

Instruction

School Year Calendar and Day

School Calendar

The School Board, upon the Superintendent's recommendation and subject to State regulations, annually establishes the dates for opening and closing classes, teacher institutes and in-services, the length and dates of vacations, and the days designated as legal school holidays. The school calendar shall have a minimum of 185 days to ensure 176 days of actual student attendance.

Commemorative Holidays

The teachers and students may devote a portion of the school day on each commemorative holiday designated in the School Code to study and honor the commemorated person or occasion. The Board may, from time to time, designate a regular school day as a commemorative holiday.

School Day

The Board establishes the length of the school day with the recommendation of the Superintendent and subject to State law requirements. The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that observances required by State law are followed during each day of school attendance.

LEGAL REF.: 105 ILCS 5/10-19, 5/10-19.05, 5/10-20.46, 5/10-20.56, 5/10-30, 5/18-12, 5/18-12.5, 5/24-2, 5/27-510, and 5/27-1025.
10 ILCS 5/11-4.1, Election Code.
5 ILCS 490/, State Commemorative Dates Act.
23 Ill.Admin.Code §1.420(f).
Metzl v. Leininger, 850 F.Supp. 740 (N.D. Ill. 1994), *aff'd by* 57 F.3d 618 (7th Cir. 1995).

CROSS REF.: 2:20 (Powers and Duties of the School Board; Indemnification), 4:180 (Pandemic Preparedness; Management; and Recovery), 5:200 (Terms and Conditions of Employment and Dismissal), 5:330 (Sick Days, Vacation, Holidays, and Leaves), 6:60 (Curriculum Content), 6:70 (Teaching About Religions), 7:90 (Release During School Hours)

Instruction

Curriculum Development

Adoption

The Superintendent shall recommend a comprehensive curriculum that is aligned with:

1. The District's educational philosophy and goals,
2. Student needs as identified by research, demographics, and student achievement and other data,
3. The knowledge, skills, and abilities required for students to become life-long learners,
4. The minimum requirements of State and federal law and regulations for curriculum and graduation requirements,
5. The curriculum of non-District schools that feed into or from a District school, provided that the necessary cooperation and information is available,
6. The Illinois State Learning Standards and any District learning standards, and
7. Any required State or federal student testing.

The School Board will adopt, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, a curriculum that meets the above criteria.

Experimental Educational Programs and Pilot Projects

The Superintendent may recommend experimental educational programs and/or pilot projects for Board consideration. Proposals must include goals, material needs, anticipated expenses, and an evaluation process. The Superintendent shall submit to the Board periodic progress reports for programs that exceed one year in duration and a final evaluation with recommendation upon the program's completion.

Single-Gender Classes and Activities

The Superintendent may recommend a program of nonvocational single-gender classes and/or activities to provide diverse educational opportunities and/or meet students' identified educational needs. Participation in the classes or activities must be voluntary, both genders must be treated with substantial equality, and the program must otherwise comply with State and federal law and with Board policy 7:10, *Equal Educational Opportunities*. At least every two years, the Superintendent must evaluate any single-gender class or activity to ensure that: (1) it does not rely on overly broad generalizations about the different talents, capabilities, or preferences of either gender, (2) it is substantially related to the achievement of the important objective for the class or activity, and (3) it continues to comply with State and federal law and with Board policy 7:10, *Equal Educational Opportunities*.

Development

The Superintendent shall develop a curriculum review program to monitor the current curriculum and promptly suggest changes to make the curriculum more effective, to take advantage of improved teaching methods and materials, and to be responsive to social change, technological developments, student needs, and community expectations.

The Superintendent shall report to the Board as appropriate, the curriculum review program's efforts to:

1. Regularly evaluate the curriculum and instructional program.
2. Ensure the curriculum continues to meet the stated adoption criteria.
3. Include input from a cross-section of teachers, administrators, parents/guardians, and students, representing all schools, grade levels, disciplines, and specialized and alternative programs.
4. Coordinate with the process for evaluating the instructional program and materials.

Curriculum Guides and Course Outlines

The Superintendent shall develop and provide subject area curriculum guides to appropriate staff members.

LEGAL REF.: 20 U.S.C. §1681, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972; 34 C.F.R. Part 106.
105 ILCS 5/10-20.8 and 5/10-19.

CROSS REF.: 6:60 (Curriculum Content), 6:65 (Student Social and Emotional Development), 6:70 (Teaching About Religions), 6:80 (Teaching About Controversial Issues) 6:100 (Using Animals in the Educational Program), 6:110 (Programs for Students At Risk of Academic Failure and/or Dropping Out of School and Graduation Incentives Program), 6:120 (Education of Children with Disabilities), 6:130 (Program for the Gifted), 6:135 (Accelerated Placement Program), 6:140 (Education of Homeless Children), 6:145 (Migrant Students), 6:150 (Home and Hospital Instruction), 6:160 (English Learners), 6:170 (Title I Programs), 6:180 (Extended Instructional Programs), 6:185 (Remote Educational Program), 7:10 (Equal Educational Opportunities), 7:15 (Student and Family Privacy Rights)

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, and (h) music. A reading opportunity of 60 minutes per day will be promoted for all students in kindergarten through grade 3 whose reading levels are one grade level or more lower than their current grade level. Daily time of at least 30 minutes (with a minimum of at least 15 consecutive minutes if divided) will be provided for supervised, unstructured, child-directed play for all students in kindergarten through grade 5. Before the completion of grade 5, students will be offered at least one unit of cursive instruction. In grades 6, 7, or 8, students must receive at least one semester of civics education in accordance with Illinois Learning Standards for social science.
2. In grades 9 through 12, subjects include: (a) language arts, (b) writing intensive courses, (c) science, (d) mathematics, (e) social studies including U.S. history, American government and one semester of civics, (f) foreign language, (g) music, (h) art, (i) driver and safety education, and (j) career and technical education.
Students otherwise eligible to take a driver education course must receive a passing grade in at least eight courses during the previous two 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. The course shall include: (a) instruction necessary for the safe operation of motor vehicles, including motorcycles, to the extent that they can be taught in the classroom, (b) classroom instruction on distracted driving as a major traffic safety issue, (c) instruction on required safety and driving precautions that must be observed at emergency situations, highway construction and maintenance zones, including worker safety in those zones, and railroad crossings and their approaches, and (d) instruction concerning law enforcement procedures for traffic stops, including a demonstration of the proper actions to be taken during a traffic stop and appropriate interactions with law enforcement. 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. 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.
3. In all schools, drug and alcohol abuse prevention education, including: (a) in each year in grades K through 4, age- and developmentally appropriate instruction, study, and discussion of effective methods for the prevention and avoidance of drugs and the dangers of opioid and substance abuse, (b) in grades 5 through 12, age- and developmentally appropriate classroom instruction on alcohol and drug use and abuse, (c) in grades 6-12, the dangers of fentanyl, and (d) in grades 7 through 12, anabolic steroid abuse prevention, which must also be taught in interscholastic athletic programs.
4. In kindergarten through grade 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, (b) consequences of violent behavior, (c) non-violent resolution, and (d) relationships between drugs, alcohol, and violence.
5. In grades kindergarten through 12, through the 2026-2027 school year, age-appropriate Internet safety must be taught, the scope of which shall be determined by the Superintendent or designee. The curriculum must incorporate Board policy 6:235, *Access to Electronic Networks*, and, at a minimum, include: (a) education about appropriate online behavior, (b) interacting with other individuals on social networking websites and in chat rooms, and (c) cyberbullying awareness and response.

6. Beginning in the fall of 2027, in grades 3-8 each year, age- and developmentally appropriate instruction on online safety.
7. In all grades, students must receive developmentally appropriate opportunities to gain computer literacy skills that are embedded in the curriculum.
8. In all grades, instruction on behaviors that violate Board policy 7:180, *Prevention of and Response to Bullying, Intimidation, and Harassment*.
9. In all schools, citizenship values must be taught, including: (a) American patriotism, (b) principles of representative government (the American Declaration of Independence, the Constitution of the United States of America and the Constitution of the State of Illinois), (c) proper use and display of the American flag, and (d) the Pledge of Allegiance.
10. 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 in a physical education course with such frequency as determined by the Board after recommendation from the Superintendent, but at a minimum of three days per five-day week. For exemptions and substitutions, see Board policies 6:310, *High School Credit for Non-District Experiences; Course Substitutions; Re-Entering Students* and 7:260, *Exemption from Physical Education*.
11. In all schools, health education must be stressed, including: (a) human ecology, health, growth, development, personal health habits, and nutrition, (b) family life, (c) prevention and control of disease, (d) age- and developmentally appropriate and evidence-informed sexual abuse and assault awareness and prevention education in all grades, (e) public health, environmental health, disaster preparedness, and safety education, (f) mental health and illness, (g) dental health, (h) cancer education, and (i) age- and developmentally appropriate consent education. The Superintendent shall implement a comprehensive health education program in accordance with State law.
12. In all schools, abduction education that addresses the danger of and avoidance of abduction.
13. In grades 9-12, the dangers of allergies must be taught.
14. In grades 9-12, training on how to properly administer cardiopulmonary resuscitation and how to use an automated external defibrillator.
15. 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. In grades 6-12, students engage in career exploration and career development activities to prepare them to make informed plans and decisions about their future education and career goals. In grades 9-12, a College and Career Pathway Endorsement is awarded to students who meet the requirements for a specific endorsement area.
16. In grades 9 through 12, consumer education must be taught, including: (a) financial literacy, including consumer debt and installment purchasing (including credit scoring, managing credit debt, and completing a loan application); budgeting; savings and investing; banking (including balancing a checkbook, opening a deposit account, and the use of interest rates); understanding simple contracts; State and federal income taxes; personal insurance policies; the comparison of prices; higher education student loans; identity-theft security; and homeownership (including the basic process of obtaining a mortgage and the concepts of fixed and adjustable rate mortgages, subprime loans, and predatory lending); and (b) the roles of consumers interacting with agriculture, business, labor unions and government in formulating and achieving the goals of the mixed free enterprise system.

17. In grades 9 through 12, intensive instruction in computer literacy, which may be included as a part of English, social studies, or any other subject.
18. In grades 9 through 12, through the 2026-2027 school year, a unit of instruction on media literacy that includes, but is not limited to the following topics: (a) accessing information to evaluate multiple media platforms and better understand the general landscape and economics of the platforms, and issues regarding the trustworthiness of the source of information; (b) analyzing and evaluating media messages to deconstruct media representations according to the authors, target audience, techniques, agenda setting, stereotypes, and authenticity to distinguish fact from opinion; (c) creating media to convey a coherent message using multimodal practices to a specific target audience that includes, but is not limited to, writing blogs, composing songs, designing video games, producing podcasts, making videos, or coding a mobile or software application; (d) reflecting on media consumption to assess how media affects the consumption of information and how it triggers emotions and behavior; and (e) social responsibility and civics to suggest a plan of action in the class, school, or community for engaging others in a respectful, thoughtful, and inclusive dialogue over a specific issue using facts and reason. Beginning in the fall of 2027, in grades 9 through 12, a unit of instruction on media literacy and Internet safety that includes, but is not limited to, all of the following topics: (a) accessing and evaluating information; (b) creating media; (c) reflecting on media consumption and social responsibility; (d) legal and social penalties for illicit actions online; and (e) reporting illicit content online.
19. In grades 9 through 12, an opportunity for students to take at least one computer science course aligned to Illinois learning standards. Computer science means the study of computers and algorithms, including their principles, hardware and software designs, implementation, and impact on society. Computer science does not include the study of everyday uses of computers and computer applications; e.g., keyboarding or accessing the Internet.
20. In all schools, environmental education, including instruction on: (a) the current problems and needs in the conservation of natural resources and (b) beginning in the fall of 2026, instruction on climate change.
21. In all schools, instruction as determined by the Superintendent or designee on United States (U.S.) 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, (e) the role and contributions of ethnic groups, including but not limited to, African Americans, Albanians, Asian 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 this country and State, (f) a study of the roles and contributions of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) people in the history of the U.S. and Illinois, (g) Illinois history, (h) the contributions made to society by Americans of different faith practices, including, but not limited to, Muslim Americans, Jewish Americans, Christian Americans, Hindu Americans, Sikh Americans, Buddhist Americans, and any other collective community of faith that has shaped America, (i) Native American nations' sovereignty and self-determination, both historically and in the present day, with a focus on urban Native Americans, and (j) the events of the Native American experience and Native American history within the Midwest and Illinois since time immemorial in accordance with 105 ILCS 5/27-20.05.
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. In all schools, the curriculum includes instruction as determined by the Superintendent or designee on the Holocaust and crimes of genocide, including Nazi atrocities of 1933-1945, the Native American genocide in North America, Armenian Genocide, the Famine-Genocide in Ukraine, and more recent atrocities in Cambodia, Bosnia, Rwanda, and Sudan.
23. In all schools, the curriculum includes instruction as determined by the Superintendent or designee on the history, struggles, and contributions of women.
24. In all schools, the curriculum includes instruction as determined by the Superintendent or designee on Black History, including the history of the pre-enslavement of Black people from 3,000 BCE to AD 1619, the African slave trade, slavery in America, the study of the reasons why Black people came to be enslaved, the vestiges of slavery in this country, the study of the American civil rights renaissance, as well as the struggles and contributions of African-Americans.
25. In all schools offering a secondary agricultural education program, the curriculum includes courses as required by 105 ILCS 5/2-3.80.
26. In all schools, instruction during courses as determined by the Superintendent or designee on disability history, awareness, and the disability rights movement.
27. In all schools, instruction as determined by the Superintendent or designee on the events of Asian American history, including the history of Asian Americans in Illinois and the Midwest, as well as the contributions of Asian Americans toward advancing civil rights from the 19th century onward, which must include the contributions made by individual Asian Americans in government and the arts, humanities, and sciences, as well as the contributions of Asian American communities to the economic, cultural, social, and political development of the United States.
28. In kindergarten through grade 8, education must be available to students concerning effective methods of preventing and avoiding traffic injuries related to walking and bicycling.

LEGAL REF.: Pub. L. No. 108-447, Section 111 of Division J, Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2005.
Pub. L. No. 110-385, Title II, 122 stat. 4096 (2008), Protecting Children in the 21st Century Act.
47 C.F.R. §54.520.
5 ILCS 465/3 and 465/3a.
20 ILCS 2605/2605-480.
105 ILCS 5/2-3.80(e) and (f), 5/10-20.79, 5/10-20.84, 5/10-23.13, 5/22-110, 5/27-105, 5/27-110, 5/27-115, 5/27-210, 5/27-215, 5/27-245, 5/27-250, 5/27-255, 5/27-260, 5/27-305, 5/27-310, 5/27-315, 5/27-405, 5/27-410 (scheduled for repeal on 7-1-27), 5/27-415 (scheduled for repeal on 7-1-27), 5/27-505, 5/27-510, 5/27-515, 5/27-520, 5/27-525, 5/27-530, 5/27-535, 5/27-540, 5/27-545, 5/27-605, 5/27-705, 5/27-710, 5/27-715, 5/27-720, 5/27-725, 5/27-810, 5/27-815, and 5/27-1050.
105 ILCS 435/, Vocational Education Act.
625 ILCS 5/6-408.5, Ill. Vehicle Code.
23 Ill.Admin.Code §§1.420, 1.425, 1.430, and 1.440.

CROSS REF.: 4:165 (Awareness and Prevention of Child Sex Abuse and Grooming Behaviors), 6:20 (School Year Calendar and Day), 6:40 (Curriculum Development), 6:70 (Teaching About Religions), 6:235 (Access to Electronic Networks), 7:180 (Prevention of and Response to Bullying, Intimidation, and Harassment), 7:185 (Teen Dating Violence Prohibited), 7:190 (Student Behavior), 7:260 (Exemption from Physical Education)

Instruction

Program for the Gifted

The Superintendent or designee shall implement an education program for gifted and talented learners that will challenge and motivate academically advanced learners and engage them in appropriately differentiated learning experiences to develop their unique abilities. This program will be responsive to student needs and within the budget parameters as set by the Board.

Eligibility to participate in the gifted program shall not be conditioned upon race, religion, sex, disability, or any factor other than the student's identification as gifted or talented learner.

The School Board will monitor this program's performance by meeting periodically with the Superintendent or designee to determine and/or review the indicators and data that evidence whether the educational program for gifted and talented learners is accomplishing its goals and objectives and is otherwise in compliance with this policy.

LEGAL REF.: 105 ILCS 5/14A.

CROSS REF.: 6:135 (Accelerated Placement Program)

Instruction

Accelerated Placement Program

The District provides an Accelerated Placement Program (APP). The APP provides an educational setting with curriculum options usually reserved for students who are older or in higher grades than the student participating in the APP. APP options include, but may not be limited to: (a) accelerating a student in a single subject; (b) other grade-level acceleration; and (c) early entrance to kindergarten or first grade. Participation in the APP is open to all students who demonstrate high ability and who may benefit from accelerated placement. It is not limited to students who have been identified as gifted and talented. Eligibility to participate in the District's APP shall not be conditioned upon the protected classifications identified in Board policy 7:10, *Equal Educational Opportunities*, or any factor other than the student's identification as an accelerated learner.

The Superintendent or designee shall implement an APP that includes:

1. Decision-making processes that are fair, equitable, and involve multiple individuals, e.g. District administrators, teachers, and school support personnel, and a student's parent(s)/guardian(s).
2. Processes that provide a student's parent(s)/guardian(s) with:
 - a. Written notification when their child is eligible for enrollment in accelerated courses; and
 - b. Notification of a decision affecting their child's participation in the APP.
3. Assessment processes that include multiple valid, reliable indicators.
4. The automatic enrollment, in the following school term, of a student into the next most rigorous level of advanced coursework offered by the high school if the student meets or exceeds State standards in English language arts, mathematics, or science on a State assessment administered under 105 ILCS 5/2-3.64a-5, as follows:
 - a. A student who meets or exceeds State standards in English language arts shall be automatically enrolled into the next most rigorous level of advanced coursework in English, social studies, humanities, or related subjects.
 - b. A student who meets or exceeds State standards in mathematics shall be automatically enrolled into the next most rigorous level of advanced coursework in mathematics.
 - c. A student who meets or exceeds State standards in science shall be automatically enrolled into the next most rigorous level of advanced coursework in science.
5. Waiver of a course completion requirement under Board policy 6:300, *Graduation Requirements*, if the District determines that the student has demonstrated mastery of or competency in the content of the course or unit of instruction.

LEGAL REF.: 105 ILCS 5/14A.
23 Ill.Admin.Code Part 227, Gifted Education.

CROSS REF.: 6:10 (Educational Philosophy and Objectives), 6:130 (Program for the Gifted), 7:10 (Equal Educational Opportunities), 7:50 (School Admissions and Student Transfers To and From Non-District Schools)

Instruction

Education of Homeless Children

Each child of a homeless individual and each homeless youth has equal access to the same free, appropriate public education as provided to other children and youths, including a public pre-school education. A *homeless child* is defined as provided in the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act and the Education for Homeless Children Act. The Superintendent or designee shall act as or appoint a Liaison for Homeless Children to coordinate this policy's implementation.

A homeless child may attend the District school that the child attended when permanently housed or in which the child was last enrolled. A homeless child living in any District school's attendance area may attend that school.

The Superintendent or designee shall review and revise rules or procedures that may act as barriers to the enrollment of homeless children and youths. In reviewing and revising such procedures, consideration shall be given to issues concerning transportation, immunization, residency, birth certificates, school records and other documentation, and guardianship. Transportation shall be provided in accordance with the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act and State law. The Superintendent or designee shall give special attention to ensuring the enrollment and attendance of homeless children and youths who are not currently attending school. If a child is denied enrollment or transportation under this policy, the Liaison for Homeless Children shall immediately refer the child or his or her parent/guardian to the ombudsperson appointed by the Regional Superintendent and provide the child or his or her parent/guardian with a written explanation for the denial.

LEGAL REF.: 42 U.S.C. §11431 *et seq.*, McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act.
105 ILCS 45/, Education for Homeless Children Act.
23 Ill.Admin.Code §1.241.

CROSS REF.: 2:260 (Uniform Grievance Procedure), 4:110 (Transportation), 4:140 (Waiver of Student Fees), 7:10 (Equal Educational Opportunities), 7:30 (Student Assignment and Intra-District Transfer), 7:50 (School Admissions and Student Transfers To and From Non-District Schools), 7:60 (Residence), 7:100 (Health, Eye, and Dental Examinations; Immunizations; and Exclusion of Students)

ADMIN. PROC.: 6:140-AP (Education of Homeless Children)

Instruction

English Learners

The District offers opportunities for resident English Learners to achieve at high levels in academic subjects and to meet the same challenging State academic standards that all children are expected to meet. The Superintendent or designee shall develop and maintain a program for English Learners that will:

1. Assist all English Learners to achieve English proficiency, facilitate effective communication in English, and encourage their full participation in school activities and programs as well as promote participation by the parents/guardians of English Learners.
2. Appropriately identify students with limited English language proficiency.
3. Comply with State law regarding the Transitional Bilingual Educational Program (TBE) or Transitional Program of Instruction (TPI), whichever is applicable.
4. Comply with any applicable State and federal requirements for the receipt of grant money for English Learners and programs to serve them.
5. Determine the appropriate instructional program and environment for English Learners.
6. Annually assess the English proficiency of English Learners and monitor their progress in order to determine their readiness for a mainstream classroom environment.
7. Include English Learners, to the extent required by State and federal law, in the District's student assessment program to measure their achievement in reading/language arts and mathematics.
8. Provide information to the parents/guardians of English Learners about: (a) the reasons for their child's identification, (b) their child's level of English proficiency, (c) the method of instruction to be used, (d) how the program will meet their child's needs, (e) how the program will specifically help their child learn English and meet age-appropriate academic achievement standards for grade promotion and graduation, (f) specific exit requirements of the program, (g) how the program will meet their child's individualized education program, if applicable, and (h) information on parent/guardian rights. Parents/guardians will be regularly apprised of their child's progress and involvement will be encouraged.

Parent/Guardian Involvement

Parents/guardians of English Learners will be informed how they can: (1) be involved in the education of their children; (2) be active participants in assisting their children to attain English proficiency, achieve at high levels within a well-rounded education, and meet the challenging State academic standards expected of all students; and (3) participate and serve on the District's Transitional Bilingual Education Programs Parent Advisory Committee.

LEGAL REF.: 20 U.S.C. §§6312, 6314, 6315, and 6318.

20 U.S.C. §6801 *et seq.*

34 C.F.R. Part 200.

105 ILCS 5/14C-1 *et seq.*

23 Ill.Admin.Code Part 228.

CROSS REF.: 6:15 (School Accountability), 6:170 (Title I Programs), 6:340 (Student Testing and Assessment Program)

Instruction

Instructional Materials

All District classrooms and learning centers should be equipped with an evenly-proportioned, wide assortment of instructional materials, including textbooks, workbooks, audio-visual materials, and electronic materials. These materials should provide quality learning experiences for students and:

1. Enrich and support the curriculum;
2. Stimulate growth in knowledge, literary appreciation, aesthetic values, and ethical standards;
3. Provide background information to enable students to make informed judgments and promote critical reading and thinking;
4. Depict in an accurate and unbiased way the cultural diversity and pluralistic nature of American society; and
5. Contribute to a sense of the worth of all people regardless of sex, race, religion, nationality, ethnic origin, sexual orientation, disability, or any other differences that may exist.

Teachers are encouraged to use age-appropriate supplemental material only when it will enhance, or otherwise illustrate, the subjects being taught. No R-rated movie shall be shown to students unless prior approval is received from the Superintendent or designee, and no movie rated NC-17 (no one 17 and under admitted) shall be shown under any circumstances. These restrictions apply to television programs and other media with equivalent ratings. The Superintendent or designee shall give parents/guardians an opportunity to request that their child not participate in a class showing a movie, television program, or other media with an R or equivalent rating.

Instructional Materials Selection and Adoption

The Superintendent shall approve the selection of all textbooks and instructional materials according to the standards described in this policy. The School Code governs the adoption and purchase of textbooks and instructional materials.

LEGAL REF.: 105 ILCS 5/10-20.8 and 5/28-19.1.

CROSS REF.: 6:30 (Organization of Instruction), 6:40 (Curriculum Development), 6:80 (Teaching About Controversial Issues), 6:170 (Title I Programs), 6:260 (Complaints About Curriculum, Instructional Materials, and Programs), 7:10 (Equal Educational Opportunities), 7:15 (Student and Family Privacy Rights), 8:110 (Public Suggestions and Concerns)

Instruction

Bring Your Own Technology (BYOT) Program; Responsible Use and Conduct

On rare occasions, the Superintendent or designee shall establish a *Bring Your Own Technology (BYOT) Program*. The program will:

1. Promote educational excellence by facilitating resource sharing, innovation, and communication to enhance (a) technology use skills; (b) web-literacy and critical thinking skills about Internet resources and materials, including making wise choices; and (c) habits for responsible digital citizenship required in the 21st century.
2. Provide sufficient wireless infrastructure within budget parameters.
3. Provide access to the Internet only through the District's electronic networks.
4. Identify approved BYOT devices and what District-owned technology devices may be available; e.g., laptops, tablet devices, E-readers, and/or smartphones.
5. Align with Board policies 4:140, *Waiver of Student Fees*; 5:120, *Employee Ethics*; *Code of Professional Conduct; and Conflict of Interest*; 5:125, *Personal Technology and Social Media; Usage and Conduct*; 5:170, *Copyright*; 6:120, *Education of Children with Disabilities*; 6:235, *Access to Electronic Networks*; 7:140, *Search and Seizure*; 7:180, *Prevention of and Response to Bullying, Intimidation, and Harassment*; 7:190, *Student Behavior*; 7:340, *Student Records*; and 7:345, *Use of Educational Technologies; Student Data Privacy and Security*.
6. Provide relevant staff members with BYOT professional development opportunities, including the provision of:
 - a. Classroom management information about issues associated with the program, e.g., technical support, responsible use, etc.;
 - b. A copy of or access to this policy and any building-specific rules for the program;
 - c. Additional training, if necessary, about 5:170, *Copyright*; and
 - d. Information concerning appropriate behavior of staff members as required by State law and Board policy 5:120, *Employee Ethics*; *Code of Professional Conduct; and Conflict of Interest*.
7. Provide a method to inform parents/guardians and students about this policy.
8. Include the program in the annual report to the Board as required under Board policy 6:10, *Education Philosophy and Objectives*.

The District reserves the right to discontinue its BYOT program at any time. The District does not provide liability protection for BYOT devices, and it is not responsible for any damages to them.

Responsible Use

The District recognizes students participating in the program as responsible young adults and holds high expectations of their conduct in connection with their participation in the program. Teachers may encourage students to bring their own devices as supplemental in-class materials when: (a) using the devices will appropriately enhance, or otherwise illustrate, the subjects being taught; (b) the Building Principal has approved their use and found that their use is age-appropriate; and (c) the student's parent/guardian has signed the *Bring Your Own Technology (BYOT) Program Participation Authorization and Responsible Use Agreement Form*. A student's right to privacy in his or her device is limited; any reasonable suspicion of activities that violate law or Board policies will be treated according to policy 7:140, *Search and Seizure*.

Responsible use in the program incorporates into this policy the individual's *Acceptable Use of Electronic Networks* agreement pursuant to Board policy 6:235, *Access to Electronic Networks*. Responsible use also incorporates the established usage and conduct rules in Board policies 5:125, *Personal Technology and Social Media; Usage and Conduct*, for staff, and 7:190, *Student Behavior*,

for students. Failure to follow these rules and the specific BYOT program student guidelines may result in: (a) the loss of access to the District's electronic network and/or student's BYOT privileges; (b) disciplinary action pursuant to Board policies 7:190, *Student Behavior*; 7:200, *Suspension Procedures*; or 7:210, *Expulsion Procedures*; and/or (c) appropriate legal action, including referrals of suspected or alleged criminal acts to appropriate law enforcement agencies.

LEGAL REF.: 15 U.S.C. §§6501-6506, Children's Online Privacy Protection Act; 16 C.F.R. Part 312, Children's Online Privacy Protection Rule.
20 U.S.C. §7101, Every Student Succeeds Act.
47 U.S.C. §254(h) and (l), Children's Internet Protection Act.
47 C.F.R. Part 54, Subpart F, Universal Service Support for Schools and Libraries.

CROSS REF.: 1:30 (School District Philosophy), 4:140 (Waiver of Student Fees), 5:120 (Employee Ethics; Code of Professional Conduct; and Conflict of Interest), 5:125 (Personal Technology and Social Media; Usage and Conduct), 5:170 (Copyright), 6:10 (Educational Philosophy and Objectives), 6:40 (Curriculum Development), 6:120 (Education of Children with Disabilities), 6:210 (Instructional Materials), 6:235 (Access to Electronic Networks), 7:140 (Search and Seizure), 7:180 (Prevention of and Response to Bullying, Intimidation, and Harassment), 7:190 (Student Behavior), 7:340 (Student Records), 7:345 (Use of Educational Technologies; Student Data Privacy and Security)

Instruction

Access to Electronic Networks

Electronic networks are a part of the District's instructional program and serve to promote educational excellence by facilitating resource sharing, innovation, and communication.

The term *electronic networks* includes all of the District's technology resources, including, but not limited to:

1. The District's local-area and wide-area networks, including wireless networks (Wi-Fi), District-issued Wi-Fi hotspots, and any District servers or other networking infrastructure;
2. Access to the Internet or other online resources via the District's networks or to any District-issued online account from any computer or device, regardless of location;
3. District-owned or District-issued computers, laptops, tablets, phones, or similar devices.

The Superintendent shall develop an implementation plan for this policy and appoint system administrator(s).

The School District is not responsible for any information that may be lost or damaged, or become unavailable when using the network, or for any information that is retrieved or transmitted via the Internet. Furthermore, the District will not be responsible for any unauthorized charges or fees resulting from access to the Internet.

Curriculum and Appropriate Online Behavior

The use of the District's electronic networks shall: (1) be consistent with the curriculum adopted by the District as well as the varied instructional needs, learning styles, abilities, and developmental levels of the students, and (2) comply with the selection criteria for instructional materials and library resource center materials. As required by federal law and Board policy 6:60, *Curriculum Content*, students will be educated about appropriate online behavior, including but not limited to: (1) interacting with other individuals on social networking websites and in chat rooms, and (2) cyberbullying awareness and response. Staff members may, consistent with the Superintendent's implementation plan, use the Internet throughout the curriculum.

The District's electronic network is part of the curriculum and is not a public forum for general use.

Acceptable Use

All use of the District's electronic networks must be: (1) in support of education and/or research, and be in furtherance of the goals stated herein, or (2) for a legitimate school business purpose. Use is a privilege, not a right. Users of the District's electronic networks have no expectation of privacy in any material that is stored on, transmitted, or received via the District's electronic networks. General rules for behavior and communications apply when using electronic networks. The District's administrative procedure, *Acceptable Use of the District's Electronic Networks*, contains the appropriate uses, ethics, and protocol. Electronic communications and downloaded material, including files deleted from a user's account but not erased, may be monitored or read by school officials.

Internet Safety

Technology protection measures shall be used on each District computer with Internet access. They shall include a filtering device that protects against Internet access by both adults and minors to visual depictions that are: (1) obscene, (2) pornographic, or (3) harmful or inappropriate for students, as defined by federal law and as determined by the Superintendent or designee. The Superintendent or designee shall enforce the use of such filtering devices. An administrator, supervisor, or other authorized person may disable the filtering device for bona fide research or other lawful purpose,

provided the person receives prior permission from the Superintendent or system administrator. The Superintendent or designee shall include measures in this policy's implementation plan to address the following:

1. Ensure staff supervision of student access to online electronic networks,
2. Restrict student access to inappropriate matter as well as restricting access to harmful materials,
3. Ensure student and staff privacy, safety, and security when using electronic communications,
4. Restrict unauthorized access, including "hacking" and other unlawful activities, and
5. Restrict unauthorized disclosure, use, and dissemination of personal identification information, such as, names and addresses.

Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI)-Enabled Tools

The Board recognizes that AI-enabled tools are important to enhance student learning, educator effectiveness, and school operations. The use of AI-enabled tools in the District shall be implemented in a safe, ethical, and equitable manner and in accordance with Board policies 1:30, *School District Philosophy, and 7:345, Use of Educational Technologies; Student Data Privacy and Security*.

To implement the use of AI-enabled tools in the District, the Superintendent or designee shall:

6. Develop a District-wide AI Plan that addresses the District's approach to the integration of AI;
7. Based on the District-wide AI Plan, establish AI Responsible Use Guidelines to address the responsible use of AI in the District by students and staff;
8. Ensure that AI-enabled tools comply with State and federal law;
9. Ensure that staff receive training and students receive instruction on the use of AI, as appropriate; and
10. Review the District's AI Plan and AI Responsible Use Guidelines on an annual basis and update them as needed.

Authorization for Electronic Network Access

Each staff member must sign the *Authorization for Access to the District's Electronic Networks* as a condition for using the District's electronic network. Each student and his or her parent(s)/guardian(s) must sign the *Authorization* before being granted unsupervised use.

Confidentiality

All users of the District's computers to access the Internet shall maintain the confidentiality of student records. Reasonable measures to protect against unreasonable access shall be taken before confidential student information is loaded onto the network.

Violations

The failure of any user to follow the terms of the District's administrative procedure, *Acceptable Use of the District's Electronic Networks*, or this policy, will result in the loss of privileges, disciplinary action, and/or appropriate legal action.

LEGAL REF.: 20 U.S.C. §7131, Elementary and Secondary Education Act.
47 U.S.C. §254(h) and (l), Children's Internet Protection Act.
47 C.F.R. Part 54, Subpart F, Universal Service Support for Schools and Libraries.
115 ILCS 5/14(c-5), Ill. Educational Labor Relations Act.
720 ILCS 5/26.5.

CROSS REF.: 5:100 (Staff Development Program), 5:170 (Copyright), 6:40 (Curriculum Development), 6:60 (Curriculum Content), 6:210 (Instructional Materials), 6:220 (Bring Your Own Technology (BYOT) Program; Responsible Use and Conduct), 6:230 (Library Media Program), 6:260 (Complaints About Curriculum, Instructional Materials, and Programs), 7:130 (Student Rights and Responsibilities), 7:190 (Student Behavior), 7:310 (Restrictions on Publications; Elementary Schools), 7:315 (Restrictions on Publications; High Schools), 7:345 (Use of Educational Technologies; Student Data Privacy and Security)

ADMIN. PROC.: 6:235-AP1 (Acceptable Use of the District's Electronic Networks), 6:235-AP1, E1 (Student Authorization for Access to the District's Electronic Networks), 6:235-AP1, E2 (Staff Authorization for Access to the District's Electronic Networks)

Instruction

Field Trips

Field trips are permissible when the experiences are a part of the school curriculum and/or contribute to the District's educational objectives.

All field trips must have the Superintendent or designee's prior approval, except that field trips beyond a 200-mile radius of the school or extending overnight must have the prior approval of the School Board. The Superintendent or designee shall analyze the following factors to determine whether to approve a field trip: educational value, student safety, parent concerns, heightened security alerts, and liability concerns. On all field trips, a bus fee set by the Superintendent or designee may be charged to help defray the transportation costs.

Parents/guardians of students: (1) shall be given the opportunity to consent to their child's participation in any field trip; and (2) are responsible for all entrance fees, food, lodging, or other costs, except that the District will pay such costs for students who qualify for a fee waiver under Board policy 4:140, *Waiver of Student Fees*. All non-participating students shall be provided an alternative experience. Any field trip may be cancelled without notice due to an unforeseen event or condition.

Privately arranged trips, including those led by District staff members, shall not be represented as or construed to be sponsored by the District or school. The District does not provide liability protection for privately arranged trips and is not responsible for any damages arising from them.

Recreational Class Trips are permissible provided they do not interfere with the District's educational program. The provisions in this policy concerning field trips, except those regarding educational value, are also applicable to recreational class trips.

LEGAL REF.: 105 ILCS 5/29-3.1.

CROSS REF.: 4:140 (Waiver of Student Fees), 6:10 (Educational Philosophy and Objectives), 7:10 (Equal Educational Opportunities), 7:270 (Administering Medicines to Students)

Instruction

Complaints About Curriculum, Instructional Materials, and Programs

Parents/guardians have the right to inspect any instructional material used as part of their child's educational curriculum pursuant to School Board policy 7:15, *Student and Family Privacy Rights*.

Parents/guardians, employees, and community members who believe that curriculum, instructional materials, or programs violate rights guaranteed by any law or Board policy may file a complaint using Board policy 2:260, *Uniform Grievance Procedure*.

Parents/guardians, employees, and community members with other suggestions or complaints about curriculum, instructional materials, or programs should complete a *Curriculum Objection Form*. A parent/guardian may request that his/her child be exempt from using a particular instructional material or program by completing a *Curriculum Objection Form*. The Superintendent or designee shall establish criteria for the review of objections and inform the parent/guardian, employee, or community member, as applicable, of the District's decision.

LEGAL REF.: 20 U.S.C. §1232h, Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment.
Mahmoud v. Taylor, 145 S.Ct. 2332 (2025).

CROSS REF.: 2:260 (Uniform Grievance Procedure), 7:15 (Student and Family Privacy Rights), 8:110 (Public Suggestions and Concerns)

Instruction

Guidance and Counseling Program

The School District provides a guidance and counseling program for students. The Superintendent or designee shall direct the District's guidance and counseling program.

[For Elementary and Unit Districts]

Each staff member is responsible for effectively guiding students under his/her supervision in order to provide early identification of intellectual, emotional, social, or physical needs, diagnosis of any learning disabilities, and development of educational potential. The District's counselors shall offer counseling to those students who require additional assistance.

[For High School and Unit Districts]

The guidance program will assist students to identify career options consistent with their abilities, interests, and personal values. Students shall be encouraged to seek the help of counselors to develop specific curriculum goals that conform to the student's career objectives. High school juniors and seniors will have the opportunity to receive career-oriented information. Representatives from colleges and universities, occupational training institutions and career-oriented recruiters, including the military, may be given access to the school campus in order to provide students and parents/guardians with information.

LEGAL REF.: 105 ILCS 5/10-22.24a and 5/10-22.24b.
23 Ill.Admin.Code §1.420(q).

CROSS REF.: 6:50 (School Wellness), 6:65 (Student Social and Emotional Development), 6:110 (Programs for Students At Risk of Academic Failure and/or Dropping Out of School and Graduation Incentives Program), 6:120 (Education of Children with Disabilities), 6:130 (Program for the Gifted), 7:100 (Health, Eye, and Dental Examinations; Immunizations; and Exclusion of Students), 7:250 (Student Support Services), 7:290 (Suicide and Depression Awareness and Prevention)

ADMIN. PROC.: 7:340-AP1 (School Student Records), 7:340-AP1, E1 (Notice to Parents/Guardians and Students of Their Rights Concerning a Student's School Records), 7:340-AP1, E3 (Letter to Parents and Eligible Students Concerning Military Recruiters and Postsecondary Institutions Receiving Student Directory Information)

Instruction

Grading and Promotion

The Superintendent or designee shall establish a system of grading and reporting academic achievement to students and their parents/guardians. The system shall also determine when promotion and graduation requirements are met. The decision to promote a student to the next grade level shall be based on successful completion of the curriculum, attendance, and performance on the standardized tests required by the Ill. State Board of Education (ISBE) and/or other assessments. A student shall not be promoted based upon age or any other social reason not related to academic performance. The administration shall determine remedial assistance for a student who is not promoted.

Every teacher shall maintain an evaluation record for each student in the teacher's classroom. A District administrator cannot change the final grade assigned by the teacher without notifying the teacher. Reasons for changing a student's final grade include:

- A miscalculation of test scores,
- A technical error in assigning a particular grade or score,
- The teacher agrees to allow the student to do extra work that may impact the grade,
- An inappropriate grading system used to determine the grade, or
- An inappropriate grade based on an appropriate grading system.

Should a grade change be made, the administrator making the change must sign the changed record.

LEGAL REF.: 105 ILCS 5/2-3.64a-5, 5/10-20.9a, 5/10-21.8, and 5/27-27.

CROSS REF.: 6:110 (Programs for Students At Risk of Academic Failure and/or Dropping Out of School and Graduation Incentives Program), 6:300 (Graduation Requirements), 6:340 (Student Testing and Assessment Program), 7:50 (School Admissions and Student Transfers To and From Non-District Schools)

Instruction

Graduation Requirements

To graduate from high school, unless otherwise exempted, each student is responsible for:

1. Completing all District graduation requirements that are in addition to the State requirements.
2. Completing all courses as provided in the School Code, 105 ILCS 5/27-605.
3. Completing all minimum requirements for graduation as specified in State law.
4. Passing an examination on patriotism, principles of representative government, and proper use and display of the American flag.
5. Participating in State assessments that are required for graduation by State law.
6. Filing one of the following: (1) a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) with the U.S. Dept. of Education, (2) an application for State financial aid, or (3) an Ill. State Board of Education (ISBE) waiver form indicating that the student understands what these aid opportunities are and has chosen not to file an application. If the student is not at least 18 years of age or legally emancipated, the student's parent/guardian must file one of these documents on the student's behalf.

A student is exempt from this requirement if: (1) the student is unable to file a financial aid application or an ISBE waiver due to extenuating circumstances, (2) the Building Principal attests the District made a good faith effort to assist the student or the student's parent/guardian with filing a financial aid application or an ISBE waiver form, and (3) the student has met all other graduation requirements.

The Superintendent or designee is responsible for:

1. Maintaining a description of all course offerings that comply with the above graduation requirements.
2. Notifying students and their parents/guardians of graduation requirements.
3. Developing the criteria for #4 above.
4. Complying with State law requirements for students who transfer during their senior year because their parent(s)/guardian(s) are on active military duty. This includes making reasonable adjustments to ensure graduation if possible, or efforts to ensure that the original (transferor) school district issues the student a diploma.
5. Taking all other actions needed or necessary to implement this policy.

Early Graduation

The Superintendent or designee shall implement procedures for students to graduate early, provided they finish seven semesters of high school and meet all graduation requirements.

Certificate of Completion

A student with a disability who has an Individualized Education Program prescribing special education, transition planning, transition services, or related services beyond the student's four years of high school, qualifies for a certificate of completion after the student has completed four years of high school. The student is encouraged to participate in the graduation ceremony of his or her high school graduation class. The Superintendent or designee shall provide timely written notice of this requirement to children with disabilities and their parents/guardians.

Service Member Diploma

The District will award a diploma to a service member who was killed in action while performing active military duty with the U.S. Armed Forces or an honorably discharged veteran of World War II, the Korean Conflict, or the Vietnam Conflict, provided that he or she (1) resided within an area currently

within the District at the time he or she left high school, (2) left high school before graduating in order to serve in the U.S. Armed Forces, and (3) has not received a high school diploma.

LEGAL REF.: 105 ILCS 5/2-3.64a-5, 5/22-27, 5/22-87, 5/27-510, 5/27-605, and 5/27-615.

105 ILCS 70/, Educational Opportunity for Military Children Act.

23 Ill.Admin.Code §1.440.

CROSS REF.: 6:30 (Organization of Instruction), 6:310 (High School Credit for Non-District Experiences; Course Substitutions; Re-Entering Students), 6:315 (High School Credit for Students in Grade 7 or 8), 6:320 (High School Credit for Proficiency), 7:50 (School Admissions and Student Transfers To and From Non-District Schools)

Instruction

High School Credit for Non-District Experiences; Course Substitutions; Re-Entering Students

Credit for Non-District Experiences

A student may receive high school credit for successfully completing any of the listed courses or experiences even when it is not offered in or sponsored by the District:

1. Distance learning course, including a correspondence, virtual, or online course
2. Courses in an accredited foreign exchange program
3. Summer school or community college courses
4. College or high school courses offering dual credit at both the college and high school level
5. Foreign language courses taken in an ethnic school program approved by the Illinois State Board of Education
6. Work-related training at manufacturing facilities or agencies in a Tech Prep Partnership for Careers program
7. Credit earned in a Vocational Academy

The student must seek approval from the Superintendent or designee to receive graduation credit for any non-District course or experience. The Superintendent or designee shall determine the amount of credit and whether a proficiency examination is required before the credit is awarded. As approval is not guaranteed, students should seek conditional approval of the experience before participating in a non-District course or experience. The student assumes responsibility for any fee, tuition, supply, or other expense. The student seeking credit is responsible for (1) providing documents or transcripts that demonstrate successful completion of the experience, and (2) taking a proficiency examination, if requested. The Superintendent or designee shall determine which, if any, non-District courses or experiences, will count toward a student's grade point average, class rank, and eligibility for athletic and extracurricular activities. When applicable, the Building Principal or designee shall, prior to the first day of class, inform individual high school students enrolled in a mixed enrollment dual credit course that includes students who have and have not met the community college's criteria for dual credit coursework of whether or not they are eligible to earn college credit for the course. This section does not govern the transfer of credits for students transferring into the District.

Substitutions for Required Courses

Vocational or technical education. A student in grades 9-12 may satisfy one or more high school courses (including physical education) or graduation requirements by successfully completing related vocational or technical education courses if:

1. The Building Principal approves the substitution(s) and the vocational or technical education course is completely described in curriculum material along with its relationship to the required course; and
2. The student's parent/guardian requests and approves the substitution(s) in writing on forms provided by the District.

Registered Apprenticeship Program. The Superintendent or designee will ensure that the District complies with State law requirements for registered apprenticeship programs. The opportunities and requirements for registered apprenticeship programs contained in this policy will be posted on the District's website, and parents/guardians and students will also be notified of such opportunities in the appropriate school handbook(s).

A student in grades 9-12 who is 16 years or older may satisfy one or more high school courses (including physical education) or graduation requirements by successfully completing a registered apprenticeship program if:

3. The registered apprenticeship program meets all criteria contained in State law;
4. The registered apprenticeship program is listed by the District, or the student identifies a registered (but not listed) apprenticeship program with a business or organization if one is not offered in the District;
5. The student enrolled in a registered apprenticeship program has the opportunity to earn post-secondary credit toward a certificate or degrees, as applicable;
6. The student's parent/guardian requests and approves the substitution(s) in writing on forms provided by the District and on its website;
7. The Building Principal approves the substitution(s); and
8. All non-academic requirements mandated by the School Code for high school graduation that would otherwise prohibit or prevent the student from participating in the registered apprenticeship program are waived.

Advanced placement computer science. The advanced placement computer science course is equivalent to a high school mathematics course. A student in grades 9-12 may substitute the advanced placement computer science course for one year of mathematics, in accordance with Section 27-22 of the School Code. The transcript of a student who completes the advanced placement computer science course will state that it qualifies as a mathematics-based, quantitative course.

Substitutions for physical education. A student in grades 9-12, unless otherwise stated, may submit a written request to the Building Principal to be excused from physical education courses for the reasons stated below. The Superintendent or designee shall maintain records showing that the criteria set forth in this policy were applied to the student's individual circumstances, as appropriate.

9. Ongoing participation in a marching band program for credit;
10. Enrollment in Reserve Officer's Training Corps (ROTC) program sponsored by the District;
11. Ongoing participation in an *interscholastic* or *extracurricular athletic program*;
12. Enrollment in academic classes that are required for admission to an institution of higher learning (student must be in the 11th or 12th grade); or
13. Enrollment in academic classes that are required for graduation from high school, provided that failure to take such classes will result in the student being unable to graduate (student must be in the 11th or 12th grade).

A student who is eligible for special education may be excused from physical education courses pursuant to 7:260, *Exemption from Physical Education*.

Volunteer service credit. A student participating in the District's Volunteer Service Credit Program, if any, may earn credit toward graduation for the performance of community service. The amount of credit given for program participation shall not exceed that given for completion of one semester of language arts, math, science, or social studies.

Re-Entering Students

Individuals younger than 21 years of age may re-enter high school to acquire a high school diploma or an equivalency certificate, subject to the limitations in Board policy 7:50, *School Admissions and Student Transfers To and From Non-District Schools*. Re-entering students may obtain credit through the successful completion of the following (not all of these may be available at any one time):

14. District courses
15. Non-District experiences described in this policy
16. Classes in a program established under Section 10-22.20 of the School Code, in accordance with the standards established by the Illinois Community College Board

17. Proficiency testing, correspondence courses, life experiences, and other nonformal educational endeavors
18. Military service, provided the individual making the request has a recommendation from the American Council on Education

The provisions in the section **Credit for Non-District Experiences**, above, apply to the receipt of credit for any non-District course.

LEGAL REF.: 105 ILCS 5/2-3.44, 5/2-3.108, 5/2-3.115(b), 5/2-3.142, 5/2-3.175, 5/10-22.43a, 5/10-20.62, 5/27-610, 5/27-710, and 5/27-1035.
110 ILCS 27/, Dual Credit Quality Act.
23 Ill.Admin.Code §§1.425(e), 1.440(f), 1.470(c), and Part 255.

CROSS REF.: 6:180 (Extended Instructional Programs), 6:300 (Graduation Requirements), 6:315 (High School Credit for Students in Grade 7 or 8), 6:320 (High School Credit for Proficiency), 7:50 (School Admissions and Student Transfers To and From Non-District Schools), 7:260 (Exemption from Physical Education)

Instruction

High School Credit for Students in Grade 7 or 8

The Superintendent or designee may investigate, coordinate, and implement a program for students in grades 7 and 8 to enroll in a course required for a high school diploma.

[The next two paragraphs are only for unit and high school districts; the final paragraph is only for elementary districts.]

If a program is available, students in grades 7 and 8 may enroll in a course required for a high school diploma when the course is offered by the high school that the elementary student would attend and one of the following is satisfied: (1) the student participates in the course at the high school and the elementary student's enrollment in the course would not prevent a high school student from being able to enroll, or (2) the student participates in the course where the student attends school as long as the student passes the course and the end-of-course examination given at the high school granting the credit for the same course, demonstrating proficiency at the high school level, or (3) the course is taught by a teacher who holds a professional educator license with an endorsement for the grade level and content area of the course.

A student who successfully completes a course required for a high school diploma while in grades 7 and 8 shall receive academic credit for the course. That academic credit shall satisfy the requirements of 105 ILCS 5/27-615 for purposes of receiving a high school diploma, unless evidence about the course's rigor and content show that the course did not address the relevant Illinois learning standard at the level appropriate for the high school grade during which the course is usually taken. The student's grade in the course shall also be included in the student's grade point average.

[Elementary school districts only]

If a program is available, students in grades 7 and 8 may enroll in a course required for a high school diploma. Students in grades 7 and 8 who successfully complete a course required for a high school diploma will receive academic credit if permitted by, and in accordance with, the policy of the district where the elementary student will attend high school.

LEGAL REF.: 105 ILCS 5/10-22.43 and 5/27-615.
23 Ill.Admin.Code §1.460.

CROSS REF.: 6:135 (Accelerated Placement Program), 6:300 (Graduation Requirements), 6:310 (High School Credit for Non-District Experiences; Course Substitutions; Re-Entering Students), 6:320 (High School Credit for Proficiency)

Instruction

High School Credit for Proficiency

Proficiency Credits

Subject to the limitations in this policy and State law, the Superintendent or designee is authorized to establish and approve a program for granting credit for proficiency with the goal of allowing a student who would not benefit from a course because the student is proficient in the subject area to receive credit without having to take the course. A student who demonstrates competency under this program will receive course credit for the applicable course and be excused from any requirement to take the course as a graduation prerequisite. No letter grade will be given for purposes of the student's cumulative grade point average. The Superintendent or designee shall notify students of the availability of and requirements for receiving proficiency credit.

Proficiency credit will be offered in the following subject areas:

Foreign language - A student is eligible to receive one year of foreign language credit if the student has graduated from an accredited elementary school and can demonstrate proficiency, according to this District's academic criteria, in a language other than English. A student who demonstrates proficiency in American Sign Language is deemed proficient in a foreign language and will receive one year of foreign language credit. A student who studied a foreign language in an approved ethnic school program is eligible to receive appropriate credit according to the level of proficiency reached; the student may be required to take a proficiency examination.

Other proficiency testing - The program for granting credit for proficiency may allow, as the Superintendent deems appropriate, course credit to be awarded on the basis of a local examination to a student who has achieved the necessary proficiency through independent study or work taken in or through another institution. Proficiency testing may also be used to determine eligible credit for other subjects whenever students enter from non-graded schools, non-recognized or non-accredited schools, or were in a home-schooling program.

LEGAL REF.: 105 ILCS 5/10-22.43, 5/10-22.43a, and 5/27-605.
23 Ill.Admin.Code §1.460; Part 680, State Seal of Biliteracy.

CROSS REF.: 6:300 (Graduation Requirements), 6:310 (High School Credit for Non-District Experiences; Course Substitutions; Re-Entering Students), 6:315 (High School Credit for Students in Grade 7 or 8)