

SB0654



102ND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2021 and 2022

SB0654

Introduced 2/24/2021, by Sen. Robert Peters

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

105 ILCS 5/27-6.3 new

Amends the School Code. Provides that all public schools shall provide daily time for supervised, unstructured, child-directed play for all students in kindergarten through grade 8. Specifies further requirements concerning play time. Provides that play time shall not count as a course of physical education. Provides that play time shall be considered clock hours for purposes of the Code. Provides for the inclusion of students with disabilities in play time. Provides that public schools shall prohibit the withholding of play time as a disciplinary or punitive action, except when a student's participation in play time poses an immediate threat to the safety of the student or others. Effective July 1, 2021.

LRB102 12874 CMG 18217 b

FISCAL NOTE ACT
MAY APPLY

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 adding Section
5 27-6.3 as follows:

6 (105 ILCS 5/27-6.3 new)

7 Sec. 27-6.3. Play time required in elementary school.

8 (a) All public schools shall provide daily time for
9 supervised, unstructured, child-directed play for all students
10 in kindergarten through grade 8. Play time must allow
11 unstructured play, and may include organized games, but shall
12 not include the use of computers, tablets, phones, or videos.
13 Schools are encouraged to provide play time outdoors, but it
14 may be held indoors. If play time is held indoors, schools are
15 encouraged to provide it in a space that promotes physical
16 activity. Time spent dressing or undressing for outdoor play
17 time shall not count towards the daily time for play.

18 (b) Play time shall not count as a course of physical
19 education that fulfills the requirements of Section 27-6, nor
20 shall time spent in a course of physical education count
21 towards the daily time for play.

22 (c) Play time shall be considered clock hours for the
23 purposes of Section 10-19.05. For any school day 5 clock hours

1 or longer in length, the total time allotted for play must be
2 at least 60 minutes. For any school day less than 5 clock hours
3 in length, the total time allotted for play each school day
4 must be at least one-fifth of a day of attendance for the
5 student pursuant to Section 10-19.05. Play time may be divided
6 into play periods of at least 15 consecutive minutes in
7 length.

8 (d) To the maximum extent appropriate, pursuant to
9 subsection (d) of Section 14-8.02, students with disabilities
10 shall participate in play time with students who do not have a
11 disability. Special activities in play time shall be provided
12 for pupils whose physical or emotional condition, as
13 determined by a person licensed under the Medical Practice Act
14 of 1987, prevents his or her participation in play time.

15 (e) All public schools shall prohibit the withholding of
16 play time as a disciplinary or punitive action, except when a
17 student's participation in play time poses an immediate threat
18 to the safety of the student or others. School officials shall
19 make all reasonable efforts to resolve such threats and
20 minimize the use of exclusion from play to the greatest extent
21 practicable and in accordance with subsection (d).

22 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect July 1,
23 2021.