

# HB3251



## 104TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2025 and 2026

HB3251

Introduced 2/18/2025, by Rep. Janet Yang Rohr

### SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

105 ILCS 5/27-22

from Ch. 122, par. 27-22

Amends the School Code. Provides that each required civics class shall guide students through the voter registration process, and if the student is of eligible age, allow students to preregister to vote. Allows a student or the student's parent or legal guardian to opt the student out of preregistration.

LRB104 09623 LNS 19688 b

A BILL FOR

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 27-22 as follows:

6 (105 ILCS 5/27-22) (from Ch. 122, par. 27-22)

7 Sec. 27-22. Required high school courses.

8 (a) (Blank).

9 (b) (Blank).

10 (c) (Blank).

11 (d) (Blank).

12 (e) Through the 2023-2024 school year, as a prerequisite  
13 to receiving a high school diploma, each pupil entering the  
14 9th grade must, in addition to other course requirements,  
15 successfully complete all of the following courses:

16 (1) Four years of language arts.

17 (2) Two years of writing intensive courses, one of  
18 which must be English and the other of which may be English  
19 or any other subject. When applicable, writing-intensive  
20 courses may be counted towards the fulfillment of other  
21 graduation requirements.

22 (3) Three years of mathematics, one of which must be  
23 Algebra I, one of which must include geometry content, and

1 one of which may be an Advanced Placement computer science  
2 course. A mathematics course that includes geometry  
3 content may be offered as an integrated, applied,  
4 interdisciplinary, or career and technical education  
5 course that prepares a student for a career readiness  
6 path.

7 (3.5) For pupils entering the 9th grade in the  
8 2022-2023 school year and 2023-2024 school year, one year  
9 of a course that includes intensive instruction in  
10 computer literacy, which may be English, social studies,  
11 or any other subject and which may be counted toward the  
12 fulfillment of other graduation requirements.

13 (4) Two years of science.

14 (5) Two years of social studies, of which at least one  
15 year must be history of the United States or a combination  
16 of history of the United States and American government  
17 and, beginning with pupils entering the 9th grade in the  
18 2016-2017 school year and each school year thereafter, at  
19 least one semester must be civics, which shall help young  
20 people acquire and learn to use the skills, knowledge, and  
21 attitudes that will prepare them to be competent and  
22 responsible citizens throughout their lives. Civics course  
23 content shall focus on government institutions, the  
24 discussion of current and controversial issues, service  
25 learning, and simulations of the democratic process. Each  
26 required civics class shall guide students through the

1 voter registration process, and if the student is of  
2 eligible age in accordance with State law, allow students  
3 to preregister to vote. A student or the student's parent  
4 or legal guardian may opt the student out of  
5 preregistration. School districts may utilize private  
6 funding available for the purposes of offering civics  
7 education. Beginning with pupils entering the 9th grade in  
8 the 2021-2022 school year, one semester, or part of one  
9 semester, may include a financial literacy course.

10 (6) One year chosen from (A) music, (B) art, (C)  
11 foreign language, which shall be deemed to include  
12 American Sign Language, (D) vocational education, or (E)  
13 forensic speech (speech and debate). A forensic speech  
14 course used to satisfy the course requirement under  
15 subdivision (1) may not be used to satisfy the course  
16 requirement under this subdivision (6).

17 (e-5) Beginning with the 2024-2025 school year, as a  
18 prerequisite to receiving a high school diploma, each pupil  
19 entering the 9th grade must, in addition to other course  
20 requirements, successfully complete all of the following  
21 courses:

22 (1) Four years of language arts.

23 (2) Two years of writing intensive courses, one of  
24 which must be English and the other of which may be English  
25 or any other subject. If applicable, writing-intensive  
26 courses may be counted toward the fulfillment of other

1 graduation requirements.

2 (3) Three years of mathematics, one of which must be  
3 Algebra I, one of which must include geometry content, and  
4 one of which may be an Advanced Placement computer science  
5 course. A mathematics course that includes geometry  
6 content may be offered as an integrated, applied,  
7 interdisciplinary, or career and technical education  
8 course that prepares a student for a career readiness  
9 path.

10 (3.5) One year of a course that includes intensive  
11 instruction in computer literacy, which may be English,  
12 social studies, or any other subject and which may be  
13 counted toward the fulfillment of other graduation  
14 requirements.

15 (4) Two years of laboratory science.

16 (5) Two years of social studies, of which at least one  
17 year must be history of the United States or a combination  
18 of history of the United States and American government  
19 and at least one semester must be civics, which shall help  
20 young people acquire and learn to use the skills,  
21 knowledge, and attitudes that will prepare them to be  
22 competent and responsible citizens throughout their lives.  
23 Civics course content shall focus on government  
24 institutions, the discussion of current and controversial  
25 issues, service learning, and simulations of the  
26 democratic process. School districts may utilize private

1 funding available for the purposes of offering civics  
2 education. One semester, or part of one semester, may  
3 include a financial literacy course.

4 (6) One year chosen from (A) music, (B) art, (C)  
5 foreign language, which shall be deemed to include  
6 American Sign Language, (D) vocational education, or (E)  
7 forensic speech (speech and debate). A forensic speech  
8 course used to satisfy the course requirement under  
9 subdivision (1) may not be used to satisfy the course  
10 requirement under this subdivision (6).

11 (e-10) Beginning with the 2028-2029 school year, as a  
12 prerequisite to receiving a high school diploma, each pupil  
13 entering the 9th grade must, in addition to other course  
14 requirements, successfully complete 2 years of foreign  
15 language courses, which may include American Sign Language. A  
16 pupil may choose a third year of foreign language to satisfy  
17 the requirement under subdivision (6) of subsection (e-5).

18 (f) The State Board of Education shall develop and inform  
19 school districts of standards for writing-intensive  
20 coursework.

21 (f-5) If a school district offers an Advanced Placement  
22 computer science course to high school students, then the  
23 school board must designate that course as equivalent to a  
24 high school mathematics course and must denote on the  
25 student's transcript that the Advanced Placement computer  
26 science course qualifies as a mathematics-based, quantitative

1 course for students in accordance with subdivision (3) of  
2 subsection (e) of this Section.

3 (g) Public Act 83-1082 does not apply to pupils entering  
4 the 9th grade in 1983-1984 school year and prior school years  
5 or to students with disabilities whose course of study is  
6 determined by an individualized education program.

7 Public Act 94-676 does not apply to pupils entering the  
8 9th grade in the 2004-2005 school year or a prior school year  
9 or to students with disabilities whose course of study is  
10 determined by an individualized education program.

11 Subdivision (3.5) of subsection (e) does not apply to  
12 pupils entering the 9th grade in the 2021-2022 school year or a  
13 prior school year or to students with disabilities whose  
14 course of study is determined by an individualized education  
15 program.

16 Subsection (e-5) does not apply to pupils entering the 9th  
17 grade in the 2023-2024 school year or a prior school year or to  
18 students with disabilities whose course of study is determined  
19 by an individualized education program. Subsection (e-10) does  
20 not apply to pupils entering the 9th grade in the 2027-2028  
21 school year or a prior school year or to students with  
22 disabilities whose course of study is determined by an  
23 individualized education program.

24 (h) The provisions of this Section are subject to the  
25 provisions of Sections 14A-32 and 27-22.05 of this Code and  
26 the Postsecondary and Workforce Readiness Act.

1           (i) The State Board of Education may adopt rules to modify  
2 the requirements of this Section for any students enrolled in  
3 grades 9 through 12 if the Governor has declared a disaster due  
4 to a public health emergency pursuant to Section 7 of the  
5 Illinois Emergency Management Agency Act.

6           (Source: P.A. 102-366, eff. 8-13-21; 102-551, eff. 1-1-22;  
7 102-864, eff. 5-13-22; 103-154, eff. 6-30-23; 103-743, eff.  
8 8-2-24.)