

5540.02 - SOCIAL NETWORKING WEBSITE ACCESS

Students and parents are advised that school officials may **not** request or require a student to provide a password or other related account information for a student's account or profile on a social networking website in order to gain access to the account or profile ~~if the school has reasonable cause to believe that the student's account contains evidence that the student has violated the Student Discipline policies (5600 series).~~ Students and parents are also advised that school officials may conduct an investigation, if there is specific information about activity on the student's account on a social networking website that violates the Student Discipline policies (5600 series). In the course of such an investigation, a student may be required to share the content that is reported so that the school may make a factual determination.

"Social networking website" means, "an Internet-based service that allows individuals to do the following:

- A. construct a public or semi-public profile within a bounded system created by the service;
- B. create a list of other users with whom they share a connection within the system, and;
- C. view and navigate their list of connections and those made by others within the system."

105 ILCS 75/1 et seq.

Adopted 4/14/14

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NEOLA's Explanation of the Change:

The Right to Privacy in a School Setting Act was amended to **prohibit a school from requesting or requiring a student to provide a password** or other requested account information regarding the student's account or profile on a social networking site. **It requires districts to notify students and parents/guardians that the district may conduct an investigation or require a student to cooperate in an investigation if there is specific information about activity on the student's account or social networking site that violates a school disciplinary rule or policy.** The changes to this policy include the required changes based on the amendment.

This revision reflects the current state of the law and is required to be adopted to maintain legally accurate policies.