

Instruction

Exhibit - State Law Graduation Requirements

The School Code, 105 ILCS 5/27-22, amended by P.A. 98-885, P.A. 99-434, and P.A. 99-485 (states that the requirements in P.A. 99-434 are applicable beginning with students entering the 9th grade in the 2016-2017 school year) contains the following course requirements for a student in Illinois to receive a high school diploma. Other graduation requirements, including additional course requirements if any, are contained in School Board policy 6:300, *Graduation Requirements*. For guidance in offering the coursework necessary to meet the State graduation requirements see the Illinois State Board of Education, "State Graduation Requirements, Guidance Document (2012), available at www.isbe.state.il.us/news/pdf/grad_require.pdf.

State Law Graduation Requirements
105 ILCS 5/27-22

Sec. 27-22. Required high school courses.

(a) – (d) are not listed because their dates have passed.

- (e) As a prerequisite to receiving a high school diploma, each pupil entering the 9th grade in the 2008-2009 school year or a subsequent school year must, in addition to other course requirements, successfully complete all of the following courses:
- (1) Four years of language arts.
 - (2) Two years of writing intensive courses, one of which must be English and the other of which may be English or any other subject. When applicable, writing-intensive courses may be counted towards the fulfillment of other graduation requirements.
 - (3) Three years of mathematics, one of which must be Algebra I and one of which must include geometry content, and one of which may be an Advanced Placement computer science course if the pupil successfully completes Algebra II or an integrated mathematics course with Algebra II content.
 - (4) Two years of science.
 - (5) Two years of social studies, of which at least one year must be history of the United States or a combination of history of the United States and American government and, beginning with pupils entering the 9th grade in the 2016-2017 school year and each school year thereafter, at least one semester must be civics, which shall help young people acquire and learn to use the skills, knowledge, and attitudes that will prepare them to be competent and responsible citizens throughout their lives. Course content shall focus on government institutions, the discussion of current and controversial issues, service learning, and simulations of the democratic process.
 - (6) One year chosen from (A) music, (B) art, (C) foreign language, which shall be deemed to include American Sign Language, or (D) vocational education.
- (f) The State Board of Education shall develop and inform school districts of standards for writing-intensive coursework.
- (f-5) If a school district offers an Advanced Placement computer science course to high school students, then the school board must designate that course as equivalent to a high school mathematics course and must denote on the student's transcript that the Advanced

Placement computer science course qualifies as a mathematics-based, quantitative course for students in accordance with subdivision (3) of subsection (e) of this Section.

- (g) This amendatory Act of 1983 does not apply to pupils entering the 9th grade in 1983-1984 school year and prior school years or to students with disabilities whose course of study is determined by an Individualized Education Program.

This amendatory Act of the 94th General Assembly does not apply to pupils entering the 9th grade in the 2004-2005 school year or a prior school year or to students with disabilities whose course of study is determined by an Individualized Education Program.

- (h) The provisions of this Section are subject to the provisions of Section 27-22.05 [substitutions for required courses].

Developed: February 2006

Revised: June 13, 2011
June 27, 2016
March 7, 2017