



104TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2025 and 2026

SB3070

Introduced 1/28/2026, by Sen. Willie Preston

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

105 ILCS 5/27-605	was 105 ILCS 5/27-22
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 Courses 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 various Acts relating to the governance of public universities in Illinois. Provides that a public 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 18781 LNS 32224 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 27-605 as follows:

6 (105 ILCS 5/27-605) (was 105 ILCS 5/27-22)

7 Sec. 27-605. 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) career and technical
2 education, or (E) forensic speech (speech and debate). A
3 forensic speech course used to satisfy the course
4 requirement under subdivision (1) may not be used to
5 satisfy the course 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 27-610 of this Code and the
26 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. 103-154, eff. 6-30-23; 103-743, eff. 8-2-24;
7 104-387, eff. 8-15-25; 104-391, eff. 8-15-25; revised
8 9-24-25.)

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 Affairs
7 confirm the status of an applicant as an honorably discharged
8 veteran who was on active duty during the fall semester.

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

22 (Source: P.A. 103-936, eff. 8-9-24; 104-234, eff. 8-15-25.)

23 Section 15. The Southern Illinois University Management
24 Act is amended by changing Section 8e as follows:

1 (110 ILCS 520/8e) (from Ch. 144, par. 658e)

2 Sec. 8e. Admissions.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

22 (2) except that institutions may admit individual
23 applicants if the institution determines through
24 assessment or through evaluation based on learning
25 outcomes of the coursework taken, including career and
26 technical education courses and courses taken in a charter

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

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

26 (4) except that the University may not require State

1 public high school graduates, as a condition of
2 acceptance, to have completed any years of foreign
3 language courses unless the University permits, as an
4 alternative to completion of a foreign language course,
5 attainment of a College and Career Pathway Endorsement
6 under the Postsecondary and Workforce Readiness Act.

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

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

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

22 (e) Beginning with the 2025-2026 academic year, the
23 University shall provide all Illinois students transferring
24 from a public community college in this State with the
25 University's undergraduate transfer admissions application fee
26 waiver policy and, if such a policy exists, any application or

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

9 (Source: P.A. 103-936, eff. 8-9-24; 104-234, eff. 8-15-25.)

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

12 (110 ILCS 660/5-85)

13 Sec. 5-85. Admissions.

14 (a) No new student shall be admitted to instruction in any
15 of the departments or colleges of the Chicago State University
16 unless such 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 Chicago State University may admit
10 individual applicants if it determines through assessment
11 or through evaluation based on learning outcomes of the
12 coursework taken, including career and technical education
13 courses and courses taken in a charter school established
14 under Article 27A of the School Code, that the applicant
15 demonstrates knowledge and skills substantially equivalent
16 to the knowledge and skills expected to be acquired in the
17 high school courses required for admission. The Board of
18 Trustees of Chicago State University shall not
19 discriminate in the University's admissions process
20 against an applicant for admission because of the
21 applicant's enrollment in a charter school established
22 under Article 27A of the School Code. Chicago State
23 University may also admit (i) applicants who did not have
24 an opportunity to complete the minimum college preparatory
25 curriculum in high school, and (ii) educationally
26 disadvantaged applicants who are admitted to the formal

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

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

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

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

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

26 (d) The Board shall establish an admissions process in

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

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

21 (Source: P.A. 103-936, eff. 8-9-24; 104-234, eff. 8-15-25.)

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

24 (110 ILCS 665/10-85)

1 Sec. 10-85. Admissions.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

22 (2) except that Eastern Illinois University may admit
23 individual applicants if it determines through assessment
24 or through evaluation based on learning outcomes of the
25 coursework taken, including career and technical education
26 courses and courses taken in a charter school established

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

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

25 (4) except that Eastern Illinois University may not
26 require State public high school graduates, as a condition

1 of acceptance, to have completed any years of foreign
2 language courses unless the University permits, as an
3 alternative to completion of a foreign language course,
4 attainment of a College and Career Pathway Endorsement
5 under the Postsecondary and Workforce Readiness Act.

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

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

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

21 (e) Beginning with the 2025-2026 academic year, the
22 University shall provide all Illinois students transferring
23 from a public community college in this State with the
24 University's undergraduate transfer admissions application fee
25 waiver policy and, if such a policy exists, any application or
26 forms necessary to apply for a fee waiver as part of the

1 University's transfer admissions process. The University is
2 encouraged to develop a policy to automatically waive the
3 undergraduate transfer admissions application fee for
4 low-income Illinois students transferring from a public
5 community college in this State. The University shall post
6 this policy in an easily accessible place on the University's
7 Internet website.

8 (Source: P.A. 103-936, eff. 8-9-24; 104-234, eff. 8-15-25.)

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

11 (110 ILCS 670/15-85)

12 Sec. 15-85. Admissions.

13 (a) No new student shall be admitted to instruction in any
14 of the departments or colleges of the Governors State
15 University unless such student also has satisfactorily
16 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 Governors State University may admit
10 individual applicants if it determines through assessment
11 or through evaluation based on learning outcomes of the
12 coursework taken, including career and technical education
13 courses and courses taken in a charter school established
14 under Article 27A of the School Code, that the applicant
15 demonstrates knowledge and skills substantially equivalent
16 to the knowledge and skills expected to be acquired in the
17 high school courses required for admission. The Board of
18 Trustees of Governors State University shall not
19 discriminate in the University's admissions process
20 against an applicant for admission because of the
21 applicant's enrollment in a charter school established
22 under Article 27A of the School Code. Governors State
23 University may also admit (i) applicants who did not have
24 an opportunity to complete the minimum college preparatory
25 curriculum in high school, and (ii) educationally
26 disadvantaged applicants who are admitted to the formal

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

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

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

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

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

26 (d) The Board shall establish an admissions process in

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

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

21 (Source: P.A. 103-936, eff. 8-9-24; 104-234, eff. 8-15-25.)

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

24 (110 ILCS 675/20-85)

1 Sec. 20-85. Admissions.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

22 (2) except that Illinois State University may admit
23 individual applicants if it determines through assessment
24 or through evaluation based on learning outcomes of the
25 coursework taken, including career and technical education
26 courses and courses taken in a charter school established

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

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

25 (4) except that Illinois State University may not
26 require State public high school graduates, as a condition

1 of acceptance, to have completed any years of foreign
2 language courses unless the University permits, as an
3 alternative to completion of a foreign language course,
4 attainment of a College and Career Pathway Endorsement
5 under the Postsecondary and Workforce Readiness Act.

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

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

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

21 (e) Beginning with the 2025-2026 academic year, the
22 University shall provide all Illinois students transferring
23 from a public community college in this State with the
24 University's undergraduate transfer admissions application fee
25 waiver policy and, if such a policy exists, any application or
26 forms necessary to apply for a fee waiver as part of the

1 University's transfer admissions process. The University is
2 encouraged to develop a policy to automatically waive the
3 undergraduate transfer admissions application fee for
4 low-income Illinois students transferring from a public
5 community college in this State. The University shall post
6 this policy in an easily accessible place on the University's
7 Internet website.

8 (Source: P.A. 103-936, eff. 8-9-24; 104-234, eff. 8-15-25.)

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

11 (110 ILCS 680/25-85)

12 Sec. 25-85. Admissions.

13 (a) No new student shall be admitted to instruction in any
14 of the departments or colleges of the Northeastern Illinois
15 University unless such student also has satisfactorily
16 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 Northeastern Illinois University may
10 admit individual applicants if it 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
19 Northeastern Illinois University shall not discriminate in
20 the University's admissions process against an applicant
21 for admission because of the applicant's enrollment in a
22 charter school established under Article 27A of the School
23 Code. Northeastern Illinois University may also admit (i)
24 applicants who did not have an opportunity to complete the
25 minimum college preparatory curriculum in high school, and
26 (ii) educationally disadvantaged applicants who are

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

7 (3) except that up to 3 of 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 Northeastern Illinois University may
14 not require State public high school graduates, as a
15 condition of acceptance, to have completed any years of
16 foreign language courses unless the University permits, as
17 an 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 (b) When allocating funds, local boards of education shall
21 recognize their obligation to their students to offer the
22 coursework required by subsection (a).

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

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

22 (Source: P.A. 103-936, eff. 8-9-24; 104-234, eff. 8-15-25.)

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

1 (110 ILCS 685/30-85)

2 Sec. 30-85. Admissions.

3 (a) No new student shall be admitted to instruction in any
4 of the departments or colleges of the Northern Illinois
5 University unless such student also has satisfactorily
6 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 Northern Illinois University may admit
24 individual applicants if it determines through assessment
25 or through evaluation based on learning outcomes of the
26 coursework taken, including career and technical education

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

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

26 (4) except that Northern Illinois University may not

1 require State public high school graduates, as a condition
2 of acceptance, to have completed any years of foreign
3 language courses unless the University permits, as an
4 alternative to completion of a foreign language course,
5 attainment of a College and Career Pathway Endorsement
6 under the Postsecondary and Workforce Readiness Act.

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

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

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

22 (e) Beginning with the 2025-2026 academic year, the
23 University shall provide all Illinois students transferring
24 from a public community college in this State with the
25 University's undergraduate transfer admissions application fee
26 waiver policy and, if such a policy exists, any application or

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

9 (Source: P.A. 103-936, eff. 8-9-24; 104-234, eff. 8-15-25.)

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

12 (110 ILCS 690/35-85)

13 Sec. 35-85. Admissions.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

7 (3) except that up to 3 of 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 Western Illinois University may not
14 require State public high school graduates, as a condition
15 of 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 (b) When allocating funds, local boards of education shall
21 recognize their obligation to their students to offer the
22 coursework required by subsection (a).

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

9 (e) Beginning with the 20245-2026 academic year, the
10 University shall provide all Illinois students transferring
11 from a public community college in this State with the
12 University's undergraduate transfer admissions application fee
13 waiver policy and, if such a policy exists, any application or
14 forms necessary to apply for a fee waiver as part of the
15 University's transfer admissions process. The University is
16 encouraged to develop a policy to automatically waive the
17 undergraduate transfer admissions application fee for
18 low-income Illinois students transferring from a public
19 community college in this State. The University shall post
20 this policy in an easily accessible place on the University's
21 Internet website.

22 (Source: P.A. 103-936, eff. 8-9-24; 104-234, eff. 8-15-25.)

23 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon
24 becoming law.