



SOCIAL SCIENCE INSTRUCTIONAL MANDATES

GRADES K-8

The district's curriculum is derived from state grade-level standards. The Illinois School Code requires that the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) establish grade-level goals and learning standards to which public schools must adhere. In turn, these standards define the knowledge and skills that ISBE expects students to master at each grade level. The Illinois School Code further requires public school districts to establish learning objectives that are aligned to these goals and standards. Please see ISBE's website for more information on the Illinois Learning Standards that all public school districts in the state must meet.

The district is committed to providing all students with the skills, knowledge, and abilities to become lifelong learners and civic-minded individuals, and regularly evaluates our curriculum to achieve these goals and ensure alignment with [BOE Policy 6:60](#), [Illinois Learning Standards for Social Science](#) and [Illinois Instructional Mandates](#).

ILLINOIS INSTRUCTIONAL MANDATES: SOCIAL SCIENCE AND HISTORY

Social Studies (Including U.S. History)

A district must provide a coordinated and supervised course of study in Social Studies in its elementary schools. The time allotment is the option of the local board of education. 23 Ill. Admin. Code 1.430(a)(4)

U.S. History

History of the United States shall be taught in all public schools and in all other educational institutions in the state supported or maintained, in whole or in part, by public funds. The teaching of U.S. History must include study of all of the topics outlined in Section 27-21 of the School Code. [105 ILCS 5/27-21](#)

Specific content requirements include, but are not limited to:

- The study of the role and contributions of ethnic groups and the labor unions in the history of this country and this State;
- The study of events related to the forceful removal and illegal deportation of Mexican-American U.S. citizens during the Great Depression;
- The study of the role and contributions of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people in the history of this country and this state;
- Contributions to society by Americans of different faith practices, including, but not limited to: Native Americans, Muslim Americans, Jewish Americans, Christian Americans, Hindu Americans, Sikh Americans, Buddhist Americans, and any other collective community of faith that has shaped America.
- Instruction in the history of Illinois.

No pupils shall be graduated from the eighth grade of any public school unless the pupils have received instruction in the history of the United States as provided in this Section and give evidence of having a comprehensive knowledge thereof, which may be administered remotely.

Important Cross-Section of School Code 105 ILCS 5/27-3.5: All students in grade 7 and all high school students enrolled in a course concerning U.S. history or a combination of U.S. history and American government must view a Congressional Medal of Honor film made by the Congressional Medal of Honor Foundation.

American Patriotism and Government

The following topics shall be taught in all public schools:

1. American patriotism and the principles of representative government, as enunciated in the American Declaration of Independence;
2. The Constitution of the United States of America and the Constitution of the State of Illinois;
3. The proper use and display of the American flag;
4. The method of voting at elections by means of the Australian Ballot system and the method of the counting of votes for candidates.

In grades 7 and 8 or their equivalent, not less than one hour of each school week must be devoted to the study of these subjects. 23 Ill. Admin. Code 1.420(r)(1). [105 ILCS 5/27-3](#)

Asian American History

Every public elementary school and high school shall include in its curriculum a unit of instruction studying the events of Asian American history, including the history of Asian Americans in Illinois and the Midwest, as well as the contributions of Asian Americans toward advancing civil rights from the 19th century onward. [105 ILCS 5/27-20.8](#)

Black History

Every public elementary and high school must provide a unit of instruction studying the events of Black History. [105 ILCS 5/27-20.4](#)

Each school system shall provide history and social sciences courses that include the study of the events of Black history, including the history of the African Slave Trade, slavery in America, and the vestiges of slavery in this country. 23 Ill. Admin. Code 1.420(r)(5)

Civics Education

Every public elementary school must provide in its 6th, 7th, or 8th grade curriculum at least one semester of civics education. This course of study must be provided **in addition to** the instruction required to be provided under Section 27-3 of the School Code. [105 ILCS 5/27-3.10](#)

Disabilities: History, People & Rights Movement

A school district must provide instruction on disability history, people with disabilities, and the disability rights movement. Instruction may be included in those courses that the school district chooses, and the school board shall determine the minimum amount of instructional time required under this Section. [105 ILCS 5/27-23.8\(a\), \(c\)](#)

Holocaust/Genocide Education

Every public elementary and high school must provide a unit of instruction studying the events of the Nazi atrocities of 1933-1945, a period in world history known as the Holocaust. To reinforce that lesson, such curriculum shall include an additional unit of instruction studying other acts of genocide across the globe, which shall include, but not be limited to:

1. The Native American genocide in North America; (Public Act 103-0422)
2. The Armenian Genocide,
3. The Famine-Genocide in Ukraine; and
4. More recent atrocities in Cambodia, Bosnia, Rwanda, and Sudan.

Each school system shall provide history and social sciences courses that include the study of that period in world history known as the Holocaust. 23 Ill. Admin. Code 1.420(r)(4). [105 ILCS 5/27-20.3](#)

Native American History

Every public elementary school and high school social studies course pertaining to American history or government shall include in its curriculum a unit of instruction studying the events of the Native American experience and Native American history within the Midwest and this state since time immemorial. These events shall include and describe:

1. The contributions of Native Americans in government and the arts, humanities, and sciences, as well as the contributions of Native Americans to the economic, cultural, social, and political development of their own nations and of the United States.
2. Large urban Native American populations in this state, including the history and experiences of contemporary Native Americans living in this state.
3. In Grades 6-12, the study of the genocide of and discrimination against Native Americans, as well as tribal sovereignty, treaties made between tribal nations and the United States, and the circumstances pertaining to forced Native American relocation.

This unit of instruction may be integrated as part of the unit of instruction required under Section 27-20.03 (Holocaust/Genocide Study) or 27-21 (U.S. History). Public Act [103-0422](#)

Women In History

Every public elementary and high school must provide a unit of instruction studying the events of the history of women in America. [105 ILCS 5/27-20.5](#)

Each school system shall provide history and social sciences courses that include the study of the events of women's history in America. 23 Ill. Admin. Code 1.420(r)(6)