

## **ILLINOIS INSTRUCTIONAL MANDATES**

In addition to the Illinois Learning Standards for all subjects, there are mandated units of study that are required for public schools to provide within the curriculum. These lessons and units are integrated into the Gower curriculum according to the standards and the most appropriate age/developmental level. The [Illinois Instructional Mandates](#) incorporated into the Gower Curriculum are listed below:

**Health Education:** Schools must include the following major educational areas as a basis for curricula across grades K-8:

- Human ecology and health
- Human growth and development
- Family life, including sexual abstinence until marriage (opt out allowed)
- Prevention and control of disease, including instruction in grades 6 through 12 on the prevention, transmission and spread of AIDS (opt out allowed)
- Age-appropriate sexual abuse and assault awareness prevention education in grades PreK through 12 (parent opt-out allowed)
- Public and environmental health
- Consumer health
- Safety education and disaster survival
- Mental health and illness; which must include how and where to find mental health resources and specialized treatment
- Personal health habits
- Alcohol, drug use, and abuse including the medical and legal ramifications of alcohol, drug, and tobacco use, abuse during pregnancy; curricula for alcohol and drug use and abuse shall include classroom instruction in grades 5 through 12
- Evidence-based and medically accurate information regarding: sexual abstinence, tobacco and e-cigarettes and other vapor devices, nutrition, and dental health
- Course material and instruction to advise pupils of the Abandoned Newborn Infant Protection Act
- Information about cancer

**Physical Education:** (Required K-8)

**Sexual Abuse Education (Erin's Law)**

- Public Act 102-0610 made changes to Erin's Law including that it is mandatory that school board policies addressing sexual abuse of children include "an age-appropriate and evidence-informed curriculum for students in preK-12th grade".

**Safety Education** (Required K-8) & **Traffic Injury Education** Required K-8)

- Instruction in safe gun storage

**Abduction Education** (Required K-8)

**Drug and Substance Abuse Education** (K-8)

- Anabolic Steroid Abuse (7-12)
- Dangers of opioid abuse

**Teen Dating Violence** (7-12)

**Violence Prevention & Conflict Resolution** (K-12)

**Internet Safety Education** (3-12, and K-2 may be included)

**Social Studies:** U.S. History, which must include the following components:

- The study of the role and contributions of ethnic groups (including but not limited to those specifically enumerated in statute) and the labor unions in the history of this country and this state.
- The study of events related to the forceful removal and illegal deportation of Mexican American U.S. citizens during the Great Depression.
- The study of the role and contributions of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people in the history of this country and this state.
- Contributions made to society by Americans of different faith practices (including, but not limited to, those specifically enumerated in statute).
- Instruction in the history of Illinois.
- All students in grade 7 and all high school students enrolled in a course concerning U.S. history or a combination of U.S. history and American government must view a Congressional Medal of Honor film made by the Congressional Medal of Honor Foundation.
- Every public elementary school must provide in its 6th, 7th, or 8th grade curriculum at least one semester of civics education. (Gower includes Civics in 7th grade)
- The history of Women, Blacks, Asian Americans, and Persons with Disabilities including contributions toward advancing civil rights.
- Holocaust & Genocide Education (non-specified): Every public elementary and high school)

**Computer Literacy**

- Computer Literacy Skills are required at each grade level K-12
- Ensure that students receive developmentally appropriate opportunities to gain computer literacy skills embedded in the district's curriculum at each grade level

**Conservation of Natural Resources** (elementary school; non-specified)

**Cursive Writing** (prior to 5th grade)

**Character Education** (non-specified)

**Library Media Programs** (non-specified)

## **Partnerships:**

PK-4, Gower partners with the YWCA for compliance with Erin's Law in combination with our Social Workers/School Counselor as part of our focus on health and safety education. We expect to continue to use this model moving forward.

For our Middle School, 5th-8th grade, we partner with Candor Health, and expect to continue to use this resource moving forward:

- 5th Grade: We host a gender specific presentation, [Puberty I - Understanding Changes](#), in the evening. A parent or guardian is required to attend.
- 6th Grade: We host the [Human Reproduction and Embryology](#) module during the school day in a coed presentation. Parents can opt their child out.
- 7th: We use [The Science Behind Drugs](#) module in coed presentation during the school day. Parents can opt their child out.
- 8th Grade Health Curriculum: We use Candor Health's presentation: [Teen Sexual Health I](#) during the school day. Parents can opt their child out.

In 5th grade, the Community Policing Officer from Burr Ridge Police Department may present a lesson on safety, good decision-making, and saying "no" to drugs and alcohol through the [DARE](#) program.

In 7th and 8th grade, the Physical Education/Health teachers and Social Worker/Counselors use materials from [Erika's Lighthouse](#) for the lessons on teen suicide prevention and depression.

In both Gower West Elementary School and Gower Middle School, we utilize the [Junior Achievement](#) program to have specific lessons in civics and financial literacy and address the Social Studies standards. The Gower Foundation has provided community volunteers to share their expertise with our students.