

Document Status: Draft Update

Section 6 - INSTRUCTION

6:60 Curriculum Content

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

1. 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) vocational education.
2. 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, [PRESSPlus1](#) 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 each grade, as well as in interscholastic athletic programs, steroid abuse prevention must be taught.
4. In each grade, 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](#).

5. In each grade, age-appropriate 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 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. In all grades, students must receive developmentally appropriate opportunities to gain computer literacy skills that are embedded in the curriculum.
7. 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 educating students about behaviors that violate policy 7:180, *Prevention of and Response to Bullying, Intimidation, and Harassment*.
8. 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, (d) the Pledge of Allegiance, and (e) the voting process.
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. (Option 1 - Unless otherwise exempted, all students are required to 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 policies 6:310, *High School Credit for Non-District Experiences; Course Substitutions; Re-Entering Students* and 7:260, *Exemption from Physical Education*.
10. In all schools, health education must be stressed, including: (a) proper nutrition, (b) physical fitness, (c) [personal health habits](#) [components necessary to develop a sound mind in a healthy body](#), [PRESSPlus2](#) (d) dangers and avoidance of abduction, (e) age-appropriate and evidence-informed sexual abuse and assault awareness and prevention education in all grades, and (f) [beginning in the fall of 2024](#), in grades 9-12, the dangers of fentanyl. The Superintendent shall implement a comprehensive health education program in accordance with State law.
11. 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 9-12, 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.^{PRESSPlus3} In grades 9-12, a College and Career Pathway Endorsement is awarded to students who meet the requirements for a specific endorsement area.^{PRESSPlus4}

12. 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.
13. 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.
14. In grades 9 through 12, a unit of instruction on media literacy that includes, but is not limited to, all of 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.
15. 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.
16. In all schools, environmental education ~~conservation of natural resources must be taught~~, including instruction on: (a) ~~home ecology~~ the current problems and needs in the conservation of natural resources, and (b) ~~endangered species~~ beginning in the fall of 2026, instruction on climate change, ~~(c) threats to~~

the environment, and (d) the importance of the environment to life as we know it. [PRESSPlus5](#)

17. 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.

18. In grade 7 and all high school courses concerning U.S. history or a combination of U.S. history and American government, students must view a Congressional Medal of Honor film made by the Congressional Medal of Honor Foundation, provided there is no cost for the film.
19. 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.
20. In all schools, the curriculum includes instruction as determined by the Superintendent or designee on the history, struggles, and contributions of women.
21. 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.

22. In all schools offering a secondary agricultural education program, courses as required by [105 ILCS 5/2-3.80](#).
23. In all schools, instruction during courses as determined by the Superintendent or designee on disability history, awareness, and the disability rights movement.
24. 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.

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](#).

[105 ILCS 110/3](#), Comprehensive Health Education Program.

[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)

PRESSPlus Comments

[PRESSPlus 1](#). Updated in response to 105 ILCS 5/27-24.1, amended by P.A. 103-944. **Issue 117, October 2024**

[PRESSPlus 2](#). Updated for continuous improvement to more closely align with the Comprehensive Health Education Program (CHEP)105 ILCS 110/3. **Issue 117, October 2024**

[PRESSPlus 3](#). 105 ILCS 5/10-20.84(a), added by P.A. 102-917 and renumbered by P.A. 103-154. Unless a board has opted out, career exploration and career development activities in grades 6-12 must be implemented by 7-1-25 in accordance with the model framework adopted by State agencies known as the PaCE Framework. See www.isac.org/pace/il-pace-resource-materials.html for the middle school and high school frameworks and additional implementation resources.

To fully or partially opt out of career exploration and career development activities under 105 ILCS 5/10-20.84(d), a board must adopt a set of findings that considers the following: (1) the district's current systems for college and career readiness; (2) the district's cost of implementation balanced against the potential benefits to students and families through improved postsecondary education and career outcomes; (3) the willingness and capacity of local businesses to partner with the district for successful implementation of pathways other than education; (4) the willingness of institutions of higher education to partner with the district for successful implementation of the pathway and whether the district has sought and established a partnership agreement with a community college district incorporating provisions of the Model Partnership Agreement under the Dual Credit Quality Act (110 ILCS 27/) (see www.isbe.net/Documents/DCQA-Model-Partnership-Agreement-Form.pdf); (5) the availability of a statewide database of participating local business partners, as provided under the Postsecondary and Workforce Readiness Act (110 ILCS 148/), for the purpose of career readiness and the accessibility of those work experiences and apprenticeships listed in the database to district students (see the link to the Work-based Learning Database at www.isbe.net/cte); and (6) the availability of properly licensed teachers or teachers meeting faculty credential standards for dual credit courses to instruct in the program required for the endorsement areas. 105 ILCS 5/10-20.84(d)(1)-(6), added by P.A. 102-917 and renumbered by P.A. 103-154. A board opting out must report its findings and decision to ISBE. A board may also reverse its decision regarding implementation in whole or in part at any time.

In practice, unless a district has created its own career exploration and career development activities framework that does not align with the PaCE Framework, a

board is unlikely to opt out of the PaCE Framework under 105 ILCS 5/10-20.84(a) and still implement College and Career Pathway Endorsements under 105 ILCS 5/10-20.84(c) (CCPE) because career exploration activities are a prerequisite to award of the endorsements. 23 Ill.Admin.Code §258.20.

Delete this sentence if the board has fully opted out of implementation of career exploration and career development activities under 105 ILCS 5/10-20.84(d), added by P.A. 102-917 and renumbered by P.A. 103-154. Regarding partial opt-out from this requirement, the law does not address the types of partial opt-out(s) available. As of the date of the publication of **PRESS** Issue 117 (October 2024), ISBE had not issued any rulemaking or guidance on this topic or any details regarding reporting of a full or partial opt-out to ISBE, other than to indicate to IASB that districts can submit their decision to CTE@isbe.net. Boards interested in opting out from this requirement should consult the Board attorney and check for any further guidance that may be issued by ISBE. **Issue 117, October 2024**

[PRESSPlus 4](#). 105 ILCS 5/10-20.84(b) and (c), added by P.A. 102-917 and renumbered by P.A. 103-154; 23 Ill.Admin.Code Part 258.

By 7-1-25, a board must elect to either implement CCPE or take action to opt out of it. See www.isbe.net/pathwayendorsements for more information. 105 ILCS 5/10-20.84(c) requires a district to implement CCPE either independently, through an area career center, or through an inter-district cooperative, on the following schedule: (1) at least one endorsement area for the graduating class of 2027; (2) at least two endorsement areas for the graduating class of 2029; and (3) at least three endorsement areas for the graduating class of 2031, if a district's grade 9-12 enrollment is more than 350 students, as calculated by ISBE for the 2022-2023 school year. A board implementing CCPE must, by 7-1-25, submit the necessary application materials (including an Endorsement Plan, see 23 Ill.Admin.Code §258.20) to ISBE, or the board must adopt a timeline for implementation of the number of endorsement areas required by 105 ILCS 5/10-20.84(c). A board may opt out of implementing CCPE entirely or it may initially implement an endorsement area for the class of 2027 and then later choose to partially opt out by opting out of the class of 2029 and/or class of 2031 endorsement area schedule. 105 ILCS 5/10-20.84(c) and (d), added by P.A. 102-917 and renumbered by P.A. 103-154; 23 Ill.Admin.Code §258.40(a) and (b). A board that chooses to fully opt out of CCPE must submit documentation of its decision and specific findings to ISBE by 7-1-25. A board that later chooses to partially opt out of CCPE by opting out of the 2029 and/or 2031 endorsement area schedule must submit documentation of its decision and specific findings no later than July 1 immediately before the school year the district would be required to award the endorsement.

If fully opting out of CCPE by 7-1-25 or later partially opting out of the 2029 and/or 2031 endorsement area schedule, a board must adopt a set of findings that considers the following: (1) the district's current systems for college and career readiness; (2) the district's cost of implementation balanced against the potential benefits to students and families through improved postsecondary education and career outcomes; (3) the

willingness and capacity of local businesses to partner with the district for successful implementation of pathways other than education; (4) the willingness of institutions of higher education to partner with the district for successful implementation of the pathway and whether the district has sought and established a partnership agreement with a community college district incorporating provisions of the Model Partnership Agreement under the Dual Credit Quality Act (110 ILCS 27/) (see www.isbe.net/Documents/DCQA-Model-Partnership-Agreement-Form.pdf); (5) the availability of a statewide database of participating local business partners, as provided under the Postsecondary and Workforce Readiness Act (110 ILCS 148/), for the purpose of career readiness and the accessibility of those work experiences and apprenticeships listed in the database to district students (see the link to the Work-based Learning Database at www.isbe.net/cte); and (6) the availability of properly licensed teachers or teachers meeting faculty credential standards for dual credit courses to instruct in the program required for the endorsement areas. 105 ILCS 5/10-20.84(d)(1)-(6), added by P.A. 102-917 and renumbered by P.A. 103-154. A board opting out must report its findings and decision on implementation by submitting the following information to ISBE, via the College and Career Pathway Endorsement portal: (1) the reasoning for opting out, and (2) copies of the board's meeting agenda, board findings, and board meeting minutes. 23 Ill.Admin.Code §258.40(a). A board can manage compliance with the documentation requirements by adopting a written resolution or adopting findings set forth in another document. A board may also reverse its decision regarding implementation of CCPE in whole or in part at any time.

Delete this sentence if a board has fully opted out of implementing CCPE, and delete 105 ILCS 5/10-20.84 from the Legal References if the board has fully opted out of CCPE and also fully opted out of the career exploration and career development activities in grades 6-12. **Issue 117, October 2024**

[PRESSPlus 5](#). Updated in response to 105 ILCS 5/27-13.1, amended by P.A. 103-837, eff. 7-1-25; 23 Ill.Admin.Code §1.420(l). Instruction on the conservation of natural resources must include, but is not limited to, air pollution, water pollution, waste reduction and recycling, the effect of excessive use of pesticides, preservation of wilderness areas, forest management, protection of wildlife, and humane care of animals. Instruction on climate change must include, but is not limited to, identifying the environmental and ecological impacts of climate change on individuals and communities and evaluating solutions for addressing and mitigating the impact of climate change. Instruction on climate change must align with State learning standards, as appropriate and subject to funding, and ISBE is required to make instructional resources and professional development learning opportunities available for educators. **Issue 117, October 2024**