

Instruction

Programs for Students At Risk of Academic Failure and/or Dropping Out of School and Graduation Incentives Program 1

The Superintendent or designee shall develop, maintain, and supervise a program for students at risk of academic failure or dropping out of school. The program shall include education and support services addressing individual learning styles, career development, and social needs, and may include without limitation one or more of the following:

- Parent-teacher conferences
- Counseling services by social workers and/or guidance counselors
- Counseling services by psychologists
- Psychological testing
- Truants' alternative and optional education program 2
- Alternative school placement
- Community agency services
- Alternative learning opportunities program, in conformity with the Alternative Learning Opportunities Law, as it may be amended from time to time 3
- Graduation incentives program 4
- Remediation program 5

Any student who is below the age of 20 years is eligible to enroll in a graduation incentives program if he or she: 6

The footnotes are not intended to be part of the adopted policy; they should be removed before the policy is adopted.

¹ State law controls this policy's content.

² 105 ILCS 5/2-3.66 authorizes the ISBE to award grants to school districts, ROEs, and community college districts.

³ 105 ILCS 5/13B-1 et seq. Districts are not required to establish an alternative learning opportunities program. However, if they do, State law requires that the program "provide a flexible standards-based learning environment, innovative and varied instructional strategies, a student-centered curriculum, social programs, and supplemental social, health, and support services to improve the educational achievement of students at risk of academic failure" (105 ILCS 5/13B-20). The program must also meet the requirements in 105 ILCS 5/13B-45. Alternative learning opportunities programs "may include without limitation evening high school, in-school tutoring and mentoring programs, in-school suspension programs, high school completion programs to assist high school dropouts in completing their education, support services, parental involvement programs, and programs to develop, enhance, or extend the transition for students transferring back into the regular school program, an adult education program, or a post-secondary education program" (105 ILCS 5/13B-20.5). See 105 ILCS 5/13B-25.10, as well as other requirements for general State aid, for additional requirements to receive State funds for creating this program.

⁴ Required by 105 ILCS 5/26-16.

⁵ ~~105 ILCS 5/2-3.64, amended by P.A. 97-86, provides that "[i]f, by performance on the State tests or local assessments or by teacher judgment, a student's performance is determined to be 2 or more grades below current placement, the student shall be provided a remediation program developed by the district in consultation with a parent or guardian. Such remediation programs may include, but shall not be limited to, increased or concentrated instructional time, a remedial summer school program of not less than 90 hours (with an emphasis on reading and mathematics if the student has performed below grade level for 2 consecutive school years), improved instructional approaches, tutorial sessions, retention in grade, and modifications to instructional materials."~~ 105 ILCS 5/10-20.9a requires remedial assistance for students who are not promoted to the next higher grade.

1. Is considered a dropout according to State law;
2. Has been suspended or expelled;
3. Is pregnant or is a parent;
4. Has been assessed as chemically dependent; or
5. Is enrolled in a bilingual education or LEP English Language Learners program.

LEGAL REF.: 105 ILCS 5/2-3.41, ~~5/2-3.64~~, 5/2-3.66, 5/10-20.9a, 5/13B, ~~1-et seq.~~ 5/26-2a, 5/26-13, 5/26-14, and 5/26-16.

CROSS REF.: 6:280 (Grading and Promotion), 6:300 (Graduation Requirements), 7:70 (Attendance and Truancy)

⁶ Required by 105 ILCS 5/26-16. Graduation incentives programs are entitled to claim general State aid. A district must ensure that its graduation incentives program receives supplemental general State aid, transportation reimbursements, and special education resources, if appropriate, for students enrolled in the program. 105 ILCS 5/26-2a defines *dropout* as “any child enrolled in grades 9 through 12 whose name has been removed from the district enrollment roster for any reason other than the student’s death, extended illness, removal for medical non-compliance, expulsion, aging out, graduation, or completion of a program of studies and who has not transferred to another public or private school and is not known to be home-schooled by his or her parents or guardians or continuing school in another country.”