

## Document Status: Draft Update

### Instruction

#### 6:60 Curriculum Content

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

1. In kindergarten through Grade 8, subjects include: (a) language arts, (b) reading, (c) other communication skills, (d) science, (e) mathematics, (f) social studies, (g) art, (h) music, (i) drug and substance abuse prevention. A reading opportunity of 60 minutes per day will be promoted for all students in kindergarten through grade 3 whose reading levels are one grade level or more lower than their current grade level. Before the completion of grade 5, students will be offered at least one unit of cursive instruction. Beginning with the 2020-2021 school year, in grades 6, 7, or 8, students must receive at least one semester of civics education in accordance with Illinois Learning Standards for social science. [PRESSPlus1](#)
2. In grades 7 through 8, as well as in interscholastic athletic programs, steroid abuse prevention must be taught.
3. In grades kindergarten through 8, 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, 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~~ should include educating students about behaviors that violate ~~Board~~ policy 7:180, *Prevention of and Response to Bullying, Intimidation, and Harassment*.
7. In all grades, citizenship values must be stressed, including: (a) patriotism, (b) democratic principles of freedom, justice, and equality, (c) proper use and display of the American flag, (d) the Pledge of Allegiance, (e) the voting process.
8. In all grades, physical education must be taught including a developmentally planned and sequential curriculum that fosters the development of movement skills, enhances health-related fitness, increases students' knowledge, offers direct opportunities to learn how to work cooperatively in a group setting, and encourages healthy habits and attitudes for a healthy lifestyle. Unless otherwise exempted, all students are required to engage in a physical education course with such frequency as determined by the Board after recommendation from the Superintendent, but at a minimum of three days per five-day week. For exemptions and substitutions, see policy 7:260, *Exemption from Physical Education*.
9. In all schools, health education must be stressed, including: (a) proper nutrition, (b) physical fitness, (c) components necessary to develop a sound mind in a healthy body, (d) dangers and avoidance of abduction, and (e) age-appropriate sexual abuse and assault awareness and prevention education in all grades. The Superintendent shall implement a comprehensive health education program in accordance with State law.
10. In all schools, career/vocational education must be stressed, 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.
11. In all schools, consumer education must be stressed, including: (a) knowledge of banking and banking procedures, (b) budgeting, (c) credit cards, credit applications, and credit options, and (d) other related skills and knowledge needed in the modern world.
12. In all schools, conservation of natural resources must be stressed, including: (a) home ecology, (b) endangered species, (c) threats to the environment, and (d) the importance of the environment to life as we know it.
13. In all schools, United States (U.S.) history must be taught, [PRESSPlus2](#) including: (a) the principles of representative government, (b) the Constitutions of the U.S. and Illinois, (c) the role of the U.S. in world affairs, (d) the role of labor unions, ~~and~~ (e) the role and contributions of ethnic groups, including but not limited to, the African Americans, Albanians, Asian Americans, Bohemians, Czechs, French, Germans, Hispanics (including the events related to the forceful removal and illegal deportation of Mexican-American U.S. citizens during the Great Depression), Hungarians, Irish, Italians, Lithuanians, Polish, Russians, Scots, and Slovaks in the history of this country and State, (f) a study of the roles and contributions of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) people in the history of the U.S. and Illinois, [PRESSPlus3](#) and (g) Illinois history. [PRESSPlus4](#)
14. In addition, all schools shall hold an educational program on the United States Constitution on Constitution Day, each September 17, commemorating the September 17, 1787 signing of the Constitution. However, when September 17 falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or holiday, Constitution Day shall be held during the preceding or following week.
15. In grade 7 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.

16. In elementary 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, Armenian Genocide, the Famine-Genocide in Ukraine, and more recent atrocities in Cambodia, Bosnia, Rwanda, and Sudan.
17. In elementary schools, instruction as determined by the Superintendent or designee on the history, struggles, and contributions of women and African Americans must be stressed.
18. In grades kindergarten through 8, violence prevention and conflict resolution must be stressed, including: (a) causes of conflict, (b) alternative solutions, (c) non-violent resolution, (d) consequences of violent behavior, and (e) relationships between drugs, alcohol, and violence, provided it can be funded by private grants or the federal government.
19. In all schools, instruction as determined by the Superintendent or designee must be included on Black History, including the history of the African slave trade, slavery in America, and the vestiges of slavery in this country, as well as the struggles and contributions of African-Americans.
20. In all schools, instruction during courses as determined by the Superintendent or designee on disability history, awareness, and the disability rights movement.
21. In kindergarten through grade 8, education must be available to students concerning effective methods of preventing and avoiding traffic injuries related to walking and bicycling.<sup>Q1</sup>

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), [5/27-3](#), [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](#), [5/27-20.3](#), [5/27-20.4](#), [5/27-20.5](#), [5/27-20.7](#), [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](#), [5/27-24.2](#), [435/](#), and [110/3](#).

[625 ILCS 5/6-408.5](#).

[23 Ill.Admin.Code §§1.420](#), [1.425](#), [1.430](#), and [1.440](#).

CROSS REF.: 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)

ADOPTED: September 10, 2002

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**Questions and Answers:**

\*\*\*Required Question 1. A school district may offer a course on hunting safety as part of its curriculum during the school day.

(105 ILCS 5/27-23.13 (final citation pending), added by P.A. 101-152.) No grade levels are specified in the statute. Does the Board want to offer a course on hunting safety as part of its curriculum?

No. (default)

Yes, Insert In grade(s) [insert grade level(s)], a course on hunting safety will be offered during the school day." 5/27-23.13 (final citation pending) will be added to the Legal References - What grade level(s) should be inserted?: \_\_\_\_\_

**PRESSPlus Comments**

PRESSPlus 1. Updated in response to 105 ILCS 5/27-3.10, added by P.A. 101-254, eff. 7-1-20. The statute specifically states that school districts may utilize private funding available for offering civics education. **Issue 102, October 2019**

PRESSPlus 2. 105 ILCS 5/27-21 does not specify at what grade level districts must cover these topics as part of U.S. history instruction; however, no student may graduate from grade 8 unless the student has received instruction in U.S. history and demonstrated comprehensive knowledge of the subject matter. **Issue 102, October 2019**

PRESSPlus 3. Updated in response to 105 ILCS 5/27-21, amended by P.A. 101-227, eff. 7-1-20. **Issue 102, October 2019**

PRESSPlus 4. Updated in response to 105 ILCS 5/27-21, amended by P.A. 101-341, eff. 1-1-20 (beginning with the 2020-2021 school year). **Issue 102, October 2019**