)](#)

Short Title: REGULATION-TECH

Requires licensed child care programs to have at least two non-administrative staff members on site during business hours who are certified in first aid, the Heimlich maneuver and cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR).

House Sponsor: Representative Joyce Mason (D)
Senate Sponsor: Senator Darby Hills (R)

Aligned with Start Early Policy Agenda

[House Bill 4890 \(Public Act 104-0462\)](#)

Short Title: UNACCOMPANIED CHILDREN

Creates the Dependency Determinations for Unaccompanied Children Act, also known as Ashley's Law, which creates a pathway for children who have been abused, neglected or abandoned by one or both parents and are living in federal Office Refugee Resettlement shelters in Illinois to file petitions for dependency determinations in Illinois state courts. These determinations will allow eligible unaccompanied children to begin the process of seeking permanent legal status in the United States.

House Sponsor: Representative Lilian Jiménez (D)
Senate Sponsor: Senator Cristina Castro (D)

[House Bill 4966 \(Public Act 104-0559\)](#)

Short Title: DCFS-SECURE ACT

The SECURE Act codifies into law enforceable standards of conduct for staff and caregivers working with youth in care, provides explicit nondiscrimination protections for youth and mandates specific protective measures for youth placed out of state.

House Sponsor: Representative Kelly Cassidy (D)
Senate Sponsor: Senator Celina Villanueva (D)

House Bill 5511 (Public Act 104-0664)

Short Title: DIGITAL AGE ASSURANCE

Governor Pritzker's initiative to create the Children's Social Media Safety Act, requiring device, social media and app store manufacturers designing addictive algorithms to implement age verification and protections for minors online. The measure limits minors' visibility and accessibility to adult strangers, restricts nighttime notifications, allows parents to override default settings and authorizes enforcement by the Attorney General.

House Sponsor: Representative Jennifer Gong-Gershowitz (D)

Senate Sponsor: Senator Willie Preston (D)

House Resolution 923

Short Title: IDEC-STUDY-DAY CARE LICENSURE

Given the burdensome licensure, regulatory and policy challenges that day care homes must navigate - challenges that can make child care less accessible and affordable for struggling parents - it asks IDEC to conduct a study and present its findings to the General Assembly by July 1, 2028, with recommendations for combining and shortening training requirements while maintaining health and safety standards.

House Sponsor: Representative Tony McCombie (R)

Aligned with Start Early Policy Agenda

Aligned with Raising Illinois Priorities

Senate Bill 2771 (Public Act 104-0808)

Short Title: SUICIDE PREVENTION INFORMATION

Known as Tammurra's Act, requires contact information for the 9-8-8 National Suicide Prevention Lifeline to be posted in a prominent, visible location across a range of settings, including public libraries, licensed day care centers, assisted living and nursing facilities, hospitals, public institutions of higher education and correctional, detention and probation settings. Requires public schools serving grades 6 through 12 to implement age-appropriate, evidence-based suicide prevention curricula where opportunities for integration exist and allows the State Board of Education to make supporting resource materials available on its website. Adds suicide prevention resources to reentry planning for people leaving Department of Corrections custody.

Senate Sponsor: Senator Christopher Belt (D)

House Sponsor: Representative Mary Beth Canty (D)

Senate Bill 3510 (Public Act 104-0832)

Short Title: CRIMES AGAINST CHILDREN

Strengthens protections for children facing maltreatment by expanding multidisciplinary team requirements, improving coordinated child maltreatment investigations, establishing an annual statewide leadership meeting and enhancing children's rights to forensic interviews through Child Advocacy Centers. It also adds accountability for repeat child-endangerment offenses in other states, clarifies parent

notification requirements based on a child's best interest or wishes and expands privacy protections and appropriate access to unredacted records for non-offending parents and multidisciplinary team members.

House Sponsor: Senator Julie Morrison (D)

Senate Sponsor: Representative Michelle Mussman (D)

EDUCATION

[House Bill 1783 \(Public Act 104-0658\)](#)

Short Title: ST BD ED-LANGUAGE ASSESSMENT

Creates the Language Equality Acquisition for Deaf, Hard of Hearing or Deafblind Children Act. Subject to appropriation, requires the Department of Human Services, in consultation with relevant state agencies, to establish a Language Needs and Monitoring Program and an advisory committee, and to develop and publish a joint action plan that considers the committee's recommendations. Requires the Department to annually publish aggregate, de-identified data on children from birth to age three diagnosed as deaf, hard of hearing or deafblind; preschool children who are deaf, hard of hearing or deafblind enrolled in public preschool programs; and kindergarten and first-grade students who are deaf, hard of hearing or deafblind who have an individualized education program.

House Sponsor: Representative Michelle Mussman (D)

Senate Sponsor: Senator Meg Loughran Cappel (D)

Aligned with Raising Illinois Priorities

[House Bill 3772 \(Public Act 104-0546\)](#)

Short Title: SCH CD-SUSPENSION/EXPULSION

An Illinois State Board of Education initiative that addresses biased school disciplinary practices, including suspensions and expulsions, affecting students from preschool through second grade, based on research demonstrating that exclusionary practices in the early grades are associated with negative child outcomes. Among various provisions prohibiting expulsions, limiting the use and duration of suspensions and clarifying requirements for the alternative placement of students in kindergarten through second grade, it also restricts the suspension of preschoolers by requiring superintendents of school districts, a director of an early childhood program or the superintendent's or director's equivalent to provide verbal or written approval to suspend a student in preschool for longer than 3 days. In addition, it requires schools to allow preschool students to return by the fourth day. For suspensions longer than 3 days, the length of the suspension may not exceed the number of days required to review, amend, develop or implement behavior intervention plans or safety plans. Effective July 1, 2028.

House Sponsor: Representative William Davis (D)

Senate Sponsor: Senator Kimberly Lightford (D)

[House Bill 4137 \(Public Act 104-0595\)](#)

Short Title: EDUC-HOMELESS CHILD-PREVENTION

Allows school districts to provide extended motel assistance for children and their families experiencing homelessness.

House Sponsor: Representative Michelle Mussman (D)
Senate Sponsor: Senator Karina Villa (D)

Aligned with Start Early Policy Agenda

House Bill 4535 (Public Act 104-0552)

Short Title: SCH CD-E-LEARNING DAY-ELECTION

Allows school districts to use e-learning days when schools are used as polling places without counting those days toward the district's minimum number of emergency days.

House Sponsor: Representative Maura Hirschauer (D)
Senate Sponsor: Senator Ram Villivalam (D)

House Bill 4536 (Public Act 104-0612)

Short Title: SCH CD-REG SUP INSTITUT-TRAUMA

Updates the definition for "trauma" under the School Code to include early relational trauma, caregiver separation, disrupted attachment or prolonged instability during early development, and clarifies that symptoms may emerge or intensify during adolescence. Adds a definition of "trauma informed practices," to include awareness of populations for whom trauma may be ongoing, relational and developmentally expressed over time, including, but not limited to, students in adoptive, foster, kinship, or guardianship families.

House Sponsor: Representative Michelle Mussman (D)
Senate Sponsor: Senator Sara Feigenholtz (D)

House Bill 4577 (Public Act 104-0555)

Short Title: SCH CD-K-PLAY-BASED LEARNING

Adds a definition for "play-based learning" in kindergarten under the School Code as an approach that includes either "teacher-initiated play" or "student-initiated play." Defines "teacher-initiated play" as intentional teacher-directed play with activities set up and led by a teacher that are aligned to learning goals or standards. Defines "student-initiated play" as child-selected opportunities to build, pretend, create, move or explore in an environment intentionally curated by a teacher to align with learning goals or standards.

House Sponsor: Representative Laura Faver Dias (D)
Senate Sponsor: Senator Mary Edly-Allen (D)

Aligned with Start Early Policy Agenda

House Bill 5093 (Public Act 104-0511)

Short Title: HIGHER ED-IN-STATE TUITION

Amends the governing Acts for Illinois public universities and the Public Community College Act to ease in-state tuition eligibility, removing the condition that a student does not have established residency outside Illinois before enrolling and revising how residency is determined so that qualifying individuals are deemed Illinois residents and

charged the in-state rate. Ties these changes to the Retention of Illinois Students and Equity (RISE) Act. The university changes apply beginning with the 2027-2028 academic year, and the community college changes begin July 1, 2027.

House Sponsor: Representative Barbara Hernandez (D)
Senate Sponsor: Senator Celina Villanueva (D)

[House Bill 5135 \(Public Act 104-0693\)](#)

Short Title: ADULT EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Decouples state adult education funding from federal rules and regulations through the Public Community College Act and clarifies existing language of this act.

House Sponsor: Representative Aarón Ortíz (D)
Senate Sponsor: Senator Graciela Guzmán (D)

[House Bill 5551 \(Public Act 104-0524\)](#)

Short Title: SCH CD-VARIOUS FUNDING

Amends the School Code to make several funding and workforce changes. Ends the recomputation and adjustment of a school district's general State aid or evidence-based funding claim after Fiscal Year 2026. Requires that when a child from an orphanage, foster family home or other State care who is eligible for special education is placed in a separate public day school, that school meet the programmatic requirements for separate public day schools. Restructures the Illinois Teaching Excellence Program, setting cohort rules and providing a \$4,000 annual retention bonus for five consecutive years to National Board certified teachers in hard-to-staff schools, with the State Board of Education to report to the General Assembly on the program by October 15, 2027.

House Sponsor: Representative Diane Blair-Sherlock (D)
Senate Sponsor: Senator Meg Loughran Cappel (D)

[House Bill 5552 \(Public Act 104-0803\)](#)

Short Title: EDUCATION-VARIOUS

The Illinois State Board of Education's annual school code clean-up making various changes to streamline and amend School code provisions.

House Sponsor: Representative Laura Faver Dias (D)
Senate Sponsor: Senator David Koehler (D)

[Senate Bill 2427 \(Public Act 104-0657\)](#)

Short Title: SCH CD-WIRELESS COMM DEVICE

Governor Pritzker's initiative requiring school districts to develop and implement a "bell-to-bell" cellphone policy that restricts students' access to their devices throughout the school day, with the goal of creating distraction-free learning environments.

Senate Sponsor: Senator Cristina Castro (D)
House Sponsor: Representative Michelle Mussman (D)

Senate Bill 3774 (Public Act 104-0743)

Short Title: SCH CD-ADMIN WITHDRAW-TRUANCY

Requires school districts to make at least three documented attempts to notify a parent or guardian before administratively withdrawing a student for nonattendance.

Senate Sponsor: Senator Christopher Belt (D)

House Sponsor: Representative Dagmara Avelar (D)

FAMILY AND COMMUNITY RIGHTS

[Senate Bill 3777 \(Public Act 104-0744\)](#)

Short Title: HUMAN RIGHTS-DISPARTE IMPACT

An initiative of the Illinois Department of Human Rights, also known as the Civil Rights Safeguard Act, which strengthens disparate impact protections under the Illinois Human Rights Act. Disparate impact is a legal theory recognizing that seemingly neutral policies can be discriminatory in practice and effect, if they impose an unjustified disproportionate harm on protected groups.

Senate Sponsor: Senator Adriane Johnson (D)

House Sponsor: Representative Justin Slaughter (D)

Aligned with Start Early Policy Agenda

FUNDING AND ECONOMIC SECURITY

House Bill 111 (Public Act 104-0464)

Short Title: \$FY 2027 BUDGET

The state's annual budget package which sets total spending at \$55.945 billion for fiscal year 2027 to fund the state's operations and expenditures, including but not limited to early childhood education and care programs.

House Sponsor: Representative Emanuel Welch (D)

Senate Sponsor: Senator Elgie Sims (D)

House Bill 2949 (Public Act 104-0466)

Short Title: FY27 BUDGET IMPLEMENTATION

Known as the annual Budget Implementation bill, the BIMP includes instructions from the General Assembly to the Governor and his administration for how to implement certain components of the approved FY27 state budget. The legislature granted the administration some flexibility in how state funds are allocated and used during the Illinois Department of Early Childhood's first full year. The bill also creates two assistant secretaries at the new Department.

House Sponsor: Representative Will Guzzardi (D)

Senate Sponsor: Senator Elgie Sims (D)

House Resolution 621

Short Title: CHILDCARE FUNDS-CUTS

Given that the federal government announced a unilateral suspension of roughly \$10 billion in childcare funding in January 2026, threatening access to safe and affordable childcare for 150,000 children and 100,000 households across Illinois, it condemns the funding freeze and calls for the immediate release of all congressionally appropriated childcare funds.

House Sponsor: Representative Lilian Jiménez (D)

Aligned with Start Early Policy Agenda

Aligned with Raising Illinois Priorities

Senate Bill 3365 (Public Act 104-0470)

Short Title: MEDICARE/MEDICAID DUAL ELIGIBL

The state's Medicaid Omnibus bill, which includes a provision that allows the Illinois Department of Human Services to establish pilot programs through which financial support can be provided to Illinois residents by local governments, nonprofits or privately funded programs, such as direct cash transfers to pregnant people and new parents (like the Rx Kids model).

Senate Sponsor: Senator Omar Aquino

House Sponsor: Representative Anna Moeller

Aligned with Start Early Policy Agenda
Aligned with Raising Illinois Priorities

GENERAL AND MENTAL HEALTH

***House Bill 4606 (Public Act 104-0499)**

Short Title: DHS-NEWBORN HOME VISITING

Authorizes the Illinois Department of Human Services to design, implement, and maintain the infrastructure to support a statewide Universal Newborn Support Systems (UNSS) program.

House Sponsor: Representative Laura Faver Dias (D)

Senate Sponsor: Senator Cristina Castro (D)

Aligned with Start Early Policy Agenda

Aligned with Raising Illinois Priorities

House Bill 4702 (Public Act 104-0502)

Short Title: DIAPER LABELING ACT

Creates the Diaper Labeling Act, which requires a printed list of all ingredients to be affixed to each package or box containing diapers sold in the State of Illinois.

House Sponsor: Representative Justin Cochran (D)

Senate Sponsor: Senator Laura Fine (D)

Aligned with Raising Illinois Priorities

House Bill 4714 (Public Act 104-0675)

Short Title: CHILDREN'S MENTAL HLTH ACT

Provides the Children's Mental Health Partnership to operate in a more data-driven and responsive way to operate, it amends the Children's Mental Health Act to refocus the Partnership's duties on reviewing or facilitating needs assessments, monitoring children's mental health policy at the local, state and federal levels, and regularly reviewing de-identified BEACON portal data, expands the youth adjunct council and requires the Partnership to submit its annual progress report to the Governor and General Assembly on or before December 15 of each year.

House Sponsor: Representative William Davis (D)

Senate Sponsor: Senator Sara Feigenholtz (D)

Aligned with Raising Illinois Priorities

***House Bill 5225 (Public Act 104-0561)**

Short Title: AUTISM SPECTRUM-DIAGNOSIS

Authorizes speech-language pathologists to diagnose autism for children under the age of 3 in the Early Intervention program if the child has no co-occurring medical conditions and (b) if the speech-language pathologist has been trained. The bill also amends the

Public Aid and Insurance Codes to ensure appropriate benefits are afforded to families receiving a diagnosis from a speech-language pathologist.

House Sponsor: Representative Natalie Manley (D)
Senate Sponsor: Senator Meg Loughran Cappel (D)

Aligned with Start Early Policy Agenda
Aligned with Raising Illinois Priorities

[Senate Bill 3049 \(Public Act 104-0843\)](#)

Short Title: NEWBORN METABOLIC SCREENING

Requires the Universal Newborn Screening Advisory Committee, beginning January 1, 2027, to review all new conditions added to the federal Recommended Uniform Screening Panel and make recommendations to the Department of Public Health on whether to add new conditions to the panel.

Senate Sponsor: Senator Julie Morrison (D)
House Sponsor: Representative Martha Deuter (D)

[Senate Bill 3722 \(Public Act 104-0742\)](#)

Short Title: DHS-BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

Updates statute to reference the new Department of Human Services Division of Behavioral Health and Recovery.

Senate Sponsor: Senator David Koehler (D)
House Sponsor: Representative Michael Crawford (D)

Aligned with Start Early Policy Agenda

[Senate Bill 4025 \(Public Act 104-0572\)](#)

Short Title: EPA-LEAD SERVICE LINE REPLACE

Requires the owner of a private property to allow the community water supply access to the property to replace, on the private side of the property, the lead service line or the galvanized requiring replacement service line if the community water supply is offering such a replacement at no cost to the property owner.

Senate Sponsor: Senator Ram Villivalam (D)
House Sponsor: Representative Kevin Olickal (D)

GOVERNANCE

House Bill 3595 (Public Act 104-0480)

Short Title: INS CD-PET INSURANCE

An initiative of the Illinois Department of Early Childhood, the bill changes references in law from “day care” programs to “early care and education” programs, modernizes the child care licensing exemptions process, and allows for background checks to follow the staff person and not the program at which those staff people work.

House Sponsor: Representative Joyce Mason

Senate Sponsor: Senator Julie Morrison

Aligned with Start Early Policy Agenda

Aligned with Raising Illinois Priorities

House Bill 5099 (Public Act 104-0692)

Short Title: DEC-DAY CARE CRIMINAL CHECKS

Transfers the administration of child care background checks from the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services to the Illinois Department of Early Childhood.

House Sponsor: Representative Joyce Mason

Senate Sponsor: Senator Julie Morrison

Aligned with Start Early Policy Agenda

Aligned with Raising Illinois Priorities

House Bill 5204 (Public Act 104-0697)

Short Title: EARLY LEARNING COUNCIL

Transfers the administration of the Early Learning Council to the Illinois Department of Early Childhood, expands parent and caregiver representation on the Council, and assigns the Illinois Department of Early Childhood appointment authority for the Early Childhood Access Consortium for Equity advisory committee, among other changes.

House Sponsor: Representative Joyce Mason

Senate Sponsor: Senator Lakesia Collins

Aligned with Start Early Policy Agenda

Aligned with Raising Illinois Priorities

WORKFORCE

[House Bill 4587 \(Public Act 104-0773\)](#)

Short Title: CHILD CARE DIRECTORS

Creates a new interim center director pathway, whereby licensed child care centers can hire into director-qualified positions certain staff without a director credential if said staff person has worked at the site for at least two years and is working to complete their required education and training requirements.

House Sponsor: Representative Laura Faver Dias

Senate Sponsor: Senator Meg Loughran Cappel

Aligned with Raising Illinois Priorities

[House Bill 4826 \(Public Act 104-0777\)](#)

Short Title: IDFPR-CONTINUING EDUCATION

Reinforces ethical and legally compliant standards for licensed professionals by amending the continuing education requirements under the Illinois Department of Professional Regulation Law of the Civil Administration Code. It defines “prohibited services, treatments, practices, or procedures” as those prohibited by law or by rule in the State of Illinois at the time the continuing education activity was completed. It also prohibits licensees from earning continuing education credits from courses that promote prohibited services, treatments, practices or procedures.

House Sponsor: Representative Kelly Cassidy

Senate Sponsor: Senator Ram Villivalam

[House Bill 4862 \(Public Act 104-0685\)](#)

Short Title: SCH CD-STAFF MENTAL HEALTH

Requires each school board to adopt procedures to support staff mental health. The procedure must include, at a minimum, a commitment to workforce mental health, opportunities for staff feedback, annual communication to school personnel regarding available mental health resources, and information sharing from the superintendent to the school board on staff mental health initiatives and programs.

House Sponsor: Representative Janet Yang Rohr

Senate Sponsor: Senator Ram Villivalam

[House Bill 5321 \(Public Act 104-0795\)](#)

Short Title: SCH CD-TEACHER SALARY-CONT ED

Allows school districts to provide salary advancement to teachers for the completion of continuing education coursework.

House Sponsor: Representative Katie Stuart

Senate Sponsor: Senator Meg Loughran Cappel

Senate Bill 2773 (Public Act 104-0631)

Short Title: PARAPROFESSIONAL EDUCATOR

Amends the Educator Licensure Article of the School Code to expand and clarify pathways for paraprofessional educators. Allows the State Superintendent of Education to issue a short-term approval, expiring on June 30 following the third full fiscal year after issuance, to individuals who do not yet meet full requirements. Sets the criteria for a paraprofessional educator endorsement on an Educator License with Stipulations, requiring the applicant to be at least 18 and, until age 19, to use the license only for grades prekindergarten through 8, and to meet at least one qualifying path: a high school diploma or equivalent plus a paraprofessional competency test, an associate degree or 60 semester hours, or prior employment under a short-term approval with district-verified competencies.

Senate Sponsor: Senator Meg Loughran Cappel

House Sponsor: Representative Natalie Manley

Senate Bill 2914 (Public Act 104-0647)

Short Title: SCH CD-REMOVE/DISMISS TEACHERS

Provides stronger due process protections for tenured teachers receiving remedial warnings from a school board.

Senate Sponsor: Senator Meg Loughran Cappel

House Sponsor: Representative Anna Moeller



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