

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
3. If applicable, develop District and School Improvement Plans, present them for Board approval, and supervise their implementation.⁶

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; 23 Ill.Admin.Code §§1.10(a) and 1.20.

⁵ 105 ILCS 5/2-3.25a; 5/2-3.64a-5, amended by P.A. 101-643. First, the General Assembly significantly revised the system of standards for school districts and schools. Next, it delayed certain implementation dates by one school year. Then, it 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. 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, and 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.

⁶ The requirements around district and school improvement plans are unknown until ISBE revises its rules at 23 Ill.Admin.Code Part I, 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."

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, 5/10-17a, 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)

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⁷ 105 ILCS 5/10-17a, amended by P.A.s 101-68, amended by P.A. 102-294, eff. 1-1-22 (data on the number of incidents of violence that occurred on school grounds or during school-related activities and that resulted in an out-of-school suspension, expulsion, or removal to an alternative setting), 102-594, eff. 7-1-22 (the number of teachers who are National Board Certified Teachers, disaggregated by race and ethnicity), and P.A. 102-539 (school report card deliveries delayed until 12-31 in years when the Governor declares a public health emergency).

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 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

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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.s 101-642 and 102-15. 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.* and 105 ILCS 5/24-2, amended by P.A.s 101-642 and 10 ILCS 5/2A-1.1c, added by P.A. 102-15 and repealing on 1-1-23, 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* and on 11-8-22 for 2022 *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.s 101-643 and 102-584 (e-learning days allowed when a school is selected as a polling place under the Election Code), opened 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.

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⁴ 105 ILCS 5/24-2(c), amended by P.A. 102-411 lists the following as commemorative holidays: Jan. 17 (Muhammad Ali's birthday), 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); Juneteenth National Freedom Day on June 19 each year (5 ILCS 490/63, amended by P.A.s 102-14, eff. 1-1-22 (second to pass both houses and controlling (5 ILCS 70/6)) and 102-334 (first to pass both houses)) – potential conflicts related to celebrating Juneteenth when it falls on a Saturday or Sunday exist, e.g., P.A. 102-14 states “when June nineteenth falls on a Saturday or Sunday, neither the preceding Friday nor the following Monday shall be held or considered as a *paid* holiday” but contrast P.A. 102-334, stating “when June nineteenth falls on a Sunday, the following Monday shall be held and considered the holiday” – notice the word *paid* is missing; consult the board attorney about whether Juneteenth should be celebrated as an *unpaid holiday* on either the preceding Friday or the following Monday when it falls on a Saturday or Sunday, respectively, or not at all when it falls on a Saturday); 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); April is Arab American Heritage Month (5 ILCS 490/6); and the first full week of April each year is Autism Acceptance Week (5 ILCS 490/137, added by P.A. 102-588).

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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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. 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. Cmty. Consol. Sch. Dist. 21 of Wheeling Twp., 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.

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.

- 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.
5 ILCS 490/, State Commemorative Dates Act.
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)

Instruction

School Wellness 1

Student wellness, including good nutrition and physical activity, shall be promoted in the District’s educational program, school-based activities, and meal programs.² This policy shall be interpreted consistently with Section 204 of the Child Nutrition and WIC Reauthorization Act of 2004 and the Healthy Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010 (HHFKA).³

The Superintendent will ensure: ⁴

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¹ State or federal law requires this subject matter to be covered in policy and controls its content. The federal Child Nutrition and WIC Reauthorization Act of 2004 (Child Nutrition Act) requires school districts participating in a program authorized by the National School Lunch Act (NSLA) (42 U.S.C. §1751 *et seq.*) or the Child Nutrition Act to have a school wellness policy. Pub. L. 108-265, Sec. 204. State law required the Ill. State Board of Education (ISBE) to “establish a State goal that all school districts have a wellness policy.” 105 ILCS 5/2-3.139. ISBE complied in October 2007 by “instruct[ing] all public school districts to establish a School Wellness Policy.” The federal and State laws list mandatory topics for the policy. The second sentence of this policy should be deleted if the district does not participate in the NSLA or the Child Nutrition Act.

See ISBE’s numerous resources at: www.isbe.net/Pages/Nutrition-and-Wellness.aspx. Action for Healthy Kids is a national organization dedicated to overcoming the “epidemic of overweight, undernourished and sedentary youth by focusing on changes in schools;” see its resources at: www.actionforhealthykids.org/index.php.

This sample policy seeks to be both legally compliant and consistent with good governance principles. Both federal and State laws allow each school district to determine how the required topics are addressed. Good governance principles suggest that the board should establish goals with community and stakeholder input. The administration should determine how to achieve the goals. The board should monitor this policy by requesting and reviewing periodic implementation data.

The Ill. Dept. of Agriculture and ISBE are directed to create the Farm Fresh Schools Program. 105 ILCS 124/, Farm Fresh Schools Program Act; 30 ILCS 105/5.728, Farm Fresh Schools Program Fund. They are also directed to administer a grant program to further the Program’s intent of “reduc[ing] obesity and improve[ing] nutrition and public health, as well as strengthen[ing] local agricultural economies by increasing access to and promoting the consumption of locally grown fruits and vegetables in schools and increasing physical activities and programs that promote pupil wellness.” 105 ILCS 124/10.

² 7 C.F.R. §210.31(a) and (c)(1). The law does not require *school-based activities* to be listed in policy – only that boards implement them. Federal law requires consideration of *evidence-based strategies and techniques* when implementing school-based activities. A board that chooses to list these activities must update them as they change by readopting the policy.

For boards that have developed and wish to list their chosen evidence-based school-based activities, add the following sentence to the paragraph as the second sentence: “The District’s school-based activities include: [*list the chosen evidence-based school-based activities*].”

For boards that have not yet developed and implemented their evidence-based school-based activities and need technical assistance, see the websites for:

1. The U.S. Dept. of Agriculture (USDA) at: <https://healthymeals.fns.usda.gov/local-wellness-policy-resources/wellness-policy-elements/other-school-based-activities>; and
2. The Alliance for a Healthier Generation (AHG) at: <https://www.healthiergeneration.org/>.

³ Healthy Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010 (HHFKA); 42 U.S.C. §1758b (Pub.L. 111-296); 7 C.F.R. §§210.10 and 210.31(a).

⁴ *Id.*; 7 C.F.R. §210.31(c)(4) (identification of school official responsible for implementation of the policy), §210.31 (d)(2) (informing the public about the policy and making it available on an annual basis), §210.31 (d)(3) (informing the public of the progress toward meeting the goals of the policy by making triennial assessments available), and §210.31(e) (policy implementation, assessments, and updates). See also f/n 20, below.

1. Each school building complies with this policy;
2. The policy is available to the community on an annual basis through copies of or online access to the Board Policy Manual⁵; and
3. The community is informed about the progress of this policy's implementation.

Goals for Nutrition Education and Nutrition Promotion⁶

The goals for addressing nutrition education and nutrition promotion include the following:

- Schools will support and promote sound nutrition for students.
- Schools will foster the positive relationship between sound nutrition, physical activity, and the capacity of students to develop and learn.
- Nutrition education will be part of the District's comprehensive health education curriculum. See Board policy 6:60, *Curriculum Content*.⁷

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This sample policy identifies the superintendent as the school official responsible to ensure compliance and oversee the policy. When the rules require specific identification of a school official, the policy does not include the delegation language *or designee*. **[School boards] must identify the [school official(s)] responsible for oversight of [its wellness policy] to ensure compliance. [Boards] have discretion and are the most qualified to identify the best candidate for [their wellness] policy leadership as size, resources, and needs vary greatly among [school districts]**. See Federal Register Vol. 81, No. 146 at 50155 at: www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2016-07-29/pdf/2016-17230.pdf.

For boards that wish to identify a school official other than the superintendent, delete ~~Superintendent~~ and replace it with the responsible school official's title.

The intent of the rule is that schools "notify households on an annual basis of the availability of the local school wellness policy information and provide information that would enable *interested households* to obtain additional details." Fed. Reg. Vol. 81, No. 146 at 50160. However, the rule states, "[i]nform the *public* about the content and implementation of the local school wellness policy, and make the policy and any updates to the policy available to the public on an annual basis."

To achieve the intent of this requirement, the regulations suggest several methods for districts, which include a common method many districts likely already use: post the policy on the websites for the *public*, and use the student handbook to distribute important information to *interested households*.

⁵ For boards that distribute their wellness policies via student handbooks and want to list that in the text of their policies, insert "and distributed to students and their parents/guardians through student handbooks". For sample handbook language, see the Illinois Principals Association *Online Model Student Handbook (MSH)* at: www.ilprincipals.org/resources/model-student-handbook.

⁶ Goals for nutrition education and nutrition promotion are required topics, but the local board may determine what goals are appropriate. Pub. L. 108-265, Sec. 204(a)(1) and Pub. L. 111-296; 105 ILCS 5/2-3.139(a)(2); and 7 C.F.R. §210.31(c)(1). Replace this policy's text with a board's own locally-developed nutritional education and promotion goals.

Nutrition promotion, required by Pub. L. 111-296, is not well-described or defined. The Food Nutrition Service (FNS) describes *nutrition promotion* more clearly in its technical assistance materials and the proposed 7 C.F.R. Part 210 rules (Fed. Reg. Vol. 79, No. 38 at 10695), dated Feb. 26, 2014, which state, "... evidence based techniques and scientifically-based nutrition messages targeted to a specific audience to inspire and motivate them to take action and use these techniques and messages to create environments and food service venues (classroom, cafeteria, a la carte, vending machines, school stores, snack bars, fundraisers, home, etc.) that encourage healthy nutrition choices, as well as enhance and encourage participation in school meal programs."

More specific materials about nutrition education and promotion, including songs, games, posters, videos, event-planning booklets, wellness communication toolkits, school garden activities, and a graphics library, have also been developed by the FNS' Team Nutrition at: www.fns.usda.gov/tn/resource-library.

Technical assistance for:

1. *Nutritional promotion* at: healthymeals.fns.usda.gov/local-wellness-policy-resources/wellness-policy-elements/nutrition-promotion.
2. Goals development for and implementation of nutrition education and promotion are available from AHG at: www.healthiergeneration.org/.

⁷ 105 ILCS 110/3 and 23 Ill.Admin.Code §1.420(n).

Goals for Physical Activity⁸

The goals for addressing physical activity include the following:

- Schools will support and promote an active lifestyle for students.
- Physical education will be taught in all grades and shall include 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. See policies 6:60, *Curriculum Content* and 7:260, *Exemption from Physical Education*.⁹
- During the school day, all students will be required to engage in a daily physical education course, unless otherwise exempted. See policies 6:60, *Curriculum Content* and 7:260, *Exemption from Physical Education*.¹⁰
- The curriculum will be consistent with and incorporate relevant *Illinois Learning Standards for Physical Development and Health* as established by the Ill. State Board of Education (ISBE).¹¹

Nutrition Guidelines for Foods Available During the School Day; Marketing Prohibited¹²

Students will be offered and schools will promote nutritious food and beverage choices during the school day that are consistent with Board policy 4:120, *Food Services* (requiring compliance with the nutrition standards specified in the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture's (USDA) *Smart Snacks* rules).¹³

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⁸ This is a required topic, but the local board may determine what goals are appropriate. Pub.L. 108-265, Sec. 204(a)(1); 105 ILCS 5/2-3.139(a)(2); and 7 C.F.R. §210.31(a) and (c)(1).

⁹ 105 ILCS 5/27-5 and 27-6; 23 Ill.Admin.Code §1.425. See also f/n 29 in policy 6:60, *Curriculum Content*. For standards-based lesson plans and curricula for pre-kindergarten through grade 8, classroom-based lesson plans, recipes, guidance to improve the quality of school meals, and other materials for nutrition education and promotion, including songs, games, posters, videos, event-planning booklets, wellness communication toolkits, school garden activities, and a graphics library, see the resources developed by the FNS' Team Nutrition at: www.fns.usda.gov/tn/resource-library.

¹⁰ *Id.* This policy's sample text is based upon federal and State *goals* while sample policy 6:60, *Curriculum Content*'s text is based only upon State curriculum requirements that require a minimum of three days of physical education per five-day week. Ensure the text in this policy's goal aligns with the district's practice stated in policy 6:60 for meeting the minimum requirements of 23 Ill.Admin.Code §1.425(b).

¹¹ Schools must "set student learning objectives which meet or exceed goals established by the State." 105 ILCS 5/2-3.63. The *Learning Standards* can be found on ISBE's website at: www.isbe.net/Pages/Learning-Standards.aspx. See *State Goal 20: Achieve and maintain a health-enhancing level of physical fitness based upon continual self-assessment* at: <https://www.isbe.net/Pages/Physical-Education-and-Health.aspx>.

105 ILCS 5/27-6.5 describes physical fitness assessments required, beginning with the 2016-17 school year and every school year thereafter, for grades 3-12 in an effort to meet State Goal 20 of the *Illinois Learning Standards for Physical Development and Health*. See also 23 Ill.Admin.Code §1.425 (f) and (h); ISBE's *IL Fitness Assessments and Data Reporting Requirements Questions and Answers (Rev. 5-22-17)* at: <https://www.isbe.net/documents/fitness-asmt-faq.pdf>.

¹² The policy must include the nutrition guidelines selected by the board for "all foods available during the school day with the objective of promoting student health and reducing childhood obesity." Pub. L. 108-265, Sec. 204(a)(2); 105 ILCS 5/2-3.139(a)(1); and 7 C.F.R. §210.10 and 210.31(a), (c)(2), and (c)(3)(i)-(iv). 42 U.S.C. 1758b(b)(2)(A) requires that each local school wellness policy include nutrition guidelines for all foods and beverages available for sale on the school campus during the school day to ensure they are consistent with the statutory and regulatory provisions governing school meals (7 C.F.R. §§210.10, 220.8 and 220.10) and competitive foods (7 C.F.R. §210.11) as applicable.

Prior to July 2016 when 7 C.F.R. § 210.10 and 7 C.F.R. § 210.31(c) (respectively) became effective, the current *Dietary Guidelines for Americans* published jointly by the U.S. Depts. of Health and Human Services and Agriculture (USDA) were used as nutrition guidelines.

¹³ 7 C.F.R. §§210.10 (meal requirements for lunches and after-school snacks); 210.11(c) (general nutrition standards for competitive food, i.e., *Smart Snacks*); and 210.31(a) and (c) (encompassing all other nutrition requirements, including foods not sold to students during the school day (classroom parties)).

In addition, in order to promote student health and reduce childhood obesity,¹⁴ the Superintendent or designee shall:

1. Restrict the sale of *competitive foods*, as defined by the USDA, in the food service areas during meal periods;
2. Comply with all ISBE rules; and
3. Prohibit marketing during the school day of foods and beverages that do not meet the standards listed in Board policy 4:120, *Food Services*, i.e., in-school marketing of food and beverage items must meet *competitive foods* standards.¹⁵

Competitive foods standards do not apply to foods and beverages available, but not sold in school during the school day; e.g., brown bag lunches, foods for classroom parties, school celebrations, and reward incentives.¹⁶

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¹⁴ 7 C.F.R. §210.31(c)(3)(iv).

¹⁵ 7 C.F.R. §§210.11(a)(2) and 210.31(c)(3)(iii); 23 Ill. Admin. Code §305.5. For a definition of *competitive foods*, see 4:120-AP, *Food Services; Competitive Foods; Exemptions*.

¹⁶ 7 C.F.R. §210.31(c)(2). This sample policy does not apply competitive food standards to foods not sold in schools; i.e., foods that students bring into the school from home, etc.

The final [federal] rule does not require that local school wellness policy standards for foods provided in schools during the school day but not available for sale conform to the school meal requirements or the competitive foods standards. In fact, the preamble to the final rule reiterates this saying, “[a]gain, it should be noted that with regard to foods provided, but not sold, in schools, local jurisdictions have the discretion to adopt standards that conform to [the competitive food standards] or to adopt more or less stringent standards.” Similarly, the preamble to the final rule clearly states the rule does not require school boards to address standards for food brought from home for individual consumption. See Federal Register Vol. 81, No. 146 at 50158 at: www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2016-07-29/pdf/2016-17230.pdf. Emphasis added.

This sample policy adopts less stringent standards for foods not sold in schools. For boards that wish to adopt standards that conform to the competitive food standards or apply even more stringent standards to foods available, but not sold during the school day, delete the last sentence of this subhead: ~~*Competitive foods* standards do not apply to foods and beverages available, but not sold in school during the school day; e.g., foods for classroom parties, school celebrations, and reward incentives.~~ and choose one of the following sentences to replace it:

Option 1: The District applies *competitive foods* standards listed in Board policy 4:120, *Food Services*, to foods available, but not sold, in schools.

Option 2: The District applies more stringent standards than the *competitive foods* standards to foods available, but not sold, in schools. These include [*list the chosen standards to foods available, but not sold, in schools*].

The AHG encourages school officials to consider prohibiting foods as a reward and using the *Smart Snacks* standards for foods available, but not sold during the school day. However, enforcing such standards against students who are sent to school with snacks from their parents/guardians is difficult and may be considered overreach. Further, such a standard may open the district to challenges. Consult the board attorney about enforcement of standards that meet the *competitive foods* standards – or even more stringent standards – upon foods available, but not sold during the school day, i.e., choosing Options 1 or 2, above.

Exempted Fundraising Day (EFD) Requests ¹⁷

All food and beverages sold to students on the school campuses of participating schools during the school day must comply with the “general nutrition standards for competitive foods” specified in federal law.

ISBE rules prohibit EFDs for grades 8 and below in participating schools.

The Superintendent or designee in a participating school may grant an EFD for grades 9 through 12 in participating schools. To request an EFD and learn more about the District’s related procedure(s), contact the Superintendent or designee. The District’s procedures are subject to change. The number of EFDs for grades 9 through 12 in participating schools is set by ISBE rule.

Guidelines for Reimbursable School Meals ¹⁸

Reimbursable school meals served shall meet, at a minimum, the nutrition requirements and regulations for the National School Lunch Program and/or School Breakfast Program. ¹⁹

Unused Food Sharing Plan ²⁰

In collaboration with the District’s local health department, the Superintendent or designee will:

1. Develop and support a food sharing plan (Plan) for unused food that is focused on needy students. ²¹
2. Implement the Plan throughout the District.
3. Ensure the Plan complies with the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act, as well as accompanying guidance from the U.S. Department of Agriculture on the Food Donation Program. ²²
4. Ensure that any leftover food items are properly donated to combat potential food insecurity in the District’s community. *Properly* means in accordance with all federal regulations and State and local health and sanitation codes.

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¹⁷ Required by 23 Ill.Admin.Code §305.15(c)(2), 7 C.F.R. §§210.11(b)(4), (c)(2) and 210.30(c)(2) for participating schools that want to grant EFDs.

For elementary districts, delete these sentences: ~~The Superintendent or designee in a participating school may grant an EFD for grades 9 through 12 in participating schools. To request an EFD and learn more about the District’s related procedure(s), contact the Superintendent or designee. The District’s procedures are subject to change. The number of EFDs for grades 9 through 12 in participating schools is set by ISBE rule.~~

For high school districts, delete this sentence: ~~EFDs are prohibited for grades eight and below in participating schools.~~

Detailed procedures are subject to change and are too complicated for policy text. This policy seeks to balance the requirement to include procedures in the policy for requesting an EFD by providing information about the initial steps and directing the superintendent or designee to inform the requestor of the current procedure. For a list of the number of available EFDs and a more detailed sample step-by-step procedure to request them, see 4:120-AP, *Food Services; Competitive Foods; Exemptions*.

¹⁸ Inclusion in the policy is required for only those districts that participate in a program authorized by the NSLA or the Child Nutrition Act.

¹⁹ Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. §1771 *et seq.*) and NSLA (42 U.S.C. §1758).

²⁰ 105 ILCS 5/2-3.182, added by P.A. 102-359.

²¹ *Needy students* is not defined by 105 ILCS 5/2-3.182, added by P.A. 102-359.

²² Required for districts that participate in child nutrition programs, the National School Lunch Program and National School Breakfast Program, the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP), and the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP). See 105 ILCS 5/2-3.182, added by P.A. 102-359.

Delete number 3 *only* if the district participates in none of the programs listed.

Food sharing plans will depend on many local factors and require local health department involvement, so because of that, a sample **PRESS** administrative procedure is not practical and does not exist.

Monitoring ²³

At least every three years, the Superintendent shall provide implementation data and/or reports to the Board concerning this policy's implementation sufficient to allow the Board to monitor and adjust the policy (a triennial report).²⁴ This triennial report must include without limitation each of the following:

- An assessment of the District's implementation of the policy
- The extent to which schools in the District are in compliance with the policy
- The extent to which the policy compares to model local school wellness policies
- A description of the progress made in attaining the goals of the policy
- How the District will make the results of the assessment available to the public
- Where the District will retain records of the assessment ²⁵

The Board will monitor and adjust the policy pursuant to policy 2:240, *Board Policy Development*.

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²³ The policy must establish a plan for measuring implementation of the local wellness policy, including designation of one or more persons within the local educational agency at each school, as appropriate, charged with operational responsibility for ensuring that the school meets the local wellness policy. Pub. L. 108-265, Sec. 204(a)(4); 105 ILCS 5/2-3.139(a)(4); and 7 C.F.R. §210.31(c)(5), (6), and (e)(1). 105 ILCS 110/3.5(a) requires ISBE to develop and maintain a nutrition and physical activity best practices database. Materials may be found at: www.isbe.net/Pages/Nutrition-and-Wellness.aspx.

⁴² U.S.C. §1758b (Pub. L. 111-296) requires the public to receive periodic measures with the listed items. The accepted practice is annual reports. There is very little guidance to assist school districts in complying with this requirement, and school districts were expected to be working toward developing a reasonable method to implement this requirement by the end of the 2011-2012 school year. Without guidance, to ensure compliance, superintendents should contact their Regional Office of Education regarding their school districts' efforts to comply with this requirement. A guide to help school districts conduct an evaluation of local wellness policies is available, along with more guidance at: www.fns.usda.gov/tn/healthy/wellnesspolicy_tools.html.

²⁴ 7 C.F.R. §210.31(e)(2)(i)-(iii) and (3).

²⁵ *Id.* and §210.31(f); see also the Local Records Act, 50 ILCS 205/. It governs retention of district records; its definition of *public record* is narrower than the definition in the Freedom of Information Act. These communications must be retained only when they contain: (1) evidence of the district's organization, function, policies, procedures, or activities, or (2) informational data appropriate for preservation. Consult the board attorney for a more thorough analysis and a legal opinion about how to meet both of the federal records retention requirements discussed in f/n 25, below, and the Local Records Act.

Community Involvement ²⁶

The Board and Superintendent will actively invite suggestions and comments concerning the development, implementation, periodic reviews, and updates of the school wellness policy from parents, students, representatives of the school food authority, teachers of physical education, school health professionals, the school board, school administrators, and the community. Community involvement methods shall align their suggestions and comments to policy 2:140, *Communications To and From the Board* and/or the **Community Engagement** subhead in policy 8:10, *Connection with the Community*.²⁷

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²⁶ A board must establish a plan in its wellness policy for involving parents, students, and representatives of the school food authority, teachers of physical education, school health professionals, the school board, school administrators, and the public in the development of the school wellness policy. Pub.L. 108-265, Sec. 204(a)(5), amended by 42 U.S.C. §1758b (Pub.L. 111-296); 105 ILCS 5/2-3.139(a)(3); 7 C.F.R. §210.31(c)(5) (requirement to describe involvement plan in policy), and 7 C.F.R. §210.31(d)(1)(requirement to allow certain stakeholders to participate in policy development, etc.).

School districts have discretion in exactly how they implement this requirement, and [e]ach [school district] is best suited to determine the distinctive needs of the community it serves. See Federal Register Vol. 81, No. 146 at 50155 at: www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2016-07-29/pdf/2016-17230.pdf.

This requirement's awkward wording notwithstanding, a board may take compliance steps by:

1. Seeking community input or involvement during this policy's adoption and monitoring phases, and inviting suggestions and comments during the public comment portion of board meetings from time to time. This method aligns with 2:140, *Communications To and From the Board* and 2:240, *Board Policy Development*.
2. Establishing a "local school wellness committee." This method is discussed in the preamble to 7 C.F.R. §210.31(d)(1), which suggests "identifying individuals" to serve on a "local school wellness policy committee." **However, the final text of 7 C.F.R. §210.31(d)(1) does not specifically require districts to establish a local school wellness policy committee – only that they "permit [groups listed in the policy above] to participate"** See also the citation to the Federal Register, in the second paragraph of this f/n, above, discussing policy implementation discretion.

The default text of this policy follows item #1 above and does not establish a local school wellness committee. For a district that wants to appoint or approve a local school wellness committee, add the following optional sentence as the last sentence of this subhead: "As necessary, the Superintendent or designee will convene a Wellness Committee with at least one representative from each of the listed groups." Also list the Wellness Committee in 2:150-AP, *Superintendent Committees*. As much of the work of developing a plan to involve local stakeholders is administrative/staff work rather than governance work, best practice is for a Wellness Committee be an administrative committee, but consult the board attorney for guidance. See f/n 3 in policy 2:150, *Committees*, for a discussion of Open Meetings Act implications of the Wellness Committee being a board committee.

If a board wants to comply with the USDA's *encouragement* to include Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education (SNAP-ED) coordinators or educators in the group to provide input about the policy, add:

" , Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education (SNAP-ED) coordinators, educators" to the end of the first sentence in this subhead, immediately before: " , and community."

²⁷ If a board has not adopted the **Community Engagement** subhead in policy 8:10, *Connection with the Community*, delete the phrase at the end of the second sentence: "Individuals shall align their suggestions and comments to policy 2:140, *Communications To and From the Board* and/or the **Community Engagement** subhead in policy 8:10, *Connection with the Community*."

A board may also choose to post this policy on its website and include it in the student handbook.

Recordkeeping ²⁸

The Superintendent shall retain records to document compliance with this policy, the District's records retention protocols, and the Local Records Act.

LEGAL REF.: Pub. L. 108-265, Sec. 204, Child Nutrition and WIC Reauthorization Act of 2004.
42 U.S.C. §1771 *et seq.*, Child Nutrition Act of 1966.
42 U.S.C. §1751 *et seq.*, National School Lunch Act.
42 U.S.C. §1758b, Pub. L. 111-296, Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010.
42 U.S.C. §1779, as implemented by 7 C.F.R. §§210.11 and 210.31.
50 ILCS 205/ Local Records Act.
105 ILCS 5/2-3.139.
23 Ill.Admin.Code Part 305, Food Program.
ISBE's *School Wellness Policy* Goal, adopted Oct. 2007.

CROSS REF.: 2:140 (Communications To and From the Board), 2:150 (Committees), 2:240 (Board Policy Development), 4:120 (Food Services), 5:100 (Staff Development Program), 6:60 (Curriculum Content), 7:260 (Exemption from Physical Education), 8:10 (Connection with the Community)

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²⁸ 7 C.F.R. §210.31(f). Records must include: (1) the policy; (2) documentation demonstrating compliance with community involvement requirements, including requirements to make the local school wellness policy and triennial assessments available to the public; and (3) documentation of the triennial assessment of the local school wellness policy for each school under its jurisdiction.

See f/n 22, above regarding the Local Records Act and 2:250-AP2, *Protocols for Record Preservation and Development of Retention Schedules*.

While 7 C.F.R. §210.31(f) does not require the policy text to state what records must be kept, a board that wants to include that information may insert the following text: "Records must include: (1) this policy; (2) documentation demonstrating compliance with community involvement, including requirements to make the policy and triennial assessments available to the public; and (3) documentation of the triennial assessment of this policy for each school under its jurisdiction."

Instruction

Curriculum Content 1

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,² (f) social studies, (g) art, (h) music,³ and (i) drug and substance abuse prevention including the dangers of opioid abuse.⁴ 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.⁵ Daily time of at least 30 minutes (with a minimum of at least 15 consecutive minutes if divided) will be provided for supervised, unstructured, child-directed play for all students in kindergarten through grade 5.⁶ Before the completion of grade 5, students will be offered at

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¹ Districts must have a policy on physical education (23 Ill.Admin.Code §1.425) and what grade level(s) students will be offered cursive writing instruction (105 ILCS 5/27-20.7). Policies on the remaining topics in this policy are optional. State or federal law controls this policy's content. 23 Ill.Admin.Code §1.420, recommends that activities, including student internships and observations of government in action, be a part of the instructional program where appropriate.

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.*

² 105 ILCS 5/2-3.156 requires the Ill. State Board of Education (ISBE) to coordinate, adapt and develop middle and high school math curriculum models. There is no consistent definition for *middle school* or *high school* in either State or federal law. Districts are not required to use ISBE's models and may develop their own mathematics curricula.

The purpose of the math curriculum models will be to aid school districts and teachers in implementing the *Common Core Standards*. The ISBE has adopted new math and English language arts (ELA) standards for K-12 education referred to as the *New Ill. State Learning Standards Incorporating the Common Core*. The goal of incorporating the *Common Core Standards* into the *State Goals for Learning* is to better prepare Ill. students for success in college and the workforce in a competitive global economy. See www.isbe.net/Documents/ccs-faq-0813.pdf.

The terms *Common Core Standards* and the *New Ill. State Learning Standards Incorporating the Common Core* are synonymous. Referencing the *Ill. Learning Standards* includes them both. That is because they are incorporated by reference into ISBE's rules and *State Goals for Learning*. A district that wants to include the term *Common Core Standards* in its policy may do so; however, districts should understand that referring to the *Common Core Standards* only will cover only math and ELA learning standards and goals and not any other subject areas that the *Ill. Learning Standards* cover. The best practice is to continue using *Ill. Learning Standards*, which includes the *Common Core Standards*.

³ 23 Ill.Admin.Code §1.430.

⁴ 105 ILCS 5/27-13.2, amended by P.A. 102-195, requires that in addition to instruction, study, and discussion of effective methods for the prevention and avoidance of drugs and substance abuse, the subject must also cover the dangers of opioid abuse.

⁵ 105 ILCS 5/10-20.53.

⁶ 105 ILCS 5/27-6.3, added by P.A. 102-357. Schools must provide at least 30 minutes of play time for any school day five clock hours or longer in length. For any school days less than that, the total time allotted during the school day must be at least one-tenth of a day of attendance for the student. Time spent dressing or undressing for outdoor play may not count towards the daily time allotment. Play time must be computer-, tablet-, phone-, and video-free. Play time may be withheld as a disciplinary or punitive action only if a student's participation poses an immediate threat to the safety of the student or others. *Id.*

least one unit of cursive instruction.⁷ 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.⁸

2. In grades 9 through 12, subjects include:⁹ (a) language arts, (b) writing intensive courses, (c) science, (d) mathematics,¹⁰ (e) social studies including U.S. history, American government and one semester of civics,¹¹ (f) foreign language,¹² (g) music, (h) art, (i) driver and safety education,¹³ and (j) vocational education.

Students otherwise eligible to take a driver education course must receive a passing grade in at least eight courses during the previous two semesters before enrolling in the course. The Superintendent or designee may waive this requirement if he or she believes a waiver to be in the student's best interest.¹⁴ The course shall include: (a) instruction necessary for the safe operation of motor vehicles, including motorcycles, to the extent that they can be taught in the

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⁷ 105 ILCS 5/27-20.7 requires districts to offer students a unit of cursive instruction before they complete grade 5. Other than before completing grade 5, the law is silent about what grade level(s) in which students must receive their unit of cursive instruction. This provides an opportunity for a board to have a conversation with the superintendent about local community expectations and direct him or her to determine the appropriate grade level(s) in which students will be offered a unit of cursive instruction.

Use the following alternative if the board wants to specify grade level(s) before the end of grade 5 in which cursive instruction will be offered:

A unit of cursive instruction will be offered in grade(s) _____.

⁸ 105 ILCS 5/27-3.10, added by P.A. 101-254. The statute specifically states that school districts may utilize private funding available for offering civics education.

⁹ 105 ILCS 5/27-22, amended by P.A.s 101-643 and 654; 23 Ill.Admin.Code §1.440. ISBE may adopt rules to modify these requirements for students in grades 9 through 12 if the Governor declares a disaster due to a public health emergency pursuant to 20 ILCS 3305/7. 105 ILCS 5/27-22(e)(3.5), amended by P.A. 101-654 requires "a year of a course that includes intensive instruction in computer literacy, which may be English, social studies, or any other subject." Because computer literacy may be included within another subject, it is not listed here, but in number 6 of this policy with f/n 25, below.

¹⁰ 105 ILCS 5/2-3.156. See f/n 2.

105 ILCS 5/27-22(e)(3), amended by P.A. 101-464, allows the substitution of an advanced placement computer science course for a year of mathematics. 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*.

¹¹ 105 ILCS 5/27-22(e)(5). The statute specifically states that school districts may utilize private funding available for offering civics education.

¹² The General Assembly encouraged school boards to implement American Sign Language courses into the school foreign language curriculum. 105 ILCS 5/10-20.52. Senate Joint Resolution 68 (96th General Assembly, 2010) encourages school districts to explore the introduction of Arabic as a foreign language in their curriculums.

¹³ The ISBE rule on driver education personnel is found at 23 Ill.Admin.Code §252.40. School districts may contract with a commercial driver training school (CDTS) for driver education. 105 ILCS 5/27-24.2, amended by P.A. 101-450. To qualify to contract with a school district, a CDTS must: (a) hold a valid license issued by the Ill. Sec. of State; (b) provide teachers who meet the educator licensure and endorsement requirements under 105 ILCS 5/21B; and (c) follow the same evaluation and observation requirements that apply to non-tenured teachers under 105 ILCS 5 24-A. *Id.* A district contracting with a CDTS must provide a list to ISBE of the CDTS instructors. *Id.* The list must include the name, personal ISBE identification number, birth date and driver's license number of each instructor who will teach driver education. *Id.* Although a formal waiver for outsourcing of driver's education is no longer required, districts must consider their applicable collective bargaining agreement(s), board policy, and the reduction in force (RIF) provisions of the School Code as they relate to outsourcing of instructional staff. Consult the board attorney for guidance.

A school district may decide to allow a student to take a portion of the driver education course through a distance learning course. This is determined on a case-by-case basis and must be approved by the district's administration, the student's driver's education teacher, and the student's parent/guardian. 105 ILCS 5/27-24.2, amended by P.A. 101-183; 23 Ill.Admin.Code §252.20(c)(2).

¹⁴ 105 ILCS 5/27-24.1, amended by P.A. 102-455, eff. 1-1-22, and 5/27-24.2; 23 Ill.Admin.Code §252.20(c)(2).

classroom,¹⁵ (b) classroom instruction on distracted driving as a major traffic safety issue,¹⁶ (c) instruction on required safety and driving precautions that must be observed at emergency situations, highway construction and maintenance zones, and railroad crossings and their approaches,¹⁷ and (d) instruction concerning law enforcement procedures for traffic stops, including a demonstration of the proper actions to be taken during a traffic stop and appropriate interactions with law enforcement.¹⁸ Automobile safety instruction covering traffic regulations and highway safety must include instruction on the consequences of alcohol consumption and the operation of a motor vehicle.¹⁹ The eligibility requirements contained in State law for the receipt of a certificate of completion from the Secretary of State shall be provided to students in writing at the time of their registration.²⁰

3. In grades 7 through 12, as well as in interscholastic athletic programs, steroid abuse prevention must be taught.²¹
4. In kindergarten through grade 12, provided it can be funded by private grants or the federal government, violence prevention and conflict resolution must be stressed, including: (a) causes of conflict, (b) consequences of violent behavior, (c) non-violent resolution, and (d) relationships between drugs, alcohol, and violence.²² In addition, anti-bias education and intergroup conflict resolution may be taught as an effective method for preventing violence and lessening tensions in schools; these prevention methods are most effective when they are respectful of individuals and their divergent viewpoints and religious beliefs, which are protected by the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States.²³

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¹⁵ Id.

¹⁶ Id.

¹⁷ Id.

¹⁸ Id.

¹⁹ 105 ILCS 5/27-17.

²⁰ The Ill. Vehicle Code, 625 ILCS 5/6-408.5, contains these requirements; they are paraphrased below and may be added to the policy or otherwise disseminated.

Before a certificate of completion will be requested from the Secretary of State, a student must receive a passing grade in at least eight courses during the two semesters last ending before requesting the certificate. A certificate of completion will not be requested for any person less than 18 years of age who has dropped out of school unless the individual provides:

1. Written verification of his or her enrollment in a high school equivalency or alternative education program or a high school equivalency certificate (formerly GED certificate);
2. Written verification that before dropping out, the individual had received passing grades in at least eight courses during the two previous semesters last ending before requesting a certificate;
3. Written consent from the individual's parent/guardian and the Regional Superintendent; or
4. Written waiver from the Superintendent of the School District in which the individual resides or resided at the time he or she dropped out of school, or from the chief school administrator with respect to a dropout who attended a non-public high school. A waiver may be given if the Superintendent or chief administrator deems it to be in the individual's best interests.

²¹ 105 ILCS 5/27-23.3.

²² 105 ILCS 5/27-23.4.

²³ Optional. 105 ILCS 5/27-23.6 entitled *Anti-bias education* allows districts to incorporate activities to address intergroup conflict, with the objectives of improving intergroup relations on and beyond the school campus, defusing intergroup tensions, and promoting peaceful resolution of conflict.

5. In grades kindergarten through 12, 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. ²⁴
6. In all grades, students must receive developmentally appropriate opportunities to gain computer literacy skills that are embedded in the curriculum. ²⁵
7. In all grades, character education must be taught including respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, trustworthiness, and citizenship in order to raise students' honesty, kindness, justice, discipline, respect for others, and moral courage.²⁶ Instruction in all grades will include examples of behaviors that violate policy 7:180, *Prevention of and Response to Bullying, Intimidation, and Harassment*. ²⁷
8. In all schools, citizenship values must be taught, including: (a) American patriotism, (b) principles of representative government (the American Declaration of Independence, the

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Boards that adopt a policy to incorporate activities to address intergroup conflict pursuant to this law must make information available to the public that describes the manner in which the district has implemented the activities. Methods for making this information available include: the district's website, if any, and in the district's offices upon request. See 2:250-E2, *Immediately Available District Public Records and Web-Posted Reports and Records*. Districts may also include the information in a student handbook and in district newsletters. The Ill. Principals Association (IPA) maintains a handbook service that coordinates with PRESS material, Online Model Student Handbook (MSH), at:

www.ilprincipals.org/resources/model-student-handbook.

See f/n 12 in sample policy 6:180, *Extended Instructional Programs*, and ensure that these policies align.

²⁴ 47 C.F.R. § 54.520 and 105 ILCS 5/27-13.3 control this section. "Grades kindergarten through 12" is used because federal law requires school districts that receive E-rate funding to certify that they have an Internet safety education policy for all minors. 47 C.F.R. §54.520(c)(1)(i). This federal law defines *minors* as any individual who has not attained the age of 17 years. 47 C.F.R. §54.520(a)(4)(i).

105 ILCS 5/27-13.3 only requires a unit on Internet safety for students in grades 3 or above. It recommends seven topics for the unit on Internet safety and required ISBE to "make available resource materials for educating children regarding child online safety." It also invites schools to "adopt an age-appropriate curriculum for Internet safety instruction of students in grades kindergarten through 12."

For boards that do not receive E-rate funds and do not want to exceed the requirements of the School Code, replace this section with the following sentence:

In grades 3 or above, the curriculum contains a unit on Internet safety, the scope of which shall be determined by the Superintendent or designee.

For boards that do not receive E-rate funds, but want to exceed the requirements of 105 ILCS 5/27-13.3 to include grades K-2, replace this section with the following sentences:

In grades 3 or above, the curriculum contains a unit on Internet safety, the scope of which shall be determined by the Superintendent or designee. In kindergarten through grade 2, age-appropriate Internet safety must be taught.

²⁵ 105 ILCS 5/10-20.73 (final citation pending), 5/10-20.74, and 5/27-22(e)(3.5), added by P.A. 101-654. 105 ILCS 5/10-20.74, added by P.A. 101-654, requires that districts submit an annual report to ISBE regarding educational technology capacities and policies. See the subhead **Educational Technology Committee** and f/n 20 in 2:150-AP, *Superintendent Committees*.

²⁶ 105 ILCS 5/27-12.

²⁷ Required as part of a district's Bullying Prevention and Response Plan pursuant to 105 ILCS 5/27-23.7. Because of the negative outcomes associated with bullying in schools, the Ill. General Assembly has found "that [school districts] should educate students, parents, and [school district personnel] about what behaviors constitute prohibited bullying." 105 ILCS 5/27-23.7(a). This language aligns with policy 7:180, *Prevention of and Response to Bullying, Intimidation, and Harassment*.

The Ill. General Assembly invited boards to "make suitable provisions for instruction in gang resistance education and training in all grades and include such instruction in the courses of study regularly taught in those grades." See 105 ILCS 5/27-23.10(c). A board that shares this concern may add the following option: "In addition, in all grades gang resistance education and training must be taught."

Constitution of the United States of America and the Constitution of the State of Illinois), (c) proper use and display of the American flag, (d) the Pledge of Allegiance, and (e) the voting process.²⁸

9. In all grades, physical education must be taught including a developmentally planned and sequential curriculum that fosters the development of movement skills, enhances health-related fitness, increases students' knowledge, offers direct opportunities to learn how to work cooperatively in a group setting, and encourages healthy habits and attitudes for a healthy lifestyle. 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,²⁹ but at a minimum of three days per five-day week.³⁰ For exemptions and substitutions, see policies 6:310, *High School Credit for Non-District Experiences; Course Substitutions; Re-Entering Students* and 7:260, *Exemption from Physical Education*.³¹
10. In all schools, health education must be stressed, including:³² (a) proper nutrition, (b) physical fitness, (c) components necessary to develop a sound mind in a healthy body, (d) dangers and

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²⁸ 105 ILCS 5/27-3 requires the Pledge of Allegiance to be recited every day in elementary and secondary schools. See also *Palmer v. City of Chicago*, 466 F. Supp. 600 (N.D. Ill. 1979) (teacher would not teach and direct the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States for religious reasons and was terminated for not doing so because it was part of the curriculum). Requirements for displaying a U.S. flag at each school and in each classroom are found in 5 ILCS 465/3 and 465/3a.

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. Cmty. Consol. Sch. Dist. 21 of Wheeling Twp.*, 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.

²⁹ The phrase “after recommendation by the Superintendent” is optional. If a superintendent does not bring this topic to the board for discussion, the board may not have a trigger to make the determination.

³⁰ 23 Ill.Admin.Code §1.425(b). Boards that want their daily physical education requirement to align with their goal in policy 6:50, *School Wellness*, may replace “minimum of three days per five-day week” with their local daily requirements. See f/n 10 in policy 6:50, *School Wellness*.

³¹ 105 ILCS 5/27-5 requires school boards to provide for students' physical education and allows the P.E. course offered in grades 5 through 10 to include the health education courses required by State law. See also 23 Ill.Admin.Code §1.425.

105 ILCS 5/27-6, describes when students may be excused from P.E. See also 23 Ill.Admin.Code §1.425(d).

105 ILCS 5/27-6 contains an exception to the minimum of three days per five-day week P.E. requirement for schools engaged in block scheduling; if this is applicable, substitute this sentence for the second-to-last sentence in this paragraph:

Unless otherwise exempted, all students are required to engage with such frequency as determined by the Board, but at a minimum of three days per five-day week, during the school day, except on block scheduled days, in a physical education course.

105 ILCS 5/27-6.5 describes physical fitness assessments required, beginning with the 2016-17 school year and every school year thereafter, for grades 3-12 in an effort to meet State Goal 20 of the Illinois Learning Standards for Physical Development and Health at: www.isbe.net/Pages/Physical-Education-and-Health.aspx. See also 23 Ill.Admin.Code §1.425 (f) and (h); ISBE's *IL Fitness Assessments and Data Reporting Requirements Questions and Answers (Rev. 2017)* at: www.isbe.net/Documents/Physical_Fitness_Assessment_FAQ.pdf#search=Fitness%20Assessments%20and%20Data%20Reporting%20Requirements%20Questions%20and%20Answers.

105 ILCS 5/27-7 describes the goals and requirements for P.E. courses; these are re-stated in this sample policy.

³² Citations for letters (a) - (e), required by the Comprehensive Health Education Program (105 ILCS 110/3) in this paragraph follow:

- (a) 105 ILCS 5/2-3.139 and 105 ILCS 5/27-7 (proper nutrition) and see also policy 6:50, *School Wellness*.
- (b) *Id.* (physical fitness) and see also policy 6:50, *School Wellness*.
- (c) *Id.* (sound mind and healthy body).

avoidance of abduction, and (e) age-appropriate and evidence-informed sexual abuse and assault awareness and prevention education in all grades.³³ The Superintendent shall implement a comprehensive health education program in accordance with State law.³⁴

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- (d) 105 ILCS 5/27-13.2 (dangers and avoidance of abduction). The Ill. State Police and ISBE must develop instruction on child abduction prevention. 20 ILCS 2605/2605-480.
- (e) 105 ILCS 110/3 and 105 ILCS 5/10-23.13, amended by P.A. 102-610 a/k/a *Erin's Law* (child sexual abuse prevention). While 105 ILCS 5/10-23.13(b) states pre-K through 12th, this policy uses *all grades* for brevity and ease of administration. *Erin's Law* requires a policy addressing child sexual abuse prevention and curriculum content on that subject (see sample policy 4:165, *Awareness and Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse and Grooming Behaviors*). A sentence in 6:60-AP1, *Comprehensive Health Education Program*, restates the basic recommendations from page 16 of the *Erin's Law* Taskforce Final Report (Report) to Governor Quinn at: www.isbe.net/Documents/erins-law-final0512.pdf, which was the basis for HB 1975 text, which did not pass in the first half of the 102nd Ill. General Assembly but is used as the basis for sample content to implement P.A. 102-610 due to that Public Act's vagueness. The professional educator training component of *Erin's Law* is addressed in policies 5:90, *Abused and Neglected Child Reporting* and 5:100, *Staff Development Program*. The Report also encouraged parental involvement because parents play a key role in protecting children from child sexual abuse.

³³ See f/n 11 in sample policy 4:165, *Awareness and Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse and Grooming Behaviors*, for a definition of *evidence-informed*. 105 ILCS 5/10-23.13, amended by P.A. 102-610.

³⁴ 105 ILCS 110/3, amended by P.A.s 101-305 and P.A. 102-464; and 23 Ill.Admin.Code §1.420(n). Each school system shall provide a program in compliance with the Critical Health Problems and Comprehensive Health Education Act, 105 ILCS 110/.

More detailed critical health problems and comprehensive health education program content is described in administrative procedure 6:60-AP1, *Comprehensive Health Education Program*. That procedure follows the Comprehensive Health Education Program law (CHEP), 105 ILCS 110/3, amended by P.A. 102-464, and it formerly included the requirements for the development of the now-repealed family life and sex education programs in 105 ILCS 5/27-9.1 and 9.2, amended by P.A.s 100-684, 101-579, 102-412 and repealed by P.A. 102-522.

The former family life and sex education programs were replaced with the National Sex Education Standards (NSES) (105 ILCS 5/27-9.1a, added by P.A. 102-522) and a developmentally appropriate consent education curriculum (105 ILCS 5/27-9.1b, added by P.A. 102-522). But at the time of PRESS Issue 108's publication, the term *family life*, "including evidence-based and medically accurate information regarding sexual abstinence," remained in the CHEP (105 ILCS 110/3, amended by P.A. 102-464). The CHEP also includes many other health education topics that all elementary and secondary schools in Illinois must provide, including *teen dating violence* (105 ILCS 110/3.10, see 7:185, *Teen Dating Violence Prohibited*, for the required "teen dating violence policy") and cardiopulmonary resuscitation and automated external defibrillator use. *Id.* For ease of administration, 6:60-AP1, *Comprehensive Health Education Program*, content includes reference to the new NSES curriculum that is outlined in more detail at 6:60-AP2, *Comprehensive Personal Health and Safety and Sexual Health Education Program (National Sex Education Standards (NSES))*. 105 ILCS 5/27-9.1a, added by P.A. 102-522. While the NSES law is effective immediately, ISBE has until 8-1-22 to develop its learning standards and resources, and at the time of PRESS Issue 108's publication, no guidance existed about whether districts that provide the now-repealed family life and sex education programs formerly in 105 ILCS 5/27-9.1 and 9.2, repealed by P.A. 102-522, could continue to do so for: (a) their 21-22 school years, and/or (b) continuing into the 22-23 school year and school years beyond that into the future. Consult the board attorney if the district offered the now-repealed family life and sex education program to assess whether that program may continue during the 21-22 school and/or school years beyond.

Two choices exist for school boards related to providing students with a sex education curriculum:

1. No sex education; or
2. NSES a/k/a Comprehensive Personal Health and Safety and Sexual Health Education Program (105 ILCS 5/27-9.1a, added by P.A. 102-522, and see 6:60-AP2, *Comprehensive Personal Health and Safety and Sexual Health Education Program (National Sex Education Standards (NSES))*).

While boards are not required to include sex education curriculum information in their policies, if they offer it, the new law requires them to identify the curriculum their districts use along with the name and contact information, including an email address, of a school staff member who can respond to inquiries about instruction and materials. 105 ILCS 5/27-9.1a(e), added by P.A. 102-522. Methods for making this information available include: the district's website, if any, and in the district's offices upon request. See 2:250-E2, *Immediately Available District Public Records and Web-Posted Reports and Records*.

11. In all schools, career/vocational education must be taught, including: (a) the importance of work, (b) the development of basic skills to enter the world of work and/or continue formal education, (c) good work habits and values, (d) the relationship between learning and work, and (e) if possible, a student work program that provides the student with work experience as an extension of the regular classroom. A career awareness and exploration program must be available at all grade levels. ³⁵
12. In grades 9 through 12, consumer education must be taught, including: (a) financial literacy, including consumer debt and installment purchasing (including credit scoring, managing credit debt, and completing a loan application); budgeting; savings and investing; banking (including balancing a checkbook, opening a deposit account, and the use of interest rates); understanding simple contracts; State and federal income taxes; personal insurance policies; the comparison of prices; higher education student loans; identity-theft security; and homeownership

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For boards that do offer NSES but do not wish to communicate it in this policy, ensure that superintendents: (1) identify the curriculum along with the name and contact information, including an email address of the school staff member designated to respond to inquiries about instruction and materials (see 2:250-E2, *Immediately Available District Public Records and Web-Posted Reports and Records*); and (2) implement both 6:60-AP1, *Comprehensive Health Education Program*, and 6:60-AP2, *Comprehensive Personal Health and Safety and Sexual Health Education Program (National Sex Education Standards (NSES))*.

For boards that want to communicate to their communities in this policy that they offer NSES, insert the following text into the last sentence in number 10:

The Superintendent shall implement a comprehensive health education program in accordance with State law, including a personal health and safety and sexual health education program (National Sex Education Standards) pursuant to 105 ILCS 5/27-9.1a.

Legal Reference insertions are not necessary with the statute in the text of the policy. Ensure: (1) the implementation of both 6:60-AP1, *Comprehensive Health Education Program* and 6:60-AP2, *Comprehensive Personal Health and Safety and Sexual Health Education Program (National Sex Education Standards (NSES))*, align with this policy; and (2) that the superintendent identifies the curriculum along with the name and contact information, including an email address of the school staff member designated to respond to inquiries about instruction and materials (see 2:250-E2, *Immediately Available District Public Records and Web-Posted Reports and Records*).

For boards that communicated NSES in this policy and also want to communicate that they additionally offer developmentally appropriate consent education curriculum, insert the following sentence as the last sentence of the number 10 paragraph:

The Superintendent shall also implement a developmentally appropriate consent education curriculum pursuant to 105 ILCS 5/27-9.1b.

Legal Reference insertion is not necessary with the statute in the text of the policy. Ensure the implementation of 6:60-AP3, *Developmentally Appropriate Consent Education*, aligns with this policy.

For boards that do offer NSES and do not communicate that in policy AND/OR boards that do not offer NSES, but want to communicate that they offer developmentally appropriate consent education curriculum, insert the following text into the last sentence in number 10:

The Superintendent shall implement a comprehensive health education program in accordance with State law, including a developmentally appropriate consent education curriculum pursuant to 105 ILCS 5/27-9.1b.

Legal Reference insertion is not necessary with the statute in the text of the policy. Ensure that implementation of 6:60-AP3, *Developmentally Appropriate Consent Education*, aligns with this policy.

³⁵ 23 Ill.Admin.Code §1.420(i). See 105 ILCS 435/, Vocational Education Act.

A unit or high school district may offer workplace preparation instruction in grades 9 through 12 that covers legal protections in the workplace, including protection against sexual harassment and racial and other forms of discrimination and protections for employees. 105 ILCS 5/27-23.14, added by P.A. 101-347.

For high school and unit boards, insert "5/27-23.14," after 105 ILCS 5/27-23.11 in the Legal References or if a board offers a course on hunting safety as part of its curriculum during the school day (see the option in f/n 52 below), after its Legal Reference 105 ILCS 5/27-23.13, and the following text to the end of number 11 if the board wants to offer workplace preparation instruction:

In grades 9-12, workplace preparation instruction will be offered, covering legal protections in the workplace, including protection against sexual harassment and racial and other forms of discrimination and protections for employees.

(including the basic process of obtaining a mortgage and the concepts of fixed and adjustable rate mortgages, subprime loans, and predatory lending); and (b) the roles of consumers interacting with agriculture, business, labor unions and government in formulating and achieving the goals of the mixed free enterprise system. ^{36 37}

13. Beginning in the fall of 2022, in grades 9 through 12, intensive instruction in computer literacy, which may be included as a part of English, social studies, or any other subject. ³⁸
14. Beginning in the fall of 2022, in grades 9 through 12, a unit of instruction on media literacy that includes, but is not limited to, all of the following topics: (a) accessing information to evaluate multiple media platforms and better understand the general landscape and economics of the platforms, and issues regarding the trustworthiness of the source of information; (b) analyzing and evaluating media messages to deconstruct media representations according to the authors, target audience, techniques, agenda setting, stereotypes, and authenticity to distinguish fact from opinion; (c) creating media to convey a coherent message using multimodal practices to a specific target audience that includes, but is not limited to, writing blogs, composing songs, designing video games, producing podcasts, making videos, or coding a mobile or software application; (d) reflecting on media consumption to assess how media affects the consumption of information and how it triggers emotions and behavior; and (e) social responsibility and civics to suggest a plan of action in the class, school, or community for engaging others in a respectful, thoughtful, and inclusive dialogue over a specific issue using facts and reason. ³⁹
15. Beginning in the fall of 2023, in grades 9 through 12, an opportunity for students to take at least one computer science course aligned to Illinois learning standards. *Computer science* means the study of computers and algorithms, including their principles, hardware and software designs, implementation, and impact on society. Computer science does not include the study of everyday uses of computers and computer applications; e.g., keyboarding or accessing the Internet. ⁴⁰
16. In all schools, conservation of natural resources must be taught, including: (a) home ecology, (b) endangered species, (c) threats to the environment, and (d) the importance of the environment to life as we know it. ⁴¹
17. In all schools, United States (U.S.) history must be taught, including: (a) the principles of representative government, (b) the Constitutions of the U.S. and Illinois, (c) the role of the U.S.

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³⁶ 105 ILCS 5/27-12.1; 23 Ill.Admin.Code §1.420(k). P.A. 99-284 added these subjects to the required consumer education course: consumer debt, higher education student loans, and identity-theft security.

³⁷ For high school and unit boards that want to offer a unit of instruction about the process of naturalization pursuant to 105 ILCS 5/27-23.15, added by P.A. 102-472, insert an optional number 13, and amend numbers after it accordingly:

13. In grades 9 through 12, a unit of instruction about the process of naturalization by which a foreign citizen or foreign national becomes a U.S. citizen that includes content from the components of the naturalization test administered by the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services.

³⁸ 105 ILCS 5/27-22(e)(3.5), added by P.A. 101-654. At the time of **PRESS** Issue 108's publication, no definition or further information from ISBE existed about what *computer literacy* means. A common sense approach presumes the term includes those concepts carved out of computer science, such as everyday use of computers, keyboarding, accessing the Internet, etc.

³⁹ 105 ILCS 5/27-20.08, added by P.A. 102-55. *Media literacy* means the ability to access, analyze, evaluate, create, and communicate using a variety of objective forms, including, but not limited to, print, visual, audio, interactive, and digital texts.

⁴⁰ Optional until fall 2023; 105 ILCS 5/27-23.15(b), added by P.A. 101-654.

⁴¹ 105 ILCS 5/27-13.1; 23 Ill.Admin.Code §1.420(l).

in world affairs, (d) the role of labor unions, (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, (g) Illinois history, and (h) the contributions made to society by Americans of different faith practices, including, but not limited to, Muslim Americans, Jewish Americans, Christian Americans, Hindu Americans, Sikh Americans, Buddhist Americans, and any other collective community of faith that has shaped America. ⁴²

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. ⁴³

18. In grade 7 and all high school courses concerning U.S. history or a combination of U.S. history and American government, students must view a Congressional Medal of Honor film made by the Congressional Medal of Honor Foundation, provided there is no cost for the film. ⁴⁴
19. In all schools, the curriculum includes instruction as determined by the Superintendent or designee on the Holocaust and crimes of genocide, including Nazi atrocities of 1933-1945, Armenian Genocide, the Famine-Genocide in Ukraine, and more recent atrocities in Cambodia, Bosnia, Rwanda, and Sudan. ⁴⁵

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⁴² 105 ILCS 5/27-21, amended by P.A.s 101-227 (adding the roles and contributions of LGBT people in U.S. and Illinois), 101-341 (Illinois history), 101-643 (during a public health emergency, allowing schools to obtain demonstrated evidence from students remotely that they have comprehensive knowledge of United States history), and 102-411 (adding contributions made to society by Americans of different faith practices); 23 Ill.Admin.Code §1.420(r). “[O]btain demonstrated evidence from students remotely” is not clear. The practical reading is that it refers to teachers collecting evidence through remote assessments when students are engaged in a remote learning program during a disaster declaration due to a public health emergency.

105 ILCS 5/27-21, amended by P.A. 101-643, 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.

For guidance about the requirements of adding the roles and contributions of LGBT people in U.S. and Illinois, see:

1. *Inclusive Curriculum Law Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)* at: www.phimc.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Inclusive-Curriculum-FAQs.pdf;
2. *Inclusive Curriculum Law Overview* at: www.phimc.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Inclusive-Curriculum-One-Pager.pdf; and
3. *Inclusive Curriculum Implementation Guidance (Condensed Edition)* at: www.isbe.net/Documents/Support-Students-Implementation-Guidance.pdf.

⁴³ Section 111 of Division J of Pub. L. 108-447, the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2005, 12-8-04; 118 Stat. 2809, 3344-45 (Section 111). Section 111(b) states: “[e]ach educational institution that receives Federal funds for a fiscal year shall hold an educational program on the U.S. Constitution on September 17 of such year for the student served by the educational institution.”

⁴⁴ 105 ILCS 5/27-3.5. The Congressional Medal of Honor film is available on ISBE’s website for no cost at: www.isbe.net/Pages/Medal-of-Honor.aspx.

⁴⁵ 105 ILCS 5/27-20.3. The statute requires the school board to determine the minimum amount of instructional time. The sample policy complies by delegating this responsibility to the superintendent or designee.

20. In all schools, the curriculum includes instruction as determined by the Superintendent or designee on the history, struggles, and contributions of women. ⁴⁶
21. In all schools, the curriculum includes instruction as determined by the Superintendent or designee on Black History, including the history of the pre-enslavement of Black people from 3,000 BCE to AD 1619, the African slave trade, slavery in America, the study of the reasons why Black people came to be enslaved, the vestiges of slavery in this country, the study of the American civil rights renaissance, as well as the struggles and contributions of African-Americans. ⁴⁷
22. In all schools offering a secondary agricultural education program, the curriculum includes courses as required by 105 ILCS 5/2-3.80. ⁴⁸
23. In all schools, instruction during courses as determined by the Superintendent or designee on disability history, awareness, and the disability rights movement. ⁴⁹
24. Beginning in the fall of 2022, in all schools, instruction as determined by the Superintendent or designee on the events of Asian American history, including the history of Asian Americans in Illinois and the Midwest, as well as the contributions of Asian Americans toward advancing civil rights from the 19th century onward, which must include the contributions made by individual Asian Americans in government and the arts, humanities, and sciences, as well as the contributions of Asian American communities to the economic, cultural, social, and political development of the United States. ⁵⁰
25. 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. ^{51 52}

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⁴⁶ 105 ILCS 5/27-20.5. The statute requires the school board to determine the minimum amount of instructional time. The sample policy complies by delegating this responsibility to the superintendent or designee. House Resolution 365 (98th General Assembly, 2013) and Senate Resolution 1073 (98th General Assembly, 2014) both urge all Illinois educators to share with students of an appropriate age the story of *comfort women* when discussing the history of Asia or World War II, or the issue of human trafficking.

⁴⁷ 105 ILCS 5/27-20.4, amended by P.A. 101-654. The statute requires the school board to determine the minimum amount of instructional time. The sample policy complies by delegating this responsibility to the superintendent or designee. A school may meet this curriculum requirement through an online program or course. *Id.*

⁴⁸ 105 ILCS 5/2-3.80(e) or (f), as applicable.

⁴⁹ 105 ILCS 5/27-23.8. The statute requires the school board to determine the minimum amount of instructional time. The sample policy complies by delegating this responsibility to the superintendent or designee. The statute requires that the instruction be founded on the principle that all students, including students with disabilities, have the right to exercise self-determination. It urges districts to request individuals with disabilities to assist with the development and delivery of this instruction and allows instruction to be supplemented by knowledgeable guest speakers.

⁵⁰ 105 ILCS 5/27-20.8, added by P.A. 102-44. *Id.* at (c) states that the regional superintendent of schools [or Intermediate Service Center Executive Director, whichever is appropriate] will monitor districts' compliance with this law during the annual compliance review visits. Districts may meet this law's requirements through online programs or courses. *Id.* at (d). 105 ILCS 5/3-0.01 states any reference to "regional superintendent" include the chief administrative officer of Intermediate Service Centers established under 105 ILCS 5/2-3.62.

⁵¹ 105 ILCS 5/27-23.11 requires districts that maintain any of the grades kindergarten through 8 to adopt a policy. The law is silent about how to educate students on this topic. See 6:60-AP1, E2, *Resources for Biking and Walking Safety Education*, for additional information.

⁵² 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, added by P.A. 101-152. No grade levels are specified in the statute. Insert "5/27-23.13," after 105 ILCS 5/27-23.11 in the Legal References, and an optional number 26, if the board wants to offer a course on hunting safety as part of its curriculum: In grade(s) [*insert grade level(s)*], a course on hunting safety will be offered during the school day.

- LEGAL REF.: Pub. L. No. 108-447, Section 111 of Division J, Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2005.
Pub. L. No. 110-385, Title II, 122 stat. 4096 (2008), Protecting Children in the 21st Century Act.
47 C.F.R. §54.520.
5 ILCS 465/3 and 465/3a.
20 ILCS 2605/2605-480.
105 ILCS 5/2-3.80(e) and (f), 5/10-20.73 (final citation pending), 5/10-23.13, 5/27-3, 5/27-3.5, 5/27-5, 5/27-6, 5/27-6.5, 5/27-7, 5/27-12, 5/27-12.1, 5/27-13.1, 5/27-13.2, 5/27-20.08, 5/27-20.3, 5/27-20.4, 5/27-20.5, 5/27-20.7, 5/27-20.8, 5/27-21, 5/27-22, 5/27-23.3, 5/27-23.4, 5/27-23.7, 5/27-23.8, 5/27-23.10, 5/27-23.11, 5/27-23.15, 5/27-24.1, and 5/27-24.2.
105 ILCS 110/3, Comprehensive Health Education Program.
105 ILCS 435/, Vocational Education Act.
625 ILCS 5/6-408.5, Ill. Vehicle Code.
23 Ill.Admin.Code §§1.420, 1.425, 1.430, and 1.440.
- CROSS REF.: 4:165 (Awareness and Prevention of Child Sex Abuse and Grooming Behaviors), 6:20 (School Year Calendar and Day), 6:40 (Curriculum Development), 6:70 (Teaching About Religions), 6:235 (Access to Electronic Networks), 7:180 (Prevention of and Response to Bullying, Intimidation, and Harassment), 7:185 (Teen Dating Violence Prohibited), 7:190 (Student Behavior), 7:260 (Exemption from Physical Education)

Instruction

Education of Children with Disabilities 1

The School District shall provide a free appropriate public education in the least restrictive environment and necessary related services to all children with disabilities enrolled in the District, as required by the Individuals With Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and implementing provisions of the School Code, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the Americans With Disabilities Act.² The term *children with disabilities*, as used in this policy, means children between ages 3 and 21 (inclusive)³ for whom it is determined, through definitions and procedures described in the Ill. State Board of Education (ISBE) *Special Education* rules, that special education services are needed. Children with disabilities who turn 22 years old during the school year are eligible for such services through the end of the school year.⁴

It is the intent of the District to ensure that students who are disabled within the definition of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 are identified, evaluated, and provided with appropriate educational services. Students may be disabled within the meaning of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act even though they do not require services pursuant to IDEA.

For students eligible for services under IDEA, the District shall follow procedures for identification, evaluation, placement, and delivery of services to children with disabilities provided in the ISBE *Special Education* rules. For those students who are not eligible for services under IDEA, but, because of disability as defined by Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, need or are believed to need special instruction or related services, the District shall establish and implement a system of procedural safeguards. The safeguards shall cover students' identification, evaluation, and educational placement. This system shall include notice, an opportunity for the student's parent(s)/guardian(s) to examine

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. Each school district and special education cooperative must develop written special education policies and procedures in conformance with ISBE rules. 23 Ill.Admin.Code §226.710. In its continuing commitment to help school districts and special education cooperatives comply with ISBE requirements for policy and procedure, the Ill. Council of School Attorneys, special education committee, reviewed this policy and prepared extensive procedures, *Special Education Procedures Assuring the Implementation of Comprehensive Programming for Children with Disabilities*, at: www.iasb.com/law/.

² Opinions vary regarding the extent of a district's responsibility for providing FAPE to dually enrolled students, i.e., whether the responsibility is limited to the extent necessary to access the public portion of their education. Contact the board attorney for advice.

³ 105 ILCS 5/14-6.01 states that high school districts are financially responsible for the education of children with disabilities who reside in their districts when such children reach age 15, but they may admit children with disabilities into special education facilities without regard to graduation from the eighth grade after they reach age 14 ½. When a child with a disability turns 14 ½ years old, it is the elementary school district's responsibility to notify the high school district of the child's current eligibility, program, and evaluation data upon which the current program is based. *Id.*

For elementary districts, edit ages as follows: ages 3 and ~~15~~21 (inclusive).

For high school districts, edit ages as follows: ages ~~3~~14 (or has graduated from 8th grade) and 21 (inclusive).

⁴ 105 ILCS 5/14-1.02, amended by P.A. 102-172. Delete this sentence for elementary school districts. IDEA funds cannot be used to provide services for students beyond the age of 21. See ISBE's *Frequently Asked Questions: Public Act 102-0172 and Public Act 102-0173* (July 2021), at www.isbe.net/Documents/FAQ-HB-40-HB-2748.pdf. **Consult the board attorney for further guidance.**

relevant records, an impartial hearing with opportunity for participation by the student's parent(s)/guardian(s), representation by counsel, and a review procedure. ⁵

The District may maintain membership in one or more cooperative associations of school districts that shall assist the District in fulfilling its obligations to the District's students with disabilities.

If necessary, students may also be placed in nonpublic special education programs or education facilities. ⁶

LEGAL REF.: 20 U.S.C. §1400 et seq., Individuals With Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004.
29 U.S.C. §794, Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Section 504.
42 U.S.C. §12101 et seq., Americans With Disabilities Act.
34 C.F.R. Part 106.
34 C.F.R. Part 300.
105 ILCS 5/14-1.01 et seq., 5/14-7.02, and 5/14-7.02b.
23 Ill.Admin.Code Part 226.

CROSS REF.: 2:150 (Committees), 7:230 (Misconduct by Students with Disabilities)

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

⁵ Districts must use ISBE's procedural safeguards for students who qualify for services under IDEA. For students who qualify for services exclusively under Section 504, the district must establish a system of procedural safeguards or use the ones provided by ISBE *Special Education* rules. 23 Ill.Admin.Code §§226.500-570. ISBE rules are more extensive than is required by Section 504 and districts may, as the policy provides, develop their own procedures. See 6:120-API, E1, *Notice to Parents/Guardians Regarding Section 504 Rights*.

⁶ The district may be eligible to receive reimbursement from the State for the student's expenses. 105 ILCS 5/14-7.02.

Instruction

Program for the Gifted 1

The Superintendent or designee shall implement an education program for gifted and talented learners that will challenge and motivate academically advanced learners and engage them in appropriately differentiated learning experiences to develop their unique abilities.² If the State Superintendent of Education issues a Request for Proposals because sufficient State funding is available to support local programs of gifted education, the Superintendent or designee shall inform the Board concerning the feasibility and advisability of developing a “plan for gifted education” that would qualify for State funding.³

Eligibility to participate in the gifted program shall not be conditioned upon race, religion, sex, disability, or any factor other than the student’s identification as gifted or talented learner.⁴

The School Board will monitor this program’s performance by meeting periodically with the Superintendent or designee to determine and/or review the indicators and data that evidence whether the educational program for gifted and talented learners is accomplishing its goals and objectives and is otherwise in compliance with this policy.

LEGAL REF.: 105 ILCS 5/14A.
23 Ill.Admin.Code Part 227.

CROSS REF.: 6:135 (Accelerated Placement Program)

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

¹ State law controls this policy’s content to the extent that districts can qualify for State funding for the education of gifted and talented children, should such funding be available. 105 ILCS 5/14A. While a policy on programs for gifted and talented children is not required, a policy on accelerated placement *is* required. 105 ILCS 5/14A-32 (the Accelerated Placement Act), amended by P.A.s 101-654 and 102-209. See 6:135, *Accelerated Placement Program*, and 6:135-AP, *Accelerated Placement Program Procedures*.

² The goals and objectives of this program may be modified by the board.

³ School districts have the authority and flexibility to design education programs for gifted and talented learners, but these programs must comply with 105 ILCS 5/14A-30 and 23 Ill.Admin.Code Part 227 to qualify for State funding, should such funding become available.

If a board does not wish to tie the gifted program to requirements for State funding, use this alternative:

The Superintendent or designee shall implement an education program for gifted and talented learners that is responsive to student needs and is within the budget parameters as set by the Board.

⁴ 105 ILCS 5/14A-25.

Instruction

Accelerated Placement Program 1

The District provides an Accelerated Placement Program (APP). The APP advances the District's goal of providing educational programs with opportunities for each student to develop to his or her maximum potential.² The APP provides an educational setting with curriculum options usually reserved for students who are older or in higher grades than the student participating in the APP.³ APP options include, but may not be limited to: (a) accelerating a student in a single subject; (b) other grade-level acceleration; and (c) early entrance to kindergarten or first grade.⁴ Participation in the APP is open to all students who demonstrate high ability and who may benefit from accelerated placement. It is not limited to students who have been identified as gifted and talented.⁵ Eligibility to participate in the District's APP shall not be conditioned upon the protected classifications identified in School Board policy 7:10, *Equal Educational Opportunities*, or any factor other than the student's identification as an accelerated learner.⁶

The Superintendent or designee shall implement an APP that includes:

1. Decision-making processes that are fair, equitable, and involve multiple individuals, e.g. District administrators, teachers, and school support personnel, and a student's parent(s)/guardian(s);⁷
2. Notification processes that notify a student's parent(s)/guardian(s) of a decision affecting a student's participation in the APP;⁸

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¹ State law requires this subject matter be covered by policy and controls its content. 105 ILCS 5/14A (the Accelerated Placement Act (APA)); 23 Ill.Admin.Code Part 227. Ill. State Board of Education (ISBE) rules require this policy to be posted on the district website, if available. 23 Ill.Admin.Code §227.60(a). ISBE rules also require districts to annually report, by July 31, demographic information regarding students participating in accelerated placement. 23 Ill.Admin.Code §227.60(c).

² Optional. Ensure this statement matches the board's current educational philosophy and objectives. See policy 6:10, *Educational Philosophy and Objectives*.

³ 105 ILCS 5/14A-17; 23 Ill.Admin.Code §227.5.

⁴ *Id.* For high school districts, delete “; and (c) early entrance to kindergarten or first grade” and insert the word “and” between (a) and (b).

Attorneys disagree whether the APA conflicts with 105 ILCS 5/10-20.12 (*School year – School age*). The APA requires accelerated placement to include “early entrance to kindergarten or first grade.” 105 ILCS 5/14A-17. 105 ILCS 5/10-20.12 *permits* districts to offer early entrance to kindergarten or first grade “based upon an assessment of the student's readiness to attend school.” 105 ILCS 5/10-20.12 also states that students may enter first grade early when they: (1) are assessed for readiness; (2) have attended a non-public preschool and continued their education at that school through kindergarten; (3) were taught in kindergarten by an appropriately certified teacher; and (4) will attain the age of 6 years on or before December 31. *Id.* See sample policy 7:50, *School Admissions and Student Transfers To and From Non-District Schools*. **Consult the board attorney for guidance.**

⁵ 105 ILCS 5/14A-32(a)(1); 23 Ill.Admin.Code §227.5.

⁶ 105 ILCS 5/14A-25.

⁷ 105 ILCS 5/14A-32(a)(2) requires that the accelerated placement policy include “a fair and equitable decision-making process that involves multiple persons and includes a student's parents or guardians” but does not specify what individuals are to be involved or limit those individuals to district employees. Amend this listing to align with the local board's preference.

3. Assessment processes that include multiple valid, reliable indicators; and⁹
4. By the fall of 2023, the automatic enrollment, in the following school term, of a student into the next most rigorous level of advanced coursework offered by the high school if the student meets or exceeds State standards in English language arts, mathematics, or science on a State assessment administered under 105 ILCS 5/2-3.64a-5, as follows:¹⁰
 - a. A student who meets or exceeds State standards in English language arts shall be automatically enrolled into the next most rigorous level of advanced coursework in English, social studies, humanities, or related subjects.
 - b. A student who meets or exceeds State standards in mathematics shall be automatically enrolled into the next most rigorous level of advanced coursework in mathematics.
 - c. A student who meets or exceeds State standards in science shall be automatically enrolled into the next most rigorous level of advanced coursework in science.

The Superintendent or designee shall annually notify the community, parent(s)/guardian(s), students, and school personnel about the APP, the process for referring a student for possible evaluation for accelerated placement, and the methods used to determine whether a student is eligible for accelerated placement, including strategies to reach groups of students and families who have been historically underrepresented in accelerated placement programs and advanced coursework.¹¹ Notification may: (a) include varied communication methods, such as student handbooks and District or school websites; and (b) be provided in multiple languages, as appropriate.¹²

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⁸ *Id.* at (a)(3).

⁹ *Id.* at (a)(4).

¹⁰ Required by 105 ILCS 5/14A-32(a-5), added by P.A. 101-654 and amended by P.A. 102-209, for all districts, including elementary-only districts. Though not explained in the statute, this is likely because State assessments in English language arts, mathematics, and science are required in grades 3 through 8 (105 ILCS 5/2-3.64a-5) and a student's State assessment results may place the student in high school courses. Consult the board attorney about practical implementation issues for an elementary school district, e.g., what to do if the elementary school district does not have a program for students to enroll in high school courses (see sample policy 6:315, *High School Credit for Students in Grade 7 or 8*), or if the elementary school district would like to offer advanced coursework not offered by the high school.

A district must provide the parents/guardians of a student eligible for automatic enrollment with the option to instead enroll in alternative coursework that better aligns with the student's postsecondary education or career goals. For a student entering grade 12, the next most rigorous level of advanced coursework in English language arts or mathematics must be a *dual credit course* (as defined in the Dual Credit Quality Act, 110 ILCS 27/5), an *Advanced Placement course* (as defined in the College and Career Success for All Students Act, 105 ILCS 302/10), or an International Baccalaureate course. The same is true for all other subjects, except that the next most rigorous level of advanced coursework may also include an honors class, an enrichment opportunity, a gifted program, or another program offered by the district. 105 ILCS 5/14A-32(a-5), added by P.A. 101-654 and amended by P.A. 102-209. See 6:135-AP, *Accelerated Placement Program Procedures*.

¹¹ Optional. 105 ILCS 5/14A-32(b)(1), amended by P.A. 101-654, permits, but does not require "procedures for annually informing the community at-large, including parents or guardians, community-based organizations, and providers of out-of-school programs, about the accelerated placement program and the methods used for the identification of children eligible for accelerated placement, including strategies to reach groups of students and families who have been historically underrepresented in accelerated placement programs and advanced coursework[.]"

¹² Optional. 105 ILCS 5/14A does not require this but it is a recommended best practice and aligns with sample policy 7:10, *Equal Educational Opportunities*.

LEGAL REF.: 105 ILCS 5/14A.
23 Ill.Admin.Code Part 227, Gifted Education.

CROSS REF.: 6:10 (Educational Philosophy and Objectives), 6:130 (Program for the Gifted),
7:10 (Equal Educational Opportunities), 7:50 (School Admissions and Student
Transfers To and From Non-District Schools)

Instruction

Extended Instructional Programs 1

The District may offer the following programs in accordance with State law and the District's educational philosophy:

1. Nursery schools for children between the ages of 2 and 6 years.²
2. Before-and after-school programs for students in grades K-6.³
3. Child care and training center for pre-school children and for students whose parents work.⁴
4. Model day care services program in cooperation with the State Board of Education.⁵
5. Tutorial program.⁶
6. Adult education program.⁷
7. Outdoor education program.⁸
8. Summer school, whether for credit or not.⁹
9. Independent study, whether for credit or not.¹⁰
10. Support services and instruction for students who are, or whose parents/guardians are, chemically dependent.¹¹

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¹ State or federal law controls this policy's content. However, all programs listed in this policy are optional. The district may charge a fee for programs numbered 1-4, 6, 8, 9, and 14. Delete the sentences that the board does not offer.

² 105 ILCS 5/10-23.2.

³ 105 ILCS 5/10-22.18b. A school district may offer a course on hunting safety as part of its curriculum during the school day or as part of an *after-school program*. 105 ILCS 5/27-23.14, added by P.A. 101-152 and renumbered by P.A. 102-558. Unlike the before-and-after-school programs authorized by 105 ILCS 5/10-23.2, no grade levels are specified for the hunting safety course or the after-school program in which it may be offered. *Id.*

⁴ 105 ILCS 5/10-22.18a.

⁵ 105 ILCS 5/10-22.18c. Student parents cannot be charged a fee for such day care services, however school personnel who use the services may be charged a fee. *Id.*

⁶ 105 ILCS 5/10-22.20c.

⁷ 105 ILCS 5/10-22.20, amended by P.A. 101-289. A school board may appoint a director of adult education. 105 ILCS 5/10-22.20b.

⁸ 105 ILCS 5/10-22.29.

⁹ 105 ILCS 5/10-22.33A and 5/10-22.33B. Each course offered for high school graduation must provide at least 60 hours of classroom instruction for the equivalent of one semester of high school course credit. 105 ILCS 5/27-22.1. 105 ILCS 5/10-22.33B authorizes districts to conduct a *high-quality* summer school program. Students at risk in language arts or mathematics may be required to attend such programs. Section 10-22.33A permits districts "to fix and collect a charge for attendance at such courses in an amount not to exceed the per capita cost of the operation" or to waive such charges if the family of a pupil is indigent or if the pupil is required to attend such courses.

¹⁰ Independent study allows students to expand their knowledge in curricular areas not offered as part of the district's basic program.

¹¹ 105 ILCS 110/3. Such services and instruction may be offered as part of existing curricula during the school day or as part of an after school program. *Id.*

11. Anti-bias education and activities to address intergroup conflict resolution. ¹²
12. Volunteer service credit program. ¹³
13. Vocational academy. ¹⁴
14. Advanced vocational training and/or career education program. ¹⁵

LEGAL REF.: 105 ILCS 5/10-22.18a, 5/10-22.18b, 5/10-22.18c, 5/10-22.20, 5/10-22.20a, 5/10-22.20b, 5/10-22.20c, 5/10-22.29, 5/10-22.33A, 5/10-22.33B, 5/10-23.2, 5/27-22.1, 5/27-22.3, 5/27-23.6.
 105 ILCS 110/3, Comprehensive Health Education Program.
 105 ILCS 433/, Vocational Academies Act.

CROSS REF.: 6:310 (High School Credit for Non-District Experiences; Course Substitutions; Re-Entering Students), 6:320 (High School Credit for Proficiency)

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¹² 105 ILCS 5/27-23.6. The statutory objectives of such a program are to “improve intergroup relations on and beyond the school campus, defusing intergroup tensions, and promoting peaceful resolution of conflict.” A board that adopts a policy to incorporate activities to address anti-bias education and intergroup conflict resolution shall make certain information available to the public and include it on the district’s website, if any, and make it available in the district’s offices upon request. See 2:250-E2, *Immediately Available District Public Records and Web-Posted Reports and Records*. Districts may also include the information in a student handbook and in district newsletters. The Ill. Principals Association (IPA) maintains a handbook service that coordinates with **PRESS** material, Online Model Student Handbook (MSH), at: www.ilprincipals.org/resources/model-student-handbook.

See also f/n 23 in sample policy 6:60, *Curriculum Content*, and ensure that these policies align. Consult the board attorney if the district wishes to offer intergroup conflict resolution separately from anti-bias education; it is unclear whether these topics may be offered separately because the law lists them together.

¹³ 105 ILCS 5/27-22.3. For secondary school students only. *Id.*

¹⁴ 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 community colleges, local employers, and community-based organizations to establish a vocational academy that functions as a 2-year school within a school for grades 10 through 12. Grant funds may be available from ISBE at: www.isbe.net/Pages/Grants.aspx.

¹⁵ 105 ILCS 5/10-22.20a, permits districts to enter joint agreements with community college districts and other school districts to provide career education or advanced vocational training to students in grade 11 and higher to prepare for a trade. The duration of such program may not exceed two years for any district pupil. Participating community colleges may bill participating districts, but payments may not exceed actual operating costs. Participating high schools may use State aid monies to pay the charges. *Id.*

Instruction

Bring Your Own Technology (BYOT) Program; Responsible Use and Conduct 1

The Superintendent or designee shall establish a *Bring Your Own Technology (BYOT) Program*. The program will: 2

1. Promote educational excellence by facilitating resource sharing, innovation, and communication to enhance (a) technology use skills; (b) web-literacy and critical thinking skills about Internet resources and materials, including making wise choices; and (c) habits for responsible digital citizenship required in the 21st century. 3
2. Provide sufficient wireless infrastructure within budget parameters. 4
3. Provide access to the Internet only through the District's electronic networks. 5
4. Identify approved BYOT devices and what District-owned technology devices may be available; e.g., laptops, tablet devices, E-readers, and/or smartphones.
5. Align with Board policies 4:140, *Waiver of Student Fees*; 5:120, *Employee Ethics; Conduct; and Conflict of Interest*; 5:125, *Personal Technology and Social Media; Usage and Conduct*; 5:170, *Copyright*; 6:120, *Education of Children with Disabilities*; 6:235, *Access to Electronic Networks*; 7:140, *Search and Seizure*; 7:180, *Prevention of and Response to Bullying*,

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¹ This policy is optional. It concerns an area in which the law is unsettled. 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. Consult the board attorney and the district's information technology professional(s) for advice to create a legally sound program that fits your district's mission statement for instruction.

² Customize paragraphs 1-8 to reflect the how the program will align with the board's mission statement for instruction and goals for its program.

³ 105 ILCS 5/27-13.3 and 47 C.F.R. §54.520(c)(1)(i) require Internet safety instruction. See f/n 24 in 6:60, *Curriculum Content* for more discussion.

⁴ Districts may want to consider a *guest network*, similar to what hotels and other service industry hosts provide to their customers. This can protect a district's network from malicious software, which is discussed in f/n 5 below.

⁵ Care must be taken to comply with the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA) (47 U.S.C. §254). CIPA requires the district to provide content filters, blocking lists, or district monitoring of Internet website traffic for patterns of usage that could indicate inappropriate network usage. While a program using district-owned technology devices is always subject to the district's electronic network rules, a BYOT program creates the possibility for students to bypass the district's electronic network and access the Internet through their own wireless providers' signals. This *bypass* complicates a district's duty under CIPA because it cannot guarantee students use its electronic network; preventing bypassing is hard for school officials to control.

Consult the board attorney about managing CIPA compliance issues in the context of a BYOT program. This sample policy is conservative, and it requires that CIPA govern the use of any BYOT device's Internet access capability while the device is at school. If the board will allow a student to bypass the district's electronic network and access his or her wireless providers' signals, consult the board attorney.

Care must also be taken to reduce the electronic network's vulnerability to malicious viruses and malware. Malicious viruses and malware are increasingly being targeted to smartphone users. This is evidenced by the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) filing lawsuits around the country accusing companies of ordering or engineering the sending of hundreds of millions of spam text messages to mobile phone users. The district may want to require students to ensure their BYOT devices contain an anti-virus and/or anti-malware software product. While many of these software products are free, some are not. Requiring all BYOT devices to have this type of software presents equity issues between students because it may require parents/guardians to spend funds to participate (see the discussion in f/n 6 below).

Intimidation, and Harassment; 7:190, *Student Behavior*; 7:340, *Student Records*; and 7:345, *Use of Educational Technologies; Student Data Privacy and Security*.⁶

6. Provide relevant staff members with BYOT professional development opportunities, including the provision of:
 - 7
 - a. Classroom management information about issues associated with the program, e.g., technical support, responsible use, etc.;
 - b. A copy of or access to this policy and any building-specific rules for the program;
 - c. Additional training, if necessary, about 5:170, *Copyright*; and

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⁶ A BYOT program must continue to follow established policies. Boards may use this alternative, “Align with established Board policies.”

Managing the following issues may require a consultation with the board attorney:

1. 4:140, *Waiver of Student Fees*, needs examination because most BYOT programs require parents/guardians to spend funds to participate. 105 ILCS 5/10-20.13 requires districts, at a minimum, to waive charges for textbooks and other fees for children whose families are unable to afford them. See also policy 6:210, *Instructional Materials*, stating that district classrooms and learning centers should be equipped with an evenly-proportioned, wide assortment of instructional materials, including textbooks, workbooks, audio-visual materials, and electronic materials.
2. Management issues concerning 5:125, *Personal Technology and Social Media; Usage and Conduct*, and 5:170, *Copyright* are discussed in f/n 7 and 8 below.
3. 6:120, *Education of Children with Disabilities*, requires consideration for students with disabilities when integrating any technology programs into the educational environment. As with district-provided devices (often referred to as *1:1 technology programs*), devices must be accessible to students with disabilities, including those who are blind, have low vision or have a disability that affects their ability to access print information. The use of mobile devices that do not allow a student with a disability to access the instructional materials would be a violation of the student’s right under the Individuals With Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) (20 U.S.C. §1400 *et seq.*).
4. 6:235, *Access to Electronic Networks*, is discussed in f/n 5 above.
5. 7:140, *Search and Seizure*, still applies in a BYOT program. The Fourth Amendment protects individuals from searches only when the person has a legitimate expectation of privacy. However, 105 ILCS 5/10-22.6(e) allows school officials to inspect the personal effects left by a student on property owned or controlled by the school, e.g., lockers, desks, and parking lots. Many cases suggest that to search a student’s possessions left in the locker, school officials need individualized suspicion of wrongdoing. Many of the issues re: the search of electronic devices that are discussed in 7:190-AP6, *Guidelines for Investigating Sexting Allegations*, will apply to investigations involving BYOT devices. To minimize mediating with law enforcement for parents/guardians about confiscated devices, districts should distinguish whether they are acting upon their own initiative or need to contact law enforcement. See f/n 5 in policy 7:140, *Search and Seizure*, and the policy’s **Seizure of Property** subhead.
6. 7:180, *Prevention of and Response to Bullying, Intimidation, and Harassment*, and 7:190, *Student Behavior*, present similar issues to #3 and #4 above. Students must be aware that traditional expectations for appropriate behavior, and the consequences for inappropriate behavior, apply to a BYOT program.
7. See 7:340, *Student Records*. The law is not clear whether materials created by students participating in a BYOT program through a district’s network access are *school student records*.
8. 7:345, *Use of Educational Technologies; Student Data Privacy and Security*, requires districts to comply with the Student Online Personal Protection Act (SOPPA), 105 ILCS 85/, amended by P.A. 101-516; see also 23 Ill.Admin.Code Part 380. Implementation of a BYOT program does not exempt a district from complying with SOPPA’s contractual and security mandates, including implementation and maintenance of reasonable security procedures and practices designed to protect student’s *covered information*. Reasonable security practice guidance adopted by ISBE recommends, in part, that districts create a separate wireless network for personal or untrusted devices. See 7:345 at f/n 11 for more information.

⁷ See f/n 1 above re: collective bargaining. Moving forward without properly training educators to manage BYOT issues may create pedagogical problems. One option for this training is to incorporate it into the training required during the in-service on educator ethics, teacher-student conduct, and school employee-student conduct required by board policy 5:120, *Employee Ethics; Conduct; and Conflict of Interest*. Many issues involved in BYOT programs intersect with maintenance of appropriate behavior and policy 5:125, *Personal Technology and Social Media; Usage and Conduct*.

- d. Information concerning appropriate behavior of staff members as required by State law and policy 5:120, *Employee Ethics; Conduct; and Conflict of Interest*.⁸
7. Provide a method to inform parents/guardians and students about this policy.
8. Include the program in the annual report to the Board as required under policy 6:10, *Education Philosophy and Objectives*.

The District reserves the right to discontinue its BYOT program at any time. The District does not provide liability protection for BYOT devices, and it is not responsible for any damages to them.

Responsible Use⁹

The District recognizes students participating in the program as responsible young adults and holds high expectations of their conduct in connection with their participation in the program. Teachers may encourage students to bring their own devices as supplemental in-class materials when: (a) using the devices will appropriately enhance, or otherwise illustrate, the subjects being taught; (b) the Building Principal has approved their use and found that their use is age-appropriate; and (c) the student's parent/guardian has signed the *Bring Your Own Technology (BYOT) Program Participation Authorization and Responsible Use Agreement Form*. A student's right to privacy in his or her device is limited; any reasonable suspicion of activities that violate law or Board policies will be treated according to policy 7:140, *Search and Seizure*.

Responsible use in the program incorporates into this policy the individual's *Acceptable Use of Electronic Networks* agreement pursuant to policy 6:235, *Access to Electronic Networks*. Responsible use also incorporates the established usage and conduct rules in policy 5:125, *Personal Technology and Social Media; Usage and Conduct*, for staff and 7:190, *Student Behavior*, for students. Failure to follow these rules and the specific BYOT program student guidelines may result in: (a) the loss of access to the District's electronic network and/or student's BYOT privileges; (b) disciplinary action pursuant to 7:190, *Student Behavior*; 7:200, *Suspension Procedures*; or 7:210, *Expulsion Procedures*; and/or (c) appropriate legal action, including referrals of suspected or alleged criminal acts to appropriate law enforcement agencies.

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⁸ 23 Ill.Admin.Code §22.20 and 105 ILCS 5/21B-75, amended by P.A. 102-552.

⁹ This section provides general guidelines. A BYOT program will require a parent/guardian authorization to participate in it and specific guidelines for students. See 6:220-E1, *Authorization to Participate in the Bring Your Own Technology (BYOT) Program; Responsible Use and Conduct Agreement*; 6:220-E2, *Bring Your Own Technology (BYOT) Program Student Guidelines*; and 6:235-E5, *Children's Online Privacy Protection Act*. See f/ns 7 and 8 above re: teachers' guidelines. See f/n 1, above discussing how the application of additional guidelines for teachers may have collective bargaining implications.

LEGAL REF.: 15 U.S.C. §§6501-6508, Children’s Online Privacy Protection Act, implemented by 16 C.F.R. Part 312, Children’s Online Privacy Protection Rule.
20 U.S.C §6751 et seq., Enhancing Education Through Technology Act.
47 U.S.C. §254(h) and (l), Children’s Internet Protection Act.
47 C.F.R. Part 54, Subpart F, Universal Service Support for Schools and Libraries.
105 ILCS 5/10-20.28.

CROSS REF.: 1:30 (School District Philosophy), 4:140 (Waiver of Student Fees), 5:120 (Employee Ethics; Conduct; and Conflict of Interest), 5:125 (Personal Technology and Social Media; Usage and Conduct), 5:170 (Copyright), 6:10 (Educational Philosophy and Objectives), 6:40 (Curriculum Development), 6:120 (Education of Children with Disabilities), 6:210 (Instructional Materials), 6:235 (Access to Electronic Networks), 7:140 (Search and Seizure), 7:180 (Prevention of and Response to Bullying, Intimidation, and Harassment), 7:190 (Student Behavior), 7:340 (Student Records)

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

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, 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 Biliteracy. 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*.

³ 105 ILCS 5/27-22(e), amended by P.A.s 101-464, 101-654, 102-366, and 102-551, contains the list of required courses in effect through the 2023-2024 school year. 105 ILCS 5/27-22(e-5), added by P.A. 101-654, contains the list of required courses effective beginning with the 2024-2025 school year (to include two years of laboratory science). 105 ILCS 5/27-22(e-10), added by P.A. 101-654, increases the foreign language requirement from one to two years beginning with the 2028-2029 school year. 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), amended by P.A. 102-366 requires students entering the 9th grade in the 2016-2017 school year and each year thereafter to complete one semester of civics. As part of the two-year social studies requirement, districts may include a financial literacy course that is one semester or part of one semester. *Id.* 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), amended by P.A.s 101-464, 101-654, 102-266, and 102-551; 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 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.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) 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.

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 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 5/22-87, 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, 5/22-87, 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

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

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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 the Ill. State Board of Education (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 (DCQA) (110 ILCS 27/, amended by P.A. 102-516) 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). 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). 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), 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.

5. Foreign language courses taken in an ethnic school program approved by the Illinois State Board of Education⁵
6. Work-related training at manufacturing facilities or agencies in a Tech Prep Program⁶
7. Credit earned in a Vocational Academy⁷

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.

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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. 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 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, 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). 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.

The DCQA requires partnership agreements between districts and CCs to address access to dual credit courses by individual students with disabilities. 110 ILCS 27/16, amended by P.A. 102-516. 105 ILCS 5/14-8.03, amended by P.A. 102-516 also requires districts to provide special education students with information about career and technical education (CTE) opportunities, including at the postsecondary level. 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.

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, 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; 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
3. Ongoing participation in an *interscholastic* or *extracurricular athletic program*;¹⁹

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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); 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).

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.

Re-Entering Students²³

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*

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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.

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.

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)

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.s 101-643, 101-654, 102-366, 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 the Ill. State Board of Education (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. Further information on ISBE assessments is available at: www.isbe.net/Pages/IAR.aspx.

105 ILCS 5/2-3.64a-5(c), amended by P.A. 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) 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. Scores received on state assessments administered in kindergarten through grade 8 must be placed in the student's temporary record. Id.

105 ILCS 5/2-3.64a-10(b), added by P.A. 101-654, requires ISBE to annually assess all public school students entering kindergarten using a common assessment tool, unless ISBE determines that a student is otherwise exempt.

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) and 5/2-3.64a-10(c), added by P.A. 101-654, 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).

⁵ Required by 105 ILCS 5/10-17a. 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).

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, 5/2-3.64a-10, 5/2-3.107, 5/2-3.153, 5/10-17a, 5/22-82, and 5/27-1.
23 Ill. Admin. Code §1.30(b) and § 375.10.

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.

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) 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.