

# Illinois graduation requirements 105 ILCS 5/27-22, 27-22.05, 27-22.10

Requirement	Description of Requirement	Entering 9th Grade in				
		SY 2016-2022	SY 2022-2023	SY 2023-2024	SY 2024-2025 thru 2027-2028	SY 2028-2029 (and beyond)
Language Arts	4 years: 1 year must include a writing-intensive English course.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Writing-Intensive	2 years: 1 year must be in an English course; 1 year can be embedded as part of any course offered. Can be counted toward the fulfillment of other graduation requirements.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Mathematics	3 years: Algebra I or integrated equivalent (1 year); nonspecified course, including geometry content (1 year); <a href="#">Advanced Placement (AP) computer science is eligible.</a>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Computer Literacy	One year of a course that includes intensive instruction in computer literacy, which may be English, social science, or any other subject and which may be counted toward the fulfillment of other graduation requirements. ( <a href="#">PA 101-0654</a> )		✓	✓	✓	✓
Science	2 years: no content specified.	✓	✓	✓		
	2 years of laboratory science: no content specified.*				✓	✓
Social Science	2 years: Must include 1 year of U.S. History or a combination of U.S. History and American government; 1 semester of civics.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
IL/US Constitution	American patriotism, principles of representative government, and proper use and display of the flag ( <a href="#">105 ILCS 5/27-3 and 27-4</a> ). Passing score on examination required for high school graduation.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

World Foreign Languages	2 years of world languages, may include American Sign Language.*					✓
Electives	1 year selected from art, music, world languages (may include American Sign Language), or career and technical education (CTE).	✓				
	1 year selected from art, music, world languages (may include American Sign Language), CTE, or forensic speech (speech and debate).		✓	✓	✓	
	1 year selected from art, music, CTE, or a third year of world languages (may include American Sign Language), or forensic speech (speech and debate).*					✓
Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)	File a FAFSA with the U.S. Department of Education or, if applicable, an application for state financial aid or file a waiver with school district. ( <a href="#">See 105 ILCS 5/22-87 for details.</a> ) <a href="https://www.isbe.net/Pages/FAFSA.aspx">https://www.isbe.net/Pages/FAFSA.aspx</a>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

\*Does not apply to students with disabilities whose course of study is determined by an Individualized Education Program (IEP).  
Note – Any diploma conferred during the 2019-20 school year, including during the summer of 2020, under graduation requirements that were modified by an Executive Order, emergency rule-making, or school policy prompted by a gubernatorial disaster proclamation as a result of COVID-19 is deemed valid and is not subject to challenge or review due to a failure to meet minimum requirements otherwise required by this code, administrative rule, or school board policy. ([PA 101-0643](#))

# Instructional and graduation requirements by content area

This document is intended to provide guidance on state required courses and compulsory units of study in which students must earn credit for conferral of a high school diploma. Other participatory instructional requirements can be found on the [Illinois Mandated Units of Study document](#). These include Health Education, Physical Education, Consumer Education, and Computer Literacy.

## Assessments

### Department: Assessments

Contact: [assessment@isbe.net](mailto:assessment@isbe.net)

Each student shall be required to have accrued at least 16 units in Grades 9-12 if graduating from a four-year school or 12 units in Grades 10-12 if graduating from a three-year high school unless exempt. In either case, one unit shall be in American History or American History and Government. (See Section 27-22 of the School Code.) No student shall receive certification of graduation without passing an examination on the subjects discussed in subsection (b)(4). Districts shall ensure that students who have not taken the state's final accountability assessment at the highest grade or level assessed shall not receive a regular high school diploma. In accordance with Section 2-3.64a-5 of the School Code, districts (with approval from ISBE) may issue a regular high school diploma to a student who has not met this requirement.

## Language Arts: 4 Years

### Department: Standards and Instruction

Contact: [standards@isbe.net](mailto:standards@isbe.net)

- Two years of writing-intensive coursework, one of which must be in an English language arts course.
- One year of language arts may be a transitional English course.
- Spanish language arts is eligible.

## Mathematics: 3 Years

### Department: Standards and Instruction

Contact: [standards@isbe.net](mailto:standards@isbe.net)

- One year of Algebra 1.
- One year of geometry content. 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.
- Advanced Placement (AP) computer science course is eligible. The description for an AP computer science course shall indicate that the course is equivalent to a high school mathematics course and qualifies as a mathematics-based, quantitative course for purposes of the fulfillment of state graduation requirements in mathematics. ([Section 27-22\(f-5\) of the School Code.](#))

## Science: 2 Years

### Department: Standards and Instruction

Contact: [standards@isbe.net](mailto:standards@isbe.net)

- Two years non-specific course sequences or content. Must include laboratory component.
- For a science course to be considered a "laboratory course," all enrolled students must engage regularly in laboratory investigations. ISBE recommends that students in laboratory courses engage in laboratory investigations at least once per week, but the exact frequency is at the discretion of the local school district.

<sup>1</sup>National Research Council. 2006. America's lab report: Investigations in high school science. Washington, DC: National Academy Press.

- A school laboratory investigation (also referred to as a lab) is defined as an experience in the laboratory, classroom, or the field that provides students with opportunities to interact directly with natural phenomena or with data collected by others using tools, materials, data collection techniques, and models (National Research Council 2006, p. 3). Students should have opportunities throughout the process to design investigations, engage in scientific reasoning, manipulate equipment, record data, analyze results, and discuss their findings.
- Pupils entering the ninth grade in the 2024-25 school year and each school year thereafter must complete two years of laboratory science as a prerequisite to receiving a high school diploma. (Does not apply to pupils entering the ninth grade in the 2023-24 school year or prior school years or to students with disabilities whose course of study is determined by an IEP.)

## **Social Science: 2 Years**

**Department: Standards and Instruction**

**Contact: [standards@isbe.net](mailto:standards@isbe.net)**

- Must include one year of U.S. History or combination of U.S. History and American government.
- Must include one semester of civics.
- No student shall receive a certificate of graduation without passing a satisfactory examination once on the following subjects:
  - American patriotism and principles of representative government as enunciated in the Declaration of Independence, the U.S. Constitution, and the Illinois Constitution;
  - Proper use and display of the flag; and
  - Method of voting by means of the Australian Ballot System and the method of counting votes for candidates.

## Required electives (at least one course from the following):

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### Art and Music

Department: Standards and Instruction

Contact: [standards@isbe.net](mailto:standards@isbe.net)

### World/Foreign Languages

Department: Multilingual

Contact: [multilingual@isbe.net](mailto:multilingual@isbe.net)

<https://www.isbe.net/multilingual>

- Pupils entering the ninth grade in the 2028-29 school year and each school year thereafter must complete two years of world language as a prerequisite to receiving a high school diploma. (Does not apply to pupils entering the ninth grade in the 2027-28 school year or prior school years or to students with disabilities whose course of study is determined by an IEP.)

### Career and Technical Education (Vocational)

Department: CTE & Innovation

Contact: [cte@isbe.net](mailto:cte@isbe.net)

<https://www.isbe.net/Pages/Career-Technical-Education.aspx>

### College & Career - FAFSA

Department: CTE & Innovation

Contact: [cte@isbe.net](mailto:cte@isbe.net)

<https://www.isbe.net/Pages/FAFSA.aspx>

### Illinois Student Assistance Commission

<https://www.isac.org/home/fafsa/index.html>

# Additional contact information

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**Advanced Academic Programs: Gifted, Acceleration, Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, Honors, and Dual Credit**  
Department: Standards and Instruction  
Contact: [standards@isbe.net](mailto:standards@isbe.net)

## Assessments

Department: Assessments  
Contact: [assessment@isbe.net](mailto:assessment@isbe.net)

## Computer Literacy

Department: Standards and Instruction  
Contact: [standards@isbe.net](mailto:standards@isbe.net)

## Computer Science

Department: Standards and Instruction  
Contact: [standards@isbe.net](mailto:standards@isbe.net)

## Driver Education

Department: Standards and Instruction  
Contact: [standards@isbe.net](mailto:standards@isbe.net)

## Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA):

Department: CTE and Innovation  
Contact: [FAFSA@isbe.net](mailto:FAFSA@isbe.net)

## Grade 11 Early Graduates

Department: Standards and Instruction  
Contact: [standards@isbe.net](mailto:standards@isbe.net)

## Health/Physical Education

Department: Wellness  
Contact: [wellness\\_student\\_care@isbe.net](mailto:wellness_student_care@isbe.net)

## LGBTQ History

Department: Student Care  
Contact: [wellness\\_student\\_care@isbe.net](mailto:wellness_student_care@isbe.net)

## Media Literacy

Department: Standards and Instruction  
Contact: [standards@isbe.net](mailto:standards@isbe.net)

## School/Career Counseling

Department: CTE and Innovation  
<https://www.isbe.net/Pages/SchoolCounselors.aspx>  
Contact: [cte@isbe.net](mailto:cte@isbe.net)

## Social and Emotional Learning

Department: Wellness  
Contact: [wellness\\_student\\_care@isbe.net](mailto:wellness_student_care@isbe.net)

## Transitional English and Transitional Mathematics

Department: Standards and Instruction  
Contact: [standards@isbe.net](mailto:standards@isbe.net)