

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 27-6 and 27-7 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, ~~as soon as~~  
11 ~~practicable~~, be required to engage daily, during the school  
12 day, in courses of physical education for such periods as are  
13 compatible with the optimum growth and developmental  
14 ~~development~~ needs of individuals at the various age levels  
15 except when appropriate excuses are submitted to the school by  
16 a pupil's parent or guardian or by a person licensed under the  
17 Medical Practice Act of 1987 and except as provided in  
18 subsection (b) of this Section.

19 Special activities in physical education shall be provided  
20 for pupils whose physical or emotional condition, as determined  
21 by a person licensed under the Medical Practice Act of 1987,  
22 prevents their participation in the courses provided for normal  
23 children.

24 (b) A school board is authorized to excuse pupils enrolled  
25 in grades 11 and 12 from engaging in physical education courses  
26 if those pupils request to be excused for any of the following  
27 reasons: (1) for ongoing participation in an interscholastic  
28 athletic program; (2) to enroll in academic classes which are  
29 required for admission to an institution of higher learning,  
30 provided that failure to take such classes will result in the  
31 pupil being denied admission to the institution of his or her  
32 choice; or (3) to enroll in academic classes which are required

1 for graduation from high school, provided that failure to take  
2 such classes will result in the pupil being unable to graduate.  
3 A school board may also excuse pupils in grades 9 through 12  
4 enrolled in a marching band program for credit from engaging in  
5 physical education courses if those pupils request to be  
6 excused for ongoing participation in such marching band  
7 program. In addition, a school board may excuse pupils in  
8 grades 9 through 12 if those pupils must utilize the time set  
9 aside for physical education to receive special education  
10 support and services. A school board may also excuse pupils in  
11 grades 9 through 12 enrolled in a Reserve Officer's Training  
12 Corps (ROTC) program sponsored by the school district from  
13 engaging in physical education courses. School boards which  
14 choose to exercise this authority shall establish a policy to  
15 excuse pupils on an individual basis.

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

18 (Source: P.A. 88-269; 89-155, eff. 7-19-95; 89-175, eff.  
19 7-19-95; 89-626, eff. 8-9-96.)

20 (105 ILCS 5/27-7) (from Ch. 122, par. 27-7)

21 Sec. 27-7. Physical education course of study. ~~Purposes of~~  
22 ~~courses in physical education and training - Courses of~~  
23 ~~instruction.~~ A physical education course of study shall include  
24 a developmentally planned and sequential curriculum that  
25 fosters the development of movement skills, enhances  
26 health-related fitness, increases students' knowledge, offers  
27 direct opportunities to learn how to work cooperatively in a  
28 group setting, and encourages healthy habits and attitudes for  
29 a healthy lifestyle. A physical education course of study shall  
30 provide students with an opportunity for an appropriate amount  
31 of daily physical activity. A physical education course of  
32 study must be part of the regular school curriculum and not  
33 extra-curricular in nature or organization. Courses in  
34 physical education and training shall be for the following  
35 purposes:

- 1 ~~1. to develop organic vigor;~~
- 2 ~~2. to provide bodily and emotional poise;~~
- 3 ~~3. to provide neuro-muscular training;~~
- 4 ~~4. to prevent or correct certain postural defects;~~
- 5 ~~5. to develop strength and endurance;~~
- 6 ~~6. to develop desirable moral and social qualities;~~
- 7 ~~7. to promote hygienic school and home life; and~~
- 8 ~~8. to secure scientific supervision of the sanitation and~~
- 9 ~~safety of school buildings, playgrounds, athletic fields and~~
- 10 ~~equipment thereof.~~

11 The State Board of Education shall prepare and make  
12 available guidelines for the various grades and types of  
13 schools in order to make effective the purposes set forth in  
14 this section and the requirements provided in Section 27-6, and  
15 shall see that the general provisions and intent of Sections  
16 27-5 to 27-9, inclusive, are enforced.

17 (Source: P.A. 90-372, eff. 7-1-98.)

18 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon  
19 becoming law.