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General Personnel

Equal Employment Opportunity and Minority Recruitment 1

The School District shall provide equal employment opportunities² to all persons regardless of their race; color; creed; religion;³ national origin; sex;⁴ sexual orientation;⁵ age;⁶ ancestry; marital status;⁷

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

¹ Federal and State law (see the policy's Legal References) require that all districts have a policy on equal employment opportunities and control this policy's content. This is a complex, confusing, and highly litigated area of the law; consult the board attorney for advice on the application of these laws to specific fact situations.

² *Equal employment opportunities* apply to virtually all terms and conditions of employment, e.g., discharge, hire, promotion, pay, demotion, and benefits (see the policy's Legal References). The Ill. Constitution protects the following categories from discrimination in employment: race, color, creed, national ancestry, sex, and handicap. Art. I, §§17, 18, and 19. The Ill. Human Rights Act (IHRA) protects the following categories from discrimination in employment, *whether actual or perceived*: race, color, religion, sex, national origin, ancestry, age, marital status, physical or mental disability, military status, order of protection status, sexual orientation, pregnancy, unfavorable discharge from military service, and citizenship status. 775 ILCS 5/1-102 and 5/1-103, amended by P.A. 101-221, eff. 1-1-20. [Beginning 7-1-20, the IHRA requires employers to annually disclose to the Ill. Dept. of Human Rights \(IDHR\) certain information about adverse judgments and administrative rulings where there was a finding of sexual harassment or unlawful discrimination under any federal, State, or local law, as well as data regarding settlement agreements, if requested by an IDHR investigator. 775 ILCS 5/2-108, added by P.A. 101-221, eff. 1-1-20 and scheduled to be repealed on 1-1-30.](#)

The Equal Employment Opportunities Act (EEOA, a/k/a Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964) prohibits discrimination because of an individual's race, color, religion, sex, or national origin. 42 U.S.C. §2000e *et seq.*, amended by The Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act of 2009 (LLFPA), Pub.L. 111-2.

[Under the Workplace Transparency Act \(WTA\) \(820 ILCS 96/, added by P.A. 101-221, eff. 1-1-20\), employers may not, as a condition of employment or continued employment, prevent prospective or current employees from making truthful statements or disclosures about alleged unlawful employment practices, including discrimination. Id. at 96/1-25.](#)

The LLFPA clarifies that a discriminatory compensation decision or other practice occurs each time an employee is paid or receives a last benefits check pursuant to the discriminatory compensation decision as opposed to only from the time when the discriminatory compensation decision or other practice occurred. The Act has no legislative history available to define what the phrase *or other practice* might mean beyond a discriminatory compensation decision.

The Ill. Equal Pay Act of 2003 (EPA) offers additional protection by prohibiting the payment of wages to one sex less than the opposite sex or to an African-American less than a non-African-American *for the same or substantially similar work*. 820 ILCS 112/, amended by P.A. 100-1140 and 101-177. The Ill. Dept. of Labor (IDOL) enforces the EPA. [The EPA also prohibits employers from requesting or requiring applicants to disclose wage or salary history as a condition of being considered for employment or as a condition of employment. Id. at 112/10\(b-5\), added by P.A. 101-177. If an applicant voluntarily offers such information without prompting, an employer still cannot use that information in making an offer or determining future pay. See 5:30-AP1, Interview Questions, for sample permissible inquiries on this topic. Employers may seek wage or salary history from an applicant's current or former employer if that information is a matter of public record under the Freedom of Information Act; however, districts that wish to undertake such searches should exercise caution; the fact a district seeks out publicly available wage information could still be used against it in a pay discrimination claim. Id. at 112/10\(b-10\), added by P.A. 101-177. Consult the board attorney for further guidance.](#)

While not exhaustive, other laws protecting these and additional classifications are named in subsequent footnotes.

³ 775 ILCS 5/2-102 of the IHRA, amended by P.A. 100-100, contains a new *religious discrimination* subsection. It expressly prohibits employers from requiring a person to violate a sincerely held religious belief to obtain or retain employment unless, after engaging in a bona fide effort, the employer demonstrates that it is unable to reasonably accommodate the employee's or prospective employee's sincerely held religious belief, practice, or observance without undue hardship on the conduct of the employer's business. Religious beliefs include, but are not limited to: the wearing of any attire, clothing, or facial hair in accordance with the requirements of his/her religion. 775 ILCS 5/2-102(E-5). Employers may, however, enact a dress code or grooming policy that restricts attire, clothing, or facial hair to maintain workplace safety or food sanitation. *Id.*

In addition to the IHRA and the federal EEOA (discussed in *f/n* 2), see 775 ILCS 35/, Religious Freedom Restoration Act.

⁴ In addition to the IHRA and the federal EEOA (discussed in *f/n* 2), see Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972. 20 U.S.C. §1681 *et seq.* The federal Equal Pay Act prohibits an employer from paying persons of one sex less than the wage paid to persons of the opposite sex for equal work. 29 U.S.C. §206(d). See *f/n* 2 above for more information on State equal pay protections, including on the basis of sex. The LLFPA defines *date of underpayment* as each time wages are underpaid. Employees have one year from the time they become aware of the underpayment to file a complaint with the IDOL. 820 ILCS 112/15(b).

⁵ *Sexual orientation* means actual or perceived heterosexuality, homosexuality, bisexuality, or gender-related identity; it does not include a physical or sexual attraction to a minor by an adult. 775 ILCS 5/1-103(O-1).

⁶ Age Discrimination in Employment Act (ADEA) (29 U.S.C. §621 *et seq.*), amended by LLFPA (see *f/n* 2). 29 C.F.R. Part 1625, amended the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) regulations under ADEA to reflect the U.S. Supreme Court's decision in *General Dynamic Systems, Inc. v. Cline*, 540 U.S. 581 (2004), holding the ADEA to permit employers to favor older workers because of age. Thus, favoring an older person over a younger person is not unlawful discrimination, even when the younger person is at least 40 years old.

arrest record;⁸ military status; order of protection status;⁹ unfavorable military discharge;¹⁰ citizenship status provided the individual is authorized to work in the United States;¹¹ use of lawful products while not at work;¹² being a victim of domestic [violence](#), ~~or~~ sexual violence, [or gender violence](#);¹³ genetic information;¹⁴ physical or mental handicap or disability, if otherwise able to perform the essential functions of the job with reasonable accommodation;¹⁵ pregnancy, childbirth, or related medical conditions;¹⁶ credit history, unless a satisfactory credit history is an established bona

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⁷ 105 ILCS 5/10-22.4 and 775 ILCS 5/1-103(Q), [amended by P.A. 101-221, eff. 1-1-20](#). The term *marital status* means an individual's legal status of being married, single, separated, divorced, or widowed. 775 ILCS 5/1-103(J). This statutory definition does not encompass the identity of one's spouse. Thus, school districts may adopt no-spouse policies. *Boaden v. Dept. of Law Enforcement*, 171 Ill.2d 230 (Ill. 1996).

⁸ Districts may not make employment decisions on the basis of arrest history, but may use job-disqualifying criminal convictions. 775 ILCS 5/2-103. The Job Opportunities for Qualified Applicants Act prohibits an employer from asking about a criminal record until the employer determines that the applicant is qualified for the position; however, this does not apply when employers are required to exclude applicants with certain criminal convictions from employment. School employers should limit their requests for criminal convictions to *job-disqualifying* convictions. 820 ILCS 75/15. See also the EEOC's guidance, *Consideration of Arrest and Conviction Records in Employment Decisions*, at: www.eeoc.gov/laws/guidance/arrest_conviction.cfm.

⁹ 775 ILCS 5/1-103(Q), [amended by P.A. 101-221, eff. 1-1-20](#). The term *order of protection status* means a person protected under an order of protection issued pursuant to the Ill. Domestic Violence Act of 1986 or an order of protection issued by a court of another state. 775 ILCS 5/1-103(K-5).

¹⁰ *Military status* means a person's status on active duty or in status as a veteran in the U.S. Armed Forces, veteran of any reserve component of U.S. Armed Forces, or current member or veteran of the Ill. Army National Guard or Ill. Air National Guard. 775 ILCS 5/1-103(J-1). *Unfavorable military discharge* does **not** include those characterized as RE-4 or *dishonorable*. 775 ILCS 5/1-103(P). The Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act of 1994 prohibits employers from discriminating or retaliating against any person for reasons related to past, present, or future service in a *uniformed service*. 38 U.S.C. §4301 *et seq.*

¹¹ 775 ILCS 5/1-102(C). According to the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986, all employers must verify that employees are either U.S. citizens or authorized to work in the U.S. 8 U.S.C. §1324(a) *et seq.*

¹² The Right to Privacy in the Workplace Act prohibits discrimination based on use of lawful products, e.g., alcohol, [cannabis](#), and tobacco, off premises during non-working hours. 820 ILCS 55/5, [amended by P.A. 101-27](#).

¹³ 820 ILCS 180/30, [amended by P.A. 101-221, eff. 1-1-20](#), Victims' Economic Security and Safety Act. [Gender violence means: \(1\) one or more acts of violence or aggression that are a criminal offense under State law committed, at least in part, on the basis of a person's actual or perceived sex or gender, \(2\) a physical intrusion or invasion of a sexual nature under coercive conditions that is a criminal offense under State law, or \(3\) a threat to commit one of these acts.](#) 820 ILCS 180/10(12.5), [added by P.A. 101-221, eff. 1-1-20](#). An employer is prohibited from discriminating against any individual, ~~(e.g. an applicant for employment,)~~ because he or she "is an employee whose employer is subject to Section 21 of the Workplace Violence Prevention Act." The Workplace Violence Prevention Act allows an employer to seek a *workplace protection restraining order* when there is a credible threat of violence at the workplace. 820 ILCS 275/. Section 21 requires the employer seeking a *workplace protection restraining order* to notify the employee who is a victim of unlawful violence. 820 ILCS 275/21.

¹⁴ Illinois' Genetic Information [Protection-Privacy Act](#) (GIPA) (410 ILCS 513/25) and Title II of Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act (GINA) (42 U.S.C. §2000ff *et seq.*). Both laws protect job applicants and current and former employees from discrimination based on their genetic information. Note that GIPA provides greater protections to Illinois employees than Title II of GINA. GIPA, amended by P.A. 100-396, prohibits employers from penalizing employees who do not disclose genetic information or do not choose to participate in a program requiring disclosure of the employee's genetic information. See *f/n 12 in 2:260, Uniform Grievance Procedure* for the definition of genetic information and a detailed description of both statutes, including of Title I of GINA affecting the use of genetic information in health insurance. In 2011, the EEOC published an informative guidance letter, *ADA & GINA: Incentives for Workplace Wellness Program* at: www.eeoc.gov/eeoc/foia/letters/2011/ada_gina_incentives.html. [But the EEOC vacated certain 2016 ADA and GINA wellness program regulations following an adverse court ruling.](#) 83 Fed. Reg. 65296. [Those rules provided guidance to employers on the extent to which they could use incentives \(such as discounted health plan costs\) to encourage employees to participate in wellness programs that asked for employee and family health information.](#) Consult the board attorney for guidance regarding specific application of [these laws ADA and GINA](#) and how they integrate with other related laws, e.g., the Family Medical Leave Act, the Americans with Disabilities Act, and other State laws governing time off for sickness and workers' compensation.

¹⁵ Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) (42 U.S.C. §12101 *et seq.*), amended by the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act of 2008 (ADAAA) (Pub. L. 110-325) and modified by the LFFPA; Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. §7091 *et seq.*).

¹⁶ 775 ILCS 5/2-102(I). Employers must provide reasonable accommodations to employees with conditions related to pregnancy, childbirth, or related conditions. 775 ILCS 5/2-102(J). Employers are required to post a notice summarizing the right to be free from unlawful discrimination and the right to certain reasonable accommodations. 775 ILCS 5/2-102(K). The IDOL is required to prepare such a notice, retrievable from its website, which employers may use.

Federal law also prohibits employers from discriminating against employees and applicants on the basis of pregnancy, childbirth, or related medical conditions. 42 U.S.C. §2000e(k). [State law also prohibits the State, which includes school districts, from interfering with or discriminating against an individual's fundamental right to continue a pregnancy or to have an abortion.](#) 775 ILCS 55/, [added by P.A. 101-13](#). Pregnant workers with pregnancy-related impairments may have disabilities for which they may be entitled to reasonable accommodation under the ADA. Guidance from the EEOC (7-14-14) is available at: www.eeoc.gov/laws/guidance/pregnancy_qa.cfm.

fide occupational requirement of a particular position;¹⁷ or other legally protected categories.^{18 19 20}
²¹ No one will be penalized solely for his or her status as a registered qualifying patient or a registered designated caregiver for purposes of the Compassionate Use of Medical Cannabis Pilot Program Act, 410 ILCS 130/. ²²

Persons who believe they have not received equal employment opportunities should report their claims to the Nondiscrimination Coordinator and/or a Complaint Manager for the Uniform Grievance Procedure. These individuals are listed below. No employee or applicant will be discriminated or retaliated against because he or she: (1) requested, attempted to request, used, or attempted to use a reasonable accommodation as allowed by the Illinois Human Rights Act, or (2) initiated a complaint, was a witness, supplied information, or otherwise participated in an investigation or proceeding involving an alleged violation of this policy or State or federal laws, rules or regulations, provided the employee or applicant did not make a knowingly false accusation nor provide knowingly false information. ²³

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¹⁷ 820 ILCS 70/, Employee Credit Privacy Act. Unless a satisfactory credit history is an *established bona fide occupational requirement* of a particular position, an employer may not: (1) refuse to hire, discharge, or otherwise discriminate against an individual with respect to employment because of the individual's credit history or credit report; (2) inquire about an applicant's or employee's credit history; or (3) order or obtain an applicant's or employee's credit report from a consumer reporting agency. The Act identifies circumstances that permit a satisfactory credit history to be a job requirement, such as, the position's duties include custody of or unsupervised access to cash or marketable assets valued at \$2,500 or more.

¹⁸ Insert the following optional sentence (775 ILCS 5/1-103(a) and 29 U.S.C. §631):

Age, as used in this policy, means the age of a person who is at least 40 years old.

¹⁹ Insert the following optional provision (29 U.S.C. §705(10)(A)-(B), (20)(C)(v), (20)(D) and 42 U.S.C. §12114):

Handicap and disability, as used in this policy, excludes persons:

1. Currently using illegal drugs;
2. Having a currently contagious disease or infection and who, by reason of such disease or infection, would constitute a direct threat to the health or safety of other individuals or who, by reason of the currently contagious disease or infection, are unable to perform the duties of the job; or
3. Whose current alcohol use prevents them from performing the job's duties or constitutes a direct threat to the property or safety of others.

Persons who have successfully completed or are participating in a drug rehabilitation program are considered *disabled*.

²⁰ Districts may not make residency in the district a condition of employment for teachers or educational support personnel. 105 ILCS 5/24-4.1, 5/10-23.5. This ban on residency requirements for teachers applies only to instructional personnel, and not, for example, to assistant principals. *Owen v. Kankakee Sch. Dist.*, 261 Ill.App.3d 298 (3rd Dist. 1994). Districts also may not ask an applicant, or the applicant's previous employer, whether the applicant ever received, or filed a claim for, benefits under the Workers' Compensation Act or Workers' Occupational Diseases Act. 820 ILCS 55/10(a). Districts are also prohibited from requiring, requesting, or coercing an employee or potential employee to provide a user name and password or any password or other related account information to gain or demand access to his or her personal online account. 820 ILCS 55/10(b), amended by P.A. 99-640. While the law does not prohibit employers from viewing public information, consult the board attorney before engaging in this practice.

²¹ School districts must accommodate mothers who choose to continue breastfeeding after returning to work. See 740 ILCS 137/, Right to Breastfeed Act; 820 ILCS 260/, amended by P.A. 100-1003, Nursing Mothers in the Workplace Act (NMWA); and 29 U.S.C. §207(r), Fair Labor Standards Act. [At least one court has ruled an implied private right of action may exist under the NMWA. *Spriessch v. City of Chicago*, 2017 WL 4864913 \(N.D.Ill. 2017\).](#) See sample language for a personnel handbook in 5:10-AP, *Workplace Accommodations for Nursing Mothers*.

²² 410 ILCS 130/40, amended by P.A. 101-363, eff. 1-1-20 and scheduled to be repealed on 7-1-20; 77 Ill.Admin.Code Part 946. To legally use medical cannabis, an individual must first become a *registered qualifying patient*. Their use of cannabis, (e.g. permissible locations,) is governed by the Compassionate Use of Medical Cannabis Pilot Program Act. 410 ILCS 130/, amended by P.A.s 100-660 and 101-363, eff. 1-1-20. There are many situations in which no one, even a registered qualifying patient, may possess or use cannabis except as provided under *Ashley's Law* (105 ILCS 5/22-33, added by P.A. 100-660), including in a school bus or on the grounds of any preschool, or primary or secondary school. 410 ILCS 130/30(a)(2)(3), amended by P.A. 100-660. See policy 5:50, *Drug- and Alcohol-Free Workplace; E-Cigarette, Tobacco, and Cannabis Prohibition*, at ¶n 9 for further discussion.

²³ 775 ILCS 5/6-101. Discrimination on the basis of a request for or use of a reasonable accommodation is a civil rights violation under the IHRA. *Id.* Most discrimination laws prohibit retaliation against employees who oppose practices made unlawful by those laws, including, for example, the EEOA, Title IX, ADA, ADEA, Victims' Economic Security and Safety Act, the EPA, and the Ill. Whistleblower Act (IWA).

Administrative Implementation

The Superintendent shall appoint a Nondiscrimination Coordinator for personnel who shall be responsible for coordinating the District's nondiscrimination efforts. The Nondiscrimination Coordinator may be the Superintendent or a Complaint Manager for the Uniform Grievance Procedure. The Superintendent shall insert into this policy the names, addresses, and telephone numbers of the District's current Nondiscrimination Coordinator and Complaint Managers. ²⁴

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The ~~Ill. Whistleblower Act (IWA)~~ IWA specifically prohibits employers from retaliating against employees for: (1) disclosing information to a government or law enforcement agency, where the employee has reasonable cause to believe that the information discloses a violation of a State or federal law, rule, or regulation (740 ILCS 174/15(b)); (2) disclosing information in a court, an administrative hearing, or before a legislative commission or committee, or in any other proceeding where the employee has reasonable cause to believe that the information reveals a violation of a State or federal law, rule or regulation (740 ILCS 174/15(a)); (3) refusing to participate in an activity that would result in a violation of a State or federal law, rule, or regulation, including, but not limited to, violations of the Freedom of Information Act (740 ILCS 174/20); and (4) disclosing or attempting to disclose public corruption or wrongdoing (740 ILCS 174/20.1). The definition of retaliation is expanded to include *other retaliation* and *threatening retaliation*. 740 ILCS 174/20.1, 20.2.

The Ill. False Claims Act defines *State* to include school districts. 740 ILCS 175/2(a). Thus, boards may seek a penalty from a person for making a false claim for money or property. 740 ILCS 175/4. For information regarding the IWA and the tort of retaliatory discharge. See *Thomas v. Guardsmark*, 487 F.3d 531 (7th Cir. 2007)(discussing the elements of retaliatory discharge and IWA); *Sherman v. Kraft General Foods, Inc.*, 272 Ill.App.3d 833 (4th Dist. 1995)(finding employee who reported asbestos hazard had a cause of action for retaliatory discharge).

²⁴ Title IX regulations require districts to identify the name, address, and telephone number of the person who is responsible for coordinating the district's compliance efforts. The U.S. Dept. of Education's Office for Civil Rights prefers that school districts make Title IX information and coordinators visible to the community, and it has provided materials designed to remind schools of their obligation to designate a Title IX coordinator. These materials include: (a) a *Dear Colleague Letter on Title IX Coordinators*; (b) a *Letter to Title IX Coordinators* that provides them with more information about their role; and (c) a *Title IX Resource Guide* that includes an overview of Title IX's requirements with respect to several key issues. See www2.ed.gov/policy/rights/guid/ocr/title-ix-coordinators.html.

While the names and contact information are required by law to be listed, they are not part of the adopted policy and do not require board action. This allows for additions and amendments to the names and contact information when necessary. It is important for updated names and contact information to be inserted into this policy and regularly monitored.

Nondiscrimination Coordinator 25:

Name

Address

Email

Telephone

Complaint Managers:

Name

Address

Email

Telephone

Name

Address

Email

Telephone

The Superintendent shall also use reasonable measures to inform staff members and applicants that the District is an equal opportunity employer, such as, by posting required notices and including this policy in the appropriate handbooks. ²⁶

Minority Recruitment ²⁷

The District will attempt to recruit and hire minority employees. The implementation of this policy may include advertising openings in minority publications, participating in minority job fairs, and recruiting at colleges and universities with significant minority enrollments. This policy, however, does not require or permit the District to give preferential treatment or special rights based on a protected status without evidence of past discrimination.

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²⁵ Sample policy 2:260, *Uniform Grievance Procedure*, states that a district's Nondiscrimination Coordinator also serves as its Title IX Coordinator. Best practice is that throughout the district's board policy manual, the same individual be named as Nondiscrimination Coordinator. In contrast, Complaint Managers identified in individual policies may vary depending upon local district needs.

²⁶ In addition to notifying employees of the Uniform Grievance Procedure, a district must notify them of the person(s) designated to coordinate the district's compliance with Title IX and the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. 34 C.F.R. §§106.8(a), 104.8(a). The Nondiscrimination Coordinator may be the same individual for both this policy and policy 7:10, *Equal Educational Opportunities*, as well as a Complaint Manager for policy 2:260, *Uniform Grievance Procedure*. A comprehensive faculty handbook can provide required notices, along with other important information, to recipients. The handbook can be developed by the building principal, but should be reviewed and approved by the superintendent and school board. Any *working conditions* contained in the handbook may be subject to mandatory collective bargaining.

²⁷ All districts must have a policy on minority recruitment. 105 ILCS 5/10-20.7a. Unlike minority recruitment efforts, affirmative action plans are subject to significant scrutiny because of the potential for reverse discrimination. The U.S. Constitution's guarantee of equal protection prohibits school districts from using racial hiring quotas without evidence of past discrimination. See 29 C.F.R. §1608.1 *et seq.* (EEOC's guidelines for affirmative action plans); *Wygant v. Jackson Bd. of Ed.*, 476 U.S. 267 (1986) (The goal of remedying societal discrimination does not justify race-based layoffs.); *City of Richmond v. J.A. Croson Co.*, 488 U.S. 469 (1989) (Minority contractor quota struck; quotas must be narrowly tailored to remedy past discrimination and the city failed to identify the need for remedial action and whether race-neutral alternatives existed.)

The IHRA states that it shall not be construed as requiring any employer to give preferential treatment or special rights based on sexual orientation or to implement affirmative action policies or programs based on sexual orientation. 775 ILCS 5/1-101.1.

LEGAL REF.: 8 U.S.C. §1324a et seq., Immigration Reform and Control Act.
20 U.S.C. §1681 et seq., Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, implemented by 34 C.F.R. Part 106.
29 U.S.C. §206(d), Equal Pay Act.
29 U.S.C. §621 et seq., Age Discrimination in Employment Act.
29 U.S.C. §7091 et seq., Rehabilitation Act of 1973.
38 U.S.C. §4301 et seq., Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (1994).
42 U.S.C. §1981 et seq., Civil Rights Act of 1991.
42 U.S.C. §2000e et seq., Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, implemented by 29 C.F.R. Part 1601.
42 U.S.C. §2000ff et seq., Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2008.
42 U.S.C. §2000d et seq., Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.
42 U.S.C. §2000e(k), Pregnancy Discrimination Act.
42 U.S.C. §12111 et seq., Americans with Disabilities Act, Title I.
Ill. Constitution, Art. I, §§17, 18, and 19.
105 ILCS 5/10-20.7, 5/20.7a, 5/21.1, 5/22.4, 5/23.5, 5/22-19, 5/24-4, 5/24-4.1, and 5/24-7.
410 ILCS 130/40, Compassionate Use of Medical Cannabis Pilot-Program Act.
410 ILCS 513/25, Genetic Information Privacy ~~Protection~~ Act.
740 ILCS 174/, Ill. Whistleblower Act.
775 ILCS 5/1-103, 5/2-102, 103, and 5/6-101, Ill. Human Rights Act.
775 ILCS 35/5, Religious Freedom Restoration Act.
820 ILCS 55/10, Right to Privacy in the Workplace Act.
820 ILCS 70/, Employee Credit Privacy Act.
820 ILCS 75/, Job Opportunities for Qualified Applicants Act.
820 ILCS 112/, Ill. Equal Pay Act of 2003.
820 ILCS 180/30, Victims' Economic Security and Safety Act.
820 ILCS 260/, Nursing Mothers in the Workplace Act.

CROSS REF.: 2:260 (Uniform Grievance Procedure), 5:20 (Workplace Harassment Prohibited), 5:30 (Hiring Process and Criteria), 5:40 (Communicable and Chronic Infectious Disease), 5:50 (Drug- and Alcohol-Free Workplace; E-Cigarette, Tobacco, and Cannabis Prohibition), 5:70 (Religious Holidays), 5:180 (Temporary Illness or Temporary Incapacity), 5:200 (Terms and Conditions of Employment and Dismissal), 5:250 (Leaves of Absence), 5:270 (Employment, At-Will, Compensation, and Assignment), 5:300 (Schedules and Employment Year), 5:330 (Sick Days, Vacation, Holidays, and Leaves), 7:10 (Equal Educational Opportunities), 7:180 (Prevention of and Response to Bullying, Intimidation, and Harassment), 8:70 (Accommodating Individuals with Disabilities)

General Personnel

Workplace Harassment Prohibited ¹

The School District expects the workplace environment to be productive, respectful, and free of unlawful discrimination, including harassment. District employees shall not engage in harassment or abusive conduct on the basis of an individual's [actual or perceived](#) race, [color](#), religion², national origin, [ancestry](#), sex, sexual orientation, age, citizenship status, disability, [pregnancy, marital status, order of protection status, military status, or unfavorable discharge from military service](#), [nor shall they engage in harassment or abusive conduct on the basis of an individual's](#) other protected status

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¹ State or federal law controls this policy's content. Federal law requires districts to take action to prevent sexual harassment and to disseminate a policy regarding its prohibition of sex discrimination. 29 C.F.R. §1604.11(f); 34 C.F.R. §106.9. [State law requires districts to establish a policy to prohibit sexual harassment. 5 ILCS 430/70-5\(a\), amended by P.A.s 100-554 and 101-221. See f/n 3 below.](#) Harassment based on a protected status is a form of discrimination that violates many State and federal laws (see the policy's Legal References).

Workplace harassment policies have typically focused on *sexual* harassment since it receives the most attention. However, the broad prohibitions against discrimination in State and federal civil rights laws will cover harassing conduct that is motivated by animus against any protected status. See *Porter v. Erie Foods International, Inc.*, 576 F.3d 629 (7th Cir. 2009) (recognizing a cause of action for race harassment). For a list of protected statuses, see policy 5:10, *Equal Employment Opportunity and Minority Recruitment*. This policy prohibiting harassment has a separate section on sexual harassment because of the extensive statutory and case law regarding it.

[Under the Ill. Human Rights Act \(IHRA\), harassment is unlawful if it has the purpose or effect of substantially interfering with an individual's work performance or creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working environment. 775 ILCS 5/2-101\(E-1\), added by P.A. 101-221, eff. 1-1-20. Working environment is not limited to a physical location to which an employee is assigned. Id. Harassment is unlawful on the basis of the specifically-listed categories in this policy whether that status is actual or perceived. Id.](#)

An employer is liable under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Title VII) for an employee's harassment of a co-worker if the employer was negligent with respect to the offensive behavior by, for example, failing to take remedial action when it knew or should have known about the harassment. 42 U.S.C. §2000e *et seq.* [An employer is liable under the IHRA for harassment by its nonmanagerial and nonsupervisory employees if it becomes aware of the conduct and fails to take reasonable corrective measures. 775 ILCS 5/2-102\(A\), amended by P.A. 101-221, eff. 1-1-20.](#) However, when the perpetrator is the victim's supervisor, the employer will be vicariously liable for the supervisor's actions. Lack of knowledge of a supervisor's misconduct is no defense. *Burlington Industries v. Ellerth*, 524 U.S. 742 (1998); *Faragher v. City of Boca Raton*, 524 U.S. 775 (1998). A *supervisor* is someone who has the authority to demote, discharge, or take other negative job action against the victim. *Vance v. Ball State University*, 133 S.Ct. 2434 (2013). Note that the ~~Ill. Human Rights Act (IHRA)~~, (775 ILCS 5/2-102(D)) imposes strict liability on the employer when an employee has been sexually harassed by supervisory personnel regardless of whether the harasser has any authority over the complainant. *Sangamon County Sheriff's Dept. v. Ill. Human Rights Com'n*, 233 Ill.2d 125 (Ill. 2009). [Additionally, under the IHRA, an employer is liable for the harassment of nonemployees by nonmanagerial and nonsupervisory employees if it becomes aware of the conduct and fails to take reasonable corrective measures. 775 ILCS 5/2-102\(A-10\) and \(D-5\), added by P.A. 101-221, eff. 1-1-20. Nonemployees are those who are directly performing services for an employer pursuant to a contract, such as contractors or consultants. Id.](#)

Not all harassing conduct is unlawful discrimination, even if it is disruptive and hurtful. If a board wants to include language in this policy prohibiting employees from engaging in intimidating or offensive conduct that is *not* a civil rights violation, it should consult the board attorney.

² Section 2-102 of the IHRA, amended by P.A. 100-100, contains a ~~new~~ *religious discrimination* subsection. It expressly prohibits employers from requiring a person to violate a sincerely held religious belief to obtain or retain employment unless, after engaging in a bona fide effort, the employer demonstrates that it is unable to reasonably accommodate the employee's or prospective employee's sincerely held religious belief, practice, or observance without undue hardship on the conduct of the employer's business. Religious beliefs include, but are not limited to: the wearing of any attire, clothing, or facial hair in accordance with the requirements of his/her religion. 775 ILCS 5/2-102(E-5). Employers may, however, enact a dress code or grooming policy that restricts attire, clothing, or facial hair to maintain workplace safety or food sanitation. *Id.*

identified in Board policy 5:10, *Equal Employment Opportunity and Minority Recruitment*. Harassment of students, including, but not limited to, sexual harassment, is prohibited by Board policy 7:20, *Harassment of Students Prohibited*.

The District will take remedial and corrective action to address unlawful workplace harassment, including sexual harassment.

Sexual Harassment Prohibited ³

The School District shall provide a workplace environment free of verbal, physical, or other conduct or communications constituting harassment on the basis of sex as defined and otherwise prohibited by State and federal law. [The District provides annual sexual harassment prevention training in accordance with State law.](#) ⁴

District employees shall not make unwelcome sexual advances or request sexual favors or engage in any unwelcome conduct of a sexual nature when: (1) submission to such conduct is made either explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of an individual's employment; (2) submission to or rejection of such conduct by an individual is used as the basis for employment decisions affecting such individual; or (3) such conduct has the purpose or effect of substantially interfering with an individual's work performance or creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working environment.⁵ Sexual harassment prohibited by this policy includes, but is not limited to, verbal,

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³ The IHRA (775 ILCS 5/2-102(D)) provides that sexual harassment is a civil rights violation:

For any employer, employee, agent of any employer, employment agency or labor organization to engage in sexual harassment; provided, that an employer shall be responsible for sexual harassment of the employer's employees by non-employees or non-managerial and non-supervisory employees only if the employer becomes aware of the conduct and fails to take reasonable corrective measures.

The State Officials and Employees Ethics Act (SOEEA) (5 ILCS 430/70-5(a), amended by P.A.s 100-554 [and 101-221](#)) requires governmental entities (including school districts) to adopt an ordinance or resolution establishing a policy to prohibit sexual harassment. Unlike the powers granted by the Ill. General Assembly to municipalities to pass ordinances, school boards govern by rules referred to as *policies*. 105 ILCS 5/10-20.5. Further, school boards may only exercise powers given to them that are consistent with the School Code that may be requisite or proper for the maintenance, operation, and development of any school or schools under the jurisdiction of the board. 105 ILCS 5/10-20.

The policy must include, at a minimum: (1) a prohibition on sexual harassment; (2) details on how an individual can report an allegation of sexual harassment, including options for making a confidential report to a supervisor, ethics officer, Inspector General, or the Ill. Dept. of Human Rights (IDHR); (3) a prohibition on retaliation for reporting sexual harassment allegations, including availability of whistleblower protections under the SOEEA, the Whistleblower Act (740 ILCS 174/), and the IHRA (775 ILCS 5/); ~~and~~ (4) the consequences: (a) of a violation of the prohibition on sexual harassment and (b) for knowingly making a false report; [and \(5\) a mechanism for reporting and independent review of allegations of sexual harassment made against an elected official of the governmental unit by another elected official of a governmental unit.](#) [5 ILCS 430/70-5\(a\), amended by P.A.s 100-554 and 101-221. Policy 2:105, Ethics and Gift Ban covers item \(5\) in this list.](#)

[4 775 ILCS 5/2-109, added by P.A. 101-221, eff. 1-1-20. See 5:100, Staff Development Program, at f/n 4. Districts may use a free, online model program to be offered by the Ill. Dept. of Human Rights \(IDHR\), develop their own program, or utilize a combination of the two, as long as it includes the following, at a minimum: \(1\) an explanation of sexual harassment consistent with the IHRA, \(2\) examples of conduct that constitutes unlawful harassment, \(3\) a summary of relevant federal and State law concerning sexual harassment and remedies available to victims of sexual harassment, and \(4\) a summary of responsibilities of employers in the prevention, investigation, and corrective measures of sexual harassment. Id. at 5/2-109\(B\), added by P.A. 101-221, eff. 1-1-20. Employers that fail to comply with this training requirement may face financial penalties. Id. Training on other types of workplace harassment is not required by law, however it is best practice.](#)

⁵ This definition is from State and federal law. 775 ILCS 5/2-101(E) and 29 C.F.R. §1604.11. [Working environment is not limited to a physical location to which an employee is assigned. 775 ILCS 5/2-101\(E\), amended by P.A. 101-221, eff. 1-1-20.](#) The harassing conduct must be severe or pervasive so as to alter the conditions of the employee's work environment by creating a hostile or abusive situation. *Williams v. Waste Management*, 361 F.3d 1021 (7th Cir. 2004). The surrounding circumstances, expectations, and relationships will distinguish between teasing or rough-housing and conduct that a reasonable person would find severely hostile or abusive. In addition, while same-sex gender harassment claims are actionable, the victim must show that s/he suffered disadvantageous employment conditions to which members of the other sex were not exposed. *Oncale v. Sundowner Offshore Services*, [535-523](#) U.S. 75 (1998).

physical, or other conduct. The terms intimidating, hostile, or offensive include, but are not limited to, conduct that has the effect of humiliation, embarrassment, or discomfort. Sexual harassment will be evaluated in light of all the circumstances.

Making a Complaint

Employees and nonemployees⁶ (persons who are not otherwise employees and are directly performing services for the District pursuant to a contract with the District, including contractors and consultants) are encouraged to promptly report information regarding violations of this policy.⁷ Employees Individuals may choose to report to a person of the individualemployee's same gender. Every effort should be made to file such complaints as soon as possible, while facts are known and potential witnesses are available.

Aggrieved employeesindividuals, if they feel comfortable doing so, should directly inform the person engaging in the harassing conduct or communication that such conduct or communication is offensive and must stop.

Whom to Contact with a Report or Complaint ⁸

An employee should report claims of harassment, including making a confidential report, to any of the following: his/her immediate supervisor, the Building Principal, an administrator, the Nondiscrimination Coordinator, and/or a Complaint Manager. ⁹

Employees may also report claims using Board policy 2:260, *Uniform Grievance Procedure*. If a claim is reported using Board policy 2:260, then the Complaint Manager shall process and review the complaint according to that policy, in addition to any response required by this policy—~~5:20~~; *Workplace Harassment Prohibited*.

The Superintendent shall insert into this policy the names, addresses, and telephone numbers of the District's current Nondiscrimination Coordinator and Complaint Managers.

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⁶ See f/n 1 above, for discussion regarding nonemployees.

~~⁷ School districts are not required to train employees regarding workplace harassment, including sexual harassment; however it is best practice. For districts that wish to provide such trainings, best practices suggest annual trainings work best, including on applicable board policies and procedures, what constitutes workplace harassment, complaint and enforcement mechanisms, and employees' legal rights.~~

⁸ Title IX regulations require districts to identify the name, address, and telephone number of the person who is responsible for coordinating the district's compliance efforts. A policy should not be adopted with a person's name in it; rather, the identifying information can be added and amended as necessary.

⁹ 5 ILCS 430/70-5(a), amended by P.A. 100-554, requires that a school board policy prohibiting sexual harassment include details for reporting an allegation of sexual harassment, including options for making a confidential report to a supervisor and an ethics officer. 5 ILCS 430/20-23 defines *ethics officers* as being designated by State agencies under the jurisdiction of the Executive Ethics Commission. School districts are not State agencies (5 ILCS 430/1-5) and do not have ethics officers; thus, this sample policy substitutes Complaint Manager for ethics officer. Note also that the IDHR has established a Sexual Harassment Hotline Call Center and website to help the public find resources and assistance for the filing of sexual harassment complaints. The hotline can be reached Monday through Friday with the exception of State holidays, between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., at 1-877-236-7703. See www2.illinois.gov/sites/sexualharassment/Pages/default.aspx. All communications received by the IDHR are exempt from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

Nondiscrimination Coordinator:

Name

Address

Email

Telephone

Complaint Managers:

Name

Name

Address

Address

Email

Email

Telephone

Telephone

Investigation Process

Supervisors, Building Principals, or administrators who receive a report or complaint of harassment must promptly forward the report or complaint to the Nondiscrimination Coordinator or a Complaint Manager. A supervisor or administrator who fails to promptly forward a report or complaint may be disciplined, up to and including discharge.

Reports and complaints of harassment will be confidential to the greatest extent practicable, subject to the District’s duty to investigate and maintain a workplace environment that is productive, respectful, and free of unlawful discrimination, including harassment. The District shall investigate alleged workplace harassment when [the Nondiscrimination Coordinator or](#) a Complaint Manager becomes aware of an allegation, regardless of whether a written report or complaint is filed.

Enforcement 10

A violation of this policy by an employee may result in discipline, up to and including discharge.¹¹ A violation of this policy by a third party will be addressed in accordance with the authority of the

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¹⁰ See [Berry v. Delta Airlines](#), 260 F.3d 803, 811 (7th Cir. 2001) (“If an employer takes reasonable steps to discover and rectify the harassment of its employees ... it has discharged its legal duty.”)

In addition to violating other civil rights laws, a school district violates the *public accommodations* article in the IHRA if it fails to take corrective action to stop severe or pervasive harassment. 775 ILCS 5/5-102 and 5/5-102.2.

¹¹ 5 ILCS 430/70-5(a), amended by P.A. 100-554 (consequences of a violation of the prohibition on sexual harassment). When discharge is the penalty, examine 50 ILCS 205/3c, added by P.A. 100-1040. It requires a school district to post on its website and make available to news media specific information about severance agreements that it enters into because an employee or contractor was found to have engaged in sexual harassment or sexual discrimination, as defined by the IHRA or Title VII. [Id. Additionally, under the Workplace Transparency Act \(WTA\), employers may not require confidentiality clauses in settlement or termination agreements involving alleged unlawful employment practices under federal or State civil rights laws, except under specific conditions. 820 ILCS 96/1-30, added by P.A. 101-221, eff. 1-1-20.](#)

Board in the context of the relationship of the third party to the District, i.e., vendor, parent, invitee, etc. Any employee making a knowingly false accusation regarding harassment will likewise be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including discharge. ¹²

Retaliation Prohibited

An employee's employment, compensation, or work assignment shall not be adversely affected by complaining or providing information about harassment. Retaliation against employees for bringing bona fide complaints or providing information about harassment is prohibited (see Board policy 2:260, *Uniform Grievance Procedure*), and whistleblower protection may be available under the State Officials and Employees Ethics Act (5 ILCS 430/), the Whistleblower Act (740 ILCS 174/), and the Ill. Human Rights Act (775 ILCS 5/). ¹³

An employee should report allegations of retaliation to his/her immediate supervisor, the Building Principal, an administrator, the Nondiscrimination Coordinator, and/or a Complaint Manager.

Employees who retaliate against others for reporting or complaining of violations of this policy or for participating in the reporting or complaint process will be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including discharge.

Recourse to State and Federal Fair Employment Practice Agencies ¹⁴

The District encourages all employees who have information regarding violations of this policy to report the information pursuant to this policy. The following government agencies are available to assist employees: the Ill. Dept. of Human Rights and the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

The Superintendent shall also use reasonable measures to inform staff members, ~~and~~ applicants, and nonemployees -of this policy, which shall include posting on the District website and/or making this

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Prior to the passage of 50 ILCS 205/3c, added by P.A. 100-1040, and the WTA, members of the public could already access copies of severance agreements between school districts and their former employees under FOIA. The Ill. Atty. Gen. Public Access Counselor (PAC) directed a public body to release a settlement agreement that arose out of claims of sexual harassment. PAO 14-4. The PAC noted that the public body could not withhold the entire settlement agreement under 5 ILCS 140/7(1)(c), which exempts personal information that would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of privacy. Instead, it could redact personal information from the agreement, such as the complainants' names in order to protect their privacy. Id. However, data regarding settlement agreements involving allegations of sexual harassment or other unlawful discrimination that an employer must report to IDHR under 775 ILCS 5/2-108 is categorically exempt from FOIA. 5 ILCS 140/7.5(oo), added by P.A. 101-221, eff. 1-1-20.

See fn 6 in policy 2:260, *Uniform Grievance Procedure*, for more discussion about reconciling 50 ILCS 205/3c, added by P.A. 100-1040, with another new law, the Government Severance Pay Act (GSPA) (5 ILCS 415/10(a)(1), added by P.A. 100-895, ~~eff. 1-1-19~~), which prohibits school district employees with contract provisions for severance pay to receive any severance pay if they are fired for *misconduct* by the board.

¹² 5 ILCS 430/70-5(a), amended by P.A. 100-554 (consequences for knowingly making a false report of sexual harassment).

¹³ Id. (prohibition on retaliation for reporting sexual harassment allegations, including availability of whistleblower protections under the SOEEA, the Whistleblower Act (740 ILCS 174/), and the IHRA (775 ILCS 5/)).

Crawford v. Metro. Gov't of Nashville & Davidson County, 555 U.S. 271 (2009) (holding the anti-retaliation provision in EEOA protects an employee who spoke out about harassment, not only on his or her own initiative, but also in answering questions during an employer's internal investigation).

¹⁴ 5 ILCS 430/70-5(a), amended by P.A. 100-554, (how an individual can report an allegation of sexual harassment, including options for making a confidential report to the Inspector General or the IDHR). This sample policy does not reference the Inspector General because the Inspector General does not have jurisdiction over public school districts. 5 ILCS 430/1. School districts must also annually disclose to IDHR certain data about adverse judgment or administrative rulings made against them where there was a finding of sexual harassment or unlawful discrimination under federal, State, or local laws. 775 ILCS 5/2-108, added by P.A. 101-221, eff. 1-1-20.

[policy available in the District's administrative office, and reprinting—including](#) this policy in the appropriate handbooks. 15

- LEGAL REF.: Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 42 U.S.C. §2000e et seq., implemented by 29 C.F.R. §1604.11.
Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, 20 U.S.C. §1681 et seq., implemented by 34 C.F.R. Part 106.
State Officials and Employees Ethics Act, 5 ILCS 430/70-5(a).
Ill. Human Rights Act, 775 ILCS 5/2-101(E) and (E-1), 5/2-102(A), (A-10), (D-5), 5/2-102(E-5), 5/2-109, 5/5-102, and 5/5-102.2.
56 Ill. Admin.Code Parts 2500, 2510, 5210, and 5220.
Burlington Industries v. Ellerth, 524 U.S. 742 (1998).
Crawford v. Metro. Gov't of Nashville & Davidson County, 555 U.S. 271 (2009).
Faragher v. City of Boca Raton, 524 U.S. 775 (1998).
Franklin v. Gwinnett Co. Public Schools, 503 U.S. 60 (1992).
Harris v. Forklift Systems, 510 U.S. 17 (1993).
Jackson v. Birmingham Bd. of Educ., 544 U.S. 167 (2005).
Meritor Savings Bank v. Vinson, 477 U.S. 57 (1986).
Oncale v. Sundowner Offshore Services, 523 U.S. 75 (1998).
Porter v. Erie Foods International, Inc., 576 F.3d 629 (7th Cir. 2009).
Sangamon County Sheriff's Dept. v. Ill. Human Rights Com'n, 233 Ill.2d 125 (Ill. 2009).
Vance v. Ball State University, 133 S. Ct. 2434 (2013).
- CROSS REF.: 2:260 (Uniform Grievance Procedure), 5:10 (Equal Employment Opportunity and Minority Recruitment), 7:20 (Harassment of Students Prohibited)

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15 A district must notify employees of the grievance procedure and the person(s) designated to coordinate the district's compliance with Title IX. 34 C.F.R. §106.8(a). The nondiscrimination coordinator can be the same individual for both this policy and policy 7:10, *Equal Educational Opportunities*, as well as the complaint manager in policy 2:260, *Uniform Grievance Procedure*. A comprehensive faculty handbook can provide required notices, along with other important information to recipients. The handbook can be developed by the building principal, but should be reviewed and approved by the superintendent and board. Any *working conditions* contained in the handbook may be subject to mandatory collective bargaining.

[Informing nonemployees is not required by law. However, given the potential for employer liability under the IHRA for harassment of nonemployees, best practice is to publicize this policy to those individuals as well.](#)

General Personnel

Administrative Procedure - Sample Questions and Considerations for Conducting the Internal Harassment in the Workplace Investigation

State and federal law prohibit harassment on the basis of an individual's actual or perceived race, religion, national origin, sex (including pregnancy), sexual orientation, age, citizenship status, disability, or other protected status, as identified in Board policy 5:10, *Equal Employment Opportunity and Minority Recruitment*. For the purpose of this procedure, sexual harassment includes harassment on the basis of sexual orientation, which means actual or perceived heterosexuality, homosexuality, bisexuality, or gender-related identity.

Commented [DJ1]: Updated in response to P.A. 101-221 [SB 75]

The person charged with conducting the internal harassment investigation must ascertain: (1) if the alleged conduct occurred; (2) if the conduct was unwelcome; (3) if the harassing conduct was based on any protected status of the complainant; and (4) whether the harassment created a *hostile environment* in that it ~~was so severe or pervasive as to affect a term or condition of the complainant's employment~~ had the purpose or effect of substantially interfering with the individual's work performance or creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive work environment. The questions that follow are designed to help the investigator uncover this evidence. *The questions below serve as a general sample; they are not all-inclusive and the exact questions must be designed for the specific allegations in each case.*

Commented [DJ2]: This language is revised to reflect the new, broader standard for harassment under the IHRA, amended by P.A. 101-221.

Did the alleged conduct occur?

Investigators should consider a number of factors in evaluating whether the complained of conduct occurred, such as:

1. The level of detail provided by the complainant/witness;
2. The consistency within and between the witness' statement(s)
3. The consistency between the witness' statements and those of other witnesses;
4. Corroborating witnesses and other evidence;
5. Body language/eye contact of the witness (**Note:** the manner of a complainant's body language/eye contact during an interview may be attributable to the complainant's discomfort, rather than a lack of truthfulness);
6. The existence of a pattern of similar past behavior/harassment complaints involving the alleged harasser;
7. Does the witness have reason to be untruthful, such as a personal stake in the outcome?

Is the conduct complained of unwelcome?

Unwelcome conduct is that verbal or physical conduct which the employee did not solicit or incite and that which the employee regarded as undesirable or offensive. The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) evaluates the issue of welcomeness on a case-by-case basis, considering the totality of the circumstances. The wise investigator will do the same.

Below are sample questions that can be used to formulate actual questions for this part of the investigation.

1. Who is the alleged harasser? What is his/her name? Is he/she a co-worker or a supervisor?

2. Is the conduct complained of physical, verbal, and/or committed using an electronic device, such as, through email, text message, or a social networking website? Obtain relevant details for each incident (the *Five W's*: Who, What, Where, When, and Why).
3. If physical, describe with specificity the nature of the physical conduct. Describe all locations on the complainant's body that were touched and indicate when, how often, how the complainant was approached, who witnessed the physical conduct, and where was the complainant when the conduct took place? Did the physical conduct involve an injury to or destruction of the complainant's possession(s) and, if so, what was the property, what was the nature of the injury, when did it happen, and where is the property now?
4. If the unwelcome conduct was verbal, what was stated, when, how often, where were the parties when the statements were made, and who witnessed the statements being made?
5. If the conduct was committed using an electronic device, e.g., through email, text message, or social networking website, what was stated, where, when, how often, who saw it?
6. Did the complainant or any of the witnesses retain any evidence of the offensive conduct such as a picture, email message, text message, or video or audio recording?
7. Was a complaint or protest made to anyone employed by the District or to anyone else? If so, to whom did the complainant complain, when was the complaint made, what was stated therein, and were there any witnesses to this or these complaints?
8. What was the complainant's response to the conduct? Did the complainant tell the alleged harasser to stop? Did the complainant complain to others about the alleged harasser's behavior? Did the complainant ask co-workers, supervisors or managers to make the harassment stop? If so, obtain all relevant details (the Five W's).
9. Did the complainant engage in any conduct with the alleged harasser that could have encouraged his/her behavior? If so, what was the conduct, when and where did it occur, how often and who witnessed it?
10. Did the complainant make the alleged harasser aware at the point when the conduct became unwelcome? If so, when, how was this done, what was communicated to the alleged harasser, and were there any witnesses?
11. Did the complainant complain about the harassment to the alleged harasser, his/her supervisors, other managers or others? If so, when were the complaints made, what was said, who was present, and what was the response to each complaint?
12. If no prior complaints about the alleged harassment were made, why not?
13. What other actions, if any, did the complainant take to indicate to the alleged harasser that his/her conduct was unwelcome?
14. If they lack knowledge about the harassment, did co-workers, supervisors or managers notice any changes in charging party's behavior at work or in the alleged harasser's treatment of the charging party?
15. Has the alleged harasser been accused of harassment by other employees? If so, when, and were the allegations investigated? If so, what was the result of the investigation, and what was management's response, i.e., what remedy was imposed?

Did the work environment become hostile?

To ascertain whether unwelcome conduct creates an unlawful *hostile environment*, the major inquiry is whether the conduct had the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual's

performance or creates an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working environment. –In the sexual harassment context, trivial or annoying conduct such as sexual flirtation or innuendo or vulgar language would probably not establish a hostile environment. The challenged conduct must substantially affect the work environment of a reasonable person for a violation to be found.

Consider the following additional questions for this part of the inquiry:

1. What effect, if any, did the alleged harassment have upon the complainant's ability to perform the complainant's job?
2. What effect, if any, did the alleged harassment have upon the complainant's mental or physical health or well-being? Was medical treatment/therapy sought?
3. Even if the alleged harassment had little, or no effect on the complainant's work performance or well-being, is there evidence, e.g., verbal or written comments, that the alleged harasser intended his or her conduct to have that effect?
- 2-4. Additional question for sexual harassment complaints: What was the sexual character of the work environment before the complainant entered the environment? Were sexual comments and actions common? If so, what types, when did they occur? Who was involved? Supervisors? Co-workers?
- 3-5. Did the character of the workplace change after complainant joined the workplace? If so, how? What was complainant's behavior? How did the alleged harasser and other co-workers or supervisors respond to complainant's behavior?
- 4-6. Was the complaint of verbal or physical behavior directed at persons other than complainant? If so, who were they? What conduct was directed towards them, when, how frequently, who was present, where did it occur and who witnessed it? How did these persons react to the physical or verbal conduct?
- 5-7. Did the alleged harasser single out the charging party? If so, how, when, where, and why?
- 6-8. Did others join in perpetrating the harassment? If so, who? What was done; when, where, who witnessed the conduct, and were others harassed too?
- 7-9. If the complained of conduct was verbal, what were the remarks? Were they hostile and derogatory? What was the frequency and context of the comments? Were the parties inside or outside of the workplace when the comments were made?
- 8-10. Was the alleged harassment observed by supervisors, managers, or other co-workers? If so, by whom, when, where, and what was observed?
- 9-11. Was the alleged harassment observed by former employees or others outside the workplace? If so, by whom, when, where, and what was seen?

Was the harassment committed by a supervisor?

The employer will be held responsible for acts of harassment committed by the employee's supervisor, meaning someone who was authorized by the employer to have authority over the complainant's terms and conditions of employment. To investigate harassment committed by the complainant's supervisor, include questions such as the following:

1. What conduct is the supervisor accused of? When, where, how often did it occur, and who observed?
2. Was the supervisor authorized to grant or deny tangible job benefits to the complainant? If so, what was the scope of that authority and what documents evidence it? If not, were the

supervisor's recommendations concerning the complainant's terms and conditions of employment typically or routinely followed?

Was the harassment *quid pro quo* (do this for that)?

An employer will be held responsible for acts of *quid pro quo* sexual harassment, meaning that tangible job benefits were either (1) conditioned on submitting to sexual favors, or (2) denied because of the complainant's rejection of a sexual advance or request for sexual favors. *Quid pro quo*-type harassment can also occur in other contexts, such as religious discrimination, for example, if a person is required to abandon or alter his or her religious practice as a condition of employment.

1. How was the complainant's employment affected by the alleged harassment? Was he/she denied a salary increase, a promotion, a job transfer, etc.? If so, when?
2. Was the complainant treated differently from similarly situated employees in regard to the denied salary increase, promotion, job transfer, etc.? If so, who was treated differently by this same supervisor?
3. What other management employees were involved in decisions to grant or deny the tangible job benefit(s) to the complainant? Did they have knowledge of the sexual conduct?

General Personnel

Exhibit - Resolution to Prohibit Sexual Harassment

WHEREAS, Section 10-20 of the School Code (105 ILCS 5/10-20) grants school boards other powers that are not inconsistent with their duties;

WHEREAS, Section 1-5 of the State Officials and Employees Ethics Act (5 ILCS 430/1-5) includes school districts within the definition of a *governmental entity*;

WHEREAS, Section 5-65 of the State Officials and Employees Ethics Act (5 ILCS 430/5-65, added by P.A. 100-554) provides that all persons have a right to work in an environment free from sexual harassment;

WHEREAS, Section 70-5 of the State Officials and Employees Ethics Act (5 ILCS 430/70-5, amended by P.A.s 100-554 and 101-221) requires governmental entities to adopt an ordinance or resolution establishing a policy to prohibit sexual harassment which, at a minimum, includes: (1) a prohibition on sexual harassment; (2) details on how an individual can report an allegation of sexual harassment, including options for making a confidential report to a supervisor, ethics officer, Inspector General, or the Ill. Dept. of Human Rights; (3) a prohibition on retaliation for reporting sexual harassment allegations, including availability of whistleblower protections under the Act, the Whistleblower Act (740 ILCS 174/), and the Ill. Human Rights Act (775 ILCS 5/); ~~and~~ (4) the consequences: (a) of a violation of the prohibition on sexual harassment; and (b) for knowingly making a false report; and (5) a mechanism for reporting and independent review of allegations of sexual harassment made against a Board member by a fellow Board member or other elected official;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Education of *[insert name]*, *[insert county]* County, Illinois, as follows:

Section 1: The Board adopts Board policies ~~2:105, Ethics and Gift Ban, and 5:20, Workplace Harassment Prohibited~~, attached as Exhibit A, which collectively contains the following: (1) a prohibition on sexual harassment; (2) detail regarding how an individual can report an allegation of sexual harassment, including options for making a confidential report to an immediate supervisor, the Building Principal, an administrator, the Nondiscrimination Coordinator, a Complaint Manager, or the Ill. Dept. of Human Rights; (3) a prohibition on retaliation for reporting sexual harassment allegations and a statement regarding the availability of whistleblower protections under the State Officials and Employees Ethics Act, the Whistleblower Act, and the Ill. Human Rights Act; and (4) the consequences: (a) of a violation of the prohibition on sexual harassment; and (b) for knowingly making a false report, and (5) a mechanism for reporting and independent review of allegations of sexual harassment made against a Board member by a fellow Board member or other elected official.

Section 2: Any prior versions of Board policies ~~2:105, Ethics and Gift Ban, and 5:20, Workplace Harassment Prohibited~~, adopted by the Board are superseded by this Resolution.

Adopted this ____ day of _____, 20 ____.

Attested by: _____, Board President

Attested by: _____, Board Secretary

General Personnel

Hiring Process and Criteria 1

The District hires the most qualified personnel consistent with budget and staffing requirements and in compliance with School Board policy on equal employment opportunity and minority recruitment.² The Superintendent is responsible for recruiting personnel and making hiring recommendations to the Board.³ If the Superintendent's recommendation is rejected, the Superintendent must submit another.⁴ No individual will be employed who has been convicted of a criminal offense listed in [Section 105 ILCS 5/21B-80\(c\)](#) ~~of the School Code~~.⁵

All applicants must complete a District application in order to be considered for employment.⁶

Job Descriptions

The Board maintains the Superintendent's job description and directs, through policy, the Superintendent, in his or her charge of the District's administration.⁷

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¹ State or federal law controls this policy's content. This policy contains an item on which impact bargaining may be required. Any policy that impacts upon wages, hours, and terms and conditions of employment, is subject to collective bargaining upon request by the employee representative, even if the policy involves an inherent managerial right.

² See policy 5:10, *Equal Employment Opportunity and Minority Recruitment*. Districts may not classify a job as either a *male* or *female* job. 29 C.F.R. §1604.5, 34 C.F.R. §106.55.

³ Boards must consider the superintendent's recommendations concerning, among other things, "the selection, retention, and dismissal of employees," 105 ILCS 5/10-16.7. The board may want to use this alternative sentence:

All personnel decisions are made by the Board, but only on the recommendation of the Superintendent.

Subject to an applicable collective bargaining agreement in effect on 6-13-11, a board that fills a "new or vacant teaching position" must select a candidate based on: (1) certifications, (2) qualifications, (3) merit and ability (including performance evaluation, if available), and (4) relevant experience. 105 ILCS 5/24-1.5. The statute does not define "new or vacant teaching positions." The requirement does not apply to filling vacant positions under 105 ILCS 5/24-12 (reduction in force and recall). Consult the board attorney about these issues.

⁴ An additional optional sentence follows:

The Superintendent may select personnel on a short-term basis for a specific project or emergency condition before the Board's approval.

⁵ 105 ILCS 5/10-21.9(c), [amended by P.A. 101-531](#); 105 ILCS 5/21B-80, [amended by P.A. 101-531](#), ~~amended by P.A. 99-667~~, allows individuals with criminal histories involving certain drug convictions to apply for or to reinstate their educator licenses seven years after their sentence for the criminal offense is completed. Consult the board attorney about whether the board wants to continue prohibiting employment for any individual who has a criminal history involving these exempted drug offenses.

[For more discussion regarding criminal history records checks and screenings required by 105 ILCS 5/10-21.9, amended by P.A. 101-531, see f/hs 5 and 6 in policy 4:175, *Convicted Child Sex Offender; Screening; Notifications*.](#)

⁶ Any person who applies for employment as a teacher, principal, superintendent, or other certificated employee who willfully makes a false statement on his or her application for employment, material to his or her qualifications for employment, which he or she does not believe to be true, is guilty of a Class A misdemeanor. 105 ILCS 5/22-6.5. District employment applications must contain a statement to this effect. *Id.* Each employment application for these positions must state the following (*Id.*):

Failure to provide requested employment or employer history which is material to the applicant's qualifications for employment or the provision of statements which the applicant does not believe to be true may be a Class A misdemeanor.

[Any employer that asks applicants to record video interviews and uses an artificial intelligence analysis of the applicant-submitted videos must comply with the Artificial Intelligence Video Interview Act, 820 ILCS 42/, added by P.A. 101-260, eff. 1-1-20.](#)

The Superintendent shall develop and maintain a current comprehensive job description for each position or job category; however, a provision in a collective bargaining agreement or individual contract will control in the event of a conflict. 8

Investigations

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that a fingerprint-based criminal history records check and a check of the Statewide Sex Offender Database and Violent Offender Against Youth Database is performed on each applicant as required by State law.⁹ When the applicant is a successful superintendent candidate who has been offered employment by the Board, the Board President shall ensure that these checks are completed.¹⁰ The Superintendent or designee, or if the applicant is a successful superintendent candidate, then the Board President shall notify an applicant if the applicant is identified in either database.¹¹ The School Code requires the Board President to keep a conviction

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⁷ 105 ILCS 5/10-16.7. The foundation for a productive employment relationship begins with a board's policy, a thoughtfully crafted employment contract and job description, and procedures for communications and ongoing assessment. See IASB's *Foundational Principles of Effective Governance*, **Principle 3. The board employs a superintendent**, at: www.iasb.com/pdf/found_prin.pdf.

See also 3:40-E, *Checklist for the Superintendent Employment Contract Negotiation Process*, for best practice discussions about establishing the board-superintendent employment relationship and contract.

⁸ Job descriptions will become the basis for categorizing a teacher into one or more positions that the teacher is qualified to hold for reduction in force (RIF) dismissal and recall purposes. 105 ILCS 5/24-12(b). A board should consult with its attorney to review its current list of job descriptions and discuss the district's specific responsibilities.

A job description is evidence of a position's *essential functions*. 29 C.F.R. §1630.2(n). The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) protects individuals who have a disability and are qualified, with reasonable accommodation, to perform the *essential functions* of the job. 42 U.S.C. §12101 *et seq.*, amended by the ADA Amendments Act (ADAAA), Pub. L. 110-325. Determining which functions are essential may be critical to determining if an individual with a disability is qualified. An individual is qualified to perform a job even though he or she is unable, due to a disability, to perform tasks which are incidental to the job. Only when an individual is unable to perform the *essential functions* of a job may a district deny the individual employment opportunities. 29 C.F.R. §1630.2(m). For a definition of essential functions see *Id.* at 1630.2(n). Whether a particular function is essential is a factual determination.

Important: The ADAAA makes significant changes to the ADA's definition of disability that broadened the scope of coverage and overturned a series of U.S. Supreme Court decisions that made it difficult to prove that an impairment was a qualifying disability. There is information about the regulations and a link to them at: www.eeoc.gov/laws/regulations/adaaa_fact_sheet.cfm. Consult the board attorney regarding how these amendments impact the district's hiring processes.

⁹ The policy's requirements on criminal records checks for applicants for employment are mandated by 105 ILCS 5/10-21.9, **amended by P.A.s 101-72 and 101-531**. See administrative procedure 5:30-AP2, *Investigations*, for the process and positions requiring criminal background investigation. The Statewide Sex Offender Database (a/k/a Sex Offender Registry) is available at: www.isp.state.il.us/sor. The Statewide Murderer and Violent Offender Against Youth Database is available at: www.isp.state.il.us/cmvo/. **For more discussion regarding criminal history records checks and screenings required by 105 ILCS 5/10-21.9, amended by P.A. 101-531, see f/n 5 in policy 4:175, Convicted Child Sex Offender: Screening: Notifications.** See policy 4:60, *Purchases and Contracts*, for requirements concerning criminal background checks of employees of contractors who have *direct, daily contact* with students.

¹⁰ *Id.* If a board wants to require additional background inquiries beyond the fingerprint-based criminal history records information check required by 105 ILCS 5/10-21.9, **amended by P.A.s 101-72 and 101-531**, including the federal *Rap Back Service* (20 ILCS 2630/3.3, added by P.A. 100-718) and/or checks through consumer reporting agencies regulated by the Fair Credit Reporting Act (15 U.S.C. § 1681 *et seq.*), consult the board attorney. For more detailed information, see the laws listed in sample exhibit 3:40-E, *Checklist for the Superintendent Employment Contract Negotiation Process*, under the checklist item entitled **Conditions of Employment**, in the **Other Background Check Laws** row.

¹¹ 105 ILCS 5/10-21.9(b), **amended by P.A.s 101-72 and 101-531**, and 105 ILCS 5/21B-10. The School Code requires the board president to keep a conviction record confidential. It is impossible to know whether a fingerprint-based criminal history records check and a check of the Statewide Sex Offender and Violent Offender Against Youth Databases on a successful superintendent candidate will come back with a conviction record.

record confidential and share it only with the Superintendent, Regional Superintendent, State Superintendent, State Educator Preparation and Licensure Board, any other person necessary to the hiring decision, or for purposes of clarifying the information, the Ill. Dept. of State Police and/or Statewide Sex Offender Database.¹² The Board reserves its right to authorize additional background inquiries beyond a fingerprint-based criminal history records check when it deems it appropriate to do so, in accordance with applicable laws.

Each newly hired employee must complete an U.S. Citizenship and Immigration and Naturalization Services Form as required by federal law. ¹³

The District retains the right to discharge any employee whose criminal background investigation reveals a conviction for committing or attempting to commit any of the offenses outlined in Section 105 ILCS 5/21B-80 of the School Code or who falsifies, or omits facts from, his or her employment application or other employment documents. If an indicated finding of abuse or neglect of a child has been issued by the Ill. Department of Children and Family Services or by a child welfare agency of another jurisdiction for any applicant for student teaching, applicant for employment, or any District employee, then the Board must consider that person's status as a condition of employment. ¹⁴

The Superintendent shall ensure that the District does not engage in any investigation or inquiry prohibited by law and complies with each of the following: ¹⁵

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Therefore, in accordance with best practice (ensuring compliance and aligning with good governance principles), this policy does not assign a designee for the board president to complete this task. However, to balance the requirement to keep conviction records confidential with the practical implementation of ensuring a fingerprint-based criminal history records check and a check of the Statewide Sex Offender and Violent Offender Against Youth Databases are performed on each successful superintendent applicant, a board president may want to designate the duty to order these checks to the individuals otherwise listed in 105 ILCS 5/10-21.9(b), amended by P.A.s 101-72 and 101-531. Those individuals include the board president, the superintendent or designee, regional superintendent (if the check was requested by the district), state superintendent of school education, state Educator Preparation and Licensure Board, any other person necessary to the hiring decision, or for clarification purposes, the Ill. Dept. of State Police and/or Statewide Sex Offender Registry.

¹² Id. at 5/10-21.9(b), amended by P.A.s 101-72 and 101-531. The School Code continues to define the board president's role in conducting criminal background investigations and receiving the results of these investigations, including the results for employees of district contractors. 105 ILCS 5/10-21.9. Many districts delegate this task in the hiring process to a human resources department.

Use this alternative for districts in suburban Cook County: replace "Regional Superintendent" with "appropriate Intermediate Service Center."

For more discussion regarding responses to results obtained by criminal history records checks and screenings as required by 105 ILCS 5/10-21.9(c), amended by P.A. 101-531, see f/n 6 in policy 4:175, *Convicted Child Sex Offender: Screening: Notifications*.

¹³ Immigration Reform and Control Act, 8 U.S.C. §1324a et seq. Consult with the board attorney regarding the district's rights and responsibilities under all Illinois laws if the district uses any electronic employment verification system, including *E-Verify* and/or the Basic Pilot Program. 820 ILCS 55/12. This statute urges employers who voluntarily use *E-Verify* (formerly known as the Basic Pilot/Employment Eligibility Verification Program) to consult the Ill. Dept. of Labor's website for current information on the accuracy of *E-Verify* and to review and understand their legal responsibilities relating to the use of any electronic employment verification systems. See f/n 2 in 5:150-AP, *Personnel Records*, for a more detailed discussion of *E-Verify* issues.

¹⁴ 105 ILCS 5/10-21.9(c) and (g), amended by P.A. 101-531. See f/n 6 in 4:175, *Convicted Child Sex Offender: Screening: Notifications*, for further discussion.

¹⁵ As an alternative to describing the prohibited investigations, a board may substitute this sentence:

The Superintendent shall ensure that the District does not engage in any investigation or inquiry prohibited by law, including without limitation, investigation into or inquiry concerning: (1) credit history or report unless a satisfactory credit history is an established bona fide occupational requirement of a particular position; (2) claim(s) made or benefit(s) received under Workers' Compensation Act; and (3) access to an employee's or applicant's social networking website, including a request for passwords to such sites.

1. The District uses an applicant's credit history or report from a consumer reporting agency only when a satisfactory credit history is an established bona fide occupational requirement of a particular position. 16
2. The District does not screen applicants based on their current or prior wages or salary histories, including benefits or other compensation, by requiring that the wage or salary history satisfy minimum or maximum criteria. 17
3. The District does not request or require a wage or salary history as a condition of being considered for employment, being interviewed, continuing to be considered for an offer of employment, an offer of employment, or an offer of compensation. 18
4. The District does not request or require an applicant to disclose wage or salary history as a condition of employment. 19
5. The District does not ask an applicant or applicant's current or previous employers about wage or salary history, including benefits or other compensation. 20
- 3-6. The District does not ask an applicant or applicant's previous employers about claim(s) made or benefit(s) received under the Workers' Compensation Act. 21
- 4-7. The District does not request of an applicant or employee access in any manner to his or her personal online account, such as social networking websites, including a request for passwords to such accounts. 22

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The default policy provision and the alternative stated above – whichever is selected – may be made a prohibition rather than a duty of the superintendent; to do this, delete the stricken text as follows: “~~The Superintendent shall ensure that the District does not engage ...~~”

16 Employee Credit Privacy Act, 820 ILCS 70/10. This Act allows inquiries into an applicant's credit history or credit report or ordering or obtaining an applicant's credit report from a consumer reporting agency when a satisfactory credit history is an *established bona fide occupational requirement* of a particular position. The Act identifies circumstances that permit a satisfactory credit history to be a job requirement, such as, the position's duties include custody of or unsupervised access to cash or marketable assets valued at \$2,500 or more.

17 820 ILCS 112/10(b-5), added by P.A. 101-177. If an employer violates this subsection, the employee may recover in a civil action any damages incurred, special damages up to \$10,000, injunctive relief, and costs and reasonable attorney's fees. 820 ILCS 112/30(a-5), added by P.A. 101-177.

18 Id.

19 Id.

20 820 ILCS 112/10(b-10), added by P.A. 101-177. Note: Attorneys caution that using the exceptions in 820 ILCS 112/10(b-10)(1) and (2), added by P.A. 101-177, may trigger litigation. Violating this subsection entitles an employee to recover in a civil action any damages incurred, special damages up to \$10,000, injunctive relief, and costs and reasonable attorney's fees. 820 ILCS 112/30(a-5), added by P.A. 101-177.

A school board that wishes to preserve these exceptions should consult its board attorney; then they may supplement number 5 by adding the following after “compensation”:

unless the applicant's wage or salary history is a matter of public record, or is contained in a document completed by the applicant's current or former employer and then made available to the public by the employer, or then submitted or posted by the employer to comply with State or federal law; or the applicant is a current employee applying for a position with the same current employer.

21 Right to Privacy in the Workplace Act, 820 ILCS 55/10(a), ~~amended by P.A. 99-610.~~

22 Id. at 55/10(b)(6)(B), ~~amended by P.A. 99-610~~ (commonly known as the *Facebook Password Law*). A *personal online account* is defined as an online account used primarily by a person for personal purposes. *Personal online account* does not include an account created, maintained, used, or accessed for the business purpose of a person's employer or prospective employer. Id. at 55/10(b)(5), ~~amended by P.A. 99-610.~~ Bracketed explanations follow the statutory language:

“Nothing in this subsection shall prohibit or restrict an employer from complying with a duty to screen employees or applicants prior to hiring...provided that the password, account information, or access sought by the employer only relates to an online account that:

(A) an employer supplies or pays; or

5-8. The District provides equal employment opportunities to all persons. See policy 5:10, *Equal Employment Opportunity and Minority Recruitment*.

Physical Examinations 23

Each new employee must furnish evidence of physical fitness to perform assigned duties and freedom from communicable disease. The physical fitness examination must be performed by a physician licensed in Illinois, or any other state, to practice medicine and surgery in any of its branches, ~~or a licensed advanced practice registered nurse who has a written collaborative agreement with a collaborating physician that authorizes the advanced practice nurse to perform health examinations~~, or a licensed physician assistant who has been delegated the authority by his or her supervising physician to perform health examinations. The employee must have the physical examination performed no more than 90 days before submitting evidence of it to the District.

Any employee may be required to have an additional examination by a physician who is licensed in Illinois to practice medicine and surgery in all its branches, ~~or a licensed advanced practice registered nurse who has a written collaborative agreement with a collaborating physician that authorizes the advanced practice nurse to perform health examinations~~, or a licensed physician assistant who has been delegated the authority by his or her supervising physician to perform health examinations, if the examination is job-related and consistent with business necessity.²⁴ The Board will pay the expenses of any such examination.

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(B) an employee creates or maintains on behalf of under the direction of an employer in connection with that employee's employment."

[Based on this explanation, it is implausible that an applicant would have an account, service, or profile for business purposes of a school employer.]

The statute specifically permits an employer to: (1) maintain workplace policies governing the use of the employer's electronic equipment, including policies regarding Internet use, social networking site use, and electronic mail use; and (2) monitor usage of the employer's (district's) electronic equipment and electronic mail. The statute also states that it does *not prohibit* an employer from obtaining information about an applicant or an employee that is in the public domain or that is otherwise obtained in compliance with the statute. Finally, the statute does not apply to all types of personal technology that employees may use to communicate with students or other individuals, such as text messages on a personal phone. Consult the board attorney about these issues.

²³ 105 ILCS 5/24-5, amended by P.A. 100-513. According to this statute, "[a] new or existing employee may be subject to additional health examinations, including tuberculosis screening, as required by rules adopted by the Ill. Dept. of Public Health or by order of a local public health official." The Ill. Dept. of Public Health does not require school employees to be screened for tuberculosis other than workers in child day care and preschool settings. 77 Ill.Admin.Code §696.140(a)(3).

The last sentence of the first paragraph exceeds State law requirements and may be deleted.

Note that while examination by a spiritual leader/practitioner is sufficient for purposes of leaves, the statute does not permit an examination by a spiritual leader/practitioner for initial employment exams. This difference may present a constitutional issue; contact the board attorney for an opinion if an applicant wants to use an examination by a spiritual leader/practitioner.

Federal law limits pre-employment medical inquiries to whether the applicant is able to perform job-related functions; required medical examinations of applicants is forbidden. American with Disabilities Act (ADA), 42 U.S.C. §12112(d)(2); see also f/n 8 for an explanation regarding the ADA. Districts may condition an employment offer on taking and passing medical inquiries or physical exams, provided that all entering employees in the same classification receive the same conditional offer.

²⁴ The State law (105 ILCS 5/24-5, amended by P.A. 100-513) allowing boards to require physicals of current employees "from time to time," is being superseded by the ADA (42 U.S.C. §12112(d)(4)). The ADA allows medical inquiries of current employees only when they are job-related and consistent with business necessity or part of a voluntary employee wellness program. *Id.* Districts may deny jobs to individuals with disabilities who pose a direct threat to the health or safety of others in the workplace, provided that a reasonable accommodation would not either eliminate the risk or reduce it to an acceptable level. —42 U.S.C. §12113; 29 C.F.R. Part 1630.2(r). See f/n 8 for an explanation regarding the ADA.

See the f/n 4823 for a discussion of examinations by spiritual leaders/practitioners.

Orientation Program

The District's staff will provide an orientation program for new employees to acquaint them with the District's policies and procedures, the school's rules and regulations, and the responsibilities of their position. Before beginning employment, each employee must sign the *Acknowledgement of Mandated Reporter Status* form as provided in policy 5:90, *Abused and Neglected Child Reporting*.

LEGAL REF.: 105 ILCS 5/10-16.7, 5/10-20.7, 5/10-21.4, 5/10-21.9, 5/21B-10, 5/21B-80, 5/10-22.34, 5/10-22.34b, 5/22-6.5, and 5/24-5.
20 ILCS 2630/3.3, Criminal Identification Act.
820 ILCS 55/, Right to Privacy in the Workplace Act.
820 ILCS 70/, Employee Credit Privacy Act.
Americans with Disabilities Act, 42 U.S.C. §12112, and 29 C.F.R. Part 1630.
Fair Credit Reporting Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1681 *et seq.*
Immigration Reform and Control Act, 8 U.S.C. §1324a *et seq.*
Duldulao v. St. Mary of Nazareth Hospital, 136 Ill. App. 3d 763 (1st Dist. 1985),
aff'd in part and remanded 115 Ill.2d 482(Ill. 1987).
Kaiser v. Dixon, 127 Ill. App. 3d 251 (2nd Dist. 1984).
Molitor v. Chicago Title & Trust Co., 325 Ill. App. 124 (1st Dist. 1945).

CROSS REF.: 2:260 (Uniform Grievance Procedure), 3:50 (Administrative Personnel Other Than the Superintendent), 4:60 (Purchases and Contracts), 4:175 (Convicted Child Sex Offender; Screening; Notifications), 5:10 (Equal Employment Opportunity and Minority Recruitment), 5:40 (Communicable and Chronic Infectious Disease), 5:90 (Abused and Neglected Child Reporting), 5:125 (Personal Technology and Social Media; Usage and Conduct), 5:220 (Substitute Teachers), 5:280 (Educational Support Personnel - Duties and Qualifications)

General Personnel

Administrative Procedure - Interview Questions

Anti-discrimination laws affect all steps of the employee hiring process. Knowledge of the characteristics on which these laws prohibit inquiry is especially critical when conducting interviews. Any employer that asks applicants to record video interviews and uses an artificial intelligence analysis of the applicant-submitted videos must comply with the Artificial Intelligence Video Interview Act, 820 ILCS 42/, added by P.A. 101-260, eff. 1-1-20. Sloppy interview practices can result in the appearance of illegal discrimination or even actual discrimination.

Interviewers should avoid seeking information that will not be used to make an employment decision. Assume that a rejected applicant may believe that all information acquired was used. The District, if challenged, must explain why it asked for the information – a very difficult task when the information involves race, sex, religion, age, disability, etc. Information needed for insurance, tax, social security, or similar purposes should be obtained after employment. The following list of protected characteristics may not be complete because of the rapidly changing nature of discrimination laws.

Protected Status	Do not ask	Permissible to ask
Race and color	What race are your parents?	
Alienage, ancestry, national origin, nationality, and citizen status (provided the individual is authorized to work in the U.S.)	In what country were you born? In what country were your parents born? Are you a naturalized citizen?	Are you legally authorized to work in the United States? What languages do you read, speak, or write fluently?
Marital status	Are you married? Single? Divorced? Engaged? Are you living with someone? Would your spouse move with you if you got this position? What is your maiden name?	
Gender, including parent and pregnancy status	What are your future family plans? Are you pregnant? Do you have children? What are their ages? Do you have child care?	Is there anything that would interfere with regular work attendance? Are you available to work overtime?
Sexual orientation, including actual or perceived heterosexuality, homosexuality, bisexuality, or gender-related identity	Do you have a spouse or partner – which?	How do you feel about supervising a diverse workplace?

Protected Status	Do not ask	Permissible to ask
Religion or creed	What religious holidays do you celebrate?	We need you to work on [<i>insert days</i>]. Are you available to work those days?
Age	When do you plan to retire? When do you plan to collect your pension?	What are your long-term career goals?
Military status	Will you miss work because you are a member of a U.S. Reserve unit, such as, Army Reserve or Marine Corps Reserve, or a member of a National Guard unit?	How does your military training or experience prepare you for this job?
Unfavorable discharge from military service	Under what circumstances were you discharged from the service?	
Arrest record Conviction that is not on the School Code's list of disqualifying convictions	Have you ever been arrested? Spent time in jail?	Have you ever been convicted of attempting to commit, conspiring to commit, soliciting, or committing any crime in the following list? (1) any sex offense or drug offense, as defined in Sec. 21B-80(a) of the School Code, (2) first degree murder or a Class X felony, or (3) any offense committed or attempted in any other state or against the laws of the United States that, if committed or attempted in this State, would have been punishable as one or more of the foregoing offenses. 105 ILCS 5/21B-80, amended by P.A. 101-531.
Use of lawful products during non-working hours	Do you smoke or use tobacco products during non-working hours? Do you consume alcoholic beverages during non-working hours?	Have you been disciplined by an employer for violating its rules forbidding the use of alcohol or tobacco products?
Genetic information	What were the results of any diagnostic, predictive, or pre-symptomatic genetic testing that you've had?	See section on <i>disability</i> below.
Whether applicant has ever	Have you ever filed a claim or	

Protected Status	Do not ask	Permissible to ask
filed a claim or received benefits under the Illinois Workers' Compensation Act or Workers' Occupational Diseases Act	received benefits under the Illinois Worker's Compensation Act or Workers' Occupational Disease Act?	
Credit history/report, unless the Employee Credit Privacy Act permits a satisfactory credit history to be a job requirement, such as, the position's duties include custody of or unsupervised access to cash or marketable assets valued at \$2,500 or more. 820 ILCS 70/10(b).	<p>Unless specifically permitted, do not ask:</p> <p>Do you have a good credit score?</p> <p>Have you been denied a credit card within last 5 years?</p> <p>Have you ever filed bankruptcy?</p>	How long have you lived at your current address?
<p><u>Wage or salary history, including benefits or other compensation, unless: the applicant's wage or salary history is a matter of public record, or is contained in a document completed by the applicant's current or former employer and then made available to the public by the employer, or then submitted or posted by the employer to comply with State or federal law; or the applicant is a current employee applying for a position with the same current employer. 820 ILCS 112/10, amended by P.A. 101-177. For further discussion see f/n 19 in policy 5:30, <i>Hiring Process and Criteria</i>.</u></p>	<p><u>What is your current wage/salary?</u></p> <p><u>What was your previous wage/salary?</u></p> <p><u>What benefits or other compensation do you currently receive?</u></p> <p><u>What benefits or other compensation did you previously receive?</u></p> <p><u>What was your highest paid position?</u></p> <p><u>This position pays \$X; is that more or less than what you are making now?</u></p>	<p><u>This position provides the following wage/salary, benefits, and compensation: [insert details]. Does that meet your expectations?</u></p> <p><u>What are you looking for in terms of wage/salary, benefits, and other compensation for this position?</u></p>
Victim of domestic violence or being protected under an order of protection	Have you ever requested a restraining order or order of protection against your spouse or other person?	

Disability

Inquiries that are likely to elicit information about a disability, before a bona fide job offer is made, are prohibited. Inquiries about the ability to perform job functions that do not ask about disabilities are permissible.

Protected Status	Do not ask	Permissible to ask, provided all applicants are asked
Disability	Have you had any recent illnesses or operations? Do you have AIDS? Do you have asthma? Do you have a disability which would interfere with your ability to perform the job? How many days were you sick last year? Have you ever filed for Workers' Compensation? Have you ever been injured on the job? How much alcohol do you drink each week? Have you ever been treated for alcohol problems? Have you ever been treated for mental health needs? What prescription drugs are you currently taking?	Can you perform the functions of this job (essential and/or marginal), with or without reasonable accommodation? Please describe/demonstrate how you would perform these functions (essential and/or marginal). Have you ever been disciplined (oral or written reprimand, suspension or termination) for attendance violations or problems? Are you a current user of illegal drugs? Do you have the required licenses to perform this job?

General Personnel

Administrative Procedure - Investigations

Immigration Investigation

All newly hired employees must complete section one of the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services Form I-9 (Form I-9) no later than three business days following their first working day (Immigration Reform and Control Act, 8 U.S.C. §1324a, 8 C.F.R. §274a.2). www.uscis.gov/i-9. If an individual is unable to provide the required documents to complete it, the individual may present a receipt for the application of the required documents within three days of the hire. The individual must then present the required documents within 90 days of the hire. The Superintendent or designee completes section two of the Form I-9 and confirms the employee's information.

If the Employment Eligibility Verification System (E-Verify) is used to complete Form I-9, the Superintendent or designee will review the Ill. Dept. of Labor's website and its E-Verify factsheet, available at: www.uscis.gov/e-verify/what-e-verify. See the Ill. Dept. of Labor Right to Privacy in the Workplace Act, 820 ILCS 55/12.

The completed Form I-9 shall be maintained in a file separate from other personnel records in order to prevent unauthorized review of personnel files. The Form I-9 shall be retained for a period of three years after the date of hire or one year after individual employment is terminated, whichever is later.

Fingerprint-based Criminal History Records Information Check (105 ILCS 5/10-21.9, amended by P.A.s 101-72 and 101-531)

A fingerprint-based criminal history records information check must be initiated prior to employment, but the District may permit the individual to be hired and begin employment pending its outcome. See *Criminal History Records Information (CHRI) Checks for Certified and Non-certified School Personnel*, at: www.isbe.net/Documents/guidance_chr.pdf.

A complete criminal history records check pursuant to 105 ILCS 5/10-21.9 consists of:

1. Fingerprint-based checks through (a) the Ill. State Dept. of Police (ISP) for criminal history records information (CHRI) pursuant to the Uniform Conviction Information Act (20 ILCS 2635/), and (b) the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) national crime information databases pursuant to the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act (Pub. L. 109-248),
2. *A check of the Ill. Sex Offender Registry (see the Sex Offender Community Notification Law, 730 ILCS 152/ *et seq.*), and
3. *A check of the Murderer and Violent Offender Against Youth Registry (see the Murderer and Violent Offender Against Youth Community Notification Law, 730 ILCS 154/75-154/105).

*These checks must be conducted by the District or the Regional Superintendent once every five years that an individual remains employed by the District. 105 ILCS 5/21.9(a-5), (a-6), amended by P.A. 101-531.

See also policy 4:175, *Convicted Child Sex Offender; Screening; Notifications*, and administrative procedure 4:175-AP1, *Criminal Offender Notification Laws; Screening*. **Important:** 20 ILCS 2630/5.2 outlines how an individual may petition to have an arrest record expunged by the arresting

authority and the records of the arrest sealed by the circuit court clerk. It also details offenses for which an individual cannot have his or her conviction sealed.

Note: The following criminal history records check guides are also available:

1. Guide to Understanding Criminal History Record Check Information is available at: www.isp.state.il.us/docs/5-727.pdf.
2. ISBE's non-regulatory guidance document, Criminal History Records Information (CHRI) Checks for Certified and Non-certified School Personnel, at: www.isbe.net/Documents/guidance_chr.pdf.

The following individuals are responsible for the actions listed:

Applicant - Each applicant for employment in any position (except bus drivers employed by a private student transportation contractor) must provide a written authorization for a complete criminal history records check at the time he or she submits the application.

Individual Student Teaching or beginning a required internship - Each individual student teaching or beginning a required internship must provide written authorization for, and pay the costs of, his or her criminal history records check (including any applicable vendor's fees) prior to participating in any field experiences in the District. See 105 ILCS 5/10-21.9(g), amended by P.A. 101-531.

Applicant for Bus Driver - Each applicant for a bus driver position must complete the application required by the Secretary of State for a school bus driver permit (obtained from the District) and submit it to the District along with the necessary fingerprint submission as required by the ISP to conduct a fingerprint-based criminal history records check. The Superintendent or designee will conduct a pre-employment interview¹ with prospective school bus driver candidates, distribute school bus driver applications and medical forms, and submit the applicant's fingerprint cards to the ISP. The Superintendent or designee will certify in writing to the Secretary of State that all pre-employment conditions have been successfully completed, including the successful completion of a criminal history records check as required by State law. The applicant must present the certification to the Secretary of State at the time of submitting the school bus driver permit application. See 625 ILCS 5/6-106.1, amended by P.A. 101-458, eff. 1-1-20; 92 Ill.Admin.Code 1035.

Superintendent or designee - *Note: Add any additional steps to efficiently receive a complete criminal history records check.*

1. Fingerprint-Based Criminal History Records Check:

For all applicants, the Superintendent or designee completes the required forms to request the criminal history records checks from an appropriate ISP or LiveScan vendor. When the applicant is a successful superintendent candidate who has been offered employment by the Board, the School Board President shall ensure that these checks are completed. This may include submitting the applicant's name, sex, race, date of birth, social security number, fingerprint images, and other identifiers to the ISP and FBI on the forms prescribed by each agency.

The Superintendent or designee, or when the applicant is a successful superintendent candidate who has been offered employment by the Board, the Board President, will provide

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¹ Any employer that asks applicants to record video interviews and uses an artificial intelligence analysis of the applicant-submitted videos must comply with the Artificial Intelligence Video Interview Act, 820 ILCS 42/, added by P.A. 101-260, eff. 1-1-20.

the applicant with a copy of the ISP and FBI reports. Required by 105 ILCS 5/10-21.9(b) amended by P.A. 101-531.

The Superintendent or designee, or the Regional Superintendent, notifies the State Superintendent of Education in writing within 15 business days when a CHRI returns a conviction of a crime set forth in 105 ILCS 5/21B-80. 105 ILCS 5/21.9(e), amended by P.A. 101-531.

Note: For substitute teachers, superintendents will need to ensure that their districts perform these checks. Contact the board attorney and/or ISBE regarding the validity of a *certificate of authorization*, if a substitute teacher presents one. From 1-1-11 through 7-1-11, the Regional Superintendent of Schools or Suburban Cook County Intermediate Service Center, whichever is appropriate, was allowed to issue *certificates of authorization* to substitute teachers. Issuance of a *certificate of authorization* was proof that the substitute teacher applicant had met all of the requirements to substitute teach in the educational service region; i.e., a fingerprint-based criminal history records check, a physical examination, and a negative tuberculin test. Because P.A. 97-607 deleted *certificates of authorization*, substitute teachers no longer receive them because they no longer exist. For those substitute teachers who did receive them, there is not an answer to the question of whether their *certificates of authorization* are still valid. Attorneys in the field suggest looking for an expiration date on the *certificate of authorization*. If the document has no expiration date, it is likely invalid because the document no longer exists. If there is an expiration date, then the document is likely valid until the date listed.

For individuals student teaching or beginning a required internship, the Superintendent or designee ensures that the individual completes the required forms, authorizations, and provides payment to the District for the costs of completing a complete criminal history records check prior to student teaching or beginning a required internship (105 ILCS 5/10-21.9(g), amended by P.A. 101-531, and policy 5:260, *Student Teachers*). For more information, see also ISBE's non-regulatory guidance document, *Criminal History Records Information (CHRI) Checks for Certified and Non-certified School Personnel*, available at: www.isbe.net/Documents/guidance_chr.pdf.

2. Screen of the Statewide offender databases upon hire and every five years thereafter that an individual remains employed by the District. 105 ILCS 5/21.9(a-5), (a-6), amended by P.A. 101-531. The Superintendent or designee, or when the applicant is a successful superintendent candidate who has been offered employment by the Board, the Board President, performs a screen for each applicant of:
 - a. The Statewide Sex Offender Registry, www.isp.state.il.us/sor, as authorized by the Sex Offender Community Notification Law (730 ILCS 152/101 *et seq.*), and
 - b. The Statewide Murderer and Violent Offender Against Youth Registry www.isp.state.il.us/cmvo/, as authorized by the Murderer and Violent Offender Against Youth Community Notification Act (730 ILCS 154/75-154/105).

The Superintendent or designee, or when the applicant is a successful superintendent candidate who has been offered employment by the Board, the Board President, notifies the individual if he or she is identified in the database as a sex offender. Required by 105 ILCS 5/10-21.9 (a-5), (a-6), and (b), amended by P.A. 101-531. The Superintendent or designee, or the Regional Superintendent, notifies the State Superintendent of Education in writing within 15 business days, when a database screen finds a registration for an individual licensed by ISBE. 105 ILCS 5/21.9(e), amended by P.A. 101-531.

ISP and FBI - The ISP and FBI furnish records of convictions (until expunged), pursuant to the District's request, to the Board President. **Note:** The ISP and FBI must "furnish, pursuant to a fingerprint-based criminal history records check, records of convictions, until expunged, to the president of the school board...". See 105 ILCS 5/10-21.9(a) and (g), amended by P.A. 101-531. 20 ILCS 2630/3.3, added by P.A. 100-718, establishes authority for the ISP to collect fees from the District if wishes to participate in a Federal *Rap Back Service*. Rap Back Service is a capability of the FBI's Next Generation Identification (NGI) system that provides authorized agencies notification of criminal activity and, in limited cases, of civil activity, that occurs after the initial processing and retention of criminal or civil transactions, e.g., an initial fingerprint-based criminal history records check. The Board may determine that it wants to participate. Participation includes ISP submitting fingerprints that the District orders to the FBI Rap Back Service to be retained for the purpose of being searched by future submissions to the FBI Rap Back Service. For a student teacher, the report shall be returned to the Superintendent or designee (see ISBE's non-regulatory guidance document, *Criminal History Records Information (CHRI) Checks for Certified and Non-certified School Personnel*, at: www.isbe.net/Documents/guidance_chr.pdf).

Board President - The School Code requires the Board President to keep a conviction record confidential. The information may only be shared between the Board President, the Superintendent or designee, Regional Superintendent (if the check was requested by the District), State Superintendent of Education, State Educator Preparation and Licensure Board, any other person necessary to the hiring decision, or for clarification purposes, the ISP and/or Statewide Sex Offender Registry. See 105 ILCS 5/10-21.9(b), amended by P.A. 101-531, and 105 ILCS 5/21B-10. For further discussion about the practical implementation issues for the Board President to ensure that a fingerprint-based criminal history records information check and other database screens are initiated and completed prior to employment, see f/n 11 in 5:30, *Investigations*.

Regional Superintendent/Suburban Cook County Intermediate Service Center - The Superintendent or designee may require the applicant to authorize the Regional Superintendent or Suburban Cook County Intermediate Service Center, whichever is appropriate, to conduct the check when an applicant is (1) seeking employment in more than one District simultaneously as (a) a substitute teacher, (b) a concurrent part-time employee, and/or (c) educational support personnel, or (2) the employee works for a contractor holding contracts with more than one district. The Regional Superintendent or Suburban Cook County Intermediate Service Center, whichever is appropriate, also performs a check of the Statewide Sex Offender Registry, www.isp.state.il.us/sor, as authorized by the Sex Offender Community Notification Law (730 ILCS 152/115), and the Violent Offender Against Youth Registry, www.isp.state.il.us/cmvo/, as authorized by the Murderer and Violent Offender Against Youth Community Notification Law (730 ILCS 154/75-154/105). See 105 ILCS 5/10-21.9 (a-5), (a-6), and (b), amended by P.A. 101-72.

Contractors - The above requirements for a complete criminal history records check apply to all employees and agents of contractors who have direct, daily contact with students (105 ILCS 5/10-21.9(f)). Every contractor with the District shall: (1) make every employee or agent who will have direct, daily contact with students submit to a complete criminal history records check, (2) agree to a contract provision that it will make those employees available to the District for the criminal history records check, and (3) submit payment for the costs of the check(s) to the District.

Note: The provisions in 105 ILCS 5/10-21.9(f) and (g), amended by P.A. 101-531, apply to employees of contractors who have "direct, daily contact" with students. To be comprehensive and to eliminate uncertainty, this procedure and policy 4:175, *Convicted Child Sex Offender; Screening; Notifications*, may require a criminal history records check on *all* employees of contractors who may work in any school building or on school property. Whether the District uses the comprehensive

language or the direct language from the School Code, the District, not the contractor, must perform the background checks. Contractors are not authorized under any State or federal law to: (1) conduct the required criminal history background checks; or (2) see the employee's criminal history furnished by the ISP and the FBI. All contracts should also require the contractor to purchase insurance to cover misconduct by their employees and/or an indemnification clause. Additionally, the Superintendent or designee should check insurance coverage to determine whether employees of contractors are covered. See also policy 4:175, *Convicted Child Sex Offender; Screening; Notifications*, and administrative procedure 4:60-AP3, *Criminal History Records Check of Contractor Employees*, for the responsibilities of contractors. Last, if the District has received, within the last year, information that concerns the record of conviction and identification as a sex offender of any contractors' employees, the District must provide the information to another school or school district that requests it (105 ILCS 5/10-21.9(f-5)). For more information, see ISBE's non-regulatory guidance document, *Criminal History Records Information (CHRI) Checks for Certified and Non-certified School Personnel*, available at: www.isbe.net/Documents/guidance_chr.pdf. Unless notified by the individual named in a criminal history records information (CHRI) request or by the ISP that the information furnished in a CHRI report is inaccurate or incomplete, the District cannot be liable for damages to any person to whom the CHRI pertains for actions it reasonably took in reliance on the accuracy and completeness of CHRI report (20 ILCS 2635/7(A)(3)).

District - The School District complies with 105 ILCS 5/10-21.9, amended by P.A.s 101-72 and 101-531, and 5/21B-80, amended by P.A. 101-531. It will not knowingly employ a person, or allow a person to work or student teach/complete a required internship (105 ILCS 5/21.9(g)) on school grounds, who:

1. Has been convicted of any one or more of the following offenses, until seven years following the end of the sentence² for the criminal offense:
 - a. Those defined in the Cannabis Control Act, 720 ILCS 550/, except: 720 ILCS 550/4(a), 550/4(b), 550/4(c), 550/5(a), 550/5(b) (each amended by P.A. 100-27), and any offense for which the holder of a license is placed on probation under the provisions of 550/10 provided that if the terms and conditions of probation required by the court are not fulfilled, the offense is not eligible for this exception.
 - b. Those defined in the Ill. Controlled Substances Act, 720 ILCS 570/100 *et seq.*, except: any offense for which the holder of a license is placed on probation under the provisions of 570/410 provided that if the terms and conditions of probation required by the court are not fulfilled, the offense is not eligible for this exception.
 - c. Those defined in the Methamphetamine Control and Community Protection Act, 720 ILCS 646/, except: any offense for which the holder of a license is placed on probation under the provisions of 646/70 provided that if the terms and conditions of probation required by the court are not fulfilled, the offense is not eligible for this exception.
 - d. Any attempt to commit any of the offenses listed in (a)-(c) of this section.
 - e. Any offense committed or attempted in any other state or against the laws of the United States that, if committed or attempted in Illinois, would have been punishable as one or more of the offenses listed in (a)-(d) of this section.

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² Sentence includes any period of supervision or probation that was imposed either alone or in combination with a period of incarceration. 105 ILCS 5/21B-80(a), amended by P.A.101-531.

2. Has been convicted of committing or attempting to commit any one or more of the following offenses:
 - a. Attempting to commit, conspiring to commit, soliciting, or committing first-degree murder or any Class X felony.
 - b. Attempting to commit, conspiring to commit, soliciting, or committing any *sex offense*. Sex offense means any offense defined in:
 - i. Sections 11-6 and 11-9 through 11-9.5, inclusive, and 11-30 (if punished as a Class 4 felony) of the Criminal Code of 1961 or the Criminal Code of 2012;
 - ii. Sections 11-14.1 through 11-21, inclusive, of the Criminal Code of 1961 or the Criminal Code of 2012;
 - iii. Sections 11-23 (if punished as a Class 3 felony), 11-24, 11-25, and 11-26 of the Criminal Code of 1961 or the Criminal Code of 2012; and
 - iv. Sections 11-1.20, 11-1.30, 11-1.40, 11-1.50, 11-1.60, 12-4.9, 12-13, 12-14, 12-14.1, 12-15, 12-16, 12-32, 12-33, 12C-45, and 26-4 (if punished pursuant to 26-4(d)(4) or (5)) of the Criminal Code of 1961 or the Criminal Code of 2012.
 - c. Any offense committed or attempted in any other state or against the laws of the United States, which if committed or attempted in Illinois, would have been punishable as one or more of the foregoing offenses.
3. Has been found to be the perpetrator of sexual or physical abuse of any minor less than 18 years of age pursuant to proceedings under Article II of the Juvenile Court Act of 1987.

Reporting New Hires

The Superintendent or designee shall timely file an IRS Form W-4 or IDES *New Hire Reporting Form* for each newly hired employee with the Ill. Dept. of Employment Security. See 820 ILCS 405/1801.1. When the applicant is a successful superintendent candidate who has been offered employment by the Board, the Board President shall ensure either the retiring Superintendent or designee performs this task.

General Personnel

Drug- and Alcohol-Free Workplace; E-Cigarette, Tobacco, and Cannabis Prohibition 1

All District workplaces are drug- and alcohol-free workplaces. 2

All employees are prohibited from engaging in any of the following activities while on District premises or while performing work or being on call3 for the District: 4

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1 State or federal law controls this policy’s content. This policy contains an item on which collective bargaining may be required. Any policy that impacts upon wages, hours, and terms and conditions of employment, is subject to collective bargaining upon request by the employee representative, even if the policy involves an inherent managerial right. The Right to Privacy in the Workplace Act (RPWA) allows employers to regulate employees’ use of lawful products that impair an employee’s ability to perform his or her assigned duties. 820 ILCS 55/5(b), amended by P.A. 101-27.

The federal Drug-Free Workplace Act applies only to the specific programs receiving federal funds, (41 U.S.C. §8101 et seq.) For ease of administration, ~~this policy, however,~~ makes its requirements applicable to all employees in order to avoid confusion during implementation and to avoid complications when obtaining and maintaining federal funds. The Cannabis Regulation and Tax Act (CRTA), 410 ILCS 705/, added by P.A. 101-27, legalized cannabis, but it remains a Schedule I (c)(17) controlled substance under federal law, meaning that it has no currently accepted medical use in addition to a high potential for abuse. 21 U.S.C.A. §812 (exempting hemp as defined at 7 U.S.C.A. §1639o). 41 U.S.C. §§8101, 8102 and 8103. While not law, the U.S. House of Representatives, in a voice vote, voted in favor of an amendment to H.R. 3055, which was introduced by Reps. Earl Blumenauer (D-OR), Tom McClintock (R-CA), and Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-D.C.), prohibiting the U.S. Dept. of Justice (DOJ) from interfering with a state’s decision to implement laws governing the legalization of cannabis (recreational and medicinal). This marked the first time that either branch of the U.S. Congress has voted to protect state recreational cannabis laws from federal enforcement actions. If the amendment becomes law, it would block the DOJ from using funds to intervene in state and territory cannabis legalization laws. This policy continues to prohibit employees from using cannabis as allowed by the CRTA. See f/n 9, below.

The federal Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act provides funds, upon application, for drug and violence prevention programs; it does not contain policy mandates. Illinois also has a Drug Free Workplace Act (30 ILCS 580/) that applies to districts with 25 or more employees working under a state contract or a grant of \$5,000 or more.

2 Replace this sentence with the district’s drug- and alcohol- free policy goal(s), if any.

With the passage of the CRTA, 410 ILCS 705/, added by P.A. 101-27, each board and superintendent may wish to engage in a risk management conversation about the district’s drug- and alcohol- free policy enforcement and discipline goals. Enforcement and discipline goals depend upon a board’s risk-level tolerance and community expectations. Risk level tolerance decisions will depend upon many factors, including, but not limited to: (1) the board attorney’s recommendations, (2) the district’s budget parameters, if any, for reasonable suspicion training on identification of symptoms of impairment and/or being under the influence, (3) drug testing, and (4) the community’s expectations. Answers to the following questions might structure this risk-management conversation:

1. Does the board want to implement a reasonable suspicion program (or any other type of just cause provisions in an applicable collective bargaining agreement) to identify employees suspected of being impaired and/or under the influence to enhance its ability to discipline?
2. Does the board want the superintendent to secure training for designated district employees to educate them to identify symptoms of impairment or being under the influence of the substances prohibited in this policy?
3. How does the board want to address employees in positions of leadership, e.g., the superintendent and/or building principal(s), who are perpetually on call due to the nature of their positions and responsibilities (see f/n 3, below)?
4. How will the district manage its duty to educate students about the dangers of drugs and alcohol against the reality that employees are allowed to use lawful products off-duty and off the district’s premises (820 ILCS 55/5(b), amended by P.A. 101-27)?
5. Will licensed educators be held to a higher standard than non-licensed employees due to their professional code of conduct expectations?
6. Will employees working directly with students be held to a higher standard than employees not working directly with students?

1. Unlawful manufacture, dispensing, distribution, possession, or use of an illegal or controlled substance. ⁵
2. Distribution, consumption, use, possession, or being impaired by or under the influence of an alcoholic beverage; being present on District premises or while performing work for the District when alcohol consumption is detectible, regardless of when and/or where the use occurred. ⁶
3. Distribution, consumption, possession, or use, or being impaired by or under the influence of medical-cannabis; being present on District premises or while performing work for the District when impaired by or under the influence of cannabis, regardless of when and/or where the use occurred, unless distribution, possession, and/or use is by a school nurse or school administrator pursuant to *Ashley's Law*, 105 ILCS 5/22-33.7 The District considers employees impaired by or under the influence of cannabis when there is a good faith belief

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³ An employee is on call when the employer schedules him or her with at least 24 hours' notice to be on standby or otherwise responsible for performing employment-related tasks either at the employer's location or another previously-designated location. 820 ILCS 55/5, amended by P.A. 101-27. Consult the board attorney regarding how the board wants to treat employees who may be considered on call, e.g., superintendents, principals, coaches, and/or maintenance workers, etc.

For boards that do not want this text, delete ~~or being on-call~~.

⁴ To align with best practices for identifying and subsequently initiating discipline of employees for violating this policy (especially with the passage of the CRTA) and any possible collective bargaining agreement provisions, the superintendent may want to convene the **Employee Substance Abuse Prevention Committee** (see 2:150-AP, *Superintendent Committees*).

⁵ These actions are prohibited by both federal (41 U.S.C.A. §§8101, 8102 and 8103) and State Workplace Acts. See f/n 126. These laws do not address *under the influence* but a board may add: “, or being impaired by or under the influence of any illegal substance or any detectible use of any illegal substance regardless of when or where the use occurred.” This option is limited to *illegal* substances to avoid prohibiting employees from using lawfully prescribed controlled substances. See f/n 126. Contact the board attorney for advice concerning this provision and whenever the district wants to discipline or dismiss an employee using it. If a hearing is required before the district may discipline or discharge an employee under this provision, the district must put forth evidence that the employee violated it. A district would also have this burden if a grievance is filed under a *just cause* provision in a collective bargaining agreement. This policy's fourth ~~third~~ paragraph addresses prescribed medications other than cannabis.

⁶ Optional; alcohol is not addressed in either the federal or State Drug-Free Workplace Acts. Contact the board attorney for advice concerning this provision and whenever the district wants to discipline or dismiss an employee using it. If a hearing is required before the district may discipline or discharge an employee under this provision, the district must put forth evidence that the employee violated it. A district would also have this burden if a grievance is filed under a *just cause* provision in a collective bargaining agreement. The Ill. Court of Appeals held that when the policy defines *under the influence* as any “mental, emotional, sensory or physical **impairment** due to the use of drugs or alcohol,” the school district must prove that the teacher showed signs of impairment even though she registered 0.056 blood-alcohol level on a Breathalyzer. *Kinsella v. Board of Education of the City of Chicago*, 27 N.E.3d 226 (Ill.App.1st, 2015).

⁷ 410 ILCS 130/25(b) prohibits discipline or arrest of school nurses and/or administrators for acting in accordance with *Ashley's Law*, 105 ILCS 5/22-33, amended by P.A. 101-370, eff. 1-1-20. Employers may enforce drug-free workplace policies when they are applied in a nondiscriminatory manner. 410 ILCS 705/10-50(a), added by P.A. 101-27, includes disciplining employees – even those who are a *registered qualifying patient* – for violating a drug-free workplace policies (410 ILCS 130/50 and 705/10-35(a)(1), added by P.A. 101-27). Contact the board attorney for advice concerning the Compassionate Use of Medical Cannabis Program Act (Medical Cannabis Program Act (MCPA)).

that an employee manifests the specific articulable symptoms⁸ listed in the Cannabis Regulation and Tax Act (CRTA), ⁹

For purposes of this policy, a controlled substance means a substance that is:

1. Not legally obtainable,
2. Being used in a manner different than prescribed,
3. Legally obtainable, but has not been legally obtained, or
4. Referenced in federal or State controlled substance acts.

For purposes of this policy, *District premises*¹⁰ means workplace as defined in the CRTA in addition to District and school buildings, grounds, and parking areas; vehicles used for school purposes; and any location used for a School Board meeting, school athletic event, or other school-sponsored or school-sanctioned events or activities. *School grounds* means the real property comprising any

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⁸ Specific articulable symptoms listed in 410 ILCS 705/10-50(d), added by P.A. 101-27, include: the employee's speech, physical dexterity, agility, coordination, demeanor, irrational or unusual behavior, or negligence or carelessness in operating equipment or machinery; disregard for the safety of the employee or others, or involvement in any accident that results in serious damage to equipment or property; disruption of a production or manufacturing process; or carelessness that results in any injury to the employee or others. In contrast to the CRTA, the MCPA, while listing the same specific, articulable, symptoms, does not require an employer to have a *good faith belief* that a *registered qualifying patient* is under the influence of cannabis. 410 ILCS 130/50(f), and scheduled to be repealed on 7-1-20.

⁹ 410 ILCS 705/10-35 and 10-50(a), added by P.A. 101-27 allows reasonable, nondiscriminatory, zero-tolerance policies. If the district seeks to discipline an employee on the basis that he or she is under the influence of or impaired by cannabis, it must afford the employee a reasonable opportunity to contest the basis of the determination. Id. at 10-50(d), added by P.A. 101-27. **Contact the board attorney for advice concerning this provision and whenever the district seeks disciplinary action or dismissal of an employee on the basis of the cannabis prohibitions in the policy.**

In addition to a zero-tolerance policy, the CRTA also allows civil, criminal, or other penalties for:

1. Engaging in tasks under the influence of cannabis when doing so would constitute negligence, professional malpractice, or professional misconduct (410 ILCS 705/10-35(a)(1));
2. Possessing cannabis on a school bus or on school grounds (Id. at 10-35(a)(2)(A)-(B) unless permitted under the MCPA);
3. Using cannabis on a school bus or on school grounds (Id. at 10-35(a)(3)(A)-(B) unless permitted under the MCPA);
4. [Using cannabis] in a public place [while impaired or under the influence of cannabis](Id. at 10-35(a)(3)(F));
5. Knowingly being [impaired by or under the influences of cannabis] in close physical proximity to anyone under 21 years of age who is not a registered medical cannabis patient under the MCPA (Id. at 10-35(a)(3)(G));
6. Smoking [and/or vaping (see f/n 18, below for a definition of vaping)] it in any place where smoking is prohibited under the Smoke Free Illinois Act (Id. at 10-35(a)(4));
7. Using [cannabis] as an on-duty law enforcement officer, corrections officer, probation officer, or firefighter (Id. at 10-35(a)(8)); or
- 4-8. [Using cannabis while [b]]eing on duty as an individual holding a school bus permit or Commercial Driver's License (Id. at 10-35(a)(9)).

¹⁰ 410 ILCS 705/10-35 and 10-50(a), added by P.A. 101-27, allows employers to prohibit cannabis in the *workplace*. Many attorneys agree it is a best practice for employers to define workplace in policies that prohibit cannabis. 410 ILCS 705/10-50(h), added by P.A. 101-27, defines *workplace* as the employer's premises, including any building, real property, and parking area under the control of the employer or area used by an employee while in performance of the employee's job duties, and vehicles, whether leased, rented, or owned – and may be further defined by the employer's written policy when it is consistent with this definition.

This policy's definition of workplace expands the above CRTA definition to areas that board policy and/or the School Code impose duties upon districts to keep students safe, including:

1. The *school property* definition from policy 8:30, *Visitors to and Conduct on School Property*;
2. The *school grounds* definition at 105 ILCS 5/10-27.1A(d); and
3. Places that school districts must prevent and respond to bullying, including vehicles used for school purposes. 105 ILCS 5/27-23.7(a).

school, any conveyance used to transport students to school or a school-related activity, and any public way within 1,000 feet of any school ground, designated school bus stops where students are waiting for the school bus, and school-sponsored or school-sanctioned events or activities. "Vehicles used for school purposes" means school buses or other school vehicles.

As a condition of employment, each employee shall: 11

1. Abide by the terms of the Board policy respecting a drug- and alcohol-free workplace; and
2. Notify his or her supervisor of his or her conviction under any criminal drug statute for a violation occurring on the District premises or while performing work for the District, no later than five calendar days after such a conviction.

Unless otherwise prohibited by this policy, prescription and over-the-counter medications are not prohibited when taken in standard dosages and/or according to prescriptions from the employee's licensed health care provider, provided that an employee's work performance is not impaired. 12

To make employees aware of the dangers of drug and alcohol abuse, the Superintendent or designee shall perform each of the following: 13

1. Provide each employee with a copy of this policy.
2. Post notice of this policy in a place where other information for employees is posted. 14
3. Make available materials from local, State, and national anti-drug and alcohol-abuse organizations. 15
4. Enlist the aid of community and State agencies with drug and alcohol informational and rehabilitation programs to provide information to District employees.
5. Establish a drug-free awareness program to inform employees about:
 - a. The dangers of drug abuse in the workplace,
 - b. Available drug and alcohol counseling, rehabilitation, re-entry, and any employee assistance programs, and
 - c. The penalties that the District may impose upon employees for violations of this policy.
6. Remind employees that policy 6:60, Curriculum Content, requires the District to educate students, depending upon their grade, about drug and substance abuse prevention and relationships between drugs, alcohol, and violence. 16

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

11 Required by the State and federal Drug-Free Workplace Acts.

12 This optional paragraph is not addressed in State or federal drug-free workplace acts. An employer should generally not ask an employee about his or her use of medication. See rules implementing the Americans with Disabilities Act, 29 C.F.R. §1630.14. Consult the board attorney if an employee is suspected of working while impaired or under the influence.

13 Numbers one through five in this paragraph are Required by the State and federal Drug-Free Workplace Acts, (30 ILCS 580/3).

14 As an alternative, replace the phrase "in a place where other information for employees is posted" with the district's local method, (e.g., staff intranet, Internet, etc.).

15 Grants may be available from the III. State Board of Education for developing a drug-free awareness program, (105 ILCS 5/2-3.93). The drug-free awareness program requirement can be met by developing a brochure on drug abuse or by contacting local, State, or national anti-drug abuse organizations for materials. The materials should be distributed to employees along with a list of places employees may call for assistance.

16 Optional. This statement serves as a display of good judgement and a reminder to employees that 105 ILCS 5/27-13.2 and 23.4 (provided it can be funded by private grants or the federal government) require districts to educate students about the dangers of substance abuse.

E-Cigarette, Tobacco, and Cannabis Prohibition 17

All employees are covered by the conduct prohibitions contained in policy 8:30, *Visitors to and Conduct on School Property*. The prohibition on the use of e-cigarettes, tobacco, and cannabis products applies both (1) when an employee is on school property, and (2) while an employee is performing work for the District at a school event regardless of the event's location.

Tobacco shall have the meaning provided in 105 ILCS 5/section-10-20.5b of the School Code.

Cannabis shall have the meaning provided in the CRTA, 410 ILCS 705/1-10.

E-Cigarette is short for electronic cigarette and includes, but is not limited to, any electronic nicotine delivery system (ENDS), electronic cigar, electronic cigarillo, electronic pipe, electronic hookah, vape pen, or similar product or device, and any components or parts that can be used to build the product or device. 19

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¹⁷ 105 ILCS 5/10-20.5b, ~~and The Smoke Free Illinois Act, 410 ILCS 82/, and the CRTA, 410 ILCS 705/10-35(a)(4)(smoking anyplace where smoking is prohibited under the Smoke Free Illinois Act)~~. Federal law prohibits smoking inside schools, (20 U.S.C. §60831(a)).

The prohibition in 8:30, *Visitors to and Conduct on School Property*, referred to here, applies "on school property or at a school event." Here, "at a school event" is clarified with the phrase "while ... performing work for the District" in order to align with this policy's other prohibitions.

¹⁸ While 720 ILCS 675, amended by P.A. 101-2, excludes e-cigarettes from its definition of tobacco, it does not address vaporization. Prohibiting e-cigarettes aligns with the district's obligation to maintain a safe, smoke-free environment and is logical extension of 105 ILCS 5/10-20.5b, The Smoke Free Illinois Act (410 ILCS 82/), and The Prevention of Tobacco Use by Minors and Sale and Distribution of Tobacco Products Act, 720 ILCS 675, amended by P.A. 101-2 (raising the legal age to buy tobacco and e-cigarette products to 21 years of age). In addition, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration now regulates e-cigarettes. 21 C.F.R. Parts 1100, 1140, and 1143, amended by 81 Fed.Reg. 28973.

E-Cigarettes may resemble cigarettes but contain a battery-operated heating element that turns a liquid into an aerosol (or vapor) that sometimes includes nicotine, flavorings, and other chemicals. The act of inhaling and exhaling the aerosol is known as *vaping*. See www.centeronaddiction.org/e-cigarettes/recreational-vaping/what-vaping. For ease of administration, this policy treats *vaping*, whether tobacco products or not, and smoking tobacco the same due to the outbreaks of lung disease associated with the use of e-cigarettes and vaping. Some e-cigarettes do not look like tobacco products; they are designed to resemble other objects, such as USB flash drives, to be more easily concealed. Like smoking tobacco, vaporization products may include nicotine, which is derived from and is the addictive drug in tobacco, and other potentially harmful chemicals. See *Tobacco/Nicotine and E-Cigs* at: www.drugabuse.gov/drugs-abuse/tobacconicotine-e-cigs. Unlike smoking tobacco, vaping does not produce smoke, but rather the aerosol, often mistaken for water vapor and consisting of fine particles. Many of these particles contain varying amounts of toxic chemicals, which have been linked to cancer and respiratory and heart disease. An outbreak of lung disease has been associated with e-cigarette use and vaping. See articles at:

www.cdc.gov/tobacco/basic_information/e-cigarettes/severe-lung-disease.html; and

www.cdc.gov/tobacco/basic_information/e-cigarettes/severe-lung-disease/health-departments/index.html.

¹⁹ Optional. If a district does not want to include the statutory example that includes the term *vape pen*, which provides notice that vaping products are also prohibited through the term e-cigarette, replace ~~includes but is not limited to, any electronic nicotine delivery system (ENDS), electronic cigar, electronic cigarillo, electronic pipe, electronic hookah, vape pen, or similar product or device, and any components or parts that can be used to build the product or device~~ with "shall have the meaning provided in the Prevention of Tobacco Use by Minors and Sale and Distribution of Tobacco Products Act, 720 ILCS 675/1(a-9)."

District Action Upon Violation of Policy

An employee who violates this policy may be subject to disciplinary action, including termination. ²⁰ In addition or ~~Alternatively~~, the School Board may require an employee to successfully complete an appropriate drug- or alcohol-abuse rehabilitation program.

The Board shall take disciplinary action with respect to an employee convicted of a drug offense in the workplace within 30 days after receiving notice of the conviction. ²¹

Should District employees be engaged in the performance of work under a federal contract or grant, or under a State contract or grant of \$5,000 or more, the Superintendent shall notify the appropriate State or federal agency from which the District receives contract or grant monies of the employee's conviction within 10 days after receiving notice of the conviction. ²²

Disclaimer ²³

The Board reserves the right to interpret, revise or discontinue any provision of this policy pursuant to the **Suspension of Policies** subhead in policy 2:240, *Board Policy Development*.

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²⁰ An employee who currently uses *illegal* drugs is not protected under the Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA) when the district acts on the basis of such use. (42 U.S.C. §12114). ~~Legal~~ drug abusers and alcoholics may still be protected as *handicapped* under the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. §706 *et seq.*) or the Illinois Human Rights Act (IHRA). (775 ILCS 5/1-101 *et seq.*; and 56 Ill.Admin.Code §2500.20). The Rehabilitation Act, however, excludes from protection "an alcohol or drug abuser whose current use of alcohol or drugs prevents such individual from performing the duties of the job in question or whose employment ... would constitute a direct threat to the property or the safety of others." (29 U.S.C. §706 (7)(B)).

The ADA neither authorizes nor prohibits drug testing; it allows the results of such tests to be used as the basis for disciplinary action (42 U.S.C. §12114; 29 C.F.R. §1630.16 (c)). Drug tests may still violate other laws, e.g., Title VI and the Rehabilitation Act (42 U.S.C. §2000e *et seq.*; and 29 U.S.C. §706 *et seq.*). Drug tests may also be a subject of collective bargaining. See paragraph one of f/n 1, above. Consult the board attorney before implementing a drug testing program to enforce this policy.

²¹ Required by both the federal and State Drug-Free Workplace Acts.

²² *Id.*

²³ Optional best practice text.

LEGAL REF.: Americans With Disabilities Act, 42 U.S.C. §12114.
~~Compassionate Use of Medical Cannabis Pilot Program, 410 ILCS 130/.~~
Controlled Substances Act, 21 U.S.C. §812; 21 C.F.R. §1308.11-1308.15.
Drug-Free Workplace Act of 1988, 41 U.S.C. §8101 et seq.
Safe and Drug-Free School and Communities Act of 1994, 20 U.S.C. §7101 et seq.
~~30 ILCS 580/~~, Drug-Free Workplace Act, ~~30 ILCS 580/~~.
105 ILCS 5/10-20.5b,
410 ILCS 82/, Smoke Free Illinois Act.
410 ILCS 130/, Compassionate Use of Medical Cannabis Program Act.
410 ILCS 705/1-1 et seq., Cannabis Regulation and Tax Act.
720 ILCS 675, Prevention of Tobacco Use by Persons under 21 Years of Age
and Sale and Distribution of Tobacco Products Act.
820 ILCS 55/, Right to Privacy in the Workplace Act.
21 C.F.R. Parts 1100, 1140, and 1143.
23 Ill.Admin.Code §22.20.

CROSS REF.: 5:10 (Equal Employment Opportunity and Minority Recruitment), 5:120 (Employee Ethics; Conduct; and Conflict of Interest), 6:60 (Curriculum Content), 8:30 (Visitors to and Conduct on School Property)

General Personnel

Abused and Neglected Child Reporting 1

Any District employee who suspects or receives knowledge that a student may be an abused or neglected child or, for a student aged 18 through 21, an abused or neglected individual with a disability², shall: (1) immediately report or cause a report to be made to the Illinois Dept. of Children and Family Services (DCFS) on its Child Abuse Hotline 1-800-25-ABUSE (1-800-252-2873)(within Illinois); 1-217-524-2606 (outside of Illinois); or 1-800-358-5117 (TTY), and (2) follow directions given by DCFS concerning filing a written report within 48 hours with the nearest DCFS field office.³ Any District employee who believes a student is in immediate danger of harm, shall first call

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¹ State or federal law controls this policy's content. The Abused and Neglected Child Reporting Act (ANCRA), (325 ILCS 5/4) requires ~~school~~*education personnel* to immediately report or cause a report to be made to DCFS ~~when they have reasonable cause to believe a child known to them in their professional or official capacities may be abused or neglected;~~ *education personnel includes school personnel (including administrators and certified and non-certified school employees) and educational advocates assigned to a child in accordance with the School Code. 325 ILCS 5/4(a)(4), added by P.A. 101-564, eff. 1-1-20;* ANCRA states that *such personnel* "may also notify the person in charge of [the] school[.]" 325 ILCS 5/4(e). If the report involves a *disabled adult student*, employees should expect DCFS to instruct them to call the Ill. Dept. of Human Services Office (DHS) office of the Inspector General's statewide 24 hour toll-free telephone number at 1-800-843-6154 (within Illinois); 1-866-324-5553 (TTY/Nextalk); or 711 (Illinois Relay). 325 ILCS 5/4.4a and 20 ILCS 1305/1-17(b). Reports involving a disabled adult student may be made directly to DHS; however, for simplicity, and to preserve a superintendent's duty to disclose certain reports involving an employee or former district employee (see discussion in f/n 128 below) and the immunity for such disclosures, the sample policy directs the initial phone call involving a disabled adult student to DCFS.

Abuse and neglect are defined in 325 ILCS 5/3 and, for disabled adult students in 20 ILCS 1305/1-17(b). Abuse may be generally understood as any physical or mental injury or sexual abuse inflicted on a child or disabled adult student other than by accidental means or creation of a risk of such injury or abuse by a person who is responsible for the child's or disabled adult student's welfare. Neglect may be generally understood as abandoning a child or disabled adult student or failing to provide the proper support, education, medical, or remedial care required by law by one who is responsible for the child's or disabled adult student's welfare.

Any person required by law to report abuse and neglect who willfully fails to report is guilty of a Class A misdemeanor. A teaching license may be suspended for willful ~~or negligent~~ failure to report suspected child abuse or neglect as required by law. 105 ILCS 5/21B-75, *amended by P.A. 101-531*, and 20 ILCS 1305/1-17(k)(1). 20 ILCS 1305/1-17(k)(1) allows mandated reporters for disabled adults four hours to report after the initial discovery of the incident, allegation, or suspicion of any one or more of the following: mental abuse, physical abuse, sexual abuse, neglect, or financial exploitation.

District employees who make a report in good faith receive immunity, except in cases of willful or wanton misconduct. See 325 ILCS 5/4 and 9. Further, for the purpose of any proceedings, civil or criminal, good faith of the person making the report is presumed. *Id.*

Every two years, each district within an Illinois county served by an accredited Children's Advocacy Center (CAC) must review its sexual abuse investigation policies and procedures to ensure consistency with 105 ILCS 5/22-85 (final citation pending), added by P.A. 101-531. 105 ILCS 5/10-20.69 (final citation pending), added by P.A. 101-531. See sample policy 7:20, Harassment of Students Prohibited.

² State child and disabled adult protection laws define the same class of individuals differently, but with the same goal: to protect a disabled adult student, not living in a DCFS licensed facility, who is still finishing school with an Individual Education Plan (IEP). The Dept. of Human Services Act (DHS Act) defines "adult student with a disability" as an adult student, age 18 through 21, inclusive (through the day before the student's 22nd birthday), with an IEP other than a resident of a facility licensed by DCFS. 20 ILCS 1305/1-17(b). This statutory definition is the basis for this sample policy's language. For purposes of the discussions in f/ns 1 and 108, the term "adult student with a disability" is shortened to *disabled adult student*.

For elementary districts, delete the following phrase from the first sentence: "~~or, for a student aged 18 through 21, an abused or neglected individual with a disability,~~ "

³ 325 ILCS 5/7, *amended by P.A. 101-583, eff. 1-1-20*. For a board that wants to include what a DCFS report should contain, an optional sentence follows:

The report shall include, if known:

911. The employee shall also promptly notify the Superintendent or Building Principal that a report has been made.⁴ The Superintendent or Building Principal shall immediately coordinate any necessary notifications to the student's parent(s)/guardian(s) with DCFS, the applicable school resource officer (SRO), and/or local law enforcement.⁵ Negligent failure to report occurs when a District employee personally observes an instance of suspected child abuse or neglect and reasonably believes, in his or her professional or official capacity, that the instance constitutes an act of child abuse or neglect under the Abused and Neglected Child Reporting Act (ANCRA) and he or she, without willful intent, fails to immediately report or cause a report to be made of the suspected abuse or neglect to DCFS. ⁶

Any District employee who discovers child pornography on electronic and information technology equipment shall immediately report it to local law enforcement, the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children's CyberTipline 1-800-THE-LOST (1-800-843-5678) or online at www.report.cybertip.org or www.missingkids.org-www.cybertipline.com. The Superintendent or Building Principal shall also be promptly notified of the discovery and that a report has been made. ⁷

Any District employee who observes any act of hazing that does bodily harm to a student must report that act to the Building Principal, Superintendent, or designee who will investigate and take appropriate action. If the hazing results in death or great bodily harm, the employee must first make the report to law enforcement and then to the Superintendent or Building Principal. Hazing is defined as any intentional, knowing, or reckless act directed to or required of a student for the purpose of

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1. The name and address of the child, parent/guardian names, or other persons having custody;
2. The child's age;
3. The child's condition, including any evidence of previous injuries or disabilities; and
4. Any other information that the reporter believes may be helpful to DCFS for its investigation.

⁴ The sample policy makes the report to the superintendent or building principal mandatory to keep the administration informed. The administration may not force the staff member to change or modify his or her report.

⁵ Optional. The sample policy makes coordination with DCFS, the SRO, and local law enforcement a step in the process of reporting, so the local agencies and school district are better able to prevent and manage the risks school officials and parents/guardians face when a DCFS report has been made, e.g., situations where parents/guardians, upon learning a DCFS report has been made involving their child(ren), commit an act of self-harm in response to the information.

For school districts in DuPage County, the DuPage County State's Attorney (SAO), Regional Office of Education (ROE), Police Dept. (PD), and DCFS have created a *Model Policy Reporting Abuse and Neglect for School Officials in DuPage County*, at: www.dupageroe.org/wp-content/uploads/Mandated_Reporting.pdf. Consult the board attorney about this reporting policy – its intent is for school officials to immediately inform the SAO that a report to DCFS has been made to allow the SAO to investigate and prevent evidence spoliation. **Note:** The DuPage SAO, ROE, and PD lack authority under ANCRA over school officials to enforce compliance with this "model reporting policy;" only DCFS has the authority under ANCRA to enforce penalties under ANCRA, not the "model reporting policy." The DuPage SAO, ROE, and PD did not consult school officials in the creation of its "model reporting policy."

⁶ 105 ILCS 5/10-23.12(c) (all district employees), added by P.A. 101-531; 105 ILCS 5/21B-75(b) (teachers), amended by P.A. 101-531.

⁷ ANCRA requires an electronic and information technology equipment worker or the worker's employer to report a discovery of child pornography depicted on an item of electronic and information technology equipment. 325 ILCS 5/4.5(b). Consult the board attorney to determine whether any district employees fit the definition of an *electronic and information technology worker*, i.e., are "persons who in the scope and course of their employment or business install, repair, or otherwise service electronic and information technology equipment for a fee."

The paragraph exceeds the State requirements by requiring *all* district employees to report a discovery of child pornography on electronic and information technology equipment. This furthers the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children's public policy goal of "empowering the public to take immediate and direct action to enforce a zero tolerance policy regarding child sexual exploitation."

Similar to school personnel who are mandated reporters, electronic and information technology equipment workers and their employers have broad immunities from criminal, civil, or administrative liabilities when they report a discovery of child pornography as required under 325 ILCS 5/4.5(b), except for willful or wanton misconduct-, e.g., knowingly filing a false report. Failure to report a discovery of child pornography is a business offense subject to a fine of \$1001. 325 ILCS 5/4.5(e).

being initiated into, affiliating with, holding office in, or maintaining membership in any group, organization, club, or athletic team whose members are or include other students. ⁸

Abused and Neglected Child Reporting Act (ANCRA), School Code, and Erin's Law Training

The Superintendent or designee shall provide staff development opportunities for District employees in the detection, reporting, and prevention of child abuse and neglect. ⁹

All District employees shall:

1. Before beginning employment, sign the *Acknowledgement of Mandated Reporter Status* form provided by DCFS. The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that the signed forms are retained.
2. Complete mandated reporter training as required by law within ~~one year~~three months of initial employment and at least every ~~five~~three years after that date. ¹⁰

The Superintendent will encourage all District educators to complete continuing professional development that addresses the traits and identifiers that may be evident in students who are victims of child sexual abuse, including recognizing and reporting child sexual abuse and providing appropriate follow-up and care for abused students as they return to the classroom setting. ^{11 12}

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⁸ 720 ILCS 5/12C-50.1(b) creates a duty for *school officials* to report hazing. The term *school official* includes all school employees and volunteer coaches. ~~Id.~~720 ILCS 5/12C-50.1(a). The duty to report hazing is triggered only when the district employee was fulfilling his or her responsibilities as a school official and observed hazing which results in bodily harm. ~~Id.~~720 ILCS 5/12C-50.1(b). A report must be made to *supervising educational authorities*, which is not defined in the Act. *Id.* Common sense, however, would require the individual witnessing hazing to report it to the building principal or superintendent. Failure to report hazing is a Class B misdemeanor. 720 ILCS 5/12C-50.1(c). Failure to report hazing that resulted in death or great bodily harm is a Class A misdemeanor. *Id.* 7:190-AP1, *Student Handbook - Hazing Prohibited*, uses the same definition of *hazing*; this definition is based on 720 ILCS 5/12C-50.

⁹ While it is unclear whether this is a duty or power, 105 ILCS 5/10-23.12(a), amended by P.A.s 100-413 (~~eff. 1-1-18~~) and 100-468 (~~eff. 6-1-18~~), authorizes boards “[t]o provide staff development for local school site personnel who work with pupils in grades kindergarten through 8, in the detection, reporting and prevention of child abuse and neglect.”

The drill during such training should be: “If in question, report.”

¹⁰ ANCRA) also requires staff members, within ~~one year~~three months of employment, to complete mandated reporter training from a provider or agency with expertise in recognizing and reporting child abuse. 325 ILCS 5/4(j), amended by P.A. 101-564, eff. 1-1-20. This training must be completed again at least every ~~five~~three years. *Id.* Their initial ANCRA three-month training requirement applies to the first time staff engage in their professional or official capacity. Id. While the law allows an extension to six months, it is unclear when such an extension is permissible. Consult the board attorney for guidance. addresses only new employees to a district. It is silent about how to manage individuals who were employed by a district before 7-1-14. As a best practice, to ensure compliance with the requirement in 105 ILCS 5/22-85(c) (final citation pending), added by P.A. 101-531, that mandated reporters annually review ISBE materials regarding notification of DCFS (see f/n 15, below), and to ease the administrative burden to track employee training schedules, a district may consider requiring annual training for all employees.

To reduce liability and align with best practices, ANCRA training for existing district employees appears prudent; however, consult the board attorney about:

1. Whether mandating existing employees to participate in ANCRA training is an item on which collective bargaining may be required. Any policy that impacts upon wages hours, and terms and conditions of employment, is subject to collective bargaining upon request by the employee representative, even if the policy involves an inherent managerial right.
2. How to comply with both the new ANCRA training requirements and whether compliance with them would also satisfy the School Code’s more limited district-provided training requirement discussed in f/n ⁸⁹ above.

¹¹ *Erin's Law Taskforce Final Report (Report)* at: www.isbe.net/Documents/erins-law-final0512.pdf. 105 ILCS 5/22-65 was repealed by P.A. 99-30 (eff. 7-10-15) upon submission of the Report.

¹² 105 ILCS 5/10-23.12(b), amended by P.A.s 100-413 (~~eff. 1-1-18~~) and 100-468 (~~eff. 6-1-18~~), permits DCFS to cooperate with school officials to distribute informational ANCRA materials in school buildings. The following optional sentence provides that information: “The Superintendent or designee will display DCFS-issued materials that list the DCFS toll-free telephone number and methods for making a report under ANCRA in a clearly visible location in each school building.”

Alleged Incidents of Sexual Abuse; Investigations 13

An alleged incident of sexual abuse is an incident of sexual abuse of a child, as defined in 720 ILCS 5/11-9.1A, that is alleged to have been perpetrated by school personnel, including a school vendor or volunteer, that occurred: on school grounds during a school activity; or outside of school grounds or not during a school activity. 14

If a District employee reports an alleged incident of sexual abuse to DCFS¹⁵ and DCFS accepts the report for investigation, DCFS will refer the matter to the local Children's Advocacy Center (CAC).¹⁶ The Superintendent or designee will implement procedures to coordinate with the CAC.

DCFS and/or the appropriate law enforcement agency will inform the District when its investigation is complete or has been suspended, as well as the outcome of its investigation.¹⁷ The existence of a DCFS and/or law enforcement investigation will not preclude the District from conducting its own parallel investigation into the alleged incident of sexual abuse in accordance with policy 7:20, *Harassment of Students Prohibited*.

Special Superintendent Responsibilities

The Superintendent shall execute the requirements in Board policy 5:150, *Personnel Records*, whenever another school district requests a reference concerning an applicant who is or was a District employee and was the subject of a report made by a District employee to DCFS. 18

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¹³ Delete this subhead if your school district is not within a county served by an accredited CAC. 105 ILCS 5/22-85 (final citation pending), added by P.A. 101-531, governs the investigation of an alleged incident of sexual abuse of any child within any Illinois counties served by a CAC. For a map of accredited CACs, and to identify a CAC that may serve your district, see www.childrensadvocacycentersofillinois.org/about/map. The law is silent about investigations in counties without CACs.

¹⁴ Though 105 ILCS 5/22-85(b) (final citation pending), added by P.A. 101-531, defines *alleged incident of sexual abuse*, its definition is circular, using the term *sexual abuse* without defining what that means. To provide boards with clarity, the definition of *sexual abuse* used in the Ill. Criminal Code of 2012 is used.

¹⁵ 105 ILCS 5/22-85(c) (final citation pending), added by P.A. 101-531, provides that if a mandated reporter within a school has knowledge of an alleged incident of sexual abuse, the reporter must call the DCFS hotline immediately after obtaining the minimal information necessary to make a report, including the names of the affected parties and the allegations. It further requires the Ill. State Board of Education (ISBE) to make available materials detailing the information necessary to enable notification to DCFS of an alleged incident of sexual abuse, and that all mandated reporters annually review ISBE's materials.

¹⁶ 105 ILCS 5/22-85(d) (final citation pending), added by P.A. 101-531.

¹⁷ 105 ILCS 5/22-85(j), (k) (final citation pending), added by P.A. 101-531.

¹⁸ AN CRA requires a superintendent, upon being requested for a reference concerning an employee or former employee, to disclose to the requesting school district the fact that a district employee has made a report involving the conduct of the applicant or caused a report to be made to DCFS. 325 ILCS 5/4(d), amended by P.A. 101-564, eff. 1-1-20. When a report involves a disabled adult student, DCFS must instruct mandated reporters making these reports to call the DHS' Office of the Inspector General's statewide 24 hour toll-free telephone number: 1-800-368-1463 (325 ILCS 5/4.4a) to make a report under the DHS Act.

The DHS Act (20 ILCS 1305/1-17(l)) then requires a determination of whether a report involving a disabled adult student should be investigated under it or the Abuse of Adults with Disabilities Intervention Act (20 ILCS 2435), however that Act was repealed by P.A. 99-049 (eff. 7-1-13). The DHS Act does not outline a duty for the superintendent, upon being requested for a reference concerning an employee or former employee, to disclose to the requesting school district the fact that a district employee has made a report involving the conduct of the applicant or caused a report to be made to DHS involving an adult student with a disability.

Given the public policy behind the recent amendments to 325 ILCS 5/4, a reasonable interpretation of the law is that the superintendent's duty to disclose now involves DHS reports concerning adult students with disabilities. However, with no mechanism requiring DHS to report back to the superintendent a *non-substantiated report* (DHS version of a DCFS *unfounded report*), a superintendent's duty to disclose cannot end. Consult the board attorney about managing the duty to disclose reports that involve disabled adult students when DCFS redirects the reporter to DHS. For more information, see policy 5:150, *Personnel Records*.

The Superintendent shall notify the State Superintendent and the Regional Superintendent in writing when he or she has reasonable cause to believe that a license holder was dismissed or resigned from the District as a result of an act that made a child an abused or neglected child.¹⁹ The Superintendent must make the report within 30 days of the dismissal or resignation and mail a copy of the notification to the license holder.²⁰

Special School Board Member Responsibilities

Each individual Board member must, if an allegation is raised to the member during an open or closed Board meeting that a student is an abused child as defined in ~~the Act~~ANCRA, direct or cause the Board to direct the Superintendent or other equivalent school administrator to comply with ~~the Act~~ANCRA's requirements concerning the reporting of child abuse.²¹

If the Board determines that any District employee, other than an employee licensed under 105 ILCS 5/21B, has willfully or negligently failed to report an instance of suspected child abuse or neglect as required by ANCRA, the Board may dismiss that employee immediately.²²

LEGAL REF.: 105 ILCS 5/10-21.9.
20 ILCS 1305/1-1 et seq., Department of Human Services Act.
325 ILCS 5/, Abused and Neglected Child Reporting Act.
720 ILCS 5/12C-50.1, Criminal Code of 2012.

CROSS REF.: 2:20 (Powers and Duties of the School Board; Indemnification), 5:20 (Workplace Harassment Prohibited), 5:30 (Hiring Process and Criteria), 5:100 (Staff Development Program), 5:120 (Employee Ethics; Conduct; and Conflict of Interest), 5:150 (Personnel Records), 5:200 (Terms and Conditions of Employment and Dismissal), 5:290 (Employment Terminations and Suspensions), 6:120 (Education of Children with Disabilities), 6:250 (Community Resource Persons and Volunteers), 7:20 (Harassment of Students Prohibited), 7:150 (Agency and Police Interviews)

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¹⁹ Alternative for districts in suburban Cook County: replace "Regional Superintendent" with "appropriate Intermediate Educational Service Center."

²⁰ 105 ILCS 5/10-21.9(e-5), amended by P.A. 101-531, requires these notifications and provides superintendents immunity from any liability, whether civil or criminal or that otherwise might result by complying with the statute.

²¹ 325 ILCS 5/4(d), amended by P.A. 101-564, eff. 1-1-20. This statute makes board members mandatory child abuse reporters "to the extent required in accordance with other provisions of this section expressly concerning the duty of school board members to report suspected child abuse." Thus, a board member's duty is "to direct the superintendent or other equivalent school administrator to comply with the Act's requirements concerning the reporting of child abuse" whenever an "allegation is raised to a school board member during the course of an open or closed school board meeting that a child who is enrolled in the school district of which he or she is a board member is an abused child." Of course, any board member with reason to doubt that a report was or will be made should directly contact DCFS.

²² 105 ILCS 5/10-23.12(c), added by P.A. 101-531. See f/n 6, above, and f/n 3 in policy 2:20, Powers and Duties of the School Board: Indemnification.

General Personnel

Staff Development Program 1

The Superintendent or designee shall implement a staff development program. The goal of such 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 the District and School Improvement Plans so that student learning objectives meet or exceed goals established by the District and State.

The staff development program shall provide, at a minimum, at least once every two years, the in-service training of licensed school personnel and administrators on current best practices regarding the identification and treatment of attention deficit disorder and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, the application of non-aversive behavioral interventions in the school environment, and the use of psychotropic or psychostimulant medication for school-age children. ²

The staff development program shall provide, at a minimum, once every two years, the in-service training of all District staff on educator ethics, teacher-student conduct, and school employee-student conduct. ^{3 4 5}

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¹ State law requires the subject matter in paragraph 2 to be covered by policy. State or federal law controls this policy's content. A school board may set and enforce professional growth requirements. 105 ILCS 5/24-5. Failure to meet professional growth requirements is considered remediable. *Morris v. Ill. State Bd. of Educ.*, 198 Ill.App.3d 51 (3rd Dist. 1990).

105 ILCS 5/2-3.62, amended by P.A. 99-30 (repealing 105 ILCS 5.2-3.60), requires the Ill. State Board of Education (ISBE) to establish a regional network of educational service centers to coordinate and combine existing services in a manner that is practical and efficient for schools. Their purposes are to provide, among other things, continuing education, in-service training, and staff development services to all local school districts in Illinois.

² This paraphrases 105 ILCS 5/10-20.36(b). The topic covered in this paragraph must be in a board policy. *Id.* A school medical staff, an individualized educational program team, or a professional worker (as defined in Section 14-1.10) may recommend that a student be evaluated by an appropriate medical practitioner. School personnel may consult with the practitioner, with the consent of the student's parent/guardian.

³ 105 ILCS 5/10-22.39(f) requires boards to conduct this in-service. While the language of this paragraph is not required to be in board policy, including it provides a way for boards to monitor that it is being done. Including this language provides an opportunity for each board and the superintendent to examine all current policies, collective bargaining agreements, and administrative procedures on this subject. Each board may then want to have a conversation with the superintendent and direct him or her to develop a curriculum for the in-service that instructs all district staff to maintain boundaries and act appropriately, professionally, and ethically with students. See also 5:120, *Employee Ethics; Conduct; and Conflict of Interest*, and ¶n 11 in 4:110, *Transportation*. These expectations will be most effective when they reflect local conditions and circumstances. Employee conduct issues may be subjects of mandatory collective bargaining, therefore consulting the board attorney should be a part of this process. A district would commit an unfair labor practice by implementing new employee conduct rules without first offering to negotiate them with the applicable exclusive bargaining representative.

⁴ Insert the following option if a board wants to list in-services and/or trainings that State and federal law require, but are not required to be specified in board policy. If the board does not choose this option, delete 325 ILCS 5/4 from the Legal References. The only non-School Code state law training requirements listed are from the Abused and Neglected Child Reporting Act, Ill. Human Rights Act, and the Seizure Smart School Act.

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

1. At least, once every two years, training of all District staff by a person with expertise on anaphylactic reactions and management.
2. At least every two years, an in-service to train school personnel, at a minimum, to understand, provide information and referrals, and address issues pertaining to youth who are parents, expectant parents, or victims of domestic or sexual violence.

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3. Training that, at a minimum, provides District staff with a basic knowledge of matters relating to acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) and the availability of appropriate sources of counseling and referral.
4. Training for licensed school personnel and administrators who work with students in grades kindergarten through 12 to identify the warning signs of mental illness and suicidal behavior in youth along with appropriate intervention and referral techniques.
5. Abused and Neglected Child Reporting Act (ANCRA), School Code, and *Erin's Law* Training as follows:
 - a. Staff development for local school site personnel who work with students in grades kindergarten through 8, in the detection, reporting, and prevention of child abuse and neglect (see policy 5:90, *Abused and Neglected Child Reporting*).
 - b. 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 (see policy 5:90, *Abused and Neglected Child Reporting*).
 - c. Informing educators about the recommendation in the *Erin's Law* Taskforce Report requesting them to attend continuing professional development programs that address the prevention and identification of child sexual abuse (see policy 5:90, *Abused and Neglected Child Reporting*).
6. Education for staff instructing students in grades 7 through 12, concerning teen dating violence as recommended by the District's Nondiscrimination Coordinator, Building Principal, Assistant Building Principal, Dean of Students or Complaint Manager.
7. Ongoing professional development for teachers, administrators, school resource officers, and staff regarding the adverse consequences of school exclusion and justice-system involvement, effective classroom management strategies, culturally responsive discipline, 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.
8. 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.
9. 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.
10. 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.
11. Every two years, school personnel who work with students must complete an in-person or online training program on the management of asthma, the prevention of asthma symptoms, and emergency response in the school setting.
12. Training for school personnel to develop cultural competency, including understanding and reducing implicit racial bias.
13. For school personnel who work with hazardous or toxic materials on a regular basis, training on the safe handling and use of such materials.
14. For nurses, administrators, guidance counselors, teachers, persons employed by a local health department and assigned to a school, and persons who contract with the District to perform services in connection with a student's seizure action plan, training in the basics of seizure recognition, first aid, and appropriate emergency protocols.
15. For all District staff, annual sexual harassment prevention training.

Alternative to paragraph number 2:

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2. At least every two years, an in-service to train school personnel who work with students on how to: (a) communicate with and listen to youth victims of domestic or sexual violence and expectant and parenting youth, (b) connect 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, and (c) implement the School District's policies, procedures, and protocols with regard to such youth, including confidentiality. The in-service shall be conducted by persons with expertise in domestic and sexual violence and the needs of expectant and parenting youth.

Citations for this option follow:

1. 105 ILCS 5/10-22.39(e) (refers to anaphylactic reactions/management).
2. 105 ILCS 5/10-22.39(d).
3. 105 ILCS 5/10-22.39(e).
4. 105 ILCS 5/10-22.39(b), amended by P.A.s 100-903 and 101-350, eff. 1-1-20. The law allows districts to use the Ill. Mental Health First Aid training program to provide this training. If a licensed employee or an administrator obtains mental health first aid training outside of an in-service training program, he or she may present a certificate of successful completion of that training to the school district to satisfy the requirements of this law.
5. 105 ILCS 5/10-23.12, amended by P.A. 101-531; 325 ILCS 5/4(j), amended by P.A. 101-564, eff. 1-1-20; and *Erin's Law Taskforce Final Report*, authorized by 105 ILCS 5/22-65 and repealed by P.A. 99-30 because of submission of the Report at: www.isbe.net/Documents/erins-law-final0512.pdf and see also www.crinslawillinois.org/ for more resources based upon the report. Training may be in-person or web-based and must include, at a minimum, information on the following topics: (1) indicators for recognizing child abuse and child neglect; (2) the process for reporting suspected child abuse and child neglect and the required documentation; (3) responding to a child in a trauma-informed manner; and (4) understanding the response of child protective services and the role of the reporter after a call has been made. 325 ILCS 5/4(j), amended by P.A. 101-564, eff. 1-1-20. Districts must provide training through either DCFS, an entity authorized to provide continuing education through the Dept. of Financial and Professional Regulation, the Ill. State Board of Education, the Ill. Law Enforcement Training Standards Board, the Ill. Dept. of State Police, or an organization approved by DCFS to provide mandated reporter training. *Id.* *Child-serving organizations*, which are not defined in ANCRA, are "encouraged to provide in-person annual trainings." *Id.*
6. 105 ILCS 110/3.10(b)(2).
7. 105 ILCS 5/10-22.6(c-5), amended by P.A. 100-810. School board members are also included.
8. 7 C.F.R. Parts 210 and 235. Section 210.2 defines school nutrition program directors, managers and staff. 7 C.F.R. §§210.15(b)(8) (recordkeeping requirements) and 210.31(a), (c), (d), and (e) (professional standards requirements); 210.31(g)(requiring school food authority director to keep records), amended by Fed. Reg. Vol. 81, No. 146 at 50169 and finalized 7-29-16. Food service funds may be used for reasonable, allocable, and necessary training costs. 7 C.F.R. §210.31(f). The U.S. Dept. of Agriculture (USDA) has established implementation resources that contain training opportunities and resources covering the four core training areas: nutrition, operations, administration, and communications/marketing at: www.fns.usda.gov/school-meals/professional-standards.
9. 105 ILCS 25/1.15.
10. 105 ILCS 5/22-80(h), amended by P.A. 100-309.
11. 105 ILCS 5/22-30(j-15). Consult the board attorney about whether:
 - a. All asthma action plans should require immediate 911 calls based upon *In re Estate of Stewart*, 406 Ill.Dec. 345 (2nd Dist. 2016); *In re Estate of Stewart*, 412 Ill.Dec. 914 (Ill. 2017) (school district's appeal denied). The court held that a teacher's failure to dial 911 immediately upon a student's asthma attack was *willful and wanton* conduct, subjecting the school district to liability under the Local Governmental and Governmental Employees Tort Immunity Act.
 - b. The duties and responsibilities of the district when it asks for, but does not receive an asthma action plan from a parent/guardian and the logistics of distributing any received plans to those employees who need to know based upon *Stewart*, above.
12. 105 ILCS 5/10-20.61, added by P.A. 100-14.
13. 105 ILCS 5/10-20.17a; 23 Ill.Admin.Code §1.330.
14. 105 ILCS 150/25, added by P.A. 101-50, eff. 7-1-20.
15. 775 ILCS 5/2-109, added by P.A. 101-221, eff. 1-1-20.

The Superintendent 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*. 6

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Putting this optional list into the policy will help the board monitor that the required in-service and training topics are being covered. While it is possible to *pick and choose*, this practice is likely to add more confusion to an already confusing responsibility. Unless noted, the School Code does not mandate the frequency with which the training must occur. Several other trainings that are mentioned in laws other than the School Code are addressed in other policies. Many of those policies are listed in the cross-references to this policy, e.g., training requirements under the Care of Students with Diabetes Act. 105 ILCS 145/.

5 Different from the in-service training that school districts must provide to their staff, 105 ILCS 5/3-11, contains requirements that the regional superintendents must include during teachers institutes. Instruction on prevalent student chronic health conditions, as well as educator ethics and teacher-student conduct training is also required. See also ¶n 3 above discussing the board's requirement in Section 10-22.39. Beginning with the 2016-17 school year, teachers' institutes must also include instruction on the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) (42 U.S.C. §12101 *et seq.*) as it pertains to the school environment at least every two years. Contact the Regional Superintendent or the appropriate Intermediate Service Center with questions about online training for this component of a teachers' institute. Discuss with the board attorney the best practices of documenting trainings and evaluations of trainings; many attorneys in the field prefer documentation of ADA trainings to assist in their defense of any potential ADA claims against the district.

For districts that have a practice of providing instruction in life-saving techniques and first-aid in their staff development programs, insert the following optional paragraph that restates 105 ILCS 5/3-11, 105 ILCS 110/3, and 77 Ill.Admin.Code §527.800:

An opportunity shall be provided for all staff members to acquire, develop, and maintain the knowledge and skills necessary to properly administer life-saving techniques and first aid, including the Heimlich maneuver, cardiopulmonary resuscitation, and the use of an automated external defibrillator, in accordance with a nationally recognized certifying organization. Physical fitness facilities' staff must be trained in cardiopulmonary resuscitation and use of an automated external defibrillator.

Persons performing CPR are generally exempt from civil liability if they are trained in CPR (745 ILCS 49/10); persons performing automated external defibrillation are generally exempt from civil liability if they were trained and acted according to the standards of the American Heart Association (745 ILCS 49/12).

The board may also want to address other staff development opportunities. While not required to be policy, 105 ILCS 5/27-23.10 requires a school board to collaborate with State and local law enforcement agencies on gang resistance education and training. It also states that ISBE may assist in the development of instructional materials and teacher training for gang resistance education and training, which may be helpful to include in the staff development program. Other mandated and recommended staff development opportunities that are not located in the School Code or ISBE rules are found in the Ill. Administrative Code or federal regulations. Many of them are cross referenced in this policy.

6 Required by 105 ILCS 5/2-3.166(c)(2).

- LEGAL REF.: Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010, 42 U.S.C. §1758b, Pub. L. 111-296.
7 C.F.R. Parts 210 and 235.
105 ILCS 5/2-3.62, 5/10-20.17a, 5/10-20.61, 5/10-22.6(c-5), 5/10-22.39, 5/10-23.12, 5/22-80(h), and 5/24-5.
105 ILCS 25/1.15, Interscholastic Athletic Organization 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, Ill. Human Rights Act.
23 Ill.Admin.Code §§ 22.20, 226.800, and Part 525.
77 Ill.Admin.Code §527.800.
- CROSS REF.: 3:40 (Superintendent), 3:50 (Administrative Personnel Other Than the Superintendent), 4:160 (Environmental Quality of Buildings and Grounds), 5:20 (Workplace Harassment Prohibited), 5:90 (Abused and Neglected Child Reporting), 5:120 (Employee Ethics; 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), 7:270 (Administering Medicines to Students), 7:285 (Food Allergy Management Program), 7:290 (Suicide and Depression Awareness and Prevention), 7:305 (Student Athlete Concussions and Head Injuries)
- ADMIN. PROC.: 4:160-AP (Environmental Quality of Buildings and Grounds), 4:170-AP6 (Plan for Responding to a Medical Emergency at an Indoor Physical Fitness Facility), 5:100-AP (Staff Development Program), 5:150-AP (Personnel Records), 6:120-AP4 (Care of Students with Diabetes), 7:250-AP1 (Measures to Control the Spread of Head Lice at School)