



# Cited Sources for High School Graduation Requirements

**Cited Source:** 105 ILCS 5/27-22 ([Direct Link](#))

(e) As a prerequisite to receiving a high school diploma, each pupil entering the 9th grade 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, one of which must include geometry content, and one of which may be an Advanced Placement computer science course. A mathematics course that includes geometry content may be offered as an integrated, applied, interdisciplinary, or career and technical education course that prepares a student for a career readiness path.

(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. Civics course content shall focus on government institutions, the discussion of current and controversial issues, service learning, and simulations of the democratic process. School districts may utilize private funding available for the purposes of offering civics education.

(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.

## 105 ILCS 5/27-22 Summary

A math course with geometry content can be offered as an integrated, applied, interdisciplinary, or CTE course. AFNR would qualify as a CTE course. To graduate, students must complete at least:

- 4 years of language arts
- 2 years of writing intensive courses (at least one of which is English)
- 3 years of mathematics (at least one algebra and one with geometry-content)
- 2 years of science
- 2 years of social studies (at least one must be U.S. History or combination of U.S. History and American government and at least one semester of civics)
- 1 year of elective (music, art, foreign language, or vocational education)

**Cited Source: 105 ILCS 5/27-22.05 ([Direct Link](#))**

Sec. 27-22.05. Required course substitute. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Article or this Code, a school board that maintains any of grades 9 through 12 is authorized to adopt a policy under which a student who is enrolled in any of those grades may satisfy one or more high school course or graduation requirements, including, but not limited to, any requirements under Sections 27-6 and 27-22, by successfully completing a registered apprenticeship program under rules adopted by the State Board of Education under Section 2-3.175 of this Code, or by substituting for and successfully completing in place of the high school course or graduation requirement a related vocational or technical education course. A vocational or technical education course shall not qualify as a related vocational or technical education course within the meaning of this Section unless it contains at least 50% of the content of the required course or graduation requirement for which it is substituted, as determined by the State Board of Education in accordance with standards that it shall adopt and uniformly apply for purposes of this Section. No vocational or technical education course may be substituted for a required course or graduation requirement under any policy adopted by a school board as authorized in this Section unless the pupil's parent or guardian first requests the substitution and approves it in writing on forms that the school district makes available for purposes of this Section.

**105 ILCS 5/27-22.05 Summary**

Local school boards are authorized to adopt a policy that would allow students to fulfill any of the aforementioned graduation requirements by completing a related apprenticeship or a related vocational education course. AFNR would qualify as a vocation course. A vocational course only qualifies as a substitute for graduation requirements if the follow two conditions are met:

1. The vocational course contains at least 50% of the content of the required course or graduation requirement for which it is being substituted. This is determined using the relevant academic standards adopted by ISBE.
2. The student's parent or guardian must first request the substitution and approve it in writing on forms provided by the school district for this purpose.