

## Instruction

### Curriculum Content <sup>1</sup>

The curriculum shall contain instruction on subjects required by State statute or regulation as follows:

1. In kindergarten through grade 8, subjects include: (a) language arts, (b) reading, (c) other communication skills, (d) science, (e) mathematics, (f) social studies, (g) art, (h) music, <sup>2</sup> and (i) drug and substance abuse prevention. <sup>3</sup>
2. In grades 9 through 12, subjects include: (a) language arts, (b) writing intensive course, (c) science, (d) mathematics, (e) social studies including U.S. history, (f) foreign language, (g) music, (h) art, (i) driver and safety education, and (j) vocational education. <sup>4</sup>

Students otherwise eligible to take a driver education course must receive a passing grade in at least 8 courses during the previous 2 semesters before enrolling in the course. The Superintendent or designee may waive this requirement if he or she believes a waiver to be in the student's best interest. <sup>5</sup> The course shall include classroom instruction on distracted driving as a major traffic safety issue. <sup>6</sup> Automobile safety instruction covering traffic regulations and highway safety must include instruction on the consequences of alcohol consumption and the operation of a motor vehicle. <sup>7</sup> The eligibility requirements contained in State law for the receipt of a certificate of completion from the Secretary of State shall be provided to students in writing at the time of their registration. <sup>8</sup>

3. In grades 7 through 12, as well as in interscholastic athletic programs, steroid abuse prevention must be taught. <sup>9</sup>
4. In grades 4 through 12, provided it can be funded by private grants or the federal government, violence prevention and conflict resolution must be stressed, including: (a) causes of conflict,

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<sup>1</sup> State or federal law requires this subject matter be covered by policy. State or federal law controls this policy's content.

Districts must have a policy on physical education (23 Ill.Admin.Code §1.420(p)). Policies on the remaining topics in this policy are optional.

<sup>2</sup> 23 Ill.Admin.Code §1.430.

<sup>3</sup> 105 ILCS 5/27-13.2.

<sup>4</sup> 23 Ill.Admin.Code §1.440, 105 ILCS 5/27-22 and 5/27-23.

<sup>5</sup> 105 ILCS 5/27-23 and 5/27-24.2, as amended by P.A. 95-339.

<sup>6</sup> 105 ILCS 5/27-24.2, as amended by P.A. 95-339.

<sup>7</sup> 105 ILCS 5/27-17, as amended by P.A. 95-168.

<sup>8</sup> The Ill. Vehicle Code, 625 ILCS 5/6-408.5, contains these requirements; they are paraphrased below and may be added to the policy or otherwise disseminated.

Before a certificate of completion will be requested from the Secretary of State, a student must receive a passing grade in at least 8 courses during the 2 semesters last ending before requesting the certificate. A certificate of completion will not be requested for any person less than 18 years of age who has dropped out of school unless the individual provides:

1. Written verification of his or her enrollment in a GED or alternative education program or a GED certificate;
2. Written verification that before dropping out, the individual had received passing grades in at least 8 courses during the 2 previous semesters last ending before requesting a certificate;
3. Written consent from the individual's parent/guardian and the Regional Superintendent; or
4. Written waiver from the Superintendent of the School District in which the individual resides or resided at the time he or she dropped out of school, or from the chief school administrator with respect to a dropout who attended a non-public high school. A waiver may be given if the Superintendent or chief administrator deems it to be in the individual's best interests.

<sup>9</sup> 105 ILCS 5/27-23.3.

- (b) consequences of violent behavior, (c) non-violent resolution, and (d) relationships between drugs, alcohol, and violence. **10**
5. In grades kindergarten through 12, age-appropriate instruction for Internet safety. Beginning with the 2009-2010 school year, the curriculum in grades 3 or above shall contain a unit on Internet safety, the scope of which shall be determined by the Superintendent or designee. **11**
  6. In all grades, character education must be taught including respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, trustworthiness, and citizenship in order to raise students' honesty, kindness, justice, discipline, respect for others, and moral courage. **12** In addition, in all grades, bullying prevention and gang resistance education and training must be taught. **13**
  7. In all schools, citizenship values must be taught, including: (a) patriotism, (b) democratic principles of freedom, justice, and equality, (c) proper use and display of the American flag, (d) the Pledge of Allegiance, and (e) the voting process. **14**
  8. In all grades, physical education must be taught including a developmentally planned and sequential curriculum that fosters the development of movement skills, enhances health-related fitness, increases students' knowledge, offers direct opportunities to learn how to work cooperatively in a group setting, and encourages healthy habits and attitudes for a healthy lifestyle. Unless otherwise exempted, all students are required to engage daily during the school day in a physical education course. For exemptions and substitutions, see policies 6:310, *Credit for Alternative Courses and Programs*, and *Course Substitution*, and 7:260, *Exemption from Physical Activity*. **15**
  9. In all schools, health education must be stressed, including: (a) proper nutrition, (b) physical fitness, (c) other components necessary to develop a sound mind in a healthy body, **16** and (d) dangers and avoidance of abduction. **17**

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**10** 105 ILCS 5/27-23.4.

**11** The first sentence contains an optional item. The second sentence is required by 105 ILCS 5/27-13.3, as amended by P.A. 95-509 and P.A. 95-869 (effective 1-1-09). The statute specifically uses the conjunction *or*; arguably *or* indicates an alternative thus allowing districts to begin including the unit on Internet safety after third grade.

**12** 105 ILCS 5/27-12.

**13** Optional (105 ILCS 5/27-23.7(c), as amended by P.A. 95-198 and 95-349).

**14** 105 ILCS 5/27-3 requires the Pledge of Allegiance to be recited every day in elementary and secondary schools. Requirements for displaying a U.S. flag at each school and in each classroom are found in 5 ILCS 465/3 and 465/3a.

Note that the Illinois statute does not require every student to recite the Pledge – that kind of mandatory participation would violate the U.S. Constitution. Schools may not coerce a student into saying the Pledge, nor may they punish students for refusing to participate in any aspect of the flag ritual, including standing, saluting the flag, and reciting the Pledge. West Virginia State Board of Education v. Barnett, 319 U.S. 624 (1943); Sherman v. Community Consolidated School District 21 of Wheeling Township, 980 F.2d 437 (7th Cir. 1992). Consider using permissive rather than mandatory language to introduce the recitation of the Pledge, such as, “You may now stand to recite the Pledge.” Schools may, of course, require that non-participants maintain order and decorum appropriate to the school environment.

**15** 105 ILCS 5/27-5 requires school boards to provide for students' physical education and allows the P.E. course offered in grades 5 through 10 to include the health education courses required by State law.

105 ILCS 5/27-6 describes when students may be excused from daily P.E. See also 23 Ill.Admin.Code §1.420(p). 105 ILCS 5/27-7 describes the goals and requirements for P.E. courses; these are re-stated in this sample policy.

105 ILCS 5/27-6 contains an exception to the daily P.E. requirement for schools engaged in block scheduling; if this is applicable, substitute this sentence for the last sentence in this paragraph:

Unless otherwise exempted, all students are required to engage daily during the school day, except on block scheduled days for those schools in block scheduling, in a physical education course.

**16** 105 ILCS 110/3 and 23 Ill.Admin.Code §1.420(n). Health education program content is described in sample administrative procedure 6:60-AP, *Comprehensive Health Education Program*; this administrative procedure requires the development of a family life and sex education program.

**17** 105 ILCS 5/27-13.2. The State Police and ISBE must develop child abduction prevention instruction (20 ILCS 2605/2605-480).

10. In all schools, career/vocational education must be taught, including: (a) the importance of work, (b) the development of basic skills to enter the world of work and/or continue formal education, (c) good work habits and values, (d) the relationship between learning and work, and (e) if possible, a student work program that provides the student with work experience as an extension of the regular classroom. A career awareness and exploration program must be available at all grade levels. **18**
11. In grades 9 through 12, consumer education must be taught, including: financial literacy; installment purchasing; budgeting, savings, and investing; banking; simple contracts; income taxes; personal insurance policies; the comparison of prices; homeownership; and the roles of consumers interacting with agriculture, business, labor unions, and government in formulating and achieving the goals of the mixed free enterprise system. **19**
12. In all schools, conservation of natural resources must be taught, including: (a) home ecology, (b) endangered species, (c) threats to the environment, and (d) the importance of the environment to life as we know it. **20**
13. In all schools, United States history must be taught, including: (a) the principles of representative government, (b) the Constitutions of the U.S. and Illinois, (c) the role of the U.S. in world affairs, (d) the role of labor unions, and (e) the role and contributions of ethnic groups, including but not limited to, the African Americans, Albanians, Asian Americans, Bohemians, Czechs, French, Germans, Hispanics, Hungarians, Irish, Italians, Lithuanians, Polish, Russians, Scots, and Slovaks in the history of this country and State. **21**  
In addition, all schools shall hold an educational program on the United States Constitution on Constitution Day, each September 17, commemorating the September 17, 1787 signing of the Constitution. However, when September 17 falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or holiday, Constitution Day shall be held during the preceding or following week. **22**
14. In all schools, the curriculum includes a unit of instruction on the Holocaust and crimes of genocide, including Nazi atrocities of 1933-1945, Armenian Genocide, the Famine-Genocide in Ukraine, and more recent atrocities in Cambodia, Bosnia, Rwanda, and Sudan. **23**
15. In all schools, the curriculum includes a unit of instruction on the history, struggles, and contributions of women. **24**
16. In all schools, the curriculum includes a unit of instruction on Black History, including the history of the African slave trade, slavery in America, and the vestiges of slavery in this country, as well as the struggles and contributions of African-Americans. **25**
17. In all schools offering a secondary agricultural education program, courses as required by 105 ILCS 5/2-3.80. **26**

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**18** 23 Ill.Admin.Code §1.420(i). See 105 ILCS 435/0.01 *et seq.* for the Vocational Education Act.

**19** 105 ILCS 5/27-12.1, as amended by P.A. 95-863; 23 Ill.Admin.Code §1.420(k).

**20** 105 ILCS 5/27-13.1 and 23 Ill.Admin.Code §1.420(l).

**21** 105 ILCS 5/27-21 and 23 Ill.Admin.Code §1.420(r).

**22** Section 111 of Division J of Pub. L. 108-447, the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2005, Dec. 8, 2004; 118 Stat. 2809, 3344-45 (Section 111). Section 111(b) states: “[e]ach educational institution that receives Federal funds for a fiscal year shall hold an educational program on the U.S. Constitution on September 17 of such year . . . .”

**23** 105 ILCS 5/27-20.3 requires the curriculum to include a “unit of instruction” on this subject but does not specify the amount of time that constitutes a “unit of instruction.”

**24** 105 ILCS 5/27-20.5 requires the curriculum to include a “unit of instruction” on this subject but does not specify the amount of time that constitutes a “unit of instruction.”

**25** 105 ILCS 5/27-20.4 requires the curriculum to include a “unit of instruction” on this subject but does not specify the amount of time that constitutes a “unit of instruction.”

**26** 105 ILCS 5/2-3.80(e) or (f).

LEGAL REF.: 5 ILCS 465/3 and 465/3a.  
20 ILCS 2605/2605-480.  
Public Law 108-447, Section 111 of Division J.  
105 ILCS 5/2-3.80(e) and (f), 5/27-3, 5/27-5, 5/27-6, 5/27-7, 5/27-12, 5/27-12.1,  
5/27-13.1, 5/27-13.2, 5/27-20.3, 5/27-20.4, 5/27-20.5, 5/27-21, 5/27-22, 5/27-  
23, 5/27-23.3, 5/27-23.4, 5/27-23.7, 5/27-24.2, 435/0.01 et seq., and 110/3.  
625 ILCS 5/6-408.5.  
23 Ill.Admin.Code §§1.420, 1.430, and 1.440.

CROSS REF.: 6:20 (School Year Calendar and Day), 6:40 (Curriculum Development), 6:70  
(Teaching About Religions), 7:190 (Student Discipline); 7:260 (Exemption from  
Physical Activity)

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## **Administrative Procedure - Comprehensive Health Education Program**

The major educational areas of the District's comprehensive health education program are described below:

1. In all elementary and secondary schools the health program shall include human ecology and health; human growth and development; the emotional, psychological, physiological, hygienic, and social responsibilities of family life (including sexual abstinence until marriage); prevention and control of disease, and course material and instruction to advise students of the Abandoned Newborn Infant Protection Act. **27**
2. The grades 6-12 health program shall include the prevention, transmission and spread of AIDS; public and environmental health; consumer health; safety education and disaster survival; mental health and illness; personal health habits; alcohol and drug use and abuse (including the medical and legal ramifications of alcohol, drug, and tobacco use, abuse during pregnancy); sexual abstinence until marriage; tobacco; nutrition; and dental health. **28**
3. The following areas may also be included as a basis for curricula: basic first aid (including cardiopulmonary resuscitation and the Heimlich maneuver), early prevention and detection of cancer, heart disease, diabetes, stroke, the prevention of child abuse, neglect, and suicide. **29**
4. In grades 5-12, the health program shall include instruction on alcohol and drug use and abuse, including the consequences of drug and substance abuse. **30**
5. In grades K-8, students should be provided with age-appropriate information about the dangers of drug abuse. The District's educational program shall offer drug education units that are integrated into the curricula and are designed to promote effective methods for the prevention and avoidance of drug and substance abuse. **31**
6. In grades 7-12, the program shall include the prevention of abuse of anabolic steroids. In addition, coaches and sponsors of interscholastic athletic programs shall provide instruction on steroid abuse prevention to students participating in these programs. **32**
7. The family life and sex education program shall be developed in a sequential pattern and related in depth and scope to the students' physical, emotional, and intellectual maturity level. Family life courses offered in grades 6-12, shall include information regarding the alternatives to abortion and information regarding the prevention, transmission, and spread of AIDS. Course content shall be age-appropriate. **33**  
Class sessions which deal exclusively with human sexuality may be conducted separately for males and females.
8. The health program in grades K-8 shall include annual instruction on the danger of and how to avoid abduction as part of the District's regular curriculum. Students shall be given, as appropriate, information on child sexual abuse. **34**

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**27** Required by 105 ILCS 110/3.

**28** Id.

**29** Id.; 5/27-17.

**30** Id.

**31** 105 ILCS 5/27-13.2.

**32** Required by 105 ILCS 5/27-23.3, as implemented by 23 Ill.Admin.Code §1.420(u).

**33** Course requirements are mandated by 105 ILCS 5/27-9.1 and 5/27-9.2, but offering the course is optional.

**34** The first sentence is required by 105 ILCS 5/27-13.2 and 23 Ill.Admin.Code §1.420(t). The second sentence is optional according to 105 ILCS 5/27-13.2.

9. Students shall be provided parenting education in grades 6-12. **35**
10. Students shall be provided safety education in all grades. **36**
11. All students shall receive age-appropriate instruction on motor vehicle safety and litter control. **37**
12. Students in grades 9 or 10 shall receive instruction on donations and transplants of organs/tissue and blood. **38**

No student shall be required to take or participate in any class or course on AIDS, family life instruction, sex abuse, or organ/tissue transplantation, if his or her parent/guardian submits a written objection to the Building Principal. Parents/guardians of students in grades kindergarten through 8 shall be given at least 5 days written notice before instruction on avoiding sex abuse begins. Refusal to take or participate in any such course or program shall not be reason for disciplinary action or academic penalty. **39**

Parents/guardians shall be provided the opportunity to preview all print and non-print materials used for instructional purposes. **40**

LEGAL REF.: 105 ILCS 5/27-9.1, 5/27-9.2, 5/27-13.2, 5/27-17, 5/27-23, 5/27-23.1, 5/27-23.3, 5/27-23.5, 5/27-26, and 110/3.

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**35** Course requirements are mandated by 105 ILCS 5/27-23.1, but offering the course is optional.

**36** Optional according to 105 ILCS 5/27-17.

A repealed statute required ISBE to develop a model program for “reduction of self-destructive behavior” and invited districts to include such instruction in their curriculum (105 ILCS 5/27-23.2, repealed by P.A. 95-793). ISBE never developed the program but any district that includes such instruction may add this provision, amending it to reflect its program: “Students in grades 6-12 shall receive instruction for decreasing self-destructive behavior, including methods for increasing life-coping skills, self-esteem, and parenting skills of adolescents and teenagers as a deterrent to their acceptance or practice of self-destructive actions.”

**37** Required by 105 ILCS 5/27-23.

**38** Optional according to 105 ILCS 5/27-23.5.

**39** Required by 105 ILCS 5/27-9.1, 5/27-13.2, and 5/27-23.5.

**40** Id.