



CLIENT ADVISORY

Schools

Adopted Legislation

September 2007

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School Service Personnel Certificate

This Public Act amends the requirements for school service personnel certificates. Certificates are granted to all personnel employed by a public, State-operated, or charter school who meet certain education and other personnel requirements. Certificates may now be renewed every 5 years upon completion of at least 80 hours of continuing education, unless they are a professional, such as a counselor, clinical social worker, or school nurse, who are in compliance with their licensing or certification requirements. The amendment also lists acceptable means of completing continuing education requirements.

Effective July 1, 2008. *See Public Act 95-0592.*

Internet Safety Education

This Public Act authorizes schools to teach a minimum of two hours of Internet safety instruction each year to students in kindergarten through 12th grade. The curriculum should include using websites, chat rooms and e-mail, recognizing and avoiding sexual predators, and recognizing and reporting online harassment and bullying.

Effective August 28, 2007. *See Public Act 95-0509.*

School Health Center Act

This Public Act creates the School Health Center Act, which authorizes the Department of Human Services to create 20 new school health centers over a 5 year period commencing July 1, 2007.

Effective August 28, 2007. *See Public Act 95-0488.*

Professional Worker Definition

This Public Act amends the definition of “professional worker” in the School Code to add school counselors and school counselor interns to the list of professional workers.

Effective August 23, 2007. *See Public Act 95-0363.*

Children With Disabilities

The definition of “children with disabilities” in the School Code has been expanded to allow an eligible student who requires continued educational experience to facilitate a transition to adulthood to receive services up to the day before the student’s 22nd birthday.

Effective July 16, 2007. *See Public Act 95-0014.*

Illinois School Psychology Internship Grants

This Public Act amends the School Code to authorize the State Board of Education to provide grants to the Illinois School Psychology Internship Consortium for aid in providing training programs and facilitating interns to improve educational and mental health services to children.

Effective January 1, 2008. *See Public Act 95-0102.*

Student Biometric Information

The School Code is amended to provide guidelines concerning the gathering of biometric information from students, including fingerprints, hand geometry, voice or facial recognition or iris or

retinal scans. School districts that gather such information must adopt policies that require the written permission of a parent or guardian, the discontinuation of the use of this information upon certain conditions, the destruction of biometric information, and the proper uses of biometric information.

Effective August 1, 2007. *See Public Act 95-0232.*

Third-Party Non-Instructional Services

This amendment to the School Code sets forth in detail the circumstances under which a board of education may enter into a third-party agreement for non-instructional services that are currently performed by an employee or bargaining unit member. Among other requirements, the third party that submits a bid must provide evidence of liability insurance, a benefits package comparable to the package provided to current employees, and a minimum three year cost projection.

Effective August 17, 2007. *See Public Act 95-0241.*

Identification, Evaluation and Placement of Children

This Public Act amends the School Code to add factors that must be considered when developing an individualized education program for a student who has an autism disability.

Effective January 1, 2008. *See Public Act 95-0257.*

Non-Public School Recognition

The School Code is amended to prohibit bestowing recognition status to non-public elementary or secondary schools unless the school requires all applicants for employment to submit to fingerprint background checks. Additionally, no school may maintain recognition status if that school knowingly employs a person who has not submitted to a background check or who has been found to have committed certain listed crimes. This requirement

also applies to employees of persons or firms that have contracted with the school to provide services and who have direct daily contact with pupils.

Effective July 1, 2007. *See Public Act 95-0351.*

Special Education Classes

This Public Act amends the School Code to provide that school districts shall be reimbursed under Section 5/14-7.03 of the Code for the eligible costs of educating all disabled students residentially placed by a State agency, or the courts, or if the student is placed and paid for by a State agency for any of the reasons listed in this Section, beginning with the 2007-2008 school year.

Effective August 20, 2007. *See Public Act 95-0313.*

Ensuring Success in School Task Force

This Public Act amends the School Code by adding definitions of both domestic and sexual violence and mandating that the State Board of Education convene an “Ensuring Success in School Task Force” to develop policies, procedures and protocols for school districts to ensure the ability of children and youths who are parents, expectant parents, or victims of domestic or sexual violence to remain in school and successfully complete their education. The Act defines the make-up of the Task Force and sets out certain requirements to meet this Act.

Effective August 30, 2007. *See Public Act 095-0558.*