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# Back to School Legislative Updates

2024-2025



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# Agenda

- Back to School Thoughts
- General/Safety
- Student/Special Education
- Labor/Employment



A modern office reception area. The desk is constructed from wooden pallets and has a white countertop. On the desk, there is a globe, a map of Illinois, and a large red circular logo with the letters 'kb' in white. To the left of the desk is a wooden cabinet with many small drawers, a chair with a blue cushion featuring a red 'B', and a small table. The background wall is white and features a framed portrait of Abraham Lincoln and a fire extinguisher on the right.

# Back to School Thoughts

# Back to School Thoughts

- Culture and Climate
- Teacher/Paraprofessional Shortage (105 ILCS 5/24-14)
- Administrator Shortage
- Political Climate
- Behaviors
- Collective Bargaining
- Leading with Passion
  - x Practice What You Preach, Adaptability, SWOT, Stop (Breathe), Invisible Backpack, Own Your Actions, Now (Not Tomorrow)
- Don't forget your Why and having Fun



# General/Safety



# FY25 Budget

- [SB 251](#) (PA 103-0589); Signed by Governor 6/5/24
- Provides an additional \$528 million in General Revenue Funds for K-12 education
- Funding increases include:
  - x Evidence Based Funding - \$350 million
  - x Mandated Categoricals - \$32.7 million
  - x Early Childhood Education - \$75 million
  - x After School Programs - \$50 million
  - x Career and Technical Education - \$10 million
  - x Implementation of the Illinois Comprehensive Literacy Plan - \$ 3 million
  - x Student Care Department - \$ 2 million



# FY25 Budget Implementation Plan

- [HB 4959](#) (PA 103-0588); Signed by Governor 6/5/24
- Adds dental and vision insurance to health benefits available to TRS benefit recipients and dependent beneficiaries beginning January 1, 2025
- Allows retirees to return to work full-time in subject shortage areas without impacting their TRS retirement



# Clean Up Bill

- [SB 3156](#); Sent to Governor 6/18/24
- Threat Assessment Team
  - x At least one law enforcement official and cross-disciplinary representatives of the district who are most directly familiar with the mental and behavioral health needs of students and staff.
- School counseling services
- Non-resident tuition waivers



# School Board Member Training

- [SB 2987](#); Sent to Governor 6/14/24
- Will take effect July 1, 2025
- School board member training must include training on improving student outcomes
  - x “Must include information that is relevant to and within the scope of the duties of a school board member.”



# Indoor Air Quality

- [HB 4903](#); Sent to Governor 6/13/24
- Takes effect January 1, 2025
- Requires ISBE, in consultation with IDPH, to compile resources for elementary and secondary schools to assess and maintain ventilation systems and information on any potential State or federal funding sources that may assist a school in identifying ventilation needs
- Requires ISBE to implement outreach strategies to make resources available



# AED

- [SB 3571](#); Sent to Governor 6/21/24
- School districts shall require all attendance centers to have present during the school day and during school sponsored extracurricular activities on school grounds at least one AED
- An AED installed and maintained in accordance with the Physical Fitness Facility Medial Emergency Preparedness Act may be used to satisfy the requirements of this Act



# Election Dates

- Public Act 103-0600; Signed by Governor
- Changed the time and manner of filing for candidates running for public office, including school boards. Specifically, it changes the petition timeline such that they must be filed with the election authority not more than 141 (instead of 113) nor less than 134 days before the consolidated election.
- Check with local election officials for specific dates.
- The bill has an effective date of July 1, 2024.





# Student/Special Education

# Climate Change Instruction

- [HB 4895](#); Sent to Governor 6/21/24
- Takes effect July 1, 2025
- Beginning with the 2026-27 school year, all public schools must provide instruction on climate change in alignment with State learning standards
- Instruction shall include (but is not limited to):
  - x Identifying environmental and ecological impacts of climate change on individuals and communities; and
  - x Evaluating solutions for addressing and mitigating the impact of climate change
- ISBE shall, subject to appropriations, make available multi-disciplinary instructional learning resources and PD opportunities for educators



# Relaxation Activities

- [SB2872](#); Sent to Governor on 6/14/24
- Districts may provide relaxation activities for at least 20 minutes per week
- May partner with public and private community organizations to provide these activities
- In addition to (not in place of) recess
- Examples:
  - x Mindful based movements, yoga, stretching, meditation, breathing exercises, guided relaxation activities, quiet time, walking, in-person conversations
- Can utilize existing structures
  - x PE, advisory, SEL, etc.



# Accelerated Placement

- [HB 5250](#); Sent to Governor 6/21/24
- No later than the beginning of the 2027-28 school year, district's policy shall allow for a student to enroll in the next most rigorous level of advanced coursework offered by high school if student meets state standards in ELA, math, or science on State assessment
  - x Requires parents be notified in writing of the student's eligibility for accelerated courses, including process for parents to enroll/not enroll students. If no course selection made by parent student automatically enrolled in next most rigorous course.
- AP policy may allow for waiver of a course or unit of instruction if:
  - x Completion of unit of instruction/course is required by School Code/ISBE
  - x District has determined student has demonstrated mastery



# Student Discipline

- [SB 1400](#); Sent to Governor 6/21/24
- ISBE, in consultation with stakeholders, shall draft and publish guidance on or before July 1, 2025, on:
  - x the development of reciprocal reporting systems
  - x School bus safety
  - x Evidence-based intervention procedures (in consultation with behavioral health experts)
  - x Re-engagement of students who are suspended out-of-school, expelled, or returning from an alternative school setting
- School districts shall make reasonable efforts to provide ongoing PD to all school personnel ~~teachers, administrators~~, school board members, and SROs, on the requirements of this section and Section 10-20.14
  - x Now includes trauma-responsive learning environments



# Special Education Reimbursement

- [Public Act 103-644](#); Signed by Governor 7/1/24
- Effective 7/1/24
- Districts may be reimbursed for students placed in special education public schools if tuition is beyond two times per capita the district's tuition rate



# Residency – Residential Placement

- [Public Act 103-0676](#); Signed by Governor 7/19/24
- Effective 7/19/24
- Provides that if a student who is 18 or older with no legal guardian is placed residentially outside of the district in which student's parents live and the placement is funded by a State agency or through private insurance, the resident district is the district in which the parent lives



# Transition Services – Assistive Technology

- [HB 5276](#); Sent to Governor 6/21/24
- Requires student's transition plan to include consideration of the student's assistive technology needs, such as an AT evaluation, devices, and services relating to transition goals for employment, education/training, and independent living, both while the student is participating in transition related activities, as well as post-school activities.



# Draft IEP Paperwork

- [Public Act 103-0652](#); Signed by Governor 7/19/24
- Effective 7/19/24
- Will require the notice of conference (NOC) to include a notice of the right to receive draft copies at least three school days in advance and to include a date on the NOC by which materials will be provided.



# Dept. of Early Childhood

- [Public Act 103-0594](#); Signed by Governor 6/25/24
- Creates a new state agency that will begin operations on July 1, 2024
  - x Transfer of powers and duties from other state agencies to centralize Early Intervention, preschool, childcare, licensing for day care and other early childhood programs
  - x Transfer from ISBE to Department of Early Childhood on or after July 1, 2026



# Labor/Employment

# Content Area Test

- [HB 5057](#); Sent to Governor 6/26/24
- Effective upon becoming law
- Allows ISBE to restructure how the content area test is scored and changes timelines for when the content area test must be passed
- Can student teacher or be teacher of record without passing the content test, but still needs it for endorsement



# Workers Freedom of Speech Act

- SB 3649; Sent to Governor 6/26/24
- Effective upon becoming law
- Employers are not allowed to discharge, discipline or threatened to do so for an employee not attending a meeting whereby the employer shares opinions on religious or political matters



# CTE and Tenure

- [Public Act 103-0617](#); Signed by Governor 7/1/24
- Allows individuals with a valid CTE endorsement on an educator license with stipulations or provisional CTE endorsement to be granted all the rights and privileges granted to an individual with a PEL, including eligibility for tenure
- Extends the Teacher Performance Assessment Task Force to allow more time to complete recommendations



# Teacher Minimum Salary Bill

- Public Act 103-515; Signed by Governor 7/30/25
- Bill commissioned the Government Forecasting and Accountability (COGFA) with calculating the new minimum teacher salary every year by July 20th, providing school districts with the information a year in advance for the purposes of budgeting.
- The new minimum teacher salary for the 2025-2026 school year was released this month, and based on the statutory requirements, it was increased by 2.97%, for a new minimum salary of \$42,411 for FY26.
- Includes any dollars that School District pays on behalf of teachers to TRS.



# Anything else?

- Posting salary for all positions
- Reviewing administrative contracts for uniformity
- Licensure checks



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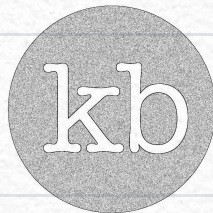
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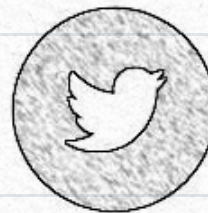


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# Questions?



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