

Instruction

Curriculum Content

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

1. In kindergarten through grade 8, subjects include: (a) language arts, (b) reading, (c) other communication skills, (d) science, (e) mathematics, (f) social studies, (g) art, (h) music, and (i) drug and substance abuse prevention.
2. In grades 7 through 12, as well as in interscholastic athletic programs, steroid abuse prevention must be taught.
3. In grades 4 through 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.
4. In all grades, character values must be stressed including: respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, trustworthiness, and citizenship, in order to raise students' honesty, kindness, justice, discipline, respect for others and moral courage. In all grades, bullying prevention and gang resistance education and training must be taught.
5. In all schools, citizenship values must be taught, including: (a) patriotism, (b) democratic principles of freedom, justice, and equality, (c) proper use and display of the American flag, (d) the Pledge of Allegiance, and (e) the voting process.
6. In all grades, physical education must be taught, including: (a) physical fitness for life-long health, (b) special activities for students whose physical health prevents them from participating in regular physical education, and (c) principles of teamwork and fair play.
7. In all schools, health education must be stressed, including: (a) proper nutrition, (b) physical fitness, (c) other components necessary to develop a sound mind in a healthy body, and (d) dangers and avoidance of abduction.
8. 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.
9. 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.
10. In all schools, United States history must be taught, including: (a) the principles of representative government, (b) the constitutions of the US and Illinois, (c) the role of the US in world affairs, (d) the role of labor unions, and (e) the role and contributions of ethnic groups, including the African Americans, Polish, Lithuanians, Germans, Hungarians, Irish, Bohemians, Russians, Albanians, Italians, Czechs, Slovaks, French, Scots, Hispanics, including the events related to the forceful removal and illegal deportation of Mexican-American U.S. citizens during the Great Depression, and Asian Americans, in the history of this country and State.

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.

11. In elementary schools and high schools, a unit of instruction on the Holocaust, including Nazi atrocities of 1933 to 1945 must be included. The curriculum shall also include a unit of instruction studying acts of genocide. This unit shall include the Armenian Genocide, the Famine-genocide in Ukraine, and more recent atrocities in Cambodia, Bosnia, Rwanda, and Sudan.
12. In elementary schools and high schools, a unit of instruction on the history, struggles, and contributions of women and African-Americans must be included. The unit on Black History must include the history of the African slave trade, slavery in America, and the vestiges of slavery in this country, as well as the struggles and contributions of African-Americans.
13. In grades kindergarten through 12, two hours of age appropriate Internet safety education is taught each school year.
14. 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 costs for the film.
15. In all schools, instruction during courses as determined by the Superintendent or designee on disability history, awareness, and the disability rights movement.

LEGAL REF.: 105 ILCS 5/27-3, 5/27-5, 527-6, 5/27-12, 5/27-12.1, 5/27-13.1, 5/27-13.2, 5/27-20.3, 5/27-20.4, 5/27-20.5, 5/27-21, 5/27-22, 5/27-23, 5/27-23.3, 5/27-23.4, 5/27-24.2, 435/0.01 et seq., and 110/3.
625 ILCS 5/6-408.5.

CROSS REF.: 6:40, 7:260

ADMIN. PROC.: 6:60-AP

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