

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 9 through 12, subjects include: (a) language arts, (b) writing intensive course (c) science, (d) mathematics, (e) social studies including U.S. History (f) foreign language, (g) music, (h) art, (i) driver and safety education and (j) vocational education.

Students otherwise eligible to take a driver education course must receive a passing grade in at least 8 courses during the previous 2 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. 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.

3. The District shall provide a substance abuse education program so that students are made aware of the physical and psychological dangers incurred through the improper use of drugs, alcohol, and other related substances. Such information shall include steroid abuse prevention in grades 7 through 12, as well as in interscholastic athletic programs. The District will provide education experiences, classroom instruction, and support services which encourage logical problem solving and sound decision-making instruction so that students are capable of developing a lifestyle free from improper use of alcohol and other related substances.
4. 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.
5. The District shall ensure that a K-12 character education program is provided in all schools. Such a program shall include an emphasis on respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, trustworthiness, and citizenship, in order to raise students' honesty, kindness, justice, discipline, respect for others, and moral courage. Instruction in bullying prevention may be included.
6. 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.
7. Physical education shall be a part of the instructional program. Specialists in the area of physical education are employed to teach physical education. The District shall comply with the requirements mandated in the Illinois School Code.
For those students whose physical and/or emotional well-being prevent their participation in the District's regular physical education classes, as determined by a person licensed under the Medical Practice Act, the District shall provide special activities in physical education.
8. 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.

9. 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.
10. In grades 9 through 12, consumer education must be taught, including: financial literacy; installment purchasing; budgeting; savings and investing; banking; simple contracts; income taxes; personal insurance policies; the comparison of prices; and the roles of consumers interacting with agriculture, business, labor unions and government in formulating and achieving the goals of the mixed free enterprise system.
11. 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.
12. In all schools, United States History must be taught, including the principles of representative government, the Constitution of the United States and Illinois, the role of the United States in world affairs, the role of labor unions, and the role and contributions of ethnic groups. In addition, all schools shall hold an education program on the United States constitution on the Constitution Day each September 17, commemorating the September 17, 1787 signing of the Constitution. When September 17 fall on a Saturday, Sunday, or holiday, Constitution Day shall be held during the preceding or following week.

Other units of instruction must include a unit on the Holocaust, including Nazi atrocities of 1933 to 1945; a unit on genocide, including Armenian Genocide, the Famine-Genocide in Ukraine, and more recent atrocities in Cambodia, Bosnia, Rwanda and Sudan; a unit on the history, struggles, and contributions of women; and, a unit on Black History, including the history of the African slave trade, slavery in America, and the vestiges of slavery in this country, as well as the struggles and contributions of African Americans.

LEGAL REF.: Public Law 108-447, Section 111 of Division J.
 105 ILCS 5/27-3, 5/27-5, 5/27-6, 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 (Curriculum Development), 7:260 (Exemption from Physical Activity)

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