



WHITTED + TAKIFF + HANSEN LLC

QUARTERLY E-NEWSLETTER

January – March 2015

LEGAL UPDATES

March 2015

- A new House Bill, HB 3190, mandates for school districts to provide parents information relating to free or reduced-cost legal help if the school board determines their student a non-resident of the school district.
- A newly proposed House Bill, HB 3252, would create the Illinois School Choice Program, allowing for the payment of public funding to private schools through a voucher program.
- A new House Bill, HB 3123, changes the definition of “school counseling services,” to include:
 - implementing academic, personal, social or career development services,
 - “participating in or contributing to,” a student’s IEP and
 - completing a social developmental history.

February 2015

- The new Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (“PARCC”) testing was the subject of a legislative hearing to review testimony regarding the need, purpose, readiness and concerns about the standardized assessment. The hearing was called as a reaction to Chicago Public Schools’ position that it will not administer the assessment to the majority of its student population, an act which will put the state at risk of losing federal education dollars. At the close of the hearing, it was determined that a task force would be created to assess the roll out of PARCC and what assistance could be provided to Districts to ensure its compliance.

January 2015

- New federal House Resolution 83, as approved by the federal House of Legislature, maintains the current level of financial support for IDEA Part B Grants to various States. The resolution does, however, significantly increase the funding for transitional programs for disabled students, including:
 - \$1 million funding for the Client Assistant Program, an agency which helps people navigate the Vocational Rehabilitation system, as well as funding the new Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act;
 - \$15 million to create a federalized Transitional Model System, “a coordinated system of services and supports to improve career preparation, postsecondary education, and competitive employment for youth with disabilities.”
 - \$2.5 million to create a National Center for Information and Technical Support for Postsecondary Students with Disabilities; and
 - \$1.4 million to create a Model Comprehensive Transition and Postsecondary Programs for Students with Intellectual Disabilities.

- The U.S. Senate recently published draft language for the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA/NCLB). Proposed changes to the law address revisions to the current requirements for states to provide standardized testing annually, freezing funding levels at the current FY15 rates, and eliminating the Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) and Annual Measurable Objectives (AMO) requirements for schools.
- A new Illinois Public Act, PA 98-0917, was enacted, allowing for four years of working as a school support personnel (i.e. counselors) to count toward a principal endorsement for a Professional Educator License.

MEMORANDA

Cyberbullying Alert

UPCOMING PRESENTATIONS

| Date | Title/Topic | Organization |
|---------|--|---|
| 4/22/15 | Individual Education Plans: Be an Active and Informed Partner in the IEP Process | The Arc of Illinois |
| 4/23/15 | The Right to Remain Silent: Navigating Aspects of the Criminal Justice System | The Arc of Illinois |
| 11/5/15 | The Latest Legal Issues Impacting Special Educators | Illinois Council for Exceptional Children |
| 2/6/16 | Latest Legal Issues Impacting Students with Emotional/Behavioral Disorders | Illinois Council for Children with Behavioral Disorders |

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