



104TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2025 and 2026

HB5398

Introduced 2/10/2026, by Rep. Daniel Didech

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

105 ILCS 5/27-545

was 105 ILCS 5/27-23.8

Amends the Courses of Study Article of the School Code. In the provisions concerning disability history and awareness, requires a school district to also provide instruction on disability awareness and inclusion education. Provides that the instruction on disability history and awareness shall include: (1) grade-appropriate content on understanding different disabilities and accessible practices; (2) peer inclusion training and collaborative classroom projects promoting interaction between students with and without disabilities; (3) hands-on workshops; (4) school-wide programming during March; and (5) recognition systems for students, classes, and schools demonstrating exemplary inclusion practices.

LRB104 16440 LNS 29832 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 School Code is amended by changing Section
5 27-545 as follows:

6 (105 ILCS 5/27-545) (was 105 ILCS 5/27-23.8)

7 Sec. 27-545. Disability history and awareness.

8 (a) A school district shall provide instruction on
9 disability history, people with disabilities, and the
10 disability rights movement and disability awareness and
11 inclusion education that equips all students with practical
12 skills for peer support and interaction. Instruction may be
13 included in those courses that the school district chooses.
14 This instruction must be founded on the principle that all
15 students, including students with disabilities, have the right
16 to exercise self-determination. When possible, individuals
17 with disabilities should be incorporated into the development
18 and delivery of this instruction. This instruction may be
19 supplemented by knowledgeable guest speakers from the
20 disability community. A school board may collaborate with
21 community-based organizations, such as centers for independent
22 living, parent training and information centers, and other
23 consumer-driven groups, and disability membership

1 organizations in creating this instruction.

2 (a-5) Instruction under this Section shall include:

3 (1) grade-appropriate content on understanding
4 different disabilities and accessible practices;

5 (2) peer inclusion training and collaborative
6 classroom projects promoting interaction between students
7 with and without disabilities;

8 (3) hands-on workshops, including simulation
9 activities, assistive technology demonstrations, and peer
10 interaction exercises;

11 (4) school-wide programming during March, the National
12 Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month, featuring
13 student presentations, guest speakers, and family
14 engagement; and

15 (5) recognition systems for students, classes, and
16 schools demonstrating exemplary inclusion practices.

17 (b) The State Board of Education may prepare and make
18 available to all school boards resource materials that may be
19 used as guidelines for the development of instruction for
20 disability history and awareness under this Section.

21 (c) Each school board shall determine the minimum amount
22 of instructional time required under this Section.

23 (d) The regional superintendent of schools shall monitor a
24 school district's compliance with this Section's curricular
25 requirement during his or her annual compliance visit.

26 (Source: P.A. 104-391, eff. 8-15-25.)