



DETAILED GUIDE FOR MANDATED UNITS OF STUDY

2020-2021

These are the areas of study mandated by the Illinois School Code and the Illinois Administrative Code. Statutory and regulatory references are included for all curriculum areas and should be reviewed carefully to ensure schools are meeting all requirements.

Curriculum Area	Grade Level(s) Taught	Requirement Summary
Abduction Education <i>105 ILCS 5/27-13.2</i>	Not Specified	All public schools must provide some instruction, study and discussion on this topic. The required instruction can be included in the courses of study regularly taught; provided, however, that such instruction must be given every year to all pupils Kindergarten through 8.
American Patriotism & Government <i>105 ILCS 5/27-3, 5/27-4, 27-21</i> <i>23 Ill. Admin. Code 1.420 (r) (1)</i> <i>23 Ill. Admin. Code 1.430(b)</i> <i>23 Ill. Admin. Code 1.440 (b)(4)</i>	Not Specified Grade 8 & High School Graduation Requirement	<p>Each school system shall provide history and social sciences courses that include the study of principles of representative government, the Constitutions of both the United States and the State of Illinois, the proper use of the flag, and how these concepts have related and currently do relate in actual practice in the world.</p> <p>Must be taught in all public schools. In grades 7 and 8 or their equivalent, not less than one hour of each school week must be devoted to the study of these subjects. In all high school grades, not less than one hour of each school week must be devoted to the advanced study of these subjects.</p> <p>No student may graduate from the eighth grade unless he or she has received instruction in the history of the United States and gives evidence of having a comprehensive knowledge thereof, which may be administered remotely.</p> <p>No student may receive a "certificate of graduation" without passing a satisfactory exam of the subjects, which may be administered remotely.</p>
Anabolic Steroids <i>105 ILCS 5/27-23.3</i>	Grades 7-12 and All Interscholastic Athletes	School districts must provide instruction on this topic in grades 7 through 12 and also to interscholastic athletes. Such instruction shall be included in science, health, drug abuse, physical education, or other appropriate courses of study.
Art <i>23 Ill. Admin. Code 1.430 (a) (6)</i> <i>23 Ill. Admin. Code 1.440(a)(7)</i> <i>23 Ill. Admin. Code 1.440 (b)(4)</i> <i>105 ILCS 5/27-22(e)(6)</i>	Not Specified for Grades K-8. Option 1-year Credit Requirement in High School	<p>A district must provide a coordinated and supervised course of study in Art in its elementary schools. The time allotment is the option of the local board of education.</p> <p>Each district must provide a comprehensive curriculum that includes Art in its high school offerings. The time allotment is the option of the local board of education.</p> <p>As a prerequisite to receiving a high school diploma, each pupil entering the ninth grade must, in addition to other course requirements, successfully complete one year chosen from (A) music, (B) art, (C) foreign language, which shall be deemed to include American Sign</p>

Curriculum Area	Grade Level(s) Taught	Requirement Summary
		Language, or (D) vocational education.
Black History <i>105 ILCS 5/27-20.4</i> <i>23 Ill. Admin. Code 1.420 (r)(5)</i>	Not Specified	<p>Every public elementary and high school must provide a unit of instruction studying the events of Black History.</p> <p>Each school system shall provide history and social sciences courses that include the study of the events of Black History.</p>
Career Education <i>23 Ill. Admin. Code 1.430 (a)(9)</i> <i>23 Ill. Admin. Code 1.440 (a)(8)</i> <i>23 Ill. Admin. Code 1.420 (i)</i> <i>105 ILCS 5/27-22.2</i>	Not Specified. Optional High School Elective for Secondary Students	<p>The educational system shall provide students with opportunities to prepare themselves for entry in the world of work. Every district shall initiate a Career Awareness and Exploration Program that should enable students to make more meaningful and informed career decisions.</p> <p>A district must provide a coordinated and supervised course of study in Career Education - Awareness and Exploration in its elementary schools. The time allotment is the option of the local board of education.</p> <p>Each district must provide a comprehensive curriculum that includes Career and Technical Education - Orientation and Preparation in its high school offerings. The time allotment is the option of the local board of education.</p> <p>If the school board of a school district that maintains grades 9-12 establishes a list of courses from which high school students must elect at least one course, to be completed along with other high school graduation requirements, at least one course in vocational education must be included on such list.</p>
Character Education <i>105 ILCS 5/27-12</i>	Not Specified	Every public school teacher shall teach character education.
Civics Education <i>105 ILCS 5/27-3.10 & 5/27-22(e)(5)</i>	Grades 6-8/High School Graduation Requirement	<p>Every public elementary school must provide in its 6th, 7th, or 8th grade curriculum at least one semester of civics education.</p> <p>As a prerequisite to receiving a high school diploma, at least one semester of the minimum two years of Social Studies must be civics.</p>
Congressional Medal of Honor <i>105 ILCS 5/27-3.5</i>	Grade 7 Grades 9-12 History/American Government	All students in grade 7 and all high school students enrolled in a course concerning U.S. History or a combination of U.S. History and American government must view a Congressional Medal of Honor film made by the Congressional Medal of Honor Foundation.

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<p>Conservation of Natural Resources 23 Ill. Admin. Code 1.420 (l) 105 ILCS 5/27-13.1 23 Ill. Admin. Code 1.430 (a)(11) 23 Ill. Admin. Code 1.440 (a)(12)</p>	<p>Not Specified</p>	<p>Each district shall provide instruction on current problems and needs in the conservation of natural resources, including but not limited to, air pollution, water pollution, waste reduction and recycling, the effect of excessive use of pesticides, preservation of wilderness areas, forest management, protection of wildlife, and humane care of domestic animals.</p> <p>All public schools must provide some instruction, study, and discussion on this topic.</p> <p>A district must provide a coordinated and supervised course of study in Conservation of Natural Resources in its elementary schools. The time allotment is the option of the local board of education</p> <p>Each district must provide a comprehensive curriculum that includes Conservation of Natural Resources in its high school course offerings. The time allotment is the option of the local board of education.</p>
<p>Consumer Education 105 ILCS 5/27-12.1 23 Ill. Admin. Code 1.420 (k)(2) 23 Ill. Admin. Code 1.440 (a)(11) 23 Ill. Admin. Code 1.420 (k)(3) 23 Ill. Admin. Code 1.440 (b)(3)</p>	<p>High School</p>	<p>Pupils in the public schools in grades 9-12 shall be taught and shall be required to study courses that include instruction in the area of consumer education.</p> <p>The superintendent of each unit or high school district shall maintain evidence showing that each student has received adequate instruction in consumer education prior to the completion of grade 12. Consumer education may be included in course content of other courses, or it may be taught as a separate required course.</p> <p>Each district must provide a comprehensive curriculum that includes Consumer Education in its high school course offerings.</p> <p>Each high school student shall be required to take consumer education for 50 minutes per day for a period of nine weeks in any of the Grades 9-12.</p>
<p>Cursive Writing 105 ILCS 5/27-20.7</p>	<p>Grades K-5 Must be Completed by Grade 5</p>	<p>Elementary schools must offer at least one unit of instruction in cursive writing. School districts shall, by policy, determine at what grade level or levels students are to be offered cursive writing, provided that such instruction must be offered before students complete Grade 5.</p>

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Disabilities History, People with Disabilities, & Disabilities Rights Movement <i>105 ILCS 5/27-23.8 (a)(c)</i>	Not Specified	A school district must provide instruction on disability history, people with disabilities, and the disability rights movement. Instruction may be included in those courses that the school district chooses, and the school board shall determine the minimum amount of instructional time required under this section.
Diseases <i>105 ILCS 5/27-11</i>	Grades K-6 Grades 7-12 Not Specified	Prevention and control of diseases shall be taught. Each student shall be required to take one semester or the equivalent; i.e., at least 18 weeks. Parents or guardians must have the option to opt their child out of taking instruction on diseases without penalty.
Driver Education <i>105 ILCS 5/27-24.2</i> <i>23 Ill. Admin. Code 1.440 (a)(13)</i> <i>See also Part 252 rules.</i>	Grades 9-12	<p>Any school district which maintains grades 9 through 12 shall offer a driver education course in any such school which it operates.</p> <p>A driver education course shall consist of a minimum of 30 clock hours of classroom instruction and a minimum of six clock hours of individual behind-the-wheel instruction in a dual control car on public roadways taught by a driver education instructor endorsed by the State Board of Education.</p>
Drug & Substance Abuse Education <i>105 ILCS 5-27-13.2</i> <i>23 Ill. Admin. Code 1.430 (a)(12)</i>	Grades K-8	<p>All public schools maintaining any of the grades Kindergarten through 8 must provide instruction, study, and discussion on this topic. The required instruction can be included in the courses of study regularly taught; provided, however, that such instruction must be given every year to all pupils in grades kindergarten through 8.</p> <p>A district must provide a coordinated and supervised course of study in effective methods for the prevention and avoidance of drug and substance abuse. The time allotment is the option of the local board of education.</p>
Family Life <i>105 ILCS 5/27-9.2</i>	Grades K-6 Grades 7-12 Not Specified	Family life, including sexual abstinence until marriage shall be taught. The School Code outlines requirements for courses of instruction on family life in districts those choose to offer it; opt out is allowed.
Foreign Language <i>23 Ill. Admin. Code 1.440 (a)(5)</i> <i>23 Ill. Admin. Code 1.440 (d)(2)</i> <i>105 ILCS 5/27-22(e)(6)</i>	Option for 1-year Credit Requirement in High School	<p>Each district must provide a comprehensive curriculum that includes Foreign Language in its high school offerings. The time allotment is the option of the local board of education.</p> <p>As a prerequisite to receiving a high school diploma, each pupil entering the ninth grade must, in addition to other course requirements, successfully complete one year chosen from (A) music, (B) art, (C)</p>

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		foreign language, which shall be deemed to include American Sign Language, or (D) vocational education.
<p>Health 105 ILCS 110/3 23 Ill. Admin. Code 1.420 (n) 23 Ill. Admin. Code 1.430 (a)(7) 23 Ill. Admin. Code 1.440 (a)(9) 23 Ill. Admin. Code 1.440 (b)(1)</p>	<p>All Grades, Combined Equivalent of a Semester in Grades 6-8, High School Semester</p>	<p>The Health Education Program created under the Act must include certain required major educational areas as enumerated in the Act and shall be offered in all elementary schools and secondary schools in Illinois.</p> <p>Each school system shall provide in compliance with the Critical Health Problems and Comprehensive Health Education Act.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. No specific time requirement for Grades K-6; however, health education must be part of the formal regular instructional program at each grade level. 2. The minimal time allocation must be not less than one semester or equivalent during the middle or junior high experience. 3. The minimal time allocation must be not less than one semester or equivalent during the secondary school experience. 4. If health education is offered with another course on a “block of time” basis in a middle, junior high, or high school, instruction may be offered in any combination of the grade levels in the school, provided that the total time devoted to health education is the equivalent of one full semester’s work. <p>Each student shall be required to take one semester or the equivalent; i.e., at least 18 weeks, of health education during secondary school which must include the following major educational areas as a basis for curricula (important cross-sections may be found separately listed in this document):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • human ecology and health • human growth and development • public and environmental health • consumer health • safety education and disaster survival • mental health and illness • personal health habits • alcohol, drug use, and abuse including the medical and legal ramifications of alcohol, drug and tobacco use, abuse during pregnancy; curricula for alcohol and drug use and abuse shall include classroom instruction in Grades 5-12. • evidence-based and medically accurate information regarding sexual abstinence

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • tobacco • nutrition • dental health • course material and instruction to advise pupils of the Abandoned Newborn Infant Protection Act • information about cancer • training on how to properly administer cardiopulmonary resuscitation and how to use an automated external defibrillator shall be included as a basis for curricula in all secondary schools in this State (opt out allowed)
Holocaust/Genocide Education <i>23 Ill. Admin. Code 1.420 (r)(4)</i> <i>105 ILCS 5/27-20.3</i>	Not Specified	<p>Each school system shall provide history and social sciences courses that include the study of that period in world history known as the Holocaust.</p> <p>Every public elementary and high school must provide a unit of instruction studying the events of the Nazi atrocities of 1933-1945, a period in world history known as the Holocaust. To reinforce that lesson, such curriculum shall include an additional unit of instruction studying other acts of genocide across the globe. This unit shall include, but not be limited to, the Armenian Genocide, the Famine-Genocide in Ukraine, and more recent atrocities in Cambodia, Bosnia, Rwanda, and Sudan.</p>
Internet Safety Education <i>105 ILCS 5/27-13.3</i>	Grades 3-12 May Be Provided Grades K-2	<p>A school district must incorporate into the school curriculum a component on Internet safety to be taught at least once each school year to students in Grades 3-12. The age-appropriate curriculum may begin with students in Kindergarten.</p> <p>The school board shall determine the scope and duration of this unit of instruction. The age-appropriate unit of instruction may be incorporated into the current courses of study regularly taught in the district's schools, as determined by the school board.</p>
Language Arts <i>ILCS 5/27-22 (e)(1)</i> <i>23 Ill. Admin. Code 1.430 (a)(1)</i> <i>23 Ill. Admin. Code 1.440 (a)(1)</i>	Not Specified for Grades K-8. High School Graduation Requirement	<p>As a prerequisite to receiving a high school diploma, each pupil entering the ninth grade must, in addition to other course requirements, successfully complete four years of language arts.</p> <p>A district must provide a coordinated and supervised course of study in Language Arts, Reading, and other Communication Skills in its elementary schools. The time allotment is the option of the local board of education.</p>

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		Each district must provide a comprehensive curriculum that includes Language Arts in its high school course offerings. The time allotment is the option of the local board of education.
Mathematics <i>23 Ill. Admin. Code 1.430 (a)(3)</i> <i>23 Ill. Admin. Code 1.440 (a)(3)</i> <i>105 ILCS 5/27-22(e)(3)</i>	Not Specified for Grades K-8. High School Graduation Requirement	<p>As a prerequisite to receiving a high school diploma, each pupil entering the ninth grade must, in addition to other course requirements, successfully complete three years of math, one of which must be Algebra 1, one of which must include geometry content, and one which may be an Advanced Placement computer science course.</p> <p>A district must provide a coordinated and supervised course of study in Mathematics in its elementary schools. The time allotment is the option of the local board of education.</p> <p>Each district must provide a comprehensive curriculum that includes Math in its high school course offerings. The time allotment is the option of the local board of education.</p>
Media/Library Services <i>23 Ill. Admin. Code 1.420 (0)</i>	Not Specified	Each school district shall provide a program of library media services for the students in each of its schools.
Music <i>105 ILCS 5/27-22 (e)(6)</i> <i>23 Ill. Admin. Code 1.430 (a)(5)</i> <i>23 Ill. Admin. Code 1.440 (a)(6)</i>	Not Specified for Grades K-8. Option 1-year Credit Requirement in High School.	<p>Each pupil entering the ninth grade must, in addition to other course requirements, successfully complete one year chosen from (A) music, (B) art, (C) foreign language, which shall be deemed to include American Sign Language, or (D) vocational education.</p> <p>A district must provide a coordinated and supervised course of study in Music in its elementary schools. The time allotment is the option of the local board of education.</p> <p>Each district must provide a comprehensive curriculum that includes Music in its high school course offerings. The time allotment is the option of the local board of education.</p>
Parenting Education <i>105 ILCS 5/27-23.1</i>	Grades K-6 Grades 7-12 Not Specified	Parenting education includes instruction on the following: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Child growth and development, including prenatal development 2. Childbirth and child care 3. Family structure, function, and management 4. Prenatal and postnatal care for mothers and infants. 5. Prevention of child abuse. 6. The physical, mental, emotional, social, economic, and psychological aspects of interpersonal and family relationships.

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		7. Parenting skill development.
Physical Education <i>105 ILCS 5/27-5/27-6, 27-7</i> <i>23 Ill. Admin. Code 1.420 (p)</i> <i>23 Ill. Admin. Code 1.430 (a)(8)</i> <i>23 Ill. Admin. Code 1.440 (a)(10)</i>	All Grades Subject to Applicable Exemptions	<p>A school board may determine the schedule or frequency of physical education courses, provided that all pupils (except for those subject to applicable exemptions) engage in a course of physical education for a minimum of three days per a five-day week.</p> <p>A physical education course of study must be part of the regular school curriculum and not extra-curricular in nature or organization.</p> <p>Appropriate activity related to physical education shall be required. The time schedule shall compare favorably with other courses in the curriculum. Safety education, as it relates to the physical education program, should be incorporated.</p>
Reading and Communications <i>ILCS 5/10-20.53</i>	Not Specified for Grades K-8. High School Graduation Requirement	Each school board shall promote 60 minutes of minimum reading opportunities daily for students in Kindergarten through third grade whose reading level is one grade level or lower than their current grade level according to current learning standards and the school district.
Safety Education <i>105 ILCS 5/27-17</i> <i>105 ILCS 5/27-24.2</i> <i>23 Ill. Admin. Code 1.430 (a)(10)</i>	All Grade Levels	<p>School boards of public schools and all boards in charge of educational institutions supported wholly or partially by the State may provide instruction in safety education in all grades and include such instruction in the courses of study regularly taught therein. Such boards may provide for instruction in safety education for not less than 16 hours during each school year.</p> <p>Instruction shall be given in safety education in each of Grades 1-8, equivalent to one class period each week.</p> <p>A district must provide a coordinated and supervised course of study in Safety Education in its elementary schools.</p>
Science <i>105 ILCS 5/27-22(e)(4)</i> <i>23 Ill. Admin. Code 1.430 (a)(2)</i> <i>23 Ill. Admin. Code 1.440 (a)(2)</i>	Not Specified for Grades K-8. High School Graduation Requirement	<p>As a prerequisite to receiving a high school diploma, each pupil entering Grade 9 must in addition to other course requirements, successfully complete two years of science.</p> <p>A district must provide a coordinated and supervised course of study in Science in its elementary schools. The time allotment is the option of the local board of education.</p> <p>Each district must provide a comprehensive curriculum that includes</p>

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		Science in its high school course offerings. The time allotment is the option of the local board of education.
Sex Education <i>105 ILCS 5/27-9.1</i>	Grades K-6 Grades 7-12 Not Specified	<p>No pupil shall be required to take or participate in any class or course in comprehensive sex education if their parent or guardian submits written objection thereto, and refusal to take or participate in such course or program shall not be reason for suspension or expulsion of such pupil. Each class or course in comprehensive sex education offered in any of Grades 6-12 shall include instruction on both abstinence and contraception for the prevention of pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV/AIDS. Nothing in this Section prohibits instruction in sanitation, hygiene, or traditional courses in biology.</p> <p>All public school classes that teach sex education and discuss sexual intercourse in Grades 6-12 shall emphasize that abstinence from sexual intercourse is a responsible and positive decision and is the only protection that is 100% effective against unwanted teenage pregnancy, sexually transmitted diseases, and acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) when transmitted sexually.</p> <p>All classes that teach sex education and discuss sexual intercourse in Grades 6-12 shall satisfy certain criteria as outlined in the School Code.</p> <p>An opportunity shall be afforded to individuals, including parents or guardians, to examine the instructional materials to be used in such class or course.</p> <p>Note that sex education is not a mandated unit of study.</p>
Sexual Abuse (Erin's Law) <i>105 ILCS 5/10-23.13</i>	Grades K-6 Grades 7-12 Not Specified	Requires all school boards to adopt and implement a policy addressing sexual abuse of children that may include age-appropriate curriculum for students in Pre-K-5.
Social Studies <i>23 Ill. Admin. Code 1.430 (a)(4)</i> <i>23 Ill. Admin. Code 1.440 (a)(4)</i> <i>105 ILCS 5/27-22(e)(5)</i>	Not Specified for Grades K-8. High School Graduation Requirement	<p>As a prerequisite to receiving a high school diploma, each pupil entering ninth grade must, in addition to other course requirements, successfully complete 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 Grade 9 in the 2016-2017 school year and each school year thereafter, at least one semester must be civics.</p> <p>A district must provide a coordinated and supervised course of study in</p>

Curriculum Area	Grade Level(s) Taught	Requirement Summary
		<p>Social Studies in its elementary schools. The time allotment is the option of the local board of education.</p> <p>Each district must provide a comprehensive curriculum that includes U.S. History in its high school course offerings. The time allotment is the option of the local board of education.</p>
<p>Teen Dating Violence <i>105 ILCS 110/3.10(b)(2)</i></p>	<p>Grades 7-12</p>	<p>The school board of each public school district in this State shall adopt a policy on teen dating violence that, among other things, incorporates age-appropriate education about teen dating violence into new or existing training programs for students in Grades 7-12 and school employees.</p>
<p>Traffic Injury Prevention <i>105 ILCS 5/27-23.11</i></p>	<p>Grades K-8</p>	<p>The school board of a district that maintains any of the Grades K-8 must adopt a policy on traffic injury prevention education, and such education must be made available to students in Grades K-8.</p>
<p>U.S. History <i>105 ILCS 5/27-21</i> <i>105 ILCS 5/27-22 (e)(5)</i> <i>23 Ill. Admin. Code 1.420 (r)</i></p>	<p>All Grade Levels</p>	<p>History of the United States shall be taught in all public schools and in all other educational institutions in the State supported or maintained, in whole or in part, by public funds. The teaching of U.S. History must include study of all of the topics outlined in the School Code including the following components:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The study of the role and contributions of ethnic groups and the labor unions in the history of this country and this State. • The study of events related to the forceful removal and illegal deportation of Mexican-American U.S. citizens during the Great Depression. • The study of the role and contributions of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people in the history of this country and this State. • Instruction on the history of Illinois. <p>The requirement for U.S. History shall be provided through history and social sciences courses.</p> <p>One year of the minimum two years of Social Studies required for graduation must be history of the United States or a combination of history of the United States and American Government.</p>
<p>United States & Illinois Constitution <i>105 ILCS 5/27-21</i></p>	<p>All Grade Levels 8th Grade Graduation Requirement</p>	<p>No student may graduate from eighth grade unless he or she has received such instruction on the history of the United States and gives evidence of having a comprehensive knowledge thereof, which may be</p>

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		administered remotely.
Violence Prevention & Conflict Resolution <i>105 ILCS 5/27-23.4</i>	Grades K-12	School districts shall provide instruction in violence prevention and conflict resolution education for Grades K-12 and may include such instruction in the courses of study regularly taught therein.
Women in History <i>105 ILCS 5/27-20.5</i> <i>23 Ill. Admin. Code 1.420 (r)</i>	Not Specified	<p>Every public elementary and high school must provide a unit of instruction studying the events of the history of women in America.</p> <p>Each school system shall provide history and social sciences courses that include the study of the events of women’s history in America.</p>
Writing Intensive Courses <i>105 ILCS 5/27-22(e)(2)</i> <i>23 Ill. Admin. Code 1.440 (d)(1)</i>	High School Graduation Requirement	As a prerequisite to receiving a high school diploma, each pupil entering ninth grade must, in addition to other course requirements, successfully complete 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.