

Document Status: Draft Update - New

4:165 Awareness and Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse and Grooming Behaviors

New/Unpublished Section

Child sexual abuse and grooming behaviors harm students, their parents/guardians, the District's environment, its school communities, and the community at large, while diminishing a student's ability to learn. The Board has a responsibility and obligation to increase awareness and knowledge of: (1) issues regarding child sexual abuse, (2) likely warning signs that a child may be a victim of sexual abuse, (3) grooming behaviors related to child sexual abuse and grooming, (4) how to report child sexual abuse, (5) appropriate relationships between District employees and students based upon State law, and (6) how to prevent child sexual abuse. [PRESSPlus1](#)

To address the Board's obligation to increase awareness and knowledge of these issues, prevent sexual abuse of children, and define prohibited grooming behaviors, the Superintendent or designee shall implement an Awareness and Prevention of Sexual Abuse and Grooming Behaviors Program. The Program will:

1. Educate students with:
 - a. An age-appropriate and evidence-informed health and safety education curriculum that includes methods for how to report child sexual abuse and grooming behaviors to authorities, through policy 6:60, *Curriculum Content*;
 - b. Information in policy 7:250, *Student Support Services*, about: (i) District counseling options, assistance, and intervention for students who are victims of or affected by sexual abuse, and (ii) community-based Children's Advocacy Centers and sexual assault crisis centers and how to access those serving the District.
2. Train District employees about child sexual abuse and grooming behaviors by January 31 of each school year with materials that include:
 - a. A definition of prohibited grooming behaviors and boundary violations pursuant to policy 5:120, *Employee Ethics; Conduct; and Conflict of Interest*;
 - b. Evidence-informed [PRESSPlus2](#) content on preventing, recognizing, reporting, and responding to child sexual abuse, grooming behaviors, and boundary violations pursuant to policies 2:260, *Uniform Grievance Procedure*; 2:265, *Title IX Sexual Harassment Grievance Procedure*; 5:90, *Abused and Neglected Child Reporting*; 5:100, *Staff Development Program*; and 5:120, *Employee Ethics; Conduct; and Conflict of Interest*; and
 - c. How to report child sexual abuse, grooming behaviors, and/or boundary violations pursuant to policies 2:260, *Uniform Grievance Procedure*; 2:265, *Title IX Sexual Harassment Grievance Procedure*; and 5:90, *Abused and Neglected Child Reporting*.
3. Provide information to parents/guardians in student handbooks about the warning signs [PRESSPlus3](#) of child sexual abuse, grooming behaviors, and boundary violations with evidence-informed educational information that also includes: [PRESSPlus4](#)
 - a. Assistance, referral, or resource information, including how to recognize grooming behaviors, [PRESSPlus5](#) appropriate relationships between District employees and students based upon policy 5:120, *Employee Ethics; Conduct; and Conflict of Interest*, and how to prevent child sexual abuse from happening;
 - b. Methods for how to report child sexual abuse, grooming behaviors, and/or boundary violations to authorities; and
 - c. Available counseling and resources for children who are affected by sexual abuse, including both emotional and educational support for students affected by sexual abuse, so that the student can continue to succeed in school pursuant to policy 7:250, *Student Support Services*.
4. Provide parents/guardians of students in any of grades K through 8 with not less than five days' written notice before commencing any class or course providing instruction in recognizing and avoiding sexual abuse, as well as the opportunity to object in writing. [PRESSPlus6](#)

LEGAL REF.:

105 ILCS 5/10-23.13, 5/27-9.1a, and 5/27-13.2.

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

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

720 ILCS 5/11-25, Criminal Code of 2012.

CROSS REF.: 2:260 (Uniform Grievance Procedure), 2:265 (Title IX Sexual Harassment Grievance Procedure), 4:175 (Convicted Child Sex Offender; Screening; Notifications), 5:90 (Abused and Neglected Child Reporting), 5:100 (Staff Development Program), 5:120 (Employee Ethics; Conduct; and Conflict of Interest), 6:60 (Curriculum Content), 7:20 (Harassment of Students Prohibited), 7:250 (Student Support Services)

PRESSPlus Comments

PRESSPlus 1. This policy is created in response to 105 ILCS 5/10-23.13 (*Erin's Law*), amended by P.A. 102-610, which requires districts to adopt and implement a policy addressing sexual abuse of children that includes an age-appropriate and evidence-informed curriculum for preK-12 students, evidence-informed training for school personnel on child sexual abuse, and evidence-informed educational information for parents/guardians in school handbooks. For more information, see this policy's footnotes and the Ethics, Training, and Educator Misconduct bundle in the **PRESS** Issue 108 Update Memo, available at **PRESS** Online by logging in at www.iasb.com. **Issue 108, November 2021**

PRESSPlus 2. Two Illinois laws address "evidence-informed." *Evidence-informed per Erin's Law* means modalities that were created utilizing components of evidence-based treatments or curriculums. 105 ILCS 5/10-23.13(a), added by P.A. 102-610. Contrast with National Sex Education Standards (NSES) at 105 ILCS 5/27-9.1a(a), added by P.A. 102-552, which defines an *evidence-informed program* as "a program that uses the best available research and practice knowledge to guide program design and implementation." **Issue 108, November 2021**

PRESSPlus 3. 105 ILCS 5/10-23.13(b) and (b)(1); warning signs and *likely* warning signs are mentioned twice in the law. This policy uses *likely* in the purpose introduction. The Ill. Principals Association (IPA) maintains a handbook service that coordinates with **PRESS** material, Online Model Student Handbook (MSH), at www.ilprincipals.org/resources/model-student-handbook. **Issue 108, November 2021**

PRESSPlus 4. This information is listed in 7:190-E2, *Student Handbook Checklist*, available at **PRESS** Online by logging in at www.iasb.com. **Issue 108, November 2021**

PRESSPlus 5. Providing information to parents/guardians about how to recognize grooming behaviors is not in *Erin's Law*; it only addresses informing parents/guardians about the methods for increasing their awareness and knowledge of grooming behaviors. 105 ILCS 5/10-23.13(b)(1). This policy requires the district to provide information to parents/guardians about how to recognize grooming behaviors to: (1) effect the purpose of *Erin's Law*; (2) align with the intent of the following statutes: 105 ILCS 110/3 (Critical Health Problems and Comprehensive Health Education Act); 105 ILCS 5/27-9.1a(b), added by P.A. 102-552 (requires comprehensive health and safety and comprehensive sexual health education a/k/a NSES); and 105 ILCS 5/27-13.2 (educating all students to recognize and avoid sexual abuse and assault) and (3) align with the notification requirements in 105 ILCS 5/27-13.2 (parents/guardians of K-8 students prior to commencing instruction in recognizing and avoiding sexual abuse). **Issue 108, November 2021**

PRESSPlus 6. Required by 105 ILCS 5/27-13.2. See 6:60-AP1, E1, *Notice to Parents/Guardians of Sexual Abuse and Assault Awareness and Prevention Education; Requests to Examine Materials; Written Objection(s) and/or Opt-outs*, available at **PRESS** Online by logging in at www.iasb.com. **Issue 108, November 2021**