



## 104TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

### State of Illinois

2025 and 2026

HB1374

Introduced 1/28/2025, by Rep. Jennifer Gong-Gershowitz

#### SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

105 ILCS 5/27-8.1

from Ch. 122, par. 27-8.1

Amends the School Code. In provisions concerning health examinations and immunizations, requires questions on the safe storage of firearms in a child's home to be included as a part of each health examination. Requires the Department of Public Health to develop rules and appropriate revisions to the child health examination form to implement this requirement.

LRB104 06163 LNS 16197 b

1 AN ACT concerning education.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**  
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 5. The School Code is amended by changing Section  
5 27-8.1 as follows:

6 (105 ILCS 5/27-8.1) (from Ch. 122, par. 27-8.1)

7 Sec. 27-8.1. Health examinations and immunizations.

8 (1) In compliance with rules and regulations which the  
9 Department of Public Health shall promulgate, and except as  
10 hereinafter provided, all children in Illinois shall have a  
11 health examination as follows: within one year prior to  
12 entering kindergarten or the first grade of any public,  
13 private, or parochial elementary school; upon entering the  
14 sixth and ninth grades of any public, private, or parochial  
15 school; prior to entrance into any public, private, or  
16 parochial nursery school; and, irrespective of grade,  
17 immediately prior to or upon entrance into any public,  
18 private, or parochial school or nursery school, each child  
19 shall present proof of having been examined in accordance with  
20 this Section and the rules and regulations promulgated  
21 hereunder. Any child who received a health examination within  
22 one year prior to entering the fifth grade for the 2007-2008  
23 school year is not required to receive an additional health

1 examination in order to comply with the provisions of Public  
2 Act 95-422 when he or she attends school for the 2008-2009  
3 school year, unless the child is attending school for the  
4 first time as provided in this paragraph.

5 A tuberculosis skin test screening shall be included as a  
6 required part of each health examination included under this  
7 Section if the child resides in an area designated by the  
8 Department of Public Health as having a high incidence of  
9 tuberculosis. Additional health examinations of pupils,  
10 including eye examinations, may be required when deemed  
11 necessary by school authorities. Parents are encouraged to  
12 have their children undergo eye examinations at the same  
13 points in time required for health examinations.

14 (1.5) In compliance with rules adopted by the Department  
15 of Public Health and except as otherwise provided in this  
16 Section, all children in kindergarten and the second, sixth,  
17 and ninth grades of any public, private, or parochial school  
18 shall have a dental examination. Each of these children shall  
19 present proof of having been examined by a dentist in  
20 accordance with this Section and rules adopted under this  
21 Section before May 15th of the school year. If a child in the  
22 second, sixth, or ninth grade fails to present proof by May  
23 15th, the school may hold the child's report card until one of  
24 the following occurs: (i) the child presents proof of a  
25 completed dental examination or (ii) the child presents proof  
26 that a dental examination will take place within 60 days after

1 May 15th. A school may not withhold a child's report card  
2 during a school year in which the Governor has declared a  
3 disaster due to a public health emergency pursuant to Section  
4 7 of the Illinois Emergency Management Agency Act. The  
5 Department of Public Health shall establish, by rule, a waiver  
6 for children who show an undue burden or a lack of access to a  
7 dentist. Each public, private, and parochial school must give  
8 notice of this dental examination requirement to the parents  
9 and guardians of students at least 60 days before May 15th of  
10 each school year.

11 (1.10) Except as otherwise provided in this Section, all  
12 children enrolling in kindergarten in a public, private, or  
13 parochial school on or after January 1, 2008 (the effective  
14 date of Public Act 95-671) and any student enrolling for the  
15 first time in a public, private, or parochial school on or  
16 after January 1, 2008 (the effective date of Public Act  
17 95-671) shall have an eye examination. Each of these children  
18 shall present proof of having been examined by a physician  
19 licensed to practice medicine in all of its branches or a  
20 licensed optometrist within the previous year, in accordance  
21 with this Section and rules adopted under this Section, before  
22 October 15th of the school year. If the child fails to present  
23 proof by October 15th, the school may hold the child's report  
24 card until one of the following occurs: (i) the child presents  
25 proof of a completed eye examination or (ii) the child  
26 presents proof that an eye examination will take place within

1 60 days after October 15th. A school may not withhold a child's  
2 report card during a school year in which the Governor has  
3 declared a disaster due to a public health emergency pursuant  
4 to Section 7 of the Illinois Emergency Management Agency Act.  
5 The Department of Public Health shall establish, by rule, a  
6 waiver for children who show an undue burden or a lack of  
7 access to a physician licensed to practice medicine in all of  
8 its branches who provides eye examinations or to a licensed  
9 optometrist. Each public, private, and parochial school must  
10 give notice of this eye examination requirement to the parents  
11 and guardians of students in compliance with rules of the  
12 Department of Public Health. Nothing in this Section shall be  
13 construed to allow a school to exclude a child from attending  
14 because of a parent's or guardian's failure to obtain an eye  
15 examination for the child.

16 (2) The Department of Public Health shall promulgate rules  
17 and regulations specifying the examinations and procedures  
18 that constitute a health examination, which shall include an  
19 age-appropriate developmental screening, an age-appropriate  
20 social and emotional screening, and the collection of data  
21 relating to asthma and obesity (including at a minimum, date  
22 of birth, gender, height, weight, blood pressure, and date of  
23 exam), and a dental examination and may recommend by rule that  
24 certain additional examinations be performed. The rules and  
25 regulations of the Department of Public Health shall specify  
26 that a tuberculosis skin test screening shall be included as a

1 required part of each health examination included under this  
2 Section if the child resides in an area designated by the  
3 Department of Public Health as having a high incidence of  
4 tuberculosis. With respect to the developmental screening and  
5 the social and emotional screening, the Department of Public  
6 Health must, no later than January 1, 2019, develop rules and  
7 appropriate revisions to the Child Health Examination form in  
8 conjunction with a statewide organization representing school  
9 boards; a statewide organization representing pediatricians;  
10 statewide organizations representing individuals holding  
11 Illinois educator licenses with school support personnel  
12 endorsements, including school social workers, school  
13 psychologists, and school nurses; a statewide organization  
14 representing children's mental health experts; a statewide  
15 organization representing school principals; the Director of  
16 Healthcare and Family Services or his or her designee, the  
17 State Superintendent of Education or his or her designee; and  
18 representatives of other appropriate State agencies and, at a  
19 minimum, must recommend the use of validated screening tools  
20 appropriate to the child's age or grade, and, with regard to  
21 the social and emotional screening, require recording only  
22 whether or not the screening was completed. The rules shall  
23 take into consideration the screening recommendations of the  
24 American Academy of Pediatrics and must be consistent with the  
25 State Board of Education's social and emotional learning  
26 standards. The Department of Public Health shall specify that

1 a diabetes screening as defined by rule shall be included as a  
2 required part of each health examination. Diabetes testing is  
3 not required. Questions on the safe storage of firearms in a  
4 child's home shall be included as a required part of each  
5 health examination. The Department of Public Health shall  
6 develop rules and appropriate revisions to the child health  
7 examination form to implement this requirement. The questions  
8 shall include: "Are there firearms in your home?" and "If so,  
9 are they stored in a locked safe and inaccessible to any minor  
10 in the home?".

11 Physicians licensed to practice medicine in all of its  
12 branches, licensed advanced practice registered nurses, or  
13 licensed physician assistants shall be responsible for the  
14 performance of the health examinations, other than dental  
15 examinations, eye examinations, and vision and hearing  
16 screening, and shall sign all report forms required by  
17 subsection (4) of this Section that pertain to those portions  
18 of the health examination for which the physician, advanced  
19 practice registered nurse, or physician assistant is  
20 responsible. If a registered nurse performs any part of a  
21 health examination, then a physician licensed to practice  
22 medicine in all of its branches must review and sign all  
23 required report forms. Licensed dentists shall perform all  
24 dental examinations and shall sign all report forms required  
25 by subsection (4) of this Section that pertain to the dental  
26 examinations. Physicians licensed to practice medicine in all

1 its branches or licensed optometrists shall perform all eye  
2 examinations required by this Section and shall sign all  
3 report forms required by subsection (4) of this Section that  
4 pertain to the eye examination. For purposes of this Section,  
5 an eye examination shall at a minimum include history, visual  
6 acuity, subjective refraction to best visual acuity near and  
7 far, internal and external examination, and a glaucoma  
8 evaluation, as well as any other tests or observations that in  
9 the professional judgment of the doctor are necessary. Vision  
10 and hearing screening tests, which shall not be considered  
11 examinations as that term is used in this Section, shall be  
12 conducted in accordance with rules and regulations of the  
13 Department of Public Health, and by individuals whom the  
14 Department of Public Health has certified. In these rules and  
15 regulations, the Department of Public Health shall require  
16 that individuals conducting vision screening tests give a  
17 child's parent or guardian written notification, before the  
18 vision screening is conducted, that states, "Vision screening  
19 is not a substitute for a complete eye and vision evaluation by  
20 an eye doctor. Your child is not required to undergo this  
21 vision screening if an optometrist or ophthalmologist has  
22 completed and signed a report form indicating that an  
23 examination has been administered within the previous 12  
24 months."

25 (2.5) With respect to the developmental screening and the  
26 social and emotional screening portion of the health



1 examination, each child may present proof of having been  
2 screened in accordance with this Section and the rules adopted  
3 under this Section before October 15th of the school year.  
4 With regard to the social and emotional screening only, the  
5 examining health care provider shall only record whether or  
6 not the screening was completed. If the child fails to present  
7 proof of the developmental screening or the social and  
8 emotional screening portions of the health examination by  
9 October 15th of the school year, qualified school support  
10 personnel may, with a parent's or guardian's consent, offer  
11 the developmental screening or the social and emotional  
12 screening to the child. Each public, private, and parochial  
13 school must give notice of the developmental screening and  
14 social and emotional screening requirements to the parents and  
15 guardians of students in compliance with the rules of the  
16 Department of Public Health. Nothing in this Section shall be  
17 construed to allow a school to exclude a child from attending  
18 because of a parent's or guardian's failure to obtain a  
19 developmental screening or a social and emotional screening  
20 for the child. Once a developmental screening or a social and  
21 emotional screening is completed and proof has been presented  
22 to the school, the school may, with a parent's or guardian's  
23 consent, make available appropriate school personnel to work  
24 with the parent or guardian, the child, and the provider who  
25 signed the screening form to obtain any appropriate  
26 evaluations and services as indicated on the form and in other

1 information and documentation provided by the parents,  
2 guardians, or provider.

3 (3) Every child shall, at or about the same time as he or  
4 she receives a health examination required by subsection (1)  
5 of this Section, present to the local school proof of having  
6 received such immunizations against preventable communicable  
7 diseases as the Department of Public Health shall require by  
8 rules and regulations promulgated pursuant to this Section and  
9 the Communicable Disease Prevention Act.

10 (4) The individuals conducting the health examination,  
11 dental examination, or eye examination shall record the fact  
12 of having conducted the examination, and such additional  
13 information as required, including for a health examination  
14 data relating to asthma and obesity (including at a minimum,  
15 date of birth, gender, height, weight, blood pressure, and  
16 date of exam), on uniform forms which the Department of Public  
17 Health and the State Board of Education shall prescribe for  
18 statewide use. The examiner shall summarize on the report form  
19 any condition that he or she suspects indicates a need for  
20 special services, including for a health examination factors  
21 relating to asthma or obesity. The duty to summarize on the  
22 report form does not apply to social and emotional screenings.  
23 The confidentiality of the information and records relating to  
24 the developmental screening and the social and emotional  
25 screening shall be determined by the statutes, rules, and  
26 professional ethics governing the type of provider conducting

1 the screening. The individuals confirming the administration  
2 of required immunizations shall record as indicated on the  
3 form that the immunizations were administered.

4 (5) If a child does not submit proof of having had either  
5 the health examination or the immunization as required, then  
6 the child shall be examined or receive the immunization, as  
7 the case may be, and present proof by October 15 of the current  
8 school year, or by an earlier date of the current school year  
9 established by a school district. To establish a date before  
10 October 15 of the current school year for the health  
11 examination or immunization as required, a school district  
12 must give notice of the requirements of this Section 60 days  
13 prior to the earlier established date. If for medical reasons  
14 one or more of the required immunizations must be given after  
15 October 15 of the current school year, or after an earlier  
16 established date of the current school year, then the child  
17 shall present, by October 15, or by the earlier established  
18 date, a schedule for the administration of the immunizations  
19 and a statement of the medical reasons causing the delay, both  
20 the schedule and the statement being issued by the physician,  
21 advanced practice registered nurse, physician assistant,  
22 registered nurse, or local health department that will be  
23 responsible for administration of the remaining required  
24 immunizations. If a child does not comply by October 15, or by  
25 the earlier established date of the current school year, with  
26 the requirements of this subsection, then the local school

1 authority shall exclude that child from school until such time  
2 as the child presents proof of having had the health  
3 examination as required and presents proof of having received  
4 those required immunizations which are medically possible to  
5 receive immediately. During a child's exclusion from school  
6 for noncompliance with this subsection, the child's parents or  
7 legal guardian shall be considered in violation of Section  
8 26-1 and subject to any penalty imposed by Section 26-10. This  
9 subsection (5) does not apply to dental examinations, eye  
10 examinations, and the developmental screening and the social  
11 and emotional screening portions of the health examination. If  
12 the student is an out-of-state transfer student and does not  
13 have the proof required under this subsection (5) before  
14 October 15 of the current year or whatever date is set by the  
15 school district, then he or she may only attend classes (i) if  
16 he or she has proof that an appointment for the required  
17 vaccinations has been scheduled with a party authorized to  
18 submit proof of the required vaccinations. If the proof of  
19 vaccination required under this subsection (5) is not  
20 submitted within 30 days after the student is permitted to  
21 attend classes, then the student is not to be permitted to  
22 attend classes until proof of the vaccinations has been  
23 properly submitted. No school district or employee of a school  
24 district shall be held liable for any injury or illness to  
25 another person that results from admitting an out-of-state  
26 transfer student to class that has an appointment scheduled

1 pursuant to this subsection (5).

2 (6) Every school shall report to the State Board of  
3 Education by November 15, in the manner which that agency  
4 shall require, the number of children who have received the  
5 necessary immunizations and the health examination (other than  
6 a dental examination or eye examination) as required,  
7 indicating, of those who have not received the immunizations  
8 and examination as required, the number of children who are  
9 exempt from health examination and immunization requirements  
10 on religious or medical grounds as provided in subsection (8).  
11 On or before December 1 of each year, every public school  
12 district and registered nonpublic school shall make publicly  
13 available the immunization data they are required to submit to  
14 the State Board of Education by November 15. The immunization  
15 data made publicly available must be identical to the data the  
16 school district or school has reported to the State Board of  
17 Education.

18 Every school shall report to the State Board of Education  
19 by June 30, in the manner that the State Board requires, the  
20 number of children who have received the required dental  
21 examination, indicating, of those who have not received the  
22 required dental examination, the number of children who are  
23 exempt from the dental examination on religious grounds as  
24 provided in subsection (8) of this Section and the number of  
25 children who have received a waiver under subsection (1.5) of  
26 this Section.

1 Every school shall report to the State Board of Education  
2 by June 30, in the manner that the State Board requires, the  
3 number of children who have received the required eye  
4 examination, indicating, of those who have not received the  
5 required eye examination, the number of children who are  
6 exempt from the eye examination as provided in subsection (8)  
7 of this Section, the number of children who have received a  
8 waiver under subsection (1.10) of this Section, and the total  
9 number of children in noncompliance with the eye examination  
10 requirement.

11 The reported information under this subsection (6) shall  
12 be provided to the Department of Public Health by the State  
13 Board of Education.

14 (7) Upon determining that the number of pupils who are  
15 required to be in compliance with subsection (5) of this  
16 Section is below 90% of the number of pupils enrolled in the  
17 school district, 10% of each State aid payment made pursuant  
18 to Section 18-8.05 or 18-8.15 to the school district for such  
19 year may be withheld by the State Board of Education until the  
20 number of students in compliance with subsection (5) is the  
21 applicable specified percentage or higher.

22 (8) Children of parents or legal guardians who object to  
23 health, dental, or eye examinations or any part thereof, to  
24 immunizations, or to vision and hearing screening tests on  
25 religious grounds shall not be required to undergo the  
26 examinations, tests, or immunizations to which they so object

1 if such parents or legal guardians present to the appropriate  
2 local school authority a signed Certificate of Religious  
3 Exemption detailing the grounds for objection and the specific  
4 immunizations, tests, or examinations to which they object.  
5 The grounds for objection must set forth the specific  
6 religious belief that conflicts with the examination, test,  
7 immunization, or other medical intervention. The signed  
8 certificate shall also reflect the parent's or legal  
9 guardian's understanding of the school's exclusion policies in  
10 the case of a vaccine-preventable disease outbreak or  
11 exposure. The certificate must also be signed by the  
12 authorized examining health care provider responsible for the  
13 performance of the child's health examination confirming that  
14 the provider provided education to the parent or legal  
15 guardian on the benefits of immunization and the health risks  
16 to the student and to the community of the communicable  
17 diseases for which immunization is required in this State.  
18 However, the health care provider's signature on the  
19 certificate reflects only that education was provided and does  
20 not allow a health care provider grounds to determine a  
21 religious exemption. Those receiving immunizations required  
22 under this Code shall be provided with the relevant vaccine  
23 information statements that are required to be disseminated by  
24 the federal National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act of 1986,  
25 which may contain information on circumstances when a vaccine  
26 should not be administered, prior to administering a vaccine.

1 A healthcare provider may consider including without  
2 limitation the nationally accepted recommendations from  
3 federal agencies such as the Advisory Committee on  
4 Immunization Practices, the information outlined in the  
5 relevant vaccine information statement, and vaccine package  
6 inserts, along with the healthcare provider's clinical  
7 judgment, to determine whether any child may be more  
8 susceptible to experiencing an adverse vaccine reaction than  
9 the general population, and, if so, the healthcare provider  
10 may exempt the child from an immunization or adopt an  
11 individualized immunization schedule. The Certificate of  
12 Religious Exemption shall be created by the Department of  
13 Public Health and shall be made available and used by parents  
14 and legal guardians by the beginning of the 2015-2016 school  
15 year. Parents or legal guardians must submit the Certificate  
16 of Religious Exemption to their local school authority prior  
17 to entering kindergarten, sixth grade, and ninth grade for  
18 each child for which they are requesting an exemption. The  
19 religious objection stated need not be directed by the tenets  
20 of an established religious organization. However, general  
21 philosophical or moral reluctance to allow physical  
22 examinations, eye examinations, immunizations, vision and  
23 hearing screenings, or dental examinations does not provide a  
24 sufficient basis for an exception to statutory requirements.  
25 The local school authority is responsible for determining if  
26 the content of the Certificate of Religious Exemption



1 constitutes a valid religious objection. The local school  
2 authority shall inform the parent or legal guardian of  
3 exclusion procedures, in accordance with the Department's  
4 rules under Part 690 of Title 77 of the Illinois  
5 Administrative Code, at the time the objection is presented.

6 If the physical condition of the child is such that any one  
7 or more of the immunizing agents should not be administered,  
8 the examining physician, advanced practice registered nurse,  
9 or physician assistant responsible for the performance of the  
10 health examination shall endorse that fact upon the health  
11 examination form.

12 Exempting a child from the health, dental, or eye  
13 examination does not exempt the child from participation in  
14 the program of physical education training provided in  
15 Sections 27-5 through 27-7 of this Code.

16 (8.5) The school board of a school district shall include  
17 informational materials regarding influenza and influenza  
18 vaccinations developed, provided, or approved by the  
19 Department of Public Health under Section 2310-700 of the  
20 Department of Public Health Powers and Duties Law of the Civil  
21 Administrative Code of Illinois when the board provides  
22 information on immunizations, infectious diseases,  
23 medications, or other school health issues to the parents or  
24 guardians of students.

25 (9) For the purposes of this Section, "nursery schools"  
26 means those nursery schools operated by elementary school

1 systems or secondary level school units or institutions of  
2 higher learning.

3 (Source: P.A. 103-985, eff. 1-1-25.)