

## General School Administration

### Exhibit - Checklist for the Superintendent Employment Contract Negotiation Process 1

The School Board hires and employs the Superintendent. The Superintendent shall be in charge of the administration of the schools under the direction of the Board, through its policies. See 105 ILCS 5/10-21.4 and 105 ILCS 5/10-16.7. As an effective employer, the Board must develop and maintain a productive relationship with the Superintendent. See IASB's *Foundational Principles of Effective Governance*, **Principle 3. The board employs a superintendent**, at: [www.iasb.com/pdf/found\\_prin.pdf](http://www.iasb.com/pdf/found_prin.pdf).

The foundation for a productive employment relationship begins when the Board identifies the most qualified superintendent candidate (*successful superintendent candidate*) after an established interview process. The Board then extends an offer of employment to the successful superintendent candidate. The employment search process and resulting relationship should consist of mutual respect and a clear understanding of respective roles, responsibilities, and expectations. This relationship should begin with the Board's policy, a thoughtfully crafted employment contract and job description, and procedures for communications and ongoing assessment. See *Principles* at: [www.iasb.com/pdf/found\\_prin.pdf](http://www.iasb.com/pdf/found_prin.pdf).

Below, the *Checklist for the Superintendent Employment Contract Negotiation Process (Checklist)* provides a column entitled **Superintendent Contract Term Considerations for the Board**. It lists common superintendent employment contract terms and points of consideration for boards to prepare for during the contract formation process. Another column entitled **Explanation, Special Considerations, and Resources** provides extra information about these common superintendent employment contract terms.

The *Checklist* is intended to serve as a resource to educate and guide the Board through the employment contract negotiation process with its successful superintendent candidate. Board members who are educated about the content within the *Checklist* are crucial to successful negotiation processes. An educated contract formation and negotiation process, along with a well-written contract and job description for the Superintendent, all set the foundation for mutual respect and a clear understanding of the Board and Superintendent's respective roles, responsibilities, and expectations. **Important:** This *Checklist* is a resource for contract formation; it is not a list of *must have* items for a superintendent's employment contract or a basis for a board to re-open contracts currently in effect.

Prior to providing the successful superintendent candidate an offer for employment and contract for review, consideration, and negotiation, consult the Board Attorney about the *Checklist* and the scope of the terms the Board wishes to offer the successful superintendent candidate. The Board and the successful superintendent candidate should expect and encourage the other to seek the advice of their respective attorneys during the employment contract formation process.

Many attorneys agree and best practices suggest that boards and successful superintendent candidates work with their own separate attorneys in an amicable and cooperative manner to complete the employment contract negotiation process.

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The footnotes should be removed before the material is used.

<sup>1</sup> The General Counsels of the Ill. Association of School Administrators (IASA) and Ill. Association of School Boards (IASB) collaborated on the content of this document.

- Board Attorney.** Prior to providing any successful superintendent candidate with an offer for employment and a contract for review, consideration, and negotiation, best practices suggest consulting the Board Attorney about the *Checklist*. **Note:** Boards should view a successful superintendent candidate retaining his or her own attorney as a best practice (as opposed to a warning sign). Each party is beginning the employment relationship in a cooperative manner to set an appropriate foundation to the future working relationship.

**Power and Duties of the Superintendent**

Superintendent Contract Term Considerations for the Board	Explanation, Special Considerations, and Resources
Duties	<p>Does the Board enumerate the duties of the Superintendent in the employment contract?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Are the statutory duties of the Superintendent listed?</li> <li>2. Has the Board incorporated policy references to the other duties related to the Superintendent's employment?</li> </ol> <p>See 105 ILCS 5/10-21.4 and 105 ILCS 5/10-16.7.</p>
Full-time, Attention and Energy Clause	<p>How will the Board address outside activities of the Superintendent?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. How will the Board define <i>outside activities</i>?</li> <li>2. Will the Board restrict the Superintendent from engaging in outside activities during the term of the employment contract?</li> <li>3. Will the Board require approval/notification before the Superintendent engages in outside activities?</li> </ol>

**Employment and Compensation**

Superintendent Contract Term Considerations for the Board	Explanation, Special Considerations, and Resources
Duration of Contract	<p>A superintendent's employment contract may not exceed five years. If its duration is two to five years, the contract must reference goals and suspension of tenure.</p> <p>No performance-based contract shall be extended or rolled over prior to its scheduled expiration unless all the performance and improvement goals contained in the contract have been met. See 105 ILCS 5/10-23.8.</p> <p>If the duration is one year or less, then the contract need not reference goals or suspension of tenure.</p>
Salary	<p>Special Considerations for the Board may include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What is the estimated Board contribution to the Teachers' Retirement System (TRS) for any raises</li> </ol>

Superintendent Contract Term Considerations for the Board	Explanation, Special Considerations, and Resources
	<p>above six percent (40 ILCS 5/15-155(g), amended by P.A. 101-10) prior to retirement?</p> <p>2. What is the <i>cost shift</i> implication for the District if the Board offers or later agrees to a salary that is equal to or greater than the governor’s statutory salary of \$177,412 (P.A. 100-23 now makes school districts responsible for paying the actuarial cost of the pension benefits earned on the portion of a TRS member’s salary that exceeds \$177,412)?</p> <p>3. Do any administrative cost cap triggers exist (105 ILCS 5/17-1.5)?</p> <p>Items the Board may see the successful superintendent candidate request of it:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A fixed salary for each year of the contract.</li> <li>2. A guaranteed minimum salary.</li> <li>3. Compensation increases.</li> </ol>
Severance Agreements	<p>The Government Severance Pay Act (GSPA), 5 ILCS 415/10, added by P.A. 100-895, requires the following contract provisions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A restriction to an amount not exceeding 20 weeks of compensation; and</li> <li>2. A prohibition for any severance if the Superintendent is fired for <i>misconduct</i> by the Board. See the <i>Severance Pay</i> row under the <b>Changes to the Superintendent’s Employment Contract</b> subhead below for a definition of what misconduct means in the context of this law.</li> </ol>
Teachers Retirement System (TRS) & Teacher Health Insurance (THIS)	<p>How does the Board want to address:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Pension contributions (TRS-THIS)?</li> <li>2. Inclusion of salary and other compensation in the payment of TRS and THIS? Or, will TRS and THIS be in addition to salary and other compensation?</li> <li>3. Unforeseen pension reform issues?</li> </ol>

**Conditions of Employment**

Superintendent Contract Term Considerations for the Board	Explanation, Special Considerations, and Resources
Administrative License	Does the Board want to require the successful superintendent candidate to guarantee that as the future

Superintendent Contract Term Considerations for the Board	Explanation, Special Considerations, and Resources
	Superintendent of the District, he or she has and will maintain the appropriate licensure throughout the employment contract?
Criminal Background Check Law	105 ILCS 5/10-21.9, amended by P.A. 101-531. See also <b>PRESS</b> sample policy 5:30, <i>Hiring Process and Criteria</i> , and the subhead entitled <b>Fingerprint-based Criminal History Records Information Check</b> in administrative procedure 5:30-AP2, <i>Investigations</i> .
Other Background Check Laws	<p>Does the Board want to require additional background inquiries beyond the fingerprint-based criminal history records information check required by 105 ILCS 5/10-21.9, amended by P.A. 101-531, and discussed above? If yes, consult the Board Attorney and consider the following laws:</p> <p>15 U.S.C. § 1681 <i>et seq.</i>, Federal Fair Credit Reporting Act (FCRA), is a federal law that regulates the gathering and use of information about consumers by third party <i>consumer reporting agencies</i>, including credit information, criminal background, driving record, personal characteristics/reputation, etc. The law requires consumer reporting agencies to comply with certain procedural notice requirements when gathering information from a consumer.</p> <p>820 ILCS 75/, III. Job Opportunities for Qualified Applicants Act, prohibits employers from inquiring about an applicant's criminal history until the application has been determined qualified and notified that he/she has been selected for an interview (a/k/a <i>ban the box</i> law).</p> <p>820 ILCS 55/, III. Right to Privacy in the Workplace Act (RPWA), prohibits employers from:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Requesting, coercing, or requiring any employee or prospective employee to provide a user name and password for any personal online account;</li> <li>2. Requesting, coercing, or requiring an employee or applicant to invite the employer to have access to that individual's personal online account; and</li> <li>3. Taking an adverse employment action against an individual (including refusal to hire) based on that individual's use of a lawful product off District property during nonworking hours, i.e.,</li> </ol>

Superintendent Contract Term Considerations for the Board	Explanation, Special Considerations, and Resources
	<p>tobacco, cannabis, or alcohol. (<b>Note:</b> RPWA allows employers to regulate employees' use of those lawful products that impair an employee's ability to perform the employee's assigned duties. See policy 5:50, <i>Drug- and Alcohol-Free Workplace; E-Cigarette, Tobacco, and Cannabis Prohibition</i>, and its f/ns).</p> <p>820 ILCS 70/, Ill. Employee Credit Privacy Act, prohibits employers from inquiring into an individual's credit history or taking action against an employee based such history unless a satisfactory credit history is a <i>bona fide occupational requirement</i>, which is further defined in the statute. The job descriptions of superintendents generally meet this standard because they: (1) describe a managerial position that involves direction of school districts; (2) include signatory power over more than \$100; and (3) involve having access to confidential and financial information. <b>Note:</b> Any one of these grounds alone is sufficient.</p>
Medical Examination	<p>105 ILCS 5/24-5 requires new employees to submit evidence of physical fitness to perform assigned duties and freedom from communicable diseases.</p> <p>The Americans with Disabilities Act allows medical inquiries of current employees only when they are job-related and consistent with business necessity or part of a voluntary employee wellness program. 42 U.S.C. §12112(d)(4). Districts may deny jobs to individuals with disabilities who pose a direct threat to the health or safety of others in the workplace, provided that a reasonable accommodation would not either eliminate the risk or reduce it to an acceptable level. 42 U.S.C. §12113; 29 C.F.R. Part 1630.2(r).</p> <p>See also <b>PRESS</b> sample policy 5:30, <i>Hiring Process and Criteria</i>, specifically f/ns 18 and 19.</p>
Tenure	<p><u>Suspension of Tenure</u> With multi-year contracts and multi-year extensions, superintendents waive their rights to tenure in a school district, but no previously acquired tenure may be lost.</p> <p><u>Continued Tenure</u> Superintendents serving multiple one year contracts may still accrue service toward and acquire tenure. See 105 ILCS 5/10-23.8 and the <i>Duration of Contract</i></p>

Superintendent Contract Term Considerations for the Board	Explanation, Special Considerations, and Resources
	row in the <b>Employment and Compensation</b> checkbox, above.

**Evaluations and Goals**

Superintendent Contract Term Considerations for the Board	Explanation, Special Considerations, and Resources
Board Goals and Indicators of Student Performance and Academic Achievement for the Superintendent	<p>105 ILCS 5/10-23.8 requires each performance-based contract to include the goals and indicators of student performance and academic improvement determined and used by the Board to measure the performance and effectiveness of the Superintendent and other information as the Board may determine.</p> <p>Regarding its goals and indicators, has the Board:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. At minimum, addressed student performance and academic achievement (105 ILCS 5/10-23.8 states “and other information as the Board may determine”)?</li> <li>2. Included them in the body of the employment contract? Or as an exhibit to it?</li> <li>3. Set them to be: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Measurable and achievable, i.e., are they within the Superintendent’s control?</li> <li>b. Objective, subjective or a combination of both?</li> </ol> </li> <li>4. Set a timeline for achievement, and if so is it on an: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Annual basis?</li> <li>b. Prior to completion of the employment contract?</li> </ol> </li> <li>5. Set them as procedural, substantive, or a combination of both?</li> </ol> <p>For more information about setting goals and indicators for superintendents regarding student performance and academic achievement, see:</p> <p>IASB’s <i>Field Services Catalog</i> at:  <a href="http://www.iasb.mys1cloud.com/fieldservicecatalog.pdf">www.iasb.mys1cloud.com/fieldservicecatalog.pdf</a></p> <p>Contact a Field Services Director regarding the following IASB workshops and/or offerings that may set the stage for school boards to hold their superintendents accountable for district performance, including academic achievement:</p> <p><i>Setting District Goals and Direction</i> (leads a board and superintendent to develop their own district-language for specific measurable, and attainable</p>

Superintendent Contract Term Considerations for the Board	Explanation, Special Considerations, and Resources
	<p>goals and indicators)</p> <p><i>The Superintendent Evaluation Process</i> (describes an effective method of holding the superintendent accountable)</p> <p><i>The Board and its Superintendent</i> (workshop assisting a board in developing an effective relationship with its superintendent).</p>
Superintendent Evaluation	<p>Once the Board has developed its goals and indicators (as discussed immediately above), 105 ILCS 5/10-20, 5/10-23, and 5/10-23.8 require the Board to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. “Direct, through policy, its superintendent in his or her charge of the administration of the school district;” and</li> <li>2. Evaluate the superintendent in his or her “administration of school board policies and his or her stewardship of the assets of the district.”</li> </ol> <p>How will the Board evaluate the successful superintendent candidate upon its outlined goals and indicators?</p> <p>Does the Board state when it will evaluate the successful superintendent candidate upon the goals and indicators that it set? <b>Note:</b> Some districts do not consider the superintendent evaluation to be a <i>one-time event</i> and put an on-going process into place. Contrast other districts, which depending upon their preferences, generally find the best time of year to evaluate is in the winter or early springtime.</p> <p>Is the Board or the successful superintendent candidate responsible to trigger the components of the Superintendent’s evaluation process?</p> <p>What evaluation instrument will be used? How will the evaluation be documented?</p> <p>Will an evaluation instrument be outlined by the Board in its employment contract with the successful superintendent candidate?</p> <p>Is the evaluation instrument the Board will use tied to its goals and indicators of student performance and academic improvement and other information as the Board may determine?</p> <p>For more information about best practices when planning for and evaluating the Superintendent, see:</p> <p><i>The Superintendent Evaluation Process</i> at:</p>

Superintendent Contract Term Considerations for the Board	Explanation, Special Considerations, and Resources
	<p><a href="http://www.iasb.com/training/superintendent-evaluation-process.pdf">www.iasb.com/training/superintendent-evaluation-process.pdf</a>;</p> <p>IASB's <i>Foundational Principles of Effective Governance</i>, <b>Principle 3. The board employs a superintendent</b>, at: <a href="http://www.iasb.com/principles.cfm">www.iasb.com/principles.cfm</a>; stating "the board employs and evaluates one person — the superintendent — and holds that person accountable for district performance and compliance with written board policy."</p>

**Expenses and Benefits**

Superintendent Contract Term Considerations for the Board	Explanation, Special Considerations, and Resources
Expenses	<p>How will the Board address expenses in its employment contract negotiations with the successful superintendent candidate?</p> <p><u>Business</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What standard will the Board use, e.g., reasonable, itemized, etc.?</li> <li>2. Will the Board designate the Board President or another individual to review and/or approve the Superintendent's expenses?</li> </ol> <p><u>Transportation</u></p> <p>Will the Board reimburse travel? If yes, what types of travel will the board reimburse? Some transportation topics that successful superintendent candidates request discussion about include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Vehicle insurance reimbursement(s)</li> <li>2. Vehicle repair reimbursement(s)</li> <li>3. A travel allowance only at either a set amount or the District's per mile rate</li> <li>4. A vehicle</li> <li>5. Out-of-district travel</li> </ol>
Insurance	<p>Will the Board address insurance in its employment contract negotiations with the successful superintendent candidate?</p> <p>Some items successful superintendent candidates request include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Insurance contributions as part of a Cafeteria Plan, or in the alternative, the Board paying the</li> </ol>



<b>Superintendent Contract Term Considerations for the Board</b>	<b>Explanation, Special Considerations, and Resources</b>
	<p>premiums.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. Specific insurance coverages from the Board, such as health, dental, vision, life, disability, etc.</li> </ol>
Vacation	<p>Will the Board address vacation days in its employment contract negotiations with the successful superintendent candidate? If yes, then:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. How many days?</li> <li>2. Will vacation days accumulate? And, if so, how?</li> <li>3. Will the Board designate itself, the Board President, or a Board officer to approve or receive notification from the Superintendent prior to taking a vacation? If yes, describe the process.</li> <li>4. Will the Board address reimbursement for unused days?</li> </ol>
Sick Leave/Days	<p>Will the Board address sick days in its employment contract negotiations with the successful superintendent candidate? If yes, then:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Will sick leave be limited to annual sick leave days in the District’s teachers’ contract?</li> <li>2. How will sick day accumulation be addressed?</li> <li>3. Will the Board designate itself, the Board President, or a Board officer to approve or receive notification from the Superintendent prior to taking or upon returning from a sick day? If yes, describe the process.</li> </ol>
Professional Activities and Organizations   Memberships in Community Organizations	<p>Will the Board address memberships in professional activities/organizations and/or community organizations its employment contract negotiations with the successful superintendent candidate? If yes, then:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. How many organizations will the Board allow the Superintendent to join?</li> <li>2. Which organizations will be allowed?</li> <li>3. What is the Board’s limit for the cost of dues to professional organizations?</li> </ol>
Retirement	<p>Will the Board address any type of payment(s) upon the Superintendent’s retirement? If yes, then:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Has the Board thoroughly examined and addressed: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Any consequences or other penalties to it?</li> </ol> </li> </ol>

Superintendent Contract Term Considerations for the Board	Explanation, Special Considerations, and Resources
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>b. The impact of any prior salary increases?</li> <li>c. Potential pension reform issues?</li> </ul> <p>2. Often, a successful superintendent candidate's attorney has interest in the following issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Available post-retirement options available, e.g., payments for sick/vacation days, post-retirement insurance, longevity annuity payment, etc.</li> <li>b. Whether a potential retirement payment will be properly creditable for TRS purposes. <b>Note:</b> Ultimately, only TRS has the authority to determine creditability.</li> </ul>
Annuities and Other Deferred Compensation	<p>Will the Board address any type of annuities and other deferred compensation issues? If yes, then:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Will it offer such compensation in addition to the Superintendent's agreed-upon salary?</li> <li>2. Will it contribute creditable earnings for TRS purposes?</li> </ul>

**Changes to the Superintendent's Employment Contract**

Superintendent Contract Term Considerations for the Board	Explanation, Special Considerations, and Resources
Non-Renewal at End of Contract	<p>How will the Board and successful superintendent candidate agree to address orderly end to the employment contract when the Board chooses not to renew it?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Will there be a non-renewal notification date? Do both parties' attorneys find it reasonable?</li> <li>2. Will the Board require the Superintendent to remind it of the non-renewal date?</li> <li>3. Will there be any agreement to a clause for an automatic one-year renewal if the Board fails to provide end-of-contract non-renewal notification?</li> <li>4. Will the Board agree to language in the employment contract that would provide the Superintendent with a hearing upon non-renewal?</li> </ul>
Renewal at End of Contract	<p>Will the Board agree to a procedure for renewing the employment contract at its end? If yes, then:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What date would be the earliest that the Board could renew its employment contract with the Superintendent?</li> </ul>

<b>Superintendent Contract Term Considerations for the Board</b>	<b>Explanation, Special Considerations, and Resources</b>
	<p>2. What criteria will the Board base its renewal upon? For example, some boards base renewal upon superintendents achieving their stated goals and indicators of student performance and academic improvement and other information they required.</p>
Contract Extensions	<p>Will the Board agree to allow for an extension of its employment contract during its term? If yes, then:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Will the Board agree to extend it during its term if the Board determines that the Superintendent successfully met all of the Board’s stated goals and indicators of student performance and academic improvement and other information it required?</li> <li>2. Will the Board agree to extend a one-year contract when the Superintendent is not required to meet any goals?</li> </ol> <p>See 105 ILCS 5/10-23.8.</p>
Terminations	<p>If the successful superintendent candidate accepts employment with the Board and becomes the Superintendent, how will the Board outline the grounds and procedures for terminating the Superintendent’s employment during the contract’s term?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Will the Board and the successful superintendent candidate agree to terminate it upon mutual agreement?</li> <li>2. Will the Board allow retirement to be an appropriate reason for terminating its employment contract with the Superintendent? And if so, will the Board require reasonable notice from its Superintendent?</li> <li>3. Could either the Board or Superintendent terminate the employment contract without cause by providing notice to the other?</li> <li>4. Will the Board terminate the employment contract for permanent disability of the Superintendent? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. How will the Board define permanent disability in the contract?</li> <li>b. Will the Board require the Superintendent to obtain a permanent disability determination through physician certification, and/or</li> <li>c. Will the Board consider duration of absence; e.g., 90-days or exhaustion of sick leave, whichever is greater?</li> </ol> </li> </ol>

Superintendent Contract Term Considerations for the Board	Explanation, Special Considerations, and Resources
	<p>See <b>PRESS</b> sample policy 5:180, <i>Temporary Illness or Temporary Incapacity</i>.</p> <p>5. What standard will the Board use to terminate the employment contract for cause? Items to consider include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Any conduct detrimental/prejudicial to the District;*</li> <li>b. Just cause;</li> <li>c. Sufficient to dismiss a tenured teacher;</li> <li>d. Material breach of contract; or</li> <li>e. Not arbitrary and capricious.</li> </ol> <p>*50 ILCS 205/3c, amended by P.A. 100-1040, requires a school district to post on its website and make available to news media specific information about severance agreements that it enters into because an employee or contractor was found to have engaged in sexual harassment or sexual discrimination, as defined by the Ill. Human Rights Act or Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. See <b>Severance Pay</b> row directly below.</p> <p>6. Will the Board agree to provisions for hearing and due process for the Superintendent?</p> <p>7. How will the Board address death of its Superintendent during the duration of the employment contract?</p>
Severance Pay	<p>Any renewal or renegotiation that adds a condition of severance pay must include the following provisions of GSPA, 5 ILCS 415/10(a)(1), added by P.A. 100-895:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A restriction to an amount not exceeding 20 weeks of compensation; and</li> <li>2. A prohibition for any severance if the Superintendent is fired for <i>misconduct</i> by the Board. This law defines misconduct to include sexual harassment and/or discrimination. But 50 ILCS 205/3c, amended by P.A. 100-1040, limits sexual harassment or discrimination to instances when an employee is “found to have engaged in sexual harassment or sexual discrimination, as defined by the Ill. Human Rights Act or Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.” For more discussion about these laws, see f/n 6 in policy 2:260, <i>Uniform Grievance Procedure</i>.</li> </ol>

<b>Superintendent Contract Term Considerations for the Board</b>	<b>Explanation, Special Considerations, and Resources</b>
Liquidated Damages	<p>Will the Board agree to liquidate damages with its Superintendent if one or the other terminates the employment contract?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Have both the Board and the successful superintendent candidate discussed the practical consequences of a liquidated damages clause with their respective attorneys?</li> <li>2. If the Board terminates the contract, has it discussed with the Board Attorney how it can avoid litigation with its former Superintendent?</li> </ol>
Amendments	How will the Board and Superintendent agree to allow for amendments to the employment contract?

**What technical clauses need to be in the Superintendent's employment contract?**

<b>Superintendent Contract Term Considerations for the Board</b>	<b>Explanation, Special Considerations, and Resources</b>
Technical clauses (common in contracts)	<p>If the employment contract contains any of the following technical provisions, have the Board Attorney and Superintendent's attorney reviewed them?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Notice</li> <li>2. Applicable law</li> <li>3. Headings and numbers</li> <li>4. Complete understanding, i.e., do the Board members and Superintendent share the same understanding of the various provisions written in the employment contract?</li> <li>5. Counterparts</li> <li>6. Effect of Policy Amendments</li> <li>7. Severability</li> <li>8. Advice of Counsel</li> </ol>

**Miscellaneous Issues**

<b>Superintendent Contract Term Considerations for the Board</b>	<b>Explanation, Special Considerations, and Resources</b>
Board Obligations Under the Employment Contract	<p>Do all members of the Board understand the District's obligations under the employment contract and what not complying with them will mean to the District?</p> <p>Specifically, are Board members aware of the Board's specific obligations regarding:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The Superintendent Evaluation</li> <li>2. Goal setting</li> <li>3. Required notifications/actions by each party prior</li> </ol>

<b>Superintendent Contract Term Considerations for the Board</b>	<b>Explanation, Special Considerations, and Resources</b>
	to termination of the employment contract
Ongoing Monitoring of Each Party's Compliance with the Contract	Are the Board and Superintendent actually complying with the terms of the employment contract? Has the Board Attorney explained how the Board should monitor compliance with the employment contract?
Legislative Issues	How might pending pension reform legislation or other trending legislation affect the employment contract?

## General School Administration

### Administrative Personnel Other Than the Superintendent <sup>1</sup>

#### Duties and Authority

The School Board establishes District administrative and supervisory positions in accordance with the District's needs and State law. This policy applies to all administrators other than the Superintendent, including without limitation, Building Principals. The general duties and authority of each administrative or supervisory position are approved by the Board, upon the Superintendent's recommendation, and contained in the respective position's job description.<sup>2</sup> In the event of a conflict, State law and/or the administrator's employment agreement shall control.

#### Qualifications

All administrative personnel shall be appropriately licensed and shall meet all applicable requirements contained in State law and Illinois State Board of Education rules. <sup>3</sup>

#### Evaluation

The Superintendent or designee shall evaluate all administrative personnel and make employment and salary recommendations to the Board. <sup>4</sup>

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

<sup>1</sup> State or federal law controls this policy's content. 105 ILCS 5/10-23.8a requires each principal, assistant principal, and other school administrator to be employed under either: (1) a one-year contract, in which case he or she gains and retains tenure rights, or (2) a multi-year performance-based contract, in which case he or she waives all tenure rights but does not lose any previously acquired tenure credit with the district. A multi-year performance-based contract must contain specific student performance and academic improvement goals and indicators.

<sup>2</sup> Job descriptions are advisable, but optional. See policy 5:30, *Hiring Process and Criteria*, for a discussion of job descriptions. An ISBE rule (23 Ill.Admin.Code §1.310) allows *divided service*, meaning that a superintendent or principal may be employed by two school districts or serve in two professional capacities provided that full-time equivalency results in a maximum of one full-time position. In districts with an enrollment of 100 or fewer, an individual may serve as superintendent/principal and teach up to one-half day.

<sup>3</sup> 105 ILCS 5/21B-20 and 5/21B-25 govern Professional Educator Licenses and administrative, principal, and chief school business official endorsements. The requirements for supervisory or administrative staff are in 23 Ill.Admin.Code §1.705; the requirements for endorsements are in 23 Ill.Admin.Code Part 25, Subpart E. Standards for Administrative Endorsements are in 23 Ill.Admin.Code Part 29.

The following option may be added at the end of this paragraph:

Administrative personnel must reside in the District within a specified period as provided in their initial employment agreement.

State law (105 ILCS 5/24-4.1) prohibiting residency requirements for teachers does not apply to non-instructional personnel, e.g., assistant principals. *Owen v. Kankakee School Dist.*, 261 Ill.App.3d 298 (3d. Dist. 1994). A board may impose residency requirements on a principal or assistant principal only if the individual's initial contract with the district made residency an express condition of employment or continued employment as a principal. 105 ILCS 5/10-21.4a. Residency within a district may not be considered in determining a principal's compensation, assignment, or transfer Id.

<sup>4</sup> All licensed school district employees must be evaluated. 105 ILCS 5/24A-1, 23 Ill.Admin.Code §1.320. Each district must implement a performance evaluation plan for its principals and assistant principals. 105 ILCS 5/24A-15, 23 Ill.Admin.Code §50.300. The statutory deadline for evaluating principals and assistant principals depends on whether the individual's employment contract is for one year or multiple years: (1) the evaluation of individuals on a single year contract must take place annually by March 1, and (2) the evaluation of individuals on a multi-year contract must take place by March 1 of the contract's final year. 105 ILCS 5/24A-15. Individual contracts may require an earlier deadline. 105 ILCS 5/24A-3 requires that an individual who conducts an evaluation of a teacher, principal, or assistant principal, (1) be prequalified before undertaking any evaluation, and (2) participate in a regularly scheduled retraining program.

Administrators shall annually present evidence to the Superintendent of professional growth through attendance at educational conferences, additional schooling, in-service training, and Illinois Administrators' Academy courses, or through other means as approved by the Superintendent. <sup>5</sup>

### Administrative Work Year

The work year for administrators shall be the same as the District's fiscal year, July 1 through June 30, unless otherwise stated in the employment agreement. In addition to legal holidays, administrators shall have vacation periods as approved by the Superintendent. All administrators shall be available for work when their services are necessary. <sup>6</sup>

### Compensation and Benefits

The Board and each administrator shall enter into an employment agreement that complies with Board policy and State law.<sup>7</sup> The terms of an individual employment contract, when in conflict with this policy, will control.

The Board will consider the Superintendent's recommendations when setting compensation for individual administrators. These recommendations should be presented to the Board no later than the March Board meeting or at such earlier time that will allow the Board to consider contract renewal and nonrenewal issues. <sup>8</sup>

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

<sup>5</sup> The professional growth reporting requirements in this paragraph are optional. However, professional development activities are required for license renewal. 105 ILCS 5/21B-45, amended by P.A. 101-85, eff. 1-1-20, contains the license renewal process, along with the professional development hours and carry over of these hours.

A school board must require the administrators who evaluate employees to complete training on the evaluation of licensed personnel that is provided or approved by ISBE. 105 ILCS 5/24A-3 and 5/24A-20(a)(4). Any prequalification process or retraining program developed and used by a school district must, at a minimum, meet the requirements of 23 Ill.Admin.Code Part 50, Subpart E. Administrative personnel must participate in this training (1) before they evaluate, and (2) at least once during each certificate renewal cycle. 105 ILCS 5/24-3.

<sup>6</sup> Legal holidays are provided by 105 ILCS 5/24-2.

<sup>7</sup> According to 105 ILCS 5/10-23.8a, a principal, assistant principal, and any other school administrator must be employed under either: (1) a one-year contract, in which case he or she gains and retains tenure rights, or (2) a multi-year performance-based contract, in which case he or she waives all tenure rights but does not lose any previously acquired tenure credit with the district. A multi-year performance-based contract must contain specific student performance and academic improvement goals and indicators.

The employment contract should be *in writing* even though the School Code does not require it to be written. Contact the board attorney for assistance. An administrator who is not working under a written contract is presumed to have a contract of one year's duration. Schaumburg Community Consolidated School Dist. v. TRS, 984 N.E.2d 66 (4th Dist. 2013)(interpreting 105 ILCS 5/10-23.8a). The Ill. Statute of Frauds may make it impossible to execute an *oral* multi-year administrator contract or to *orally* extend a multi-year written contract. 740 ILCS 80/1.

The Open Meetings Act requires all Ill. Municipal Retirement Fund (IMRF) employers, which includes school boards, to: (1) within six business days after approving a budget, web-post each employee's total compensation package if it exceeds \$75,000 per year; and (2) at least six days before approval, web-post an employee's total compensation package if it is \$150,000 or more. 5 ILCS 120/7.3. Conflicting opinions concern whether school districts must comply with these posting requirements for their employees who do not participate in IMRF. Contact the board attorney for advice.

Annually by Oct. 1, each school board must report to ISBE the base salary and benefits of the superintendent, administrators, and teachers it employs. 105 ILCS 5/10-20.47. Before this annual reporting to ISBE, the information must be presented at a regular school board meeting and then posted on the district's website, if any.

<sup>8</sup> State law does not address when the board should consider salary issues. The March deadline was chosen because the statutory notice deadline for reclassification is April 1 of the year in which a principal or assistant principal's contract expires unless the contract provides for an earlier deadline. 105 ILCS 5/10-23.8b. Alternatively, the policy could require that recommendations be presented "in a timely manner."



Unless stated otherwise in individual employment contracts, all benefits and leaves of absence available to teaching personnel are available to administrative personnel. <sup>9</sup>

LEGAL REF: 105 ILCS 5/10-21.4a, 5/10-23.8a, 5/10-23.8b, 5/21B, and 5/24A.  
23 Ill.Admin.Code §§1.310, 1.705, and 50.300; and Parts 25 and 29.

CROSS REF: 3:60 (Administrative Responsibility of the Building Principal), 5:30 (Hiring Process and Criteria), 5:250 (Leaves of Absence)

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<sup>9</sup> State law does not require that administrative and teaching personnel receive identical benefits and leaves of absence, but it does set the minimum in days and type for all certificated personnel.