

1 AN ACT concerning education.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**  
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 5. The School Code is amended by changing Section  
5 27-6 as follows:

6 (105 ILCS 5/27-6) (from Ch. 122, par. 27-6)

7 Sec. 27-6. Courses in physical education required; special  
8 activities.

9 (a) Pupils enrolled in the public schools and State  
10 universities engaged in preparing teachers shall be required  
11 to engage during the school day, except on block scheduled  
12 days for those public schools engaged in block scheduling, in  
13 courses of physical education for such periods as are  
14 compatible with the optimum growth and developmental needs of  
15 individuals at the various age levels except when appropriate  
16 excuses are submitted to the school by a pupil's parent or  
17 guardian or by a person licensed under the Medical Practice  
18 Act of 1987 and except as provided in subsection (b) of this  
19 Section. A school board may determine the schedule or  
20 frequency of physical education courses, provided that a pupil  
21 engages in a course of physical education for a minimum of 3  
22 days per 5-day week.

23 Special activities in physical education shall be provided

1 for pupils whose physical or emotional condition, as  
2 determined by a person licensed under the Medical Practice Act  
3 of 1987, prevents their participation in the courses provided  
4 for normal children.

5 (b) A school board is authorized to excuse pupils enrolled  
6 in grades 11 and 12 from engaging in physical education  
7 courses if those pupils request to be excused for any of the  
8 following reasons: (1) for ongoing participation in an  
9 interscholastic athletic program; (2) to enroll in academic  
10 classes which are required for admission to an institution of  
11 higher learning, provided that failure to take such classes  
12 will result in the pupil being denied admission to the  
13 institution of his or her choice; or (3) to enroll in academic  
14 classes which are required for graduation from high school,  
15 provided that failure to take such classes will result in the  
16 pupil being unable to graduate. A school board may also excuse  
17 pupils in grades 9 through 12 enrolled in a marching band  
18 program for credit from engaging in physical education courses  
19 if those pupils request to be excused for ongoing  
20 participation in such marching band program. A school board  
21 may also, on a case-by-case basis, excuse pupils in grades 7  
22 through 12 who participate in an interscholastic or  
23 extracurricular athletic program from engaging in physical  
24 education courses. In addition, a pupil in any of grades 3  
25 through 12 who is eligible for special education may be  
26 excused if the pupil's parent or guardian agrees that the

1 pupil must utilize the time set aside for physical education  
2 to receive special education support and services or, if there  
3 is no agreement, the individualized education program team for  
4 the pupil determines that the pupil must utilize the time set  
5 aside for physical education to receive special education  
6 support and services, which agreement or determination must be  
7 made a part of the individualized education program. However,  
8 a pupil requiring adapted physical education must receive that  
9 service in accordance with the individualized education  
10 program developed for the pupil. If requested, a school board  
11 is authorized to excuse a pupil from engaging in a physical  
12 education course if the pupil has an individualized  
13 educational program under Article 14 of this Code, is  
14 participating in an adaptive athletic program outside of the  
15 school setting, and documents such participation as determined  
16 by the school board. A school board may also excuse pupils in  
17 grades 9 through 12 enrolled in a Reserve Officer's Training  
18 Corps (ROTC) program sponsored by the school district from  
19 engaging in physical education courses. School boards which  
20 choose to exercise this authority shall establish a policy to  
21 excuse pupils on an individual basis.

22 (b-5) A pupil shall be excused from engaging in any  
23 physical activity components of a physical education course  
24 during a period of religious fasting if the pupil's parent or  
25 guardian notifies the school principal in writing that the  
26 pupil is participating in religious fasting.

1           (c) The provisions of this Section are subject to the  
2 provisions of Section 27-22.05.

3           (Source: P.A. 100-465, eff. 8-31-17.)

4           Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon  
5 becoming law.