

2023 Legislative Session Bill List

Summary of Education-Related Bills that have Passed Both Houses and are Awaiting the Governor's Signature

What began with several hundred education-related bills that were filed, has now been narrowed down to 73 bills that passed both houses by the May 27 adjournment, although they must still be sent to the Governor for his signature. Of those 73 bills, 30 were initiated by Senate Sponsors and 43 were initiated by House sponsors. Of particular note, some important pieces of legislation were passed by new first-year legislators: Representative Croke (bullying), Representative Canty (full-day kindergarten), Representative Rashid (Halal/Kosher lunch options), and Representative Faver-Dias (teacher evaluation data and racial disparities).

Some of the more significant bills that did not proceed this session include: 1) SB990 - sale of school property which included a requirement that school districts first offer their property to the local municipality/township at an average appraisal using the "current zoning" classification; 2) the dyslexia legislation which required annual universal screeners for all students K-2; 3) \$20 Minimum Wage for Educational Support Personnel; and 4) requiring all districts to purchase only electric school buses beginning in 2028. Additionally, we did not see an extension of the Invest in Kids Act which is expected to sunset this year. We also did not see Senator Gillespie's TIF Reform move.

Finance/Operations

HB3643 (Rashid) - Religious Dietary Food (Halal/Kosher) Options

As it relates to schools, this bill requires that, beginning June 1, 2024, school districts provide religious dietary food options, including but not limited to halal and kosher subject to the following.

- *Available Supply and State Master Contract* - districts are only required to provide these options if ISBE enters into a state master contract and notifies school districts of any available options so that the district can order prepackaged meals to accommodate students making a request.
- *Cost* - school districts may not be charged more than the reimbursable Type A lunch reimbursement amount for any meal offered under the statewide master contract. The district cannot be required to purchase any special or additional kitchen preparation or storage equipment or hire any specialized staff or obtain any special certifications.
- *Reliance on Certification* - Vendors must certify that the prepackaged lunch option is halal or kosher and the district may rely on that certification.
- *Appropriations* - This bill is subject to appropriations.
- *Accommodations may not impose Excessive or Unjustified Burdens* - school districts are only required to accommodate these requests to the extent that the religious meal accommodations do not impose excessive or unjustified burdens on other students or jeopardize the effective functioning of the school lunch program.

SB74 (Peters) -Property Tax Payment Plan Task Force

This bill creates the Property Tax Payment Plan Task Force to study and make recommendations for the implementation of one or more payment plan options in counties with 3,000,000 or more inhabitants. The intent is to prevent certain tax-delinquent owner-occupied properties from being sold at the annual tax sale. The Illinois Housing Development Authority shall provide administrative support for the Task Force and the Task Force shall issue a report by November 15, 2023.

HB2235 (Andrade) - Transportation Contracts

This bill allows school boards to enter into transportation contracts for up to 10 years, inclusive of renewals (currently 3 years is the maximum contract length). However, any such contract that does not include the use of electric vehicles for student transportation, must include a termination option after 5 years. If the transportation contract includes a significant amount of electric vehicles for student transportation, the contract length can be for up to 15 years if: 1) the contract relies on capital or infrastructure improvements; and 2) a shorter time-frame can't be justified. This bill has an immediate effective date upon being signed into law.

SB734 (Halpin) - 457 Plan Provider

This bill requires school districts with 575 or more teachers (except CPS) to make available "more than one" financial institution or investment provider to provide 457 plan services to the school district. In order to offer the plan, the financial institution/investment provider must meet certain requirements, including: entering into a written agreement with the district that requires them to provide all data necessary for administration of the plan; provide all data required by the school district to facilitate disclosure of all fees, charges, and expenses; and cover all plan administration costs agreed to by the school district. This bill does not impact the TRS optional defined contribution benefit (SSP). A school district may request to see TRS's 457 plan data in order to facilitate the school districts' compliance with state and federal law; provided TRS may assess a fee on the school district. School districts shall have one year from the effective date (immediate effective date upon being signed into law) to find the 457 provider.

HB3442 (Crespo) - Long-Term Substitute Teachers

This bill allows school districts to continue employing a substitute teacher who is placed in a vacant teaching position for an additional 90 days (to be approved by the ROE in 30 day increments) beyond the initial 30 calendar days allowed by law, or under the end of the semester (to be approved by the ROE in 30 day increments), whichever is greater. This extension is limited to the substitute teacher teaching the same vacant position in which he or she was placed. In order to continue employing the substitute teacher in that position, the district must file a written request to the ROE for each 30-calendar day extension verifying: 1) that the district is actively trying to fill the vacant position; and 2) has provided training on EL learners and students with disabilities, if applicable. The ROE must grant each 30-day extension in writing. This bill has an immediate effective date upon being signed into law.

HB2471 (West) - Healthy School Meals for All Program

This bill is subject to State appropriations, but creates the framework for school districts to offer free meals to all students and receive additional State reimbursement. School districts can

choose to participate, but in order to be eligible for State funds, the district must maximize federal funds through the National School Breakfast Program. Under the bill, the State would reimburse school districts for the difference between the cost of the meals and the federal reimbursement amount. If the State appropriations are insufficient, ISBE must prioritize schools with higher percentages of identified student need. The State must communicate the insufficient appropriation in a timely manner so school districts can make informed decisions about their food administration programs.

SB1994 (Loughran Cappel) - Operational Funds Expenditure Report and Reserve Reduction Plan

This bill requires that, beginning in the 2024-25 school year and each year thereafter, the district calculate the average expenditures of its operational funds (defined as educational, transportation and operations and maintenance funds) for the previous 3 fiscal years and present it as a written report at a Board meeting. If the district's cash reserve balance of its operational funds exceeds 2.5 times its average annual expenditures, the board must adopt and file with ISBE a written operational funds reserve reduction plan to reduce, within 3 years, its operational funds to an amount below the 2.5 times threshold. ISBE will post the plans on its website.

HB3523 (Yang Rohr) - School Treasurer's Bond

This bill reduces the amount of the required treasurer's bond required under Section 8-2 (bond of treasurer) and Section 19-6 (bond money) from 25% to an amount "no less than 10%", although the school board can require a higher percentage. It also changes the basis on which a school district measures the required treasurer's bond amount under Section 8-2 from a projected number to the the actual amount on the district's AFR of all "bonds, notes, mortgages, moneys and effects" to which the treasurer has custody "as measured on the final day of the school district's most recent fiscal year." This bill has an immediate effective date upon being signed into law.

HB3590 (Weaver) - Career Development/Apprenticeship Liability Insurance

This bill creates the Student Career Development Liability Insurance Advisory Committee within the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity which will issue a report containing recommendations for providing liability insurance to cover public high school students and community college students, as well as high school and community college faculty, participating in externship programs. The report shall be submitted by December 31, 2023.

SB2374 (Lightford) - Computer Science Equity Grant Program

This bill requires ISBE to establish a competitive grant program to support the development or enhancement of computer science programs (\$3 Million was allocated in the FY24 budget). It requires ISBE to establish application requirements for the grants which shall include planned use of funds, long-term sustainability and improvement of computer science programs. Grant funding must be used: to expand learning opportunities to ensure all students have access to computer science coursework, to train and retrain teachers through PD opportunities; to supply classrooms with materials and equipment related to computer science, or to recruit students into

coursework who are underrepresented in the computer science labor market. Grant priority shall be given for proposals that intend to serve a majority of learners or teachers with gender or racial/ethnic identities underrepresented in the computer science labor market. Up to 2 renewals of the grant may be allowed.

SB2017 (Holmes) - Holidays for ESPs

This bill clarifies that for legal and special holidays, no deduction shall be made to the time or compensation of any school employee, including educational support personnel, in which that employee would have otherwise been scheduled to work but for the legal or special holiday. This bill has an immediate effective date upon being signed into law.

SB1772 - Pesticides Application at Schools Act

Beginning July 1, 2024, a school serving K-8 students is prohibited from scheduling pesticide application on school grounds during the school day, including a partial day, when students are in attendance at school for instructional purposes. This shall not apply to areas of school grounds where children are not typically present.

SB2340 (Turner) - School Bus Extended Arm

Permits school buses to be equipped with an extension to the required stop arm that partially obstructs the roadway to ensure passenger safety and up to 2 extensions to the required stop arms on the driver's side of the school bus (the bill included length limitations of the permitted extensions). If extensions are added, they must be equipped with a system of flashing red lights. The bill also provides that any driver of a motor vehicle that makes contact with a school bus (including extensions) or a child within 30 feet of a school bus shall be subject to specified penalties. This bill has an immediate effective date upon being signed into law.

TRS/Pensions

HB300 (Stuart - D) - Minimum Teacher Salary & Additional Exemption to 6% Penalty

This bill has two main components. The first addresses increases to the minimum teacher's salary which has been phased in over a 4-year period to reach \$40,000 for the 2023-24 school year. While the legislation already calls for annual CPI increases after the 2023-24 school year, HB300 clarifies that COGFA will calculate and certify the 2024-2025 minimum salary rate by September 30, 2024 and annually by July 20 annually thereafter. Second, when assessing TRS penalty payments for salary increases over 6% in the final years prior to retirement used to calculate an educator's pension, this bill excludes salary increases that are necessary to bring the salary in compliance with the amounts set forth in the law governing minimum teacher salaries. This bill has an immediate effective date upon being signed into law.

HB1297 (Elik -R) - Service Credit for Private School

Currently, TRS members can earn up to 2 years of service credit for work at a private school recognized by ISBE if certain conditions are met. The ability to recognize this credit was set to expire June 30, 2023 and this bill extends it to June 30, 2028.

SB1468 (Bennett) - Extension of Days Retired TRS Employees Can Work

This bill extends the ability for retired TRS employees to work a total of 120 days (instead of 100) or 600 hours (instead of 500) to July 1, 2026 (from July 1, 2013).

HB2147 (Yang Rohr) - Extension of Days Retired TRS Employees Can Work

As it relates to school districts, this bill does 3 things. First, it extends the ability for retired TRS employees to work a total of 120 days (instead of 100) or 600 hours (instead of 500) to July 1, 2026 (from July 1, 2013).

The bill also entitles an educator to receive optional service credit for periods of student teaching in which the student teacher received a salary. Finally, for a period of 6 months after the bill becomes law (this bill has an immediate effective date upon being signed into law), upon written application by a TRS member or TRS annuitant, the creditable service and earnings received in the last fiscal year of employment may be disregarded for the purpose of determining the retirement date and benefits if the following criteria is met: 1) the employment was less than 10 days; 2) less than \$2,500 was received; and 3) the last year of employment was between July 1, 2016 - June 30, 2023.

SB1924 (Halpin) - ROE Service Credit and Salary

This bill allows employees to apply accumulated sick leave days from any employment served with a Regional Office of Education. Beginning July 1, 2023, all regional superintendents shall receive the same salaries (currently there are 3 ROE superintendent salary “tiers” based on the population of the region). The bill also allows the ROE to post certain financial information on its website (rather than publish in a newspaper). This bill has an immediate effective date upon being signed into law.

School and Student Safety

HB1561 (Lilly - D) - Trauma Training and Trauma Kit

This bill allows, but does not mandate, school districts to purchase “trauma kits” for bleeding emergencies and specifies the recommended contents of that “trauma kit”. The bill does mandate in-service professional development training every 2 years for all school district employees on responding to incidents involving life-threatening bleeding. This bill has an immediate effective date upon being signed into law. [Note: this training was included in HB3690 (the new 5-Year PD trainings cycle) and we will work to amend HB3690 accordingly, however, the sponsor wanted this bill to proceed separately]

HB3428 (Blair-Sherlock) -School Opioid Antagonist Supply

This bill requires a school to maintain a supply of opioid antagonists (currently the law simply permits maintaining a supply) in a secure location where an individual may have an opioid overdose. If there is a shortage of opioid antagonists, the school district must make reasonable efforts to maintain a supply. While training is still required prior to the administration of an opioid antagonist, it is no longer required annually. This bill has an immediate effective date upon being signed into law.

HB3559 (Yang Rohr) - School Safety Drill Act and Rapid Entry

Requires that the School District's emergency and crisis response plan include a plan for local law enforcement to rapidly enter a school building in the event of an emergency. This bill has an immediate effective date upon being signed into law.

HB3613 (Mason) - Oxygen Tanks

Permits school districts that serve students with disabilities to maintain a supply of emergency oxygen tanks in a secure location that is accessible before, during and after school in places where students with disabilities are most at risk. The oxygen tanks must be maintained in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions and any local fire department rules. This bill has an immediate effective date upon being signed into law.

Student Issues

SB183 (Murphy) - Alternative Program Placements

This bill requires that, upon administrative transfer of a student to an alternative school program in lieu of discipline, the school district must provide a date certain to the student specifying when the student will return to the regular school district. The school district may not extend the student's stay at the alternative school program beyond this date certain, unless the transferring district, the alternative program and the parent agree. Additionally, the bill requires the school district to provide information on the alternative school program to the student/parent, to hold a meeting between the parent, student, sending school, and alternative school program upon the transfer, and to create an alternative education plan for the student upon transfer (which must include the duration of the plan, academic and behavioral components and a method and time frame for reviewing progress). This bill has an immediate effective date upon being signed into law.

HB342 (Ammons) - Child Adversity Index

This is an expansive bill that requires:

- *Child Adversity Index* - by May 31, 2025, ISBE must develop a Children's Adversity Index which will leverage available data from State agencies in order to measure community childhood trauma exposure (i.e. homelessness, contact with the child welfare system, exposure to community violence and other indicators that can undermine the children's sense of safety and stability).
- *Definitions* - This bill defines "trauma", "trauma-responsive learning environments" and "healing centered".
- *Statewide Committee & Task Force* - ISBE shall: 1) create a new Committee to look at how to incorporate proficiency in trauma-responsive learning environments into the PEL requirements and issue a report by October 1, 2024; and 2) recreate the Whole Child Task Force to reconvene by March, 2027 to study progress towards the recommendations made in its March 2022 report and shall issue a new report by December 31, 2027.
- *PD Training* - There is a new PD training mandate on school districts beginning in the 2024-25 school year to require "trauma-informed practices" annually for educators.
[Note: this training was included in HB3690 (the new 5-Year PD trainings cycle) and we

will work to amend HB3690 accordingly, however, the sponsor wanted this bill to proceed separately].

- *New Reporting for School Report Card* - new reporting requirements (to be included on the School Report Card beginning October 2024) for school districts to report the total number of school counselors, social workers, nurses, and psychologists in the school, district and State, along with an average number of students per counselor, per social worker, per nurse and per psychologist.

SB1446 (Glowiak Hilton) - Graduation Dress Code

This bill provides that districts shall not prohibit a student from wearing or accessorizing the student's graduation attire with items associated with the student's cultural, ethnic or religious identity or any other protected characteristic or category identified in the Human Rights Act. This bill has an immediate effective date upon being signed into law. The bill also requires ISBE to develop a resource guide for schools by July 1, 2024, which shall be done in consultation with stakeholders, regarding this graduation dress code provision.

HB3425 (Croke) - Bullying

This bill makes several changes to the bullying statute (immediate effective date upon being signed into law), including:

- 1) adds "physical appearance, socioeconomic status, academic status, pregnancy, parenting status, homeless" to the list of characteristics identified in the definition of bullying;
- 2) creates a requirement that the school district notify parents of each student involved in a bullying incident "within 24 hours after the school's administration is made aware of the student's involvement in the incident." The school must make "diligent efforts" to contact the parent, utilizing all contact information the school has available or can be reasonably obtained by the school within 24 hours;
- 3) requires that the school district notify parents of all individual instances of bullying as well as all threats, suggestions, or instances of self-harm determined to be the result of bullying;
- 4) school district bullying policies must be based on ISBE's template for a model bullying prevention policy (which shall be posted on its website by January 1, 2024);
- 5) new reporting for school districts to ISBE starting in the 2024-25 school year on reported allegations of bullying, including whether the instance of bullying was based on any of the actual or perceived characteristics identified in the "bullying" definition and, if so, the relevant characteristic (this reporting requirement sunsets after the 2030-31 school years); and
- 6) creates the Illinois Bullying and Cyberbullying Prevention Fund which, subject to appropriation, ISBE may provide grants to school districts to support anti-bullying programming.

HB3224 (Ness) - IEP Planning and Dual Credit Opportunities

As part of transition planning, this bill requires that the school district provide the student and parent with certain information about dual credit courses available at the school district and if the student participates in a dual credit course, that shall be included as part of the student's transition IEP activities. This bill has an immediate effective date upon being signed into law.

HB3680 (Benton) - Accommodations for Students with IEPs/504s in Emergencies

This bill requires that in the development of IEPs and 504s, the team must take into account any accommodation that the student would require in the event of an emergency (active shooter or natural disaster). This bill has an immediate effective date upon being signed into law.

HB2156 (Keicher - R) - Student I.D.s and Safe2Help Illinois

This bill requires that the back of students IDs for students in grades 6-12 include the Safe2Help Illinois helpline and eliminates the option of including a local suicide prevention hotline instead of the Safe2Help Illinois helpline. No changes were made to the requirement for the student IDs to also include the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline and the Crisis Text Line. This bill has a July 1, 2023 effective date.

HB3759 (Stuart) - Illinois Higher Education Recruitment

This bill would require high schools to allow any Illinois institution of higher education access to the high school campus, as well as provide student directory information, for the purpose of the institutions of higher education informing students of educational and career opportunities. It also requires ISBE to provide the student profile information which is currently collected through the ESSA high school assessment to all institutions of higher education in a timely manner. By January 1, 2024 student directory information must be made electronically accessible through a secured centralized data system for official recruiting representative of the armed forces and Illinois institutions of higher education.

HB3814 (Harper) - Student Attendance for Work-Based Learning Experience

The bill expands what the district can count as a day of student attendance for purposes of participating in a career development experience to include “any work-based learning experience” in which student participation is “directed” by a licensed educator, including but is not limited to participation in a FFA or 4-H program. The student or student’s parents are responsible for obtaining assignments missed. This bill has an immediate effective date upon being signed into law.

SB2039 (Pacione-Zayes)- PUNS Database Information for Students and Families

This bill is intended to ensure that families are informed of the PUNS database, as appropriate. It provides that the PUNS database is also available for children (currently limited to adults) with intellectual or developmental disabilities with unmet needs. While the bill does not change the registration process, it does require ISBE and IDHS to work with school districts to ensure parents or guardians are informed of the PUNS database. The district must also designate one school employee to take PUNS training and the training will include information on assisting families in understanding and navigating the PUNS database. The name of the designated PUNS employee must be posted on the district website. There are additional requirements for determining PUNS status at the IEP meetings of students with intellectual and developmental disabilities and requires the IEP team to connect the parent or guardian to the designated PUNS employee, as well as provide them with certain resources. This bill has an immediate effective date upon being signed into law.

Curriculum, Instruction and Assessments

SB2288 (Castro) - Illinois Articulation Initiative

This bill makes a couple of important changes to the IAI. First, each institution of higher education must submit and maintain up to 4 core courses in “*each of the*” IAI majors (currently only 4 core courses in one IAI major is required), provided the institution has those majors. This bill also requires that all of the IAI major courses be transferable as direct course equivalents towards the major (currently, institutions of higher education can choose whether courses are transferable as a direct course equivalent or elective credit). This bill has an immediate effective date upon being signed into law.

SB2243 (Lightford) - Early Literacy Plan

This bill has 4 main components:

- 1) *ISBE Guidance* - Requires ISBE to adopt and make available by July 1, 2024: a rubric by which districts may evaluate their core reading curricula, a template to support districts developing comprehensive district-wide literacy plan, and guidance on evidence-based practices for effective literacy coaches to support teachers.
- 2) *Comprehensive Literacy Plan* - By January 31, 2024, ISBE shall develop and adopt a comprehensive literacy plan which must contain guidance on: core instructional literacy practices, provide guidance on screening tools for students in grades K-2 (along with guidance on dyslexia screening for EL learners), core literacy interventions, the impact of second language/bilingual education on literacy, the definition of “evidence-based”, a contextualization of existing laws and frameworks (i.e. MTSS), and a focus on a comprehensive range of literacy elements.
- 3) *Training Opportunities* - By January 1, 2025, ISBE shall make training opportunities available to teachers that are aligned with the comprehensive literacy plan which may include microcredential or a series of microcredentials in literacy instruction that aligns with the State plan and the development of a tool for districts to evaluate PD training.
- 4) *Content Area Test Changes* - Requires ISBE to consult with its assessment vendors to develop a plan to transition the content area test for elementary teachers (grades 1-6) to contain specific literacy-related testing elements by July 1, 2026. ISBE shall create a content area subscore on the literacy components, although candidates need not obtain a certain subscore. However, ISBE will publish an aggregate number of candidates in each teacher preparation program that have a passing literacy subscore annually.

SB2240 (Johnson) - Remediation Data

This bill requires, beginning January 1, 2024, a community college, upon request of a school district with a high school, to provide data on the most recent enrollment of students in community college remediation courses. In order to share data, the school district and community college must enter into a remediation data agreement which must include certain provisions: that the data be individualized by student, that each student record include certain information (i.e. course codes, course name academic department of any course designated as remedial or non-credit bearing), the format and method that the data will be shared, the timeline for providing the data, and that the data will not be used in teacher evaluations. ICCB and ISBE shall develop a model data sharing agreement by January 1, 2024, of which the

parties may implement some or all of the provisions in the event that they are unable to reach agreement within 90 days of the school district's request of the data.

SB2223 (Fine) - Drug Education and Youth Overdose Prevention

This bill requires that ISBE and IDHS work with relevant stakeholders, including the Illinois Opioid Crisis Response Advisory Council, to update substance use prevention and recovery resource material for K-12 schools. The Resource Guide will be provided to all ROEs, made available on ISBE's website by July 1, 2024 and must include specified information (i.e. information on how to involve parents and caregivers, how to make substance abuse prevention interactive at each grade level, etc.).

HB1633 (West) - Native American History

This bill requires that, beginning in the 2024-25 school year, every course pertaining to American history or government includes a unit of instruction on Native American History. It also requires ISBE to prepare materials and professional development opportunities for school districts to facilitate the development of that unit of instruction, provided each school board can determine the actual amount of instructional time needed. This bill also requires that an organization that works for social progress for Native American be included in the already existing State Education Equity Committee (as well as an individual with a disability be added to the Committee).

HB2396 (Canty - D) - Full-Day Kindergarten

This bill requires all school districts to offer full day kindergarten by the 2027-28 school year, although they may continue to offer half-day kindergarten programs. School districts may request a 2-year extension if it meets one of the following criteria: 1) funded below 76% adequacy; 2) ranked in the top 25% of capital funding needs by the newly created Task Force, but has not received any funding by the application date; or 3) the district meets an additional criterion set by ISBE based on the Task Force's recommendation (that factor shall be made by July 1, 2025 and notice of the factor will be provided).

The bill creates a Full-Day Kindergarten Task Force to conduct an audit to inform the planning and implementation of this law (i.e. determining the number of districts currently offering full-day kindergarten, number of students currently enrolled in full-day kindergarten, analysis of capital, space and capacity needs, etc.). The Task Force must issue an interim report by June 30, 2024 and a final report by January 31, 2025.

SB1993 (Loughran Cappel) - Community Input on Local Assessments

This bill requires school boards to hold a public vote at a regular meeting of the school board prior to approving a new contract for any district-administered assessment. The board must substantially present the terms of the new district-administered assessment proposal and provide notice and an opportunity for public comment. The district may employ procedural safeguards to avoid violation of legal rights of the publisher and content validity if the assessment is made available for review. This bill is effective July 1, 2024.

HB3924 (Yang Rohr) - Fentanyl Education

As part of the State-required health course in grades 9-12, beginning in the 2024-25 school year, this bill requires instruction, study and discussion on the dangers of fentanyl. The following information must be included: information on fentanyl, side effects and risk factors, details on the process of icing fentanyl, details about how to detect fentanyl. It also requires that students be assessed on this instruction.

HB3932 (Yang Rohr) - Allergies Education

As part of the State-required health course in grades 9-12, beginning in the 2024-25 school year, this bill requires instruction, study and discussion on the dangers of allergies and that such information shall come from the Department of Public Health and the CDC. The following information must be included: recognizing the signs and symptoms of an allergic reaction (including anaphylaxis), preventing exposure, and safe emergency epinephrine administration.

HB3522 - State Global Scholar Certification

Extends participation in the State Global Scholar Certification program participation to nonpublic high schools (currently limited to public high schools). Also, beginning in the 2024-25 school year, it permits Illinois Institutions of Higher Education to award course credit for the certification.

HB3822 (Rashid) - Incentivizing Dual Language Instruction

As part of the already established Advisory Council of Bilingual Education which is overseen by ISBE, the Council shall issue a report on how to incentivize dual language instruction in schools. The report shall be delivered within one year of the effective date (this bill has an immediate effective date upon being signed into law).

School Personnel, Teacher Evaluations and Tenure

SB1351 (Lightford) - Final Year Teacher Evaluation

This bill allows teachers in their final year before they are set to retire to be offered the opportunity to waive their evaluation, unless the teacher was last rated as “needs improvement” or “unsatisfactory.” However, the school may still evaluate the teacher if it gives the teacher 14-day notice, along with a reason for evaluating the teacher. This bill has an immediate effective date upon being signed into law.

SB1352 (Lightford) - Teacher Resignation During the Summer

This bill extended the requirement that a teacher who resigns during the summer provide at least 30-days before the first student attendance day to non-tenured teachers (currently only applies to tenured teachers). It also requires the district to notify the teacher within 10 business days after the board denies the acceptance of a resignation that is less than 30 days before the start of the school term, if the district intends to make a referral to the State Superintendent. Finally, it requires the State Superintendent to provide a written determination within 14 days of the hearing. This bill has an immediate effective date upon being signed into law.

SB1872 (Lightford) - Reduction in Probationary Period for Teacher Tenure

- *Probationary Time* - Beginning with teachers first employed after July 1, 2023, this bill reduces the probationary period for tenure to: 1) 3 years (currently 4 years) for teachers than have earned at least “proficient” in the last school term and at least “proficient” in the second or third school term; 2) 2 years (currently 3 years) for teachers that have received “excellent” evaluation ratings; and 3) 2 years (currently 3 years) if the teacher has received “2 “excellent” evaluation ratings and has met certain other conditions (i.e. had previously received tenure in another district in the State , voluntarily departed or was honorably dismissed from that district and had received certain evaluations in the previous school district).
- *April 15 notice of nonrenewal date (changed from 45 days before the end of the school year)* - This bill also changes the notice of nonrenewal requirement from 45 days before the end of any school term to April 15 of the school term, effective July 1, 2023 (and applies to teachers first-employed before July 1, 2023, as well as those first-employed after July 1, 2023). The change to April 15 also impacts the timing for moving teachers between groupings from 75 days before the end of the school term to April 15 (instead of 45 days before the end of the school term).

SB1488 (Bennett) - EdTPA and Task Force

This bill suspends the EdTPA requirement through August 31, 2025. It also creates the Teacher Performance Assessment Task Force to evaluate potential performance-based and objective teacher performance assessment systems for possible future implementation across all educator preparation programs. The Task Force shall issue its report by August 1, 2024.

HB3690 (Mussman) - Educator PD Training

This bill, beginning July 1, 2024, consolidates the majority of the required educator trainings for administrators, teachers and school support personnel who work with pupils (ESPs are exempt for the training if it is not relevant to their work and nurses are also exempt from specific trainings) into 8 specific training categories. These 8 categories include: 1) health conditions of students; 2) social-emotional learning; 3) developing cultural competency; 4) identifying warning signs of mental illness and suicidal behavior in youth; 5) protections and accommodations for students; 6) educator ethics; 7) responding to child sexual abuse and grooming behavior; and 8) effective instruction in violence prevention and conflict resolution. Each of these 8 trainings must be taken within the first 6 months of employment by a school board and renewed at least once every 5-years thereafter. A few of the current trainings could not be included in the categories (i.e. federal mandate) and must still be taken separately.

The bill also requires that these trainings be credited toward the PD credits that are required for PEL renewal. These trainings will now be portable as well so that, for teachers that move districts within Illinois, they need only show compliance within 6 months of being employed by the new district.

SB2390 (Pacione-Zayas) - ISBE Clean-up and Teacher Pipeline Initiative

This bill includes a requirement that nonpublic schools perform a check of the Statewide Murderer and Violent Offender Against Youth Database upon employment and every 5 years

thereafter (currently nonpublic schools only are required to check the Statewide Sex Offender Database). It expands to the 2028-29 school year short-term approval for teaching early childhood classes if certain conditions are met (currently set to expire next year). It allows a school district to adopt a policy to waive tuition costs for non-resident students if the student is a district employee. It makes the short-term substitute teacher training program permanent (currently set to be repealed in 2023) and makes short-term substitute teaching licenses valid for 5 years. Finally, it makes changes to the Alternative Educator Licensure Program to provide additional flexibility for candidates (i.e. currently a teacher must complete all 4 phases of the program, but now only need to complete “up to” 3 phases of the program). This bill has an immediate effective date upon being signed into law.

SB2218 (Preston) - Sequence of Honorable Dismissal List

This bill requires that the Sequence of Honorable Dismissal list which lists each teacher by name, now must also list the race or ethnicity of the teacher if provided by the teacher. This bill is effective January 1, 2024.

HB3402 (Chung) - Hiring Priority for Educators with a P.E. Music or Visual Arts Endorsement

This bill requires that when school districts hire or assign educators for positions in the areas of physical education, music and visual arts, they must prioritize educators who hold an educator license and endorsement in those content areas. If the educator does not hold an endorsement in those content areas, prior to the teacher’s start date the teacher must either: pass the licensure content area test for the content area; or 2) complete at least 9 semester hours of coursework in the content area. In order to stay employed with the district, the employee must complete the remaining hours of coursework within 3 years after the start date. This bill has an immediate effective date upon being signed into law.

HB2392 (Scherer) - Teacher Days Off for Federal Advocacy Work

This bill allows teachers who are elected by their union to represent the association in the union's federal advocacy efforts, up to 10 days off during a school term without deduction of pay. However, the union must reimburse the school district for the cost of the substitute teacher during the absence. This bill has an immediate effective date upon being signed into law.

HB3116 (Stuart - D) - Educator Training - Homelessness

Requires that, at least once every two years, all school personnel receive professional development training on student homelessness. [Note: this training was included in HB3690 (the new 5-Year PD trainings cycle) and we will work to amend HB3690 accordingly, however, the sponsor wanted this bill to proceed separately]. This bill has an effective date of August 1, 2024.

HB3570 (Faver Dias) - ISBE Analysis of Teacher Evaluation Data

This bill requires ISBE to prepare a report on all teacher evaluation data for the 2022-23 school year (in a format that protects the privacy of individual teachers) broken down by race, ethnicity, and eligibility status for free or reduced lunch of students in the school where the teachers work.

HB3592 (Mussman) - Student Testimony and ISBE Teacher Dismissal Hearings

This bill applies to the testimony of students and witnesses under the age of 18 in the dismissal procedures of a teacher in contractual continued service for any reason (other than honorable dismissal or the optional alternative evaluative dismissal process for PERA evaluations). The bill requires that the hearing officer make accommodations for these students/witnesses under the age of 18 to protect them from being re-traumatized and provides that they may not be compelled to testify in the physical or visual presence of a teacher or other witness. However, if this right is invoked, then the hearing officer must provide a procedure by which each party may hear such witness' testimony. The hearing officer must also permit the teacher to submit all relevant questions to be posed by the hearing officer. This bill has an immediate effective date upon being signed into law.

HB1291 (Stuart - D) - Illinois Teaching Excellence Program

This bill increases the annual incentive, which is appropriated by the State, to \$2,250 (from \$1,500) to be paid to qualified educators participating in the Illinois Teaching Excellence Program and expands the allowable use of those funds to certain professional development opportunities.

HB3801 (Davis) - Illinois Teaching Excellence Program

This bill extends the allowable use of Illinois Teaching Excellence Program funds to provide incentives to teachers to teach in "hard-to-staff schools", defined as a school in which no less than 30% of the student enrollment is considered low-income.

Reporting Requirements and School Report Card

HB1123 (Costa Howard - D) - Graduation Rates and Students Receiving Transition Services

This bill is intended to increase transparency around the calculation of graduation rates, as it applies to students with an IEP who are entitled to additional services post-graduation, but who fulfill the requirements of Brittany's Law. This bill does not impact the services these students are entitled to receive and does not impact how graduation rates are calculated. This bill simply requires that: 1) ISBE create a new code for districts to report students who fulfill the requirements of Brittany's Law (currently they are simply reported as "not graduated"); and 2) that the School Report Card, beginning in the 2024-25 school year, note the percentage of students that received a Certificate of Completion with the graduation calculations, along with an explanation of how Brittany's Law is different from a high school diploma.

SB2031 (Lightford) - Expanded High School Snapshot Report

This bill requires that by October 31, 2027, and annually thereafter, the State Superintendent creates an annual stand-alone report for high schools that must be posted on the school district's and ISBE's website. This Expanded High School Snapshot must include a listing of all standard coursework, all advanced-track coursework, all EL coursework, all special education coursework, along with data tables and graphs comparing advanced-track and standard coursework, subject to the specified parameters, including: average years of experience of teachers who teach these courses, the degrees of the teachers of these courses, average enrollment and class sizes for these courses, the gender and racial/ethnicity breakdown of the

students enrolled in the courses, the percentage of students who reach proficiency in these courses). There must also be data tables and graphs broken down by race and ethnicity and gender around AP and IB courses.

SB2337 (Edly Allen) - Gifted, Accelerated Placement and Advanced Programs

This bill requires that the School Report Card include the number and percentage of students (disaggregated by student demographics) that, 1) for grades K-8, have been assessed for, that have enrolled in, and that have received direct instruction from a teacher that holds a gifted education endorsement, in a gifted or accelerate program; and 2) for grades 9-12, have been enrolled in an advanced academic program. Additionally, in its accelerated placement policy, a school district must include specified procedures to promote equity. This bill has an immediate effective date upon being signed into law.

Other

SB2123 (Morrison) - 2024 General Election State Holiday

While this bill is primarily a comprehensive Election bill, it does require that the 2024 General election be deemed a legal school holiday for purposes of the School Code and that any school closed be made available to an election authority as a polling place.

SB90 (Murphy) - Racism Free Schools Act

This bill has 5 primary components, three of which impact the School Code and two that impact the Illinois Human Rights Act (the bill's effective date is August 1, 2024):

School Code

- *Board Policies* - Within a School Board's current policies, there must be a subsection with an appropriate "title, heading or label" on discrimination and harassment against students based on race, color and national origin and retaliation against students. Additionally, there are specific requirements to be included in this subsection of the policy. Beginning in the 2024-25 school year, the district must also post the policy on its website and distribute it to parents/students through the student handbook (a summary of the policy must be provided in the native language, if feasible).
- *Board Procedures* - The district must establish procedures specific to student complaints of discrimination based on race, color or national origin (which shall be included in the above policy) and the procedures must include specific information.
- *Data Reporting* - Subject to appropriation, districts must report on claims of discrimination, harassment and retaliation to ISBE annually (similar to what is already reported to OCR every 2 years). If the district fails to timely report this data, ISBE will provide notice to the district. If the district fails to provide the data within 14 days of receipt, ISBE may file a complaint with IDHR against the district. ISBE shall issue an annual report aggregating the information by school district. This data reporting requirement sunsets in 2029.

Illinois Human Rights Act

- *New IHRA Section* - language is added to the IHRA, including a new Section on "discrimination and harassment based on race, color, or national origin; and retaliation" which clarifies that IDHR has jurisdiction to investigate complaints of harassment and discrimination in elementary and secondary schools in the following instances: any school representative that commits or engages in harassment (clarification language), any school district that fails to take corrective action to stop harassment when it knows

that it is occurring against a student (clarification language), and failure to report the required data (new IDHR authority).

- *Educator Training* - IDHR will develop a model training program that covers discrimination and harassment on the basis of race, color or national origin. Educators must take this model training (or training developed by the district) at least once every 2 years. IDHR may launch an investigation if there is a reported violation of this Section. The training must contain specified components.

HB2447 (Avelar) - OMA Changes

This bill creates a new exception in the OMA which allows for closed meetings to discuss evidence or testimony regarding the denial of admission to school events or property, provided the board makes available for public inspection a written decision setting forth its “determinative reasoning.” It also expands the allowable reasons that a Board member can attend a meeting other than physical presence to include “unexpected child care obligations.” This bill has an immediate effective date upon being signed into law.

HB3071(Crespo) - ISBE Clean-Up bill

This bill does make numerous clean-up changes to the School Code. A couple of changes of interest to school districts: 1) clarifies that ISBE shall not be required to report data on the categories of sex, sexual orientation, and gender identity unless required under federal reporting; 2) changes definitions of “comprehensive”, “targeted” and “intensive” school designations, as well as how ISBE will work with districts that receive one of those designations; 3) changes to the recent seclusion and time-out legislation to clarify its applicability to special education nonpublic schools and special education cooperatives in the State, in addition to school districts; 4) *requires EBF spending plans be submitted to ISBE as parts of its budget submission*; 5) changes how charter schools are paid so that they will now receive quarterly payments, with the first payment based on projected enrollment and the last 3 payments based on actual enrollment; and 6) clarifies that threat assessment procedures are required for charter schools (if charter is issued by a local board of education, it may adhere to those threat assessment procedures or develop its own) and for special education cooperatives (must implement its own threat assessment procedure and threat assessment team and include actions the cooperative will take in partnership with its member districts to address a threat) . This bill has an immediate effective date upon being signed into law.

SB2391 (Pacione-Zayas) - Community Schools

This bill changes the definition of a community school to clarify that it includes a “public school or nonpublic school that established a set of strategic partnerships between the school and other community resources that promote student achievement, positive learning conditions, and the well-being of students by providing wraparound services” The bill also defines “trauma-informed intervention”, “wraparound services” and makes other changes to the programming a community school may offer.

SB1787 (Koehler) - Rural Education Advisory Council

This bill requires ISBE to provide administrative support to and create a Rural Education Advisory Council for the purpose of exchanging thoughtful dialogue concerning the needs, challenges and opportunities of rural school districts and make policy recommendations to the State Superintendent and the State.

Bills Specific to Individual Districts

HB2160 (Gong Gershowitz) - Northfield and Maine Township Treasurer and Township Treasurer

Allows 7 specific school districts, by resolution, to withdraw from the jurisdiction and authority of the trustees of schools of Northfield and Maine Townships and the township treasurer and elect its own treasurer.

HB2442 (Guerro-Cuellar) - CPS Teaching Endorsements

Creates a pilot program which authorizes CPS (instead of ISBE) to issue subsequent endorsements on teaching licenses provided certain conditions are met.

HB3500 (Walsh) - Exempts Bonds from Debt Limit - Joliet School District 86

Exempts the Joliet School District 86 from considering \$95,000,000 in bonds that were previously approved via referendum, as indebtedness for purposes of the statutory debt limit, provided certain conditions are met.