



Education Omnibus Bill – SB 1569

On the whole, SB 1569 is an Education Omnibus Bill that makes several changes to education law impacting pre-K through 12 that **apply in the event of a public health emergency**. The bill also puts into law several actions taken by Governor Pritzker via executive order during the current COVID-19 crisis. Highlights of the bill include:

- ☑ Removal of the requirement for state standardized assessments if the U.S. Department of Education waives the requirement.
- ☑ In the event of a public health emergency, allows preschools that receive preschool services grants from the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) to operate during a public health emergency to provide child care to children of essential workers, ages 0-12. Essential workers includes school employees. ISBE will create rules regarding such services.
- ☑ In the event of a public health emergency, the State Superintendent of Education may require the use of remote learning days or blended remote learning days by a school district, multiple school districts, regions, or statewide. Blended remote learning days are a hybrid of in-person and remote instruction. When used, remote learning days and blended remote learning days count toward the required 176 pupil attendance days. A district may use an approved e-learning plan during remote or blended remote learning, or create a remote learning or blended remote learning plan.
- ☑ Defines what a remote learning plan or blended remote learning plan must address: (1) the accessibility of remote instruction to students in the district; (2) if applicable, reflect state learning standards; (3) a way for students to communicate with teachers, as needed; (4) consider the unique needs of students in special populations; (5) verify how attendance will be taken and participation will be monitored; and (6) address the transition to on-site learning when the need for remote learning or blended remote learning ends.
- ☑ In the event of a public health emergency, allows a district to use up to five remote learning or blended remote learning planning days to count toward the required 176 pupil attendance days.
- ☑ In the event of a public health emergency, waives the five hour clock hour requirement for a day to count toward pupil attendance.
- ☑ During a public health emergency, state requirements for physical fitness are waived.



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- ☑ During a public health emergency, allows ISBE to make rule changes to education requirements for grades 9-12.
- ☑ During a public health emergency, prohibits a school from withholding a student's report card due to failure to present evidence of immunization, an eye exam, or dental exam.
- ☑ For educators trained in other states or countries, adds a requirement that such educators demonstrate proficiency in the English language either by passing an English proficiency test required by ISBE or completing a post-secondary degree program taught in English.
- ☑ Extends the expiration date of all licenses that expire on June 30, 2020 to June 30, 2021.
- ☑ Waives the student teaching requirement for candidates who were scheduled to student teach during spring 2020.
- ☑ During a public health emergency, allows student teachers to complete student teaching requirements through remote learning.
- ☑ When a tenured teacher received an "excellent" evaluation rating on their most recent evaluation and cannot be evaluated due to a public health emergency, that teacher's evaluation rating defaults to "excellent," unless the union and district bargained a process or an alternate rating.
- ☑ When a probationary teacher received an "excellent" evaluation rating on their most recent evaluation and cannot be evaluated due to a public health emergency, allows the union and the district to bargain an "excellent" rating for these teachers where the rating would normally default to "proficient".
- ☑ During a public health emergency, pre-hearing and hearing timelines for tenured teacher dismissal hearings are paused unless the teacher and the district agree, in writing, to move forward and hold the hearing remotely.
- ☑ During a public health emergency that suspends in-person instruction, timelines to implement and complete a remediation plan are waived.
- ☑ Absent an agreement in writing to the contrary, tenured teachers who are less than 45 days into a remediation plan when a public health emergency suspends in-person learning restart the 90-day remediation timeline when in-person instruction resumes.
- ☑ Makes a requirement that a superintendent, a regional office of education, or entity that provides background checks for schools to notify ISBE within 10 days upon learning of a pending criminal charge for an alleged offense against a license holder which, if



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convicted, raises grounds for disqualification, suspension, or revocation of that individual's license under the school code.