

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Millburn Public Schools

INFORMATION ITEM

March 1, 2010

To: Board of Education Members

From: Ellen E. Mauer, PhD

Subject: First Reading-Curriculum Content - Policy 6:60

This policy has been updated to reflect the newest changes to the unfunded mandates as listed below:

- 1-Events related to the forceful removal and illegal deportation of Mexican-American US citizens during the Great Depression.
- 2-Viewing the Congressional Medal of Honor film
- 3-Disability history, awareness, and the disability rights movement.

Additionally, since the policy was not updated from 2002 to last year, those changes are as follows:

- 1-Addition of drug and substance abuse prevention.
- 2-Changes in the driver's education requirements.
- 3-Addition of steroid abuse prevention.
- 4-Addition of internet safety.
- 5-Changes wording to PE and health requirements.
- 6-Additions to the list of ethnicities who made contributions to our history.
- 7-Addition of a Constitution Day educational program.

8-Addition of instruction for the *Armenian Genocide*, the *Famine-Genocide* in *Ukraine*, and more recent atrocities in *Cambodia*, *Bosnia*, *Rwanda*, and *Sudan*.

Instruction

Curriculum Content 1

The curriculum shall contain instruction on subjects required by State statute or regulation as follows:

1. In kindergarten through grade 8, subjects include: (a) language arts, (b) reading, (c) other communication skills, (d) science, (e) mathematics, (f) social studies, (g) art, (h) music, ² and (i) drug and substance abuse prevention. ³
2. In grades 9 through 12, subjects include: (a) language arts, (b) writing intensive course, (c) science, (d) mathematics, (e) social studies including U.S. history, (f) foreign language, (g) music, (h) art, (i) driver and safety education, and (j) vocational education. ⁴

Students otherwise eligible to take a driver education course must receive a passing grade in at least 8 courses during the previous 2 semesters before enrolling in the course. The Superintendent or designee may waive this requirement if he or she believes a waiver to be in the student's best interest. ⁵ The course shall include classroom instruction on distracted driving as a major traffic safety issue. ⁶ Automobile safety instruction covering traffic regulations and highway safety must include instruction on the consequences of alcohol consumption and the operation of a motor vehicle. ⁷ The eligibility requirements contained in State law for the receipt of a certificate of completion from the Secretary of State shall be provided to students in writing at the time of their registration. ⁸

The footnotes are not intended to be part of the adopted policy; they should be removed before the policy is adopted.

¹ Districts must have a policy on physical education (23 Ill.Admin.Code §1.420(p). Policies on the remaining topics in this policy are optional. State or federal law controls this policy's content.

² 23 Ill.Admin.Code §1.430.

³ 105 ILCS 5/27-13.2.

⁴ 23 Ill.Admin.Code §1.440, 105 ILCS 5/27-22 and 5/27-23. The General Assembly encouraged school boards to implement American sign language courses into the school foreign language curriculum (105 ILCS 5/10-20.46, added by H.B. 725).

⁵ 105 ILCS 5/27-23 and 5/27-24.2.

⁶ 105 ILCS 5/27-24.2.

⁷ 105 ILCS 5/27-17.

⁸ The Ill. Vehicle Code, 625 ILCS 5/6-408.5, contains these requirements; they are paraphrased below and may be added to the policy or otherwise disseminated.

Before a certificate of completion will be requested from the Secretary of State, a student must receive a passing grade in at least 8 courses during the 2 semesters last ending before requesting the certificate. A certificate of completion will not be requested for any person less than 18 years of age who has dropped out of school unless the individual provides:

1. Written verification of his or her enrollment in a GED or alternative education program or a GED certificate;
2. Written verification that before dropping out, the individual had received passing grades in at least 8 courses during the 2 previous semesters last ending before requesting a certificate;
3. Written consent from the individual's parent/guardian and the Regional Superintendent; or
4. Written waiver from the Superintendent of the School District in which the individual resides or resided at the time he or she dropped out of school, or from the chief school administrator with respect to a dropout who attended a non-public high school. A waiver may be given if the Superintendent or chief administrator deems it to be in the individual's best interests.

3. In grades 7 through 12, as well as in interscholastic athletic programs, steroid abuse prevention must be taught. **9**
4. In grades 4 through 12, provided it can be funded by private grants or the federal government, violence prevention and conflict resolution must be stressed, including: (a) causes of conflict, (b) consequences of violent behavior, (c) non-violent resolution, and (d) relationships between drugs, alcohol, and violence. **10**
5. In grades 3 or above, the curriculum contains a unit on Internet safety, the scope of which shall be determined by the Superintendent or designee. **11**
6. In all grades, character education must be taught including respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, trustworthiness, and citizenship in order to raise students' honesty, kindness, justice, discipline, respect for others, and moral courage. **12**
7. In all schools, citizenship values must be taught, including: (a) patriotism, (b) democratic principles of freedom, justice, and equality, (c) proper use and display of the American flag, (d) the Pledge of Allegiance, and (e) the voting process. **13**
8. In all grades, physical education must be taught including a developmentally planned and sequential curriculum that fosters the development of movement skills, enhances health-related fitness, increases students' knowledge, offers direct opportunities to learn how to work cooperatively in a group setting, and encourages healthy habits and attitudes for a healthy lifestyle. Unless otherwise exempted, all students are required to engage daily during the school day in a physical education course. For exemptions and substitutions, see policies 6:310, *Credit for Alternative Courses and Programs, and Course Substitution*, and 7:260, *Exemption from Physical Activity*. **14**

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9 105 ILCS 5/27-23.3.

10 105 ILCS 5/27-23.4.

11 105 ILCS 5/27-13.3, amended by P.A. 95-509 and P.A. 95-869. The statute recommends 7 topics for the unit on Internet safety. The statute specifically uses the conjunction *or*; arguably *or* indicates an alternative thus allowing districts to begin including the unit on Internet safety after third grade.

The Ill. General Assembly found that “the Internet is used by sexual predators and other criminals to make initial contact with children and other vulnerable residents in Illinois; and *** education is an effective method for preventing children from falling prey to online predators, identity theft, and other dangers,” 105 ILCS 5/27-13.3. It required ISBE to “make available resource materials for educating children regarding child online safety;” and invited schools to “adopt an age-appropriate curriculum for Internet safety instruction of students in grades kindergarten through 12.” A board that shares this concern may add the following option: “In grades kindergarten through 12, age-appropriate Internet safety must be taught.”

12 105 ILCS 5/27-12. The Ill. General Assembly invited boards to “make suitable provisions for instruction in bullying prevention and gang resistance education and training in all grades and include such instruction in the courses of study regularly taught therein,” 105 ILCS 5/27-23.7(c). A board that shares this concern may add the following option: “In addition, in all grades, bullying prevention and gang resistance education and training must be taught.”

13 105 ILCS 5/27-3 requires the Pledge of Allegiance to be recited every day in elementary and secondary schools. Requirements for displaying a U.S. flag at each school and in each classroom are found in 5 ILCS 465/3 and 465/3a.

Note that the Illinois statute does not require every student to recite the Pledge – that kind of mandatory participation would violate the U.S. Constitution. Schools may not coerce a student into saying the Pledge, nor may they punish students for refusing to participate in any aspect of the flag ritual, including standing, saluting the flag, and reciting the Pledge. West Virginia State Board of Education v. Barnett, 319 U.S. 624 (1943); Sherman v. Community Consolidated School Dist. 21 of Wheeling Township, 980 F.2d 437 (7th Cir. 1992). Consider using permissive rather than mandatory language to introduce the recitation of the Pledge, such as, “You may now stand to recite the Pledge.” Schools may, of course, require that non-participants maintain order and decorum appropriate to the school environment.

14 105 ILCS 5/27-5 requires school boards to provide for students' physical education and allows the P.E. course offered in grades 5 through 10 to include the health education courses required by State law.

105 ILCS 5/27-6 describes when students may be excused from daily P.E. See also 23 Ill.Admin.Code §1.420(p). 105 ILCS 5/27-7 describes the goals and requirements for P.E. courses; these are re-stated in this sample policy.

9. In all schools, health education must be stressed, including: (a) proper nutrition, (b) physical fitness, (c) components necessary to develop a sound mind in a healthy body, and (d) dangers and avoidance of abduction. The Superintendent shall implement a comprehensive health education program in accordance with State law. **15**
 10. In all schools, career/vocational education must be taught, including: (a) the importance of work, (b) the development of basic skills to enter the world of work and/or continue formal education, (c) good work habits and values, (d) the relationship between learning and work, and (e) if possible, a student work program that provides the student with work experience as an extension of the regular classroom. A career awareness and exploration program must be available at all grade levels. **16**
 11. In grades 9 through 12, consumer education must be taught, including: financial literacy; installment purchasing; budgeting, savings, and investing; banking; simple contracts; income taxes; personal insurance policies; the comparison of prices; homeownership; and the roles of consumers interacting with agriculture, business, labor unions, and government in formulating and achieving the goals of the mixed free enterprise system. **17**
 12. In all schools, conservation of natural resources must be taught, including: (a) home ecology, (b) endangered species, (c) threats to the environment, and (d) the importance of the environment to life as we know it. **18**
 13. In all schools, United States history must be taught, including: (a) the principles of representative government, (b) the Constitutions of the U.S. and Illinois, (c) the role of the U.S. in world affairs, (d) the role of labor unions, and (e) the role and contributions of ethnic groups, including but not limited to, the African Americans, Albanians, Asian Americans, Bohemians, Czechs, French, Germans, Hispanics (including the events related to the forceful removal and illegal deportation of Mexican-American U.S. citizens during the Great Depression), Hungarians, Irish, Italians, Lithuanians, Polish, Russians, Scots, and Slovaks in the history of this country and State. **19**
- In addition, all schools shall hold an educational program on the United States Constitution on Constitution Day, each September 17, commemorating the September 17, 1787 signing of the Constitution. However, when September 17 falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or holiday, Constitution Day shall be held during the preceding or following week. **20**
14. In grade 7 and all high school courses concerning U.S. history or a combination of U.S. history and American government, students must view a Congressional Medal of Honor film

105 ILCS 5/27-6 contains an exception to the daily P.E. requirement for schools engaged in block scheduling; if this is applicable, substitute this sentence for the last sentence in this paragraph:

Unless otherwise exempted, all students are required to engage daily during the school day, except on block scheduled days for those schools in block scheduling, in a physical education course.

15 105 ILCS 5/27-13.2 and 110/3; 23 Ill.Admin.Code §1.420(n). Health education program content is described in administrative procedure 6:60-AP, *Comprehensive Health Education Program*; this administrative procedure requires the development of a family life and sex education program. The State Police and ISBE must develop instruction on child abduction prevention (20 ILCS 2605/2605-480).

16 23 Ill.Admin.Code §1.420(i). See 105 ILCS 435/ for the Vocational Education Act.

17 105 ILCS 5/27-12.1, as amended by P.A. 95-863; 23 Ill.Admin.Code §1.420(k).

18 105 ILCS 5/27-13.1 and 23 Ill.Admin.Code §1.420(l).

19 105 ILCS 5/27-21, amended by P.A. 96-629 (eff. 1-1-10), and 23 Ill.Admin.Code §1.420(r).

20 Section 111 of Division J of Pub. L. 108-447, the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2005, Dec. 8, 2004; 118 Stat. 2809, 3344-45 (Section 111). Section 111(b) states: “[e]ach educational institution that receives Federal funds for a fiscal year shall hold an educational program on the U.S. Constitution on September 17 of such year”

made by the Congressional Medal of Honor Foundation, provided there is no cost for the film. **21**

15. In all schools, the curriculum includes a unit of instruction on the Holocaust and crimes of genocide, including Nazi atrocities of 1933-1945, Armenian Genocide, the Famine-Genocide in Ukraine, and more recent atrocities in Cambodia, Bosnia, Rwanda, and Sudan. **22**
16. In all schools, the curriculum includes a unit of instruction on the history, struggles, and contributions of women. **23**
17. In all schools, the curriculum includes a unit of instruction on Black History, including the history of the African slave trade, slavery in America, and the vestiges of slavery in this country, as well as the struggles and contributions of African-Americans. **24**
18. In all schools offering a secondary agricultural education program, the curriculum includes courses as required by 105 ILCS 5/2-3.80. **25**
19. In all schools, instruction during courses as determined by the Superintendent or designee on disability history, awareness, and the disability rights movement. **26**

- LEGAL REF.: 5 ILCS 465/3 and 465/3a.
20 ILCS 2605/2605-480.
Public Law 108-447, Section 111 of Division J.
105 ILCS 5/2-3.80(e) and (f), 5/27-3, 5/27-3.5, 5/27-5, 5/27-6, 5/27-7, 5/27-12, 5/27-12.1, 5/27-13.1, 5/27-13.2, 5/27-20.3, 5/27-20.4, 5/27-20.5, 5/27-21, 5/27-22, 5/27-23, 5/27-23.3, 5/27-23.4, 5/27-23.7, 5/27-23.8, 5/27-24.2, 435/, and 110/3.
625 ILCS 5/6-408.5.
23 Ill.Admin.Code §§1.420, 1.430, and 1.440.
- CROSS REF.: 6:20 (School Year Calendar and Day), 6:40 (Curriculum Development), 6:70 (Teaching About Religions), 7:190 (Student Discipline); 7:260 (Exemption from Physical Activity)

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21 105 ILCS 5/27-3.5, added by P.A. 96-99. The Congressional Medal of Honor film is available on ISBE's website for no cost at www.isbe.net/curriculum/html/medal_of_honor.htm.

22 105 ILCS 5/27-20.3 requires the curriculum to include a *unit of instruction* on this subject but does not specify the amount of time that constitutes a *unit of instruction*.

23 105 ILCS 5/27-20.5 requires the curriculum to include a *unit of instruction* on this subject but does not specify the amount of time that constitutes a *unit of instruction*.

24 105 ILCS 527-20.4 requires the curriculum to include a *unit of instruction* on this subject but does not specify the amount of time that constitutes a *unit of instruction*.

25 105 ILCS 5/2-3.80(e) or (f).

26 105 ILCS 5/27-23.8, added by P.A. 96-191, eff. 1-1-10. The statute requires the school board to determine the minimum amount of instructional time. The sample policy complies by delegating this responsibility to the superintendent or designee. The statute requires that the instruction be founded on the principle that all students, including students with disabilities, have the right to exercise self-determination. It urges districts to request individuals with disabilities to assist with the development and delivery of this instruction and allows instruction to be supplemented by knowledgeable guest speakers.

Instruction

Curriculum Content

The curriculum shall contain instruction on subjects required by State statute or regulation as follows:

1. In each grade: (a) language arts, (b) reading, (c) other communication skills, (d) science, (e) mathematics, (f) social studies, (g) art, (h) music.
2. Character values stressing (a) honesty, (b) kindness, (c) justice, (d) discipline, (e) respect for others, and (f) moral courage.
3. Citizenship values stressing (a) patriotism, (b) democratic principles of freedom, justice, and equality; (c) proper use and display of the American flag; (d) the Pledge of Allegiance, (e) the voting process.
4. Physical education stressing (a) physical fitness for life-long health, (b) special activities for students whose physical health prevents them from participating in regular physical education, (c) principles of teamwork and fair play.
5. Health education stressing (a) proper nutrition, (b) physical fitness, (c) other components necessary to develop a sound mind in a healthy body.
6. Career/Vocational education stressing (a) the importance of work, (b) the development of basic skills to enter the world of work and/or continue formal education, (c) good work habits and values, (d) the relationship between learning and work, (e) if possible, a student work program that provides the student with work experience as an extension of the regular classroom.
7. Consumer education stressing (a) knowledge of banking and banking procedures, (b) budgeting, (c) credit cards, credit applications, credit options, (d) other related skills and knowledge needed in the modern world.
8. Conservation of natural resources stressing (a) home ecology, (b) endangered species, (c) threats to the environment, (d) the importance of the environment to life as we know it.
9. United States history stressing (a) the principles of representative government, (b) the constitutions of the U.S. and Illinois, (c) the role of the U.S. in World affairs, (d) the role of labor unions, (e) the role and contributions of ethnic groups, including the African Americans, Polish, Lithuanians, Germans, Hungarians, Irish, Bohemians, Russians, Albanians, Italians, Czechs, Slovaks, French, Scots, and Hispanics, in the history of this country and State.
10. A study of the Holocaust, including Nazi atrocities of 1933 to 1945.
11. The history, struggles, and contributions of women and African-Americans.
12. Violence prevention and conflict resolution for grades 4 through 8 stressing (a) causes of conflict, (b) alternative solutions, (c) non-violent resolution, provided it can be funded by private grants or the federal government.

LEGAL REF.: 105 ILCS 5/27-3, 5/27-5, 5/27-6, 5/27-12, 5/27-12.1, 5/27-13.1, 5/27-13.2, 5/27-20.3, 5/27-20.4, 5/27-20.5, 5/27-21, 5/27-22, 5/27-23, 5/27-23.3, 5/27-23.4, 5/27-24.2, 435/0.01 et seq., and 110/3.
625 ILCS 5/6-408.5.

CROSS REF.: 6:40 (Curriculum Development), 7:260 (Exemption from Physical Activity)

ADOPTED: May 20, 2002