



104TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2025 and 2026

HB4927

by Rep. Marcus C. Evans, Jr.

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

20 ILCS 2310/2310-750 new

105 ILCS 5/2-3.208 new

105 ILCS 5/22-120 new

105 ILCS 5/27-17

from Ch. 122, par. 27-17

105 ILCS 5/27-17.5 new

Amends the School Code. Requires, by no later than January 1, 2027, the State Board of Education, in consultation with water safety experts, to develop or adopt and make available to school districts a model program of instruction on water safety. Requires the State Board to provide to all public and nonpublic schools an informational notice regarding water safety developed by the Department of Public Health, and requires the school to distribute the notice to the parent or legal guardian of each student enrolled in the school. Includes website posting requirements by the State Board, school districts, and nonpublic schools regarding the informational notice. Sets forth liability exemptions. Makes conforming changes in the Department of Health Powers and Duties Law of the Civil Administrative Code of Illinois. Effective immediately.

LRB104 15154 LNS 28298 b

STATE MANDATES
ACT MAY REQUIRE
REIMBURSEMENT

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 Department of Public Health Powers and
5 Duties Law of the Civil Administrative Code of Illinois is
6 amended by adding Section 2310-750 as follows:

7 (20 ILCS 2310/2310-750 new)

8 Sec. 2310-750. Water safety informational notice for State
9 Board of Education. By no later than July 1, 2027, the
10 Department shall develop and provide to the State Board of
11 Education a notice in English, Spanish, and Arabic containing
12 information and best practices regarding water safety. By no
13 later than July 1 of every year thereafter, the Department
14 shall update the informational notice to account for any
15 change in water safety best practices and provide the updated
16 notice to the State Board of Education.

17 The Department, its officers, and its employees are immune
18 from civil liability for any damages allegedly caused by,
19 arising out of, or relating to the informational notice.

20 Section 10. The School Code is amended by adding Sections
21 2-3.208, 22-120, and 27-17.5 and by changing Section 27-17 as
22 follows:

1 (105 ILCS 5/2-3.208 new)

2 Sec. 2-3.208. Model program of water safety instruction;
3 water safety informational notice.

4 (a) By no later than January 1, 2027, the State Board of
5 Education, in consultation with water safety experts, shall
6 develop or adopt and shall make available to school districts
7 a model program of instruction on water safety. The model
8 program of instruction on water safety must include, at a
9 minimum, all of the following topics, as appropriate:

10 (1) The proper use of a flotation device.

11 (2) Awareness of water conditions.

12 (3) The proper supervision of swim areas.

13 (4) Safe behaviors in and around the water.

14 (5) The importance of pool barriers and fencing.

15 (6) The importance of water safety and swim skills
16 training.

17 (7) The importance of avoiding alcohol and substance
18 use with water recreation.

19 (8) The importance of cardiopulmonary resuscitation
20 for drowning victims and the importance of administering
21 cardiopulmonary resuscitation.

22 (b) The State Board, in consultation with water safety
23 experts, shall review the model program of instruction on
24 water safety under subsection (a) at least once every year and
25 shall update and revise the model program of instruction on

1 water safety as needed.

2 (c) Upon receipt of the informational notice under Section
3 2310-750 of the Department of Public Health Powers and Duties
4 Law of the Civil Administrative Code of Illinois, the State
5 Board shall provide the informational notice to all public and
6 nonpublic schools.

7 On or before October 1, 2027 and on or before every October
8 1 thereafter, the public or nonpublic school shall distribute,
9 either electronically or by mail, the informational notice to
10 the parent or legal guardian of each student enrolled in the
11 public or nonpublic school.

12 (d) By no later than October 1, 2027 and by no later than
13 October 1 of every year thereafter, the State Board shall post
14 the English, Spanish, and Arabic versions of the informational
15 notice received under Section 2310-750 of the Department of
16 Public Health Powers and Duties Law of the Civil
17 Administrative Code of Illinois on the State Board's website.

18 (e) The State Board and its members, officers, and
19 employees are immune from civil liability for any damages
20 allegedly caused by, arising out of, or relating to the
21 informational notice under Section 2310-750 of the Department
22 of Public Health Powers and Duties Law of the Civil
23 Administrative Code of Illinois.

24 (105 ILCS 5/22-120 new)

25 Sec. 22-120. Posting of water safety informational notice.

1 By no later than October 1, 2027, each school district and
2 nonpublic school shall post a link on its website to the State
3 Board of Education's website where the English, Spanish, and
4 Arabic versions of the informational notice under Section
5 2310-750 of the Department of Public Health Powers and Duties
6 Law of the Civil Administrative Code of Illinois is required
7 to be posted under subsection (d) of Section 2-3.208 of this
8 Code.

9 A school district or nonpublic school, its officers, its
10 employees, and the members of its governing body are immune
11 from civil liability for any damages allegedly caused by,
12 arising out of, or relating to the informational notice under
13 Section 2310-750 of the Department of Public Health Powers and
14 Duties Law of the Civil Administrative Code of Illinois.

15 (105 ILCS 5/27-17) (from Ch. 122, par. 27-17)

16 Sec. 27-17. Safety education. School boards of public
17 schools and all boards in charge of educational institutions
18 supported wholly or partially by the State may provide
19 instruction in safety education in all grades and include such
20 instruction in the courses of study regularly taught therein.

21 In this Section, "safety education" means and includes
22 instruction in the following:

- 23 1. automobile safety, including traffic regulations,
24 highway safety, and the consequences of alcohol
25 consumption and the operation of a motor vehicle;

- 1 2. safety in the home, including safe gun storage;
- 2 3. safety in connection with recreational activities;
- 3 4. safety in and around school buildings;
- 4 5. safety in connection with vocational work or
- 5 training;
- 6 6. cardio-pulmonary resuscitation for students
- 7 enrolled in grades 9 through 11;
- 8 7. for students enrolled in grades 6 through 8,
- 9 cardio-pulmonary resuscitation and how to use an automated
- 10 external defibrillator by watching a training video on
- 11 those subjects; and
- 12 8. (blank). ~~for students enrolled in prekindergarten~~
- 13 ~~through grade 6, water safety that incorporates~~
- 14 ~~evidence-based water safety instructional materials and~~
- 15 ~~resources.~~

16 Such boards may make suitable provisions in the schools
17 and institutions under their jurisdiction for instruction in
18 safety education for not less than 16 hours during each school
19 year.

20 The curriculum in all educator preparation programs
21 approved by the State Educator Preparation and Licensure Board
22 shall contain instruction in safety education for teachers
23 that is appropriate to the grade level of the educator
24 license. This instruction may be by specific courses in safety
25 education or may be incorporated in existing subjects taught
26 in the educator preparation program.

1 (Source: P.A. 102-971, eff. 1-1-23; 103-567, eff. 12-8-23.)

2 (105 ILCS 5/27-17.5 new)

3 Sec. 27-17.5. Water safety instruction. Beginning with the
4 2027-2028 school year, a school district shall ensure that
5 each student who is enrolled in the school district receives
6 age-appropriate and grade-appropriate instruction on water
7 safety that includes, at a minimum, the topics listed under
8 subsection (a) of Section 2-3.208 of this Code. The water
9 safety instruction must be provided as part of a physical
10 education course.

11 Each school district may customize the instruction on
12 water safety based on the geographic characteristics and other
13 special circumstances applicable to the school district.

14 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon
15 becoming law.