

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. 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. Before the completion of grade 5, students will be offered at least one unit of cursive instruction. **Beginning with the 2020-21, in grades 6, 7, or 8, students must receive one semester of civics education in accordance with Illinois Learning Standards for social science.**
2. In grades 7 through 8, as well as in interscholastic athletic programs, steroid abuse prevention must be taught.
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.
4. In grades Kindergarten through 8, age-appropriate instruction for Internet safety must be taught, the scope of which shall be determined by the Superintendent or designee. The curriculum must incorporate policy 6:235, *Access to the 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) cyber bullying awareness and response.
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. **Instruction in all grades will include examples of behaviors that violate Policy 7:180, *Prevention of and Response to Bullying, Intimidation, and Harassment*.**

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 in physical education courses with such frequency as determined by the board after recommendation from the Superintendent, but at a minimum of three days per 5-day week. For exemptions and substitutions, see policy ~~6:310, *Credit for Alternative Courses and Programs, and Course Substitution*~~, 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, (d) dangers and avoidance of abduction, and (e) age-appropriate sexual abuse and assault awareness and prevention education in all grades. 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, 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.
10. In all schools, conservation of natural resources must be taught, including: (a) home ecology, (b) endangered species, (c) threats to the environment, and (d) the importance of the environment to life as we know it.
11. **In all schools** ~~In the school district~~, 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, and (e) the role and contributions of ethnic groups, including but not limited to, the African Americans, Albanians,

Asian Americans, Bohemians, Czechs, French, Germans, Hispanics (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, and (g) Illinois history.

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, 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 district curriculum includes instruction as determined by the Superintendent or designee ~~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 district curriculum includes instruction as determined by the Superintendent or designee ~~a unit of instruction~~ on the history, struggles, and contributions of women.
15. In all schools, the district curriculum includes instruction as determined by the Superintendent or designee ~~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, the district curriculum includes instruction during courses as determined by the Superintendent or designee ~~instruction~~ on disability history, awareness, and the disability rights movement.
17. 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.