



102ND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2021 and 2022

HB4418

Introduced 1/21/2022, by Rep. Chris Miller

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

105 ILCS 5/27-3.10

105 ILCS 5/27-22

from Ch. 122, par. 27-22

Amends the Courses of Study Article of the School Code. Requires course content in civics education to include a comparative study and discussion of certain political ideologies, including communism and totalitarianism, that conflict with the principles of freedom and democracy that are essential to the founding of the United States. Sets forth requirements concerning the content. Effective immediately.

LRB102 22324 CMG 31461 b

STATE MANDATES
ACT MAY REQUIRE
REIMBURSEMENT

A BILL FOR

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 Sections
5 27-3.10 and 27-22 as follows:

6 (105 ILCS 5/27-3.10)

7 Sec. 27-3.10. Elementary school civics course of study. In
8 addition to the instruction required to be provided under
9 Section 27-3 of this Code, every public elementary school
10 shall include in its 6th, 7th, or 8th grade curriculum,
11 beginning with the 2020-2021 school year, at least one
12 semester of civics education, which shall help young people
13 acquire and learn to use the skills, knowledge, and attitudes
14 that will prepare them to be competent and responsible
15 citizens throughout their lives. Civics education course
16 content shall focus on government institutions, the discussion
17 of current and societal issues, service learning, and
18 simulations of the democratic process. Civics education course
19 content shall include a comparative study and discussion of
20 certain political ideologies, including communism and
21 totalitarianism, that conflict with the principles of freedom
22 and democracy that are essential to the founding of the United
23 States. The comparative study and discussion shall be

1 accurate, relevant, and accessible to promote the
2 understanding of such political ideologies. Civics education
3 course content shall include the use of oral history resources
4 from diverse individuals, including those individuals who (i)
5 demonstrate civic-minded qualities, (ii) are victims of the
6 political ideologies of communism and totalitarianism, and
7 (iii) are able to compare the political ideologies of
8 communism and totalitarianism with the political ideology of
9 the United States. Civics education in 6th, 7th, or 8th grade
10 shall be in accordance with Illinois Learning Standards for
11 social science. Additionally, school districts may consult
12 with civics education stakeholders, deemed appropriate by the
13 State Board of Education, with regard to civics education
14 curriculum for 6th, 7th, or 8th grade. School districts may
15 utilize private funding available for the purposes of offering
16 civics education.

17 (Source: P.A. 101-254, eff. 7-1-20.)

18 (105 ILCS 5/27-22) (from Ch. 122, par. 27-22)

19 (Text of Section from P.A. 101-654, Article 50, Section
20 50-5)

21 Sec. 27-22. Required high school courses.

22 (a) (Blank).

23 (b) (Blank).

24 (c) (Blank).

25 (d) (Blank).

1 (e) Through the 2023-2024 school year, as a prerequisite
2 to receiving a high school diploma, each pupil entering the
3 9th grade must, in addition to other course requirements,
4 successfully complete all of the following courses:

5 (1) Four years of language arts.

6 (2) Two years of writing intensive courses, one of
7 which must be English and the other of which may be English
8 or any other subject. When applicable, writing-intensive
9 courses may be counted towards the fulfillment of other
10 graduation requirements.

11 (3) Three years of mathematics, one of which must be
12 Algebra I, one of which must include geometry content, and
13 one of which may be an Advanced Placement computer science
14 course. A mathematics course that includes geometry
15 content may be offered as an integrated, applied,
16 interdisciplinary, or career and technical education
17 course that prepares a student for a career readiness
18 path.

19 (4) Two years of science.

20 (5) Two years of social studies, of which at least one
21 year must be history of the United States or a combination
22 of history of the United States and American government
23 and, beginning with pupils entering the 9th grade in the
24 2016-2017 school year and each school year thereafter, at
25 least one semester must be civics, which shall help young
26 people acquire and learn to use the skills, knowledge, and

1 attitudes that will prepare them to be competent and
2 responsible citizens throughout their lives. Civics course
3 content shall focus on government institutions, the
4 discussion of current and controversial issues, service
5 learning, and simulations of the democratic process.
6 Civics course content shall include a comparative study
7 and discussion of certain political ideologies, including
8 communism and totalitarianism, that conflict with the
9 principles of freedom and democracy that are essential to
10 the founding of the United States. The comparative study
11 and discussion shall be accurate, relevant, and accessible
12 to promote the understanding of such political ideologies.
13 Civics course content shall include the use of oral
14 history resources from diverse individuals, including
15 those individuals who (i) demonstrate civic-minded
16 qualities, (ii) are victims of the political ideologies of
17 communism and totalitarianism, and (iii) are able to
18 compare the political ideologies of communism and
19 totalitarianism with the political ideology of the United
20 States. School districts may utilize private funding
21 available for the purposes of offering civics education.

22 (6) One year chosen from (A) music, (B) art, (C)
23 foreign language, which shall be deemed to include
24 American Sign Language, or (D) vocational education.

25 (e-5) Beginning with the 2024-2025 school year, as a
26 prerequisite to receiving a high school diploma, each pupil

1 entering the 9th grade must, in addition to other course
2 requirements, successfully complete all of the following
3 courses:

4 (1) Four years of language arts.

5 (2) Two years of writing intensive courses, one of
6 which must be English and the other of which may be English
7 or any other subject. If applicable, writing-intensive
8 courses may be counted toward the fulfillment of other
9 graduation requirements.

10 (3) Three years of mathematics, one of which must be
11 Algebra I, one of which must include geometry content, and
12 one of which may be an Advanced Placement computer science
13 course. A mathematics course that includes geometry
14 content may be offered as an integrated, applied,
15 interdisciplinary, or career and technical education
16 course that prepares a student for a career readiness
17 path.

18 (4) Two years of laboratory science.

19 (5) Two years of social studies, of which at least one
20 year must be history of the United States or a combination
21 of history of the United States and American government
22 and at least one semester must be civics, which shall help
23 young people acquire and learn to use the skills,
24 knowledge, and attitudes that will prepare them to be
25 competent and responsible citizens throughout their lives.
26 Civics course content shall focus on government

1 institutions, the discussion of current and controversial
2 issues, service learning, and simulations of the
3 democratic process. Civics course content shall include a
4 comparative study and discussion of certain political
5 ideologies, including communism and totalitarianism, that
6 conflict with the principles of freedom and democracy that
7 are essential to the founding of the United States. The
8 comparative study and discussion shall be accurate,
9 relevant, and accessible to promote the understanding of
10 such political ideologies. Civics course content shall
11 include the use of oral history resources from diverse
12 individuals, including those individuals who (i)
13 demonstrate civic-minded qualities, (ii) are victims of
14 the political ideologies of communism and totalitarianism,
15 and (iii) are able to compare the political ideologies of
16 communism and totalitarianism with the political ideology
17 of the United States. School districts may utilize private
18 funding available for the purposes of offering civics
19 education.

20 (6) One year chosen from (A) music, (B) art, (C)
21 foreign language, which shall be deemed to include
22 American Sign Language, or (D) vocational education.

23 (e-10) Beginning with the 2028-2029 school year, as a
24 prerequisite to receiving a high school diploma, each pupil
25 entering the 9th grade must, in addition to other course
26 requirements, successfully complete 2 years of foreign

1 language courses, which may include American Sign Language. A
2 pupil may choose a third year of foreign language to satisfy
3 the requirement under paragraph (6) of subsection (e-5).

4 (f) The State Board of Education shall develop and inform
5 school districts of standards for writing-intensive
6 coursework.

7 (f-5) If a school district offers an Advanced Placement
8 computer science course to high school students, then the
9 school board must designate that course as equivalent to a
10 high school mathematics course and must denote on the
11 student's transcript that the Advanced Placement computer
12 science course qualifies as a mathematics-based, quantitative
13 course for students in accordance with subdivision (3) of
14 subsection (e) of this Section.

15 (g) This amendatory Act of 1983 does not apply to pupils
16 entering the 9th grade in 1983-1984 school year and prior
17 school years or to students with disabilities whose course of
18 study is determined by an individualized education program.

19 This amendatory Act of the 94th General Assembly does not
20 apply to pupils entering the 9th grade in the 2004-2005 school
21 year or a prior school year or to students with disabilities
22 whose course of study is determined by an individualized
23 education program.

24 Subsection (e-5) does not apply to pupils entering the 9th
25 grade in the 2023-2024 school year or a prior school year or to
26 students with disabilities whose course of study is determined

1 by an individualized education program. Subsection (e-10) does
2 not apply to pupils entering the 9th grade in the 2027-2028
3 school year or a prior school year or to students with
4 disabilities whose course of study is determined by an
5 individualized education program.

6 (h) The provisions of this Section are subject to the
7 provisions of Section 27-22.05 of this Code and the
8 Postsecondary and Workforce Readiness Act.

9 (i) The State Board of Education may adopt rules to modify
10 the requirements of this Section for any students enrolled in
11 grades 9 through 12 if the Governor has declared a disaster due
12 to a public health emergency pursuant to Section 7 of the
13 Illinois Emergency Management Agency Act.

14 (Source: P.A. 100-443, eff. 8-25-17; 101-464, eff. 1-1-20;
15 101-643, eff. 6-18-20; 101-654, Article 50, Section 50-5, eff.
16 3-8-21.)

17 (Text of Section from P.A. 101-654, Article 60, Section
18 60-5)

19 Sec. 27-22. Required high school courses.

20 (a) (Blank).

21 (b) (Blank).

22 (c) (Blank).

23 (d) (Blank).

24 (e) As a prerequisite to receiving a high school diploma,
25 each pupil entering the 9th grade must, in addition to other

1 course requirements, successfully complete all of the
2 following courses:

3 (1) Four years of language arts.

4 (2) Two years of writing intensive courses, one of
5 which must be English and the other of which may be English
6 or any other subject. When applicable, writing-intensive
7 courses may be counted towards the fulfillment of other
8 graduation requirements.

9 (3) Three years of mathematics, one of which must be
10 Algebra I, one of which must include geometry content, and
11 one of which may be an Advanced Placement computer science
12 course. A mathematics course that includes geometry
13 content may be offered as an integrated, applied,
14 interdisciplinary, or career and technical education
15 course that prepares a student for a career readiness
16 path.

17 (3.5) For pupils entering the 9th grade in the
18 2022-2023 school year and each school year thereafter, one
19 year of a course that includes intensive instruction in
20 computer literacy, which may be English, social studies,
21 or any other subject and which may be counted toward the
22 fulfillment of other graduation requirements.

23 (4) Two years of science.

24 (5) Two years of social studies, of which at least one
25 year must be history of the United States or a combination
26 of history of the United States and American government

1 and, beginning with pupils entering the 9th grade in the
2 2016-2017 school year and each school year thereafter, at
3 least one semester must be civics, which shall help young
4 people acquire and learn to use the skills, knowledge, and
5 attitudes that will prepare them to be competent and
6 responsible citizens throughout their lives. Civics course
7 content shall focus on government institutions, the
8 discussion of current and controversial issues, service
9 learning, and simulations of the democratic process.
10 Civics course content shall include a comparative study
11 and discussion of certain political ideologies, including
12 communism and totalitarianism, that conflict with the
13 principles of freedom and democracy that are essential to
14 the founding of the United States. The comparative study
15 and discussion shall be accurate, relevant, and accessible
16 to promote the understanding of such political ideologies.
17 Civics course content shall include the use of oral
18 history resources from diverse individuals, including
19 those individuals who (i) demonstrate civic-minded
20 qualities, (ii) are victims of the political ideologies of
21 communism and totalitarianism, and (iii) are able to
22 compare the political ideologies of communism and
23 totalitarianism with the political ideology of the United
24 States. School districts may utilize private funding
25 available for the purposes of offering civics education.

26 (6) One year chosen from (A) music, (B) art, (C)

1 foreign language, which shall be deemed to include
2 American Sign Language, or (D) vocational education.

3 (f) The State Board of Education shall develop and inform
4 school districts of standards for writing-intensive
5 coursework.

6 (f-5) If a school district offers an Advanced Placement
7 computer science course to high school students, then the
8 school board must designate that course as equivalent to a
9 high school mathematics course and must denote on the
10 student's transcript that the Advanced Placement computer
11 science course qualifies as a mathematics-based, quantitative
12 course for students in accordance with subdivision (3) of
13 subsection (e) of this Section.

14 (g) This amendatory Act of 1983 does not apply to pupils
15 entering the 9th grade in 1983-1984 school year and prior
16 school years or to students with disabilities whose course of
17 study is determined by an individualized education program.

18 This amendatory Act of the 94th General Assembly does not
19 apply to pupils entering the 9th grade in the 2004-2005 school
20 year or a prior school year or to students with disabilities
21 whose course of study is determined by an individualized
22 education program.

23 This amendatory Act of the 101st General Assembly does not
24 apply to pupils entering the 9th grade in the 2021-2022 school
25 year or a prior school year or to students with disabilities
26 whose course of study is determined by an individualized

1 education program.

2 (h) The provisions of this Section are subject to the
3 provisions of Section 27-22.05 of this Code and the
4 Postsecondary and Workforce Readiness Act.

5 (i) The State Board of Education may adopt rules to modify
6 the requirements of this Section for any students enrolled in
7 grades 9 through 12 if the Governor has declared a disaster due
8 to a public health emergency pursuant to Section 7 of the
9 Illinois Emergency Management Agency Act.

10 (Source: P.A. 100-443, eff. 8-25-17; 101-464, eff. 1-1-20;
11 101-643, eff. 6-18-20; 101-654, Article 60, Section 60-5, eff.
12 3-8-21.)

13 (Text of Section from P.A. 102-366)

14 Sec. 27-22. Required high school courses.

15 (a) (Blank).

16 (b) (Blank).

17 (c) (Blank).

18 (d) (Blank).

19 (e) As a prerequisite to receiving a high school diploma,
20 each pupil entering the 9th grade must, in addition to other
21 course requirements, successfully complete all of the
22 following courses:

23 (1) Four years of language arts.

24 (2) Two years of writing intensive courses, one of
25 which must be English and the other of which may be English

1 or any other subject. When applicable, writing-intensive
2 courses may be counted towards the fulfillment of other
3 graduation requirements.

4 (3) Three years of mathematics, one of which must be
5 Algebra I, one of which must include geometry content, and
6 one of which may be an Advanced Placement computer science
7 course. A mathematics course that includes geometry
8 content may be offered as an integrated, applied,
9 interdisciplinary, or career and technical education
10 course that prepares a student for a career readiness
11 path.

12 (4) Two years of science.

13 (5) Two years of social studies, of which at least one
14 year must be history of the United States or a combination
15 of history of the United States and American government
16 and, beginning with pupils entering the 9th grade in the
17 2016-2017 school year and each school year thereafter, at
18 least one semester must be civics, which shall help young
19 people acquire and learn to use the skills, knowledge, and
20 attitudes that will prepare them to be competent and
21 responsible citizens throughout their lives. Civics course
22 content shall focus on government institutions, the
23 discussion of current and controversial issues, service
24 learning, and simulations of the democratic process.
25 Civics course content shall include a comparative study
26 and discussion of certain political ideologies, including

1 communism and totalitarianism, that conflict with the
2 principles of freedom and democracy that are essential to
3 the founding of the United States. The comparative study
4 and discussion shall be accurate, relevant, and accessible
5 to promote the understanding of such political ideologies.
6 Civics course content shall include the use of oral
7 history resources from diverse individuals, including
8 those individuals who (i) demonstrate civic-minded
9 qualities, (ii) are victims of the political ideologies of
10 communism and totalitarianism, and (iii) are able to
11 compare the political ideologies of communism and
12 totalitarianism with the political ideology of the United
13 States. School districts may utilize private funding
14 available for the purposes of offering civics education.
15 Beginning with pupils entering the 9th grade in the
16 2021-2022 school year and each school year thereafter, one
17 semester, or part of one semester, may include a financial
18 literacy course.

19 (6) One year chosen from (A) music, (B) art, (C)
20 foreign language, which shall be deemed to include
21 American Sign Language, or (D) vocational education.

22 (f) The State Board of Education shall develop and inform
23 school districts of standards for writing-intensive
24 coursework.

25 (f-5) If a school district offers an Advanced Placement
26 computer science course to high school students, then the

1 school board must designate that course as equivalent to a
2 high school mathematics course and must denote on the
3 student's transcript that the Advanced Placement computer
4 science course qualifies as a mathematics-based, quantitative
5 course for students in accordance with subdivision (3) of
6 subsection (e) of this Section.

7 (g) This amendatory Act of 1983 does not apply to pupils
8 entering the 9th grade in 1983-1984 school year and prior
9 school years or to students with disabilities whose course of
10 study is determined by an individualized education program.

11 This amendatory Act of the 94th General Assembly does not
12 apply to pupils entering the 9th grade in the 2004-2005 school
13 year or a prior school year or to students with disabilities
14 whose course of study is determined by an individualized
15 education program.

16 (h) The provisions of this Section are subject to the
17 provisions of Section 27-22.05 of this Code and the
18 Postsecondary and Workforce Readiness Act.

19 (i) The State Board of Education may adopt rules to modify
20 the requirements of this Section for any students enrolled in
21 grades 9 through 12 if the Governor has declared a disaster due
22 to a public health emergency pursuant to Section 7 of the
23 Illinois Emergency Management Agency Act.

24 (Source: P.A. 101-464, eff. 1-1-20; 101-643, eff. 6-18-20;
25 102-366, eff. 8-13-21.)

1 (Text of Section from P.A. 102-551)

2 Sec. 27-22. Required high school courses.

3 (a) (Blank).

4 (b) (Blank).

5 (c) (Blank).

6 (d) (Blank).

7 (e) As a prerequisite to receiving a high school diploma,
8 each pupil entering the 9th grade must, in addition to other
9 course requirements, successfully complete all of the
10 following courses:

11 (1) Four years of language arts.

12 (2) Two years of writing intensive courses, one of
13 which must be English and the other of which may be English
14 or any other subject. When applicable, writing-intensive
15 courses may be counted towards the fulfillment of other
16 graduation requirements.

17 (3) Three years of mathematics, one of which must be
18 Algebra I, one of which must include geometry content, and
19 one of which may be an Advanced Placement computer science
20 course. A mathematics course that includes geometry
21 content may be offered as an integrated, applied,
22 interdisciplinary, or career and technical education
23 course that prepares a student for a career readiness
24 path.

25 (4) Two years of science.

26 (5) Two years of social studies, of which at least one

1 year must be history of the United States or a combination
2 of history of the United States and American government
3 and, beginning with pupils entering the 9th grade in the
4 2016-2017 school year and each school year thereafter, at
5 least one semester must be civics, which shall help young
6 people acquire and learn to use the skills, knowledge, and
7 attitudes that will prepare them to be competent and
8 responsible citizens throughout their lives. Civics course
9 content shall focus on government institutions, the
10 discussion of current and controversial issues, service
11 learning, and simulations of the democratic process.
12 Civics course content shall include a comparative study
13 and discussion of certain political ideologies, including
14 communism and totalitarianism, that conflict with the
15 principles of freedom and democracy that are essential to
16 the founding of the United States. The comparative study
17 and discussion shall be accurate, relevant, and accessible
18 to promote the understanding of such political ideologies.
19 Civics course content shall include the use of oral
20 history resources from diverse individuals, including
21 those individuals who (i) demonstrate civic-minded
22 qualities, (ii) are victims of the political ideologies of
23 communism and totalitarianism, and (iii) are able to
24 compare the political ideologies of communism and
25 totalitarianism with the political ideology of the United
26 States. School districts may utilize private funding

1 available for the purposes of offering civics education.

2 (6) One year chosen from (A) music, (B) art, (C)
3 foreign language, which shall be deemed to include
4 American Sign Language, (D) vocational education, or (E)
5 forensic speech (speech and debate). A forensic speech
6 course used to satisfy the course requirement under
7 subdivision (1) may not be used to satisfy the course
8 requirement under this subdivision (6).

9 (f) The State Board of Education shall develop and inform
10 school districts of standards for writing-intensive
11 coursework.

12 (f-5) If a school district offers an Advanced Placement
13 computer science course to high school students, then the
14 school board must designate that course as equivalent to a
15 high school mathematics course and must denote on the
16 student's transcript that the Advanced Placement computer
17 science course qualifies as a mathematics-based, quantitative
18 course for students in accordance with subdivision (3) of
19 subsection (e) of this Section.

20 (g) This amendatory Act of 1983 does not apply to pupils
21 entering the 9th grade in 1983-1984 school year and prior
22 school years or to students with disabilities whose course of
23 study is determined by an individualized education program.

24 This amendatory Act of the 94th General Assembly does not
25 apply to pupils entering the 9th grade in the 2004-2005 school
26 year or a prior school year or to students with disabilities

1 whose course of study is determined by an individualized
2 education program.

3 (h) The provisions of this Section are subject to the
4 provisions of Section 27-22.05 of this Code and the
5 Postsecondary and Workforce Readiness Act.

6 (i) The State Board of Education may adopt rules to modify
7 the requirements of this Section for any students enrolled in
8 grades 9 through 12 if the Governor has declared a disaster due
9 to a public health emergency pursuant to Section 7 of the
10 Illinois Emergency Management Agency Act.

11 (Source: P.A. 101-464, eff. 1-1-20; 101-643, eff. 6-18-20;
12 102-551, eff. 1-1-22.)

13 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon
14 becoming law.