

Document Status: Draft Update

INSTRUCTION

6:60 Curriculum Content

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

1. In each grade, subjects include: (a) language arts, (b) reading, (c) other communication skills, (d) science, (e) mathematics, (f) social studies, (g) art, and (h) music, and (i) drug and substance abuse prevention including the dangers of opioid abuse. [PRESSPlus1](#) 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. 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 all schools, drug and alcohol abuse prevention education, including: [PRESSPlus2](#) (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 8, age- and developmentally appropriate classroom instruction on alcohol and drug use and abuse, (c) in grades 6-8, the dangers of fentanyl, and (d) in grades 7 and 8, as well as in interscholastic athletic programs, anabolic steroid abuse prevention, which must also be taught in interscholastic athletic programs.
3. In kindergarten through grade 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. In addition, anti-bias education and intergroup conflict resolution may be taught as an effective method for preventing violence and lessening tensions in schools; these prevention methods are most effective when they are respectful of individuals and their divergent viewpoints and religious beliefs, which are protected by the [First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States](#).
4. In all grades, character education [PRESSPlus3](#) 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. Instruction on in all grades will include educating students about behaviors that violate Board policy 7:180, Prevention of and Response to Bullying, Intimidation, and Harassment.
5. In grades kindergarten through 8, through the 2026-2027 school year, [PRESSPlus4](#) 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. [PRESSPlus5](#)
7. In all grades, students must receive developmentally appropriate opportunities to gain computer

literacy skills that are embedded in the curriculum.

8. In all schools, citizenship values must be taught, including: (a) American patriotism, (b) democratic 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) freedom, justice, and equality, (c) proper use and display of the American flag, and (d) the Pledge of Allegiance, and (e) the voting process. [PRESSPlus6](#)
9. 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 with such frequency as determined by the Board, but at a minimum of three days per five-day week, during the school day, except on block scheduled days, in a physical education course. For exemptions and substitutions, see Board policy 7:260, *Exemption from Physical Education*.
10. In all schools, health education must be stressed, including: [PRESSPlus7](#) (a) human ecology, health, growth, development, personal health habits, and nutrition, (b) family life, (c) prevention and control of disease, proper nutrition, (b) physical fitness, (c) personal health habits, (d) dangers and avoidance of abduction, (de) 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, [PRESSPlus8](#) (f) mental health and illness, (g) dental health, (h) cancer education, and (i) age- and developmentally appropriate consent education [PRESSPlus9](#) and (f) in grades 6-8, the dangers of fentanyl. The Superintendent shall implement a comprehensive health education program in accordance with State law, including a personal health and safety and sexual health education program (National Sex Education Standards) pursuant to 105 ILCS 5/27-9.1a[1015](#). The Superintendent shall also implement an age- and developmentally appropriate consent education curriculum pursuant to 105 ILCS 5/27-9.1b[1010](#).
11. In all schools, abduction education that addresses the danger of and avoidance of abduction. [PRESSPlus10](#)
12. 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 6-8, 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.
13. 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.
14. 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) beginning in the fall of 2024, 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.

15. ~~In grade 7 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.~~ [PRESSPlus11](#)
16. 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, [Q1](#) and more recent atrocities in Cambodia, Bosnia, Rwanda, and Sudan.
17. In all schools, the curriculum includes instruction as determined by the Superintendent or designee on the history, struggles, and contributions of women.
18. 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.
19. In all schools, instruction during courses as determined by the Superintendent or designee on disability history, awareness, and the disability rights movement.
20. 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.
21. 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, 5/27-3, 5/27-3.5, 5/27-5, 5/27-6, 5/27-6.5, 5/27-7, 5/27-12, 5/27-12.1, 5/27-13.1, 5/27-13.2, 5/27-20.05, 5/27-20.08, 5/27-20.3, 5/27-20.4, 5/27-20.5, 5/27-20.7, 5/27-20.8, 5/27-21, 5/27-22, 5/27-23.3, 5/27-23.4, 5/27-23.7, 5/27-23.8, 5/27-23.10, 5/27-23.11, 5/27-23.15, 5/27-23.16, 5/27-24.1, and 5/27-24.2~~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.~~PRESSPlus12

105 ILCS 110/3, Comprehensive Health Education Program.~~PRESSPlus13~~

105 ILCS 435/, Vocational Education Act.

625 ILCS 5/6-408.5, III. Vehicle Code.

23 III.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)

REVISED: July 18, 2018, December 19, 2018; January 15, 2020; March 16, 2022; March 15, 2023; January 17, 2024; December 18, 2024

Questions and Answers:

***Required Question 1. A district may include in its curriculum a unit of instruction studying the causes and effects of mass starvation in mid-19th century Ireland, known as the "Irish Famine." 105 ILCS 5/27-1030, renumbered by P.A. 104-391. If offered, the board locally determines the minimum amount of instruction time. For a resource originally developed by the NJ Commission on Holocaust Education, see www.oregon.gov/ode/educator-resources/standards/socialsciences/Documents/IrishFamine.pdf.

Does the Board provide instruction studying the causes and effects of the Irish Famine?

- No. (Default)
- Yes. (IASB will add "the Irish Famine" after "the Famine-Genocide in Ukraine," and IASB will add 5/27-1030 to the Legal References.)

PRESSPlus Comments

PRESSPlus 1. Stricken from #1 and added below. **Issue 120, October 2025**

PRESSPlus 2. Drug abuse prevention education is no longer part of the Comprehensive Health Education Program (CHEP) and is therefore listed as a separate item. P.A. 104-391 consolidated drug prevention education related topics into one new section of the School Code, 105 ILCS 5/27-255. **Issue 120, October 2025**

PRESSPlus 3. Updated in response to P.A. 104-391, which repealed the requirement to teach character education formerly at 105 ILCS 5/27-12. **Issue 120, October 2025**

PRESSPlus 4. Updated in response to 105 ILCS 5/27-410 (scheduled for repeal on 7-1-27), amended by P.A. 104-399, eff. 1-1-26, and renumbered by P.A. 104-391. **Issue 120, October 2025**

PRESSPlus 5. Required by 105 ILCS 5/27-405(b), added by P.A. 104-391. Boards locally determine the scope and duration of this unit of instruction. Topics to include in online safety instruction are not mandated, but the following are recommended: (1) safe and responsible use of the Internet, social networking websites, electronic mail, online messaging and posting, and other means of communication on the Internet; (2) recognizing, avoiding, and reporting online solicitations of students, their classmates, and their friends by sexual predators; (3) risks of transmitting personal information on the Internet; (4) recognizing and avoiding unsolicited or deceptive communications received online; (5) reporting online harassment, cyber-bullying, and illegal activities and communications on the Internet; (6) the legal penalties and social ramifications for illicit actions taken online, including infringement of copyright laws and the creation and sharing of harmful, defamatory, or sexually explicit content; and (7) the relationship between responsible use of online resources and social-emotional health. *Online safety* means safe practices relating to an individual's or group's use of the Internet, social networking website, electronic mail, online messaging and posting, and other means of communication on the Internet. **Issue 120, October 2025**

PRESSPlus 6. Updated in response to P.A. 104-391, which moved instruction on the voting process to civics education for grades 6, 7, or 8. **Issue 120, October 2025**

PRESSPlus 7. Letters (a) - (i) are required by CHEP. 105 ILCS 5/27-215, added by P.A. 104-391. **Issue 120, October 2025**

PRESSPlus 8. 105 ILCS 5/27-815, renumbered by P.A. 104-391, also requires safety instruction in each of grades 1 through 8, equivalent to one class period each week. Neither CHEP nor 105 ILCS 5/27-815 (as it pertains to grades 1-8) define safety education or explain how it differs from the optional safety education that boards can offer under 105 ILCS 5/27-1020, renumbered by P.A. 104-391, though districts could draw from the topics listed in that section. **Issue 120, October 2025**

PRESSPlus 9. Consent education under CHEP is limited to the definition of *consent* under 105 ILCS 5/27-215(a), added by P.A. 104-391; this basic consent instruction is separate from the more extensive, optional consent education under 105 ILCS 5/27-1010, amended and renumbered by P.A. 104-391. For more information, see PRESS sample policy 6:60, *Curriculum Content*, at footnote 33, available at PRESS Online by logging in at www.iasb.com. **Issue 120, October 2025**

PRESSPlus 10. Required by 105 ILCS 5/27-105, added by P.A. 104-391. The III. State Police and III. 6:60

State Board of Education (ISBE) must develop instruction on child abduction prevention. 20 ILCS 2605/2605-480. See www.isbe.net/Documents/Child-Abduction-Prevention.pdf. Although this topic is no longer required by CHEP, it is also addressed in sample administrative procedure 6:60-AP1, *Comprehensive Health Education Program*, available at PRESS Online by logging in at www.iasb.com. **Issue 120, October 2025**

PRESSPlus 11. Repealed by P.A. 104-391, formerly at 105 ILCS 5/27-3.5. **Issue 120, October 2025**

PRESSPlus 12. Updated in response to P.A. 104-391, renumbering, reorganizing, and repealing citations throughout 105 ILCS 5/27. **Issue 120, October 2025**

PRESSPlus 13. Repealed by P.A. 104-391 and replaced, in part, by 105 ILCS 5/27-215, added by P.A. 104-391. **Issue 120, October 2025**