

Community Relations

Connection with the Community

Public Relations

The Board President is the official spokesperson for the School Board. The Superintendent is the District's chief spokesperson. The Superintendent or designee shall plan and implement a District public relations program that will: ¹

1. Develop community understanding of school operation.
2. Gather community attitudes and desires for the District.
3. Secure adequate financial support for a sound educational program.
4. Help the community feel a more direct responsibility for the quality of education provided by their schools.
5. Earn the community's good will, respect, and confidence.
6. Promote a genuine spirit of cooperation between the school and the community.
7. Keep the news media accurately informed.
8. Coordinate with the District Safety Coordinator to provide accurate and timely information to the appropriate individuals during an emergency.

The public relations program should include:

1. Regular news releases concerning District programs, policies, activities, and special event management for distribution by, for example, posting on the District website, using social media platforms,² e.g., Facebook, Twitter, etc., or sending to the news media.
2. News conferences and interviews, as requested or needed. The Board President and Superintendent will coordinate their respective media relations efforts. Individuals may speak for the District only with prior approval from the Superintendent. ³

The footnotes are not intended to be part of the adopted policy; they should be removed before the policy is adopted.

¹ These objectives are examples only and should be customized for each district. The District Safety Coordinator is identified as the responsible person for compiling information and preparing communications covering an emergency or crisis (4:170-AP1, *Comprehensive Safety and Crisis Security Plan*). An alternative to the entire first subhead follows:

The Board President is the official spokesperson for the School Board. The Superintendent is the District's chief spokesperson. The Superintendent 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; emergency communications in coordination with the District Safety Coordinator; the District website and social media platform channels; and other efforts to reach all audiences using suitable mediums.

² District social media accounts are likely either *limited public forms* or *public forums*. See Knight First Amendment Inst. at Columbia Univ. v. Trump, 302 F.Supp.3d 541 (S.D.N.Y. 2018) (holding that the @realDonaldTrump Twitter account is a public forum under the First Amendment; therefore, (a) it could not exclude plaintiffs based simply on their views because excluding them on that basis is a violation their First Amendment right to petition their government, and (b) by purging critics from the @realDonaldTrump account, the White House deprived those who remained in the public forum the opportunity to hear the critics). Consider that school districts are different than the President of the United States and must ensure other duties to students, e.g., safety and security, which may require excluding certain comments from the district's social media accounts.

3. Publications having a high quality of editorial content and effective format. All publications shall identify the District, school, department, or classroom and shall include the name of the Superintendent, the Building Principal, and/or the author and the publication date.
4. Other efforts that highlight the District's programs and activities. 4

Community Engagement 5

Community engagement is a process that the Board uses to actively involve diverse citizens in dialogue, deliberation, and collaborative thinking around common interests for the District's schools.6

The Board, in consultation with the Superintendent, determines the purpose(s) and objective(s) of any community engagement initiative.

For each community engagement initiative:7

1. ~~The~~ Board will: 7

- a. ~~e~~CCommit to the determined purpose(s) and objective(s), and
- b. ~~p~~Provide information about the expected nature of the public's involvement.8

2. ~~The Superintendent or designee~~ will: 8

- a. Identify the effective tools and tactics that will advance the Board's purpose(s) and objective(s).
- b. ~~The Superintendent will: (1) a~~At least annually, prepare a report for the of each community engagement initiative, and/or (2)
- c. ~~p~~Prepare a final report of the each community engagement initiative.

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3 In alignment with the IASB "Foundational Principles of Effective Governance," the school board president is the board's spokesperson (see 2:110, *Qualifications, Term, and Duties of Board Officers*) and the superintendent is the district's spokesperson.

4 Examples of such programs include senior citizens' brunches, realtors' luncheons, and building tours.

5 This section is optional. A board that includes this subhead should complete the work necessary to develop and implement a community engagement initiative. See *Connecting with the Community: The Purpose and Process of Community Engagement as Part of Effective School Board Governance*, (Connecting with the Community) available at www.iasb.com/IASB/media/Documents/communityengagement.pdf ~~iasb.mys1eloud.com/communityengagement.pdf~~. This publication and other materials about community engagement are listed at: www.iasb.com/training/connecting.cfm.

The community engagement process differs from public relations (discussed in the **Public Relations** section, above) or public polling. Public relations push out information to the community. Public polling pulls information or opinions from the community. While most school districts understand how to push and pull information from their communities, the community engagement process is part of the two-way conversation for school boards that involves listening. Listening should not be limited only to the public comment period during board meetings. It is reaching out to the community and having conversations not only with parents but other community members, and then taking into consideration their thoughts and ideas as boards make their decisions. This method of listening must be purposeful for community engagement to work as intended.

6 Optional. This sentence applies the definition of community engagement to a board and its school district. See *Connecting with the Community*, pg. 9, available at www.iasb.com/IASB/media/Documents/communityengagement.pdf ~~iasb.mys1eloud.com/communityengagement.pdf~~.

An alternative introductory sentence that repeats the definition of community engagement follows: "For purposes of this policy, community engagement is the process that school boards use to actively involve diverse citizens in dialogue, deliberation and collaborative thinking around common interests for their public schools."

7 This action clarifies a board's reason(s) for engaging its community in an initiative and frames it to share with all participants in the process. (*Connecting with the Community*, pg. 10).

8 See *Connecting with the Community* at pg. 10 for examples of resources that a superintendent could use to implement the board's purpose and objectives.

The Board will periodically: (1) review whether its community engagement initiative(s) are achieving the identified purpose(s) and objective(s); (2) consider what, if any, modifications would improve effectiveness; and (3) determine whether to continue individual initiatives.

CROSS REF.: 2:110 (Qualifications, Term, and Duties of Board Officers)

Community Relations

Visitors to and Conduct on School Property ¹

The following definitions apply to this policy:

School property - District and school buildings, grounds, and parking areas; vehicles used for school purposes; and any location used for a School Board meeting, school athletic event, or other school-sponsored or school-sanctioned events or activities. ²

Visitor - Any person other than an enrolled student or District employee.

All visitors to school property are required to report to the Building Principal's office and receive permission to remain on school property. All visitors must sign a visitors' log, show identification, and wear a visitor's badge. When leaving the school, 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. ³

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.

Requests to access a school building, facility, and/or educational program, or to interview personnel or a student for purposes of assessing the student's special education needs, should be made at the appropriate building. Access shall be facilitated according to guidelines from the Superintendent or designee. ⁴

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¹ State or federal law controls this policy's content. Boards may make and enforce reasonable rules of conduct and sportsmanship for school events and deny future admission to school events to violators for up to one year provided a notice and hearing are given. 105 ILCS 5/24-24. See f/n 20 below.

This policy contains an item on which collective bargaining may be required. Any policy that impacts upon wages, hours, and terms and conditions of employment, is subject to collective bargaining upon request by the employee representative, even if the policy involves an inherent managerial right.

² School-sponsored or school-sanctioned events or activities aligns with the text of 105 ILCS 5/27-23.7(a).

³ This paragraph is up to the local board's discretion. Many public school buildings were built before school security was the concern it is now. A first step in creating a secure environment is to manage access to school buildings. Along with limiting the entrances that may be used, school officials should post signs with instructions for visitors and a warning to trespassers. Signs may be as simple as "Visitors Must Report to Office" and "No Trespassing – Violators will be Prosecuted." Applicable criminal trespass laws include: 720 ILCS 5/21-1 (criminal damage to property); 5/21-1.2 (institutional vandalism); 5/21-3 (criminal trespass to real property); 5/21-5 (criminal trespass to State supported land); 5/21-5.5 (criminal trespass to a safe school zone); 5/21-9 (criminal trespass to a place of public amusement); 5/21-11 (distributing or delivering written or printed solicitation on school property). This sample policy identifies board members as visitors.

The following optional provisions must be modified according to local conditions:

Option 1: The Superintendent or designee may post certain school facilities for the community's use on non-school days when they are not being used for school purposes.

Option 2: The Superintendent or designee shall manage a program to allow community use of the following facilities on non-school days, during the daylight, provided they are not being used for school purposes: tennis courts, playground, and track.

⁴ 105 ILCS 5/14-8.02(g-5). See administrative procedure 6:120-AP2, *Access to Classrooms and Personnel*, and exhibit 6:120-AP2, E1, *Request to Access Classroom(s) or Personnel for Special Education Evaluation and/or Observation Purposes*.

The School District expects mutual respect, civility, and orderly conduct among all people on school property or at a school event. No person on school property or at a school 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. ⁵
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. ⁶
4. Damage or threaten to damage another's property. ⁷
5. Damage or deface school property. ⁸
6. Violate any Illinois law,⁹ or town or county ordinance.
7. Smoke or otherwise use tobacco products. ¹⁰
8. Distribute, consume, use, possess, or be impaired by or under the influence of an alcoholic beverage, cannabis, other lawful product, or illegal drug. ¹¹
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. ¹²

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⁵ See e.g., 720 ILCS 5/12-2 (aggravated assault); 5/12-3.05(c) ~~and (d)(3) (crimes aggravated battery on school-public property; aggravated battery); 5/12-3.05(d)(3) (a sports official or coach or aggravated battery against a school employee); 5/12-2(b)(9) (aggravated assault against a sports official or coach);~~ 5/12-9 (threats to public officials); 5/24-1.2 (discharge of a firearm).

⁶ With one exception, a license to carry a firearm does not permit an individual to carry a concealed firearm on or into any building, real property, and/or parking area under the control of an elementary or secondary school, or any bus paid for in whole or part with public funds. 430 ILCS 66/65(a) ~~amended by P.A. 99-29~~. The following optional provision adds that exception, which is a restatement of 430 ILCS 66/65(b) ~~amended by P.A. 99-29~~, to the text in number 3:

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.

Other relevant weapons laws include 705 ILCS 405/5-407, 720 ILCS 5/24-9; 725 ILCS 5/110-4, 5/110-10 (firearms in schools); 720 ILCS 5/24-1.2, 5/24-3 (discharge of firearm ~~and unlawful delivery or sale of a firearm~~ near school); 705 ILCS 405/5-130, 405/5-805 (minor 15 years or older who commits aggravated battery with a firearm at school is tried as an adult).

⁷ See e.g., 720 ILCS 5/2-19.5, 5/16-1, 5/18-1, 5/19-1, 21-1, and 5/21-1.3 (property damage penalties).

⁸ See e.g., 720 ILCS 5/21-1.01, 21-1.3.

⁹ See e.g., 720 ILCS 5/11-9.3 (presence within school zone by child sex offenders prohibited), 5/11-14 (prostitution), 5/11-15 (repealed), and 5/11-18 (patronizing a prostitute); 720 ILCS 5/21-11 (soliciting students to commit illegal act).

¹⁰ Required by 105 ILCS 5/10-20.5b and 410 ILCS 82/1 et seq. Federal law prohibits smoking inside schools (20 U.S.C. §6083); districts failing to comply with the federal no-smoking ban risk a civil penalty of up to \$1000 per violation per day.

¹¹ See 720 ILCS 570/407 (delivery of controlled substance on or within 1000 feet of a school) and 410 ILCS 705, added by P.A. 101-27. See also the discussion in f/n 5 and 6 of policy 5:50, *Drug- and Alcohol-Free Workplace; E-Cigarette, Tobacco, and Cannabis Prohibition*; this statement must be consistent with employee working conditions and employee conduct standards (see 5:120-AP2, *Employee Conduct Standards*).

¹² Each board and superintendent may want to engage in a conversation regarding how the district might partner with local law enforcement to enforce this policy and the penalties available under the Cannabis Regulation Tax Act, e.g., posting signs barring community members from bringing in weapons, alcohol, cannabis, tobacco, etc. Signage reminding visitors of the policy may make it easier for staff and/or local law enforcement to enforce.

10. Use or possess medical cannabis, unless he or she has complied with policy 7:270, *Administering Medicines to Students*, implementing *Ashley's Law*. ¹³
11. Impede, delay, disrupt, or otherwise interfere with any school activity or function (including using cellular phones in a disruptive manner). ¹⁴
12. Enter upon any portion of school 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. ¹⁵
14. Engage in any risky behavior, including roller-blading, roller-skating, or skateboarding. ¹⁶
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 School function.

Convicted Child Sex Offender ¹⁷

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 is:

1. 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 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

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¹³ Managing cannabis on district property and the school setting presents many unsettled and complex legal issues. To legally use medical cannabis in Illinois, an individual must first become a *registered qualifying patient*. The use of cannabis by a *registered qualifying patient* is permitted only in accordance with the Compassionate Use of Medical Cannabis Program Act (Medical Cannabis Program Act (MCPA)). 410 ILCS 130/, amended by P.A. 101-363, eff. 1-1-20 and scheduled to be repealed on 7-1-20. There are many situations in which no one, even a *registered qualifying patient*, may possess or use cannabis, including (a) in a school bus, (b) on the grounds of any preschool or primary or secondary school, or (c) in close physical proximity to anyone under the age of 18 years of age. 410 ILCS 130/30(a)(2), (3), and (4), amended by P.A. 101-363, eff. 1-1-20 and scheduled to be repealed on 7-1-20. However, *Ashley's Law*, 105 ILCS 5/22-33(b) and (g), added by P.A. 100-660, allows *designated caregivers* to administer medical cannabis infused products to students who are *registered qualifying patients* at school or on the school bus, and requires school boards to adopt a policy to implement the law unless the district would lose federal funding. See policy 7:270, *Administering Medicines to Students* and its f/n 20.

Remember that *Ashley's Law* requires the designated caregiver to remove the product from the school premises or the school bus after administering it to the student, so as a result, policy 7:270, *Administering Medicines to Students*, requires immediate removal of medical cannabis infused products after administering them to the student (see f/n 25 of that policy for further discussions).

¹⁴ See e.g., 720 ILCS 5/21.2-1 *et seq.* (interference with a public institution of education).

¹⁵ See e.g., 625 ILCS 5/11-605 (special speed limit zones). 625 ILCS 5/12-610.1(e), prohibits wireless telephone use while operating a motor vehicle on a roadway in a school speed zone except for emergency purposes.

¹⁶ The pivotal question in a negligence case is whether the defendant acted reasonably. A ban on roller-blading demonstrates that the district took reasonable steps to reduce the risk of injury.

¹⁷ 720 ILCS 5/11-9.3. The statute assigns the child sex offender the "duty to remain under the direct supervision of a school official." In order to ensure this happens and to protect students, the sample policy requires the superintendent, or designee who is a certified employee, to supervise a child sex offender whenever the offender is in a child's vicinity. See also the Sex Offender Community Notification Law (730 ILCS 152/101 *et seq.*); Murderer and Violent Offender Against Youth Community Notification Law (730 ILCS 154/75-105); policy 4:170, *Safety*; and administrative procedure 4:175-AP1, *Criminal Offender Notification Laws; Screening*.

conferences to discuss other student issues concerning his or her child such as retention and promotion; or

2. Has permission to be present from the Board, Superintendent, or Superintendent's designee. If permission is granted, the Superintendent or Board President shall provide the details of the offender's upcoming visit to the Building Principal.

In all cases, the Superintendent, 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 18

Upon notifying the Building Principal's office, aAuthorized 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., upon notifying the Building Principal's office, may meet with a school employee (or group of employees) in the school building during duty-free times of such employees.

Enforcement

Any staff member may request identification from any person on school property; refusal to provide such information is a criminal act.¹⁹ 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 school property. The person is also subject to being denied admission to school events or meetings for up to one calendar year. ²⁰

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¹⁸ 105 ILCS 5/24-24 and 24-25; 115 ILCS 5/3(c), added by P.A. 101-620. If a provision contained in a collective bargaining agreement addresses this issue, it will supersede this policy for those covered employees. In such cases, the board policy should be amended to state, "Please refer to the applicable collective bargaining agreement." For employees whose collective bargaining agreement does not address this subject not covered, the policy should reflect the board's current practice. Duty-free time is used to provide a district with discretion about whether preparation time, etc. may be used.

Consult the board attorney about this subhead. It is an item on which collective bargaining may be required. Any policy that impacts wages, hours, or terms and conditions of employment, is subject to collective bargaining upon request by the employee representative, even if the policy involves an inherent managerial right. Amend the language to reflect what is recommended by the board attorney.

The School Code permits bargaining representatives to meet with employees during duty-free time upon notice to the school office. The Ill. Educational Labor Relations Act, amended by P.A. 101-620, expanded the rights of access by bargaining representatives to also include meeting with employees during the employee work day if the meeting: (1) is to investigate and discuss grievances and workplace-related complaints (no time limit is specified) or (2) is with a newly hired employee within the first two weeks of employment (or on a later date if mutually agreed upon by the employee and bargaining representative) for one hour or less. In those circumstances, the district may not dock employee pay or charge leave time. 115 ILCS 5/3(c). However, the access must be "reasonable" and "shall at all times be conducted in a manner so as not to impede normal operations." Id. Consult the board attorney for guidance regarding specific requests and whether, if granted, they would impede normal operations, e.g., requests for access to staff while they are performing instructional or supervisory duties. Determining whether normal operations are impeded will likely depend upon the position and duties of the employee in the district.

¹⁹ Id.

Procedures to Deny Future Admission to School Events or Meetings

Before any person may be denied admission to school events or meetings as provided in this policy, the person has a right to a hearing before the Board. The Superintendent may refuse the person admission pending such hearing. The Superintendent or designee must provide the person with a hearing notice, delivered or sent by certified mail with return receipt requested, at least ten days before the Board hearing date. The hearing notice must contain: ²¹

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 school events will be denied; and
4. Instructions on how to waive a hearing. ²²

The footnotes are not intended to be part of the adopted policy; they should be removed before the policy is adopted.

²⁰ See *Nuding v. Cerro Gordo Community-Comm. Unit School-Sch. Dist.*, 313 Ill. App.3d 344 (4th Dist. 2000) (board was authorized to ban parent from attending all school events and extracurricular activities by 105 ILCS 5/24-24; the ban was based on the parent's exposing a toy gun and a pocketknife at a board meeting); *Jordan ex rel. Edwards v. O'Fallon Tp. High School-Sch. Dist.*, 302 Ill.App.3d 1070 (5th Dist. 1999) (105 ILCS 5/24-24 did not give a high school athlete the right, under the due process clause, to a notice and hearing before he could be suspended from participating in interscholastic athletics; the statute expands the schools' authority to ban people from attending school events for breaching conduct and sportsmanship code).

²¹ *Id.* For ease of administration, this text is broader than 105 ILCS 5/24-24, requiring a hearing for both *school events and meetings*. The court in *Nuding* (see f/n 20, above) did not specifically answer whether a board meeting qualified as a *school event* under 105 ILCS 5/24-24, but upheld the board's right to enforce conduct rules at its meetings under 105 ILCS 5/10-20.5.

For boards that wish to narrow the policy text to mirror 105 ILCS 5/24-24, delete the following text from the subhead and the first sentence of the policy:

Procedures to Deny Future Admission to School Events or Meetings

Before any person may be denied admission to school events or meetings as provided in this policy, the person has a right to a hearing before the Board.

Consult the board attorney before deleting the above text, especially if the board has put the current text into practice and now plans to narrow it. This issue involves a balancing of a board's interest in the orderly transaction of its public business and the efficiency of its meetings against an individual's: (a) statutory rights attend meetings and/or comment to and ask questions of the board (105 ILCS 5/10-16 and 5 ILCS 120/2.06(g)) and (b) constitutional freedoms and rights of speech, the press, assembly, and to petition the government (U.S. Constitution, First Amendment and Ill. Constitution, Art. I, §§ 1, 2, 4, and 5).

If a violator is a student, the hearing should be held in a closed meeting. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(9).

If, however, the violator is not a student, the hearing must be held in an open session.

²² The hearing requirement is for the violator's benefit and, consequently, the violator should be able to waive it.

LEGAL REF.: Nuding v. Cerro Gordo Community Unit School Dist., 313 Ill. App.3d 344 (4th Dist. 2000).
20 U.S.C. §7181 et seq., Pro-Children Act of 1994.
105 ILCS 5/10-20.5b, 5/22-33, ~~5/24-24~~, 5/24-25, and 5/27-23.7(a).
115 ILCS 5/3(c), Ill. Educational Labor Relations Act.
410 ILCS 130/, Compassionate Use of Medical Cannabis Program Act.
430 ILCS 66/, Firearm Concealed Carry Act.
410 ILCS 705/, Cannabis Tax and Regulation Act.
720 ILCS 5/11-9.3.

CROSS REF.: 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 School Facilities)

Community Relations

Exhibit - Letter to Parent Regarding Visits to School by Child Sex Offenders

Date:

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Student's Name *(Please print)*

School

~~The purpose of this letter is to help the school and District comply with the State law placing~~ restrictions on child sex offenders' access to school property. ~~See (720 ILCS 5/11-9.3). It~~State law prohibits a child sex offender from knowingly 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: (1) is a parent/guardian of a student and the parent/guardian is: (a) attending a conference at the school with school personnel to discuss the progress of his or her child academically or socially, (b) 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 (c) 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 Superintendent or the School Board and the Superintendent or Board President have informed the Building Principal. A child sex offender present on school property must remain under the direct supervision of a school official. A child sex offender who violates these provisions of the law is guilty of a Class 4 felony.

Instructions for Child Sex Offenders

To lawfully visit school property, a child sex offender must complete 8:30-E2, *Child Sex Offender's Request for Permission to Visit School Property*. ~~This form must be completed~~ for each visit to school property.

Sincerely,

School Administrator

Community Relations

Exhibit - Child Sex Offender's Request for Permission to Visit School Property

If you are a child sex offender, you must complete this form to lawfully visit school property whenever students are present. After a decision is made ~~concerning your request~~, whether to grant or deny your request for permission to visit, a copy will be returned to you. This information will be kept in the District's main office as well as in the Building Principal's office where you are seeking permission to visit.

Name <i>(Please print)</i>	Address
Signature	Date
School (Visit Location)	Date of Visit

Complete the following if you are a parent/guardian of a student attending the above listed school.

I request permission to visit the school for the following reason(s):

- ☐ To attend a conference with school personnel to discuss the academic or social progress of my child.
- ☐ To participate in my child's review conference in which evaluation and placement decisions may be made with respect to my child regarding special education services.
- ☐ To attend a conference to discuss other student issues concerning my child such as retention and promotion.
- ☐ Other *(Please be specific)*: _____

Complete the following if you are **not** a parent/guardian of a student who attends the school you are requesting to visit.

- ☐ I request permission to visit the school for the following reason(s) *(Please be specific)*: _____
- _____
- _____

The following is to be completed by District personnel only:

- ☐ **Permission Granted** ☐ **Permission Denied**

Date	Signature <i>(Superintendent, Designee, or Board President)</i>
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Visit Supervision *(To be completed by the staff member supervising the child sex offender)*

Supervisor's Name <i>(Please print)</i>	
Visitor's Time In	Visitor's Time Out

Date	Supervisor's Signature
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Community Relations

Gifts to the District ¹

The School Board appreciates gifts from any education foundation, ² other entities, or individuals. All gifts must adhere to each of the following:

1. Be accepted by the Board or, if less than \$500.00 in value, the Superintendent or designee.³ Individuals should obtain a pre-acceptance commitment before identifying the District, any school, or school program or activity as a beneficiary in any fundraising attempt, including without limitation, any Internet fundraising attempt. ⁴
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 District's mandate to provide equal educational and extracurricular opportunities to all students in the District as provided in Board policy 7:10, *Equal Educational Opportunities*. State and federal laws require the District to provide equal treatment for members of both sexes to educational programming, extracurricular activities, and athletics. This includes the distribution of athletic benefits and opportunities. ⁵
4. Permit the District to maintain resource equity among its learning centers. ⁶
5. Be viewpoint neutral. The Superintendent 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. ⁷

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¹ State and federal law control this policy's content. 105 ILCS 5/16-1 grants authority to school boards to accept and manage gifts. Specifying the criteria for gifts in the board policy provides important information to potential donors and promotes a common understanding, uniform treatment, and adherence to legal requirements. ~~The statute provides that a~~ Any gift to a school district or attendance center becomes ~~the~~ district property to be "held, managed, improved, invested or disposed of by such board in such manner as the board, in its discretion, sees fit..." ~~Id. According to this statute, w~~ When a donor expresses an intention that a gift be used for a certain purpose, the board must "promote and carry into effect" that intention until the "board determines in its discretion that it is no longer possible, practical or prudent to do so." ~~Id.~~

² An education foundation can be an effective tool for collecting and donating financial and non-financial resources to a school district. An education foundation is a separate entity from the school district. In order to be exempt from federal income taxes and allow donors to deduct their donations, it must be organized as a tax-exempt organization, such as, under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

³ The board may remove or amend ~~in any way~~ the value of a gift that the superintendent or designee is permitted to accept.

⁴ Well-intentioned people can raise funds in a variety of ways, e.g., putting donation jars in retail establishments, 50/50 drawings, and websites designed for fundraising like *GoFundMe*. Addressing fundraising by individuals in policy allows the board to manage donations and minimize liability in a manner consistent with its policies and legal requirements.

⁵ 20 U.S.C. §1681 et seq., Title IX of the Education Amendments, implemented by 34 C.F.R. Part 106; 23 Ill.Admin.Code §200.40. See [Title IX Resource Guide, the April 2015 Title IX Resource Guide—U.S. Department of Education and the U.S. Dept. of Education Office for Civil Rights \(April 2015\)](#), at: www.ed.gov/ocr/www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/dcl-title-ix-coordinators-guide-201504.pdf.

⁶ See [policy 6:210, Instructional Materials](#).

6. Comply with all laws applicable to the District 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 District will provide equal treatment to all individuals and entities seeking to donate money or a gift. Upon acceptance, all gifts become the District's property. The acceptance of a gift is not an endorsement by the Board, District, or school of any product, service, activity, or program. The method of recognition is determined by the party accepting the gift.⁸

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 Ill.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)

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⁷ The U.S. Constitution's Free Speech, Establishment, and Equal Protection Clauses may be triggered when a donation comes with a message. Contact the board attorney for assistance. The second sentence is optional. Soliciting or receiving donor messages raises many complex legal and practical issues. As a general rule, school officials can avoid constitutional issues by reviewing donor messages according to uniform rules that do not discriminate against groups or individuals on the basis of their viewpoints. For more detailed explanations of viewpoint-neutrality and forum issues, see f/n 1 in policy 8:20, *Community Use of School Facilities*, and f/n 1 in policy 8:25, *Advertising and Distributing Materials in Schools Provided by Non-School Related Entities*.

A publicized procedure for reviewing donor messages according to pre-established viewpoint-neutral guidelines may limit misunderstandings or disputes with donors or other members of the public. Each board may want to discuss with the superintendent what expectations exist based upon the scope and scale of the donor message project, so that the superintendent can manage the expectations in the procedure. Consult the board attorney to assist with this process. Lastly, posting disclaimers informing members of the public that the donor messages incorporated into school property or placed upon school property are the personal expressions of individual donors and not the district's may avoid Establishment Clause arguments. For a more detailed discussion of the issues pertaining to excluding donor messages on school property and implementing procedures to review donor messages, see f/n 5 in policy 7:325, *Student Fundraising Activities*.

⁸ Examples of ways to recognize a gift include a letter of appreciation, mentioning the gift on the district or school website or publication, a shout-out at a public event, and a recognition plaque.

Community Relations

Public Suggestions and Concerns

The School Board is interested in receiving suggestions and concerns from members of the community. Any individual may make a suggestion or express a concern at-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.¹ 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), Ill. Educational Labor Relations Act.

CROSS REF.: 2:140 (Communications To and From the Board), 2:230 (Public Participation at School 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)

The footnotes are not intended to be part of the adopted policy; they should be removed before the policy is adopted.

¹ The Ill. Educational Labor Relations Act requires employers to establish email policies in an effort to prohibit the use of its email system by outside sources. 115 ILCS 5/14(c-5), added by P.A. 101-620. Policy 6:235, Access to Electronic Networks, states that the district's network, which includes its email system, is not a public forum for general use. Further, acceptable uses of the network by any party are limited to uses in support of education and/or research or for legitimate school business purposes. See policy 6:235, Access to Electronic Networks, at f/n 6 for additional discussion. Including this statement also discourages school community members from engaging in the disruptive practice of mass cc'ing district staff who have no involvement in a particular issue.