

Document Status: Draft Update

BOARD OF EDUCATION

2:105 Ethics and Gift Ban

Prohibited Political Activity

The following precepts govern political activities being conducted by District employees and Board of Education members:

1. No employee shall intentionally perform any *political activity* during any *compensated time*, as those terms are defined herein.
2. No Board member or employee shall intentionally use any District property or resources in connection with any political activity. [PRESSPlus1](#)
3. At no time shall any Board member or employee intentionally require any other Board member or employee to perform any political activity: (a) as part of that Board member's or employee's duties, (b) as a condition of employment, or (c) during any compensated time off, such as, holidays, vacation, or personal time off.
4. No Board member or employee shall be required at any time to participate in any political activity in consideration for that Board member or employee being awarded additional compensation or any benefit, whether in the form of a salary adjustment, bonus, compensatory time off, continued employment or otherwise; nor shall any Board member or employee be awarded additional compensation or any benefit in consideration for his or her participation in any political activity.

A Board member or employee may engage in any activity that: (1) is otherwise appropriate as part of his or her official duties, or (2) is undertaken by the individual on a voluntary basis that is not prohibited by this policy.

Limitations on Receiving Gifts

Except as permitted by this policy, no Board member or employee, and no spouse of or immediate family member living with a Board member or employee shall intentionally solicit or accept any *gift* from any *prohibited source*, as those terms are defined herein, or that is otherwise prohibited by law or policy. No prohibited source shall intentionally offer or make a gift that violates this policy.

The following are exceptions to the ban on accepting gifts from a prohibited source:

1. Opportunities, benefits, and services that are available on the same conditions as for the general public.
2. Anything for which the Board member or employee, or his or her spouse or immediate family member, pays the fair market value.
3. Any: (a) contribution that is lawfully made under the Election Code, or (b) activities associated with a fundraising event in support of a political organization or candidate.
4. Educational materials and missions.
5. Travel expenses for a meeting to discuss [District](#) [PRESSPlus2](#) business.

6. A gift from a relative, meaning those people related to the individual as father, mother, son, daughter, brother, sister, uncle, aunt, great aunt, great uncle, first cousin, nephew, niece, husband, wife, grandfather, grandmother, grandson, granddaughter, father-in-law, mother-in-law, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, brother-in-law, sister-in-law, stepfather, stepmother, stepson, stepdaughter, stepbrother, stepsister, half brother, half sister, and including the father, mother, grandfather, or grandmother of the individual's spouse and the individual's fiancé or fiancée.
7. Anything provided by an individual on the basis of a personal friendship unless the recipient has reason to believe that, under the circumstances, the gift was provided because of the official position or employment of the recipient or his or her spouse or immediate family member and not because of the personal friendship. In determining whether a gift is provided on the basis of personal friendship, the recipient shall consider the circumstances under which the gift was offered, such as: (a) the history of the relationship between the individual giving the gift and the recipient of the gift, including any previous exchange of gifts between those individuals; (b) whether to the actual knowledge of the recipient the individual who gave the gift personally paid for the gift or sought a tax deduction or business reimbursement for the gift; and (c) whether to the actual knowledge of the recipient the individual who gave the gift also at the same time gave the same or similar gifts to other Board members or employees, or their spouses or immediate family members.
8. Food or refreshments not exceeding \$75 per person in value on a single calendar day; provided that the food or refreshments are: (a) consumed on the premises from which they were purchased or prepared; or (b) catered. Catered means food or refreshments that are purchased ready to consume, which are delivered by any means.
9. Food, refreshments, lodging, transportation, and other benefits resulting from outside business or employment activities (or outside activities that are not connected to the official duties of a Board member or employee), if the benefits have not been offered or enhanced because of the official position or employment of the Board member or employee, and are customarily provided to others in similar circumstances.
10. Intra-governmental and inter-governmental gifts. Intra-governmental gift means any gift given to a Board member or employee from another Board member or employee, and inter-governmental gift means any gift given to a Board member or employee from an officer or employee of another governmental entity.
11. Bequests, inheritances, and other transfers at death.
12. Any item or items from any one prohibited source during any calendar year having a cumulative total value of less than \$100.

Each of the listed exceptions is mutually exclusive and independent of every other.

A Board member or employee, his or her spouse or an immediate family member living with the Board member or employee, does not violate this policy if the recipient promptly takes reasonable action to return a gift from a prohibited source to its source or gives the gift or an amount equal to its value to an appropriate charity that is exempt from income taxation under [26 U.S.C. §501\(c\)\(3\)](#).

Enforcement

The Board President and Superintendent shall seek guidance from the Board Attorney concerning compliance with and enforcement of this policy and State ethics laws. The Board may, as necessary or prudent, appoint an Ethics Advisor for this task.

Written complaints alleging a violation of this policy shall be filed with the Superintendent or Board President. If attempts to correct any misunderstanding or problem do not resolve the matter, the Superintendent or Board President shall, after consulting with the Board Attorney, either place the

alleged violation on a Board meeting agenda for the Board's disposition or refer the complainant to Board policy 2:260, *Uniform Grievance Procedure*. A Board member who is related, either by blood or by marriage, up to the degree of first cousin, to the person who is the subject of the complaint, shall not participate in any decision-making capacity for the Board. If the Board finds it more likely than not that the allegations in a complaint are true, it shall notify the State's Attorney and/or consider disciplinary action for the employee.

Definitions

Unless otherwise stated, all terms used in this policy have the definitions given in the State Officials and Employees Ethics Act, [5 ILCS 430/1-5](#).

Political activity means:

1. Preparing for, organizing, or participating in any political meeting, political rally, political demonstration, or other political event.
2. Soliciting contributions, including but not limited to the purchase of, selling, distributing, or receiving payment for tickets for any political fundraiser, political meeting, or other political event.
3. Soliciting, planning the solicitation of, or preparing any document or report regarding anything of value intended as a campaign contribution.
4. Planning, conducting, or participating in a public opinion poll in connection with a campaign for elective office or on behalf of a political organization for political purposes or for or against any referendum question.
5. Surveying or gathering information from potential or actual voters in an election to determine probable vote outcome in connection with a campaign for elective office or on behalf of a political organization for political purposes or for or against any referendum question.
6. Assisting at the polls on Election Day on behalf of any political organization or candidate for elective office or for or against any referendum question.
7. Soliciting votes on behalf of a candidate for elective office or a political organization or for or against any referendum question or helping in an effort to get voters to the polls.
8. Initiating for circulation, preparing, circulating, reviewing, or filing any petition on behalf of a candidate for elective office or for or against any referendum question.
9. Making contributions on behalf of any candidate for elective office in that capacity or in connection with a campaign for elective office.
10. Preparing or reviewing responses to candidate questionnaires.
11. Distributing, preparing for distribution, or mailing campaign literature, campaign signs, or other campaign material on behalf of any candidate for elective office or for or against any referendum question.
12. Campaigning for any elective office or for or against any referendum question.
13. Managing or working on a campaign for elective office or for or against any referendum question.
14. Serving as a delegate, alternate, or proxy to a political party convention.
15. Participating in any recount or challenge to the outcome of any election.

With respect to an employee whose hours are not fixed, *compensated time* includes any period of time when the employee is on premises under the control of the District and any other time when the employee is executing his or her official duties, regardless of location.

Prohibited source means any person or entity who:

1. Is seeking official action by: (a) a Board member, or (b) an employee, or by the Board member or another employee directing that employee;
2. Does business or seeks to do business with: (a) a Board member, or (b) an employee, or with the Board member or another employee directing that employee;
3. Conducts activities regulated by: (a) a Board member, or (b) an employee or by the Board member or another employee directing that employee;
4. Has an interest that may be substantially affected by the performance or non-performance of the official duties of the Board member or employee;
5. Is registered or required to be registered with the Secretary of State under the Lobbyist Registration Act, except that an entity does not become a prohibited source merely because a registered lobbyist is one of its members or serves on its board of directors; or
6. Is an agent of, a spouse of, or an immediate family member living with a prohibited source.

Gift means any gratuity, discount, entertainment, hospitality, loan, forbearance, or other tangible or intangible item having monetary value including but not limited to, cash, food and drink, and honoraria for speaking engagements related to or attributable to government employment or the official position of a Board member or employee.

Complaints of Sexual Harassment Made Against Board Members by Elected Officials

Pursuant to the State Officials and Employees Ethics Act ([5 ILCS 430/70-5](#)), members of the Board and other elected officials are encouraged to promptly report claims of sexual harassment by a Board member. Every effort should be made to file such complaints as soon as possible, while facts are known and potential witnesses are available. If the official feels comfortable doing so, he or she should directly inform the individual that the individual's conduct or communication is offensive and must stop.

Board members and elected officials should report claims of sexual harassment against a member of the Board to the Board President or Superintendent. If the report is made to the Superintendent, the Superintendent shall promptly notify the President, or if the President is the subject of the complaint, the Vice President. Reports of sexual harassment will be confidential to the greatest extent practicable.

When a complaint of sexual harassment is made against a member of the Board by another Board member or other elected official, the Board President shall appoint a qualified outside investigator who is not a District employee or Board member to conduct an independent review of the allegations. If the allegations concern the President, or the President is a witness or otherwise conflicted, the Vice President shall make the appointment. If the allegations concern both the President and Vice President, and/or they are witnesses or otherwise conflicted, the Board Secretary shall make the appointment. The investigator shall prepare a written report and submit it to the Board.

If a Board member has engaged in sexual harassment, the matter will be addressed in accordance with the authority of the Board.

The Superintendent will post this policy on the District website and/or make this policy available in the District's administrative office.

LEGAL REF.:

[105 ILCS 5/22-93.](#)

[5 ILCS 430/](#), State Officials and Employees Ethics Act.

[10 ILCS 5/9-25.1](#), Election Interference Prohibition Act.

CROSS REF.: 2:100 (Board Member Conflict of Interest), 2:110 (Qualifications, Term, and Duties of Board Officers), 2:260 (Uniform Grievance Procedure), 4:60 (Purchases and Contracts), 5:120 (Employee Ethics; Code of Professional Conduct; and Conflict of Interest)

Adopted: February 21, 2023

PRESSPlus Comments

PRESSPlus 1. The term *use* in Item #2 is based on the Ill. Attorney General's model ordinance; it is arguably broader than the State Officials and Employees Ethics Act (SOEEA), which prohibits board members and district employees from intentionally *misappropriating* district property in connection with prohibited political activities. 5 ILCS 430/5-15(a)-(b). Some attorneys advise that a board member's mere presence on district property while engaging in a political activity on their own time (such as circulating an election petition at a school athletic event) is not a misappropriation of district property, and therefore does not violate the SOEEA. Consider that the term *use* may be easier to practically apply as a standard. Consult the board attorney for guidance on this issue. If the board wants Item #2 to match the SOEEA standard, substitute "misappropriate" in place of "use," and select the Save Status "Adopted with Additional District Edits." **Issue 117, October 2024**

PRESSPlus 2. Updated for continuous improvement. **Issue 117, October 2024**

Document Status: Draft Update

BOARD OF EDUCATION

2:120 Board Member Development

The Board of Education desires that its individual members learn, understand, and practice effective governance principles. The Board is responsible for Board member orientation and development. Board members have an equal opportunity to attend State and national meetings designed to familiarize members with public school issues, governance, and legislation.

The Board President and/or Superintendent shall provide all Board members with information regarding pertinent education materials, publications, and notices of training or development.

Mandatory Board Member Training

Each Board member is responsible for his or her own compliance with the mandatory training laws that are described below:

1. Each Board member elected or appointed to fill a vacancy of at least one year's duration must complete at least four hours of professional development and leadership training in: (1) education and labor law; (2) financial oversight and accountability; (3) fiduciary responsibilities; and (4) trauma-informed practices for students and staff; and (5) improving student outcomes. [PRESSPlus1](#) within the first year of his or her first term.
2. Each Board member must complete training on the Open Meetings Act (OMA) no later than 90 days after taking the oath of office for the first time. After completing the training, each Board member must file a copy of the certificate of completion with the Board. Training on ~~OMA~~ the ~~Open Meetings Act~~ is only required once.
3. Each Board member must complete a training program on evaluations under the Performance Evaluation Reform Act (PERA) before participating in a vote on a tenured teacher's dismissal using the optional alternative evaluation dismissal process. This dismissal process is available after the District's PERA implementation date.

The Superintendent or designee shall maintain on the District website a log identifying the complete training and development activities of each Board member, including both mandatory and non-mandatory training.

Professional Development; Adverse Consequences of School Exclusion; Student Behavior

The Board President or Superintendent, or their designees, ~~shall~~ ~~will~~ make reasonable efforts to provide ongoing professional development to Board members about the requirements of 105 ILCS 5/10-22.6 and 105 ILCS 5/10-20.14. [PRESSPlus2](#) adverse consequences of school exclusion and justice-system involvement, effective classroom management strategies, culturally responsive discipline, ~~trauma-responsive learning environments~~. [PRESSPlus3](#) 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. ~~i.e. Senate Bill 100 training topics~~.

Board Self-Evaluation

The Board will conduct periodic self-evaluations with the goal of continuous improvement.

New Board Member Orientation

The orientation process for newly elected or appointed Board members includes:

1. The Board President or Superintendent, or their designees, shall give each new Board member a copy of or online access to the Board Policy Manual, the Board's regular meeting minutes for the past year, and other helpful information including material describing the District and explaining the Board's roles and responsibilities.
2. The Board President or designee shall schedule one or more special Board meetings, or schedule time during regular meetings, for Board members to become acquainted and to review Board processes and procedures.
3. The Board President may request a veteran Board member to mentor a new member.
4. All new members are encouraged to attend workshops for new members conducted by the Illinois Association of School Boards.

Candidates

The Superintendent or designee shall invite all current candidates for the office of Board member to attend: (1) Board meetings, except that this invitation shall not extend to any closed meetings, and (2) pre-election workshops for candidates.

LEGAL REF.:

[5 ILCS 120/1.05](#) and [120/2](#), Open Meetings Act.

[105 ILCS 5/10-16a](#) and [5/24-16.5](#).

CROSS REF.: 2:80 (Board Member Oath and Conduct), 2:125 (Board Member Compensation; Expenses), 2:200 (Types of Board of Education Meetings)

Adopted: March 4, 2024

PRESSPlus Comments

PRESSPlus 1. Updated in response to 105 ILCS 5/10-16a, amended by P.A. 103-771, eff. 6-1-25. Training on improving student outcomes "must include information that is relevant to and within the scope of the duties of a school board member." **Issue 117, October 2024**

PRESSPlus 2. Updated in response to 105 ILCS 5/10-22.6(c-5), amended by P.A. 103-896. While a district must make reasonable efforts to provide professional development to board members in these areas, the inclusion of this subhead is optional. Information about professional development opportunities is available through IASB's website at: www.iasb.com/conference-training-and-events/training/.

105 ILCS 5/10-22.6, amended by P.A.s 102-466, eff. 7-1-25, 102-539, and 103-896, addresses the suspension or expulsion of students and school searches. See sample policies 7:190, *Student Behavior*, 7:200, *Suspension Procedures*, 7:210, *Expulsion Procedures*, and 7:220, *Bus Conduct*, available at PRESS Online by logging in at www.iasb.com. 105 ILCS 5/10-20.14, amended by P.A. 103-896, addresses parent-teacher advisory committees and their functions. See sample policy

2:150, *Committees*. **Issue 117, October 2024**

PRESSPlus 3. See 105 ILCS 5/3-11(b), amended by P.A. 103-413, for the definition of *trauma-responsive learning environments*. **Issue 117, October 2024**

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OPERATIONAL SERVICES

4:30 Revenue and Investments

Revenue

The Superintendent or designee is responsible for making all claims for property tax revenue, State Aid, special State funds for specific programs, federal funds, and categorical grants.

Investments

The Superintendent shall either appoint a Chief Investment Officer or serve as one. The Chief Investment Officer shall invest money that is not required for current operations, in accordance with this policy and State law.

The Chief Investment Officer and Superintendent shall use the standard of prudence when making investment decisions. They shall use the judgment and care, under circumstances then prevailing, that persons of prudence, discretion, and intelligence exercise in the management of their own affairs, not for speculation, but for investment, considering the safety of their capital as well as its probable income.

Investment Objectives

The objectives for the School District's investment activities are:

1. Safety of Principal - Every investment is made with safety as the primary and over-riding concern. Each investment transaction shall ensure that capital loss, whether from credit or market risk, is avoided.
2. Liquidity - The investment portfolio shall provide sufficient liquidity to pay District obligations as they become due. In this regard, the maturity and marketability of investments shall be considered.
3. Rate of Return - The highest return on investments is sought, consistent with the preservation of principal and prudent investment principles.
4. Diversification - The investment portfolio is diversified as to materials and investments, as appropriate to the nature, purpose, and amount of the funds.

Authorized Investments

The Chief Investment Officer may invest District funds in any investment as authorized in [30 ILCS 235/2](#), and Acts amendatory thereto. [PRESSPlus1](#)

Except as provided herein, investments may be made only in banks, savings banks, savings and loan associations, or credit unions that are insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or other approved share insurer.

The Chief Investment Officer and Superintendent shall regularly consider material, relevant, and decision-useful sustainability factors in evaluating investment decisions, within the bounds of financial and fiduciary prudence. Such factors include, but are not limited to: (1) corporate governance and

leadership factors, (2) environmental factors, (3) social capital factors, (4) human capital factors, and (5) business model and innovation factors, as provided under the Ill. Sustainable Investing Act, [30 ILCS 238/](#).

Selection of Depositories, Investment Managers, Dealers, and Brokers

The Chief Investment Officer shall establish a list of authorized depositories, investment managers, dealers and brokers based upon the creditworthiness, reputation, minimum capital requirements, qualifications under State law, as well as a long history of dealing with public fund entities. The Board will review and approve the list at least annually.

In order to be an authorized depository, each institution must submit copies of the last two sworn statements of resources and liabilities or reports of examination that the institution is required to furnish to the appropriate State or federal agency. Each institution designated as a depository shall, while acting as such depository, furnish the District with a copy of all statements of resources and liabilities or all reports of examination that it is required to furnish to the appropriate State or federal agency.

The above eligibility requirements of a bank to receive or hold public deposits do not apply to investments in an interest-bearing savings account, demand deposit account, interest-bearing certificate of deposit, or interest-bearing time deposit if: (1) the District initiates the investment at or through a bank located in Illinois, and (2) the invested public funds are at all times fully insured by an agency or instrumentality of the federal government.

The District ~~shall~~ ~~may~~ [PRESSPlus2](#) consider a financial institution's record and current level of financial commitment to its local community when deciding whether to deposit funds in that financial institution. The District may consider factors including:

1. For financial institutions subject to the federal Community Reinvestment Act of 1977 (CRA), the current and historical ratings that the financial institution has received, to the extent that those ratings are publicly available, under the ~~federal Community Reinvestment Act of 1977~~ CRA;
2. Any changes in ownership, management, policies, or practices of the financial institution that may affect the level of the financial institution's commitment to its community;
3. The financial impact that the withdrawal or denial of District deposits might have on the financial institution;
4. The financial impact to the District as a result of withdrawing public funds or refusing to deposit additional public funds in the financial institution; and
5. Any additional burden on the District's resources that might result from ceasing to maintain deposits of public funds at the financial institution under consideration.

The District may not deposit public funds in a financial institution subject to the CRA unless the institution has a current rating of satisfactory or outstanding under the CRA. [PRESSPlus3](#) When investing or depositing public funds, the District may give preference to financial institutions that have a current rating of outstanding under the CRA. [PRESSPlus4](#)

Collateral Requirements

All amounts deposited or invested with financial institutions in excess of any insurance limit shall be collateralized in accordance with the Public Funds Investment Act, [30 ILCS 235/](#). The Superintendent or designee shall keep the Board informed of collateral agreements.

Safekeeping and Custody Arrangements

The preferred method for safekeeping is to have securities registered in the District's name and held by a third-party custodian. Safekeeping practices should qualify for the Governmental Accounting Standards Board Statement No. 3, Deposits with Financial Institutions, Investments (including Repurchase Agreements), and Reverse Repurchase Agreements, Category I, the highest recognized safekeeping procedures.

Controls and Report

The Chief Investment Officer shall establish a system of internal controls and written operational procedures to prevent losses arising from fraud, employee error, misrepresentation by third parties, or imprudent employee action.

The Chief Investment Officer shall provide a quarterly investment report to the Board. The report will: (1) assess whether the investment portfolio is meeting the District's investment objectives, (2) identify each security by class or type, book value, income earned, and market value, (3) identify those institutions providing investment services to the District, and (4) include any other relevant information. The investment portfolio's performance shall be measured by appropriate and creditable industry standards for the investment type.

The Board will determine, after receiving the Superintendent's recommendation, which fund is in most need of interest income and the Superintendent shall execute a transfer. This provision does not apply when the use of interest earned on a particular fund is restricted.

Ethics and Conflicts of Interest

The Board and District officials will avoid any investment transaction or practice that in appearance or fact might impair public confidence. Board members are bound by the Board policy 2:100, *Board Member Conflict of Interest*. No District employee having influence on the District's investment decisions shall:

1. Have any interest, directly or indirectly, in any investments in which the District is authorized to invest,
2. Have any interest, directly or indirectly, in the sellers, sponsors, or managers of those investments, or
3. Receive, in any manner, compensation of any kind from any investments in that the agency is authorized to invest.

LEGAL REF.:

[30 ILCS 235/](#), Public Funds Investment Act.

[30 ILCS 238/](#), Ill. Sustainable Investing Act.

[105 ILCS 5/8-7](#), [5/10-22.44](#), [5/17-1](#), and [5/17-11](#).

CROSS REF.: 2:100 (Board Member Conflict of Interest), 4:10 (Fiscal and Business Management), 4:80 (Accounting and Audits)

Adopted: December 18, 2023

PRESSPlus Comments

PRESSPlus 1. 30 ILCS 235/2(k), added by P.A. 103-880, eff. 1-1-25, permits a board to adopt a resolution to allow for investment of public funds in other instruments not specifically listed in the Public

Funds Investment Act provided those investments comply with: (1) any other law that authorizes a board to invest funds, and (2) the investment policy adopted by the Board. There is uncertainty regarding the potential breadth and scope of this provision and procedural requirements for implementation. The board attorney and district financial advisor(s) should be consulted before adding instruments to the list of authorized investments in this policy and the board's investment portfolio in accordance with 30 ILCS 235/2(k).

Any additional investments authorized by the Board under 30 ILCS 235/2(k) should be added to the end of this sentence as follows: The Chief Investment Officer may invest any District funds in any investment as authorized in 30 ILCS 235/2, and Acts amendatory thereto, as well as [insert investment(s)], in accordance with the requirements of 30 ILCS 235/2(k).

If adding additional investments, select the Save Status "Adopted with Additional District Edits." **Issue 117, October 2024**

PRESSPlus 2. Updated in response to 30 ILCS 235/8(a). **Issue 117, October 2024**

PRESSPlus 3. Updated in response to 30 ILCS 235/8(a-5). **Issue 117, October 2024**

PRESSPlus 4. Optional. 30 ILCS 235/8(a-10). **Issue 117, October 2024**

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OPERATIONAL SERVICES

4:60 Purchases and Contracts

The Superintendent shall manage the District's purchases and contracts in accordance with State law, the standards set forth in this policy, and other applicable Board of Education policies.

Standards for Purchasing and Contracting

All purchases and contracts shall be entered into in accordance with applicable federal and State law. The Board Attorney shall be consulted as needed regarding the legal requirements for purchases or contracts. All contracts shall be approved or authorized by the Board.

All purchases and contracts should support a recognized District function or purpose as well as provide for good quality products and services at the lowest cost, with consideration for service, reliability, and delivery promptness, and in compliance with State law. No purchase or contract shall be made or entered into as a result of favoritism, extravagance, fraud, or corruption.

Adoption of the annual budget authorizes the Superintendent or designee to purchase budgeted supplies, equipment, and services, provided that State law is followed. Purchases of items outside budget parameters require prior Board approval, except in an emergency.

When presenting a contract or purchase for Board approval, the Superintendent or designee shall ensure that it complies with applicable federal and State law, including but not limited to, those specified below:

1. Supplies, materials, or work involving an expenditure in excess of \$35,000 must comply with the State law bidding procedure, [105 ILCS 5/10-20.21](#), unless specifically exempted.
2. Construction, lease, or purchase of school buildings must comply with State law and Board policy 4:150, *Facility Management and Building Programs*.
3. Guaranteed energy savings must comply with [105 ILCS 5/19b-1](#) *et seq.*
4. Third party non-instructional services must comply with [105 ILCS 5/10-22.34c](#).
5. Goods and services that are intended to generate revenue and other remunerations for the District in excess of \$1,000, including without limitation vending machine contracts, sports and other attire, class rings, and photographic services, must comply with [105 ILCS 5/10-20.21](#)(b-5). The Superintendent or designee shall keep a record of: (1) each vendor, product, or service provided, (2) the actual net revenue and non-monetary remuneration from each contract or agreement, and (3) how the revenue was used and to whom the non-monetary remuneration was distributed. The Superintendent or designee shall report this information to the Board by completing the necessary forms that must be attached to the District's annual budget.
6. Any contract to purchase food with a bidder or offeror must comply with [105 ILCS 5/10-20.21](#)(b-10).
7. The purchase of paper and paper products must comply with [105 ILCS 5/10-20.19c](#) and Board policy 4:70, *Resource Conservation*.
8. Each contractor with the District is bound by each of the following:
 - a. In accordance with [105 ILCS 5/10-21.9](#)(f): (1) prohibit any of its employees who is or was found guilty of a criminal offense listed in [105 ILCS 5/10-21.9](#)(c) and [5/21B-80](#)(c) to have

direct, daily contact at a District school or school-related activity with one or more student(s); (2) prohibit any of the contractor's employees from having direct, daily contact with one or more students if the employee was found guilty of any offense in [5/21B-80\(b\)](#) (certain drug offenses) until seven years following the end of the employee's sentence for the criminal offense; and (3) require each of its employees who will have direct, daily contact with student(s) to cooperate during the District's fingerprint-based criminal history records check on him or her.

- b. In accordance with [105 ILCS 5/22-94](#): (1) prohibit any of its employees from having *direct contact with children or students* if the contractor has not performed a sexual misconduct related employment history review (EHR) of the employee or if the District objects to the employee's assignment based on the employee's involvement in an instance of sexual misconduct as provided in [105 ILCS 5/22-94\(j\)\(3\)](#), which the contractor is required to disclose; (2) discipline, up to and including termination or denial of employment, any employee who provides false information or willfully fails to disclose information required by the EHR; (3) maintain all records of EHRs and provide the District access to such records upon request; and (4) refrain from entering into any agreements prohibited by [105 ILCS 5/22-94\(g\)](#).
 - c. In accordance with [105 ILCS 5/24-5](#): (1) concerning each new employee of a contractor that provides services to students or in schools, provide the District with evidence of physical fitness to perform the duties assigned and freedom from communicable disease; and (2) require any new or existing employee who provides services to students or in schools to complete additional health examinations as required by the District and be subject to additional health examinations, including tuberculosis screening, as required by the Ill. Dept. of Public Health rules or order of a local health official.
9. Any pavement engineering project using a coal tar-based sealant product or high polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbon sealant product for pavement engineering-related use must comply with the Coal Tar Sealant Disclosure Act.
 10. Design-build contracts must comply with [105 ILCS 5/15A-1](#) *et seq.*
 11. Any new contract for a district-administered assessment must comply with 105 ILCS 5/10-20.865. [PRESSPlus1](#)
 12. Purchases made with federal or State awards must comply with [2 C.F.R. Part 200](#) and [30 ILCS 708/](#), as applicable, and any terms of the award.

The Superintendent or designee shall: (1) execute the reporting and website posting mandates in State law concerning District contracts, and (2) monitor the discharge of contracts, contractors' performances, and the quality and value of services or products being provided.

LEGAL REF.:

[2 C.F.R. Part 200](#).

[105 ILCS 5/10-20.19c](#), [5/10-20.21](#), [5/10-20.865](#), [5/10-21.9](#), [5/10-22.34c](#), [5/15A-1](#) *et seq.*, [5/19b-1](#) *et seq.*, [5/22-94](#), and [5/24-5](#).

[30 ILCS 708/](#), Grant Accountability and Transparency Act.

[410 ILCS 170/](#), Coal Tar Sealant Disclosure Act.

[820 ILCS 130/](#), Prevailing Wage Act.

CROSS REF.: 2:100 (Board Member Conflict of Interest), 4:70 (Resource Conservation), 4:150 (Facility Management and Building Programs), 4:175 (Convicted Child Sex Offender; Screening; Notifications), 5:90 (Abused and Neglected Child Reporting)

Adopted: December 18, 2023

PRESSPlus Comments

PRESSPlus 1. Updated in response to 105 ILCS 5/10-20.86, renumbered by P.A. 103-605. **Issue 117, October 2024**

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OPERATIONAL SERVICES

4:170 Safety, Security and Crisis Management

General Overview

All District operations, including the education program, shall be conducted in a manner that will promote the safety and security of everyone on District property, including pupils, staff, and visitors. The Superintendent or designee shall develop, implement, and maintain a comprehensive District 45 safety and security plan that includes, without limitation:

1. Provisions for the development of building-specific safety and security plans and crisis management plans addressing prevention, preparation, response, and recovery for each school in order to ensure adequate preparedness for emergencies and crises;
2. Provisions for a coordinated effort with local law enforcement and fire officials, emergency medical services personnel, and the Board Attorney;
3. A Targeted School Violence Prevention Program (i.e. Threat Assessment Team)
4. A school safety drill plan;
5. Instruction in safe bus riding practices; and
6. A clear, rapid, factual, and coordinated system of internal and external communication.

All District and building level administrators and the Director of Buildings and Grounds shall receive a copy of the District-level safety and security plan. The District-level safety and security plan, and related protocols and procedures will be reviewed and updated annually. This review will be conducted by the Assistant Superintendent for Finance who will act as the District-level Safety Program Coordinator.

The Board of Education or designee shall develop and implement the building-specific safety and security plans, protocols and procedures consistent with the overall District 45 safety and security plan. Each building's plan will be available in a notebook in its school office.

The Superintendent or designee is also responsible to develop District crisis management plans, which shall be reviewed and revised at least once a year by Building Principals and staff members and shared with local police and fire departments. The plans will be available in a notebook in each school office.

Each principal, in cooperation with local agencies, shall make reasonable provision for the safety of students using such community resources as the Traffic and Safety Commission(s), the PTA Safety Chairperson, and adult crossing guards as aids to safety on and around school grounds. When appropriate, training shall be provided for the supervisor(s) of safety organizations within each attendance center.

Principals and staff in elementary buildings shall also arrange for adequate supervision of playgrounds and other outside play areas. Elementary principals and staff shall operate a safety patrol. Special attention should be given to preventing accidents and promoting good citizenship.

The Superintendent or designee is authorized to develop regulations to implement school safety and security plans and procedures as well as crisis management plans and procedures.

Use of Cellular Telephones during Emergencies:

In the event of an emergency that threatens the safety of any person or property, students and staff are encouraged to use any available cellular telephone. A school bus driver is prohibited from operating a school bus while using a cellular telephone, except (1) during an emergency situation to communicate with an emergency response operator, hospital, doctor's office or health clinic, ambulance service, or fire or police department; (2) to call for assistance if there is a mechanical problem; (3) to communicate with school authorities about bus operation or the safety of a passenger on the bus; and (4) when the school bus is parked. While the school bus driver is operating the bus, its two-way radio must be turned on and adjusted as to alert the driver of any incoming communication request.

Medical Emergency Plan Automated External Defibrillator (AED)

At least one automated external defibrillator (AED) shall be present in each District attendance center during the school day and during any District-sponsored extracurricular activity on school grounds. In addition, ~~T~~he Superintendent or designee shall implement a written plan for responding to medical emergencies at the District's physical fitness facilities in accordance with the Physical Fitness Facility Medical Emergency Preparedness Act. The plan shall provide for an ~~automated external defibrillator (AED)~~ to be available according to State law requirements. This policy does not create an obligation to use an AED nor is it intended to create any expectation that an AED will be present or a trained person will be present and/or able to use an AED.

Soccer Goal Safety

The Superintendent or designee shall implement the Movable Soccer Goal Safety Act in accordance with the guidance published by the IDPH. Implementation of the Act shall be directed toward improving the safety of movable soccer goals by requiring that they be properly anchored.

School Safety Drill Plan

During every academic year, each school building that houses school children shall conduct, at a minimum, each of the following in accordance with the School Safety Drill Act, [105 ILCS 128/](#):

1. Three school evacuation drills;
2. One bus evacuation drill;

3. One severe weather and shelter-in-place drill; and
4. One law enforcement lockdown drill, including hard and/or soft lock-down drills (reverse- evacuations), which must be conducted specifically to address a school shooting incident and to evaluate the preparedness of school personnel and students. This drill shall occur no later than 90 days after the first day of school of each year, and shall require the participation of all school personnel and students present at school at the time of the drill, except for those exempted by administrators, school support personnel, or a parent/guardian.

The requisite law enforcement drill shall be conducted according to District 45's Comprehensive Safety and Security Plan.

Unsafe School Choice Option

The unsafe school choice option allows students to transfer to another District school or to a public charter school within the District. The unsafe school choice option is available to:

1. All students attending a persistently dangerous school, as defined by State law and identified by the Ill. State Board of Education.
2. Any student who is a victim of a violent criminal offense, as defined by [725 ILCS 120/3](#) that occurred on school grounds during regular school hours or during a school-sponsored event.

The Superintendent or designee shall develop regulations to implement the unsafe school choice option.

Lead Testing in Water

The Superintendent or designee shall implement testing for lead in each source of drinking water in school buildings in accordance with the Ill. Plumbing License Law and guidance published by the IDPH. The Superintendent or designee shall notify parent(s)/guardian(s) about the sampling results from their children's respective school buildings.

Emergency Closing

The Superintendent or designee is authorized, consistent with state law, to close school(s) in the event of hazardous weather or other emergency that threatens the safety of students, staff members, or school property.

LEGAL REF.:

[105 ILCS 5/10-20.2](#), [5/10-20.57](#), [5/18-12](#), and [5/18-12.5](#).

[105 ILCS 128/](#), School Safety Drill Act; [29 Ill.Admin.Code Part 1500](#).

[210 ILCS 74/](#), Physical Fitness Facility Medical Emergency Preparedness Act.

[225 ILCS 320/35.5](#), Ill. Plumbing License Law.

CROSS REF.: 4:110 (Transportation), 4:175 (Convicted Child Sex Offender; Screening; Notifications), 4:180 (Pandemic Preparedness; Management; and Recovery), 5:30 (Hiring Process and Criteria), 8:30 (Visitors to and Conduct on School Property), 8:100 (Relations with Other Organizations and Agencies)

Adopted: February 17, 2015

Revised: June 20, 2016; February 21, 2017; March 5, 2018; January 14, 2019; January 18, 2022; March 6, 2023

PRESSPlus Comments

PRESSPlus 1. This policy's content is unique to the district. Please consult the author and the **PRESS** sample, available by logging in at www.iasb.com, to determine necessary changes. **Issue117, October 2024**

Document Status: Draft Update

General Personnel

5:10 Equal Employment Opportunity and Minority Recruitment

The School District shall provide equal employment opportunities to all persons regardless of their race; color; creed; religion; national origin; sex; sexual orientation; age; ancestry; marital status; arrest record; military status; order of protection status; unfavorable military discharge; citizenship status provided the individual is authorized to work in the United States; work authorization status; use of lawful products while not at work; being a victim of domestic violence, sexual violence, gender violence, or any other crime of violence; genetic information; physical or mental handicap or disability, if otherwise able to perform the essential functions of the job with reasonable accommodation; pregnancy, childbirth, or related medical conditions; reproductive health decisions; [PRESSPlus1](#) credit history, unless a satisfactory credit history is an established bona fide occupational requirement of a particular position; conviction record, unless authorized by law; family responsibilities; [PRESSPlus2](#) or other legally protected categories. 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 Program Act, [410 ILCS 130/](#).

Persons who believe they have not received equal employment opportunities should report their claims to the Nondiscrimination Coordinator and/or a Complaint Manager under Board policy 2:260, *Uniform Grievance Procedure*, or in the case of denial of equal employment opportunities on the basis of race, color, or national origin, Board policy 2:270, *Discrimination and Harassment on the Basis of Race, Color, and National Origin Prohibited*. 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.

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 under Board policy 2:260, *Uniform Grievance Procedure*. The Nondiscrimination Coordinator also serves as the District's Title IX Coordinator.

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

Nondiscrimination Coordinator:

Dr. Annetta Spsychalski

255 W. Vermont Street,
Villa Park, IL

Email: aspsychalski@d45.org

Complaint Managers:

Dr. Brian Graber,
Superintendent

255 W. Vermont Street,
Villa Park, IL

Email: bgraberd45.org

Ms. Christine Arado,
Asst Superintendent for C&I

255 W. Vermont Street,
Villa Park, IL

Email: caradod45.org

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.

Minority Recruitment

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.

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; [34 C.F.R. Part 106](#).

[29 U.S.C. §206](#)(d), Equal Pay Act.

[29 U.S.C. §218d](#), Fair Labor Standards Act.

[29 U.S.C. §621](#) *et seq.*, Age Discrimination in Employment Act.

[29 U.S.C. §701](#) *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. §2000d](#) *et seq.*, Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964; [34 C.F.R. Part 100](#).

[42 U.S.C. §2000e](#) *et seq.*, Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964; [29 C.F.R. Part 1601](#).

[42 U.S.C. §2000ff](#) *et seq.*, Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2008.

[42 U.S.C. §2000gg](#) *et seq.*, Pregnant Workers Fairness Act; [29 C.F.R. Part 1636](#).

[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](#), [5/10-20.7a](#), [5/10-21.1](#), [5/10-22.4](#), [5/10-23.5](#), [5/22-19](#), [5/24-4](#), [5/24-4.1](#), and [5/24-7](#).

[410 ILCS 130/40](#), Compassionate Use of Medical Cannabis Program Act.

[410 ILCS 513/25](#), Genetic Information Privacy Act.

[740 ILCS 174/](#), Ill. Whistleblower Act.

[775 ILCS 5/1-103](#), [5/2-101](#), [5/2-102](#), [5/2-103](#), [5/2-103.1](#), [5/2-104\(D\)](#) and [5/6-101](#), Ill. Human Rights Act.

[775 ILCS 35/](#), 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), 2:265 (Title IX Grievance Procedure), 2:270 (Discrimination and Harassment on the Basis of Race, Color, and National Origin Prohibited), 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)

Adopted: June 17, 2024

PRESSPlus Comments

PRESSPlus 1. Updated in response to the Ill. Human Rights Act (IHRA), 775 ILCS 5/1-102(A) and 5/1-103(Q), amended by P.A. 103-785, eff. 1-1-25. *Reproductive health decisions* means a person's decisions regarding their use of: contraception; fertility or sterilization care; assisted reproductive technologies; miscarriage management care; healthcare related to the continuation or termination of pregnancy; or prenatal, intranatal, or postnatal care. 775 ILCS 5/1-103(O-2), added by P.A. 103-785, eff. 1-1-25. **Issue 117, October 2024**

PRESSPlus 2. Updated in response to the Ill. Human Rights Act (IHRA), 775 ILCS 5/2-102(A), amended by P.A. 103-797, eff. 1-1-25. *Family responsibilities* means an employee's actual or perceived provision of *personal care* to a *covered family member*, as those terms are defined in the Employee Sick Leave Act, 820 ILCS 191/5. **Issue 117, October 2024**

Document Status: Draft Update

General Personnel

5:20 Workplace Harassment Prohibited

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, religion, national origin, ancestry, sex, sexual orientation, age, citizenship status, work authorization status, disability, pregnancy, marital status, family responsibilities, PRESSPlus1 reproductive health decisions, PRESSPlus2 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 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 policies 2:260, *Uniform Grievance Procedure*; 2:265, *Title IX Grievance Procedure*; 2:270, *Discrimination and Harassment on the Basis of Race, Color, and National Origin Prohibited*; 7:20, *Harassment of Students Prohibited*; 7:180, *Prevention of and Response to Bullying, Intimidation, and Harassment*; and 7:185, *Teen Dating Violence Prohibited*.

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

Sexual Harassment Prohibited

The 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.

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. Sexual harassment prohibited by this policy includes, but is not limited to, verbal, 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 Report or Complaint

Employees and *nonemployees* (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. Individuals may choose to report to a person of the individual's same gender. Every effort should be made to file such reports or complaints as soon as possible, while facts are known and potential witnesses are available.

Aggrieved individuals, 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

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.

An employee 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 claim according to that policy, in addition to any response required by this policy.

The Superintendent shall insert into this policy the names, office addresses, email addresses, and telephone numbers of the District's current Nondiscrimination Coordinator and Complaint Managers. The Nondiscrimination Coordinator also serves as the District's Title IX Coordinator.

Nondiscrimination Coordinator:

Dr. Annetta Spsychalski

255 W. Vermont Street,
Villa Park, IL

Email: aspsychalski@d45.org

Complaint Managers:

Dr. Brian Graber,
Superintendent

255 W. Vermont Street,
Villa Park, IL

Email: bgrabber@d45.org

Ms. Christine Arado,
Asst Superintendent for C&I

255 W. Vermont Street,
Villa Park, IL

Email: carado@d45.org

Investigation Process

Any District employee who receives a report or complaint of harassment must promptly forward the report or complaint to the Nondiscrimination Coordinator or a Complaint Manager. Any employee 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.

For any report or complaint alleging sex-based **harassment** [PRESSPlus3](#) harassment that, if true, would implicate Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 ([20 U.S.C. §1681 et seq.](#)), the Nondiscrimination Coordinator or designee shall consider whether action under Board policy 2:265, *Title IX Grievance Procedure*, should be initiated.

For any report or complaint alleging harassment on the basis of race, color, or national origin, the Nondiscrimination Coordinator or a Complaint Manager or designee shall investigate under Board policy 2:270, *Discrimination and Harassment on the Basis of Race, Color, and National Origin Prohibited*.

For any other alleged workplace harassment that does not require action under Board policies 2:265, *Title IX Grievance Procedure*, or 2:270, *Discrimination and Harassment on the Basis of Race, Color, and National Origin Prohibited*, the Nondiscrimination Coordinator or a Complaint Manager or designee shall consider whether an investigation under Board policy 2:260, *Uniform Grievance Procedure*, and/or 5:120, *Employee Ethics; Code of Professional Conduct; and Conflict of Interest*, should be initiated, regardless of whether a written report or complaint is filed.

Reports That Involve Alleged Incidents of Sexual Abuse of a Child by School Personnel

An *alleged incident of sexual abuse* is an incident of sexual abuse of a child, as defined in [720 ILCS 5/11-9.1A\(b\)](#), 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.

Any complaint alleging an incident of sexual abuse shall be processed and reviewed according to Board policy 5:90, *Abused and Neglected Child Reporting*. In addition to reporting the suspected abuse, the complaint shall also be processed under Board policy 2:265, *Title IX Grievance Procedure*, or Board policy 2:260, *Uniform Grievance Procedure*.

Enforcement

A violation of this policy by an employee may result in discipline, up to and including discharge. A violation of this policy by a third party will be addressed in accordance with the authority of the Board in the context of the relationship of the third party to the District, e.g., vendor, parent/guardian, invitee, etc. Any person making a knowingly false accusation regarding harassment will likewise be subject to disciplinary action, which for an employee may be up to and including discharge.

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 complaints or providing information about harassment is prohibited (see Board policies 2:260, *Uniform Grievance Procedure*, 2:265, *Title IX Grievance Procedure*, and 2:270, *Discrimination and Harassment on the Basis of Race, Color, and National Origin Prohibited*), and depending upon the law governing the complaint, whistleblower protection may be available under the State Officials and Employees Ethics Act ([5 ILCS 430/](#)), the Whistleblower Act ([740 ILCS 174/](#)), and/or the Ill. Human Rights Act ([775 ILCS 5/](#)).

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

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, applicants, and nonemployees of this policy, which shall include posting on the District website and/or making this

policy available in the District's administrative office, and including this policy in the appropriate handbooks.

LEGAL REF.:

[42 U.S.C. §2000e](#) *et seq.*, Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964; [29 C.F.R. §1604.11](#).

[20 U.S.C. §1681](#) *et seq.*, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972; [34 C.F.R. Part 106](#).

[5 ILCS 430/70-5](#)(a), State Officials and Employees Ethics 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](#), Ill. Human Rights Act.

[56 Ill. Admin.Code Parts 2500](#), [2510](#), [5210](#), and [5220](#).

[Vance v. Ball State Univ.](#), 570 U.S. 421 (2013).

[Crawford v. Metro. Gov't of Nashville & Davidson Cnty.](#), 555 U.S. 271 (2009).

[Jackson v. Birmingham Bd. of Educ.](#), 544 U.S. 167 (2005).

[Oncale v. Sundowner Offshore Servs.](#), 523 U.S. 75 (1998).

[Burlington Indus. v. Ellerth](#), 524 U.S. 742 (1998).

[Faragher v. City of Boca Raton](#), 524 U.S. 775 (1998).

[Harris v. Forklift Systems](#), 510 U.S. 17 (1993).

[Franklin v. Gwinnett Co. Public Schools](#), 503 U.S. 60 (1992).

[Meritor Savings Bank v. Vinson](#), 477 U.S. 57 (1986).

Porter v. Erie Foods Int, Inc., 576 F.3d 629 (7th Cir. 2009).

Williams v. Waste Mgmt., 361 F.3d 1021 (7th Cir. 2004).

Berry v. Delta Airlines, 260 F.3d 803 (7th Cir. 2001).

Sangamon Cnty. Sheriff's Dept. v. Ill. Human Rights Com'n, 233 Ill.2d 125 (Ill. 2009).

CROSS REF.: 2:260 (Uniform Grievance Procedure), 2:265 (Title IX Grievance Procedure), 2:270 (Discrimination and Harassment on the Basis of Race, Color, and National Origin Prohibited), 4:60 (Purchases and Contracts), 5:10 (Equal Employment Opportunity and Minority Recruitment), 5:90 (Abused and Neglected Child Reporting), 5:120 (Employee Ethics; Code of Professional Conduct; and Conflict of Interest), 7:20 (Harassment of Students Prohibited), 8:30 (Visitors to and Conduct on School Property)

Adopted: June 17, 2024

PRESSPlus Comments

PRESSPlus 1. Updated in response to the Ill. Human Rights Act (IHRA), 775 ILCS 5/2-102(A),

amended by P.A. 103-797, eff. 1-1-25. *Family responsibilities* means an employee's actual or perceived provision of *personal care* to a *covered family member*, as those terms are defined in the Employee Sick Leave Act, 820 ILCS 191/5. **Issue 117, October 2024**

PRESSPlus 2. Updated in response to the Ill. Human Rights Act (IHRA), 775 ILCS 5/1-102(A) and 5/1-103(Q), amended by P.A. 103-785, eff. 1-1-25. *Reproductive health decisions* means a person's decisions regarding their use of: contraception; fertility or sterilization care; assisted reproductive technologies; miscarriage management care; healthcare related to the continuation or termination of pregnancy; or prenatal, intranatal, or postnatal care. 775 ILCS 5/1-103(O-2), added by P.A. 103-785, eff. 1-1-25. **Issue 117, October 2024**

PRESSPlus 3. Updated in response to final regulations implementing Title IX. **Issue 117, October 2024**

Document Status: Draft Update

General Personnel

5:90 Abused and Neglected Child Reporting

Any District employee who suspects or receives knowledge that a student may be an abused or neglected child shall: (1) immediately report or cause a report to be made to the Ill. 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. [PRESSPlus1](#) Any District employee who believes a student is in immediate danger of harm, shall first call 911. The employee shall also promptly notify the Superintendent or Building Principal that a report has been made. 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.

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.

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 report.cybertip.org/ or www.missingkids.org. The Superintendent or Building Principal shall also be promptly notified of the discovery and that a report has been made.

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 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.

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.

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 three months of initial employment and at least every three years after that date.

3. Complete an annual evidence-informed training related to child sexual abuse, grooming behaviors (including *sexual misconduct* as defined in *Faith's Law*), and boundary violations as required by law and policy 5:100, *Staff Development Program*.

Alleged Incidents of Sexual Abuse: Investigations

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.

If a District employee reports an alleged incident of sexual abuse to DCFS and DCFS accepts the report for investigation, DCFS will refer the matter to the local Children's Advocacy Center (CAC). 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. 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.

When the Superintendent has reasonable cause to believe that a license holder (1) committed an intentional act of abuse or neglect with the result of making a child an abused child or a neglected child under ANCR or an act of sexual misconduct under *Faith's Law*, and (2) that act resulted in the license holder's dismissal or resignation from the District, the Superintendent shall notify the State Superintendent and the Regional Superintendent in writing, providing the Ill. Educator Identification Number as well as a brief description of the misconduct alleged. 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.

The Superintendent shall develop procedures for notifying a student's parents/guardians when a District employee, contractor, or agent is alleged to have engaged in sexual misconduct with the student as defined in *Faith's Law*. The Superintendent shall also develop procedures for notifying the student's parents/guardians when the Board takes action relating to the employment of the employee, contractor, or agent following the investigation of sexual misconduct. Notification shall not occur when the employee, contractor, or agent alleged to have engaged in sexual misconduct is the student's parent/guardian, and/or when the student is at least 18 years of age or emancipated.

The Superintendent shall execute the recordkeeping requirements of *Faith's Law*.

Special Board of Education 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 ANCR, direct or cause the Board to direct the Superintendent or other equivalent school administrator to comply with ANCR's requirements concerning the reporting of child abuse.

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.

When the Board learns that a licensed teacher was convicted of any felony, it must promptly report it to the State agencies listed in policy 2:20, *Powers and Duties of the Board of Education; Indemnification*.

LEGAL REF.:

[20 U.S.C. §7926](#), Elementary and Secondary Education Act.

[105 ILCS 5/10-21.9](#), [5/10-23.13](#), [5/21B-85](#), [5/22-85.5](#), and [5/22-85.10](#).

[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 Board of Education; Indemnification), 3:40 (Superintendent), 3:50 (Administrative Personnel Other Than the Superintendent), 3:60 (Administrative Responsibility of the Building Principal), 4:60 (Purchases and Contracts), 4:165 (Awareness and Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse and Grooming Behaviors), 5:20 (Workplace Harassment Prohibited), 5:30 (Hiring Process and Criteria), 5:100 (Staff Development Program), 5:120 (Employee Ethics; Code of Professional Conduct; and Conflict of Interest), 5:150 (Personnel Records), 5:200 (Terms and Conditions of Employment and Dismissal), 5:290 (Employment Termination 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)

Adopted: June 5, 2023

PRESSPlus Comments

PRESSPlus 1. Updated in response to 325 ILCS 5/7, amended by P.A. 103-624, eff. 1-1-25, removing the requirement for mandated reporters to confirm their oral reports in writing to the DCFS field office. **Issue 117, October 2024**

Document Status: Draft Update

General Personnel

5:125 Personal Technology and Social Media; Usage and Conduct

Definitions

Includes - Means “includes without limitation” or “includes, but is not limited to.”

Social media - Media for social interaction, using highly accessible web-based and/or mobile technologies that allow users to share content and/or engage in interactive communication through online communities. This includes, but is not limited to, services such as *Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter X (formerly Twitter), Threads, Instagram, TikTok, Snapchat, Discord, PRESSPlus1* and *YouTube*.

Personal technology - Any device that is not owned or leased by the District or otherwise authorized for District use and: (1) transmits sounds, images, text, messages, videos, or electronic information, (2) electronically records, plays, or stores information, or (3) accesses the Internet, or private communication or information networks. This includes computers, tablets, smartphones, smartwatches, [PRESSPlus2](#) and other devices.

Usage and Conduct

All District employees who use personal technology and/or social media shall:

1. Adhere to the high standards for **Professional and Appropriate Conduct** required by policy 5:120, *Employee Ethics; Code of Professional Conduct; and Conflict of Interest* at all times, regardless of the ever-changing social media and personal technology platforms available. This includes District employees posting images or private information about themselves or others in a manner readily accessible to students and other employees that is inappropriate as defined by policies 5:20, *Workplace Harassment Prohibited*; 5:100, *Staff Development Program*; 5:120, *Employee Ethics; Code of Professional Conduct; and Conflict of Interest*; 6:235, *Access to Electronic Networks*; and 7:20, *Harassment of Students Prohibited*; and the Ill. Code of Educator Ethics, [23 Ill.Admin.Code §22.20](#).
2. Choose a District-provided or supported method whenever possible to communicate with students and their parents/guardians.
3. Not interfere with or disrupt the educational or working environment, or the delivery of education or educational support services.
4. Inform their immediate supervisor if a student initiates inappropriate contact with them via any form of personal technology or social media.
5. Report instances of suspected abuse or neglect discovered through the use of social media or personal technology pursuant to a school employee’s obligations under policy 5:90, *Abused and Neglected Child Reporting*.
6. Not disclose confidential information, including but not limited to school student records (e.g., student work, photographs of students, names of students, or any other personally identifiable information about students) or personnel records, in compliance with policy 5:130, *Responsibilities Concerning Internal Information*. For District employees, proper approval may

include implied consent under the circumstances.

7. Refrain from using the District's logos without permission and follow Board policy 5:170, *Copyright*, and all District copyright compliance procedures.
8. Use personal technology and social media for personal purposes only during non-work times or hours. Any duty-free use must occur during times and places that the use will not interfere with job duties or otherwise be disruptive to the school environment or its operation.
9. Assume all risks associated with the use of personal technology and social media at school or school-sponsored activities, including students' viewing of inappropriate Internet materials through the District employee's personal technology or social media. The Board expressly disclaims any responsibility for imposing content filters, blocking lists, or monitoring of its employees' personal technology and social media.
10. Be subject to remedial and any other appropriate disciplinary action for violations of this policy ranging from prohibiting the employee from possessing or using any personal technology or social media at school to dismissal and/or indemnification of the District for any losses, costs, or damages, including reasonable attorney fees, incurred by the District relating to, or arising out of, any violation of this policy.

Superintendent Responsibilities

The Superintendent shall:

1. Direct Building Principals to annually:
 - a. Provide their building staff with a copy of this policy.
 - b. Inform their building staff about the importance of maintaining high standards in their school relationships.
 - c. Remind their building staff that those who violate this policy will be subject to remedial and any other appropriate disciplinary action up to and including dismissal.
2. Build awareness of this policy with students, parents, and the community.
3. Ensure that neither the District, nor anyone on its behalf, commits an act prohibited by the Right to Privacy in the Workplace Act, [820 ILCS 55/10](#); i.e., the *Facebook Password Law*.
4. Periodically review this policy and any implementing procedures with District employee representatives and electronic network system administrator(s) and present proposed changes to the Board.

LEGAL REF.:

[105 ILCS 5/21B-75](#) and [5/21B-80](#).

[775 ILCS 5/5A-102](#), Ill. Human Rights Act.

[820 ILCS 55/10](#), Right to Privacy in the Workplace Act.

[23 Ill.Admin.Code §22.20](#), Code of Ethics for Ill. Educators.

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

[Pickering v. High School Dist. 205](#), 391 U.S. 563 (1968).

[Mayer v. Monroe County Community School Corp.](#), 474 F.3d 477 (7th Cir. 2007).

CROSS REF.: 4:165 (Awareness and Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse and Grooming Behaviors), 5:20 (Workplace Harassment Prohibited), 5:30 (Hiring Process and Criteria), 5:100 (Staff Development Program), 5:120 (Employee Ethics; Code of Professional Conduct; and Conflict of Interest), 5:130 (Responsibilities Concerning Internal Information), 5:150 (Personnel Records), 5:170

(Copyright), 5:200 (Terms and Conditions of Employment and Dismissal), 6:235 (Access to Electronic Networks), 7:20 (Harassment of Students Prohibited), 7:340 (Student Records)

Adopted: June 5, 2023

PRESSPlus Comments

PRESSPlus 1. Updated for continuous improvement. **Issue 117, October 2024**

PRESSPlus 2. Updated for continuous improvement. **Issue 117, October 2024**

Document Status: Draft Update

Professional Personnel

5:230 Maintaining Student Discipline

Maintaining an orderly learning environment is an essential part of each teacher's instructional responsibilities. A teacher's ability to foster appropriate student behavior is an important factor in the teacher's educational effectiveness. The Superintendent shall ensure that all teachers, other ~~certificated~~ licensed [PRESSPlus1](#) educational employees (except for individuals employed as paraprofessional educators), and persons providing a student's related service(s): (1) maintain discipline in the schools as required in the School Code, and (2) follow the Board of Education policies and administrative procedures on student conduct, behavior, and discipline.

When a student's behavior is unacceptable, the teacher should first discuss the matter with the student, if appropriate. If the unacceptable behavior continues, the teacher should consult with the Building Principal and/or discuss the problem with the parent(s)/guardian(s). A teacher may remove any student from the learning setting whose behavior interferes with the lessons or participation of fellow students. A student's removal must be in accordance with Board policy and administrative procedures.

~~Teachers~~ School personnel shall not use disciplinary methods that may be damaging to students, such as ridicule, sarcasm, or excessive temper displays. Corporal punishment (including slapping, paddling, or prolonged maintenance of a student in physically painful positions, and intentional infliction of bodily harm) ~~is prohibited in all circumstances~~ ~~may not be used.~~ ~~Teachers~~ School personnel may only use reasonable force as ~~needed to keep students, school personnel, and others safe, or for self-defense or defense of property~~ permitted by 105 ILCS 5/10-20.33. [PRESSPlus2](#)

LEGAL REF.:

105 ILCS [5/22-100](#) and [5/24-24.](#) [PRESSPlus3](#)

[23 Ill.Admin.Code §1.280.](#)

CROSS REF.: 2:150 (Committees), 7:190 (Student Behavior), 7:230 (Misconduct by Students with Disabilities)

Adopted: July 17, 2023

PRESSPlus Comments

PRESSPlus 1. Updated in response to 105 ILCS 5/24-24, amended by P.A. 103-806, eff. 1-1-25, replacing the word *certificated* with *licensed*. This change brings 105 ILCS 5/24-24 into alignment with its corresponding rule at 23 Ill.Admin.Code §1.280. **Issue 117, October 2024**

PRESSPlus 2. Updated in response to 105 ILCS 5/22-100 and 5/24-24, respectively added and amended by P.A. 103-806, eff. 1-1-25. *Corporal punishment* means "a discipline method in which a person deliberately inflicts pain upon a student in response to the student's unacceptable behavior or

inappropriate language, with an aim to halt an offense, prevent its recurrence, or set an example for others.” 105 ILCS 5/22-100, added by P.A. 103-806, eff. 1-1-25. See sample policy 7:190, *Student Behavior*, available at PRESS Online by logging in at www.iasb.com, for a discussion of corporal punishment. **Issue 117, October 2024**

PRESSPlus 3. The Legal References are updated. **Issue 117, October 2024**

Document Status: Draft Update

INSTRUCTION

6:60 Curriculum Content

The curriculum shall contain instruction on subjects required by State statute or regulation as follows:

1. In kindergarten through grade 8, subjects include: (a) language arts, (b) reading, (c) other communication skills, (d) science, (e) mathematics, (f) social studies, (g) art, (h) music, and (i) drug and substance abuse prevention including the dangers of opioid abuse. A reading opportunity of 60 minutes per day will be promoted for all students in kindergarten through grade 3 whose reading levels are one grade level or more lower than their current grade level. Daily time of at least 30 minutes (with a minimum of at least 15 consecutive minutes if divided) will be provided for supervised, unstructured, child-directed play for all students in kindergarten through grade 5. Before the completion of grade 5, students will be offered at least one unit of cursive instruction. In grades 6, 7, or 8, students must receive at least one semester of civics education in accordance with Illinois Learning Standards for social science.
2. In grades 7 and 8, as well as in interscholastic athletic programs, steroid abuse prevention must be taught.
3. In kindergarten through grade 8, provided it can be funded by private grants or the federal government, violence prevention and conflict resolution must be stressed, including: (a) causes of conflict, (b) consequences of violent behavior, (c) non-violent resolution, and (d) relationships between drugs, alcohol, and violence. In addition, anti-bias education and intergroup conflict resolution may be taught as an effective method for preventing violence and lessening tensions in schools; these prevention methods are most effective when they are respectful of individuals and their divergent viewpoints and religious beliefs, which are protected by the [First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States](#).
4. In grades kindergarten through 8, age-appropriate Internet safety must be taught, the scope of which shall be determined by the Superintendent or designee. The curriculum must incorporate policy 6:235, *Access to Electronic Networks* and, at a minimum, include: (a) education about appropriate online behavior, (b) interacting with other individuals on social networking websites and in chat rooms, and (c) cyberbullying awareness and response.
5. In all grades, students must receive developmentally appropriate opportunities to gain computer literacy skills that are embedded in the curriculum.
6. In all grades, character education must be taught including respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, trustworthiness, and citizenship in order to raise students' honesty, kindness, justice, discipline, respect for others, and moral courage. Instruction in all grades will include examples of behaviors that violate policy 7:180, *Prevention of and Response to Bullying, Intimidation, and Harassment*.
7. In all schools, citizenship values must be taught, (a) American patriotism, (b) principles of representative government (the American Declaration of Independence, the Constitution of the United States of America and the Constitution of the State of Illinois), (c) proper use and display of the American flag, (d) the Pledge of Allegiance, and (e) the voting process.
8. In all grades, physical education must be taught including a developmentally planned and sequential curriculum that fosters the development of movement skills, enhances health-related

fitness, increases students' knowledge, offers direct opportunities to learn how to work cooperatively in a group setting, and encourages healthy habits and attitudes for a healthy lifestyle. Unless otherwise exempted, all students are required to engage in a physical education course with such frequency as determined by the Board after recommendation from the Superintendent, but at a minimum of three days per five-day week. For exemptions and substitutions, see policy 7:260, *Exemption from Physical Activity*.

9. In all schools, health education must be stressed, including: (a) proper nutrition, (b) physical fitness, (c) personal health habits ~~components necessary to develop a sound mind in a healthy body,~~ [PRESSPlus1](#) (d) dangers and avoidance of abduction, ~~and~~ (e) age-appropriate and evidence-informed sexual abuse and assault awareness and prevention education in all grades, and (f) in grades 6-8, the dangers of fentanyl. [PRESSPlus2](#) The Superintendent shall implement a comprehensive health education program in accordance with State law.
10. In all schools, career/vocational education must be taught, including: (a) the importance of work, (b) the development of basic skills to enter the world of work and/or continue formal education, (c) good work habits and values, (d) the relationship between learning and work, and (e) if possible, a student work program that provides the student with work experience as an extension of the regular classroom. A career awareness and exploration program must be available at all grade levels. In grades 6-8, students engage in career exploration and career development activities to prepare them to make informed plans and decisions about their future education and career goals. [PRESSPlus3](#)
11. In all schools, environmental education ~~conservation of natural resources must be taught,~~ including instruction on: (a) ~~home ecology~~ the current problems and needs in the conservation of natural resources, and (b) ~~endangered species~~ beginning in the fall of 2026, instruction on climate change, (c) ~~threats to the environment,~~ and (d) ~~the importance of the environment to life as we know it.~~ [PRESSPlus4](#)
12. In all schools, instruction as determined by the Superintendent or designee on United States (U.S.) history must be taught, including: (a) the principles of representative government, (b) the Constitutions of the U.S. and Illinois, (c) the role of the U.S. in world affairs, (d) the role of labor unions, (e) the role and contributions of ethnic groups, including but not limited to, African Americans, Albanians, Asian Americans, Bohemians, Czechs, French, Germans, Hispanics (including the events related to the forceful removal and illegal deportation of Mexican-American U.S. citizens during the Great Depression), Hungarians, Irish, Italians, Lithuanians, Polish, Russians, Scots, and Slovaks in the history of this country and State, (f) a study of the roles and contributions of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) people in the history of the U.S. and Illinois, (g) Illinois history, (h) the contributions made to society by Americans of different faith practices, including, but not limited to, Muslim Americans, Jewish Americans, Christian Americans, Hindu Americans, Sikh Americans, Buddhist Americans, and any other collective community of faith that has shaped America, (i) Native American nations' sovereignty and self-determination, both historically and in the present day, with a focus on urban Native Americans, and (j) beginning in the fall of 2024, the events of the Native American experience and Native American history within the Midwest and Illinois since time immemorial in accordance with [105 ILCS 5/27-20.05](#).

In addition, all schools shall hold an educational program on the United States Constitution on Constitution Day, each September 17, commemorating the September 17, 1787 signing of the Constitution. However, when September 17 falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or holiday, Constitution Day shall be held during the preceding or following week.

13. In grade 7, students must view a Congressional Medal of Honor film made by the Congressional Medal of Honor Foundation, provided there is no cost for the film.

14. In all schools, the curriculum includes instruction as determined by the Superintendent or designee on the Holocaust and crimes of genocide, including Nazi atrocities of 1933-1945, the Native American genocide in North America, Armenian Genocide, the Famine-Genocide in Ukraine, and more recent atrocities in Cambodia, Bosnia, Rwanda, and Sudan.
15. In all schools, the curriculum includes instruction as determined by the Superintendent or designee on the history, struggles, and contributions of women.
16. In all schools, the curriculum includes instruction as determined by the Superintendent or designee on Black History, including the history of the pre-enslavement of Black people from 3,000 BCE to AD 1619, the African slave trade, slavery in America, the study of the reasons why Black people came to be enslaved, the vestiges of slavery in this country, the study of the American civil rights renaissance, as well as the struggles and contributions of African-Americans.
17. In all schools, instruction during courses as determined by the Superintendent or designee on disability history, awareness, and the disability rights movement.
18. In all schools, instruction as determined by the Superintendent or designee on the events of Asian American history, including the history of Asian Americans in Illinois and the Midwest, as well as the contributions of Asian Americans toward advancing civil rights from the 19th century onward, which must include the contributions made by individual Asian Americans in government and the arts, humanities, and sciences, as well as the contributions of Asian American communities to the economic, cultural, social, and political development of the United States.
19. In kindergarten through grade 8, education must be available to students concerning effective methods of preventing and avoiding traffic injuries related to walking and bicycling.

LEGAL REF.:

[Pub. L. No. 108-447](#), Section 111 of Division J, Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2005.

[Pub. L. No. 110-385](#), Title II, 122 stat. 4096 (2008), Protecting Children in the 21st Century Act.

[47 C.F.R. §54.520](#).

[5 ILCS 465/3](#) and [465/3a](#).

[20 ILCS 2605/2605-480](#).

[105 ILCS 5/2-3.80\(e\)](#) and (f), [5/10-20.79](#), [5/10-20.84](#), [5/10-23.13](#), [5/27-3](#), [5/27-3.5](#), [5/27-5](#), [5/27-6](#), [5/27-6.5](#), [5/27-7](#), [5/27-12](#), [5/27-12.1](#), [5/27-13.1](#), [5/27-13.2](#), [5/27-20.05](#), [5/27-20.08](#), [5/27-20.3](#), [5/27-20.4](#), [5/27-20.5](#), [5/27-20.7](#), [5/27-20.8](#), [5/27-21](#), [5/27-22](#), [5/27-23.3](#), [5/27-23.4](#), [5/27-23.7](#), [5/27-23.8](#), [5/27-23.10](#), [5/27-23.11](#), [5/27-23.15](#), [5/27-23.16](#), [5/27-24.1](#), and [5/27-24.2](#).

[105 ILCS 110/3](#), Comprehensive Health Education Program.

[105 ILCS 435/](#), Vocational Education Act.

[625 ILCS 5/6-408.5](#), Ill. Vehicle Code.

[23 Ill.Admin.Code §§1.420](#), [1.425](#), [1.430](#), and [1.440](#).

CROSS REF.: 4:165 (Awareness and Prevention of Child Sex Abuse and Grooming Behaviors), 6:20 (School Year Calendar and Day), 6:40 (Curriculum Development), 6:70 (Teaching About Religions), 6:235 (Access to Electronic Networks), 7:180 (Prevention of and Response to Bullying, Intimidation, and Harassment), 7:185 (Teen Dating Violence Prohibited), 7:190 (Student Behavior), 7:260

(Exemption from Physical Activity)

Adopted: February 20, 2024

PRESSPlus Comments

PRESSPlus 1. Updated for continuous improvement to more closely align with the Comprehensive Health Education Program (CHEP) 105 ILCS 110/3. **Issue 117, October 2024**

PRESSPlus 2. Updated in response to CHEP, 105 ILCS 110/3(e), amended by P.A. 103-810. **Issue 117, October 2024**

PRESSPlus 3. 105 ILCS 5/10-20.84(a), added by P.A. 102-917 and renumbered by P.A. 103-154. Unless a board has opted out, career exploration and career development activities in grades 6-12 must be implemented by 7-1-25 in accordance with the model framework adopted by State agencies known as the PaCE Framework. See www.isac.org/pace/il-pace-resource-materials.html for the middle school and high school frameworks and additional implementation resources.

To fully or partially opt out of career exploration and career development activities under 105 ILCS 5/10-20.84(d), a board must adopt a set of findings that considers the following: (1) the district's current systems for college and career readiness; (2) the district's cost of implementation balanced against the potential benefits to students and families through improved postsecondary education and career outcomes; (3) the willingness and capacity of local businesses to partner with the district for successful implementation of pathways other than education; (4) the willingness of institutions of higher education to partner with the district for successful implementation of the pathway and whether the district has sought and established a partnership agreement with a community college district incorporating provisions of the Model Partnership Agreement under the Dual Credit Quality Act (110 ILCS 27/) (see www.isbe.net/Documents/DCQA-Model-Partnership-Agreement-Form.pdf); (5) the availability of a statewide database of participating local business partners, as provided under the Postsecondary and Workforce Readiness Act (110 ILCS 148/), for the purpose of career readiness and the accessibility of those work experiences and apprenticeships listed in the database to district students (see the link to the Work-based Learning Database at www.isbe.net/cte); and (6) the availability of properly licensed teachers or teachers meeting faculty credential standards for dual credit courses to instruct in the program required for the endorsement areas. 105 ILCS 5/10-20.84(d) (1)-(6), added by P.A. 102-917 and renumbered by P.A. 103-154. A board opting out must report its findings and decision to ISBE. A board may also reverse its decision regarding implementation in whole or in part at any time.

In practice, unless a district has created its own career exploration and career development activities framework that does not align with the PaCE Framework, a board is unlikely to opt out of the PaCE Framework under 105 ILCS 5/10-20.84(a) and still implement College and Career Pathway Endorsements under 105 ILCS 5/10-20.84(c) (CCPE) because career exploration activities are a prerequisite to award of the endorsements. 23 Ill.Admin.Code §258.20.

Delete this sentence if the board has fully opted out of implementation of career exploration and career development activities under 105 ILCS 5/10-20.84(d), added by P.A. 102-917 and renumbered by P.A. 103-154. Regarding partial opt-out from this requirement, the law does not address the types of partial opt-out(s) available. As of the date of the publication of **PRESS** Issue 117 (October 2024), ISBE had not issued any rulemaking or guidance on this topic or any details

regarding reporting of a full or partial opt-out to ISBE, other than to indicate to IASB that districts can submit their decision to CTE@isbe.net. Boards interested in opting out from this requirement should consult the Board attorney and check for any further guidance that may be issued by ISBE. **Issue 117, October 2024**

PRESSPlus 4. Updated in response to 105 ILCS 5/27-13.1, amended by P.A. 103-837, eff. 7-1-25; 23 Ill.Admin.Code §1.420(l). Instruction on the conservation of natural resources must include, but is not limited to, air pollution, water pollution, waste reduction and recycling, the effect of excessive use of pesticides, preservation of wilderness areas, forest management, protection of wildlife, and humane care of animals. Instruction on climate change must include, but is not limited to, identifying the environmental and ecological impacts of climate change on individuals and communities and evaluating solutions for addressing and mitigating the impact of climate change. Instruction on climate change must align with State learning standards, as appropriate and subject to funding, and ISBE is required to make instructional resources and professional development learning opportunities available for educators. **Issue 117, October 2024**

Document Status: Draft Update

INSTRUCTION

6:135 Accelerated Placement Program

The District provides an Accelerated Placement Program (APP). The APP advances the District's goal of providing educational programs with opportunities for each student to develop to his or her maximum potential. The APP provides an educational setting with curriculum options usually reserved for students who are older or in higher grades than the student participating in the APP. APP options include, but may not be limited to: (a) accelerating a student in a single subject; (b) other grade-level acceleration; and (c) early entrance to kindergarten or first grade. Participation in the APP is open to all students who demonstrate high ability and who may benefit from accelerated placement. It is not limited to students who have been identified as gifted and talented. Eligibility to participate in the District's APP shall not be conditioned upon the protected classifications identified in Board policy 7:10, *Equal Educational Opportunities*, or any factor other than the student's identification as an accelerated learner.

The Superintendent or designee shall implement an APP that includes:

1. Decision-making processes that are fair, equitable, and involve multiple individuals, e.g. District administrators, teachers, and school support personnel, and a student's parent(s)/guardian(s).
2. Notification processes that notify provide a student's parent(s)/guardian(s) of with:
 - a. Written notification when their child is eligible for enrollment in accelerated courses, PRESSPlus1 and
 - b. Notification of a decision affecting a student their child's participation in the APP. and
3. Assessment processes that include multiple valid, reliable indicators.

The Superintendent or designee shall annually notify the community, parent(s)/guardian(s), students, and school personnel about the APP, the process for referring a student for possible evaluation for accelerated placement, and the methods used to determine whether a student is eligible for accelerated placement, including strategies to reach groups of students and families who have been historically underrepresented in accelerated placement programs and advanced coursework. Notification may: (a) include varied communication methods, such as student handbooks and District or school websites; and (b) be provided in multiple languages, as appropriate.

LEGAL REF.:

[105 ILCS 5/14A.](#)

[23 Ill.Admin.Code Part 227](#), Gifted Education.

CROSS REF.: 6:10 (Educational Philosophy and Objectives), 6:130 (Program for the Gifted), 7:10 (Equal Educational Opportunities), 7:50 (School Admissions and Student Transfers To and From Non-District Schools)

Adopted: June 6, 2022

PRESSPlus Comments

PRESSPlus 1. Required by 105 ILCS 5/14A-32(a-25), added by P.A. 103-743. **Issue 117, October 2024**

Document Status: Draft Update

INSTRUCTION

6:270 Guidance and Counseling Program

The School District provides a guidance and counseling program for students. The Superintendent or designee shall direct the District's guidance and counseling program. School counseling services, as described by State law, may be performed by school counselors or licensed educators with a school support personnel endorsement in the area of school counseling ~~a qualified guidance specialist or any certificated staff member.~~ [PRESSPlus1](#)

Each staff member is responsible for effectively guiding students under his/her supervision in order to provide early identification of intellectual, emotional, social, or physical needs, diagnosis of any learning disabilities, and development of educational potential. The District's counselors shall offer counseling to those students who require additional assistance.

LEGAL REF.:

[105 ILCS 5/10-22.24a](#) and [5/10-22.24b](#).

[23 Ill.Admin.Code §1.420\(q\)](#).

CROSS REF.: 6:50 (School Wellness), 6:65 (Student Social and Emotional Development), 6:110 (Programs for Students At Risk of Academic Failure and/or Dropping Out of School and Graduation Incentives Program), 6:120 (Education of Children with Disabilities), 6:130 (Program for the Gifted), 7:100 (Health and Eye Examinations; Immunizations; and Exclusion of Students), 7:250 (Student Support Services), 7:290 (Suicide and Depression Awareness and Prevention)

Adopted: December 19, 2022

PRESSPlus Comments

PRESSPlus 1. 105 ILCS 5/10-22.24b, amended by P.A.s 102-876, 103-542, and 103-780, provides that school counselors as defined in 105 ILCS 5/10-22.24a or individuals who hold a Professional Educator License with a school support personnel endorsement in the area of school counseling under 105 ILCS 5/21B-25 may provide school counseling services. **Issue 117, October 2024**

Document Status: Draft Update

STUDENTS

7:10 Equal Educational Opportunities

Equal educational and extracurricular opportunities shall be available for all students without regard to color, race, nationality origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, ancestry, age, physical or mental disability, gender identity, status of being homeless, immigration status, order of protection status, military status, unfavorable military discharge, PRESSPlus1 reproductive health decisions, PRESSPlus2 or actual or potential marital or parental status, including pregnancy. Further, the District will not knowingly enter into agreements with any entity or any individual that discriminates against students on the basis of sex or any other protected status, except that the District remains viewpoint neutral when granting access to school facilities under Board policy 8:20, *Community Use of School Facilities*. Any student may file a discrimination grievance complaint by using Board policy 2:260, *Uniform Grievance Procedure*, or in the case of discrimination on the basis of race, color, or national origin, Board policy 2:270, *Discrimination and Harassment on the Basis of Race, Color, and National Origin Prohibited*.

Sex Equity

No student shall, based on sex, sexual orientation, or gender identity be denied equal access to programs, activities, services, or benefits or be limited in the exercise of any right, privilege, advantage, or denied equal access to educational and extracurricular programs and activities.

Any student may file a sex equity complaint by using Board policy 2:260, *Uniform Grievance Procedure*. A student may appeal the Board's resolution of the complaint to the Regional Superintendent (pursuant to [105 ILCS 5/3-10](#)) and, thereafter, to the State Superintendent of Education (pursuant to [105 ILCS 5/2-3.8](#)).

Any student may file a sex discrimination complaint by using Board policy 2:265, *Title IX Grievance Procedure*. PRESSPlus3

Administrative Implementation

The Superintendent shall appoint a Nondiscrimination Coordinator, who also serves as the District's Title IX Coordinator. The Superintendent and Building Principal shall use reasonable measures to inform staff members and students of this policy and related grievance procedures.

LEGAL REF.:

[20 U.S.C. §1681](#) et seq., Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972; [34 C.F.R. Part 106](#).

[29 U.S.C. §791](#) et seq., Rehabilitation Act of 1973; [34 C.F.R. Part 104](#).

[42 U.S.C. §2000d](#), Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964; [34 C.F.R. Part 100](#).

[42 U.S.C. §11431](#) et seq., McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act.

[Good News Club v. Milford Central Sch.](#), 533 U.S. 98 (2001).

[Ill. Constitution, Art. I, §18.](#)

[105 ILCS 5/3.25b](#), [5/3.25d\(b\)](#), [5/10-20.12](#), [5/10-20.60](#), [5/10-20.63](#), [5/10-22.5](#), and [5/27-1](#).

[775 ILCS 5/1-101](#) *et seq.*, Illinois Human Rights Act.

[775 ILCS 35/5](#), Religious Freedom Restoration Act.

[23 Ill.Admin.Code §1.240](#) and [Part 200](#).

CROSS REF.: 2:260 (Uniform Grievance Procedure), 2:265 (Title IX Grievance Procedure), 2:270 (Discrimination and Harassment on the Basis of Race, Color, and National Origin Prohibited), 7:20 (Harassment of Students Prohibited), 7:50 (School Admissions and Student Transfers To and From Non-District Schools), 7:60 (Residence), 7:130 (Student Rights and Responsibilities), 7:180 (Prevention of and Response to Bullying, Intimidation, and Harassment), 7:185 (Teen Dating Violence Prohibited), 8:20 (Community Use of School Facilities)

ADOPTED: February 21, 2017

REVISED: February 20, 2018; December 14, 2020; March 21, 2022; June 17, 2024

PRESSPlus Comments

PRESSPlus 1. Updated to more comprehensively reflect categories protected by the Ill. Human Rights Act (775 ILCS 5/). **Issue 117, October 2024**

PRESSPlus 2. Updated in response to the Ill. Human Rights Act (IHRA), 775 ILCS 5/1-102(A) and 5/1-103(Q), amended by P.A. 103-785, eff. 1-1-25. *Reproductive health decisions* means a person's decisions regarding their use of: contraception; fertility or sterilization care; assisted reproductive technologies; miscarriage management care; healthcare related to the continuation or termination of pregnancy; or prenatal, intranatal, or postnatal care. 775 ILCS 5/1-103(O-2), added by P.A. 103-785, eff. 1-1-25. **Issue 117, October 2024**

PRESSPlus 3. Updated in response to final regulations implementing Title IX. **Issue 117, October 2024**

Document Status: Draft Update

STUDENTS

7:100 Health, Eye, and Dental Examinations; Immunizations; and Exclusion of Students

Required Health Examinations and Immunizations

A student's parents/guardians shall present proof that the student received a health examination, with proof of the immunizations against, and screenings for, preventable communicable diseases, as required by the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH), within one year prior to:

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

Proof of immunization against meningococcal disease is required for students in grade 6.

As required by State law:

1. Health examinations must be performed by a physician licensed to practice medicine in all of its branches, an advanced practice registered nurse, or a physician assistant who has been delegated the performance of health examinations by a supervising physician.
2. A diabetes screening is a required part of each health examination; diabetes testing is not required.
3. An age-appropriate developmental screening and an age-appropriate social and emotional screening are required parts of each health examination. A student will not be excluded from school due to his or her parent/guardian's failure to obtain a developmental screening or a social and emotional screening. If proof of the developmental screening or the social and emotional screening portions of the health examination are not presented, qualified school support personnel may, with a parent/guardian's consent, offer the screenings to the child.
4. Before admission and in conjunction with required physical examinations, parents/guardians of children between the ages of one and seven years must provide a statement from a physician that their child was risk-assessed or screened for lead poisoning.
5. The IDPH will provide all students entering sixth grade and their parents/guardians information about the link between human papillomavirus (HPV) and HPV-related cancers and the availability of the HPV vaccine.
6. The District will provide informational materials regarding influenza, ~~and influenza vaccinations, meningococcal disease, and meningococcal vaccinations~~ [PRESSPlus1](#) developed, provided, or approved by the IDPH when it provides information on immunizations, infectious diseases, medications, or other school health issues to students' parents/guardians.

Unless an exemption or extension applies, the failure to comply with the above requirements by October 15 of the current school year will result in the student's exclusion from school until the required

health forms are presented to the District. New students who register after October 15 of the current school year shall have 30 days following registration to comply with the health examination and immunization regulations. If a medical reason prevents a student from receiving a required immunization by October 15, the student must present, by October 15, an immunization schedule and a statement of the medical reasons causing the delay. The schedule and statement of medical reasons must be signed by the physician, advanced practice registered nurse, physician assistant, or local health department responsible for administering the immunizations.

A student transferring from out-of-state who does not have the required proof of immunizations by October 15 may attend classes only if he or she has proof that an appointment for the required vaccinations is scheduled with a party authorized to submit proof of the required vaccinations. If the required proof of vaccination is not submitted within 30 days after the student is permitted to attend classes, the student may no longer attend classes until proof of the vaccinations is properly submitted.

Eye Examination

Parents/guardians are encouraged to have their children undergo an eye examination whenever health examinations are required.

Parents/guardians of students entering kindergarten or an Illinois school for the first time shall present proof before October 15 of the current school year that the student received an eye examination within one year prior to entry of kindergarten or the school. A physician licensed to practice medicine in all of its branches, or a licensed optometrist, must perform the required eye examination.

If a student fails to present proof by October 15, the school may hold the student's report card until the student presents proof: (1) of a completed eye examination, or (2) that an eye examination will take place within 60 days after October 15. The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that parents/guardians are notified of this eye examination requirement in compliance with the rules of the IDPH. Schools shall not exclude a student from attending school due to failure to obtain an eye examination.

Dental Examination

All children in kindergarten and the second and sixth grades must present proof of having been examined by a licensed dentist before May 15 of the current school year in accordance with rules adopted by the IDPH.

If a child in the second or sixth grade fails to present proof by May 15, the school may hold the child's report card until the child presents proof: (1) of a completed dental examination, or (2) that a dental examination will take place within 60 days after May 15. The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that parents/guardians are notified of this dental examination requirement at least 60 days before May 15 of each school year.

Exemptions

In accordance with rules adopted by the IDPH, a student will be exempted from this policy's requirements for:

1. Religious grounds, if the student's parents/guardians present the IDPH's Certificate of Religious Exemption form to the Superintendent or designee. When a Certificate of Religious Exemption form is presented, the Superintendent or designee shall immediately inform the parents/guardians of exclusion procedures pursuant to Board policy 7:280, *Communicable and Chronic Infectious Disease*, and State rules if there is an outbreak of one or more diseases from which the student is not protected.

2. Health examination or immunization requirements on medical grounds, if the examining physician, advanced practice registered nurse, or physician assistant provides written verification.
3. Eye examination requirement, if the student's parents/guardians show an undue burden or lack of access to a physician licensed to practice medicine in all of its branches who provides eye examinations or a licensed optometrist.
4. Dental examination requirement, if the student's parents/guardians show an undue burden or a lack of access to a dentist.

Homeless Child

Any homeless child shall be immediately admitted, even if the child or child's parent/guardian is unable to produce immunization and health records normally required for enrollment. Board of Education policy 6:140, *Education of Homeless Children*, governs the enrollment of homeless children.

LEGAL REF.:

[42 U.S.C. §11431](#) et seq., McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act.

[105 ILCS 5/27-8.1](#) and [45/1-20](#).

[410 ILCS 45/7.1](#), Lead Poisoning Prevention Act.

[410 ILCS 315/2e](#), Communicable Disease Prevention Act.

[23 Ill.Admin.Code §1.530](#).

[77 Ill. Admin.Code Part 664](#), Socio-Emotional and Developmental Screening.

[77 Ill.Admin.Code Part 665](#), Child and Student Health Examination and Immunization.

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

CROSS REF.: 6:30 (Organization of Instruction), 6:140 (Education of Homeless Children), 7:50 (School Admissions and Student Transfers To and From Non-District Schools), 7:280 (Communicable and Chronic Infectious Disease)

Adopted: December 19, 2022

PRESSPlus Comments

PRESSPlus 1. Updated in response to 105 ILCS 5/27-8.1(8.5), amended by P.A. 103-985, eff. 1-1-25. **Issue 117, October 2024**

Document Status: Draft Update

STUDENTS

7:160 Student Appearance

A student's appearance, including dress and hygiene, must not disrupt the educational process or compromise standards of health and safety. The District does not prohibit hairstyles historically associated with race, ethnicity, or hair texture, ~~or any other protected classes under Board policy 7:10, Equal Educational Opportunities,~~ including, but not limited to, protective hairstyles such as braids, locks, and twists, ~~nor does it prohibit hairstyles historically associated with any other protected status under Board policy 7:10, Equal Educational Opportunities.~~ [PRESSPlus1](#) The District also does not prohibit the right of a student to wear or accessorize the student's graduation attire with items associated with the student's cultural, ethnic, or religious identity or other characteristic or category protected under the Ill. Human Rights Act, [775 ILCS 5/1-103\(Q\)](#). Students who disrupt the educational process or compromise standards of health and safety must modify their appearance. Procedures for guiding student appearance will be developed by the Superintendent or designee and included in the *Student Handbook(s)*.

LEGAL REF.:

[105 ILCS 5/2-3.25](#) and [5/10-22.25b](#).

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

CROSS REF.: 7:10 (Equal Educational Opportunities), 7:130 (Student Rights and Responsibilities), 7:190 (Student Behavior)

Adopted: February 20, 2024

PRESSPlus Comments

PRESSPlus 1. Updated for continuous improvement and to align with policy 7:165, *School Uniforms*. **Issue 117, October 2024**

Document Status: Draft Update

COMMUNITY RELATIONS

8:10 Connection with the Community

School Sponsored Media

An effective community information program shall be carried on by the Community Relations Coordinator(s), teachers, administrators, Superintendent, and members of the Board of Education. The school system has many interesting, worthwhile activities and challenges about which the public is anxious to hear and has a right to know. Normally, District publications, local newspapers, digital media, and cable television shall be utilized in keeping the public informed. Where appropriate, broader coverage in Chicago area newspapers and on television and radio shall also be provided. Administrators and staff should be cognizant of the values of good publicity, selecting significant information to be considered for dissemination and sending frequent press releases to the media. The Community Relations Coordinator(s) shall coordinate these efforts.

Public Relations

The Board President is the official spokesperson for the Board of Education. The Superintendent is the District's chief spokesperson. The Board, in collaboration with the Superintendent PRESSPlus1 or designee, shall plan and implement a District public relations program that will:

1. Develop community understanding of school operation.
2. Gather community attitudes and desires for the District.
3. Secure Ensure PRESSPlus2 adequate financial support for a sound educational program.
4. Help the community feel a more direct responsibility for the quality of education provided by their schools.
5. Earn the community's goodwill, respect, and trust confidence.
6. Promote a genuine spirit of cooperation between the school and the community.
7. Keep the news media and community accurately informed.
8. Coordinate with the District Safety Coordinator to provide accurate and timely information to the appropriate individuals during an emergency.

The public relations program should include:

1. Regular news releases concerning District programs, policies, activities, and special event management for distribution by, for example, posting on the District website, using District social media platforms accounts, PRESSPlus3 e.g., Facebook, Twitter, etc., and/or sending to the news media.
2. News conferences, and interviews, and official Board or District statements, as requested or needed. The Board President and Superintendent will coordinate their respective media relations efforts. As official spokesperson for the Board, PRESSPlus4 the Board President will communicate on behalf of the Board to the news media and community. Statements made by Board members when not authorized by the Board will be considered personal comments of the Board member, and Board members are encouraged to identify such statements as their

personal opinions. Official Board or District statements (other than those made directly to the media) will be made through the District website and/or its social media accounts, at official District events, or through other official communication methods, such as District email or mailings. Individuals may speak for the District only with prior approval from the Superintendent. [PRESSPlus5](#)

3. Publications having a high quality of editorial content and effective format. All publications shall identify the District, school, department, or classroom and shall include the name of the Superintendent, the Building Principal, and/or the author and the publication date.
4. Other efforts that highlight the District's programs and activities.

CROSS REF.: 2:110 (Qualifications, Term, and Duties of Board Officers)

Adopted: June 1, 2020

PRESSPlus Comments

PRESSPlus 1. The board and superintendent should have a conversation regarding which objectives the board, superintendent, or both the board and superintendent together will implement. **Issue 117, October 2024**

PRESSPlus 2. Updated throughout for continuous improvement. **Issue 117, October 2024**

PRESSPlus 3. Updated in response to the U.S. Supreme Court case Lindke v. Freed, 601 U.S. 187 (2024), which held that a government official's speech on social media is attributable to the government if the official: (1) has actual authority to speak on behalf of the government on a particular matter; and (2) purports to exercise that authority when speaking on social media. If an official's speech on social media is attributable to the government, then the official's social media posts will be subject to scrutiny under the First Amendment. Social media accounts of government officials that are clearly labeled as personal (e.g., "This is the personal page of [insert name]") or with a disclaimer (e.g., "the views expressed are strictly my own") are presumed to contain only personal posts, though that presumption can be challenged depending on the particular facts. The Court did not distinguish between elected or appointed government officials and employees, suggesting that the same test would apply to government employees.

Because those who post on a district's social media accounts typically have authority to speak on the district's behalf, such accounts are likely either *limited public forums* (also referred to as *nonpublic forums*) or *public forums*. See, e.g., People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals v. Tabak, 2024 WL 3573661 (D.C. Cir. 2024) (finding the National Institutes of Health's (NIH) social media accounts were limited public forums because use of the accounts was limited to discussion of certain subjects; however, the NIH violated the First Amendment when it filtered out comments based on the plaintiff's viewpoints). Consider that school districts are different than federal government agencies and must ensure other duties to students, e.g., safety and security, which may require excluding certain comments from the district's social media accounts. **Issue 117, October 2024**

PRESSPlus 4. In alignment with the IASB *Foundational Principles of Effective Governance*, the school board president is the board's spokesperson (see sample policy 2:110, *Qualifications, Term, and Duties of Board Officers*) and the superintendent is the district's spokesperson. **Issue 117,**

October 2024

PRESSPlus 5. This item aligns with sample policy 2:110, *Qualifications, Term, and Duties of Board Officers*, and the board member oath of office in 105 ILCS 5/10-16.5, which requires board members to swear or affirm that they “shall recognize that a board member has no legal authority as an individual and that decisions can only be made by a majority vote at a public board meeting.” Making official statements through the district's website and official social media accounts, rather than through personal or "mixed use" accounts is a best practice and a strategy to mitigate First Amendment liability for board members and employees who communicate through social media platforms. Additionally, it is a best practice for board members or employees with social media accounts to clearly label their personal accounts as personal and limit district-related communications to official district accounts. **Issue 117, October 2024**

