



Illinois State Board of Education

Graduation Requirement Changes Per Executive Order 2020-31 and Emergency Rules

April 28, 2020

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Background

- There are more than 100,000 students in Illinois preparing to graduate from high school and more than 100,000 students preparing to graduate from eighth grade.
 - They have plans to attend college, join the armed services and workforce, matriculate to high school.
 - They are missing out on key life and educational milestones -- dances/proms, commencement ceremonies, etc. -- due to COVID-19.

Coursework Requirements

Regular Graduation Requirement	Emergency Modification for the Class of 2020
All graduates must complete 4 years of language arts, 3 years of mathematics (including algebra I and geometry), 2 years of science, 2 years of social studies (1 must be U.S. history and government) and 1 year of either music/art/foreign language or vocational education	Minimum year requirement for language arts is 3.5 years, mathematics is 2.5 years, science is 1.5 years, social studies is 1.5 years, and music/art/foreign language/vocational education is 0.5 years
All students must participate in physical education each year and graduates must complete at least 1 semester of health	12 th -grade students are exempted from physical education participation and health requirements
All graduates must complete at least 9 weeks of consumer education	12 th -grade students are exempted from consumer education requirement



Assessment Requirements

Regular Graduation Requirement	Emergency Modification for the Class of 2020
All graduates must participate in the state's final accountability assessment (currently the SAT)	12 th -grade students are exempted from the requirement to participate in the state's final accountability assessment (currently the SAT)
All graduates must pass an exam covering American patriotism, government, the U.S. and Illinois Constitutions, and American flag etiquette	12 th -grade students are exempted from the government and Constitution test requirement
To receive an 8 th -grade diploma, students must pass a Constitution test and give evidence of a comprehensive knowledge of the history of the United States	8 th -grade students are exempted from the Constitution and U.S. history assessment requirements



Additional Requirements

Regular Graduation Requirement	Emergency Modification for the Class of 2020
School boards may adopt a policy providing for a course substitution of a vocational and technical course for a high school or graduation requirement	12 th -grade students shall not be denied credit for substituted courses due to the student's inability to complete the course during suspension of in-person instruction
School boards may award credit for the study of a foreign language in an ethnic school if students successfully complete a foreign language proficiency exam	12 th -grade students can receive credit for foreign language study completed in an ethnic school without successfully passing a foreign language proficiency exam
Additional high school graduation requirements may be adopted by local boards of education	Local boards of education may reduce other local graduation requirements that could not be met due to the suspension of in-person instruction

Resources

- [Graduation Requirement Changes FAQ](#)
- [Executive Order 2020-31](#)
- Emergency Rules
 - [Part 1 Emergency Amendment](#)
 - [Part 25 Emergency Amendment](#)
- www.ISBE.net/COVID19



Type questions into webinar portal.

Frequent questions will be compiled and included in an updated FAQ.

Please email COVID19@isbe.net for any remaining unanswered questions after the updated FAQ is released.



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