

Instruction

Curriculum Content

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 and (i) drug and substance abuse prevention.
2. In grades 7 through 8, as well as in interscholastic athletic programs, steroid abuse prevention must be taught.
3. In grades 4 through 8, 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, (b) consequences of violent behavior, (c) non-violent resolution, and (d) relationships between drugs, alcohol, and violence.
4. In grades 3 or above, the curriculum contains a unit on Internet safety, the scope of which shall be determined by the Superintendent or designee.
5. 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. In addition, in all grades, bullying prevention and gang resistance education and training must be taught.
6. 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.
7. 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 6:310, *Credit for Alternative Courses and Programs, and Course Substitutions*, and 7:260, *Exemption from Physical Activity*.
8. In all schools, health education must be stressed, including: (a) proper nutrition, (b) physical fitness, (c) components necessary to develop a sound

mind in a healthy body, and (d) dangers and avoidance of abduction. The Superintendent shall implement a comprehensive health education program in accordance with State law.

9. 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, (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.
10. In all schools, conservation of natural resources must be taught including: (a) home ecology, (b) endangered species, (c) threats to the environment, (d) the importance of the environment to life as we know it.
11. In all schools, United States history must be taught, including: (a) the principles of representative government, (b) Constitutions of the U.S. and Illinois, (c) the role of the U.S. in World affairs, (d) the role of labor unions, (e) the role and contributions of ethnic groups including but not limited to, the African Americans, Albanians, Asians Americans, Bohemians, Czechs, French, Germans, Hispanics, (including the events related to the forceful removal and illegal deportation of Mexican-American U.S citizens during the Great Depression), Hungarians, Irish, Italians, Lithuanians, Polish, Russians, Scots, and Slovaks, in the history of the country and State.

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.

12. In grade 7 and all high school courses concerning U.S. history or a combination of U.S. history and American government, students must view a Congressional Medal of Honor film made by the Congressional Medal of Honor Foundation, provided there is no cost for the film
13. 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.
14. In all schools, the curriculum includes a unit of instruction on the history, struggles, and contributions of women.
15. 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.

16. In all schools, instruction during courses as determined by the Superintendent or designee on disability history, awareness, and the disability rights movement.

LEGAL REF.: 5ILCS 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, 5/27-3.5, 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, 5/27.5, 5/27-21, 5/27-22, 5/27-23, 5/27-23.3, 5/27-23.4, 5/27-23.7, 5/27-23.8, 5/27-24.2, 435/.and 110/3

625 ILCS 5/6-480.5.

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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