

2024 Spring Legislative Session Update

Illinois State Board of Education



Budget

Public Act 103-0589 (SB 251) – FY 2025 State Budget (Sims/Gordon-Booth)

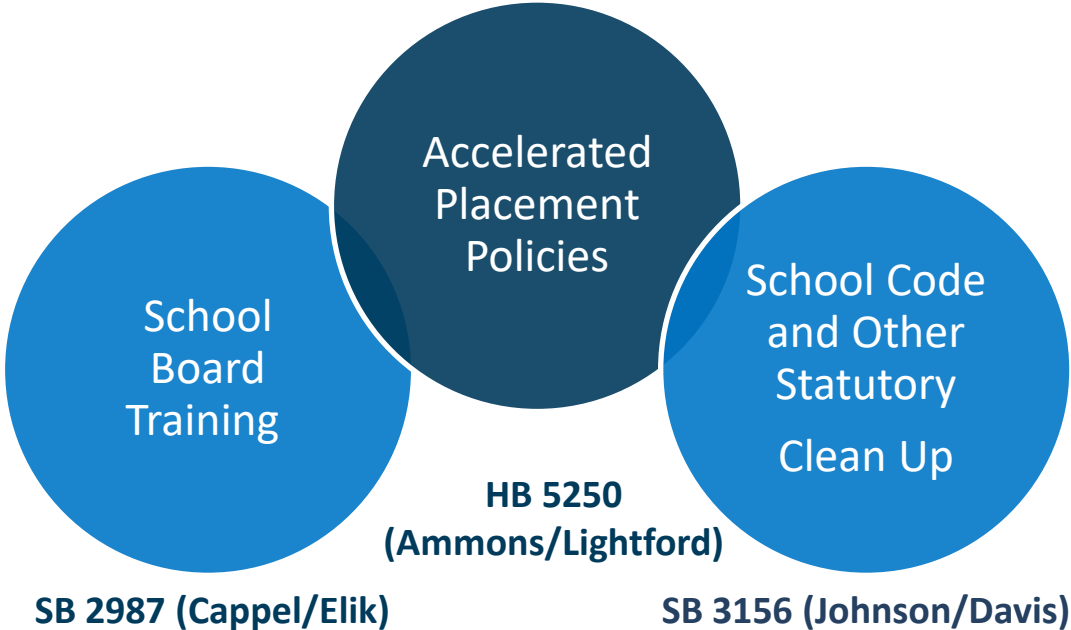
Includes appropriations for:





ISBE Initiatives

These legislative proposals listed passed both chambers with either unanimous or bipartisan support:





School Board Training

Senate Bill 2987 (Cappel/Elik) –

- Updates existing training requirements for school board members to provide that it must also include training on improving student outcomes.
- Currently, only 25 states require training specific to school board members, of those, only 4 require training that includes a focus on student outcomes – Texas, Rhode Island, Arkansas, and West Virginia.



School Code and Other Statutory Cleanup

Senate Bill 3156 (Johnson/Davis, W.) –

- Streamlines School Code provisions and amends or removes outdated or otherwise problematic provisions in statute. Overall, this year's proposal clarifies a series of sections ranging from school counseling services to school district threat assessment teams, as well recent public acts dealing with course enrollment data collection and non-resident tuition waivers to ensure proper implementation.



Accelerated Placement Policies

House Bill 5250 (Ammons/Lightford) –

- Allow districts to waive a course or unit instruction requirement if completion of it is a high school graduation requirement, and the district has determined that the student has demonstrated competency in the content.
- Requires that beginning with the 2027-28 school year, accelerated placement policies must ensure students who meet State standards in English language arts, mathematics or science are automatically ‘eligible’ for enrollment in the next most rigorous course.
- Requires district policies to include notification to parent or guardian that their child is eligible for enrollment and select either to accelerate or not to accelerate the student in writing. If no selection is made by the parent, the student would then be automatically enrolled in the next most rigorous course.



Legislative Overview

47

Bills Advanced

9

New
Educational
Mandates

2

Curricular
Mandates



Teacher Vacancies

- **SB 251 (Sims/Gordon-Booth)** – Among other appropriations, provides funding for the Teacher Vacancy Grant Pilot Program.
- **HB 5057 (Scherer/Cappel)** – Allows ISBE to restructure how the content test is scored and changes timeline for when the content area knowledge test must be passed. Makes other changes.
- **SB 3156 (Johnson/Davis, W.)** – Among other things, extends the reporting date for the Teacher Performance Assessment Task Force to Oct. 31, 2024.

Teacher Vacancy Non-Legislative Changes



Montessori Education and American Sign Language World-Language Endorsement – ISBE will begin work to develop a Montessori and ASL-World Language endorsement through the rulemaking process. As part of this, agency staff will be working with advocates and stakeholders to develop the eventual endorsements. Once developed and a content test is available, an individual would just need to be properly endorsed per applicable endorsement requirements.



Private & Public Special Education Funding

SB 3606 (Cappel/Mussman) – Provides that if a child has been placed in a separate public special education day school, a school district making tuition payments in excess of \$4,500 shall be responsible for an amount in excess of \$4,500 equal to 2 times the district's per capita tuition charge and shall be eligible for reimbursement from the State for the amount of such payments actually made in excess of 2 times the district's per capita tuition charge for students not receiving special education services.



Early Childhood Agency

SB 1 (Lightford/Canty) – Creates the Department of Early Childhood. The new department will be the lead State agency for administering and providing early childhood education and care programs and services to children and families including: home-visiting services; early intervention services; preschool services; child care services; licensing for day care centers, day care homes, and group day care homes; and other early childhood education and care programs and administrative functions historically managed by the State Board of Education, the Department of Human Services, and the Department of Children and Family Services.



School Discipline Policies

SB 1400 (Lightford/West) –
Requires ISBE, in consultation with stakeholders, to develop guidance for school bus safety procedures, as well as the re-engagement of students who are suspended, expelled, or returning from an alternative school setting by July 1, 2025.

HB 4175 (Croke/Johnson) –
Prohibits the school personnel of any school district, charter school, or nonpublic elementary or secondary school from engaging in corporal punishment of a student.



Children's Behavioral Health

SB 726 (Feigenholtz/LaPointe) – Requires ISBE, in consultation with the Children's Behavioral Health Transformation Team and others, to release a strategy that includes a tool for measuring capacity and readiness to implement universal mental health screening of students. Also, requires ISBE to issue a report to the Governor and the General Assembly on school district readiness and plan for phased approach to universal mental health screening of students on or before April 1, 2025. Among other changes.

Non-Resident Pupil Tuition Waiver



SB 2824 (McClure/Davidsmeyer) – Provides that a child who has been removed from their parent or guardian by DCFS as part of a safety plan, shall not be charged tuition as a nonresident pupil if the foster parent, or childcare facility, relative caregiver, or non-custodial parent is located in a school district other than the child's former school district, and if it is determined by DCFS to be in the best interest of said child to remain in their former school district or district they would have otherwise attended.



Phillip J. Rock Center Updates

SB 3768 (Glowiak Hilton/Costa Howard) – Makes various revisions and updates pertaining to the Philip J. Rock Center and School for the Deafblind.



Climate Change Instruction

HB 4895 (Yang Rohr/Ellman) – Beginning with the 2026-2027 school year, requires every public high school to provide instruction on climate change in alignment with State learning standards. Provides that ISBE shall, subject to appropriation, prepare and make available multi-disciplinary instructional resources and professional learning opportunities for educators.



Air Quality in Schools

HB 4903 (Faver Dias/Johnson) – 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 compiled resources available to schools. Allows ISBE to update resources, in consultation with IDPH and relevant stakeholders, as needed.



New School Policies

SB 3571 (Harriss/Elik) – Provides that a school district shall require all schools to have present during the school day and during a school-sponsored extracurricular activity on school grounds at least one automated external defibrillator (AED).



Improve Transparency, Access to School District Spending Plans

HB 3446 (Davis, W./Bennett) – Provides that the annual Evidence-Based Funding spending plans of each Organizational Unit shall indicate which stakeholder groups the Organizational Unit engaged to inform its annual spending plans. Also requires spending plans to be integrated in annual school district budgets. Requires ISBE to develop an EBF Spending Plan tool to make annual data for each Organizational unit available on its website no later than December 31, 2025, with annual updates thereafter. Further provides that the tool shall allow for the selection and review of each Organizational Unit's planned use of Evidence-Based Funding. Makes other changes.



Professional Review Panel Reporting Requirements

HJR 57 (Davis/Villivalam) –
Directs the PRP to conduct the analysis and financial modeling required to evaluate the implications of implementing the recommended \$22 minimum hourly rate for employees providing educational support services.

SJR 49 (Lightford/Stuart) –
Directs the PRP to conduct the analysis and financial modeling required to evaluate the implications of implementing the recommended maximum caseloads for school social workers, school psychologists, school counselors, school nurses, and speech-language pathologists working in schools.



Illinois Student Advisory Council

HR 734 (Weaver) – Encourages the Illinois Student Advisory Council to consider to provide recommendations on a state color as part of its 2024/2025 project agenda. Urges the Council to actively engage students from diverse backgrounds and regions of the state when developing a recommendation for a state color, as well as to seek public input from Illinoisans at every stage. Further commits to considering the Council's recommendation for a state color and pledges to further collaborate with relevant stakeholders to establish it and later promote its recognition and significance across Illinois.



Next Steps

Begin reviewing all new public acts to prepare for their successful implementation, as well as ensure compliance with any new requirements that ISBE must meet.



Develop agency's 2025 legislative agenda, which will be presented for approval.

Questions?