



103RD GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2023 and 2024

SB1579

Introduced 2/8/2023, by Sen. Adriane Johnson

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

105 ILCS 5/27-20.05 new
105 ILCS 5/27-20.4a new

Amends the Courses of Study Article of the School Code. Provides that, beginning with the 2024-2025 school year, every public elementary school and high school shall include in its curriculum a unit of instruction studying the events of pre-Columbian Native American societies and the contemporary life of Native American societies. Provides that, beginning with the 2024-2025 school year, every public elementary school and high school shall include in its curriculum a unit of instruction studying the history of Native Americans during and after the American Revolution, including studying their relationships with settlers in the 18th and 19th centuries, as well as the contributions of Native Americans to the economic, cultural, social, and political development of the United States. Provides that, beginning with the 2024-2025 school year, every public elementary school and high school shall include in its curriculum a unit of instruction studying the geography and culture of West African societies, the trans-Atlantic slave trade, and manners in which cultural traditions persevered despite societal oppression. Requires schools to have guidance counselors available during this instruction. Sets forth requirements for these units of instruction regarding instructional material, instructional time, and compliance. Provides that a school may provide these units of instruction through an online program or course.

LRB103 26901 RJT 53265 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 adding Sections
5 27-20.05 and 27-20.4a as follows:

6 (105 ILCS 5/27-20.05 new)

7 Sec. 27-20.05. Study of Native Americans.

8 (a) Beginning with the 2024-2025 school year, every public
9 elementary school and high school shall include in its
10 curriculum a unit of instruction studying the events of
11 pre-Columbian Native American societies, including, but not
12 limited to, the Pueblo, Adena, Hopewell, Mississippian, and
13 Clovis cultures. This instruction shall further be
14 supplemented by education concerning the contemporary life of
15 Native American societies, including, but not limited to, the
16 Navajo, Cherokee, Lakota-Sioux, Tlingit, and Yupik, and the
17 cultural traditions and customs of Native American societies,
18 such as their beliefs, traditions, geography, and language.
19 The studying of this material shall constitute an affirmation
20 by students to understand the foundations of the land in which
21 they live and to restore history previously lost.

22 (b) Beginning with the 2024-2025 school year, every public
23 elementary school and high school shall include in its

1 curriculum a unit of instruction studying the history of
2 Native Americans during and after the American Revolution,
3 including studying their relationships with settlers in the
4 18th and 19th centuries, as well as the contributions of
5 Native Americans to the economic, cultural, social, and
6 political development of the United States. These
7 contributions shall include those made to advance civil rights
8 both in the Midwest and across the United States in the 19th
9 and 20th centuries. The study of this material shall
10 constitute an affirmation by students of their commitment to
11 respect the dignity of all races and peoples and to forever
12 eschew every form of discrimination in their lives and
13 careers.

14 (c) The State Board of Education shall develop a
15 curriculum under this Section that is historically accurate
16 through collaboration with federally recognized Native
17 American tribes in which any individual who is a verified
18 member of one of those tribes may collaborate with the State
19 Board in the development of the curriculum.

20 (d) The State Superintendent of Education may prepare and
21 make available to all school boards instructional materials,
22 including those established by the Public Broadcasting
23 Service, that may be used as guidelines for development of the
24 units of instruction under this Section. However, each school
25 board shall itself determine the minimum amount of
26 instructional time that qualifies as a unit of instruction

1 satisfying the requirements of this Section.

2 (e) The regional superintendent of schools shall monitor a
3 school district's compliance with this Section's curricular
4 requirements during the regional superintendent's annual
5 compliance visit.

6 (f) A school may meet the requirements of this Section
7 through an online program or course.

8 (105 ILCS 5/27-20.4a new)

9 Sec. 27-20.4a. West African history study.

10 (a) In addition to the unit of instruction under Section
11 27-20.4, beginning with the 2024-2025 school year, every
12 public elementary school and high school shall include in its
13 curriculum a unit of instruction studying the geography and
14 culture of West African societies, including, but not limited
15 to, the Igbo, Yoruba, Mende, Wolof, and Hausa. This
16 instruction shall further be supplemented by education
17 concerning the trans-Atlantic slave trade and manners in which
18 cultural traditions persevered despite societal oppression.

19 (b) The State Superintendent of Education may prepare and
20 make available to all school boards instructional materials,
21 including those established by the Public Broadcasting
22 Service, that may be used as guidelines for development of a
23 unit of instruction under this Section. However, each school
24 board shall itself determine the minimum amount of
25 instructional time that qualifies as a unit of instruction

1 satisfying the requirements of this Section.

2 (c) In order to assist students in coping with the trauma
3 of generational separation and enslavement, all schools must
4 have guidance counselors available during the instruction
5 under this Section.

6 (d) The regional superintendent of schools shall monitor a
7 school district's compliance with this Section's curricular
8 requirements during the regional superintendent's annual
9 compliance visit.

10 (e) A school may meet the requirements of this Section
11 through an online program or course.