

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 24-2 and 27-21 as follows:

6 (105 ILCS 5/24-2) (from Ch. 122, par. 24-2)  
7 Sec. 24-2. Holidays.

8 (a) Teachers shall not be required to teach on Saturdays,  
9 nor, except as provided in subsection (b) of this Section,  
10 shall teachers or other school employees, other than  
11 noncertificated school employees whose presence is necessary  
12 because of an emergency or for the continued operation and  
13 maintenance of school facilities or property, be required to  
14 work on legal school holidays, which are January 1, New Year's  
15 Day; the third Monday in January, the Birthday of Dr. Martin  
16 Luther King, Jr.; February 12, the Birthday of President  
17 Abraham Lincoln; the first Monday in March (to be known as  
18 Casimir Pulaski's birthday); Good Friday; the day designated  
19 as Memorial Day by federal law; July 4, Independence Day; the  
20 first Monday in September, Labor Day; the second Monday in  
21 October, Columbus Day; November 11, Veterans' Day; the  
22 Thursday in November commonly called Thanksgiving Day; and  
23 December 25, Christmas Day. School boards may grant special

1 holidays whenever in their judgment such action is advisable.  
2 No deduction shall be made from the time or compensation of a  
3 school employee on account of any legal or special holiday.

4 (b) A school board or other entity eligible to apply for  
5 waivers and modifications under Section 2-3.25g of this Code  
6 is authorized to hold school or schedule teachers' institutes,  
7 parent-teacher conferences, or staff development on the third  
8 Monday in January (the Birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King,  
9 Jr.); February 12 (the Birthday of President Abraham Lincoln);  
10 the first Monday in March (known as Casimir Pulaski's  
11 birthday); the second Monday in October (Columbus Day); and  
12 November 11 (Veterans' Day), provided that:

13 (1) the person or persons honored by the holiday are  
14 recognized through instructional activities conducted on  
15 that day or, if the day is not used for student attendance,  
16 on the first school day preceding or following that day;  
17 and

18 (2) the entity that chooses to exercise this authority  
19 first holds a public hearing about the proposal. The  
20 entity shall provide notice preceding the public hearing  
21 to both educators and parents. The notice shall set forth  
22 the time, date, and place of the hearing, describe the  
23 proposal, and indicate that the entity will take testimony  
24 from educators and parents about the proposal.

25 (c) Commemorative holidays, which recognize specified  
26 patriotic, civic, cultural or historical persons, activities,

1 or events, are regular school days. Commemorative holidays  
2 are: January 17 (the birthday of Muhammad Ali), January 28 (to  
3 be known as Christa McAuliffe Day and observed as a  
4 commemoration of space exploration), February 15 (the birthday  
5 of Susan B. Anthony), March 29 (Viet Nam War Veterans' Day),  
6 September 11 (September 11th Day of Remembrance), the school  
7 day immediately preceding Veterans' Day (Korean War Veterans'  
8 Day), October 1 (Recycling Day), October 7 (Iraq and  
9 Afghanistan Veterans Remembrance Day), December 7 (Pearl  
10 Harbor Veterans' Day), and any day so appointed by the  
11 President or Governor. School boards may establish  
12 commemorative holidays whenever in their judgment such action  
13 is advisable. School boards shall include instruction relative  
14 to commemorated persons, activities, or events on the  
15 commemorative holiday or at any other time during the school  
16 year and at any point in the curriculum when such instruction  
17 may be deemed appropriate. The State Board of Education shall  
18 prepare and make available to school boards instructional  
19 materials relative to commemorated persons, activities, or  
20 events which may be used by school boards in conjunction with  
21 any instruction provided pursuant to this paragraph.

22 (d) City of Chicago School District 299 shall observe  
23 March 4 of each year as a commemorative holiday. This holiday  
24 shall be known as Mayors' Day which shall be a day to  
25 commemorate and be reminded of the past Chief Executive  
26 Officers of the City of Chicago, and in particular the late

1 Mayor Richard J. Daley and the late Mayor Harold Washington.  
2 If March 4 falls on a Saturday or Sunday, Mayors' Day shall be  
3 observed on the following Monday.

4 (e) Notwithstanding any other provision of State law to  
5 the contrary, November 3, 2020 shall be a State holiday known  
6 as 2020 General Election Day and shall be observed throughout  
7 the State pursuant to this amendatory Act of the 101st General  
8 Assembly. All government offices, with the exception of  
9 election authorities, shall be closed unless authorized to be  
10 used as a location for election day services or as a polling  
11 place.

12 (Source: P.A. 101-642, eff. 6-16-20.)

13 (105 ILCS 5/27-21) (from Ch. 122, par. 27-21)

14 Sec. 27-21. History of United States. History of the  
15 United States shall be taught in all public schools and in all  
16 other educational institutions in this State supported or  
17 maintained, in whole or in part, by public funds. The teaching  
18 of history shall have as one of its objectives the imparting to  
19 pupils of a comprehensive idea of our democratic form of  
20 government and the principles for which our government stands  
21 as regards other nations, including the studying of the place  
22 of our government in world-wide movements and the leaders  
23 thereof, with particular stress upon the basic principles and  
24 ideals of our representative form of government. The teaching  
25 of history shall include a study of the role and contributions

1 of African Americans and other ethnic groups, including, but  
2 not restricted to, Polish, Lithuanian, German, Hungarian,  
3 Irish, Bohemian, Russian, Albanian, Italian, Czech, Slovak,  
4 French, Scots, Hispanics, Asian Americans, etc., in the  
5 history of this country and this State. To reinforce the study  
6 of the role and contributions of Hispanics, such curriculum  
7 shall include the study of the events related to the forceful  
8 removal and illegal deportation of Mexican-American U.S.  
9 citizens during the Great Depression. In public schools only,  
10 the teaching of history shall include a study of the roles and  
11 contributions of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender  
12 people in the history of this country and this State. The  
13 teaching of history also shall include a study of the role of  
14 labor unions and their interaction with government in  
15 achieving the goals of a mixed free enterprise system.  
16 Beginning with the 2020-2021 school year, the teaching of  
17 history must also include instruction on the history of  
18 Illinois. The teaching of history shall include the study of  
19 the contributions made by Muslims and Muslim Americans to  
20 society. No pupils shall be graduated from the eighth grade of  
21 any public school unless he or she has received such  
22 instruction in the history of the United States and gives  
23 evidence of having a comprehensive knowledge thereof, which  
24 may be administered remotely.

25 (Source: P.A. 101-227, eff. 7-1-20; 101-341, eff. 1-1-20;  
26 101-643, eff. 6-18-20.)