



103RD GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2023 and 2024

HB1278

Introduced 1/31/2023, by Rep. Daniel Didech

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

105 ILCS 5/27-20.05 new
30 ILCS 805/8.47 new

Amends the Courses of Study Article of the School Code. Provides that beginning with the 2024-2025 school year, every public elementary school and high school shall include in its curriculum a unit of instruction studying the events of pre-Columbian Native American societies. Sets forth additional topics of instruction. Provides that beginning with the 2024-2025 school year, every public elementary school and high school shall include in its curriculum a unit of instruction studying the history of Native Americans during and after the American Revolution, as well as the contributions of Native Americans to the economic, cultural, social, and political development of the United States. Provides that the State Superintendent of Education may prepare and make available to all school boards instructional materials that may be used as guidelines for development of these units of instruction. Provides that a school may meet the curricular requirements through an online program or course. Amends the State Mandates Act to require implementation without reimbursement.

LRB103 05243 RJT 50261 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 adding Section
5 27-20.05 as follows:

6 (105 ILCS 5/27-20.05 new)

7 Sec. 27-20.05. Study of Native Americans.

8 (a) Beginning with the 2024-2025 school year, every public
9 elementary school and high school shall include in its
10 curriculum a unit of instruction studying the events of
11 pre-Columbian Native American societies, including, but not
12 limited to, the Pueblo, Adena, Hopewell, Mississippian, and
13 Clovis cultures. This instruction shall further be
14 supplemented by education concerning the contemporary life of
15 Native American societies, including, but not limited to, the
16 Navajo and Cherokee, and the cultural traditions and customs
17 of Native American societies, such as their beliefs,
18 traditions, geography, and language. The studying of this
19 material shall constitute an affirmation by students to
20 understand the foundations of the land in which they live and
21 to restore history previously lost.

22 (b) Beginning with the 2024-2025 school year, every public
23 elementary school and high school shall include in its

1 curriculum a unit of instruction studying the history of
2 Native Americans during and after the American Revolution,
3 including studying their relationships with settlers in the
4 18th and 19th centuries, as well as the contributions of
5 Native Americans to the economic, cultural, social, and
6 political development of the United States. These
7 contributions shall include those made to advance civil rights
8 both in the Midwest and across the United States in the 19th
9 and 20th centuries. The study of this material shall
10 constitute an affirmation by students of their commitment to
11 respect the dignity of all races and peoples and to forever
12 eschew every form of unjust discrimination in their lives and
13 careers.

14 (c) The State Superintendent of Education may prepare and
15 make available to all school boards instructional materials,
16 including those established by the Public Broadcasting
17 Service, that may be used as guidelines for development of the
18 units of instruction under this Section. However, each school
19 board shall itself determine the minimum amount of
20 instructional time that qualifies as a unit of instruction
21 satisfying the requirements of this Section.

22 (d) The regional superintendent of schools shall monitor a
23 school district's compliance with this Section's curricular
24 requirements during the regional superintendent's annual
25 compliance visit.

26 (e) A school may meet the requirements of this Section

1 through an online program or course.

2 Section 90. The State Mandates Act is amended by adding
3 Section 8.47 as follows:

4 (30 ILCS 805/8.47 new)

5 Sec. 8.47. Exempt mandate. Notwithstanding Sections 6 and
6 8 of this Act, no reimbursement by the State is required for
7 the implementation of any mandate created by this amendatory
8 Act of the 103rd General Assembly.