

1 AN ACT concerning education.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 5. The School Code is amended by changing Section
5 22-87 as follows:

6 (105 ILCS 5/22-87)

7 Sec. 22-87. Graduation requirements; Free Application for
8 Federal Student Aid.

9 (a) Beginning with the 2020-2021 school year, in addition
10 to any other requirements under this Code, as a prerequisite
11 to receiving a high school diploma from a public high school,
12 the parent or guardian of each student or, if a student is at
13 least 18 years of age or legally emancipated, the student must
14 comply with either of the following:

15 (1) File a Free Application for Federal Student Aid
16 with the United States Department of Education or, if
17 applicable, an application for State financial aid.

18 (2) On a form created by the State Board of Education,
19 file a waiver with the student's school district
20 indicating that the parent or guardian or, if applicable,
21 the student understands what the Free Application for
22 Federal Student Aid and application for State financial
23 aid are and has chosen not to file an application under

1 paragraph (1).

2 (b) Each school district with a high school must require
3 each high school student to comply with this Section and must
4 provide to each high school student and, if applicable, his or
5 her parent or guardian any support or assistance necessary to
6 comply with this Section.

7 Beginning with the 2025-2026 school year, each high school
8 must designate at least one member of its staff as a contact
9 for matters related to this Section, annually provide the
10 individual's name and contact information to the State Board
11 of Education and Illinois Student Assistance Commission in a
12 form and manner that these agencies prescribe, and inform high
13 school seniors that this individual is available to answer
14 questions about this Section or to refer them to an
15 appropriate resource, which may include, but is not limited
16 to, the Illinois Student Assistance Commission. The contact
17 shall serve as a designated point of contact for information
18 from the State Board of Education and Illinois Student
19 Assistance Commission related to this Section, including the
20 free resources available to their students and schools to help
21 them comply with this Section. A person designated as a point
22 of contact under this Section shall, upon designation, be
23 required to complete an initial orientation and, thereafter,
24 shall be encouraged to participate in annual briefings. The
25 individual shall be eligible to receive professional
26 development hours for both the initial orientation and

1 subsequent annual briefings, as applicable.

2 A school district must award a high school diploma to a
3 student who is unable to meet the requirements of subsection
4 (a) due to extenuating circumstances, as determined by the
5 school district, if (i) the student has met all other
6 graduation requirements under this Code and (ii) the principal
7 attests that the school district has made a good faith effort
8 to assist the student or, if applicable, his or her parent or
9 guardian in filing an application or a waiver under subsection
10 (a).

11 (c) The State Board of Education may adopt rules to
12 implement this Section.

13 (Source: P.A. 101-180, eff. 6-1-20; 102-558, eff. 8-20-21.)

14 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon
15 becoming law.