

# Illinois Mandated Units of Study

**Updated 9/20/2020**

This mandated units of study guidance tool should be helpful to all schools and should be reviewed prior to any ROE Compliance Review Visit. Below you will find listed areas of study that are mandated by the Illinois School Code and the Illinois Administrative Code. Statutory and regulatory references are included for all curriculum areas and should be reviewed carefully to ensure that schools are meeting all requirements.

**Column 4** is for teachers/principals to indicate 1) Grade Level/s taught, and 2) the method taught using codes from the Reference Key below.

**Reference Key - How Taught:** 1 = Assemblies; 2 = Cassettes/CD; 3 = Daily Routine; 4 = Discussions; 5 = Field Trips; 6 = Video; 7 = Magazines; 8 = Newspapers; 9 = Projects; 10 = Simulations; 11 = Speakers; 12 = Supplementary Books/Pamphlets; 13 = Textbooks; 14 = Other

<b>District:</b>	<b>School:</b>	<b>Principal:</b>
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Curriculum Area	Grade Level/s Taught	Summary of Requirements	1) Grade Level/s taught 2) How is the Mandate Taught: (Use the Reference Key above. Attach documents if needed.)
<b>Health, PE, and Safety</b>			
<p><b>Health Education</b>, which must include the following major educational areas as a basis for curricula:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Human ecology and health</li> <li>• Human growth and development</li> <li>• Family life, including sexual abstinence until marriage (opt-out allowed)</li> <li>• Prevention and control of disease, including instruction in grades 6 through 12 on the prevention, transmission and spread of AIDS (opt-out allowed)</li> <li>• Age-appropriate sexual abuse and assault awareness prevention education in grades PreK through 12 (opt-out allowed K-8)</li> <li>• Public and environmental health</li> <li>• Consumer health</li> <li>• Safety education and disaster survival</li> <li>• Mental health and illness</li> <li>• Personal health habits</li> <li>• Alcohol, drug use, and abuse including the</li> </ul>	<p>K-6 - all grade levels</p> <p>MS/JH and HS - not specified</p>	<p>The Health Education Program created under the Act must include certain required major educational areas as enumerated in the Act and shall be offered in all elementary schools and secondary schools in Illinois. 105 ILCS 110/3.</p> <p>Each school system shall provide a program in compliance with the Critical Health Problems and Comprehensive Health Education Act [105 ILCS 110].</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No specific time requirement for grades K-6; however, health education must be part of the formal regular instructional program at each grade level.</li> <li>• The minimal time allocation must be not less than one semester or equivalent during the middle or junior high experience.</li> <li>• The minimal time allocation must be not less than one semester or equivalent during the secondary school experience.</li> <li>• If health education is offered with another course on a "block of time" basis in a middle, junior high, or high</li> </ul>	

<p>medical and legal ramifications of alcohol, drug, and tobacco use, abuse during pregnancy; curricula for alcohol and drug use and abuse shall include classroom instruction in grades 5 through 12</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evidence-based and medically accurate information regarding sexual abstinence</li> <li>• Tobacco</li> <li>• Nutrition</li> <li>• Dental Health</li> <li>• Course material and instruction to advise pupils of the Abandoned Newborn Infant Protection Act</li> <li>• Information about cancer</li> <li>• Training on how to properly administer cardiopulmonary resuscitation and how to use an automated external defibrillator shall be included as a basis for curricula in all secondary schools in this State (opt-out allowed)</li> </ul> <p>(105 ILCS 110/3)  (23 Ill. Admin. Code 1.420(n))  (23 Ill. Admin. Code 1.430(a)(7))  (23 Ill. Admin. Code 1.440(a)(9))  (23 Ill. Admin. Code 1.440(b)(1))</p>		<p>school, instruction may be offered in any combination of the grade levels in the school, provided that the total time devoted to health education is the equivalent of one full semester's work.</p> <p>23 Ill. Admin. Code 1.420(n).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Each student shall be required to take one semester or the equivalent, i.e., at least 18 weeks, of health education during secondary school. 23 Ill. Admin Code 1.440(b)(1).</li> </ul> <p><u>Important cross-sections of School Code:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 105 ILCS 5/10-23.13 (Erin's Law) – Requires all school boards to adopt and implement a policy addressing sexual abuse of children that may include age-appropriate curriculum for students in pre-K through fifth grade.</li> <li>• 105 ILCS 5/27-9.1 (Sex Education) – Outlines requirements for sex education classes; opt-out allowed. Note that sex education is not a mandated unit of study.</li> <li>• 105 ILCS 5/27-9.2 (Family Life) – Outlines requirements for courses of instruction on family life in districts that choose to offer it; opt-out allowed.</li> <li>• 105 ILCS 5/27-11 (Instruction on Diseases) – Parents or guardians must have the option to opt their child out of taking instruction on diseases without penalty.</li> <li>• 105 ILCS 5/27-23.1 (Parenting Education) – Defines parenting education and the instruction it may include for districts that choose to offer it.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Physical Education</b></p>	<p>All grades subject to applicable exemptions</p>	<p>A school board may determine the schedule or frequency of physical education courses, provided that all pupils – except for those subject to applicable exemptions – engage in a course of physical education for a minimum of 3 days per 5-day week. 105 ILCS 5/27-6.</p> <p>A physical education course of study must be part of the regular school curriculum and not extra-curricular in nature or organization. 105 ILCS 5/27-7.</p> <p>Appropriate activity related to physical education shall be required as provided for by Section 27-6 of the School Code.</p> <p>The time schedule shall compare favorably with other courses in the curriculum. Safety education, as it relates to the physical education program, should be incorporated. 23 Ill. Admin. Code 1.420(p).</p>	
<p><b>Safety Education</b></p>	<p>Grades 1-8 (required)</p>	<p>A district must provide a coordinated and supervised course of study in Safety Education in its elementary schools. 23 Ill.</p>	

	May be provided for in all other grades	Admin. Code 1.430(a)(10).  Instruction shall be given in safety education in each of grades 1-8, equivalent to one class period each week. 105 ILCS 5/27-24.2.  School boards of public schools and all boards in charge of educational institutions supported wholly or partially by the State may provide instruction in safety education in all grades and include such instruction in the courses of study regularly taught therein. Such boards may provide for instruction in safety education for not less than 16 hours during each school year. 105 ILCS 5/27-17.	
<b>Driver Education Course</b>	9-12th grades	Any school district which maintains grades 9 through 12 shall offer a driver education course in any such school which it operates.  A driver education course shall consist of a minimum of 30 clock hours of classroom instruction and a minimum of 6 clock hours of individual behind-the-wheel instruction in a dual control car on public roadways taught by a driver education instructor endorsed by the State Board of Education. 105 ILCS 5/27-24.2.	
<b>Abduction Education</b>	Not specified	All public schools must provide some instruction, study and discussion on this topic. The required instruction can be included in the courses of study regularly taught; provided, however, that such instruction must be given every year to all pupils in grades kindergarten through 8	
<b>Anabolic Steroid Abuse Prevention</b>	7th-12th grades and interscholastic athletes	School districts must provide instruction on this topic in grades 7 through 12 and also to interscholastic athletes. Such instruction shall be included in science, health, drug abuse, physical education, or other appropriate courses of study.	
<b>Drug &amp; Substance Abuse Education</b>	K-8th grades (each grade level)	All public schools maintaining any of the grades kindergarten through 8 must provide instruction, study and discussion on this topic. The required instruction can be included in the courses of study regularly taught; provided, however, that such instruction must be given every year to all pupils in grades kindergarten through 8. 105 ILCS 5/27-13.2.  A district must provide a coordinated and supervised course of study in effective methods for the prevention and avoidance of drug and substance abuse. The time allotment is the option of the local board of education. 23 Ill. Admin. Code 1.430(a)(12).	
<b>Teen Dating Violence</b>	Grades 7-12	The school board of each public school district in this State shall adopt a policy on teen dating violence that, among other things, incorporates age-appropriate education about teen	

		dating violence into new or existing training programs for students in grades 7 through 12 and school employees. 105 ILCS 110/3.10(b)(2).	
<b>Violence Prevention &amp; Conflict Resolution</b>	Each grade level K-12	School districts shall provide instruction in violence prevention and conflict resolution education for grades kindergarten through 12 and may include such instruction in the courses of study regularly taught therein. 105 ILCS 5/27-23.4.	
<b>Internet Safety Education</b>	Grades 3-12 (required)  May be provided for in grades K-2	A school district must incorporate into the school curriculum a component on Internet safety to be taught at least once each school year to students in grades 3 through 12. The age-appropriate curriculum may begin with students in Kindergarten. The school board shall determine the scope and duration of this unit of instruction. The age-appropriate unit of instruction may be incorporated into the current courses of study regularly taught in the district's schools, as determined by the school board.	
<b>Traffic Injury Prevention</b>	Grades K-8	The school board of a district that maintains any of the grades K through 8 must adopt a policy on traffic injury prevention education, and such education must be made available to students in grades K-8.	
<b>Social Studies and History</b>			
<b>Social Studies (including U.S. History)</b>	Not specified for elementary schools  HS graduation requirement	A district must provide a coordinated and supervised course of study in Social Studies in its elementary schools. The time allotment is the option of the local board of education. 23 Ill. Admin. Code 1.430(a)(4).  Each district must provide a comprehensive curriculum that includes U.S. History in its high school course offerings. The time allotment is the option of the local board of education. 23 Ill. Admin. Code 1.440(a)(4).  As a prerequisite to receiving a high school diploma, each pupil entering the 9th grade must, in addition to other course requirements, successfully complete two (2) years of social studies, of which at least one year must be history of the United States or a combination of history of the United States and American government and, beginning with pupils entering the 9th grade in the 2016-2017 school year and each school year thereafter, at least one semester must be civics. 105 ILCS 5/22-22(e)(5).	
<b>U.S. History, which must include the following components:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The study of the role and contributions of ethnic groups and the labor unions in the history of this country and this State.</li> </ul>	Not specified for elementary schools  HS graduation requirement	History of the United States shall be taught in all public schools and in all other educational institutions in the State supported or maintained, in whole or in part, by public funds. The teaching of U.S. History must include study of all of the topics outlined in Section 27-21 of the School Code. 105 ILCS 5/27-21.	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The study of events related to the forceful removal and illegal deportation of Mexican-American U.S. citizens during the Great Depression.</li> <li>• The study of the role and contributions of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people in the history of this country and this State.</li> <li>• Instruction in the history of Illinois.</li> </ul>		<p>The requirement for U.S. history shall be provided through history and social sciences courses. 23 Ill. Admin. Code 1.420(r).</p> <p>No student may graduate from the eighth grade unless he or she has received such instruction in the history of the United States as outlined in Section 27-21 of the School Code and gives evidence of having a comprehensive knowledge thereof, which may be administered remotely. 105 ILCS 5/27-21.</p> <p>One year of the minimum two years of Social Studies required for graduation must be history of the United States or a combination of history of the United States and American government. 105 ILCS 5/27-22(e)(5). Important cross-section of School Code: 105 ILCS 5/27-3.5</p> <p>All students in grade 7 and all high school students enrolled in a course concerning U.S. history or a combination of U.S. history and American government must view a Congressional Medal of Honor film made by the Congressional Medal of Honor Foundation.</p>	
<p><b>American Patriotism and Government</b></p>	<p>Not specified 8th grade</p> <p>HS graduation requirement</p>	<p>Each school system shall provide history and social sciences courses that include the study of principles of representative government, the Constitutions of both the United States and the State of Illinois, the proper use of the flag, and how these concepts have related and currently do relate in actual practice in the world. 23 Ill. Admin. Code 1.420(r)(1).</p> <p>Must be taught in all public schools. 105 ILCS 5/27-3. In grades 7 and 8 or their equivalent, not less than one hour of each school week must be devoted to the study of these subjects. In all high school grades, not less than one hour of each school week must be devoted to the advanced study of these subjects. 105 ILCS 5/27-4.</p> <p>No student may graduate from the eighth grade unless he or she has received instruction in the history of the United States that includes the content outlined in 105 ILCS 5/27-21 of the School Code and gives evidence of having a comprehensive knowledge thereof, which may be administered remotely.</p> <p>No student may receive a "certificate of graduation" without passing a satisfactory exam of the subjects outlined in 105 ILCS 5/27-3, which may be administered remotely.</p>	
<p><b>Civics Education</b></p>	<p>6th ,7th or 8th grade</p>	<p>Every public elementary school must provide in its 6th, 7th, or 8th grade curriculum at least one semester of civics education.</p>	

	HS graduation requirement	<p>This course of study must be provided in addition to the instruction required to be provided under Section 27-3 of the School Code. 105 ILCS 5/27-3.10.</p> <p>As a prerequisite to receiving a high school diploma, at least one semester of the minimum two years of Social Studies must be civics. 105 ILCS 5/27-22(e)(5).</p>	
<b>Women in History</b>	Not specified	<p>Every public elementary and high school must provide a unit of instruction studying the events of the history of women in America. 105 ILCS 5/27-20.5.</p> <p>Each school system shall provide history and social sciences courses that include the study of the events of women's history in America. 23 Ill. Admin. Code 1.420(r)(6).</p>	
<b>Black History</b>	Not specified	<p>Every public elementary and high school must provide a unit of instruction studying the events of Black History. 105 ILCS 5/27-20.4.</p> <p>Each school system shall provide history and social sciences courses that include the study of the events of Black history. 23 Ill. Admin. Code 1.420(r)(5).</p>	
<b>Holocaust/Genocide Education</b>	Not specified	<p>Every public elementary and high school must provide a unit of instruction studying the events of the Nazi atrocities of 1933-1945, a period in world history known as the Holocaust.</p> <p>To reinforce that lesson, such curriculum shall include an additional unit of instruction studying other acts of genocide across the globe. This unit shall include, but not be limited to, the Armenian Genocide, the Famine-Genocide in Ukraine, and more recent atrocities in Cambodia, Bosnia, Rwanda, and Sudan. 105 ILCS 5/27-20.3.</p> <p>Each school system shall provide history and social sciences courses that include the study of that period in world history known as the Holocaust. 23 Ill. Admin. Code 1.420(r)(4).</p>	
<b>History of disabilities, people with disabilities, and disabilities rights movement</b>	Not specified	<p>A school district must provide instruction on disability history, people with disabilities, and the disability rights movement. Instruction may be included in those courses that the school district chooses, and the school board shall determine the minimum amount of instructional time required under this Section. 105 ILCS 5/27-23.8(a), (c).</p>	

### Other Core Content Areas

<p><b>Language Arts, Reading, and Other Communications Skills</b></p>	<p>Not specified for elementary schools HS graduation requirement</p>	<p>A district must provide a coordinated and supervised course of study in Language Arts, Reading, and other Communication Skills in its elementary schools. The time allotment is the option of the local board of education. 23 Ill. Admin. Code 1.430(a)(1). Each district must provide a comprehensive curriculum that includes Language Arts in its high school course offerings. The time allotment is the option of the local board of education. 23 Ill. Admin. Code 1.440(a)(1).</p> <p>Each school board shall promote 60 minutes of minimum reading opportunities daily for students in kindergarten through 3rd grade whose reading level is one grade level or lower than their current grade level according to current learning standards and the school district. 105 ILCS 5/10-20.53.</p> <p>As a prerequisite to receiving a high school diploma, each pupil entering the 9th grade must, in addition to other course requirements, successfully complete four years of language arts. 105 ILCS 5/27-22(e)(1).</p>	
<p><b>Writing-Intensive Courses</b></p>	<p>HS graduation requirement</p>	<p>As a prerequisite to receiving a high school diploma, each pupil entering the 9th grade must, in addition to other course requirements, successfully complete two (2) years of writing-intensive courses, one of which must be English and the other of which may be English or any other subject. When applicable, writing-intensive courses may be counted towards the fulfillment of other graduation requirements. 105 ILCS 5/27-22(e)(2).</p>	
<p><b>Cursive writing</b></p>	<p>Elementary schools; must be completed by grade 5</p>	<p>Elementary schools must offer at least one unit of instruction in cursive writing. School districts shall, by policy, determine at what grade level or levels students are to be offered cursive writing, provided that such instruction must be offered before students complete grade 5.</p>	
<p><b>Science</b></p>	<p>Not specified for elementary schools HS graduation requirement</p>	<p>A district must provide a coordinated and supervised course of study in Science in its elementary schools. The time allotment is the option of the local board of education. 23 Ill. Admin. Code 1.430(a)(2).</p> <p>Each district must provide a comprehensive curriculum that includes Science in its high school course offerings. The time allotment is the option of the local board of education. 23 Ill. Admin. Code 1.440(a)(2).</p> <p>As a prerequisite to receiving a high school diploma, each pupil entering the 9th grade must, in addition to other course requirements, successfully complete two (2) years of science. 105 ILCS 5/27-22(e)(4).</p>	

<b>Conservation of Natural Resources</b>	Not specified	<p>All public schools must provide some instruction, study and discussion on this topic. 105 ILCS 5/27-13.1.</p> <p>A district must provide a coordinated and supervised course of study in Conservation of Natural Resources in its elementary schools. The time allotment is the option of the local board of education. 23 Ill. Admin. Code 1.430(a)(11).</p> <p>Each district must provide a comprehensive curriculum that includes Conservation of Natural Resources in its high school course offerings. The time allotment is the option of the local board of education. 23 Ill. Admin. Code 1.440(a)(12).</p>	
<b>Mathematics</b>	<p>Not specified for elementary schools</p> <p>HS graduation requirement</p>	<p>A district must provide a coordinated and supervised course of study in Mathematics in its elementary schools. The time allotment is the option of the local board of education. 23 Ill. Admin. Code 1.430(a)(3).</p> <p>Each district must provide a comprehensive curriculum that includes Math its high school course offerings. The time allotment is the option of the local board of education. 23 Ill. Admin. Code 1.440(a)(3).</p> <p>As a prerequisite to receiving a high school diploma, each pupil entering the 9th grade must, in addition to other course requirements, successfully complete three (3) years of math, one of which must be Algebra 1, one of which must include geometry content, and one which may be an Advanced Placement computer science course. 105 ILCS 5/27-22(e)(3).</p>	
<b>Library, Fine Arts, Language, Career, Character, and Consumer Ed</b>			
<b>Library Media Programs</b>	Not specified	Each school district shall provide a program of library media services for the students in each of its schools that meets the requirements outlined in 23 Ill. Admin. Code 1.420(o).	
<b>Music</b>	<p>Not specified for elementary schools</p> <p>Option for 1-year credit requirement in high school</p>	<p>A district must provide a coordinated and supervised course of study in Music in its elementary schools. The time allotment is the option of the local board of education. 23 Ill. Admin. Code 1.430(a)(5).</p> <p>Each district must provide a comprehensive curriculum that includes Music in its high school course offerings. The time allotment is the option of the local board of education. 23 Ill. Admin. Code 1.440(a)(6).</p> <p>Each pupil entering the 9th grade must, in addition to other course requirements, successfully complete one year chosen from (A) music, (B) art, (C) foreign language, which shall be</p>	



		deemed to include American Sign Language, or (D) vocational education. 105 ILCS 5/27-22(e)(6).	
<b>Art</b>	Not specified for elementary schools  Option for 1-year credit requirement in high school	A district must provide a coordinated and supervised course of study in Art in its elementary schools. The time allotment is the option of the local board of education. 23 Ill. Admin. Code 1.430(a)(6).  Each district must provide a comprehensive curriculum that includes Art in its high school course offerings. The time allotment is the option of the local board of education. 23 Ill. Admin. Code 1.440(a)(7).  As a prerequisite to receiving a high school diploma, each pupil entering the 9th grade must, in addition to other course requirements, successfully complete one year chosen from (A) music, (B) art, (C) foreign language, which shall be deemed to include American Sign Language, or (D) vocational education. 105 ILCS 5/27-22(e)(6).	
<b>Foreign Language</b>	Option for 1-year credit requirement in high school	Each district must provide a comprehensive curriculum that includes Foreign Language in its high school course offerings. The time allotment is the option of the local board of education. 23 Ill. Admin. Code 1.440(a)(5).  As a prerequisite to receiving a high school diploma, each pupil entering the 9th grade must, in addition to other course requirements, successfully complete one year chosen from (A) music, (B) art, (C) foreign language, which shall be deemed to include American Sign Language, or (D) vocational education. 105 ILCS 5/27-22(e)(6).	
<b>Career Education</b>	Not specified  Optional HS elective for secondary students	A district must provide a coordinated and supervised course of study in Career Education – Awareness & Exploration in its elementary schools. The time allotment is the option of the local board of education. 23 Ill. Admin. Code 1.430(a)(9).  Each district must provide a comprehensive curriculum that includes Career & Technical Education – Orientation and Preparation in its high school course offerings. The time allotment is the option of the local board of education. 23 Ill. Admin. Code 1.440(a)(8).  If the school board of a school district that maintains grades 9-12 establishes a list of courses from which high school students must elect at least one course, to be completed along with other high school graduation requirements, at least one course in vocational education must be included on such list. 105 ILCS 5/27-22.2.	

<b>Character Education</b>	Not specified	Every public school teacher shall teach character education.	
<b>Consumer Education</b>	9th – 12th grades	<p>Pupils in the public schools in grades 9-12 shall be taught and shall be required to study courses that include instruction in the area of consumer education. 105 ILCS 5/27-12.1.</p> <p>The superintendent of each unit or high school district shall maintain evidence showing that each student has received adequate instruction in consumer education prior to the completion of grade 12.</p> <p>Consumer education may be included in course content of other courses, or it may be taught as a separate required course. 23 Ill. Admin. Code 1.420(k)(2).</p> <p>Each district must provide a comprehensive curriculum that includes Consumer Education in its high school course offerings. 23 Ill. Admin. Code 1.440(a)(11).</p> <p>Each high school student shall be required to take consumer education for 50 minutes per day for a period of nine weeks in any of the grades 9-12. Id. at 1.420(k)(3); 1.440(b)(3).</p>	

**\*\*Not intended to be an exhaustive listing of requirements. Statutory references should be consulted in all cases.**  
**\*\*Conservation of Natural Resources will generally be included as part of a science course, which is why this curriculum area is listed in "Other Core Content Areas."**