

Curricular Mandate Reform

Issue & Background

Between 1982 and 2026, 738 educational mandates have been passed, creating an increasingly crowded and inflexible curriculum. Even when individual proposals are well-intentioned, the cumulative effect significantly impacts students' learning environments. One of the areas of proposed mandates we see increasingly each year are instructional mandates.



Curricular Mandates Introduced – 2026 Spring Session

House Bills	Senate Bills
Latinx Unit of Study- (HB4139) and (HB4372)	Cursive Instruction Grades 3-5 (SB2676)
Italian American history (HB4143)	Latinx Unit of Study (SB2270)
Computer Science Requirement (HB4411)	Latine Studies (SB3031) and (SB3327)
Disability History and Awareness (HB5398)	Etiquette Education (SB2832)
Water Safety (HB4927)	Active Transport Safety (SB2966)
Civic Engagement Ed (HB5289)	Instruction on Gambling Disorders (SB3718)
Illinois Military History (HB4971)	Substance Abuse- Student Athletes (SB3885)
Parenting Ed (HB4997)	
Required CTE (HB4928)	
SEL Instruction (HB4855)	

Concerns

Impact on Students

- School days become overloaded as more required content is added to already full schedules and learning time becomes fragmented, reducing impact of instruction.
- At the high school level, students have less time to explore electives of interest and postsecondary and career pathway courses.

Impact on Teachers

- Each new mandate requires developing and identifying resources for new lessons and restructuring curriculum.
- Teachers lose local flexibility to adapt instruction based on classroom and individual student needs and demographics.

Impact on Schools

- Districts must fit more requirements into the same number of instructional minutes.
- Local decision-making is eroded as state-level requirements accumulate.

Proposed Solution

IASB supported the creation of the Mandate Reduction Council with the passage of Public Act 104-0391. The Council has begun reviewing the thousands of existing mandates across 10 different categories.

IASB supports pausing the enactment of any new mandates, including curricular mandates, while the Council completes its review.