



104TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2025 and 2026

HB2451

Introduced 2/4/2025, by Rep. Amy Elik

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

105 ILCS 5/27-22	from Ch. 122, par. 27-22
110 ILCS 305/8	from Ch. 144, par. 29
110 ILCS 520/8e	from Ch. 144, par. 658e
110 ILCS 660/5-85	
110 ILCS 665/10-85	
110 ILCS 670/15-85	
110 ILCS 675/20-85	
110 ILCS 680/25-85	
110 ILCS 685/30-85	
110 ILCS 690/35-85	

Amends the Course of Study Article of the School Code. Provides that, as a prerequisite to receiving a high school diploma, each pupil entering the 9th grade beginning with the 2028-2029 school year must successfully complete either 2 years of foreign language courses or at least 2 years of career-focused coursework that has been authorized by the State Board of Education as meeting the requirements for a College and Career Pathway Endorsement under the Postsecondary and Workforce Readiness Act (rather than requiring the successful completion of 2 years of foreign language courses). Amends the University of Illinois Act, the Southern Illinois University Management Act, the Chicago State University Law, the Eastern Illinois University Law, the Governors State University Law, the Illinois State University Law, the Northeastern Illinois University Law, the Northern Illinois University Law, and the Western Illinois University Law. Provides that a university may not require State public high school graduates, as a condition of acceptance, to have completed any years of foreign language courses unless the university permits, as an alternative to completion of a foreign language course, attainment of a College and Career Pathway Endorsement under the Postsecondary and Workforce Readiness Act. Effective immediately.

LRB104 09310 LNS 19368 b

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.
26 School districts may utilize private funding available for

1 the purposes of offering civics education. Beginning with
2 pupils entering the 9th grade in the 2021-2022 school
3 year, one semester, or part of one semester, may include a
4 financial literacy course.

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

12 (e-5) Beginning with the 2024-2025 school year, as a
13 prerequisite to receiving a high school diploma, each pupil
14 entering the 9th grade must, in addition to other course
15 requirements, successfully complete all of the following
16 courses:

17 (1) Four years of language arts.

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

23 (3) Three years of mathematics, one of which must be
24 Algebra I, one of which must include geometry content, and
25 one of which may be an Advanced Placement computer science
26 course. A mathematics course that includes geometry

1 content may be offered as an integrated, applied,
2 interdisciplinary, or career and technical education
3 course that prepares a student for a career readiness
4 path.

5 (3.5) One year of a course that includes intensive
6 instruction in computer literacy, which may be English,
7 social studies, or any other subject and which may be
8 counted toward the fulfillment of other graduation
9 requirements.

10 (4) Two years of laboratory science.

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

25 (6) One year chosen from (A) music, (B) art, (C)
26 foreign language, which shall be deemed to include

1 American Sign Language, (D) vocational education, or (E)
2 forensic speech (speech and debate). A forensic speech
3 course used to satisfy the course requirement under
4 subdivision (1) may not be used to satisfy the course
5 requirement under this subdivision (6).

6 (e-10) Beginning with the 2028-2029 school year, as a
7 prerequisite to receiving a high school diploma, each pupil
8 entering the 9th grade must, in addition to other course
9 requirements, successfully complete either (i) 2 years of
10 foreign language courses, which may include American Sign
11 Language, or (ii) at least 2 years of career-focused
12 coursework that has been authorized by the State Board of
13 Education as meeting the requirements for a College and Career
14 Pathway Endorsement under the Postsecondary and Workforce
15 Readiness Act. A pupil may choose a third year of foreign
16 language to satisfy the requirement under subdivision (6) of
17 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.)

9 Section 10. The University of Illinois Act is amended by
10 changing Section 8 as follows:

11 (110 ILCS 305/8) (from Ch. 144, par. 29)

12 Sec. 8. Admissions.

13 (a) (Blank).

14 (b) No new student shall be admitted to instruction in any
15 of the departments or colleges of the University unless such
16 student also has satisfactorily completed:

17 (1) at least 15 units of high school coursework from
18 the following 5 categories:

19 (A) 4 years of English (emphasizing written and
20 oral communications and literature), of which up to 2
21 years may be collegiate level instruction;

22 (B) 3 years of social studies (emphasizing history
23 and government);

24 (C) 3 years of mathematics (introductory through

1 advanced algebra, geometry, trigonometry, or
2 fundamentals of computer programming);

3 (D) 3 years of science (laboratory sciences or
4 agricultural sciences); and

5 (E) 2 years of electives in foreign language
6 (which may be deemed to include American Sign
7 Language), music, career and technical education,
8 agricultural education, or art;

9 (2) except that institutions may admit individual
10 applicants if the institution determines through
11 assessment or through evaluation based on learning
12 outcomes of the coursework taken, including career and
13 technical education courses and courses taken in a charter
14 school established under Article 27A of the School Code,
15 that the applicant demonstrates knowledge and skills
16 substantially equivalent to the knowledge and skills
17 expected to be acquired in the high school courses
18 required for admission. The Board of Trustees of the
19 University of Illinois shall not discriminate in the
20 University's admissions process against an applicant for
21 admission because of the applicant's enrollment in a
22 charter school established under Article 27A of the School
23 Code. Institutions may also admit 1) applicants who did
24 not have an opportunity to complete the minimum college
25 preparatory curriculum in high school, and 2)
26 educationally disadvantaged applicants who are admitted to

1 the formal organized special assistance programs that are
2 tailored to the needs of such students, providing that in
3 either case, the institution incorporates in the
4 applicant's baccalaureate curriculum courses or other
5 academic activities that compensate for course
6 deficiencies; ~~and~~

7 (3) except that up to 3 of the 15 units of coursework
8 required by paragraph (1) of this subsection may be
9 distributed by deducting no more than one unit each from
10 the categories of social studies, mathematics, sciences
11 and electives and completing those 3 units in any of the 5
12 categories of coursework described in paragraph (1); ~~and-~~

13 (4) except that the University may not require State
14 public high school graduates, as a condition of
15 acceptance, to have completed any years of foreign
16 language courses unless the University permits, as an
17 alternative to completion of a foreign language course,
18 attainment of a College and Career Pathway Endorsement
19 under the Postsecondary and Workforce Readiness Act.

20 (c) When allocating funds, local boards of education shall
21 recognize their obligation to their students to offer the
22 coursework required by subsection (b).

23 (d) A student who has graduated from high school and has
24 scored within the University's accepted range on the ACT or
25 SAT shall not be required to take a high school equivalency
26 test as a prerequisite to admission.

1 (e) The Board of Trustees shall establish an admissions
2 process in which honorably discharged veterans are permitted
3 to submit an application for admission to the University as a
4 freshman student enrolling in the spring semester if the
5 veteran was on active duty during the fall semester. The
6 University may request that the Department of Veterans'
7 Affairs confirm the status of an applicant as an honorably
8 discharged veteran who was on active duty during the fall
9 semester.

10 (f) Beginning with the 2025-2026 academic year, the
11 University shall provide all Illinois students transferring
12 from a public community college in this State with the
13 University's undergraduate transfer admissions application fee
14 waiver policy and, if such a policy exists, any application or
15 forms necessary to apply for a fee waiver as part of the
16 University's transfer admissions process. The University is
17 encouraged to develop a policy to automatically waive the
18 undergraduate transfer admissions application fee for
19 low-income Illinois students transferring from a public
20 community college in this State. The University shall post
21 this policy in an easily accessible place on the University's
22 Internet website.

23 (Source: P.A. 102-403, eff. 1-1-22; 102-404, eff. 1-1-22;
24 103-936, eff. 8-9-24.)

25 Section 15. The Southern Illinois University Management

1 Act is amended by changing Section 8e as follows:

2 (110 ILCS 520/8e) (from Ch. 144, par. 658e)

3 Sec. 8e. Admissions.

4 (a) No new student shall be admitted to instruction in any
5 of the departments or colleges of the University unless such
6 student also has satisfactorily completed:

7 (1) at least 15 units of high school coursework from
8 the following 5 categories:

9 (A) 4 years of English (emphasizing written and
10 oral communications and literature), of which up to 2
11 years may be collegiate level instruction;

12 (B) 3 years of social studies (emphasizing history
13 and government);

14 (C) 3 years of mathematics (introductory through
15 advanced algebra, geometry, trigonometry, or
16 fundamentals of computer programming);

17 (D) 3 years of science (laboratory sciences or
18 agricultural sciences); and

19 (E) 2 years of electives in foreign language
20 (which may be deemed to include American Sign
21 Language), music, career and technical education,
22 agricultural education, or art;

23 (2) except that institutions may admit individual
24 applicants if the institution determines through
25 assessment or through evaluation based on learning

1 outcomes of the coursework taken, including career and
2 technical education courses and courses taken in a charter
3 school established under Article 27A of the School Code,
4 that the applicant demonstrates knowledge and skills
5 substantially equivalent to the knowledge and skills
6 expected to be acquired in the high school courses
7 required for admission. The Board of Trustees of Southern
8 Illinois University shall not discriminate in the
9 University's admissions process against an applicant for
10 admission because of the applicant's enrollment in a
11 charter school established under Article 27A of the School
12 Code. Institutions may also admit 1) applicants who did
13 not have an opportunity to complete the minimum college
14 preparatory curriculum in high school, and 2)
15 educationally disadvantaged applicants who are admitted to
16 the formal organized special assistance programs that are
17 tailored to the needs of such students, providing that in
18 either case, the institution incorporates in the
19 applicant's baccalaureate curriculum courses or other
20 academic activities that compensate for course
21 deficiencies; ~~and~~

22 (3) except that up to 3 of 15 units of coursework
23 required by paragraph (1) of this subsection may be
24 distributed by deducting no more than one unit each from
25 the categories of social studies, mathematics, sciences
26 and electives and completing those 3 units in any of the 5

1 categories of coursework described in paragraph (1); ~~and-~~
2 (4) except that the University may not require State
3 public high school graduates, as a condition of
4 acceptance, to have completed any years of foreign
5 language courses unless the University permits, as an
6 alternative to completion of a foreign language course,
7 attainment of a College and Career Pathway Endorsement
8 under the Postsecondary and Workforce Readiness Act.

9 (b) When allocating funds, local boards of education shall
10 recognize their obligation to their students to offer the
11 coursework required by subsection (a).

12 (c) A student who has graduated from high school and has
13 scored within the University's accepted range on the ACT or
14 SAT shall not be required to take a high school equivalency
15 test as a prerequisite to admission.

16 (d) The Board shall establish an admissions process in
17 which honorably discharged veterans are permitted to submit an
18 application for admission to the University as a freshman
19 student enrolling in the spring semester if the veteran was on
20 active duty during the fall semester. The University may
21 request that the Department of Veterans' Affairs confirm the
22 status of an applicant as an honorably discharged veteran who
23 was on active duty during the fall semester.

24 (e) Beginning with the 2025-2026 academic year, the
25 University shall provide all Illinois students transferring
26 from a public community college in this State with the

1 University's undergraduate transfer admissions application fee
2 waiver policy and, if such a policy exists, any application or
3 forms necessary to apply for a fee waiver as part of the
4 University's transfer admissions process. The University is
5 encouraged to develop a policy to automatically waive the
6 undergraduate transfer admissions application fee for
7 low-income Illinois students transferring from a public
8 community college in this State. The University shall post
9 this policy in an easily accessible place on the University's
10 Internet website.

11 (Source: P.A. 102-403, eff. 1-1-22; 102-404, eff. 1-1-22;
12 103-936, eff. 8-9-24.)

13 Section 20. The Chicago State University Law is amended by
14 changing Section 5-85 as follows:

15 (110 ILCS 660/5-85)

16 Sec. 5-85. Admissions.

17 (a) No new student shall be admitted to instruction in any
18 of the departments or colleges of the Chicago State University
19 unless such student also has satisfactorily completed:

20 (1) at least 15 units of high school coursework from
21 the following 5 categories:

22 (A) 4 years of English (emphasizing written and
23 oral communications and literature), of which up to 2
24 years may be collegiate level instruction;

1 (B) 3 years of social studies (emphasizing history
2 and government);

3 (C) 3 years of mathematics (introductory through
4 advanced algebra, geometry, trigonometry, or
5 fundamentals of computer programming);

6 (D) 3 years of science (laboratory sciences or
7 agricultural sciences); and

8 (E) 2 years of electives in foreign language
9 (which may be deemed to include American Sign
10 Language), music, career and technical education,
11 agricultural education, or art;

12 (2) except that Chicago State University may admit
13 individual applicants if it determines through assessment
14 or through evaluation based on learning outcomes of the
15 coursework taken, including career and technical education
16 courses and courses taken in a charter school established
17 under Article 27A of the School Code, that the applicant
18 demonstrates knowledge and skills substantially equivalent
19 to the knowledge and skills expected to be acquired in the
20 high school courses required for admission. The Board of
21 Trustees of Chicago State University shall not
22 discriminate in the University's admissions process
23 against an applicant for admission because of the
24 applicant's enrollment in a charter school established
25 under Article 27A of the School Code. Chicago State
26 University may also admit (i) applicants who did not have

1 an opportunity to complete the minimum college preparatory
2 curriculum in high school, and (ii) educationally
3 disadvantaged applicants who are admitted to the formal
4 organized special assistance programs that are tailored to
5 the needs of such students, providing that in either case,
6 the institution incorporates in the applicant's
7 baccalaureate curriculum courses or other academic
8 activities that compensate for course deficiencies; ~~and~~

9 (3) except that up to 3 of 15 units of coursework
10 required by paragraph (1) of this subsection may be
11 distributed by deducting no more than one unit each from
12 the categories of social studies, mathematics, sciences
13 and electives and completing those 3 units in any of the 5
14 categories of coursework described in paragraph (1); ~~and-~~

15 (4) except that Chicago State University may not
16 require State public high school graduates, as a condition
17 of acceptance, to have completed any years of foreign
18 language courses unless the University permits, as an
19 alternative to completion of a foreign language course,
20 attainment of a College and Career Pathway Endorsement
21 under the Postsecondary and Workforce Readiness Act.

22 (b) When allocating funds, local boards of education shall
23 recognize their obligation to their students to offer the
24 coursework required by subsection (a).

25 (c) A student who has graduated from high school and has
26 scored within the University's accepted range on the ACT or

1 SAT shall not be required to take a high school equivalency
2 test as a prerequisite to admission.

3 (d) The Board shall establish an admissions process in
4 which honorably discharged veterans are permitted to submit an
5 application for admission to the University as a freshman
6 student enrolling in the spring semester if the veteran was on
7 active duty during the fall semester. The University may
8 request that the Department of Veterans' Affairs confirm the
9 status of an applicant as an honorably discharged veteran who
10 was on active duty during the fall semester.

11 (e) Beginning with the 2025-2026 academic year, the
12 University shall provide all Illinois students transferring
13 from a public community college in this State with the
14 University's undergraduate transfer admissions application fee
15 waiver policy and, if such a policy exists, any application or
16 forms necessary to apply for a fee waiver as part of the
17 University's transfer admissions process. The University is
18 encouraged to develop a policy to automatically waive the
19 undergraduate transfer admissions application fee for
20 low-income Illinois students transferring from a public
21 community college in this State. The University shall post
22 this policy in an easily accessible place on the University's
23 Internet website.

24 (Source: P.A. 102-403, eff. 1-1-22; 102-404, eff. 1-1-22;
25 103-936, eff. 8-9-24.)

1 Section 25. The Eastern Illinois University Law is amended
2 by changing Section 10-85 as follows:

3 (110 ILCS 665/10-85)

4 Sec. 10-85. Admissions.

5 (a) No new student shall be admitted to instruction in any
6 of the departments or colleges of the Eastern Illinois
7 University unless such student also has satisfactorily
8 completed:

9 (1) at least 15 units of high school coursework from
10 the following 5 categories:

11 (A) 4 years of English (emphasizing written and
12 oral communications and literature), of which up to 2
13 years may be collegiate level instruction;

14 (B) 3 years of social studies (emphasizing history
15 and government);

16 (C) 3 years of mathematics (introductory through
17 advanced algebra, geometry, trigonometry, or
18 fundamentals of computer programming);

19 (D) 3 years of science (laboratory sciences or
20 agricultural sciences); and

21 (E) 2 years of electives in foreign language
22 (which may be deemed to include American Sign
23 Language), music, career and technical education,
24 agricultural education, or art;

25 (2) except that Eastern Illinois University may admit

1 individual applicants if it determines through assessment
2 or through evaluation based on learning outcomes of the
3 coursework taken, including career and technical education
4 courses and courses taken in a charter school established
5 under Article 27A of the School Code, that the applicant
6 demonstrates knowledge and skills substantially equivalent
7 to the knowledge and skills expected to be acquired in the
8 high school courses required for admission. The Board of
9 Trustees of Eastern Illinois University shall not
10 discriminate in the University's admissions process
11 against an applicant for admission because of the
12 applicant's enrollment in a charter school established
13 under Article 27A of the School Code. Eastern Illinois
14 University may also admit (i) applicants who did not have
15 an opportunity to complete the minimum college preparatory
16 curriculum in high school, and (ii) educationally
17 disadvantaged applicants who are admitted to the formal
18 organized special assistance programs that are tailored to
19 the needs of such students, providing that in either case,
20 the institution incorporates in the applicant's
21 baccalaureate curriculum courses or other academic
22 activities that compensate for course deficiencies; ~~and~~

23 (3) except that up to 3 of 15 units of coursework
24 required by paragraph (1) of this subsection may be
25 distributed by deducting no more than one unit each from
26 the categories of social studies, mathematics, sciences

1 and electives and completing those 3 units in any of the 5
2 categories of coursework described in paragraph (1); ~~and-~~

3 (4) except that Eastern Illinois University may not
4 require State public high school graduates, as a condition
5 of acceptance, to have completed any years of foreign
6 language courses unless the University permits, as an
7 alternative to completion of a foreign language course,
8 attainment of a College and Career Pathway Endorsement
9 under the Postsecondary and Workforce Readiness Act.

10 (b) When allocating funds, local boards of education shall
11 recognize their obligation to their students to offer the
12 coursework required by subsection (a).

13 (c) A student who has graduated from high school and has
14 scored within the University's accepted range on the ACT or
15 SAT shall not be required to take a high school equivalency
16 test as a prerequisite to admission.

17 (d) The Board shall establish an admissions process in
18 which honorably discharged veterans are permitted to submit an
19 application for admission to the University as a freshman
20 student enrolling in the spring semester if the veteran was on
21 active duty during the fall semester. The University may
22 request that the Department of Veterans' Affairs confirm the
23 status of an applicant as an honorably discharged veteran who
24 was on active duty during the fall semester.

25 (e) Beginning with the 2025-2026 academic year, the
26 University shall provide all Illinois students transferring

1 from a public community college in this State with the
2 University's undergraduate transfer admissions application fee
3 waiver policy and, if such a policy exists, any application or
4 forms necessary to apply for a fee waiver as part of the
5 University's transfer admissions process. The University is
6 encouraged to develop a policy to automatically waive the
7 undergraduate transfer admissions application fee for
8 low-income Illinois students transferring from a public
9 community college in this State. The University shall post
10 this policy in an easily accessible place on the University's
11 Internet website.

12 (Source: P.A. 102-403, eff. 1-1-22; 102-404, eff. 1-1-22;
13 103-936, eff. 8-9-24.)

14 Section 30. The Governors State University Law is amended
15 by changing Section 15-85 as follows:

16 (110 ILCS 670/15-85)

17 Sec. 15-85. Admissions.

18 (a) No new student shall be admitted to instruction in any
19 of the departments or colleges of the Governors State
20 University unless such student also has satisfactorily
21 completed:

22 (1) at least 15 units of high school coursework from
23 the following 5 categories:

24 (A) 4 years of English (emphasizing written and

1 oral communications and literature), of which up to 2
2 years may be collegiate level instruction;

3 (B) 3 years of social studies (emphasizing history
4 and government);

5 (C) 3 years of mathematics (introductory through
6 advanced algebra, geometry, trigonometry, or
7 fundamentals of computer programming);

8 (D) 3 years of science (laboratory sciences or
9 agricultural sciences); and

10 (E) 2 years of electives in foreign language
11 (which may be deemed to include American Sign
12 Language), music, career and technical education,
13 agricultural education, or art;

14 (2) except that Governors State University may admit
15 individual applicants if it determines through assessment
16 or through evaluation based on learning outcomes of the
17 coursework taken, including career and technical education
18 courses and courses taken in a charter school established
19 under Article 27A of the School Code, that the applicant
20 demonstrates knowledge and skills substantially equivalent
21 to the knowledge and skills expected to be acquired in the
22 high school courses required for admission. The Board of
23 Trustees of Governors State University shall not
24 discriminate in the University's admissions process
25 against an applicant for admission because of the
26 applicant's enrollment in a charter school established

1 under Article 27A of the School Code. Governors State
2 University may also admit (i) applicants who did not have
3 an opportunity to complete the minimum college preparatory
4 curriculum in high school, and (ii) educationally
5 disadvantaged applicants who are admitted to the formal
6 organized special assistance programs that are tailored to
7 the needs of such students, providing that in either case,
8 the institution incorporates in the applicant's
9 baccalaureate curriculum courses or other academic
10 activities that compensate for course deficiencies; ~~and~~

11 (3) except that up to 3 of 15 units of coursework
12 required by paragraph (1) of this subsection may be
13 distributed by deducting no more than one unit each from
14 the categories of social studies, mathematics, sciences
15 and electives and completing those 3 units in any of the 5
16 categories of coursework described in paragraph (1); ~~and-~~

17 (4) except that Governors State University may not
18 require State public high school graduates, as a condition
19 of acceptance, to have completed any years of foreign
20 language courses unless the University permits, as an
21 alternative to completion of a foreign language course,
22 attainment of a College and Career Pathway Endorsement
23 under the Postsecondary and Workforce Readiness Act.

24 (b) When allocating funds, local boards of education shall
25 recognize their obligation to their students to offer the
26 coursework required by subsection (a).

1 (c) A student who has graduated from high school and has
2 scored within the University's accepted range on the ACT or
3 SAT shall not be required to take a high school equivalency
4 test as a prerequisite to admission.

5 (d) The Board shall establish an admissions process in
6 which honorably discharged veterans are permitted to submit an
7 application for admission to the University as a freshman
8 student enrolling in the spring semester if the veteran was on
9 active duty during the fall semester. The University may
10 request that the Department of Veterans' Affairs confirm the
11 status of an applicant as an honorably discharged veteran who
12 was on active duty during the fall semester.

13 (e) Beginning with the 2025-2026 academic year, the
14 University shall provide all Illinois students transferring
15 from a public community college in this State with the
16 University's undergraduate transfer admissions application fee
17 waiver policy and, if such a policy exists, any application or
18 forms necessary to apply for a fee waiver as part of the
19 University's transfer admissions process. The University is
20 encouraged to develop a policy to automatically waive the
21 undergraduate transfer admissions application fee for
22 low-income Illinois students transferring from a public
23 community college in this State. The University shall post
24 this policy in an easily accessible place on the University's
25 Internet website.

26 (Source: P.A. 102-403, eff. 1-1-22; 102-404, eff. 1-1-22;

1 103-936, eff. 8-9-24.)

2 Section 35. The Illinois State University Law is amended
3 by changing Section 20-85 as follows:

4 (110 ILCS 675/20-85)

5 Sec. 20-85. Admissions.

6 (a) No new student shall be admitted to instruction in any
7 of the departments or colleges of the Illinois State
8 University unless such student also has satisfactorily
9 completed:

10 (1) at least 15 units of high school coursework from
11 the following 5 categories:

12 (A) 4 years of English (emphasizing written and
13 oral communications and literature), of which up to 2
14 years may be collegiate level instruction;

15 (B) 3 years of social studies (emphasizing history
16 and government);

17 (C) 3 years of mathematics (introductory through
18 advanced algebra, geometry, trigonometry, or
19 fundamentals of computer programming);

20 (D) 3 years of science (laboratory sciences or
21 agricultural sciences); and

22 (E) 2 years of electives in foreign language
23 (which may be deemed to include American Sign
24 Language), music, career and technical education,

1 agricultural education, or art;

2 (2) except that Illinois State University may admit
3 individual applicants if it determines through assessment
4 or through evaluation based on learning outcomes of the
5 coursework taken, including career and technical education
6 courses and courses taken in a charter school established
7 under Article 27A of the School Code, that the applicant
8 demonstrates knowledge and skills substantially equivalent
9 to the knowledge and skills expected to be acquired in the
10 high school courses required for admission. The Board of
11 Trustees of Illinois State University shall not
12 discriminate in the University's admissions process
13 against an applicant for admission because of the
14 applicant's enrollment in a charter school established
15 under Article 27A of the School Code. Illinois State
16 University may also admit (i) applicants who did not have
17 an opportunity to complete the minimum college preparatory
18 curriculum in high school, and (ii) educationally
19 disadvantaged applicants who are admitted to the formal
20 organized special assistance programs that are tailored to
21 the needs of such students, providing that in either case,
22 the institution incorporates in the applicant's
23 baccalaureate curriculum courses or other academic
24 activities that compensate for course deficiencies; ~~and~~

25 (3) except that up to 3 of 15 units of coursework
26 required by paragraph (1) of this subsection may be

1 distributed by deducting no more than one unit each from
2 the categories of social studies, mathematics, sciences
3 and electives and completing those 3 units in any of the 5
4 categories of coursework described in paragraph (1); ~~and-~~

5 (4) except that Illinois State University may not
6 require State public high school graduates, as a condition
7 of acceptance, to have completed any years of foreign
8 language courses unless the University permits, as an
9 alternative to completion of a foreign language course,
10 attainment of a College and Career Pathway Endorsement
11 under the Postsecondary and Workforce Readiness Act.

12 (b) When allocating funds, local boards of education shall
13 recognize their obligation to their students to offer the
14 coursework required by subsection (a).

15 (c) A student who has graduated from high school and has
16 scored within the University's accepted range on the ACT or
17 SAT shall not be required to take a high school equivalency
18 test as a prerequisite to admission.

19 (d) The Board shall establish an admissions process in
20 which honorably discharged veterans are permitted to submit an
21 application for admission to the University as a freshman
22 student enrolling in the spring semester if the veteran was on
23 active duty during the fall semester. The University may
24 request that the Department of Veterans' Affairs confirm the
25 status of an applicant as an honorably discharged veteran who
26 was on active duty during the fall semester.

1 (e) Beginning with the 2025-2026 academic year, the
2 University shall provide all Illinois students transferring
3 from a public community college in this State with the
4 University's undergraduate transfer admissions application fee
5 waiver policy and, if such a policy exists, any application or
6 forms necessary to apply for a fee waiver as part of the
7 University's transfer admissions process. The University is
8 encouraged to develop a policy to automatically waive the
9 undergraduate transfer admissions application fee for
10 low-income Illinois students transferring from a public
11 community college in this State. The University shall post
12 this policy in an easily accessible place on the University's
13 Internet website.

14 (Source: P.A. 102-403, eff. 1-1-22; 102-404, eff. 1-1-22;
15 103-936, eff. 8-9-24.)

16 Section 40. The Northeastern Illinois University Law is
17 amended by changing Section 25-85 as follows:

18 (110 ILCS 680/25-85)

19 Sec. 25-85. Admissions.

20 (a) No new student shall be admitted to instruction in any
21 of the departments or colleges of the Northeastern Illinois
22 University unless such student also has satisfactorily
23 completed:

24 (1) at least 15 units of high school coursework from

1 the following 5 categories:

2 (A) 4 years of English (emphasizing written and
3 oral communications and literature), of which up to 2
4 years may be collegiate level instruction;

5 (B) 3 years of social studies (emphasizing history
6 and government);

7 (C) 3 years of mathematics (introductory through
8 advanced algebra, geometry, trigonometry, or
9 fundamentals of computer programming);

10 (D) 3 years of science (laboratory sciences or
11 agricultural sciences); and

12 (E) 2 years of electives in foreign language
13 (which may be deemed to include American Sign
14 Language), music, career and technical education,
15 agricultural education, or art;

16 (2) except that Northeastern Illinois University may
17 admit individual applicants if it determines through
18 assessment or through evaluation based on learning
19 outcomes of the coursework taken, including career and
20 technical education courses and courses taken in a charter
21 school established under Article 27A of the School Code,
22 that the applicant demonstrates knowledge and skills
23 substantially equivalent to the knowledge and skills
24 expected to be acquired in the high school courses
25 required for admission. The Board of Trustees of
26 Northeastern Illinois University shall not discriminate in

1 the University's admissions process against an applicant
2 for admission because of the applicant's enrollment in a
3 charter school established under Article 27A of the School
4 Code. Northeastern Illinois University may also admit (i)
5 applicants who did not have an opportunity to complete the
6 minimum college preparatory curriculum in high school, and
7 (ii) educationally disadvantaged applicants who are
8 admitted to the formal organized special assistance
9 programs that are tailored to the needs of such students,
10 providing that in either case, the institution
11 incorporates in the applicant's baccalaureate curriculum
12 courses or other academic activities that compensate for
13 course deficiencies; ~~and~~

14 (3) except that up to 3 of 15 units of coursework
15 required by paragraph (1) of this subsection may be
16 distributed by deducting no more than one unit each from
17 the categories of social studies, mathematics, sciences
18 and electives and completing those 3 units in any of the 5
19 categories of coursework described in paragraph (1); ~~and~~

20 (4) except that Northeastern Illinois University may
21 not require State public high school graduates, as a
22 condition of acceptance, to have completed any years of
23 foreign language courses unless the University permits, as
24 an alternative to completion of a foreign language course,
25 attainment of a College and Career Pathway Endorsement
26 under the Postsecondary and Workforce Readiness Act.

1 (b) When allocating funds, local boards of education shall
2 recognize their obligation to their students to offer the
3 coursework required by subsection (a).

4 (c) A student who has graduated from high school and has
5 scored within the University's accepted range on the ACT or
6 SAT shall not be required to take a high school equivalency
7 test as a prerequisite to admission.

8 (d) The Board shall establish an admissions process in
9 which honorably discharged veterans are permitted to submit an
10 application for admission to the University as a freshman
11 student enrolling in the spring semester if the veteran was on
12 active duty during the fall semester. The University may
13 request that the Department of Veterans' Affairs confirm the
14 status of an applicant as an honorably discharged veteran who
15 was on active duty during the fall semester.

16 (e) Beginning with the 2025-2026 academic year, the
17 University shall provide all Illinois students transferring
18 from a public community college in this State with the
19 University's undergraduate transfer admissions application fee
20 waiver policy and, if such a policy exists, any application or
21 forms necessary to apply for a fee waiver as part of the
22 University's transfer admissions process. The University is
23 encouraged to develop a policy to automatically waive the
24 undergraduate transfer admissions application fee for
25 low-income Illinois students transferring from a public
26 community college in this State. The University shall post

1 this policy in an easily accessible place on the University's
2 Internet website.

3 (Source: P.A. 102-403, eff. 1-1-22; 102-404, eff. 1-1-22;
4 103-936, eff. 8-9-24.)

5 Section 45. The Northern Illinois University Law is
6 amended by changing Section 30-85 as follows:

7 (110 ILCS 685/30-85)

8 Sec. 30-85. Admissions.

9 (a) No new student shall be admitted to instruction in any
10 of the departments or colleges of the Northern Illinois
11 University unless such student also has satisfactorily
12 completed:

13 (1) at least 15 units of high school coursework from
14 the following 5 categories:

15 (A) 4 years of English (emphasizing written and
16 oral communications and literature), of which up to 2
17 years may be collegiate level instruction;

18 (B) 3 years of social studies (emphasizing history
19 and government);

20 (C) 3 years of mathematics (introductory through
21 advanced algebra, geometry, trigonometry, or
22 fundamentals of computer programming);

23 (D) 3 years of science (laboratory sciences or
24 agricultural sciences); and

1 (E) 2 years of electives in foreign language
2 (which may be deemed to include American Sign
3 Language), music, career and technical education,
4 agricultural education, or art;

5 (2) except that Northern Illinois University may admit
6 individual applicants if it determines through assessment
7 or through evaluation based on learning outcomes of the
8 coursework taken, including career and technical education
9 courses and courses taken in a charter school established
10 under Article 27A of the School Code, that the applicant
11 demonstrates knowledge and skills substantially equivalent
12 to the knowledge and skills expected to be acquired in the
13 high school courses required for admission. The Board of
14 Trustees of Northern Illinois University shall not
15 discriminate in the University's admissions process
16 against an applicant for admission because of the
17 applicant's enrollment in a charter school established
18 under Article 27A of the School Code. Northern Illinois
19 University may also admit (i) applicants who did not have
20 an opportunity to complete the minimum college preparatory
21 curriculum in high school, and (ii) educationally
22 disadvantaged applicants who are admitted to the formal
23 organized special assistance programs that are tailored to
24 the needs of such students, providing that in either case,
25 the institution incorporates in the applicant's
26 baccalaureate curriculum courses or other academic

1 activities that compensate for course deficiencies; ~~and~~

2 (3) except that up to 3 of 15 units of coursework
3 required by paragraph (1) of this subsection may be
4 distributed by deducting no more than one unit each from
5 the categories of social studies, mathematics, sciences
6 and electives and completing those 3 units in any of the 5
7 categories of coursework described in paragraph (1); ~~and-~~

8 (4) except that Northern Illinois University may not
9 require State public high school graduates, as a condition
10 of acceptance, to have completed any years of foreign
11 language courses unless the University permits, as an
12 alternative to completion of a foreign language course,
13 attainment of a College and Career Pathway Endorsement
14 under the Postsecondary and Workforce Readiness Act.

15 (b) When allocating funds, local boards of education shall
16 recognize their obligation to their students to offer the
17 coursework required by subsection (a).

18 (c) A student who has graduated from high school and has
19 scored within the University's accepted range on the ACT or
20 SAT shall not be required to take a high school equivalency
21 test as a prerequisite to admission.

22 (d) The Board shall establish an admissions process in
23 which honorably discharged veterans are permitted to submit an
24 application for admission to the University as a freshman
25 student enrolling in the spring semester if the veteran was on
26 active duty during the fall semester. The University may

1 request that the Department of Veterans' Affairs confirm the
2 status of an applicant as an honorably discharged veteran who
3 was on active duty during the fall semester.

4 (e) Beginning with the 2025-2026 academic year, the
5 University shall provide all Illinois students transferring
6 from a public community college in this State with the
7 University's undergraduate transfer admissions application fee
8 waiver policy and, if such a policy exists, any application or
9 forms necessary to apply for a fee waiver as part of the
10 University's transfer admissions process. The University is
11 encouraged to develop a policy to automatically waive the
12 undergraduate transfer admissions application fee for
13 low-income Illinois students transferring from a public
14 community college in this State. The University shall post
15 this policy in an easily accessible place on the University's
16 Internet website.

17 (Source: P.A. 102-403, eff. 1-1-22; 102-404, eff. 1-1-22;
18 103-936, eff. 8-9-24.)

19 Section 50. The Western Illinois University Law is amended
20 by changing Section 35-85 as follows:

21 (110 ILCS 690/35-85)

22 Sec. 35-85. Admissions.

23 (a) No new student shall be admitted to instruction in any
24 of the departments or colleges of the Western Illinois

1 University unless such student also has satisfactorily
2 completed:

3 (1) at least 15 units of high school coursework from
4 the following 5 categories:

5 (A) 4 years of English (emphasizing written and
6 oral communications and literature), of which up to 2
7 years may be collegiate level instruction;

8 (B) 3 years of social studies (emphasizing history
9 and government);

10 (C) 3 years of mathematics (introductory through
11 advanced algebra, geometry, trigonometry, or
12 fundamentals of computer programming);

13 (D) 3 years of science (laboratory sciences or
14 agricultural sciences); and

15 (E) 2 years of electives in foreign language
16 (which may be deemed to include American Sign
17 Language), music, career and technical education,
18 agricultural education, or art;

19 (2) except that Western Illinois University may admit
20 individual applicants if it determines through assessment
21 or through evaluation based on learning outcomes of the
22 coursework taken, including career and technical education
23 courses and courses taken in a charter school established
24 under Article 27A of the School Code, that the applicant
25 demonstrates knowledge and skills substantially equivalent
26 to the knowledge and skills expected to be acquired in the

1 high school courses required for admission. The Board of
2 Trustees of Western Illinois University shall not
3 discriminate in the University's admissions process
4 against an applicant for admission because of the
5 applicant's enrollment in a charter school established
6 under Article 27A of the School Code. Western Illinois
7 University may also admit (i) applicants who did not have
8 an opportunity to complete the minimum college preparatory
9 curriculum in high school, and (ii) educationally
10 disadvantaged applicants who are admitted to the formal
11 organized special assistance programs that are tailored to
12 the needs of such students, providing that in either case,
13 the institution incorporates in the applicant's
14 baccalaureate curriculum courses or other academic
15 activities that compensate for course deficiencies; ~~and~~

16 (3) except that up to 3 of 15 units of coursework
17 required by paragraph (1) of this subsection may be
18 distributed by deducting no more than one unit each from
19 the categories of social studies, mathematics, sciences
20 and electives and completing those 3 units in any of the 5
21 categories of coursework described in paragraph (1); ~~and-~~

22 (4) except that Western Illinois University may not
23 require State public high school graduates, as a condition
24 of acceptance, to have completed any years of foreign
25 language courses unless the University permits, as an
26 alternative to completion of a foreign language course,

1 attainment of a College and Career Pathway Endorsement
2 under the Postsecondary and Workforce Readiness Act.

3 (b) When allocating funds, local boards of education shall
4 recognize their obligation to their students to offer the
5 coursework required by subsection (a).

6 (c) A student who has graduated from high school and has
7 scored within the University's accepted range on the ACT or
8 SAT shall not be required to take a high school equivalency
9 test as a prerequisite to admission.

10 (d) The Board shall establish an admissions process in
11 which honorably discharged veterans are permitted to submit an
12 application for admission to the University as a freshman
13 student enrolling in the spring semester if the veteran was on
14 active duty during the fall semester. The University may
15 request that the Department of Veterans' Affairs confirm the
16 status of an applicant as an honorably discharged veteran who
17 was on active duty during the fall semester.

18 (e) Beginning with the 20245-2026 academic year, the
19 University shall provide all Illinois students transferring
20 from a public community college in this State with the
21 University's undergraduate transfer admissions application fee
22 waiver policy and, if such a policy exists, any application or
23 forms necessary to apply for a fee waiver as part of the
24 University's transfer admissions process. The University is
25 encouraged to develop a policy to automatically waive the
26 undergraduate transfer admissions application fee for

1 low-income Illinois students transferring from a public
2 community college in this State. The University shall post
3 this policy in an easily accessible place on the University's
4 Internet website.

5 (Source: P.A. 102-403, eff. 1-1-22; 102-404, eff. 1-1-22;
6 103-936, eff. 8-9-24.)

7 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon
8 becoming law.