

# Kindergarten – 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Student/Parent Handbook



## Kimes: PreSchool Hours

AM Classes (M-F) **8:15 AM** – 11:00 AM

PM Classes (M-F) **12:00 PM** – 3:00 PM

**Wednesday Classes AM 8:15-10:00 PM 12:00-2:00**

## Kimes:

### K-1<sup>st</sup> School Hours

Breakfast starts at **8:15 AM**

Mon., Tues., Thurs., and Fri. 8:15 AM – 3:05 PM

Early Dismissal Days 8:15 AM – 2:05 PM

**½ Days 8:15-2:05**

## Centennial:

### 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> School Hours

Breakfast starts at **8:30AM**

Mon., Tues., Thurs., and Fri. 8:30 AM – 3:20 PM

Early Dismissal Days 8:30 AM – 2:20 PM

**½ Days 8:30 AM – 11:45 AM**

**Bus Service: Streator Woodland Area Bus  
Service 815-672-5974 - Ext. 2**

# Streator Elementary School District

## #44 Streator, Illinois

### 2025-2026

#### GENERAL INFORMATION

**Purpose:** This handbook may be amended during the year without notice. It is a communication tool to persons expected to execute and comply with procedures within. All board policies governing the District are available to the public on the District's website ([www.ses44.net](http://www.ses44.net)) or at the District Office, located at 1520 N. Bloomington St., Streator, IL. (815) 672-2926.

#### ARRIVAL/DISMISSAL TIMES

Parents are reminded that on school grounds, smoking and cell phone use (while driving) is prohibited. For the safety of the children, no animals, besides the School District's Therapy Dogs, should be on school grounds and music should be at a level that is non-disruptive to others. In emergencies, alternative pick-up arrangements are taken by the school's office during the day up to 30 minutes before dismissal time. A signed parent note should be sent to the child's teacher in the morning with alternative pick-up arrangements stated.

#### CENTENNIAL:

Students may enter the building and supervision begins at 8:30 A.M. for those eating breakfast or on buses. Students go to classrooms and the school day starts at 8:45 A.M. Tardy bell rings at 9:00 A.M. Students arriving on school grounds before 8:30 A.M. are the responsibility of their parents/guardians.

Students are dismissed at 3:20 P.M. with an early dismissal of 2:20 P.M. or 11:45 AM on ½ day Wednesdays. Cars are not allowed on school property during dismissal until 3:10 P.M. on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, 2:10 P.M. on Wednesdays, and 11:35 A.M. on ½ day Wednesdays. Parents are expected to park on Lextin Dr. until school officials allow parents onto school property for dismissal.

#### KIMES:

##### Morning Drop Off:

- Buses use Columbus Road.; all other vehicles must use 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue or Clark St. to get to Reading St. • Breakfast will be served from 8:15-8:45 AM. If your student is not eating breakfast, please drop off by 8:15 AM. • No student may be dropped off or unsupervised on school grounds before 8:00 AM.
- After 8:45 AM, your student is tardy. Please report to the office at the main doors of the building.

##### Afternoon Pick Up:

- Buses use Columbus Rd to arrive at school, all other vehicles MUST use Clark St. to get to Reading St. • At the corner of Reading and Columbus, have the student's name-card visible in the vehicle windshield. A staff member will notify the school that the parent is in line to pick up their student. Drivers will proceed into Kimes School's west driveway and the student(s) will be ready to pick up along the sidewalk.
- It is required that drivers are at the east stop sign on Reading and Columbus so the staff member can notify the school to have the student(s) ready. Drivers will not be allowed to pick up the student(s) unless drivers follow this procedure so we can ensure the right child safely gets into the right car.
- If drivers do not have the name-card, tell the staff member the last name of the student being picked up. • Students will load the bus at the main door by their specific classroom teacher.
- An adult must be at the bus stop for the bus driver to release students.

## ATTENDANCE GUIDELINES

### Reporting Absences

For an absence to be considered “excused”, a student’s parent or guardian must report the absence to the school office before the start of the school day on which the student is absent, if a student’s absence has not been pre-arranged. Parents may leave this information on the school’s answering machine. If an absence has not been reported, the office will attempt to contact the parent or guardian at work or at home. Students for which no call or note was provided by the guardian will be considered “unexcused”.

### Excessive Absences

- All Illinois students are covered under Every Child Succeeds Act (ESSA), a Federal law, which defines “Chronic absence” as missing 10 percent or more of the school days within one academic year for any reason. **Excused or unexcused** absences will be counted the same way for state reporting.
- Streator Elementary School District #44 believes that in order for a student to obtain the most from the educational opportunities provided, it is important that the student strive to work together with parents and/or guardians to keep student absences to a minimum.
  - We will consistently monitor our attendance and send letters to families to keep them aware of their student attendance patterns.
  - The school staff will review student attendance at least once per each trimester.

### Absenteeism/Tuancy

Student attendance is critical to the learning process. Tuancy is therefore a serious issue and will be handled in a serious manner by the school and the district. Under Illinois law, students who miss 5% or more of the prior 180 regular school days without valid cause are “chronic truants”. The school will attempt to identify the causes of unexcused student absenteeism through interviews with the student, their parent(s) or guardian(s), and any school officials or other parties who may have information about the reasons for the student’s attendance. Students who are chronic truants will be offered support services and resources aimed at correcting the truancy issue, such as parent conferences, student counseling, family counseling, and information about existing community services which are available. If chronic truancy persists after support services and other resources are made available, the school and district will take further action.

### Consequences for Absences – Unexcused and Excused

- If a student has been absent for 10% or more of the school days in any given school year, whether excused or unexcused, the District will send a letter to the student’s parent(s)/guardian(s) explaining the importance of regular school attendance and detailing the District’s attendance procedures. The District will hold a meeting with the student and a member of the District’s **Tuancy Prevention Program school staff to help determine the cause of absences and assist in overcoming barriers to regular attendance.**
- If a student has been absent for 15% or more of the school days in any given school year, whether excused or unexcused, the District will send a second letter to the student’s parent(s)/guardian(s) stating that a Doctor’s note is necessary for any future absence based upon illness to be considered excused. All reported absences after a student reaches this 15% absence rate will be considered as unexcused without a Doctor’s note. **The District Family Liaison and or the District School Resource Officer may provide additional support.**
- If a student has been absent for 20% or more of the school days in any given school year, whether excused or unexcused, and the student/student’s parent(s)/guardian(s) have failed to cooperate with services being offered by the student’s school or the District Tuancy Prevention Program, the District may make a referral to the Regional Office of Education for further services.
- School officials will determine if an absence is excused or unexcused.

### **Excused Absences**

A student's absence will be considered excused for, but not limited to, the following reasons:

Illness/Injury (including the mental or behavioral health of the student)	Death in the family
Family emergency	Religious holiday
Anticipated absences when approved	Court Appearance
Vacations up to 3 school days (yearly)	Extenuating circumstances

An absence will also be excused when, as determined by the District's Superintendent, the absence is beyond the student's control or is the result of such other circumstances which cause reasonable concern to the parent for the mental, emotional, behavioral, or physical health or safety of the student. After three consecutive absences for illness, the School may require a Doctor's note for the absences to be excused.

### **Unexcused Absences**

An unexcused absence is defined as willful absence from any portion of the school day with or without permission of a student's parent(s) and without prior approval of the School. Without a valid excuse, absences the School considers unexcused include, but are not limited to:

Skiping class	Car trouble
Missing the bus	Babysitting
Shopping	Oversleepin g
Haircuts	

- A student with an absence has the day the student returns to school to collect the assignment(s) and one additional school day to make up the work for each day absent. Arrangements for tests and quizzes should be made with the teacher giving a quiz or test within that same time frame. On the day of the student's return, the teacher may request the student take a quiz or a test that was missed while absent if no test material was covered during the absence. See Board Policy [7:70. Attendance and Truancy](#), for more information.

### **Vacations**

Family travel during the school year does interrupt a student's regular progress; however, the District recognizes the value of these trips. Therefore, each student is allowed three (3) vacation days per school year and those absences will be excused. After the third day, any further vacation-related absences will be unexcused. A minimum of 10-day notice must be provided to the school in the case of a vacation for the student.

### **10 Consecutive Unexcused Absences**

If a student is absent and unexcused for more than 10 consecutive school days, the student will be dropped from the attendance roll. The student's parent(s)/guardian(s) will need to re-register the student upon returning to the District. This re-enrollment may result in a change of classroom assignment for the student and put the student at risk of becoming chronically truant.

### **Absences and Extracurricular Activities**

Participation in school activities is a privilege, not a right. To participate or attend an event, the student must be present in school for at least half of the regularly scheduled day of the event (or on the school day preceding the event) if school is not regularly scheduled on the day of the event. The Principal may make exceptions in extraordinary cases.

## BUS GUIDELINES

### Bus Information

A student must live one and a half miles or more from the school to be eligible to ride a school bus.

### Bus Conduct

- Students are required to conduct themselves in a manner consistent with established standards for classroom behavior. • When a student does not conduct themselves properly on a bus, or when their conduct is in violation of the District or School rules or policy, such instances will be dealt with in accordance with School/District policy.
- Depending upon the severity of the offense, an administrator may immediately inform the parents of the misconduct and revoke the student's riding privileges and/or result in school disciplinary consequences.
- Students are NOT permitted to use their cellphones. They should be kept in a backpack.

### Bus Expectations/Rules

Students are required to abide by the following rules of conduct in relation to school bus transportation.

- Students must sit down quickly and remain seated throughout the trip or until the bus comes to a complete stop. • Students' entire bodies must remain inside the bus at all times. Items are not to be thrown out of the bus window. • Students are not permitted to bring non-school items on the bus.
- Students must be on time at the designated school bus stop.
- Students must remain in the bus in the event of a road emergency until instructions are given by the driver. • Students must be quiet and respectful of the bus driver when approaching and crossing railroad crossings. • Students must keep books, packages, coats, and all other objects out of the aisles and away from emergency exits. • Students must be courteous to fellow pupils and the bus driver. **Bus**

### Disciplinary Procedures

Parent(s)/guardians will be provided written notice in the event their student is suspended from the bus. Students who are suspended from the bus will be given the opportunity to make up work for equivalent academic credit if the student's parent(s)/guardian(s) notify School administrators that the student does not have an alternative way to get to School

1 <sup>st</sup> offense or minor offense	2 <sup>nd</sup> offense or serious offense	3 <sup>rd</sup> offense or serious offense	4 <sup>th</sup> offense or serious offense
Detention	Bus suspension 1-5 day	Bus suspension 5-10 days	Recommend removal from bus for remainder of school year
*Severity of infraction may impact severity of the consequence.			

## STUDENT BEHAVIOR AND DISCIPLINE

Students should always demonstrate respect, responsibility and safety, regardless of location.

### Prohibited Student Conduct

Students may be disciplined for gross disobedience or misconduct, including but not limited to the following:

1. using, possessing, distributing, purchasing, selling, or offering for sale tobacco or nicotine materials, including electronic cigarettes or e-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, controlled substance, or cannabis (including marijuana, medical cannabis, and hashish), 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 or licensed practitioner's prescription.

## **Prohibited Student Conduct (cont.)**

- c. any performance-enhancing substance on the Illinois High School Association's most current banned substance list unless administered in accordance with a physician 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 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 prescribed to the student by a licensed physician and used in a manner that is consistent with the prescription or the prescribing physician's instructions.
  - 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. "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.
  - g. 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.
  - h. 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 a tablet or powdered form. 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 have the prohibited substance, as applicable, in their possession.
- 4. using, possessing, controlling, or transferring a "weapon" or violating the procedures listed below under the Weapons Prohibition section of this handbook procedure.
  - 5. using or possessing an electronic paging device.
  - 6. using a cellular telephone, smartphone, video recording device, personal digital assistant (PDA), or similar electronic device in any manner that disrupts the educational environment or violates the rights of others, including using the device to take photographs in locker rooms or bathrooms, cheat, or otherwise violate student conduct rules. Prohibited conduct specifically includes, without limitation, creating and sending, sharing, viewing, receiving, or possessing an indecent visual depiction of oneself or another person through the use of a computer, electronic communication device or cellular telephone, commonly known as "sexting." Unless otherwise banned under this policy or by the building principal, all cellular phones, smartphones and other electronic devices must be kept powered-off and out-of-sight during the regular school day unless: (a) the supervising teacher grants permission; (b) use of the device is provided in a student's individualized education program (IEP); (c) it is used during the student's lunch period; or (d) it is needed in an emergency that threatens the safety of students, staff, or other individuals.
  - 7. using or possessing a laser pointer unless under a staff member's direct supervision and in the context of instruction.
  - 8. disobeying rules of student conduct or directives from staff members or school officials. Examples of disobeying staff directives include refusing a staff member's request to stop, present school identification or submit to a search.
  - 9. engaging in academic dishonesty, including cheating, intentionally plagiarizing, wrongfully giving, or receiving help during an academic examination, altering report cards and wrongfully obtaining test copies or scores.
  - 10. engaging in bullying, hazing or any kind of aggressive behavior that does physical or psychological harm to a staff person or another student or encouraging other students to engage in such behavior. 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.
  - 11. engaging in any sexual activity, including without limitation, offensive touching, sexual harassment, indecent exposure (including mooning) and sexual assault.
  - 12. engaging in teen dating violence.
  - 13. causing or attempting to cause damage to, stealing, or attempting to steal, school property or another person's personal property.
  - 14. entering school property or a school facility without proper authorization.
  - 15. in the absence of a reasonable belief that an emergency exists, calling emergency responders (calling 9-1-1); 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.

### **Prohibited Student Conduct (cont.)**

16. being absent without a recognized excuse.
17. being involved with any public-school fraternity, sorority, or secret society.
18. being involved in a gang or engaging in gang-like activities, including displaying gang symbols or paraphernalia.
19. violating any criminal law, including but not limited to, assault, battery, arson, theft, gambling, eavesdropping, vandalism, and hazing.
20. 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.
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 building principal.

For purposes of these rules, 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 student's school locker, desk, or other school property; (d) at any location on school property or at a school-sponsored event; or (e) in the case of drugs and alcohol, substances ingested by the person.

Efforts, including the use of positive interventions and support 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.

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.

### **When and Where Conduct Rules Apply**

The grounds for disciplinary action also apply 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
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.

### **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 of school voluntarily due to behavioral or academic difficulties. Potential disciplinary measures include, without limitation, any of the following measures:

1. notifying parents/guardians.
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.
7. after-school study provided the student's parent/guardian has been notified. (If transportation arrangements cannot be made in advance, an alternative disciplinary measure will be assigned to the student.)
8. community service.
9. seizure of contraband; confiscation and temporary retention of the personal property that was used to violate school rules.
10. suspension of bus riding privileges.

### **Disciplinary Measures(cont.)**

11. suspension from school and all school activities for up to 10 days. A suspended student is prohibited from being on school grounds.
12. expulsion from school and all school activities for a definite time period not to exceed 2 calendar years. An expelled student is prohibited from being on school grounds.
13. transfer to an alternative program if the student is expelled or otherwise qualifies for transfer under State law.
14. notifying juvenile authorities or other law enforcement whenever the conduct involves criminal activity, such as, 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 or 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.

### **Weapons Prohibition**

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 not less than one year but not more than 2 calendar years:

(1) A firearm, meaning any gun, rifle, shotgun, weapon as defined by Section 921 of Title 18 of the United States Code, firearm as defined in Section 1.1 of the Firearm Owners Identification Card Act, or firearm as defined in Section 24-1 of the Criminal Code of 1961. The expulsion period may be modified by the superintendent, and the superintendent's determination may be modified by the board on a case-by-case basis.

(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 "lookalikes" of any firearm as defined above.

The expulsion requirement may be on a case-by-case basis.

### **Gang and Gang Activity Prohibited**

"Gang" is defined as any group, club or organization of two or more persons whose purposes include the commission of illegal acts. No student on or about school property or at any school activity or whenever the student's conduct is reasonably related to a school activity, shall: (1) wear, possess, use, distribute, display, or sell any clothing, jewelry, paraphernalia or other items which reasonably could be regarded as gang symbols; commit any act or omission, or use either verbal or non-verbal gestures, or handshakes showing membership or affiliation in a gang; or (2) use any speech or commit any act or omission in furtherance of the interest of any gang or gang activity, including, but not limited to, soliciting others for membership in any gangs; (3) request any person to pay protection or otherwise intimidate, harass or threaten any person; (4) commit any other illegal act or other violation of district policies, (5) or incite other students to act with physical violence upon any other person.

### **In-School Suspension (ISS)**

Students may receive an In-School Suspension (ISS) because of misbehavior. Students who are assigned an ISS may not attend, participate in or practice for any extracurricular activity on the day they serve the ISS. Students may attend, practice, and participate in extracurricular activities the day following the completion of the last assigned ISS. Students serving an ISS will receive credit for work that is assigned to them during the ISS period, provided the assignments are completed during the ISS period. It is the student's responsibility to get these assignments. Parents of the students serving an ISS will be notified by letter or phone call. Only an administrator can issue an ISS to a student.

### **Suspension Procedures**

Superintendent shall implement out of school suspension (OSS) procedures that provide, at a minimum, for the following:

1. Before a student may be suspended, the student shall be provided a conference during which the charges will be explained, and the student will be given an opportunity to respond to the charges.
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. Any suspension shall be reported immediately to the student's parent(s)/guardian(s). A written notice of the suspension shall be provided 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;



### **Suspension Procedures(cont.)**

- 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:
    - 1. a threat to school safety, or
    - 2. a disruption to other students' learning opportunities.ii. for a suspension of 4 or more school days, an explanation:
    - 1. that other appropriate and available behavioral and disciplinary interventions have been exhausted,
    - 2. as to whether school officials attempted other interventions or determined that no other interventions were available for the student, and
    - 3. that the student's continuing presence in school would either:
      - a. pose a threat to the safety of other students, staff, or members of the school community, or
      - b. substantially disrupt, impede, or interfere with the operation of the school.iii. for a suspension of 5 or more school days, the information listed in section 4.e.ii., above, along with documentation by the Superintendent or designee determining what, if any, appropriate and available support services will be provided to the student during the length of his or her suspension.
4. A summary of the notice, including the reason for the suspension and the suspension length, must be given to the Board by the Superintendent or designee.
5. Upon request of the parent(s)/guardian(s), a review of the suspension shall be conducted by the Board or a hearing officer appointed by the Board. At the review, the student's parent(s)/ guardian(s) may appear and discuss the suspension with the Board or its hearing officer and may be represented by counsel. After presentation of the evidence or receipt of the hearing officer's report, the Board shall take such action as it finds appropriate.

### **Student Expectations during Suspension**

When a student is suspended, the student may reach out via Google Classroom to teachers to obtain any work that can be completed online. Students will have one additional day for each day of suspension served to make up work, for credit, that cannot be completed online.

### **Expulsion Procedures**

The Superintendent or designee shall implement expulsion procedures that provide, at a minimum, for the following: 1. Before a student may be expelled, the student and his or her parent(s)/guardian(s) shall be provided a written request to appear at a hearing to determine whether the student should be expelled. The request shall be sent by registered or certified mail, return receipt requested.

The request should include:

- a. the reasons for the proposed expulsion as well as the conduct rule the student is charged with violating.
  - b. the time, date, and place for the hearing
  - c. a short description of what will happen during the hearing.
  - d. a statement indicating that The School Code allows the School Board to expel a student for a definite period of time not to exceed 2 calendar years, as determined on a case-by-case basis.
  - e. a request that the student or parent(s)/guardian(s) inform the District if the student will be represented by an attorney and, if so, the attorney's name.
2. A hearing shall be conducted by the School Board or a hearing officer appointed by it. If a hearing officer is appointed, they shall report to the Board the evidence presented at the hearing and the Board shall take such final action as it finds appropriate. 3. During the expulsion hearing, the Board or hearing officer shall hear evidence concerning whether the student is engaged in the gross disobedience or misconduct as charged. The student and his or her parent(s)/guardian(s) may be represented by counsel, offer evidence, present witnesses, cross-examine witnesses who testified, and otherwise present reasons why the student should not be expelled. After presentation of the evidence or receipt of the hearing officer's report, the Board shall decide and take such action as it finds appropriate.

### **Corporal Punishment**

Corporal punishment is illegal and will not be used. Corporal punishment is defined as 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 needed to maintain safety for students, staff, or other persons, or for the purpose of self-defense or defense of property.

### **Re-Engagement of Returning Students**

The building principal or designee shall meet with a student returning to school from an out-of-school suspension, expulsion or alternative school setting. The goal of this meeting shall be to support the student's ability to be successful in school following a period of exclusion and shall include an opportunity for students who have been suspended to complete or make-up missed work for equivalent academic credit.

### **Cell Phones and Electronic Devices**

Students may have cell phones or electronic devices at school. However, the school is not responsible for the loss, theft or damage to any electronic device brought to school. They are to be turned off and out of sight (in lockers or book bag is suggested) during school hours unless: (a) permission is granted by an administrator, teacher or school staff member; (b) use of the device is provided in a student's individualized education program (IEP); or (c) it is needed in an emergency that threatens the safety of students, staff, or other individuals.

Cell phones or any electronic device making any sound or light will be removed from lockers or person and/or cell phones visible without permission during the school day will result in:

- First Offense: Parent Notification and/or Confiscation of the device and the student may pick it up at the end of the day.
- Repeated Offenses: Parent Notification and Confiscation of the device and a parent must pick it up at the end of the day. Other disciplinary consequences may be imposed.

Electronic devices may never be used in any manner that disrupts the educational environment, violates student conduct rules or violates the rights of others. This includes, but is not limited to, the following: (1) using the device to take photographs in locker rooms or bathrooms; (2) cheating; and (3) creating, sending, sharing, viewing, receiving, or possessing an indecent visual depiction or non-consensual dissemination of private sexual images (i.e., sexting). The school and school district are not responsible for the loss, theft or damage to any electronic device brought to school. Note: Because of the sophisticated nature of electronic devices, any student with an electronic device turned on and/or visible during a test or quiz will be considered cheating and the student will receive a zero on the test or quiz.

**Notice to parents/guardians about social network passwords:** School officials may investigate 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. During an investigation, the student may be required to share the content that is reported to allow school officials to make a factual determination. 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.

## **EMERGENCIES**

**Injured or Ill Students:** A child's teacher/supervisor will notify the school office if a child is injured or becomes ill during the school day. The school office will then attempt to notify the parent by using the numbers in the Skyward Student Management System. Parents are required to keep the Skyward Student Management System up to date during the school year by notifying the school immediately of any changes or making the change in the Skyward system online.

**Weather or Other Local Emergencies:** Unforeseen emergencies can arise during a school year. In cases of bad weather and other local emergencies, please listen to the local radio or television station to be advised of school closings, late arrivals, or early dismissals. School closings for any reason will be announced by the Automated Phone System that will use the latest phone numbers submitted during registration. It is our general policy not to send children home because of an impending storm.

## **FIELD TRIP POLICY**

Field Trips are used to reinforce concepts taught in class and must be connected to the curriculum. Students need to display appropriate behavior for their safety, and the safety of the group when they leave the building. Administrators retain the right to exclude students from field trip participation. If a student is not allowed on a Field Trip, the parents will be contacted in advance. Please note: if a student is suspended from the bus, they may not ride the bus to attend a field trip. A parent may provide transportation to and from a field trip as long as the student's participation is not in question.

Field trips are a privilege for students. Students must abide by all school policies during transportation and during field trip activities, and shall treat all field trip locations as though they are school grounds. Failure to abide by school rules and/or location rules during a field trip may subject the student to discipline. All students who wish to attend a field trip must receive written permission from a parent or guardian with authority to give permission.

## **FIELD TRIP POLICY(cont.)**

Students may be prohibited from attending field trips for any of the following reasons:

- Failure to receive appropriate permission from parent/guardian or teacher;
- Failure to complete appropriate coursework;
- Behavioral or safety concerns;
- Denial of permission from administration;
- Other reasons as determined by the school.

## **HEAD LICE/BED BUGS/COCKROACHES**

### **Head Lice**

All students may be checked for head lice by trained examiners during the school year. Parents of students found with live head lice will be notified and students will be sent home for treatment. The day the student returns to school, they will be checked by the school nurse. If active head lice are found to be present when the child is rechecked, the student will be sent home until necessary treatment has been completed. All students may be checked for head lice at school by trained examiners during the school year, i.e., School nursing staff, principal/designee, etc. Parents of students found with live head lice will be notified and students will be sent home for treatment. Ongoing checks for head lice are a parent responsibility.

### **Readmission to School**

A parent must accompany the child to school the following school day or as soon as the child has been treated and present proof of appropriate treatment-i.e., a note from a physician, a copy of a prescription, or proof of purchase of an over-the-counter product. Best practice calls for all nits (eggs) to be removed. The nurse or designee will recheck the student after treatment. If active head lice are found to be present when the child is rechecked, the student will be sent home until the necessary treatment has been completed. If nits only are found, the student may remain in school, and should be rechecked daily by the parent for 7-14 days. Educational material, regarding proper nit removal and treatment of the home environment, is available upon request.

### **Bed Bugs and/or Cockroaches**

The most common way for bed bugs or cockroaches to enter a school is through "hitchhiking" from an infested site. Students dealing with bug infestation in their home may show signs of bites. Depending on the student's immune response to bug bites and the severity of the infestation there may be a few or many welts on the face, torso and limbs. Students may also display anxiousness and/or sleepiness due to the interrupted sleep because of bed bugs.

Steps to be taken at school –

1. If bed bugs or cockroaches have been found on a student's belongings, staff should discreetly handle the situation so as not to bring unnecessary attention to the student. The parents/guardians should be notified whenever bed bugs or cockroaches are detected on a student or the student's belongings. When possible, the following additional actions may be appropriate:
  - a. Isolate the student's belongings. Provide the student with plastic bags or a plastic bin by the school's entrance in which to store their belongings (shoes, book bag, coats, etc.) while they are at school.
  - b. Reduce the number of items that the student must transport between school and home.
2. In a discreet manner, regularly inspect the student's desk and or locker for bugs.
3. Avoid accumulation or piles of coats, clothes, shoes, and/or boots at school.

## **HEALTH**

In case of an emergency or illness, staff will look in Skyward Student Management System for emergency contact information. If a parent requests that his or her child be exempted from some or all physical activities during the school day, the building principal/designee may allow for such exception for only 1 day. If a student is to be excused from P.E., they must have a note from the doctor stating the reason and the duration of the excusal. Students with any of the following symptoms should not be in school:

- Severe Cold
- Sore Throat
- Severe Earache
- Nausea, general signs of weakness, listlessness, drowsiness, or flushed skin.
- Communicable disease diagnosis and/or Skin Rash or eruptions
- Fever – A student should be free of fever for at least twenty-four (24) hours before returning to school. ●

Diarrhea - A student should be free of diarrhea or vomiting for at least twenty-four (24) hours before returning to school.

## **LOST/DAMAGED ITEMS**

It is the responsibility of the students to care for the textbooks, library books, and technology issued to them. Children or parents will be required to pay for replacement or repair of those items that have been lost or damaged.

## **BREAKFAST/LUNCH**

**Cafeteria Expectations** Cafeteria privileges may be revoked by the building principal.

- Lunch/breakfast periods fluctuate from building to building, due to the number of students using the cafeteria facilities. Check with the individual building for the lunch time schedule.
- The schools have a closed lunch period.
- School rules apply in the cafeteria setting.
- Carbonated pop, soda, and high energy drinks are not permitted in the cafeteria.
- Students/parents are prohibited from bringing food from fast food restaurants into the cafeteria.
- Students cannot share unpackaged food regardless of origin.
- Students will keep all food in the cafeteria.
- Students are responsible for their mess and will be asked to help clean-up.

## **Special Education Related Service Logs**

Parents/guardians have the right to request logs that record the delivery of related services and the minutes of each type of related service administered under a child's Individualized Education Program (IEP). Related services for which a log is available are: speech and language services, occupational therapy services, physical therapy services, school social work services, school counseling services, school psychology services, and school nursing services. Please contact Heidi Schultz at (815) 672-2926 if you would like to request a related service log.

## **STUDENT APPEARANCE**

Students are expected to present an appearance that does not disrupt the educational environment, interfere with the maintenance of a positive teaching/learning climate, or impact the safety of others. The building principal may require a student to change if their clothing is inappropriate for a school setting and/or student's age.

- Shoes should always be worn.
- Hats are NOT to be worn in the building.
- Clothing or accessories that advertise alcohol, drugs, gang affiliated, or that have suggestive lettering or profanity will NOT be permitted.
- Sunglasses are not to be worn in the building unless prescribed by a doctor.
- Students whose dress causes a substantial disruption of the orderly process of school functions or endangers the health or safety of other student(s), staff or others may be subject to discipline.
- The school administration will make the final decision to determine if a student's dress is appropriate for school or not.

### **TOPS**

- All tops must be long enough that they can be tucked in if necessary.
- Low cut shirts revealing in nature are not permitted.
- At no time should any undergarments be visible.
- No spaghetti strap tank tops or sleeveless shirts with large armholes.

### **BOTTOMS**

- Shorts, skirts and skorts must extend past one's fingertips when arms are at the sides of one's body. ●
- Pajama bottoms are not permitted.
- All pants/shorts must be always worn properly at the student's waist above the hips.
  - No inappropriately ripped or torn clothing. At no time should any undergarments be visible

## **STUDENT HYGIENE**

Personal hygiene that is offensive or extreme enough to disrupt the classroom environment will not be tolerated and may result in intervention from the school social worker. Opportunities (such as showering, use of hygiene products, change of clothing, etc.) will be provided for the student when deemed necessary by School staff or when requested by a student. Refusal to comply with staff requests or repeated offenses may result in parent contact and temporary removal from school.

## **TREATS/INVITATIONS/STUDENT DELIVERIES/CLASSROOM PARTIES**

**Treats:** Sending treats and snacks for any occasion must be pre-arranged with the classroom teacher due to health concerns, allergies, and scheduling. All treats and snacks must be store-bought and have a clearly printed list of ingredients. Being prepackaged in individual servings, not requiring refrigeration, and having nutritional value is strongly encouraged. No homemade treats or snacks can be allowed.

**Invitations:** Invitations for non-school related personal events, such as birthday invitations, and gifts for classmates are not allowed to be distributed during the school day. Items such as these are of a personal nature and not appropriate at school. The school office cannot share individual student contact information or class lists to individual parents.

**Deliveries:** Personal deliveries are not allowed during the school day as it interrupts the educational setting.

**Classroom Parties:** Teachers will contact you if help is needed. Due to limited space in the classroom and for the safety of our students, no other siblings may attend.

## **VALUABLES, TOYS, AND/OR FIDGET SPINNERS**

Valuables, such as money, jewelry, iPods, iPads, hand-held electronic devices, cell phones, etc. and personal belongings, such as fidget spinners, trading cards, or other toys should not be brought to school. The school is not responsible for such items if they are lost, stolen, traded, or broken. Students needing to enhance concentration will be provided a school authorized fidget spinner if deemed appropriate by parents and school.

## **DISTRICT POLICIES**

### **Annual Report Card**

Each year, the District is required to disseminate an annual report card that includes information on the District as a whole and each school served by the District, with aggregate and disaggregated information for each required subgroup of students including: student achievement on academic assessments (designated by category), graduation rates, district performance, teacher qualifications, and certain other information required by federal law. When available, this information will be placed on the District's Website at:

[https://www.ses44.net/district/school\\_report\\_cards](https://www.ses44.net/district/school_report_cards).

### **Anti-Discrimination, Equal Opportunity and Sex Equity**

Per [Board Policy 7.10, Equal Educational Opportunities](#), equal educational and extracurricular opportunities shall be available for all students without regard to color, race nationality, religion, sex, physical and mental handicap or disability, gender identity, state of being homeless order of protection status, actual or potential marital or parental status, including pregnancy, and any other legally protected category. 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 school facilities under School [Board Policy 8:20, Community Use of School Facilities](#). Any student may file a discrimination grievance by using [Board Policy 2:260](#) Uniform Grievance Procedure.

No student shall, based on sex, sexual orientation, or gender identity 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.

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 5/2-2.8). Please see [Board Policy 7:10](#) and [Board Policy 2:260](#) for more information.

### **Asbestos Statement**

Federal and State guidelines have caused each school district to inspect their various buildings for possible areas that might contain asbestos. Please be aware that since it has been determined that asbestos-containing materials pose possible adverse health effects, all of our district buildings have been inspected for asbestos as required by Federal Guidelines. Each individual school has a copy of its specific management plan. The management plan shall be available during normal business hours, without cost of restriction, for inspection by

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representatives of EPA and the State, the public, including teachers, other school personnel and their representatives, and parents. Questions regarding this subject should be directed to: Administration Building, 1520 N. Bloomington St., Streator, IL 61364. Please see [Board Policy 4:160](#) for more information.

### **Behavior Interventions**

Behavioral interventions shall be used by teachers, staff, and administrators with students with disabilities to promote and strengthen desirable behaviors and reduce identified inappropriate behaviors. Positive, non-aversive interventions designed to develop and strengthen

desirable student behaviors should be used whenever possible. Behavioral Interventions should be: administered in a manner that respects human dignity and personal privacy; in consideration of the pupil's physical freedom and social interaction; in the furtherance of a pupil's right to placement in the least restrictive educational environment. Please see [Board Policy 7:230](#) for more information.

### **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 District goals.

Bullying on the basis of actual or perceived race, color, national origin, military status, unfavorable discharge status from the military service, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender-related identity or expression, ancestry, age, religion, physical or mental disability, order of protection status, status of being homeless, or actual or potential marital or parental status, including pregnancy, 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 non-school related location, activity, function, or program or from the use of technology or an electronic device that is not owned, leased, or used by the School District or school 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 non-school related activity, function, or program.

Bullying includes cyber-bullying 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.

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 above.

Students are encouraged to immediately report bullying. A report may be made orally or in writing to the building principal, district complaint manager or any staff member with whom the student is comfortable speaking. All school staff members are available for help with a bully or to make a report about bullying. Anyone, including staff members and parents/guardians, who has information about actual or threatened bullying is encouraged to report it to the district complaint manager or any staff member. Anonymous reports are also accepted by phone call or in writing.

A reprisal or retaliation against any person who reports an act of bullying is prohibited. A student's act or reprisal or retaliation will be treated as bullying for purposes of determining any consequences or other appropriate remedial actions.

A student will not be punished for reporting bullying or supplying information, even if the school's investigation concludes that no bullying occurred. However, knowingly making a false accusation or providing knowingly false information will be treated as bullying for purposes of determining any consequences or other appropriate remedial actions.

### **Child Abuse Reporting**

Pursuant to Illinois law, school employees are obligated to report incidents in which employees have reasonable cause to believe a student known to them in their professional or official capacity may be an abused or neglected child. These incidents must be reported to the Department of Children and Family Services. Please see [Board Policy 5:90](#) for more information.

### **Child Sex Offender Notification**

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 the parent/guardian is: (i) attending a conference at the school with school personnel to discuss the progress of their student academically or socially, (ii) participating in child review conferences in which evaluation and placement decisions may be made with respect to their student regarding special education services, or (iii) attending conferences to discuss other student issues concerning their student such as retention and promotion and notifies the Building Principal of their presence at the school; 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 student(s) vicinity. Please see [Board Policy 8:30](#) for more information.

### **Criminal Background Check and/or Screen**

A criminal background check and/or screen will be done by our Raptor System. It is 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 students, and resource persons and volunteers. They shall take appropriate action based on the results of any criminal background check and/or screen.

### **Diabetes Care Plan**

If your student has diabetes and requires assistance with managing this condition while at school and school functions, a Diabetes Care Plan must be submitted to the school principal. Parents/guardians are responsible for and must:

- a. Inform the school in a timely manner of any change which needs to be made to the Diabetes Care Plan on file with the school for their student.
- b. Inform the school in a timely manner of any changes to their emergency contact numbers or contact numbers of health care providers.
- c. Sign the Diabetes Care Plan.
- d. Grant consent for and authorize designated School District representatives to communicate directly with the health care provider whose instructions are included in the Diabetes Care Plan.

For further information, please contact the Building Principal.

### **Disability Accommodations**

Individuals with disabilities shall be provided an opportunity to participate in all school-sponsored services, programs, or activities as those without disabilities and will not be subject to illegal discrimination. Individuals with disabilities should notify the Superintendent or Building Principal if they have a disability that will require special assistance or accommodations. This notification should occur as far in advance as possible of the school-sponsored function, program, or meeting.

### **Education of Children with Disabilities**

The District provides a free appropriate public education in the least restrictive environment and necessary related services to all children with disabilities enrolled in the school, 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 ("Section 504") and the Americans with Disabilities Act ("ADA"). The term "children with disabilities" means children between ages 3 and the day before their 22<sup>nd</sup> birthday, unless an exception applies, for whom it is determined that special education services are needed. It is the intent of the District to ensure that students with disabilities are identified, evaluated, and provided with appropriate educational services. Parents may contact Heidi Schultz at 815.672.2926 for screening, referral and evaluation procedures.

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 by Illinois State Board of Education Administrative Expectations. If a student is determined to be eligible under the IDEA, services will be delivered by learning behavior specialists or speech pathologists. Students may qualify for services provided by other related service providers (explained below) as deemed necessary including, but not limited to, speech and

language therapists, occupational and physical therapists, school psychologists, school social workers, teachers of the visually impaired,

and hearing itinerants. Students with disabilities receive special education assistance within the learning environment determined most appropriate which may include within their home schools and the regular classroom environment, within special education classrooms; within public therapeutic settings, or within non-district facilities when alternatives to the public school setting are needed.

Students with disabilities who do not qualify for an Individualized Education Program ("IEP") may qualify for services under Section 504 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 if the student: (1) has a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activity, (2) has a record of a physical or mental impairment, or (3) is regarded as having a physical or mental impairment. For these students, the District shall create a system of procedural safeguards, which will cover students' identification, evaluation and development of an educational plan, as well as notice, an opportunity for participation by the student's parent/guardian, representation by counsel, and a review procedure. For more information regarding these procedural safeguards, the provision of special education and related services within the District and identification, assessment, and/or placement, or if you believe your student may qualify for special education or related services or reasonable accommodations, please contact the District's Director of Special Services, Heidi Schultz.

The District is a member of the LaSalle County Education Alliance for Special Education (LEASE), which provides class placement and other services for various handicaps. Operated under the provisions of The School Code of Illinois (Section 14) and the regulations of the Illinois State Board of Education, program costs are shared by the local districts and the state. The programs, including transportation, are provided without charge to the parents. Procedures for placement of the handicapped child shall follow the guidelines in the Illinois State board of Education's Rules and Regulations to govern the Administration of Special Education.

If necessary, students may also be placed in nonpublic special education programs or education facilities. A copy of the publication "Explanation of Procedural Safeguards Available to Parents of Students with Disabilities" may be obtained from the school district office. Please see [Board Policy 6:120](#) for more information.

Additionally, prior to placing a student in an out-of-state special education residential facility, the school district will offer the student and/or parent(s)/guardian(s) the option of placement in an in-state facility, if available, that provides treatment and services comparable to those provided by the out-of-state facility. The District will conduct an annual review of any student's out-of-state placement and offer the student and/or parent/guardian the option of placement in a comparable in-state facility, if available.

### **Multi Language Learners**

The District offers opportunities for resident English Learners to achieve at high levels in academic subjects and to meet the same challenging State standards that all students are expected to meet. Parents/guardians of Multi Language Learners will be informed how they can: (1) be involved in the education of their student(s), and (2) be active participants in assisting their student(s) to attain English proficiency, achieve at high levels within a well-rounded education and meet the challenging State academic standards expected of all students. Please refer to [Board Policy 6:160](#) for more information.

### **Enrollment Requirements**

Parents/guardians enrolling in the District for the first time must present: A certified copy of the student's birth certificate, proof of residence as required by [Board Policy 7:60](#), proof of disease, immunization or detection, and the required physical examination, as required by State law and [Board Policy 7:100](#).

When a student's change of residence is due to the military service obligation of the student's legal custodian, the student's residence is deemed to be unchanged for the duration of the custodian's military service obligation if the student's custodian made a written request. The District, however, is not responsible for the student's transportation to or from school. If, at the time of enrollment, a dependent child of military personnel is housed in temporary housing located outside of the District, but will be living within 60 days after the time of initial enrollment, the student is allowed to enroll, subject to the requirements of the State law and must not be charged tuition. Please see [Board Policy 7:60](#) for more information.

### **Fines, Fees, and Charges; Waiver of Student Fees**

The Superintendent will recommend to the School Board for adoption what a schedule of fees, if any, will be charged students for the use of textbooks, consumable materials, technology, extracurricular activities, and other school student fees. Students must also pay for the loss of or damage to school books or other school-owned materials.

Fees for textbooks and other instructional materials are waived for students who meet the eligibility criteria for a fee waiver as described in this policy. In order that no student is denied educational services or academic credit due to the inability of parents/guardians to pay student fees, the Superintendent will recommend to the Board which additional fees, if any, the District will waive for students who meet the eligibility criteria for fee waiver. Students receiving a fee waiver are not exempt from charges for lost and damaged books, locks, materials, supplies, and equipment.



The Superintendent shall ensure that applications for fee waivers are widely available and distributed according to State law and ISBE rule, and that provisions for assisting parents/guardians in completing the application are available. The application forms are available from each building and should be submitted to the District Office.

A student may be eligible for a fee waiver when the student currently lives in a household that receives public aid or meets the same income guideline, with the same limits based on household size, that are used for the federal free meals program or the student can otherwise establish that they cannot afford to pay these fees. The use of false information to obtain such waiver is a felony under Illinois law. Please see [Board Policy 4:140](#) or contact the principal of the school in which your student is enrolled for more information.

### **Gang & Gang Activity Prohibited**

"Gang" is defined as any group, club or organization of two or more persons whose purposes include the commission of illegal acts. No student on or about school property or at any school activity or whenever the student's conduct is reasonably related to a school activity, shall: (1) wear, possess, use, distribute, display, or sell any clothing, jewelry, paraphernalia or other items which reasonably could be regarded as gang symbols; commit any act or omission, or use either verbal or non-verbal gestures, or handshakes showing membership or affiliation in a gang; or (2) use any speech or commit any act or omission in furtherance of the interest of any gang or gang activity, including, but not limited to, soliciting others for membership in any gangs; (3) request any person to pay protection or otherwise intimidate, harass or threaten any person; (4) commit any other illegal act or other violation of district policies, (5) or incite other students to act with physical violence upon any other person.

### **Grading and Promotion**

Placement, promotion, or retention shall be made in the best interests of the student, after a careful evaluation of all the factors relating to the advantages and disadvantages of alternatives. When any alteration in a student's normal progression through school is contemplated, all factors must be considered. The decision to promote a student to the next grade level shall be based on successful completion of the curriculum, attendance, performance based on the IAR testing or other testing. A student shall not be promoted based upon age or any other social reason not related to academic performance, except for rules and regulations aligned with special education. The administration shall determine remedial assistance for a student who is not promoted. In accordance with the Illinois Education Reform Act, students who by teacher judgment and by student assessment results demonstrate a proficiency level comparable to the average student performance one grade or more below current placement shall be provided with an individual remediation plan developed by the District in consultation with the parent/guardian. The remediation plan may include summer school, extended school day, special homework, tutorial sessions, modified instructional materials, other modifications in the instructional program, or retention in grade. The Superintendent or designee shall establish a system of grading and reporting academic achievement to students and their parents/guardians. 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.

### **Harassment of Students Prohibited (Bullying, Intimidation, and Harassment Prohibited)**

No person, including a School District employee or agent, or student, shall harass, intimidate, or bully a student on the basis of actual or perceived: race; color; national origin; military status; unfavorable discharge status from military service; sex; sexual orientation; gender identity; gender-related identity or expression; ancestry; age; religion; physical or mental disability; order of protection status; status of being homeless; actual or potential marital or parental status, including pregnancy; association with a person or group with one or more of the aforementioned actual or perceived characteristics; or any other distinguishing characteristics. 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. See [Board Policy 7.20](#).

### **Making a Report or Complaint**

Students are encouraged to promptly report claims or incidences of bullying, intimidation, harassment, sexual harassment, or any other prohibited conduct to the Nondiscrimination Coordinator, Title IX coordinator, Building Principal, Assistant Building Principal, Dean of Students, a Complaint Manager, or any employee with whom the student is comfortable speaking. A student may choose to report to an

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employee of the student's same gender. 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 Sexual Harassment Grievance Procedure. The Nondiscrimination Coordinator, Title IX Coordinator and/or Complaint Manager shall process and review the report according to the appropriate grievance procedure. The Superintendent shall insert into this policy the names, office addresses, email addresses, and telephone numbers of the District's current Nondiscrimination Coordinator and Complaint Managers. The Nondiscrimination Coordinator also serves as the District's Title IX Coordinator.

### **Nondiscrimination Coordinator, Complaint Manager, and Title IX Coordinator**

Heidi Schultz

1520 N. Bloomington St.

Streator, IL 61364

[hschultz@ses44.net](mailto:hschultz@ses44.net)

815.672.2926

### **Home and Hospital Instruction**

A student who is absent from school, or whose physician, physician assistant or advance practice registered nurse anticipates their absence from school, because of a medical condition may be eligible for instruction in the student's home or hospital.

### **Homeless Student**

When a student loses permanent housing and becomes a homeless person as defined at law, or when a homeless student changes their temporary living arrangements, the parent or guardian of the homeless student has the option of either:

1. Continuing the student's education in the school of origin for as long as the student remains homeless or, if the student becomes permanently housed, until the end of the academic year during which the housing is acquired; or
2. Enrolling the student in any school that non-homeless students who live in the attendance area in which the student is actually living are eligible to attend.

For assistance and support, please contact the Director of Special Services. Please see [Board Policy 6:140](#) for more information.

### **Immunization, Health, Eye and Dental Examinations**

**Required Health Examinations and Immunizations:** Prior to the first official day of attendance, a student's parent(s)/guardian(s) shall present proof that the student received a health examination and the immunizations against, and screenings for, preventable communicable diseases, as required by State law within one year prior to:

1. Entering kindergarten or the first grade;
2. Entering the sixth and ninth grades; and
3. Enrolling in an Illinois school for the first time, regardless of the student's grade (including nursery school, special education, Headstart programs operated by elementary or secondary schools, and students transferring into Illinois from out-of-state or out-of-country).

Before admission and in conjunction with required physical examinations, parents/guardians of students between the ages of one and seven years must provide a statement from a physician that their student was "risk-assessed" or screened for lead poisoning. A diabetes screening is a required part of each health examination; diabetes testing is not required.

Failure to comply with the above requirements prior to the first day of school will result in the student's exclusion from school until the required health forms are presented to the school, subject to certain exceptions. Compliance with the above requirements, unless an exemption or extension applies is a condition of enrollment, and students who are not in compliance will not be allowed to attend school. New students who are first-time registrants after the first day of the current school year shall have 30 days following registration to comply with the health examination and immunization regulations. If a medical reason prevents a student from receiving a required immunization by the deadline, the student must present an immunization schedule and a statement of the medical reasons causing the delay. The schedule and statement of medical reasons must be signed by the physician, advanced practice nurse, physician assistant, or local health department responsible for administering the immunizations.

A student transferring from out-of-state who does not have the required proof of immunizations by the first day of school may attend classes only if they have proof that an appointment for the required vaccinations is scheduled with a party authorized to submit proof of the required vaccinations. If the required proof of vaccination is not submitted within 30 days after the student is permitted to attend classes, the student may no longer attend classes until proof of the vaccinations is properly submitted.

**Students with Asthma:** District 44 requests families of an asthmatic student to submit an Asthma Action Plan from their healthcare provider. We encourage students with other chronic health conditions to request and submit plans from their healthcare providers. District 44 has an Asthma Episodes Emergency Response Protocol in place.

**Eye Examination:** Parents/guardians are encouraged to have their students undergo an eye examination whenever health examinations are required. Parents/guardians of students entering kindergarten or an Illinois school for the first time shall present proof before October 15 of the current school year that the student received an eye examination within one year prior to entry of kindergarten or the school. A physician licensed to practice medicine in all of its branches or a licensed optometrist must perform the required eye examination.

An eye examination shall include, at a minimum: history, visual activity, subjective refraction to best visual activity near and far, internal and external examination, a glaucoma evaluation and any other tests or observations that the doctor, in their professional judgment, deems necessary. The individual conducting the eye examination shall record the results on forms prescribed by the IDPH and ISBE.

If a student fails to present proof by October 15, the school may hold the student's report card until the student presents proof: (1) of a completed eye examination, or (2) that an eye examination will take place within 60 days after October 15. Schools shall not exclude a student from attending school due to failure to obtain an eye examination. A student will be exempt from eye examination requirements if the student's parent/guardian shows an undue burden or lack of access to a physician licensed to practice medicine in all of its branches who provides eye examinations or a licensed optometrist.

Certain students receive vision and hearing screenings as mandated by **Illinois School Code**, and IDPH rules and regulations. A vision screening is not a substitute for a complete eye and vision evaluation by an eye doctor. Your student is not required to undergo this vision screening if an optometrist or ophthalmologist has completed and signed a report form indicating that an examination has been administered within the previous 12 months.

**Dental Examination:** All students in kindergarten and the second and sixth grades must present proof of having been examined by a licensed dentist before May 15 of the current school year in accordance with rules adopted by the IDPH. If a student fails to present proof by May 15, the school may hold the student's report card until the student presents proof: (1) of a completed dental examination, or (2) that a dental examination will take place within 60 days after May 15. A student will be exempt from the dental examination requirements if the student's parent/guardian shows an undue burden or a lack of access to a dentist.

**Religious/Medical Exemption:** A student will be exempt from the above requirements based upon religious or medical grounds if the student's parent/guardian provides a completed Certificate of Religious Exemption to the principal. Exempting a student from the health, dental or eye examination, however, does not exempt the student from participating in physical education classes.

### **Instruction Regarding Recognizing and Avoiding Sexual Abuse**

Erin's Law requires all schools to provide child sexual abuse prevention education for all students, K-12 yearly. The law also requires educators to take part in training classes that cover sexual abuse and how to recognize warning signs. If parents choose to NOT have their child participate in this education, parents will need to sign the "opt-out" form found in your school office. Please see [Board Policy 6:60](#) for more information.

### **Internet Acceptable Use**

Student access to the District's electronic network must be for the purpose of education or research and be consistent with the District's educational objectives. The smooth operation of the network relies upon the proper conduct of the end users who must adhere to strict guidelines. These guidelines are provided here so that you are aware of the network resources. A violation of any of these provisions could cause termination of your account and future access could be denied. Your signature during online registration is legally binding and indicates that you have read the terms and conditions carefully and understand the significance.

1. **Acceptable Use:** Internet supports research and education in and among academic institutions by providing access to unique resources and the opportunity for collaborative work. The use of your privileges must be in support of education and research, and consistent with the educational objectives of the Streator Elementary School District 44. Transmission of any material in violation of a United States or state regulation is prohibited. This includes but is not limited to: copyrighted material, threatening or obscene material, or material protected by trade secret. Use for commercial activities by for-profit institutions is generally not acceptable. Use for product

### **Internet Acceptable Use (cont.)**

advertisement or political lobbying is also prohibited. Illegal activities are strictly prohibited.

2. **Privileges:** The use of the Internet is a privilege, not a right, and inappropriate use will result in a cancellation of those privileges. Based upon the acceptable use guidelines outlined in this document, the system administrator, and/or the administration will deem what is inappropriate use. Also, the system administrator and/or administration may revoke privileges at any time as required. Decisions by the District regarding appropriate use and revocation of privileges are final.
3. **Unacceptable Use:** You are responsible for your actions and activities involving the use of technology devices, network, and internet. Some examples of unacceptable use are:
  - a. Using the network for any illegal activity, including violation of copyright or other contracts, or transmitting any material in violation of any U.S. or State regulation.
  - b. Downloading of copyrighted material for other than personal use.
  - c. Using the network for private financial or commercial gain.
  - d. Wastefully using resources, such as file space.
  - e. Gaining unauthorized access to resources or entities.
  - f. Invading the privacy of individuals.
  - g. Using another user's account or password without permission of the user and the principal or system administrator.
  - h. Posting material authored or created by another without their consent.
  - i. Posting anonymous messages.
  - j. Using the network for commercial or private advertising.
  - k. Accessing abusive, obscene, profane, sexually oriented, threatening, racially offensive, harassing, or illegal material.
  - l. Submitting, posting, publishing, or displaying any defamatory, knowingly inaccurate, abusive, obscene, profane, sexually oriented, threatening, racially offensive, harassing, or illegal material.
  - m. Using the network while access privileges are suspended or revoked.
  - n. Electronic tampering with school or student records, documents, files, computer hardware, and computer software.
  - o. Attempting to gain unauthorized access to the system(s), or to go beyond their authorized access.
  - p. Deliberately attempting to disrupt the performance of any computer system or destroy data via a virus or any other means
  - q. Use any device to engage in any illegal act.
  - r. Vandalism of any kind will revoke privileges, result in disciplinary actions, and will require restitution for costs associated with hardware, software and system restoration.
4. **Network Etiquette:** You are expected to abide by the generally accepted rules of network etiquette. These include, but are not limited to, the following:
  - a. Be polite. Do not write or send abusive messages to others.
  - b. Use appropriate language. Do not swear, use vulgarities or any other inappropriate language.
  - c. Do not reveal personal addresses or telephone numbers of any staff or students at SES #44.
  - d. Recognize that electronic mail (E-mail) is not private. People who operate the system do have access to all mail. Messages relating to or in support of illegal activities may be reported to the authorities.
  - e. Your use of the Internet should not disrupt the use of the network by other users (e.g. downloading huge files during prime time, and/or sending mass e-mail messages).
  - f. Consider all communications and information accessible via the network should be assumed to be private property.
5. **No Warranties:** The District makes no warranties of any kind, whether expressed or implied, for the service it is providing. The District will not be responsible for any damages you suffer. This includes loss of data resulting from delays, non-deliveries, missed-deliveries, or service interruptions caused by its negligence or your errors or omissions. Use of any information obtained via the Internet is at your own risk. The District specifically denies any responsibility for the accuracy or quality of information obtained through its services.
6. **Indemnification:** The user agrees to indemnify the School District for any loss, costs, or damages, including reasonable attorney fees, incurred by the District relating to, or arising out of, any violation of these procedures.
7. **Security:** Network security is a high priority, especially when the system involves many users. Any user identified as a security risk or having a history of problems with other computer systems may be denied access to the network. Follow the following guidelines:
  - a. If you identify a security problem on the network, you must notify a system administrator and/or the administration.
  - b. Do not demonstrate the problem to other users.
  - c. Attempts to login as any other user will result in cancellation of user privileges.
  - d. Attempts to login as a system administrator will result in cancellation of user privileges.
  - e. Keep your account and password confidential.
8. **Vandalism:** Vandalism will result in cancellation of privileges. Vandalism is defined as any malicious attempt to harm or destroy another user's data, network, Internet or district owned technology device. This includes, but is not limited to, the uploading or creation of computer viruses. Damage to any technology may result in loss of privileges, disciplinary action, and restitution for costs associated with repair or device replacement. Costs will be determined by SES Technology Department.

**9. Respecting Technology Equipment is user's responsibility:**

- a. Users will exercise caution when handling technology devices.
- b. Users will follow guidelines for proper usage of equipment.
- c. Users will not use another person's computer resources without authorization.
- d. Users will not knowingly destroy any Electronic Communication Device technology equipment including but not limited to keyboards, mice and peripherals.

**10. Guidelines for proper usage of laptop:**

- a. Never carry by the screen (could crack screen).
- b. Don't slam the lid (could crack screen).
- c. Never close with something on the keyboard (could crack screen).
- d. Clean screen with lint free cloth.
- e. Be careful with power cord. Don't place in location that anyone could trip over it.
- f. Don't wrap the cord tightly around itself.
- g. Food and drink should be kept away from the laptop.
- h. Do not place laptop on stacks of papers, blankets, or upholstery, or anything else that can act as an insulator. The bottom of your laptop is a cooling surface.
- i. Keep your laptop away from edges of tables and desks.
- j. Always carry your laptop with two hands and the lid closed.
- k. Stay out of the inside of the computer.
- l. Make sure you place laptop on a clean surface and have clean hands when using.
- m. Don't use aerosol sprays, solvents, or abrasives to clean.

**11. Telephone Charges**

The District assumes no responsibility for any unauthorized charges or fees, including telephone charges, long-distance charges, per minute surcharges, and/or equipment or line costs.

**12. Copyright Web Publishing Rules**

Copyright law and District policy prohibit the re-publishing of text or graphics found on the Web or on District Web sites or file servers without explicit written permission.

- 1. For each re-publication (on a Web site or file server) of a graphic or a text file that was produced externally there must be a notice at the bottom of the page crediting the original producer and noting how and when permission was granted. If possible, the notice should also include the Web address of the original source.
- 2. Student and staff engaged in producing Web pages must provide library media specialists with e-mail or hard copy permissions before the Web pages are published. Printed evidence of the status of "public domain" documents must be provided.
- 3. The absence of a copyright notice may not be interpreted as permission to copy the materials. Only the copyright owner may provide the permission. The manager of the Web site displaying the material may not be considered a source of permission.
- 4. The "fair use" rules governing student reports in classrooms are less stringent and permit limited use of graphics and text.
- 5. Student work may only be published if there is written permission from both the parent/guardian and student.

**13. Use of Electronic Mail**

The District's electronic mail system, and constituent software, hardware, and data files, are owned and controlled by the School District.

The School District provides e-mail to aid students and staff members in fulfilling their duties and responsibilities, and as an education tool.

- 1. The district reserves the right to access and disclose the contents of any account on its system, without prior notice or permission from the account's user. Unauthorized access by any student or staff member to an electronic mail account is strictly prohibited.
- 2. Each person should use the same degree of care in drafting an electronic mail message as would be put into a written memorandum or document. Nothing should be transmitted in an e-mail message that would be inappropriate in a letter or memorandum.
- 3. Electronic messages transmitted via the School District's Internet gateway carry with them an identification of the user's Internet "domain." This domain name is a registered domain name and identifies the author as being with the School District. Great care should be taken, therefore, in the composition of such messages and how such messages might reflect on the name and reputation of the School District. Users will be held personally responsible for the content of any and all electronic mail messages transmitted to external recipients.
- 4. Any message received from an unknown sender via the Internet should either be immediately deleted or forwarded to the system administrator. Downloading any file attached to any Internet-based message is prohibited unless the user is

- certain of that message's authenticity and the nature of the file so transmitted.
5. Use of the School District's electronic mail system constitutes consent to these regulations.

#### **14. Internet Safety**

Internet access is limited to only those acceptable uses as detailed here. Staff members will supervise students using District Internet access to ensure that the students abide by these Terms and Conditions for Internet access.

Each District computer with Internet access has a filtering device that blocks entry to visual depictions that are: (1) obscene, (2) pornographic, or (3) harmful or inappropriate for students, as defined by the Children's Internet Protection Act and as determined by the Superintendent or designee.

#### **15. Student Authorization for Electronic Network Access**

*The following form must be signed during online registration when a student will have unsupervised Internet access or when supervision will be minimal.*

20

All use of the Internet shall be consistent with the District's goal of promoting educational excellence by facilitating resource sharing, innovation, and communication. The failure of any user to follow the terms of the *Acceptable Use of Electronic Networks* will result in the loss of privileges, disciplinary action, and/or appropriate legal action. The signatures at the end of this document are legally binding and indicate the parties who signed have read the terms and conditions carefully and understand their significance.

I have read this *Authorization* form. I understand that access is designed for educational purposes and that the District has taken precautions to eliminate controversial material. However, I also recognize it is impossible for the District to restrict access to all controversial and inappropriate materials. I will hold harmless the District, its employees, agents, or Board members, for any harm caused by materials or software obtained via the network. I accept full responsibility for supervision if and when my student's use is not in a school setting. I have discussed the *Acceptable Use of Electronic Networks* with my student. I hereby request that my student be allowed access to the District's electronic network, including the Internet.

I understand and will abide by the above *Authorization for Electronic Network Access*. I understand that the District and/or its agents may access and monitor my use of the Internet, including my email and downloaded material, without prior notice to me. I further understand that should I commit any violation, my access privileges may be revoked, and school disciplinary action and/or legal action may be taken. In consideration for using the District's electronic network connection and having access to public networks, I hereby release the District and its Board members, employees, and agents from any claims and damages arising from my use of, or inability to use the District's electronic network, including the Internet.

Please see [Board Policy 6:235](#) for more information.

#### **Educational Technology Vendors**

School districts throughout the State of Illinois contract with different educational technology vendors for beneficial K-12 purposes such as providing personalized learning and innovative educational technologies, and increasing efficiency in school operations.

Under Illinois' Student Online Personal Protection Act, or SOPPA (105 ILCS 85/), educational technology vendors and other entities that operate Internet websites, online services, online applications, or mobile applications that are designed, marketed, and primarily used for K-12 school purposes are referred to in SOPPA as *operators*. SOPPA is intended to ensure that student data collected by operators is protected, and it requires those vendors, as well as school districts and the Ill. State Board of Education, to take a number of actions to protect online student data.

Depending upon the particular educational technology being used, our District may need to collect different types of student data, which is then shared with educational technology vendors through their online sites, services, and/or applications. Under SOPPA, educational technology vendors are prohibited from selling or renting a student's information or from engaging in targeted advertising using a student's information. Such vendors may only disclose student data for K-12 school purposes and other limited purposes permitted under the law. In general terms, the types of student data that may be collected and shared include personally identifiable information (PII) about students or information that can be linked to PII about students, such as:

- Basic identifying information, including student or parent/guardian name and student or parent/guardian contact information, username/password, student ID number
- Demographic information
- Enrollment information

### **Educational Technology Vendors(cont.)**

- Assessment data, grades, and transcripts
- Attendance and class schedule
- Academic/extracurricular activities
- Special indicators (e.g., disability information, English language learner, free/reduced meals or homeless/foster care status)
- Conduct/behavioral data
- Health information
- Food purchases
- Transportation information
- In-application performance data
- Student-generated work
- Online communications
- Application metadata and application use statistics
- Permanent and temporary school student record information

Operators may collect and use student data only for K-12 purposes, which are purposes that aid in the administration of school activities, such as:

- Instruction in the classroom or at home (including remote learning)
- Administrative activities
- Collaboration between students, school personnel, and/or parents/guardians
- Other activities that are for the use and benefit of the school district

In addition to the above, the federal Children's Online Privacy Protection Act, or COPPA (15 U.S.C. §§ 6501-6506), requires that educational technology vendors obtain verifiable parental consent before collecting personal information from students under age 13. However, COPPA permits school districts to consent to the collection of personal information on behalf of their students. For more information on the web-based tools currently being utilized within the District, please contact Bryan Venturi, Director of Technology at (815) 672-4558.

### **Isolated Time Out and Physical Restraint**

A student will be physically restrained ONLY for therapeutic reasons or in situations where the student's behavior poses imminent danger or serious physical harm to self or others and other behavioral interventions have been ineffective. Isolated time out and physical restraints will not be used as a means of discipline or punishment. Any use of time out or physical restraining is subject to ISBE rules and regulations, including reporting requirements to parents and the state. 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, State Board of Education rules (23 Ill. Admin. Code §§ 1.280, 1.285), and the District's procedure(s).

### **Migrant Education Program for Parent/Guardian Involvement**

Parent(s)/guardian(s) of migrant students will be involved in and regularly consulted about the development, implementation, operation and evaluation of the migrant program. Parent(s)/guardian(s) of migrant students will receive instruction regarding their role in improving the academic achievement of their students. Please refer to [Board Policy 6:145](#) for more information.

### **Notice of Medicaid Reimbursement**

Medicaid reimbursement is a source of federal funds approved by Congress to help School Districts maintain and improve special education services. Therapy and diagnostic services provided to your student are partially reimbursable. Unless you object in writing, the District will claim reimbursement for services provided. These claims will have no impact on your ability to receive Medicaid funding either now or anytime in the future. If you do not object to this release of information related to Medicaid claims, do nothing. Local school districts are required to inform you of Medicaid reimbursement each year.

### **Pest Management**

The District has an Integrated Pest Management (PM) Policy which incorporates building maintenance, sanitation, physical barriers and as a last resort, the safest, effective means of pesticide. Although we have no intention of spraying or fogging with pesticides, in the unlikely event that this is found necessary, we are creating a voluntary registration. By putting your name on the list, you are asking to be notified two days before an airborne pesticide application. In the event of an extreme emergency and pesticides must be used immediately, we will



notify you as soon as possible. Please contact your school office if you wish to be added to the registry. Please see [Board Policy 4:160](#) for more information.

### **Safety Drills**

Pursuant to The School Safety Drill Act (105 ILCS 128), safety drills will occur at times established by the Administration. Students are required to be silent and shall comply with the directives of school officials during emergency drills. There will be a minimum of three (3) evacuation drills, a minimum of one (1) severe weather (shelter-in place) drill, a minimum of one (1) law enforcement drill and a minimum of one (1) bus evacuation drill each school year. There may be other drills at the direction of the Administration. Drills may not be preceded by a warning to the students. All families will be notified via School Messenger automated system upon completion of any type of a lockdown.

### **School Sponsored Publications and Web Sites**

School-sponsored publications, productions, and web sites are part of the curriculum and are not a public forum for general student use. School authorities may edit or delete material that is inconsistent with the District's educational mission. All school-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 school, advocates a disregard for law, is socially inappropriate, is inappropriate due to the maturity of the students, or is materially disruptive to the educational process will not be tolerated. Please see [Board Policy 7:310](#) for more information.

### **School Wellness**

The Superintendent or designee will actively invite suggestions and comments concerning the development, implementation, and improvement of the School Wellness policy from parents, students, and representatives of the school food authority, teachers of physical education, school health professionals, the Board of Education, school administrators and community. Please see [Board Policy 6:50](#) for more information.

### **Search and Seizure**

The Board recognizes its responsibility to maintain order, security, and a drug-free environment. In order to maintain order and security in the schools, school authorities are authorized to conduct reasonable searches of school property and equipment, as well as of students and their personal effects. "School authorities" includes school liaison police officers.

School authorities may inspect and search school property and equipment owned or controlled by the school (such as, lockers, desks, and parking lots) and may make reasonable regulations regarding its use, as well as personal effects left there by a student, without notice to or the consent of the student. The Superintendent or designee may request the assistance of law enforcement officials to conduct inspections and searches of lockers, desks, parking lots, and other school 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.

School authorities may also 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. 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 school authorities, and disciplinary action may be taken. When appropriate, such evidence may be transferred to law enforcement authorities. Please see [Board Policy 7:140](#) for more information.

### **Student Accounts or Profiles on Social Networking Websites**

School officials may not request or require a student or their parent/guardian to provide a password or other related account information to gain access to the student's personal non-school account or profile on a social networking website. 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.

Please see [Board Policy 7:140](#) for more information.

### **Student Medication**

Students should not take medication during school hours or during school-related activities unless it is necessary for a student's health and well-being. When a student's licensed health care provider and parent/guardian believe that it is necessary for the student to take a medication during school hours or school-related activities, they must request that the school dispense the medication to the student and otherwise follow the District's procedures on dispensing medication.



### **Student Medication (cont.)**

No School 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 "School Medication Authorization Form" is submitted by the student's parent/guardian. No School District non-administrative employee, except certified school nurses, shall be required to administer medication to students. No student shall possess or consume any prescription or non-prescription medication on school grounds or at a school-related function other than as provided for in this policy and its implementing procedures.

Nothing in this policy shall prohibit any school employee from providing emergency assistance to students, including administering medication. In addition, this policy does not prohibit a student's parent/guardian from coming to school to administer their student's medication. A student whose health problem requires the administration of medication as a special education related service must be provided the necessary medication administration in compliance with the student's IEP.

A student may possess an epinephrine auto-injector, e.g. EpiPen®, diabetes medication pursuant to their Diabetes Care Plan, and/or medication prescribed for asthma for immediate use at the student's discretion, provided the student's parent/guardian has completed and signed a "School Medication Authorization Form." The School 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 or epinephrine auto-injector or the storage of any medication by school personnel. A student's parent/guardian must agree to indemnify and hold harmless the school 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 auto-injector and/or asthma inhaler, or the storage of any medication by school personnel. Please see [Board Policy 7:270](#) for more information. For more information, specifically regarding District procedures/policy for prevention of anaphylaxis and during a medical emergency resulting from anaphylaxis, contact the NJHS School Nurse at 815.672.4558. The administration of a medical cannabis infused product to a student is governed by Board Policy.

### **Student Misconduct by Students with Disabilities**

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 their disability.

### **Student Privacy Protections**

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 as identified in [School Board policy 6:10](#), *Educational Philosophy and Objectives*, or assist students' career choices. This applies to all surveys, regardless of whether the student answering the questions can be identified and regardless of who created the survey.

Before a school 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.

Parents who object to disclosure of information concerning their student to a third party may do so in writing to the building principal. District officials and staff members will not request, nor disclose, the identity of any student who completes any survey or evaluation (created by any person or entity, including the school or 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. sexual behaviors or attitudes.
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 program eligibility.

The student's parent(s)/guardian(s) may inspect the survey or evaluation upon receipt, and refuse to allow their student to participate in the survey. The District will not penalize any student whose parent/guardian exercised this option.

Please see [Board Policy 7:15](#) for more information.

## **Student Records**

### **General Procedures for Transferring Student Records**

The District complies with the *Illinois School Student Records Act* and the *Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act* (FERPA) with respect to a student's education records.

***Transfer of Student Records to District 44.*** Any student transferring to District 44 from another Illinois public school district must show evidence of being in good standing at the time of registration. Students in first through eighth grades should have a transfer or report card indicating the expected grade placement when they register.

***Transfer of Student Records from District 44.*** Parents should notify the school office as soon as possible of any student transferring from District 44 to another Illinois public school district. Transfer request forms must be signed to comply with the *Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act* (a description of the Act is included at the end of this section of the Handbook).

Eighth-graders' student-identifying information, parent data, and emergency contact, medical, and disability (if applicable) information will be forwarded during the eighth-grade year to Streator High School. Parents and/ or guardians of eighth graders have the right to inspect, copy, and/or challenge this information and must notify the student's middle school building principal by September 30 of their intent to do so.

Eighth-graders' academic records and special education records, if applicable, will be forwarded at the end of the eighth-grade school year to Streator High School. Parents and/or guardians of eighth graders have the right to inspect, copy, and/or challenge this information and must notify the student's middle school building principal by May 15 of their intent to do so.

From time to time, basic directory information for grades K-8 (including home address) must be provided to Streator High School. Parents and/or guardians have the right to inspect, copy, and/or challenge this information and must notify the student's building principal by September 1st of their intent to do so.

### **Transfer of Permanent and Temporary Student Records**

Whenever a student transfers from one school district to another, the cumulative record of the pupil, or a copy of the record, shall be transmitted to the district to which the student transfers, provided a request for such cumulative records is received from the district to which the transfer is made. Parents and/or guardians have the right to inspect, copy, and/or challenge this information prior to the School sending the information to the district to which the student is transferring and must notify the student's building principal by 2 school days within the timeframe that the request was made.

### **Transfer and Retention of Student Disciplinary Records**

Up-to-date records of all discipline referrals and penalties will be retained by the building principal.

### **Definition of Permanent Student Records**

Permanent records will be maintained in the District for 60 years after the student has transferred, graduated, or otherwise permanently withdrawn from the school. Notification shall be given to the parents of students at the time of transfer, graduation, or withdrawal of the District's requirement to maintain permanent records for 60 years.

Permanent records of graduating 8th-graders will automatically be forwarded to the high school of attendance. The student's permanent record shall consist of the following:

1. Basic identifying information, including student's directory information and the parents' names and addresses, birthdate and place, and gender
2. Academic transcripts and records, including grades, class rank, graduation date, grade level achieved, and scores on college entrance examinations
3. A student's attendance record
4. A student's accident reports and health record
5. Record of release of permanent record information

### **Definition of Temporary Student Records**

Temporary student records consist of all information not required to be in a student's permanent record. Temporary student records will be destroyed five years after the student has transferred, graduated, or otherwise permanently withdrawn from the school.

Before any temporary student record is destroyed or information is deleted from the temporary file, a parent shall be given reasonable prior notice in accordance with applicable regulations adopted by the State Board of Education. An opportunity to copy the records and information proposed to be destroyed or deleted will be provided.

Temporary student records may include but are not limited to the items listed as follows:

1. Background information about the student's family
2. Group and individual intelligence test scores
3. Individual aptitude test scores
4. Reports of psychological evaluations including information on intelligence, personality, behavior, and any other academic information obtained through test administration, observation, or interviews
5. Elementary and secondary achievement level test results
6. Records of participation in extracurricular activities, including any offices held in school-sponsored clubs or organizations
7. Honors and awards received
8. Teacher anecdotal records
9. Disciplinary information
10. Special education files including multi-disciplinary staffing reports on which placement decisions were based
11. Any and all records and tape recordings relating to special education placement hearings and appeals
12. Any verified reports or information from non-educational persons, agencies, or organizations
13. Other verified information of clear relevance to the education of the student
14. Record of release of temporary record information

### **Release of Permanent or Temporary Student Records**

No person may condition the granting or withholding of any right, privilege, or benefit, or make as a condition of employment, credit, or insurance, the securing by any individual of any information from a student's temporary record which such individual may obtain through the exercise of any right secured by Illinois law. The District shall grant access to, or release information from, school student records without parental consent or notification under the conditions listed below.

1. To an employee or official of the school or school district or the Illinois State Board of Education, provided such employee or official or State Board of Education has a current demonstrable educational or administrative interest in the student and the records are in furtherance of such interest; or
2. To any person for the purpose of research, statistical reporting, or planning, provided that (1) such person has the permission of the Illinois State Superintendent of Education, and (2) no student or parent can be identified from the information released; or 3. Pursuant to a court order, provided that the procedures outlined in the Illinois School Student Records Act are observed.
4. Parents and Students have a right to request a copy of information released

### **Custodian of Permanent and Temporary Student Records**

The principals of the last school of attendance, typically the middle school for a student who matriculates through the entire system, shall be designated as the records custodians for the district. Permanent records are transferred with a student to their new school prior to eighth grade.

### **Release of Directory Information**

Directory information may be released to the general public and the press without prior notice or consent, unless a parent specifically requests that any or all such information not be released for their student. The parental notification must be made annually, before the start of the school year, to the building principal. Directory information shall be limited to the following:

1. Identifying information including such things as name, address, grade level, birthdate and place, and parents' names and addresses;
2. Information about an individual student's academic awards, degrees, and honors;
3. Information relating to an individual student's school-sponsored activities and participation in school-related organizations and athletics;
4. Information about an individual student's major field of study; and
5. Period of attendance in school.
6. Each student's parent or guardian who wishes to request that some or all of the directory information not be disclosed without prior written consent must notify the building principal in writing prior to the first day of school.

### **Changes in Directory Information**

Parents must notify the school office immediately of any changes in the Directory information of a student. Directory information includes address, phone number, work numbers, or any other essential information needed for the maintenance of accurate student records.

### **Permission to Videotape/Photograph a Student**

During the school year, persons authorized by the District may take photographs for educational, evaluative, or publicity purposes. Videotapes may be shown on cable television or otherwise screened publicly. Photographs may appear in District publications, the yearbook, or community newspapers. Annually, the District includes in registration materials videotape/photo release options. Each student's parent or guardian who wishes to deny permission to videotape/photograph the student must "opt out" by checking the appropriate box stating the following: "NO, do not publish photos or works of my student for informational, public relations, or other appropriate reasons. In choosing to exclude my student, I understand that my student's name will not be included in event programs or award listings in local media or on school district websites. The required Opt-Out form (available for download from the online registration form) must be signed by the parent/guardian and mailed or delivered to the student's school principal on or before the first day of attendance each school year. The parent must submit the Opt Out form annually; a form for a previous school year will not carry over.

### **Authorization for Parental Inspection and Copying of Student Records**

The Board of Education collects and maintains appropriate information and records regarding students attending District schools. Parents and/or legal guardians shall be allowed to inspect, review, and copy all materials in their student's cumulative folder. This includes the right to inspect, review and copy a student's school records prior to any special education eligibility or IEP meeting. This review will take place in the presence of the building principal or their designee.

If requested, parents and/or legal guardians shall be granted a hearing to challenge the content of the student records. In addition, appropriate administrative guidelines are established for the collection, maintenance, and dissemination of information contained in the student files. These guidelines are consistent with provisions in the *Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974*, Section 122.50 of the Illinois Rules and Regulations, to govern student records.

### **Procedures for Parental Inspection of Student Records**

The following procedures are to be followed when implementing the Board's policy dealing with parental inspection of student records.

1. Parents and/or guardians wishing to inspect and/or copy the cumulative records of their student(s) shall call the school for an appointment with the school principal or designee.
2. The appointment for the inspection shall be scheduled for a date no later than 10 business days from the date the official records custodian is in receipt of the request. The District may extend the 10 days' business day response time by no more than 5 business days from the original due date, upon specific circumstances.
3. Authorized persons or agencies, other than parents and/or guardians, desiring access to student records shall be required to sign a written form stating the legitimate educational interest they have in seeking the information. The completed form shall be kept permanently with the student's file. Parents must be notified in advance before inspection by an outside agency.
4. The principal or their designee will be present at all times while the records are being inspected by parents or an outside agency.
5. A period of up to fifteen (15) business days will be allowed for staff to consolidate information when parents or guardians wish to inspect an individual student's current academic records, unless otherwise extended.
6. Parents and/or guardians will not be permitted to remove any items from the cumulative folder or take any academic records from teachers.
7. Should a copy of any records be requested by a parent or guardian, such copies will be given to parents at a cost of 10 cents per page. This fee will be waived for those who demonstrate that they are unable to afford such cost.
8. A parent or guardian may challenge the contents of the student records. The decision of the principal may be brought to the superintendent for review by the parents and/or guardians. A review of the superintendent's decision may be requested by the Board of Education; whose decision is final.
9. A copy of the *Family Rights and Privacy Act of 1974* is available in each principal's office for parents and/or guardians to review.

### **Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act**

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) affords students certain rights with respect to their education records. The following paragraphs summarize those rights but should not be considered a legal interpretation of the limits of FERPA. Under FERPA, a student's parents and/or guardians have the following rights.

1. The right to inspect and review the student's education records within 45 days of the day the District receives a request for access. A parent/guardian or eligible student should submit to the Records Custodian, Principal, or other appropriate official written requests that identify the record they wish to inspect. The District official will make arrangements for access and notify the parent/guardian or eligible

student of the time and place where the records may be inspected. If the records are not maintained by the District official to whom the request was submitted, that official shall advise the parent/ guardian or eligible student of the correct official to whom the request should be addressed.

2. The right to request the amendment of the student's education records that the parent/guardian or eligible student believes are inaccurate or misleading. A parent/guardian or eligible student may ask the District to amend a record that they believe is inaccurate or misleading. Individuals should write the District official responsible for the record, clearly identify the part of the record to be changed, and specify why it is inaccurate or misleading. If the District decides not to amend the record as requested by the parent/guardian or eligible student, the District will notify the parent/guardian or eligible student of the decision and advise them when notified of the right to a hearing.

3. The right to consent to disclosures of personally identifiable information contained in the parent/guardian or eligible student's education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent. One exception that permits disclosure without consent is disclosure to school officials with legitimate educational interest. A "school official" includes, but is not limited to, a person within the District such as an administrator, supervisor, teacher, instructor, support staff member (including health or medical staff and law enforcement unit personnel), volunteers, a person serving on the School Board, a person or company with whom the school has contracted as its agent to provide a service instead of using its own employees or officials (such as an attorney, auditor, medical consultant, accountant, insurance provider, therapist, physician, educational technology vendor, collection agency, contractor, consultant, other party to whom the school has outsourced institutional services or functions, or other business services in consultation with individuals and organizations outside the institution, or a parent or student serving on an official committee (such as a disciplinary or grievance committee) or assisting another school official in performing their tasks. A school official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill their professional responsibility including, but not limited to, an educational interest in the student, or in the management and administration of education in the district as a more general matter or provision of services related to the institution's mission. Upon request, the District discloses education records without consent to officials of another school in which a student seeks or intends to enroll.

4. The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the District to comply with the requirements of FERPA and/or other student record laws. The name and address of that Office is:

Family Policy Compliance Office  
U.S. Department of Education 400 Maryland Ave., S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20202-4605

### **Suicide and Depression Awareness and Prevention**

Suicide and depression awareness and prevention are important goals for the school district. The school district maintains student and parent resources on suicide and depression awareness and prevention. Much of this information, including a copy of school district's policy, is posted on the school district website. Information can also be obtained from the school office. Please see [Board Policy 7:290](#) for more information. Contact information for suicide prevention resources are the following:

- National Suicide Prevention Lifeline (1-800-273-8255)
- Crisis Text Line (Text HOME to 741741)
- Safe2Help Illinois helpline (1-844-4-SAFEIL) or a local suicide prevention hotline
- SAS CARES 1-800-345-9049)

### **Teacher Qualifications**

**Notice to Parents of Their Right to Request Their Child's Classroom Teachers' Qualifications** – As a parent/guardian of a student at a Title 1 school of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, you have the right to request the following information about each of your student's classroom teachers and their paraprofessional assistants, if any: Whether the teacher has met State qualifications and licensing criteria for the grade levels and subject areas in which the teacher provides instruction; Whether the teacher is teaching under an emergency or other provisional status through which State qualification or licensing criteria have been waived; The baccalaureate degree major of the teacher and any other graduate certification or degree held by the teacher, and the field of discipline of the certification or degree and Whether any instructional aides or paraprofessionals provide services to your student and, if so, their qualifications. If you would like to receive any of this information, please contact the school office.

Please see [Board Policy 5:190](#) for more information.

### **Testing Transparency**

A parent/guardian may request, and the District will provide in a timely manner, information regarding student participation in any assessments mandated by law or District policy, which shall include information on any applicable right you may have to opt your student out of such assessment.

### **Title 1 Programs**

The District maintains programs, activities, and procedures for the engagement of parents/guardians of students receiving services, or enrolled in programs, under Title 1. These programs, activities and procedures are described in the District-level and School-level compacts listed in [Board Policy 6:170](#).

**Title I Parent and Family Engagement** - The District maintains programs, activities, and procedures for the engagement of parents/guardians and families of students receiving services, or enrolled in programs, under Title I. These programs, activities, and procedures are described in District-level and School-level compacts.

**District-Level Parent and Family Engagement Compact** - The Superintendent or designee shall develop a District-Level Parent and Family Engagement Compact according to Title I requirements. The District-Level Parent and Family Engagement Compact shall contain: (1) the District's expectations for parent and family engagement, (2) specific strategies for effective parent and family engagement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance, and (3) other provisions as required by federal law. The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that the Compact is distributed to parents/guardians of students receiving services, or enrolled in programs, under Title I.

**School-Level Parent and Family Engagement Compact** - Each Building Principal or designee shall develop a School-Level Parent and Family Engagement Compact according to Title I requirements. This School-Level Parent and Family Engagement Compact shall contain: (1) a process for continually involving parents/guardians in its development and implementation, (2) how parents/guardians, the entire school staff, and students share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement, (3) the means by which the school and parents/guardians build and develop a partnership to help students achieve the State's high standards, and (4) other provisions as required by federal law. Each Building Principal or designee shall ensure that the Compact is distributed to parents/guardians of students receiving services, or enrolled in programs, under Title I.

### **Title IX Sexual Harassment Prohibited and Grievance Procedure**

Sexual Harassment as defined in Title IX (Title IX Sexual Harassment) and Board Policy 2.265: Title IX Sexual Harassment Grievance Procedure, is prohibited. Any person, including a District employee or agent, or student, engages in Title IX Sexual Harassment whenever 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)(10), domestic violence as defined in 34 U.S.C. 12291(a)(8), or stalking as defined in 34 U.S.C. 12291(a)(30).

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

### **Making a Report**

A person who wishes to make a report under this Title IX Sexual Harassment grievance procedure may make a report to the Title IX/Nondiscrimination Coordinator, Building Principal, Assistant Building Principal, Dean of Students, a Complaint Manager, or any employee with whom the person is comfortable speaking. A person who wishes to make a report may choose to report to a person of the same gender. School employees shall respond to incidents of sexual harassment by promptly making or forwarding the report to the Title IX Coordinator. See Board Policy 2.265 for complete policy.

### **Transportation**

The District shall provide a safe, efficient system of transportation for all students in the District. The District shall provide free transportation for any student in the District who resides: (1) at a distance of one and one-half miles or more from their assigned school, unless the School Board has certified to the Illinois State Board of Education that adequate public transportation is available, or (2) within one and one-half

miles from their assigned school where walking to school or to a pick-up point or bus stop would constitute a serious hazard due to vehicular traffic or rail crossing, and adequate public transportation is not available. A student's parent(s)/guardian(s) may file a petition with the Board requesting transportation due to the existence of a serious safety hazard. Free transportation service and vehicle adaptation is provided for a special education student if included in the student's individualized educational program. Non-public school students shall be transported in accordance with State law. Homeless students shall be transported in accordance with Section 45/1-15 of the Education for Homeless Children Act. Foster care students shall be transported in accordance with Section 6312(c)(5)(B) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. Bus drivers shall remain in the bus at all times when students are on board. There are two exceptions to this rule: a) in the case of an emergency and the bus driver must leave to get help; b) if there is a supervisor, aide, chaperone or other appropriate adult on the bus.

Please see [Board Policy 4:110](#) for more information.

### **Using Animals in the Educational Program**

In order to assure student health and safety, animals are not allowed on school property that are not certified trained therapy dogs. This rule may be temporarily waived by the building principals in the case of an educational opportunity for students, provided that (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.

### **Video and Audio Monitoring System**

A video and/or audio monitoring system may be in use on school buses and a video monitoring system is in use in public areas of the school building. These systems have been put in place to protect students, staff, visitors, and school property. If a discipline problem is captured on audiotape or videotape, these recordings may be used as the basis for imposing student discipline. If criminal actions are recorded, a copy of the tape may be provided to law enforcement personnel, subject to confidentiality laws governing the release of such videos.

### **Visitors to and Conduct on School Property**

Visitors are welcome to any School District building, provided their presence will not be disruptive. All visitors must sign in at the school office and wear a Visitor's Badge. Any person wishing to confer with a staff member shall contact that staff member to make an appointment. Conferences with teachers are held outside school hours or during the teachers' preparation period. When leaving the school, visitors must return their badge. Please refer to Board Policy 8:30, *Visitors to and Conduct on School Property*, for more information. All visitors, including parents and siblings, are required to enter through the front door of the building and proceed immediately to the main office. Visitors should identify themselves and inform office personnel of their reason for being at school.

Visitors must sign in, identifying their name, the date and time of arrival, and the classroom or location they are visiting. Approved visitors must take a tag identifying themselves as a guest and place the tag to their outer clothing in a clearly visible location. Visitors will be escorted to their location by a staff member. All visitors must return to the main office and sign out before leaving the school.

Visitors are expected to abide by all District rules, including Board Policy 8:30, *Visitors to and Conduct on School Property*, during their time on District property and at District-sponsored events. A visitor who fails to conduct themselves in a manner that is appropriate will be asked to leave and may be subject to criminal penalties for trespass and/or disruptive behavior.

Any staff member may request identification from any person on school property. 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. Please see [Board Policy 8:30](#) for more information.

The *School Visitation Rights Act*, permits employed parents who are unable to meet with educators during the aforementioned designated times because of a work conflict the right to an allotment of time during the school year to attend necessary educational or behavioral conferences at the school their student attends. Upon written request, employers must grant employees leave of up to eight hours per school year, not to exceed four hours in any given day, to attend their student(s) classroom activities or school conferences which cannot be scheduled during non-work hours. For regularly scheduled, non-emergency visitations, the District will make time available for visitation during both regular school hours and evening hours. The District will provide documentation to the parent of the time and date of each school visitation upon a parent's assertion of their rights under the Act.

### **Weapons Prohibited**

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 not less than one year but not more than 2 calendar years:

(1) A firearm, meaning any gun, rifle, shotgun, weapon as defined by Section 921 of Title 18 of the United States Code, firearm as defined in Section 1.1 of the Firearm Owners Identification Card Act, or firearm as defined in Section 24-1 of the Criminal Code of 1961. The expulsion period may be modified by the superintendent, and the superintendent's determination may be modified by the board on a case-by-case basis.

(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 a likes" of any firearm as defined above.

The expulsion requirement may be modified by the superintendent, and the superintendent's determination may be modified by the board on a case-by-case basis.

**Approved by the Streator School District #44 Board of Education on**