CENTRAL
UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 301

MEMORANDUM

To: Board of Education

From: Dr. Amy MacCrindle, Superintendent of Schools

Date: October 19, 2026

Re: PRESS Policy Revision: Second Reading

The Board Policy Committee met on September 15, 2026, to review proposed updates to the District's Board Policy Manual. The proposed changes are based primarily on recommendations from the Illinois Association of School Boards' PRESS Plus service and include updates resulting from changes in law, legal guidance, periodic five-year reviews, and continuous improvement.

Following the Committee's review, the policies listed below were presented to the Board of Education for a first reading on September 21, 2026 during the Board of Education Meeting.

Revised Policies

- **2:230** – Public Participation at Board of Education Meetings and Petitions to the Board
- **5:70** – Religious Holidays
- **5:100** – Staff Development Program
- **5:240** – Suspension
- **6:70** – Teaching About Religions
- **6:80** – Teaching About Controversial Issues
- **6:190** – Extracurricular and Co-Curricular Activities
- **7:130** – Student Rights and Responsibilities
- **8:70** – Accommodating Individuals with Disabilities

CENTRAL
UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 301

Rewritten Policy

- **7:330** – Student Use of Buildings—Equal Access

Policies Reviewed and Monitored

The following policies were reviewed as recommended by PRESS and a part of the District's ongoing policy-monitoring process. No substantive changes are recommended:

- **2:30** – School District Elections
- **3:40** – Superintendent
- **3:50** – Administrative Personnel Other Than the Superintendent
- **3:60** – Administrative Responsibility of the Building Principal
- **3:70** – Succession of Authority
- **4:120** – Food Services
- **4:175** – Convicted Child Sex Offender; Screening; Notifications
- **5:40** – Communicable and Chronic Infectious Disease
- **5:110** – Recognition for Service
- **5:140** – Solicitations By or From Staff
- **5:185** – Family and Medical Leave
- **7:30** – Student Assignment and Intra-District Transfer
- **7:80** – Release Time for Religious Instruction/Observance
- **7:345** – Use of Educational Technologies; Student Data Privacy and Security
- **8:100** – Relations with Other Organizations and Agencies

Exhibits

- **2:120-E3** – Resolution to Appoint a Delegate to the Illinois Association of School Boards Delegate Assembly
- **2:70-E** – Checklist for Filling Board Vacancies by Appointment

CENTRAL
UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 301

Other Notes:

Policy **7:40, Nonpublic School Students, Including Parochial and Home-Schooled Students**, was approved by the Board on August 17, 2026, and is currently being updated by IASB.

The exhibits will be implemented administratively, as applicable.

Recommendation: Administration recommends that the Board discusses and moves the policies forward as a second reading and final approval as presented.

Document Status: Draft Update

SECTION 2 - BOARD OF EDUCATION

2:230 Public Participation at Board of Education Meetings and Petitions to the Board

For a maximum of 30 minutes during each regular and special open meeting of the Board of Education or Board Committee, any person may comment to or ask questions of the School Board (public participation), subject to the reasonable constraints established and recorded in this policy's guidelines below.[C1] The time limit for public participation at a meeting may be extended upon the majority vote of the Board members at the regular or special meeting. The Board listens to comments or questions during public participation; responses to comments to or questions of the Board are most often managed through policy 3:30, *Chain of Command*.

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

1. Address the Board only at the appropriate time as indicated on the agenda and when recognized by the Board President. This includes following the directives of the Board President to maintain order and decorum for all.
2. Use a sign-in sheet, if requested.
3. Identify oneself and be brief. Ordinarily, the time for any one person to address the Board during public participation shall be limited to three minutes. In unusual extenuating circumstances, e.g., to accommodate a person's disability or language interpreter, and when an individual has made a request to speak for a longer period of time, the Board President may allow a person to speak for more than three minutes. If multiple individuals wish to address the Board on the same subject, the group is encouraged to appoint a spokesperson.
4. Observe, when necessary and appropriate, the Board President's authority to:
    a. Shorten the time for each person to address the Board during public participation to conserve time and give the maximum number of people an opportunity to speak; and/or
    b. Determine procedural matters regarding public participation not otherwise

covered in Board policy.

5. Conduct oneself with respect and civility toward others and otherwise abide by Board policy 8:30, *Visitors to and Conduct on School Property*.

Petitions or written correspondence to the Board shall be presented to the Board in the next regular Board packet.

LEGAL REF.:

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

5 ILCS 120/2.06, Open Meetings Act.

I.A. Rana Enterprises, Inc. v. City of Aurora, 630 F.Supp.2d 912 (N.D.Ill. 2009).

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

~~ADOPTED: April 20, 2026~~

Central CUSD 301

PRESSPlus Comments

C1. Updated in response to a five-year review. **Issue 122, June 2026**

Document Status: Draft Update

General Personnel

5:70 Religious Holidays

The Superintendent shall grant an employee's request for time off to observe a religious holiday if the employee gives at least five days' prior notice and the absence does not cause an undue hardship.

Employees may use earned vacation time or personal leave to make up the absence, provided such time is consistent with the District's operational needs. A per diem deduction may also be requested by the employee.

LEGAL REF.:

775 ILCS 5/2-101 and 5/2-102, Ill. Human Rights Act.

775 ILCS 35/~~155~~,[C1] Religious Freedom Restoration Act.

~~ADOPTED: April 20, 2026~~

Central CUSD 301

PRESSPlus Comments

C1. Updated in response to a five-year review. School employers may require employees to provide notice of their intention to be absent, but may not require more than five days' notice before being absent for a religious holiday. 775 ILCS 5/2-102(E). A board that wishes to require fewer days' notice may modify the number of days.
Issue 122, June 2026

Document Status: Draft Update

General Personnel

5:100 Staff Development Program

Please refer to the applicable collective bargaining agreement(s).

For employees not covered by a current applicable bargaining agreement:

The Superintendent or designee shall implement a staff development program. The goal of the program shall be to update and improve the skills and knowledge of staff members in order to achieve and maintain a high level of job performance and satisfaction. Additionally, the development program for licensed staff members shall be designed to effectuate any School Improvement Plans so that student learning objectives meet or exceed goals established by the District and State.

Abused and Neglected Child Reporting Act (ANCRA) and *Erin's Law* Training

The staff development program shall include the Abused and Neglected Child Reporting Act (ANCRA) mandated reporter training and training on the awareness and prevention of child sexual abuse and grooming behaviors (*Erin's Law*) as follows (see Board policies 4:165, *Awareness and Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse and Grooming Behaviors*, and 5:90, *Abused and Neglected Child Reporting*):

1. Within three months of employment, each staff member must complete mandated reporter training from a provider or agency with expertise in recognizing and reporting child abuse. Mandated reporter training must be completed again at least every three years.
2. By January 31 of every year, all school personnel must complete evidence-informed training on preventing, reporting, and responding to child sexual abuse, grooming behaviors (including *sexual misconduct* as defined in *Faith's Law*), and boundary violations.

In-Service Training Requirements

The staff development program shall provide, at a minimum, within six months of employment and renewed at least once every five years thereafter (unless required more

frequently by other State or federal law), the in-service training of all District staff who work with pupils on:

1. Health conditions of students, including but not limited to training on:
    a. Anaphylactic reactions and management, conducted by a person with expertise on anaphylactic reactions and management;
    b. Management of asthma, prevention of asthma symptoms, and emergency response in the school setting;
    c. The basics of seizure recognition and first aid and emergency protocols, consistent with best practice guidelines issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention;
    d. The basics of diabetes care, how to identify when a diabetic student needs immediate or emergency medical attention, and whom to contact in case of emergency;
    e. Current best practices regarding identification and treatment of attention deficit hyperactivity disorder; and
    f. How to respond to an incident involving life-threatening bleeding, including use of a school's trauma bleeding control kit, if applicable.
2. Social-emotional learning. Training may include providing education to all school personnel about the content of the Illinois Social and Emotional Learning Standards, how they apply to everyday school interactions, and examples of how social emotional learning can be integrated into instructional practices across all grades and subjects.
3. Developing cultural competency, including but not limited to understanding and reducing implicit bias, including *implicit racial bias* as defined in 105 ILCS 5/10-20.61 (implicit bias training).
4. Identifying warning signs of mental illness, trauma, and suicidal behavior in youth, along with appropriate intervention and referral techniques, including resources and guidelines as outlined in 105 ILCS 5/2-3.166 (*Ann Marie's Law*) and the definitions of *trauma*, *trauma-responsive learning environments*, and *whole child* as set forth in 105 ILCS 5/3-11.
5. Domestic and sexual violence and the needs of expectant and parenting youth, conducted by persons with expertise in domestic and sexual violence and the needs of expectant and parenting youth. Training shall include, but is not limited to:
    a. Communicating with and listening to youth victims of domestic or sexual violence and expectant and parenting youth;
    b. Connecting youth victims of domestic or sexual violence and expectant and parenting youth to appropriate in-school services and other agencies, programs, and services as needed;

c. Implementing the District's policies and procedures regarding such youth, including confidentiality; and

d. Procedures for responding to incidents of teen dating violence that take place at school, on school grounds, at school-sponsored activities, or in vehicles used for school-provided transportation as outlined in 105 ILCS 5/27-240 (see Board policy 7:185, *Teen Dating Violence Prohibited*).

6. Protections and accommodations for students, including but not limited to training on:
    a. The federal Americans with Disabilities Act as it pertains to the school environment; and
    b. Homelessness.
7. Educator ethics and responding to child sexual abuse and grooming behavior (see Board policy 5:120, *Employee Ethics; Code of Professional Conduct; and Conflict of Interest*); including but not limited to training on:
    a. Teacher-student conduct;
    b. School employee-student conduct; and
    c. Evidence-informed training on preventing, recognizing, reporting, and responding to child sexual abuse and grooming as outlined in 105 ILCS 5/10-23.13 (*Erin's Law*).
8. Effective instruction in violence prevention and conflict resolution, conducted in accordance with the requirements of 105 ILCS 5/27-115 (violence prevention and conflict resolution education).

Additional Training Requirements

In addition, the staff development program shall include each of the following:

1. Ongoing professional development for all school personnel and school resource officers on the requirements of 105 ILCS 5/10-22.6 and 5/10-20.14, the adverse consequences of school exclusion and justice-system involvement, effective classroom management strategies, culturally responsive discipline, trauma-responsive learning environments as defined in 105 ILCS 5/3-11(b), the appropriate and available supportive services for the promotion of student attendance and engagement, and developmentally appropriate disciplinary methods that promote positive and healthy school climates.
2. Annual continuing education and/or training opportunities (professional standards) for school nutrition program directors, managers, and staff. Each school food authority's director shall document compliance with this requirement by the end of each school year and maintain documentation for a three-year period.
3. All high school coaching personnel, including the head and assistant coaches, and athletic directors must obtain online concussion certification by completing online

concussion awareness training in accordance with 105 ILCS 25/1.15. Coaching personnel and athletic directors hired on or after 8-19-14 must be certified before their position's start date.

4. The following individuals must complete concussion training as specified in the Youth Sports Concussion Safety Act: coaches and assistant coaches (whether volunteer or employee) of an interscholastic athletic activity; nurses, licensed and/or non-licensed healthcare professionals serving on the Concussion Oversight Team; athletic trainers; game officials of an interscholastic athletic activity; and physicians serving on the Concussion Oversight Team.
5. For school personnel who work with hazardous or toxic materials on a regular basis, training on the safe handling and use of such materials.
6. For delegated care aides performing services in connection with a student's seizure action plan, training in accordance with 105 ILCS 150/, the Seizure Smart School Act.
7. For delegated care aides performing services in connection with a student's diabetes care plan, training in accordance with 105 ILCS 145/, the Care of Students with Diabetes Act.
8. For all District staff, annual sexual harassment prevention training.
9. Title IX requirements for training in accordance with 34 C.F.R. Part 106 (see Board policy 2:265, *Title IX Grievance Procedure*).
10. Training for all District employees on the prevention of discrimination and harassment based on race, color, and national origin in school as part of new employee training and at least once every two years.
11. Training for at least one designated employee at each school about the Prioritization of Urgency of Need for Services (PUNS) database and steps required to register students for it.
12. Training in accordance with 105 ILCS 5/26A for at least one staff member in each school designated as a resource for students who are parents, expectant parents, or victims of domestic or sexual violence, and for any employees whose duties include the resolution of complaints of violations of 105 ILCS 5/26A (see Board policy 7:255, *Students who are Parents, Expectant Parents, or Victims of Domestic or Sexual Violence*).

The Superintendent or designee shall develop protocols for administering youth suicide awareness and prevention education to staff consistent with Board policy 7:290, *Suicide and Depression Awareness and Prevention*.

LEGAL REF.:

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

42 U.S.C. §1758b, Pub. L. 111-296, Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010; 7 C.F.R. Parts 210 and 235.

105 ILCS 5/2-3.62, 5/2-3.166, 5/3-11, 5/10-20.17a, 5/10-20.61, 5/10-22.6(c-5), 5/10-22.39, 5/10-23.12, 5/10-23.13, 5/22-80(h), 5/22-95, 5/22-115, 5/24-5, and 5/26A.

105 ILCS 25/1.15, Interscholastic Athletic Organization Act.

105 ILCS 145/25, Care of Students with Diabetes Act

105 ILCS 150/25, Seizure Smart School Act.

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

325 ILCS 5/4, Abused and Neglected Child Reporting Act.

745 ILCS 49/, Good Samaritan Act.

775 ILCS 5/2-109 and 5/5A-103, Ill. Human Rights Act.

23 Ill.Admin.Code §§ 22.20, 226.800, and Part 525.

77 Ill.Admin.Code §527.800.

CROSS REF.: 2:265 (Title IX Grievance Procedure), 2:270 (Discrimination and Harassment on the Basis of Race, Color, and National Origin Prohibited), 3:40 (Superintendent), 3:50 (Administrative Personnel Other Than the Superintendent), 4:160 (Environmental Quality of Buildings and Grounds), 4:165 (Awareness and Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse and Grooming Behaviors), 5:20 (Workplace Harassment Prohibited), 5:90 (Abused and Neglected Child Reporting), 5:120 (Employee Ethics; Code of Professional Conduct; and Conflict of Interest), 5:250 (Leaves of Absence), 6:15 (School Accountability), 6:20 (School Year Calendar and Day), 6:50 (School Wellness), 6:160 (English Learners), 7:10 (Equal Educational Opportunities), 7:20 (Harassment of Students Prohibited), 7:180 (Prevention of and Response to Bullying, Intimidation, and Harassment), 7:185 (Teen Dating Violence Prohibited), 7:250 (Student Support Services), 7:255 (*Students Who are Parents, Expectant Parents, or Victims of Domestic or Sexual Violence),* 7:270 (Administering Medicines to Students), 7:285 (Anaphylaxis Prevention, Response, and Management Program), 7:290 (Suicide and Depression Awareness and Prevention), 7:305 (Student Athlete Concussions and Head Injuries)

ADOPTED: April 20, 2026

Central CUSD 301

Document Status: Draft Update

Professional Personnel

5:240 Suspension

Suspension Without Pay

The Board of Education may suspend a professional employee[C1] without pay: (1) ~~a professional employee~~ pending a dismissal hearing, or (2) ~~a teacher~~ as a disciplinary measure for up to 30 employment days for misconduct that is detrimental to the ~~School~~ District. A *professional employee* means a non-administrator employee who holds a professional educator license. Administrative staff members may not be suspended without pay as a disciplinary measure.

Misconduct that is detrimental to the School District includes:

- Insubordination, including any failure to follow an oral or written directive from a supervisor;
- Violation of Board policy or Administrative Procedure;
- Conduct that disrupts or may disrupt the educational program or process;
- Conduct that violates any State or federal law that relates to the employee's duties; and
- Other sufficient causes.

The Superintendent or designee is authorized to issue a pre-suspension notification to a professional employee. This notification shall include the length and reason for the suspension as well as the deadline for the employee to exercise his or her right to appeal the suspension to the Board or Board-appointed hearing examiner before it is imposed. At the request of the professional employee made within five calendar days of receipt of a pre-suspension notification, the Board or Board-appointed hearing examiner will conduct a pre-suspension hearing. The Board or its designee shall notify the professional employee of the date and time of the hearing. At the pre-suspension hearing, the professional employee or his/her representative may present evidence. If the employee does not appeal the pre-suspension notification, the Superintendent or designee shall report the action to the Board at its next regularly scheduled meeting.

Suspension With Pay

The Board or Superintendent or designee may suspend a professional employee with pay: (1) during an investigation into allegations of disobedience or misconduct whenever the employee's continued presence in his or her position would not be in the School District's best interests, (2) as a disciplinary measure for misconduct that is detrimental to the School District as defined above, or (3) pending a Board hearing to suspend a professional employee~~teacher~~ without pay.

The Superintendent shall meet with the employee to present the allegations and give the employee an opportunity to refute the charges. The employee will be told the dates and times the suspension will begin and end.

Employees Under Investigation by Illinois Dept. of Children and Family Services (DCFS)

Upon receipt of a DCFS recommendation that the District remove an employee from his or her position when he or she is the subject of a pending DCFS investigation ~~that relates to his or her employment with the District~~,[C2] the Board or Superintendent or designee, in consultation with the Board Attorney, will determine whether to:

1. Let the employee remain in his or her position pending the outcome of the investigation; or
2. Remove the employee as recommended by DCFS, proceeding with:
    a. A suspension with pay; or
    b. A suspension without pay.

Repayment of Compensation and Benefits

If a professional employee is suspended with pay, either voluntarily or involuntarily, pending the outcome of a criminal investigation or prosecution, and the employee is later dismissed as a result of his or her criminal conviction, then the employee must repay to the District all compensation and the value of all benefits received by him or her during the suspension. The Superintendent will notify the employee of this requirement when the employee is suspended.

LEGAL REF.:

105 ILCS 5/24-12.

5 ILCS 430/5-60(b), State Officials and Employee Ethics Act.

325 ILCS 5/7.4(c-10), Abused and Neglected Child Reporting Act.

Cleveland Bd. of Educ. v. Loudermill, 470 U.S. 532 (1985).

Barszcz v. Cmty College Dist. No. 504, 400 F.Supp. 675 (N.D. Ill. 1975).

Massie v. East St. Louis Sch. Dist. No.189, 203 Ill.App.3d 965 (5th Dist. 1990).

CROSS REF.: 5:290 (Employment Termination and Suspensions)

~~ADOPTED: April 20, 2026~~

Central CUSD 301

PRESSPlus Comments

C1. Updated in response to a five-year review. **Issue 122, June 2026**

C2. Updated in response to a five-year review. **Issue 122, June 2026**

Document Status: Draft Update

SECTION 6 - INSTRUCTION

6:70 Teaching About Religions

The School District's curriculum may include the study of religions as they relate to geography, history, culture, and the development of various ethnic groups. The study of religions shall give neither preferential nor derogatory treatment to any single religion, religious belief, or to religion in general. The study of religions shall be treated as an academic subject with no emphasis on the advancement or practice of religion.

LEGAL REF.:

Mahmoud v. Taylor, 606 U.S. 522 (2025). C1

Allegheny County v. ACLU Pittsburgh Chapter, 492 U.S. 573 (1989).

School Dist. of Abington Twp v. Schempp, 374 U.S. 203 (1963).

~~Allegheny County v. ACLU Pittsburgh Chapter, 492 U.S. 573 (1989).~~

CROSS REF.: 6:20 (School Year Calendar and Day), 6:40 (Curriculum Development), 6:60 (Curriculum Content), 6:255 (Assemblies and Ceremonies)

~~ADOPTED: April 20, 2026~~

Central CUSD 301

PRESSPlus Comments

C1. In Mahmoud v. Taylor, 606 U.S. 522 (2025), the U.S. Supreme Court held that a public school "burdens the religious exercise of parents when it requires them to submit their children to instruction that poses 'a very real threat of undermining' the religious beliefs and practices that the parents wish to instill." Consult the board attorney on questions related to religious opt-outs from curriculum, and see policy 6:260, *Complaints About Curriculum, Instructional Materials, and Programs.* **Issue 122, June 2026**

Document Status: Draft Update

SECTION 6 - INSTRUCTION

6:80 Teaching About Controversial Issues

The Superintendent shall ensure that all school-sponsored presentations and discussions of controversial or sensitive topics in the instructional program, including those made by guest speakers, are:

- Age-appropriate. Proper decorum, considering the students' ages, should be followed.
- Consistent with the curriculum and serve an educational purpose.
- Informative and present a balanced view.
- Respectful of the rights and opinions of everyone. Emotional criticisms and hurtful sarcasm should be avoided.
- Not tolerant of profanity or slander.

The District specifically reserves its right to stop any school-sponsored activity that it determines violates this policy, is harmful to the District or the students, or violates State or federal law.

LEGAL REF.:

Mahmoud v. Taylor, 606 U.S. 522 (2025).[C1]

Garcetti v. Ceballos, 547 U.S. 410 (2006).

Mayer v. Monroe Cnty. Cmty. Sch. Corp., 474 F.3d 477 (7th Cir. 2007).

CROSS REF.: 6:40 (Curriculum Development), 6:255 (Assemblies and Ceremonies), 6:260 (Complaints About Curriculum, Instructional Materials, and Programs)

~~ADOPTED: April 20, 2026~~

PRESSPlus Comments

C1. In Mahmoud v. Taylor, 606 U.S. 522 (2025), the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that a district likely violated parents' free exercise rights when it refused to give notice and allow them to opt their elementary-age children out of literacy instruction that involved the use of LGBTQ+-inclusive storybooks. See sample policy 6:260, *Complaints About Curriculum, Instructional Materials, and Programs* at footnote 3, available at PRESS Online by logging in at www.iasb.com. Consult the board attorney regarding curriculum objections. **Issue 122, June 2026**

Document Status: Draft Update

SECTION 6 - INSTRUCTION

6:190 Extracurricular and Co-Curricular Activities

The Superintendent must approve an activity in order for it to be considered a District-sponsored extracurricular or co-curricular activity, using the following criteria:

1. The activity will contribute to the leadership abilities, social well-being, self-realization, good citizenship, or general growth of student-participants.
2. Fees assessed for students are reasonable and do not exceed the actual cost of operation.
3. The District has sufficient financial resources for the activity.
4. Requests from students.
5. The activity will be supervised by a school-approved sponsor.

Non-school sponsoredcurriculum related[C1] student groups or clubs that are not school sponsored are governed by Board of Education policy, 7:330, *Student Use of Buildings - Equal Access*.

Academic Criteria for Participation

Students must satisfy all academic standards and must comply with the activity's rules and the Student Conduct Code.

For students in kindergarten through 8th grade, selection of members or participants is at the discretion of the teachers, sponsors, or coaches, provided that the selection criteria conform to the District's policies. Students must satisfy all academic standards and must comply with the activity's rules and the student conduct code.

For high school students, selection of members or participants is at the discretion of the teachers, sponsors, or coaches, provided that the selection criteria conform to the District's policies. Participation in co-curricular activities is dependent upon course selection and successful progress in those courses. In order to be eligible to participate in any school-sponsored or school-supported athletic or extracurricular activity, a student must not reach 4 points on the weekly eligibility form. These points are based on the following criteria:

- An "F" is worth 2 points
- A "D" is worth 1 point
- Per credit courses more than one credit will be figured accordingly

Any student-participant failing to meet these academic criteria shall be suspended from the activity for a minimum of one calendar week (Monday through Sunday) or until the specified academic criteria are met, whichever is longer.

LEGAL REF.:

105 ILCS 5/10-20.30, and 5/24-24.

CROSS REF.: 4:170 (Safety), 7:10 (Equal Educational Opportunities), 7:40 (Nonpublic School Students, Including Parochial and Home-Schooled Students), 7:240 (Conduct Code for Participants in Extracurricular Activities), 7:300 (Extracurricular Athletics), 7:330 (Student Use of Buildings - Equal Access), 8:20 (Community Use of School Facilities)

~~ADOPTED: April 20, 2026~~

Central CUSD 301

PRESSPlus Comments

C1. Updated to align with the changes made to policy 7:330, *Student Use of Buildings - Equal Access.* **Issue 122, June 2026**

Document Status: Draft Update

SECTION 7 - STUDENTS

7:130 Student Rights and Responsibilities

All students are entitled to enjoy the rights protected by the U.S. and Illinois Constitutions and laws for persons of their age and maturity in a school setting. Students should exercise these rights reasonably and avoid violating the rights of others. Students who violate the rights of others or violate District policies or rules will be subject to disciplinary measures.

Students may, during the school day, during noninstructional time, voluntarily engage in individually or collectively initiated, non-disruptive prayer or religious-based meetings that, consistent with the Free Exercise and Establishment Clauses of the U.S. and Illinois Constitutions, are not sponsored, promoted, or endorsed in any manner by the school or any school employee. *Noninstructional time* means time set aside by a school before actual classroom instruction begins or after actual classroom instruction ends.

LEGAL REF.:

20 U.S.C. §4071 et seq., Equal Access Act.[C1]

20 U.S.C. §7904, Every Student Succeeds Act.

Kennedy v. Bremerton Sch. Dist., 597 U.S. 507 (2022).[C2]

Tinker v. Des Moines Indep. Cmty. Sch. Dist., 393 U.S. 503 (1969).

105 ILCS 20/5, Silent Reflection and Student Prayer Act.

CROSS REF.: 7:140 (Search and Seizure), 7:150 (Agency and Law Enforcement Requests), 7:160 (Student Appearance), 7:190 (Student Behavior), 7:330 (Student Use of Buildings - Equal Access)

~~ADOPTED: April 20, 2026~~

PRESSPlus Comments

C1. The Equal Access Act (EAA) requires a secondary school that receives federal funding and allows a *limited open forum* to grant fair opportunity or equal access to students who wish to conduct a meeting within that limited open forum without regard to the religious, political, philosophical, or other content of the speech at such a meeting. A secondary school has a *limited open forum* whenever it "grants an offering to or opportunity for one or more noncurriculum-related student groups to meet on school premises during noninstructional time." 20 U.S.C. §4071(a). **Issue 122, June 2026**

C2. Kennedy v. Bremerton Sch. Dist., 597 U.S. 507, 527 (2022) (quoting Tinker at 506, "the First Amendment's protections extend to both 'teachers and students,'" found that students were not restricted from voluntarily joining in prayer with a high school football coach on the field after a game). **Issue 122, June 2026**

Document Status: Draft Update

SECTION 8 - COMMUNITY RELATIONS

8:70 Accommodating Individuals with Disabilities

Individuals with disabilities shall be provided an opportunity to participate in all school-sponsored services, programs, or activities and will not be subject to illegal discrimination. When appropriate, the District may provide to persons with disabilities aids, benefits, or services that are separate or different from, but as effective as, those provided to others.

The District will provide auxiliary aids and services when necessary to afford individuals with disabilities equal opportunity to participate in or enjoy the benefits of a service, program, or activity.

Each service, program, website, or activity operated in existing facilities shall be readily accessible to, and useable by, individuals with disabilities. New construction and alterations to facilities existing before January 26, 1992, will be accessible when viewed in their entirety.

The Superintendent or designee is designated the Title II Coordinator and shall:

1. Oversee the District's compliance efforts and, recommend necessary modifications to the Board of Education, ~~and maintain the District's final Title II self-evaluation document, update it to the extent necessary, and keep it available for public inspection for at least three years after its completion date~~.[C1]
2. Institute plans to make information regarding Title II's protection available to any interested party.

Individuals with disabilities should notify the Superintendent or Building Principal if they have a disability that will require special assistance or services and, if so, what services are required. This notification should occur as far in advance as possible of the school-sponsored function, program, or meeting.

Individuals with disabilities may allege a violation of this policy or federal law by reporting it to the Superintendent or designated Title II Coordinator, or by filing a grievance under Board policy 2:260, ~~the~~ *Uniform Grievance Procedure*.

LEGAL REF.:

~~Americans with Disabilities Act,~~ 42 U.S.C. §§12101 et seq. and 12131 et seq., Americans with Disabilities Act; 28 C.F.R. Part 35.

~~Rehabilitation Act of 1973 §104,~~ 29 U.S.C. §794, Rehabilitation Act of 1973 ~~(2006)~~.

105 ILCS 5/10-20.51.

410 ILCS 25/, Environmental Barriers Act.

71 Ill.Admin.Code Part 400, Illinois Accessibility Code.

CROSS REF.: 2:260 (Uniform Grievance Procedure), 4:150 (Facility Management and Building Programs)

~~ADOPTED: April 20, 2026~~

Central CUSD 301

PRESSPlus Comments

C1. Updated in response to a five-year review. **Issue 122, June 2026**

Document Status: Review and Monitoring

SECTION 2 - BOARD OF EDUCATION

2:30 School District Elections

School District elections are non-partisan, governed by the general election laws of the State, and include the election of Board of Education members, various public policy propositions, and advisory questions. Board members are elected at the consolidated election held on the first Tuesday in April in odd-numbered years. If, however, that date conflicts with the celebration of Passover, the consolidated election is postponed to the first Tuesday following the last day of Passover. The canvass of votes is conducted by the election authority within 21 days after the election.[C1]

The Board, by proper resolution, may cause to be placed on the ballot: (a) public policy referendum according to Article 28 of the Election Code, or (b) advisory questions of public policy according to Section 9-1.5 of the School Code.

The Board Secretary serves as the local election official. He or she receives petitions for the submission of a public question to referenda and forwards them to the proper election officer and otherwise provides information to the community concerning District elections.

LEGAL REF.:

10 ILCS 5/1-3, 5/2A, 5/9, 5/10-9, 5/22-17, 5/22-18, and 5/28.

105 ILCS 5/9.

CROSS REF.: 2:40 (Board Member Qualifications), 2:50 (Board Member Term of Office), 2:210 (Organizational Board of Education Meeting)

~~ADOPTED: April 20, 2026~~

Central CUSD 301

PRESSPlus Comments

C1. This policy is suggested to be reviewed by the Board. According to policy 2:240, *Board Policy Development*, "[t]he Board will periodically review its policies for relevancy, monitor its policies for effectiveness, and consider whether any modifications are required." IASB suggests that each policy in the Board's policy manual be reviewed at a minimum of every five years. As part of the review, the Board may choose to:

- Compare the adopted version to the current PRESS sample (available at PRESS Online by logging in at www.iasb.com), discussing any differences and/or options noted in the footnotes to determine whether local changes are necessary
- Update the policy language due to changes in local conditions
- Make no changes, but update the adoption date to reflect that the policy has been reviewed and re-adopted

Issue 122, June 2026

Document Status: Review and Monitoring

SECTION 3 - GENERAL SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION

3:40 Superintendent

Duties and Authority[C1]

The Superintendent is the District's executive officer and is responsible for the administration and management of the District schools in accordance with Board of Education policies and directives, and State and federal law. District management duties include, without limitation, preparing, submitting, publishing, and posting reports and notifications as required by State and federal law, including the special reporting responsibilities in policy 5:90, *Abused and Neglected Child Reporting*. The Superintendent is authorized to develop administrative procedures and take other action as needed to implement Board policy and otherwise fulfill his or her responsibilities. The Superintendent may delegate to other District staff members the exercise of any powers and the discharge of any duties imposed upon the Superintendent by Board policies or by Board vote. The delegation of power or duty, however, shall not relieve the Superintendent of responsibility for the action that was delegated.

Qualifications

The Superintendent must be of good character and of unquestionable morals and integrity. The Superintendent shall have the experience and the skills necessary to work effectively with the Board, District employees, students, and the community. The Superintendent must have and maintain a Professional Educator License with a superintendent endorsement issued by the Illinois State Educator Preparation and Licensure Board.

Evaluation

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

The Superintendent shall annually present evidence of professional growth through attendance at educational conferences, in-service training, or similar continuing education pursuits.

Compensation and Benefits

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

LEGAL REF.:

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

5 ILCS 120/7.3, Open Meetings Act.

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

CROSS REF: 2:20 (Powers and Duties of the Board of Education; Indemnification), 2:130 (Board-Superintendent Relationship), 2:240 (Board Policy Development), 3:10 (Goals and Objectives), 4:165 (Awareness and Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse and Grooming Behaviors), 4:175 (Convicted Child Sex Offender; Screening; Notifications), 5:30 (Hiring Process and Criteria), 5:90 (Abused and Neglected Child Reporting), 5:120 (Employee Ethics; Code of Professional Conduct; and Conflict of Interest), 5:150 (Personnel Records), 5:210 (Resignations), 5:290 (Employment Termination and Suspensions)

~~ADOPTED: April 20, 2026~~

PRESSPlus Comments

C1. This policy is suggested to be reviewed by the Board. According to policy 2:240, *Board Policy Development*, "[t]he Board will periodically review its policies for relevancy, monitor its policies for effectiveness, and consider whether any modifications are required." IASB suggests that each policy in the Board's policy manual be reviewed at a minimum of every five years. As part of the review, the Board may choose to:

- Compare the adopted version to the current PRESS sample (available at PRESS Online by logging in at www.iasb.com), discussing any differences and/or options noted in the footnotes to determine whether local changes are necessary
- Update the policy language due to changes in local conditions
- Make no changes, but update the adoption date to reflect that the policy has been reviewed and re-adopted

Issue 122, June 2026

Document Status: Review and Monitoring

SECTION 3 - GENERAL SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION

3:50 Administrative Personnel Other Than the Superintendent

Duties and Authority[C1]

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

Qualifications

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

Evaluation

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

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

Administrative Work Year

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

Compensation and Benefits

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

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

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

LEGAL REF:

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

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

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

~~ADOPTED: April 20, 2026~~

Central CUSD 301

PRESSPlus Comments

C1. This policy is suggested to be reviewed by the Board. According to policy 2:240, *Board Policy Development*, "[t]he Board will periodically review its policies for relevancy, monitor its policies for effectiveness, and consider whether any modifications are required." IASB suggests that each policy in the Board's policy manual be reviewed at a minimum of every five years. As part of the review, the Board may choose to:

- Compare the adopted version to the current PRESS sample (available at PRESS Online by logging in at www.iasb.com), discussing any differences and/or options noted in the footnotes to determine whether local changes are necessary
- Update the policy language due to changes in local conditions
- Make no changes, but update the adoption date to reflect that the policy has been reviewed and re-adopted

Issue 122, June 2026

Document Status: Review and Monitoring

SECTION 3 - GENERAL SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION

3:60 Administrative Responsibility of the Building Principal

Duties and Authority[C1]

The Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, employs Building Principals as the chief administrators and instructional leaders of their assigned schools, and may employ Assistant Principals. The primary responsibility of a Building Principal is the improvement of instruction. Each Building Principal shall perform all duties as described in State law as well as such other duties as specified in his or her employment agreement or as the Superintendent may assign, that are consistent with the Building Principal's education and training. Each Building Principal and Assistant Principal shall complete State law requirements to be a prequalified evaluator before conducting an evaluation of a teacher or assistant principal.

Evaluation Plan

The Superintendent or designee shall implement an evaluation plan for Principals and Assistant Principals that complies with Section 24A-15 of the School Code and relevant Illinois State Board of Education rules. Using that plan, the Superintendent or designee shall evaluate each Building Principal and Assistant Principal. The Superintendent or designee may conduct additional evaluations.

Qualifications and Other Terms and Conditions of Employment

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

LEGAL REF.:

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

10 ILCS 5/4-6.2, Election Code.

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

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

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

~~ADOPTED: April 20, 2026~~

Central CUSD 301

PRESSPlus Comments

C1. This policy is suggested to be reviewed by the Board. According to policy 2:240, *Board Policy Development*, "[t]he Board will periodically review its policies for relevancy, monitor its policies for effectiveness, and consider whether any modifications are required." IASB suggests that each policy in the Board's policy manual be reviewed at a minimum of every five years. As part of the review, the Board may choose to:

- Compare the adopted version to the current PRESS sample (available at PRESS Online by logging in at www.iasb.com), discussing any differences and/or options noted in the footnotes to determine whether local changes are necessary
- Update the policy language due to changes in local conditions
- Make no changes, but update the adoption date to reflect that the policy has been reviewed and re-adopted

Issue 122, June 2026

Document Status: Review and Monitoring

SECTION 3 - GENERAL SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION

3:70 Succession of Authority

If the Superintendent, Building Principal, or other administrator is temporarily unavailable, the succession of authority and responsibility of the respective office shall follow a succession plan, developed by the Superintendent and submitted to the Board of Education.[C1]

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

~~ADOPTED: April 20, 2026~~

Central CUSD 301

PRESSPlus Comments

C1. This policy is suggested to be reviewed by the Board. According to policy 2:240, *Board Policy Development*, "[t]he Board will periodically review its policies for relevancy, monitor its policies for effectiveness, and consider whether any modifications are required." IASB suggests that each policy in the Board's policy manual be reviewed at a minimum of every five years. As part of the review, the Board may choose to:

- Compare the adopted version to the current PRESS sample (available at PRESS Online by logging in at www.iasb.com), discussing any differences and/or options noted in the footnotes to determine whether local changes are necessary
- Update the policy language due to changes in local conditions
- Make no changes, but update the adoption date to reflect that the policy has been reviewed and re-adopted

Issue 122, June 2026

Document Status: Review and Monitoring

SECTION 4 - OPERATIONAL SERVICES

4:120 Food Services

Good nutrition shall be promoted in the District's meal programs and in other food and beverages that are sold to students during the school day. The Superintendent shall manage a food service program that complies with this policy and is in alignment with Board of Education policy 6:50, *School Wellness*.[C1]

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

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

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

LEGAL REF.:

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

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

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

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

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

CROSS REF.: 4:130 (Free and Reduced-Price Food Services), 6:50 (School Wellness)

~~ADOPTED: April 20, 2026~~

Central CUSD 301

PRESSPlus Comments

C1. This policy is suggested to be reviewed by the Board. According to policy 2:240, *Board Policy Development*, "[t]he Board will periodically review its policies for relevancy, monitor its policies for effectiveness, and consider whether any modifications are required." IASB suggests that each policy in the Board's policy manual be reviewed at a minimum of every five years. As part of the review, the Board may choose to:

- Compare the adopted version to the current PRESS sample (available at PRESS Online by logging in at www.iasb.com), discussing any differences and/or options noted in the footnotes to determine whether local changes are necessary
- Update the policy language due to changes in local conditions
- Make no changes, but update the adoption date to reflect that the policy has been reviewed and re-adopted

Issue 122, June 2026

Document Status: Review and Monitoring

SECTION 4 - OPERATIONAL SERVICES

4:175 Convicted Child Sex Offender; Screening; Notifications

Persons Prohibited on School Property without Prior Permission[C1]

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

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

Screening

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

Notification to Parents/Guardians

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

LEGAL REF.:

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

20 ILCS 2635/, Uniform Conviction Information Act.

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

730 ILCS 152/, Sex Offender Community Notification Law.

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

CROSS REF.: 2:110 (Qualifications, Term, and Duties of Board Officers), 3:40 (Superintendent), 3:50 (Administrative Personnel Other Than the Superintendent), 3:60 (Administrative Responsibility of the Building Principal), 4:165 (Awareness and Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse and Grooming Behaviors), 5:30 (Hiring Process and Criteria), 5:260 (Student Teachers), 6:250 (Community Resource Persons and Volunteers), 8:30 (Visitors to and Conduct on School Property), 8:100 (Relations with Other Organizations and Agencies)

~~ADOPTED: April 20, 2026~~

PRESSPlus Comments

C1. This policy is suggested to be reviewed by the Board. According to policy 2:240, *Board Policy Development*, "[t]he Board will periodically review its policies for relevancy, monitor its policies for effectiveness, and consider whether any modifications are required." IASB suggests that each policy in the Board's policy manual be reviewed at a minimum of every five years. As part of the review, the Board may choose to:

- Compare the adopted version to the current PRESS sample (available at PRESS Online by logging in at www.iasb.com), discussing any differences and/or options noted in the footnotes to determine whether local changes are necessary
- Update the policy language due to changes in local conditions
- Make no changes, but update the adoption date to reflect that the policy has been reviewed and re-adopted

Issue 122, June 2026

Document Status: Review and Monitoring

General Personnel

5:40 Communicable and Chronic Infectious Disease

The Superintendent or designee shall develop and implement procedures for managing known or suspected cases of a communicable and chronic infectious disease involving District employees that are consistent with State and federal law, Illinois Department of Public Health rules, and Board of Education policies.[C1]

An employee with a communicable or chronic infectious disease will be permitted to retain his or her position whenever, after reasonable accommodations and without undue hardship, there is no substantial risk of transmission of the disease to others, provided an employee is able to continue to perform the position's essential functions. An employee with a communicable and chronic infectious disease remains subject to the Board's employment policies including sick and/or other leave, physical examinations, temporary and permanent disability, and termination.

LEGAL REF.:

42 U.S.C. §12101 *et seq*., Americans With Disabilities Act, amended by the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act (ADAAA), Pub. L. 110-325; 29 C.F.R. §1630.1 *et seq*.

29 U.S.C. §791, Rehabilitation Act of 1973; 34 C.F.R. §104.1 *et seq*.

105 ILCS 5/24-5.

20 ILCS 2305/6, Department of Public Health Act.

820 ILCS 40/, Personnel Record Review Act.

77 Ill.Admin.Code Part 690, Control of Communicable Diseases.

CROSS REF.: 2:150 (Committees), 4:180 (Pandemic Preparedness; Management; and Recovery), 5:30 (Hiring Process and Criteria), 5:180 (Temporary Illness or Temporary Incapacity)

~~ADOPTED: April 20, 2026~~

Central CUSD 301

PRESSPlus Comments

C1. This policy is suggested to be reviewed by the Board. According to policy 2:240, *Board Policy Development*, "[t]he Board will periodically review its policies for relevancy, monitor its policies for effectiveness, and consider whether any modifications are required." IASB suggests that each policy in the Board's policy manual be reviewed at a minimum of every five years. As part of the review, the Board may choose to:

- Compare the adopted version to the current PRESS sample (available at PRESS Online by logging in at www.iasb.com), discussing any differences and/or options noted in the footnotes to determine whether local changes are necessary
- Update the policy language due to changes in local conditions
- Make no changes, but update the adoption date to reflect that the policy has been reviewed and re-adopted

Issue 122, June 2026

Document Status: Review and Monitoring

General Personnel

5:110 Recognition for Service

The Board of Education may periodically recognize those District employees who contribute significantly to the educational programs and welfare of the students.[C1]

~~ADOPTED: April 20, 2026~~

Central CUSD 301

PRESSPlus Comments

C1. This policy is suggested to be reviewed by the Board. According to policy 2:240, *Board Policy Development*, "[t]he Board will periodically review its policies for relevancy, monitor its policies for effectiveness, and consider whether any modifications are required." IASB suggests that each policy in the Board's policy manual be reviewed at a minimum of every five years. As part of the review, the Board may choose to:

- Compare the adopted version to the current PRESS sample (available at PRESS Online by logging in at www.iasb.com), discussing any differences and/or options noted in the footnotes to determine whether local changes are necessary
- Update the policy language due to changes in local conditions
- Make no changes, but update the adoption date to reflect that the policy has been reviewed and re-adopted

Issue 122, June 2026

Document Status: Review and Monitoring

General Personnel

5:140 Solicitations By or From Staff

District employees shall not solicit donations or sales, nor shall they be solicited for donations or sales, on school grounds without prior approval from the Superintendent.[C1]

CROSS REF.: 8:90 (Parent Organizations and Booster Clubs)

~~ADOPTED: April 20, 2026~~

Central CUSD 301

PRESSPlus Comments

C1. This policy is suggested to be reviewed by the Board. According to policy 2:240, *Board Policy Development*, "[t]he Board will periodically review its policies for relevancy, monitor its policies for effectiveness, and consider whether any modifications are required." IASB suggests that each policy in the Board's policy manual be reviewed at a minimum of every five years. As part of the review, the Board may choose to:

- Compare the adopted version to the current PRESS sample (available at PRESS Online by logging in at www.iasb.com), discussing any differences and/or options noted in the footnotes to determine whether local changes are necessary
- Update the policy language due to changes in local conditions
- Make no changes, but update the adoption date to reflect that the policy has been reviewed and re-adopted

Issue 122, June 2026

Document Status: Review and Monitoring

General Personnel

5:185 Family and Medical Leave

Please refer to the applicable collective bargaining agreement(s).[C1]

For employees not covered by a current applicable bargaining agreement:

Leave Description

An eligible employee may use unpaid family and medical leave (FMLA leave), guaranteed by the federal Family and Medical Leave Act. The U.S. Department of Labor's rules (federal rules) implementing FMLA, as they may be amended from time to time, control FMLA leave.

An eligible employee may take FMLA leave for up to a combined total of 12 weeks each 12-month period, beginning September 1 and ending August 31 of the next year.

During a single 12-month period, an eligible employee's FMLA leave entitlement may be extended to a total of 26 weeks of unpaid leave to care for a covered servicemember (defined in the federal rules) with a serious injury or illness. The "single 12-month period" is measured forward from the date the employee's first FMLA leave to care for the covered servicemember begins.

While FMLA leave is normally unpaid, the District will substitute an employee's accruedpaid leave for unpaid FMLA leave, provided such leave is available for use in accordance with Board policies and rules. In addition, all policies and rules regarding the use of paid leave apply when paid leave is substituted for unpaid FMLA leave. Any substitution of paid leave for unpaid FMLA leave will count against the employee's FMLA leave entitlement. Use of FMLA leave shall not preclude the use of other applicable unpaid leave that will extend the employee's leave beyond 12 weeks, provided that the use of FMLA leave shall not serve to extend such other unpaid leave. Any full workweek period during which the employee would not have been required to work, including summer break, winter break and spring break, is not counted against the employee's FMLA leave entitlement.

FMLA leave is available in one or more of the following instances:

1. The birth and first-year care of a son or daughter.
2. The adoption or foster placement of a son or daughter, including absences from work that are necessary for the adoption or foster care to proceed and expiring at the end of the 12-month period beginning on the placement date.
3. The serious health condition of an employee's spouse, child, or parent.
4. The employee's own serious health condition that makes the employee unable to perform the functions of his or her job.
5. The existence of a qualifying exigency arising out of the fact that the employee's spouse, child, or parent is a military member on covered active duty or has been notified of an impending call or order to active duty, as provided by federal rules.
6. To care for the employee's spouse, child, parent, or next of kin who is a covered servicemember with a serious injury or illness, as provided by federal rules.

If spouses are employed by the District, they may together take only 12-weeks for FMLA leaves when the reason for the leave is 1 or 2, above, or to care for a parent with a serious health condition, or a combined total of 26 weeks for item 6 above.

An employee may be permitted to work on an intermittent or reduced-leave schedule in accordance with federal rules.

Eligibility

To be eligible for FMLA leave, both of the following provisions must describe the employee:

1. The employee is employed at a worksite where at least 50 employees are employed within 75 miles; and
2. The employee has been employed by the District for at least 12 months and has been employed for at least 1,000 hours of service during the 12-month period immediately before the beginning of the leave. The 12 months an employee must have been employed by the District need not be consecutive. However, the District will not consider any period of previous employment that occurred more than seven years before the date of the most recent hiring, except when the service break is due to fulfillment of a covered service obligation under the employee's Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA), 38 U.S.C. 4301, *et seq*., or when a written agreement exists concerning the District's intention to rehire the employee.

Requesting Leave

If the need for the FMLA leave is foreseeable, an employee must provide the Superintendent or designee with at least 30 days' advance notice before the leave is to begin. If 30 days'

advance notice is not practicable, the notice must be given as soon as practicable. The employee shall make a reasonable effort to schedule a planned medical treatment so as not to disrupt the District's operations, subject to the approval of the health care provider administering the treatment. The employee shall provide at least verbal notice sufficient to make the Superintendent or designee aware that he or she needs FMLA leave, and the anticipated timing and duration of the leave. Failure to give the required notice for a foreseeable leave may result in a delay in granting the requested leave until at least 30 days after the date the employee provides notice.

Certification

Within 15 calendar days after the Superintendent or designee makes a request for certification for a FMLA leave, an employee must provide one of the following:

1. When the leave is to care for the employee's covered family member with a serious health condition, the employee must provide a complete and sufficient certificate signed by the family member's health care provider.
2. When the leave is due to the employee's own serious health condition, the employee must provide a complete and sufficient certificate signed by the employee's health care provider.
3. When the leave is to care for a covered servicemember with a serious illness or injury, the employee must provide a complete and sufficient certificate signed by an authorized health care provider for the covered servicemember.
4. When the leave is because of a qualified exigency, the employee must provide: (a) a copy of the covered military member's active duty orders or other documentation issued by the military indicating that the military member is on active duty or call to active duty status, and the dates of the covered military member's active duty service, and (b) a statement or description, signed by the employee, of appropriate facts regarding the qualifying exigency for which FMLA leave is requested.

The District may require an employee to obtain a second and third opinion at its expense when it has reason to doubt the validity of a medical certification.

The District may require recertification at reasonable intervals, but not more often than once every 30 days. Regardless of the length of time since the last request, the District may request recertification when the, (1) employee requests a leave extension, (2) circumstances described by the original certification change significantly, or (3) District receives information that casts doubt upon the continuing validity of the original certification. Recertification is at the employee's expense and must be provided to the District within 15 calendar days after the request. The District may request recertification every six months in connection with any absence by an employee needing an intermittent or reduced schedule leave for conditions

with a duration in excess of six months.

Failure to furnish a complete and sufficient certification on forms provided by the District may result in a denial of the leave request.

Continuation of Health Benefits

During FMLA leave, employees are entitled to continuation of health benefits that would have been provided if they were working. Any share of health plan premiums being paid by the employee before taking the leave, must continue to be paid by the employee during the FMLA leave. A District's obligation to maintain health insurance coverage ceases if an employee's premium payment is more than 30 days late and the District notifies the employee at least 15 days before coverage will cease.

Changed Circumstances and Intent to Return

An employee must provide the Superintendent or designee reasonable notice of changed circumstances (i.e., within two business days if the changed circumstances are foreseeable) that will alter the duration of the FMLA leave. The Superintendent or designee, taking into consideration all of the relevant facts and circumstances related to an individual's leave situation, may ask an employee who has been on FMLA leave for eight consecutive weeks whether he or she intends to return to work.

Return to Work

If returning from FMLA leave occasioned by the employee's own serious health condition, the employee is required to obtain and present certification from the employee's health care provider that he or she is able to resume work.

An employee returning from FMLA leave will be given an equivalent position to his or her position before the leave, subject to: (1) permissible limitations the District may impose as provided in the FMLA or implementing regulations, and (2) the District's reassignment policies and practices.

Classroom teachers may be required to wait to return to work until the next semester in certain situations as provided by the FMLA regulations.

Implementation

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that: (1) all required notices and responses to leave requests are provided to employees in accordance with the FMLA; and (2) this policy is implemented in accordance with the FMLA. In the event of a conflict between the policy and the FMLA or its regulations, the latter shall control. The terms used in this policy shall be

defined as in the FMLA regulations.

LEGAL REF.:

29 U.S.C. §2601 *et seq.*, Family and Medical Leave Act; 29 C.F.R. Part 825.

105 ILCS 5/24-6.4.

CROSS REF.: 5:180 (Temporary Illness or Temporary Incapacity), 5:250 (Leaves of Absence), 5:330 (Sick Days, Vacation, Holidays, and Leaves)

~~ADOPTED: April 20, 2026~~

Central CUSD 301

PRESSPlus Comments

C1. This policy is suggested to be reviewed by the Board. According to policy 2:240, *Board Policy Development*, "[t]he Board will periodically review its policies for relevancy, monitor its policies for effectiveness, and consider whether any modifications are required." IASB suggests that each policy in the Board's policy manual be reviewed at a minimum of every five years. As part of the review, the Board may choose to:

- Compare the adopted version to the current PRESS sample (available at PRESS Online by logging in at www.iasb.com), discussing any differences and/or options noted in the footnotes to determine whether local changes are necessary
- Update the policy language due to changes in local conditions
- Make no changes, but update the adoption date to reflect that the policy has been reviewed and re-adopted

Issue 122, June 2026

Document Status: Review and Monitoring

SECTION 7 - STUDENTS

7:30 Student Assignmentand Intra-District Transfer

Attendance Areas[C1]

The School District is divided into school attendance areas. The Superintendent will:

1. Review the boundary lines annually and recommend to the Board of Education any changes or revisions for existing units; or
2. Create new units using a lens that considers preventing segregation and the elimination of separating students in the District's schools because of color, race, or nationality.

The Superintendent or designee shall maintain a map of the District showing current school attendance areas. All records pertaining to the creation, alteration, or revision of attendance units are open to the public. Students living in a given school attendance area will be assigned to that school. Homeless children shall be assigned according to policy 6:140, *Education of Homeless Children*.

Transfers Within the District

A student's parent(s)/guardian(s) may request a transfer for their child to a District school other than the one assigned. A request should be directed to the Superintendent, who, at his or her sole discretion, may grant the request when the parent(s)/guardian(s) demonstrate that the student could be better accommodated at another school, provided space is available. This request must be submitted annually for approval. If a request is granted, the parent/guardian shall be responsible for transportation. The provisions in this section have no applicability to transfers pursuant to the Unsafe School Choice Option covered in Board policy 4:170, *Safety*.

Class Assignments

The Building Principal shall assign students to classes.

LEGAL REF.:

105 ILCS 5/10-21.3, 5/10-21.3a, and 5/10-22.5.

CROSS REF.: 4:170 (Safety), 6:30 (Organization of Instruction), 6:140 (Education of Homeless Children)

~~ADOPTED: April 20, 2026~~

Central CUSD 301

PRESSPlus Comments

C1. This policy is suggested to be reviewed by the Board. According to policy 2:240, *Board Policy Development*, "[t]he Board will periodically review its policies for relevancy, monitor its policies for effectiveness, and consider whether any modifications are required." IASB suggests that each policy in the Board's policy manual be reviewed at a minimum of every five years. As part of the review, the Board may choose to:

- Compare the adopted version to the current PRESS sample (available at PRESS Online by logging in at www.iasb.com), discussing any differences and/or options noted in the footnotes to determine whether local changes are necessary
- Update the policy language due to changes in local conditions
- Make no changes, but update the adoption date to reflect that the policy has been reviewed and re-adopted

Issue 122, June 2026

Document Status: Review and Monitoring

SECTION 7 - STUDENTS

7:80 Release Time for Religious Instruction/Observance

A student shall be released from school, as an excused absence, to because of religious reasons, including to observe a religious holiday, for religious instruction, or because the student's religion forbids secular activity on a particular day(s) or time of day. The student's parent/guardian must give written notice to the Building Principal at least five calendar days before the student's anticipated absence(s).[C1]

The Superintendent or designee shall develop and distribute to teachers appropriate procedures regarding student absences for religious reasons, including how teachers are notified of a student's impending absence, and the State law requirement that teachers provide the student with an equivalent opportunity to make up any examination, study, or work requirement.

LEGAL REF.:

105 ILCS 5/26-1 and 5/26-2b.

775 ILCS 35/, Religious Freedom Restoration Act.

CROSS REF.: 7:70 (Attendance and Truancy)

~~ADOPTED: April 20, 2026~~

Central CUSD 301

PRESSPlus Comments

C1. This policy is suggested to be reviewed by the Board. According to policy 2:240, *Board Policy Development*, "[t]he Board will periodically review its policies for relevancy, monitor its policies for effectiveness, and consider whether any modifications are required." IASB suggests that each policy in the Board's policy manual be reviewed at a minimum of every five years. As part of the review, the Board may choose to:

- Compare the adopted version to the current PRESS sample (available at PRESS Online by logging in at www.iasb.com), discussing any differences and/or options noted in the footnotes to determine whether local changes are necessary
- Update the policy language due to changes in local conditions
- Make no changes, but update the adoption date to reflect that the policy has been reviewed and re-adopted

Issue 122, June 2026

Document Status: Review and Monitoring

SECTION 8 - COMMUNITY RELATIONS

8:100 Relations with Other Organizations and Agencies

The District shall cooperate with other organizations and agencies, including but not limited to:[C1]

- County Health Department
- Law enforcement agencies
- Fire authorities
- Planning authorities
- Zoning authorities
- Illinois Emergency Management Agency (IEMA), local organizations for civil defense, and other appropriate disaster relief organizations concerned with civil defense
- Other school districts

CROSS REF.: 1:20 (District Organization, Operations, and Cooperative Agreements), 4:170 (Safety), 4:180 (Pandemic Preparedness; Management; and Recovery), 5:90 (Abused and Neglected Child Reporting), 7:150 (Agency and Law Enforcement Requests)

~~ADOPTED: April 20, 2026~~

Central CUSD 301

PRESSPlus Comments

C1. This policy is suggested to be reviewed by the Board. According to policy 2:240, *Board Policy Development*, "[t]he Board will periodically review its policies for relevancy, monitor its policies for effectiveness, and consider whether any modifications are required." IASB suggests that each policy in the Board's policy manual be reviewed at a minimum of every five years. As part of the review, the Board may choose to:

- Compare the adopted version to the current PRESS sample (available at PRESS Online by logging in at www.iasb.com), discussing any differences and/or options noted in the footnotes to determine whether local changes are necessary
- Update the policy language due to changes in local conditions
- Make no changes, but update the adoption date to reflect that the policy has been reviewed and re-adopted

Issue 122, June 2026

Document Status: Review and Monitoring

SECTION 7 - STUDENTS

7:345 Use of Educational Technologies; Student Data Privacy and Security

Educational technologies used in the District shall further the objectives of the District's educational program, as set forth in Board policy 6:10, *Educational Philosophy and Objectives*, align with the curriculum criteria in policy 6:40, *Curriculum Development*, and/or support efficient District operations. The Superintendent shall ensure that the use of educational technologies in the District meets the above criteria.[C1]

The District and/or vendors under its control may need to collect and maintain data that personally identifies students in order to use certain educational technologies for the benefit of student learning or District operations.

Federal and State law govern the protection of student data, including school student records and/or *covered information*. The sale, rental, lease, or trading of any school student records or covered information by the District is prohibited. Protecting such information is important for legal compliance, District operations, and maintaining the trust of District stakeholders, including parents, students and staff.

Definitions

Covered information means personally identifiable information (PII) or information linked to PII in any media or format that is not publicly available and is any of the following: (1) created by or provided to an operator by a student or the student's parent/guardian in the course of the student's or parent/guardian's use of the operator's site, service or application; (2) created by or provided to an operator by an employee or agent of the District; or (3) gathered by an operator through the operation of its site, service, or application.

Operators are entities (such as educational technology vendors) that operate Internet websites, online services, online applications, or mobile applications that are designed, marketed, and primarily used for K-12 school purposes.

Breach means the unauthorized acquisition of computerized data that compromises the security, confidentiality or integrity of covered information maintained by an operator or the District.

Operator Contracts

The Superintendent or designee designates which District employees are authorized to enter into written agreements with operators for those contracts that do not require separate Board approval. Contracts between the Board and operators shall be entered into in accordance with State law and Board policy 4:60, *Purchases and Contracts,* and shall include any specific provisions required by State law.

Security Standards

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure the District implements and maintains reasonable security procedures and practices that otherwise meet or exceed industry standards designed to protect covered information from unauthorized access, destruction, use, modification, or disclosure. In the event the District receives notice from an operator of a breach or has determined a breach has occurred, the Superintendent or designee shall also ensure that the District provides any breach notifications required by State law.

LEGAL REF.:

20 U.S.C. §1232g, Family and Educational Rights and Privacy Act; 34 C.F.R. Part 99.

105 ILCS 10/, Ill. School Student Records Act.

105 ILCS 85/, Student Online Personal Protection Act.

23 Ill. Admin. Code Part 380.

CROSS REF.: 4:15 (Identity Protection), 4:60 (Purchases and Contracts), 6:235 (Access to Electronic Networks), 7:340 (Student Records)

~~ADOPTED: April 20, 2026~~

Central CUSD 301

PRESSPlus Comments

C1. This policy is suggested to be reviewed by the Board. According to policy 2:240, *Board Policy Development*, "[t]he Board will periodically review its policies for relevancy, monitor its policies for effectiveness, and consider whether any modifications are required." IASB suggests that each policy in the Board's policy manual be reviewed at a minimum of every five years. As part of the review, the Board may choose to:

- Compare the adopted version to the current PRESS sample (available at PRESS Online by logging in at www.iasb.com), discussing any differences and/or options noted in the footnotes to determine whether local changes are necessary
- Update the policy language due to changes in local conditions
- Make no changes, but update the adoption date to reflect that the policy has been reviewed and re-adopted

Issue 122, June 2026

Document Status: Update with District Edits

SECTION 7 - STUDENTS

7:40 Nonpublic School Students, Including Parochial and Home-Schooled Students

Part-Time Attendance

The District accepts nonpublic school students, including parochial and home-schooled students, who live within the District for part-time attendance in the District's regular education program on a space-available basis. Requests for part-time attendance must be submitted to the Building Principal of the school in the school attendance area where the student resides. ~~All requests for attendance in the following school year must be submitted before May 1.~~

A student accepted for partial enrollment must comply with all discipline and attendance requirements established by the school. He or she may participate in any co-curricular activity associated with a District class in which he or she is enrolled. The parent(s)/guardian(s) of a student accepted for partial enrollment must pay all fees, pro-rated on the basis of a percentage of full-time fees. Transportation to and/or from school is provided on regular bus routes to or from a point on the route nearest or most easily accessible to the nonpublic school or student's home. This transportation shall be on the same basis as the District provides transportation for its full-time students. Transportation on other than established bus routes is the responsibility of the parent(s)/guardian(s).

Students with a Disability

The District accepts for part-time attendance those children for whom it has been determined that special education services are needed, are enrolled in nonpublic schools, and otherwise qualify for enrollment in the District. Requests must be submitted by the student's parent/guardian. Special educational services shall be provided to such students as soon as possible after identification, evaluation, and placement procedures provided by State law, but no later than the beginning of the next school semester following the completion of such procedures. Transportation for such students shall be provided only if required in the child's Individualized Educational Program on the basis of the child's disabling condition or as the special education program location may require.

Extracurricular Activities, Including Interscholastic Competition

A nonpublic school student is eligible to participate in: ~~(1)~~ interscholastic competition, provided his or her participation adheres to the regulations established by any association in which the District maintains a membership, and ~~(2)~~ non-athletic extracurricular activities, provided the student attends a District school for at least one-class duringhalf of the regular school day, excluding lunch. A nonpublic student who participates in an extracurricular activity is subject to all policies, regulations, and rules that are applicable to other participants in the activity.

Assignment When Enrolling Full-Time in a District School

Grade placement by, and academic credits earned at, a nonpublic school will be accepted if the school has a Certificate of Nonpublic School Recognition from the Ill. State Board of Education, or, if outside Illinois, if the school is accredited by the state agency governing education.

A student who, after receiving instruction in a non-recognized or non-accredited school, enrolls in the District will: (1) be assigned to a grade level according to academic proficiency, and/or (2) have academic credits recognized by the District if the student demonstrates appropriate academic proficiency to the school administration. Any portion of a student's transcript relating to such instruction will not be considered for placement on the honor roll or computation in class rank.

Notwithstanding the above, recognition of grade placement and academic credits awarded by a nonpublic school is at the sole discretion of the District. All school and class assignments will be made according to Board policy 7:30, *Student Assignment and Intra-District Transfer*, as well as administrative procedures implementing this policy.

LEGAL REF.:

105 ILCS 5/10-20.24 and 5/14-6.01.

CROSS REF.: 4:110 (Transportation), 6:170 (Title I Programs), 6:190 (Extracurricular and Co-Curricular Activities), 6:320 (High School Credit for Proficiency), 7:30 (Student Assignment and Intra-District Transfer), 7:300 (Extracurricular Athletics)

ADOPTED: April 20, 2026

ADOPTED: August 17, 2026

Document Status: Draft Update - New

2:120-E3 Exhibit - Resolution to Appoint a Delegate to the Illinois Association of School Boards Delegate Assembly

New/Unpublished Section

WHEREAS, the Board of Education of [*insert name of School District*] (Board) is an active member of the Illinois Association of School Boards (IASB);[C1]

WHEREAS, as an IASB member, the Board can appoint a delegate to attend and participate in IASB's Delegate Assembly (Delegate Assembly), which is held each year in conjunction with the Joint Annual Conference in Chicago, Illinois;

WHEREAS, at the Delegate Assembly, one delegate from each participating board may vote on resolutions submitted by member boards and any proposed amendments to the IASB Constitution;

WHEREAS, resolutions adopted by the Delegate Assembly become Position Statements which guide IASB's advocacy efforts and legislative agenda on behalf of its members;

WHEREAS, the Board believes it is important that its collective voice be heard at the Delegate Assembly;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board hereby:

1. Appoints [*insert Board member name*] to serve as the Board's delegate at the 20___ Delegate Assembly.
2. Appoints [*insert Board member name*] to serve as the Board's alternate delegate at the 20___ Delegate Assembly, should the delegate be unable to carry out their responsibilities.
3. Directs the appointed delegate to vote on the IASB resolutions and any proposed constitutional amendments at the 20___ Delegate Assembly (*choose one of the following*) [solely in accordance with the consensus reached by the Board at its meeting on [*insert date*]] *OR* [with their independent discretion based on the consensus of the Board at its meeting on [*insert date*] and any discussion had on each resolution].
4. The Board's consensus on the IASB resolutions and any proposed constitutional amendments at the 20___ Delegate Assembly shall be reflected in the Board's meeting minutes.

Adopted this _____ day of _____, 20___.

Attested by: _____, Board President

Attested by: _____, Board Secretary

Central CUSD 301

PRESSPlus Comments

C1. A new sample resolution is created to assist boards with annually appointing a delegate to the IASB Delegate Assembly (DA) and defining the delegate's authority to act on the board's behalf at the DA. This resolution is optional, and if customized and adopted by the board, is not required to be included in the board's policy manual. It is provided through your PRESS Plus dashboard for your convenience, and it can also be found at PRESS Online. **Issue 122, June 2026**

Document Status: Draft Update - Rewritten

Vacancies on the Board of Education - Filling Vacancies

2:70-E Exhibit - Checklist for Filling Board Vacancies by Appointment

The Board of Education fills a vacancy by either appointment or election.[C1] The Board uses this checklist for guidance when it must fill a vacancy by appointment. Some items contain guidelines along with explanations. For more information, see *Answers to FAQs: Vacancies on the Board of Education*, published by a committee of the Ill. Council of School Attorneys (ICSA), and available at: www.iasb.com/policy-services-and-school-law/guidance-and-resources/vacancies-on-the-board.

☐ **Confirm that the Board must fill the vacancy by appointment.**

Guidelines	Explanation
Review Board policy 2:70, *Vacancies on the Board of Education - Filling Vacancies*, to determine if a vacancy on the Board occurred and, if so, whether the successor will be selected by election or Board appointment. Consult the Board Attorney as needed.	Filling a vacancy by Board appointment or election depends upon when the vacancy occurred. If a vacancy occurs with less than: (1) 868 days remaining in the term of office, or (2) 88 days before the next regularly scheduled election for the vacant office, the Board selects an appointee to fill the vacancy, no election to fill the vacancy is held, and the appointee serves the remainder of the term. At all other times, an appointee serves until the next regular school election, at which election a successor is elected to serve the remainder of the unexpired term. See 105 ILCS 5/10-10.
In the event a seat on the board goes unfilled at an election, consult the Board Attorney to determine (1) how long the seat can be *held over* by the incumbent	The School Code partially addresses the concept of a *holdover seat* (a board member remaining in office past their term); it states: “no elective office…becomes vacant until the successor of the incumbent of such office has been appointed or elected, as the case may be, and qualified.” 105 ILCS 5/10-11.

member, and (2) the process by which the Board will fill the seat.	

☐ **Notify the Regional Superintendent of the vacancy within five days of its occurrence (105 ILCS 5/10-10).**

☐ **Develop a list of qualifications for appointment of a person to fill the vacancy.**

Guidelines	Explanation
At a minimum, a candidate must meet the following qualifications: • Be a United States citizen • Be at least 18 years of age • Be a resident of Illinois and the District for at least one year immediately preceding the appointment • Be a registered voter • Not be a child sex offender • Not hold an incompatible public office • Not have a prohibited interest in any contract with the District • Not be a school	While the School Code does not expressly set forth eligibility requirements for appointment to a Board vacancy, the Board may want to use the qualifications for elected Board members listed in 105 ILCS 5/10-3 (board of directors) or 5/10-10 (board of education). For guidance discussing other qualifications that the Board may want to consider, see IASB's *A School Board's Guide to Identifying, Recruiting, and Mentoring Future School Board Members*, available at: www.iasb.com/about-us/publications/pamphlets-and-tools/recruiting-school-board-members. For guidance regarding conflict of interest and incompatible offices, see *Answers to FAQs Regarding Conflict of Interest and Incompatible Offices* (ICSA), available at: www.iasb.com/policy-services-and-school-law/guidance-and-resources/answers-to-faqs-regarding-conflict-of-interest-and.

trustee • Not hold certain types of prohibited State or federal employment	
When additional qualifications apply, the following items may be included in the Board's list of qualifications: • Meet all qualifications based upon the distribution of population among congressional townships in the district • Meet all qualifications based upon the distribution of population among incorporated and unincorporated areas	Board members of some community unit school districts may be subject to historical residential qualifications based on the distribution of population among congressional townships in the district or between the district's incorporated and unincorporated areas. 105 ILCS 5/10-11. **Note:** If a vacancy for an area of residence remains unfilled, a board must submit a proposition at the next general election for the election of a board member at large. 105 ILCS 5/10-10.5(c).

☐ **Decide who will receive completed vacancy applications.**

Guidelines	Explanation
The Board President will	Who accepts vacancy applications is at the Board's sole discretion. According to Board policy 2:110, *Qualifications, Term, and Duties of Board Officers*, the Board President is a logical

accept applications. The Board will discuss, at an open meeting, its process to review the applications and who will contact applicants for an interview.	officer to accept the applications, but this task may be delegated to the Secretary or Superintendent's secretary if the Board determines that it is more convenient. Who accepts the applications must be decided prior to posting the vacancy announcement.

☐ **Create the Board member vacancy announcement.**

Announcement	Explanation
[*Insert District name*] Board Member Vacancy The School District is accepting applications to fill the vacancy resulting from [*reason for vacancy*] of [*former Board member's name*].	The contents of a vacancy announcement, how it is announced, and where it is posted are at the Board's sole discretion. The Board may want to announce the vacancy and its intent to fill it by appointment during an open meeting. The announcement may be posted on the District's website and in the local newspaper(s).
The individual selected will serve on the Board of Education from the date of appointment to [*date*].	The length of the appointment depends upon when during the term of office the vacancy occurred. See 105 ILCS 5/10-10 and Board policy 2:70, *Vacancies on the Board of Education - Filling Vacancies*, to determine the length of the appointment. Consult the Board Attorney as needed.
The School District [*School District's philosophy or mission statement*].	See Board policy 1:30, *School District Philosophy*, for the District's mission statement that is specific to the community's goals.
Applicants for the Board vacancy must be: [*Board's list of qualifications*].	See checklist item titled *Develop a list of qualifications for appointment of a person to fill the vacancy*, above.
Applicants should show familiarity with the Board's	Listing this along with the Board's list of qualifications assists candidates in understanding a Board

policies regarding general duties and responsibilities of a Board and a Board member, including fiduciary responsibilities, conflict of interest, ethics, and gift ban. The Board's policies are available at [*locations*].	member's duties and responsibilities and may facilitate a better conversation during the interview process. See Board policies: 2:20, *Powers and Duties of the Board of Education; Indemnification*; 2:80, *Board Member Oath and Conduct*; 2:100, *Board Member Conflict of Interest*; 2:105 *Ethics and Gift Ban*; and 2:120, *Board Member Development*.
Applications may be obtained at [*location and address and/ or website*] beginning on [*date and time*]. Completed applications may be turned in by [*date and time*] to [*name and title of person receiving applications*].	See action item titled *Decide who will receive completed vacancy applications,* above.

☐ **Publicize the vacancy announcement by placing it on the District's website, announcing it at a meeting, and/or advertising it in the local newspaper(s).**

☐ **Accept and review applications from prospective candidates (see *Decide who will receive completed vacancy applications*, above).**

☐ **Contact appropriate applicants for interviews (see *Decide who will receive completed vacancy applications*, above).**

☐ **Develop interview questions.**

Interview Questions	Explanation
Why do you want to be a Board member? What specific skills would you bring to the Board? Please give specific examples	Interview questions are at the Board's sole discretion. This list is not exhaustive, but it may help the Board tailor its questions toward finding a candidate who will approach Board membership with a clear understanding of its demands and expectations along with a constructive attitude toward the challenge. The Board may also want to consider allowing an equal amount of time for each interview.

of your ability in interpersonal relationships and teamwork. What do you see as the role of a Board member? What have you done to prepare yourself for the challenges of being a Board member? Please describe your previous community or nonprofit experiences. What areas in the District would you like to see the Board strengthen? What is your availability to meet the time, training commitments, and other responsibilities required for Board membership? Describe what legacy you would like to leave behind.	See IASB's *A School Board's Guide to Identifying, Recruiting, and Mentoring Future School Board Members,* available at: www.iasb.com/about-us/publications/pamphlets-and-tools/recruiting-school-board-members. A prospective candidate to fill a vacancy may raise other specific issues that the Board will want to cover during an interview.

☐ **Conduct interviews with candidates (interviews may occur in closed session pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(3)).**

Interview Plan	Explanation
In each interview, the Board President will: Introduce Board members to the candidate at the beginning of the interview. Describe the Board's interview process, selection process, anticipated timeline, and ask the candidate if he or she has questions about the Board's process for filling a vacancy by appointment. Describe the District's philosophy or mission statement. Describe the vacancy for the candidate by reviewing the: (1) qualifications, and (2) general duties and responsibilities of the Board and the Board members, including fiduciary responsibilities, conflict of interest, ethics and gift ban, and general Board member development. Begin asking the interview questions that the Board developed. Ask the candidate whether he or she has any questions for the Board. Thank the candidate and inform the candidate when the Board expects to make a decision and how the candidate will be contacted regarding the Board's decision.	The Board President will lead the Board as it interviews prospective candidates. See Board policy 2:110, *Qualifications, Term, and Duties of Board Officers*. The President presides at all meetings. 105 ILCS 5/10-13. The Board may also want to consider allowing an equal amount of time for each interview.

☐ **Fill vacancy by a vote during an open meeting of the Board before the 60th day (105 ILCS 5/10-10).**

☐ **Assist the appointed Board member in filing his or her statement of economic interest (5 ILCS 420/4A-105(c)).**

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

Announcement	Explanation
The Board appointed [*appointee's name*] to fill the vacancy on the Board. The appointment will be from [*date*] to [*date*]. The Board previously established qualifications for the appointee in a careful and thoughtful manner. [*Appointee's name*] meets these qualifications and has demonstrated the willingness to accept the duties and responsibilities of a Board member. [*Appointee's name*] brings a clear understanding of the demands and expectations of being a Board member along with a constructive attitude toward the challenge.	The contents of the appointment announcement and length of time it is displayed are at the Board's sole discretion. The Board may want to consider announcing the appointment during its meeting and also by posting it in the same places that it posted the vacancy announcement. See Board policy 8:10, *Connection with the Community*.

☐ **Administer the Oath of Office and begin orientation.**

Guidelines	Explanation
See Board policy 2:80, *Board Member Oath and Conduct*.	Each individual, before taking his or her seat on the Board, must take an oath in substantially the form given in 105 ILCS 5/10-16.5.
See Board policy 2:120, *Board Member Development*, and exhibit 2:120-E1, *Guidelines for Serving as a Mentor to a New Board of Education Member*.	Orientation assists new Board members to learn, understand, and practice effective governance principles. See the IASB *Foundational Principles of Effective Governance*, available at: www.iasb.com/training-and-events/training/training-resources/foundational-principles-of-effective-governance.

☐ **Inform IASB of the newly appointed Board member's name and directory information.** For instructions, see iasb.com/memberships-and-divisions/membership/member-database-instructions/how-to-update-your-district-roster.

PRESSPlus Comments

C1. Rewritten for PRESS Plus. Updates include corrections to obsolete links to IASB's website and other continuous improvement changes. A redlined version showing the changes made is available at PRESS Online by logging in at www.iasb.com. **Issue 122, June 2026**

Document Status: Draft Update - Rewritten

SECTION 7 - STUDENTS

7:330 Student Use of Buildings - Equal Access

For purposes of this Board policy, the District has established a *limited open forum* for high school students enrolled in the District.[C1] Each District high school shall offer an opportunity for student-led *noncurriculum related student groups* to meet on school premises during *noninstructional time*. Noncurriculum related student groups are those student groups, clubs, or organizations that do not directly relate to the curriculum. For purposes of this Board policy, a *non-school sponsored* noncurriculum related student group is a noncurriculum related student group that is student led.

A student group or club is *school sponsored* if the District approves the student group or club to have a paid adult sponsor to promote, participate, and/or lead its activities. However, assigning a teacher, administrator, or other school employee to supervise a meeting for custodial purposes, allowing groups to promote meetings, and providing access to resources as determined by the District do not constitute sponsorship of the student group or club, nor does it constitute the District's endorsement or agreement with the activity or the speech of the students who participate in the activity.

Extracurricular and co-curricular student groups or clubs that are school sponsored are governed by Board policy 6:190, *Extracurricular and Co-Curricular Activities*.

Student groups or clubs directed and controlled by non-school persons are governed by Board policy 8:20, *Community Use of School Facilities*.

Student-led noncurriculum related student groups or clubs that are not school sponsored are granted free use of school premises and/or access to school resources for a meeting or series of meetings under the following conditions:

1. The meeting is held during those noninstructional times identified by the Superintendent or designee for noncurriculum related student groups, clubs, or organizations to meet. *Noninstructional time* means time set aside by the school before actual classroom instruction begins or after actual classroom instruction ends.
2. All noncurriculum related student groups that are not school sponsored receive

substantially the same treatment.[C2]

3. The student group or club and the meeting are student-initiated, meaning that the request is made by a student, and the group or club is led by a student.[C3]
4. Student attendance at the meeting is voluntary.
5. The school and school employees will not promote, lead, participate in, or otherwise sponsor the meeting.
6. School employees are present at religious meetings only in a nonparticipatory capacity.
7. The meeting and/or any activities engaged in by the student group or club do not materially or substantially interfere with the orderly conduct of educational activities.
8. Non-school persons do not direct, conduct, control, or regularly attend the meetings.[C4]
9. The school retains its authority to maintain order and discipline.
10. A school staff member is present in a supervisory capacity.
11. The Superintendent or designee approves the use of school premises and/or access to school resources for a meeting or series of meetings.
12. The school requires neutral content generally limited to club/group name, meeting time(s), and location(s) as well as the approval of the Building Principal or designee for all advertisements, wall postings, or flyers.[C5]

The Superintendent or designee shall develop administrative procedures to implement this policy.

LEGAL REF.:

20 U.S.C. §4071 et seq., Equal Access Act.

Bd. of Ed. of Westside Community Sch. Dist. v. Mergens, 496 U.S. 226 (1990).

E.D. by Duell v. Noblesville Sch. Dist., 151 F.4th 907 (7th Cir. 2025).

Gernetzke v. Kenosha Unified Sch. Dist. No. 1, 274 F.3d 464 (7th Cir. 2001), *cert. denied*, 535 U.S. 1017.

CROSS REF.: 6:190 (Extracurricular and Co-Curricular Activities), 7:10 (Equal Educational Opportunities), 8:20 (Community Use of School Facilities), 8:25 (Advertising and Distributing Materials in Schools Provided by Non-School Related Entities)

PRESSPlus Comments

C1. This policy is rewritten based on feedback from the Ill. Council of School Attorneys to address the need for more guidance regarding what types of student-led groups are permitted free use of school premises under the Equal Access Act. Under the EAA, if a district with secondary school(s) has established a limited open forum, it is unlawful to deny equal access or a fair opportunity to, or discriminate against, any students who wish to conduct a *meeting* within that limited open forum on the basis of the religious, political, philosophical, or other content of the speech at such meetings. The term *meeting* under the EAA includes those activities of student groups which are permitted under a school's limited open forum and are not directly related to the school curriculum. This prohibition and definition under the EAA are the basis for the term of art *noncurriculum related student group*. See 20 U.S.C. §§4071(a) and 4072(3).

The policy is also updated due to recent case law updates, including E.D. by Duell v. Noblesville Sch. Dist., 151 F.4th 907 (7th Cir. 2025).

For more information, see the PRESS sample policy's footnotes, available at PRESS Online by logging in at www.iasb.com **Issue 122, June 2026**

C2. See also U.S. Dept. of Education *Guidance on Constitutionally Protected Prayer and Religious Expression in Public Elementary and Secondary Schools* (2026), available at: www.ed.gov/media/document/2026-guidance-constitutionally-protected-prayer-and-religious-expression-public-elementary-and-secondary-schools-113182.pdf. **Issue 122, June 2026**

C3. In E.D., the Court found no violation of the EAA where a school official decided to suspend a student anti-abortion club based on evidence that the club was partially run by the student's parent, and the student failed to follow the school's content-neutral flyer rules by including political messages. **Issue 122, June 2026**

C4. Bd. of Ed. of Westside Community Sch. Dist. v. Mergens, 496 U.S. 226, 236 (1990). **Issue 122, June 2026**

C5. The content-neutral restrictions contained in this item were upheld in E.D. The Court found, "[t]he District could reasonably conclude that covering its walls with warring political messages would undermine that order and divert attention from the business of learning."

This condition's application should be consistent with a board's adopted language in policy 8:25, *Advertising and Distributing Materials in Schools Provided by Non-School Related Entities.* **Issue 122, June 2026**