



MEMO

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TO: District 44 Board of Education

FR: Deb Iversen, Executive Assistant to Superintendent of Schools/Board Secretary

RE: Press Plus Issue 120

DT: December 19, 2025

Draft Update

Policy 2:120 Board Member Development

The policy and footnotes are updated for continuous improvement. The footnotes are also updated in response to 105 ILCS 5/24-16.5, amended by P.A.104-20, making student growth an optional, rather than required, component of teacher evaluations.

Policy 2:150 Committees

The policy and footnotes are updated in response to 105 ILCS 5/10-20.14, amended by P.A. 104-430, requiring the parent-teacher advisory committee's guidelines for reciprocal reporting to address both civil and criminal offenses committed by students. The footnotes are also updated for continuous improvement.

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

The policy, Legal References, and footnotes are updated. The policy is updated for continuous improvement. The Legal References and footnotes are updated in response to P.A. 103-605, finalizing the citation to the Racism Free Schools Law, 105 ILCS 5/22-95. The footnotes are also updated in response to the Ill. Dept. of Human Rights (IDHR) Racism Free Schools model training program, available at: <https://dhr.illinois.gov/training/racism-free-schools>, and for continuous improvement.

Policy 4:10 Fiscal & Business Management

The policy and footnotes are updated in response to 105 ILCS 5/10-17, amended by P.A. 104-261, eff. 1-1-26, requiring a district to post on its website its statement of affairs by Dec. 1 each year, and making certain changes to the contents of the statement of affairs. The footnotes are also updated for continuous improvement.

Policy 4:30 Revenue & Investments

The policy and footnotes are updated in response to the Public Funds Investment Act, 30 ILCS 235/8, amended by P.A. 104-92, eff. 1-1-26, addressing deposit requirements for financial

institutions subject to the Ill. Community Reinvestment Act. Continuous improvement updates are also made to the footnotes.

Policy 4:80 Accounting & Audits

The policy, Legal References, and footnotes are updated. The policy and footnotes are updated in response to 105 ILCS 5/3-7, amended by P.A. 104-261, eff. 1-1-26, requiring school districts to submit copies of their Annual Financial Report (AFR) and audits to their regional superintendent of schools by Oct. 15 each year, and further requiring district audit firms to annually file district AFRs and audits with ISBE by Oct. 15, and for continuous improvement. The footnotes are also updated in response to 105 ILCS 5/3-15.1, amended by P.A. 104-261, eff. 1-1-26, removing the requirement for regional superintendents to annually file district AFRs with ISBE by Nov. 15. The Legal References are updated with a minor style change.

Policy 4:140 Waiver of Student Fees

The Legal References and footnotes are updated in response to:

1. 105 ILCS 5/27-815, renumbered by P.A. 104-391;
2. 105 ILCS 5/10-20.13, amended by P.A. 104-391, requiring districts to waive fees for textbooks and instructional materials when a student's parents/guardians are unable to afford them, and prohibiting any discrimination, punishment, or penalty of a student for an unpaid balance or because parents/guardians cannot pay fees or fines for lost school property, replacing in part 105 ILCS 5/28-19.2, repealed by P.A. 104-391; and
3. Continuous improvement.

Policy 4:190 Targeted School Violence Prevention Program

The Legal References, Cross References, and footnotes are updated. The Legal References are updated in response to 105 ILCS 5/22-110, renumbered by P.A. 104-391. The footnotes are updated in response to 105 ILCS 128/45, amended by P.A. 104-407, requiring ISBE to provide districts with threat assessment guidance. The Cross References are updated due to the renaming of 7:150, Agency and Law Enforcement Requests Police Interviews.

Policy 5:10 Equal Employment Opportunity & Minority Recruitment

The policy, Legal References, and footnotes are updated in response to the Victims' Economic Security and Safety Act, 820 ILCS 180/33, added by P.A. 104-171, eff. 1-1-26, prohibiting workplace discrimination and retaliation based on an employee's use of employer-issued equipment to record domestic violence, sexual violence, gender violence, or any other crime of violence committed against the employee or a family or household member of the employee. The footnotes are also updated in response to the Workplace Transparency Act (WTA), 820 ILCS 96/1-25, amended by P.A. 104-320, eff. 1-1-26, prohibiting employers from preventing employees from engaging in concerted union activities to address work-related issues as a condition of employment, and for continuous improvement.

Policy 5:90 Abused & Neglected Child Reporting

The policy, Cross References, and footnotes are updated in response to ANCRA, 325 ILCS 5/4.5, amended by P.A. 104-245, eff. 1-1-26, changing the term child pornography to child sexual abuse material, and to clarify the definition of electronic and information technology equipment from 325 ILCS 5/4.5(a). The footnotes are also updated in response to:

1. Dept. of Human Services Act, 20 ILCS 1305/1-17(b), amended by P.A. 103-752, expanding the authority of the Office of the Inspector General's investigations related to abuse allegations;
2. Criminal Code of 2012 (Criminal Code), 720 ILCS 5/11-25, amended by P.A. 104-320, eff. 1-1-26, specifying that grooming is perpetrated by someone five years or more older than a child, or holding a position of trust, authority or supervision in relation to the child at the time of the offense, and for continuous improvement.
3. 105 ILCS 21B-85, amended by P.A. 103-51, deleting references to the death penalty.

The Cross References are updated due to the renaming of 7:150, Agency and Law Enforcement Requests Police Interviews.

Policy 5:100 Staff Development Program

The policy and footnotes are updated in response to:

1. 105 ILCS 5/27-240, added by P.A. 104-391, replacing the citation to 105 ILCS 110/3.10, repealed by P.A. 104-391; and
2. 105 ILCS 5/27-115, renumbered by P.A. 104-391.

The footnotes are also updated in response to:

1. 105 ILCS 5/27-105, renumbered by P.A. 104-391; I
2. IDHR's Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) about Racism-Free Schools Training; and
3. Continuous improvement.

Policy 5:190 Teacher Qualifications

The policy is unchanged. The Legal References and footnotes are updated in response to 105 ILCS 5/21B-120, added by P.A. 104-111, eff. 1-1-26, establishing a short-term approval credential for teachers in accordance with rules developed by ISBE, and for continuous improvement.

Policy 5:200 Terms & Conditions of Employment & Dismissal

The policy and footnotes are updated in response to NMWA, 820 ILCS 260/10, amended by P.A. 104-76, eff. 1-1-26, requiring that an employee be compensated during a break to express breast milk. The footnotes are also updated for continuous improvement.

Policy 5:220 Substitute Teachers

The Legal References and footnotes are updated. The Legal References are updated in response to 105 ILCS 128/22, added by P.A. 104-198, eff. 1-1-26, requiring districts to provide all substitute personnel with: (1) training on school evacuation drills and law enforcement lockdown drills, and (2) support that includes, at a minimum, the information packet given to employees with district-approved materials outlining evacuation and lockdown procedures. Maps indicating all school exits must also be prominently displayed in every classroom. The footnotes are updated in response to 105 ILCS 5/21B-20(2)(E), amended by P.A. 103-617, allowing an individual who holds a valid career and technical educator endorsement on an Educator License with Stipulations but who does not hold a bachelor's degree to substitute teach in career and technical education classrooms, and for continuous improvement.

Policy 5:280 Duties & Qualifications

The policy and footnotes are updated for continuous improvement. The footnotes are also updated in response to IVC, 625 ILCS 5/6-106.1, amended by P.A. 104-256, eff. 7-1-26, updating the requirements for school bus driver permits issued by the Ill. Secretary of State.

Policy 5:300 Schedules & Employment

The policy and footnotes are updated for the reason stated in 5:200, Terms and Conditions of Employment and Dismissal, above.

Policy 6:20 School Year Calendar & Day

The policy, Legal References, and footnotes are updated in response to:

1. 105 ILCS 5/24-2(c), amended by P.A. 104-391, making commemorative holidays optional to observe and moving the last Friday in April (Arbor and Bird Day), October 9 (Leif Erikson Day), and the day immediately after Thanksgiving (Native American Heritage Day) to commemorative holidays;
2. 105 ILCS 5/27-20, repealed by P.A. 104-391, removing American Indian Day.
3. 105 ILCS 5/27-1025, renumbered by P.A. 104-391;
4. 105 ILCS 5/27-20.2, repealed by P.A. 104-391, removing Just Say No Day;
5. 105 ILCS 5/27-510, added by P.A. 104-391, and replacing in part 105 ILCS 5/27-3, repealed by P.A. 104-391, continuing to require the Pledge of Allegiance to be recited every day in elementary and secondary schools;
6. 105 ILCS 5/10-19.05, amended by P.A. 104-250, eff. 1-1-26, adding to the activities allowed to be counted toward the calculation of clock hours of school work;
7. 105 ILCS 5/2-3.206, added by P.A. 104-115, requiring by July 1 each year, ISBE must prominently post on its website and distribute to each school district a nonexhaustive list of days and dates of cultural, religious, or other observances for, at a minimum, the school year that begins in the next calendar year; and
8. Continuous Improvement

Policy 6:40 Curriculum Development

The policy, Legal References, Cross References, and footnotes are updated for continuous improvement. Footnote 1 is also updated in response to *Mahmoud v. Taylor*, 145 S.Ct. 2332 (2025), holding that classroom instruction will burden parents' religious free exercise rights if it requires their children to submit to instruction "that poses 'a very real threat of undermining' the religious beliefs and practices that the parents wish to instill."

Policy 6:60 Curriculum Content

The policy, Legal References and footnotes are updated in response to:

1. P.A. 104-391, renumbering, reorganizing, and repealing citations throughout 105 ILCS 5/27 (substantive changes detailed below);
2. 105 ILCS 5/27-215, added by P.A. 104-391 and replacing, in part, the Comprehensive Health Education Program, 105 ILCS 110/3, repealed by P.A. 104-391;
3. 105 ILCS 5/27-510, added by P.A. 104-391 and replacing in part 105 ILCS 5/27- 3 and 5/27-3.10, both repealed by P.A. 104-391, requiring instruction on patriotism, principles of representative government, and elementary civics education to be provided as part of civics education for students in grades 6, 7, or 8, and requiring instruction on the method of voting

at elections by means of the Australian ballot system be included in civics education in grades 6-8 (formerly grades were not specified for this topic and the method of counting votes for candidates is no longer a required topic);

4. 105 ILCS 5/27-605, amended by P.A. 104-387, and renumbered by P.A. 104-391, allowing students to choose one year of ~~vocational~~ career and technical education to meet high school graduation requirements;
5. 105 ILCS 5/27-255, added by P.A. 104-391, requiring specific drug abuse prevention education in grades K-4, 5-12, and 6-12. This new section replaces, in part, 105 ILCS 5/27-13.2 and the Comprehensive Health Education Program, 105 ILCS 110/3, both repealed by P.A. 104-391;
6. 105 ILCS 5/27-405(b), added by P.A. 104-391, requiring age- and developmentally appropriate online safety instruction for grades 3-8 beginning in the 2027-2028 school year;
7. 105 ILCS 5/27-12, repealed by P.A. 104-391, eliminating the requirement that character education be taught;
8. 105 ILCS 5/27-105, added by P.A. 104-391, replacing the provision on the dangers of abduction formerly at 105 ILCS 5/27-13.2, repealed by P.A. 104-391, and no longer specifying that such education be provided annually in grades K-8;
9. 105 ILCS 5/27-250, added by P.A. 104-391, requiring students in grades 9-12 receive training on CPR and use of an AED (grades not previously specified for CPR training);
10. 105 ILCS 5/27-405, added by P.A. 104-391, requiring media literacy and Internet safety instruction in grades 9-12 beginning in the 2027-2028 school year (consolidating and amending media literacy and internet safety instruction under 105 ILCS 5/27-410 and 415, both renumbered by P.A. 104-391 and scheduled for repeal on 7-1-27);
11. 105 ILCS 5/27-3.5, repealed by P.A. 104-391, removing the requirement to show students a Congressional Medal of Honor film in grade 7 and high school history courses.

The footnotes are also updated in response to:

1. 105 ILCS 5/2-3.206, added by P.A. 104-399, eff. 1-1-26, encouraging districts to collect K-8 teaching resources to support American Sign Language programs;
2. 105 ILCS 5/14D, added by P.A. 104-266, eff. 1-1-26, requiring ISBE to: (1) provide guidance to districts on dual language education programs, (2) integrate dual language education into the Equity Journey Continuum, and (3) establish recognition pathways for biliteracy in certain grades before high school;
3. 105 ILCS 5/27-515, amended and renumbered by P.A. 104-391, requiring not less than one hour of each school week, or an amount of time equal to one hour per school week through the school year, to be spent on the study of patriotism, principles of representative government, and elementary civics education in grades 7-8;
4. 105 ILCS 5/27-1020, amended and renumbered by P.A. 104-391, removing the 16-hour instruction requirement for safety education, if offered by a board;
5. ISBE's Native American and Indigenous Peoples Resource Guide (March 2025), assisting districts with implementation of instruction on Native American history;
6. 105 ILCS 5/27-1030, renumbered by P.A. 104-391, allowing districts to include a unit of instruction on the Irish Famine (see Footnote 48 for a new option to list such instruction if a board offers it); and
7. Continuous improvement.

Policy 6:130 Program for the Gifted

The policy, Legal References, and footnotes are updated. The policy and Legal References are updated in response to 105 ILCS 5/14A, amended by P.A.104-129, eff. 1-1-26, removing references to State funding for gifted programs and related requirements. The footnotes are also updated for continuous improvement.

Policy 6:160 English Learners

The policy and footnotes are updated for continuous improvement. The footnotes are also updated in response to 105 ILCS 5/14C-3, amended by P.A.104-261, eff. 1-1-26, addressing requirements for transitional bilingual education.

Policy 6:210 Instructional Materials

The policy is unchanged. The footnotes are updated for the reasons stated in 6:40, Curriculum Development, above. Additionally, an option is added to footnote 5 for boards that only wish to approve primary instructional materials, rather than all instructional materials.

Policy 6:220 Bring Your Own Technology (BYOT) Program; Responsible Use & Conduct

The policy, Legal References, Cross References, and footnotes are updated for continuous improvement. The footnotes are also updated in response to:

1. 105 ILCS 5/27-410, renumbered by P.A. 104-391, and scheduled to be repealed on 7-1-27, and 105 ILCS 5/27-405, added by P.A. 104-391, addressing media literacy and internet safety instruction;
2. 105 ILCS 5/10-20.13, amended by P.A. 104-391, requiring districts to waive fees for textbooks and instructional materials when a student's parents/guardians are unable to afford them; and
3. Continuous improvement.

Policy 6:260 Complaints About Curriculum, Instructional Materials, & Programs

The Legal References and footnotes are updated for the reasons stated in 6:40, Curriculum Development, above, above.

Policy 7:10 Equal Educational Opportunities

The Legal References, Cross References, and footnotes are updated in response to 105 ILCS 5/22-105(c)(1-3), added by P.A. 104-288, eff. 1-1-26, codifying *Plyler v. Doe*, 457 U.S. 202 (1982), prohibiting districts from taking any action that would deny a child free public education based on the child's or their parent's/guardian's actual or perceived citizenship or immigration status, and requiring districts to establish a policy and procedures regarding agency and law enforcement requests, to ensure this right is preserved. The footnotes are also updated for continuous improvement.

Policy 7:70 Attendance & Truancy

The policy, Legal References, and footnotes are updated in response to 105 ILCS 5/10-19.05(k), amended by P.A. 104-250, eff. 1-1-26, requiring an approval process for students to attend allowable activities by the beginning of the 2026-2027 school year. The policy and footnotes are also updated in response to 105 ILCS 5/26-12, amended by P.A. 104-430, prohibiting school

personnel from referring a truant, chronic truant, or truant minor to any other local public entity, school resource officer, or peace officer to issue a fine/fee as punishment

Policy 7:180 Prevention of & Response to Bullying, Intimidation, & Harrassment

The policy, Legal References, and footnotes are updated in response to 105 ILCS 5/22-110, amended by P.A. 104-338, eff. 7-1-26, and renumbered by P.A.104-391, expanding the bullying definition to prohibit posting or distributing sexually explicit images and, beginning in the 2026-2027 school year, expanding the cyberbullying definition to prohibit posting or distributing an unauthorized digital replica. The policy and footnotes are also updated in response to 23 III. Admin.Code §1.295(c)(2), requiring updated bullying policies submitted to ISBE to contain the date of adoption.

Policy 7:190 Student Behavior

The policy and footnotes are updated in response to 105 ILCS 5/10-27.1A(b), amended by P.A. 104-174, requiring parent/guardian notification when a student allegedly threatens firearm violence. The footnotes are further updated in response to:

1. 105 ILCS 5/10-22.6(i), amended by P.A. 104-430, prohibiting issuing student a monetary fine, fee, ticket, or citation as a school-based disciplinary consequence or for a municipal code violation on school grounds during school hours or while taking school transportation;
2. 105 ILCS 5/26-12(b), amended by P.A. 104-430, prohibiting school personnel from referring a truant, chronic truant, or truant minor to any other local public entity, school resource officer, or peace officer to issue a fine/fee as punishment;
3. 105 ILCS 5/10-20.68, amended by P.A. 104-430, requiring that beginning 7-1-26, districts that use a school resource officer have a memorandum of understanding with a local law enforcement agency;
4. 105 ILCS 5/22-110, amended by P.A. 104-338 and renumbered by P.A. 104-391 (previously 105 ILCS 5/27-23.7), incorporating by reference the definition of artificial intelligence from the Digital Voice and Likeness Protection Act, 815 ILCS 550/, and expanding the definitions of bullying and cyberbullying; and
5. Continuous improvement.

The Cross References are updated due to the renaming of 7:150, Agency and Law Enforcement Requests Police Interviews.

Policy 7:290 Suicide & Depression Awareness & Prevention

The policy, Legal References, and footnotes are updated in response to:

1. 105 ILCS 5/27-215, added by P.A. 104-391, requiring education for students on mental health and illness;
2. 105 ILCS 5/27-215, added by P.A. 104-391, adding student protocols for administering youth suicide awareness and prevention education;
3. 105 ILCS 5/10-20.81, amended by P.A. 104-264, eff. 1-1-26, requiring districts to insert the same contact information for suicide prevention helplines required for student ID cards on employee ID cards for employees serving any of grades 6 through 12; and
4. Continuous improvement.

Policy 7:310 Restrictions on Publications; Elementary Schools

The Legal References and footnotes are updated in response to 105 ILCS 5/22-110, renumbered by P.A. 104-391. The footnotes are also updated in response to 105 ILCS 5/22-110, amended by P.A. 104-338, eff. 7-1-26, incorporating by reference the definition of artificial intelligence from the Digital Voice and Likeness Protection

Policy 7:340 Student Records

The policy and footnotes are updated for continuous improvement. The footnotes are also updated in response to:

1. Ill. School Student Records Act (ISSRA), 105 ILCS 10/2, amended by P.A. 104-356, eff. 7-1-26, revising the definition of student permanent record to include a summary of performance for students that received special education services, and permitting the Ill. Dept. of Human Services (IDHS) to access a student's records without consent for the purpose of assessing or evaluating a student's eligibility for Medicaid waiver benefits.;
2. 105 ILCS 5/22-105(c)(4)(B), added by P.A. 104-288, eff. 1-1-26, prohibiting districts from designating place of birth as directory information; and
3. The renaming of 7:150, Agency and Law Enforcement Requests Police Interviews.

Policy 8:30 Visitors to & Conduct on School Property

The policy, Legal References, and footnotes are updated. The policy and footnotes are updated for continuous improvement. The Legal References are updated in response to 105 ILCS 5/22-110, renumbered by P.A. 104-391. The footnotes are also updated in response to the Criminal Code, 720 ILCS 5/11-9.3(d), amended by P.A. 104-245, eff. 1-1-26, revising the definition of sex offense as it relates to the broader definition of child sex offender.

Draft Update - Rewritten

Policy 7:150 Agency & Law Enforcement Requests

RENAME AND REWRITTEN. This policy is renamed and rewritten in response to 105 ILCS 5/22-105, added by P.A. 104-288, eff. 1-1-26, requiring districts to establish a policy by 7-1-26 regarding agency and law enforcement requests at school, and for continuous improvement.

Review & Monitoring

Policy 6:280 Grading & Promotion

The policy is unchanged. The footnotes are updated in response to 105 ILCS 5/10-20.9a, amended by P.A. 104-391, deleting the now-expired provision that prohibited withholding a student's grades, transcripts, or diploma because of an unpaid balance on the student's school account.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board of Education adopt the suggested changes.