# **JAMP Special Education**

#### **Table of Contents**

# **JAMP Special Education**

#### **SECTION 1 - DISTRICT ORGANIZATION**

- 1:10 District Legal Status
- 1:20 District Organization
- 1:30 Educational Philosophy

#### **SECTION 2 - GOVERNING BOARD**

- 2:10 District Governance
- 2:20 Powers and Duties of the Governing Board
- 2:40 Board Member Qualifications
- 2:50 Board Member Term of Office
- 2:70 Vacancies on the Governing Board Filling Vacancies
- 2:80 Board Member Conduct
  - 2:80-E Exhibit Board Member Code of Conduct
- 2:100 Board Member Conflict of Interest
- 2:105 Ethics and Gift Ban
- 2:110 Qualifications, Term, and Duties of Board Officers
- 2:120 Board Member Development
- 2:125 Board Member Compensation; Expenses
  - 2:125-E1 Exhibit Board Member Expense Reimbursement Form
  - 2:125-E2 Exhibit Board Member Estimated Expense Approval Form
- 2:140 Communications To and From the Board
  - 2:140-E Exhibit Guidance for Board Member Communications, Including Email Use
- 2:160 Board Attorney
  - 2:160-E Exhibit Checklist for Selecting a Board Attorney
- 2:170 Procurement of Architectural, Engineering, and Land Surveying Services
- 2:200 Types of Governing Board Meetings
- 2:210 Organizational Governing Board Meeting
- 2:220 Governing Board Meeting Procedure

- 2:220-E1 Exhibit Board Treatment of Closed Meeting Verbatim Recordings and Minutes
- 2:220-E2 Exhibit Motion to Adjourn to Closed Meeting
- 2:220-E3 Exhibit Closed Meeting Minutes
- 2:220-E4 Exhibit Open Meeting Minutes
- 2:220-E5 Exhibit Semi-Annual Review of Closed Meeting Minutes
- 2:220-E6 Exhibit Log of Closed Meeting Minutes
- 2:220-E7 Exhibit Access to Closed Meeting Minutes and Verbatim Recordings
- 2:220-E8 Exhibit School Board Records Maintenance Requirements and FAQs
- 2:220-E9 Exhibit Requirements for No Physical Presence of Quorum and Participation by Audio or Video During Disaster Declaration
- 2:230 Public Participation at Governing Board Meetings and Petitions to the Board
- 2:240 Board Policy Development
- 2:250 Access to Cooperative Public Records
- 2:260 Uniform Grievance Procedure
- 2:265 Title IX Grievance Procedure
- 2:270 Discrimination and Harassment on the Basis of Race, Color, and National Origin Prohibited

#### **SECTION 3 - GENERAL DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION**

- 3:10 Goals and Objectives
- 3:30 Chain of Command
- 3:40 Director
- 3:50 Administrative Personnel Other Than the Director
- 3:60 Administrative Responsibility of the Building Principal/Dean of Students
- 3:62 Staff Supervision
- 3:70 Succession of Authority

# **SECTION 4 - OPERATIONAL SERVICES**

- 4:10 Fiscal and Business Management
- 4:15 Identity Protection
- 4:30 Revenue and Investments
- 4:40 Incurring Debt

4:45 Insufficient Fund Checks and Debt Recovery 4:50 Payment Procedures 4:55 Use of Credit and Procurement Cards 4:60 Purchases and Contracts 4:70 Resource Conservation 4:80 Accounting and Audits 4:100 Insurance Management 4:120 Food Services 4:130 Free and Reduced-Price Food Services 4:130-E Exhibit - Free and Reduced-Price Food Services; Meal Charge Notifications 4:150 Facility Management and Building Programs 4:160 Environmental Quality of Buildings and Grounds 4:165 Awareness and Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse and Grooming Behaviors 4:170 Safety 4:175 Convicted Child Sex Offender; Screening; Notifications 4:180 Pandemic Preparedness; Management; and Recovery 4:190 Targeted School Violence Prevention Program **SECTION 5 - PERSONNEL** General Personnel 5:10 Equal Employment Opportunity and Minority Recruitment 5:20 Workplace Harassment Prohibited 5:20-E Resolution to Prohibit Sexual Harassment 5:30 Hiring Process and Criteria 5:35 Compliance with the Fair Labor Standards Act 5:40 Communicable and Chronic Infectious Disease 5:50 Drug- and Alcohol-Free Workplace; E-Cigarette, Tobacco, and Cannabis Prohibition 5:60 Expenses 5:60-E1 Exhibit - Employee Expense Reimbursement Form

5:60-E2 Exhibit - Employee Estimated Expense Approval Form

	5:70 Religious Holidays							
	5:80 Court Duty							
	5:90 Abused and Neglected Child Reporting							
	5:100 Staff Development Program							
	5:120 Employee Ethics; Code of Professional Conduct; and Conflict of Interes							
	5:125 Personal Technology and Social Media; Usage and Conduct							
	5:130 Responsibilities Concerning Internal Information							
	5:140 Solicitations By or From Staff							
	5:150 Personnel Records							
	5:170 Copyright							
	5:180 Temporary Illness or Temporary Incapacity							
	5:185 Family and Medical Leave							
Pro	fessional Personnel							
	5:190 Teacher Qualifications							
	5:200 Terms and Conditions of Employment and Dismissal							
	5:210 Resignations							
	5:220 Substitute Teachers							
	5:230 Maintaining Student Discipline							
	5:240 Suspension							
	5:250 Leaves of Absence							
	5:260 Student Teachers							
Edu	ucational Support Personnel							
	5:270 Employment At-Will, Compensation, and Assignment							
	5:280 Duties and Qualifications							
	5:285 Drug and Alcohol Testing for District Bus and Commercial Vehicle Drivers							
	5:290 Employment Termination and Suspensions							
	5:300 Schedules and Employment Year							
	5:310 Compensatory Time-Off							
	5:320 Evaluation							
	5:330 Sick Days, Vacation, Holidays, and Leaves							

7:60 Residence

7:70 Attendance and Truancy

SE	CTION 6 - INSTRUCTION
	6:20 District Calendar and Day
	6:30 Organization of Instruction
	6:40 Programs and Curriculum Development
	6:60 Curriculum Content
	6:65 Student Social and Emotional Development
	6:100 Using Animals in the Educational Program
	6:110 Programs for Students At Risk of Academic Failure and/or Dropping Out of School and Graduation Incentives Program
	6:120 Education of Children with Disabilities
	6:135 Accelerated Placement Program
	6:140 Education of Homeless Children
	6:150 Home and Hospital Instruction
	6:160 English Learners
	6:235 Access to Electronic Networks
	6:240 Field Trips
	6:250 Community Resource Persons and Volunteers
	6:255 Assemblies and Ceremonies
	6:260 Complaints About Curriculum, Instructional Materials, and Programs
	6:280 Grading and Promotion
	6:340 Student Testing and Assessment Program
SE	ECTION 7 - STUDENTS
	7:10 Equal Educational Opportunities
	7:10-E Exhibit - Equal Educational Opportunities Within the School Community
	7:15 Student and Family Privacy Rights
	7:20 Harassment of Students Prohibited
	7:30 Student Assignment
	7:50 School Admissions/Eligibility for Services

7:80 Release Time for Religious Instruction/Observance 7:90 Release During District Hours 7:100 Health and Dental Examinations, Immunizations, and Exclusion of Students 7:130 Student Rights and Responsibilities 7:140 Search and Seizure 7:150 Agency and Police Interviews 7:160 Student Appearance 7:170 Vandalism 7:180 Prevention of and Response to Bullying, Intimidation, and Harassment 7:185 Teen Dating Violence Prohibited 7:190 Student Behavior 7:200 Suspension Procedures 7:230 Misconduct by Students with Disabilities 7:250 Student Support Services 7:255 Students Who are Parents, Expectant Parents, or Victims of Domestic or Sexual Violence 7:260 Exemption from Physical Education 7:270 Administering Medicines to Students 7:275 Orders to Forgo Life-Sustaining Treatment 7:280 Communicable and Chronic Infectious Disease 7:285 Anaphylaxis Prevention, Response, and Management Program 7:290 Suicide and Depression Awareness and Prevention 7:310 Restrictions on Publications and Written or Electronic Material; Elementary Schools 7:315 Restrictions on Publications; High Schools 7:340 Student Records 7:345 Use of Educational Technologies; Student Data Privacy and Security

# **SECTION 8 - COMMUNITY RELATIONS**

- 8:10 Connection with the Community
- 8:20 Community Use of District Facilities
- 8:25 Advertising and Distributing Materials in Districts Provided by Non-District Related Entities

- 8:30 Visitors to and Conduct on District Property
- 8:70 Accommodating Individuals with Disabilities
- 8:80 Gifts to the Cooperative
- 8:95 Parental Involvement
- 8:110 Public Suggestions and Concerns

# **SECTION 1 - DISTRICT ORGANIZATION**

# 1:10 District Legal Status

The Illinois Constitution requires the State to provide for an efficient system of high-quality public educational institutions and services in order to achieve the educational development of all persons to the limits of their capabilities.

The General Assembly has implemented this constitutional mandate through the creation of joint agreements of various types for the purpose of providing special education services to children with disabilities. JAMP Special Education District is governed by such mandates.

Special education programs and/or services shall be developed in accordance with <u>The Illinois Rules and Regulations to Govern the Organization and Administration of Special Education</u> as promulgated under the constitutional authority of the State of Illinois and the Office of the Illinois State Board of Education.

Consistent with 105 ILCS 5/10-22.31, the JAMP Special Education District Governing Board shall serve as the administrative and legal entity for the Special Education District.

The Governing Board constitutes a body corporate that possesses all the usual powers of a corporation for public purposes, and in that name may sue and be sued, purchase, hold and sell personal property and real estate, and enter into such obligations as are authorized by law.

LEGAL REF.:

III. Constitution, Art. X, Sec. 1.

105 ILCS 5/10-1 et seq.

CROSS REF.: 2:10 (District Governance), 2:20 (Powers and Duties of the Board)

Adopted: August 17, 2021

# 1:20 District Organization

The District is organized under the "JAMP Special Education Services Articles of Joint Agreement."

LEGAL REF.:

23 III Admin Code § 1.210

Adopted: August 17, 2021

# 1:30 Educational Philosophy

All members of the JAMP Special Education District, as legal officials of the State of Illinois, feel obligated to the exceptional children and youth of the Member Districts to see that their educational needs are met in the most appropriate manner possible. Member Districts of the District should exhibit leadership in promoting, facilitating and expediting special education services to the exceptional children of each District.

The following statements represent the goals of the District:

- 1. Develop procedures for identification of those children with disabilities in need of special education services.
- 2. Offer to each exceptional student the most appropriate instruction and facility to provide his/her educational development.
- 3. Provide qualified educational specialists for services to the exceptional children.
- 4. Develop an Individualized Educational Program for each child based on his/her special educational needs.
- 5. Make available alternative types of educational environments.
- 6. Review and evaluate on a regular basis each exceptional child's progress to determine the correct educational plan.
- 7. Provide parents/guardians of exceptional children with the results of student evaluation and placement procedures.
- 8. Maintain programs for personnel development.

CROSS REF: 2:10 (District Governance), 3:10 (Goals and Objectives)

Adopted: August 17, 2021

# **SECTION 2 - GOVERNING BOARD**

#### 2:10 District Governance

The District is governed by a Governing Board whose membership, responsibilities, and authority shall be as described in JAMP Special Education Services Articles of Joint Agreement, and an Executive Board whose membership, responsibilities, and authority shall be as described in JAMP Special Education Services Articles of Joint Agreement. The ultimate responsibility for fiscal and personnel matters rests with the Governing Board based on recommendations from the Executive Board.

Official action by the Governing Board may only occur at a duly called and legally conducted meeting. Except as otherwise provided by the Open Meetings Act, a quorum must be physically present at the meeting.

Governing Board members, as individuals, have no authority over school affairs, except as provided by law or as authorized by the Board.

LEGAL REF .:

5 ILCS 120/, Open Meetings Act.

105 ILCS 5/10-1, 5/10-10, 5/10-12, 5/10-16.5, 5/10-16.7, and 5/10-20.5.

CROSS REF.: 1:10 (District Legal Status)

Adopted: August 17, 2021

# 2:20 Powers and Duties of the Governing Board

The Governing Board shall have those powers and duties assigned to it in the JAMP Special Education Services Articles of Joint Agreement.

LEGAL REF.:

105 ILCS 5/10, 5/17-1, 5/21B-85, and 5/27-1.

115 ILCS 5/, III. Educational Labor Relations Act.

325 ILCS 5/, Abused and Neglected Child Reporting Act.

CROSS REF.: 1:10 (District Legal Status), 2:10 (District Governance), 2:80 (Board Member Conduct), 2:240 (Board Policy Development), 4:165 (Awareness and Prevention of Sexual Abuse and Grooming Behaviors), 4:175 (Convicted Child Sex Offender; Screening; Notifications), 5:10 (Equal Employment Opportunity and Minority Recruitment), 5:30 (Hiring Process and Criteria), 5:90 (Abused and Neglected Child Reporting), 5:120 (Employee Ethics; Code of Professional Conduct; and Conflict of Interest), 5:150 (Personnel Records), 5:210 (Resignations), 5:290 (Employment Termination and Suspensions),

Adopted: March 15, 2022

# 2:40 Board Member Qualifications

A Governing Board member must be a member of the School Board of a Member District and be appointed to the Governing Board by the School Board of the Member District.

The Superintendent of each Member District shall serve as a non-voting ex-officio member of the Governing Board.

LEGAL REF.:

III. Constitution, Art. II, §1; Art. IV, §2(e); Art. VI, §13(b).

105 ILCS 5/10-3 and 5/10-10.

Adopted: July 16, 2024

# 2:50 Board Member Term of Office

Board members and alternates are selected by their respective Member Districts to serve a one (1) year term beginning in July and ending the following June.

LEGAL REF.:

10 ILCS 5/2A-1.1, 5/22-17, and 5/22-18.

105 ILCS 5/10-10, 5/10-16, and 5/10-16.5.

CROSS REF.:2:80 (Board Member Conduct), 2:210 (Organizational Governing Board Meeting)

Adopted: July 16, 2024

# 2:70 Vacancies on the Governing Board - Filling Vacancies

Membership on the Governing Board or service as an alternate shall terminate upon resignation of the Governing Board member or alternate, or if the member or alternate is no longer a member of the School Board of a Member District.

The President of the School Board of the Member District shall serve on the Governing Board in the event of a vacancy, until the School Board appoints a new member to the Governing Board.

LEGAL REF.:

105 ILCS 5/10-10 and 5/10-11.

CROSS REF.:2:40 (Board Member Qualifications), 2:120 (Board Member Development)

Adopted: July 16, 2024

### 2:80 Board Member Conduct

The Board adopts the Illinois Association of School Boards' "Code of Conduct for Members of School Boards." A copy of the Code shall be displayed in the regular Board meeting room.

LEGAL REF.:

105 ILCS 5/10-16.5.

CROSS REF.:1:30 (District Philosophy), 2:20 (Powers and Duties of the Governing Board), 2:50 (Board Member Term of Office), 2:100 (Board Member Conflict of Interest), 2:105 (Ethics and Gift Ban), 2:210 (Organizational Governing Board Meeting)

Adopted: July 11, 2023

### 2:80-E Exhibit - Board Member Code of Conduct

As a member of my local Governing Board, I will do my utmost to represent the public interest in education by adhering to the following standards and principles:

- 1. I will represent all District constituents honestly and equally and refuse to surrender my responsibilities to special interest or partisan political groups.
- 2. I will avoid any conflict of interest or the appearance of impropriety which could result from my position, and will not use my Board membership for personal gain or publicity.
- 3. I will recognize that a Board member has no legal authority as an individual and that decisions can be made only by a majority vote at a Board meeting.
- 4. I will take no private action that might compromise the Board or administration and will respect the confidentiality of privileged information.
- 5. I will abide by majority decisions of the Board, while retaining the right to seek changes in such decisions through ethical and constructive channels.
- 6. I will encourage and respect the free expression of opinion by my fellow Board members and will participate in Board discussions in an open, honest and respectful manner, honoring differences of opinion or perspective.
- 7. I will prepare for, attend and actively participate in Governing Board meetings.
- 8. I will be sufficiently informed about and prepared to act on the specific issues before the Board, and remain reasonably knowledgeable about local, State, national, and global education issues.
- 9. I will respectfully listen to those who communicate with the Board, seeking to understand their views, while recognizing my responsibility to represent the interests of the entire community.
- 10. I will strive for a positive working relationship with the Director, respecting the Director's authority to advise the Board, implement Board policy, and administer the District.
- 11. I will model continuous learning and work to ensure good governance by taking advantage of Board member development opportunities, such as those sponsored by my State and national Governing Board associations, and encourage my fellow Board members to do the same.
- 12. I will strive to keep my Board focused on its primary work of clarifying the District purpose, direction and goals, and monitoring District performance.

DATED: July 11, 2023

#### 2:100 Board Member Conflict of Interest

No Governing Board member shall: (1) have a beneficial interest directly or indirectly in any contract, work, or business of the District unless permitted by State or federal law; or (2) solicit or accept gratuities, favors, or anything of monetary value from contractors, potential contractors, or parties to agreements or contracts with the District. Situations in which the interest is not substantial or the gift is an unsolicited item of nominal value must comply with State law and Board policy 2:105, *Ethics and Gift Ban*.

Board members must annually file a *Statement of Economic Interests* as required by the Illinois Governmental Ethics Act. Each Board member is responsible for filing the statement with the county clerk of the county in which the District's principle office is located by May 1.

### Federal and State Grant Awards

No Board member shall participate in the selection, award, or administration of a contract supported by a federal award or State award governed by the Grant Accountability and Transparency Act (GATA) (30 ILCS 708/) if he or she has a real or apparent conflict of interest. A conflict of interest arises when a Board member or any of the following individuals has a financial or other interest in or a tangible benefit from the entity selected for the contract:

- 1. A member of the Board member's immediate family;
- 2. The Board member's partner; or
- 3. An entity that employs or is about to employ the Board member or one of the individuals listed in one or two above.

#### LEGAL REF.:

105 ILCS 5/10-9.

5 ILCS 420/, III. Governmental Ethics Act.

30 ILCS 708/, Grant Accountability and Transparency Act.

50 ILCS 105/3, Public Officer Prohibited Activities Act.

2 C.F.R. §200.318(c)(1).

CROSS REF.: 2:105 (Ethics and Gift Ban), 4:60 (Purchases and Contracts), 5:120 (Employee Ethics; Code of Professional Conduct; and Conflict of Interest)

Adopted: January 17, 2023

#### 2:105 Ethics and Gift Ban

# **Prohibited Political Activity**

The following precepts govern political activities being conducted by District employees and Governing Board members:

- 1. No employee shall intentionally perform any "political activity" during any "compensated time," as those terms are defined herein.
- 2. No Board member or employee shall intentionally use any District property or resources in connection with any political activity.
- 3. At no time shall any Board member or employee intentionally require any other Board member or employee to perform any political activity: (a) as part of that Board member's or employee's duties, (b) as a condition of employment, or (c) during any compensated time off, such as, holidays, vacation, or personal time off.
- 4. No Board member or employee shall be required at any time to participate in any political activity in consideration for that Board member or employee being awarded additional compensation or any benefit, whether in the form of a salary adjustment, bonus, compensatory time off, continued employment or otherwise; nor shall any Board member or employee be awarded additional compensation or any benefit in consideration for his or her participation in any political activity.

A Board member or employee may engage in any activity that: (1) is otherwise appropriate as part of his or her official duties, or (2) is undertaken by the individual on a voluntary basis that is not prohibited by this policy.

### **Limitations on Receiving Gifts**

Except as permitted by this policy, no Board member or employee, and no spouse of or immediate family member living with a Board member or employee, shall intentionally solicit or accept any "gift" from any "prohibited source," as those terms are defined herein, or that is otherwise prohibited by law or policy. No prohibited source shall intentionally offer or make a gift that violates this policy.

The following are exceptions to the ban on accepting gifts from a prohibited source:

- 1. Opportunities, benefits, and services that are available on the same conditions as for the general public.
- 2. Anything for which the Board member or employee, or his or her spouse or immediate family member, pays the fair market value.
- 3. Any: (a) contribution that is lawfully made under the Election Code, or (b) activities associated with a fundraising event in support of a political organization or candidate.
- 4. Educational materials and missions.
- 5. Travel expenses for a meeting to discuss District business.
- 6. A gift from a relative, meaning those people related to the individual as father, mother, son, daughter, brother, sister, uncle, aunt, great aunt, great uncle, first cousin, nephew, niece, husband, wife, grandfather, grandmother, grandson, granddaughter, father-in-law, mother-in-law, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, brother-in-law, sister-in-law, stepfather, stepmother, stepson, stepdaughter, stepbrother, stepsister, half-brother, half-sister, and including the father, mother, grandfather, or grandmother of the individual's spouse and the individual's fiancé or fiancée.
- 7. Anything provided by an individual on the basis of a personal friendship unless the recipient has reason to believe that, under the circumstances, the gift was provided because of the official position or employment of the recipient or his or her spouse or immediate family member and not because of the personal friendship. In determining whether a gift is provided on the basis of

personal friendship, the recipient shall consider the circumstances under which the gift was offered, such as: (a) the history of the relationship between the individual giving the gift and the recipient of the gift, including any previous exchange of gifts between those individuals; (b) whether to the actual knowledge of the recipient the individual who gave the gift personally paid for the gift or sought a tax deduction or business reimbursement for the gift; and (c) whether to the actual knowledge of the recipient the individual who gave the gift also at the same time gave the same or similar gifts to other Board members or employees, or their spouses or immediate family members.

- 8. Food or refreshments not exceeding \$75 per person in value on a single calendar day; provided that the food or refreshments are: (a) consumed on the premises from which they were purchased or prepared; or (b) catered. "Catered" means food or refreshments that are purchased ready to consume which are delivered by any means.
- 9. Food, refreshments, lodging, transportation, and other benefits resulting from outside business or employment activities (or outside activities that are not connected to the official duties of a Board member or employee), if the benefits have not been offered or enhanced because of the official position or employment of the Board member or employee and are customarily provided to others in similar circumstances.
- 10. Intra-governmental and inter-governmental gifts. "Intra-governmental gift" means any gift given to a Board member or employee from another Board member or employee, and "intergovernmental gift" means any gift given to a Board member or employee from an officer or employee of another governmental entity.
- 11. Beguests, inheritances, and other transfers at death.
- 12. Any item or items from any one prohibited source during any calendar year having a cumulative total value of less than \$100.

Each of the listed exceptions is mutually exclusive and independent of every other.

A Board member or employee, his or her spouse or an immediate family member living with the Board member or employee, does not violate this policy if the recipient promptly takes reasonable action to return a gift from a prohibited source to its source or gives the gift or an amount equal to its value to an appropriate charity that is exempt from income taxation under 26 U.S.C. §501(c)(3).

#### **Enforcement**

The Board Chairman and Director shall seek guidance from the Board attorney concerning compliance with and enforcement of this policy and State ethics laws. The Board may, as necessary or prudent, appoint an Ethics Advisor for this task.

Written complaints alleging a violation of this policy shall be filed with the Director or Board Chairman. If attempts to correct any misunderstanding or problem do not resolve the matter, the Director or Board Chairman shall, after consulting with the Board attorney, either place the alleged violation on a Board meeting agenda for the Board's disposition or refer the complainant to Board policy 2:260, *Uniform Grievance Procedure*. A Board member who is related, either by blood or by marriage, up to the degree of first cousin, to the person who is the subject of the complaint, shall not participate in any decision-making capacity for the Board. If the Board finds it more likely than not that the allegations in a complaint are true, it shall notify the State's Attorney and/or consider disciplinary action for the employee.

### **Definitions**

Unless otherwise stated, all terms used in this policy have the definitions given in the State Officials and Employees Ethics Act, 5 ILCS 430/1-5.

"Political activity" means:

- 1. Preparing for, organizing, or participating in any political meeting, political rally, political demonstration, or other political event.
- 2. Soliciting contributions, including but not limited to the purchase of, selling, distributing, or receiving payment for tickets for any political fundraiser, political meeting, or other political event.
- 3. Soliciting, planning the solicitation of, or preparing any document or report regarding anything of value intended as a campaign contribution.
- 4. Planning, conducting, or participating in a public opinion poll in connection with a campaign for elective office or on behalf of a political organization for political purposes or for or against any referendum question.
- 5. Surveying or gathering information from potential or actual voters in an election to determine probable vote outcome in connection with a campaign for elective office or on behalf of a political organization for political purposes or for or against any referendum question.
- 6. Assisting at the polls on Election Day on behalf of any political organization or candidate for elective office or for or against any referendum question.
- 7. Soliciting votes on behalf of a candidate for elective office or a political organization or for or against any referendum question or helping in an effort to get voters to the polls.
- 8. Initiating for circulation, preparing, circulating, reviewing, or filing any petition on behalf of a candidate for elective office or for or against any referendum question.
- 9. Making contributions on behalf of any candidate for elective office in that capacity or in connection with a campaign for elective office.
- 10. Preparing or reviewing responses to candidate questionnaires.
- 11. Distributing, preparing for distribution, or mailing campaign literature, campaign signs, or other campaign material on behalf of any candidate for elective office or for or against any referendum question.
- 12. Campaigning for any elective office or for or against any referendum question.
- 13. Managing or working on a campaign for elective office or for or against any referendum question.
- 14. Serving as a delegate, alternate, or proxy to a political party convention.
- 15. Participating in any recount or challenge to the outcome of any election.

With respect to an employee whose hours are not fixed, "compensated time" includes any period of time when the employee is on premises under the control of the District and any other time when the employee is executing his or her official duties, regardless of location.

"Prohibited source" means any person or entity who:

- 1. Is seeking official action by: (a) a Board member, or (b) an employee, or by the Board member or another employee directing that employee;
- 2. Does business or seeks to do business with: (a) a Board member, or (b) an employee, or with the Board member or another employee directing that employee;
- 3. Conducts activities regulated by: (a) a Board member, or (b) an employee or by the Board member or another employee directing that employee;
- 4. Has an interest that may be substantially affected by the performance or non-performance of the official duties of the Board member or employee:
- 5. Is registered or required to be registered with the Secretary of State under the Lobbyist Registration Act, except that an entity does not become a prohibited source merely because a registered lobbyist is one of its members or serves on its board of directors; or
- 6. Is an agent of, a spouse of, or an immediate family member living with a prohibited source.

<sup>&</sup>quot;Gift" means any gratuity, discount, entertainment, hospitality, loan, forbearance, or other tangible or

intangible item having monetary value including but not limited to, cash, food and drink, and honoraria for speaking engagements related to or attributable to government employment or the official position of a Board member or employee.

# Complaints of Sexual Harassment Made Against Board Members by Elected Officials

Pursuant to the State Officials and Employees Ethics Act (5 ILCS 430/70-5), members of the Board and other elected officials are encouraged to promptly report claims of sexual harassment by a Board member. Every effort should be made to file such complaints as soon as possible, while facts are known, and potential witnesses are available. If the official feels comfortable doing so, he or she should directly inform the individual that the individual's conduct or communication is offensive and must stop.

Board members and elected officials should report claims of sexual harassment against a member of the Board to the Board Chairman or Director. If the report is made to the Director, the Director shall promptly notify the Chairman, or if the Chairman is the subject of the complaint, the Vice Chairman. Reports of sexual harassment will be confidential to the greatest extent practicable.

When a complaint of sexual harassment is made against a member of the Board by another Board member or other elected official, the Board Chairman shall appoint a qualified outside investigator who is not a District employee or Board member to conduct an independent review of the allegations. If the allegations concern the Chairman, or the Chairman is a witness or otherwise conflicted, the Vice Chairman shall make the appointment. If the allegations concern both the Chairman and Vice Chairman, and/or they are witnesses or otherwise conflicted, the Board Secretary shall make the appointment. The investigator shall prepare a written report and submit it to the Board.

If a Board member has engaged in sexual harassment, the matter will be addressed in accordance with the authority of the Board.

The Director will post this policy on the District website and/or make this policy available in the District's administrative office.

LEGAL REF.:

105 ILCS 5/22-93.

5 ILCS 430/, State Officials and Employees Ethics Act.

10 ILCS 5/9-25.1, Election Interference Prohibition Act.

CROSS REF.: 2:100 (Board Member Conflict of Interest), 2:110 (Qualifications, Term, and Duties of Board Officers), 2:260 (Uniform Grievance Procedure), 4:60 (Purchases and Contracts), 5:120 (Employee Ethics; Code of Professional Conduct; and Conflict of Interest)

Adopted: December 17, 2024

# 2:110 Qualifications, Term, and Duties of Board Officers

The Governing Board officers are: Chairman, Vice Chairman, and Secretary. These officers are elected or appointed by the Board at its organizational meeting.

#### Chairman

The Board elects a Chairman from its members for a one-year term. The duties of the Chairman are:

- 1. Preside at all meetings;
- 2. Focus the Board meeting agendas on appropriate content;
- 3. Sign official District documents requiring the Chairman's signature, including Board minutes;
- 4. Call special meetings of the Board;
- 5. Serve as the *head of the public body* for purposes of the Open Meetings Act (OMA) and Freedom of Information Act;
- 6. Ensure that a quorum of the Board is physically present at all Board meetings, except as otherwise provided by OMA;
- 7. Serve as or appoint the Board's official spokesperson to the media;
- 8. Except when the Board Chairman is the subject of a complaint of sexual harassment, a witness, or otherwise conflicted, appoint a qualified outside investigator to conduct an independent review of allegations of sexual harassment made against a Board member by another Board member or elected official; and
- 9. Ensure that all fingerprint-based criminal history records information checks, screenings, and sexual misconduct related employment history reviews (EHRs) required by State law and policy 5:30, *Hiring Process and Criteria*, are completed for the Director.

The Chairman is permitted to participate in all Board meetings in a manner equal to all other Board members, including the ability to make and second motions.

The Vice Chairman fills a vacancy in the Chairmanship.

#### Vice Chairman

The Board elects a Vice Chairman from its members for a one-year term. The Vice Chairman performs the duties of the Chairman if:

- 1. The office of Chairman is vacant;
- 2. The Chairman is absent; or
- 3. The Chairman is unable to perform the office's duties.

A vacancy in the Vice Chairmanship is filled by a special Board election.

# **Secretary**

The Board elects a Secretary for a one-year term. The duties of the Secretary are to:

- 1. Keep meeting minutes for all Board meetings, and keep the verbatim record for all closed Board meetings;
- 2. Mail meeting notification and agenda to news media who have officially requested copies;
- 3. Keep records of the Board's official acts, and sign them, along with the President, before submitting them to the Treasurer at such times as the Treasurer may require; Report to the Treasurer on or before July 7, annually, such information as the Treasurer is required to include in the Treasurer's report to the Regional Director;

- 4. Arrange public inspection of the budget before adoption;
- 5. Publish required notices;
- 6. Sign official District documents requiring the Secretary's signature; and
- 7. Maintain Board policy and such other official documents as directed by the Board.

A permanent vacancy in the office of Secretary is filled by special Board election.

# Recording Secretary

The Board appoints a Recording Secretary after considering recommendations of the Director and Executive Board. The Recording Secretary shall:

- 1. Assist the Secretary by taking the minutes for all open Board meetings;
- 2. Assemble Board meeting material and provide it, along with prior meeting minutes, to Board members before the next meeting; and
- 3. Perform the Secretary's duties, as assigned, except when State law prohibits the delegation.

In addition, the Recording Secretary or Director receives notification from Board members who desire to attend a Board meeting by video or audio means.

### Treasurer

The Treasurer of the Board shall be appointed by the Board after considering recommendations of the Director and Executive Board. The Treasurer serves at the Board's pleasure. The Treasurer must:

- 1. Be at least 21 years old;
- 2. Not be a member of the County Board of District Trustees; and
- 3. Have a financial background or related experience, or 12 credit hours of college-level accounting.

#### The Treasurer shall:

- 4. Furnish a bond, which shall be approved by a majority of the full Board;
- 5. Maintain custody of District funds;
- 6. Maintain records of District funds and balances:
- 7. Prepare a monthly reconciliation report for the Director and Board; and
- 8. Receive, hold, and expend District funds only upon the order of the Board.

A vacancy in the Treasurer's office is filled by Board appointment.

#### LEGAL REF .:

105 ILCS 5/8-1, 5/8-2, 5/8-3, 5/8-6, 5/8-16, 5/8-17, 5/10-1, 5/10-5, 5/10-7, 5/10-8, 5/10-13, 5/10-13.1, 5/10-14, 5/10-16.5, 5/10-21.9, 5/17-1, 5/21B-85, and 5/22-94.

5 ILCS 120/7, Open Meetings Act.

5 ILCS 420/4A-106, III. Governmental Ethics Act.

CROSS REF.: 2:80 (Board Member Conduct), 2:105 (Ethics and Gift Ban), 2:210 (Organizational Governing Board Meeting), 2:220 (Governing Board Meeting Procedure), 5:30 (Hiring Process and Criteria)

Adopted: July 11, 2023

# 2:120 Board Member Development

The Board desires that its individual members learn, understand, and practice effective governance principles. The Board is responsible for Board member orientation and development.

The Board Chairman and/or Director shall provide all Board members with information regarding pertinent education materials, publications, and notices of training or development.

### Mandatory Board Member Training

Each Board member is responsible for his or her own compliance with the mandatory training laws that are described below:

- 1. Each Board member elected or appointed to fill a vacancy of at least one year's duration must complete at least four hours of professional development and leadership training in: (1) education and labor law; (2) financial oversight and accountability; (3) fiduciary responsibilities; (4) trauma-informed practices for students and staff; and (5) improving student outcomes, within the first year of his or her first term.
- 2. Each Board member must complete training on the Open Meetings Act (OMA) no later than 90 days after taking the oath of office for the first time. After completing the training, each Board member must file a copy of the certificate of completion with the Board. Training on OMA is only required once.
- 3. Each Board member must complete a training program on evaluations under the Performance Evaluation Reform Act (PERA) before participating in a vote on a tenured teacher's dismissal using the optional alternative evaluation dismissal process. This dismissal process is available after the District's PERA implementation date.

The Director or designee shall post on the District website the names of all Board members who have completed the professional development leadership training described in number 1, above.

#### Professional Development; Adverse Consequences of School Exclusion; Student Behavior

The Board President or Director, or their designees, shall make reasonable efforts to provide ongoing professional development to Board members about the requirements of 105 ILCS 5/10-22.6 and 105 ILCS 5/10-20.14, adverse consequences of school exclusion and justice-system involvement, effective classroom management strategies, culturally responsive discipline, trauma-responsive learning environments, appropriate and available supportive services for the promotion of student attendance and engagement, and developmentally appropriate disciplinary methods that promote positive and healthy school climates.

#### **New Board Member Orientation**

The orientation process for newly appointed Board members includes:

- 1. The Board Chairman or Director, or their designees, shall give each new Board member a copy of the Board Policy Manual, the Board's regular meeting minutes for the past year, and other helpful information including material describing the District and explaining the Board's roles and responsibilities.
- The Board Chairman or designee shall schedule one or more special Board meetings, or schedule time during regular meetings, for Board members to become acquainted and to review Board processes and procedures.
- 3. The Board Chairman may request a veteran Board member to mentor a new member.

#### LEGAL REF.:

5 ILCS 120/1.05 and 120/2, Open Meetings Act.

105 ILCS 5/10-16a and 5/24-16.5.

CROSS REF.: 2:80 (Board Member Conduct), 2:125 (Board Member Compensation; Expenses), 2:200 (Types of Governing Board Meetings)

Adopted: December 17, 2024

# 2:125 Board Member Compensation; Expenses

# **Board Member Compensation Prohibited**

Board members provide volunteer service to the community and may not receive compensation for services, except that a Board member serving as the Board Secretary may be paid an amount up to the statutory limit if the Board so provides.

#### Roll Call Vote

All Board member expense requests for travel, meals, and/or lodging must be approved by roll call vote at an open meeting of the Board as a separate Agenda item.

# Regulation of District Expenses

The Board regulates the reimbursement of all travel, meal, and lodging expenses in the District by resolution, which resolution may be amended from time to time when deemed necessary.

Money shall not be advanced or reimbursed, or purchase orders issued for: (1) the expenses of any person except the Board member, (2) anyone's personal expenses, or (3) entertainment expenses. Entertainment includes, but is not limited to, shows, amusements, theaters, circuses, sporting events, or any other place of public or private entertainment or amusement, unless the entertainment is ancillary to the purpose of the program or event.

### Exceeding the Maximum Allowable Reimbursement Amount(s)

All requests for expense advancements, reimbursements, and/or purchase orders exceeding the maximum allowed in the Board's expense regulations are not guaranteed and may, in the boards sole discretion, be approved when:

- 1. The Board's resolution to regulate expenses allows for such approval;
- 2. An emergency or other extraordinary circumstance exists, as determined in the Board's sole discretion; and
- 3. The request is approved by a roll call vote at an open Board meeting.

#### Advancements

The Board may advance to its members actual and necessary expenses to be incurred while attending:

- 1. Meetings sponsored by the Illinois State Board of Education or by the Regional Superintendent of Schools;
- 2. County or regional meetings and the annual meeting sponsored by any school board association complying with Article 23 of the School Code; and
- 3. Meetings sponsored by a national organization in the field of public school education.

Expense advancement requests must be submitted to the Superintendent or designee on the Board's standardized estimated expense approval form. Form 2:125-E2. After spending expense advancements, Board members must use the Board's standardized expense reimbursement form and submit to the Superintendent: (a) the itemized, signed advancement voucher that was issued, and (b) the amount of actual expenses by attaching receipts. Form 2:125-E1. A Board member must return to the District any portion of an expense advancement not used. If an expense advancement is not requested, expense reimbursements may be issued by the Board to its members for the activities listed in numbers one through three, above, along with registration fees or tuition for a course(s) that allowed compliance with the mandatory trainings described in policy 2:120, Board Member

Development and other professional development opportunities that are encouraged by the School Code (see the **Reimbursements and Purchase Orders** subhead, below). Expense advancements and vouchers shall be presented to the Board in its regular bill process.

#### Reimbursements and Purchase Orders

Expense reimbursement is not guaranteed and, when possible, Board members should seek preapproval of expenses by providing an estimation of expenses on the Board's standardized estimated expense approval Form 2:125-E2. When pre-approval is not sought, Board members must seek reimbursement on the Board's standardized expense reimbursement Form 2:125-E1. Expense reimbursements and purchase orders shall be presented to the Board in its regular bill process.

#### <u>Credit and Procurement Cards</u>

With board approval via roll call vote, credit and procurement cards may be issued to Board members and use of the cards is governed by policy 4:55, *Use of Credit and Procurement Cards*.

### Standardized Expense Form(s) Required

All requests for expense advancement, reimbursement, and/or purchase orders in the District must be submitted on the appropriate itemized, signed standardized form(s). The form(s) must show the following information:

- 1. The amount of the estimated or actual expense, with attached receipts for actual incurred expenses.
- 2. The name and office of the Board member who is requesting the expense advancement or reimbursement. Receipts from group functions must include the names, offices, and job titles of all participants.
- 3. The date(s) of the official business on which the expense advancement or reimbursement will be or was expended.
- 4. The nature of the official business conducted when the expense advancement or reimbursement will be or was expended.

#### Types of Official Business for Expense Advancements, Reimbursements, and Purchase Orders

- 1. Registration. When possible, registration fees will be paid by the District in advance.
- 2. Travel. The least expensive method of travel will be used, providing that no hardship will be caused to the Board member. Board members will be reimbursed for:
  - a. Air travel at the coach or economy class commercial airline rate. First class or business class air travel will be reimbursed only if emergency circumstances warrant. The emergency circumstances must be explained on the expense form and Board approval of the additional expense is required. Fees for the first checked bag will be reimbursed. Copies of airline tickets and baggage receipts must be attached to the expense form.
  - b. Rail or bus travel at actual cost. Rail or bus travel costs may not exceed the cost of coach airfare. Copies of tickets must be attached to the expense form to substantiate amounts.
  - c. Use of personal automobiles at the standard mileage rate approved by the Internal Revenue Service for income tax purposes. The reimbursement may not exceed the cost of coach airfare. Mileage for use of personal automobiles in trips to and from transportation terminals will also be reimbursed.
  - d. When a private automobile is used, toll charges and parking costs will be reimbursed at the actual cost for such services.
  - e. Automobile rental costs when the vehicle's use is warranted. The circumstances for such use must be explained on the expense form.

f. Actual cost of taxis, airport shuttles, ride sharing or other local transportation services will be reimbursed at the actual cost for such services.

#### 3. Meals

The maximum daily reimbursement for meals shall be the geographical meal rate established by the General Services Administration ("GSA"). The per diem meal rate includes taxes and tips. To find current rates for meals in the geographical area for the travel visit <a href="http://www.gsa.gov/portal/category/26429">http://www.gsa.gov/portal/category/26429</a>.

The separate amounts for breakfast, lunch, and dinner listed in the GSA chart are provided should a Board member need to deduct any of those meals from his/her expense Form 5:60-E1. For example, if the Board member's trip includes meals that are already paid for by the District (such as through a registration fee for a conference), the Board member will need to deduct those meals from his/her expense form. Otherwise, a Board member may use the total available meal per diem as he/she chooses, so long as the per diem is only used for the Board member's meal(s).

The maximum amount reimbursable for meals for the first and last calendar day of travel is calculated at 75 percent. Alcoholic beverages will not be reimbursed.

<u>One Day Travel:</u> Employees are entitled to 75% of the GSA established per diem meal rate for one day travel away from his/her official worksite if it is longer than 12 hours.

Meal reimbursement requests must be itemized on the expense Form 5:60-E1 and accompanied with a receipt.

### 4. Lodging

The single room rate, plus applicable taxes, will be reimbursed at the maximum geographical rate established by the General Services Administration ("GSA"). Maximum lodging rates, excluding taxes, can be located at <a href="http://www.gsa.gov/portal/content/104877">http://www.gsa.gov/portal/content/104877</a>. Board members must pay personal expenses that re not reimbursable at checkout. If that is impossible, deductions for the charges must be made on the expense form. Form 5:60-E1.

#### 5. Incidental Expenses

Incidental Expenses include tips given to porters, baggage carriers and hotel staff. The per diem maximum incidental expense can be located at <a href="http://www.gsa.gov/portal/content/101518">http://www.gsa.gov/portal/content/101518</a>. The incidental expense must be reported on the expense form, 5:602-E1, but receipts are not required.

Additional Requirements for Travel Expenses Charged to Federal and State Grants

All Board member expenses for travel charged to a federal grant or State grant governed by the Grant Accountability and Transparency Act (30 ILCS 708/) must comply with Board policy 5:60, *Expenses*, and its implementing procedures. Travel expenses include costs for transportation, lodging, meals, and related items.

#### LEGAL REF.:

105 ILCS 5/10-20 and 5/10-22.32.

30 ILCS 708/, Government Accountability and Transparency Act.

50 ILCS 150/, Local Government Travel Expense Control Act.

CROSS REF.: 2:100 (Board Member Conflict of Interest), 2:120 (Board Member Development), 2:240 (Board Policy Development), 4:50 (Payment Procedures), 4:55 (Use of Credit and Procurement

Cards), 5:60 (Expenses)

Adopted: July 16, 2024

# 2:125-E1 Exhibit - Board Member Expense Reimbursement Form

Submit to the Superintendent, who will include this request in the monthly list of bills presented to the School Board. Please print and attach receipts for all expenditures. **Use of this form is required by 2:125-E3, Resolution to Regulate Expense Reimbursements.** Please print.

Name: _				Title/Offic	ce:					
Travel D	estinatio	on:			Purpo	ose:				
Departure Date: Return Date:										
□ Rece	ipts atta	<b>ched</b> Re	equest Date: _							
		•	attached (Coloval is require	•	•			imated	Expens	se
		-	dvancement d Expense Ap	•	-	, if applic	cable* (C	omplet	ed 2:12	?5-E2,
			A	ctual Expe	nse Rep	ort				
advand expens reimbu	ced, but n ses incurr rsed for a	nust refur ed. 105 l actual an	reimbursed for nd any expense LCS 5/10-22.3 d necessary ex rd Member Co	e advancem 32. For fede xpenses that	ent that e ral and S t exceed	xceeds to tate gran estimate	he actual ts, board	and ned membe	cessary ers will b	/ be
Auto T	ravel Allo	wance: _			I	per mile				
Date	Auto Mileage		Transp.	Lodging	Meal	Otl	Other			
Date	Miles Cost		Expenses	Louging	Bkfst   Lunch   Dinner   Ite				Cost	Total
Subto	tal									
Advan	Advances -									
TOTAI	L (a nega	ative amo	ount indicates	refund due i	from Boa	rd memb	per)		\$	
Submitt	ing Board	d Membe	er's Signature _				Dat	e	,	
Superin	tendent S	Signature				_ Date				
School	Board A	Action:	<del></del>							
□ Арр	roved		Denied							
□ Арр	roved in	Part □	Exceeds Ma	ximum Allo	wable A	mount				

☐ Grant Funding Source (if applicable):	
Comments:	

DATED : July 16, 2024

# 2:125-E2 Exhibit - Board Member Estimated Expense Approval Form

Submit to the Superintendent, who will include this request in the monthly list of bills presented to the School Board. Use of this form is required: (1) by 2:125-E3, Resolution to Regulate Expense Reimbursements, and (2) for pre-approval of expenses to be charged to a federal grant or State grant governed by the Grant Accountability and Transparency Act. Please print.

Name: Title/Office:										
Travel D	estination	:			Purpos	e:				· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
Departure Date: Return Date:										
□ Estim	ated Exp	enses A	pproval Requ	iested (50 lL	.CS 150	/20 or gı	rant expe	nditure	·)	
☐ Trave	el is gran	t-related*	(specify grant	i):						
□Purch	nase Orde	er Reque	sted							
Purchase	e Order#:									
<b>□</b> Expe	nse Adva	ncement	t Voucher Re	quested (10	5 ILCS	5/10-22.	32)			
Voucher	Amount:									
			Estin	nated Exper	nse Rep	ort				
*Grant- reimbul at or be	<b>-related tr</b> rsement/p	avel only per diem i oplicable	r: Except for n s only allowed rate cannot be	nileage and ( I if on official	other tra travel s	nsportat tatus for	12 hours	s or mo	re. If Ic	odging
Date	Auto M	fileage Cost	Transp. Expenses	Lodging		Meals or Per Diem Bkfst Lunch Dinner		Other Item Cost		Daily Total

Total								\$
Submittir	Submitting Board Member's Signature Date							
Superintendent Signature Date								
School	School Board Action:							
☐ Approved ☐ Denied								
☐ Approved in Part ☐ Exceeds Maximum Allowable Amount								
☐ Grant Funding Source (if applicable):								
Comments:								
DATED	: July 16, 2	2024						

#### 2:140 Communications To and From the Board

The Governing Board welcomes communications from staff members, parents/guardians, students, and community members. Individuals may submit questions or communications for the Board's consideration to the Director or may use the electronic link to the Board's email address(es) posted on the Cooperative's website.

The Director or designee shall:

- 1. Ensure that the home page for the Cooperative's website contains an active electronic link to the email address(es) for the School Board, and
- 2. During the Board's regular meetings, report for the Board's consideration all questions or communications submitted through the active electronic link along with the status of the Cooperative's response in the Board meeting packet.

If contacted individually, Board members will refer the person to the appropriate level of authority, except in unusual situations. Board members' questions or communications to staff or about programs will be channeled through the Director's office. Board members will not take individual action that might compromise the Board or Cooperative. There is no expectation of privacy for any communication sent to the Board or its members, whether sent by letter, email, or other means.

#### Board Member Use of Electronic Communications

For purposes of this section, *electronic communications* includes, without limitation, electronic mail, electronic chat, instant messaging, texting, and any form of social networking. Electronic communications among a majority or more of a Board-quorum shall not be used for the purpose of discussing Cooperative business. Electronic communications among Board members shall be limited to: (1) disseminating information, and (2) messages not involving deliberation, debate, or decision-making. The following list contains examples of permissible electronic communications:

- Agenda item suggestions
- Reminders regarding meeting times, dates, and places
- Board meeting agendas or information concerning agenda items
- Individual emails to community members, subject to the other limitations in this policy

In accordance with the Open Meetings Act and the Oath of Office taken by Board members, individual Board members will not (a) reply to an email on behalf of the entire Board, or (b) engage in the discussion of Cooperative business through electronic communications with a majority of a Board-quorum.

LEGAL REF.:

5 ILCS 120/, Open Meetings Act.

50 ILCS 205/20, Local Records Act.

CROSS REF.:2:220 (School Board Meeting Procedure), 3:30 (Chain of Command), 8:110 (Public Suggestions and Concerns)

Adopted: July 16, 2024

# 2:140-E Exhibit - Guidance for Board Member Communications, Including Email Use

The Open Meetings Act (OMA) requires the Governing Board to discuss Cooperative business only at a properly noticed Board meeting. 5 ILCS 120/. Other than during a Board meeting, a majority or more of a Board-quorum may not engage in contemporaneous interactive communication, whether in person or electronically, to discuss Cooperative business. This *Guidance* assumes a Board has seven members and covers issues arising from Board policy 2:140, *Communications To and From the Board*.

Communications Between or Among Board Members and/or the Director Outside of a Properly Noticed Board Meeting

- 1. The Director or designee is permitted to email information to Board members. For example, the Director may email Board meeting agendas and supporting information to Board members. When responding to a single Board member's request, the Director should copy all other Board members and include a do not reply/forward alert to the group, such as: "BOARD MEMBER ALERT: This email is in response to a request. Do not reply or forward to the group but only to the sender."
- 2. Board members are permitted to discuss any matter except Cooperative business with each other, whether in person or by telephone or email, regardless of the number of members participating in the discussion. For example, they may discuss league sports, work, or current events.
- 3. Board members are permitted to provide information to each other, whether in person or by telephone or email, that is non-deliberative and non-substantive. Examples of this type of communication include scheduling meetings and confirming receipt of information.
- 4. A Board member is not permitted to discuss Cooperative business with more than one other Board member at a time, whether in person or by telephone or email. Stated another way, a Board member may discuss Cooperative business in person or by telephone or email with only one other Board member at a time. However, a Board member should not facilitate interactive communication by discussing Cooperative business in a series of visits with, or telephone calls or emails to, Board members individually.
- 5. A Board member should include a *do not reply/forward* alert when emailing a message concerning Cooperative business to more than one other Board member. The following is an example of such an alert: "BOARD MEMBER ALERT: This email is not for interactive discussion purposes. The recipient should not reply to it or forward it to any other individual."
- 6. Board members should not forward email received from another Board member.

When Must the Electronic Communications Sent or Received by Individual Board Members Be Disclosed Pursuant to a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Request?

An electronic communication must be disclosed if it is a *public record* as defined by FOIA, unless a specific exemption applies. A public record is any recorded information "pertaining to the transaction of public business, regardless of physical form or characteristics, having been prepared by or for, or having been or being used by, received by, in the possession of, or under the control of any public body." 5 ILCS 140/2. Email sent or received by an individual Board member may be, depending on the content and circumstances, subject to disclosure as a *public record* (unless a FOIA exemption is applicable).

If a Board member uses a Cooperative-provided device or email address to discuss public business, the email is subject to disclosure under FOIA, barring an applicable exemption. If a Board member uses a private device and email address, the communication is subject to FOIA if it satisfies this test:

First, the communication pertains to the transaction of public business, and

**Second**, the communication was: (1) prepared by a public body, (2) prepared for a public body, (3) used by a public body, (4) received by a public body, (5) possessed by a public body, and/or (6) controlled by a public body.

This test is from the appellate court decision in <u>City of Champaign v. Madigan</u>, 992 N.E.2d 629 (III. App. Ct. 2013).

The following examples describe FOIA's treatment of electronic communications:

- 1. If an electronic communication does not pertain to public business, it is not a public record and is not subject to a FOIA request.
- 2. An electronic communication pertaining to public business that is:
  - a. Sent and/or received by an individual Board member using a personal electronic device and personal email address while he or she is at home or work would not be a public record. Individual Board members, alone, cannot conduct school Cooperative business. As stated earlier, emails among a majority or more of a Board-quorum violate OMA and, thus, are subject to disclosure during proceedings to enforce OMA.
  - b. Sent and/or received by an individual Board member on a Cooperative-issued device or Cooperative-issued email address **will be a public record** and subject to FOIA. The electronic communication is under the control of the Cooperative.
  - c. Received by an individual Board member on a personal electronic device and then forwarded by the Board member to a Cooperative-owned device or server will be a public record and subject to FOIA. The electronic communication is under the control of the Cooperative.
  - d. Received by an individual Board member using a personal electronic device and personal email address, and then forwarded by the Board member to enough members to constitute a majority or more of a Board-quorum **will be a public record** and subject to FOIA. The electronic communication is in the Cooperative's possession.
  - e. Either sent to or from a Board member's personal electronic device during a Board meeting **will be a public record** and subject to FOIA. The electronic communication is in the Cooperative's possession because Board members were functioning collectively as a public body.

The Cooperative's Freedom of Information Officer and/or Board Attorney will help determine when a specific communication must be disclosed pursuant to a FOIA request.

#### When Must Electronic Communications Be Retained?

Email that qualifies under FOIA as a *public record* will need to be stored pursuant to the Local Records Act (LRA), only if it is evidence of the Cooperative's organization, function, policies, procedures, or activities or contains informational data appropriate for preservation. 50 ILCS 205/. An example is any email from a Board officer concerning a decision made in his or her capacity as an officer. If a Board member uses his or her personal email, he or she must copy this type of email to the appropriate Cooperative office where it will be stored. If made available, Board members should use their email accounts provided by the Cooperative, and the Cooperative will automatically store the official record messages. The Cooperative will delete these official record messages as provided in an applicable, approved **retention schedule.** Of course, email pertaining to public business that is sent or received by a Board Member using a Cooperative-issued device or email address will be subject to FOIA, even if the email does not need to be retained under the LRA.

**Important**: Do not destroy any email concerning a topic that is being litigated without obtaining the

Board attorney's direction. In federal lawsuits, there is an automatic discovery of virtually all types of electronically created or stored data that might be relevant. Attorneys will generally notify their clients at the beginning of a legal proceeding not to destroy any electronic records that might be relevant. This is referred to as a *litigation hold*. For more discussion of a litigation hold, see 2:250-AP2, *Protocols for Record Preservation and Development of Retention Schedules*. In addition, any person who knowingly with the intent to defraud any party destroys, removes, or conceals any public record commits a Class 4 felony. 50 ILCS 205/4.

DATED: July 16, 2024

## 2:160 Board Attorney

The Governing Board retain legal services with one or more attorneys or law firms to be the Board Attorney(s). The Board Attorney represents the Board in its capacity as the governing body for the District. The Board Attorney serves on a retainer or other fee arrangement as determined in advance. The Board Attorney will provide services as described in the agreement for legal services or as memorialized by an engagement letter. The District will only pay for legal services that are provided in accordance with the agreement for legal services, as memorialized by an engagement letter, or that are otherwise authorized by this policy or a majority of the Board.

The Director, his or her designee, and Board Chairman, are each authorized to confer with and/or seek the legal advice of the Board Attorney. The Board may also authorize a specific Board member to confer with the Board Attorney on its behalf.

The Director may authorize the Board Attorney to represent the District in any legal matter until the Board has an opportunity to be informed of and/or consider the matter. The Board retains the right to consult with or employ other attorneys and to terminate the service of any attorney.

#### LEGAL REF.:

Rule 1.7 (Conflict of Interest: Current Clients) and Rule 1.13 (Organization as Client) of the III. Rules of Professional Conduct adopted by the III. Supreme Court.

CROSS REF.: 4:60 (Purchases and Contracts)

Adopted: August 20, 2024

## 2:160-E Exhibit - Checklist for Selecting a Board Attorney

The School Board selects and retains the Board Attorney(s). The Board may use this checklist for guidance when it selects and retains attorney(s) and/or law firms for legal services. This checklist is designed for the Board to use a request for proposal (RFP) process to seek outside attorneys/law firms. The Board may also select an attorney without using an RFP process and adapt this checklist. The Board may also adapt this checklist and use it for an application process, if the Board seeks an inhouse attorney. For more information, call the III. Association of School Board's (IASB) Office of General Counsel; see its current phone numbers at www.iasb.com/about-us/staff/#office-general-counsel.

#### ☐ Determine what type of legal services the District needs.

- 1. Review Board policy 2:160, *Board Attorney*. **Note:** Critically analyze whether the District's legal needs are best served by in-house attorneys or outside attorneys/law firms. Many districts use a combination of these services. Many districts also use multiple attorneys/law firms for their specialties, e.g., different law firms for bond counsel, special education, or labor law. Some boards also approve a panel of attorneys and allow the administration to choose which attorney to use.
- 2. Consider the following factors to analyze the type(s) of legal services needed for the District including, but are not limited to:
  - District's size;
  - Any past and current experiences with legal matters;
  - Complexity of the District's legal needs;
  - Availability of expertise; and
  - Cost of outside fees compared to internal staff expenses for an in-house arrangement.

## ☐ Develop a list of qualifications necessary for providing quality legal services to the District.

- 1. Review Board policy 4:60, *Purchases and Contracts*. **Note:** While State law exempts hiring an attorney from bidding requirements (105 ILCS 10-20.21(a)), the Board may want to review its procurement processes and align procurement for legal services to its non-bidding-related standards for purchases, e.g., avoiding favoritism, staying within the District's budget, etc.
- 2. Develop the list of qualifications. The major qualifications include, but are not limited to:
  - Licensed to practice law in Illinois and in good standing with the Ill. Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission (ARDC) (see checklist item *Conduct a reference check and other background investigations*, below)
  - Member of the District's assigned United States district court and the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals
  - Substantive knowledge and experience in the legal areas matching District's needs, e.g., bidding, civil rights, collective bargaining, education reform, employment law, Freedom of Information Act, Open Meetings Act, other records laws, special education, student rights, etc. **Note:** This list of knowledge and experience must be created by the District's identified needs and may change from time to time.
  - Experience in all aspects of contract, employment, and school law
  - Experience that meets the District's needs, including litigation experience in State and federal courts
  - Membership in professional associations, such as, the III. Council of School Attorneys (ICSA) and education law sections of bar associations, etc.

- Demonstrated knowledge of and ability to apply professional responsibility rules
- Accessibility for the District's identified needs, e.g., evening Board meetings, phone calls, etc.
- Ability to declare that representation of the District will be to the exclusion of all other clients having potential conflicts with the District's interests
- When additional qualifications apply, list those qualifications for providing legal services. This may include specialties such as bond counsel, etc.

#### □ Develop the RFP.

- 1. Insert the list of qualifications that the Board developed.
- 2. Include the following information:
  - The deadline for responses to be submitted
  - The location (address or email) where responses should be sent
  - A statement that the Board is soliciting proposals from qualified lawyers and law firms to provide legal services to the School District
  - Significant information about the District (see Board policy 1:30, *School District Philosophy*, for the District's mission statement that is specific to the community's goals)
  - The scope of work, e.g., "The Board Attorney will provide legal advice concerning [typical duties, specific duties, excluded duties]."
  - Qualifications
  - Details about interviews and presentations
- 3. Specify what responders must include in their responses, such as the following:
  - Cover letter, complete name, address, and legal structure (if the responder is a law firm)
  - The individuals who prepared the response, including their titles
  - If different from above, the identity of and directory information for the individuals who have authority to answer questions regarding the submitted proposal
  - A proposed fee schedule, e.g., "Respondents may combine set fees and hourly fees. If hourly fees are proposed, please provide the minimum time increment for billing purposes. If a retainer agreement is proposed, please specifically describe options."
  - A summary of the responder's relevant experience representing public schools
  - A writing sample
  - An assurance that the responder meets the RFP's qualifications
  - References including current or past clients

#### ☐ Announce the RFP.

- 1. Title the announcement. Note: How and where the RFP is announced are at the Board's sole discretion. The Board may want to announce the RFP during an open meeting, post it on the District's website, mail or email it to local law firms, and/or place it in the local newspaper(s) or other legal publications. A directory of those lawyers belonging to the ICSA is on the IASB website, www.iasb.com. A printed copy is available upon request. Inclusion in the directory does not represent an IASB endorsement. Some attorneys who practice school law do not belong to ICSA. Other online sources, such as the III. State Bar Association, also maintain directories of information about attorneys. The Board may want to title the announcement "The [Insert District's name] School Board Requests Proposals to Provide Legal Services."
- 2. Announce that the Board seeks an attorney or law firm to serve as its Board Attorney.

- 3. Inform the reader that the attorney or law firm selected will serve either at will or from the date of appointment to [date]. The length of the appointment is at the Board's discretion.
- 4. State the School District's philosophy or mission statement.
- 5. Insert the RFP location and contact information with the beginning date and time.
- 6. Tell prospective responders that completed RFPs must be returned by [certain time and date] to [name and title of person receiving applications].

## ☐ Receive and manage responses to the RFP.

- 1. Review Board policy 2:110, *Qualifications, Term, and Duties of Board Officers*. The Board President is a logical officer to accept the applications, but this task may be delegated to the Secretary or Superintendent's secretary if the Board determines that it is more convenient. Who accepts applications is at the Board's sole discretion and should be decided by the Board prior to posting the RFP announcement.
- 2. The Board will discuss, at an open meeting, its process to review the applications and who will contact RFP responders for an interview.
- 3. The designated person will contact RFP responders for interviews.

## □ Develop interview questions if the Board interviews attorneys or law firms.

- 1. Interview questions are at the Board's discretion.
- 2. A prospective attorney or law firm to fill the Board Attorney position may raise other specific issues that the Board will want to cover during an interview.
- 3. The following non-exhaustive list of interview questions may help the Board tailor its questions toward finding an attorney or law firm with an approach to the role of the Board Attorney that the Board desires:
  - What do you see as your role as Board Attorney?
  - How many other school districts do you currently represent?
  - What kind of legal services do you provide to your school clients? Please explain how your other experience is relevant to this position.
  - How many years of experience does your firm (or, the attorney) have? How long have you been practicing law? How long have you been representing school districts?
  - What methods will you use to ensure all members of the Board, which is your client, remain informed? See the discussion about the *III. Professional Rules of Conduct* in f/n 2 of sample policy 2:160, *Board Attorney*.
  - How would you manage a situation in which the Board feels strongly about its position but you believe that position is not legally supportable? The III. Rules of Professional Conduct, at www.illinoiscourts.gov/supremecourt/rules/art\_viii/default\_new.asp, require attorneys to represent the Board in its capacity as the governing body for the District. The responders should be discussing these rules, specifically Rule 1.7 (Conflict of Interest: Current Clients) and Rule 1.13 (Organization as Client), among others, in their answers to this question. See also, sample policy 2:160, Board Attorney.
  - How would you manage a situation in which the Board's interest may be or become adverse to one or more of its members? See the discussion about the III. Professional Rules of Conduct in f/n 2 of sample policy 2:160, Board Attorney.
  - How would you manage a situation in which the Board and Superintendent are in conflict?
    How about a divided Board? See the discussion about the *III. Professional Rules of Conduct* in f/n 2 of sample policy 2:160, *Board Attorney*.
  - If the Board did something that you had advised against, could you still defend the Board's action? See the discussion about the *III. Professional Rules of Conduct* in f/n 2 of sample

- policy 2:160, Board Attorney.
- Will you try to shape Board decisions or do you have a whatever the Board decides philosophy? See the discussion about the *III. Professional Rules of Conduct* in f/n 2 of sample policy 2:160, *Board Attorney*.
- Do you give clients specific recommendations or do you advise them of the available options and let the client decide? See the discussion about the *III. Professional Rules of* Conduct in f/n 2 of sample policy 2:160, Board Attorney.
- Do you provide your school Board clients with any updating services gratis?
- How do you keep your Board clients apprised of litigation and other legal matters you are handling for them?
- Will you be handling this business personally, i.e., will you delegate to your associates or partners?
- Can anyone else in your firm handle our inquiries when you are unavailable?
- How do you keep current on school law?
- When do you tell your school clients to contact you regarding a matter with possible legal repercussions?
- Have you represented a school district in a matter involving the rights of disabled students? ...involving disabled employees? ... involving a student expulsion? ... involving a teacher dismissal? ... involving an employee's contract or dismissal? ... involving a building contract or bidding matter? ... Can you tell us about that case?
- How do you bill? How are you to be paid? Please explain your rates and/or fees. The
  subject of billing should cover whether the attorney or law firm prepares a budget for
  representation and its method for billing in detail, including the date and time, what work
  was performed, and who worked on the project, along with expenses.
- Did you bring a written agreement for legal services, engagement letter, or a retainer agreement? If yes, please review it for us now. If not, please explain the options for a written agreement for legal services, engagement letter, or a retainer agreement.

□ Develop an interview protocol. Interviews may occur in closed session pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1).

- 1. The Board President will lead the Board as it interviews responders to its RFP. See 105 ILCS 5/10-13 stating that the Board President presides at all meetings and Board policy 2:110, *Qualifications, Term, and Duties of Board Officers.*
- 2. The Board may also want to consider allowing an equal amount of time for each interview.
- 3. Discuss the following items with each responder during the interview:
  - Introduce Board members to the responder
  - Describe the Board's interview process, selection process, and ask the responder if he or she has questions about the Board's process for selecting its attorney
  - Describe the District's philosophy or mission statement
  - Describe the Board Attorney position by reviewing the RFP
  - Begin asking the interview questions (see *Develop interview questions*, above)
  - Ask the responder whether he or she has any questions for the Board
  - Thank the responder and inform him or her when the Board expects to make its decision and how the responder will be contacted regarding the Board's decision

ľ	Conduct a	reference	check and	l other backe	ground investi	gation(s	s).
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1. The Board President may perform this check or direct the Superintendent to:

- Check the ARDC's master roll of attorneys as "Authorized to Practice Law" (To do this, enter the attorney's name into the ARDC's registration and public disciplinary records database at: www.iardc.org/Lawyer/Search.)
- Click on the attorney's name to review whether any disciplinary actions are pending or resolved; current and prior actions will appear at the bottom of the screen
- If disciplinary actions are listed, ask the attorney or law firm for more information
- 2. There are other online attorney review services available. These services may be overly subjective and/or the attorney may have control over the content in these services. Always check with the ARDC.
- 3. Call references provided by the responder.

## ☐ Enter into a written agreement or engagement letter with the selected attorney or law firm.

- 1. All agreements for legal services should be in writing. At minimum, the agreement should provide the fee arrangement and the scope of services. Agreements for legal services and individual billing statements form the Board Attorney are subject to disclosure pursuant to a Freedom of Information Act request (PAO 14-02).
- 2. Discuss the fee arrangements with the responder and decide:
  - Whether to enter into a fee arrangement and/or a retainer agreement (Note: Attorneys typically bill by a pre-determined percentage of the hour, e.g., in one-tenth of an hour increments. Many districts enter into a retainer agreement for legal services or an engagement letter that requires them to pay the attorney a pre-determined fee every month. In return, the attorney provides a pre-determined amount of legal services whenever the district needs him or her. Districts find this useful because (1) they can budget for legal expenses, (2) legal advice is available up to the pre-determined amount for lower fees, and (3) this arrangement often provides for an enhanced, long-term relationship with the attorney.)
  - The appropriate scope of services
- 3. Review the written contract or memorialized relationship (agreement for legal services or engagement letter) for these provisions:
  - Fee arrangement
  - Scope of services
  - Which attorneys will be providing legal services
  - A statement that the Board controls all legal decisions
  - A statement that the attorney and his or her law firm have no conflicts of interest or, if a conflict exists, that the Board understands the conflict and waives it
  - Board's right to terminate the services of the attorney and law firm at any time for any reason
- 4. Approve the agreement for legal services or engagement letter during an open Board meeting.

#### ☐ Announce the appointment to District staff and community.

- 1. The contents of the announcement and length of time it is displayed are at the Board's sole discretion.
- 2. The Board may want to consider announcing during an open meeting. See Board policy 8:10, *Connection with the Community*.
- 3. The Board may want to include the following information in its announcement:

- The Board appointed [attorney's name or law firm name] as the Board Attorney
- The appointment will begin on [date] for [length of time]
- The Board previously established qualifications for the Board Attorney in a careful and thoughtful manner, e.g., "[Attorney or lawfirm's name] meets these qualifications and has demonstrated the willingness to accept its duties and responsibilities. [Attorney or law firm's name] brings a clear understanding of the demands and expectations of the Board Attorney position along with a constructive attitude toward the challenge."

DATED: September 17, 2024

## 2:170 Procurement of Architectural, Engineering, and Land Surveying Services

The Governing Board selects architects, engineers, and land surveyors to provide professional services to the District on the basis of demonstrated competence and qualifications, and in accordance with State law.

LEGAL REF.:

40 U.S.C. §1101 et seq.

50 ILCS 510/, Local Government Professional Services Selection Act.

105 ILCS 5/10-20.21.

Shively v. Belleville Twp. High Sch. Dist. 201, 329 III.App.3d 1156 (5th Dist. 2002), appeal denied.

Adopted: July 11, 2023

## 2:200 Types of Governing Board Meetings

#### General

For all meetings of the Governing Board and its committees, the Director or designee shall satisfy all notice and posting requirements contained herein as well as in the Open Meetings Act. This shall include mailing meeting notifications to news media that have officially requested them and to others as approved by the Board. Unless otherwise specified, all meetings are in the District office. Board policy 2:220, *Governing Board Meeting Procedure*, governs meeting quorum requirements.

The Director is designated on behalf of the Board and each Board committee to receive the training on compliance with the Open Meetings Act that is required by Section 1.05(a) of that Act. The Director may identify other employees to receive the training. In addition, each Board member must complete a course of training on the Open Meetings Act as required by Section 1.05(b) or (c) of that Act.

#### Regular Meetings

The Board announces the time and place for its regular meetings at the beginning of each fiscal year. The Director shall prepare and make available the calendar of regular Board meetings. The regular meeting calendar may be changed with 10 days' notice in accordance with State law.

A meeting agenda shall be posted at the District's main office and the Board's meeting room, or other location where the meeting is to be held, at least 48 hours before the meeting. The agenda shall be continuously available for public review during the entire 48-hour period preceding the meeting.

#### **Closed Meetings**

The Board and Board committees may meet in a closed meeting to consider the following subjects:

- 1. The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees, specific individuals who serve as independent contractors in a park, recreational, or educational setting, or specific volunteers of the public body or legal counsel for the public body, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee, a specific individual who serves as an independent contractor in a park, recreational, or educational setting, or a volunteer of the public body or against legal counsel for the public body to determine its validity. However, a meeting to consider an increase in compensation to a specific employee of a public body that is subject to the Local Government Wage Increase Transparency Act may not be closed and shall be open to the public and posted and held in accordance with [the Open Meetings Act]. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1).
- 2. Collective negotiating matters between the public body and its employees or their representatives, or deliberations concerning salary schedules for one or more classes of employees. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(2).
- 3. The selection of a person to fill a public office, as defined in the Open Meetings Act, including a vacancy in a public office, when the public body is given power to appoint under law or ordinance, or the discipline, performance or removal of the occupant of a public office, when the public body is given power to remove the occupant under law or ordinance. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(3).
- 4. Evidence or testimony presented in open hearing, or in closed hearing where specifically authorized by law, to a quasi-adjudicative body, as defined in the Open Meetings Act, provided that the body prepares and makes available for public inspection a written decision setting forth its determinative reasoning. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(4).
- 5. Evidence or testimony presented to the Board regarding denial of admission to school events or property pursuant to 105 ILCS 5/24-24, provided that the Board prepares and makes available for public inspection a written decision setting forth its determinative reasoning. 5 ILCS 120/2(c) (4.5).

- 6. The purchase or lease of real property for the use of the public body, including meetings held for the purpose of discussing whether a particular parcel should be acquired. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(5).
- 7. The setting of a price for sale or lease of property owned by the public body. 5ILCS 120/2(c)(6).
- 8. The sale or purchase of securities, investments, or investment contracts. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(7).
- 9. Security procedures, school building safety and security, and the use of personnel and equipment to respond to an actual, a threatened, or a reasonably potential danger to the safety of employees, students, staff, the public, or public property. 5ILCS 120/2(c)(8).
- 10. Student disciplinary cases. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(9).
- 11. The placement of individual students in special education programs and other matters relating to individual students. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(10).
- 12. Litigation, when an action against, affecting or on behalf of the particular public body has been filed and is pending before a court or administrative tribunal, or when the public body finds that an action is probable or imminent, in which case the basis for the finding shall be recorded and entered into the minutes of the closed meeting. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(11).
- 13. The establishment of reserves or settlement of claims as provided in the Local Governmental and Governmental Employees Tort Immunity Act, if otherwise the disposition of a claim or potential claim might be prejudiced, or the review or discussion of claims, loss or risk management information, records, data, advice or communications from or with respect to any insurer of the public body or any intergovernmental risk management association or self insurance pool of which the public body is a member. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(12).
- 14. Self-evaluation, practices and procedures or professional ethics, when meeting with a representative of a statewide association of which the public body is a member. 5 ILCS 120/2(c) (16).
- 15. Discussion of minutes of meetings lawfully closed under the Open Meetings Act, whether for purposes of approval by the body of the minutes or semi-annual review of the minutes as mandated by Section 2.06. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(21).
- 16. Meetings between internal or external auditors and governmental audit committees, finance committees, and their equivalents, when the discussion involves internal control weaknesses, identification of potential fraud risk areas, known or suspected frauds, and fraud interviews conducted in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards of the United States of America. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(29).

The Board may hold a closed meeting, or close a portion of a meeting, by a majority vote of a quorum, taken at an open meeting. The vote of each Board member present, and the reason for the closed meeting, will be publicly disclosed at the time of the meeting and clearly stated in the motion and the meeting minutes.

A single motion calling for a series of closed meetings may be adopted when such meetings will involve the same particular matters and are scheduled to be held within 3 months of the vote.

No final Board action will be taken at a closed meeting.

#### Reconvened or Rescheduled Meetings

A meeting may be rescheduled or reconvened. Public notice of a rescheduled or reconvened meeting shall be given in the same manner as that for a special meeting, except that no public notice is required when the original meeting is open to the public and: (1) is to be reconvened within 24 hours, or (2) an announcement of the time and place of the reconvened meeting was made at the original meeting and there is no change in the agenda.

#### **Special Meetings**

Special meetings may be called by the Chairman, by any 3 members of the Governing Board, by the

Director, or by the Executive Board by giving notice thereof, in writing, stating the time, place, and purpose of the meeting to remaining Board members by mail at least 48 hours before the meeting, or by personal service at least 24 hours before the meeting.

Public notice of a special meeting is given by posting a notice at the District's main office at least 48 hours before the meeting and by notifying the news media that have filed a written request for notice. A meeting agenda shall accompany the notice. The agenda shall be continuously available for public review during the entire 48-hour period preceding the meeting.

All matters discussed by the Board at any special meeting must be related to a subject on the meeting agenda.

#### Emergency Meetings

Public notice of emergency meetings shall be given as soon as practical, but in any event, before the meeting to news media that have filed a written request for notice.

#### Posting on the District Website

In addition to the other notices specified in this policy, the Director or designee shall post the following on the District website: (1) the annual schedule of regular meetings, which shall remain posted until the Board approves a new schedule of regular meetings; (2) a public notice of all Board meetings; and (3) the agenda for each meeting which shall remain posted until the meeting is concluded.

#### LEGAL REF.:

5 ILCS 120/, Open Meetings Act.

5 ILCS 140/, Freedom of Information Act.

105 ILCS 5/10-6 and 5/10-16.

CROSS REF.: 2:110 (Qualifications Term, and Duties of Board Officers), 2:120 (Board Member Development), 2:210 (Organizational Governing Board Meetings), 2:220 (Governing Board Meeting Procedure), 2:230 (Public Participation at Governing Board Meetings and Petitions to the Board), 6:235 (Access to Electronic Networks), 8:30 (Visitors to and Conduct on District Property)

Adopted: December 12, 2023

## 2:210 Organizational Governing Board Meeting

During the August meeting, the Governing Board holds its organizational meeting.

At the organizational meeting, the following shall occur:

- 1. The Board shall elect its officers, who assume office immediately upon their election.
- 2. The Board shall fix a time and date for its regular meetings.

#### LEGAL REF.:

105 ILCS 5/10-5, 5/10-16, and 5/10-16.5.

10 ILCS 5/2A-1 et seq., Election Code.

CROSS REF.: 2:110 (Qualifications, Term, and Duties of Board Officers), 2:200 (Types of Governing Board Meetings), 2:220 (Governing Board Meeting Procedure), (2:230 Public Participation at Governing Board Meetings and Petitions to the Board)

Adopted: January 17, 2023

## 2:220 Governing Board Meeting Procedure

#### <u>Agenda</u>

The Governing Board Chairman is responsible for focusing the Board meeting agendas on appropriate content. The Director shall prepare agendas in consultation with the Board Chairman. The Chairman shall designate a portion of the agenda as a consent agenda for those items that usually do not require extensive discussion before Board action. Upon the request of any Board member, an item will be withdrawn from the consent agenda and placed on the regular agenda for independent consideration.

Each Board meeting agenda shall contain the general subject matter of any item that will be the subject of final action at the meeting. Items submitted by Governing Board members or the Executive Board or to the Director or the Chairman shall be placed on the agenda for an upcoming meeting. Residents of Member Districts may suggest inclusions for the agenda. The Board will take final action only on items contained in the posted agenda; items not on the agenda may still be discussed.

The Director shall provide a copy of the agenda, with adequate data and background information, to each Board member at least 48 hours before each meeting, except a meeting held in the event of an emergency. The meeting agenda shall be posted in accordance with Board policy 2:200, *Types of Governing Board Meetings*.

The Board Chairman shall determine the order of business at regular Board meetings. Upon consent of a majority of members present, the order of business at any meeting may be changed.

#### **Voting Method**

Unless otherwise provided by law, when a vote is taken upon any measure before the Board, with a quorum being present, a majority of the votes cast shall determine its outcome. A vote of "abstain" or "present," or a vote other than "yea" or "nay," or a failure to vote, is counted for the purposes of determining whether a quorum is present. A vote of "abstain" or "present," or a vote other than "yea" or "nay," or a failure to vote, however, is not counted in determining whether a measure has been passed by the Board, unless otherwise stated in law. The sequence for casting votes is rotated.

On all questions involving the expenditure of money and on all questions involving the closing of a meeting to the public, a roll call vote shall be taken and entered in the Board's minutes. An individual Board member may request that a roll call vote be taken on any other matter; the Chairman or other presiding officer may approve or deny the request but a denial is subject to being overturned by a majority vote of the members present.

#### Minutes

The Board Secretary shall keep written minutes of all Board meetings (whether open or closed), which shall be signed by the Chairman and the Secretary. The minutes include:

- 1. The meeting's date, time, and place;
- 2. Board members recorded as either present or absent;
- 3. A summary of the discussion on all matters proposed, deliberated, or decided, and a record of any votes taken;
- 4. On all matters requiring a roll call vote, a record of who voted "yea" and "nay";
- 5. If the meeting is adjourned to another date, the time and place of the adjourned meeting;
- The vote of each member present when a vote is taken to hold a closed meeting or portion of a
  meeting, and the reason for the closed meeting with a citation to the specific exception
  contained in the Open Meetings Act (OMA) authorizing the closed meeting;

- 7. A record of all motions, including individuals making and seconding motions;
- 8. Upon request by a Board member, a record of how he or she voted on a particular motion; and
- 9. The type of meeting, including any notices and, if a reconvened meeting, the original meeting's date.

The minutes shall be submitted to the Board for approval or modification at its next regularly scheduled open meeting. Minutes for open meetings must be approved within 30 days after the meeting or at the second subsequent regular meeting, whichever is later.

Every six months, or as soon after as is practicable, in an open meeting, the Board: (1) reviews minutes from all closed meetings that are currently unavailable for public release, and (2) determines which, if any, no longer require confidential treatment and are available for public inspection. This is also referred to as a *semi-annual review*. The Board may meet in a prior closed session to review the minutes from closed meetings that are currently unavailable for public release, but it reports its determination in open session.

The official minutes are in the custody of the Board Secretary. Open meeting minutes are available for inspection during regular office hours within 10 days after the Board's approval; they may be inspected in the District's main office, in the presence of the Secretary, the Director or designee, or any Board member.

Minutes from closed meetings are likewise available, but only if the Board has released them for public inspection, except that Board members may access closed session minutes not yet released for public inspection (1) in the District's administrative offices or their official storage location, and (2) in the presence of the Recording Secretary, the Director or designated administrator, or any elected Board member. The minutes, whether reviewed by members of the public or the Board, shall not be removed from the District's administrative offices or their official storage location except by vote of the Board or by court order.

The Board's open meeting minutes shall be posted on the District website within 10 days after the Board approves them; the minutes will remain posted for at least 60 days.

#### Verbatim Record of Closed Meetings

The Director, or the Board Secretary when the Director is absent, shall audio record all closed meetings. If neither is present, the Board Chairman or presiding officer shall assume this responsibility. After the closed meeting, the person making the audio recording shall label the recording with the date and store it in a secure location. The Director shall ensure that: (1) an audio recording device and all necessary accompanying items are available to the Board for every closed meeting, and (2) a secure location for storing closed meeting audio recordings is maintained close to the Board's regular meeting location.

After 18 months have passed since being made, the audio recording of a closed meeting is destroyed provided the Board approved: (1) its destruction, and (2) minutes of the particular closed meeting.

Individual Board members may access verbatim recordings in the presence of the Recording Secretary, the Director or designated administrator, or any elected Board member. Access to the verbatim recordings is available at the District's administrative offices or the verbatim recording's official storage location. Requests shall be made to the Director or Board Chairman. While a Board member is listening to a verbatim recording, it shall not be re-recorded or removed from the District's main office or official storage location, except by vote of the Board or by court order.

Before making such requests, Board members should consider whether such requests are germane to their responsibilities or service to District. In the interest of encouraging free and open expression by Board members during closed meetings, the recordings of closed meetings should not be used by Board members to confirm or dispute the accuracy of recollections.

#### Quorum and Participation by Audio or Video Means

A quorum of the Board must be physically present at all Board meetings. A quorum shall consist of the presence of sufficient Governing Board members to represent a majority of the equal votes on the Governing Board.

Provided a quorum is physically present, a Board member may attend a meeting by video or audio conference if he or she is prevented from physically attending because of: (1) personal illness or disability, (2) employment or District business, (3) a family or other emergency, or (4) unexpected childcare obligations. If a member wishes to attend a meeting by video or audio means, he or she must notify the recording secretary or Director at least 24 hours before the meeting unless advance notice is impractical. The recording secretary or Director will inform the Board Chairman and make appropriate arrangements. A Board member who attends a meeting by audio or video means, as provided in this policy, may participate in all aspects of the Board meeting including voting on any item.

#### No Physical Presence of Quorum and Participation by Audio or Video; Disaster Declaration

The ability of the Board to meet in person with a quorum physically present at its meeting location may be affected by the Governor or the Director of the III. Dept. of Public Health issuing a disaster declaration related to a public health emergency. The Board Chairman or, if the office is vacant or the Chairman is absent or unable to perform the office's duties, the Vice Chairman determines that an inperson meeting or a meeting conducted under the **Quorum and Participation by Audio or Video Means** subhead above, is not practical or prudent because of the disaster declaration; if neither the Chairman nor Vice Chairman is present or able to perform this determination, the Director shall serve as the duly authorized designee for purposes of making this determination.

The individual who makes this determination for the Board shall put it in writing, include it on the Board's published notice and agenda for the audio or video meeting and in the meeting minutes, and ensure that the Board meets every OMA requirement for the Board to meet by video or audio conference without the physical presence of a quorum.

#### Rules of Order

Unless State law or Board-adopted rules apply, the Board Chairman, as the presiding officer, will use the most recent edition of <u>Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised</u>, as a guide when a question arises concerning procedure.

#### Broadcasting and Recording Board Meetings

Any person may record or broadcast an open Board meeting. Special requests to facilitate recording or broadcasting an open Board meeting, such as seating, writing surfaces, lighting, and access to electrical power, should be directed to the Director at least 24 hours before the meeting.

Recording meetings shall not distract or disturb Board members, other meeting participants, or members of the public. The Board Chairman may designate a location for recording equipment, may restrict the movements of individuals who are using recording equipment, or may take such other steps as are deemed necessary to preserve decorum and facilitate the meeting.

#### LEGAL REF.:

5 ILCS 120/2a, 120/2.02, 120/2.05, 120/2.06, and 120/7, Open Meetings Act.

105 ILCS 5/10-6, 5/10-7, 5/10-12, and 5/10-16.

CROSS REF.: 2:80 (Board Member Conduct), 2:150 (Committees), 2:200 (Types of Governing Board Meetings), 2:210 (Organizational Governing Board Meeting), 2:230 (Public Participation at

Governing Board Meetings and Petitions to the Board)

Adopted: December 12, 2023

# 2:220-E1 Exhibit - Board Treatment of Closed Meeting Verbatim Recordings and Minutes

The following procedures govern the verbatim audio recordings and minutes of Governing Board meetings that are closed to the public.

Actor	Action
Before any Board meeting:	Arranges to have an audio recording device with adequate storage capacity and a back-up audio recording device in the Board meeting room during every Board meeting regardless of whether a closed meeting is scheduled.
Director or designee	The Board may close a portion of a public meeting without prior notice; it cannot, however, have a closed meeting unless it can record the session.
Before a closed meeting:  Board Chairman or presiding officer (#3 and #4 may be delegated to the Board Secretary or Recording Secretary)	On the closed meeting date: (1) convenes an open meeting, (2) requests a motion to adjourn into closed meeting making sure the reason for the meeting is identified in the motion, (3) takes a roll call vote, (4) ensures that the minutes record the vote of each member present and the reason for the closed meeting with a citation to the specific exception contained in the Open Meetings Act authorizing the closed meeting (5 ILCS 120/2a), and (5) adjourns the open meeting.
Before a closed meeting: Director or Board Secretary	Immediately before a closed meeting, tests and activates the audio recording device.
During a closed meeting:  Board Chairman or presiding officer	Convenes the closed meeting stating:  Seeing a quorum of the Board of Education gathered today, date, at o'clock, at location, for the purpose of holding a closed meeting in order to confidentially discuss, I call the meeting to order. In order to record who is present, I request that each individual state his or her name and position with the District.  Limits discussion to the topics that were included in the motion to go into a closed meeting.  The failure to immediately call a person out-of-order who strays from the purposes included in the motion may result in an appearance of acquiescence. This responsibility to call a person out-of-order falls on each Board member in the event of the Chairman's failure.  Once the closed meeting is finished, announces a return to an open meeting or adjournment, and states the time.
	For Verbatim Recordings:

Takes possession of the audio recording of the closed meeting and labels it with identification information, specifically the date and items discussed. Adds the identification information contained on the audio recording's label to a cumulative list of closed meeting recordings. As soon as possible, puts the recording of the closed meeting in the previously identified secure location for storing recordings of closed meetings. Upon request of a Board member: 1. Provides access to the verbatim recordings minutes at a reasonable time and place without disrupting District operations; 2. Supervises the access to the closed session minutes or delegates it to one of the following individuals in the District: a. The Recording Secretary, b. The Director or designated administrator, or After a closed c. Any elected Board member; and meeting: 3. Logs the access to the recordings in 2:220-E7, Access to Closed Meeting Minutes and Verbatim Recordings. Director. Recording For Closed Meeting Minutes: Secretary, or **Board Secretary** Prepares written closed meeting minutes that include: • The date, time, and place of the closed meeting The Board members present and absent A summary of discussion on all matters proposed or discussed • The time the closed meeting was adjourned Upon request of a Board member: Provides access to the closed session minutes at a reasonable time and place without disrupting District operations; 2. Supervises the access to the closed session minutes or delegates it to one of the following individuals in the District: a. The Recording Secretary, b. The Director or designated administrator, or c. Any elected Board member; and 3. Logs the access in 2:220-E7, Access to Closed Meeting Minutes and Verbatim Recordings. After a closed meeting: Approves the previous closed meeting minutes at the next open meeting. Governing Board Every six months, prepares a recommendation concerning the continued need for confidential treatment of all of the Board's closed meeting minutes; includes this recommendation in the packet for the meeting in which the Board will

In preparation for	conduct its semi-annual review.
the semi-annual review.	This step is in preparation of the Board's meeting to decide whether the need for confidential treatment of specific closed meeting minutes continues to exist.
Director or designee	If the Board wants to discuss closed meeting minutes in closed session, places "review of unreleased closed meeting minutes" on a closed meeting agenda.
	Places "result of Board's review of unreleased closed meeting minutes" as an item on a subsequent open meeting agenda.
In preparation for the semi-annual	Before the meeting in which the Board will conduct its semi-annual review, examines the material supplied by the Director.
review.	Individual Board members should consider: (1) the Director's recommendation,
Individual Board members	(2) the recommendation of the Board Attorney, (3) other Board members' opinions, (4) the minutes themselves, and/or (5) whether the minutes would be exempted from public disclosure under the Illinois Freedom of Information Act.
During the semi- annual review.	The Board decides in open session whether: (1) the need for confidentiality still exists as to all or part of closed meeting minutes, or (2) the minutes or portions thereof no longer require confidential treatment and are available for public inspection.
Governing Board	The Board may have an earlier meeting in closed session to discuss the continued need for confidential treatment.
After the semi- annual review.  Director or designee	Re-labels and re-files closed meeting minutes as appropriate.
Monthly:	Adds "destruction of closed meeting audio recording" as an agenda item to an
Board Chairman	upcoming open meeting.
Monthly: Governing Board	Approves the destruction of particular closed meeting recording(s) that are at least 18 months old and for which approved minutes of the closed meeting already exist.

LEGAL REF.:

5 ILCS 120/, Open Meetings Act.

DATED : March 15, 2022

## 2:220-E2 Exhibit - Motion to Adjourn to Closed Meeting

#### **Motion to Adjourn to Closed Meeting**

Date:	Time:	
Location:		
A motion was made by by discuss:	, and se , to adjourn to closed meetin	econded g to

- The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees, specific individuals who serve as independent contractors, or specific volunteers of the District or legal counsel for the District, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee, a specific individual who serves as an independent contractor, or a volunteer of the District or against legal counsel for the District to determine its validity. However, a meeting to consider an increase in compensation to a specific employee of a public body that is subject to the Local Government Wage Increase Transparency Act may not be closed and shall be open to the public and posted and held in accordance with this Act. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1).
- Collective negotiating matters between the District and its employees or their representatives, or deliberations concerning salary schedules for one or more classes of employees. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(2).
- The selection of a person to fill a public office, including a vacancy in a public office, when the District is given power to appoint under law or ordinance, or the discipline, performance or removal of the occupant of a public office, when the District is given power to remove the occupant under law or ordinance. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(3).
- Evidence or testimony presented in open hearing, or in closed hearing where authorized by law, to a quasi-adjudicative body, as defined in the Open Meetings Act, provided that the body prepares and makes available for public inspection a written decision with its determinative reasoning. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(4).??
- Evidence or testimony presented to the Board regarding denial of admission to school events or property pursuant to 105 ILCS 5/24-24, provided that the Board prepares and makes available for public inspection a written decision setting forth its determinative reasoning. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(4.5), added by P.A. 103-311.
- The purchase or lease of real property for the use of the District, including meetings held for the purpose of discussing whether a particular parcel should be acquired. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(5).
- The setting of a price for sale or lease of property owned by the District. 5ILCS 120/2(c)(6).
- The sale or purchase of securities, investments, or investment contracts. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(7).
- Security procedures, school building safety and security, and the use of personnel and equipment to respond to an actual, a threatened, or a reasonably potential danger to the safety of employees, students, staff, the public, or public property. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(8).
- Student disciplinary cases. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(9).
- The placement of individual students in special education programs and other matters relating to

individual students. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(10).

- Litigation, when an action against, affecting or on behalf of the particular District has been filed and is pending before a court or administrative tribunal, or when the District finds that an action is probable or imminent, in which case the basis for the finding shall be recorded and entered into the closed meeting minutes. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(11).
- The establishment of reserves or settlement of claims as provided in the Local Government and Governmental Employees Tort Immunity Act, if otherwise the disposition of a claim or potential claim might be prejudiced, or the review or discussion of claims, loss or risk management information, records, data, advice or communications from or with respect to any insurer of the District or any intergovernmental risk management association or self insurance pool of which the District is a member. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(12).
- Self-evaluation, practices and procedures or professional ethics, when meeting with a representative of a statewide association of which the District is a member. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(16).
- Discussion of minutes of meetings lawfully closed, whether for purposes of approval by the body of the minutes or semi-annual review of the minutes as mandated by Section 2.06. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(21).
- Meetings between internal or external auditors and governmental audit committees, finance committees, and their equivalents, when the discussion involves internal control weaknesses, identification of potential fraud risk areas, known or suspected frauds, and fraud interviews conducted in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards of the United States of America. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(29).

#### **Closed Meeting Roll Call:**

"Yeas"	"Nays"	
Motion: ☐ Carried☐ Failed		
DATED : December 12, 2023		

## 2:220-E3 Exhibit - Closed Meeting Minutes

## **Closed Meeting Minutes**

Items in bold are required by 5 ILCS 120/2.06(a)(1)-(3). Non-bolded items align with best practices.

Date:	Time:		
Location:			
Name of person(s) taking and recording the minutes:			
Name of person presiding:			
Members in attendance:			
1.	Members absent:		
2.			
3.	1.		
4.	2.		
5.	3.		
6.			
7.			
Summary of the discussion on all matters (as specif	ied in the vote to close the meeting):		
Basis for the finding that litigation is probable or imminent, if applicable (5 ILCS 120/2(c) (11)):			
Time of adjournment or return to open meeting:			
The Governing Board, during its semi-annual review of closed session minutes, has decided these minutes no longer need confidential treatment. Semi-annual means every six months, or as soon after as is practicable, taking into account the nature and meeting schedule of the board. 5 ILCS 120/2.06(d), amended by P.A. 102-653.			
☐ These minutes are available for public inspection of:	as		
(Date)			

DATED : March 15, 2022

## 2:220-E4 Exhibit - Open Meeting Minutes

#### **Meeting Minutes Protocol**

- 1. Meeting minutes are the permanent record of the proceedings during a Governing Board meeting. All Board action must be recorded in the minutes; thus, the minutes focus on Board action.
- 2. The minutes only include information provided at the meeting. Information may not be corrected or updated in the minutes unless it was discussed at the meeting.
- 3. Minutes include a summary of the Board's discussion on an agenda topic; the minutes do not state what is said verbatim. The minutes do not repeat the same point made by different individuals. If appropriate, the minutes include a brief background and an explanation of the circumstances surrounding an issue discussed. The minutes do not include the names of members making specific points during discussion. Requests from individual Board members to include their vote or an opinion are handled according to Board policy 2:220, Governing Board Meeting Procedure.
- 4. The minutes include the topic of reports that are made to the Board including reports from the Director or a Board committee. Written reports are filed with the minutes but do not become part of the minutes.
- 5. The minutes note when a member is not present for the entire meeting due to late arrival and/or early departure.
- 6. Although items may be considered by the Board in a different order than appeared on the agenda, items in the minutes are generally recorded in the same order as they appeared on the agenda. When a meeting is reconvened on a different date, the minutes must describe what happened on each meeting date.
- 7. The minutes should be recorded in an objective but positive/constructive tone. Answers and explanations, rather than questions, are recorded. Writing style, including choice of words and sentence structure, is at the discretion of the individual recording the minutes.
- 8. The minutes include individuals' names who speak during the meeting's public participation segment as well as the topics they address. All written documents presented at a Board meeting are filed with the minutes but do not become part of the minutes.
- 9. The following template generally governs meeting minutes.

#### **Open Meeting Minutes**

Date:	Time:
Location:	
Type of meeting: ☐ Regular ☐ Special ☐ Reconvened or rescheduled ☐ Em	nergency
Name of person taking the minutes:	
Name of person presiding:	

Members in attendance:	
1.	Members absent:
2. 3.	1.
4.	2.
5.	3.
6. 7.	
Approval of Agenda	'
List any items removed from the consent agenda:	
Motion made by:	
Motion: ☐ To approve	
☐ To add items as follows: (No action may be taken on newagenda	items.)
Motion seconded by:	
Action: ☐ Passed ☐ Failed	
Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes (Needed only if this item is	not on the consent agenda.)
Minutes from the Board meeting held on:	
Motion made by:	
Motion: ☐ To approve	

☐ To approve subject to incorporation of the following amendment(s	):
Motion seconded by:	
Action: ☐ Passed ☐ Failed	
Approval of Items on Consent Agenda (This may include expens reimbursements, and/or purchase orders regulated by the Local Go Control Act (see Board policies 2:125, Board Member Compensation Expenses))	vernment Travel Expense
Summary of discussion:	
Motion to approve the consent agenda made by:	
Motion seconded by:	
Roll Call: (Needed when consent agenda contains an item involving	g the expenditure of money.)
"Yeas"	"Nays"
Action: ☐ Passed ☐ Failed	
Public Comments (Reproduce this section for each individual mak	ing a comment.)
The following individual appeared and commented on the topic noted documents presented to the Board.)	below: (Include the title of any
Name:	
Topic:	

Remaining Agenda Items (Reproduce this section for each agend	a item.)
Agenda item:	
Summary of discussion:	
Motion made by:	
Motion to:	
Motion seconded by:	
Action: ☐ Passed ☐ Failed	
(If a roll call vote occurred, record the vote of individual Board men	nbers.)
"Yeas"	"Nays"
If Applicable, Approval of Motion to Adjourn to Closed Meeting Adjourn to Closed Meeting.)	(Insert 2:220-E2, Motion to
Approval of Motion to Adjourn	
Motion to adjourn made by:	
Motion seconded by:	
Action: ☐ Passed ☐ Failed	
Time of adjournment:	
Post-Meeting Action	
Date minutes approved:	

Date minutes were available for public inspection:
Date minutes were posted on District website:

DATED : August 17, 2021

## 2:220-E5 Exhibit - Semi-Annual Review of Closed Meeting Minutes

#### Logging and Review Process

Step 1. The Board Secretary or Recording Secretary maintains a log of the closed meeting minutes that are unavailable for public inspection. The meeting minutes are logged according to the reason the Board held the closed meeting. 2:220-E6, *Log of Closed Meeting Minutes*.

Step 2. The Board meets in closed session to review the log of unreleased closed meeting minutes. The Board or Recording Secretary brings a copy of all unreleased closed meeting minutes and, if requested, allows Board members to review the actual minutes. The Board identifies which closed meeting minutes or portions thereof no longer need confidential treatment. Use *Report Following the Board's Semi-Annual Reviewof Closed Meeting Minutes*, below.

Step 3. At least semi-annually (every six months, or as soon after as is practicable, taking into account the nature and meeting schedule of the Board), in an open meeting, the Board takes action to release for public inspection those minutes, or portions thereof, no longer needing confidential treatment. Use *Action to Accept*, below. Closed meeting minutes will not be released for public inspection if confidential treatment is needed to protect the public interest or the privacy of an individual, including: (1) student disciplinary cases or other matters relating to an individual student, and (2) personnel files and employees' and Board members' personal information. 5 ILCS 120/2.06(d), amended by P.A. 102-653.

Step 4. The Board or Recording Secretary: (1) updates the log of unreleased closed meeting minutes to remove any minutes that the Board made available for public inspection; (2) makes a notation on any applicable closed meeting minutes of the Board's action to release it or a portion of it for public inspection; (3) continues to log new closed meeting minutes that the Board has not released for public inspection (2:220-E6, *Log of Closed Meeting Minutes*), and (4) maintains logs for access to closed session minutes pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2.06(e).

Report Following the Board's Semi-Annual Review of Closed Meeting Minutes							
•	The Governing Board met on in closed session to conduct its semi-annual eview of closed meeting minutes that have not been released for public inspection.						
The closed meeting minutes, or portions thereof, from the following dates no longer require confidential treatment: (insert closed meeting dates)							

The need for confidentiality still exists as to all remaining closed meeting minutes to protect an individual's privacy or the District's interests.

Action to Accept the Board's Semi-Annual Review of Closed Meeting Minutes

Open meeting date:
Motion to approve the Board's semi-annual review of unreleased closed meeting minutes and to release for public inspection those minutes, or portions thereof, that the Board identified as no longer needing confidential treatment made by:

	_
Motion seconded by:	
Action: ☐ Passed ☐ Failed	

DATED : March 15, 2022

## 2:220-E6 Exhibit - Log of Closed Meeting Minutes

The purpose of this log is to facilitate the Board's semi-annual review of closed meeting minutes. *Semi-annual* means every six months, or as soon after as is practicable, taking into account the nature and meeting schedule of the board. 5 ILCS 120/2.06(d), amended by P.A. 102-653. See 2:220-E5, *Semi-Annual Reviewof Closed Meeting Minutes*.

The Board Secretary or Recording Secretary shall maintain a list of closed meeting minutes, arranged according to the reason for the closed meeting, that have not been released for public inspection.

Closed Session Held to Discuss:		Dates of Closed Sessions		
Specific employee(s), specific independent contractors, specific volunteers, or District legal counsel; however, a meeting to consider an increase in compensation to a specific employee of a public body that is subject to the Local Government Wage Increase Transparency Act may not be closed and shall be open to the public and posted and held in accordance with [the Open Meetings Act]. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1).				
Collective negotiating matters or deliberations concerning salary schedules for one or more classes of employees.				
5 ILCS 120/2(c)(2).				
Selection of a person to fill a vacancy on the Board. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(3).	F			
Evidence or testimony presented in a hearing where authorized by law. 5 ILCS 120/2(c) (4).				
Evidence or testimony presented to the Board regarding denial of admission to school events or property pursuant to 105 ILCS 5/24-24, provided that the Board prepares and makes available for public inspection a written decision setting forth its determinative reasoning. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(4.5), added by P.A. 103-311.				
Purchase or lease of real property. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(5).				
Setting of a price for sale or lease of District property. 5ILCS 120/2(c)(6).	F	$\equiv$		
Sale or purchase of securities, investments, or investment contracts. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(7).	F			
Security procedures and the use of personnel and equipment to respond to an actual, a threatened, or a reasonably potential danger. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(8).				
Student disciplinary cases. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(9). Minutes of meetings held for this reason shall never be released to protect the individual student's privacy.				
Any matter involving an individual student. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(10). Minutes of meetings held for this reason shall never be released to protect the individual student's privacy.				
Litigation, when an action against, affecting, or on behalf of the District has been filed and is pending before a court or administrative tribunal, or when the Board finds that an action is probable or imminent. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(11).				

Establishment of reserves or settlement of claims as provided in the Local Government and Governmental Employees Tort Immunity Act or discussion of claims, loss or risk management information, records, data, advice or communications from or with respect to any insurer of the District or any intergovernmental risk management association or self insurance pool. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(12).		
Self-evaluation, practices and procedures or professional ethics, when meeting with an IASB representative. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(16).		
Minutes of meetings lawfully closed, whether for purposes of approval or semi-annual review. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(21).		
Meetings between internal or external auditors and governmental audit committees, finance committees, and their equivalents, when the discussion involves internal control weaknesses, identification of potential fraud risk areas, known or suspected frauds, and fraud interviews conducted in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards of the United States of America. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(29).		

DATED : December 12, 2023

# 2:220-E7 Exhibit - Access to Closed Meeting Minutes and Verbatim Recordings

The Board must allow its duly elected officials or appointed officials filling a vacancy of an elected office access to closed session minutes and verbatim recordings. 5 ILCS 120/2.06(e). The following subheads implement the logistics of granting this access.

<b>Access</b>	to	Closed	Meeting	Minutes

Duplicate this section for ea	ach grant d	of acce	ess to close	d m	eeting minutes.	
Date: Time		:		Storage Location:		
Name of person(s) respons	Name of person(s) responsible for storing the closed meeting minutes:					
☐ Access granted						
Date access occurred:				S	Start time:	
Requesting Board membe	r's name <i>(F</i>	Please	e print)			
In the presence of: (Check	appropriat	te box	and insert r	nan	ne on line.)	
☐ Recording Secretary						
☐ Director or designated a	administrat	tor				
☐ Elected Board member						
For requesting Board me	mber: (Re	ad the	following a	nd .	sign below.)	
While the Open Meetings Addisclosing closed session do (2nd Dist. 1990)), I acknowled closed session minutes not alleging that I created harm	iscussions edge and ι yet release	( <u>Swa</u> unders ed to th	nson v. Bd. o tand that an ne public co	of F y di uld	<u>Police Commissioners,</u> sclosures by me of info subject me to a possib	197 III.App.3d 592 ormation in the
Requesting Board Member Signature Date						
Verbatim Recording Access	<u></u>					
Duplicate this section for ea	ach grant c	of acce	ess to verba	tim	recordings.	
Date:	Time:		Storage Lo	cat	ion:	

		~			
Name of person(s) responsible	for storing	g the verbatim rec	ording:		
☐ Access granted					
Date access occurred:	Date access occurred: Start time: End time:				ne:
Requesting Board member's na	me <i>(Plea</i>	se print)		1	I
In the presence of: (Check appro	opriate bo	ox and insert nan	ne on line.)		
☐ Recording Secretary					
☐ Director or designated admir	nistrator				
□ Elected Board member					
☐ Access denied ☐ Access uand was destroyed pursuant to 5			ording requested is olde	er than 18	8 months
For requesting Board member	r: (Read t	he following and	sign below.)		
While the Open Meetings Act doed disclosing closed session discus (2nd Dist. 1990)), I acknowledge closed session verbatim recording harm to another, i.e., an intentional	sions ( <u>Sv</u> and unde ngs could	vanson v. Bd. of F erstand that any di	Police Commissioners, of sclosures by me of information of the school of	197 <mark>I</mark> II.Ap rmation i	p.3d 592 n the
Requesting Board Member Signature Date					
DATED : August 17, 2021					

# 2:220-E8 Exhibit - School Board Records Maintenance Requirements and FAQs

## Open Meetings Act

The Open Meetings Act (OMA) requires public bodies to "keep written minutes of all their meetings, whether open or closed, and a verbatim record of all their closed meetings in the form of an audio or video recording." 5 ILCS 120/2.06(a). Minutes must include, but are not limited to: (1) the date, time, and place of the meeting; (2) the members of the public body recorded as either present or absent and whether the members were physically present or present by means of video or audio conference; and (3) a summary of discussion on all matters proposed, deliberated, or decided, and record of any votes taken. Id.

The remainder of Section 2.06 addresses the approval of open meeting minutes, the treatment of verbatim recordings of closed meetings, the semi-annual review of closed meeting minutes, the confidential nature of closed meeting minutes, and the right of persons to address public officials under rules established and recorded by the public body. The requirements of Section 2.06, as well as OMA requirements pertaining to Board agendas, are included in policy 2:220, *School Board Meeting Procedure*.

Exhibit 2:220-E3, *Closed Meeting Minutes*, provides a sample template for keeping closed meeting minutes that incorporates the requirements of Section 2.06 of OMA. It also includes an area to designate if the Board has determined, pursuant to Section 2.06(d), that the closed meeting minutes no longer need confidential treatment.

Exhibit 2:220-E4, *Open Meeting Minutes*, contains a protocol for open meeting minutes that incorporates the requirements of Section 2.06 of OMA. It also provides a sample template for keeping open meeting minutes.

Exhibit 2:220-E5, Semi-Annual Review of Closed Meeting Minutes, contains a process for implementing the semi-annual review of closed meeting minutes, and exhibit 2:220-E6, Log of Closed Meeting Minutes, is designed to facilitate this semi-annual review

(every six months, or as soon after as is practicable, taking into account the nature and meeting schedule of the Board). 5 ILCS 120/2.06(d), amended by P.A. 102-653.

Exhibit 2:220-E9, Requirements for No Physical Presence of Quorum and Participation by Audio or Video During Disaster Declaration, contains a process for compliance with 105 ILCS 120/7(e), added by P.A. 101-640, when a board is meeting without a physical quorum present at the meeting location during a disaster declaration related to public health concerns.

#### Local Records Act

The Local Records Act (LRA) provides that public records, including "any book, paper, map, photograph, digitized electronic material, or other official documentary material, regardless of physical form or characteristics, made, produced, executed or received by any agency or officer pursuant to law or in connections with the transaction of public business and preserved or appropriate for preservation by such agency or officer" must be preserved unless the State Local Records Commission has given permission to destroy those records. 50 ILCS 205/3 and 7. Board records, including agendas, meeting packets and meeting minutes, fall into this definition.

Public bodies located in Cook County must work with the Local Records Commission of Cook County to determine how long they must retain public records. Public bodies located outside of Cook County must work with the Downstate Local Records Commission to determine how long they must retain public records.

Policy 2:250, *Access to District Public Records*, contains a subhead entitled **Preserving Public Records** which provides as follows:

Public records, including email messages, shall be preserved and cataloged if: (1) they are evidence of the District's organization, function, policies, procedures, or activities, (2) they contain informational data appropriate for preservation, (3) their retention is required by State or federal law, or (4) they are subject to a retention request by the Board Attorney (e.g., a litigation hold), District auditor, or other individual authorized by the School Board or State or federal law to make such a request. Unless its retention is required as described in items numbered 3 or 4 above, a public record, as defined by the Illinois Local Records Act, may be destroyed when authorized by the Local Records Commission.

See the sample policy, 2:220, *School Board Meeting Procedure*, for all relevant footnotes. Also see administrative procedure 2:250-AP2, *Protocols for Record Preservation and Development of Retention Schedules*, for recommendations regarding school district records retention protocols and links to web-based record management resources.

## Open Meeting Minutes

Are we required to approve them?	Must they be semi- annually reviewed?	May we release them to the public?	May we destroy them?
Yes, within 30 days or at the next subsequent meeting, whichever is later.  A public body shall approve the minutes of its open meeting within 30 days after that meeting or at the public body's second subsequent regular meeting, whichever is later. 5 ILCS 120/2.06(b).	meeting minutes.	after minutes are approved.  The minutes of meetings open to the public shall be available for public inspection within 10 days after the approval of such minutes by the public body. Beginning July 1, 2006, at the time it complies with other requirements of this subsection, a public body that has a website that the full-time staff of the public body maintains shall post the minutes of a regular meeting of its governing body open to the public on the public body's	meeting minutes, and they must be

the website for at least 60	
days after their initial	
posting. 5 ILCS	
120/2.06(b).	

# Open Meeting Verbatim Recordings

Are we required to approve them? Must they be semiannually reviewed?	May we release them to the public?	May we destroy them?	
verbatim recordings of open meetings.  OMA does not require public bodies to keep verbatim recordings of open meetings, unless the public body is meeting without the physical presence of a quorum during a disaster declaration related to public health concerns. 5 ILCS 120/7(e). OMA does not contain semiannual review	Ves.  Unlike the closed meeting requirement, OMA does not require public bodies to keep verbatim recordings of open meetings, unless the public body is meeting without the physical presence of a quorum during a disaster declaration related to public health concerns. 5 ILCS 120/7(e). If a public body makes verbatim recordings of open meetings, then such recordings are subject to public disclosure pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act. 5 ILCS 140/.	Open meeting verbatim recordings made of meetings held without the physical presence of a quorum of a public body during a disaster declaration related to public health concerns may be destroyed after 18 months if prerequisites are met. (See Closed Meeting Verbatim Recordings subhead, below).  [P]ublic bodies holding open meetings under this subsection (e) must also keep a verbatim record of all their meetings in the form of an audio or video recording. Verbatim records made under this paragraph (9) shall be made available to the public under, and are otherwise subject to, the provisions of Section 2.06. 5 ILCS 120/7(e)(9).  In all other cases, if a public body would like to destroy open meeting verbatim recordings,	

# Closed Meeting Minutes

	Are we required to approve them?	Must they be semi- annually reviewed?	May we release them to the public?	May we destroy them?	
ı	Vae	Vac	Vac if nraraquicitae ara	No	

ı UJ.

OMA does not directly state public bodies are required to approve closed meeting minutes, nor does it set a time frame for such approval. However, OMA Section 2.06(d) requires public bodies to meet at least semi-annually to "review minutes of all closed meetings." 5 ILCS 120/2.06(d).

Moreover, OMA Section 2.06(c) specifically allows the destruction of closed meeting verbatim recordings only if certain conditions are met, one of which is that "the public body approves minutes of the closed meeting that meet the written minutes requirements of subsection (a) of this Section." 5 ILCS 120/2.06(c)(2). Both of these tasks would be difficult to achieve if closed meeting minutes were not first approved.

One practice is to approve closed meeting minutes within the same time frame that open meeting minutes are approved – within 30 days of the meeting or at the next subsequent meeting, whichever is later.

ı UJ.

Each public body shall periodically meet to reviewall existing minutes of all prior closed meetings (this includes records from all time that the board has been in existence). Meetings to reviewminutes shall occur every 6 months, or as soon thereafter as is practicable, taking into account the nature and meeting schedule of the public body. At such meetings a determination shall be made, and reported in an open session that (1) the need for confidentiality still exists as to all or part of those minutes or (2) that the minutes or portions thereof no longer require confidential treatment land are available for public inspection. 5 ILCS 120/2.06(d), amended by P.A. 102l653.

res, ii prerequisites are lmet.

Minutes of meetings closed to the public shall destruction of closed be available only after the public body determines that it is no longer necessary to protect the public interes or the privacy of an individual by keeping them confidential. 5 ILCS 120/2.06(f).

There is no OMA provision permitting the meeting minutes, and they must be preserved unless the State Local Records Commission has given permission to destroy

In addition:

them.

No minutes of meetings closed to the public shall be removed from the public body's main office or official storage location, except by vote of the public body or by court order. 5 ILCS 120/2.06(f).

If a public body would like to destroy closed meeting minutes, then it must comply with the LRA and work with its Local Records Commission. It is highly unlikely, however, that the Local Records Commission would approve of their destruction.

# Closed Meeting Verbatim Recordings

Are we required to approve them?	Must they be semi- annually reviewed?	May we release them to the public?	May we destroy them?
No.	No.	, ,	Yes, after 18 months if prerequisites are met.
OMA does not require approval of closed meeting verbatim recordings.	semi-annual review of closed meeting	Unless the public body has made a determination that the	The verbatim record may be destroyed without notification to or

longer requires confidential treatment or records commission or otherwise consents to record of a meeting closed to the public shall no less than 18 months not be open for public inspection or subject to discovery in any administrative or judicial public body approves proceeding other than one brought to enforce this Act. 5 ILCS 120/2.06(e).

But see <u>Kodish v.</u> Oakbrook Terrace Fire Protection Dist. (235 F.R.D. 447 (N.D. III. 2006), where a federal district court ordered that closed meeting verbatim recordings be disclosed to the Plaintiff in discovery because his primary claim was brought under federal law.

the approval of a the State Archivist under disclosure, the verbatim |the Local Records Act or the State Records Act after the completion of the meeting recorded but only after: 1.) the the destruction of a particular recording; and 2.) the public body approves minutes of the closed meeting that meet the written minutes requirements of subsection (a) of this Section. 5 ILCS 120/2.06(c).

In addition:

No verbatim recordings shall be recorded or removed from the public body's main office or official storage location, except by vote of the public body or by court order. 5 ILCS 120/2.06(e).

DATED: March 15, 2022

# 2:220-E9 Exhibit - Requirements for No Physical Presence of Quorum and Participation by Audio or Video During Disaster Declaration

Use this exhibit to document the Board's and/or its committee(s)'s (5 ILCS 120/1.02) processes to comply with the requirements of the Open Meetings Act (OMA) when a board and/or its committee(s) must meet during a disaster declaration related to a public health emergency/concern and the meeting will have no physical presence of a quorum and participation by audio or video.

**Note:** If a Board committee uses this exhibit, replace Board President, Vice President, and Supt. with the appropriate committee leaders.

Consult the Board Attorney for guidance.
Documentation of OMA Requirements for Board Members to Participate in a Meeting with No Physical Presence of Quorum
□ The Governor or the Director of the III. Dept. of Public Health has issued a disaster declaration related to a public health emergency because of a disaster as defined in 20 ILCS 3305/4, and all or part of the jurisdiction of the Board is covered by the disaster area. 5 ILCS 120/7(e)(1), amended by P.A. 101-640. <b>Note:</b> OMA uses "public health concerns," but the III. Emergency Management Act (IEMA) uses "public health emergency;" this exhibit matches the IEMA term because it governs disaster declarations.
Insert Disaster Declaration or Executive Order number [] or attach to this document.
☐ The Board President or, if the office is vacant or the President is absent or unable to perform the office's duties, the Vice President, or if neither the President nor Vice President are present or able to perform this determination, the Superintendent (5 ILCS 120/7(e)(2), amended by P.A. 101-640, and 140/2(e)) signs below that the following three <b>Steps</b> were executed by:
<b>Step 1</b> . Determining whether the meeting is a bona fide emergency (5 ILCS 120/7(e)(7), amended by P.A. 101-640) ( <i>check Yes or No, below</i> ):
☐ Yes; it is an emergency meeting, and I:
A. Notified the Board members and the public, including any news medium which has filed an annual request for notice of meetings as soon as practicable, but in any event prior to the holding of such meeting pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2.02(a) and 120/7(e)(7)(A), amended by P.A. 101-640;
B. Stated the nature of the emergency at the beginning of the meeting; and
C. Provided the Superintendent or Board Secretary the resources necessary during the meeting to keep a verbatim record of the meeting, <b>for both open and closed</b> , and managed it the same way that the Board complies with the verbatim recording requirements for closed meetings (see exhibit 2:220-E1, <i>Board Treatment of Closed Meeting Verbatim Recordings and Minutes</i> ). <b>Note:</b> In this situation, a verbatim recording is not limited to closed meetings only.
D. Move to Step 2, below.
☐ No; it is a regular or special meeting, and I:
A. Experience that the Decard provided 40 hours' notice of the proceeding to all Decard provided to any

A. Ensured that the Board provided 48 hours' notice of the meeting to all Board members, to any news medium on file in the District that have requested notice of meetings pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2.02(a), and to members of the public by posting it on the District's website. 5 ILCS 120/7(e)(7), amended by P.A. 101-640. **Note:** 5 ILCS 120/7(e), amended by P.A. 101-640 does not have the "if any" exception for school boards that do not have websites. Consult the board attorney regarding alternate ways to communicate notice of a meeting when the district

does not have a website and a Disaster Declaration or Executive Order has been issued.

doco not have a website and a Biodeter Beolaration of Executive eraci has been located.	
Insert meeting date and time, and a link to the meeting notice or attach a copy of the notice to document.	this
B. Moves to Step 2, below.	
<b>Step 2</b> . Determining whether it is practical, prudent, or feasible for any in-person attendance at regular meeting location (5 ILCS 120/7(e)(2), amended by P.A. 101-640). ( <i>check Yes or No, be</i>	
☐ Yes; in-person attendance is practical, prudent, or feasible, and I:	
A. Ensured that at least one Board member, the Board Attorney, or the Superintendent was physically present at the regular meeting location (5 ILCS 120/7(e)(5), amended by P.A. 1 640), and	01-
B. Verified that members of the public who were present could hear all discussion and testime and all votes of the members of the Board. 5 ILCS 120/7(e)(4), amended by P.A. 101-640	•
C. Move to Step 3, below.	
☐ No; in-person attendance is not practical, prudent, or feasible, and I:	
A. Made a written determination referring to the specific Executive Order or Disaster Declaraciting the public health concern/emergency that applies to the Board and the meeting. 5 LL 120/7(e)(1) and (2), amended by P.A. 101-640.	
B. Included the written determination made in letter A., above, on the Board's published notic agenda for the alternative arrangements for the meeting. 5 ILCS 120/7(e)(7)(A)-(B), amen P.A. 101-640.	
C. Offered the alternative arrangements to the public by offering a telephone number or a well based link. 5 ILCS 120/7(e)(4), amended by P.A. 101-640.	b-
Insert a link to the meeting notice or attach a copy of the notice or refer to above if already atta to this document (see above).	ached
Include this written determination on the Board/committee's published notice and agenda for audio or video meeting, and in the meeting minutes.	the
D. Move to Step 3, below.	
Step 3. During the meeting, I:	
☐ Directed the Recording Secretary to, in addition to the requirements for open meetings under OMA, also keep verbatim record of the open meeting by recording it and making it open and avoid to the public under all provisions of OMA. 5 ILCS 120/7(e)(9), amended by P.A. 101-640. Samp follows belowin the subhead belowReport to the Public Following the Board's Meeting with Physical Presence of Quorum.	ailable ole text
□ Read my written determination referring to the specific Executive Order or Disaster Declarat citing the public health concern/emergency that applies to the Board and the meeting and direct Recording Secretary to include it in the meeting minutes.	
☐ Ensured that any interested member of the public has access to contemporaneously hear all discussion, testimony, and roll call votes. 5 ILCS 120/7(e)(4), amended by P.A. 101-640.	

☐ Requested the Recording Secretary to enter into the appropriate minutes of the Board that each

Board member participating in the meeting, wherever their physical locations, announced:

- 1. Themselves present (5 ILCS 120/7(e)(3), amended by P.A. 101-640), and
- 2. A verification that they could hear one another and all discussion and testimony. <u>ld</u>.

See 2:220-E3, Closed Meeting Minutes and/or 2:220-E4, Open Meeting Minutes.

, , ,				
Attach to this document copies or information about where these minutes may be found.				
☐ Announced and considered each Board member participating in the meeting present at the meeting for purposes of determining a quorum and participating in all proceedings (5 ILCS 120/7(e) (8), amended by P.A. 101-640) and directed the Recording Secretary to reflect it in the minutes (best practice for transparency).				
☐ Conducted all votes by roll call, so each Board member's vote on each issue could be identified and recorded (5 ILCS 120/7(e)(6), amended by P.A. 101-640), and ensured that the Recording Secretary entered all votes as <b>Roll Call Votes</b> ( <i>Use exhibit 2:220-E4, Open Meeting Minutes but ensure all votes are recorded as roll call votes pursuant to the example below</i> ):				
"Yeas"	"Nays"			
Motion: ☐ Carried ☐ Failed				
Executed or directed execution of the subhead below Report to the Public Following the Board's Meeting with No Physical Presence of Quorum.  Report to the Public Following the Board's Meeting with No Physical Presence of Quorum  The text belowmay be used for the actual report.  The School Board met on [insert date] with no physical presence of quorum to conduct its business.  The verbatim [circle one] audio   video recording of this meeting is available to the public under all provisions of OMA and will be destroyed pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2.06(c)(no less than 18 months after the completion of the meeting recorded but only after: (1) the Board approves the destruction of the particular recording; and (2) the Board approves minutes of the meeting that meet the written minutes requirements of OMA). 5 ILCS 120/7(e)(9), amended by P.A. 101-640.				
Insert links to the verbatim recording of meeting here or attach to this document.				
<b>Note:</b> Consult the board attorney for guidance on the destruction of a verbatim recording of an open meeting without the physical presence of a quorum. While 5 ILCS 120/2.06(c) refers to the process for destroying closed session verbatim recordings, 5 ILCS 120/7(e)(9), amended by P.A. 101-640, applies that process for destroying closed session verbatim recordings to the destruction of the verbatim open session recordings that are required when a board determines it is necessary for it to meet without the physical presence of a quorum due to a public health emergency.				
Completed By:				
Title:				

DATED: November 10, 2020

# 2:230 Public Participation at Governing Board Meetings and Petitions to the Board

During each regular and special open meeting of the Board, any person may comment to or ask questions of the Governing Board (*public participation*), subject to the reasonable constraints established and recorded in this policy's guidelines below. The Board listens to comments or questions during public participation; responses to comments to or questions of the Board are most often managed through policy 3:30, *Chain of Command*.

To preserve sufficient time for the Board to conduct its business, any person appearing before the Board is expected to follow these guidelines:

- Address the Board only at the appropriate time as indicated on the agenda and when recognized by the Board Chairman. This includes following the directives of the Board Chairman to maintain order and decorum for all.
- 2. Use a sign-in sheet, if requested.
- 3. Identify oneself and be brief. Ordinarily, the time for any one person to address the Board during public participation shall be limited to five minutes. In unusual circumstances, and when an individual has made a request to speak for a longer period of time, the Board Chairman may allow a person to speak for more than five minutes. If multiple individuals wish to address the Board on the same subject, the group is encouraged to appoint a spokesperson.
- 4. Observe, when necessary and appropriate, the Board Chairman's authority to:
  - a. Shorten the time for each person to address the Board during public participation to conserve time and give the maximum number of people an opportunity to speak; and/or
  - b. Determine procedural matters regarding public participation not otherwise covered in Board policy.
- 5. Conduct oneself with respect and civility toward others and otherwise abide by Board policy 8:30, *Visitors to and Conduct on School Property*.

Petitions or written correspondence to the Board shall be presented to the Board at the next regularly scheduled Board meeting.

LEGAL REF.:

105 ILCS 5/10-6 and 5/10-16.

5 ILCS 120/2.06, Open Meetings Act.

CROSS REF.: 2:220 (Governing Board Meeting Procedure), 8:10 (Connection with the Community), 8:30 (Visitors to and Conduct on District Property)

Adopted: June 21, 2022

# 2:240 Board Policy Development

The Governing Board governs using written policies. Written policies ensure legal compliance, establish Board processes, articulate District ends, delegate authority, and define operating limits. Board policies also provide the basis for monitoring progress toward District ends.

#### **Policy Development**

Anyone may propose new policies, changes to existing policies, or elimination of existing policies. Staff suggestions should be processed through the Director. Suggestions from all others should be made to the Board Chairman or the Director.

The Executive Board will provide information and recommendations to the Governing Board on policies to be adopted.

The Director is responsible for: (1) providing relevant policy information and data to the Board, (2) notifying those who will implement or be affected by or required to implement a proposed policy and obtaining their advice and suggestions, and (3) having policy recommendations drafted into written form for Board deliberation. The Director shall seek the counsel of the Board attorney when appropriate.

## Policy Adoption and Dissemination

Policies or policy revisions will not be adopted at the Board meeting at which they are first introduced, except when: (1) appropriate for a consent agenda because no Board discussion is required, or (2) necessary or prudent in order to meet emergency or special conditions or to be legally compliant. Further Board consideration may be given at a subsequent meeting(s) and after opportunity for community input. The adoption of a policy will serve to supersede all previously adopted policies on the same topic.

The Board policies are available for public inspection in the District's main office during regular office hours. Copy requests should be made pursuant to Board policy 2:250, *Access to Cooperative Public Records*.

## **Board Policy Review and Monitoring**

The Board will periodically review its policies for relevancy, monitor its policies for effectiveness, and consider whether any modifications are required.

#### Words Importing Gender

Throughout this policy manual, words importing the masculine and/or feminine gender include all gender neutral/inclusive pronouns.

#### **Director Implementation**

The Board will support any reasonable interpretation of Board policy made by the Director. If reasonable minds differ, the Board will review the applicable policy and consider the need for further clarification.

In the absence of Board policy, the Director is authorized to take appropriate action.

#### Suspension of Policies

The Board, by a majority vote of members present at any meeting, may temporarily suspend a Board policy except those provisions that are controlled by law or contract. The failure to suspend with a specific motion does not invalidate the Board action.

LEGAL REF.:

105 ILCS 5/10-20.5.

CROSS REF.: 2:250 (Access to Cooperative Public Records), 3:40 (Director)

Adopted: August 17, 2021

# 2:250 Access to Cooperative Public Records

Full access to the District's *public records* is available to any person as provided in the Illinois Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), this policy, and implementing procedures. The Director or designee shall: (1) provide the Board with sufficient information and data to permit the Board to monitor the District's compliance with FOIA and this policy, and (2) report any FOIA requests during the Board's regular meetings along with the status of the District's response.

## Freedom of Information Officer

The Director shall appoint an employee, who may be himself or herself, to serve as the District's Freedom of Information Officer. That appointee assumes all the duties and powers of that office as provided in FOIA and this policy.

#### Definition

The District's *public records* are defined as records, reports, forms, writings, letters, memoranda, books, papers, maps, photographs, microfilms, cards, tapes, recordings, electronic data processing records, electronic communications, recorded information and all other documentary material pertaining to the transaction of public business, regardless of physical form or characteristics, having been prepared by or for, or having been or being used by, received by, in the possession of, or under the control of the School District.

## Requesting Records

A request for inspection and/or copies of public records must be made in writing and may be submitted by personal delivery, mail, telefax, or email directed to the District's Freedom of Information Officer. Individuals making a request are not required to state a reason for the request other than to identify when the request is for a commercial purpose or when requesting a fee waiver. The Director or designee shall instruct District employees to immediately forward any request for inspection and copying of a public record to the District's Freedom of Information Officer or designee.

## Responding to Requests

The Freedom of Information Officer shall approve all requests for public records unless:

- 1. The requested material does not exist;
- 2. The requested material is exempt from inspection and copying by the Freedom of Information Act; or
- 3. Complying with the request would be unduly burdensome.

Within 5 business days after receipt of a request for access to a public record, the Freedom of Information Officer shall comply with or deny the request, unless the time for response is extended as specified in Section 3 of FOIA. The Freedom of Information Officer may extend the time for a response for up to five business days from the original due date. If an extension is needed, the Freedom of Information Officer shall: (1) notify the person making the request of the reason for the extension, and (2) either inform the person of the date on which a response will be made, or agree with the person in writing on a compliance period.

The time periods are extended for responding to requests for records made for a *commercial purpose*, requests by a *recurrent requester*, or *voluminous requests*, as those terms are defined in Section 2 of FOIA. The time periods for responding to those requests are governed by Sections 3.1, 3.2, and 3.6 of FOIA.

When responding to a request for a record containing both exempt and non-exempt material, the Freedom of Information Officer shall redact exempt material from the record before complying with the

request.

#### Fees

Persons making a request for copies of public records must pay any and all applicable fees. The Freedom of Information Officer shall establish a fee schedule that complies with FOIA and this policy and is subject to the Board's review. The fee schedule shall include copying fees and all other fees to the maximum extent they are permitted by FOIA, including without limitation, search and review fees for responding to a request for a *commercial purpose* and fees, costs, and personnel hours in connection with responding to a *voluminous request*.

Copying fees, except when fixed by statute, shall be reasonably calculated to reimburse the District's actual cost for reproducing and certifying public records and for the use, by any person, of its equipment to copy records. In no case shall the copying fees exceed the maximum fees permitted by FOIA. If the District's actual copying costs are equal to or greater than the maximum fees permitted by FOIA, the Freedom of Information Officer is authorized to use FOIA's maximum fees as the District's fees. No copying fees shall be charged for: (1) the first 50 pages of black and white, letter or legal sized copies, or (2) electronic copies other than the actual cost of the recording medium, except if the response is to a *voluminous request*, as defined in FOIA.

A fee reduction is available if the person requesting the record states a specific purpose for the request and indicates that a fee reduction is in the public interest by having as its principal purpose the preservation of the general public's health, safety, welfare, or legal rights and is not for the principal purpose of personal or commercial benefit. The Freedom of Information Officer shall set the amount of the reduction, taking into consideration the amount of material requested and the cost of copying it.

#### Provision of Copies and Access to Records

A public record that is the subject of an approved access request will be available for inspection or copying at the District's administrative office during regular business hours, unless other arrangements are made by the Freedom of Information Officer.

Many public records are immediately available from the District's website including, but not limited to, the process for requesting a public record. The Freedom of Information Officer shall direct a requester to the District's website if a requested record is available there. If the requester is unable to reasonably access the record online, he or she may resubmit the request for the record, stating his or her inability to reasonably access the record online, and the District shall make the requested record available for inspection and copying as otherwise provided in this policy.

#### Preserving Public Records

Public records, including email messages, shall be preserved and cataloged if: (1) they are evidence of the District's organization, function, policies, procedures, or activities, (2) they contain informational data appropriate for preservation, (3) their retention is required by State or federal law, or (4) they are subject to a retention request by the Board Attorney (e.g., a litigation hold), District auditor, or other individual authorized by the Governing Board or State or federal law to make such a request. Unless its retention is required as described in items numbered 3 or 4 above, a public record, as defined by the Illinois Local Records Act, may be destroyed when authorized by the Local Records Commission.

#### LEGAL REF.:

5 ILCS 140/, Illinois Freedom of Information Act.

105 ILCS 5/10-16 and 5/24A-7.1.

820 ILCS 40/11.

820 ILCS 130/5.

CROSS REF.: 2:140 (Communications To and From the Board), 5:150 (Personnel Records), 7:340  $\,$ 

(Student Records)

Adopted: January 17, 2023

#### 2:260 Uniform Grievance Procedure

A student, parent/guardian, employee, or community member should notify any District Complaint Manager if he or she believes that the Governing Board, its employees, or its agents have violated his or her rights guaranteed by the State or federal Constitution, State or federal statute, or Board policy, or has a complaint regarding:

- 1. Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act
- 2. Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, 20 U.S.C. §1681 <u>et seq.</u>, excluding Title IX complaints governed by Board policy 2:265, *Title IX Grievance Procedure*
- 3. Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973
- 4. Discrimination and/or harassment on the basis of race, color, or national origin prohibited by the Illinois Human Rights Act, 775 ILCS 5/; Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 42 U.S.C. §2000d et seq.; and/or Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 42 U.S.C. §2000e et seq. (see Board policy 2:270, Discrimination and Harassment on the Basis of Race, Color, and National Origin Prohibited)
- 5. Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 42 U.S.C. §2000e et seq. (see also number 4, above, for discrimination and/or harassment on the basis of race, color, or national origin)
- 6. Sexual harassment prohibited by the State Officials and Employees Ethics Act, 5 ILCS 430/70-5(a); Illinois Human Rights Act, 775 ILCS 5/; and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 42 U.S.C. §2000e et seq. (Title IX sexual harassment complaints are addressed under policy 2:265, *Title IX Grievance Procedure*)
- 7. Breastfeeding accommodations for students, 105 ILCS 5/10-20.60
- 8. Bullying, 105 ILCS 5/27-23.7
- 9. Misuse of funds received for services to improve educational opportunities for educationally disadvantaged or deprived children
- 10. Curriculum, instructional materials, and/or programs
- 11. Victims' Economic Security and Safety Act, 820 ILCS 180/
- 12. Illinois Equal Pay Act of 2003, 820 ILCS 112/
- 13. Provision of services to homeless students
- 14. Illinois Whistleblower Act, 740 ILCS 174/
- 15. Employee Credit Privacy Act, 820 ILCS 70/

The Complaint Manager will first attempt to resolve complaints without resorting to this grievance procedure. If a formal complaint is filed under this policy, the Complaint Manager will address the complaint promptly and equitably. A student and/or parent/guardian filing a complaint under this policy may forego any informal suggestions and/or attempts to resolve it and may proceed directly to this grievance procedure. The Complaint Manager will not require a student or parent/guardian complaining of any form of harassment to attempt to resolve allegations directly with the accused (or the accused's parent(s)/guardian(s)); this includes mediation.

#### Right to Pursue Other Remedies Not Impaired

The right of a person to prompt and equitable resolution of a complaint filed under this policy shall not be impaired by the person's pursuit of other remedies, e.g., criminal complaints, civil actions, etc. Use of this grievance procedure is not a prerequisite to the pursuit of other remedies and use of this grievance procedure does not extend any filing deadline related to the pursuit of other remedies. If a person is pursuing another remedy subject to a complaint under this policy, the District will continue with a simultaneous investigation under this policy.

#### **Deadlines**

All deadlines under this policy may be extended by the Complaint Manager as he or she deems appropriate. As used in this policy, *school business days* means days on which the District's main office is open.

#### Filing a Complaint

A person (hereinafter Complainant) who wishes to avail him or herself of this grievance procedure may do so by filing a complaint with any District Complaint Manager. The Complainant shall not be required to file a complaint with a particular Complaint Manager and may request a Complaint Manager of the same gender. The Complaint Manager may request the Complainant to provide a written statement regarding the nature of the complaint or require a meeting with a student's parents/guardians. The Complaint Manager shall assist the Complainant as needed.

For any complaint alleging bullying and/or cyberbullying of students, the Complaint Manager or designee shall process and review the complaint under Board policy 7:180, *Prevention of and Response to Bullying, Intimidation, and Harassment*, in addition to any response required by this policy.

For any complaint alleging sex discrimination that, if true, would implicate Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (20 U.S.C. §1681 et seq.), the Title IX Coordinator or designee shall process and review the complaint under Board policy 2:265, *Title IX Grievance Procedure*.

For any complaint alleging harassment on the basis of race, color, or national origin, the Nondiscrimination Coordinator or a Complaint Manager or designee shall process and review the complaint under Board policy 2:270, *Discrimination and Harassment on the Basis of Race, Color, and National Origin Prohibited*, in addition to any response required by this policy.

For any complaint alleging sexual harassment or other violation of Board policy 5:20, *Workplace Harassment Prohibited*, the Nondiscrimination Coordinator or a Complaint Manager or designee shall process and review the complaint according to that policy, in addition to any response required by this policy, and shall consider whether an investigation under Board policy 5:120, *Employee Ethics; Code of Professional Conduct; and Conflict of Interest*, should be initiated.

# **Investigation Process**

The Complaint Manager will investigate the complaint or appoint a qualified person to undertake the investigation on his or her behalf. The Complaint Manager shall ensure both parties have an equal opportunity to present evidence during an investigation. The complaint and identity of the Complainant will not be disclosed except: (1) as required by law, this policy, or any collective bargaining agreement, (2) as necessary to fully investigate the complaint, or (3) as authorized by the Complainant.

The identity of any student witnesses will not be disclosed except: (1) as required by law, this policy, or any collective bargaining agreement, (2) as necessary to fully investigate the complaint, or (3) as authorized by the parent/guardian of the student witness, or by the student if the student is 18 years of age or older.

The Complaint Manager will inform, at regular intervals, the person(s) filing a complaint under this policy about the status of the investigation. Within 30 District business days after the date the complaint was filed, the Complaint Manager shall file a written report of his or her findings with the Director. The Complaint Manager may request an extension of time from the Director.

The Director will keep the Board informed of all complaints.

If a complaint contains allegations involving the Director or Board member(s), the written report shall be filed directly with the Board, which will make a decision in accordance with paragraph four of the following section of this policy.

#### **Decision and Appeal**

Within five District business days after receiving the Complaint Manager's report, the Director shall provide his or her written decision to the Complainant and the accused as well as to the Complaint Manager. All decisions shall be based upon the *preponderance of evidence* standard.

Within 10 District business days after receiving the Director's decision, the Complainant or the accused may appeal the decision to the Board by making a written request to the Complaint Manager. The Complaint Manager shall promptly forward all materials relative to the complaint and appeal to the Board.

Within 30 school business days after an appeal of the Director's decision, the Board shall affirm, reverse, or amend the Director's decision or direct the Director to gather additional information. Within five school business days after the Board's decision, the Director shall inform the Complainant and the accused of the Board's action.

For complaints containing allegations involving the Director or Board member(s), within 30 school business days after receiving the Complaint Manager's or outside investigator's report, the Board shall provide its written decision to the Complainant and the accused, as well as to the Complaint Manager. This policy shall not be construed to create an independent right to a hearing before the Director or Board. The failure to strictly follow the timelines in this grievance procedure shall not prejudice any party.

Appointing a Nondiscrimination Coordinator, Title IX Coordinator, and Complaint Managers

The Director may appoint a Nondiscrimination Coordinator to manage the District's efforts to provide equal opportunity employment and educational opportunities and prohibit the harassment of employees, students, and others.

The Director shall appoint a Title IX Coordinator to coordinate the District's efforts to comply with Title IX.

The District shall appoint at least two Complaint Managers, each of a different gender. The District's Nondiscrimination Coordinator, if any, may be appointed a Complaint Manager. The Director shall insert into this policy and keep current the names, office addresses, email addresses, and telephone numbers of the Nondiscrimination Coordinator, Title IX Coordinator, and the Complaint Managers.

#### Nondiscrimination Coordinator: Title IX Coordinator:

Kim Clayton Kim Clayton

751 Ullin Avenue 751 Ullin Avenue Ullin, IL 62992 Ullin, IL 62992

director2020@jampsped.org director2020@jampsped.org

618-634-9800 618-634-9800

## **Complaint Managers:**

Angela Alexander James Yates

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supervisor1@jampsped.org supervisor2019@jampsped.org

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#### LEGAL REF.:

- 8 U.S.C. §1324a et seq., Immigration Reform and Control Act.
- 20 U.S.C. §1232g, Family Education Rights Privacy Act.
- 20 U.S.C. §1400, The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.
- 20 U.S.C. §1681 et seq., Title IX of the Education Amendments; 34 C.F.R. Part 106.
- 29 U.S.C. §206(d), Equal Pay Act.
- 29 U.S.C. §621 et seq., Age Discrimination in Employment Act.
- 29 U.S.C. §791 et seq., Rehabilitation Act of 1973.
- 29 U.S.C. §2612, Family and Medical Leave Act.
- 42 U.S.C. §2000d et seq., Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.
- 42 U.S.C. §2000e et seq., Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.
- 42 U.S.C. §2000ff et seg., Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act.
- 42 U.S.C. §11431 et seg., McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act.
- 42 U.S.C. §12101 et seq., Americans with Disabilities Act; 28 C.F.R. Part 35.
- 105 ILCS 5/2-3.8, 5/3-10, 5/10-20, 5/10-20.5, 5/10-20.7a, 5/10-20.60, 5/10-20.69 5/10-20.75, 5/10-22.5, 5/22-19, 5/22-95 (final citation pending), 5/24-4, 5/27-1, 5/27-23.7, and 45/1-15.
- 5 ILCS 415/10(a)(2), Government Severance Pay Act.
- 5 ILCS 430/70-5(a), State Officials and Employees Ethics Act.
- 410 ILCS 513/, III. Genetic Information Privacy Act.
- 740 ILCS 174/, Whistleblower Act.
- 740 ILCS 175/, III. False Claims Act.
- 775 ILCS 5/, III. Human Rights Act.
- 820 ILCS 70/, Employee Credit Privacy Act.
- 820 ILCS 112/, Equal Pay Act of 2003.
- 820 ILCS 180/, Victims' Economic Security and Safety Act; 56 III.Admin.Code Part 280.
- 23 III.Admin.Code §§1.240, 200.40, 226.50, and 226.570.

CROSS REF.: 2:105 (Ethics and Gift Ban), 2:265 (Title IX Grievance Procedure), 2:270 (Discrimination and Harassment on the Basis of Race, Color, and National Origin Prohibited), 5:10 (Equal Employment Opportunity and Minority Recruitment), 5:20 (Workplace Harassment Prohibited), 5:30 (Hiring Process and Criteria), 5:90 (Abused and Neglected Child Reporting), 6:120 (Education of Children with Disabilities), 6:140 (Education of Homeless Children), 6:260 (Complaints About Curriculum, Instructional Materials, and Programs), 7:10 (Equal Educational Opportunities), 7:15 (Student and Family Privacy Rights), 7:20 (Harassment of Students Prohibited), 7:180 (Prevention of and Response to Bullying, Intimidation, and Harassment), 7:185 (Teen Dating Violence Prohibited),

7:310 (Restrictions on Publications; Elementary Schools), 7:315 (Restrictions on Publications; High Schools), 8:70 (Accommodating Individuals with Disabilities), 8:95 (Parental Involvement), 8:110 (Public Suggestions and Concerns)

Adopted: June 17, 2025

#### 2:265 Title IX Grievance Procedure

Sexual harassment affects a student's ability to learn and an employee's ability to work. Providing an educational and workplace environment free from sexual harassment is an important District goal. The District does not discriminate on the basis of sex in any of its education programs or activities, and it complies with Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (Title IX) and its implementing regulations (34 C.F.R. Part 106) concerning everyone in the District's education programs and activities, including applicants for employment, students, parents/guardians, employees, and third parties.

#### Title IX Sexual Harassment Prohibited

Sexual harassment as defined in Title IX (Title IX Sexual Harassment) is prohibited. Any person, including a District employee or agent, or student, engages in Title IX Sexual Harassment when that person engages in conduct on the basis of an individual's sex that satisfies one or more of the following:

- 1. A District employee conditions the provision of an aid, benefit, or service on an individual's participation in unwelcome sexual conduct; or
- 2. Unwelcome conduct determined by a reasonable person to be so severe, pervasive, and objectively offensive that it effectively denies a person equal access to the District's educational program or activity; or
- 3. Sexual assault as defined in 20 U.S.C. §1092(f)(6)(A)(v), dating violence as defined in 34 U.S.C. §12291(a)(11), domestic violence as defined in 34 U.S.C. §12291(a)(12), or stalking as defined in 34 U.S.C. §12291(a)(36).

Examples of sexual harassment include, but are not limited to, touching, rape, sexual battery, sexual abuse, sexual coercion, crude jokes or pictures, discussions of sexual experiences, teasing related to sexual characteristics, and spreading rumors related to a person's alleged sexual activities.

#### Definitions from 34 C.F.R. §106.30

Complainant means an individual who is alleged to be the victim of conduct that could constitute sexual harassment.

Education program or activity includes locations, events, or circumstances where the District has substantial control over both the *Respondent* and the context in which alleged sexual harassment occurs.

Formal Title IX Sexual Harassment Complaint means a document filed by a Complainant or signed by the Title IX Coordinator alleging sexual harassment against a Respondent and requesting that the District investigate the allegation.

Respondent means an individual who has been reported to be the perpetrator of the conduct that could constitute sexual harassment.

Supportive measures mean non-disciplinary, non-punitive individualized services offered as appropriate, as reasonably available, and without fee or charge to the *Complainant* or the *Respondent* before or after the filing of a Formal Title IX Sexual Harassment Complaint or where no Formal Title IX Sexual Harassment Complaint has been filed.

#### <u>Title IX Sexual Harassment Prevention and Response</u>

The Superintendent or designee will ensure that the District prevents and responds to allegations of Title IX Sexual Harassment as follows:

- 1. Ensures that the District's comprehensive health education program in Board policy 6:60, *Curriculum Content*, incorporates (a) age-appropriate sexual abuse and assault awareness and prevention programs in grades pre-K through 12, and (b) age-appropriate education about the warning signs, recognition, dangers, and prevention of teen dating violence in grades 7-12. This includes incorporating student social and emotional development into the District's educational program as required by State law and in alignment with Board policy 6:65, *Student Social and Emotional Development*.
- 2. Incorporates education and training for school staff as recommended by the Superintendent, Title IX Coordinator, Nondiscrimination Coordinator, Building Principal, Assistant Building Principal, Dean of Students, or a Complaint Manager.
- 3. Notifies applicants for employment, students, parents/guardians, employees, and collective bargaining units of this policy and contact information for the Title IX Coordinator by, at a minimum, prominently displaying them on the District's website, if any, and in each handbook made available to such persons.

# Making a Report

A person who wishes to make a report under this Title IX grievance procedure may make a report to the Title IX Coordinator, Nondiscrimination Coordinator, Building Principal, Assistant Building Principal, Dean of Students, a Complaint Manager, or any employee with whom the person is comfortable speaking.

School employees shall respond to incidents of sexual harassment by promptly making or forwarding the report to the Title IX Coordinator. An employee who fails to promptly make or forward a report may be disciplined, up to and including discharge.

The Superintendent shall insert into this policy and keep current the name, office address, email address, and telephone number of the Title IX Coordinator.

## **Title IX Coordinator:**

Kim Clayton
750 Ullin Avenue
director2020@jampsped.org
618-634-9800

#### Processing and Reviewing a Report

Upon receipt of a report made under this Title IX grievance procedure, the Title IX Coordinator and/or designee will promptly contact the Complainant to: (1) discuss the availability of supportive measures, (2) consider the *Complainant's* wishes with respect to *supportive measures*, (3) inform the Complainant of the availability of supportive measures with or without the filing of a Formal Title IX Sexual Harassment Complaint, and (4) explain to the Complainant the process for filing a Formal Title IX Sexual Harassment Complaint.

Further, the Title IX Coordinator will analyze the report to identify and determine whether there is another or an additional appropriate method(s) for processing and reviewing it. For any report received, the Title IX Coordinator shall review Board policies 2:260, *Uniform Grievance Procedure*; 5:20, *Workplace Harassment Prohibited*; 5:90, *Abused and Neglected Child Reporting*; 5:120, *Employee Ethics; Code of Professional Conduct; and Conflict of Interest*; 7:20, *Harassment of Students Prohibited*; 7:180, *Prevention of and Response to Bullying, Intimidation, and Harassment*; 7:185, *Teen Dating Violence Prohibited*; and 7:190, *Student Behavior*, to determine if the allegations in the report require further action.

Reports of alleged sexual harassment will be confidential to the greatest extent practicable, subject to the District's duty to investigate and maintain an educational program or activity that is productive, respectful, and free of sexual harassment.

# Formal Title IX Sexual Harassment Complaint Grievance Process

When a Formal Title IX Sexual Harassment Complaint is filed, the Title IX Coordinator will investigate it or appoint a qualified person to undertake the investigation.

The Superintendent or designee shall implement procedures to ensure that all Formal Title IX Sexual Harassment Complaints are processed and reviewed according to a Title IX grievance process that fully complies with 34 C.F.R. §106.45. The District's grievance process shall, at a minimum:

- 1. Treat *Complainants* and *Respondents* equitably by providing remedies to a *Complainant* where the *Respondent* is determined to be responsible for sexual harassment, and by following a grievance process that complies with 34 C.F.R. §106.45 before the imposition of any disciplinary sanctions or other actions against a *Respondent*.
- 2. Require an objective evaluation of all relevant evidence including both inculpatory and exculpatory evidence and provide that credibility determinations may not be based on a person's status as a *Complainant, Respondent*, or witness.
- 3. Require that any individual designated by the District as a Title IX Coordinator, investigator, decision-maker, or any person designated by the District to facilitate an informal resolution process:
  - a. Not have a conflict of interest or bias for or against complainants or respondents generally or an individual *Complainant* or *Respondent*.
  - b. Receive training on the definition of sexual harassment, the scope of the District's education program or activity, how to conduct an investigation and grievance process (including hearings, appeals, and informal resolution processes, as applicable), and how to serve impartially.
- 4. Require that any individual designated by the District as an investigator receiving training on issues of relevance to create an investigative report that fairly summarizes relevant evidence.
- 5. Require that any individual designated by the District as a decision-maker receive training on issues of relevance of questions and evidence, including when questions and evidence about the *Complainant's* sexual predisposition or prior sexual behavior are not relevant.
- 6. Include a presumption that the *Respondent* is not responsible for the alleged conduct until a determination regarding responsibility is made at the conclusion of the grievance process.
- 7. Include reasonably prompt timeframes for conclusion of the grievance process.
- 8. Describe the range of possible disciplinary sanctions and remedies the District may implement following any determination of responsibility.
- 9. Base all decisions upon the *preponderance of evidence* standard.
- 10. Include the procedures and permissible bases for the *Complainant* and *Respondent* to appeal.
- 11. Describe the range of supportive measures available to Complainants and Respondents.
- 12. Not require, allow, rely upon, or otherwise use questions or evidence that constitute, or seek disclosure of, information protected under a legally recognized privilege, unless the person holding such privilege has waived the privilege.

#### **Enforcement**

Any District employee who is determined, at the conclusion of the grievance process, to have engaged in sexual harassment will be subject to disciplinary action up to and including discharge. Any third party who is determined, at the conclusion of the grievance process, to have engaged in sexual

harassment will be addressed in accordance with the authority of the Board in the context of the relationship of the third party to the District, e.g., vendor, parent, invitee, etc. Any District student who is determined, at the conclusion of the grievance process, to have engaged in sexual harassment will be subject to disciplinary action, including, but not limited to, suspension and expulsion consistent with student behavior policies. Any person making a knowingly false accusation regarding sexual harassment will likewise be subject to disciplinary action.

This policy does not increase or diminish the ability of the District or the parties to exercise any other rights under existing law.

#### Retaliation Prohibited

The District prohibits any form of retaliation against anyone who, in good faith, has made a report or complaint, assisted, or participated or refused to participate in any manner in a proceeding under this policy. Any person should report claims of retaliation using Board policy 2:260, *Uniform Grievance Procedure*.

Any person who retaliates against others for reporting or complaining of violations of this policy or for participating in any manner under this policy will be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including discharge, with regard to employees, or suspension and expulsion, with regard to students.

#### LEGAL REF.:

20 U.S.C. §1681 et seq., Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972; 34 C.F.R. Part 106.

Davis v. Monroe County Bd. of Educ., 526 U.S. 629 (1999).

Gebser v. Lago Vista Independent Sch. Dist., 524 U.S. 274 (1998).

CROSS REF.: 2:260 (Uniform Grievance Procedure), 5:10 (Equal Employment Opportunity and Minority Recruitment), 5:20 (Workplace Harassment Prohibited), 5:90 (Abused and Neglected Child Reporting), 5:100 (Staff Development Program), 5:120 (Employee Ethics; Code of Professional Conduct; and Conflict of Interest), 6:60 (Curriculum Content), 6:65 (Student Social and Emotional Development), 7:10 (Equal Educational Opportunities), 7:20 (Harassment of Students Prohibited), 7:180 (Prevention of and Response to Bullying, Intimidation, and Harassment), 7:185 (Teen Dating Violence Prohibited), 7:190 (Student Behavior), 7:255 (Students Who are Parents, Expectant Parents, or Victims of Domestic or Sexual Violence)

Adopted: June 17, 2025

# 2:270 Discrimination and Harassment on the Basis of Race, Color, and National Origin Prohibited

Discrimination and harassment on the basis of race, color, or national origin negatively affect a student's ability to learn and an employee's ability to work. Providing an educational and workplace environment free from such discrimination and harassment is an important District goal. The District does not discriminate on the basis of actual or perceived race, color, or national origin in any of its education programs or activities, and it complies with federal and State non-discrimination laws.

#### **Examples of Prohibited Conduct**

Examples of conduct that may constitute discrimination on the basis of race, color, or national origin include: disciplining students more harshly and frequently because of their race, color, or national origin; denying students access to high-rigor academic courses, extracurricular activities, or other educational opportunities based on their race, color, or national origin; denying language services or other educational opportunities to English learners; and assigning students special education services based on a student's race, color, or national origin.

Harassment is a form of prohibited discrimination. Examples of conduct that may constitute harassment on the basis of race, color, or national origin include: the use of racial, ethnic or ancestral slurs or stereotypes; taunts; name-calling; offensive or derogatory remarks about a person's actual or perceived race, color, or national origin; the display of racially-offensive symbols; racially-motivated physical threats and attacks; or other hateful conduct.

# Making a Report or Complaint; Investigation Process

Individuals are encouraged to promptly report claims or incidences of discrimination or harassment based on race, color, or national origin to the Nondiscrimination Coordinator, a Complaint Manager, or any employee with whom the student is comfortable speaking. Reports under this policy will be processed under Board policy 2:260, *Uniform Grievance Procedure*.

Any District employee who receives a report or complaint of discrimination or harassment must promptly forward the report or complaint to the Nondiscrimination Coordinator or a Complaint Manager. Any employee who fails to promptly comply may be disciplined, up to and including discharge.

Reports and complaints of discrimination or harassment will be confidential to the greatest extent practicable, subject to the District's duty to investigate and maintain an educational environment that is productive, respectful, and free of unlawful discrimination, including harassment.

This policy does not impair or otherwise diminish the existing rights of unionized employees to request an exclusive bargaining representative to be present during any investigatory interviews, nor does this policy diminish any rights available under an applicable collective bargaining agreement, including, but not limited to, a grievance procedure.

#### Federal and State Agencies

If the District fails to take necessary corrective action to stop harassment based on race, color, or national origin, further relief may be available through the III. Dept. of Human Rights (IDHR) or the U.S. Dept. of Education's Office for Civil Rights. To contact IDHR, go to: https://dhr.illinois.gov/about-us/contact-idhr.html or call (312) 814-6200 (Chicago) or (217) 785-5100 (Springfield).

#### Prevention and Response Program

The Superintendent or designee shall establish a prevention and response program to respond to complaints of discrimination based on race, color, and national origin, including harassment, and

retaliation. The program shall include procedures for responding to complaints which:

- 1. Reduce or remove, to the extent practicable, barriers to reporting discrimination, harassment, and retaliation:
- 2. Permit any person who reports or is the victim of an incident of alleged discrimination, harassment, or retaliation to be accompanied when making a report by a support individual of the person's choice who complies with the District's policies and rules;
- 3. Permit anonymous reporting, except that an anonymous report may not be the sole basis of any disciplinary action;
- 4. Offer remedial interventions or take such disciplinary action as may be appropriate on a caseby-case basis;
- 5. Offer, but do not require or unduly influence, a person who reports or is the victim of an incident of harassment or retaliation the option to resolve allegations directly with the accused; and
- 6. Protects a person who reports or is the victim of an incident of harassment or retaliation from suffering adverse consequences as a result of a report of, investigation of, or a response to the incident.

## Policy Posting and Distribution

This policy shall be posted on the District's website. The Superintendent shall annually inform staff members of this policy by posting it in a prominent and accessible location such as the District website, employee handbook, staff intranet site, and/or in other areas where policies and rules of conduct are made available to staff. The Superintendent shall annually inform students and their parents/guardians of this policy by posting it on the District's website and including an age-appropriate summary of the policy in the student handbook(s).

#### **Enforcement**

Any District employee who is determined, after an investigation, to have engaged in conduct prohibited by this policy will be subject to remedial action and/or disciplinary action, up to and including discharge.

Any District student who is determined, after an investigation, to have engaged in conduct prohibited by this policy will be subject to remedial action and/or disciplinary action, including but not limited to, suspension and expulsion consistent with Board policy 7:190, *Student Behavior*.

Any third party who is determined, after an investigation, to have engaged in conduct prohibited by this policy will be addressed in accordance with the authority of the Board in the context of the relationship of the third party to the District, e.g., vendor, parent, invitee, etc. Any person making a knowingly false accusation regarding prohibited conduct will likewise be subject to remedial and/or disciplinary action.

#### Retaliation Prohibited

Retaliation against any person for bringing complaints, participating in the complaint process, or otherwise providing information about discrimination or harassment based on race, color, or national origin is prohibited (see Board policy 2:260, *Uniform Grievance Procedure*).

Individuals should report allegations of retaliation to the Building Principal, an administrator, the Nondiscrimination Coordinator, and/or a Complaint Manager.

#### LEGAL REF.:

42 U.S.C. §2000d, Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964; 34 C.F.R. Part 100.

42 U.S.C. §2000e et seq., Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964; 29 C.F.R. Part 1601.

105 ILCS 5/22-95 (final citation pending).

775 ILCS 5/1-101 et seq., Illinois Human Rights Act.

CROSS REF.: 2:260 (Uniform Grievance Procedure), 5:10 (Equal Employment Opportunity and Minority Recruitment), 5:20 (Workplace Harassment Prohibited), 5:90 (Abused and Neglected Child Reporting), 5:120 (Employee Ethics; Code of Professional Conduct; and Conflict of Interest), 7:10 (Equal Educational Opportunities), 7:20 (Harassment of Students Prohibited), 7:180 (Prevention of and Response to Bullying, Intimidation, and Harassment), 7:190 (Student Behavior), 7:240 (Conduct Code for Participants in Extracurricular Activities)

Adopted: June 17, 2025

# **SECTION 3 - GENERAL DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION**

# 3:10 Goals and Objectives

The Director directs the administration in order to manage the District and to facilitate the implementation of a quality educational program in alignment with Board policy 1:30, *Educational Philosophy*. Specific goals and objectives are to:

- 1. Provide educational expertise.
- 2. Plan, organize, implement, and evaluate educational programs that will provide for students' mastery of the Illinois Learning Standards.
- 3. Meet or exceed student performance and academic improvement goals established by the Board.
- 4. Develop and maintain channels for communication between the school and community.
- 5. Develop an administrative procedures manual and handbooks for personnel and students that are aligned with Board policy.
- 6. Manage the District's fiscal and business activities to ensure financial health, cost-effectiveness, and protection of the District's assets.
- 7. Provide for the proper use, reasonable care, and appropriate maintenance of the District's real and personal property, including buildings, equipment, and supplies.

#### LEGAL REF .:

105 ILCS 5/10-16.7, 5/10-21.4, and 5/10-21.4a.

CROSS REF.: 1:30 (Educational Philosophy), 2:20 (Powers and Duties of the Governing Board), 3:40 (Director), 3:50 (Administrative Personnel Other Than the Director), 3:60 (Administrative Responsibility of the Building Principal/Dean of Students)

Adopted: January 17, 2023

#### 3:30 Chain of Command

The Director shall develop an organizational chart indicating the channels of authority and reporting relationships for District personnel. These channels should be followed, and no level should be bypassed except in unusual situations.

All personnel should refer matters requiring administrative action to the responsible administrator, and may appeal a decision to a higher administrative officer. Whenever possible, each employee should be responsible to only one immediate supervisor. When this is not possible, the division of responsibility must be clear.

CROSS REF.: 1:20 (District Organization, Operations, and Cooperative Agreements), 2:140 (Communications To and From the Board), 3:70 (Succession of Authority), 8:110 (Public Suggestions and Concerns)

Adopted: August 17, 2021

#### 3:40 Director

#### **Duties and Authority**

The Director is the District's executive officer and is responsible for the administration and management of the District Districts in accordance with Governing Board policies and directives, and State and federal law, including the special reporting responsibilities in policy 5:90, *Abused and Neglected Child Reporting*. The Director is authorized to develop administrative procedures and take other action as needed to implement Board policy and otherwise fulfill his or her responsibilities. The Director may delegate to other District staff members the exercise of any powers and the discharge of any duties imposed upon the Director by Board policies or by Board vote. The delegation of power or duty, however, shall not relieve the Director of responsibility for the action that was delegated.

#### Qualifications

The Director must be of good character and of unquestionable morals and integrity. The Director shall have the experience and the skills necessary to work effectively with the Board, District employees, students, and the community. The Director must be fully licensed and legally qualified.

#### Evaluation

The Executive Board will evaluate, at least annually, the Director's performance and effectiveness, using standards and objectives developed by the Director and Executive Board that are consistent with State law, the Governing Board's policies, and the Director's contract. A specific time should be designated for a formal evaluation session with all Executive Board members present. The evaluation should include a discussion of professional strengths as well as performance areas needing improvement.

#### Compensation and Benefits

The Governing Board and the Director shall enter into an employment agreement that conforms to Board policy and State law. This contract shall govern the employment relationship between the Board and the Director. The terms of the Director's employment agreement, when in conflict with this policy, will control.

#### LEGAL REF.:

105 ILCS 5/10-16.7, 5/10-20.47, 5/10-21.4, 5/10-21.9, 5/10-23.8, 5/21B-20, 5/21B-25, 5/24-11, and 5/24A-3.

5 ILCS 120/7.3, Open Meetings Act.

23 III.Admin.Code §§1.310, 1.705, and 25.355.

CROSS REF: 2:20 (Powers and Duties of the Governing Board), 2:240 (Board Policy Development), 3:10 (Goals and Objectives), 4:165 (Awareness and Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse and Grooming Behaviors), 4:175 (Convicted Child Sex Offender; Screening; Notifications), 5:30 (Hiring Process and Criteria), 5:90 (Abused and Neglected Child Reporting), 5:120 (Employee Ethics; Code of Professional Conduct; and Conflict of Interest), 5:150 (Personnel Records), 5:210 (Resignations), 5:290 (Employment Termination and Suspensions)

Adopted: March 15, 2022

#### 3:50 Administrative Personnel Other Than the Director

#### **Duties and Authority**

The Governing Board establishes District administrative and supervisory positions in accordance with the District's needs and State law. This policy applies to all administrators other than the Director, including without limitation, Building Principal/Dean of Students. The general duties and authority of each administrative or supervisory position are approved by the Board, upon the Director's recommendation, and contained in the respective position's job description. In the event of a conflict, State law and/or the administrator's employment agreement shall control.

#### Qualifications

All administrative personnel shall be appropriately licensed and shall meet all applicable requirements contained in State law and Illinois State Board of Education rules.

#### **Evaluation**

The Director or designee shall evaluate all administrative and supervisory personnel and make employment and salary recommendations to the Executive Board.

Administrators shall annually present evidence to the Director of professional growth through attendance at educational conferences, additional Districting, in-service training, and Illinois Administrators' Academy courses, or through other means as approved by the Director.

#### Administrative Work Year

The work year for administrators shall be the same as the District's fiscal year, July 1 through June 30, unless otherwise stated in the employment agreement. In addition to legal holidays, administrators shall have vacation periods as approved by the Director. All administrators shall be available for work when their services are necessary.

#### Compensation and Benefits

The Board and each administrator shall enter into an employment agreement that complies with Board policy and State law. The terms of an individual employment contract, when in conflict with this policy, will control.

The Governing Board will consider the Executive Board's recommendations when setting compensation for individual administrators. These recommendations should be presented to the Executive Board no later than the March Board meeting or at such earlier time that will allow the Board to consider contract renewal and nonrenewable issues.

Unless stated otherwise in individual employment contracts, all benefits and leaves of absence available to teaching personnel are available to administrative personnel.

#### LEGAL REF:

105 ILCS 5/10-21.4a, 5/10-23.8a, 5/10-23.8b, 5/21B, and 5/24A.

23 III.Admin.Code §§1.310, 1.705, and 50.300; and Parts 25 and 29.

CROSS REF: 3:60 (Administrative Responsibility of the Building Principal/Dean of Students), 4:165 (Awareness and Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse and Grooming Behaviors), 4:175 (Convicted Child Sex Offender; Screening; Notifications), 5:30 (Hiring Process and Criteria), 5:90 (Abused and Neglected Child Reporting), 5:120 (Employee Ethics; Code of Professional Conduct; and Conflict of Interest), 5:150 (Personnel Records), 5:210 (Resignations), 5:250 (Leaves of Absence), 5:290

(Employment Termination and Suspensions)

Adopted: March 15, 2022

# 3:60 Administrative Responsibility of the Building Principal/Dean of Students

#### **Duties and Authority**

The Governing Board, upon the recommendation of the Director, employs a Building Principal/Dean of Students as the chief administrator and instructional leader of his/her assigned school and may employ Assistant Principals. The primary responsibility of the Building Principal/Dean of Students is the improvement of instruction. The Building Principal/Dean of Students shall perform all duties as described in the School Code as well as such other duties as specified in his or her employment agreement or as agreed upon by the Building Principal/Dean of Students and Director.

Each Building Principal/Dean of Students shall complete State law requirements to be a prequalified evaluator before conducting an evaluation of a teacher.

#### **Evaluation Plan**

The Director or designee shall implement an evaluation plan for Principals/Deans of Students that complies with Section 24A-15 of the School Code and relevant Illinois State Board of Education rules. Using that plan, the Director or designee or, in the absence of the Director or his or her designee, an individual appointed by the Board who holds a valid professional educator license endorsed for conducting administrative evaluations. The Director or designee may conduct additional evaluations.

# **Qualifications and Other Terms and Conditions of Employment**

Qualifications and other terms and conditions of employment are found in Board policy 3:50, *Administrative Personnel Other Than the Director.* 

#### LEGAL REF.:

105 ILCS 5/2-3.53a, 5/10-20.14, 5/10-21.4a, 5/10-23.8a, 5/10-23.8b, and 5/24A-15.

10 ILCS 5/4-6.2, Election Code.

105 ILCS 127/, School Reporting of Drug Violations Act.

23 III.Admin.Code Parts 35 and 50, Subpart D.

CROSS REF.: 3:50 (Administrative Personnel Other Than the Director), 4:165 (Awareness and Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse and Grooming Behaviors), 4:175 (Convicted Child Sex Offender; Screening; Notifications), 5:90 (Abused and Neglected Child Reporting), 5:120 (Employee Ethics; Code of Professional Conduct; and Conflict of Interest), 5:150 (Personnel Records), 5:210 (Resignations), 5:250 (Leaves of Absence), 5:290 (Employment Termination and Suspensions)

Adopted: March 15, 2022

# 3:62 Staff Supervision

In all cases, personnel shall be supervised by the Program Coordinators and the Assistant Directors. The employing organization and its administrative staff shall be responsible for the supervision of the general functions of the program or service on a day-to-day basis and is/are recognized as the line supervisor(s). The Special Education District directly supervises its employees. School districts directly supervise their own employees.

The Special Education District is responsible for providing technical assistance and consultation to teachers, administrators, and line supervisors regarding special education programs and services. Such assistance and consultation may include, but is not limited to, the following activities:

- 1. <u>Classroom visitations</u> classroom visitations may be initiated by either the classroom teacher or by the designated District supervisor. Other administrative staff of either the Special Education District or a Member District may request a classroom visitation by the designated supervisor.
- 2. <u>Inservice</u> supervisors shall plan and conduct appropriate in-service activities.
- 3. <u>Consultation</u> consultations regarding students, curriculum, instruction, etc., may be initiated by either the staff member or designated supervisor. Other administrative staff of either the District or a Member District may request a consultation between a service provider and his or her designated supervisor.
- 4. <u>Records and reports</u> Appropriate records and reports may be requested by the designated supervisor.

ADOPTED:September 17, 2009

# 3:70 Succession of Authority

If the Director, Dean of Students, or other administrator is temporarily unavailable, the succession of authority and responsibility of the respective office shall follow a succession plan, developed by the Director and submitted to the Executive Board.

CROSS REF.: 1:20 (District Organization, Operations, and Cooperative Agreements), 3:30 (Chain of Command)

Adopted: June 21, 2022

# **SECTION 4 - OPERATIONAL SERVICES**

# 4:10 Fiscal and Business Management

The Director is responsible for the District's fiscal and business management. This responsibility includes annually preparing and presenting the District's statement of affairs to the Governing Board and publishing it before December 1 as required by State law.

The Director shall ensure the efficient and cost-effective operation of the District's business management using computers, computer software, data management, communication systems, and electronic networks, including electronic mail, the Internet, and security systems. Each person using the District's electronic network shall complete an *Authorization for Access to the District's Electronic Network*.

#### **Budget Planning**

The District's fiscal year is from July 1 until June 30. The Director shall present to the Board, at the August meeting, a budget recommended by the Executive Board with appropriate explanation. This budget shall represent the culmination of an ongoing process of planning for the fiscal support needed for the District's educational program. The District's budget shall be entered upon the III. State Board of Education's (ISBE) *District Budget Form*. To the extent possible, the budget shall be balanced as defined by ISBE guidelines. The Director shall complete a tentative deficit reduction plan if one is required by ISBE guidelines.

#### Preliminary Adoption Procedures

After receiving the Director's proposed budget, the Board sets the date, place, and time for:

- 1. A public hearing on the proposed budget, and
- 2. The proposed budget to be available to the public for inspection.

The Board Secretary shall arrange to publish a notice in a local newspaper stating the date, place, and time of the proposed budget's availability for public inspection and the public hearing. The proposed budget shall be available for public inspection at least 30 days before the time of the budget hearing.

At the public hearing, the proposed budget shall be reviewed, including the cash reserve balance of all funds held by the District related to its operational levy and, if applicable, any obligations secured by those funds, and the public shall be invited to comment, question, or advise the Board.

#### Final Adoption Procedures

The Board adopts a budget by August 31st, or by such alternative procedure as State law may define. To the extent possible, the budget shall be balanced as defined by ISBE; if not balanced, the Board will adopt a deficit reduction plan to balance the District's budget within three years according to ISBE requirements.

The Board adopts the budget by roll call vote. The budget resolution shall be incorporated into the meeting's official minutes. Board members' names voting *yea* and *nay* shall be recorded in the minutes.

The Director or designee shall perform each of the following:

- 1. Post the District's final annual budget, itemized by receipts and expenditures, on the District's Internet website; notify parents/guardians that it is posted and provide the website's address.
- 2. Submit the annual budget, a deficit reduction plan if one is required by ISBE guidelines, and other financial information to ISBE according to its requirements.

#### **Budget Amendments**

The Board may amend the budget by the same procedure as provided for in the original adoption.

#### <u>Implementation</u>

The Director or designee shall implement the District's budget and provide the Executive Board with a monthly financial report that includes all deficit fund balances. The amount budgeted as the expenditure in each fund is the maximum amount that may be expended for that category.

#### LEGAL REF.:

105 ILCS 5/10-17, 5/10-22.33, 5/17-1, 5/17-1.2, 5/17-1.3, 5/17-2A, 5/17-3.2, 5/17-11, 5/20-5, 5/20-8, and 5/20-10.

35 ILCS 200/18-55 et seq., Truth in Taxation Law.

23 III.Admin.Code Part 100.

CROSS REF.: 4:40 (Incurring Debt), 4:60 (Purchases and Contracts), 6:235 (Access to Electronic Networks)

Adopted: January 17, 2023

# **4:15 Identity Protection**

The collection, storage, use, and disclosure of social security numbers by the District shall be consistent with State and federal laws. The goals for managing the District's collection, storage, use, and disclosure of social security numbers are to:

- 1. Limit all activities involving social security numbers to those circumstances that are authorized by State or federal law.
- 2. Protect each social security number collected or maintained by the District from unauthorized disclosure.

The Director is responsible for ensuring that the District complies with the Identity Protection Act, 5 ILCS 179/. Compliance measures shall include each of the following:

- 1. All employees having access to social security numbers in the course of performing their duties shall be trained to protect the confidentiality of social security numbers. Training should include instructions on the proper handling of information containing social security numbers from the time of collection through the destruction of the information.
- 2. Only employees who are required to use or handle information or documents that contain social security numbers shall have access to such information or documents.
- 3. Social security numbers requested from an individual shall be provided in a manner that makes the social security number easily redacted if the record is required to be released as part of a public records request.
- 4. When collecting a social security number or upon request by an individual, a statement of the purpose(s) for which the District is collecting and using the social security number shall be provided. The stated reason for collection of the social security number must be relevant to the documented purpose.
- 5. All employees must be advised of this policy's existence, and a copy of the policy must be made available to each employee. The policy must also be made available to any member of the public, upon request.
- 6. If this policy is amended, employees will be advised of the existence of the amended policy, and a copy of the amended policy will be made available to each employee.

No District employee shall collect, store, use, or disclose an individual's social security number unless specifically authorized by the Director. This policy shall not be interpreted as a guarantee of the confidentiality of social security numbers and/or other personal information. The District will use best efforts to comply with this policy, but this policy should not be construed to convey any rights to protection of information not otherwise afforded by law.

#### <u>Treatment of Personally Identifiable Information Under Grant Awards</u>

The Director ensures that the District takes reasonable cybersecurity and other measures to safeguard information including: (1) protected personally identifiable information, (2) other types of information that a federal agency, pass-through entity, or State awarding agency designates as sensitive, such as personally identifiable information (PII) and (3) information that the District considers to be sensitive consistent with applicable laws regarding privacy and confidentiality (collectively, sensitive information), when administering federal grant awards and State grant awards governed by the Grant Accountability and Transparency Act (30 ILCS 708/).

The Director shall establish procedures for the identification, handling, storage, access, disposal and overall confidentiality of sensitive information. The Director shall ensure that employees and contractors responsible for the administration of a federal or State award for the District receive regular training in the safeguarding of sensitive information. Employees mishandling sensitive information are subject to discipline, up to and including dismissal.

LEGAL REF.:

2 C.F.R. §200.303(e).

5 ILCS 179/, Identity Protection Act.

30 ILCS 708/, Grant Accountability and Transparency Act.

50 ILCS 205/3, Local Records Act.

105 ILCS 10/, Illinois School Student Records Act.

CROSS REF: 2:250 (Access to District Public Records), 5:150 (Personnel Records), 7:340 (Student Records), 7:345 (Use of Educational Technologies; Student Data Privacy and Security)

Adopted: June 17, 2025

#### 4:30 Revenue and Investments

#### Revenue

The Director or designee is responsible for making all claims for State Aid, special State funds for specific programs, federal funds, and categorical grants.

#### Investments

The Director shall either appoint a Chief Investment Officer or serve as one. The Director shall invest money that is not required for current operations, in accordance with this policy and State law.

The Director shall use the standard of prudence when making investment decisions. They shall use the judgment and care, under circumstances then prevailing, that persons of prudence, discretion, and intelligence exercise in the management of their own affairs, not for speculation, but for investment, considering the safety of their capital as well as its probable income.

#### **Investment Objectives**

The objectives for the District's investment activities are:

- Safety of Principal Every investment is made with safety as the primary and over-riding concern. Each investment transaction shall ensure that capital loss, whether from credit or market risk, is avoided.
- 2. Liquidity The investment portfolio shall provide sufficient liquidity to pay District obligations as they become due. In this regard, the maturity and marketability of investments shall be considered.
- 3. Rate of Return The highest return on investments is sought, consistent with the preservation of principal and prudent investment principles.
- 4. Diversification The investment portfolio is diversified as to materials and investments, as appropriate to the nature, purpose, and amount of the funds.

#### Authorized Investments

The Chief Investment Officer may invest District funds in one or more of the following:

- 1. Bonds, notes, certificates of indebtedness, treasury bills, or other securities now or hereafter issued, that are guaranteed by the full faith and credit of the United States of America as to principal and interest.
- 2. Bonds, notes, debentures, or other similar obligations of the United States of America, its agencies, and its instrumentalities.
  - The term "agencies of the United States of America" includes: (a) the federal land banks, federal intermediate credit banks, banks for cooperative, federal farm credit banks, or any other entity authorized to issue debt obligations under the Farm Credit Act of 1971 and Acts amendatory thereto, (b) the federal home loan banks and the federal home loan mortgage corporation, and (c) any other agency created by Act of Congress.
- 3. Interest-bearing savings accounts, interest-bearing certificates of deposit or interest-bearing time deposits or any other investments constituting direct obligations of any bank as defined by the Illinois Banking Act.
- 4. Short-term obligations of corporations organized in the United States with assets exceeding \$500,000,000 if: (a) such obligations are rated at the time of purchase at one of the three highest classifications established by at least two standard rating services and that mature not later than 270 days from the date of purchase, (b) such purchases do not exceed 10% of the

corporation's outstanding obligations, and (c) no more than one-third of the District's funds may be invested in short-term obligations of corporations under this paragraph.

- 5. Obligations of corporations organized in the United States with assets exceeding \$500,000,000 if: (a) such obligations are rated at the time of purchase at one of the three highest classifications established by at least two standard rating services and which mature more than 270 days but less than 10 years from the date of purchase, (b) such purchases do not exceed 10% of the corporation's outstanding obligations, and (c) no more than one-third of the District's funds may be invested in obligations of corporations under this paragraph.
- 6. Money market mutual funds registered under the Investment Company Act of 1940, provided that the portfolio of any such money market mutual fund is limited to obligations described in paragraph (1) or (2) and to agreements to repurchase such obligations.
- 7. Interest-bearing bonds of any county, township, city, village, incorporated town, municipal corporation, school district, the State of Illinois, any other state, or any political subdivision or agency of the State of Illinois or any other state, whether the interest earned is taxable or tax-exempt under federal law. The bonds shall be (a) registered in the name of the municipality, county, or other governmental unit, or held under a custodial agreement at a bank, and (b) rated at the time of purchase within the four highest general classifications established by a rating service of nationally recognized expertise in rating bonds of states and their political subdivisions.
- 8. Short term discount obligations of the Federal National Mortgage Association or in shares or other forms of securities legally issuable by savings banks or savings and loan associations incorporated under the laws of this State or any other state or under the laws of the United States. Investments may be made only in those savings banks or savings and loan associations, the shares, or investment certificates that are insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation. Any such securities may be purchased at the offering or market price thereof at the time of such purchase. All such securities so purchased shall mature or be redeemable on a date or dates prior to the time when, in the judgment of the Chief Investment Officer, the public funds so invested will be required for expenditure by the District or its governing authority.
- 9. Dividend-bearing share accounts, share certificate accounts, or class of share accounts of a credit union chartered under the laws of this State or the laws of the United States; provided, however, the principal office of any such credit union must be located within the State of Illinois. Investments may be made only in those credit unions the accounts of which are insured by applicable law.
- 10. A Public Treasurers' Investment Pool created under Section 17 of the State Treasurer Act. The District may also invest any public funds in a fund managed, operated, and administered by a bank, subsidiary of a bank, or subsidiary of a bank holding company or use the services of such an entity to hold and invest or advise regarding the investment of any public funds.
- 11. The Illinois School District Liquid Asset Fund Plus.
- 12. Repurchase agreements of government securities having the meaning set out in the Government Securities Act of 1986, as now or hereafter amended or succeeded, subject to the provisions of said Act and the regulations issued there under. The government securities, unless registered or inscribed in the name of the District, shall be purchased through banks or trust companies authorized to do business in the State of Illinois.

Except for repurchase agreements of government securities that are subject to the Government Securities Act of 1986, as now or hereafter amended or succeeded, the District may not purchase or invest in instruments that constitute repurchase agreements, and no financial institution may enter into such an agreement with or on behalf of the District unless the instrument and the transaction meet all of the following requirements:

- a. The securities, unless registered or inscribed in the name of the District, are purchased through banks or trust companies authorized to do business in the State of Illinois.
- b. The Chief Investment Officer, after ascertaining which firm will give the most favorable rate

of interest, directs the custodial bank to "purchase" specified securities from a designated institution. The "custodial bank" is the bank or trust company, or agency of government, that acts for the District in connection with repurchase agreements involving the investment of funds by the District. The State Treasurer may act as custodial bank for public agencies executing repurchase agreements.

- c. A custodial bank must be a member bank of the Federal Reserve System or maintain accounts with member banks. All transfers of book-entry securities must be accomplished on a Reserve Bank's computer records through a member bank of the Federal Reserve System. These securities must be credited to the District on the records of the custodial bank and the transaction must be confirmed in writing to the District by the custodial bank.
- d. Trading partners shall be limited to banks or trust companies authorized to do business in the State of Illinois or to registered primary reporting dealers.
- e. The security interest must be perfected.
- f. The District enters into a written master repurchase agreement that outlines the basic responsibilities and liabilities of both buyer and seller.
- g. Agreements shall be for periods of 330 days or less.
- h. The Chief Investment Officer informs the custodial bank in writing of the maturity details of the repurchase agreement.
- i. The custodial bank must take delivery of and maintain the securities in its custody for the account of the District and confirm the transaction in writing to the District. The custodial undertaking shall provide that the custodian takes possession of the securities exclusively for the District; that the securities are free of any claims against the trading partner; and that any claims by the custodian are subordinate to the District's claims to rights to those securities.
- j. The obligations purchased by the District may only be sold or presented for redemption or payment by the fiscal agent bank or trust company holding the obligations upon the written instruction of the Chief Investment Officer.
- k. The custodial bank shall be liable to the District for any monetary loss suffered by the District due to the failure of the custodial bank to take and maintain possession of such securities.
- 13. Any investment as authorized by the Public Funds Investment Act, and Acts amendatory thereto. Paragraph 13 supersedes paragraphs 1-12 and controls in the event of conflict.

Except as provided herein, investments may be made only in banks, savings banks, savings and loan associations, or credit unions that are insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or other approved share insurer.

The Chief Investment Officer and Director shall regularly consider material, relevant, and decision-useful sustainability factors in evaluating investment decisions, within the bounds of financial and fiduciary prudence. Such factors include, but are not limited to: (1) corporate governance and leadership factors, (2) environmental factors, (3) social capital factors, (4) human capital factors, and (5) business model and innovation factors, as provided under the III. Sustainable Investing Act, 30 ILCS 238/.

## Selection of Depositories, Investment Managers, Dealers, and Brokers

The Chief Investment Officer shall establish a list of authorized depositories, investment managers, dealers and brokers based upon the creditworthiness, reputation, minimum capital requirements, qualifications under State law, as well as a long history of dealing with public fund entities. The Board will review and approve the list at least annually.

In order to be an authorized depository, each institution must submit copies of the last two sworn

statements of resources and liabilities or reports of examination, that the institution is required to furnish to the appropriate State or federal agency. Each institution designated as a depository shall, while acting as such depository, furnish the District with a copy of all statements of resources and liabilities or all reports of examination, that it is required to furnish to the appropriate State or federal agency.

The above eligibility requirements of a bank to receive or hold public deposits do not apply to investments in an interest-bearing savings account, demand deposit account, interest-bearing certificate of deposit, or interest-bearing time deposit if: (1) the District initiates the investment at or through a bank located in Illinois, and (2) the invested public funds are at all times fully insured by an agency or instrumentality of the federal government.

The District shall consider a financial institution's record and current level of financial commitment to its local community when deciding whether to deposit funds in that financial institution. The District may consider factors including:

- 1. For financial institutions subject to the federal Community Reinvestment Act of 1977 (CRA), the current and historical ratings that the financial institution has received, to the extent that those ratings are publicly available, under the CRA;
- 2. Any changes in ownership, management, policies, or practices of the financial institution that may affect the level of the financial institution's commitment to its community;
- 3. The financial impact that the withdrawal or denial of District deposits might have on the financial institution;
- 4. The financial impact to the District as a result of withdrawing public funds or refusing to deposit additional public funds in the financial institution; and
- 5. Any additional burden on the District's resources that might result from ceasing to maintain deposits of public funds at the financial institution under consideration.

The District may not deposit public funds in a financial institution subject to the CRA unless the institution has a current rating of satisfactory or outstanding under the CRA. When investing or depositing public funds, the District may give preference to financial institutions that have a current rating of outstanding under the CRA.

#### Collateral Requirements

All amounts deposited or invested with financial institutions in excess of any insurance limit shall be collateralized in accordance with the Public Funds Investment Act, 30 ILCS 235/. The Director or designee shall keep the Board informed of collateral agreements.

#### Safekeeping and Custody Arrangements

The preferred method for safekeeping is to have securities registered in the District's name and held by a third-party custodian. Safekeeping practices should qualify for the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Statement No. 3, Deposits with Financial Institutions, Investments (including Repurchase Agreements), and Reverse Repurchase Agreements, Category I, the highest recognized safekeeping procedures.

#### Controls and Report

The Chief Investment Officer shall establish a system of internal controls and written operational procedures to prevent losses arising from fraud, employee error, misrepresentation by third parties, or imprudent employee action.

The Chief Investment Officer shall provide a quarterly investment report to the Board. The report will: (1) assess whether the investment portfolio is meeting the District's investment objectives, (2) identify

each security by class or type, book value, income earned, and market value, (3) identify those institutions providing investment services to the District, and (4) include any other relevant information. The investment portfolio's performance shall be measured by appropriate and creditable industry standards for the investment type.

The Board will determine, after receiving the Director's recommendation, which fund is in most need of interest income and the Director shall execute a transfer. This provision does not apply when the use of interest earned on a particular fund is restricted.

#### Ethics and Conflicts of Interest

The Board and District officials will avoid any investment transaction or practice that in appearance or fact might impair public confidence. Board members are bound by the Board policy 2:100, *Board Member Conflict of Interest*. No District employee having influence on the District's investment decisions shall:

- 1. Have any interest, directly or indirectly, in any investments in which the District is authorized to invest,
- 2. Have any interest, directly or indirectly, in the sellers, sponsors, or managers of those investments. or
- 3. Receive, in any manner, compensation of any kind from any investments in that the agency is authorized to invest.

#### LEGAL REF.:

30 ILCS 235/, Public Funds Investment Act.

30 ILCS 238/, III. Sustainable Investing Act.

105 ILCS 5/8-7, 5/10-22.44, 5/17-1, and 5/17-11.

CROSS REF.: 2:100 (Board Member Conflict of Interest), 4:10 (Fiscal and Business Management), 4:80 (Accounting and Audits)

Adopted: December 17, 2024

# 4:40 Incurring Debt

The District may borrow up to 85% of any State categorical or grant payments due and payable to the District, if a hardship exists. Interest shall not be in excess of that provided for by the Bond Authorization Act. Principal and interest shall be repaid from the categorical or grant payments immediately upon receipt of those payments. The Director shall notify the III. State Board of Education before the District issues any form of long-term or short-term debt that will result in outstanding debt that exceeds 75% of the debt limit specified in State law.

#### LEGAL REF.:

15 U.S.C. §77a et seq., Securities Act of 1933.

15 U.S.C. §78a et seq., Securities Exchange Act of 1934.

17 C.F.R. §240.15c2-12.

30 ILCS 305/2, Bond Authorization Act.

30 ILCS 352/, Bond Issue Notification Act.

30 ILCS 350/, Local Government Debt Reform Act.

50 ILCS 420/, Tax Anticipation Note Act.

105 ILCS 5/17-16, 5/17-17, 5/18-18, and 5/19-1 et seq.

Adopted: July 11, 2023

# 4:45 Insufficient Fund Checks and Debt Recovery

#### Insufficient Fund Checks

The Director or designee is responsible for collecting the maximum fee authorized by State law for returned checks written to the District that are not honored upon presentation to the respective bank or other depository institution for any reason. The Director is authorized to contact the Board Attorney whenever necessary to collect the returned check amount, fee, collection costs and expenses, and interest.

#### **Delinquent Debt Recovery**

The Director is authorized to seek collection of delinquent debt owed the District to the fullest extent of the law.

A Local Debt Recovery Program may be available through the Illinois Office of the Comptroller (IOC). To participate in it, an intergovernmental agreement (IGA) between the District and the IOC must be in existence. The IGA establishes the terms under which the District may refer a delinquent debt to the IOC for an offset (deduction). The IOC may execute an offset, in the amount of the delinquent debt owed to the District, from a future payment that the State makes to an individual or entity responsible for paying the delinquent debt.

The Director or designee shall execute the requirements of the IGA. While executing the requirements of the IGA, the Director or designee is responsible, without limitation, for each of the following:

- 1. Providing a District-wide, uniform, method of notice and due process to the individual or entity against whom a claim for delinquent debt payment (*claim*) is made. Written notice and an opportunity to be heard must be given to the individual or entity responsible for paying a delinquent debt before the claim is certified to the IOC for offset. The notice must state the claim's amount, the reason for the amount due, the claim's date or time period, and a description of the process to challenge the claim. If reimbursable meals or snacks provided under the Hunger-Free Students' Bill of Rights Act are the basis of the District's delinquent debt claim of no less than \$500, the notice must be sent to a student's parent(s)/guardian(s) only after: (a) the student owes the District more than five meals and/or snacks; (b) the Director or designee made: (i) repeated contacts to collect the amounts owed, and (ii) reasonable efforts to collect the amount due for at least one year; and (c) the District requested the student's parent(s)/guardian(s) to apply for meal benefits pursuant to policy 4:130, *Free and Reduced-Price Food Services*, and they either: (i) did not qualify, or (ii) refused to apply.
- 2. An individual or entity challenging a claim shall be provided an informal proceeding to refute the claim's existence, amount, or current collectability; the decision following this proceeding shall be reviewable.
  - a. If a waiver of student fees is requested as a challenge to paying the claim, and the waiver of student fees is denied, an appeal of the denial of a fee waiver request shall be handled according to 4:140, Waiver of Student Fees. If no waiver of student fees is requested, reviews regarding payment of the claim shall be handled according to this policy before certification to the IOC for offset.
  - b. If application for meal benefits pursuant to policy 4:130, Free and Reduced-Price Food Services, is requested as a challenge to paying the claim, and the request is denied, an appeal of the denial of the request shall be handled according to 4:130, Free and Reduced-Price Food Services. If no request for meal benefits is received, review of the claim's payment shall be handled according to this policy before certification to the IOC for offset.
- 3. Certifying to the IOC that the debt is past due and legally enforceable, and notifying the IOC of any change in the status of an offset claim for delinquent debt.

4. Responding to requests for information from the IOC to facilitate the prompt resolution of any administrative review requests received by the IOC.

# LEGAL REF.:

15 ILCS 405/10.05 and 10.05d, State Comptroller Act.

105 ILCS 123/, Hunger-Free Students' Bill of Rights Act.

810 ILCS 5/3-806, Uniform Commercial Code.

Adopted: July 11, 2023

# 4:50 Payment Procedures

The Treasurer shall prepare a list of all due and payable bills, indicating vendor name and amount, and shall present it to the Executive Board in advance of the Executive Board's regular monthly meeting or, if necessary, a special meeting. These bills are reviewed by the Executive Board, after which they may be approved for payment by Executive Board order. Approval of all bills shall be given by a roll call vote and the votes shall be recorded in the minutes. The Treasurer shall pay the bills after receiving an Executive Board order or pertinent portions of the Board minutes, even if the minutes are unapproved, provided the order or minutes are signed by the Board Chairman and Secretary, or a majority of the Board.

The Treasurer is authorized, without further Executive Board approval, to pay Social Security taxes, wages, pension contributions, utility bills, and other recurring bills. These disbursements shall be included in the listing of bills presented to the Executive Board.

The Executive Board authorizes the Director or designee to establish revolving funds and a petty cash fund system for District cafeterias, lunchrooms, athletics, or similar purposes, provided such funds are maintained in accordance with Governing Board policy 4:80, *Accounting and Audits*, and remain in the custody of an employee who is properly bonded according to State law.

LEGAL REF.:

105 ILCS 5/8-16, 5/10-7, and 5/10-20.19.

23 III.Admin.Code §100.70.

CROSS REF.: 4:55 (Use of Credit and Procurement Cards), 4:60 (Purchases and Contracts), 4:80 (Accounting and Audits)

Adopted: June 16, 2020

#### 4:55 Use of Credit and Procurement Cards

The Director and employees designated by the Director are authorized to use District credit and procurement cards to simplify the acquisition, receipt, and payment of purchases and travel expenses incurred on the District's behalf. Credit and procurement cards shall only be used for those expenses that are for the District's benefit and serve a valid and proper public purpose; they shall not be used for personal purchases. Cardholders are responsible for exercising due care and judgment and for acting in the District's best interests.

The Director or designee shall manage the use of District credit and procurement cards by employees. It is the Board's responsibility, through the audit and approval process, to determine whether District credit and procurement card use by the Director is appropriate.

In addition to the other limitations contained in this and other Board policies, District credit and procurement cards are governed by the following restrictions:

- 1. Credit and/or procurement cards may only be used to pay certain job-related expenses or to make purchases on behalf of the Board or District or any student activity fund, or for purposes that would otherwise be addressed through a conventional revolving fund.
- 2. The Director or designee shall instruct the issuing bank to block the cards' use at unapproved merchants.
- 3. Each cardholder, other than the Director, may charge no more than \$500 in a single purchase and no more than \$1000 within a given month without prior authorization from the Director.
- 4. The Director or designee must approve the use of a District credit or procurement card whenever such use is by telephone, fax, and the Internet. Permission shall be withheld when the use violates any Board policy, is from a vendor whose reputation has not been verified, or would be more expensive than if another available payment method were used.
- 5. The consequences for unauthorized purchases include, but are not limited to, reimbursing the District for the purchase amount, loss of cardholding privileges, and, if made by an employee, discipline up to and including discharge.
- 6. All cardholders must sign a statement affirming that they are familiar with this policy.
- 7. The Director shall implement a process whereby all purchases using a District credit or procurement card are reviewed and approved by someone other than the cardholder or someone under the cardholder's supervision.
- 8. Cardholders must submit the original, itemized receipt to document all purchases.
- 9. No individual may use a District credit or procurement card to make purchases in a manner contrary to State law, including, but not limited to, the bidding and other purchasing requirements in 105 ILCS 5/10-20.21, or any Board policy.
- 10. The Director or designee shall account for any financial or material reward or rebate offered by the company or institution issuing the District credit or procurement card and shall ensure that it is used for the District's benefit.

LEGAL REF.:

105 ILCS 5/10-20.21.

23 III.Admin.Code §100.70(d).

CROSS REF.: 4:50 (Payment Procedures), 4:60 (Purchases and Contracts), 4:80 (Accounting and Audits), 5:60 (Expenses)

Adopted: January 17, 2023

#### 4:60 Purchases and Contracts

The Director shall manage the District's purchases and contracts in accordance with applicable federal and State law, the standards set forth in this policy, and other applicable Governing Board policies.

#### Standards for Purchasing and Contracting

All purchases and contracts shall be entered into in accordance with State law. The Board Attorney shall be consulted as needed regarding the legal requirements for purchases or contracts. All contracts shall be approved or authorized by the Board.

All purchases and contracts should support a recognized District function or purpose as well as provide for good quality products and services at the lowest cost, with consideration for service, reliability, and delivery promptness, and in compliance with State law. No purchase or contract shall be made or entered into as a result of favoritism, extravagance, fraud, or corruption.

Adoption of the annual budget authorizes the Director or designee to purchase budgeted supplies, equipment, and services, provided that State law is followed. Purchases of items outside budget parameters require prior Board approval, except in an emergency.

When presenting a contract or purchase for Board approval, the Director or designee shall ensure that it complies with applicable federal and State law, including but not limited to, those specified below:

- 1. Supplies, materials, or work involving an expenditure in excess of \$35,000 must comply with the State law bidding procedure, 105 ILCS 5/10-20.21, unless specifically exempted.
- 2. Construction, lease, or purchase of District buildings must comply with State law and Board policy 4:150, *Facility Management and Building Programs*.
- 3. Guaranteed energy savings must comply with 105 ILCS 5/19b-1 et seq.
- 4. Third party non-instructional services must comply with 105 ILCS 5/10-22.34c.
- 5. Goods and services that are intended to generate revenue and other remunerations for the District in excess of \$1,000, including without limitation vending machine contracts, sports and other attire, class rings, and photographic services, must comply with 105 ILCS 5/10-20.21(b-5). The Director or designee shall keep a record of: (1) each vendor, product, or service provided, (2) the actual net revenue and non-monetary remuneration from each contract or agreement, and (3) how the revenue was used and to whom the non-monetary remuneration was distributed. The Director or designee shall report this information to the Board by completing the necessary forms that must be attached to the District's annual budget.
- 6. Any contract to purchase food with a bidder or offeror must comply with 105 ILCS 5/10-20.21(b-10).
- 7. The purchase of paper and paper products must comply with 105 ILCS 5/10-20.19c and Board policy 4:70, *Resource Conservation*.
- 8. Each contractor with the District is bound by each of the following:
  - a. In accordance with 105 ILCS 5/10-21.9(f): (1) prohibit any of its employees who is or was found guilty of a criminal offense listed in 105 ILCS 5/10-21.9(c) and 5/21B-80(c) to have direct, daily contact at a District school or school-related activity with one or more student(s); (2) prohibit any of the contractor's employees from having direct, daily contact with one or more students if the employee was found guilty of any offense in 5/21B-80(b) (certain drug offenses) until seven years following the end of the employee's sentence for the criminal offense; and (3) require each of its employees who will have direct, daily contact with student(s) to cooperate during the District's fingerprint-based criminal history records check on him or her.

- b. In accordance with 105 ILCS 5/22-94: (1) prohibit any of its employees from having *direct* contact with children or students if the contractor has not performed a sexual misconduct related employment history review (EHR) of the employee or if the District objects to the employee's assignment based on the employee's involvement in an instance of sexual misconduct as provided in 105 ILCS 5/22-94(j)(3), which the contractor is required to disclose; (2) discipline, up to and including termination or denial of employment, any employee who provides false information or willfully fails to disclose information required by the EHR; (3) maintain all records of EHRs and provide the District access to such records upon request; and (4) refrain from entering into any agreements prohibited by 105 ILCS 5/22-94(g).
- c. In accordance with 105 ILCS 5/24-5: (1) concerning each new employee of a contractor that provides services to students or in schools, provide the District with evidence of physical fitness to perform the duties assigned and freedom from communicable disease; and (2) require any new or existing employee who provides services to students or in schools to complete additional health examinations as required by the District and be subject to additional health examinations, including tuberculosis screening, as required by the III. Dept. of Public Health rules or order of a local health official.
- 9. Any pavement engineering project using a coal tar-based sealant product or high polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbon sealant product for pavement engineering-related use must comply with the Coal Tar Sealant Disclosure Act.
- 10. Design-build contracts must comply with 105 ILCS 5/15A-1 et seq.
- 11. Any new contract for a district-administered assessment must comply with 105 ILCS 5/10-20.86.
- 12. Purchases made with federal, or State awards must comply with 2 C.F.R. Part 200 and 30 ILCS 708/, as applicable, and any terms of the award.

The Director or designee shall: (1) execute the reporting and website posting mandates in State law concerning District contracts, and (2) monitor the discharge of contracts, contractors' performances, and the quality and value of services or products being provided.

LEGAL REF.:

2 C.F.R. Part 200.

105 ILCS 5/10-20.19c, 5/10-20.21, 5/10-20.86, 5/10-21.9, 5/10-22.34c, 5/15A-1 et seq., 5/19b-1 et seq., 5/22-94, and 5/24-5.

30 ILCS 708/, Grant Accountability and Transparency Act.

410 ILCS 170/, Coal Tar Sealant Disclosure Act.

820 ILCS 130/, Prevailing Wage Act.

CROSS REF.: 2:100 (Board Member Conflict of Interest), 4:70 (Resource Conservation), 4:150 (Facility Management and Building Programs), 4:175 (Convicted Child Sex Offender; Screening; Notifications), 5:90 (Abused and Neglected Child Reporting)

Adopted: December 17, 2024

#### 4:70 Resource Conservation

The Director or designee shall manage a program of energy and resource conservation for the District that includes:

- 1. Periodic review of procurement procedures and specifications to ensure that purchased products and supplies are reusable, durable, or made from recycled materials, if economically and practically feasible.
- 2. Purchasing recycled paper and paper products in amounts that will, at a minimum, meet the specifications in the School Code, if economically and practically feasible.
- 3. Periodic review of procedures on the reduction of solid waste generated by academic, administrative, and other institutional functions. These procedures shall: (a) require recycling the District's waste stream, including landscape waste, computer paper, and white office paper, if economically and practically feasible; (b) include investigation of the feasibility of potential markets for other recyclable materials that are present in the District's waste stream; and (c) establish a goal for the reduction in the amount of solid waste generated by the District, when it is economically and practically feasible to do so.
- 4. Energy conservation measures.

#### LEGAL REF.:

105 ILCS 5/10-20.19c and 5/19b.

CROSS REF.: 4:60 (Purchases and Contracts), 4:150 (Facility Management and Building Programs)

Adopted: July 16, 2024

# 4:80 Accounting and Audits

The School District's accounting and audit services shall comply with the *Requirements for Accounting, Budgeting, Financial Reporting, and Auditing,* as adopted by the III. State Board of Education (ISBE), State and federal laws and regulations, and generally accepted accounting principles. Determination of liabilities and assets, prioritization of expenditures of governmental funds, and provisions for accounting disclosures shall be made in accordance with government accounting standards as directed by the auditor designated by the Board. The Director, in addition to other assigned financial responsibilities, shall report monthly on the District's financial performance, both income and expense, in relation to the financial plan represented in the budget.

#### **Annual Audit**

At the close of each fiscal year, the Director shall arrange an audit of the District funds, accounts, statements, and other financial matters. The audit shall be performed by an independent certified public accountant designated by the Board and be conducted in conformance with prescribed standards and legal requirements. A complete and detailed written audit report shall be provided to each Board member and to the Director. The Director shall annually, on or before October 15, submit an original and one copy of the audit to the Regional Superintendent of Schools.

#### Annual Financial Report

The Director or designee shall annually prepare and submit the Annual Financial Report on a timely basis using the form adopted by the ISBE. The Director shall review and discuss the Annual Financial Report with the Board before it is submitted.

#### <u>Inventories</u>

The Director or designee is responsible for establishing and maintaining accurate inventory records. The inventory record of supplies and equipment shall include a description of each item, quantity, location, purchase date, and cost or estimated replacement cost, unless the supplies and equipment are acquired by the District pursuant to a federal or State grant award, in which case the inventory record shall also include the information required by 2 C.F.R. §200.313, if applicable. The Director shall establish procedures for the management of property acquired by the District under grant awards that comply with federal and State law.

#### Capitalization Threshold

To be considered a capital asset for financial reporting purposes, a capital item must be at or above a capitalization threshold of \$10,000 and have an estimated useful life greater than one year.

#### Disposition of District Property

The Director or designee shall notify the Board, as necessary, of the following so that the Board may consider its disposition: (1) District personal property (property other than buildings and land) that is no longer needed for school purposes, and (2) school site, building, or other real estate that is unnecessary, unsuitable, or inconvenient. Notwithstanding the above, the Director or designee may unilaterally dispose of personal property of a diminutive value. The Director shall establish procedures for the disposition and, when permitted by the terms and conditions of the award, the retention of property acquired by the District under grant awards that comply with federal and State law.

#### Controls for Revolving Funds and Petty Cash

Revolving funds and the petty cash system are established in Board policy 4:50, *Payment Procedures*. The Director shall: (1) designate a custodian for each revolving fund and petty cash fund, (2) obtain a bond for each fund custodian, and (3) maintain the funds in compliance with this policy,

State law, and ISBE rules. A check for the petty cash fund may be drawn payable to the designated petty cash custodian. Bank accounts for revolving funds are limited to a maximum balance of \$1,000. All expenditures from these bank accounts must be directly related to the purpose for which the account was established and supported with documentation, including signed invoices or receipts. All deposits into these bank accounts must be accompanied with a clear description of their intended purpose. The Director or designee shall include checks written to reimburse revolving funds on the Executive Board's monthly listing of bills indicating the recipient and including an explanation.

# Control Requirements for Checks

The Board must approve all bank accounts opened or established in the District's or a District school's name or with the District's Federal Employer Identification Number. All checks issued by the District must be signed by the Director and Bookkeeper, except that checks from accounts containing student activity funds or fiduciary funds and checks from revolving accounts may be signed by their respective account custodians.

#### Internal Controls

The Director is primarily responsible for establishing and implementing a system of internal controls for safeguarding the District's financial condition; the Executive Board, however, will oversee these safeguards. The control objectives are to ensure efficient business and financial practices, reliable financial reporting, and compliance with State law and Board policies, and to prevent losses from fraud, waste, and abuse, as well as employee error, misrepresentation by third parties, or other imprudent employee action.

The Director or designee shall annually audit the District's financial and business operations for compliance with established internal controls and provide the results to the Board. The Board may from time-to-time engage a third-party to audit internal controls in addition to the annual audit.

#### LEGAL REF.:

2 C.F.R. §200 et seq.

30 ILCS 708/, Grant Accountability and Transparency Act, implemented by 44 III.Admin.Code 7000 et seq.

105 ILCS 5/2-3.27, 5/2-3.28, 5/3-7, 5/3-15.1, 5/5-22, 5/10-21.4, 5/10-20.19, 5/10-22.8, and 5/17-1 et seq.

23 III.Admin.Code Part 100.

CROSS REF.: 4:10 (Fiscal and Business Management), 4:50 (Payment Procedures), 4:55 (Use of Credit and Procurement Cards)

Adopted: June 17, 2025

# 4:100 Insurance Management

The Director shall recommend and maintain all insurance programs that provide the broadest and most complete coverage available at the most economical cost, consistent with sound insurance principles.

The insurance program shall include:

- 1. Liability coverage to insure against any loss or liability of the District and the listed individuals against civil rights damage claims and suits, constitutional rights damage claims and suits, and death and bodily injury and property damage claims and suits, including defense costs, when damages are sought for negligent or wrongful acts allegedly committed in the scope of employment or under the Board's direction or related to any mentoring services provided to the District's licensed staff members; Board members; employees; volunteer personnel authorized by 105 ILCS 5/10-22.34, 5/10-22.34a, and 5/10-22.34b; mentors of licensed staff members authorized in 105 ILCS 5/21A-5 et seq. (new teacher), 105 ILCS 5/2-3.53a (new principal), and 2-3.53b (new superintendents); and student teachers.
- 2. Comprehensive property insurance covering a broad range of causes of loss involving building and personal property. The coverage amount shall normally be for the replacement cost or the insurable value.
- 3. Workers' Compensation to protect individual employees against financial loss in case of a work-related injury, certain types of disease, or death incurred in an employee-related situation.

#### Student Insurance

The Board shall annually designate a company to offer student accident insurance coverage. The Board does not endorse the plan nor recommend that parents/guardians secure the coverage, and any contract is between the parents/guardians and the company.

#### LEGAL REF.:

Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act, Pub. L. 99-272, §10001, 26 U.S.C. §4980B(f), 42 U.S.C. §300bb-1 et seq.

105 ILCS 5/2-3.53a, 5/2-3.53b, 5/10-20.20, 5/10-22.3, 5/10-22.3a, 5/10-22.3b, 5/10-22.3f, 5/10-22.34, 5/10-22.34a, 5/10-22.34b, and 5/21A-5 et seq.

215 ILCS 5/, III. Insurance Code.

750 ILCS 75/, III. Religious Freedom Protection and Civil Union Act.

820 ILCS 305/, Workers' Compensation Act.

Adopted: July 11, 2023

#### 4:120 Food Services

Good nutrition shall be promoted in the Cooperative's meal programs and in other food and beverages that are sold to students during the school day. The Director shall manage a food service program that complies with this policy and is in alignment with Board policy 6:50, *School Wellness*.

Food or beverage items sold to students as part of a reimbursable meal under federal law must follow the nutrition standards specified in the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture rules that implement the National School Lunch and Child Nutrition Acts. Schools being reimbursed for meals under these laws are participating schools.

The food service program in participating schools shall comply with the nutrition standards specified in the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture's *Smart Snacks rules* when it offers competitive foods to students on the school campus during the school day. *Competitive foods* are all food and beverages that are offered by any person, organization or entity for sale to students on the school campus during the school day that are not reimbursed under programs authorized by federal law. The food service programs in participating schools shall also comply with any applicable mandates in the Illinois State Board of Education's School Food Service rules implementing these federal laws and the Ill. School Breakfast and Lunch Program Act.

All revenue from the sale of any food or beverages sold in competition with the School Breakfast Program or National School Lunch Program to students in food service areas during the meal period shall accrue to the nonprofit school lunch program account.

#### LEGAL REF.:

Russell B. National School Lunch Act, 42 U.S.C. §1751 et seq.

Child Nutrition Act of 1966, 42 U.S.C. §1771 et seq.

7 C.F.R. Parts 210 (National School Lunch Program) and 220 (School Breakfast Program).

105 ILCS 125/, School Breakfast and Lunch Program Act.

23 III.Admin.Code Part 305, School Food Service.

CROSS REF.: 4:130 (Free and Reduced-Price Food Services)

Adopted: March 15, 2022

#### 4:130 Free and Reduced-Price Food Services

#### Notice

The Director shall be responsible for implementing the District's free and reduced-price food services policy and all applicable programs.

If State funding is available for the Healthy School Meals for All Program, the Board will annually determine if it will participate in the program.

# Eligibility Criteria and Selection of Children

A student's eligibility for free and reduced-price food services shall be determined by the income eligibility guidelines, family-size income standards, set annually by the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture and distributed by the III. State Board of Education.

#### Notification

At the beginning of each District year, by letter, the District shall notify students and their parents/guardians of: (1) eligibility requirements for free and reduced-price food service; (2) the application process; (3) the name and telephone number of a contact person for the program; and (4) other information required by federal law. The Director shall provide the same information to: (1) informational media, the local unemployment office, and any major area employers contemplating layoffs; and (2) the District's website (if applicable), all District newsletters, or students' registration materials. Parents/guardians enrolling a child in the District for the first time, any time during the District year, shall receive the eligibility information.

#### Nondiscrimination Assurance

The District shall avoid publicly identifying students receiving free or reduced-price meals and shall use methods for collecting meal payments that prevent identification of children receiving assistance.

#### <u>Appeal</u>

A family may appeal the District's decision to deny an application for free and reduced-price food services or to terminate such services as outlined by the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture in 7 C.F.R. §245.7, Determining Eligibility for Free and Reduced-Price Meals and Free Milk in Districts. The Director shall establish a hearing procedure for adverse eligibility decisions and provide by mail a copy of them to the family. The District may also use these procedures to challenge a child's continued eligibility for free or reduced-price meals or milk.

During an appeal, students previously receiving food service benefits shall not have their benefits terminated. Students who were denied benefits shall not receive benefits during the appeal.

The Director shall keep on file for a period of three years a record of any appeals made and the hearing record. The District shall also maintain accurate and complete records showing the data and method used to determine the number of eligible students served free and reduced-price food services. These records shall be maintained for three years.

#### LEGAL REF:

U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service, National District Lunch Program, 7 C.F.R. Part 210.

U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service, Determining Eligibility for Free and Reduced-Price Meals and Free Milk in Districts, 7 C.F.R. Part 245.

105 ILCS 125/, School Breakfast and Lunch Program Act.

105 ILCS 126/, Childhood Hunger Relief Act.

23 III. Admin.Code §305.10  $\underline{et}~\underline{seq}.$ 

Adopted: December 12, 2023

# 4:130-E Exhibit - Free and Reduced-Price Food Services; Meal Charge Notifications

On District letterhead, website, in student handbook, newsletters, bulletins, and/or calendars

Date:

To: Parents/Guardians, Students, and Staff

Re: Eligibility and Meal Charge Notifications

The following notification is provided to all households of students at the beginning of each school year as federally required notification regarding eligibility requirements and the application process for the free and reduced-price food services that are listed in Board policy 4:130, *Free and Reduced-Price Food Services*, and 4:140, *Waiver of Student Fees*. This notification is also provided to households of students transferring to the District during the school year. For more information, see <a href="https://www.fns.usda.gov/school-meals/unpaid-meal-charges">www.fns.usda.gov/school-meals/unpaid-meal-charges</a>, and/or contact the Building Principal or designee.

#### Free and Reduced-Price Food Services Eligibility

When the parents/guardians of students are unable to pay for their child(ren)'s meal services, meal charges will apply per a student's eligibility category and will be processed by the District accordingly.

A student's eligibility for free and reduced-price food services shall be determined by the income eligibility guidelines, family-size income standards, set annually by the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, and distributed by the III. State Board of Education.

# Meal Charges for Meals Provided by the District

The Building Principal and District staff will work jointly to prevent meal charges from accumulating. Every effort to collect all funds due to the District will be made on a regular basis and before the end of the school year. Contact your Building Principal or designee about whether your child(ren)'s charges may be carried over at the end of the school year, i.e., beyond June 30<sup>th</sup>.

Unpaid meal charges are considered delinquent debt when payment is overdue as defined by Board policy 4:45, *Insufficient Fund Checks and Debt Recovery* and the Hunger-Free Students' Bill of Rights Act (105 ILCS 123/). The District will make reasonable efforts to collect charges classified as delinquent debt, including repeated contacts to collect the amounts and, when necessary, requesting that the student's parent(s)/guardian(s) apply for meal benefits to determine if the student qualifies for such benefits under Board policy 4:130, *Free and Reduced-Price Food Services*. The District will provide a federally reimbursable meal or snack to a student who requests one, regardless of the student's ability to pay or negative account balance.

When a student's funds are low and when there is a negative balance, reminders will be provided to the staff, students, and their parent(s)/guardian(s) at regular intervals during the school year. State law allows the Building Principal to contact parents(s)/guardian(s) to attempt collection of the owed money when the amount owed is more than the amount of five lunches. If a parent/guardian regularly fails to provide meal money for the child(ren) that he/she is responsible for in the District and does not qualify for free meal benefits or refuses to apply for such benefits, the Building Principal or designee will direct the next course of action. Continual failure to provide meal money may require the District to notify the Ill. Dept. of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and/or take legal steps to recover the unpaid meal charges, up to and including seeking an offset under the State Comptroller Act, if applicable.

LEGAL REF .:

Healthy Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010 (P.L. 111-296).

7 C.F.R. §245.5.

105 ILCS 123/, Hunger-Free Students' Bill of Rights Act.

23 III.Admin.Code Part 305, School Food Service.

DATED : December 12, 2023

# 4:150 Facility Management and Building Programs

The Director shall manage the District's facilities and grounds as well as facility construction and building programs in accordance with law, the standards set forth in this policy, and other applicable Governing Board policies. The Director or designee shall facilitate: (1) inspections of Districts by the Regional Director and State Fire Marshal or designee, (2) review of plans and specifications for future construction or alterations of a school if requested by the relevant municipality, county (if applicable), or fire protection district, and (3) compliance with the 10-year safety survey process required by the School Code.

## Standards for Managing Buildings and Grounds

All District buildings and grounds shall be adequately maintained in order to provide an appropriate, safe, and energy efficient physical environment for learning and teaching. The Director or designee shall provide the Board with periodic reports on maintenance data and projected maintenance needs that include cost analysis. Prior Board approval is needed for all renovations or permanent alterations to buildings or grounds when the total cost will exceed \$17,500, including the cost equivalent of staff time. This policy is not intended to discourage efforts to improve the appearance of buildings or grounds that are consistent with the designated use of those buildings and grounds.

## Standards for Green Cleaning

For each District school with 50 or more students, the Director or designee shall establish and supervise a green cleaning program that complies with the guidelines established by the Illinois Green Government Coordinating Council.

#### Standards for Facility Construction and Building Programs

As appropriate, the Board will authorize a comprehensive study to determine the need for facility construction and expansion. On an annual basis, the Director or designee shall provide the Board with projected facility needs, enrollment trends, and other data impacting facility use. Board approval is needed for all new facility construction and expansion.

When making decisions pertaining to design and construction of District facilities, the Board will confer with members of the staff and community, the III. State Board of Education, and educational and architectural consultants, as it deems appropriate. The Board's facility goals are to:

- 1. Integrate facilities planning with other aspects of planning and goal setting.
- 2. Base educational specifications for District buildings on identifiable student needs.
- 3. Design buildings for sufficient flexibility to permit new or modified programs.
- 4. Design buildings for maximum potential for community use.
- 5. Meet or exceed all safety requirements.
- 6. Meet requirements on the accessibility of District facilities to disabled persons as specified in State and federal law.
- 7. Provide for low maintenance costs, energy efficiency, and minimal environmental impact.

#### Naming Buildings and Facilities

Recognizing that the name for a District building, facility, or ground or field reflects on its public image, the Board's primary consideration will be to select a name that enhances the credibility and stature of the District or facility. Any request to name or rename an existing facility should be submitted to the Board. When a facility is to be named or renamed, the Board Chairman will appoint a special committee to consider nominations and make a recommendation, along with supporting rationale, to the Board. The Board will make the final selection. The Director or designee may name a room or designate some area on a District's property in honor of an individual or group that has performed

outstanding service to the District without using the process in this policy.

LEGAL REF.:

42 U.S.C. §12101 et seq., Americans with Disabilities Act; 28 C.F.R. Parts 35 and 36.

20 ILCS 3130/, Green Buildings Act.

105 ILCS 5/2-3.12, 5/10-20.49, 5/10-22.36, 5/10-20.63 and 5/17-2.11.

105 ILCS 140/, Green Cleaning Schools Act.

105 ILCS 230/, School Construction Law.

410 ILCS 25/, Environmental Barriers Act.

410 ILCS 35/25, Equitable Restrooms Act.

820 ILCS 130/, Prevailing Wage Act.

23 III.Admin.Code Part 151, School Construction Program; Part 180, Health/Life Safety Code for Public Schools; and Part 2800, Green Cleaning for Elementary and Secondary Schools.

71 III.Admin.Code Part 400, III. Accessibility Code.

CROSS REF.: 2:170 (Procurement of Architectural, Engineering, and Land Surveying Services), 4:60 (Purchases and Contracts), 8:70 (Accommodating Individuals with Disabilities)

Adopted: December 17, 2024

# 4:160 Environmental Quality of Buildings and Grounds

The Director shall take all reasonable measures to protect: (1) the safety of District personnel, students, and visitors on District premises from risks associated with hazardous materials and (2) the environmental quality of the District's buildings and grounds.

#### **Pesticides**

Pesticides will not be applied on the paved surfaces, playgrounds, or playing fields of any school serving grades K-8 during a school day or partial school day when students are in attendance for instructional purposes. Additionally, the application of any restricted use pesticides is prohibited on or within 500 feet of school property during normal school hours. Before pesticides are used on District premises, the Director or designee shall notify employees and parents/guardians of students as required by the Structural Pest Control Act, 225 ILCS 235/, and the Lawn Care Products Application and Notice Act, 415 ILCS 65/.

#### Coal Tar Sealant

Before coal tar-based sealant products or high polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbon sealant products are used on District premises, the Director or designee shall notify employees and parents/guardians of students in writing or by telephone as required by the Coal Tar Sealant Disclosure Act.

#### LEGAL REF .:

105 ILCS 5/10-20.17a; 5/10-20.48.

29 C.F.R. §1910.1030, Occupational Exposure to Bloodborne Pathogens, as adopted by the Illinois Department of Labor, 56 Ill.Admin.Code §350.700(b).

29 C.F.R. §1910.1200, Occupational Safety and Health Administration Hazard Communication Standards, as adopted by 820 ILCS 255/1.5, Toxic Substances Disclosure to Employees Act.

20 ILCS 3130/, Green Buildings Act.

105 ILCS 135/, Toxic Art Supplies in Schools Act.

105 ILCS 140/, Green Cleaning School Act.

105 ILCS 160/, Pesticide Application at Schools Act.

225 ILCS 235/, Structural Pest Control Act.

415 ILCS 60/14, Illinois Pesticide Act.

415 ILCS 65/, Lawn Care Products Application and Notice Act.

410 ILCS 170/, Coal Tar Sealant Disclosure Act.

820 ILCS 255/, Toxic Substances Disclosure to Employees Act. (*inoperative*)

23 III.Admin.Code §1.330.

CROSS REF.: 4:150 (Facility Management and Building Programs), 4:170 (Safety)

Adopted: December 12, 2023

# 4:165 Awareness and Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse and Grooming Behaviors

Child sexual abuse and grooming behaviors harm students, their parents/guardians, the District's environment, its school communities, and the community at large, while diminishing a student's ability to learn. The Board has a responsibility and obligation to increase awareness and knowledge of: (1) issues regarding child sexual abuse, (2) likely warning signs that a child may be a victim of sexual abuse, (3) grooming behaviors related to child sexual abuse and grooming, (4) how to report child sexual abuse, (5) appropriate relationships between District employees and students based upon State law, and (6) how to prevent child sexual abuse.

Prohibited grooming behaviors include, but are not limited to: using a computer, electronic device, or other communication system to seduce, solicit, lure, or entice, or attempt to, a child, child's guardian, or someone believed to be the child or the child's guardian to commit a sex offense; distributing photographs depicting the sex organs of a child; or engaging in any unlawful sexual conduct with a child or with another person believed to be a child. "Child" means a person under 17 years of age.

To address the Board's obligation to increase awareness and knowledge of these issues, prevent sexual abuse of children, and define prohibited grooming behaviors, the Director or designee shall implement an Awareness and Prevention of Sexual Abuse and Grooming Behaviors Program. The Program will:

- 1. Educate students with:
  - a. An age-appropriate and evidence-informed health and safety education curriculum that includes methods for how to report child sexual abuse and grooming behaviors to authorities, through policy 6:60, *Curriculum Content*;
  - b. Information in policy 7:250, *Student Support Services*, about: (i) District counseling options, assistance, and intervention for students who are victims of or affected by sexual abuse, and (ii) community-based Children's Advocacy Centers and sexual assault crisis centers and how to access those serving the District.
- 2. Train District employees about child sexual abuse and grooming behaviors by January 31 of each school year with materials that include:
  - a. A definition of prohibited grooming behaviors and employee-student boundary violations pursuant to policy 5:120, Employee Ethics; Code of Professional Conduct; and Conflict of Interest;
  - b. Evidence-informed content on preventing, recognizing, reporting, and responding to child sexual abuse, grooming behaviors, and employee-student boundary violations pursuant to policies 2:260, *Uniform Grievance Procedure*; 2:265, *Title IX Grievance Procedure*; 5:90, *Abused and Neglected Child Reporting*; 5:100, *Staff Development Program*; and 5:120, *Employee Ethics; Code of Professional Conduct; and Conflict of Interest*; and
  - c. How to report child sexual abuse, grooming behaviors, and/or employee-student boundary violations pursuant to policies 2:260, *Uniform Grievance Procedure*; 2:265, *Title IX Grievance Procedure*; and 5:90, *Abused and Neglected Child Reporting*.
- 3. Provide information to parents/guardians in student handbooks about the warning signs of child sexual abuse, grooming behaviors, and employee-student boundary violations with evidence-informed educational information that also includes:
  - a. Assistance, referral, or resource information, including how to recognize grooming behaviors, appropriate relationships between District employees and students based upon policy 5:120, *Employee Ethics; Code of Professional Conduct; and Conflict of Interest*, and how to prevent child sexual abuse from happening;
  - b. Methods for how to report child sexual abuse, grooming behaviors, and/or employeestudent boundary violations to authorities; and

- c. Available counseling and resources for children who are affected by sexual abuse, including both emotional and educational support for students affected by sexual abuse, so that the student can continue to succeed in school pursuant to policy 7:250, Student Support Services.
- 4. Provide parents/guardians of students in any of grades K through 8 with not less than five days' written notice before commencing any class or course providing instruction in recognizing and avoiding sexual abuse, as well as the opportunity to object in writing.

#### LEGAL REF.:

105 ILCS 5/10-23.13, 5/22-85.5, 5/27-9.1a, and 5/27-13.2.

105 ILCS 110/3, Critical Health Problems and Comprehensive Health Education Act.

325 ILCS 5/, Abused and Neglected Child Reporting Act.

720 ILCS 5/11-25, Criminal Code of 2012.

CROSS REF.: 2:260 (Uniform Grievance Procedure), 2:265 (Title IX Grievance Procedure), 4:175 (Convicted Child Sex Offender; Screening; Notifications), 5:90 (Abused and Neglected Child Reporting), 5:100 (Staff Development Program), 5:120 (Employee Ethics; Code of Professional Conduct; and Conflict of Interest), 6:60 (Curriculum Content), 7:20 (Harassment of Students Prohibited), 7:250 (Student Support Services)

Adopted: January 17, 2023

# 4:170 Safety

#### Safety and Security

All District operations, including the education program, shall be conducted in a manner that will promote the safety and security of everyone on District property or at a District event. The Director or designee shall develop, implement, and maintain a comprehensive safety and security plan that includes, without limitation:

- 1. An emergency operations and crisis response plan(s) addressing prevention, preparation, response, and recovery for each school;
- 2. Provisions for a coordinated effort with local law enforcement and fire officials, emergency medical services personnel, and the Board Attorney;
- 3. A school safety drill plan;
- 4. Instruction in safe bus riding practices; and
- 5. A clear, rapid, factual, and coordinated system of internal and external communication.

In the event of an emergency that threatens the safety of any person or property, students and staff are encouraged to follow the best practices discussed for their building regarding the use of any available cellular telephones.

# School Safety Drill Plan

During every academic year, each school building that houses school children shall conduct, at a minimum, each of the following in accordance with the School Safety Drill Act (105 ILCS 128/):

- Three school evacuation drills to address and prepare students and school personnel for fire incidents. One of these three drills shall require the participation of the local fire department or district.
- 2. One bus evacuation drill.
- 3. One severe weather and shelter-in-place drill to address and prepare students and school personnel for possible tornado incidents.
- 4. One law enforcement lockdown drill to address a school shooting incident and to evaluate the preparedness of school personnel and students. This drill shall occur no later than 90 days after the first day of school of each year and shall require the participation of all school personnel and students present at school at the time of the drill, except for those exempted by administrators, school support personnel, or a parent/guardian.

#### Annual Review

The Board or its designee will annually review each school building's emergency operations and crisis response plan(s), protocols, and procedures, as well as each building's compliance with the school safety drill plan. This annual review shall be in accordance with the School Safety Drill Act (105 ILCS 128/) and the Joint Rules of the Office of the State Fire Marshal and the III. State Board of Education (ISBE).

# <u>Automated External Defibrillator (AED)</u>

At least one automated external defibrillator (AED) shall be present in each District attendance center during the school day and during any District-sponsored extracurricular activity on school grounds. In addition, the Director or designee shall implement a written plan for responding to medical emergencies at the District's physical fitness facilities in accordance with the Fitness Facility Medical Emergency Preparedness Act and shall file a copy of the plan with the III. Dept. of Public Health (IDPH). The plan shall provide for at least one AED to be available at every physical fitness facility on

the premises according to State law requirements.

The District shall have an AED on site as well as a trained AED user: (1) on staff during staffed business hours; and (2) available during activities or events sponsored and conducted or supervised by the District. The Director or designee shall ensure that every AED on the District's premises is properly tested and maintained in accordance with rules developed by the IDPH. This policy does not create an obligation to use an AED.

#### Carbon Monoxide Alarms

The Director or designee shall implement a plan with the District's local fire officials to:

- 1. Determine which school buildings to equip with approved *carbon monoxide alarms* or *carbon monoxide detectors*,
- 2. Locate the required carbon monoxide alarms or carbon monoxide detectors within 20 feet of a carbon monoxide emitting device, and
- 3. Incorporate carbon monoxide alarm or detector activation procedures into each school building that requires a carbon monoxide alarm or detector. The Director or designee shall ensure each school building annually reviews these procedures.

# Lead Testing in Water

The Director or designee shall implement testing for lead in each source of drinking water in school buildings in accordance with the III. Plumbing License Law and guidance published by the IDPH. The Director or designee shall notify parent(s)/guardian(s) about the sampling results from their children's respective school buildings.

# **Emergency Closing**

The Director is authorized to close school(s) in the event of hazardous weather or other emergency that threatens the safety of students, staff members, or school property.

# LEGAL REF.:

105 ILCS 5/10-20.2, 5/10-20.57, 5/18-12, and 5/18-12.5.

105 ILCS 128/, School Safety Drill Act; 29 III.Admin.Code Part 1500.

210 ILCS 74/, Physical Fitness Facility Medical Emergency Preparedness Act.

225 ILCS 320/35.5, III. Plumbing License Law.

CROSS REF.: 4:110 (Transportation), 4:175 (Convicted Child Sex Offender; Screening; Notifications), 4:180 (Pandemic Preparedness; Management; and Recovery), 4:190 (Targeted School Violence Prevention Program), 5:30 (Hiring Process and Criteria), 8:30 (Visitors to and Conduct on School Property), 8:100 (Relations with Other Organizations and Agencies)

Adopted: December 17, 2024

# 4:175 Convicted Child Sex Offender; Screening; Notifications

# Persons Prohibited on School Property without Prior Permission

State law prohibits a child sex offender from being present on school property or loitering within 500 feet of school property when persons under the age of 18 are present, unless the offender meets either of the following two exceptions:

- 1. The offender is a parent/guardian of a student attending the school and has notified the Building Principal of his or her presence at the school for the purpose of: (i) attending a conference with school personnel to discuss the progress of his or her child academically or socially, (ii) participating in child review conferences in which evaluation and placement decisions may be made with respect to his or her child regarding special education services, or (iii) attending conferences to discuss other student issues concerning his or her child such as retention and promotion; or
- 2. The offender received permission to be present from the Governing Board, Director, or Director's designee. If permission is granted, the Director or Board President shall provide the details of the offender's upcoming visit to the Building Principal.

In all cases, the Director or designee shall supervise a child sex offender whenever the offender is in a child's vicinity. If a student is a sex offender, the Director or designee shall develop guidelines for managing his or her presence in school.

# Screening

The Director or designee shall perform fingerprint-based criminal history records information checks and/or screenings required by State law or Board policy for employees; student teachers; students doing field or clinical experience other than student teaching; contractors' employees who have direct, daily contact with one or more children; and resource persons and volunteers. The Board President shall ensure that these checks are completed for the Director. He or she shall take appropriate action based on the result of any criminal background check and/or screen.

#### Notification to Parents/Guardians

The Director shall develop procedures for the distribution and use of information from law enforcement officials under the Sex Offender Community Notification Law and the Murderer and Violent Offender Against Youth Community Notification Law. The Director or designee shall serve as the Cooperative contact person for purposes of these laws. The Director and Building Principal shall manage a process for schools to notify the parents/guardians during school registration that information about sex offenders is available to the public as provided in the Sex Offender Community Notification Law. This notification must occur during school registration and at other times as the Director or Building Principal determines advisable.

#### LEGAL REF.:

20 U.S.C. §7926, Elementary and Secondary Education Act.

20 ILCS 2635/, Uniform Conviction Information Act.

720 ILCS 5/11-9.3, Criminal Code of 2012.

730 ILCS 152/, Sex Offender Community Notification Law.

730 ILCS 154/75-105, Murderer and Violent Offender Against Youth Community Notification Law.

CROSS REF.: 2:110 (Qualifications, Term, and Duties of Board Officers), 3:40 (Director), 3:50 (Administrative Personnel Other Than the Director), 3:60 (Administrative Responsibility of the Building

Principal/Dean of Students), 4:165 (Awareness and Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse and Grooming Behaviors), 5:30 (Hiring Process and Criteria), 5:260 (Student Teachers), 6:250 (Community Resource Persons and Volunteers), 8:30 (Visitors to and Conduct on School Property), 8:100 (Relations with Other Organizations and Agencies)

Adopted: March 15, 2022

# 4:180 Pandemic Preparedness; Management; and Recovery

The School Board recognizes that the District will play an essential role along with the local health department and emergency management agencies in protecting the public's health and safety during a pandemic.

A pandemic is a global outbreak of disease. Pandemics happen when a new virus emerges to infect individuals and, because there is little to no pre-existing immunity against the new virus, it spreads sustainably.

To prepare the School District community for a pandemic, the Director or designee shall: (1) learn and understand how the roles that the federal, State, and local government function; (2) form a pandemic planning team consisting of appropriate District personnel and community members to identify priorities and oversee the development and implementation of a comprehensive pandemic school action plan; and (3) build awareness of the final plan among staff, students, and community.

## Emergency School Closing

In the case of a pandemic, the Governor may declare a disaster due to a public health emergency that may affect any decision for an emergency school closing. Decisions for an emergency school closing will be made by the Director in consultation with and, if necessary, at the direction of the Governor, III. Dept. of Public Health, District's local health department, emergency management agencies, and/or Regional Office of Education.

During an emergency school closing, the Board President and the Director may, to the extent the emergency situation allows, examine existing Board policies pursuant to Policy 2:240, *Board Policy Development*, and recommend to the Board for consideration any needed amendments or suspensions to address mandates that the District may not be able to accomplish or implement due to a pandemic.

# Board Meeting Procedure; No Physical Presence of Quorum and Participation by Audio or Video

A disaster declaration related to a public health emergency may affect the Board's ability to meet in person and generate a quorum of members who are physically present at the location of a meeting. Policy 2:220, *School Board Meeting Procedure*, governs Board meetings by video or audio conference without the physical presence of a quorum.

# Payment of Employee Salaries During Emergency School Closures

The Director shall consult with the Board to determine the extent to which continued payment of salaries and benefits will be made to the District's employees, pursuant to Board policies 3:40, *Director*, 3:50, *Administrative Personnel Other Than the Director*, 5:35, *Compliance with the Fair Labor Standards Act*, 5:200, *Terms and Conditions of Employment and Dismissal*, and 5:270, *Employment At-Will, Compensation, and Assignment*, and consistent with: (1) applicable laws, regulations, federal or State or local emergency declarations, executive orders, and agency directives; (2) collective bargaining agreements and any bargaining obligations; and (3) the terms of any grant under which an employee is being paid.

# Suspension of In-Person Instruction; Remote and/or Blended Remote Learning Day Plan(s)

When the Governor declares a disaster due to a public health emergency pursuant to 20 ILCS 3305/7, and the State Superintendent of Education declares a requirement for the District to use *Remote Learning Days* or *Blended Remote Learning Days*, the Director shall approve and present to the Board for adoption a Remote and/or Blended Remote Learning Day Plan (Plan) that:

1. Recommends to the Board for consideration any suspensions or amendments to curriculum-

related policies to reduce any Board-required graduation or other instructional requirements in excess of minimum curricular requirements specified in School Code that the District may not be able to provide due to the pandemic;

- 2. Implements the requirements of 105 ILCS 5/10-30; and
- 3. Ensures a plan for periodic review of and/or amendments to the Plan when needed and/or required by statute, regulation, or State guidance.

#### LEGAL REF.:

105 ILCS 5/10-16.7, 5/10-20.5, 5/10-20.56, and 5/10-30.

5 ILCS 120/2.01 and 120/7(e), Open Meetings Act.

20 ILCS 2305/2(b), III. Dept. of Public Health Act (Part 1).

20 ILCS 3305/, III. Emergency Management Agency Act.

115 ILCS 5/, III. Educational Labor Relations Act.

CROSS REF.: 1:20 (District Organization, Operations, and Cooperative Agreements), 2:20 (Powers and Duties of the School Board; Indemnification), 2:220 (School Board Meeting Procedure), 2:240 (Board Policy Development), 3:40 (Director), 3:50 (Administrative Personnel Other Than the Director), 3:70 (Succession of Authority), 4:170 (Safety), 5:35 (Compliance with the Fair Labor Standards Act), 5:200 (Terms and Conditions of Employment and Dismissal), 5:270 (Employment At-Will, Compensation, and Assignment), 6:20 (School Year Calendar and Day), 6:60 (Curriculum Content), 6:300 (Graduation Requirements), 7:90 (Release During School Hours), 8:100 (Relations with Other Organizations and Agencies)

Adopted: September 15, 2020

# 4:190 Targeted School Violence Prevention Program

Threats and acts of targeted school violence harm the District's environment and school community, diminishing students' ability to learn and a school's ability to educate. Providing students and staff with access to a safe and secure District environment is an important Board goal. While it is not possible for the District to completely eliminate threats in its environment, a Targeted School Violence Prevention Program (Program) using the collective efforts of local school officials, staff, students, families, and the community helps the District reduce these risks to its environment.

The Superintendent or designee shall develop and implement the Program. The Program oversees the maintenance of a District environment that is conducive to learning and working by identifying, assessing, classifying, responding to, and managing threats and acts of targeted school violence. The Program shall be part of the District's Comprehensive Safety and Security Plan, required by Board policy 4:170, *Safety*, and shall:

- 1. Establish a District-level School Violence Prevention Team to: (a) develop a District-level Targeted School Violence Prevention Plan, and (b) oversee the District's Building-level Threat Assessment Team(s).
- 2. Establish Building-level Threat Assessment Team(s) to assess and intervene with individuals whose behavior may pose a threat to safety. This team may serve one or more schools.
- 3. Require all District staff, volunteers, and contractors to report any expressed threats or behaviors that may represent a threat to the community, school, or self.
- 4. Encourage parents/guardians and students to report any expressed threats or behaviors that may represent a threat to the community, school, or self.
- 5. Comply with State and federal law and align with Board policies.

The Local Governmental and Governmental Employees Tort Immunity Act protects the District from liability. The Program does not: (1) replace the care of a physician licensed to practice medicine in all of its branches or a licensed medical practitioner or professional trained in violence prevention, assessments and counseling services, (2) extend beyond available resources within the District, (3) extend beyond the school day and/or school-sponsored events, or (4) guarantee or ensure the safety of students, District staff, or visitors.

#### LEGAL REF.:

105 ILCS 5/10-20.14, 5/10-21.7, 5/10-27.1A, 5/10-27.1B, 5/24-24, and 5/27-23.7.

105 ILCS 128/, School Safety Drill Act.

745 ILCS 10/, Local Governmental and Governmental Employees Tort Immunity Act.

29 III.Admin.Code Part 1500.

CROSS REF.: 2:240 (Board Policy Development), 4:170 (Safety), 5:90 (Abused and Neglected Child Reporting), 5:100 (Staff Development Program), 5:230 (Maintaining Student Discipline), 6:65 (Student Social and Emotional Development), 6:270 (Guidance and Counseling Program), 7:140 (Search and Seizure), 7:150 (Agency and Police Interviews), 7:180 (Prevention of and Response to Bullying, Intimidation, and Harassment), 7:185 (Teen Dating Violence Prohibited), 7:190 (Student Behavior), 7:250 (Student Support Services), 7:290 (Suicide and Depression Awareness and Prevention), 7:340 (Student Records), 8:30 (Visitors to and Conduct on School Property), 8:100 (Relations with Other Organizations and Agencies)

Adopted: July 16, 2024

# **SECTION 5 - PERSONNEL**

# **General Personnel**

# 5:10 Equal Employment Opportunity and Minority Recruitment

The District shall provide equal employment opportunities to all persons regardless of their race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, age, ancestry, marital status, arrest record, military status, order of protection status, unfavorable military discharge, citizenship status provided the individual is authorized to work in the United States, work authorization status; use of lawful products while not at work; being a victim of domestic violence, sexual violence, gender violence, or any other crime of violence; genetic information; physical or mental handicap or disability, if otherwise able to perform the essential functions of the job with reasonable accommodation; pregnancy, childbirth, or related medical conditions; reproductive health decisions; credit history, unless a satisfactory credit history is an established bona fide occupational requirement of a particular position; conviction record, unless authorized by law; family responsibilities; or other legally protected categories. No one will be penalized solely for his or her status as a registered qualifying patient or a registered designated caregiver for purposes of the Compassionate Use of Medical Cannabis Program Act, 410 ILCS 130/.

Persons who believe they have not received equal employment opportunities should report their claims to the Nondiscrimination Coordinator and/or a Complaint Manager under policy 2:260, *Uniform Grievance Procedure*, or in the case of denial of equal employment opportunities on the basis of race, color, or national origin, Board policy 2:270, *Discrimination and Harassment on the Basis of Race, Color, and National Origin Prohibited.* These individuals are listed below. No employee or applicant will be discriminated or retaliated against because he or she: (1) requested, attempted to request, used, or attempted to use a reasonable accommodation as allowed by the Illinois Human Rights Act, or (2) initiated a complaint, was a witness, supplied information, or otherwise participated in an investigation or proceeding involving an alleged violation of this policy or State or federal laws, rules or regulations, provided the employee or applicant did not make a knowingly false accusation nor provide knowingly false information.

#### Administrative Implementation

The Director shall appoint a Nondiscrimination Coordinator for personnel who shall be responsible for coordinating the District's nondiscrimination efforts. The Nondiscrimination Coordinator may be the Director or a Complaint Manager under policy 2:260, *Uniform Grievance Procedure*.

The Director shall appoint a Title IX Coordinator to coordinate the District's efforts to comply with Title IX.

The Director shall insert into this policy the names, office addresses, email addresses, and telephone numbers of the District's current Nondiscrimination Coordinator, Title IX Coordinator, and Complaint Managers.

#### Nondiscrimination Coordinator: Title IX Coordinator:

Kim Clayton Kim Clayton

751 Ullin Avenue 751 Ullin Avenue Ullin, IL 62992 Ullin, IL 62992

director2020@jampsped.org director2020@jampsped.org

618-634-9800 618-634-9800

#### **Complaint Managers:**

Angela Alexander James Yates

751 Ullin Avenue 751 Ullin Avenue

Ullin, IL 62992 Ullin, IL 62992

supervisor1@jampsped.org supervisor2019@jampsped.org

618-634-9800 618-634-9800

The Director shall also use reasonable measures to inform staff members and applicants that the District is an equal opportunity employer, such as, by posting required notices and including this policy in the appropriate handbooks.

# **Minority Recruitment**

The District will attempt to recruit and hire minority employees. The implementation of this policy may include advertising openings in minority publications, participating in minority job fairs, and recruiting at colleges and universities with significant minority enrollments. This policy, however, does not require or permit the District to give preferential treatment or special rights based on a protected status without evidence of past discrimination.

#### LEGAL REF.:

8 U.S.C. §1324a et seq., Immigration Reform and Control Act.

20 U.S.C. §1681 et seq., Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972; 34 C.F.R. Part 106.

29 U.S.C. §206(d), Equal Pay Act.

29 U.S.C. §218d, Fair Labor Standards Act.

29 U.S.C. §621 et seq., Age Discrimination in Employment Act.

29 U.S.C. §701 et seq., Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

38 U.S.C. §4301 et seq., Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (1994).

42 U.S.C. §1981 et seq., Civil Rights Act of 1991.

42 U.S.C. §2000d et seq., Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964; 34 C.F.R. Part 100.

42 U.S.C. §2000e et seq., Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964; 29 C.F.R. Part 1601.

42 U.S.C. §2000ff et seg., Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2008.

42 U.S.C. §2000gg et seq., Pregnant Workers Fairness Act; 29 C.F.R. Part 1636.

42 U.S.C. §2000e(k), Pregnancy Discrimination Act.

42 U.S.C. §12111 et seq., Americans with Disabilities Act, Title I.

III. Constitution, Art. I, §§17, 18, and 19.

105 ILCS 5/10-20.7, 5/10-20.7a, 5/10-21.1, 5/10-22.4, 5/10-23.5, 5/22-19, 5/24-4, 5/24-4.1, and 5/24-7.

410 ILCS 130/40, Compassionate Use of Medical Cannabis Program Act.

410 ILCS 513/25, Genetic Information Privacy Act.

740 ILCS 174/, III. Whistleblower Act.

775 ILCS 5/1-103, 5/2-101, 5/2-102, 5/2-103, 5/2-103.1, 5/2-104(D) and 5/6-101, III. Human Rights Act.

775 ILCS 35/, Religious Freedom Restoration Act.

820 ILCS 55/10, Right to Privacy in the Workplace Act.

820 ILCS 70/, Employee Credit Privacy Act.

820 ILCS 75/, Job Opportunities for Qualified Applicants Act.

820 ILCS 112/, III. Equal Pay Act of 2003.

820 ILCS 180/30, Victims' Economic Security and Safety Act.

820 ILCS 260/, Nursing Mothers in the Workplace Act.

CROSS REF.: 2:260 (Uniform Grievance Procedure), 2:265 (Title IX Grievance Procedure), 2:270 (Discrimination and Harassment on the Basis of Race, Color, and National Origin Prohibited), 5:20 (Workplace Harassment Prohibited), 5:30 (Hiring Process and Criteria), 5:40 (Communicable and Chronic Infectious Disease), 5:50 (Drug- and Alcohol-Free Workplace; E-Cigarette, Tobacco, and Cannabis Prohibition), 5:70 (Religious Holidays), 5:180 (Temporary Illness or Temporary Incapacity), 5:200 (Terms and Conditions of Employment and Dismissal), 5:250 (Leaves of Absence), 5:270 (Employment At-Will, Compensation, and Assignment), 5:300, (Schedules and Employment Year), 5:330 (Sick Days, Vacation, Holidays, and Leaves), 7:10 (Equal Educational Opportunities), 7:180 (Prevention of and Response to Bullying, Intimidation, and Harassment), 8:70 (Accommodating Individuals with Disabilities)

Adopted: June 17, 2025

# 5:20 Workplace Harassment Prohibited

The District expects the workplace environment to be productive, respectful, and free of unlawful discrimination, including harassment. District employees shall not engage in harassment or abusive conduct on the basis of an individual's actual or perceived race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, sex, sexual orientation, age, citizenship status, work authorization status, disability, pregnancy, marital status, family responsibilities, reproductive health decisions, order of protection status, military status, or unfavorable discharge from military service, nor shall they engage in harassment or abusive conduct on the basis of an individual's other protected status identified in Board policy 5:10, *Equal Employment Opportunity and Minority Recruitment*. Harassment of students, including, but not limited to, sexual harassment, is prohibited by Board policies 2:260, *Uniform Grievance Procedure*; 2:265, *Title IX Grievance Procedure*; 2:270, *Discrimination and Harassment on the Basis of Race, Color, and National Origin Prohibited*; 7:20, *Harassment of Students Prohibited*; 7:180, *Prevention of and Response to Bullying, Intimidation, and Harassment*; and 7:185, *Teen Dating Violence Prohibited*.

The District will take remedial and corrective action to address unlawful workplace harassment, including sexual harassment.

#### Sexual Harassment Prohibited

The District shall provide a workplace environment free of verbal, physical, or other conduct or communications constituting harassment on the basis of sex as defined and otherwise prohibited by State and federal law. The District provides annual sexual harassment prevention training in accordance with State law.

District employees shall not make unwelcome sexual advances or request sexual favors or engage in any unwelcome conduct of a sexual nature when: (1) submission to such conduct is made either explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of an individual's employment; (2) submission to or rejection of such conduct by an individual is used as the basis for employment decisions affecting such individual; or (3) such conduct has the purpose or effect of substantially interfering with an individual's work performance or creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working environment. Sexual harassment prohibited by this policy includes, but is not limited to, verbal, physical, or other conduct. The terms intimidating, hostile, or offensive include, but are not limited to, conduct that has the effect of humiliation, embarrassment, or discomfort. Sexual harassment will be evaluated in light of all the circumstances.

# Making a Report or Complaint

Employees and *nonemployees* (persons who are not otherwise employees and are directly performing services for the District pursuant to a contract with the District, including contractors, and consultants) are encouraged to promptly report information regarding violations of this policy. Individuals may choose to report to a person of the individual's same gender. Every effort should be made to file such reports or complaints as soon as possible, while facts are known and potential witnesses are available.

Aggrieved individuals, if they feel comfortable doing so, should directly inform the person engaging in the harassing conduct or communication that such conduct or communication is offensive and must stop.

# Whom to Contact with a Report or Complaint

An employee should report claims of harassment, including making a confidential report, to any of the following: his/her immediate supervisor, the Building Principal, an administrator, the Nondiscrimination Coordinator, Title IX Coordinator, and/or a Complaint Manager. An employee may also report claims

using Board policy 2:260, *Uniform Grievance Procedure*. If a claim is reported using Board policy 2:260, then the Complaint Manager shall process and review claim according to that policy, in addition to any response required by this policy.

The Director shall insert into this policy the names, office addresses, email addresses, and telephone numbers of the District's current Nondiscrimination Coordinator, Title IX Coordinator, and Complaint Managers.

The complaint Manager or designee shall utilize the investigative process outlined in board policy 7:20, *Harassment of Students Prohibited*.

#### Nondiscrimination Coordinator: Title IX Coordinator:

Kim Clayton Kim Clayton

751 Ullin Avenue 751 Ullin Avenue Ullin, IL 62992 Ullin, IL 62992

director2020@jampsped.org director2020@jampsped.org

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# **Complaint Managers:**

Angela Alexander James Yates

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supervisor1@jampsped.org supervisor2019@jampsped.org

618-634-9800 618-634-9800

#### **Investigation Process**

Any District employee who receives a report or complaint of harassment must promptly forward the report or complaint to the Nondiscrimination Coordinator, Title IX Coordinator, or a Complaint Manager. Any employee who fails to promptly forward a report or complaint may be disciplined, up to and including discharge.

Reports and complaints of harassment will be confidential to the greatest extent practicable, subject to the District's duty to investigate and maintain a workplace environment that is productive, respectful, and free of unlawful discrimination, including harassment.

For any report or complaint alleging sexual harassment that, if true, would implicate Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (20 U.S.C. §1681 et seq.), the Title IX Coordinator or designee shall consider whether action under policy 2:265, *Title IX Grievance Procedure*, should be initiated.

For any report or complaint alleging harassment on the basis of race, color, or national origin, the Nondiscrimination Coordinator or a Complaint Manager or designee shall investigate under Board policy 2:270, *Discrimination and Harassment on the Basis of Race, Color, and National Origin Prohibited.* 

For any other alleged workplace harassment that does not require action under policy 2:265, *Title IX Grievance Procedure*, or 2:270, *Discrimination and Harassment on the Basis of Race, Color, and National Origin Prohibited*, the Nondiscrimination Coordinator or a Complaint Manager or designee shall consider whether an investigation under policy 2:260, *Uniform Grievance Procedure*, and/or 5:120, *Employee Ethics; Code of Professional Conduct; and Conflict of Interest*, should be initiated,

regardless of whether a written report or complaint is filed.

# Reports That Involve Alleged Incidents of Sexual Abuse of a Child by School Personnel

An *alleged incident of sexual abuse* is an incident of sexual abuse of a child, as defined in 720 ILCS 5/11-9.1A(b), that is alleged to have been perpetrated by school personnel, including a school vendor or volunteer, that occurred: on school grounds during a school activity; or outside of school grounds or not during a school activity.

Any complaint alleging an incident of sexual abuse shall be processed and reviewed according to policy 5:90, *Abused and Neglected Child Reporting*. In addition to reporting the suspected abuse, the complaint shall also be processed under policy 2:265, *Title IX Grievance Procedure*, or policy 2:260, *Uniform Grievance Procedure*.

#### Enforcement

A violation of this policy by an employee may result in discipline, up to and including discharge. A violation of this policy by a third party will be addressed in accordance with the authority of the Board in the context of the relationship of the third party to the District, e.g., vendor, parent/guardian, invitee, etc. Any person making a knowingly false accusation regarding harassment will likewise be subject to disciplinary action, which for an employee may be up to and including discharge.

# Retaliation Prohibited

An employee's employment, compensation, or work assignment shall not be adversely affected by complaining or providing information about harassment. Retaliation against employees for bringing complaints or providing information about harassment is prohibited (see Board policies 2:260, *Uniform Grievance Procedure*, 2:265, *Title IX Grievance Procedure*, and 2:270, *Discrimination and Harassment on the Basis of Race, Color, and National Origin Prohibited*), and depending upon the law governing the complaint, whistleblower protection may be available under the State Officials and Employees Ethics Act (5 ILCS 430/), the Whistleblower Act (740 ILCS 174/), and/or the III. Human Rights Act (775 ILCS 5/).

An employee should report allegations of retaliation to his/her immediate supervisor, the Building Principal, an administrator, the Nondiscrimination Coordinator, and/or a Complaint Manager.

Employees who retaliate against others for reporting or complaining of violations of this policy or for participating in the reporting or complaint process will be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including discharge.

# Recourse to State and Federal Fair Employment Practice Agencies

The District encourages all employees who have information regarding violations of this policy to report the information pursuant to this policy. The following government agencies are available to assist employees: the III. Dept. of Human Rights and the U. S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

The Director shall also use reasonable measures to inform staff members, applicants, and nonemployees of this policy, which shall include posting on the District website and/or making this policy available in the District's administrative office and including this policy in the appropriate handbooks.

#### LEGAL REF .:

42 U.S.C. §2000e et seq., Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964; 29 C.F.R. §1604.11.

20 U.S.C. §1681 et seq., Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972; 34 C.F.R. Part 106.

5 ILCS 430/70-5(a), State Officials and Employees Ethics Act.

775 ILCS 5/2-101(E) and (E-1), 5/2-102(A), (A-10), (D-5), 5/2-102(E-5), 5/2-109, 5/5-102, and 5/5-102.2, III. Human Rights Act.

56 III. Admin.Code Parts 2500, 2510, 5210, and 5220.

<u>Vance v. Ball State Univ.</u>, 570 U.S. 421 (2013).

Crawford v. Metro. Gov't of Nashville & Davidson Cnty., 555 U.S. 271 (2009).

Jackson v. Birmingham Bd. of Educ., 544 U.S. 167 (2005).

Oncale v. Sundowner Offshore Servs., 523 U.S. 75 (1998).

Burlington Indus. v. Ellerth, 524 U.S. 742 (1998).

Faragher v. City of Boca Raton, 524 U.S. 775 (1998).

Harris v. Forklift Systems, 510 U.S. 17 (1993).

Franklin v. Gwinnett Co. Public Schools, 503 U.S. 60 (1992).

Meritor Savings Bank v. Vinson, 477 U.S. 57 (1986).

Porter v. Erie Foods Int, Inc., 576 F.3d 629 (7th Cir. 2009).

Williams v. Waste Mgmt., 361 F.3d 1021 (7th Cir. 2004).

Berry v. Delta Airlines, 260 F.3d 803 (7th Cir. 2001).

Sangamon Cnty. Sheriff's Dept. v. III. Human Rights Com'n, 233 III.2d 125 (III. 2009).

CROSS REF.: 2:260 (Uniform Grievance Procedure), 2:265 (Title IX Grievance Procedure), 2:270 (Discrimination and Harassment on the Basis of Race, Color, and National Origin Prohibited), 4:60 (Purchases and Contracts), 5:10 (Equal Employment Opportunity and Minority Recruitment), 5:90 (Abused and Neglected Child Reporting), 5:120 (Employee Ethics; Code of Professional Conduct; and Conflict of Interest), 7:20 (Harassment of Students Prohibited), 8:30 (Visitors to and Conduct on School Property)

Adopted: June 17, 2025

# 5:20-E Resolution to Prohibit Sexual Harassment

WHEREAS, Section 10-20 of the School Code (105 ILCS 5/10-20) grants school boards other powers that are not inconsistent with their duties;

WHEREAS, Section 1-5 of the State Officials and Employees Ethics Act (5 ILCS 430/1-5) includes school districts within the definition of a *governmental entity*;

WHEREAS, Section 5-65 of the State Officials and Employees Ethics Act (5 ILCS 430/5-65) provides that all persons have a right to work in an environment free from sexual harassment;

WHEREAS, Section 70-5 of the State Officials and Employees Ethics Act (5 ILCS 430/70-5) requires governmental entities to adopt an ordinance or resolution establishing a policy to prohibit sexual harassment which, at a minimum, includes: (1) a prohibition on sexual harassment; (2) details on how an individual can report an allegation of sexual harassment, including options for making a confidential report to a supervisor, ethics officer, Inspector General, or the III. Dept. of Human Rights; (3) a prohibition on retaliation for reporting sexual harassment allegations, including availability of whistleblower protections under the Act, the Whistleblower Act (740 ILCS 174/), and the III. Human Rights Act (775 ILCS 5/); (4) the consequences: (a) of a violation of the prohibition on sexual harassment; and (b) for knowingly making a false report; and (5) a mechanism for reporting and independent review of allegations of sexual harassment made against a Board member by a fellow Board member or other elected official;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Education of JAMP Special Ed. District, Johnson, Alexander Massac, & Pulaski Counties, Illinois, as follows:

Section 1: The Board adopts Board policies 2:105, Ethics and Gift Ban, and 5:20, Workplace Harassment Prohibited, attached as Exhibit A, which collectively contain the following: (1) a prohibition on sexual harassment; (2) detail regarding how an individual can report an allegation of sexual harassment, including options for making a confidential report to an immediate supervisor, the Building Principal, an administrator, the Nondiscrimination Coordinator, a Complaint Manager, or the III. Dept. of Human Rights; (3) a prohibition on retaliation for reporting sexual harassment allegations and a statement regarding the availability of whistleblower protections under the State Officials and Employees Ethics Act, the Whistleblower Act, and the III. Human Rights Act; and (4) the consequences: (a) of a violation of the prohibition on sexual harassment; and (b) for knowingly making a false report, and (5) a mechanism for reporting and independent review of allegations of sexual harassment made against a Board member by a fellow Board member or other elected official.

<u>Section 2</u>: Any prior versions of Board policies 2:105, *Ethics and Gift Ban*, and 5:20, *Workplace Harassment Prohibited*, adopted by the Board are superseded by this Resolution.

.Adopted this 21st day of January, 2020.

Attested by: Board President

Attested by: Board Secretary

# 5:30 Hiring Process and Criteria

The District hires the most qualified personnel consistent with budget and staffing requirements and in compliance with Governing Board policy on equal employment opportunity and minority recruitment. The Director is responsible for the recruitment and selection of Central Office personnel. If the Director's recommendation is rejected, the Director must submit another. The Director is interested in hiring the best qualified personnel consistent with budget requirements, staffing patterns, and organizational policies of the Cooperative.

Appointment to the Central Office staff shall be made by the Board only upon the recommendation of the Director, who shall provide the Board with sufficient information to properly support his or her recommendation.

JAMP Special Education Services shall employ Support Staff (Instructional Assistants, Individual E.O.C. Assistants) for those programs that are directly funded and provided by the Cooperative.

Any Support Staff that may be required to provide student services in non-JAMP programs shall be employed by the student's home school district. No individual will be employed who has been convicted of a criminal offense listed in 105 ILCS 5/21B-80(c).

All applicants must complete a District application in order to be considered for employment.

# Job Descriptions

The Board maintains the Director's job description and directs, through policy, the Director, in his or her charge of the District's administration.

The Director shall develop and maintain a current comprehensive job description for each position or job category; however, a provision in a collective bargaining agreement or individual contract will control in the event of a conflict.

# <u>Investigations</u>

The Director or designee shall ensure that a fingerprint-based criminal history records check and a check of the Statewide Sex Offender Database and Violent Offender Against Youth Database is performed on each applicant as required by State law. When the applicant is a successful director candidate who has been offered employment by the Board, the Board President shall ensure that these checks are completed. The Director or designee, or if the applicant is a successful director candidate, then the Board President shall notify an applicant if the applicant is identified in either database. The School Code requires the Board President to keep a conviction record confidential and share it only with the Director, Regional Superintendent, State Superintendent, State Educator Preparation and Licensure Board, any other person necessary to the hiring decision, the Ill. State Police and/or Statewide Sex Offender Database for purposes of clarifying the information, and/or the Teachers' Retirement System of the State of Illinois when required by law. The Board reserves its right to authorize additional background inquiries beyond a fingerprint-based criminal history records check when it deems it appropriate to do so, in accordance with applicable laws.

Each newly hired employee must complete a U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services Form as required by federal law.

The District retains the right to discharge any employee whose criminal background investigation reveals a conviction for committing or attempting to commit any of the offenses outlined in 105 ILCS 5/21B-80 or who falsifies, or omits facts from, his or her employment application or other employment documents. If an indicated finding of abuse or neglect of a child has been issued by the III. Department of Children and Family Services or by a child welfare agency of another jurisdiction for any applicant for student teaching, applicant for employment, or any District employee, then the Board must consider

that person's status as a condition of employment.

The Director shall ensure that the District does not engage in any investigation or inquiry prohibited by law and complies with each of the following:

- 1. The District uses an applicant's credit history or report from a consumer reporting agency only when a satisfactory credit history is an established bona fide occupational requirement of a particular position.
- 2. The District does not screen applicants based on their current or prior wages or salary histories, including benefits or other compensation, by requiring that the wage or salary history satisfy minimum or maximum criteria.
- 3. The District does not request or require a wage or salary history as a condition of being considered for employment, being interviewed, continuing to be considered for an offer of employment, an offer of employment, or an offer of compensation.
- 4. The District does not request or require an applicant to disclose wage or salary history as a condition of employment.
- 5. The District does not ask an applicant or applicant's current or previous employers about wage or salary history, including benefits or other compensation.
- 6. The District does not ask an applicant or applicant's previous employers about claim(s) made or benefit(s) received under the Workers' Compensation Act.
- 7. The District does not request of an applicant or employee access in any manner to his or her personal online account, such as social networking websites, including a request for passwords to such accounts.
- 8. The District provides equal employment opportunities to all persons. See policy 5:10, *Equal Employment Opportunity and Minority Recruitment*.

# Sexual Misconduct Related Employment History Review (EHR)

Prior to hiring an applicant for a position involving *direct contact with children or students*, the Director shall ensure that an EHR is performed as required by State law. When the applicant is a director candidate, the Board Chairman shall ensure that the EHR is initiated before a successful director candidate is offered employment by the Board.

# **Physical Examinations**

Each new employee must furnish evidence of physical fitness to perform assigned duties and freedom from communicable disease. The physical fitness examination must be performed by a physician licensed in Illinois, or any other state, to practice medicine and surgery in any of its branches, a licensed advanced practice registered nurse, or a licensed physician assistant who has been delegated the authority by his or her supervising physician to perform health examinations. The employee must have the physical examination performed no more than 90 days before submitting evidence of it to the District.

Any employee may be required to have an additional examination by a physician who is licensed in Illinois to practice medicine and surgery in all its branches, a licensed advanced practice registered nurse, or a licensed physician assistant who has been delegated the authority by his or her supervising physician to perform health examinations, if the examination is job-related and consistent with business necessity. The Board will pay the expenses of any such examination.

# Orientation Program

The District's staff will provide an orientation program for new employees to acquaint them with the District's policies and procedures, the District's rules and regulations, and the responsibilities of their position. Before beginning employment, each employee must sign the *Acknowledgement of* 

Mandated Reporter Status form as provided in policy 5:90, Abused and Neglected Child Reporting.

LEGAL REF.:

8 U.S.C. §1324a et seq., Immigration Reform and Control Act.

15 U.S.C. §1681 et seq., Fair Credit Reporting Act.

42 U.S.C. §12112, Americans with Disabilities Act; 29 C.F.R. Part 1630.

105 ILCS 5/10-16.7, 5/10-20.7, 5/10-21.4, 5/10-21.9, 5/10-22.34, 5/10-22.34b, 5/21B-10, 5/21B-80, 5/21B-85, 5/22-6.5, 5/22-94, and 5/24-5.

20 ILCS 2630/3.3, Criminal Identification Act.

820 ILCS 55/, Right to Privacy in the Workplace Act.

820 ILCS 70/, Employee Credit Privacy Act.

820 ILCS 112/, Equal Pay Act of 2003.

<u>Duldulao v. St. Mary of Nazareth Hospital</u>, 136 III. App. 3d 763 (1st Dist. 1985), *affd in part and remanded* 115 III.2d 482 (III. 1987).

Kaiser v. Dixon, 127 III. App. 3d 251 (2nd Dist. 1984).

Molitor v. Chicago Title & Trust Co., 325 III. App. 124 (1st Dist. 1945).

CROSS REF.: 2:260 (Uniform Grievance Procedure), 3:50 (Administrative Personnel Other Than the Director), 4:60 (Purchases and Contracts), 4:175 (Convicted Child Sex Offender; Screening; Notifications), 5:10 (Equal Employment Opportunity and Minority Recruitment), 5:40 (Communicable and Chronic Infectious Disease), 5:90 (Abused and Neglected Child Reporting), 5:120 (Employee Ethics; Code of Professional Conduct; and Conflict of Interest), 5:125 (Personal Technology and Social Media; Usage and Conduct), 5220 (Substitute Teachers), 5:280 (Duties and Qualifications)

Adopted: December 12, 2023

# 5:35 Compliance with the Fair Labor Standards Act

#### **Job Classifications**

The Director will ensure that all job positions are identified as either "exempt" or "non-exempt" according to State law and the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) and that employees are informed whether they are "exempt" or "non-exempt." "Exempt" and "non-exempt" employee categories may include certificated and non-certificated job positions. All non-exempt employees, whether paid on a salary or hourly basis, are covered by minimum wage and overtime provisions.

# Workweek and Compensation

The workweek for District employees will be 12:00 a.m. Sunday until 11:59 p.m. Saturday. Non-exempt employees will be compensated for all hours worked in a workweek including overtime. For non-exempt employees paid a salary, the salary is paid for a 40-hour workweek even if an employee is scheduled for less than 40 hours. "Overtime" is time worked in excess of 40 hours in a single workweek.

#### Overtime

A non-exempt employee shall not work overtime without his or her supervisor's express approval. All supervisors of non-exempt employees shall: (1) monitor overtime use on a weekly basis and report such use to the business office, (2) seek the Director or designee's written pre-approval for any long term or repeated use of overtime that can be reasonably anticipated, (3) ensure that overtime provisions of this policy and the FLSA are followed, and (4) ensure that employees are compensated for any overtime worked. Accurate and complete time sheets of actual hours worked during the workweek shall be signed by each employee and submitted to the business office. The business office will review work records of employees on a regular basis, make an assessment of overtime use, and provide the assessment to the Director. In lieu of overtime compensation, non-exempt employees may receive compensatory time-off, according to Board policy 5:310, *Compensatory Time-Off*.

# Suspension Without Pay

No exempt employee shall have his or her salary docked, such as by an unpaid suspension, if the deduction would cause a loss of the exempt status. Licensed employees may be suspended without pay in accordance with Board policy 5:240, *Suspension*. Non-licensed employees may be suspended without pay in accordance with Board policy 5:290, *Employment Termination and Suspensions*.

#### **Implementation**

The Director or designee shall implement the policy in accordance with the FLSA, including its required notices to employees. In the event of a conflict between the policy and State or federal law, the latter shall control.

LEGAL REF.:

820 ILCS 105/4a.

29 U.S.C. §201 et seq., Fair Labor Standards Act; 29 C.F.R. Parts 516, 541, 548, 553, 778, and 785.

CROSS REF.: 5:240 (Suspension), 5:290 (Employment Termination and Suspensions), 5:310 (Compensatory Time-Off)

Adopted: July 16, 2024

## 5:40 Communicable and Chronic Infectious Disease

The Director or designee shall develop and implement procedures for managing known or suspected cases of a communicable and chronic infectious disease involving District employees that are consistent with State and federal law, Illinois Department of Public Health rules, and Governing Board policies.

An employee with a communicable or chronic infectious disease is encouraged to inform the Director immediately and grant consent to being monitored by the District's Communicable and Chronic Infectious Disease Review Team. The Review Team, if used, provides information and recommendations to the Director concerning the employee's conditions of employment and necessary accommodations. The Review Team shall hold the employee's medical condition and records in strictest confidence, except to the extent allowed by law.

An employee with a communicable or chronic infectious disease will be permitted to retain his or her position whenever, after reasonable accommodations and without undue hardship, there is no substantial risk of transmission of the disease to others, provided an employee is able to continue to perform the position's essential functions. An employee with a communicable and chronic infectious disease remains subject to the Board's employment policies including sick and/or other leave, physical examinations, temporary and permanent disability, and termination.

#### LEGAL REF.:

42 U.S.C. §12101 et seq., Americans With Disabilities Act, amended by the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act (ADAAA), Pub. L. 110-325; 29 C.F.R. §1630.1 et seq.

29 U.S.C. §791, Rehabilitation Act of 1973; 34 C.F.R. §104.1 et seq.

105 ILCS 5/24-5.

20 ILCS 2305/6, Department of Public Health Act.

820 ILCS 40/, Personnel Record Review Act.

77 III.Admin.Code Part 690, Control of Communicable Diseases.

CROSS REF.: 4:180 (Pandemic Preparedness; Management; and Recovery), 5:30 (Hiring Process and Criteria), 5:180 (Temporary Illness or Temporary Incapacity)

Adopted: July 16, 2024

# 5:50 Drug- and Alcohol-Free Workplace; E-Cigarette, Tobacco, and Cannabis Prohibition

All District workplaces are drug- and alcohol-free workplaces.

All employees are prohibited from engaging in any of the following activities while on District premises or while performing work or being *on call* for the District:

- 1. Unlawful manufacture, dispensing, distribution, possession, or use of an illegal or controlled substance, or being impaired by or under the influence of any illegal substance or any detectible use of any illegal substance regardless of when or where the use occurred.
- 2. Distribution, consumption, use, possession, or being impaired by or under the influence of an alcoholic beverage; being present on District premises or while performing work for the District when alcohol consumption is detectible, regardless of when and/or where the use occurred.
- 3. Distribution, consumption, possession, use, or being impaired by or under the influence of cannabis; being present on District premises or while performing work for the District when impaired by or under the influence of cannabis, regardless of when and/or where the use occurred, unless distribution, possession, and/or use is by a school nurse or school administrator pursuant to Ashley's Law, 105 ILCS 5/22-33. The District considers employees impaired by or under the influence of cannabis when there is a good faith belief that an employee manifests specific articulable symptoms while working that decrease or lessen the employee's performance of the duties or tasks of the employee's job position.

Upon the Director or designee's reasonable suspicion of an employee's violation of any of the prohibited activities stated above, the Director or designee may direct the employee to undergo a drug and/or alcohol test to corroborate or refute the alleged violation. State law protects the District from liability when it takes actions pursuant to a reasonable workplace drug policy, including but not limited to subjecting an employee or applicant to reasonable drug and alcohol testing, reasonable and nondiscriminatory random drug testing, discipline, termination of employment, or withdrawal of a job offer due to a failure of a drug test.

For purposes of this policy a controlled substance means a substance that is:

- 1. Not legally obtainable,
- 2. Being used in a manner different than prescribed,
- 3. Legally obtainable, but has not been legally obtained, or
- 4. Referenced in federal or State controlled substance acts.

For purposes of this policy, *District premises* means workplace as defined in the Cannabis Regulation and Tax Act (CRTA) in addition to District and school buildings, grounds, and parking areas; vehicles used for school purposes; and any location used for a Board meeting, school athletic event, or other school-sponsored or school-sanctioned events or activities. *School grounds* means the real property comprising any school, any conveyance used to transport students to school or a school-related activity, and any public way within 1,000 feet of any school ground, designated school bus stops where students are waiting for the school bus, and school-sponsored or school-sanctioned events or activities. "Vehicles used for school purposes" means school buses or other school vehicles.

As a condition of employment, each employee shall:

- 1. Abide by the terms of this Board policy respecting a drug- and alcohol-free workplace; and
- 2. Notify his or her supervisor of his or her conviction under any criminal drug statute for a violation occurring on the District premises or while performing work for the District, no later than five calendar days after such a conviction.

Unless otherwise prohibited by this policy, prescription and over-the-counter medications are not prohibited when taken in standard dosages and/or according to prescriptions from the employee's licensed health care provider, provided that an employee's work performance is not impaired.

To make employees aware of the dangers of drug and alcohol abuse, the Director or designee shall perform each of the following:

- 1. Provide each employee with a copy of this policy.
- 2. Post notice of this policy in a place where other information for employees is posted.
- 3. Make available materials from local, State, and national anti-drug and alcohol-abuse organizations.
- 4. Enlist the aid of community and State agencies with drug and alcohol informational and rehabilitation programs to provide information to District employees.
- 5. Establish a drug-free awareness program to inform employees about:
  - a. The dangers of drug abuse in the workplace,
  - b. Available drug and alcohol counseling, rehabilitation, re-entry, and any employee assistance programs, and
  - c. The penalties that the District may impose upon employees for violations of this policy.
- 6. Remind employees that policy 6:60, *Curriculum Content*, requires the District to educate students, depending upon their grade, about drug and substance abuse prevention and relationships between drugs, alcohol, and violence.

# E-Cigarette, Tobacco, and Cannabis Prohibition

All employees are covered by the conduct prohibitions contained in policy 8:30, *Visitors to and Conduct on School Property*. The prohibition on the use of e-cigarettes, tobacco, and cannabis products applies both (1) when an employee is on school property, and (2) while an employee is performing work for the District at a school event regardless of the event's location.

Tobacco has the meaning provided in 105 ILCS 5/10-20.5b.

Cannabis has the meaning provided in the CRTA, 410 ILCS 705/1-10.

*E-Cigarette* is short for electronic cigarette and includes, but is not limited to, any electronic nicotine delivery system (ENDS), electronic cigar, electronic cigarillo, electronic pipe, electronic hookah, vape pen, or similar product or device, and any components or parts that can be used to build the product or device.

# <u>District Action Upon Violation of Policy</u>

An employee who violates this policy may be subject to disciplinary action, including termination. In addition or alternatively, the Board may require an employee to successfully complete an appropriate drug- or alcohol-abuse rehabilitation program.

The Board shall take disciplinary action with respect to an employee convicted of a drug offense in the workplace within 30 days after receiving notice of the conviction.

Should District employees be engaged in the performance of work under a federal contract or grant, or under a State contract or grant of \$5,000 or more, the Director shall notify the appropriate State or federal agency from which the District receives contract or grant monies of the employee's conviction within 10 days after receiving notice of the conviction.

#### **Disclaimer**

The Board reserves the right to interpret, revise or discontinue any provision of this policy pursuant to the **Suspension of Policies** subhead in policy 2:240, *Board Policy Development*.

LEGAL REF.:

20 U.S.C. §7101 et seq., Safe and Drug-Free School and Communities Act of 1994.

21 U.S.C. §812, Controlled Substances Act; 21 C.F.R. §1308.11-1308.15.

41 U.S.C. §8101 et seq., Drug-Free Workplace Act of 1988.

42 U.S.C. §12114, Americans With Disabilities Act.

21 C.F.R. Parts 1100, 1140, and 1143.

30 ILCS 580/, Drug-Free Workplace Act.

105 ILCS 5/10-20.5b.

410 ILCS 82/, Smoke Free Illinois Act.

410 ILCS 130/, Compassionate Use of Medical Cannabis Program Act.

410 ILCS 705/1-1 et seq., Cannabis Regulation and Tax Act.

720 ILCS 675, Prevention of Tobacco Use by Persons under 21 Years of Age and Sale and Distribution of Tobacco Products Act.

820 ILCS 55/, Right to Privacy in the Workplace Act.

23 III.Admin.Code §22.20.

CROSS REF.: 5:10 (Equal Employment Opportunity and Minority Recruitment), 5:120 (Employee Ethics; Code of Professional Conduct; and Conflict of Interest), 6:60 (Curriculum Content), 8:30 (Visitors to and Conduct on School Property)

Adopted: March 15, 2022

# 5:60 Expenses

The Board regulates the reimbursement of all travel, meal, and lodging expenses by resolution. Money shall not be advanced or reimbursed, or purchase orders issued for: (1) the expenses of any person except the employee, (2) anyone's personal expenses, or (3) entertainment expenses. Entertainment includes, but is not limited to, shows, amusements, theaters, circuses, sporting events, or any other place of public or private entertainment or amusement, unless the entertainment is ancillary to the purpose of the program or event. The District is not responsible for losses due to an employee's own negligence, losses due to normal wear, or losses due to theft, unless the theft was a result of the District's negligence. Employees must submit the appropriate itemized, signed, standardized form(s) to support any requests for expense advancements, reimbursements, or purchase orders that show the following:

- 1. The amount of the estimated or actual expense, with attached receipts for actual incurred expenses.
- 2. The name and title of the employee who is requesting the expense advancement or reimbursement. Receipts from group functions must include the names, offices, and job titles of all participants.
- 3. The date(s) of the official business on which the expense advancement, reimbursement, or purchase order will be or was expended.
- 4. The nature of the official business conducted when the expense advancement, reimbursement, or purchase order will be or was expended.

# **Prior Approval Required**

Employees must obtain the written approval of the Director, or his/her designee, prior to incurring any district expense for attending meetings/conferences that are related to their duties which contribute to their professional development.

# **Advancements**

The Director may advance expenses to teachers and other licensed employees for the anticipated actual and necessary expenses to be incurred while attending meetings that are related to their duties and will contribute to their professional development, provided they fall below the maximum allowed in the Board's expense regulations.

Expense advancement requests must be submitted to the Director or designee on the District's standardized estimated expense approval form for employees. Form 5:60-E2. After spending expense advancements, employees must use the District's standardized expense reimbursement form and submit to the Director: (a) the itemized, signed advancement voucher that was issued, and (b) the amount of actual expenses by attaching receipts. Form 5:60-E1. Any portion of an expense advancement not used must be returned to the District. Expense advancements and vouchers shall be presented to the Board in its regular bill process.

#### Reimbursements and Purchase Orders

Expense reimbursements and purchase orders may be issued by the Director or designee to employees, along with other expenses necessary for the performance of their duties, provided the expenses fall below the maximum allowed in the Board's expense regulations.

Employees must seek pre-approval of expenses by providing an estimation of expenses on the District's standardized estimated expense approval form for employees. Form 5:60-E2. When pre-approval not sought, employees must seek reimbursement on the District's standardized expense reimbursement form for employees. Form 5:60-E1. Expenses reimbursements and purchase orders shall be presented to the Board in its regular bill process.

#### Use of Credit and Procurement Cards

Credit and procurement card usage is governed by policy 4:55, *Use of Credit and Procurement Cards.* 

# Exceeding the Maximum Allowable Expense Amount(s)

All requests for expense advancements, reimbursements, and purchase orders exceeding the maximum allowed in the Board's expense regulations are not guaranteed and may, in the Board's sole discretion, be approved when:

- 1. The Board's resolution to regulate expenses allows for such approval;
- 2. An emergency or other extraordinary circumstance exists, as determined in the Board's sole discretion; and
- 3. The request is approved by a roll call vote at an open Board meeting.

## Registration

When possible, registration fees will be paid by the District in advance.

#### Travel

The least expensive method of travel will be used, provided that no hardship will be caused to the employee. Employees will be reimbursed for:

- 1. Air travel at the coach or economy class commercial airline rate. First class or business class air travel will be reimbursed only if emergency circumstances warrant. The emergency circumstances must be explained on the expense form and Board approval of the additional expense is required. Fees for the first checked bag will be reimbursed. Copies of airline tickets and baggage receipts must be attached to the expense form.
- 2. Rail or bus travel at actual cost. Rail or bus travel costs may not exceed the cost of coach airfare. Copies of tickets must be attached to the expense form to substantiate amounts.
- 3. Use of personal automobiles at the standard mileage rate approved by the Internal Revenue Service for income tax purposes. The reimbursement may not exceed the cost of coach airfare. Mileage for use of personal automobiles in trips to and from transportation terminals will also be reimbursed.
- 4. When a private automobile is used, toll charges and parking costs will be reimbursed at the actual cost for such services.
- 5. Automobile rental costs when the vehicle's use is warranted. The circumstances for such use must be explained on the expense form.
- 6. Actual cost of taxis, airport shuttles, ride sharing services, or other local transportation services will be reimbursed at the actual cost for such services.

#### Meals

The maximum daily reimbursement for meals shall be the geographical meal rate established by the General Services Administration ("GSA"). The per diem meal rate includes taxis and tips. To find current rates for meals in the geographical area for the travel visit <a href="https://www.gsa.gov/portal/category/26429">https://www.gsa.gov/portal/category/26429</a>.

The separate amounts for breakfast, lunch, and dinner listed in the GSA chart are provided should an employee need to deduct any of those meals from his/her expense Form 5:60-E1. For example, if the employee's trip includes meals that are already paid for by the District (such as through a registration fee for a conference), the employee will need to deduct those meals form his/her expense form. Otherwise, an employee may use the total available meal per diem and he/she chooses, so long as

the per diem is only used for the employees meal(s).

The maximum amount reimbursable for meals for the first and last calendar day of travel is calculated at 75 percent. Alcoholic beverages will not be reimbursed.

Meal reimbursement requests must be itemized on the expense Form 5:60-E1 and accompanied with a receipt.

## Lodging

The single room rate, plus applicable taxes, will be reimbursed at the maximum geographical rate established by the General Services Administration ("GSA"). Maximum lodging rates, excluding taxes, can be located at <a href="http://www.gsa.gov/portal/content/104877">http://www.gsa.gov/portal/content/104877</a>. Employees must pay personal expenses that are not reimbursable at checkout. If that is not possible, deductions for the charges must be mad on the expense form. Form 5:60-E1.

# Incidental Expenses

Incidental expenses include tips given to porters, baggage carriers, and hotel staff. The per diem maximum incidental expense can be located at <a href="http://www.gsa.gov/portal/content/101518">http://www.gsa.gov/portal/content/101518</a>. The incidental expense must be reported on the expense form, 5:60-E1, but receipts are not required.

Note: If the terms of a collective bargaining agreement addresses reimbursement to employees for travel related expenses; the terms of the collective bargaining agreement shall supersede this policy.

Additional Requirements for Travel Expenses Charged to Federal and State Grants

All grant-related travel expenses must be pre-approved by the Director or designee.

Expenses for travel, including expenses for transportation, lodging, meals, and related items incurred by employees and charged to a federal grant or State grant governed by the Grant Accountability and Transparency Act (30 ILCS 708/) must also meet the following requirements:

- 1. The participation of the employee is necessary to the award, and the costs are specifically related to the award.
- 2. Expenses must be permissible under the terms and conditions of the award.
- 3. Expenses must be reasonable and consistent with this policy.
- 4. The Board does not reimburse actual expenses or pay a per diem allowance unless the employee is on official *travel status* for more than 12 hours. However, employees remain eligible for mileage reimbursement (minus regular commuting mileage/costs) and other transportation expenses if on travel status less than 12 hours.
- 5. Expenses may be charged based on an actual cost basis or on a per diem basis in lieu of actual costs incurred; however, only one method may be applied per trip.
- 6. Commercial airfare costs in excess of the least expensive coach or economy class are prohibited except when such accommodations would: (1) require circuitous routing; (2) require travel during unreasonable hours; (3) excessively prolong travel; (4) result in additional costs that would offset transportation savings; or (5) offer accommodations not reasonably adequate for the traveler's medical needs. Qualifying circumstances must be explained on the expense form, and Board approval of the additional expense is required.
- 7. Per diem rates and actual reimbursement amounts for mileage, meals, and lodging may not exceed the rates established by the Governor's Travel Control Board or federal travel regulations, whichever is less. These limits do not apply when: (1) an employee stays in the lowest-priced room available at or near a hotel where a conference or seminar is located or in accommodations arranged by the conference/seminar organization, or (2) lodging at or below

the established rate is unavailable. In those cases, the employee will be reimbursed for actual lodging expenses with prior approval, but in no case will the reimbursement exceed 300% of the applicable maximum per diem rate. If a conference fee includes a meal, the meal or per diem allowance will be reduced by the actual value of the meal or the applicable meal allowance, whichever is less.

- 8. Employees must use the least expensive compact car available when using a rental car for travel, unless an exception is approved. The Board does not reimburse employees for collision damage waiver or theft insurance.
- 9. The Board will reimburse travel expenses not chargeable to an award from other District funds consistent with this policy.

# LEGAL REF.:

2 C.F.R. §200.475.

30 ILCS 708/130, Grant Accountability and Transparency Act.

50 ILCS 150/, Local Government Travel Expense Control Act.

105 ILCS 5/10-22.32.

820 ILCS 115/9.5, III. Wage Payment and Collection Act.

CROSS REF.: 2:125 (Board Member Compensation; Expenses), 2:240 (Board Policy Development), 4:50 (Payment Procedures), 4:55 (Use of Credit and Procurement Cards)

Adopted: June 17, 2025

# 5:60-E1 Exhibit - Employee Expense Reimbursement Form

Submit to the Superintendent. **Use of this form is required by 2:125-E3, Resolution to Regulate Expense Reimbursements.** Please print and attach receipts for all expenditures.

Name:  Destination:  Departure Date:				Title/Office:							
	ated expense e-approval is i						e Estim	ated E	xpense A	pproval	
	ved expense e Estimated E		•	•	ttache	d, if appl	licable'	* (Com <sub>l</sub>	oleted 5:6	60-E2,	
			Actua	al Expe	nse Re	port					
but must 105 ILCS	ees will be rein refund any exp 5 5/10-22.32. F ry expenses th	ense adva For federal	ncement t and State	hat exce grants,	eeds the	e actual a yees will b	and nec be reim	essary bursed	expenses for actual	incurred. and	
Auto Trav	vel Allowance:		per mile								
Date	Auto Mileage Miles Cost	·	Lodging			r Diem Lunch ner	lter	Othern Cost		Daily Total	
Subtotal											
Advance						_					
TOTAL (A negative amount indicates refund					nd due from employee.) \$			\$			
Superint	tendent or De	esignee:				□Appro	oved		Denied		
(belowmaximum allowable amount)				☐Approved in Part							
					арі	<b>□ Gra</b> plicable):		_	<b>ource</b> (if —		
Superintendent or Designee Signature					Date						
Commen	ts:										
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	☐ Grant Funding Source (if			
	applicable):			
Employee Signature	Date			

DATED: June 17, 2025

# 5:60-E2 Exhibit - Employee Estimated Expense Approval Form

Submit to the Superintendent. **Use of this form is required (1) by 2:125-E3, Resolution to Regulate Expense Reimbursements and (2) for pre-approval of expenses to be charged to a federal grant or State grant governed by the Grant Accountability and Transparency Act.**Please print.

Name:				_ Title	/Office:					
Travel Destination:				Purpose:						
Estimate	ed Expenses	<b>A</b> pproval	Requeste	<b>ed</b> (50	ILCS 1	50/20 c	r grant e	xpenditur	re)	
Travel is	s grant-related	<b>d*</b> (specify	grant):							
Purchase Order Requested				F	Purchas	se Orde	er#:			
Expense	e Advanceme	ent Vouche	er Reques	sted (1	05 ILC	S 5/10-	22.32)			
				Vou	icher Ar	mount: _				
			Estima	ted Ex	pense	Repor	t			
Departu	ıre date:					Retur	n date:			
* <b>Grant-r</b> reimburs or below	related travel of sement/per die of the applicable for review.  Auto Mileage  Miles  Cost	only: Exce em is only a e rate cann	pt for mile allowed if (	eage and on official of the office of the of	nd othe cial trav please	er transp vel statu indicat r Diem	is for 12	hours or	more. If I	lodging at
Total										\$
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(belowmaximum allowable amount)   Approved in Part										
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Superinte	endent or Desi	ignee Signa	ature			Date	Э			
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☐ Approved in Part

	☐ Grant Funding Source (if			
	applicable):			
Employee Signature	Date			

DATED: June 17, 2025

# 5:70 Religious Holidays

The Director shall grant an employee's request for time off to observe a religious holiday if the employee gives at least five days' prior notice and the absence does not cause an undue hardship.

Employees may use earned vacation time or personal leave to make up the absence, provided such time is consistent with the District's operational needs. A per diem deduction may also be requested by the employee.

LEGAL REF.:

775 ILCS 5/2-101 and 5/2-102, III. Human Rights Act.

775 ILCS 35/155, Religious Freedom Restoration Act.

Adopted: June 21, 2022

# 5:80 Court Duty

Please refer to the applicable collective bargaining agreement(s).

# For employees not covered by a current applicable bargaining agreement:

The District will deduct any fees that an employee receives for court duty, less mileage and meal expenses, from the employee's compensation, or make arrangements for the employee to endorse the fee check to the District.

An employee should give at least five days' prior notice of pending court duty to the District.

# Witness Duty

The District will pay full salary during the time an employee is absent due to a subpoena to serve as a witness in a trial or have a deposition taken in any school-related matter pending in court.

# Jury Duty

The District will pay full salary during the time an employee is absent due to jury duty.

LEGAL REF.:

105 ILCS 5/10-20.7.

705 ILCS 305/4.1, Jury Act.

Adopted: June 21, 2022

## 5:90 Abused and Neglected Child Reporting

Any District employee who suspects or receives knowledge that a student may be an abused or neglected child or, for a student aged 18 through 22, an abused or neglected individual with a disability, shall immediately report or cause a report to be made to the III. Dept. of Children and Family Services (DCFS) on its Child Abuse Hotline 1-800-25-ABUSE (1-800-252-2873)(within Illinois); 1-217-524-2606 (outside of Illinois); or 1-800-358-5117 (TTY).

The report shall include, if known:

- 1. The name and address of the child, parent/guardian names, or other persons having custody;
- 2. The child's age;
- 3. The child's condition, including any evidence of previous injuries or disabilities; and
- 4. Any other information that the reporter believes may be helpful to DCFS for its investigation.

Negligent failure to report occurs when a District employee personally observes an instance of suspected child abuse or neglect and reasonably believes, in his or her professional or official capacity, that the instance constitutes an act of child abuse or neglect under the Abused and Neglected Child Reporting Act (ANCRA) and he or she, without willful intent, fails to immediately report or cause a report to be made of the suspected abuse or neglect to DCFS.

Any District employee who believes a student is in immediate danger of harm, shall first call 911. The employee shall also promptly notify the Director or Building Principal that a report has been made. The Director or Building Principal shall immediately coordinate any necessary notifications to the student's parent(s)/guardian(s) with DCFS, the applicable school resource officer (SRO), and/or local law enforcement.

Any District employee who discovers child pornography on electronic and information technology equipment shall immediately report it to local law enforcement, the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children's CyberTipline 1-800-THE-LOST (1-800-843-5678) or online at report.cybertip.org/ or www.missingkids.org. The Director or Building Principal shall also be promptly notified of the discovery and that a report has been made.

Any District employee who observes any act of hazing that does bodily harm to a student must report that act to the Building Principal, Director, or designee who will investigate and take appropriate action. If the hazing results in death or great bodily harm, the employee must first make the report to law enforcement and then to the Director or Building Principal. Hazing is defined as any intentional, knowing, or reckless act directed to or required of a student for the purpose of being initiated into, affiliating with, holding office in, or maintaining membership in any group, organization, club, or athletic team whose members are or include other students.

Abused and Neglected Child Reporting Act (ANCRA), School Code, and Erin's LawTraining

The Director or designee shall provide staff development opportunities for District employees in the detection, reporting, and prevention of child abuse and neglect.

All District employees shall:

- 1. Before beginning employment, sign the *Acknowledgement of Mandated Reporter Status* form provided by DCFS. The Director or designee shall ensure that the signed forms are retained.
- 2. Complete mandated reporter training as required by law within three months of initial employment and at least every three years after that date.
- 3. Complete an annual evidence-informed training related to child sexual abuse, grooming behaviors (including *sexual misconduct* as defined in *Faith's Law*), and boundary violations as

required by law and policy 5:100, Staff Development Program.

## Alleged Incidents of Sexual Abuse; Investigations

An *alleged incident of sexual abuse* is an incident of sexual abuse of a child, as defined in 720 ILCS 5/11-9.1A, that is alleged to have been perpetrated by school personnel, including a school vendor or volunteer, that occurred: on school grounds during a school activity; or outside of school grounds or not during a school activity.

If a District employee reports an alleged incident of sexual abuse to DCFS and DCFS accepts the report for investigation, DCFS will refer the matter to the local Children's Advocacy Center (CAC). The Director or designee will implement procedures to coordinate with the CAC.

DCFS and/or the appropriate law enforcement agency will inform the District when its investigation is complete or has been suspended, as well as the outcome of its investigation. The existence of a DCFS and/or law enforcement investigation will not preclude the District from conducting its own parallel investigation into the alleged incident of sexual abuse in accordance with Board policy 7:20, *Harassment of Students Prohibited*.

#### Special Director Responsibilities

The Director shall execute the requirements in Board policy 5:150, *Personnel Records*, whenever another school district requests a reference concerning an applicant who is or was a District employee and was the subject of a report made by a District employee to DCFS.

When the Director has reasonable cause to believe that a license holder (1) committed an intentional act of abuse or neglect with the result of making a child an abused child or a neglected child under ANCRA or an act of sexual misconduct under *Faith's Law*, and (2) that act resulted in the license holder's dismissal or resignation from the District, the Director shall notify the State Superintendent and the Regional Superintendent in writing, providing the III. Educator Identification Number as well as a brief description of the misconduct alleged. The Director must make the report within 30 days of the dismissal or resignation and mail a copy of the notification to the license holder.

The Director shall develop procedures for notifying a student's parents/guardians when a District employee, contractor, or agent is alleged to have engaged in sexual misconduct with the student as defined in *Faith's Law*. The Director shall also develop procedures for notifying the student's parents/guardians when the Board takes action relating to the employment of the employee, contractor, or agent following the investigation of sexual misconduct. Notification shall not occur when the employee, contractor, or agent alleged to have engaged in sexual misconduct is the student's parent/guardian, and/or when the student is at least 18 years of age or emancipated.

The Director shall execute the recordkeeping requirements of Faith's Law.

#### Special Board Member Responsibilities

Each individual Board member must, if an allegation is raised to the member during an open or closed Board meeting that a student is an abused child as defined in ANCRA, direct or cause the Board to direct the Director or other equivalent school administrator to comply with ANCRA's requirements concerning the reporting of child abuse.

If the Board determines that any District employee, other than an employee licensed under 105 ILCS 5/21B, has willfully or negligently failed to report an instance of suspected child abuse or neglect as required by ANCRA, the Board may dismiss that employee immediately.

When the Board learns that a licensed teacher was convicted of any felony, it must promptly report it to the State agencies listed in Board policy 2:20, *Powers and Duties of the Governing Board*.

#### LEGAL REF.:

20 U.S.C. §7926, Elementary and Secondary Education Act.

105 ILCS 5/10-21.9, 5/10-23.13, 5/21B-85, 5/22-85.5, and 5/22-85.10.

20 ILCS 1305/1-1 et seq., Department of Human Services Act.

325 ILCS 5/, Abused and Neglected Child Reporting Act.

720 ILCS 5/12C-50.1, Criminal Code of 2012.

CROSS REF.: 2:20 (Powers and Duties of the Governing Board), 3:40 (Director), 3:50 (Administrative Personnel Other Than the Director), 3:60 (Administrative Responsibility of the Building Principal/Dean of Students), 4:60 (Purchases and Contracts), 4:165 (Awareness and Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse and Grooming Behaviors), 5:20 (Workplace Harassment Prohibited), 5:30 (Hiring Process and Criteria), 5:100 (Staff Development Program), 5:120 (Employee Ethics; Code of Professional Conduct; and Conflict of Interest), 5:150 (Personnel Records), 5:200 (Terms and Conditions of Employment and Dismissal), 5:290 (Employment Termination and Suspensions), 6:120 (Education of Children with Disabilities), 6:250 (Community Resource Persons and Volunteers), 7:20 (Harassment of Students Prohibited), 7:150 (Agency and Police Interviews)

Adopted: December 17, 2024

## 5:100 Staff Development Program

The Director or designee shall implement a staff development program. The goal of the program shall be to update and improve the skills and knowledge of staff members in order to achieve and maintain a high level of job performance and satisfaction.

## Abused and Neglected Child Reporting Act (ANCRA) and Erin's LawTraining

The staff development program shall include the Abused and Neglected Child Reporting Act (ANCRA) mandated reporter training and training on the awareness and prevention of child sexual abuse and grooming behaviors (*Erin's Law*) as follows (see Board policies 4:165, *Awareness and Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse and Grooming Behaviors*, and 5:90, *Abused and Neglected Child Reporting*):

- 1. Within three months of employment, each staff member must complete mandated reporter training from a provider or agency with expertise in recognizing and reporting child abuse. Mandated reporter training must be completed again at least every three years.
- 2. By January 31 of every year, all school personnel must complete evidence-informed training on preventing, reporting, and responding to child sexual abuse, grooming behaviors (including sexual misconduct as defined in Faith's Law), and boundary violations.

## In-Service Training Requirements

The staff development program shall provide, at a minimum, within six months of employment and renewed at least once every five years thereafter (unless required more frequently by other State or federal law), the in-service training of all District staff who work with pupils on:

- 1. Health conditions of students, including but not limited to training on:
  - a. Anaphylactic reactions and management, conducted by a person with expertise on anaphylactic reactions and management;
  - b. Management of asthma, prevention of asthma symptoms, and emergency response in the school setting;
  - c. The basics of seizure recognition and first aid and emergency protocols, consistent with best practice guidelines issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention;
  - d. The basics of diabetes care, how to identify when a diabetic student needs immediate or emergency medical attention, and whom to contact in case of emergency;
  - e. Current best practices regarding identification and treatment of attention deficit hyperactivity disorder; and
  - f. How to respond to an incident involving life-threatening bleeding, including use of a school's trauma bleeding control kit, if applicable.
- 2. Social-emotional learning. Training may include providing education to all school personnel about the content of the Illinois Social and Emotional Learning Standards, how they apply to everyday school interactions, and examples of how social emotional learning can be integrated into instructional practices across all grades and subjects.
- 3. Developing cultural competency, including but not limited to understanding and reducing implicit bias, including *implicit racial bias* as defined in 105 ILCS 5/10-20.61 (implicit bias training).
- 4. Identifying warning signs of mental illness, trauma, and suicidal behavior in youth, along with appropriate intervention and referral techniques, including resources and guidelines as outlined in 105 ILCS 5/2-3.166 (*Ann Marie's Law*) and the definitions of *trauma*, *trauma-responsive learning environments*, and *whole child* as set forth in 105 ILCS 5/3-11.
- 5. Domestic and sexual violence and the needs of expectant and parenting youth, conducted by persons with expertise in domestic and sexual violence and the needs of expectant and parenting youth. Training shall include, but is not limited to:

- a. Communicating with and listening to youth victims of domestic or sexual violence and expectant and parenting youth;
- Connecting youth victims of domestic or sexual violence and expectant and parenting youth to appropriate in-school services and other agencies, programs, and services as needed;
- c. Implementing the District's policies and procedures regarding such youth, including confidentiality; and
- d. Procedures for responding to incidents of teen dating violence that take place at school, on school grounds, at school-sponsored activities, or in vehicles used for school-provided transportation as outlined in 105 ILCS 110/3.10 (see Board policy 7:185, *Teen Dating Violence Prohibited*).
- 6. Protections and accommodations for students, including but not limited to training on:
  - a. The federal Americans with Disabilities Act as it pertains to the school environment; and
  - b. Homelessness.
- 7. Educator ethics and responding to child sexual abuse and grooming behavior (see Board policy 5:120, *Employee Ethics; Code of Professional Conduct; and Conflict of Interest*); including but not limited to training on:
  - a. Teacher-student conduct;
  - b. School employee-student conduct; and
  - c. Evidence-informed training on preventing, recognizing, reporting, and responding to child sexual abuse and grooming as outlined in 105 ILCS 5/10-23.13 (*Erin's Law*).
- 8. Effective instruction in violence prevention and conflict resolution, conducted in accordance with the requirements of 105 ILCS 5/27-23.4 (violence prevention and conflict resolution education).

## Additional Training Requirements

In addition, the staff development program shall include each of the following:

- 1. Ongoing professional development for all school personnel and school resource officers on the requirements of 105 ILCS 5/10-22.6 and 5/10-20.14, the adverse consequences of school exclusion and justice-system involvement, effective classroom management strategies, culturally responsive discipline, trauma-responsive learning environments as defined in 105 ILCS 5/3-11(b), the appropriate and available supportive services for the promotion of student attendance and engagement, and developmentally appropriate disciplinary methods that promote positive and healthy school climates.
- 2. Annual continuing education and/or training opportunities (professional standards) for school nutrition program directors, managers, and staff. Each school food authority's director shall document compliance with this requirement by the end of each school year and maintain documentation for a three-year period.
- 3. All high school coaching personnel, including the head and assistant coaches, and athletic directors must obtain online concussion certification by completing online concussion awareness training in accordance with 105 ILCS 25/1.15. Coaching personnel and athletic directors hired on or after 8-19-14 must be certified before their position's start date.
- 4. The following individuals must complete concussion training as specified in the Youth Sports Concussion Safety Act: coaches and assistant coaches (whether volunteer or employee) of an interscholastic athletic activity; nurses, licensed and/or non-licensed healthcare professionals serving on the Concussion Oversight Team; athletic trainers; game officials of an interscholastic athletic activity; and physicians serving on the Concussion Oversight Team.
- 5. For school personnel who work with hazardous or toxic materials on a regular basis, training on the safe handling and use of such materials.
- 6. For delegated care aides performing services in connection with a student's seizure action plan,

- training in accordance with 105 ILCS 150/, the Seizure Smart School Act.
- 7. For delegated care aides performing services in connection with a student's diabetes care plan, training in accordance with 105 ILCS 145/, the Care of Students with Diabetes Act.
- 8. For all District staff, annual sexual harassment prevention training.
- 9. Title IX requirements for training in accordance with 34 C.F.R. Part 106 (see Board policy 2:265, *Title IX Grievance Procedure*).
- 10. Training for all District employees on the prevention of discrimination and harassment based on race, color, and national origin in school as part of new employee training and at least once every two years.
- 11. Training for at least one designated employee at each school about the Prioritization of Urgency of Need for Services (PUNS) database and steps required to register students for it.
- 12. Training in accordance with 105 ILCS 5/26A for at least one staff member in each school designated as a resource for students who are parents, expectant parents, or victims of domestic or sexual violence, and for any employees whose duties include the resolution of complaints of violations of 105 ILCS 5/26A (see Board policy 7:255, Students who are Parents, Expectant Parents, or Victims of Domestic or Sexual Violence).

The Director shall develop protocols for administering youth suicide awareness and prevention education to staff consistent with Board policy 7:290, *Suicide and Depression Awareness and Prevention*.

An opportunity shall be provided for all staff members to acquire, develop, and maintain the knowledge and skills necessary to properly administer life-saving techniques and first aid, including the Heimlich maneuver, cardiopulmonary resuscitation, and the use of an automated external defibrillator, in accordance with a nationally recognized certifying organization. Physical fitness facilities' staff must be trained in cardiopulmonary resuscitation and use of an automated external defibrillator.

#### LEGAL REF.:

20 U.S.C. §1681 et seg., Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972; 34 C.F.R. Part 106.

42 U.S.C. §1758b, Pub. L. 111-296, Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010; 7 C.F.R. Parts 210 and 235.

105 ILCS 5/2-3.62, 5/2-3.166, 5/3-11, 5/10-20.17a, 5/10-20.61, 5/10-22.6(c-5), 5/10-22.39, 5/10-23.12, 5/10-23.13, 5/22-80(h), 5/22-95, 5/24-5, and 5/26A.

105 ILCS 25/1.15, Interscholastic Athletic Organization Act.

105 ILCS 145/25, Care of Students with Diabetes Act

105 ILCS 150/25, Seizure Smart School Act.

105 ILCS 110/3, Critical Health Problems and Comprehensive Health Education Act.

325 ILCS 5/4, Abused and Neglected Child Reporting Act.

745 ILCS 49/, Good Samaritan Act.

775 ILCS 5/2-109 and 5/5A-103, III. Human Rights Act.

23 III.Admin.Code §§ 22.20, 226.800, and Part 525.

77 III.Admin.Code §527.800.

CROSS REF.: 2:265 (Title IX Grievance Procedure), 2:270 (Discrimination and Harassment on the Basis of Race, Color, and National Origin Prohibited), 3:40 (Director), 3:50 (Administrative Personnel Other Than the Director), 4:160 (Environmental Quality of Buildings and Grounds), 4:165 (Awareness and Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse and Grooming Behaviors), 5:20 (Workplace Harassment Prohibited), 5:90 (Abused and Neglected Child Reporting), 5:120 (Employee Ethics; Code of Professional Conduct; and Conflict of Interest), 5:250 (Leaves of Absence), 6:15 (School Accountability), 6:20 (School Year Calendar and Day), 6:50 (School Wellness), 6:160 (English Learners), 7:10 (Equal Educational Opportunities), 7:20 (Harassment of Students Prohibited), 7:180 (Prevention of and Response to Bullying, Intimidation, and Harassment), 7:185 (Teen Dating Violence Prohibited), 7:250 (Student Support Services), 7:255 (Students Who are Parents, Expectant Parents, or Victims of Domestic or Sexual Violence), 7:270 (Administering Medicines to Students), 7:285 (Anaphylaxis Prevention, Response, and Management Program), 7:290 (Suicide and Depression Awareness and Prevention), 7:305 (Student Athlete Concussions and Head Injuries)

Adopted: June 17, 2025

## 5:120 Employee Ethics; Code of Professional Conduct; and Conflict of Interest

All District employees are expected to maintain high standards in their job performance, demonstrate integrity and honesty, be considerate and cooperative, and maintain professional and appropriate relationships with students, parents/guardians, staff members, and others.

The Director or designee shall provide this policy to all District employees and students and/or parents/guardians in their respective handbooks, and ensure its posting on the District's website, if any.

## Professional and Appropriate Conduct

Professional and appropriate employee conduct are important Board goals that impact the quality of a safe learning environment and the school community, increasing students' ability to learn and the District's ability to educate. To protect students from sexual misconduct by employees, and employees from the appearance of impropriety, State law also recognizes the importance for District employees to constantly maintain professional and appropriate relationships with students by following established expectations and guidelines for employee-student boundaries. Many breaches of employee-student boundaries do not rise to the level of criminal behavior but do pose a potential risk to student safety and impact the quality of a safe learning environment. Repeated violations of employee-student boundaries may indicate the grooming of a student for sexual abuse. As bystanders, employees may know of concerning behaviors that no one else is aware of, so their training on: (1) preventing, recognizing, reporting, and responding to child sexual abuse and grooming behavior; (2) this policy; and (3) federal and state reporting requirements is essential to maintaining the Board's goal of professional and appropriate conduct.

The Director or designee shall identify employee conduct standards that define appropriate employee-student boundaries, provide training about them, and monitor the District's employees for violations of employee-student boundaries. The employee conduct standards will require that, at a minimum:

- 1. Employees who are governed by the *Code of Ethics for Illinois Educators*, adopted by the Ill. State Board of Education (ISBE), will comply with its incorporation by reference into this policy.
- 2. Employees are trained on educator ethics, child abuse, grooming behaviors, and employees student boundary violations as required by law and Board policies 2:265, *Title IX Grievance Procedure*; 4:165, *Awareness and Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse and Grooming Behaviors*; 5:90, *Abused and Neglected Child Reporting*; and 5:100, *Staff Development Program*.
- 3. Employees maintain professional relationships with students, including maintaining employee-student boundaries based upon students' ages, grade levels, and developmental levels and following District-established guidelines for specific situations, including but not limited to:
  - a. Transporting a student;
  - b. Taking or possessing a photo or video of a student; and
  - c. Meeting with a student or contacting a student outside the employee's professional role.
- 4. Employees report prohibited behaviors and/or boundary violations pursuant to Board policies 2:260, *Uniform Grievance Procedure*; 2:265, *Title IX Grievance Procedure*; and 5:90, *Abused and Neglected Child Reporting*.
- 5. Discipline up to and including dismissal will occur for any employee who violates an employee conduct standard or engages in any of the following:
  - a. Violates expectations and guidelines for employee-student boundaries.
  - b. Sexually harasses a student.

- c. Willfully or negligently fails to follow reporting requirements of the Abused and Neglected Child Reporting Act (325 ILCS 5/), Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (20 U.S.C. §1681 et seq.), or the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (20 U.S.C. § 7926).
- d. Engages in *grooming* as defined in 720 ILCS 5/11-25.
- e. Engages in grooming behaviors. Prohibited grooming behaviors include, at a minimum, sexual misconduct. Sexual misconduct is any act, including but not limited to, any verbal, nonverbal, written, or electronic communication or physical activity, by an employee with direct contact with a student, that is directed toward or with a student to establish a romantic or sexual relationship with the student. Examples include, but are not limited to:
  - i. A sexual or romantic invitation.
  - ii. Dating or soliciting a date.
  - iii. Engaging in sexualized or romantic dialog.
  - iv. Making sexually suggestive comments that are directed toward or with a student.
  - v. Self-disclosure or physical exposure of a sexual, romantic, or erotic nature.
  - vi. A sexual, indecent, romantic, or erotic contact with the student.

#### Statement of Economic Interests

The following employees must file a *Statement of Economic Interests* as required by the III. Governmental Ethics Act:

- 1. Director:
- 2. Building Principal;
- 3. Head of any department;
- 4. Any employee who, as the District's agent, is responsible for negotiating one or more contracts, including collective bargaining agreement(s), in the amount of \$1,000 or greater;
- 5. Hearing officer:
- 6. Any employee having supervisory authority for 20 or more employees; and
- 7. Any employee in a position that requires an administrative or a chief school business official endorsement.

#### Ethics and Gift Ban

Board policy 2:105, *Ethics and Gift Ban*, applies to all District employees. Students shall not be used in any manner for promoting a political candidate or issue.

### Prohibited Interests; Conflict of Interest; and Limitation of Authority

In accordance with 105 ILCS 5/22-5, "no school officer or teacher shall be interested in the sale, proceeds, or profits of any book, apparatus, or furniture used or to be used in any school with which such officer or teacher may be connected," except when the employee is the author or developer of instructional materials listed with ISBE and adopted for use by the Board. An employee having an interest in instructional materials must file an annual statement with the Board Secretary.

For the purpose of acquiring profit or personal gain, no employee shall act as an agent of the District nor shall an employee act as an agent of any business in any transaction with the District. This includes participation in the selection, award, or administration of a contract supported by a federal award or State award governed by the Grant Accountability and Transparency Act (GATA) (30 ILCS 708/) when the employee has a real or apparent conflict of interest. A conflict of interest arises when an employee or any of the following individuals has a financial or other interest in or a tangible benefit from the entity selected for the contract:

- 1. A member of the employee's immediate family;
- 2. An employee's partner; or
- 3. An entity that employs or is about to employ the employee or one of the individuals listed in one or two above.

Employees shall neither solicit nor accept gratuities, favors, or anything of monetary value from contractors, potential contractors, or parties to agreements or subcontracts. Situations in which the interest is not substantial or the gift is an unsolicited item of nominal value must comply with State law and Board policy 2:105, *Ethics and Gift Ban*.

#### School Counselor Gift Ban

School counselors are prohibited from intentionally soliciting or accepting any gift from a *prohibited source* or any gift that would be in violation of any federal or State statute or rule. For school counselors, a *prohibited source* is any person who is (1) employed by an institution of higher education, or (2) an agent or spouse of or an immediate family member living with a person employed by an institution of higher education. This prohibition does not apply to:

- 1. Opportunities, benefits, and services available on the same conditions as for the general public.
- 2. Anything for which the school counselor pays market value.
- 3. A gift from a relative.
- 4. Anything provided by an individual on the basis of a personal friendship, unless the school counselor believes that it was provided due to the official position or employment of the school counselor and not due to the personal friendship. In determining whether a gift is provided on the basis of personal friendship, the school counselor must consider the circumstances in which the gift was offered, including any of the following:
  - a. The history of the relationship between the individual giving the gift and the school counselor, including any previous exchange of gifts between those individuals.
  - b. Whether, to the actual knowledge of the school counselor, the individual who gave the gift personally paid for the gift or sought a tax deduction or business reimbursement for the gift.
  - c. Whether, to the actual knowledge of the school counselor, the individual who gave the gift also, at the same time, gave the same or a similar gift to other school district employees.
- 5. Bequests, inheritances, or other transfers at death.
- 6. Any item(s) during any calendar year having a cumulative total value of less than \$100.
- 7. Promotional materials, including, but not limited to, pens, pencils, banners, posters, and pennants.
- 8. Travel, lodging, food, and beverage costs incurred by the school counselor and paid by an institution of higher education for attendance by the school counselor of an educational or military program at the institution of higher education.

A school counselor does not violate this prohibition if he or she promptly returns the gift to the prohibited source or donates the gift or an amount equal to its value to a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt charity.

### **Outside Employment**

Employees shall not engage in any other employment or in any private business during regular working hours or at such other times as are necessary to fulfill appropriate assigned duties.

Incorporated

by reference: 5:120-E (Code of Ethics for III. Educators)

LEGAL REF .:

U.S. Constitution, First Amendment.

2 C.F.R. §200.318(c)(1).

5 ILCS 420/4A-101, III. Governmental Ethics Act.

5 ILCS 430/, State Officials and Employee Ethics Act.

30 ILCS 708/, Grant Accountability and Transparency Act.

50 ILCS 135/, Local Governmental Employees Political Rights Act.

105 ILCS 5/10-22.39, 5/10-23.13, 5/22-5, 5/22-85.5, and 5/22-93.

325 ILCS 5/, Abused and Neglected Child Reporting Act.

720 ILCS 5/11-25, Criminal Code of 2012.

775 ILCS 5/5A-102, III. Human Rights Act.

23 III.Admin.Code Part 22, Code of Ethics for III. Educators.

Pickering v. Board of Township H.S. Dist. 205, 391 U.S. 563 (1968).

Garcetti v. Ceballos, 547 U.S. 410 (2006).

CROSS REF.: 2:105 (Ethics and Gift Ban), 2:265 (Title IX Grievance Procedure), 4:60 (Purchases and Contracts), 4:165 (Awareness and Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse and Grooming Behaviors), 5:90 (Abused and Neglected Child Reporting), 5:100 (Staff Development Program), 5:125 (Personal Technology and Social Media; Usage and Conduct), 5:200 (Terms and Conditions of Employment and Dismissal), 5:290 (Employment Termination and Suspensions), 7:20 (Harassment of Students Prohibited)

Adopted: December 17, 2024

## 5:125 Personal Technology and Social Media; Usage and Conduct

#### **Definitions**

Includes - Means "includes without limitation" or "includes, but is not limited to."

**Social media** - Media for social interaction, using highly accessible web-based and/or mobile technologies that allow users to share content and/or engage in interactive communication through online communities. This includes, but is not limited to, services such as *Facebook, LinkedIn, X* (formerly Twitter), Threads, Instagram, TikTok, Snapchat, Discord, and YouTube.

**Personal technology** - Any device that is not owned or leased by the District or otherwise authorized for District use and: (1) transmits sounds, images, text, messages, videos, or electronic information, (2) electronically records, plays, or stores information, or (3) accesses the Internet, or private communication or information networks. This includes computers, tablets, smartphones, smartwatches, and other devices.

#### Usage and Conduct

All District employees who use personal technology and/or social media shall:

- 1. Adhere to the high standards for **Professional and Appropriate Conduct** required by Board policy 5:120, *Employee Ethics; Code of Professional Conduct; and Conflict of Interest* at all times, regardless of the ever-changing social media and personal technology platforms available. This includes District employees posting images or private information about themselves or others in a manner readily accessible to students and other employees that is inappropriate as defined by Board policies 5:20, *Workplace Harassment Prohibited*; 5:100, *Staff Development Program*; 5:120, *Employee Ethics; Code of Professional Conduct; and Conflict of Interest*; 6:235, *Access to Electronic Networks*; and 7:20, *Harassment of Students Prohibited*; and the III. Code of Educator Ethics, 23 III.Admin.Code §22.20.
- 2. Choose a District-provided or supported method whenever possible to communicate with students and their parents/guardians.
- 3. Not interfere with or disrupt the educational or working environment, or the delivery of education or educational support services.
- 4. Inform their immediate supervisor if a student initiates inappropriate contact with them via any form of personal technology or social media.
- 5. Report instances of suspected abuse or neglect discovered through the use of social media or personal technology pursuant to a District employee's obligations under Board policy 5:90, *Abused and Neglected Child Reporting*.
- 6. Not disclose confidential information, including but not limited to school student records (e.g., student work, photographs of students, names of students, or any other personally identifiable information about students) or personnel records, in compliance with Board policy 5:130, *Responsibilities Concerning Internal Information*. For District employees, proper approval may include implied consent under the circumstances.
- 7. Refrain from using the District's logos without permission and follow Board policy 5:170, *Copyright*, and all District copyright compliance procedures.
- 8. Use personal technology and social media for personal purposes only during non-work times or hours. Any duty-free use must occur during times and places that the use will not interfere with job duties or otherwise be disruptive to the school environment or its operation.
- 9. Assume all risks associated with the use of personal technology and social media at school or school-sponsored activities, including students' viewing of inappropriate Internet materials through the District employee's personal technology or social media. The Board expressly

- disclaims any responsibility for imposing content filters, blocking lists, or monitoring of its employees' personal technology and social media.
- 10. Be subject to remedial and any other appropriate disciplinary action for violations of this policy ranging from prohibiting the employee from possessing or using any personal technology or social media at school to dismissal and/or indemnification of the District for any losses, costs, or damages, including reasonable attorney fees, incurred by the District relating to, or arising out of, any violation of this policy.

#### **Director Responsibilities**

#### The Director shall:

- 1. Inform District employees about this policy during the in-service on educator ethics, teacher-student conduct, and school employee-student conduct required by Board policy 5:120, *Employee Ethics; Code of Professional Conduct; and Conflict of Interest.*
- 2. Direct Building Principals to annually:
  - a. Provide their building staff with a copy of this policy.
  - b. Inform their building staff about the importance of maintaining high standards in their school relationships.
  - c. Remind their building staff that those who violate this policy will be subject to remedial and any other appropriate disciplinary action up to and including dismissal.
- 3. Build awareness of this policy with students, parents, and the community.
- 4. Ensure that neither the District, nor anyone on its behalf, commits an act prohibited by the Right to Privacy in the Workplace Act, 820 ILCS 55/10; i.e., the *Facebook Password Law*.
- 5. Periodically review this policy and any implementing procedures with District employee representatives and electronic network system administrator(s) and present proposed changes to the Board.

#### LEGAL REF.:

105 ILCS 5/21B-75 and 5/21B-80.

775 ILCS 5/5A-102, III. Human Rights Act.

820 ILCS 55/10, Right to Privacy in the Workplace Act.

23 III.Admin.Code §22.20, Code of Ethics for III. Educators.

Garcetti v. Ceballos, 547 U.S. 410 (2006).

Pickering v. High School Dist. 205, 391 U.S. 563 (1968).

Mayer v. Monroe County Community School Corp., 474 F.3d 477 (7th Cir. 2007).

CROSS REF.: 4:165 (Awareness and Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse and Grooming Behaviors), 5:20 (Workplace Harassment Prohibited), 5:30 (Hiring Process and Criteria), 5:100 (Staff Development Program), 5:120 (Employee Ethics; Code of Professional Conduct; and Conflict of Interest), 5:130 (Responsibilities Concerning Internal Information), 5:150 (Personnel Records), 5:170 (Copyright), 5:200 (Terms and Conditions of Employment and Dismissal), 6:235 (Access to Electronic Networks), 7:20 (Harassment of Students Prohibited), 7:340 (Student Records)

Adopted: December 17, 2024

## **5:130 Responsibilities Concerning Internal Information**

District employees are responsible for maintaining: (1) the integrity and security of all internal information, and (2) the privacy of confidential records, including but not limited to: student District records, personnel records, and the minutes of, and material disclosed in, a closed Governing Board meeting. Internal information is any information, oral or recorded in electronic or paper format, maintained by the District or used by the District or its employees. The Director or designee shall manage procedures for safeguarding the integrity, security, and, as appropriate, confidentiality of internal information.

#### LEGAL REF .:

20 U.S.C. §1232g, Family Educational and Privacy Rights Act.

45 C.F.R. §164.502, Uses and Disclosures of Protected Health Information; General Rules.

5 ILCS 140/, III. Freedom of Information Act.

50 ILCS 205/, Local Records Act.

105 ILCS 10/, III. School Student Records Act.

105 ILCS 85, Student Online Personal Protection Act.

820 ILCS 40/, Personnel Record Review Act.

CROSS REF.:2:140 (Communications To and From the Board), 2:250 (Access to District Public Records), 5:150 (Personnel Records), 7:340 (Student Records), 7:345 (Use of Educational Technologies; Student Data Privacy and Security)

Adopted: July 16, 2024

## 5:140 Solicitations By or From Staff

District employees shall not solicit donations or sales, nor shall they be solicited for donations or sales, on District grounds without prior approval from the Director.

Adopted: June 21, 2022

#### 5:150 Personnel Records

Prospective Employer Inquiries Concerning a Current or Former Employee's Job Performance

The Director or designee shall manage a process for responding to inquiries by a prospective employer concerning a current or former employee's job performance. The Director shall:

- 1. Execute the requirements in the Abused and Neglected Child Reporting Act whenever another school district asks for a reference concerning an applicant who is or was a District employee and was the subject of a report made by a District employee to III. Dept. of Children and Family Services (DCFS); and
- 2. Comply with the federal law prohibiting the District from providing a recommendation of employment for an employee, contractor, or agent that the District knows, or has probable cause to believe, has engaged in sexual misconduct with a student or minor in violation of the law, but the Director or designee may follow routine procedures regarding the transmission of administrative or personnel files for that employee.
- 3. Manage the District's responses to employer requests for sexual misconduct related employment history review (EHR) information in accordance with *Faith's Law*.

When requested for information about an employee by an entity other than a prospective employer, the District will only confirm position and employment dates unless the employee has submitted a written request to the Director or designee.

Maintenance and Access to Records

Please refer to the applicable collective bargaining agreement(s).

## For employees not covered by a current applicable bargaining agreement:

The Director or designee shall manage the maintenance of personnel records in accordance with State and federal law and Governing Board policy. Records, as determined by the Director, are retained for all employment applicants, employees, and former employees given the need for the District to document employment-related decisions, evaluate program and staff effectiveness, and comply with government recordkeeping and reporting requirements. Personnel records shall be maintained in the District's administrative office, under the Director's direct supervision.

Access to personnel records is available as follows:

- 1. An employee will be given access to his or her personnel records according to State law and guidelines developed by the Director.
- 2. An employee's supervisor or other management employee who has an employment or business-related reason to inspect the record is authorized to have access.
- 3. Anyone having the respective employee's written consent may have access.
- 4. Access will be granted to anyone authorized by State or federal law to have access.
- 5. All other requests for access to personnel information are governed by Board policy 2:250, *Access to District Public Records*.

LEGAL REF.:

20 U.S.C. §7926.

105 ILCS 5/22-94.

325 ILCS 5/4, Abused and Neglected Child Reporting Act.

745 ILCS 46/10, Employment Record Disclosure Act.

820 ILCS 40/, Personnel Record Review Act.

23 III.Admin.Code §1.660.

CROSS REF.: 2:250 (Access to District Public Records), 5:90 (Abused and Neglected Child

Reporting), 7:340 (Student Records)

Adopted: July 11, 2023

## 5:170 Copyright

#### Works Made for Hire

The Director shall manage the development of instructional materials and computer programs by employees during the scope of their employment in accordance with State and federal laws and Governing Board policies. Whenever an employee is assigned to develop instructional materials and/or computer programs, or otherwise performs such work within the scope of his or her employment, it is assured the District shall be the owner of the copyright.

#### Copyright Compliance

While staff members may use appropriate supplementary materials, it is each staff member's responsibility to abide by the District's copyright compliance procedures and to obey the copyright laws. The District is not responsible for any violations of the copyright laws by its staff or students. A staff member should contact the Director or designee whenever the staff member is uncertain about whether using or copying material complies with the District's procedures or is permissible under the law, or wants assistance on when and how to obtain proper authorization. No staff member shall, without first obtaining the permission of the Director or designee, install or download any program on a District-owned computer. At no time shall it be necessary for a District staff member to violate copyright laws in order to properly perform his or her duties.

#### LEGAL REF.:

17 U.S.C. §101 et seq., Federal Copyright Law of 1976.

105 ILCS 5/10-23.10.

CROSS REF.: 6:235 (Access to Electronic Networks)

Adopted: January 17, 2023

## 5:180 Temporary Illness or Temporary Incapacity

A temporary illness or temporary incapacity is an illness or other capacity of ill-being that renders an employee physically or mentally unable to perform assigned duties. During such a period, the employee can use accumulated sick leave benefits. However, income received from other sources (worker's compensation, District-paid insurance programs, etc.) will be deducted from the District's compensation liability to the employee. The Governing Board's intent is that in no case will the employee, who is temporarily disabled, receive more than 100 percent of their gross salary.

Those insurance plans privately purchased by the employee and to which the District does not contribute, are not applicable to this policy.

If illness, incapacity, or any other condition causes an employee to be absent in one school year, after exhaustion of all available leave, for more than 90 consecutive workdays, such absence may be considered a permanent disability and the Board may begin dismissal proceedings subject to State and federal law, including the Americans with Disabilities Act. The Superintendent may recommend this paragraph's use when circumstances strongly suggest that the employee returned to work intermittently in order to avoid this paragraph's application. This paragraph shall not be considered a limitation on the Board's authority to take any action concerning an employee that is authorized by State and federal law.

Any employee may be required to have an examination, at the District's expense, by a physician who is licensed in Illinois to practice medicine and surgery in all its branches, a licensed advanced practice registered nurse, or a licensed physician assistant if the examination is job-related and consistent with business necessity.

#### LEGAL REF.:

42 U.S.C. §12101 et seq., Americans with Disabilities Act.

105 ILCS 5/10-22.4, 5/24-12, and 5/24-13.

Elder v. School Dist. No.127 1/2, 60 III.App.2d 56 (1st Dist. 1965).

School District No. 151 v. ISBE, 154 III.App.3d 375 (1st Dist. 1987).

CROSS REF.: 5:30 (Hiring Process and Criteria), 5:185 (Family and Medical Leave), 5:250 (Leaves of Absence), 5:330 (Sick Days, Vacation, Holidays, and Leaves)

Adopted: August 20, 2024

## 5:185 Family and Medical Leave

#### **Leave Description**

An eligible employee may use unpaid family and medical leave (FMLA leave), guaranteed by the federal Family and Medical Leave Act. The U.S. Department of Labor's rules (federal rules) implementing FMLA, as they may be amended from time to time, control FMLA leave.

An eligible employee may take FMLA leave for up to a combined total of 12 weeks each year, on a rolling year basis beginning when the employee last took FMLA leave.

During a single 12-month period, an eligible employee's FMLA leave entitlement may be extended to a total of 26 weeks of unpaid leave to care for a covered servicemember (defined in the federal rules) with a serious injury or illness. The "single 12-month period" is measured forward from the date the employee's first FMLA leave to care for the covered servicemember begins.

While FMLA leave is normally unpaid, the District will substitute an employee's accrued compensatory time-off and/or paid leave for unpaid FMLA leave, provided such leave is available for use in accordance with Board policies and rules. In addition, all policies and rules regarding the use of paid leave apply when paid leave is substituted for unpaid FMLA leave. Any substitution of paid leave for unpaid FMLA leave will count against the employee's FMLA leave entitlement. Use of FMLA leave shall not preclude the use of other applicable unpaid leave that will extend the employee's leave beyond 12 weeks, provided that the use of FMLA leave shall not serve to extend such other unpaid leave. Any full workweek period during which the employee would not have been required to work, including summer break, winter break and spring break, is not counted against the employee's FMLA leave entitlement.

FMLA leave is available in one or more of the following instances:

- 1. The birth and first-year care of a son or daughter.
- 2. The adoption or foster placement of a son or daughter, including absences from work that are necessary for the adoption or foster care to proceed and expiring at the end of the 12-month period beginning on the placement date.
- 3. The serious health condition of an employee's spouse, child, or parent.
- 4. The employee's own serious health condition that makes the employee unable to perform the functions of his or her job.
- 5. The existence of a qualifying exigency arising out of the fact that the employee's spouse, child, or parent is a military member on covered active duty or has been notified of an impending call or order to active duty, as provided in federal rules.
- 6. To care for the employee's spouse, child, parent, or next of kin who is a covered servicemember with a serious injury or illness, as provided by federal rules.

If spouses are employed by the District, they may together take only 12-weeks for FMLA leaves when the reason for the leave is 1 or 2, above, or to care for a parent with a serious health condition, or a combined total of 26 weeks for item 6 above.

An employee may be permitted to work on an intermittent or reduced-leave schedule in accordance with federal rules.

#### **Eligibility**

To be eligible for FMLA leave, an employee must be employed at a worksite where at least 50 employees are employed within 75 miles. In addition, one of the following provisions must describe the employee:

- 1. The employee has been employed by the District for at least 12 months and has been employed for at least 1,000 hours of service during the 12-month period immediately before the beginning of the leave. The 12 months an employee must have been employed by the District need not be consecutive. However, the District will not consider any period of previous employment that occurred more than seven years before the date of the most recent hiring, except when the service break is due to fulfillment of a covered service obligation under the employee's Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA), 38 U.S.C. 4301, et seq., or when a written agreement exists concerning the District's intention to rehire the employee.
- 2. The employee is a full-time classroom teacher.

#### Requesting Leave

If the need for the FMLA leave is foreseeable, an employee must provide the Director or designee with at least 30 days' advance notice before the leave is to begin. If 30 days' advance notice is not practicable, the notice must be given as soon as practicable. The employee shall make a reasonable effort to schedule a planned medical treatment so as not to disrupt the District's operations, subject to the approval of the health care provider administering the treatment. The employee shall provide at least verbal notice sufficient to make the Director or designee aware that he or she needs FMLA leave, and the anticipated timing and duration of the leave. Failure to give the required notice for a foreseeable leave may result in a delay in granting the requested leave until at least 30 days after the date the employee provides notice.

### Certification

Within 15 calendar days after the Superintendent or designee makes a request for certification for a FMLA leave, an employee must provide one of the following:

- 1. When the leave is to care for the employee's covered family member with a serious health condition, the employee must provide a complete and sufficient certificate signed by the family member's health care provider.
- 2. When the leave is due to the employee's own serious health condition, the employee must provide a complete and sufficient certificate signed by the employee's health care provider.
- 3. When the leave is to care for a covered servicemember with a serious illness or injury, the employee must provide a complete and sufficient certificate signed by an authorized health care provider for the covered servicemember.
- 4. When the leave is because of a qualified exigency, the employee must provide: (a) a copy of the covered military member's active duty orders or other documentation issued by the military indicating that the military member is on active duty or call to active duty status, and the dates of the covered military member's active duty service, and (b) a statement or description, signed by the employee, of appropriate facts regarding the qualifying exigency for which FMLA leave is requested.

The District may require an employee to obtain a second and third opinion at its expense when it has reason to doubt the validity of a medical certification.

The District may require recertification at reasonable intervals, but not more often than once every 30 days. Regardless of the length of time since the last request, the District may request recertification when the, (1) employee requests a leave extension, (2) circumstances described by the original certification change significantly, or (3) District receives information that casts doubt upon the continuing validity of the original certification. Recertification is at the employee's expense and must be provided to the District within 15 calendar days after the request. The District may request recertification every six months in connection with any absence by an employee needing an intermittent or reduced schedule leave for conditions with a duration in excess of six months.

Failure to furnish a complete and sufficient certification on forms provided by the District may result in a denial of the leave request.

#### Continuation of Health Benefits

During FMLA leave, employees are entitled to continuation of health benefits that would have been provided if they were working. Any share of health plan premiums being paid by the employee before taking the leave, must continue to be paid by the employee during the FMLA leave. A District's obligation to maintain health insurance coverage ceases if an employee's premium payment is more than 30 days late and the District notifies the employee at least 15 days before coverage will cease.

#### Changed Circumstances and Intent to Return

An employee must provide the Director or designee reasonable notice of changed circumstances (i.e., within two business days if the changed circumstances are foreseeable) that will alter the duration of the FMLA leave. The Director or designee, taking into consideration all of the relevant facts and circumstances related to an individual's leave situation, may ask an employee who has been on FMLA leave for eight consecutive weeks whether he or she intends to return to work.

#### Return to Work

If returning from FMLA leave occasioned by the employee's own serious health condition, the employee is required to obtain and present certification from the employee's health care provider that he or she is able to resume work.

An employee returning from FMLA leave will be given an equivalent position to his or her position before the leave, subject to: (1) permissible limitations the District may impose as provided in the FMLA or implementing regulations, and (2) the District's reassignment policies and practices.

Classroom teachers may be required to wait to return to work until the next semester in certain situations as provided by the FMLA regulations.

#### Implementation

The Director or designee shall ensure that: (1) all required notices and responses to leave requests are provided to employees in accordance with the FMLA; and (2) this policy is implemented in accordance with the FMLA. In the event of a conflict between the policy and the FMLA or its regulations, the latter shall control. The terms used in this policy shall be defined as in the FMLA regulations.

#### LEGAL REF.:

29 U.S.C. §2601 et seq., Family and Medical Leave Act; 29 C.F.R. Part 825.

105 ILCS 5/24-6.4.

CROSS REF.: 5:180 (Temporary Illness or Temporary Incapacity), 5:250 (Leaves of Absence), 5:310 (Compensatory Time-Off), 5:330 (Sick Days, Vacation, Holidays, and Leaves)

Adopted: March 15, 2022

## **Professional Personnel**

#### 5:190 Teacher Qualifications

A teacher, as the term is used in this policy, refers to a District employee who is required to be licensed under State law. Each teacher must:

- a. Have a valid Illinois Professional Educator License issued by the State Superintendent of Education with the required endorsements as provided in the School Code.
- b. Provide the District Office with a complete transcript of credits earned in institutions of higher education.
- c. On or before September 1 of each year, unless otherwise provided in an applicable collective bargaining agreement, provide the District Office with a transcript of any credits earned since the date the last transcript was filed.
- d. Notify the Director of any change in the teacher's transcript.

#### The Director or designee shall:

- 1. Monitor compliance with State and federal law requirements that teachers be appropriately licensed; and
- Through incentives for voluntary transfers, professional development, recruiting programs, or other effective strategies, ensure that minority students and students from low-income families are not taught at higher rates than other students by unqualified, out-of-field, or inexperienced teachers.

#### LEGAL REF.:

20 U.S.C. §6312(e)(1)(A).

105 ILCS 5/10-20.15, 5/21B-15, 5/21B-20, 5/21B-25, and 5/24-23.

23 III.Admin.Code §1.610 et seq., §1.705 et seq., and Part 25.

Adopted: December 12, 2023

## 5:200 Terms and Conditions of Employment and Dismissal

The Board delegates authority and responsibility to the Director to manage the terms and conditions for the employment of professional personnel. The Director shall act reasonably and comply with State and federal law as well as any applicable individual employment contract or collective bargaining agreement in effect. The Director is responsible for making dismissal recommendations to the Board consistent with the Board's goal of having a highly qualified, high performing staff.

<u>Duty-Free Lunch</u>, <u>District Year and Day</u>, <u>Salary</u>, <u>Assignments and Transfers</u>, <u>Dismissal</u>, <u>Evaluation</u>

## Please refer to the applicable collective bargaining agreement(s).

School Social Worker Services Outside of District Employment

School social workers may not provide services outside of their District employment to any student(s) attending school in the District. *School social worker* has the meaning stated in 105 ILCS 5/14-1.09a.

## **Nursing Mothers**

The District accommodates employees who are nursing mothers according to provisions in State and federal law.

#### LEGAL REF.:

29 U.S.C. §218(d), Pub. L. 117-328, Pump for Nursing Mothers Act.

42 U.S.C. §2000gg et seq., Pub. L. 117-328, Pregnant Workers Fairness Act.

105 ILCS 5/10-19, 5/10-19.05, 5/10-20.65, 5/14-1.09a, 5/22-96, 5/22.4, 5/24-16.5, 5/24-2, 5/24-8, 5/24-9, 5/24-11, 5/24-12, 5/24-21, 5/24A-1 through 24A-20.

820 ILCS 260/, Nursing Mothers in the Workplace Act.

23 III.Admin.Code Parts 50 (Evaluation of Educator Licensed Employees) and 51 (Dismissal of Tenured Teachers).

Cleveland Bd. of Educ. v. Loudermill, 470 U.S. 532(1985).

CROSS REF.: 5:120 (Employee Ethics; Code of Professional Conduct; and Conflict of Interest), 5:290 (Employment Termination and Suspensions), 6:20 (District Calendar and Day)

Adopted: July 16, 2024

## 5:210 Resignations

Teachers may resign at any time with consent of the Governing Board. No teacher may resign during the school term in order to accept another teaching position without the consent of the Board. A teacher may resign outside of a school term if the teacher provides written notice to the secretary of the Board, at least 30 calendar days prior to the first student attendance day of the following school year. Teachers who resign with less than 30 days' notice prior to the first student attendance day of the following school term will be deemed to have resigned during the school term.

LEGAL REF.:

105 ILCS 5/24-14.

Park Forest Heights District Dist. v. State Teacher Certification Bd., 363 III.App.3d 433 (1st Dist. 2006).

Adopted: December 12, 2023

#### 5:220 Substitute Teachers

The Director may employ substitute teachers as necessary to replace teachers who are temporarily absent.

A substitute teacher must hold either a valid teaching or substitute license and may teach in the place of a licensed teacher who is under contract with the Board. There is no limit on the number of days that a substitute teacher may teach in the District during the school year, except as follows:

- A substitute teacher holding a substitute license may teach for any one licensed teacher under contract with the District only for a period not to exceed 90 paid school days in any one school term.
- 2. A teacher holding a Professional Educator License or Educator License with Stipulations may teach for any one licensed teacher under contract with the District only for a period not to exceed 120 paid school days.

The III. Teachers' Retirement System (TRS) limits a substitute teacher who is a TRS annuitant to substitute teaching for a period not to exceed 120 paid days or 600 paid hours in each school year through June 30, 2026, but not more than 100 paid days in the same classroom. Beginning July 1, 2026, a substitute teacher who is a TRS annuitant may substitute teach for a period not to exceed 100 paid days or 500 paid hours in any school year, unless the subject area is one where the Regional Superintendent has certified that a personnel shortage exists.

The Board establishes a daily rate of pay for substitute teachers. Substitute teachers receive only monetary compensation for time worked and no other benefits.

#### **Short-Term Substitute Teachers**

A short-term substitute teacher must hold a valid short-term substitute teaching license and have completed the District's short-term substitute teacher training program. Unless otherwise permitted by law, short-term substitutes may teach no more than five consecutive school days for each licensed teacher who is under contract with the Board.

#### **Emergency Situations**

A substitute teacher may teach when no licensed teacher is under contract with the Board if the District has an emergency situation as defined in State law. During an emergency situation, a substitute teacher is limited to 30 calendar days of employment per each vacant position. The Director shall notify the appropriate Regional Office of Education (ROE) within five business days after the employment of a substitute teacher in an emergency situation. The Board may continue to employ the same substitute teacher in a vacant position for 90 calendar days or until the end of the semester, whichever is greater, if, prior to the end of the then current 30-calendar-day period, the District makes a written request to the ROE for a 30-calendar-day extension and the extension is granted by the ROE.

#### LEGAL REF.:

105 ILCS 5/10-20.68, 5/21B-20(2), 5/21B-20(3), and 5/21B-20(4).

40 ILCS 5/16-118, III. Pension Code.

23 III.Admin.Code §1.790 (Substitute Teacher) and §25.520 (Substitute Teaching License).

CROSS REF.: 5:30 (Hiring Process and Criteria)

Adopted: December 12, 2023

## 5:230 Maintaining Student Discipline

Maintaining an orderly learning environment is an essential part of each teacher's instructional responsibilities. A teacher's ability to foster appropriate student behavior is an important factor in the teacher's educational effectiveness. The Director shall ensure that teachers, other licensed educational employees (except for individuals employed as paraprofessional educators), and persons providing a student's related service: (1) maintain discipline in the Districts as required in the School Code, and (2) follow the Governing Board policies and administrative procedures on student conduct, behavior, and discipline.

When a student's behavior is unacceptable, the teacher should first discuss the matter with the student, if appropriate. If the unacceptable behavior continues, the teacher should consult with the Building Principal and/or discuss the problem with the parent(s)/guardian(s). A teacher may remove any student from the learning setting whose behavior interferes with the lessons or participation of fellow students. A student's removal must be in accordance with Board policy and administrative procedures.

School personnel shall not use disciplinary methods that may be damaging to students, such as ridicule, sarcasm, or excessive temper displays. Corporal punishment (including slapping, paddling, or prolonged maintenance of a student in physically painful positions, and intentional infliction of bodily harm) is prohibited in all circumstances. School personnel may only use reasonable force as permitted by 105 ILCS 5/10-20.33.

LEGAL REF.:

105 ILCS 5/22-100 and 5/24-24.

23 III.Admin.Code §1.280.

CROSS REF.: 7:190 (Student Behavior), 7:230 (Misconduct by Students with Disabilities)

Adopted: December 17, 2024

## 5:240 Suspension

## Suspension Without Pay

The Executive Board may suspend without pay: (1) a professional employee pending a dismissal hearing, or (2) a teacher as a disciplinary measure for up to 30 employment days for misconduct that is detrimental to the District. Administrative staff members may not be suspended without pay as a disciplinary measure.

Misconduct that is detrimental to the District includes:

- Insubordination, including any failure to follow an oral or written directive from a supervisor;
- Violation of Board policy or Administrative Procedure;
- Conduct that disrupts or may disrupt the educational program or process;
- Conduct that violates any State or federal law that relates to the employee's duties; and
- Other sufficient causes.

The Director or designee is authorized to issue a pre-suspension notification to a professional employee. This notification shall include the length and reason for the suspension as well as the deadline for the employee to exercise his or her right to appeal the suspension to the Executive Board or Board-appointed hearing examiner before it is imposed. At the request of the professional employee made within five calendar days of receipt of a pre-suspension notification, the Executive Board or Board-appointed hearing examiner will conduct a pre-suspension hearing. The Executive Board or its designee shall notify the professional employee of the date and time of the hearing. At the pre-suspension hearing, the professional employee or his/her representative may present evidence. If the employee does not appeal the pre-suspension notification, the Director or designee shall report the action to the Board at its next regularly scheduled meeting.

#### Suspension With Pay

The Executive Board or Director or designee may suspend a professional employee with pay: (1) during an investigation into allegations of disobedience or misconduct whenever the employee's continued presence in his or her position would not be in the District's best interests, (2) as a disciplinary measure for misconduct that is detrimental to the District as defined above, or (3) pending a Board hearing to suspend a teacher without pay.

The Director shall meet with the employee to present the allegations and give the employee an opportunity to refute the charges. The employee will be told the dates and times the suspension will begin and end.

Employees Under Investigation by Illinois Dept. of Children and Family Services (DCFS)

Upon receipt of a DCFS recommendation that the District remove an employee from his or her position when he or she is the subject of a pending DCFS investigation that relates to his or her employment with the District, the Board or Director or designee, in consultation with the Board Attorney, will determine whether to:

- 1. Let the employee remain in his or her position pending the outcome of the investigation; or
- 2. Remove the employee as recommended by DCFS, proceeding with:
  - a. A suspension with pay; or
  - b. A suspension without pay.

If a professional employee is suspended with pay, either voluntarily or involuntarily, pending the outcome of a criminal investigation or prosecution, and the employee is later dismissed as a result of his or her criminal conviction, the employee must repay to the District all compensation and the value of all benefits received by him or her during the suspension. The Director will notify the employee of this requirement when the employee is suspended.

### LEGAL REF.:

105 ILCS 5/24-12.

5 ILCS 430/5-60(b), State Officials and Employee Ethics Act.

325 ILCS 5/7.4(c-10), Abused and Neglected Child Reporting Act.

Cleveland Bd. of Educ. v. Loudermill, 470 U.S. 532 (1985).

Barszcz v. Cmty College Dist. No. 504, 400 F.Supp. 675 (N.D. III. 1975).

Massie v. East St. Louis Sch. Dist. No.189, 203 III.App.3d 965 (5th Dist. 1990).

CROSS REF.: 5:290 (Employment Termination and Suspensions)

Adopted: June 21, 2022

#### 5:250 Leaves of Absence

<u>Sick Leave, Personal Leave, Leave of Absence Without Pay, Association Leave, Funeral Leave, Professional Leave</u>

## Please refer to the applicable collective bargaining agreement(s).

Each of the provisions in this policy applies to all professional personnel to the extent that it does not conflict with an applicable collective bargaining agreement or individual employment contract or benefit plan; in the event of a conflict, such provision is severable and the applicable bargaining agreement or individual agreement will control.

Staff members are entitled to use up to 30 days of paid sick leave because of the birth of a child that is not dependent on the need to recover from childbirth. Such days may be used at any time within the 12-month period following the birth of the child. Intervening periods of nonworking days or school not being in session, such as breaks and holidays, do not count towards the 30 working school days. As a condition of paying sick leave beyond the 30 working school days, the Board or Director may require medical certification.

For purposes of adoption, placement for adoption, or acceptance of a child in need of foster care, paid sick leave may be used for reasons related to the formal adoption or the formal foster care process prior to taking custody of the child or accepting the child in need of foster care, and for taking custody of the child or accepting the child in need of foster care. Such leave is limited to 30 days, unless a longer leave is provided in an applicable collective bargaining agreement, and need not be used consecutively once the formal adoption or foster care process is underway. The Board or Director may require that the employee provide evidence that the formal adoption or foster care process is underway.

## Family Bereavement Leave

State law allows a maximum of 10 unpaid work days for eligible employees (Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993, 20 U.S.C. §2601 et seq.) to take family bereavement leave. The purpose, requirements, scheduling, and all other terms of the leave are governed by the Family Bereavement Leave Act. Eligible employees may use family bereavement leave, without any adverse employment action, for: (1) attendance by the bereaved staff member at the funeral or alternative to a funeral of a covered family member, which includes an employee's child, stepchild, domestic partner, sibling, parent, mother-in-law, father-in-law, grandchild, grandparent, or stepparent (2) making arrangements necessitated by the death of the covered family member, (3) grieving the death of the covered family member, or (4) absence from work due to a Significant Event, which includes: (i) miscarriage, (ii) an unsuccessful round of intrauterine insemination or of an assisted reproductive technology procedure, (iii) a failed adoption match or an adoption that is not finalized because it is contested by another party, (iv) a failed surrogacy agreement, (v) a diagnosis that negatively impacts pregnancy or fertility, or (vi) a still birth. An employee qualifying for leave due to a Significant Event will not be required to identify which specific reason applies to the employee's request.

The leave must be completed within 60 days after the date on which the employee received notice of the death of the covered family member or the date on which an event under item (4) above occurs. However, in the event of the death of more than one covered family member in a 12-month period, an employee is entitled to up to a total of six weeks of bereavement leave during the 12-month period, subject to certain restrictions under State and federal law. Other existing forms of leave may be substituted for the leave provided in the Family Bereavement Leave Act. This policy does not create any right for an employee to take family bereavement leave that is inconsistent with the Family Bereavement Leave Act.

Leaves for service in the U.S. Armed Services or any of its reserve components and the National Guard, as well as re-employment rights, will be granted in accordance with State and federal law. A professional staff member hired to replace one in military service does not acquire tenure.

### **General Assembly**

Leaves for service in the General Assembly, as well as re-employment rights, will be granted in accordance with State and federal law. A professional staff member hired to replace one in the General Assembly does not acquire tenure.

## **District Visitation Leave**

An eligible professional staff member is entitled to eight hours during any school year, no more than four hours of which may be taken on any given day, to attend school conferences, behavioral meetings, or academic meetings related to the teacher's child, if the conference or meeting cannot be scheduled during non-work hours. Professional staff members must first use all accrued vacation leave, personal leave, compensatory leave, and any other leave that may be granted to the professional staff member, except sick, and disability leave.

The Director shall develop administrative procedures implementing this policy consistent with the District Visitation Rights Act.

# <u>Leaves for Victims of Domestic Violence, Sexual Violence, Gender Violence, or Other Crime of Violence</u>

An unpaid leave from work is available to any staff member who: (1) is a victim of domestic violence, sexual violence, gender violence, or any other crime of violence or (2) has a family or household member who is a victim of such violence whose interests are not adverse to the employee as it relates to the domestic violence, sexual violence, gender violence, or any other crime of violence. The unpaid leave allows the employee to seek medical help, legal assistance, counseling, safety planning, and other assistance, and to grieve and attend to matters necessitated by the death of a family or household member who is killed in a crime of violence, without suffering adverse employment action.

The Victims' Economic Security and Safety Act (VESSA) governs the purpose, requirements, scheduling, and continuity of benefits, and all other terms of the leave. Accordingly, if the District employs at least 50 employees, and subject to any exceptions in VESSA, an employee is entitled to a total of eight work weeks of unpaid leave during any 12-month period. Neither the law nor this policy creates a right for an employee to take unpaid leave that exceeds the unpaid leave time allowed under, or is in addition to the unpaid leave time permitted by, the federal Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 (29 U.S.C. §2601 et seq.).

## Leaves to Serve as an Officer, Trustee, or Representative of a Specific Organization

Upon request, the Board will grant: (1) an unpaid leave of absence to a teacher who is elected to serve as an officer of a State or national teacher organization that represents teachers in collective bargaining negotiations, (2) up to twenty days of paid leave of absence per year to a trustee of the Teachers' Retirement System to attend meetings and seminars as described in 105 ILCS 5/24-6.3, (3) a paid leave of absence for the local association Chairman of a State teacher association that is an exclusive bargaining agent in the District, or his or her designee, to attend meetings, workshops, or seminars as described in 105 ILCS 5/24-6.2, and (4) up to 10 days of paid leave per school term for teachers elected to represent a statewide teacher association in federal advocacy work in accordance with 105 ILCS 5/24-3.5.

#### Leave to Serve as an Election Judge

Any staff member who was appointed to serve as an election judge under State law may, after giving at least 20-days' written notice to the District, be absent without pay for the purpose of serving as an

election judge. The staff member is not required to use any form of paid leave to serve as an election judge. No more than 10% of the District's employees may be absent to serve as election judges on the same Election Day.

#### COVID-19 Paid Administrative Leave

When applicable, paid administrative leave related to COVID-19 will be granted to eligible employees in accordance with State law.

#### LEGAL REF.:

105 ILCS 5/10-20.83, 5/24-6, 5/24-6.1, 5/24-6.2, 5/24-6.3, 5/24-13, and 5/24-13.1.

10 ILCS 5/13-2.5, Election Code.

330 ILCS 61/, Service Member Employment and Reemployment Rights Act.

820 ILCS 147/, School Visitation Rights Act.

820 ILCS 154/, Family Bereavement Leave Act.

820 ILCS 180/, Victims' Economic Security and Safety Act.

CROSS REF.: 5:180 (Temporary Illness or Temporary Incapacity), 5:185 (Family and Medical Leave), 5:330 (Sick Days, Vacation, Holidays, and Leaves)

Adopted: December 12, 2023

#### 5:260 Student Teachers

The Director is authorized to accept students from university-approved teacher-training programs to do student teaching in the District. No individual who has been convicted of a criminal offense that would subject him or her to license suspension or revocation pursuant to Section 5/21B-80 of the School Code or who has been found to be the perpetrator of sexual or physical abuse of a minor under 18 years of age pursuant to proceedings under Article II of the Juvenile Court Act of 1987 is permitted to student teach.

Before permitting an individual to student teach or begin a required internship in the District, the Superintendent or designee shall ensure that:

- 1. The District performed a 105 ILCS 5/10-21.9(g) Check as described below; and
- 2. The individual furnished evidence of physical fitness to perform assigned duties and freedom from communicable disease pursuant to 105 ILCS 5/24-5.

## A 105 ILCS 5/10-21.9(g) Check shall include:

- Fingerprint-based checks through (a) the Illinois State Police (ISP) for criminal history records information (CHRI) pursuant to the Uniform Conviction Information Act (20 ILCS 2635/1), and (b) the FBI national crime information databases pursuant to the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act (P.L. 109-248);
- 2. A check of the Illinois Sex Offender Registry (see the Sex Offender Community Notification Law (730 ILCS 152/101 et seq.); and
- 3. A check of the Illinois Murderer and Violent Offender Against Youth Registry (Murderer and Violent Offender Against Youth Registration Act (730 ILCS 154/75-105).

The School Code requires each individual student teaching or beginning a required internship to provide the District with written authorization for, and pay the costs of, his or her 105 ILCS 5/10-21.9(g) check (including any applicable vendor's fees). Upon receipt of this authorization and payment, the Director or designee will submit the student teacher's name, sex, race, date of birth, social security number, fingerprint images, and other identifiers, as prescribed by the III. State Police (ISP), to the ISP. The Director or designee will provide each student teacher with a copy of his or her report.

#### Assignment

The Director or designee shall be responsible for coordinating placements of all student teachers within the District. Student teachers should be assigned to supervising teachers whose qualifications are acceptable to the District and the students' respective colleges or universities.

#### LEGAL REF.:

34 U.S.C. §20901 et seq., Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act, P.L. 109-248.

20 ILCS 2635/1, Uniform Conviction Information Act.

105 ILCS 5/10-21.9, 5/10-22.34, and 5/24-5.

CROSS REF.: 5:190 (Teacher Qualifications), 4:175 (Convicted Child Sex Offender; Screening; Notifications)

Adopted: July 11, 2023

# **Educational Support Personnel**

# 5:270 Employment At-Will, Compensation, and Assignment

## **Employment At-Will**

Please refer to the applicable collective bargaining agreement(s).

# For employees not covered by a current applicable bargaining agreement:

Unless otherwise specifically provided, District employment is at-will, meaning that employment may be terminated by the District or employee at any time for any reason, other than a reason prohibited by law, or no reason at all. Nothing in Governing Board policy is intended or should be construed as altering the employment at-will relationship.

Exceptions to employment at-will may include employees who are employed annually, have an employment contract, or are otherwise granted a legitimate interest in continued employment. The Superintendent is authorized to make exceptions to employing nonlicensed employees at-will but shall maintain a record of positions or employees who are not at-will.

# Compensation

Please refer to the applicable collective bargaining agreement(s).

# For employees not covered by a current applicable bargaining agreement:

The Board will determine salary and wages for educational support personnel. Increments are dependent on evidence of continuing satisfactory performance. An employee covered by the overtime provisions in State or federal law shall not work overtime without the prior authorization from the employee's immediate supervisor. Educational support personnel are paid twice a month.

# <u>Assignment</u>

Please refer to the applicable collective bargaining agreement(s).

## For employees not covered by a current applicable bargaining agreement:

The Director is authorized to make assignments and transfers of educational support personnel.

LEGAL REF.:

105 ILCS 5/10-22.34 and 5/10-23.5.

CROSS REF.: 5:10 (Equal Employment Opportunity and Minority Recruitment) 5:35 (Compliance with the Fair Labor Standards Act), 5:290 (Employment Termination and Suspensions), 5:310 (Compensatory Time-Off)

Adopted: March 15, 2022

## 5:280 Duties and Qualifications

All support staff: (1) must meet qualifications specified in job descriptions, (2) must be able to perform the essential tasks listed and/or assigned, and (3) are subject to Governing Board policies as they may be changed from time-to-time at the Board's sole discretion.

# <u>Paraprofessionals</u>

Paraprofessionals provide supervised instructional support. Service as a paraprofessional requires an educator license with stipulations endorsed for a paraprofessional educator unless a specific exemption is authorized by the III. State Board of Education (ISBE).

Individuals with only non-instructional duties (e.g., providing technical support for computers, providing personal care services, or performing clerical duties) are not paraprofessionals, and the requirements in this section do not apply. In addition, individuals completing their clinical experiences and/or student teaching do not need to comply with this section, provided their service otherwise complies with ISBE rules.

Nonlicensed Personnel Working with Students and Performing Non-Instructional Duties

Nonlicensed personnel performing non-instructional duties may be used:

- 1. For supervising study halls, long distance teaching reception areas used incident to instructional programs transmitted by electronic media, e.g., computers, video, and audio, detention and discipline areas, and District-sponsored extracurricular activities;
- 2. As supervisors, chaperones, or sponsors for non-academic District activities or for school activities connected to the academic program during any time in which the Governor has declared a disaster due to a public health emergency, in accordance with ISBE rule; or
- 3. For non-teaching duties not requiring instructional judgment or student evaluation.

Nothing in this policy prevents a nonlicensed person from serving as a guest lecturer or resource person under a certificated teacher's direction and with the administration's approval.

LEGAL REF.:

34 C.F.R. §200.58.

105 ILCS 5/10-22.34, 5/10-22.34a, and 5/10-22.34b.

625 ILCS 5/6-104 and 5/6-106.1, III. Vehicle Code.

23 III.Admin.Code §§1.280, 1.630, and 25.510.

CROSS REF.: 4:170 (Safety), 5:30 (Hiring Process and Criteria), 5:35 (Compliance with the Fair Labor Standards Act), 5:285 (Drug and Alcohol Testing for District Bus and Commercial Vehicle Drivers), 6:250 (Community Resource Persons and Volunteers)

Adopted: January 17, 2023

# 5:285 Drug and Alcohol Testing for District Bus and Commercial Vehicle Drivers

The District shall adhere to federal law and regulations requiring a drug and alcohol testing program for District bus and commercial vehicle drivers.

This program shall comply with the requirements of federal law. The Director or designee shall adopt and enact regulations consistent with the federal regulations, defining the circumstances and procedures for the testing.

This policy shall not be implemented, and no administrative procedures will be needed, until it is reasonably foreseeable that the District will hire staff for a position(s) requiring a commercial driver's license.

## LEGAL REF.:

49 U.S.C. §31301 <u>et seq.</u>, Alcohol and Controlled Substances Testing (Omnibus Transportation Employee Testing Act of 1991).

49 C.F.R. Parts 40 (Procedures for Transportation Workplace Drug and Alcohol Testing Programs), 382 (Controlled Substance and Alcohol Use and Testing), and 395 (Hours of Service of Drivers).

CROSS REF.: 5:30 (Hiring Process and Criteria), 5:280 (Duties and Qualifications)

Adopted: July 11, 2023

# 5:290 Employment Termination and Suspensions

## Resignation and Retirement

Please refer to the applicable collective bargaining agreement(s).

# For employees not covered by a current applicable bargaining agreement:

An employee is requested to provide two weeks' notice of a resignation. A resignation notice cannot be revoked once given. An employee planning to retire should notify his or her supervisor at least two months before the retirement date.

## Non-RIF Dismissal

The District may terminate an at-will employee at any time for any or no reason, but not for a reason prohibited by State or federal law.

Employees who are employed annually or have a contract, or who otherwise have a legitimate expectation of continued employment, may be dismissed: (1) at the end of the District year or at the end of their respective contract after being provided appropriate notice and after compliance with any applicable contractual provisions, or (2) mid-year or mid-contract provided appropriate due process procedures are provided.

The Director is responsible for making dismissal recommendations to the Governing Board consistent with the Board's goal of having a highly qualified, high performing staff. This includes recommending a non-licensed employee for immediate dismissal for willful or negligent failure to report an instance of suspected child abuse or neglect as required by 325 ILCS 5/.

# Reduction in Force and Recall

Please refer to the applicable collective bargaining agreement(s).

## For employees not covered by a current applicable bargaining agreement:

The Board may, as necessary or prudent, decide to decrease the number of educational support personnel or to discontinue some particular type of educational support service and, as a result of that action, dismiss or reduce the hours of one or more educational support employees. When making decisions concerning reduction in force and recall, the Board will follow Sections 10-22.34c (outsourcing non-instructional services) and 10-23.5 (procedures) of the School Code, to the extent they are applicable and not superseded by legislation or an applicable collective bargaining agreement.

## Final Paycheck

A terminating employee's final paycheck will be adjusted for any unused, earned vacation credit. Employees are paid for all earned vacation. Terminating employees will receive their final pay on the next regular payday following the date of termination, except that an employee dismissed due to a reduction in force shall receive his or her final paycheck on or before the next regular pay date following the last day of employment.

# Suspension

Except as provided below, the Director is authorized to suspend an employee without pay as a disciplinary measure, during an investigation into allegations of misconduct or pending a dismissal hearing whenever, in the Director's judgment, the employee's presence is detrimental to the District. A disciplinary suspension shall be with pay: (1) when the employee is exempt from the overtime

provisions, or (2) until an employee with an employment contract for a definite term is provided a notice and hearing according to the suspension policy for professional employees. Upon receipt of a recommendation from the III. Dept. Children and Family Services (DCFS) that the District remove an employee from his or her position when he or she is the subject of a pending DCFS investigation that relates to his or her employment with the District, the Board or Director or designee, in consultation with the Board Attorney, will determine whether to:

- 1. Let the employee remain in his or her position pending the outcome of the investigation; or
- 2. Remove the employee as recommended, proceeding with:
  - a. A suspension with pay; or
  - b. A suspension without pay.

## LEGAL REF.:

105 ILCS 5/10-22.34c and 5/10-23.5

5 ILCS 430 et seq., State Officials and Employees Ethics Act.

325 ILCS 5/7.4(c-10), Abused and Neglected Child Reporting Act.

820 ILCS 105/4a, Minimum Wage Law.

CROSS REF.: 5:90 (Abused and Neglected Child Reporting), 5:120 (Employee Ethics; Code of Professional Conduct; and Conflict of Interest), 5:240 (Suspension), 5:270 (Employment At-Will, Compensation, and Assignment)

Adopted: August 20, 2024

# 5:300 Schedules and Employment Year

The Director shall supervise a process for setting work schedules and an employment year for educational support employees in accordance with State and federal law, Governing Board policy, and applicable agreements and shall:

- 1. Assign each employee one supervisor who will establish a work schedule, including breaks, as required by building or District needs, workload, and the efficient management of human resources:
- 2. Allow for the ability to respond to changing circumstances by altering work schedules as needed; and
- 3. Consider the well-being of the employee. The Director's approval is required to establish a flexible work schedule or job-sharing.

## **Breaks**

Please refer to the applicable collective bargaining agreement(s).

# For employees not covered by a current applicable bargaining agreement:

An employee who works at least 7.5 continuous hours shall receive a 30-minute duty-free meal break that begins within the first five hours of the employee's workday.

# Nursing Mothers

The District accommodates employees who are nursing mothers according to State and federal law.

## LEGAL REF.:

29 U.S.C. §§207 and 218d, Fair Labor Standards Act.

105 ILCS 5/10-20.14a, 5/10-22.34, and 5/10-23.5.

740 ILCS 137/, Right to Breastfeed Act.

820 ILCS 105/, Minimum Wage Law.

820 ILCS 260/, Nursing Mothers in the Workplace Act.

CROSS REF.: 5:10 (Equal Employment Opportunity and Minority Recruitment), 5:35 (Compliance with the Fair Labor Standards Act)

Adopted: July 16, 2024

# 5:310 Compensatory Time-Off

Please refer to the applicable collective bargaining agreement(s).

LEGAL REF.:

29 U.S.C. §201 et seq., Fair Labor Standards Act; 29 C.F.R. Part 553.

CROSS REF.: 5:35 (Compliance with the Fair Labor Standards Act), 5:185 (Family and Medical Leave), 5:270 (Employment At-Will, Compensation, and Assignment)

Adopted: August 20, 2024

## 5:320 Evaluation

The Director is responsible for designing and implementing a program for evaluating the job performance of each educational support staff member according to standards contained in Governing Board policies as well as in compliance with State law and any applicable employee handbook.

Please refer to the applicable collective bargaining agreement(s).

# For employees not covered by a current applicable bargaining agreement:

The standards for the evaluation program shall include, but not be limited to:

- 1. Each employee shall be evaluated annually.
- 2. The direct supervisor shall provide input.
- 3. The employee's work quality, promptness, attendance, reliability, conduct, judgment, and cooperation shall be considered.
- 4. The employee shall receive a copy of the annual evaluation.
- 5. All evaluations shall comply with State and federal law and any applicable employee handbook.

CROSS REF.: 5:10 (Equal Employment Opportunity and Minority Recruitment), 5:150 (Personnel Records)

Adopted: January 17, 2023

# 5:330 Sick Days, Vacation, Holidays, and Leaves

Each of the provisions in this policy applies to all educational support personnel to the extent that it does not conflict with an applicable collective bargaining agreement or individual employment contract or benefit plan; in the event of a conflict, such provision is severable and the applicable bargaining agreement or individual agreement will control.

<u>Sick Days, Funeral Leave, Holidays, Personal Leave, Leave of Absence Without Pay, Professional Leave.</u>

Please refer to the applicable collective bargaining agreement(s).

Please refer to the applicable collective bargaining agreement(s) for the District's written plan allowing eligible employees to convert eligible accumulated sick leave to service credit upon an employee's retirement under the III. Municipal Retirement Fund.

Leave to Serve as a Trustee of the III. Municipal Retirement Fund

Upon request, the Board will grant 20 days of paid leave of absence per year to a trustee of the III. Municipal Retirement Fund in accordance with State law.

## Other Leaves

Educational support personnel receive the following leaves on the same terms and conditions granted professional personnel in Board policy 5:250, *Leaves of Absence*:

- 1. Leave for Service in the Military.
- 2. Leave for Service in the General Assembly.
- 3. School Visitation Leave.
- 4. Leaves for Victims of Domestic Violence, Sexual Violence, Gender Violence, or Other Crime of Violence.
- 5. Family Bereavement Leave.
- 6. Leave to serve as an election judge.
- 7. COVID-19 Paid Administrative Leave.

## LEGAL REF .:

105 ILCS 5/10-20.7b, 5/10-20.83, 5/24-2, 5/24-6, and 5/24-6.3.

10 ILCS 5/13-2.5, Election Code.

330 ILCS 61/, Service Member Employment and Reemployment Rights Act.

820 ILCS 147, School Visitation Rights Act.

820 ILCS 154/, Family Bereavement Leave Act.

820 ILCS 180/, Victims' Economic Security and Safety Act.

School Dist. 151 v. ISBE, 154 III.App.3d 375 (1st Dist. 1987); Elder v. Sch. Dist. No.127 1/2, 60 III.App.2d 56 (1st Dist. 1965).

CROSS REF.: 5:180 (Temporary Illness or Temporary Incapacity), 5:185 (Family and Medical Leave), 5:250 (Leaves of Absence)

Adopted: December 12, 2023

# **SECTION 6 - INSTRUCTION**

# 6:20 District Calendar and Day

The Special Education District shall, as closely as possible, follow the calendars established by member districts. Staff working in classrooms housed in member districts shall follow that district's established calendar.

The District, upon the Director's recommendation and subject to State regulations, when necessary, will establish the dates for teacher institutes and in-services, the length and dates of vacations, and the days designated as legal school holidays. The school calendar shall have a minimum of 185 days to ensure 176 days of actual student attendance.

# Commemorative Holidays

The teachers and students shall devote a portion of the school day on each commemorative holiday designated in the School Code to study and honor the commemorated person or occasion.

# School Day

The Executive Board establishes the length of the school day with the recommendation of the Director and subject to State law requirements.

## LEGAL REF.:

105 ILCS 5/10-19, 5/10-19.05, 5/10-20.56, 5/10-20.46, 5/10-30, 5/18-12, 5/18-12.5, 5/24-2, 5/27-3, 5/27-18, 5/27-19, 5/27-20, 5/27-20.1, and 5/27-20.2.

10 ILCS 5/11-4.1, Election Code.

5 ILCS 490/, State Commemorative Dates Act.

23 III.Admin.Code §1.420(f).

Metzl v. Leininger, 850 F.Supp. 740 (N.D. III. 1994), affd by 57 F.3d 618 (7th Cir. 1995).

CROSS REF.: 2:20 (Powers and Duties of the Governing Board), 4:180 (Pandemic Preparedness; Management; and Recovery), 5:200 (Terms and Conditions of Employment and Dismissal), 5:330 (Sick Days, Vacation, Holidays, and Leaves)

Adopted: January 17, 2023

# 6:30 Organization of Instruction

The grouping and housing of instructional levels in Member District facilities shall be according to plans developed by the Director in cooperation with the Member Districts and approved by the Executive Board.

The Director shall place eligible students with disabilities in classes, programs and services operated as a part of the comprehensive plan of the District.

CROSS REF.:7:30 (Student Assignment)

Adopted: December 12, 2023

# 6:40 Programs and Curriculum Development

In order to provide instructional services for the special education students served in Member Districts, the Director, in consultation with the Executive Board, shall develop a plan of services. It shall be a plan that is educationally sound and that justifies itself in substantial benefits to the students served.

The plan shall ensure that Member Districts have available a full continuum of services.

The Director shall develop a curriculum review program to monitor the current curriculum and promptly suggest changes to make the curriculum more effective, to take advantage of improved teaching methods and materials, and to be responsive to social change, technological developments, student needs, and community expectations.

## LEGAL REF.:

20 U.S.C. §1681, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, implemented by 34 C.F.R. Part 106.

105 ILCS 5/10-20.8 and 5/10-19.

CROSS REF.: 6:60 (Curriculum Content), 6:120 (Education of Children with Disabilities), 6:135 (Accelerated Placement Program), 7:15 (Student and Family Privacy Rights)

Adopted: July 16, 2024

# 6:60 Curriculum Content

The curriculum shall be in accordance with the Plan of Services developed by the Director.

LEGAL REF.:

Pub. L. No. 108-447, Section 111 of Division J, Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2005.

Pub. L. No. 110-385, Title II, 122 stat. 4096 (2008), Protecting Children in the 21st Century Act.

47 C.F.R. §54.520.

5 ILCS 465/3 and 465/3a.

20 ILCS 2605/2605-480.

105 ILCS 5/2-3.80(e) and (f), 5/10-20.79, 5/10-23.13, 5/27-3, 5/27-3.5, 5/27-5, 5/27-6, 5/27-6.5, 5/27-7, 5/27-12, 5/27-12.1, 5/27-13.1, 5/27-13.2, 5/27-20.05, 5/27-20.08, 5/27-20.3, 5/27-20.4, 5/27-20.5, 5/27-20.7, 5/27-20.8, 5/27-21, 5/27-22, 5/27-23.3, 5/27-23.4, 5/27-23.7, 5/27-23.8, 5/27-23.10, 5/27-23.11, 5/27-23.15, 5/27-23.16, 5/27-24.1, and 5/27-24.2.

105 ILCS 110/3, Comprehensive Health Education Program.

105 ILCS 435/, Vocational Education Act.

625 ILCS 5/6-408.5, III. Vehicle Code.

23 III.Admin.Code §§1.420, 1.425, 1.430, and 1.440.

CROSS REF.: 4:165 (Awareness and Prevention of Child Sex Abuse and Grooming Behaviors), 6:20 (District Calendar and Day), 6:40 (Programs and Curriculum Development), 6:235 (Access to Electronic Networks), 7:180 (Prevention of and Response to Bullying, Intimidation, and Harassment), 7:185 (Teen Dating Violence Prohibited), 7:190 (Student Behavior), 7:260 (Exemption from Physical Activity)

Adopted: December 12, 2023

# 6:65 Student Social and Emotional Development

Social and emotional learning (SEL) is defined as the process through which students enhance their ability to integrate thinking, feeling, and behaving to achieve important life tasks. Students competent in SEL are able to recognize and manage their emotions, establish healthy relationships, set positive goals, meet personal and social needs, and make responsible and ethical decisions.

The Director shall incorporate SEL into the District's curriculum and other educational programs consistent with the District's mission and the goals and benchmarks of the III. Learning Standards. The III. Learning Standards include three goals for students:

- 1. Develop self-awareness and self-management skills to achieve school and life success.
- 2. Use social-awareness and interpersonal skills to establish and maintain positive relationships.
- 3. Demonstrate decision-making skills and responsible behaviors in personal, school, and community contexts.

The incorporation of SEL objectives into the District's curriculum and other educational programs may include but is not limited to:

- 1. Classroom and school-wide programming to foster a safe, supportive learning environment where students feel respected and valued. This may include incorporating scientifically based, age-and-culturally appropriate classroom instruction, District-wide, and school-wide strategies that teach SEL skills, promote optimal mental health, and prevent risk behaviors for all students.
- 2. Staff development and training to promote students' SEL development. This may include providing all personnel with age-appropriate academic and SEL and how to promote it.
- 3. Parent/Guardian and family involvement to promote students' SEL development. This may include providing parents/guardians and families with learning opportunities related to the importance of their children's optimal SEL development and ways to enhance it.
- 4. Community partnerships to promote students' SEL development. This may include establishing partnerships with diverse community agencies and organizations to assure a coordinated approach to addressing children's mental health and SEL development.
- 5. Early identification and intervention to enhance students' school readiness, academic success, and use of good citizenship skills. This may include development of a system and procedures for periodic and universal screening, assessment, and early intervention for students who have significant risk factors for social, emotional, or mental health conditions that impact learning.
- 6. Treatment to prevent or minimize mental health conditions in students. This may include building and strengthening referral and follow-up procedures for providing effective clinical services for students with social, emotional, and mental health conditions that impact learning. This may include student and family support services, school-based behavioral health services, and school-community linked services and supports.
- 7. Assessment and accountability for teaching SEL skills to all students. This may include implementation of a process to assess and report baseline information and ongoing progress about school climate, students' social and emotional development, and academic performance.

## LEGAL REF.:

Children's Mental Health Act, 405 ILCS 49/.

CROSS REF.: 1:30, (Educational Philosophy), 6:40 (Programs and Curriculum Development), 6:60 (Curriculum Content), 7:100 (Health, Eye, and Dental Examinations; Immunizations; and Exclusion of Students), 7:180 (Prevention of and Response to Bullying, Intimidation, and Harassment), 7:250 (Student Support Services)

Adopted: January 17, 2023

# 6:100 Using Animals in the Educational Program

Animals may be brought into District facilities for educational purposes according to procedures developed by the Director assuring: (a) the animal is appropriately housed, humanely cared for, and properly handled, and (b) students will not be exposed to a dangerous animal or an unhealthy environment.

## Animal Experiments

Experiments on living animals are prohibited; however, behavior studies that do not impair an animal's health or safety are permissible.

## **Animal Dissection**

The dissection of dead animals or parts of dead animals shall be allowed in the classroom only when the dissection exercise contributes to or is a part of an illustration of pertinent study materials. All dissection of animals shall be confined to the classroom and must comply with the School Code.

Students who object to performing, participating in, or observing the dissection of animals are excused from classroom attendance without penalty during times when such activities are taking place. No student will be penalized or disciplined for refusing to perform, participate in, or observe a dissection. The Director or designee shall inform students of: (1) their right to refrain from performing, participating in, or observing dissection, and (2) which courses contain a dissection unit and which of those courses offers an alternative project.

#### LEGAL REF.:

105 ILCS 5/2-3.122, 5/27-14, and 112/1 et seq.

CROSS REF.: 6:40 (Curriculum Development)

Adopted: August 17, 2021

# 6:110 Programs for Students At Risk of Academic Failure and/or Dropping Out of School and Graduation Incentives Program

The Director or designee shall develop, maintain, and supervise a program for students at risk of academic failure or dropping out of School. The program shall include education and support services addressing individual learning styles, career development, and social needs, and may include without limitation one or more of the following:

- Parent-teacher conferences
- Counseling services by social workers and/or guidance counselors
- Counseling services by psychologists
- Psychological testing
- Truants' alternative and optional education program
- Alternative School placement
- Community agency services
- Alternative learning opportunities program, in conformity with the Alternative Learning Opportunities Law, as it may be amended from time-to-time
- Graduation incentives program
- Remediation program

Any student who is below the age of 20 years is eligible to enroll in a graduation incentives program if he or she:

- 1. Is considered a dropout according to State law;
- 2. Has been suspended or expelled;
- 3. Is pregnant or is a parent;
- 4. Has been assessed as chemically dependent; or
- 5. Is enrolled in a bilingual education or English Language Learners program.

## LEGAL REF.:

105 ILCS 5/2-3.41, 5/2-3.66, 5/10-20.9a, 5/13B, 5/26-2a, 5/26-13, 5/26-14, and 5/26-16.

CROSS REF.: 7:70 (Attendance and Truancy)

Adopted: August 20, 2024

# 6:120 Education of Children with Disabilities

The District shall provide a free appropriate public education in the least restrictive environment and necessary related services to all children with disabilities enrolled in the District, as required by the Individuals With Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and implementing provisions of the School Code, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the Americans With Disabilities Act. The term "children with disabilities," as used in this policy, means children between ages 3 and 21 (inclusive) for whom it is determined, through definitions and procedures described in the III. State Board of Education (ISBE) *Special Education* rules, that special education services are needed. Children with disabilities who turn 22 years old during the school year are eligible for such services through the end of the school year.

It is the intent of the District to ensure that students who are disabled within the definition of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 are identified, evaluated, and provided with appropriate educational services. Students may be disabled within the meaning of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act even though they do not require services pursuant to IDEA.

For students eligible for services under IDEA, the District shall follow procedures for identification, evaluation, placement, and delivery of services to children with disabilities provided in the ISBE *Special Education* rules. For those students who are not eligible for services under IDEA, but, because of disability as defined by Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, need or are believed to need special instruction or related services, the District shall establish and implement a system of procedural safeguards. The safeguards shall cover students' identification, evaluation, and educational placement. This system shall include notice, an opportunity for the student's parent(s)/guardian(s) to examine relevant records, an impartial hearing with opportunity for participation by the student's parent(s)/guardian(s), representation by counsel, and a review procedure.

If necessary, students may also be placed in nonpublic special education programs or education facilities.

## LEGAL REF.:

20 U.S.C. §1400 et seg., Individuals With Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004.

29 U.S.C. §794, Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Section 504.

42 U.S.C. §12101 et seq., Americans With Disabilities Act.

34 C.F.R. Part 106.

34 C.F.R. Part 300.105 ILCS 5/14-1.01 et seq., 5/14-7.02, and 5/14-7.02b.

23 III.Admin.Code Part 226.

CROSS REF.: 7:230 (Misconduct by Students with Disabilities)

Adopted: March 15, 2022

# 6:135 Accelerated Placement Program

The District provides an Accelerated Placement Program (APP). The APP advances the District's goal of providing educational programs with opportunities for each student to develop to his or her maximum potential. The APP provides an educational setting with curriculum options usually reserved for students who are older or in higher grades than the student participating in the APP. APP options include but may not be limited to: (a) accelerating a student in a single subject; (b) other grade-level acceleration; and (c) early entrance to kindergarten or first grade. Participation in the APP is open to all students who demonstrate high ability and who may benefit from accelerated placement. It is not limited to students who have been identified as gifted and talented. Eligibility to participate in the District's APP shall not be conditioned upon the protected classifications identified in Board policy 7:10, Equal Educational Opportunities, or any factor other than the student's identification as an accelerated learner.

The Director or designee shall implement an APP that includes:

- 1. Decision-making processes that are fair, equitable, and involve multiple individuals, e.g. District administrators, teachers, and school support personnel, and a student's parent(s)/guardian(s).
- 2. Processes that provide a student's parent(s)/guardian(s) with:
  - a. Written notification when their child is eligible for enrollment in accelerated courses; and
  - b. Notification of a decision affecting their child's participation in the APP.
- 3. Assessment processes that include multiple valid, reliable indicators.
- 4. The automatic enrollment, in the following school term, of a student into the next most rigorous level of advanced coursework offered by the high school if the student meets or exceeds State standards in English language arts, mathematics, or science on a State assessment administered under 105 ILCS 5/2-3.64a-5, as follows:
  - a. A student who meets or exceeds State standards in English language arts shall be automatically enrolled into the next most rigorous level of advanced coursework in English, social studies, humanities, or related subjects.
  - b. A student who meets or exceeds State standards in mathematics shall be automatically enrolled into the next most rigorous level of advanced coursework in mathematics.
  - c. A student who meets or exceeds State standards in science shall be automatically enrolled into the next most rigorous level of advanced coursework in science.
- 5. Waiver of a course completion requirement under Board policy 6:300, *Graduation Requirements*, if the District determines that the student has demonstrated mastery of or competency in the content of the course or unit of instruction.

The Director or designee shall annually notify the community, parent(s)/guardian(s), students, and school personnel about the APP, the process for referring a student for possible evaluation for accelerated placement, and the methods used to determine whether a student is eligible for accelerated placement, including strategies to reach groups of students and families who have been historically underrepresented in accelerated placement programs and advanced coursework. Notification may: (a) include varied communication methods, such as student handbooks and District or school websites; and (b) be provided in multiple languages, as appropriate.

LEGAL REF.:

105 ILCS 5/14A.

23 III.Admin.Code Part 227, Gifted Education.

CROSS REF.: 6:10 (Educational Philosophy and Objectives), 6:130 (Program for the Gifted), 7:10 (Equal Educational Opportunities), 7:50 (School Admissions and Student Transfers To and From Non-District Schools)

Adopted: December 17, 2024

# 6:140 Education of Homeless Children

Each child of a homeless individual and each homeless youth has equal access to the same free, appropriate public education as provided to other children and youths, including a public pre-school education. A *homeless child* is defined as provided in the McKinney Homeless Assistance Act and the Education for Homeless Children Act. The Superintendent or designee shall act as or appoint a Liaison for Homeless Children to coordinate this policy's implementation.

A homeless child may attend the District that the child attended when permanently housed or in which the child was last enrolled. A homeless child living in any District's attendance area may attend that District.

The Director or designee shall review and revise rules or procedures that may act as barriers to the enrollment of homeless children and youths. In reviewing and revising such procedures, consideration shall be given to issues concerning transportation, immunization, residency, birth certificates, District records and other documentation, and guardianship. Transportation shall be provided in accordance with the McKinney Homeless Assistance Act and State law. The Director or designee shall give special attention to ensuring the enrollment and attendance of homeless children and youths who are not currently attending District. If a child is denied enrollment or transportation under this policy, the Liaison for Homeless Children shall immediately refer the child or his or her parent/guardian to the ombudsperson appointed by the Regional Superintendent and provide the child or his or her parent/guardian with a written explanation for the denial. Whenever a child and his or her parent/guardian who initially share the housing of another person due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar hardship continue to share the housing, the Liaison for Homeless Children shall, after the passage of 18 months and annually thereafter, conduct a review as to whether such hardship continues to exist in accordance with State law.

# LEGAL REF.:

42 U.S.C. §11431 et seq., McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act.

105 ILCS 45/, Education for Homeless Children Act.

23 III.Admin.Code §1.241.

CROSS REF.: 2:260 (Uniform Grievance Procedure), 7:10 (Equal Educational Opportunities), 7:30 (Student Assignment), 7:50 (District Admissions /Eligibility for Services), 7:60 (Residence), 7:100 (Health, Eye, and Dental Examinations; Immunizations; and Exclusion of Students)

Adopted: July 16, 2024

# 6:150 Home and Hospital Instruction

A student who is absent from school, or whose physician, physician assistant, or advanced practice registered nurse anticipates that the student will be absent from school, because of a medical condition may be eligible for instruction in the student's home or hospital. Eligibility shall be determined by State law and the III. State Board of Education rules governing (1) the continuum of placement options for students who have been identified for special education services or (2) the home and hospital instruction provisions for students who have not been identified for special education services. Appropriate educational services from qualified staff will begin no later than five school days after receiving a written statement from: (1) a physician licensed to practice medicine in all of its branches, (2) a licensed physician assistant, or (3) a licensed advanced practice registered nurse. Instructional or related services for a student receiving special education services will be determined by the student's individualized education program.

A student who is unable to attend school because of pregnancy or pregnancy-related conditions, the fulfillment of parenting obligations related to the health of the child, or health and safety concerns arising from domestic or sexual violence as defined in 105 ILCS 5/26A, will be provided home instruction, correspondence courses, or other courses of instruction under the following circumstances:

- 1. Before the birth of the child when the student's physician, physician assistant, or advanced practice registered nurse indicates, in writing, that she is medically unable to attend regular classroom instruction.
- 2. For up to three months after the child's birth or a miscarriage.
- 3. When a student must care for his or her ill child if:
  - a. The child's physician, physician assistant, or advanced practice registered nurse informs the District, in writing, that the child has a serious health condition that would require the student to be absent from school for two or more consecutive weeks; and
  - b. The student or the student's parent/guardian informs the District, in writing, that the student needs to care for the child during this period.
- 4. The student must treat physical or mental health complications or address safety concerns arising from domestic or sexual violence when a health care provider or an employee of the student's domestic or sexual violence organization, as defined in 105 ILCS 5/26A, informs the District, in writing, that the care is needed by the student and will cause the student's absence from school for two or more consecutive weeks.

The District may reassess home instruction provided to a student under No. 3 or No. 4 every two months to determine the student's continuing need for home instruction.

Periodic conferences will be held between appropriate District personnel, parent(s)/guardian(s), and hospital staff to coordinate course work and facilitate a student's return to District.

## LEGAL REF.:

105 ILCS 5/10-19.05(e), 5/10-22.6a, 5/14-13.01, and 5/18-4.5.

23 III. Admin. Code §§1.520, 1.610, and 226.300.

CROSS REF.: 6:120 (Education of Children with Disabilities), 7:10 (Equal Educational Opportunities), 7:250 (Student Support Services), 7:255 (Students Who are Parents, Expectant Parents, or Victims of Domestic or Sexual Violence)

Adopted: June 17, 2025

# 6:160 English Learners

The District offers opportunities for resident English Learners to achieve at high levels in academic subjects and to meet the same challenging State academic standards that all children are expected to meet. The Director or designee shall develop and maintain a program for English Learners that will:

- 1. Assist all English Learners to achieve English proficiency, facilitate effective communication in English, and encourage their full participation in District activities and programs as well as promote participation by the parents/guardians of English Learners.
- 2. Appropriately identify students with limited English language proficiency.
- 3. Comply with State law regarding the Transitional Bilingual Educational Program (TBE) or Transitional Program of Instruction (TPI), whichever is applicable.
- 4. Comply with any applicable State and federal requirements for the receipt of grant money for English Learners and programs to serve them.
- 5. Determine the appropriate instructional program and environment for English Learners.
- 6. Annually assess the English proficiency of English Learners and monitor their progress in order to determine their readiness for a mainstream classroom environment.
- 7. Include English Learners, to the extent required by State and federal law, in the District's student assessment program to measure their achievement in reading/language arts and mathematics.
- 8. Provide information to the parents/guardians of English Learners about: (1) the reasons for their child's identification, (2) their child's level of English proficiency, (3) the method of instruction to be used, (4) how the program will meet their child's needs, (5) how the program will specifically help their child learn English and meet age-appropriate academic achievement standards for grade promotion and graduation, (6) specific exit requirements of the program, (7) how the program will meet their child's individualized education program, if applicable, and (8) information on parent/guardian rights. Parents/guardians will be regularly apprised of their child's progress and involvement will be encouraged.

## Parent Involvement

Parents/guardians of English Learners will be informed how they can: (1) be involved in the education of their children; (2) be active participants in assisting their children to attain English proficiency, achieve at high levels within a well-rounded education, and meet the challenging State academic standards expected of all students; and (3) participate and serve on the District's Transitional Bilingual Education Programs Parent Advisory Committee.

#### LEGAL REF .:

20 U.S.C. §§6312, 6314, 6315, and 6318.

20 U.S.C. §6801 et seq.

34 C.F.R. Part 200.

105 ILCS 5/14C-1 et seq.

23 III.Admin.Code Part 228.

CROSS REF.: 6:340 (Student Testing and Assessment Program)

Adopted: August 17, 2021

# 6:235 Access to Electronic Networks

Electronic networks are a part of the District's instructional program and serve to promote educational excellence by facilitating resource sharing, innovation, and communication.

The term *electronic networks* includes all of the District's technology resources, including, but not limited to:

- 1. The District's local-area and wide-area networks, including wireless networks (Wi-Fi), District-issued Wi-Fi hotspots, and any District servers or other networking infrastructure;
- 2. Access to the Internet or other online resources via the District's networks or to any Districtissued online account from any computer or device, regardless of location;
- 3. District-owned or District-issued computers, laptops, tablets, phones, or similar devices.

The Director shall develop an implementation plan for this policy and appoint system administrator(s).

The District is not responsible for any information that may be lost or damaged, or become unavailable when using the network, or for any information that is retrieved or transmitted via the Internet. Furthermore, the District will not be responsible for any unauthorized charges or fees resulting from access to the Internet.

# Curriculum and Appropriate Online Behavior

The use of the District's electronic networks shall: (1) be consistent with the curriculum adopted by the District as well as the varied instructional needs, learning styles, abilities, and developmental levels of the students, and (2) comply with the selection criteria for instructional materials and library resource center materials. As required by federal law, students will be educated about appropriate online behavior, including but not limited to: (1) interacting with other individuals on social networking websites and in chat rooms, and (2) cyberbullying awareness and response. Staff members may, consistent with the Director's implementation plan, use the Internet throughout the curriculum.

The District's electronic network is part of the curriculum and is not a public forum for general use.

# Acceptable Use

All use of the District's electronic networks must be: (1) in support of education and/or research, and be in furtherance of the goals stated herein, or (2) for a legitimate District business purpose. Use is a privilege, not a right. Users of the District's electronic networks have no expectation of privacy in any material that is stored on, transmitted, or received via the District's electronic networks. General rules for behavior and communications apply when using electronic networks. The District's administrative procedure, *Acceptable Use of the District's Electronic Networks*, contains the appropriate uses, ethics, and protocol. Electronic communications and downloaded material, including files deleted from a user's account but not erased, may be monitored or read by District officials.

## Internet Safety

Technology protection measures shall be used on each District computer with Internet access. They shall include a filtering device that protects against Internet access by both adults and minors to visual depictions that are: (1) obscene, (2) pornographic, or (3) harmful or inappropriate for students, as defined by federal law and as determined by the Director or designee. The Director or designee shall enforce the use of such filtering devices. An administrator, supervisor, or other authorized person may disable the filtering device for bona fide research or other lawful purpose, provided the person receives prior permission from the Director or system administrator. The Director or designee shall include measures in this policy's implementation plan to address the following:

1. Ensure staff supervision of student access to online electronic networks,

- 2. Restrict student access to inappropriate matter as well as restricting access to harmful materials.
- 3. Ensure student and staff privacy, safety, and security when using electronic communications,
- 4. Restrict unauthorized access, including "hacking" and other unlawful activities, and
- 5. Restrict unauthorized disclosure, use, and dissemination of personal identification information, such as, names and addresses.

## Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI)-Enabled Tools

The Board recognizes that Al-enabled tools are important to enhance student learning, educator effectiveness, and school operations. The use of Al-enabled tools in the District shall be implemented in a safe, ethical, and equitable manner and in accordance with Board policies 1:30, Educational Philosophy, and 7:345, Use of Educational Technologies; Student Data Privacy and Security.

To implement the use of Al-enabled tools in the District, the Director or designee shall:

- 1. Develop a District-wide Al Plan that addresses the District's approach to the integration of Al;
- 2. Based on the District-wide Al Plan, establish Al Responsible Use Guidelines to address the responsible use of Al in the District by students and staff;
- 3. Ensure that Al-enabled tools comply with State and federal law;
- 4. Ensure that staff receive training and students receive instruction on the use of Al, as appropriate; and
- 5. Review the District's Al Plan and Al Responsible Use Guidelines on an annual basis and update them as needed.

## Authorization for Electronic Network Access

Each staff member must sign the *Authorization for Access to the District's Electronic Networks* as a condition for using the District's electronic network. Each student and his or her parent(s)/guardian(s) must sign the *Authorization* before being granted unsupervised use.

## Confidentiality

All users of the District's computers to access the Internet shall maintain the confidentiality of student records. Reasonable measures to protect against unreasonable access shall be taken before confidential student information is loaded onto the network.

## Violations

The failure of any user to follow the terms of the District's administrative procedure, *Acceptable Use of the District's Electronic Networks*, or this policy, will result in the loss of privileges, disciplinary action, and/or appropriate legal action.

#### LEGAL REF.:

No Child Left Behind Act, 20 U.S.C. §6777.

Children's Internet Protection Act, 47 U.S.C. §254(h) and (l).

Enhancing Education Through Technology Act, 20 U.S.C §6751 et seq.

47 C.F.R. Part 54, Subpart F, Universal Service Support for Schools and Libraries.

720 ILCS 5/26.5.

CROSS REF.: 5:100 (Staff Development Program), 5:170 (Copyright), 6:40 (Curriculum Development), 6:230 (Library Resource Center), 6:260 (Complaints About Curriculum, Instructional Materials, and Programs), 7:130 (Student Rights and Responsibilities), 7:190 (Student Behavior), 7:310 (Restrictions on Publications; Elementary Schools), 7:315 (Restrictions on Publications; High Schools), 7:345 (Use of Educational Technologies; Student Data Privacy and Security)

Adopted: June 17, 2025

# 6:240 Field Trips

Field trips are permissible when the experiences are a part of the District curriculum and/or contribute to the District's educational objectives.

All field trips must have the Director or designee's prior approval, except that field trips beyond a 200-mile radius of the District or extending overnight must have the prior approval of the Executive Board. The Director or designee shall analyze the following factors to determine whether to approve a field trip: educational value, student safety, parent concerns, heightened security alerts, and liability concerns. On all field trips, a bus fee set by the Director or designee may be charged to help defray the transportation costs.

Parents/guardians of students: (1) shall be given the opportunity to consent to their child's participation in any field trip; and (2) are responsible for all entrance fees, food, lodging, or other costs, except that the District will pay such costs for students who qualify for a fee waiver under Board policy 4:140, *Waiver of Student Fees*. All non-participating students shall be provided an alternative experience. Any field trip may be cancelled without notice due to an unforeseen event or condition.

Privately arranged trips, including those led by District staff members, shall not be represented as or construed to be sponsored by the District or school. The District does not provide liability protection for privately arranged trips and is not responsible for any damages arising from them.

LEGAL REF.:

105 ILCS 5/29-3.1.

CROSS REF.:4:140 (Waiver of Student Fees), 7:10 (Equal Educational Opportunities), 7:270 (Administering Medicines to Students)

Adopted: July 11, 2023

# 6:250 Community Resource Persons and Volunteers

The Governing Board encourages the use of resource persons and volunteers to: (1) increase students' educational attainment; (2) provide enrichment experiences for students; (3) increase the effective utilization of staff time and skills; (4) give more individual attention to students; and (5) promote greater community involvement.

Resource persons and volunteers may be used:

- 1. For non-teaching duties not requiring instructional judgment or evaluation of students;
- 2. For supervising study halls, long distance teaching reception areas used incident to instructional programs transmitted by electronic media (such as computers, video, and audio), detention and discipline areas, and District-sponsored extracurricular activities;
- 3. To assist with academic programs under a licensed teacher's immediate supervision;
- 4. To assist in times of violence or other traumatic incidents within the District by providing crisis intervention services to lessen the effects of emotional trauma on staff, students, and the community, provided the volunteer meets the qualifications established by the III. School Crisis Assistance Team Steering Committee;
- 5. As a guest lecturer or resource person under a licensed teacher's direction and with the administration's approval; or
- 6. As supervisors, chaperones, or sponsors for non-academic District activities.

The Director shall follow Board policy 4:175, Convicted Child Sex Offender; Screening; Notifications, to establish procedures for securing and screening resource persons and volunteers. A person who is a sex offender, as defined by the Sex Offender Registration Act, or a violent offender against youth, as defined in the Murderer and Violent Offender Against Youth Registration Act, is prohibited from being a resource person or volunteer. All volunteer coaches must comply with the requirement to report hazing in policy 5:90, Abused and Neglected Child Reporting.

## LEGAL REF .:

105 ILCS 5/10-22.34, 5/10-22.34a, and 5/10-22.34b.

720 ILCS 5/12C-50.1, Failure to Report Hazing.

730 ILCS 150/1 et seq., Sex Offender Registration Act.

730 ILCS 152/101 et seq., Sex Offender Community Notification Law.

730 ILCS 154/75 et seq., Murderer and Violent Offender Against Youth Community Notification Law.

730 ILCS 154/101 et seq., Murderer and Violent Offender Against Youth Registration Act.

CROSS REF.: 4:170 (Safety), 4:175 (Convicted Child Sex Offender; Screening; Notifications), 5:90 (Abused and Neglected Child Reporting), 5:280 (Duties and Qualifications), 8:30 (Visitors to and Conduct on District Property), 8:95 (Parental Involvement)

Adopted: January 17, 2023

# 6:255 Assemblies and Ceremonies

Assemblies must be approved by the Director or designee and be consistent with the District's educational objectives.

While the District respects an individual's brief, quiet, personal religious observance(s), it shall not endorse or otherwise promote invocations, benedictions, and group prayers at any District assembly, ceremony, or other District-sponsored activity.

LEGAL REF.:

Lee v. Weisman, 505 U.S. 577 (1992).

Santa Fe Independent Sch. Dist. v. Doe, 530 U.S. 290 (2000).

Kennedy v. Bremerton Sch. Dist., 142 S.Ct. 2407 (2022).

Jones v. Clear Creek Independent Sch. Dist., 930 F.2d 416 (5th Cir. 1991), cert. granted, judgement vacated, 505 U.S. 1215 (1992), remand, 977 F.2d 963, reh'g denied, 983 F.2d 234 (5th Cir. 1992), and cert. denied, 508 U.S. 967 (1993).

Adopted: January 17, 2023

# 6:260 Complaints About Curriculum, Instructional Materials, and Programs

Parents/guardians have the right to inspect any instructional material used as part of their child's educational curriculum pursuant to Governing Board policy 7:15, *Student and Family Privacy Rights*.

Parents/guardians, employees, and community members who believe that curriculum, instructional materials, or programs violate rights guaranteed by any law or Board policy may file a complaint using Board policy 2:260, *Uniform Grievance Procedure*.

Parents/guardians, employees, and community members with other suggestions or complaints about curriculum, instructional materials, or programs should complete a *Curriculum Objection Form*. A parent/guardian may request that his/her child be exempt from using a particular instructional material or program by completing a *Curriculum Objection Form*. The Director or designee shall establish criteria for the review of objections and inform the parent/guardian, employee, or community member, as applicable, of the District's decision.

## LEGAL REF.:

20 U.S.C. §1232h, Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment.

CROSS REF.: 2:260 (Uniform Grievance Procedure), 7:15 (Student and Family Privacy Rights), 8:110 (Public Suggestions and Concerns)

Adopted: January 17, 2023

# 6:280 Grading and Promotion

# Please refer to the applicable collective bargaining agreement(s).

The Director shall establish a system of grading and reporting academic achievement to students and their parents/guardians. The system shall also determine when promotion and graduation requirements are met. The decision to promote a student to the next grade level shall be based on successful completion of the curriculum, attendance, and performance on the standardized tests required by the III. State Board of Education (ISBE) and/or other assessments. A student shall not be promoted based upon age or any other social reason not related to academic performance. The administration shall determine remedial assistance for a student who is not promoted.

Every teacher shall maintain an evaluation record for each student in the teacher's classroom. A District administrator cannot change the final grade assigned by the teacher without notifying the teacher. Reasons for changing a student's final grade include:

- A miscalculation of test scores.
- A technical error in assigning a particular grade or score,
- The teacher agrees to allow the student to do extra work that may impact the grade,
- An inappropriate grading system used to determine the grade, or
- An inappropriate grade based on an appropriate grading system.

Should a grade change be made, the administrator making the change must sign the changed record.

## LEGAL REF.:

105 ILCS 5/2-3.64a-5, 5/10-20.9a, 5/10-21.8, and 5/27-27.

CROSS REF.: 6:340 (Student Testing and Assessment Program), 7:50 (District Admissions/Eligibility for Services)

Adopted: March 15, 2022

# 6:340 Student Testing and Assessment Program

The District student assessment program provides information for determining individual student achievement and guidance needs, curriculum and instruction effectiveness, as well as District performance measured against District student learning objectives and statewide norms.

The Director or designee shall manage the student assessment program that, at a minimum:

- Administers to students all standardized assessments required by the III. State Board of Education (ISBE) and/or any other appropriate assessment methods and instruments, including norm and criterion-referenced achievement tests, aptitude tests, proficiency tests, and teacherdeveloped tests.
- 2. Informs students of the timelines and procedures applicable to their participation in every State assessment.
- 3. Provides each student's parents/guardians with the results or scores of each State assessment. See policy 6:280, *Grading and Promotion*.
- 4. Utilizes professional testing practices.

Overall student assessment data on tests required by State law will be aggregated by the District and reported, along with other information, on the District's annual report card. All reliable assessments administered by the District and scored by entities outside of the District must be (1) reported to ISBE on its form by the 30<sup>th</sup> day of each school year, and (2) made publicly available to parents/guardians of students. Board policy 7:340, *Student Records*, and its implementing procedures govern recordkeeping and access issues.

## LEGAL REF.:

20 U.S.C. §1232g, Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act.

105 ILCS 10/, Illinois School Student Records Act.

105 ILCS 5/2-3.63, 5/2-3.64a-5, 5/2-3.64a-10, 5/2-3.64a-15, 5/2-3.107, 5/2-3.153, 5/10-17a, 5/22-82, and 5/27-1.

23 III. Admin. Code §§1.30(b) and 375.10.

CROSS REF.: 6:280 (Grading and Promotion), 7:340 (Student Records)

Adopted: January 17, 2023

# **SECTION 7 - STUDENTS**

# 7:10 Equal Educational Opportunities

Equal educational and extracurricular opportunities shall be available for all students without regard to color, race, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, ancestry, age, physical or mental disability, gender, gender identity, (whether or not traditionally associated with the student's assigned sex at birth), gender expression, status of being homeless, immigration status, order of protection status, military status, unfavorable military discharge, reproductive health decisions, or actual or potential marital or parental status, including pregnancy. Further, the District will not knowingly enter into agreements with any entity or any individual that discriminates against students on the basis of sex or any other protected status, except that the District remains viewpoint neutral when granting access to District facilities under Governing Board policy 8:20, Community Use of District Facilities. Any student may file a discrimination complaint by using Board policy 2:260, Uniform Grievance Procedure, or in the case of discrimination on the basis of race, color, or national origin, Board policy 2:270, Discrimination and Harassment on the Basis of Race, Color, and National Origin Prohibited.

#### Sex Equity

No student shall, based on sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression be denied equal access to programs, activities, services, or benefits or be limited in the exercise of any right, privilege, advantage, or denied equal access to educational and extracurricular programs and activities. Students shall be supported in a manner consistent with their gender identity. This will include, but not be limited to, use of restrooms, locker rooms, and other facilities that correspond with the student's gender identity.

Any student may file a sex equity complaint by using Board policy 2:260, *Uniform Grievance Procedure*. A student may appeal the Board's resolution of the complaint to the Regional Superintendent (pursuant to 105 ILCS 5/3-10) and, thereafter, to the State Superintendent of Education (pursuant to 105 ILCS 5/2-3.8).

Any student may file a sexual harassment complaint by using Board policy 2:265, *Title IX Grievance Procedure*.

#### Administrative Implementation

The Director shall appoint a Nondiscrimination Coordinator and a Title IX Coordinator. The Director and Building Principal shall use reasonable measures to inform staff members and students of this policy and related grievance procedures.

#### LEGAL REF.:

20 U.S.C. §1681 et seq., Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972; 34 C.F.R. Part 106.

29 U.S.C. §791 et seq., Rehabilitation Act of 1973; 34 C.F.R. Part 104.

42 U.S.C. §2000d, Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964; 34 C.F.R. Part 100.

42 U.S.C. §11431 et seq., McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act.

Good News Club v. Milford Central Sch., 533 U.S. 98 (2001).

III. Constitution, Art. I, §18.

105 ILCS 5/3.25b, 5/3.25d(b), 5/10-20.12, 5/10-20.60, 5/10-20.63, 5/10-22.5, 5/26A, and 5/27-1.

775 ILCS 5/1-101 et seq., Illinois Human Rights Act.

775 ILCS 35/5, Religious Freedom Restoration Act.

23 III.Admin.Code §1.240 and Part 200.

CROSS REF.: 2:260 (Uniform Grievance Procedure), 2:265 (Title IX Grievance Procedure), 2:270 (Discrimination and Harassment on the Basis of Race, Color, and National Origin Prohibited), 6:65 (Student Social and Emotional Development), 7:20 (Harassment of Students Prohibited), 7:50 (School Admissions and Student Transfers To and From Non-District Schools), 7:60 (Residence), 7:130 (Student Rights and Responsibilities), 7:160 (Student Appearance), 7:180 (Prevention of and Response to Bullying, Intimidation, and Harassment), 7:185 (Teen Dating Violence Prohibited), 7:250 (Student Support Services), 7:255 (Students Who are Parents, Expectant Parents, or Victims of Domestic or Sexual Violence), 7:330 (Student Use of Buildings - Equal Access), 7:340 (Student Records), 8:20 (Community Use of School Facilities)

Adopted: June 17, 2025

# 7:10-E Exhibit - Equal Educational Opportunities Within the School Community

The Cooperative welcomes diversity in its schools. Policy 7:10, *Equal Educational Opportunities* cites the many civil rights laws that guarantee equal education opportunities to all students. In addition, the policies below address the equal educational opportunities, health, safety, and general welfare of students within the Cooperative. These policies are not a complete list, and depending on the factual context, another policy not specifically listed may apply:

- 1. 2:260, *Uniform Grievance Procedure*, contains the process for an individual to seek resolution of a complaint. A student may use this policy to complain about bullying. The Cooperative Complaint Manager shall address the complaint promptly and equitably.
- 2. 2:265, *Title IX Grievance Procedure*, contains the process that must be followed for complaints of Title IX harassment.
- 3. 2:270, Discrimination and Harassment on the Basis of Race, Color, and National Origin Prohibited, prohibits any person from discriminating against or harassing a student based on race, color, or national origin.
- 4. 6:65, *Student Social and Emotional Development*, requires that social and emotional learning be incorporated into the Cooperative's curriculum and other educational programs.
- 5. 7:10, *Equal Educational Opportunities*, requires that equal educational and extracurricular opportunities be available to all students without regard to, among other protected statuses, sex, sexual orientation, and gender identity.
- 6. 7:20, *Harassment of Students Prohibited*, prohibits any person from harassing, intimidating, or bullying a student based on an actual or perceived characteristic that is identified in the policy including, among other protected statuses, sex, sexual orientation, and gender identity.
- 7. 7:130, Student Rights and Responsibilities, recognizes that all students are entitled to rights protected by the U.S. and Illinois Constitutions and laws for persons of their age and maturity in a school setting.
- 8. 7:160, *Student Appearance*, prohibits students from dressing or grooming in such a way as to disrupt the educational process, interfere with a positive teaching/learning climate, or compromise reasonable standards of health, safety, and decency.
- 9. 7:180, *Prevention of and Response to Bullying, Intimidation, and Harassment*, contains the comprehensive structure for the Cooperative's bullying prevention program.
- 10. 7:250, *Student Support Services*, directs the Superintendent to develop protocols for responding to students' social, emotional, or mental health needs that impact learning.
- 11. 7:340, *Student Records*, contains the comprehensive structure for managing school student records, keeping them confidential, and providing access as allowed or required.

DATED: June 17, 2025

# 7:15 Student and Family Privacy Rights

#### <u>Surveys</u>

All surveys requesting personal information from students, as well as any other instrument used to collect personal information from students, must advance or relate to the District's educational objectives or assist students' career choices. This applies to all surveys, regardless of whether the student answering the questions can be identified or who created the survey.

#### Surveys Created by a Third Party

Before a District official or staff member administers or distributes a survey or evaluation created by a third party to a student, the student's parent(s)/guardian(s) may inspect the survey or evaluation, upon their request and within a reasonable time of their request.

This section applies to every survey: (1) that is created by a person or entity other than a District official, staff member, or student, (2) regardless of whether the student answering the questions can be identified, and (3) regardless of the subject matter of the questions.

#### Surveys Requesting Personal Information

District officials and staff members shall not request, nor disclose, the identity of any student who completes any survey or evaluation (created by any person or entity, including the District) containing one or more of the following items:

- 1. Political affiliations or beliefs of the student or the student's parent/guardian.
- 2. Mental or psychological problems of the student or the student's family.
- 3. Behavior or attitudes about sex.
- 4. Illegal, anti-social, self-incriminating, or demeaning behavior.
- 5. Critical appraisals of other individuals with whom students have close family relationships.
- 6. Legally recognized privileged or analogous relationships, such as those with lawyers, physicians, and ministers.
- 7. Religious practices, affiliations, or beliefs of the student or the student's parent/guardian.
- 8. Income other than that required by law to determine eligibility for participation in a program or for receiving financial assistance under such program.

The student's parent(s)/guardian(s) may:

- 1. Inspect the survey or evaluation upon, and within a reasonable time of, their request, and/or
- 2. Refuse to allow their child to participate in the activity described above. The District shall not penalize any student whose parent(s)/guardian(s) exercised this option.

#### Instructional Material

A student's parent(s)/guardian(s) may inspect, upon their request, any instructional material used as part of their child's educational curriculum within a reasonable time of their request.

The term "instructional material" means instructional content that is provided to a student, regardless of its format, printed or representational materials, audio-visual materials, and materials in electronic or digital formats (such as materials accessible through the Internet). The term does not include academic tests or academic assessments.

# Physical Exams or Screenings

No District official or staff member shall subject a student to a non-emergency, invasive physical

examination or screening as a condition of District attendance. The term "invasive physical examination" means any medical examination that involves the exposure of private body parts, or any act during such examination that includes incision, insertion, or injection into the body, but does not include a hearing, vision, or scoliosis screening.

The above paragraph does not apply to any physical examination or screening that:

- 1. Is permitted or required by an applicable State law, including physical examinations or screenings that are permitted without parental notification.
- 2. Is administered to a student in accordance with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. §1400 et seq.).
- 3. Is otherwise authorized by Board policy.

#### Prohibition on Selling or Marketing Students' Personal Information

No District official or staff member shall market or sell personal information concerning students (or otherwise provide that information to others for that purpose). The term "personal information" means individually identifiable information including: (1) a student or parent's first and last name, (2) a home or other physical address (including street name and the name of the city or town), (3) a telephone number, (4) a Social Security identification number or (5) driver's license number or State identification card.

Unless otherwise prohibited by law, the above paragraph does not apply: (1) if the student's parent(s)/guardian(s) have consented; or (2) to the collection, disclosure or, use of personal information collected from students for the exclusive purpose of developing, evaluating or providing educational products or services for, or to, students or educational institutions, such as the following:

- 1. College or other postsecondary education recruitment, or military recruitment.
- 2. Book clubs, magazines, and programs providing access to low-cost literary products.
- 3. Curriculum and instructional materials used by elementary Districts and secondary Districts.
- 4. Tests and assessments to provide cognitive, evaluative, diagnostic, clinical, aptitude, or achievement information about students (or to generate other statistically useful data for the purpose of securing such tests and assessments) and the subsequent analysis and public release of the aggregate data from such tests and assessments.
- 5. The sale by students of products or services to raise funds for District-related or education-related activities.
- 6. Student recognition programs.

Under no circumstances may a District official or staff member provide a student's "personal information" to a business organization or financial institution that issues credit or debit cards.

#### Notification of Rights and Procedures

The Director or designee shall notify students' parents/guardians of:

- 1. This policy as well as its availability upon request from the general administration office.
- 2. How to opt their child out of participation in activities as provided in this policy.
- 3. The approximate dates during the District year when a survey requesting personal information, as described above, is scheduled or expected to be scheduled.
- 4. How to request access to any survey or other material described in this policy.

This notification shall be given to parents/guardians at least annually, at the beginning of the District year, and within a reasonable period after any substantive change in this policy.

# **Transfer of Rights**

The rights provided to parents/guardians in this policy transfer to the student when the student turns 18 years old, or is an emancipated minor.

LEGAL REF.:

20 U.S.C. §1232h, Protection of Pupil Rights Act.

105 ILCS 5/10-20.38.

325 ILCS 17/, Children's Privacy Protection and Parental Empowerment Act.

CROSS REF.: 2:260 (Uniform Grievance Procedure), 6:260 (Complaints About Curriculum, Instructional Materials, and Programs), 7:130 (Student Rights and Responsibilities)

Adopted: June 21, 2022

#### 7:20 Harassment of Students Prohibited

No person, including a School District employee, agent, or student, shall harass, intimidate, intimidate or bully another student based upon a student's: race; color; national origin; military status; unfavorable discharge status from military service; sex; sexual orientation; gender; gender identity; (whether or not traditionally associated with the student's assigned sex at birth); gender-related identity or expression; ancestry; age; religion; creed; physical or mental disability; order of protection status; status of being homeless, or actual or potential marital or parental status, including pregnancy; physical appearance; socioeconomic status; academic status; association with a person or group with one or more of the aforementioned actual or perceived characteristics; and other protected group status. The District will not tolerate harassing, intimidating conduct, or bullying whether verbal, physical, sexual, or visual, that affects the tangible benefits of education, that unreasonably interferes with a student's educational performance, or that creates an intimidating, hostile, or offensive educational environment. Examples of prohibited conduct include name-calling, using derogatory slurs, stalking, sexual violence, causing psychological harm, threatening or causing physical harm, threatened or actual destruction of property, or wearing or possessing items depicting or implying hatred or prejudice of one of the characteristics stated above.

It shall be a violation of this policy for any student, teacher, administrator or other school personnel of the District to harass a student, teacher, administrator or other school personnel through conduct or communication of a sexual nature or regarding religion, race, disability, sexual orientation or other protected class as defined by this policy. For purposes of this policy, school personnel include school board members, school employees, agents, volunteers, contractors or persons subject to the supervision and control of the District.

It shall be a violation of this policy for any student teacher, administrator or other school personnel of the District to inflict, threaten to inflict, or attempt to inflict violence against a student, teacher, administrator or other school personnel based upon the person's religion, race, disability, sexual orientation or other protected class as defined by this policy.

This policy shall be implemented so as to prohibit harassment in the school environment including all academic, extra-curricular and school-sponsored activities.

Complaints of harassment, intimidation or bullying are handled according to the provisions on harassment below. The Director shall use reasonable measures to inform staff members and students that the District will not tolerate harassment, intimidation or bullying by including this policy in the appropriate handbooks. The term *sexual violence* includes a number of different acts. Examples of sexual violence include, but are not limited to, rape, sexual assault, sexual battery, sexual abuse, and sexual coercion.

The District will act to investigate all complaints, either formal or informal, verbal or written of prohibited harassment, and to discipline or take appropriate action against any student, teacher, administrator, or other school personnel who is found to have violated this policy.

#### A. Sexual Harassment Prohibited

The District shall provide an educational environment free of verbal, physical, or other conduct or communications constituting harassment on the basis of sex as defined and otherwise prohibited by State and federal law. See policies 2:265, *Title IX Grievance Procedure*, and 2:260, *Uniform Grievance Procedure*.

#### **B. Racial Harassment Prohibited**

Racial harassment consists of physical or verbal conduct related to an individual's race when the conduct is sufficiently severe, persistent or pervasive that it:

- 1. Has the purpose or effect of creating an intimidating, hostile or offensive working or academic environment:
- 2. Has the purpose or effect of substantially or unreasonably interfering with an individual's work or academic performance; or
- 3. Otherwise adversely affects an individual's employment or academic opportunities.

Examples of conduct which may constitute harassment because of race include: graffiti containing racially offensive language; name-calling, jokes or rumors; threatening or intimidating conduct directed at another person because of the others' race; notes or cartoons; racial slurs, negative stereotypes, and hostile acts which are based upon another's race; written or graphic material containing racial comments or stereotypes which is posted or circulated and which is aimed at degrading individuals or members of protected classes; a physical act or aggression or assault upon another because of, or in a manner reasonably related to, race; and other kinds of aggressive conduct such as theft or damage to property which is motivated by race.

#### C. Other Harassment Prohibited

Harassment based on any other protected class consists of physical or verbal conduct related to an individual's membership in that protected class, including, but not limited to the individual's national origin, disability or sexual orientation, when the conduct is sufficiently severe, persistent or pervasive that it:

- 1. Has the purpose or effect of creating an intimidating, hostile or offensive working or academic environment;
- 2. Has the purpose or effect of substantially or unreasonable interfering with an individual's work or academic performance; or
- 3. Otherwise adversely affects an individual's employment or academic opportunities.

Examples of harassment include the same examples in B (Racial Harassment Prohibited) above, when based upon an individual's membership in a protected class.

#### D. Reporting Instances of Harassment

"Harassment" under this policy shall include any harassment based upon an individual's membership in a protected class by a student, teacher, administrator or other school personnel, or by any other person who is participating in, observing or otherwise engaged in activities, including sporting events and other extra-curricular activities, under the auspices of the District.

#### Making a Report or Complaint

Students are encouraged to promptly report claims or incidents of bullying, intimidation, harassment, sexual harassment, or any other prohibited conduct to the Nondiscrimination Coordinator, Building Principal, Assistant Building Principal, Dean of Students, a Complaint Manager, or any employee with whom the student is comfortable speaking.

Reports under this policy will be considered a report under Board policy 2:260, *Uniform Grievance Procedure*, and/or Board policy 2:265, *Title IX Grievance Procedure*. The Nondiscrimination Coordinator, Title IX Coordinator, and/or Complaint Manager or designee shall process and review the report according to the appropriate grievance procedure.

In addition, any teacher, administrator or other school personnel who has witnessed or receives notice that a student has or may have been the victim of harassment is required to immediately report the alleged acts to an appropriate District official designated by this policy.

The Director shall insert into this policy the names, office addresses, email addresses, and telephone

numbers of the District's current Nondiscrimination Coordinator, Title IX Coordinator, and Complaint Managers.

Nondiscrimination Coordinator: Title IX Coordinator:

Kim Clayton Kim Clayton

751 Ullin Avenue 751 Ullin Avenue Ullin, IL 62992 Ullin, IL 62992

director2020@jampsped.org director2020@jampsped.org

618-634-9800 618-634-9800

## **Complaint Managers:**

Angela Alexander James Yates

751 Ullin Avenue 751 Ullin Avenue Ullin, IL 62992 Ullin, IL 62992

supervisor1@jampsped.org supervisor2019@jampsped.org

618-634-9800 618-634-9800

The Director shall use reasonable measures to inform staff members and students of this policy by including:

- 1. For students, age-appropriate information about the contents of this policy in the District's student handbook(s), on the District's website, and, if applicable, in any other areas where policies, rules, and standards of conduct are otherwise posted in each school.
- 2. For staff members, this policy in the appropriate employee handbook(s), if applicable, and/or in any other areas where policies, rules, and standards of conduct are otherwise made available to staff.

#### **Investigation Process**

Any District employee who receives a report or complaint of harassment must promptly forward the report or complaint to the Nondiscrimination Coordinator, Title IX Coordinator, or a Complaint Manager. Any employee who fails to promptly comply may be disciplined, up to and including discharge.

Reports and complaints of harassment will be confidential to the greatest extent practicable, subject to the District's duty to investigate and maintain an educational environment that is productive, respectful, and free of unlawful discrimination, including harassment.

For any report or complaint alleging sexual harassment that, if true, would implicate Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (20 U.S.C. §1681 et seq.), the Title IX Coordinator or designee shall consider whether action under policy 2:265, *Title IX Grievance Procedure*, should be initiated.

For any report or complaint alleging harassment on the basis of race, color, or national origin, the Nondiscrimination Coordinator or a Complaint Manager or designee shall investigate under Board policy 2:270, *Discrimination and Harassment on the Basis of Race, Color, and National Origin Prohibited*.

For any other alleged student harassment that does not require action under policy 2:265, *Title IX Grievance Procedure*, or 2:270, *Discrimination and Harassment on the Basis of Race, Color, and National Origin Prohibited*, the Nondiscrimination Coordinator or a Complaint Manager or designee

shall consider whether an investigation under policies 2:260, *Uniform Grievance Procedure*, and/or 7:190, *Student Behavior*, should be initiated, regardless of whether a written report or complaint is filed.

#### Reports That Involve Alleged Incidents of Sexual Abuse of a Child by School Personnel

An alleged incident of sexual abuse is an incident of sexual abuse of a child, as defined in 720 ILCS 5/11-9.1A(b), that is alleged to have been perpetrated by school personnel, including a school vendor or volunteer, that occurred: on school grounds during a school activity; or outside of school grounds or not during a school activity.

Any complaint alleging an incident of sexual abuse shall be processed and reviewed according to policy 5:90, *Abused and Neglected Child Reporting*. In addition to reporting the suspected abuse, the complaint shall also be processed under policy 2:265, *Title IX Grievance Procedure*, or policy 2:260, *Uniform Grievance Procedure*.

#### **Enforcement**

Any District employee who is determined, after an investigation, to have engaged in conduct prohibited by this policy will be subject to disciplinary action up to and including discharge. Any third party who is determined, after an investigation, to have engaged in conduct prohibited by this policy will be addressed in accordance with the authority of the Board in the context of the relationship of the third party to the District, e.g., vendor, parent/guardian, invitee, etc. Any District student who is determined, after an investigation, to have engaged in conduct prohibited by this policy will be subject to disciplinary action, including but not limited to, suspension and expulsion consistent with the behavior policy. Any person making a knowingly false accusation regarding prohibited conduct will likewise be subject to disciplinary action.

#### Retaliation Prohibited

Retaliation against any person for bringing complaints or providing information about harassment is prohibited (see policies 2:260, *Uniform Grievance Procedure*, and 2:265, *Title IX Grievance Procedure*, and 2:270, *Discrimination and Harassment on the Basis of Race, Color, and National Origin Prohibited*).

Students should report allegations of retaliation to the Building Principal, an administrator, the Nondiscrimination Coordinator, and/or a Complaint Manager.

In addition, the District shall undertake an annual assessment of the effectiveness of its antiharassment efforts. That annual assessment shall include a review of policy, procedures, training, implementation and any reports of harassment made during the previous year. The assessment shall be conducted by the Director, in conjunction with the Nondiscrimination Coordinator (if other than the Director), Complaint Manager(s) and any other administrator designated by the Director. This assessment shall include, at minimum:

- A report and recommendations from the Student/Parent Handbook Committee
- Student and parent surveys to identify concerns
- A review of all reports of harassment and the responses thereto
- An evaluation and analysis of the data collected, including any proposed recommendations for improvement

The Nondiscrimination Coordinator shall make a written report of the assessment and evaluation of the District's anti-harassment efforts, which shall be maintained by the District.

#### E. Investigation

Upon receipt of a formal or informal report or complaint alleging harassment, the Complaint Manager shall immediately notify the Nondiscrimination Coordinator, with screening or investigating the report. The Complaint Manager shall then also immediately undertake or authorize an investigation. The investigation may be conducted by other District officials or by a third party designated by the District.

The investigation may consist of personal interviews with the complainant, the individual against whom the complaint is filed, and others who have knowledge of the alleged incident or circumstances giving rise to the complaint. The investigation may also consist of the evaluation of any other information or documents which may be relevant to the particular allegations. In determining whether the conduct constitutes a violation of this policy, the District shall consider:

- the nature of the behavior
- how often the conduct occurred
- whether there were past incidents or past continuing patterns of behavior
- the relationship between the parties involved
- the race, sex, age or other status of the victim
- the identity of the perpetrator, including whether the perpetrator was in a position of power over the student allegedly subjected to harassment
- the number of alleged harassers
- the age of the harasser
- · where the harassment occurred
- whether there have been other incidents in the school involving the same or other students
- whether the conduct adversely affect ted the student's education or educational environment
- the context in which the alleged incidents occurred

Whether a particular action or incident constitutes a violation of this policy requires a determination based on all the facts and surrounding circumstances.

The investigation shall be completed no later than ten (10) school days from the receipt of the report. The Complaint Manager shall make a written report to the Nondiscrimination Coordinator upon completion of the investigation within three (3) school days of the completion of the investigation. If the complaint involves the Nondiscrimination Coordinator, the report may be filed directly with the Board of Education. The report shall include a determination of whether the allegations have been substantiated as factual and whether they appear to be violations of this policy. The written report shall be maintained by the District for at least five (5) years. The Nondiscrimination Coordinator shall be responsible for maintaining these records.

#### F. School District Action

Upon receipt of the report of the complaint Manager that a violation has occurred, the District will take prompt, appropriate formal or informal action to address, and where appropriated, remediate the violation. Appropriate actions may include, but are not limited to counseling, awareness training, parent-teacher conferences, warning, suspension, expulsion, transfer, remediation, exclusion from activities, termination or discharge. District action taken for violation of the policy shall be consistent with the requirements of applicable collective bargaining agreements, state and federal law, and District policies for violations of a similar nature or similar degree of severity. In determining what is an appropriate response to a finding that harassment in violation of this policy has occurred, the District shall consider:

- what response is most likely to end any ongoing harassment
- whether a particular response is likely to deter similar further conduct by the harasser or others
- the amount and kind of harm suffered by the victim of the harassment

- the identity of the part who engaged in the harassing conduct
- whether the harassment was engaged in by school personnel, and if so, the District will also consider how it can best remediate the effects of the harassment.

The complainant shall be informed of the outcome of the investigation, consistent with the student and personnel confidentiality requirements of the law.

Any person making a knowingly false accusation regarding harassment will likewise be subject to disciplinary action up to and including discharge, with regard to employees, or suspension and expulsion, with regard to students.

Submission of a good faith complaint or report of harassment will not affect the complainant or reporter's future employment, grades, learning or working environment or work assignments. The District will discipline or otherwise take appropriate action against any student, teacher, administrator or other school personnel who retaliates against any person who reports an alleged incident of harassment, or any person who testifies, assists or participated in a proceeding, investigation or hearing relating to such harassment. Retaliation includes, but is not limited to, any form of intimidation, reprisal or harassment.

#### LEGAL REF.:

20 U.S.C. §1681 et seq., Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972; 34 C.F.R. Part 106.

29 U.S.C. §791 et seq., Rehabilitation Act of 1973; 34 C.F.R. Part 104.

42 U.S.C. §2000d, Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964; 34 C.F.R. Part 100.

105 ILCS 5/10-20.12, 5/10-22.5, 5/10-23.13, 5/26A, 5/27-1, and 5/27-23.7.

775 ILCS 5/1-101 et seq., Illinois Human Rights Act.

23 III.Admin.Code §1.240 and Part 200.

Davis v. Monroe County Bd. of Educ., 526 U.S. 629 (1999).

Franklin v. Gwinnett Co. Public Schs., 503 U.S. 60 (1992).

Gebser v. Lago Vista Independent Sch. Dist., 524 U.S. 274 (1998).

West v. Derby Unified Sch. Dist. No. 260, 206 F.3d 1358 (10th Cir. 2000).

CROSS REF.: 2:260 (Uniform Grievance Procedure), 2:265 (Title IX Grievance Procedure), 2:270 (Discrimination and Harassment on the Basis of Race, Color, and National Origin Prohibited), 4:165 (Awareness and Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse and Grooming Behaviors), 5:20 (Workplace Harassment Prohibited), 5:90 (Abused and Neglected Child Reporting), 5:120 (Employee Ethics; Code of Professional Conduct; and Conflict of Interest), 7:10 (Equal Educational Opportunities), 7:180 (Prevention of and Response to Bullying, Intimidation, and Harassment), 7:185 (Teen Dating Violence Prohibited), 7:190 (Student Behavior), 7:255 (Students Who are Parents, Expectant Parents, or Victims of Domestic or Sexual Violence)

Adopted: June 17, 2025

# 7:30 Student Assignment

Students shall be assigned in accordance with their IEPs and District Procedures.

LEGAL REF.:

105 ILCS 5/10-21.3, 5/10-21.3a, and 5/10-22.5.

CROSS REF.: 4:170 (Safety), 6:30 (Organization of Instruction), 6:140 (Education of Homeless

Children)

Adopted: March 15, 2022

# 7:50 School Admissions/Eligibility for Services

Special education services shall be available to identified children with disabilities between the ages of three (3) and twenty-two (22) years who are enrolled in the Member Districts.

The student who has successfully completed a secondary program shall be granted a diploma by the student's resident school district and all eligibility for public school education is terminated. The parent, and, if appropriate, the student shall participate in the decision to terminate public school responsibility prior to age twenty-two (22) by accepting a high school diploma.

#### **Certificate of Completion**

A student with a disability who has an Individualized Education Program prescribing special education, transition planning, transition services, or related services beyond the student's four years of high school, qualifies for a certificate of completion after the student has completed four years of high school. The student is encouraged to participate in the graduation ceremony of his or her high school graduation class.

#### LEGAL REF.:

8 U.S.C. §1101 et seq., Illegal Immigrant and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996.

20 U.S.C. §1232g, Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act.

20 U.S.C. §1400 et seq., Individuals With Disabilities Education Improvement Act.

29 U.S.C. §794, Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Section 504.

42 U.S.C. §11431 et seq., McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act.

105 ILCS 5/2-3.13a, 5/10-20.12, 5/10-20.59, 5/10-22.5a, 5/14-1.02, 5/14-1.03a, 5/26-1, 5/26-2, and 5/27-8.1.

105 ILCS 10/8.1, III. School Student Records Act.

105 ILCS 45/, Education for Homeless Children Act.

105 ILCS 70/, Educational Opportunity for Military Children Act.

325 ILCS 50/, Missing Children Records Act.

325 ILCS 55/, Missing Children Registration Law.

410 ILCS 315/2e, Communicable Disease Prevention Act.

20 III.Admin.Code Part 1290, Missing Person Birth Records and School Registration.

23 III.Admin.Code Part 226, Special Education.

23 III.Admin.Code Part 375, Student Records.

CROSS REF.: 6:135 (Accelerated Placement Program), 6:140 (Education of Homeless Children), 7:60 (Residence), 7:340 (Student Records)

Adopted: January 17, 2023

#### 7:60 Residence

#### Member Districts

Students who are residents of Member Districts may participate in the programs available through the Special Education District.

#### Residence of Students with Disabilities

The residence of a child with a disability is determined in accordance with 105 ILCS 5/14-1.11, 5.14-1.11a, and 5/14-1.11b.

#### Non-Member Districts

Students who are residents of non-member districts may participate in the programs available through the Member Districts, providing the sending district pay the receiving Special Education District the regular tuition charge as determined by the provisions of the School Code. The sending district shall pay the Special Education District the amount calculated through the use of ISBE Form 50-66A, ISBE Form 50-66B, and ISBE Form 50-66C for the program in which the student is included.

#### LEGAL REF.:

42 U.S.C. §11431 et seq., McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act.

105 ILCS 5/10-20.12a, 5/10-20.12b, 5/10-22.5, 5/10-22.5a, 5/14-1.11, 5/14-1.11a, 5/14-1.11b, and 5/26A.

105 ILCS 45/, Education for Homeless Children Act.

105 ILCS 70/, Educational Opportunity for Military Children Act.

23 III.Admin.Code §1.240.

<u>Israel S. by Owens v. Bd. of Educ. of Oak Park and River Forest High Sch. Dist. 200</u>, 235 III.App.3d 652 (5th Dist. 1992).

Joel R. v. Board of Education of Manheim School District 83, 292 III.App.3d 607 (1st Dist. 1997).

Kraut v. Rachford, 51 III.App.3d 206 (1st Dist. 1977).

CROSS REF.: 6:140 (Education of Homeless Children), 7:255 (Students Who are Parents, Expectant Parents, or Victims of Domestic or Sexual Violence)

Adopted: June 17, 2025

# 7:70 Attendance and Truancy

### Compulsory District Attendance

This policy applies to individuals who have custody or control of a child: (a) between the ages of six (on or before September 1) and 17 years (unless the child has graduated from high school), or (b) who is enrolled in any of grades kindergarten through 12 in the public school regardless of age. Subject to specific requirements in State law, the following children are not required to attend public school: (1) any child attending a private school (including a home school) or parochial school, (2) any child who is physically or mentally unable to attend school (including a pregnant student suffering medical complications as certified by her physician), (3) any child lawfully and necessarily employed, (4) any child over 12 and under 14 years of age while in confirmation classes, (5) any child absent because of religious reasons, including to observe a religious holiday, for religious instruction, or because his or her religion forbids secular activity on a particular day(s) or time of day, and (6) any child 16 years of age or older who is employed and is enrolled in a graduation incentives program.

The parent/guardian of a student who is enrolled must authorize all absences from school and notify the District in advance or at the time of the student's absence. A valid cause for absence includes illness (including mental or behavioral health of the student), attendance at a verified medical or therapeutic appointment (including a victim services provider), observance of a religious holiday, death in the immediate family, attendance at a civic event, family emergency, other situations beyond the control of the student as determined by the Board, voting pursuant to policy 7:90, *Release During School Hours* (10 ILCS 5/7-42 and 5/17-15), other circumstances that cause reasonable concern to the parent/guardian for the student's mental, emotional, or physical health or safety, or other reason as approved by the Director or designee. For students who are parents, expectant parents, or victims of domestic or sexual violence, valid cause for absence also includes the fulfillment of a parenting responsibility and addressing circumstances resulting from domestic or sexual violence. Students absent for a valid cause may make up missed homework and classwork assignments in a reasonable timeframe.

## Absenteeism and Truancy Program

The Director or designee shall manage an absenteeism and truancy program in accordance with the School Code and Governing Board policy. The program shall include but not be limited to:

- 1. A protocol for excusing a student in grades 6 through 12 from attendance to sound *Taps* at a military honors funeral held in Illinois for a deceased veteran.
- 2. A protocol for excusing a student from attendance on a particular day(s) or at a particular time of day when his/her parent/guardian is an active duty member of the uniformed services and has been called to duty for, is on leave from, or has immediately returned from deployment to a combat zone or combat-support postings.
- 3. A process to telephone, within two hours after the first class, the parents/guardians of students in grade 8 or below who are absent without prior parent/guardian notification.
- 4. A process to identify and track students who are truants, chronic or habitual truants, or truant minors as defined in 105 ILCS 5/26-2a.
- 5. A description of diagnostic procedures for identifying the cause(s) of a student's unexcused absenteeism, including interviews with the student, his or her parent(s)/guardian(s), and staff members or other people who may have information about the reasons for the student's attendance problem.
- 6. The identification of supportive services that may be offered to truant, chronically truant, or chronically absent students, including parent-teacher conferences, student and/or family counseling, and information about available community services relevant to such students' needs. See Board policy 6:110, *Programs for Students At Risk of Academic Failure and/or Dropping Out of District and Graduation Incentives Program*.

- 7. A process for the collection and review of chronic absence data and to:
  - a. Determine what systems of support and resources are needed to engage chronically absent students and their families, and
  - b. Encourage the habit of daily attendance and promote success.
- 8. Reasonable efforts to provide ongoing professional development to all school personnel, Board members, and school resource officers on the appropriate and available supportive services for the promotion of student attendance and engagement.
- 9. A process to request the assistance and resources of outside agencies, such as, the juvenile officer of the local police department or the truant office of the appropriate Regional Office of Education, if truancy continues after supportive services have been offered.
- 10. A protocol for cooperating with non-District agencies including County or municipal authorities, the Regional Director, truant officers, the Community Truancy Review Board, and a comprehensive community based youth service agency. Any disclosure of District student records must be consistent with Board policy 7:340, Student Records, as well as State and federal law concerning District student records.
- 11. An acknowledgement that no punitive action, including out-of-District suspensions, expulsions, or court action, shall be taken against a truant minor for his or her truancy unless available supportive services and other District resources have been provided to the student.
- 12. The criteria to determine whether a student's non-attendance is due to extraordinary circumstances shall include economic or medical necessity or family hardship and such other criteria that the Director believes qualifies.
- 13. A process for a 17-year-old resident to participate in the District's various programs and resources for truants. The student must provide documentation of his/her dropout status for the previous six months. A request from an individual 19 years of age or older to re-enroll after having dropped out of school is handled according to provisions in 7:50, *District Admissions and Student Transfers To and From Non-District Schools*.
- 14. A process for the temporary exclusion of a student 17 years of age or older for failing to meet minimum attendance standards according to provisions in State law. A parent/guardian has the right to appeal a decision to exclude a student.

#### **Updating**

Pursuant to State law and Board policy 2:240, *Board Policy Development*, the Board updates this policy at least once every two years. The Director or designee shall assist the Board with its update.

#### LEGAL REF.:

105 ILCS 5/22-92 and 5/26-1 through 5/26-3, 5/26-5 through 5/26-16, 5/26-18, and 5/26A.

705 ILCS 405/3-33.5, Juvenile Court Act of 1987.

23 III.Admin.Code §§1.242 and 1.290.

CROSS REF.: 5:100 (Staff Development Program), 6:110 (Programs for Students At Risk of Academic Failure and/or Dropping Out of District and Graduation Incentives Program), 6:150 (Home and Hospital Instruction), 7:10 (Equal Educational Opportunities), 7:50 (School Admissions/Eligibility for Services), 7:60 (Residence), 7:80 (Release Time for Religious Instruction/Observance), 7:90 (Release During School Hours), 7:190 (Student Behavior), 7:255 (Students Who are Parents, Expectant Parents, or Victims of Domestic or Sexual Violence), 7:340 (Student Records)

Adopted: June 17, 2025

# 7:80 Release Time for Religious Instruction/Observance

A student shall be released from school, as an excused absence, because of religious reasons, including to observe a religious holiday, for religious instruction, or because the student's religion forbids secular activity on a particular day(s) or time of day. The student's parent/guardian must give written notice to the Building Principal at least five calendar days before the student's anticipated absence(s).

The Director or designee shall develop and distribute to teachers appropriate procedures regarding student absences for religious reasons, including how teachers are notified of a student's impending absence, and the State law requirement that teachers provide the student with an equivalent opportunity to make up any examination, study, or work requirement.

LEGAL REF.:

105 ILCS 5/26-1 and 5/26-2b.

775 ILCS 35/, Religious Freedom Restoration Act.

CROSS REF.: 7:70 (Attendance and Truancy)

Adopted: March 15, 2022

# 7:90 Release During District Hours

For safety and security reasons, a prior written or oral consent of a student's custodial parent/guardian is required before a student is released during school hours: (1) at any time before the regular dismissal time or at any time before school is otherwise officially closed, and/or (2) to any person other than a custodial parent/guardian.

#### Early Dismissal Announcement

The Director or designee shall make reasonable efforts to issue an announcement whenever it is necessary to close school early due to inclement weather or other reason.

#### **Voting**

The Director or designee shall specify the hours during which students who are entitled to vote at a primary, general, or special election, or any election at which propositions are submitted to a popular vote in Illinois, may be absent from school for a period of two hours to vote. Students are entitled to be absent from school to vote beginning the 15th day before the primary, general, or special election, or any election at which propositions are submitted to a popular vote in Illinois, or on the day of such election.

LEGAL REF .:

10 ILCS 5/7-42(b) and 5/17-15(b), Election Code.

CROSS REF.: 4:170 (Safety)

Adopted: June 16, 2020

# 7:100 Health and Dental Examinations, Immunizations, and Exclusion of Students

It is the responsibility of the district of residency to ensure that their students enrolled in the Special Education District's programs are in compliance with the state rules and regulations regarding health examinations and immunizations.

LEGAL REF.:

42 U.S.C. §11431 et seq., McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act.

105 ILCS 5/27-8.1 and 45/1-20.

410 ILCS 45/7.1, Lead Poisoning Prevention Act.

410 ILCS 315/2e, Communicable Disease Prevention Act.

23 III.Admin.Code §1.530.

77 III. Admin.Code Part 664, Socio-Emotional and Developmental Screening.

77 III.Admin.Code Part 665, Child and Student Health Examination and Immunization.

77 III.Admin.Code Part 690, Control of Notifiable Diseases and Conditions Code.

CROSS REF.: 6:140 (Education of Homeless Children),

Adopted: December 17, 2024

# 7:130 Student Rights and Responsibilities

All students are entitled to enjoy the rights protected by the U.S. and Illinois Constitutions and laws for persons of their age and maturity in a school setting. Students should exercise these rights reasonably and avoid violating the rights of others. Students who violate the rights of others or violate District policies or rules will be subject to disciplinary measures.

Students may, during the school day, during noninstructional time, voluntarily engage in individually or collectively initiated, non-disruptive prayer or religious-based meetings that, consistent with the Free Exercise and Establishment Clauses of the U.S. and Illinois Constitutions, are not sponsored, promoted, or endorsed in any manner by the school or any school employee. *Noninstructional time* means time set aside by a school before actual classroom instruction begins or after actual classroom instruction ends.

LEGAL REF.:

20 U.S.C. §7904.

105 ILCS 20/5.

<u>Tinker v. Des Moines Independent District</u>, 89 S.Ct. 733 (1969).

CROSS REF.: 7:140 (Search and Seizure), 7:150 (Agency and Police Interviews), 7:160 (Student Appearance), 7:190 (Student Behavior)

Adopted: June 16, 2020

#### 7:140 Search and Seizure

In order to maintain order and security in the schools, school authorities are authorized to conduct reasonable searches of District property and equipment, as well as of students and their personal effects. "School authorities" includes school liaison police officers.

#### <u>District Property and Equipment as well as Personal Effects Left There by Students</u>

District authorities may inspect and search District property and equipment owned or controlled by the District (such as, lockers, desks, and parking lots), as well as personal effects left there by a student, without notice to or the consent of the student. Students have no reasonable expectation of privacy in these places or areas or in their personal effects left there. This paragraph applies to student vehicles parked on District property. In addition, Building Principals shall require each high school student, in return for the privilege of parking on District property, to consent in writing to District searches of his or her vehicle, and personal effects therein, without notice and without suspicion of wrongdoing.

The Director may request the assistance of law enforcement officials to conduct inspections and searches of lockers, desks, parking lots, and other District property and equipment for illegal drugs, weapons, or other illegal or dangerous substances or materials, including searches conducted through the use of specially trained dogs.

#### Students

District authorities may search a student and/or the student's personal effects in the student's possession (such as, purses, wallets, knapsacks, book bags, lunch boxes, etc.) when there is a reasonable ground for suspecting that the search will produce evidence the particular student has violated or is violating either the law or the District's student conduct rules. The search itself must be conducted in a manner that is reasonably related to its objective and not excessively intrusive in light of the student's age and sex, and the nature of the infraction.

When feasible, the search should be conducted as follows:

- 1. Outside the view of others, including students,
- 2. In the presence of a District administrator or adult witness, and
- 3. By a certificated employee or liaison police officer of the same sex as the student.

Immediately following a search, a written report shall be made by the District authority who conducted the search, and given to the Director.

#### Seizure of Property

If a search produces evidence that the student has violated or is violating either the law or the District's policies or rules, such evidence may be seized and impounded by District authorities, and disciplinary action may be taken. When appropriate, such evidence may be transferred to law enforcement authorities.

#### Notification Regarding Student Accounts or Profiles on Social Networking Websites

The Director or designee shall notify students and their parents/guardians of each of the following in accordance with the Right to Privacy in the School Setting Act, 105 ILCS 75/:

- 1. School officials may not request or require a student or his or her parent/guardian to provide a password or other related account information to gain access to the student's account or profile on a social networking website.
- 2. School officials may conduct an investigation or require a student to cooperate in an investigation if there is specific information about activity on the student's account on a social

networking website that violates a school disciplinary rule or policy. In the course of an investigation, the student may be required to share the content that is reported in order to allow school officials to make a factual determination.

#### LEGAL REF.:

105 ILCS 5/10-20.14, 5/10-22.6, and 5/10-22.10a.

Right to Privacy in the School Setting Act, 105 ILCS 75/.

Cornfield v. Consolidated High School Dist. No. 230, 991 F.2d 1316 (7th Cir. 1993).

People v. Dilworth, 169 III.2d 195 (1996), cert. denied, 116 S.Ct. 1692 (1996).

People v. Pruitt, 278 III.App.3d 194 (1st Dist. 1996), app. denied, 667 N.E. 2d 1061 (III.App.1, 1996).

T.L.O. v. New Jersey, 469 U.S. 325 (1985).

<u>Vernonia School Dist. 47J v. Acton</u>, 515 U.S. 646 (1995).

Safford Unified School Dist. No. 1 v. Redding, 557 U.S. 364 (2009).

CROSS REF.: 7:130 (Student Rights and Responsibilities), 7:150 (Agency and Police Interviews), 7:190 (Student Behavior)

Adopted: January 19, 2021

# 7:150 Agency and Police Interviews

The Director shall develop procedures to manage requests by agency officials or police officers to interview students at school. Procedures will:

- 1. Recognize individual student rights and privacy,
- 2. Recognize the potential impact an interview may have on an individual student,
- 3. Minimize potential disruption,
- 4. Foster a cooperative relationship with public agencies and law enforcement, and
- 5. Comply with State law including, but not limited to, ensuring that before a law enforcement officer, school resource officer, or other school security person detains and questions on school grounds a student under 18 years of age who is suspected of committing a criminal act, the Director or designee will:
  - a. Notify or attempt to notify the student's parent/guardian and document the time and manner in writing;
  - b. Make reasonable efforts to ensure the student's parent/guardian is present during questioning or, if they are not present, ensure that school employees (including, but not limited to, a school social worker, psychologist, nurse, counselor, or any other mental health professional) are present during the questioning; and
  - c. If practicable, make reasonable efforts to ensure a trained law enforcement officer to promote safe interactions and communications with the student is present during questioning.

#### LEGAL REF.:

105 ILCS 5/10-20.64, 5/22-88.

55 ILCS 80/, Children's Advocacy Center Act.

325 ILCS 5/, Abused and Neglected Child Reporting Act.

720 ILCS 5/31-1 et seg., Interference with Public Officers Act.

725 ILCS 120/, Rights of Crime Victims and Witnesses Act.

CROSS REF.: 5:90 (Abused and Neglected Child Reporting), 7:130 (Student Rights and Responsibilities), 7:140 (Search and Seizure), 7:190 (Student Behavior)

Adopted: March 15, 2022

# 7:160 Student Appearance

A student's appearance, including dress and hygiene, must not disrupt the educational process or compromise standards of health and safety. The District does not prohibit hairstyles historically associated with race, ethnicity, or hair texture, including, but not limited to, protective hairstyles such as braids, locks, and twists. The District also does not prohibit the right of a student to wear or accessorize the student's graduation attire with items associated with the student's cultural, ethnic, or religious identity or other characteristic or category protected under the III. Human Rights Act, 775 ILCS 5/1-103(Q). Students who disrupt the educational process or compromise standards of health and safety must modify their appearance. Procedures for guiding student appearance will be developed by the Director or designee and included in the *Student Handbook(s)*.

#### LEGAL REF.:

105 ILCS 5/2-3.25 and 5/10-22.25b.

Tinker v. Des Moines Indep. Sch. Dist., 393 U.S. 503 (1969).

CROSS REF.: 7:10 (Equal Educational Opportunities), 7:130 (Student Rights and Responsibilities), 7:190 (Student Behavior)

Adopted: December 12, 2023

# 7:170 Vandalism

The Governing Board will seek restitution from students and their parents/guardians for vandalism or other student acts that cause damage to District property.

LEGAL REF.:

740 ILCS 115/, Parental Responsibility Law.

CROSS REF.: 7:130 (Student Rights and Responsibilities), 7:190 (Student Behavior)

Adopted: August 20, 2024

# 7:180 Prevention of and Response to Bullying, Intimidation, and Harassment

Bullying, intimidation, and harassment diminish a student's ability to learn and a school's ability to educate. Preventing students from engaging in these disruptive behaviors and providing all students equal access to a safe, non-hostile learning environment are important JAMP goals.

Bullying on the basis of actual or perceived race, color, religion, sex, national origin, ancestry, physical appearance, socioeconomic status, academic status, pregnancy, parenting status, homelessness, age, marital status, physical or mental disability, military status, sexual orientation, gender-related identity or expression, unfavorable discharge from military service, order of protection status, association with a person or group with one or more of the aforementioned actual or perceived characteristics, or any other distinguishing characteristic **is prohibited** in each of the following situations:

- 1. During any school-sponsored education program or activity.
- 2. While in school, on school property, on school buses or other school vehicles, at designated school bus stops waiting for the school bus, or at school-sponsored or school-sanctioned events or activities.
- 3. Through the transmission of information from a school computer, a school computer network, or other similar electronic school equipment.
- 4. Through the transmission of information from a computer that is accessed at a nonschool-related location, activity, function, or program or from the use of technology or an electronic device that is not owned, leased, or used by JAMP or its school(s) if the bullying causes a substantial disruption to the educational process or orderly operation of a school. This paragraph (item #4) applies only when a school administrator or teacher receives a report that bullying through this means has occurred; it does not require staff members to monitor any nonschool-related activity, function, or program.

#### Definitions from 105 ILCS 5/27-23.7

*Bullying* includes *cyberbullying* and means any severe or pervasive physical or verbal act or conduct, including communications made in writing or electronically, directed toward a student or students that has or can be reasonably predicted to have the effect of one or more of the following:

- 1. Placing the student or students in reasonable fear of harm to the student's or students' person or property;
- 2. Causing a substantially detrimental effect on the student's or students' physical or mental health;
- 3. Substantially interfering with the student's or students' academic performance; or
- 4. Substantially interfering with the student's or students' ability to participate in or benefit from the services, activities, or privileges provided by a school.

*Bullying* may take various forms, including without limitation one or more of the following: harassment, threats, intimidation, stalking, physical violence, sexual harassment, sexual violence, theft, public humiliation, destruction of property, or retaliation for asserting or alleging an act of bullying. This list is meant to be illustrative and non-exhaustive.

Cyberbullying means bullying through the use of technology or any electronic communication, including without limitation any transfer of signs, signals, writing, images, sounds, data, or intelligence of any nature transmitted in whole or in part by a wire, radio, electromagnetic system, photo-electronic system, or photo-optical system, including without limitation electronic mail, Internet communications, instant messages, or facsimile communications. Cyberbullying includes the creation of a webpage or weblog in which the creator assumes the identity of another person or the knowing impersonation of another person as the author of posted content or messages if the creation or impersonation creates any of the effects enumerated in the definition of bullying. Cyberbullying also includes the distribution

by electronic means of a communication to more than one person or the posting of material on an electronic medium that may be accessed by one or more persons if the distribution or posting creates any of the effects enumerated in the definition of *bullying*.

Restorative measures means a continuum of school-based alternatives to exclusionary discipline, such as suspensions and expulsions, that: (i) are adapted to the particular needs of the school and community, (ii) contribute to maintaining school safety, (iii) protect the integrity of a positive and productive learning climate, (iv) teach students the personal and interpersonal skills they will need to be successful in school and society, (v) serve to build and restore relationships among students, families, schools, and communities, (vi) reduce the likelihood of future disruption by balancing accountability with an understanding of students' behavioral health needs in order to keep students in school, and (vii) increase student accountability if the incident of bullying is based on religion, race, ethnicity, or any other category that is identified in the III. Human Rights Act.

School personnel means persons employed by, on contract with, or who volunteer at JAMP, including without limitation school and District administrators, teachers, school social workers, school counselors, school psychologists, school nurses, cafeteria workers, custodians, bus drivers, school resource officers, and security guards.

## Bullying Prevention and Response Plan

The Director or designee shall develop and maintain a bullying prevention and response plan that advances JAMP's goal of providing all students with a safe learning environment free of bullying and harassment. This plan must be consistent with the requirements listed below.

- 1. Using the definition of *bullying* as provided in this policy, the Director or designee shall emphasize to the school community that: (1) the District prohibits bullying, and (2) all students should conduct themselves with a proper regard for the rights and welfare of other students. This may include a process for commending or acknowledging students for demonstrating appropriate behavior.
- 2. Bullying is contrary to State law and the policy of this District. However, nothing in JAMP's bullying prevention and response plan is intended to infringe upon any right to exercise free expression or the free exercise of religion or religiously based views protected under the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution or under Section 3 of Article I of the Illinois Constitution.
- 3. Students are encouraged to immediately report bullying. A report may be made orally or in writing to the Nondiscrimination Coordinator, Title IX Coordinator, Building Principal, Assistant Building Principal, Dean of Students, a Complaint Manager, or any staff member with whom the student is comfortable speaking. Anyone, including staff members and parents/guardians, who has information about actual or threatened bullying is encouraged to report it to the District named officials or any staff member. The District named officials and all staff members are available for help with a bully or to make a report about bullying. Anonymous reports are also accepted; however, this shall not be construed to permit formal disciplinary action solely on the basis of an anonymous report.

#### Nondiscrimination Coordinator: Title IX Coordinator:

Kim Clayton Kim Clayton

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4. Consistent with federal and State laws and rules governing student privacy rights, the parents/guardians of all students involved in an alleged incident of bullying will be notified of such, along with threats, suggestions, or instances of self-harm determined to be the result of bullying, within 24 hours after the school's administration is made aware of the student's involvement in the incident. As appropriate, the school's administration shall also discuss the availability of social work services, counseling, school psychological services, other interventions, and restorative measures. The school shall make diligent efforts to notify a parent or legal guardian, utilizing all contact information the school has available or that can be reasonably obtained within the 24-hour period.

- 5. The Director or designee shall promptly investigate and address reports of bullying, by, among other things:
  - a. Making all reasonable efforts to complete the investigation within 10 school days after the date the report of a bullying incident was received and taking into consideration additional relevant information received during the course of the investigation about the reported bullying incident.
  - b. Involving appropriate school support personnel and other staff persons with knowledge, experience, and training on bullying prevention, as deemed appropriate, in the investigation process.
  - c. Notifying the Building Principal or school administrator or designee of the reported incident of bullying as soon as possible after the report is received.
  - d. Consistent with federal and State laws and rules governing student privacy rights, providing parents/guardians of the students who are parties to the investigation information about the investigation and an opportunity to meet with the Building Principal or school administrator or his or her designee to discuss the investigation, the findings of the investigation, and the actions taken to address the reported incident of bullying.

The Director or designee shall investigate whether a reported incident of bullying is within the permissible scope of the District's jurisdiction and shall require that the District provide the victim with information regarding services that are available within the District and community, such as counseling, support services, and other programs.

- 6. The Director or designee shall use interventions to address bullying, that may include, but are not limited to, school social work services, restorative measures, social-emotional skill building, counseling, school psychological services, and community-based services.
- 7. A reprisal or retaliation against any person who reports an act of bullying **is prohibited**. Any person's act of reprisal or retaliation will be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including discharge with regard to employees, or suspension and/or expulsion with regard to students.
- 8. A student will not be punished for reporting bullying or supplying information, even if the District's investigation concludes that no bullying occurred. However, a person who is found to have falsely accused another of bullying, as a means of retaliation, as a means of bullying, or provided false information will be treated as either: (a) *bullying*, (b) student discipline up to and including suspension and/or expulsion, and/or (c) both (a) and (b) for purposes of determining any consequences or other appropriate remedial actions.
- 9. The District's bullying prevention and response plan is based on the engagement of a range of

school stakeholders, including students and parents/guardians.

- 10. The Director or designee shall post this policy on the District's publicly accessible website, if any, and include it in the student handbook, and, where applicable, post it where other policies, rules, and standards of conduct are currently posted. The policy must be distributed annually to parents/guardians, students, and school personnel (including new employees when hired), and must also be provided periodically throughout the school year to students and faculty.
- 11. Pursuant to State law and policy 2:240, *Board Policy Development*, the Board monitors this policy every two years by conducting a review and re-evaluation of this policy to make any necessary and appropriate revisions. The Director or designee shall assist the Board with its re-evaluation and assessment of this policy's outcomes and effectiveness. Updates to this policy will reflect any necessary and appropriate revisions. This process shall include, without limitation:
  - a. The frequency of victimization;
  - b. Student, staff, and family observations of safety at a school;
  - c. Identification of areas of a school where bullying occurs;
  - d. The types of bullying utilized; and
  - e. Bystander intervention or participation.

The evaluation process may use relevant data and information that the District already collects for other purposes. Acceptable documentation to satisfy the re-evaluated policy submission include one of the following:

- 1) An updated version of the policy with the amendment/modification date included in the reference portion of the policy;
- 2) If no revisions are deemed necessary, a copy of Board minutes indicating that the policy was re-evaluated and no changes were deemed to be necessary; or
- 3) A signed statement from the Board President indicating that the Board reevaluated the policy and no changes to it were necessary.

The Director or designee must post the information developed as a result of the policy reevaluation on the District's website, or if a website is not available, the information must be provided to school administrators, Board members, school personnel, parents/guardians, and students. Reviews and re-evaluations in years they are due must be submitted to ISBE by September 30.

12. The District's bullying prevention plan must be consistent with other Board policies.

#### LEGAL REF.:

105 ILCS 5/10-20.14, 5/10-22.6(b-20), 5/24-24, and 5/27-23.7.

405 ILCS 49/, Children's Mental Health Act.

775 ILCS 5/1-103, III. Human Rights Act.

23 III.Admin.Code §§1.240, 1.280, and 1.295.

CROSS REF.: 2:240 (Board Policy Development), 2:260 (Uniform Grievance Procedure), 2:265 (Title IX Grievance Procedure), 2:270 (Discrimination and Harassment on the Basis of Race, Color, and National Origin Prohibited),4:170 (Safety), 5:230 (Maintaining Student Discipline), 6:60 (Curriculum Content), 6:65 (Student Social and Emotional Development), 6:235 (Access to Electronic Networks), 7:20 (Harassment of Students Prohibited), 7:185 (Teen Dating Violence Prohibited), 7:190

(Student Behavior), 7:230 (Misconduct by Students with Disabilities), 7:285 (Anaphylaxis Prevention, Response, and Management Program), 7:310 (Restrictions on Publications and Written or Electronic Material; Elementary Schools), 7:315 (Restrictions on Publications; High Schools)

Adopted: June 17, 2025

# 7:185 Teen Dating Violence Prohibited

Engaging in teen dating violence that takes place at school, on school property, at school-sponsored activities, or in vehicles used for school-provided transportation is prohibited. For purposes of this policy, the term *teen dating violence* occurs whenever a student who is 13 to 19 years of age uses or threatens to use physical, mental, or emotional abuse to control an individual in the dating relationship; or uses or threatens to use sexual violence in the dating relationship.

The Superintendent or designee shall develop and maintain a program to respond to incidents of teen dating violence that:

- 1. Fully implements and enforces each of the following Board policies:
  - a. 2:260, *Uniform Grievance Procedure*. This policy provides a method for any student, parent/guardian, employee, or community member to file a complaint if he or she believes that the Governing Board, its employees, or its agents have violated his or her rights under the State or federal Constitution, State or federal statute, Board policy, or various enumerated bases.
  - b. 2:265, *Title IX Grievance Procedure*. This policy prohibits a District employee, agent, or student from engaging in sexual harassment in violation of Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972. Prohibited conduct includes but is not limited to sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, and stalking.
  - c. 7:20, *Harassment of Students Prohibited*. This policy prohibits any person, including a District employee, agent, or student, from harassing intimidating, or bullying a student based on the student's actual or perceived characteristics of sex; sexual orientation; gender identity; and gender-related identity or expression (this policy includes more protected statuses).
  - d. 7:180, *Prevention of and Response to Bullying, Intimidation, and Harassment*. This policy prohibits students from engaging in bullying, intimidation, and harassment at school, school-related events and electronically. Prohibited conduct includes threats, stalking, physical violence, sexual harassment, sexual violence, theft, public humiliation, destruction of property, or retaliation for asserting or alleging an act of bullying.
- 2. Encourages anyone with information about incidents of teen dating violence to report them to any of the following individuals:
  - a. Any school staff member. School staff shall respond to incidents of teen dating violence by following the District's established procedures for the prevention, identification, investigation, and response to bullying and school violence.
  - b. The Nondiscrimination Coordinator, Building Principal, Assistant Building Principal, Dean of Students, or a Complaint Manager identified in policy 7:20, *Harassment of Students Prohibited*.
- 3. Incorporates age-appropriate instruction in grades 7 through 12, in accordance with the District's comprehensive health education program in Board policy 6:60, *Curriculum Content*. This includes incorporating student social and emotional development into the District's educational program as required by State law and in alignment with Board policy 6:65, *Student Social and Emotional Development*.
- 4. Incorporates education for school staff, as recommended by the Nondiscrimination Coordinator, Building Principal, Assistant Building Principal, Dean of Students, or a Complaint Manager.
- 5. Notifies students and parents/guardians of this policy.

Incorporated

by Reference: 7:180-AP1, (Prevention, Identification, Investigation, and Response to Bullying)

#### LEGAL REF.:

105 ILCS 110/3.10.

CROSS REF.: 2:240 (Board Policy Development), 2:260 (Uniform Grievance Procedure), 2:265 (Title IX Grievance Procedure), 5:100 (Staff Development Program), 5:230 (Maintaining Student Discipline), 6:60 (Curriculum Content), 6:65 (Student Social and Emotional Development), 7:20 (Harassment of Students Prohibited), 7:180 (Prevention of and Response to Bullying, Intimidation, and Harassment), 7:190 (Student Behavior), 7:220 (Bus Conduct), 7:230 (Misconduct by Students with Disabilities), 7:240 (Conduct Code for Participants in Extracurricular Activities)

Adopted: June 17, 2025

## 7:190 Student Behavior

The goals and objectives of this policy are to provide effective discipline practices that: (1) ensure the safety and dignity of students and staff; (2) maintain a positive, weapons-free, and drug-free learning environment; (3) keep school property and the property of others secure; (4) address the causes of a student's misbehavior and provide opportunities for all individuals involved in an incident to participate in its resolution; and (5) teach students positive behavioral skills to become independent, self-disciplined citizens in the school community and society.

## When and Where Conduct Rules Apply

A student is subject to disciplinary action for engaging in *prohibited student conduct*, as described in the section with that name below, whenever the student's conduct is reasonably related to school or school activities, including, but not limited to:

- 1. On, or within sight of, school grounds before, during, or after school hours or at any time;
- 2. Off school grounds at a school-sponsored activity or event, or any activity or event that bears a reasonable relationship to school;
- 3. Traveling to or from school or a school activity, function, or event; or
- 4. Anywhere, if the conduct interferes with, disrupts, or adversely affects the school environment, school operations, or an educational function, including, but not limited to, conduct that may reasonably be considered to: (a) be a threat or an attempted intimidation of a staff member; or (b) endanger the health or safety of students, staff, or school property.

## **Prohibited Student Conduct**

The school administration is authorized to discipline students for gross disobedience or misconduct, including but not limited to:

- 1. Using, possessing, distributing, purchasing, or selling tobacco or nicotine materials, including without limitation, electronic cigarettes.
- 2. Using, possessing, distributing, purchasing, or selling alcoholic beverages. Students who are under the influence of an alcoholic beverage are not permitted to attend school or school functions and are treated as though they had alcohol in their possession.
- 3. Using, possessing, distributing, purchasing, selling, or offering for sale:
  - a. Any illegal drug or controlled substance, or cannabis (including marijuana, hashish, and medical cannabis unless the student is authorized to be administered a medical cannabis infused product under *Ashley's Law*).
  - b. Any anabolic steroid unless it is being administered in accordance with a physician's or licensed practitioner's prescription.
  - c. Any performance-enhancing substance on the Illinois High School Association's most current banned substance list unless administered in accordance with a physician's or licensed practitioner's prescription.
  - d. Any prescription drug when not prescribed for the student by a physician or licensed practitioner, or when used in a manner inconsistent with the prescription or prescribing physician's or licensed practitioner's instructions. The use or possession of medical cannabis, even by a student for whom medical cannabis has been prescribed, is prohibited unless the student is authorized to be administered a medical cannabis infused product under *Ashley's Law*.
  - e. Any inhalant, regardless of whether it contains an illegal drug or controlled substance: (a) that a student believes is, or represents to be capable of, causing intoxication, hallucination, excitement, or dulling of the brain or nervous system; or (b) about which the

student engaged in behavior that would lead a reasonable person to believe that the student intended the inhalant to cause intoxication, hallucination, excitement, or dulling of the brain or nervous system. The prohibition in this section does not apply to a student's use of asthma or other legally prescribed inhalant medications.

- f. Any substance inhaled, injected, smoked, consumed, or otherwise ingested or absorbed with the intention of causing a physiological or psychological change in the body, including without limitation, pure caffeine in tablet or powdered form.
- g. Look-alike or counterfeit drugs, including a substance that is not prohibited by this policy, but one: (a) that a student believes to be, or represents to be, an illegal drug, controlled substance, or other substance that is prohibited by this policy; or (b) about which a student engaged in behavior that would lead a reasonable person to believe that the student expressly or impliedly represented to be an illegal drug, controlled substance, or other substance that is prohibited by this policy.
- h. Drug paraphernalia, including devices that are or can be used to: (a) ingest, inhale, or inject cannabis or controlled substances into the body; and (b) grow, process, store, or conceal cannabis or controlled substances.

Students who are under the influence of any prohibited substance are not permitted to attend school or school functions and are treated as though they had the prohibited substance, as applicable, in their possession.

- 4. Using, possessing, controlling, or transferring a *weapon* as that term is defined in the **Weapons** section of this policy, or violating the **Weapons** section of this policy.
- 5. Using or possessing an electronic paging device.
- 6. Using or possessing a cellular telephone, two-way radio, video recording device, and/or other telecommunication device, unless authorized and approved by the Building Principal.
- 7. Sexting, which, for purposes of this policy, is the act of creating, sending, sharing, viewing, receiving, or possessing sexually explicit messages, images, or videos electronically, regardless of whether they are authentic or computer-generated, through the use of a computer, electronic communication device, or cellular phone. Sexting also includes creating, sending, sharing, viewing, receiving, or possessing indecent visual depictions, non-consensual dissemination of private sexual images, and non-consensual dissemination of sexually explicit digitized depictions, as defined in State law.
- 8. Using or possessing a laser pointer unless under a staff member's direct supervision and in the context of instruction.
- 9. Disobeying rules of student conduct or directives from staff members or school officials. Examples of disobeying staff directives include refusing a District staff member's request to stop, present school identification, or submit to a search.
- 10. Engaging in academic dishonesty, including cheating, intentionally plagiarizing, using a writing service and/or generative artificial intelligence technology in place of original work unless specifically authorized by staff, wrongfully giving or receiving help during an academic examination, altering report cards, and wrongfully obtaining test copies or scores.
- 11. Engaging in hazing or any kind of bullying or aggressive behavior that does physical or psychological harm to a staff person or another student, or urging other students to engage in such conduct. Prohibited conduct specifically includes, without limitation, any use of violence, intimidation, force, noise, coercion, threats, stalking, harassment, sexual harassment, public humiliation, theft or destruction of property, retaliation, hazing, bullying, bullying using a school computer or a school computer network, or other comparable conduct.
- 12. Engaging in any sexual activity, including without limitation, offensive touching, sexual harassment, indecent exposure (including mooning), and sexual assault. This does not include the non-disruptive: (a) expression of gender or sexual orientation or preference, or (b) display of affection during non-instructional time.

- 13. Teen dating violence, as described in Board policy 7:185, Teen Dating Violence Prohibited.
- 14. Causing or attempting to cause damage to, or stealing or attempting to steal, school property or another person's personal property.
- 15. Entering school property or a school facility without proper authorization.
- 16. In the absence of a reasonable belief that an emergency exists, calling emergency responders (such as calling 911); signaling or setting off alarms or signals indicating the presence of an emergency; or indicating the presence of a bomb or explosive device on school grounds, school bus, or at any school activity.
- 17. Being absent without a recognized excuse; State law and Board policy regarding truancy control will be used with chronic and habitual truants.
- 18. Being involved with any public school fraternity, sorority, or secret society, by: (a) being a member; (b) promising to join; (c) pledging to become a member; or (d) soliciting any other person to join, promise to join, or be pledged to become a member.
- 19. Being involved in gangs or gang-related activities, including displaying gang symbols or paraphernalia.
- 20. Violating any criminal law, including but not limited to, assault, battery, arson, theft, gambling, eavesdropping, vandalism, and hazing.
- 21. Making an explicit threat on an Internet website against a school employee, a student, or any school-related personnel if the Internet website through which the threat was made is a site that was accessible within the school at the time the threat was made or was available to third parties who worked or studied within the school grounds at the time the threat was made, and the threat could be reasonably interpreted as threatening to the safety and security of the threatened individual because of his or her duties or employment status or status as a student inside the school.
- 22. Operating an unmanned aircraft system (UAS) or drone for any purpose on school grounds or at any school event unless granted permission by the director or designee.
- 23. Engaging in any activity, on or off campus, that interferes with, disrupts, or adversely affects the school environment, school operations, or an educational function, including but not limited to, conduct that may reasonably be considered to: (a) be a threat or an attempted intimidation of a staff member; or (b) endanger the health or safety of students, staff, or school property.

For purposes of this policy, the term *possession* includes having control, custody, or care, currently or in the past, of an object or substance, including situations in which the item is: (a) on the student's person; (b) contained in another item belonging to, or under the control of, the student, such as in the student's clothing, backpack, or automobile; (c) in a school's student locker, desk, or other school property; or (d) at any location on school property or at a school-sponsored event.

Efforts, including the use of positive interventions and supports, shall be made to deter students, while at school or a school-related event, from engaging in aggressive behavior that may reasonably produce physical or psychological harm to someone else. The director or designee shall ensure that the parent/guardian of a student who engages in aggressive behavior is notified of the incident. The failure to provide such notification does not limit the Board's authority to impose discipline, including suspension or expulsion, for such behavior.

No disciplinary action shall be taken against any student that is based totally or in part on the refusal of the student's parent/guardian to administer or consent to the administration of psychotropic or psychostimulant medication to the student.

## **Disciplinary Measures**

School officials shall limit the number and duration of expulsions and out-of-school suspensions to the greatest extent practicable, and, where practicable and reasonable, shall consider forms of non-exclusionary discipline before using out-of-school suspensions or expulsions. School personnel shall

not advise or encourage students to drop out voluntarily due to behavioral or academic difficulties. Potential disciplinary measures include, without limitation, any of the following:

- 1. Notifying parent(s)/guardian(s).
- 2. Disciplinary conference.
- 3. Withholding of privileges.
- 4. Temporary removal from the classroom.
- 5. Return of property or restitution for lost, stolen, or damaged property.
- 6. In-school suspension. The Building Principal or designee shall ensure that the student is properly supervised.
- 7. After-school study or Saturday study provided the student's parent/guardian has been notified. If transportation arrangements cannot be agreed upon, an alternative disciplinary measure must be used. The student must be supervised by the detaining teacher or the Building Principal or designee.
- 8. Community service with local public and nonprofit agencies that enhances community efforts to meet human, educational, environmental, or public safety needs. The District will not provide transportation. School administration shall use this option only as an alternative to another disciplinary measure, giving the student and/or parent/guardian the choice.
- 9. Seizure of contraband; confiscation and temporary retention of personal property that was used to violate this policy or school disciplinary rules.
- 10. Suspension of bus riding privileges in accordance with Board policy 7:220, Bus Conduct.
- 11. Out-of-school suspension from school and all school activities in accordance with Board policy 7:200, *Suspension Procedures*. A student who has been suspended shall also be restricted from being on school grounds and at school activities.
- 12. Expulsion from school and all school activities for a definite time period not to exceed two calendar years in accordance with Board policy 7:210, *Expulsion Procedures*. A student who has been expelled shall also be restricted from being on school grounds and at school activities.
- 13. Transfer to an alternative program if the student is expelled or otherwise qualifies for the transfer under State law. The transfer shall be in the manner provided in Article 13A or 13B of the School Code.
- 14. Notifying juvenile authorities or other law enforcement whenever the conduct involves criminal activity, including but not limited to, illegal drugs (controlled substances), *look-alikes*, alcohol, or weapons or in other circumstances as authorized by the reciprocal reporting agreement between the District and local law enforcement agencies.

The above list of disciplinary measures is a range of options that will not always be applicable in every case. In some circumstances, it may not be possible to avoid suspending or expelling a student because behavioral interventions, other than a suspension and expulsion, will not be appropriate and available, and the only reasonable and practical way to resolve the threat and/or address the disruption is a suspension or expulsion.

Corporal punishment is prohibited in all circumstances. *Corporal punishment* is defined as a discipline method in which a person deliberately inflicts pain upon a student in response to the student's unacceptable behavior or inappropriate language, with an aim to halt an offense, prevent its recurrence, or set an example for others. It includes slapping, paddling, or prolonged maintenance of students in physically painful positions, or intentional infliction of bodily harm. Corporal punishment does not include reasonable force as permitted by 105 ILCS 5/10-20.33.

## Isolated Time Out, Time Out, and Physical Restraint

The JAMP Governing Board bears the responsibility of protecting the safety, health, and welfare of the

students, staff, and property of the District and maintaining a safe and orderly environment for learning. Therefore, it may be necessary at times to physically restrain or physically remove a student into an isolated time out setting when the student's conduct affects the well-being of the schools. It is the policy of this District to implement isolated time out, time out and physical restraint procedures as a means of maintaining a safe and orderly learning environment to the extent such procedures are necessary to preserve the safety of the students, staff or others. Neither isolated time out, time out, nor physical restraint shall be used to discipline or punish a student. These methods are only authorized for use as permitted in 105 ILCS 5/10-20.33, Ill. State Board of Education (ISBE) rules (23 Ill.Admin.Code §§ 1.280, 1.285), and the District's procedure(s).

The Director is authorized to establish rules and regulations to implement and enforce this policy consistent with the requirements of ISBE regulations.

## <u>Weapons</u>

A student who is determined to have brought one of the following objects to school, any school-sponsored activity or event, or any activity or event that bears a reasonable relationship to school shall be expelled for a period of at least one calendar year but not more than two calendar years:

- 1. A firearm, meaning any gun, rifle, shotgun, or weapon as defined by Section 921 of Title 18 of the United States Code (18 U.S.C. § 921), firearm as defined in Section 1.1 of the Firearm Owners Identification Card Act (430 ILCS 65/), or firearm as defined in Section 24-1 of the Criminal Code of 2012 (720 ILCS 5/24-1).
- 2. A knife, brass knuckles, or other knuckle weapon regardless of its composition, a billy club, or any other object if used or attempted to be used to cause bodily harm, including *look-alikes* of any firearm as defined above.

The expulsion requirement under either paragraph 1 or 2 above may be modified by the Director, and the Director's determination may be modified by the Board on a case-by-case basis. The Director or designee may grant an exception to this policy, upon the prior request of an adult supervisor, for students in theatre, cooking, ROTC, martial arts, and similar programs, whether or not school-sponsored, provided the item is not equipped, nor intended, to do bodily harm.

This policy's prohibitions concerning weapons apply regardless of whether: (1) a student is licensed to carry a concealed firearm, or (2) the Board permits visitors, who are licensed to carry a concealed firearm, to store a firearm in a locked vehicle in a school parking area.

## Re-Engagement of Returning Students

The Director or designee shall maintain a process to facilitate the re-engagement of students who are returning from an out-of-school suspension, expulsion, or an alternative school setting. The goal of reengagement shall be to support the student's ability to be successful in school following a period of exclusionary discipline and shall include the opportunity for students who have been suspended to complete or make up work for equivalent academic credit.

## **Required Notices**

A school staff member shall immediately notify the office of the Building Principal in the event that he or she: (1) observes any person in possession of a firearm on or around school grounds; however, such action may be delayed if immediate notice would endanger students under his or her supervision, (2) observes or has reason to suspect that any person on school grounds is or was involved in a drug-related incident, or (3) observes a battery committed against any staff member or is subject to a battery. School grounds includes modes of transportation to school activities and any public way within 1000 feet of the school, as well as school property itself.

Upon receiving a report of (1), above, the Building Principal or designee shall immediately notify local

law enforcement. In addition, upon receiving a report on any of the above (1)-(3), the Building Principal or designee shall notify the Director or designee and any involved student's parent/guardian.

Upon receiving a report on any of the above (1)-(3), the director or designee shall immediately notify local law enforcement. The Director or designee shall also report these incidents to ISBE through its web-based School Incident Reporting System as they occur during the year and no later than July 31 for the preceding school year.

## **Delegation of Authority**

Each teacher, and any other school personnel when students are under his or her charge, is authorized to impose any disciplinary measure, other than suspension, expulsion, corporal punishment, or in-school suspension, that is appropriate and in accordance with the policies and rules on student discipline. Teachers, other licensed educational employees, and any other persons (whether or not a licensed employee) providing a related service for or with respect to a student, may only use reasonable force as permitted by 105 ILCS 5/10-20.33 Teachers may temporarily remove students from a classroom for disruptive behavior.

The Director, Building Principal, Assistant Building Principal, or Dean of Students is authorized to impose the same disciplinary measures as teachers and may suspend students guilty of gross disobedience or misconduct from school (including all school functions) and from riding the school bus, up to 10 consecutive school days, provided the appropriate procedures are followed. The Board may suspend a student from riding the bus in excess of 10 school days for safety reasons.

## Student Handbook

The Director, with input from the parent-teacher advisory committee, shall prepare disciplinary rules implementing the District's disciplinary policies. These disciplinary rules shall be presented annually to the Board for its review and approval.

A student handbook, including the District disciplinary policies and rules, shall be distributed to the students' parents/guardians within 15 days of the beginning of the school year or a student's enrollment.

Incorporated

by Reference: 7:190-AP4, (Use of Isolated Time Out, Time Out, and Physical Restraint)

LEGAL REF.:

20 U.S.C. §7971 et seq., Pro-Children Act of 2004.

20 U.S.C. §7961 et seq., Gun Free Schools Act.

105 ILCS 5/10-20.5b, 5/10-20.14, 5/10-20.28, 5/10-20.36, 5/10-21.7, 5/10-21.10, 5/10-22.6, 5/10-27.1A, 5/10-27.1B, 5/22-33, 5/22-100, 5/24-24, 5/26-12, 5/27-23.7, and 5/31-3.

105 ILCS 110/3.10, Critical Health Problems and Comprehensive Health Education Act.

410 ILCS 130/, Compassionate Use of Medical Cannabis Pilot Program.

410 ILCS 647/, Powdered Caffeine Control and Education Act.

430 ILCS 66/, Firearm Concealed Carry Act.

23 III.Admin.Code §§ 1.280, 1.285.

CROSS REF.: 2:240 (Board Policy Development), 5:230 (Maintaining Student Discipline), 6:110 (Programs for Students At Risk of Academic Failure and/or Dropping Out of School and Graduation

Incentives Program), 7:70 (Attendance and Truancy), 7:130 (Student Rights and Responsibilities), 7:140 (Search and Seizure), 7:150 (Agency and Police Interviews), 7:160 (Student Appearance), 7:170 (Vandalism), 7:180 (Prevention of and Response to Bullying, Intimidation, and Harassment), 7:185 (Teen Dating Violence Prohibited), 7:200 (Suspension Procedures), 7:230 (Misconduct by Students with Disabilities), 7:270 (Administering Medicines to Students), 7:310 (Restrictions on Publications and Written or Electronic Material; Elementary Schools), 7:315 (Restrictions on Publications; High Schools), 8:30 (Visitors to and Conduct on District Property)

Adopted: June 17, 2025

## 7:200 Suspension Procedures

## In-School Suspension

The Director or designee is authorized to maintain an in-school suspension program. The program shall include, at a minimum, each of the following:

- 1. Before assigning a student to in-school suspension, the charges will be explained and the student will be given an opportunity to respond to the charges.
- 2. Students are supervised by licensed school personnel.
- 3. Students are given the opportunity to complete classroom work during the in-school suspension for equivalent academic credit.

## Out-of-School Suspension

The Director or designee, in collaboration with an administrator from the student's district of residence, is authorized to suspend a student and shall implement suspension procedures that provide, at a minimum, for each of the following:

- 1. A conference during which the charges will be explained and the student will be given an opportunity to respond to the charges before he or she may be suspended.
- 2. A pre-suspension conference is not required, and the student can be immediately suspended when the student's presence poses a continuing danger to persons or property or an ongoing threat of disruption to the educational process. In such cases, the notice and conference shall follow as soon as practicable.
- 3. An attempted phone call to the student's parent(s)/guardian(s).
- 4. A written notice of the suspension to the parent(s)/guardian(s) and the student, which shall:
  - a. Provide notice to the parent(s)/guardian(s) of their child's right to a review of the suspension:
  - b. Include information about an opportunity to make up work missed during the suspension for equivalent academic credit;
  - c. Detail the specific act of gross disobedience or misconduct resulting in the decision to suspend;
  - d. Provide rationale or an explanation of how the chosen number of suspension days will address the threat or disruption posed by the student or his or her act of gross disobedience or misconduct: and
  - e. Depending upon the length of the out-of-school suspension, include the following applicable information:
    - i. For a suspension of 3 school days or less, an explanation that the student's continuing presence in school would either pose:
      - a. A threat to school safety, or
      - b. A disruption to other students' learning opportunities.
    - ii. For a suspension of 4 or more school days, an explanation:
      - a. That other appropriate and available behavioral and disciplinary interventions have been exhausted,
      - b. As to whether school officials attempted other interventions or determined that no other interventions were available for the student, and
      - c. That the student's continuing presence in school would either:
        - i. Pose a threat to the safety of other students, staff, or members of the school community, or
        - ii. Substantially disrupt, impede, or interfere with the operation of the school.

- d. Of what, if any, appropriate and available support services will be provided to the student during the length of his or her suspension, as determined by the Director or designee.
- 5. A summary of the notice, including the reason for the suspension and the suspension length, must be given to the Board of Education of the student's district of residence by the Director or designee.
- 6. Upon request of the parent(s)/guardian(s), a review of the suspension shall be conducted by the student's district of residence, whose relevant policies and procedures will govern.

## LEGAL REF.:

Goss v. Lopez, 419 U.S. 565 (1975).

105 ILCS 5/10-20.14, 5/10-22.6.

23 III.Admin.Code §1.280.

CROSS REF.: 5:100 (Staff Development), 7:130 (Student Rights and Responsibilities), 7:190 (Student Behavior), 7:220 (Bus Conduct)

Adopted: June 17, 2025

## 7:230 Misconduct by Students with Disabilities

## Behavioral Interventions

Behavioral interventions shall be used with students with disabilities to promote and strengthen desirable behaviors and reduce identified inappropriate behaviors. The Governing Board will establish and maintain a committee to develop, implement, and monitor procedures on the use of behavioral interventions for children with disabilities.

## <u>Discipline of Special Education Students</u>

The District shall comply with the Individuals With Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004 and the Illinois State Board of Education's *Special Education* rules when disciplining special education students. No special education student shall be expelled if the student's particular act of gross disobedience or misconduct is a manifestation of his or her disability.

#### LEGAL REF.:

Individuals With Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004, 20 U.S.C. §§1412, 1413, and 1415.

Gun-Free Schools Act, 20 U.S.C. §7151 et seq.

34 C.F.R. §§300.101, 300.530 - 300.536.

105 ILCS 5/10-22.6 and 5/14-8.05.

23 III.Admin.Code §226.400.

Honig v. Doe, 108 S.Ct. 592 (1988).

CROSS REF.: 6:120 (Education of Children with Disabilities), 7:130 (Student Rights and Responsibilities), 7:190 (Student Behavior), 7:200 (Suspension Procedures),

Adopted: August 17, 2021

## 7:250 Student Support Services

The District provides a liaison to facilitate the enrollment and transfer of records of students in the legal custody of the III. Dept. of Children and Family Services when enrolling in or changing schools.

The following student support services may be provided by the District:

- 1. Health services supervised by a qualified school nurse. The Director or designee may implement procedures to further a healthy school environment and prevent or reduce the spread of disease.
- 2. Educational and psychological testing services and the services of a school psychologist as needed. In all cases, written permission to administer a psychological examination must be obtained from a student's parent(s)/guardian(s). The results will be given to the parent(s)/guardian(s), with interpretation, as well as to the appropriate professional staff.
- 3. The services of a school social worker. A student's parent/guardian must consent to regular or continuing services from a social worker.
- 4. School counseling services. The Director or designee shall annually inform all school personnel and students 12 years of age and older, in writing, of the availability of counseling without parent/guardian consent under 405 ILCS 5/3-550.

The Director or designee shall develop protocols for responding to students with social, emotional, or mental health needs that impact learning ability. The District, however, assumes no liability for preventing, identifying, or treating such needs.

## Erin's LawCounseling Options, Assistance, and Intervention

The Director or designee will ensure that each school building's Student Support Committee identifies counseling options for students who are affected by sexual abuse and grooming behaviors, along with District and community-based options for victims of sexual abuse and grooming behaviors to obtain assistance and intervention. Community-based options must include a Children's Advocacy Center and sexual assault crisis center(s) that serve the District, if any.

## Article 26A Domestic or Sexual Violence and Parenting Resource Personnel

The Director or designee will ensure that at least one staff member in each school building is designated as a resource person (Article 26A Resource Person) for students who are parents, expectant parents, or victims of domestic or sexual violence and offers those services required by 105 ILCS 5/26A. See Board policy 7:255, Students Who are Parents, Expectant Parents, or Victims of Domestic or Sexual Violence. The Article 26A Resource Person may be a member of the building's Student Support Committee.

The Director shall ensure that this policy is implemented in a manner consistent with State and federal laws, including the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, 42 U.S.C. §12101 <u>et seq.</u>, and that it is respectful of student privacy, including that student records are maintained and their confidentiality protected in accordance with Board policy and District procedures.

#### LEGAL REF .:

105 ILCS 5/10-23.13(b), 5/10-20.59, 5/21B-25(G), and 5/26A.

405 ILCS 5/, Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities Code.

405 ILCS 49/, Children's Mental Health Act.

740 ILCS 110/, Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities Confidentiality Act.

CROSS REF.: 6:65 (Student Social and Emotional Development), 7:100 (Health, Eye, and Dental Examinations; Immunizations; and Exclusion of Students), 7:255 (Students Who are Parents, Expectant Parents, or Victims of Domestic or Sexual Violence), 7:280 (Communicable and Chronic Infectious Disease), 7:340 (Student Records)

Adopted: June 17, 2025

# 7:255 Students Who are Parents, Expectant Parents, or Victims of Domestic or Sexual Violence

Domestic and sexual violence affect a student's ability to learn. Students who are parents or expectant parents have unique needs. Providing support services that enable students who are parents, expectant parents, or victims of domestic or sexual violence (Article 26A Students) to succeed in school are important District goals and required by 105 ILCS 5/26A (Article 26A).

The Superintendent or designee shall develop and implement a program for supporting Article 26A Students that:

- 1. Distributes this policy and procedures for requesting supportive services or filing a complaint to all students at the beginning of each school year.
- 2. Ensures at least one staff member in each school building is designated as a resource person for Article 26A Students (Article 26A Resource Person) and receives training in accordance with 105 ILCS 5/26A-35.
- 3. Notifies all District employees and agents that, upon learning or suspecting that a student is a parent, expectant parent, or victim of domestic or sexual violence, they must refer the student to a designated Article 26A Resource Person.
- 4. Ensures any employees whose duties include the resolution of Article 26A complaints receive training in accordance with 105 ILCS 5/26A-25(b)(1).
- 5. Requires verification of a student's claim of Article 26A status relating to domestic or sexual violence in accordance with 105 ILCS 5/26A-45.
- 6. Provides Article 26A Students with in-school support services, information about non-school-based support services, and the ability to make up work missed due to circumstances related to the student's Article 26A status in accordance with 105 ILCS 5/26A-40.
- 7. Ensures the prompt and equitable resolution of all Article 26A complaints through a complaint resolution procedure that fully complies with 105 ILCS 5/26A-25.
- 8. Ensures that all information concerning an Article 26A Student's status and related experiences, or information concerning a student who is a named perpetrator of domestic or sexual violence, provided to or otherwise obtained by the District or its employees or agents pursuant to 105 ILCS 5/26A is retained in a confidential temporary file in accordance with 105 ILCS 10/2(f). Confidentiality procedures will:
  - a. Provide that such information may not be disclosed to any other individual outside of the District, including any other employee, except if such disclosure is: (1) permitted by the III. School Student Records Act (105 ILCS 10/), the federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (20 U.S.C. §1232g), or other applicable State or federal laws; or (2) requested or consented to, in writing, by the Article 26A Student or their parent/guardian if it is safe to obtain written consent from the parent/guardian; and
  - b. Comply with the requirements of 105 ILCS 5/26A-30.
- 9. Ensures that in the event an Article 26A Student or their parent/guardian reports an incident of alleged domestic or sexual violence, the District's procedures comply with 105 ILCS 5/26A-20(c).
- 10. Complies with State and federal law and aligns with Board policies.

## Requesting Support Services

An Article 26A Student and/or their parent/guardian may request support services under this policy by contacting the building-level Article 26A Resource Person, whose name and contact information will be annually distributed to employees, students, and parents/guardians by each Building Principal.

An Article 26A Student and/or their parent/guardian may file a complaint under this policy with the Nondiscrimination Coordinator, Title IX Coordinator, Building Principal, Assistant Building Principal, Dean of Students, a Complaint Manager, or any employee with whom the person is comfortable speaking.

The Superintendent shall insert into this policy and keep current the names, office addresses, email addresses, and telephone numbers of the District's current Nondiscrimination Coordinator, Title IX Coordinator, and Complaint Managers.

Nondiscrimination Coordinator: Title IX Coordinator:

Kim Clayton Kim Clayton

751 Ullin Avenue 751 Ullin Avenue Ullin, IL 62992 Ullin, IL 62992

director2020@jampsped.org director2020@jampsped.org

618-634-9800 618-634-9800

## **Complaint Managers:**

Angela Alexander James Yates

751 Ullin Avenue 751 Ullin Avenue Ullin, IL 62992 Ullin, IL 62992

supervisor1@jampsped.org supervisor2019@jampsped.org

618-634-9800 618-634-9800

## Complaint Resolution Procedure

When a complaint is filed, the Nondiscrimination Coordinator and/or Complaint Manager or designee shall process and review it according to administrative procedure 7:255-AP2, Complaint Resolution Procedure for Students Who are Parents, Expectant Parents, or Victims of Domestic or Sexual Violence.

## **Enforcement**

Any District employee who is determined, at the conclusion of the complaint resolution procedure, to have violated Article 26A will be subject to disciplinary action up to and including discharge. Any third party who is determined, at the conclusion of the complaint resolution procedure, to have violated Article 26A will be addressed in accordance with the authority of the Board in the context of the relationship of the third party to the District, e.g., vendor, parent/guardian, invitee, etc.

This policy does not increase or diminish the ability of the District or the parties to exercise any other rights under existing law.

#### **Policy Review**

At least once every two years, pursuant to 105 ILCS 5/26A-20 and Board policy 2:240, *Board Policy Development*, the Board reviews and makes any necessary updates to this policy and to any other policies that may act as a barrier to their immediate enrollment and re-enrollment, attendance, graduation, and success in school of any student who is a parent, expectant parent, or victim of domestic or sexual violence. The Superintendent or designee shall assist the Board with its review and any updates.

## **Retaliation Prohibited**

Retaliation against an Article 26A Student or their parent/guardian for exercising or attempting to exercise their rights under Article 26A is prohibited. Individuals should report allegations of retaliation to the Building Principal, an administrator, the Nondiscrimination Coordinator, and/or a Complaint Manager.

A student, employee, or other person authorized by the District to provide aid, benefit, or service under the District's education program or activity who retaliates against others for reporting or complaining of violations of this policy or for participating in any manner under this policy will be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including discharge, with regard to employees, or suspension or expulsion, with regard to students.

LEGAL REF.:

105 ILCS 5/26A.

105 ILCS 10/, III. School Student Records Act.

405 ILCS 5/, Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities Code.

405 ILCS 49/, Children's Mental Health Act.

740 ILCS 110/, Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities Confidentiality Act.

23 III.Admin.Code §1.240 and Part 200.

CROSS REF.: 5:100 (Staff Development Program), 6:110 (Programs for Students At Risk of Academic Failure and/or Dropping Out of School and Graduation Incentives Program), 6:120 (Education of Children with Disabilities), 6:150 (Home and Hospital Instruction), 7:10 (Equal Educational Opportunities), 7:60 (Residence), 7:70 (Attendance and Truancy), 7:250 (Student Support Services), 7:340 (Student Records)

Adopted: June 17, 2025

## 7:260 Exemption from Physical Education

In order to be excused from participation in physical education, a student must present an appropriate excuse from his or her parent/guardian or from a person licensed under the Medical Practice Act. The excuse may be based on medical or religious prohibitions. An excuse because of medical reasons must include a signed statement from a person licensed under the Medical Practice Act that corroborates the medical reason for the request. An excuse based on religious reasons must include a signed statement from a member of the clergy that corroborates the religious reason for the request. Upon written notice from a student's parent/guardian, a student will be excused from engaging in the physical activity components of physical education during a period of religious fasting.

Special activities in physical education will be provided for students whose physical or emotional condition, as determined by a person licensed under the Medical Practice Act, prevents their participation in the physical education courses.

State law prohibits a school board from honoring parental excuses based upon a student's participation in athletic training, activities, or competitions conducted outside the auspices of the School District.

A student who is eligible for special education may be excused from physical education courses in either of the following situations:

- 1. He or she (a) is in grades 3-12, (b) his or her IEP requires that special education support and services be provided during physical education time, and (c) the parent/guardian agrees or the IEP team makes the determination; or
- 2. He or she (a) has an IEP, (b) is participating in an adaptive athletic program outside of the school setting, and (c) the parent/guardian documents the student's participation as required by the Director or designee.

A student requiring adapted physical education must receive that service in accordance with his or her Individualized Educational Program/Plan (IEP).

Students in grades 7 and 8 may submit a written request to the Building Principal to be excused from physical education courses because of his or her ongoing participation in an interscholastic or extracurricular athletic program. The Building Principal will evaluate requests on a case-by-case basis.

The Director or designee shall maintain records showing that the criteria set forth in this policy were applied to the student's individual circumstances, as appropriate.

Students who have been excused from physical education shall return to the course as soon as practical. The following considerations will be used to determine when a student shall return to a physical education course:

- 1. The time of year when the student's participation ceases; and
- 2. The student's class schedule.

LEGAL REF.:

105 ILCS 5/27-6.

225 ILCS 60/, Medical Practice Act.

23 III.Admin.Code §1.420(p) and §1.425(d), (e).

CROSS REF.: 6:60 (Curriculum Content)

Adopted: March 15, 2022

## 7:270 Administering Medicines to Students

Students should not take medication during school hours or during District-related activities unless it is necessary for a student's health and well-being. When a student's licensed health care provider and parent(s)/guardian(s) believe that it is necessary for the student to take a medication during school hours or District-related activities, the parent(s)/guardian(s) must request that the District dispense the medication to the child and otherwise follow the District's procedures on dispensing medication.

No District employee shall administer to any student, or supervise a student's self-administration of, any prescription or non-prescription medication until a completed and signed *District Medication Authorization Form* (*SMA Form*) is submitted by the student's parent(s)/guardian(s). No student shall possess or consume any prescription or non-prescription medication on District grounds or at a District-related function other than as provided for in this policy and its implementing procedures.

Nothing in this policy shall prohibit any District employee from providing emergency assistance to students, including administering medication.

The Building Principal shall include this policy in the Student Handbook and shall provide a copy to the parents/guardians of students.

## Self-Administration of Medication

A student may possess and self-administer an epinephrine injector, e.g., EpiPen®, and/or asthma medication prescribed for use at the student's discretion, provided the student's parent/guardian has completed and signed an *SMA Form*. The Director or designee will ensure an Emergency Action Plan is developed for each self-administering student.

A student may self-administer medication required under a *qualifying plan*, provided the student's parent/guardian has completed and signed an *SMA Form*. A qualifying plan means: (1) an asthma action plan, (2) an Individual Health Care Action Plan, (3) an allergy emergency action plan, (4) a plan pursuant to Section 504 of the federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973, or (5) a plan pursuant to the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. A student may also possess the supplies and equipment necessary to monitor and treat diabetes in accordance with the student's diabetes care plan and/or the supplies, equipment, and medication necessary to treat epilepsy in accordance with the student's seizure action plan.

The District shall incur no liability, except for willful and wanton conduct, as a result of any injury arising from a student's self-administration of medication, including asthma medication or epinephrine injectors, or medication required under a qualifying plan. A student's parent/guardian must indemnify and hold harmless the District and its employees and agents, against any claims, except a claim based on willful and wanton conduct, arising out of a student's self-administration of an epinephrine injector, asthma medication, and/or a medication required under a qualifying plan.

## <u>District Supply of Undesignated Opioid Antagonists</u>

The Director or designee shall implement 105 ILCS 5/22-30(f) and maintain a supply of undesignated opioid antagonists and provide or administer them as necessary according to State law. *Opioid antagonist* means a drug that binds to opioid receptors and blocks or inhibits the effect of opioids acting on those receptors, including, but not limited to, naloxone hydrochloride or any other similarly acting drug approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. *Undesignated opioid antagonist* is not defined by the School Code; for purposes of this policy it means an opioid antagonist prescribed in the name of the District or one of its schools or obtained by the District without a prescription. A school nurse or trained personnel, as defined in State law, may administer an undesignated opioid antagonist to a person when they, in good faith, believe a person is having an opioid overdose. Each building administrator and/or his or her corresponding school nurse shall maintain the names of trained personnel who have received a statement of certification pursuant to State law. See the

website for the III. Dept. of Human Services for information about opioid prevention, abuse, public awareness, and a toll-free number to provide information and referral services for persons with questions concerning substance abuse treatment.

#### Administration of Medical Cannabis

The Compassionate Use of Medical Cannabis Program Act allows a *medical cannabis infused product* to be administered to a student by one or more of the following individuals:

- 1. A parent/guardian of a student who is a minor who registers with the III. Dept. of Public Health (IDPH) as a *designated caregiver* to administer medical cannabis to their child. A designated caregiver may also be another individual other than the student's parent/guardian. Any designated caregiver must be at least 21 years old and is allowed to administer a *medical cannabis infused product* to a child who is a student on the premises of his or her school or on his or her school bus if:
  - a. Both the student and the designated caregiver possess valid registry identification cards issued by IDPH;
  - b. Copies of the registry identification cards are provided to the District;
  - c. That student's parent/guardian completed, signed, and submitted a *School Medication Authorization Form Medical Cannabis*: and
  - d. After administering the product to the student, the designated caregiver immediately removes it from school premises or the school bus.
- 2. A properly trained school nurse or administrator, who shall be allowed to administer the *medical cannabis infused product* to the student on the premises of the child's school, at a school-sponsored activity, or before/after normal school activities, including while the student is in before-school or after-school care on school-operated property or while being transported on a school bus.
- 3. The student him or herself when the self-administration takes place under the direct supervision of a school nurse or administrator.

Medical cannabis infused product (product) includes oils, ointments, foods, and other products that contain usable cannabis but are not smoked or vaped. Smoking and/or vaping medical cannabis is prohibited.

The product may not be administered in a manner that, in the opinion of the District or school, would create a disruption to the educational environment or cause exposure of the product to other students. A school employee shall not be required to administer the product.

Discipline of a student for being administered a product by a designated caregiver, or by a school nurse or administrator, or who self-administers a product under the direct supervision of a school nurse or administrator pursuant to this policy is prohibited. The District may not deny a student attendance at a school solely because he or she requires administration of the product during school hours.

## **Void Policy**

The **District Supply of Undesignated Opioid Antagonists** section of the policy is void whenever the Director or designee is unable to obtain a supply of opioid antagonists due to a shortage, in which case the District shall make reasonable efforts to maintain a supply.

The **Administration of Medical Cannabis** section of the policy is void and the District reserves the right not to implement it if the District or school is in danger of losing federal funding.

## LEGAL REF.:

105 ILCS 5/10-20.14b, 5/10-22.21b, 5/22-30, and 5/22-33.

105 ILCS 145/, Care of Students with Diabetes Act.

105 ILCS 150/, Seizure Smart School Act.

410 ILCS 130/, Compassionate Use of Medical Cannabis Program Act.

720 ILCS 550/, Cannabis Control Act.

23 III.Admin.Code §1.540.

CROSS REF.: 7:285 (Anaphylaxis Prevention, Response, and Management Program)

Adopted: June 17, 2025

## 7:275 Orders to Forgo Life-Sustaining Treatment

Written orders from parents/guardians to forgo life-sustaining treatment for their child must be signed by the student's physician and given to the Director. This policy shall be interpreted in accordance with the Illinois Health Care Surrogate Act 755 ILCS 40/.

Whenever an order to forgo life-sustaining treatment is received, the Director shall convene a multidisciplinary team that includes:

- 1. The student, when appropriate;
- 2. The student's parents/guardians;
- 3. Other medical professionals, e.g., licensed physician, physician's assistant, or nurse practitioner;
- 4. Local first responders for the building in which the student is assigned to attend school;
- 5. The school nurse;
- 6. Clergy, if requested by the student or his or her parents/guardians;
- 7. Other individuals to provide support to the student or his or her parents/guardians; and
- 8. School personnel designated by the Director.

The team shall determine guidelines to be used by school staff members in the event the child suffers a life-threatening episode at school or a school event.

District personnel shall convey orders to forgo life-sustaining treatment to the appropriate emergency or healthcare provider.

LEGAL REF.:

Health Care Surrogate Act, 755 ILCS 40/.

Cruzan v. Director, Missouri Dept. of Health, 497 U.S. 261 (1990).

In re C.A., a minor, 236 III.App.3d 594 (1st Dist. 1992).

Adopted: July 11, 2023

## 7:280 Communicable and Chronic Infectious Disease

A student with or carrying a communicable and/or chronic infectious disease has all rights, privileges, and services provided by law and the Governing Board's policies. The Director will develop procedures to safeguard these rights while managing health and safety concerns.

LEGAL REF.:

105 ILCS 5/10-21.11.

23 III.Admin.Code §§ 1.610 and 226.300.

77 III.Admin.Code Part 690.

20 U.S.C. §1400 et seq., Individuals With Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004.

29 U.S.C. §794(a), Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Section 504.

Adopted: August 17, 2021

## 7:285 Anaphylaxis Prevention, Response, and Management Program

School attendance may increase a student's risk of exposure to allergens that could trigger anaphylaxis. Students at risk for anaphylaxis benefit from a Board policy that coordinates a planned response in the event of an anaphylactic emergency. Anaphylaxis is a severe systemic allergic reaction from exposure to allergens that is rapid in onset and can cause death. Common allergens include animal dander, fish, latex, milk, shellfish, tree nuts, eggs, insect venom, medications, peanuts, soy, and wheat. A severe allergic reaction usually occurs quickly; death has been reported to occur within minutes. An anaphylactic reaction can also occur up to one to two hours after exposure to the allergen.

While it is not possible for the District to completely eliminate the risks of an anaphylactic emergency when a student is at school, an Anaphylaxis Prevention, Response, and Management Program using a cooperative effort among students' families, staff members, students, health care providers, emergency medical services, and the community helps the District reduce these risks and provide accommodations and proper treatment for anaphylactic reactions.

The Director or designee shall develop and implement an Anaphylaxis Prevention, Response, and Management Program for the prevention and treatment of anaphylaxis that:

- 1. Fully implements the III. State Board of Education (ISBE)'s model policy required by the School Code that: (a) relates to the care and response to a person having an anaphylaxis reaction, (b) addresses the use of epinephrine in a school setting, (c) provides a full food allergy and prevention of allergen exposure plan, and (d) aligns with 105 ILCS 5/22-30 and 23 III.Admin.Code §1.540.
- 2. Ensures staff members receive appropriate training, including: (a) an in-service training program for staff who work with students that is conducted by a person with expertise in anaphylactic reactions and management, and (b) training required by law for those staff members acting as *trained personnel*, as provided in 105 ILCS 5/22-30 and 23 III.Admin.Code §1.540.
- 3. Follows and references the applicable best practices specific to the District's needs in the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Voluntary Guidelines for Managing Food Allergies in Schools and Early Care and Education Programs and the National Association of School Nurses Allergies and Anaphylaxis Resources/Checklists.
- 4. Provides annual notice to the parents/guardians of all students to make them aware of this policy.
- 5. Complies with State and federal law and is in alignment with Board policies.

## **Monitoring**

Pursuant to State law and policy 2:240, *Board Policy Development*, the Board reviews and makes any necessary updates to this policy at least once every three years. The Director or designee shall assist the Board with its review and any necessary updates.

## LEGAL REF.:

105 ILCS 5/2-3.190, 5/10-22.39, and 5/22-30.

23 III.Admin.Code §1.540.

Anaphylaxis Response Policy for Illinois Schools, published by ISBE.

CROSS REF.: 4:120 (Food Services), 4:170 (Safety), 5:100 (Staff Development Program), 6:120 (Education of Children with Disabilities), 6:240 (Field Trips), 7:180 (Prevention of and Response to Bullying, Intimidation and Harassment), 7:250 (Student Support Services), 7:270 (Administering Medicines to Students)

Adopted: December 12, 2023

## 7:290 Suicide and Depression Awareness and Prevention

Youth suicide impacts the safety of the school environment. It also affects the school community, diminishing the ability of surviving students to learn and the school's ability to educate. Suicide and depression awareness and prevention are important Board goals.

## Suicide and Depression Awareness and Prevention Program

The Director or designee shall develop, implement, and maintain a suicide and depression awareness and prevention program (Program) that advances the Board's goals of increasing awareness and prevention of depression and suicide. This program must be consistent with the requirements of *Ann Marie's Law*listed below; each listed requirement, 1-6, corresponds with the list of required policy components in the School Code Section 5/2-3.166(c)(2)-(7). The Program shall include:

- 1. Protocols for administering youth suicide awareness and prevention education to students and staff.
  - a. For students, implementation will incorporate Board policy 6:60, *Curriculum Content*, which implements 105 ILCS 5/2-3.139 and 105 ILCS 5/27-7 (requiring education for students to develop a sound mind and a healthy body).
  - b. For staff, implementation will incorporate Board policy 5:100, *Staff Development Program*, and teacher's institutes under 105 ILCS 5/3-14.8 (requiring coverage of the warning signs of suicidal behavior).
- 2. Procedures for methods of suicide prevention with the goal of early identification and referral of students possibly at risk of suicide. Implementation will incorporate:
  - a. The training required by 105 ILCS 5/10-22.39 for all District staff who work with students to identify the warning signs of suicidal behavior in youth along with appropriate intervention and referral techniques, including methods of prevention, procedures for early identification, and referral of students at risk of suicide; and
  - b. III. State Board of Education (ISBE)-recommended guidelines and educational materials for staff training and professional development, along with ISBE-recommended resources for students containing age-appropriate educational materials on youth suicide and awareness, if available pursuant to *Ann Marie's Law*on ISBE's website.
- 3. Methods of intervention, including procedures that address an emotional or mental health safety plan for use during the school day and at school-sponsored events for a student identified as being at increased risk of suicide including those students who: (A) suffer from a mental health disorder; (B) suffer from a substance abuse disorder; (C) engage in self-harm or have previously attempted suicide; (D) reside in an out-of-home placement; (E) are experiencing homelessness; (F) are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or questioning (LGBTQ); (G) are bereaved by suicide; or (H) have a medical condition or certain types of disabilities. Implementation will incorporate paragraph number 2, above, along with Board policies:
  - a. 6:65, Student Social and Emotional Development, implementing the goals and benchmarks of the III. Learning Standards and 405 ILCS 49/15(b) (requiring student social and emotional development in the District's educational program);
  - b. 6:120, *Education of Children with Disabilities*, implementing special education requirements for the District;
  - c. 6:140, *Education of Homeless Children*, implementing provision of District services to students who are homeless;
  - d. 7:10, Equal Educational Opportunities, and its implementing administrative procedure and exhibit, implementing supports for equal educational opportunities for students who are LGBTQ:

- e. 7:50, School Admissions and Student Transfers To and From Non-District Schools, implementing State law requirements related to students who are in foster care;
- f. 7:250, Student Support Services, implementing the Children's Mental Health Act, 405 ILCS 49/ (requiring protocols for responding to students with social, emotional, or mental health issues that impact learning ability); and
- g. State and/or federal resources that address emotional or mental health safety plans for students who are possibly at an increased risk for suicide, if available on the ISBE's website pursuant to *Ann Marie's Law*.
- 4. Methods of responding to a student or staff suicide or suicide attempt. Implementation of this requirement shall incorporate building-level Student Support Committee(s) established through Board policy 7:250, *Student Support Services*.
- 5. Reporting procedures. Implementation of this requirement shall incorporate Board policy 6:270, *Guidance and Counseling Program,* and Board policy 7:250, *Student Support Services*, in addition to other State and/or federal resources that address reporting procedures.
- 6. A process to incorporate ISBE-recommended resources on youth suicide awareness and prevention programs, including current contact information for such programs in the District's Suicide and Depression Awareness and Prevention Program.

## Illinois Suicide Prevention Strategic Planning Committee

The Director or designee shall attempt to develop a relationship between the District and the Illinois Suicide Prevention Strategic Planning Committee, the Illinois Suicide Prevention Coalition Alliance, and/or a community mental health agency. The purpose of the relationship is to discuss how to incorporate the goals and objectives of the Illinois Suicide Prevention Strategic Plan into the District's Suicide Prevention and Depression Awareness Program.

## **Monitoring**

The Board will review and update this policy pursuant to *Ann Marie's Law*and Board policy 2:240, *Board Policy Development*.

## Information to Staff, Parents/Guardians, and Students

The Director shall inform each school district employee about this policy and ensure its posting on the District's website. The Director or designee shall provide a copy of this policy to the parent or legal guardian of each student enrolled in the District. Student identification (ID) cards, the District's website, and student handbooks and planners will contain the support information as required by State law.

#### Implementation

This policy shall be implemented in a manner consistent with State and federal laws, including the Student Confidential Reporting Act, 5 ILCS 860/, Children's Mental Health Act, 405 ILCS 49/, Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities Confidentiality Act, 740 ILCS 110/, and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, 42 U.S.C. §12101 et seq.

The District, Board, and its staff are protected from liability by the Local Governmental and Governmental Employees Tort Immunity Act. Services provided pursuant to this policy: (1) do not replace the care of a physician licensed to practice medicine in all of its branches or a licensed medical practitioner or professional trained in suicide prevention, assessments and counseling services, (2) are strictly limited to the available resources within the District, (3) do not extend beyond the school day and/or school-sponsored events, and (4) cannot guarantee or ensure the safety of a student or the student body.

#### LEGAL REF.:

42 U.S.C. § 1201 et seq., Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

105 ILCS 5/2-3.166, 105 ILCS 5/2-3.139, 5/3-14.8, 5/10-20.76, 5/10-20.81, 5/10-22.24a, 5/10-22.24b, 5/10-22.39, 5/14-1.01 et seq., 5/14-7.02, and 5/14-7.02b, 5/27-7.

5 ILCS 860/, Student Confidential Reporting Act.

405 ILCS 49/, Children's Mental Health Act.

740 ILCS 110/, Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities Confidentiality Act.

745 ILCS 10/, Local Governmental and Governmental Tort Immunity Act.

CROSS REF.: 2:240 (Board Policy Development), 5:100 (Staff Development Program), 6:60 (Curriculum Content), 6:65 (Student Social and Emotional Development), 6:120 (Education of Children with Disabilities), 7:180 (Prevention of and Response to Bullying, Intimidation, and Harassment), 7:250 (Student Support Services)

Adopted: December 12, 2023

# 7:310 Restrictions on Publications and Written or Electronic Material; Elementary Schools

## **District-Sponsored Publications and Websites**

District-sponsored publications, productions, and websites are part of the curriculum and are not a public forum for general student use. District authorities may edit or delete material that is inconsistent with the District's educational mission.

All District-sponsored communications shall comply with the ethics and rules of responsible journalism. Text that is libelous, obscene, vulgar, lewd, invades the privacy of others, conflicts with the basic educational mission of the District, is socially inappropriate, is inappropriate due to the maturity of the students, or is materially disruptive to the educational process will not be tolerated.

The author's name will accompany personal opinions and editorial statements. An opportunity for the expression of differing opinions from those published/produced will be provided within the same media.

#### Non-District Sponsored Publications and Web Sites Accessed or Distributed At District

For purposes of this section and the following section, a *publication* includes, without limitation: (1) written or electronic print material, and (2) audio-visual material, on any medium including electromagnetic media (e.g., images, digital files, flash memory, etc.), or combinations of these whether off-line (e.g., a printed book, digital files, etc.) or online (e.g., any website, social networking site, database for information retrieval, etc.), or (3) information or material on electronic devices (e.g., text or voice messages delivered by cell phones, tablets, and other hand-held devices).

Students are prohibited from accessing and/or distributing at school any written or electronic material, including material from the Internet that:

- 1. Will cause substantial disruption of the proper and orderly operation and discipline of the District or District activities:
- 2. Violates the rights of others, including but not limited to material that is libelous, invades the privacy of others, or infringes on a copyright;
- 3. Is socially inappropriate or inappropriate due to maturity level of the students, including but not limited to material that is obscene, pornographic, or pervasively lewd and vulgar, or contains indecent and vulgar language, or *sexting* as defined by Board policy 7:190, *Student Behavior*, and/or Student Handbooks;
- 4. Is primarily intended for the immediate solicitation of funds; or
- 5. Is distributed in kindergarten through eighth grade and is primarily prepared by non-students, unless it is being used for District purposes. Nothing herein shall be interpreted to prevent the inclusion of material from outside sources or the citation to such sources as long as the material to be distributed or accessed is primarily prepared by students.

The distribution of non-District-sponsored written material shall occur at a time and place and in a manner that will not cause disruption, be coercive, or result in the perception that the distribution or the material is endorsed by the District.

Accessing or distributing "at school" includes accessing or distributing on District property or at District-related activities. A student engages in gross disobedience and misconduct and may be disciplined for: (1) accessing or distributing forbidden material, or (2) for writing, creating, or publishing such material intending for it to be accessed or distributed at school.

Student-Created or Distributed Written or Electronic Material Including Blogs

A student engages in gross disobedience and misconduct and may be disciplined for creating and/or distributing written or electronic material, including Internet material and blogs, that causes substantial disruption to District operations or interferes with the rights of other students or staff members.

## **Bullying and Cyberbullying**

The Director or designee shall treat behavior that is *bullying* and/or *cyberbullying* according to Board policy 7:180, *Prevention of and Response to Bullying, Intimidation, and Harassment*, in addition to any response required by this policy.

LEGAL REF.:

105 ILCS 5/27-23.7.

Hazelwood v. Kuhlmeier, 484 U.S. 260 (1988).

Tinker v. Des Moines Indep. Cmty. Sch. Dist., 393 U.S. 503 (1969).

Hedges v. Wauconda Cmty. Unit Sch. Dist. No. 118, 9 F.3d 1295 (7th Cir. 1993).

CROSS REF.: 6:235 (Access to Electronic Networks), 7:180 (Prevention of and Response to Bullying, Intimidation, and Harassment), 7:190 (Student Behavior), 7:315 (Restrictions on Publications; High Schools), 8:25 (Advertising and Distributing Materials in Districts Provided by Non-District Related Entities)

Adopted: June 17, 2025

## 7:315 Restrictions on Publications; High Schools

## **Definitions**

*Libel* means the willful or negligent publication of provably false and unprivileged statements of fact that do demonstrable harm to a living person's reputation.

Obscene means lewd; impure; indecent; calculated to shock the moral sense of humans by a disregard of chastity or modesty. Objectionable or offensive to accepted standards of decency.

School official means a Building Principal or designee.

School-sponsored media means any material that is prepared, substantially written, published, or broadcast by a student journalist, distributed or generally made available to members of the student body, and prepared under the direction of a student media advisor. It does not include media intended for distribution or transmission solely in the classroom in which the media is produced.

*Slander* means the speaking of false statements of fact that seriously harm a living person's reputation.

Student journalist means a public high school student who gathers, compiles, writes, edits, photographs, records, or prepares information for dissemination in school-sponsored media.

Student media adviser means an individual employed, appointed, or designated by the District to supervise or provide instruction relating to school-sponsored media.

## School-Sponsored Media

School-sponsored publications, productions, and websites are governed by the Speech Rights of Student Journalists Act and Board policies, and student journalists are responsible for determining the news, opinion, feature, and advertising content of those publications, productions, and websites.

## Student journalists must:

- Make decisions based upon news value and guided by the Code of Ethics provided by the Society of Professional Journalists, National Scholastic Press Association, Journalism Education Association, or other relevant group;
- 2. Produce media based upon professional standards of accuracy, objectivity, and fairness;
- 3. Review material to improve sentence structure, grammar, spelling, and punctuation;
- 4. Check and verify all facts and verify the accuracy of all quotations;
- 5. In the use of personal opinions, editorial statements, and/or letters to the editor, provide opportunity and space for the expression of differing opinions within the same media to align with the District's media literacy curriculum mandate in 105 ILCS 5/27-20.08; and
- 6. Include an author's name with any personal opinions and editorial statements, if appropriate.

Student journalists may not create, produce, or distribute school-sponsored media that:

- 1. Is libelous, slanderous, or obscene;
- 2. Constitutes an unwarranted invasion of privacy;
- 3. Violates federal or State law, including the Constitutional rights of third parties; or
- 4. Incites students to:
  - a. Commit an unlawful act;
  - b. Violate any of the District's policies, educational mission speech that is socially

inappropriate or inappropriate due to the maturity of the students; or

c. Materially and substantially disrupt the orderly operation of the school.

The District will not engage in prior restraint of material prepared by student journalists for school-sponsored media, unless the material fits into one of the four prohibited categories listed above, in which case the Superintendent or designee and/or student media adviser may review, edit, and delete such media material before publication or distribution of the media.

No expression made by students in the exercise of freedom of speech or freedom of the press under this policy shall be deemed to be an expression of the District or an expression of Board policy.

## Non-School Sponsored Publications Accessed or Distributed On Campus

For purposes of this section and the following section, a *publication* includes, without limitation: (1) written or electronic print material, (2) audio-visual material on any medium including electromagnetic media (e.g., images, digital files, flash memory, etc.), or combinations of these whether off-line (e.g., a printed book, digital files, etc.) or online (e.g., any website, social networking site, database for information retrieval, etc.), or (3) information or material on electronic devices (e.g., text or voice messages delivered by cell phones, tablets, and other hand-held devices).

Creating, distributing, and/or accessing non-school sponsored publications shall occur at a time and place and in a manner that will not cause disruption, be coercive, or result in the perception that the distribution or the publication is endorsed by the District.

Students are prohibited from creating, distributing, and/or accessing at school any publication that:

- 1. Will cause a material and substantial disruption of the proper and orderly operation and discipline of the school or school activities;
- 2. Violates the rights of others, including but not limited to material that is libelous, slanderous or obscene, invades the privacy of others, or infringes on a copyright;
- 3. Is socially inappropriate or inappropriate due to maturity level of the students, including but not limited to material that is obscene, pornographic, or pervasively lewd and vulgar, contains indecent and vulgar language, or *sexting* as defined by Board policy 7:190, *Student Behavior*, and/or Student Handbooks:
- 4. Is reasonably viewed as promoting illegal drug use;
- 5. Is distributed in kindergarten through eighth grade and is primarily prepared by non-students, unless it is being used for school purposes. However, material from outside sources or the citation to such sources may be allowed, as long as the material to be distributed or accessed is primarily prepared by students; or
- 6. Encourages or incites students to violate any Board policies.

Accessing or distributing *on-campus* includes accessing or distributing on school property or at school-related activities. A student engages in gross disobedience and misconduct and may be disciplined for: (1) accessing or distributing forbidden material, or (2) for writing, creating, or publishing such material intending for it to be accessed or distributed at school.

## Non-School Sponsored Publications Accessed or Distributed Off-Campus

A student engages in gross disobedience and misconduct and may be disciplined for creating and/or distributing a publication that: (1) causes a substantial disruption or a foreseeable risk of a substantial disruption to school operations, or (2) interferes with the rights of other students or staff members.

## **Bullying and Cyberbullying**

The Director or designee shall treat behavior that is bullying and/or cyberbullying according to Board

policy 7:180, *Prevention of and Response to Bullying, Intimidation, and Harassment*, in addition to any response required by this policy.

## LEGAL REF.:

105 ILCS 5/27-20.08 and 5/27-23.7.

105 ILCS 80/, Speech Rights of Student Journalists Act.

Tinker v. Des Moines Indep. Cmty. Sch. Dist., 393 U.S. 503 (1969).

Hazelwood v. Kuhlmeier, 484 U.S. 260 (1988).

Morse v. Frederick, 551 U.S. 393 (2007).

Hedges v. Wauconda Cmty. Unit Sch. Dist. No. 118, 9 F.3d 1295 (7th Cir. 1993).

CROSS REF.: 1:30 (Philosophy), 6:10 (Educational Philosophy and Objectives), 6:65 (Student Social and Emotional Development), 6:235 (Access to Electronic Networks), 7:180 (Prevention of and Response to Bullying, Intimidation, and Harassment), 7:190 (Student Behavior), 7:310 (Restrictions on Publications; Elementary Schools), 8:25 (Advertising and Distributing Materials in Districts Provided by Non-District Related Entities)

Adopted: June 17, 2025

## 7:340 Student Records

School student records are confidential. Information from them shall not be released other than as provided by law. A school student record is any writing or other recorded information concerning a student and by which a student may be identified individually that is maintained by a school or at its direction by a school employee, regardless of how or where the information is stored, except as provided in State or federal law.

State and federal law grants students, parents/guardians, and when applicable, the III. Dept. of Children and Family Services' Office of Education and Transition Services, certain rights, including the right to inspect, copy, and/or challenge school student records. The information contained in District student records shall be kept current, accurate, clear, and relevant. All information maintained concerning a student receiving special education services shall be directly related to the provision of services to that child. The District may release directory information as permitted by law, but a parent/guardian shall have the right to opt-out of the release of directory information regarding his or her child. The District will comply with State or federal law with regard to release of a student's school records, including, where applicable, without notice to, or the consent of, the student's parent/guardian or eligible student. Upon request, the District discloses school student records without parent consent to the official records custodian of another school in which a student has enrolled or intends to enroll, as well as to any other person as specifically required or permitted by State or federal law.

The Director shall fully implement this policy and designate an *official records custodian* for each school who shall maintain and protect the confidentiality of school student records, inform staff members of this policy, and inform students and their parents/guardians of their rights regarding school student records.

## Student Biometric Information Collection

The Director or designee may recommend a student biometric information collection system solely for the purposes of identification and fraud prevention. Such recommendation shall be consistent with budget requirements and in compliance with State law. Biometric information means any information that is collected through an identification process for individuals based on their unique behavioral or physiological characteristics, including fingerprint, hand geometry, voice, or facial recognition or iris or retinal scans.

Before collecting student biometric information, the District shall obtain written permission from the person having legal custody/parental responsibility or the student (if over the age of 18). Upon a student's 18<sup>th</sup> birthday, the District shall obtain written permission from the student to collect student biometric information. Failure to provide written consent to collect biometric information shall not be the basis for refusal of any services otherwise available to a student.

All collected biometric information shall be stored and transmitted in a manner that protects it from disclosure. Sale, lease, or other disclosure of biometric information to another person or entity is strictly prohibited.

The District will discontinue use of a student's biometric information and destroy all collected biometric information within 30 days after: (1) the student graduates or withdraws from the District, or (2) the District receives a written request to discontinue use of biometric information from the person having legal custody/parental responsibility of the student or the student (if over the age of 18). Requests to discontinue using a student's biometric information shall be forwarded to the Director or designee.

The Director or designee shall develop procedures to implement this policy consistent with State and federal law.

LEGAL REF.:

20 U.S.C. §1232g, Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act; 34 C.F.R. Part 99.

50 ILCS 205/7, Local Records Act.

105 ILCS 5/10-20.12b, 5/10-20.40, 5/14-1.01 et seq., and 5/26A-30.

105 ILCS 10/, III. School Student Records Act.

105 ILCS 85/, Student Online Personal Protection Act.

325 ILCS 17/, Children's Privacy Protection and Parental Empowerment Act.

750 ILCS 5/602.11, III. Marriage and Dissolution of Marriage Act.

23 III.Admin.Code Parts 226 and 375.

Owasso I.S.D. No. I-011 v. Falvo, 534 U.S. 426 (2002).

Chicago Tribune Co. v. Chicago Bd. of Ed., 332 III.App.3d 60 (1st Dist. 2002).

CROSS REF.: 5:100 (Staff Development Program), 5:130 (Responsibilities Concerning Internal Information), 7:15 (Student and Family Privacy Rights), 7:255 (Students Who are Parents, Expectant Parents, or Victims of Domestic or Sexual Violence), 7:345 (Use of Educational Technologies; Student Data Privacy and Security)

Adopted: June 17, 2025

## 7:345 Use of Educational Technologies; Student Data Privacy and Security

Educational technologies used in the District shall further the objectives of the District's educational program, as set forth in Board policy 6:10, *Educational Philosophy and Objectives*, align with the curriculum criteria in policy 6:40, *Curriculum Development*, and/or support efficient District operations. The Director shall ensure that the use of educational technologies in the District meets the above criteria.

The District and/or vendors under its control may need to collect and maintain data that personally identifies students in order to use certain educational technologies for the benefit of student learning or District operations.

Federal and State law govern the protection of student data, including school student records and/or *covered information*. The sale, rental, lease, or trading of any school student records or covered information by the District is prohibited. Protecting such information is important for legal compliance, District operations, and maintaining the trust of District stakeholders, including parents, students and staff.

#### **Definitions**

Covered information means personally identifiable information (PII) or information linked to PII in any media or format that is not publicly available and is any of the following: (1) created by or provided to an operator by a student or the student's parent/guardian in the course of the student's or parent/guardian's use of the operator's site, service or application; (2) created by or provided to an operator by an employee or agent of the District; or (3) gathered by an operator through the operation of its site, service, or application.

*Operators* are entities (such as educational technology vendors) that operate Internet websites, online services, online applications, or mobile applications that are designed, marketed, and primarily used for K-12 school purposes.

*Breach* means the unauthorized acquisition of computerized data that compromises the security, confidentiality or integrity of covered information maintained by an operator or the District.

#### **Operator Contracts**

The Director or designee designates which District employees are authorized to enter into written agreements with operators for those contracts that do not require separate Board approval. Contracts between the Board and operators shall be entered into in accordance with State law and Board policy 4:60, *Purchases and Contracts*, and shall include any specific provisions required by State law.

## Security Standards

The Director or designee shall ensure the District implements and maintains reasonable security procedures and practices that otherwise meet or exceed industry standards designed to protect covered information from unauthorized access, destruction, use, modification, or disclosure. In the event the District receives notice from an operator of a breach or has determined a breach has occurred, the Director or designee shall also ensure that the District provides any breach notifications required by State law.

#### LEGAL REF.:

20 U.S.C. §1232g, Family and Educational Rights and Privacy Act 34 C.F.R. Part 99.

105 ILCS 10/, III. School Student Records Act.

105 ILCS 85/, Student Online Personal Protection Act.

23 III. Admin. Code Part 380.

CROSS REF.: 4:15 (Identity Protection), 4:60 (Purchases and Contracts), 6:235 (Access to Electronic Networks), 7:340 (Student Records)

Adopted: March 15, 2022

# **SECTION 8 - COMMUNITY RELATIONS**

## 8:10 Connection with the Community

The Board Chairman is the official spokesperson for the Governing Board. The Director is the District's chief spokesperson. The Board, in collaboration with the Director or designee, shall plan and implement a District public relations program to keep the community informed and build support through open and authentic communications. The public relations program shall include, without limitation, media relations; internal communications; communications to the community; communications to students and parents/guardians; the District website and social media accounts; and other efforts to reach all audiences using suitable mediums.

CROSS REF.: 2:110 (Qualifications, Term, and Duties of Board Officers)

Adopted: December 17, 2024

## 8:20 Community Use of District Facilities

District facilities are available to community organizations during non-District hours when such use does not: (1) interfere with any District function or affect the safety of students or employees, or (2) affect the property or liability of the District. The use of District facilities for District purposes has precedence over all other uses. The District reserves the right to cancel previously scheduled use of facilities by community organizations and other groups. The use of school facilities requires the prior approval of the Superintendent or designee and is subject to applicable procedures.

Persons on school premises must abide by the District's conduct rules at all times.

Student groups, District-related organizations, government agencies, and non-profit organizations are granted the use of District facilities at no costs during regularly staffed hours. All non-school sponsored groups, before using the facilities during non-regularly staffed hours, must provide a certificate of insurance naming the District as an *additional insured* or otherwise show proof of insurance. Fees and costs shall apply during non-regularly staffed hours and to other organizations granted use of facilities at any time.

The Director shall develop procedures to manage the calendar for community use of District facilities.

#### LEGAL REF.:

20 U.S.C. §7905, Boy Scouts of America Equal Access Act.

10 ILCS 5/11-4.1, Election Code.

105 ILCS 5/10-20.41, 5/10-22.10, and 5/29-3.5.

Good News Club v. Milford Central School, 533 U.S. 98 (2001).

Lamb's Chapel v. Center Moriches Union Free School District, 508 U.S. 384 (1993).

Rosenberger v. Rector and Visitors of Univ. of Va., 515 U.S. 819 (1995).

CROSS REF.: 8:25 (Advertising and Distributing Materials in Districts Provided by Non-District Related Entities), 8:30 (Visitors to and Conduct on District Property)

Adopted: July 11, 2023

# 8:25 Advertising and Distributing Materials in Districts Provided by Non-District Related Entities

No material or literature shall be posted in schools or distributed to students by non-school related organizations or individuals.

Commercial companies and political candidates or organizations are prohibited from advertising in schools, on the school grounds, or on school or District websites.

LEGAL REF.:

Lamb's Chapel v. Center Moriches Union Free Sch. Dist., 508 U.S. 384 (1993).

Berger v. Rensselaer Central Sch. Corp., 982 F.2d 1160 (7th Cir. 1993), cert. denied, 113 S.Ct. 2344 (1993).

<u>Sherman v. Community Consolidated Sch. Dist. 21</u>, 8 F.3d 1160 (7th Cir. 1993), *cert. denied*, 8 F.3d 1160 (1994).

Hedges v. Wauconda Community Unit Sch. Dist. No. 118, 9 F.3d 1295 (7th Cir. 1993).

<u>Victory Through Jesus Sports Ministry v. Lee's Summit R-7 Sch. Dist.</u>, 640 F.3d 329 (8th Cir. 2011), cert. denied, 565 U.S. 1036 (2011).

DiLoreto v. Downey Unified Sch. Dist., 196 F.3d 958 (9th Cir. 1999).

Adopted: July 11, 2023

## 8:30 Visitors to and Conduct on District Property

The following definitions apply to this policy:

**District property** - District and school buildings, grounds, and parking areas; vehicles used for school purposes; and any location used for a Governing Board meeting, school athletic event, or other school-sponsored or school-sanctioned events or activities.

**Visitor** - Any person other than an enrolled student or employee.

All visitors to District property are required to report to the Building Principal's office and receive permission to remain on District property. All visitors must sign a visitors' log, show identification, and wear a visitor's badge. When leaving the District, visitors must return their badge. On those occasions when large groups of parents/guardians, friends, and/or community members are invited onto school property or when community members are attending Board meetings, visitors are not required to sign in but must follow school officials' instructions. Persons on school property without permission will be directed to leave and may be subject to criminal prosecution.

Except as provided in the next paragraph, any person wishing to confer with a staff member should contact that staff member to make an appointment. Conferences with teachers are held, to the extent possible, outside school hours or during the teacher's conference/preparation period.

The District expects mutual respect, civility, and orderly conduct among all people on District property or at a District event. No person on District property or at a District event (including visitors, students, and employees) shall perform any of the following acts:

- 1. Strike, injure, threaten, harass, or intimidate a staff member, Board member, sports official or coach, or any other person.
- 2. Behave in an unsportsmanlike manner, or use vulgar or obscene language.
- 3. Unless specifically permitted by State law, possess a weapon, any object that can reasonably be considered a weapon or looks like a weapon, or any dangerous device. An individual licensed to carry a concealed firearm under the Illinois Firearm Concealed Carry Act is permitted to: (a) carry a concealed firearm within a vehicle into a parking area controlled by a school or the District and may store a firearm or ammunition concealed in a case within a locked vehicle or locked container out of plain view within the vehicle in the parking area, and/or (b) carry a concealed firearm in the immediate area surrounding his or her vehicle in a parking area controlled by a school or the District for the limited purpose of storing or retrieving a firearm within the vehicle's trunk.
- 4. Damage or threaten to damage another's property.
- 5. Damage or deface District property.
- 6. Violate any Illinois law, or town or county ordinance.
- 7. Smoke or otherwise use tobacco products.
- 8. Distribute, consume, use, possess, or be impaired by or under the influence of an alcoholic beverage, cannabis, other lawful product, or illegal drug.
- 9. Be present when the person's alcoholic beverage, cannabis, other lawful product, or illegal drug consumption is detectible, regardless of when and/or where the use occurred.
- 10. Use or possess medical cannabis, unless he or she has complied with policy 7:270, *Administering Medicines to Students*, implementing *Ashley's Law*.
- 11. Impede, delay, disrupt, or otherwise interfere with any District activity or function (including using cellular phones in a disruptive manner).
- 12. Enter upon any portion of District premises at any time for purposes other than those that are lawful and authorized by the Board.

- 13. Operate a motor vehicle: (a) in a risky manner, (b) in excess of 20 miles per hour, or (c) in violation of an authorized District employee's directive.
- 14. Engage in any risky behavior, including roller-blading, roller-skating, or skateboarding.
- 15. Violate other District policies or regulations, or a directive from an authorized security officer or District employee.
- 16. Engage in any conduct that interferes with, disrupts, or adversely affects the District or a District function.

### Visitation Rights of Parents (Special Education)

To ensure that a parent can participate fully and effectively with school personnel in the development of appropriate educational and related services for his or her child, the parent, an independent educational evaluator, or a qualified professional retained by or on behalf of a parent or child shall be afforded reasonable access to educational facilities, personnel classrooms, and buildings and to the duration and scope for the purpose of observing his or her child in the child's current educational placement, services, or program or for the purpose of visiting an educational placement or program proposed for the child.

Prior to visiting a school, school building, or school facility, the parent, independent educational evaluator, or qualified professional shall be required by the school district to inform the building principal or supervisor in writing of the proposed visit, the purpose of the visit, and the approximate duration of the visit at least forty-eight (48) hours in advance. The visitor and the school district shall arrange the visit or visits at times that are mutually agreeable. Visitors shall comply with school safety, security, and visitation policies at all times. The visitor shall not disrupt the educational process. No more than two (2) persons may visit at the same time, if school personnel determine that it would disrupt the educational process.

Visitors shall be required to comply with the requirements of applicable privacy laws, including those laws protecting the confidentiality of education records such as the federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act and the Illinois School Student Records Act. School Personnel shall inform visitors of this obligation during each visit.

Also, an independent educational evaluator or a qualified professional retained by or on behalf of a parent or child shall be afforded reasonable access of sufficient duration and scope for the purpose of conducting an evaluation of the child, the child's performance, the child's current educational program, placement, services, or environment or any educational program, placement, services, or environment proposed for the child including interviews of educational personnel, child observations, assessments, tests or assessments of the child's educational program, services, or placement or of any proposed educational program, services, or placement. If one or more interviews of school personnel are part of the evaluation, the interviews shall be conducted at a mutually agreed upon time, date, and place that do not interfere with the school employee's school duties. The school district will limit interviews to personnel having information relevant to the child's current educational services, program, or placement or to a proposed educational service, program, or placement.

For purposes of this policy, "qualified professional" means an individual who holds credentials to evaluate the child in the domain or domains for which an evaluation is sought or an intern working under the direct supervision of a qualified professional, including a master's or doctoral degree candidate. An individual may be required to supply proof of credentials prior to the visit, observation, or interview. Also, any qualified professional or independent educational evaluator will be required to provide the prior, specific, written, dated consent of the parent to conduct the visit, observation, or interview before said activities occur.

#### Convicted Child Sex Offender

1. State law prohibits a child sex offender from being present on school property or loitering within

500 feet of school property when persons under the age of 18 are present, unless the offender A parent/guardian of a student attending the school and the parent/guardian is: (i) attending a conference at the school with school personnel to discuss the progress of his or her child academically or socially, (ii) participating in child review conferences in which evaluation and placement decisions may be made with respect to his or her child regarding special education services, or (iii) attending conferences to discuss other student issues concerning his or her child such as retention and promotion and notifies the Building Principal of his or her presence at the school, or

2. Has permission to be present from the Board, Director, or Director's designee. If permission is granted, the Director or Board Chair shall provide the details of the offender's upcoming visit to the Building Principal.

In all cases, the Director, or designee who is a certified employee, shall supervise a child sex offender whenever the offender is in a child's vicinity.

#### **Exclusive Bargaining Representative Agent**

#### Please refer to the applicable collective bargaining agreement(s):

## For employees whose collective bargaining agreement does not address this subject:

Upon notifying the Building Principal's office, authorized agents of an exclusive bargaining representative will be provided reasonable access to employees in the bargaining unit they represent in accordance with State law. Such access shall be conducted in a manner that will not impede the normal operations of the District.

#### **Enforcement**

Any staff member may request identification from any person on District property; refusal to provide such information is a criminal act. The Building Principal or designee shall seek the immediate removal of any person who refuses to provide requested identification.

Any person who engages in conduct prohibited by this policy may be ejected from or denied admission to district property in accordance with State law. The person also may be subject to being denied admission to district athletic or extracurricular events for up to one calendar year in accordance with the procedures below.

#### Procedures to Deny Future Admission to Athletic or Extracurricular District Events

Before any person may be denied admission to athletic or extracurricular district events, the person has a right to a hearing before the Board. The Director may refuse the person admission pending such hearing. The Director or designee must provide the person with a hearing notice, delivered or sent by certified mail with return receipt requested, at least 10 days before the Board hearing date. The hearing notice must contain:

- 1. The date, time, and place of the Board hearing,
- 2. A description of the prohibited conduct,
- 3. The proposed time period that admission to District events will be denied, and
- 4. Instructions on how to waive a hearing.

#### LEGAL REF.:

20 U.S.C. §7971 et seq., Pro-Children Act of 2001.

Nuding v. Cerro Gordo Community Unit School Dist., 313 III. App.3d 344 (4th Dist. 2000).

105 ILCS 5/10-20.5, 10-20.5b, 5/10-22.10, 5/22-33, 5/24-25, and 5/27-23.7(a).

115 ILCS 5/3(c), III. Educational Labor Relations Act.

410 ILCS 130/, Compassionate Use of Medical Cannabis Program Act.

410 ILCS 705/, Cannabis Tax and Regulation Act.

430 ILCS 66/, Firearm Concealed Carry Act.

720 ILCS 5/11-9.3, 5/21-1, 5/21-1.2, 5/21-3, 5/21-5, 5/21-5.5, 5/21-9, and 5/21-11.

CROSS REF.: 2:200 (Types of Governing Board Meetings), 2:230 (Public Participation at Governing Board Meetings and Petitions to the Board), 4:170 (Safety), 5:50 (Drug- and Alcohol-Free Workplace; E-Cigarette, Tobacco, and Cannabis Prohibition), 6:120 (Education of Children with Disabilities), 6:250 (Community Resource Persons and Volunteers), 7:190 (Student Behavior), 7:270 (Administering Medicines to Students), 8:20 (Community Use of District Facilities)

Adopted: December 12, 2023

# 8:70 Accommodating Individuals with Disabilities

Individuals with disabilities shall be provided an opportunity to participate in all District-sponsored services, programs, or activities and will not be subject to illegal discrimination. When appropriate, the District may provide to persons with disabilities aids, benefits, or services that are separate or different from, but as effective as, those provided to others.

The District will provide auxiliary aids and services when necessary to afford individuals with disabilities equal opportunity to participate in or enjoy the benefits of a service, program, or activity.

Each service, program, website, or activity operated in existing facilities shall be readily accessible to, and useable by, individuals with disabilities. New construction and alterations to facilities existing before January 26, 1992, will be accessible when viewed in their entirety.

The Director is designated the Title II Coordinator and shall:

- 1. Oversee the District's compliance efforts, recommend necessary modifications to the School Board, and maintain the District's final Title II self-evaluation document, update it to the extent necessary, and keep it available for public inspection for at least three years after its completion date.
- 2. Institute plans to make information regarding Title II's protection available to any interested party.

Individuals with disabilities should notify the Director or Building Principal if they have a disability that will require special assistance or services and, if so, what services are required. This notification should occur as far in advance as possible of the District-sponsored function, program, or meeting.

Individuals with disabilities may allege a violation of this policy or federal law by reporting it to the Director or designated Title II Coordinator, or by filing a grievance under the Uniform Grievance Procedure.

#### LEGAL REF.:

Americans with Disabilities Act, 42 U.S.C. §§12101 et seq. and 12131 et seq.; 28 C.F.R. Part 35.

Rehabilitation Act of 1973 §104, 29 U.S.C. §794 (2006).

105 ILCS 5/10-20.51.

410 ILCS 25/, Environmental Barriers Act.

71 III.Admin.Code Part 400, Illinois Accessibility Code.

CROSS REF.: 2:260 (Uniform Grievance Procedure), 4:150 (Facility Management and Building Programs)

Adopted: July 11, 2023

## 8:80 Gifts to the Cooperative

The School Board appreciates gifts from any education foundation, other entities, or individuals. All gifts must adhere to each of the following:

- Be accepted by the Board or, if less than \$500.00 in value, the Director or designee. Individuals should obtain a pre-acceptance commitment before identifying the Cooperative, any school, or school program or activity as a beneficiary in any fundraising attempt, including without limitation, any Internet fundraising attempt.
- 2. Be given without a stated purpose or with a purpose deemed by the party with authority to accept the gift to be compatible with the Board's educational objectives and policies.
- 3. Be consistent with the Cooperative's mandate to provide equal educational and extracurricular opportunities to all students in the Cooperative as provided in Board policy 7:10, *Equal Educational Opportunities*. State and federal laws require the Cooperative to provide equal treatment for members of both sexes to educational programing, extracurricular activities, and athletics. This includes the distribution of athletic benefits and opportunities.
- 4. Permit the Cooperative to maintain resource equity among its learning centers.
- 5. Be viewpoint neutral. The Director or designee shall manage a process for the review and approval of donations involving the incorporation of messages into or placing messages upon school property.
- 6. Comply with all laws applicable to the Cooperative including, without limitation, the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Prevailing Wage Act, the Health/Life Safety Code for Public Schools, and all applicable procurement and bidding requirements.

The Cooperative will provide equal treatment to all individuals and entities seeking to donate money or a gift. Upon acceptance, all gifts become the Cooperative's property. The acceptance of a gift is not an endorsement by the Board, Cooperative, or school of any product, service, activity, or program. The method of recognition is determined by the party accepting the gift.

#### LEGAL REF.:

20 U.S.C. §1681 et seq., Title IX of the Education Amendments implemented by 34 C.F.R. Part 106.

105 ILCS 5/16-1.

23 III.Admin.Code §200.40.

CROSS REF.: 4:60 (Purchases and Contracts), 4:150 (Facility Management and Building Programs), 6:10 (Educational Philosophy and Objectives), 6:210 (Instructional Materials), 7:10 (Equal Educational Opportunities)

Adopted: June 16, 2020

#### 8:95 Parental Involvement

In order to assure collaborative relationships between students' families and the District, and to enable parents/guardians to become active partners in their children's education, the Director shall develop administrative procedures to:

- 1. Keep parents/guardians thoroughly informed about their child's school and education.
- 2. Encourage parents/guardians to be involved in their child's school and education.
- 3. Establish effective two-way communication between parents/guardians and the District.
- 4. Seek input from parents/guardians on significant District-related issues.
- 5. Inform parents/guardians on how they can assist their children's learning.

The Director shall periodically report to the Governing Board on the implementation of this policy.

CROSS REF.: 6:250 (Community Resource Persons and Volunteers), 8:10 (Connection with the Community)

Adopted: July 11, 2023

## 8:110 Public Suggestions and Concerns

The Governing Board is interested in receiving suggestions and concerns from members of the community. Any individual may make a suggestion or express a concern by contacting any District or School office. Community members who e-mail the District or any District employee or board member are expected to abide by the standards in Board policy 6:235, *Access to Electronic Networks*, and should, to the extent possible, limit their communications to relevant individuals. All suggestions and/or concerns will be referred to the appropriate level staff member or District administrator who is most able to respond in a timely manner. Each concern or suggestion shall be considered on its merit.

An individual who is not satisfied may file a grievance under Board policy 2:260, *Uniform Grievance Procedure*. The Board encourages, but does not require, individuals to follow the channels of authority prior to filing a grievance. Neither this policy nor the *Uniform Grievance Procedure* create an independent right to a hearing before the Board.

#### LEGAL REF.:

115 ILCS 5/14(c-5), III. Educational Labor Relations Act.

CROSS REF.: 2:140 (Communications To and From the Board), 2:230 (Public Participation at Governing Board Meetings and Petitions to the Board), 2:260 (Uniform Grievance Procedure), 3:30 (Chain of Command), 6:235 (Access to Electronic Networks), 6:260 (Complaints About Curriculum, Instructional Materials and Programs), 8:10 (Connection with the Community)

Adopted: June 16, 2020