

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 Sections
5 24-2 and 27-21 as follows:

6 (105 ILCS 5/24-2) (from Ch. 122, par. 24-2)
7 Sec. 24-2. Holidays.

8 (a) Teachers shall not be required to teach on Saturdays,
9 nor, except as provided in subsection (b) of this Section,
10 shall teachers or other school employees, other than
11 noncertificated school employees whose presence is necessary
12 because of an emergency or for the continued operation and
13 maintenance of school facilities or property, be required to
14 work on legal school holidays, which are January 1, New Year's
15 Day; the third Monday in January, the Birthday of Dr. Martin
16 Luther King, Jr.; February 12, the Birthday of President
17 Abraham Lincoln; the first Monday in March (to be known as
18 Casimir Pulaski's birthday); Good Friday; the day designated
19 as Memorial Day by federal law; July 4, Independence Day; the
20 first Monday in September, Labor Day; the second Monday in
21 October, Columbus Day; November 11, Veterans' Day; the
22 Thursday in November commonly called Thanksgiving Day; and
23 December 25, Christmas Day. School boards may grant special

1 holidays whenever in their judgment such action is advisable.
2 No deduction shall be made from the time or compensation of a
3 school employee on account of any legal or special holiday.

4 (b) A school board or other entity eligible to apply for
5 waivers and modifications under Section 2-3.25g of this Code
6 is authorized to hold school or schedule teachers' institutes,
7 parent-teacher conferences, or staff development on the third
8 Monday in January (the Birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King,
9 Jr.); February 12 (the Birthday of President Abraham Lincoln);
10 the first Monday in March (known as Casimir Pulaski's
11 birthday); the second Monday in October (Columbus Day); and
12 November 11 (Veterans' Day), provided that:

13 (1) the person or persons honored by the holiday are
14 recognized through instructional activities conducted on
15 that day or, if the day is not used for student attendance,
16 on the first school day preceding or following that day;
17 and

18 (2) the entity that chooses to exercise this authority
19 first holds a public hearing about the proposal. The
20 entity shall provide notice preceding the public hearing
21 to both educators and parents. The notice shall set forth
22 the time, date, and place of the hearing, describe the
23 proposal, and indicate that the entity will take testimony
24 from educators and parents about the proposal.

25 (c) Commemorative holidays, which recognize specified
26 patriotic, civic, cultural or historical persons, activities,

1 or events, are regular school days. Commemorative holidays
2 are: January 17 (the birthday of Muhammad Ali), January 28 (to
3 be known as Christa McAuliffe Day and observed as a
4 commemoration of space exploration), February 15 (the birthday
5 of Susan B. Anthony), March 29 (Viet Nam War Veterans' Day),
6 September 11 (September 11th Day of Remembrance), the school
7 day immediately preceding Veterans' Day (Korean War Veterans'
8 Day), October 1 (Recycling Day), October 7 (Iraq and
9 Afghanistan Veterans Remembrance Day), December 7 (Pearl
10 Harbor Veterans' Day), and any day so appointed by the
11 President or Governor. School boards may establish
12 commemorative holidays whenever in their judgment such action
13 is advisable. School boards shall include instruction relative
14 to commemorated persons, activities, or events on the
15 commemorative holiday or at any other time during the school
16 year and at any point in the curriculum when such instruction
17 may be deemed appropriate. The State Board of Education shall
18 prepare and make available to school boards instructional
19 materials relative to commemorated persons, activities, or
20 events which may be used by school boards in conjunction with
21 any instruction provided pursuant to this paragraph.

22 (d) City of Chicago School District 299 shall observe
23 March 4 of each year as a commemorative holiday. This holiday
24 shall be known as Mayors' Day which shall be a day to
25 commemorate and be reminded of the past Chief Executive
26 Officers of the City of Chicago, and in particular the late

1 Mayor Richard J. Daley and the late Mayor Harold Washington.
2 If March 4 falls on a Saturday or Sunday, Mayors' Day shall be
3 observed on the following Monday.

4 (e) Notwithstanding any other provision of State law to
5 the contrary, November 3, 2020 shall be a State holiday known
6 as 2020 General Election Day and shall be observed throughout
7 the State pursuant to this amendatory Act of the 101st General
8 Assembly. All government offices, with the exception of
9 election authorities, shall be closed unless authorized to be
10 used as a location for election day services or as a polling
11 place.

12 (Source: P.A. 101-642, eff. 6-16-20.)

13 (105 ILCS 5/27-21) (from Ch. 122, par. 27-21)

14 Sec. 27-21. History of United States. History of the
15 United States shall be taught in all public schools and in all
16 other educational institutions in this State supported or
17 maintained, in whole or in part, by public funds. The teaching
18 of history shall have as one of its objectives the imparting to
19 pupils of a comprehensive idea of our democratic form of
20 government and the principles for which our government stands
21 as regards other nations, including the studying of the place
22 of our government in world-wide movements and the leaders
23 thereof, with particular stress upon the basic principles and
24 ideals of our representative form of government. The teaching
25 of history shall include a study of the role and contributions

1 of African Americans and other ethnic groups, including, but
2 not restricted to, Polish, Lithuanian, German, Hungarian,
3 Irish, Bohemian, Russian, Albanian, Italian, Czech, Slovak,
4 French, Scots, Hispanics, Asian Americans, etc., in the
5 history of this country and this State. To reinforce the study
6 of the role and contributions of Hispanics, such curriculum
7 shall include the study of the events related to the forceful
8 removal and illegal deportation of Mexican-American U.S.
9 citizens during the Great Depression. In public schools only,
10 the teaching of history shall include a study of the roles and
11 contributions of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender
12 people in the history of this country and this State. The
13 teaching of history also shall include a study of the role of
14 labor unions and their interaction with government in
15 achieving the goals of a mixed free enterprise system.
16 Beginning with the 2020-2021 school year, the teaching of
17 history must also include instruction on the history of
18 Illinois. The teaching of history shall include the
19 contributions made to society by Americans of different faith
20 practices, including, but not limited to, Muslim Americans,
21 Jewish Americans, Christian Americans, Hindu Americans, Sikh
22 Americans, Buddhist Americans, and any other collective
23 community of faith that has shaped America. No pupils shall be
24 graduated from the eighth grade of any public school unless he
25 or she has received such instruction in the history of the
26 United States and gives evidence of having a comprehensive

1 knowledge thereof, which may be administered remotely.

2 (Source: P.A. 101-227, eff. 7-1-20; 101-341, eff. 1-1-20;

3 101-643, eff. 6-18-20.)