

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
5 Section 27-6 as follows:

6 (105 ILCS 5/27-6) (from Ch. 122, par. 27-6)

7 Sec. 27-6. Courses in physical education; special
8 activities; excusing pupils.

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 development needs of
14 individuals at the various age levels except when appropriate
15 excuses are submitted to the school by a pupil's parent or
16 guardian or by a person licensed under the Medical Practice
17 Act of 1987 and except as provided in subsection (b) of this
18 Section.

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

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

1 to the institution of his or her choice; or (3) to enroll in
2 academic classes which are required for graduation from high
3 school, provided that failure to take such classes will
4 result in the pupil being unable to graduate. A school board
5 may also excuse pupils in grades 9 through 12 enrolled in a
6 marching band program for credit from engaging in physical
7 education courses if those pupils request to be excused for
8 ongoing participation in such marching band program. A school
9 board may also excuse pupils in grades 9 through 12 enrolled
10 in a Reserve Officer's Training Corps (ROTC) program
11 sponsored by the school district from engaging in physical
12 education courses. School boards which choose to exercise
13 this authority shall establish a policy to excuse pupils on
14 an individual basis.

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

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