

Instruction

School Accountability 1

According to the Illinois General Assembly, the primary purpose of schooling is the transmission of knowledge and culture through which students learn in areas necessary to their continuing development and entry into the world of work.² To fulfill that purpose, the Ill. State Board of Education (ISBE) prepared *State Goals for Learning* with accompanying *Illinois Learning Standards*.³

The School Board gives priority in the allocation of resources, including funds, time, personnel, and facilities, to fulfilling this purpose.

Quality Assurance

The Board continuously monitors student achievement and the quality of the District's work. The Superintendent shall supervise the following quality assurance components, in accordance with State law and ISBE rules, and continuously keep the Board informed:

1. Prepare each school's annual recognition application and quality assurance appraisal, whether internal or external, to assess each school's continuous school improvement.⁴
2. Continuously assess the District's and each school's overall performance in terms of both academic success and equity. This includes, without limitation, a thorough analysis of ISBE's balanced accountability measure and each school's *Multiple Measure Index* and corresponding *Annual Measurable Objective* provided by ISBE.⁵

The footnotes are not intended to be part of the adopted policy; they should be removed before the policy is adopted.

¹ State or federal law controls this policy's content.

² 105 ILCS 5/27-1.

³ 23 Ill.Admin.Code §1, Appendix D.

⁴ 105 ILCS 5/2-3.25 - 2-3.25b, amended by P.A. 100-1046; 23 Ill.Admin.Code §§1.10(a) and 1.20.

⁵ 105 ILCS 5/2-3.25a, amended by P.A.s 99-193, 99-657, and 100-1046; 5/2-3.64a-5, amended by P.A.s 100-1046 and 101-643. First, 105 ILCS 5/2-3.25a, amended by P.A. 99-193, significantly revised the system of standards for school districts and schools. Next, 105 ILCS 5/2-3.25a, amended by P.A. 99-657, delayed certain implementation dates by one school year. Then, 105 ILCS 5/2-3.25a, amended by P.A. 100-1046, further revised the system of standards for school districts and schools. Annual state assessments required by 105 ILCS 5/2-3.64a-5(c), amended by P.A.s 100-1046 and 101-643, are not required if ISBE receives a waiver from the administration of assessments from the U.S. Dept. of Education. 105 ILCS 5/2-3.64a-5(c), as amended by P.A. 101-643. ISBE must establish recognition standards for student performance and school improvement for all districts and their individual schools. ISBE must outline accountability measures in its State plan that it submits to the U.S. Dept. of Education under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) (Pub. L. 114-95). If ESSA ceases to require a state plan, then ISBE must develop a written plan in consultation with the Ill. Balanced Accountability Measure (IBAM) Committee. 105 ILCS 5/2-3.25a, amended by P.A.s 99-193, 99-657, and 100-1046.

3. If applicable, develop District and School Improvement Plans, present them for Board approval, and supervise their implementation. ⁶
4. Prepare a school report card, present it at a regular Board meeting, and disseminate it as provided in State law. ⁷
5. In accordance with 105 ILCS 5/2-3.153, annually administer a climate survey on the instructional environment within the school to, at minimum, students in grades 4 through 12 and teachers. ⁸

LEGAL REF.: 105 ILCS 5/2-3.25, 5/2-3.25a, 5/2-3.25b, 5/2-3.25c, 5/2-3.25d-5, 5/2-3.25e-5, 5/2-3.25f, 5/2-3.25f-5, 5/2-3.63, 5/2-3.64a-5, 5/2-3.153, 5/10-21.3a, and 5/27-1.23 Ill.Admin.Code Part 1, Subpart A: Recognition Requirements.

CROSS REF.: 6:170 (Title I Programs), 6:340 (Student Testing and Assessment Program), 7:10 (Equal Educational Opportunities)

The footnotes are not intended to be part of the adopted policy; they should be removed before the policy is adopted.

⁶ The requirements around district and school improvement plans are unknown until ISBE revises its rules at 23 Ill.Admin.Code Part 1, Subpart A: Recognition Requirements following P.A.s 99-193 and 100-1046. P.A. 99-193 deleted the requirements concerning improvement plans as well as the sanctions for failing to make adequate yearly progress contained in 105 ILCS 5/2-3.25d, but then P.A. 100-1046 repealed 105 ILCS 5/2-3.25d in its entirety. 105 ILCS 5/2-3.25f(a) continues to state that ISBE “shall provide technical assistance to assist with the development and implementation of School and District Improvement Plans” and that schools or districts “that fail to make reasonable efforts to implement an approved Improvement Plan may suffer loss of State funds by school district, attendance center, or program as the State Board of Education deems appropriate.”

⁷ 105 ILCS 5/10-17a, amended by P.A.s 100-807, 100-1121, and 101-68. Districts must present the report card at a regular board meeting, post it on the district’s website, make it available to newspapers of general circulation in the district, notify parents/guardians of its availability on the district’s website, provide it to parents/guardians on request, submit it to the regional superintendent or appropriate Intermediate Service Center, and otherwise disseminate it as required by State law. See 2:250-E2, *Immediately Available District Public Records and Web-Posted Reports and Records*.

⁸ Required by 105 ILCS 5/2-3.153, amended by P.A. 100-1046, and 23 Ill.Admin.Code §1.97. The State Superintendent must publicly report on the survey indicators of learning conditions resulting from the administration of the instrument at the individual school, district, and State levels. A district may use an alternate learning instrument approved by the State Superintendent at its own cost. These survey instruments are authorized by July 1 each year and posted at: www.isbe.net/Pages/5Essentials-Survey.aspx. 23 Ill.Admin.Code §1.97(g)(1)-(2). To use an alternate survey instrument, the district must submit a form developed for this purpose and posted at www.isbe.net/Pages/5Essentials-Survey.aspx to the State Superintendent on or before a date established by the State Superintendent each year. *Id.*

Insert the following sentence for districts that administer an alternate survey of learning conditions at their own cost: “The District has elected to use an alternate climate survey of learning conditions instrument.”

Instruction

School Year Calendar and Day 1

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.² The school calendar shall have a minimum of 185 days to ensure 176 days of actual student attendance.³

The footnotes are not intended to be part of the adopted policy; they should be removed before the policy is adopted.

¹ State or federal law controls this policy's content. This policy contains an item on which collective bargaining may be required. Any policy that impacts upon wages, hours, and terms and conditions of employment, is subject to collective bargaining upon request by the employee representative, even if the policy involves an inherent managerial right.

² State-mandated school holidays are found in 105 ILCS 5/24-2, amended by P.A. 101-642. See policy 5:330, *Sick Days, Vacation, Holidays, and Leaves*, for a holiday listing. The law allows a school board to hold school or schedule teachers' institutes, parent-teacher conferences, or staff development on five identified school holidays if: (1) the school board first holds a public hearing on the proposal; and (2) the person or persons honored by the holiday are recognized through instructional activities conducted on the school holiday or on the first school day preceding or following the school holiday. Districts must redo the public hearing process in the event they change plans for use of holidays. See Ill. State Board of Education (ISBE) guidance at: www.isbe.net/Documents/district-holiday-plans13.pdf. This is an item on which collective bargaining may be required, and a board that wishes to implement this law should consult its attorney.

A State mandated school holiday on *Good Friday* is unconstitutional according to *Metzl v. Leininger*, 57 F.3d 618 (7th Cir. 1995). Closing school on religious holidays may still be permissible for those districts able to demonstrate, e.g., through surveys, that remaining open would be a waste of educational resources due to widespread absenteeism. Also, districts may be able to close school on Good Friday by adopting a *spring holiday* rationale or ensuring that it falls within spring break. School districts should discuss all of these options, and collective bargaining implications with their board attorneys.

If the county board or board of election commissioners chooses a school to be a polling place, the school district must make the school available. 10 ILCS 5/11-4.1. For the Election Day, the law encourages a school district to either: (1) close the school; or (2) hold a teachers' institute on that day with the students not in attendance. *Id.* 10 ILCS 5/2B-10 and 105 ILCS 5/24-2, amended by P.A. 101-642, required all government offices, with the exception of election authorities, to be closed, unless authorized to be used as a location for election day services or as a polling place for 2020 General Election Day, and it required schools to be available to an election authority as a polling place for 2020 General Election Day. *Id.*

³ The school calendar must have a minimum 185 days to ensure 176 days of actual pupil attendance that may include remote learning days, blended remote learning days, and up to five remote and blended remote learning planning days pursuant to 105 ILCS 5/10-30, added by P.A. 101-643. 105 ILCS 5/10-19, amended by P.A. s. 101-12 and 101-643, and 5/24-1; 23 Ill.Admin.Code §1.420. See policy 4:180, *Pandemic Preparedness; Management; and Recovery*, for information about remote and/or blended remote learning day plans. Schools must be closed during county institute. 105 ILCS 5/24-3. The school calendar may be a mandatory subject of collective bargaining. The calendar for the school term and any changes must be submitted to and approved by the regional superintendent before the calendar or changes may take effect. 105 ILCS 5/10-19.

E-learning days allow a school district to provide instruction to students electronically while they are not physically present due to inclement weather and other unexpected events. 105 ILCS 5/10-20.56, added by P.A. 101-12 and amended by P.A. 101-643, opens the use of e-learning days from three pilot districts to all districts that meet the requirements of the statute. Before a school district can implement an e-learning program and use e-learning days it must, along with other requirements (1) hold a public hearing on the initial proposal for the e-learning program, (2) obtain verification from the Regional Office of Education (ROE) or Intermediate Service Center (ISC) for the school district that the initial proposal meets the requirements specified in the law, and (3) by resolution adopt a research-based program for district-wide e-learning days. Before implementing an e-learning program, boards must collectively bargain the impact of the program on the wages, hours, terms and conditions of employment with employee representative(s). More information about e-learning is available at: www.isbe.net/Pages/Electronic-Learning.aspx.

Commemorative Holidays

The teachers and students shall 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.⁴ 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.⁵ The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that observances required by State law are followed during each day of school attendance.⁶

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⁴ 105 ILCS 5/24-2(c) lists the following as commemorative holidays: Jan. 28 (Christa McAuliffe Day commemorating space exploration); Feb. 15 (Susan B. Anthony's birthday); Mar. 29 (Vietnam War Veterans' Day); Sept. 11 (Sept. 11th Day of Remembrance); the school day immediately preceding Veterans' Day (Korean War Veterans' Day); Oct. 1 (Recycling Day); Oct. 7 (Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans Remembrance Day); and Dec. 7 (Pearl Harbor Veterans' Day).

Other commemorative holidays include, but are not limited to: Arbor and Bird Day on the last Friday in April (105 ILCS 5/27-18); Leif Erickson Day on October 9 if a school day and otherwise on a school day nearest the date (105 ILCS 5/27-19); American Indian Day on the 4th Friday of September (105 ILCS 5/27-20); Ill. Law Week during the first full school week in May (105 ILCS 5/27-20.1); Just Say No Day on a school day in May designated by official proclamation of the Governor (105 ILCS 5/20.2); Ronald Reagan Day on Feb. 6 (5 ILCS 490/2); Barack Obama Day on August 4 (5 ILCS 490/3); Indigenous Peoples Day on the last Monday in September (5 ILCS 490/7); Lincoln's Birthday February 12 (5 ILCS 490/60); Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday the third Monday in January (5 ILCS 490/65); Prairie Week the third full week in September (5 ILCS 490/75); Retired Teachers' Week the fourth week in May (5 ILCS 490/80); Veterans Day November 11 (5 ILCS 490/90); Preventing Lost Potential Day September 19 (5 ILCS 490/141); Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade on March 25 (5 ILCS 490/155); the first full week of January is Emancipation Proclamation Week (5 ILCS 490/160); Mother Mary Ann Bickerdyke Day on the second Wednesday in May (5 ILCS 490/175); and April is Arab American Heritage Month (5 ILCS 490/6, amended by P.A. 100-1150).

⁵ A school day is required to consist of a minimum five clock-hours under the direct supervision of a teacher or non-teaching personnel or volunteer personnel that provides non-teaching or supervisory duties as specified in 105 ILCS 5/10-22.34(a), in order to qualify as a full day of attendance, unless (1) the Governor issues a disaster declaration due to a public health emergency pursuant 20 ILCS 3305/7, and (2) the State Superintendent of Education establishes minimum clock-hour requirements to align with the circumstances of the Governor's disaster declaration. 105 ILCS 5/10-19.05, added by P.A. 101-12 and amended by P.A. 101-643. See www.isbe.net/Documents/SB28Instructional-Day.pdf for ISBE's notice regarding this law. See 105 ILCS 5/10-19.05, added by P.A. 101-12, for additional exceptions to the attendance calculation.

Contrast 105 ILCS 5/18-12, amended by P.A. 100-28. It allows a partial day of attendance to be counted as a full day due to an adverse weather condition, condition beyond the control of the school district that poses a health and safety threat, or use of school facilities by local or county authorities for holding a memorial or funeral service in remembrance of a community member (up to two school days per school year) provided one of following conditions is met: (1) the school district has provided at least one hour of instruction prior to the closure of the school district; (2) a school building has provided at least one hour of instruction prior to the closure of the school building; or (3) the normal start time of the school district is delayed. The law also outlines the process to claim attendance prior to providing any instruction when a school district must close a building or buildings, but not the entire district, after consultation with a local emergency response agency or due to a condition beyond the control of the district. Additionally, 105 ILCS 5/18-12.5 outlines the process for claiming attendance when a school district must close a building or buildings, but not the entire district, specifically because of a public health emergency. Attendance for such days may only be claimed if the school building(s) was scheduled to be in operation on those days.

Alternative education programs may provide fewer than five hours under certain circumstances. 105 ILCS 5/2-3.33a and 5/13B-50.

⁶ 105 ILCS 5/27-3 requires the Pledge of Allegiance to be recited every day in elementary and secondary schools. Note that the Illinois statute does not require every student to recite the Pledge – that kind of mandatory participation would violate the U.S. Constitution. Schools may not coerce a student into saying the Pledge, nor may they punish students for refusing to participate in any aspect of the flag ritual, including standing, saluting the flag, and reciting the Pledge. West Virginia State Bd. of Educ. v. Barnette, 319 U.S. 624 (1943); Sherman v. Community Consolidated Sch. Dist. 21 of Wheeling Township, 980 F.2d 437 (7th Cir. 1992). Consider using permissive rather than mandatory language to introduce the recitation of the Pledge, such as, “You may now stand to recite the Pledge.” Schools may, of course, require that non-participants maintain order and decorum appropriate to the school environment.

LEGAL REF.: 105 ILCS 5/10-19, 5/10-19.05, 5/10-20.56, 5/10-24.46, 5/10-30, 5/18-12, 5/18-12.5, 5/24-2, 5/27-3, 5/27-18, 5/27-19, 5/27-20, 5/27-20.1, 5/27-20.2, and 20/1. 10 ILCS 5/11-4.1.
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)

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The Silent Reflection and Student Prayer Act mandates a *brief period of silence* for all Illinois public school students at the opening of each school day. 105 ILCS 20/1. A student filed a federal lawsuit challenging the constitutionality of this law under the First Amendment, but the law was ultimately upheld by the Appeals Court. Sherman v. Koch, 623 F.3d 501 (7th Cir. 2010), *cert denied by* 565 U.S. 815 (2011). 105 ILCS 5/10-20.46 requires a moment of silence to recognize veterans during any type of event held at a district school on Nov. 11. See f/n 2 above for more discussion.

Instruction

Curriculum Development 1

Adoption²

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,³
5. The curriculum of non-District schools that feed into or from a District school, provided that the necessary cooperation and information is available,⁴
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.⁵

Experimental Educational Programs and Pilot Projects⁶

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.

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¹ State or federal law controls this policy's content.

² This section is not dictated by State or federal law, but reflects board work regarding curriculum. Each board should dwell over this section to ensure it articulates the board's intent.

³ State law mandates certain courses of study, but local school boards may set requirements exceeding State law-mandated courses of study. 105 ILCS 5/10-20.8 and 5/27-1 et seq.

⁴ Alternative for unit districts:

5. The curriculum District-wide and articulated across all grade levels.

⁵ The following is an alternative for boards that do not want the sample language's degree of delegation:

The School Board will consider the Superintendent's recommendation and adopt a curriculum that meets the above criteria.

⁶ Experimental educational programs may require the approval of the State Board of Education and an agreement with the affected exclusive bargaining agent. 105 ILCS 5/10-19, amended by P.A.s. 100-465, 101-12, and 101-643. Experimental educational programs may include, but are not limited to, e-learning days as authorized under 105 ILCS 5/10-20.56; self-directed learning; or outside of formal class periods; other programs that comply with the requirements of the School Code for numbers of days of actual pupil attendance and courses of instruction.

Education preparation pilot programs are addressed in 105 ILCS 5/2-3.52A, amended by P.A. 100-1046.

Single-Gender Classes and Activities⁷

The Superintendent may recommend a program of nonvocational⁸ 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*. The Superintendent must periodically 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, and (2) it continues to comply with State and federal law and with Board policy 7:10, *Equal Educational Opportunities*.

Development⁹

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.

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⁷ The U.S. Dept. of Education (DOE) amended its regulation implementing Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (Title IX) (20 U.S.C. §1681) to make it easier for schools to have single-sex classes and extracurricular activities. 34 C.F.R. §106.34. Title IX generally protects students from discrimination on the basis of sex. However, the DOE added flexibility to its rules on single-sex classes and activities, citing research that suggests that some students benefit in single-sex classes. 71 Fed. Reg. 62530 (10-25-06). The rules are very specific and should be reviewed with the board attorney when designing single-sex classes or activities.

Consult the board attorney about accommodation issues for transgender or gender non-conforming students in single sex classes. State law prohibits gender-based discrimination, including transgender and gender non-conforming students. 775 ILCS 5/5-101(A)(11); 775 ILCS 5/1-103(O-1); and 23 Ill.Admin.Code §1.240. Title IX prohibits exclusion and discrimination on the basis of sex. 20 U.S.C. §1681(a). The DOE's Office for Civil Rights has taken varying positions on the application of Title IX to transgender or gender non-conforming students depending upon the administration in office. See www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/lgbt.html; 7:10-API, *Accommodating Transgender Students or Gender Non-Conforming Students*.

⁸ 34 C.F.R. §106.34(b)(1).

⁹ The last two sections of this policy provide a process for the board to monitor the extent that its ends for curriculum development are being pursued. However, a board may be concerned that these sections offend the board's efforts to delegate authority to the superintendent to manage the district. If so, these sections should be deleted. See the IASB *Foundational Principles of Effective Governance* at: www.iasb.com/conference-training-and-events/training/training-resources/foundational-principles-of-effective-governance/.

LEGAL REF.: 20 U.S.C. §1681, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, implemented by
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), 7:10 (Equal Educational Opportunities), 7:15
(Student and Family Privacy Rights)

Instruction

Exhibit - Children's Online Privacy Protection Act

On District letterhead:

RE: Children's Online Privacy Protection Act

Dear Parents/Guardians:

This letter is being sent as part of the District's continuing effort to educate parents and students about privacy protection and Internet use that occurs outside of the protections required for use of educational technology in school.

The Children's Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA) gives parents/guardians control over what information companies can collect from their children online. However, not all companies are transparent about what data a mobile app or website collects, who will have access to that data, and how it will be used. Allowing your child access to games and other seemingly harmless applications on a smartphone or computer risks his or her exposure to intrusive marketing and access to personal information.

The following suggestions may help keep children from being bombarded by unwanted advertising, from making unwanted purchases and from disclosing personal information and location:

- Talk to your child early and often about online behavior, safety, and security, and encourage your child to make good choices.
- Be choosy about the applications that you let your child use. Try the app yourself to check for advertising messages and/or social networking and purchase options before allowing your child access.
- Select activities that do not require access to the Internet or an application, such as looking at family pictures or listening to preselected music, screened and approved by you.
- Make certain that the ability to make purchases is password protected.
- Set up family rules and consequences explaining that all purchases made via a smartphone or computer must have parent/guardian consent.
- Caution children about the use of social networking and other sites and/or apps that can pinpoint locations.
- Monitor computer and smartphone use whenever and wherever possible.

For more information on the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act and protecting your child online, please see the following links:

www.consumer.ftc.gov/articles/0031-protecting-your-childs-privacy-online#breakingrules
www.consumer.ftc.gov/features/feature-0002-parents

Sincerely,

Instruction

Grading and Promotion 1

The Superintendent or designee shall establish a system of grading and reporting academic achievement to students and their parents/guardians.² 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.³ A student shall not be promoted based upon age or any other social reason not related to academic performance.⁴ The administration shall determine remedial assistance for a student who is not promoted.⁵

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.⁶ 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.

The footnotes are not intended to be part of the adopted policy; they should be removed before the policy is adopted.

¹ State law requires districts to have a school board policy containing the reasons for which a grade may be changed and prohibiting social promotion. 105 ILCS 5/10-20.9a. State law controls this policy's content.

If a district uses weighted grades for classes by degree of difficulty, it must be reflected in the affected students' class ranking and permanent records. 105 ILCS 5/27-27.

² Absent a court order to the contrary, upon the request of either parent of a student whose parents are divorced, copies of report cards, along with other notices and records, must be furnished to both parents by the district. 105 ILCS 5/10-21.8.

³ 105 ILCS 5/10-20.9a. Each board may determine its own promotion criteria and augment the statute's criteria.

105 ILCS 5/2-3.64 contained the State assessment program until it was repealed by P.A. 98-972.

105 ILCS 5/2-3.64a-5(b) requires ISBE to "establish the academic standards that are to be applicable to students who are subject to State assessments." It contains the schedule for assessing students by calendar year and grade. ISBE selects standardized tests for the State assessment and accountability measure. In House Joint Resolution 54 (2015), members of the Ill. House and Senate encouraged school districts to not use results of the *Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers* (PARCC) test for the 2014-2015 through the 2017-2018 school years "as a determining factor for making decisions about a student's educational opportunities, the evaluation of educators, and the allocation of resources based on educational achievement on this assessment." Starting in 2019, PARCC was no longer used by ISBE.

105 ILCS 5/2-3.64a-5(c), amended by P.A.s 100-7 and 101-643 requires that the assessment administered by ISBE for the purpose of student application to or admissions consideration by institutions of higher education be administered on a school day during regular student attendance hours. Assessments are not required if ISBE receives a waiver from the administration of assessments from the U.S. Dept. of Education. *Id.*

105 ILCS 5/2-3.64a-5(e), amended by P.A. 100-222, no longer requires that the scores attained by a student on an assessment that includes a college and career readiness determination be entered on the student's transcript; however, the scores must still be placed in the student's permanent record. See also 23 Ill.Admin.Code §375.10.

⁴ 105 ILCS 5/10-20.9a(b).

⁵ *Id.*

⁶ The specific reasons and procedure for changing a grade are at the local board's discretion; however, State law provides that no grade may be changed without notification to the teacher concerning the nature and reason for the change. 105 ILCS 5/10-20.9a(a). The person making the change must assume all responsibility and must initial the change. *Id.*

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 ¹

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
2. Completing all courses as provided in the School Code, 105 ILCS 5/27-22. ³
3. Completing all minimum requirements for graduation as specified in State law. ⁴
4. Passing an examination on patriotism and principles of representative government, proper use of the flag, methods of voting, and the Pledge of Allegiance. ⁵
5. Participating in State assessments that are required for graduation by State law. ⁶
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

The footnotes are not intended to be part of the adopted policy; they should be removed before the policy is adopted.

¹ State or federal law controls this policy's content. Graduation requirements are often published in student handbooks. The Illinois Principals Association maintains a handbook service that coordinates with **PRESS** material, *Online Model Student Handbook (MSH)*, at: www.ilprincipals.org/resources/model-student-handbook.

In accordance with 105 ILCS 5/2-3.159, amended by P.A. 101-503, 23 Ill.Admin.Code §1.442, and 23 Ill.Admin.Code Part 680, a school district may establish a program to recognize high school graduates who attained a high level of proficiency in one or more languages in addition to English by designating on a student's diploma and transcript a State Seal of Bilingualism. See policy 6:320, *High School Credit for Proficiency*.

² Optional. 23 Ill.Admin.Code §1.440(f). A school board should ensure that all district graduation requirements that are in addition to the State requirements are aligned with the district educational objectives. See policy 6:10, *Educational Philosophy and Objectives*.

³ The escalating graduation requirements in 105 ILCS 5/27-22 had timed-out and were deleted by P.A. 100-443, such that only the final list of required courses in Section 27-22(e), amended by P.A. 101-464, is applicable. 105 ILCS 5/27-22(e)(3) allows the substitution of an advanced placement computer science course for a year of mathematics, and it further states that a mathematics course that includes geometry content may be offered as an integrated, applied, interdisciplinary, or career and technical education course that prepares a student for a career readiness path. 105 ILCS 5/27-22(e)(5) requires students entering the 9th grade in the 2016-2017 school year and each year thereafter to complete one semester of civics. For specific requirements, see 6:300-E2, *State Law Graduation Requirements*, and 6:310, *High School Credit for Non-District Experiences; Course Substitutions; Re-entering Students*. The Ill. State Board of Education (ISBE) may adopt rules modifying graduation requirements for students in grades 9-12 if the Governor has declared a disaster due to a public health emergency under 20 ILCS 3305/7. 105 ILCS 5/27-22(i), added by P.A. 101-643.

⁴ 105 ILCS 5/27-22(e); 23 Ill.Admin.Code §1.440.

⁵ Required by 105 ILCS 5/27-3, amended by P.A. 101-643.

⁶ 105 ILCS 5/2-3.64a-5(c), amended by P.A.s 100-7, 100-1046, and 101-643, states that "[s]tudents who do not take the State's final accountability assessment or its approved alternate assessment may not receive a regular high school diploma unless the student is exempted." Assessments are not required if ISBE receives a waiver from the administration of assessments from the U.S. Dept. of Education. *Id.*

105 ILCS 5/2-3.64a-5(c), amended by P.A.s 100-7, 100-1046, and 101-643; 23 Ill.Admin.Code §1.30. Section 2-3.64a-5(c) requires that the assessment administered by ISBE for the purpose of student application to or admissions consideration by institutions of higher education be administered on a school day during regular student attendance hours.

105 ILCS 5/2-3.64a-5(e), amended by P.A.s 100-222 and 100-1046, no longer requires that the scores attained by a student on an assessment that includes a college and career readiness determination be entered on the student's transcript. The student's final accountability assessment scores, however, must be placed in the student's permanent record. See also 23 Ill.Admin.Code §375.10.

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.⁷

The Superintendent or designee is responsible for:⁸

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 Graduation⁹

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 Completion¹⁰

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.

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⁷ 105 ILCS 5/22-85 (final citation pending), added by P.A. 101-180. See 6:300-E3, *Form for Exemption from Financial Aid Application Completion*. ISBE provides a waiver form, the FAFSA Nonparticipation Form, for a parent/guardian or eligible student to opt of this graduation requirement at www.isbe.net/Documents/FAFSA-Non-Participation-Form.pdf. The Alternative Application for Ill. Financial Aid referenced in that form is intended for use by qualifying undocumented and transgender students, and is available at <https://studentportal.isac.org/alternativeapp>.

⁸ Items #1 and #2 are required by 23 Ill.Admin.Code §1.440(d) and (e), respectively. Item #3 must be addressed because the law leaves many implementation issues unanswered. A comprehensive Student Handbook can provide notice of the district's graduation requirements, conduct rules, and other important information. Item #4 includes discussion of the adjustments required by the Educational Opportunity for Military Children Act, 105 ILCS 70/35(d).

⁹ This is optional. State law and rules are silent regarding early graduation. As an alternative, a board may delete the phrase "~~finish 7 semesters of high school and.~~"

¹⁰ Required by 105 ILCS 5/14-16.

Service Member Diploma ¹¹

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, 5/27-3, 5/27-22, and 5/27-22.10.
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)

The footnotes are not intended to be part of the adopted policy; they should be removed before the policy is adopted.

¹¹ Optional. 105 ILCS 5/22-27, amended by P.A. 101-131, does not designate a time requirement for when the service member killed in action or veteran “resided within an area currently within the district.” Thus, a reasonable interpretation may be adopted locally. The sample policy designates “at the time he or she left high school” as the pertinent time for residence. See 6:300-E1, *Application for a Diploma for a Service Member Killed in Action or for Veterans of WWII, the Korean Conflict, or the Vietnam Conflict*.

Instruction

Exhibit - State Law Graduation Requirements

The School Code, 105 ILCS 5/27-22, amended by P.A.s 101-464 and 101-643, and 105 ILCS 5/22-85 (final citation pending), added by P.A. 101-180, contains the following course requirements for a student in Illinois to receive a high school diploma. Other graduation requirements, including additional course requirements, if any, are contained in School Board policy 6:300, *Graduation Requirements*. For guidance in offering the coursework necessary to meet the State graduation requirements, see the Illinois State Board of Education, *State Graduation Requirements, Guidance Document* (2016), available at: www.isbe.net/Documents/grad_require.pdf.

State Law Graduation Requirements

105 ILCS 5/27-22

Sec. 27-22. Required high school courses.

A. (a) - (d) are not listed because their dates have passed.

(e) As a prerequisite to receiving a high school diploma, each pupil entering the 9th grade must, in addition to other course requirements, successfully complete all of the following courses:

- (1) Four years of language arts.
- (2) Two years of writing intensive courses, one of which must be English and the other of which may be English or any other subject. When applicable, writing-intensive courses may be counted towards the fulfillment of other graduation requirements.
- (3) Three years of mathematics, one of which must be Algebra I and one of which must include geometry content, and one of which may be an Advanced Placement computer science course. A mathematics course that includes geometry content may be offered as an integrated, applied, interdisciplinary, or career and technical education course that prepares a student for a career readiness path.
- (4) Two years of science.
- (5) Two years of social studies, of which at least one year must be history of the United States or a combination of history of the United States and American government and, beginning with pupils entering the 9th grade in the 2016-2017 school year and each school year thereafter, at least one semester must be civics, which shall help young people acquire and learn to use the skills, knowledge, and attitudes that will prepare them to be competent and responsible citizens throughout their lives. Course content shall focus on government institutions, the discussion of current and controversial issues, service learning, and simulations of the democratic process.
- (6) One year chosen from (A) music, (B) art, (C) foreign language, which shall be deemed to include American Sign Language, or (D) vocational education.

(f) The State Board of Education shall develop and inform school districts of standards for writing-intensive coursework.

A. (f-5) If a school district offers an Advanced Placement computer science course to high school students, then the school board must designate that course as equivalent to a high school mathematics course and must denote on the student's transcript that the Advanced Placement

computer science course qualifies as a mathematics-based, quantitative course for students in accordance with subdivision (3) of subsection (e) of this Section.

- (g) This amendatory Act of 1983 does not apply to pupils entering the 9th grade in 1983-1984 school year and prior school years or to students with disabilities whose course of study is determined by an Individualized Education Program.

A. This amendatory Act of the 94th General Assembly does not apply to pupils entering the 9th grade in the 2004-2005 school year or a prior school year or to students with disabilities whose course of study is determined by an Individualized Education Program.

- (h) The provisions of this Section are subject to the provisions of Section 27-22.05 [substitutions for required courses].
- (i) The State Board of Education may adopt rules to modify the requirements of this Section for any students enrolled in grades 9 through 12 if the Governor has declared a disaster due to a public health emergency pursuant to Section 7 of the Illinois Management Agency Act.

105 ILCS 5/22-85

(final citation pending), added by P.A. 101-180

Sec. 22-85. Graduation requirements; Free Application for Federal Student Aid.

- (a) Beginning with the 2020-2021 school year, in addition to any other requirements under this Code, as a prerequisite to receiving a high school diploma from a public high school, the parent or guardian of each student or, if a student is at least 18 years of age or legally emancipated, the student must comply with either of the following:
- (1) File a Free Application for Federal Student Aid with the United States Department of Education or, if applicable, an application for State financial aid.
 - (2) On a form created by the State Board of Education, file a waiver with the student's school district indicating that the parent or guardian or, if applicable, the student understands what the Free Application for Federal Student Aid and application for State financial aid are and has chosen not to file an application under paragraph (1).
- A. (b) Each school district with a high school must require each high school student to comply with this Section and must provide to each high school student and, if applicable, his or her parent or guardian any support or assistance necessary to comply with this Section. A school district must award a high school diploma to a student who is unable to meet the requirements of subsection (a) due to extenuating circumstances, as determined by the school district, if (i) the student has met all other graduation requirements under this Code and (ii) the principal attests that the school district has made a good faith effort to assist the student or, if applicable, his or her parent or guardian in filing an application or a waiver under subsection (a).
- B. (c) The State Board of Education may adopt rules to implement this Section.

Instruction

Exhibit – Form for Exemption from Financial Aid Application Completion

This form is to be used to document a parent/guardian or student’s exemption from the State law requirement to file, as a prerequisite to receiving a high school diploma:

- *A Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at <https://studentaid.gov/>,*
- *An application for State financial aid at www.isac.org/students/before-college/financial-aid-planning/retention-of-illinois-rise-act/, or*
- *An Ill. State Board of Education (ISBE) FAFSA Nonparticipation Form at www.isbe.net/Documents/FAFSA-Non-Participation-Form.pdf. 105 ILCS 5/22-85(b) (added by P.A. 101-180, final citation pending).*

Return a copy of the completed form to the parent/guardian or student, and keep a copy in the student’s file.

Completed by Student’s parent/guardian or Student, if 18 years or older or legally emancipated.

Student’s Name: _____

Address: _____

School: _____

Grade: _____

I am unable to file a FAFSA, an application for State financial aid, or an ISBE FAFSA Nonparticipation Form because of the following:

Completed by the High School Principal.

Extenuating circumstances exist and the Student is exempt from the requirement to file a FAFSA, an application for State financial aid, or an ISBE FAFSA Nonparticipation Form:

Yes No, exemption denied

(Complete next portion only if the answer is Yes above)

I attest that the District has made the following good faith efforts to assist the Student’s parent/guardian or Student in filing an application or a waiver from this requirement:

The student has met all other graduation requirements and receive a diploma.

Yes, exemption approved No, exemption denied

High School Principal Signature

Date

Instruction

High School Credit for Non-District Experiences; Course Substitutions; Re-Entering Students ¹

Credit for Non-District Experiences ²

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 ³
4. College or high school courses offering dual credit at both the college and high school level ⁴

The footnotes are not intended to be part of the adopted policy; they should be removed before the policy is adopted.

¹ State law requires that several of the programs in this policy be covered in policy. State law controls this policy's content. Note that 23 Ill.Admin.Code §1.420(b) requires "[e]very school district [to] have an organized plan for recording pupil progress and/or awarding credit, including credit for courses completed by correspondence, on line, or from other external sources, that can be disseminated to other schools within the State." Section 1.460 requires "[e]ach local board of education with a high school [to] adopt a policy which defines the board's position with reference to the awarding of high school credit on the basis of local examinations to pupils who have achieved the necessary proficiencies through independent study, either with or without private tutoring, or for work taken in or from another institution." 23 Ill.Admin.Code §1.460.

Sample policy 6:185, *Remote Educational Program*, provides for educational programs **delivered by the district** in a location outside of the school.

Sample policy 6:315, *High School Credit for Students in Grade 7 or 8*, allows students enrolled in grade 7 or 8 to enroll in a course required for high school graduation. 105 ILCS 5/27-22.10(a); 23 Ill.Admin.Code §1.440(c)(3).

² Each board may choose for which, if any, of the listed non-district experiences the district will grant high school credit. If a district does not grant credit for any of the listed activities, substitute the following alternative for all text in the entire section: "The District does not grant graduation credit for learning experiences that an enrolled student does not complete through the District."

³ 105 ILCS 5/27-22.1 provides that no fewer than 60 hours of classroom instruction in summer school is required for one semester of high school course credit. Districts may accept courses completed in a community college (CC) toward graduation. 23 Ill.Admin.Code §1.440(f). Superintendents, pursuant to 105 ILCS 5/10-21.4, must annually report to ISBE the number of students enrolled in accredited courses at any CC along with the name(s) and number(s) of the course(s) each student is taking.

⁴ The Dual Credit Quality Act (110 ILCS 27/) defines dual credit as a college course taken by a high school student for credit at both the college and high school level. 110 ILCS 27/5 and 105 ILCS 5/10-20.62(a), amended by P.A. 100-792. An instructor who teaches a dual credit course does not need the certification required by Article 21 of the School Code but must meet the standards set forth in 110 ILCS 27/20(1), (2), or (3), amended by P.A. 100-1049. Dual credit programs require: (a) a specific partnership agreement between the district and a CC, as long as the district is in the CC's jurisdiction (110 ILCS 27/16, added by P.A. 100-1049), or (b) cooperation between the school district and the institution providing the dual credit courses (see the Higher Education Student Assistance Act at 110 ILCS 947/10 for a definition of *institution*). If the district and CC cannot agree within 180 days of a district's initial request to enter into a partnership agreement, the two parties must use the model partnership agreement located at 110 ILCS 27/19, added by P.A. 100-1049.

5. Foreign language courses taken in an ethnic school program approved by the Illinois State Board of Education ⁵
6. Work-related training at manufacturing facilities or agencies in a Tech Prep Program ⁶
7. Credit earned in a Vocational Academy ⁷

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. This section does not govern the transfer of credits for students transferring into the District.

The footnotes are not intended to be part of the adopted policy; they should be removed before the policy is adopted.

Out-of-state dual credit contracts are prohibited until a district first offers the CC in the district in which the district is located the opportunity to provide a dual credit course. 110 ILCS 27/17, added by P.A. 100-1049. In addition, a district seeking to enter into an agreement with an out-of-state institution must provide notice to the Ill. State Board of Higher Education (BHE) of its intent to which the BHE will have 30 days to provide the district with a list of in-state institutions that can provide the district an equivalent dual credit opportunity. *Id.* Agreements between a district and an out-of-state institution that were in effect before 1-1-19 will not be affected. *Id.* A high school evaluation of a dual credit program must also incorporate the analysis of data from the Ill. State Board of Education's (ISBE) statewide longitudinal data system (see the P-20 Longitudinal Education Data System Act, 105 ILCS 13/, for more information).

105 ILCS 5/10-20.62, added by P.A. 100-133 and renumbered by P.A. 100-792, requires school boards to require the district's high schools, if any, to inform all 11th and 12th grade students of dual enrollment and dual credit opportunities at public CCs for qualified students. Qualified students may enroll in an unlimited amount of dual credit courses and earn an unlimited amount of academic credits from them if the course(s) are taught by an Ill. instructor, as provided by 110 ILCS 27/. *Id.* at (b), amended by P.A. 100-792. In addition, all dual credit coursework completed by a high school student must be transferred to all public institutions in Illinois on the same basis as coursework completed by a public CC student who previously earned a high school diploma in the manner set forth under the Ill. Articulation Initiative Act. *Id.* at 27/19, added by P.A. 100-1049.

See *Increasing Postsecondary Opportunities and Success for Students and Youth with Disabilities* at www.sites.ed.gov/idea/idea-files/qa-increasing-postsecondary-opportunities-success-for-students-youth-with-disabilities-sept-17-2019/#Letter for information on providing transition services to high school students who have individualized education programs (IEPs), are receiving services under the IDEA, and take courses offered by a community college or other postsecondary education institution program prior to high school graduation.

⁵ 105 ILCS 5/2-3.44 and 5/10-22.43a. An ethnic school is a part-time, private school that teaches the foreign language of a particular ethnic group as well as the culture, geography, history, and other aspects of a particular ethnic group. 105 ILCS 5/2-3.44; 23 Ill.Admin.Code §1.465(b). For requirements, see 23 Ill.Admin.Code §1.465.

⁶ The State Superintendent and Board of Higher Education were encouraged by 105 ILCS 5/2-3.115 to establish a program of academic credit for Tech Prep work based learning for secondary school students with an interest in pursuing such career training, which could be instituted by school districts. See also 23 Ill.Admin.Code §1.445.

⁷ Vocational Academies Act, 105 ILCS 433/. The Act's purpose is to "integrate workplace competencies and career and technical education with core academic subjects." School districts are permitted to partner with CCs, local employers, and community-based organizations to establish a vocational academy that functions as a two-year school within a school for grades 10 through 12. Grant funds may be available from ISBE when the vocational academy meets statutory requirements.

Substitutions for Required Courses

Vocational or technical education.⁸ 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:⁹

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.¹⁰ The Superintendent or designee will ensure that the District complies with State law requirements for registered apprenticeship programs.¹¹ 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).¹²

The footnotes are not intended to be part of the adopted policy; they should be removed before the policy is adopted.

⁸ Allowing for this substitution is optional, but, if offered, must be included in board policy. 105 ILCS 5/27-22.05, amended by P.A. 100-992.

⁹ The *related* requirement is met if the course contains at least 50% of the content of the required course. *Id.* 23 Ill.Admin.Code §1.445 requires that the vocational or technical education course be completely described in the policy along with its relationship to the required course. The sample policy satisfies these requirements by referring to the courses as described in curricular material.

ISBE requires that the parent/guardian of a student under the age of 18 request the course substitution "on forms that the school district makes available" and that the request must be maintained in the student's temporary record. 23 Ill.Admin.Code §1.445. See 6:310-E, *Class Substitution Request*. There is no parallel recordkeeping requirement in the rules for registered apprenticeships; however, it is best practice to maintain all types of substitution requests as evidence of compliance with the form requirement.

¹⁰ Allowing for this substitution is optional, but, if offered, must be included in board policy. 105 ILCS 5/2-3.175, added by P.A. 100-992, renumbered by P.A. 101-81; 23 Ill.Admin.Code §255.200. A *registered apprenticeship program* is an industry-based occupational training program of study with standards reviewed and approved by the U.S. Dept. of Labor that meets characteristics set forth in State law and ISBE rules. The introductory sentence and listed items 1, 3, 4, and 6 are required to be in the policy if a board decides to allow students to participate in registered apprenticeship programs. See 23 Ill.Admin.Code §255.200(b). Item #2 is not required to be stated in policy, but is required to be included in a district's website notification (if any) to parents/guardians about registered apprenticeship opportunities. See f/n 13, below.

If a board adopts a policy to allow for student participation in registered apprenticeship programs, the policy must be posted on the district's website (if any) for students, parents, and members of the business and industry community to access. 23 Ill.Admin.Code §255.200(c)(1). See 2:250-E2, *Immediately Available District Public Records and Web-Posted Reports and Records*, and f/ns 12 and 13 below for other related website posting requirements.

¹¹ 105 ILCS 5/2-3.175, added by P.A. 100-992, renumbered by P.A. 101-81; 23 Ill.Admin.Code Part 255. In addition to the requirements listed in the policy, districts allowing for student participation in registered apprenticeship programs must also: (1) submit data on participating students through ISBE's Student Information System, (2) identify and attempt to eliminate any barriers to student participation, and (3) include the program in the Career Pathway Endorsement if the district awards endorsements under the Postsecondary and Workforce Readiness Act (110 ILCS 148/). 23 Ill.Admin.Code §255.200(d)-(f).

¹² 23 Ill.Admin.Code §255.200(c). The Illinois Principals Association maintains a handbook service that coordinates with **PRESS** material, *Online Model Student Handbook (MSH)*, at: www.ilprincipals.org/resources/model-student-handbook. The notification to students and parents on the district's website must include: (1) a statement that a student may participate in any registered apprenticeship program listed by the district; and (2) a statement that a student may find a registered, but not listed, apprenticeship program with a business or organization, if a registered apprenticeship program is not offered in the district. 23 Ill.Admin.Code §255.200(c)(2). See 2:250-E2, *Immediately Available District Public Records and Web-Posted Reports and Records*. For districts that do not maintain a website, use the following alternative sentence:

Parents/guardians and students will be notified of opportunities for registered apprenticeship programs 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:

1. The registered apprenticeship program meets all criteria contained in State law;
2. 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;
3. The student enrolled in a registered apprenticeship program has the opportunity to earn post-secondary credit toward a certificate or degrees, as applicable;
4. The student's parent/guardian requests and approves the substitution(s) in writing on forms provided by the District and on its website;¹³
5. The Building Principal approves the substitution(s); and
6. 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.¹⁴ 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.¹⁵ 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.¹⁶

1. Ongoing participation in a marching band program for credit;¹⁷
2. Enrollment in Reserve Officer's Training Corps (ROTC) program sponsored by the District;¹⁸

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¹³ 23 Ill.Admin.Code §255.200(b)(4). See 6:310-E, *Class Substitution Request*, and 2:250-E2, *Immediately Available District Public Records and Web-Posted Reports and Records*. If the district does not maintain a website, delete ~~and on its website~~.

¹⁴ Optional, but allowed by 105 ILCS 5/27-22(e)(3), amended by P.A. 101-464, and 5/27-22(f-5).

¹⁵ Optional, but allowed by 105 ILCS 5/27-6(b), amended by P.A. 100-465; 23 Ill.Admin.Code §1.425(e). A board that wants to allow any of these P.E. exemptions must include the ones it selects in a policy that excuses students on an individual basis.

¹⁶ 23 Ill.Admin.Code §1.425(e).

¹⁷ 23 Ill.Admin.Code §1.425(e)(4)(A). This policy excuses students from P.E. only during the marching band season because the statute allows the exemption "for ongoing participation in such marching band program." Thus, if the marching band season is over, the student's *ongoing participation* has ceased and the student no longer qualifies for the P.E. exemption. Common sense, however, would allow the exemption to continue until the end of the current grading period.

¹⁸ 23 Ill.Admin.Code §1.425(e)(4)(B).

3. Ongoing participation in an *interscholastic* or *extracurricular athletic program*; ¹⁹
4. Enrollment in academic classes that are required for admission to an institution of higher learning (student must be in the 11th or 12th grade);²⁰ or
5. 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). ²¹

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.²² 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.

The footnotes are not intended to be part of the adopted policy; they should be removed before the policy is adopted.

¹⁹ 23 Ill.Admin.Code §1.425(e)(2) and (e)(3)(A). Prior to P.A. 100-465, the statute only allowed students in grades 11 and 12 to be excused from P.E. “for ongoing participation in an interscholastic athletic program.” 105 ILCS 5/27-6(b)(1). 105 ILCS 5/27-6(b), amended by P.A. 100-465, now states “on a case-by-case basis, excuse pupils in grades 7 through 12 who participate in an interscholastic or extracurricular athletic program.” While the statute no longer requires such participation to be *ongoing*, 23 Ill.Admin.Code §1.425(e)(3) requires *ongoing participation*. Thus, if the athletic program is over, the student’s *ongoing participation* has ceased and the student no longer qualifies for the P.E. exemption. Common sense, however, would allow the exemption to continue only until the end of the grading period during which the athletic program is active. 23 Ill. Admin. Code §1.425(e)(2) limits interscholastic and extracurricular athletic programs to those that are sponsored by the school district as defined in school board policy. Boards do not have the “authority to honor parental excuses based upon students’ participation in athletic training, activities or competitions conducted outside the auspices of the school district.” *Id.* at §1.425(e)(6).

State statutes do not define *interscholastic athletic program* or *extracurricular athletic program*; however, 105 ILCS 5/22-80 defines *interscholastic athletic activity* as “any organized school-sponsored or school-sanctioned activity for students, generally outside of school instructional hours, under the direction of a coach, athletic director, or band leader, including, but not limited to, baseball, basketball, cheerleading, cross country track, fencing, field hockey, football, golf, gymnastics, ice hockey, lacrosse, marching band, rugby, soccer, skating, softball, swimming and diving, tennis, track (indoor and outdoor), ultimate Frisbee, volleyball, water polo, and wrestling.” 23 Ill.Admin.Code §1.425(e)(2), added at 42 Ill. Reg. 11542, defines *interscholastic* and *extracurricular athletic programs* as “those programs that are sponsored by the school district as defined by school district policy.” Boards have no authority to honor parental excuses based upon students’ participation in athletic training, activities or competition conducted outside the auspices of the school district. 23 Ill.Admin.Code §1.425(e)(6).

For boards that want to explain the meaning of *interscholastic or extracurricular athletic program*, insert the following option at the end of #3:

(organized school-sponsored or school-sanctioned activities for students that are not part of the curriculum, not graded, not for credit, generally take place outside of school instructional hours, and under the direction of a coach, athletic director, or band leader)

For unit districts, ensure the definition matches the definition in policy 7:260, *Exemption from Physical Education*.

²⁰ 23 Ill.Admin.Code §1.425(e)(3)(B).

²¹ 23 Ill.Admin.Code §1.425(e)(3)(C).

²² Optional. The credit given for one semester may not exceed that stated in this policy. 105 ILCS 5/27-22.3. The program may include participation in the organization of a high school or community blood drive or other blood donor recruitment campaign. *Id.* ISBE must provide assistance to districts opting to offer the program. 105 ILCS 5/2-3.108.

Re-Entering Students ²³

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):

1. District courses
2. Non-District experiences described in this policy
3. 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
4. Proficiency testing, correspondence courses, life experiences, and other nonformal educational endeavors
5. 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, 5/2-3.142, 5/2-3.175, 5/10-22.43a, 5/27-6, 5/27-22.3, and 5/27-22.05.
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)

The footnotes are not intended to be part of the adopted policy; they should be removed before the policy is adopted.

²³ Required by 23 Ill.Admin.Code §1.470(a). While the sample policy does not provide for it, a school board may permit adults 21 years of age or older to re-enter high school. 23 Ill.Admin.Code §1.470(b). Items #4 & #5 are optional, but must be included in a policy if credit will be granted for them. 105 ILCS 5/27-6, 27-22.05.

Instruction

Exhibit - Class Substitution Request 1

Students in grades 9-12 may satisfy one or more high school courses or graduation requirements by successfully completing related vocational or technical education courses, or a registered apprenticeship program. Students participating in a registered apprenticeship program must be at least 16 years old.

This request for class substitution must be completed by the student's parent/guardian (or by the student who is at least 18 years of age) and submitted to the Building Principal for approval. Such requests will be kept in the student's temporary school record in accordance with 23 Ill.Admin.Code §1.445 (as applicable) and Section 4 of the Ill. School Student Records Act (105 ILCS 10/4).

_____		_____
Student Name (please print)		Grade
_____	_____	_____
Parent/Guardian Name (please print)	Telephone	Student Birthdate

Class Requesting to Substitute	Vocational/Technical Course/Registered Apprenticeship Program Substitute

_____		_____
Student Signature		Date
_____		_____
Parent/Guardian Signature (For students under age 18)		Date

Request for class substitution: **Approved**
 Denied

_____		_____
Building Principal		Date

The footnotes are not intended to be part of the adopted policy; they should be removed before the policy is adopted.

¹ Optional. But, if offered, it must be included in board policy. 105 ILCS 5/27-22.05; 23 Ill.Admin.Code §1.445; 23 Ill.Admin.Code §255.200. See policy 6:310, *High School Credit for Non-District Experiences; Course Substitutions; Re-Entering Students.*

Instruction

High School Credit for Students in Grade 7 or 8¹

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 either 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 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.²

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.³ That academic credit shall satisfy the requirements of Section 27-22 of the School Code 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.⁴ The student's grade in the course shall also be included in the student's grade point average.⁵

[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.

The footnotes are not intended to be part of the adopted policy; they should be removed before the policy is adopted.

¹ While State law controls this policy's content, districts are not required to implement it. The board of any district that maintains any grades 9-12 may adopt a policy for students enrolled in grade 7 or 8 to enroll in a course required for high school graduation. 105 ILCS 5/27-22.10(a); 23 Ill.Admin.Code §1.440(c)(3). The first sentence recognizes that this policy's implementation requires cooperation between school districts, superintendents, building principals, and other administrators.

² A high school board may choose the following alternative if it believes condition (2) would be difficult to manage because its students come from multiple districts having been taught by multiple non-district teachers:

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 when 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.

³ 105 ILCS 5/27-22.10(c).

⁴ Id. at (c).

⁵ Id. at (d).

LEGAL REF.: 105 ILCS 5/10-22.43 and 5/27-22.10.
23 Ill.Admin.Code §1.460.

CROSS REF.: 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 Credits¹

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:²

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.³ 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.⁴ 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.⁵

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.⁶ 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.

The footnotes are not intended to be part of the adopted policy; they should be removed before the policy is adopted.

¹ An ISBE rule requires districts with a high school to have a policy on earning credit through proficiency exams. 23 Ill.Admin.Code §1.460. State law controls this policy's content. Students must *successfully complete* the courses listed in 105 ILCS 5/27-22, amended by P.A. 101-643, in order to receive a high school diploma. See 6:300-E2, *State Law Graduation Requirements*. 105 ILCS 5/27-12.1 no longer allows districts to grant consumer education proficiency credit.

In accordance with 105 ILCS 5/2-3.159, amended by P.A. 101-503, and 23 Ill.Admin.Code §680.20, a school district may establish a program to recognize high school graduates who attain a high level of proficiency in one or more languages in addition to English by designating on a student's diploma and transcript a State Seal of Biliteracy.

² This paragraph should be revised to reflect the actual practice concerning granting proficiency credits. A board may delete all text concerning foreign language proficiency credit and keep only the text in the second indented paragraph without using a subheading.

³ Optional, but permitted by 105 ILCS 5/10-22.43.

⁴ See f/n 2. Required only if the district offers proficiency credit for foreign language. *Id.*

⁵ See f/n 2. Optional, but permitted by 105 ILCS 5/10-22.43a.

⁶ Optional.

LEGAL REF.: 105 ILCS 5/10-22.43, 5/10-22.43a, 5/27-22, and 5/27-24.3.
23 Ill.Admin.Code Part 680.

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)

Instruction

Student Testing and Assessment Program 1

The District student assessment program provides information for determining individual student achievement and instructional needs, curriculum and instruction effectiveness, and school performance measured against District student learning objectives and statewide norms.

The Superintendent or designee shall manage the student assessment program that, at a minimum:

1. Administers to students all standardized assessments required by the Ill. State Board of Education (ISBE) and/or any other appropriate assessment methods and instruments, including norm and criterion-referenced achievement tests, aptitude tests, proficiency tests, and teacher-developed tests.
2. Informs students of the timelines and procedures applicable to their participation in every State assessment.²
3. Provides each student's parents/guardians with the results or scores of each State assessment and an evaluation of the student's progress. See policy 6:280, *Grading and Promotion*.³
4. Utilizes professional testing practices.⁴

Overall student assessment data on tests required by State law will be aggregated by the District and reported, along with other information, on the District's annual report card.⁵ All reliable assessments

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¹ State and federal law control this policy's content. 105 ILCS 5/2-3.64a-5(b) requires ISBE to "establish the academic standards that are to be applicable to students who are subject to State assessments." It contains the schedule for assessing students by calendar year and grade. The Ill. State Board of Education (ISBE) selected the *Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers* (PARCC) as the State assessment and accountability measure for grades 3-8 through the 2017-2018 school year. Beginning with the 2018-2019 school year, ISBE began transitioning from PARCC to the *Ill. Assessment for Readiness* (IAR), which continues to use "an anchor set of PARCC items." See letter from State Superintendent Tony Smith, 2-8-19, along with other ISBE resource material at www.isbe.net/IAR. In House Joint Resolution 54 (2015), members of the Ill. House and Senate encouraged school districts to not use results of the PARCC test for the 2014-2015 school year through the 2017-2018 school year "as a determining factor for making decisions about a student's educational opportunities, the evaluation of educators, and the allocation of resources based on educational achievement on this assessment."

105 ILCS 5/2-3.64a-5(c), amended by P.A.s 100-7 and 101-643, requires that the assessment administered by ISBE for the purpose of student application to or admissions consideration by institutions of higher education be administered on a school day during regular student attendance hours.

105 ILCS 5/2-3.64a-5(d) contains the requirements for assessing students receiving special education services and students determined to be English learners.

105 ILCS 5/2-3.64a-5(e), amended by P.A. 100-222, no longer requires that the scores attained by a student on an assessment that includes a college and career readiness determination be entered on the student's transcript. The scores, however, must be placed in the student's permanent record. See 23 Ill.Admin.Code §375.10.

² Required by 105 ILCS 5/2-3.64a-5(c), amended by P.A. 101-643.

³ 105 ILCS 5/2-3.64a-5(e), amended by P.A. 100-222, requires districts to provide State assessment results/scores to students' parents/guardians. The second part of this provision is optional and may be deleted, i.e., "~~and an evaluation of the student's progress.~~"

⁴ 105 ILCS 5/2-3.107; 23 Ill.Admin.Code §1.30(b).

administered by the District and scored by entities outside of the District must be (1) reported to ISBE on its form by the 30th day of each school year, and (2) made publicly available to parents/guardians of students.⁶ Board policy 7:340, *Student Records*, and its implementing procedures govern recordkeeping and access issues.⁷

LEGAL REF.: 20 U.S.C. §1232g, Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act.
105 ILCS 10/, Illinois School Student Records Act.
105 ILCS 5/2-3.63, 5/2-3.64a-5, 5/10-17a, 5/22-82, and 5/27-1.

CROSS REF.: 6:15 (School Accountability), 6:280 (Grading and Promotion), 7:340 (Student Records)

The footnotes are not intended to be part of the adopted policy; they should be removed before the policy is adopted.

⁵ Required by 105 ILCS 5/10-17a, amended by P.A.s 100-227, 100-807, and 100-1121. School districts must annually, no more than 30 days after receipt from the State Superintendent release their district's and schools' report cards assessing the performance of its schools and students. Districts must: (1) present the report cards at a regular Board meeting, (2) post them on the District's website, (3) make them available to a newspaper of general circulation serving the District, and (4) upon request, send them home to parents/guardians. 105 ILCS 5/10-17a(5). The school report card must describe, among other items, student characteristics, curriculum information, student outcomes and progress, and school environment. The environment report must include indicators from the *school climate survey* approved under 105 ILCS 5/2-3.153 (requires ISBE, in addition to its default school climate survey, to identify two or three alternative school survey instruments from which districts may select).

⁶ 105 ILCS 5/22-82 requires every school district to report to ISBE for each of its schools, by the 30th day of each school year, all reliable assessments the district administers that are scored by entities outside of the district. The district must make the report on an ISBE-provided form.

Each school must also make this information publicly available to the parents and guardians of its students through the district's Internet website or distribute the information in paper form. *Id.* at (b). See 2:250-E2, *Immediately Available District Public Records and Web-Posted Reports and Records*. Although not required by law, if a board wants to direct that this information be shared more broadly with the public for greater transparency, add "and to the community" after "parents/guardians of students."

⁷ 105 ILCS 5/2-3.64a-5(e), amended by P.A. 100-222, governs recording assessment results in school student records. See also the Ill. School Student Records Act, 105 ILCS 10/; 23 Ill.Admin.Code §375.10.