

## Document Status: Draft Update

### 2:100 Board Member Conflict of Interest

No Board of Education member shall: (1) have a beneficial interest directly or indirectly in any contract, work, or business of the District unless permitted by State or federal law; or (2) solicit or accept gratuities, favors, or anything of monetary value from contractors, potential contractors, or parties to agreements or contracts with the District. Situations in which the interest is not substantial or the gift is an unsolicited item of nominal value must comply with State law and Board policy 2:105, *Ethics and Gift Ban*.

Board of Education members must annually file a "Statement of Economic Interests" as required by the Illinois Governmental Ethics Act. Each Board of Education member is responsible for filing the statement with the county clerk of the county in which the District's principle office is located by May 1.

#### Federal and State Grant Awards

No Board member shall participate in the selection, award, or administration of a contract supported by a federal award or State award governed by the Grant Accountability and Transparency Act (GATA) ([30 ILCS 708/](#)) if he or she has a real or apparent conflict of interest. A conflict of interest arises when a Board member or any of the following individuals has a financial or other interest in or a tangible benefit from [PRESSPlus1](#) the entity selected for the contract:

- ~~1. Any person that has a close personal relationship with a Board member that may compromise or impair the Board member's fairness and impartiality, including a~~ A member of the Board member's immediate family ~~or household;~~
2. The Board member's ~~business partner;~~ [PRESSPlus2](#) or
3. An entity that employs or is about to employ the Board member or one of the individuals listed in one or two above.

LEGAL REF.:

105 ILCS 5/10-9.

~~5 ILCS 420/4A-101.5, 420/4A-105, 420/4A-106.5, and 420/4A-107.~~ Ill. Governmental Ethics Act.

30 ILCS 708/, Grant Accountability and Transparency Act.

50 ILCS 105/3, Public Officer Prohibited Activities Act.

~~105 ILCS 5/10-9.~~

2 C.F.R. §200.318(c)(1).

CROSS REF.: 2:105 (Ethics and Gift Ban), 4:60 (Purchases and Contracts), 5:120 (Employee Ethics; Code of Professional Conduct; and Conflict of Interest)

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**PRESSPlus Comments**

PRESSPlus 1. Updated in response to PRESS Advisory Board (PAB) member feedback regarding alignment of the conflict of interest language to 2 C.F.R. §200.318. **Issue 110, October 2022**

PRESSPlus 2. The law does not define *partner*; consult the board attorney about whether this term includes domestic partners, business partners, or both. **Issue 110, October 2022**

## *Document Status: Draft Update*

### **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.
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.

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 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\(c\)\(3\)](#).

#### Ethics Advisor

The Superintendent shall appoint an Ethics Advisor for the School District. The Ethics Advisor shall provide guidance to the Board Members and School District employees concerning the interpretation of and compliance with this policy and State ethics laws.

#### Enforcement

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 5/22-930 (final citation pending). [PRESSPlus1](#)

[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)

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### **PRESSPlus Comments**

PRESSPlus 1. The Legal References are updated with the final citation for 105 ILCS 5/22-93, added by P.A. 102-327 and renumbered by P.A. 102-813, establishing a gift ban for school guidance counselors. **Issue 110, October 2022**

## *Document Status: Review and Monitoring*

### **2:150 Committees**

The Board of Education may establish committees to assist with the Board's governance function and, in some situations, to comply with State law requirements. These committees are known as Board committees and report directly to the Board. Committee members may include both Board members and non-Board members depending on the committee's purpose. [PRESSPlus1](#)

The Board President, subject to ratification by the Board, makes all Board committee appointments unless specifically stated otherwise. Board committee meetings shall comply with the Open Meetings Act. A Board committee may not take final action on behalf of the Board – it may only make recommendations to the Board.

#### Special Board Committees

Special committees may be created for specific purposes or to investigate special issues. A special committee shall be automatically dissolved after presenting its final report to the Board or at the Board's discretion.

#### Standing Board Committees

Standing committees are created for indefinite terms to fulfill continuing District needs for investigation and monitoring of specific issues. The President of the Board shall appoint the following standing committees:

1. Board Policy Committee.
2. Finance Committee.
3. Personnel Committee.
4. Education Committee.
5. Communication Committee.
6. Facilities Committee.
7. Equity Committee.

These standing committees shall gather information and discuss problems which come within their area of responsibility. They shall bring to the attention of the Board those items which require action by the Board or about which they feel the Board should be informed. A committee may determine the need to consult with staff members and should arrange to do so through the Superintendent of Schools.

Nothing in this policy limits the authority of the Superintendent or designee to create and use committees that report to him or her or to other staff members.

#### Superintendent Committees

The Superintendent creates Superintendent committees as he or she deems necessary and makes all appointments. Superintendent committees report to the Superintendent who consults with and makes recommendations to the Board. Superintendent committees include, but are not limited to, the



following:

1. Parent-Teacher Advisory Committee. This committee assists in the development of student behavior policy and procedure, and provides information and recommendations to the Board. Its members are parents/guardians and teachers, and may include persons whose expertise or experience is needed. The committee reviews such issues as administering medication in the schools, reciprocal reporting between the School District and local law enforcement agencies regarding criminal offenses committed by students, student discipline, disruptive classroom behavior, school bus safety procedures, and disseminating student conduct information.
2. Behavioral Interventions Committee. This committee develops, implements, and monitors procedures for using behavioral interventions in accordance with Board policy 7:230, *Misconduct by Students with Disabilities*. The committee reports and makes recommendations to the Board of Education.

3. Calendar Committee. This committee develops and recommends the District Calendar to the Board for consideration.

LEGAL REF.:

5 ILCS 120/, Open Meetings Act.

105 ILCS 5/10-20.14 and 5/14-8.05.

CROSS REF.: 2:110 (Qualifications, Term, and Duties of Board Officers), 2:200 (Types of Board Meetings), 2:240 (Board Policy Development), 7:190 (Student Behavior), 7:230 (Misconduct by Students with Disabilities)

~~ADOPTED: January 19, 2016~~

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### **PRESSPlus Comments**

PRESSPlus 1. This policy is suggested to be reviewed by the Board. According to policy 2:240, *Board Policy Development*, "[t]he Board will periodically review its policies for relevancy, monitor its policies for effectiveness, and consider whether any modifications are required." IASB suggests that each policy in the Board's policy manual be reviewed at a minimum of every five years. As part of the review, the Board may choose to:

- Compare the adopted version to the current PRESS sample (available at PRESS Online by logging in at [www.iasb.com](http://www.iasb.com)), discussing any differences and/or options noted in the footnotes to determine whether local changes are necessary
- Update the policy language due to changes in local conditions
- Make no changes, but update the adoption date to reflect that the policy has been reviewed and re-adopted

**Issue 110, October 2022**

## *Document Status: Draft Update*

### **2:210 Organizational Board of Education Meeting**

During a March meeting in odd-numbered years, the Board of Education establishes a date for its organizational meeting to be held sometime after the election authority canvasses the vote, but within ~~40~~<sup>PRESSPlus1</sup> days after the consolidated election. The consolidated election is held on the first Tuesday in April of odd-numbered years.

At the organizational meeting, the following shall occur:

1. Each successful candidate, before taking his or her seat on the Board, shall take the oath of office as provided in Board policy 2:80, *Board Member Oath and Conduct*.
2. The new Board of Education members shall be seated.
3. The Board of Education shall elect its officers, who assume office immediately upon their election.
4. The Board of Education shall fix a time and date for its regular meetings.

LEGAL REF.:

~~10 ILCS 5/2A-1 et seq.~~ 105 ILCS 5/10-5, 5/10-16, and 5/10-16.5.

10 ILCS 5/2A-1 et seq.. Election Code.

CROSS REF.: 2:30 (School District Elections), 2:110 (Qualifications, Term, and Duties of Board Officers), 2:200 (Types of Board of Education Meetings), 2:220 (Board of Education Meeting Procedure), 2:230 (Public Participation at Board of Education Meetings and Petitions to the Board)

~~ADOPTED: March 19, 2007~~

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### **PRESSPlus Comments**

PRESSPlus 1. Updated in response to 105 ILCS 5/10-16, amended by P.A. 102-798, extending the timeframe in which a board must hold its organizational meeting from 28 to 40 days after the consolidated election. **Issue 110, October 2022**

## *Document Status: Review and Monitoring*

### **2:250 Access to District Public Records**

Full access to the District's *public records* is available to any person as provided in the Illinois Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), this policy, and implementing procedures. The Superintendent or designee shall: (1) provide the Board with sufficient information and data to permit the Board to monitor the District's compliance with FOIA and this policy, and (2) report any FOIA requests during the Board's regular meetings along with the status of the District's response. [PRESSPlus1](#)

#### Freedom of Information Officer

The Superintendent shall serve as the District's Freedom of Information Officer and assumes all the duties and powers of that office as provided in FOIA and this policy. The Superintendent may delegate these duties and powers to one or more designees, but the delegation shall not relieve the Superintendent of the responsibility for the action that was delegated.

#### Definition

The District's *public records* are defined as records, reports, forms, writings, letters, memoranda, books, papers, maps, photographs, microfilms, cards, tapes, recordings, electronic data processing records, electronic communications, recorded information and all other documentary material pertaining to the transaction of public business, regardless of physical form or characteristics, having been prepared by or for, or having been or being used by, received by, in the possession of, or under the control of the School District.

#### Requesting Records

A request for inspection and/or copies of public records must be made in writing and may be submitted by personal delivery, mail, telefax, or email directed to the District's Freedom of Information Officer. Individuals making a request are not required to state a reason for the request other than to identify when the request is for a commercial purpose or when requesting a fee waiver. The Superintendent or designee shall instruct District employees to forward immediately any request for inspection and copying of a public record to the District's Freedom of Information Officer or designee.

#### Responding to Requests

The Freedom of Information Officer shall approve all requests for public records unless:

1. The requested material does not exist;
2. The requested material is exempt from inspection and copying by the Freedom of Information Act; or
3. Complying with the request would be unduly burdensome.

Within 5 business days after receipt of a request for access to a public record, the Freedom of Information Officer shall comply with or deny the request, unless the time for response is extended as specified in Section 3 of FOIA. The Freedom of Information Officer may extend the time for a response for up to 5 business days from the original due date. If an extension is needed, the Freedom of Information Officer shall: (1) notify the person making the request of the reason for the extension, and (2) either inform the person of the date on which a response will be made, or agree with the person in writing on a compliance period.

The time periods are extended for responding to requests for records made for a *commercial purpose*, requests by a *recurrent requester*, or *voluminous requests*, as those terms are defined in Section 2 of FOIA. The time periods for responding to those requests are governed by Sections 3.1, 3.2, and 3.6 of FOIA.

When responding to a request for a record containing both exempt and non-exempt material, the Freedom of Information Officer shall redact exempt material from the record before complying with the request.

### Fees

Persons making a request for copies of public records must pay any and all applicable fees. The Freedom of Information Officer shall establish a fee schedule that complies with FOIA and this policy and is subject to the Board's review. The fee schedule shall include copying fees and all other fees to the maximum extent they are permitted by FOIA, including without limitation, search and review fees for responding to a request for a *commercial purpose* and fees, costs, and personnel hours in connection with responding to a *voluminous request*.

Copying fees, except when fixed by statute, shall be reasonably calculated to reimburse the District's actual cost for reproducing and certifying public records and for the use, by any person, of its equipment to copy records. In no case shall the copying fees exceed the maximum fees permitted by FOIA. If the District's actual copying costs are equal to or greater than the maximum fees permitted by FOIA, the Freedom of Information Officer is authorized to use FOIA's maximum fees as the District's fees. No copying fees shall be charged for: (1) the first 50 pages of black and white, letter or legal sized copies, or (2) electronic copies other than the actual cost of the recording medium, except if the response is to a *voluminous request*, as defined in FOIA.

A fee reduction is available if the request qualifies under Section 6 of FOIA. The Freedom of Information Officer shall set the amount of the reduction taking into consideration the amount of material requested and the cost of copying it.

### Provision of Copies and Access to Records

A public record that is the subject of an approved access request will be available for inspection or copying at the District's administrative office during regular business hours, unless other arrangements are made by the Freedom of Information Officer.

Many public records are immediately available from the District's website including, but not limited to, the process for requesting a public record. The Freedom of Information Officer shall direct a requester to the District's website if a requested record is available there. If the requester is unable to reasonably access the record online, he or she may resubmit the request for the record, stating his or her inability to reasonably access the record online, and the District shall make the requested record available for inspection and copying as otherwise provided in this policy.

### Preserving Public Records

Public records, including email messages, shall be preserved and cataloged if: (1) they are evidence of the District's organization, function, policies, procedures, or activities, (2) they contain informational data appropriate for preservation, (3) their retention is required by State or federal law, or (4) they are subject to a retention request by the Board Attorney (e.g., a litigation hold), District auditor, or other individual authorized by the Board of Education or State or federal law to make such a request. Unless its retention is required as described in items numbered 3 or 4 above, a public record, as defined by the Illinois Local Records Act, may be destroyed when authorized by the Local Records Commission.

### LEGAL REF.:

5 ILCS 140/, Illinois Freedom of Information Act.

105 ILCS 5/10-16 and 5/24A-7.1.

820 ILCS 40/11.

820 ILCS 130/5.

CROSS REF.: 2:140 (Communications To and From the Board), 5:150 (Personnel Records), 7:340 (Student Records)

~~ADOPTED: September 21, 2015~~

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### **PRESSPlus Comments**

PRESSPlus 1. This policy is suggested to be reviewed by the Board. According to policy 2:240, *Board Policy Development*, "[t]he Board will periodically review its policies for relevancy, monitor its policies for effectiveness, and consider whether any modifications are required." IASB suggests that each policy in the Board's policy manual be reviewed at a minimum of every five years. As part of the review, the Board may choose to:

- Compare the adopted version to the current PRESS sample (available at PRESS Online by logging in at [www.iasb.com](http://www.iasb.com)), discussing any differences and/or options noted in the footnotes to determine whether local changes are necessary
- Update the policy language due to changes in local conditions
- Make no changes, but update the adoption date to reflect that the policy has been reviewed and re-adopted

**Issue 110, October 2022**

## *Document Status: Draft Update*

### **2:265 Title IX Sexual Harassment Grievance Procedure**

Sexual harassment affects a student's ability to learn and an employee's ability to work. Providing an educational and workplace environment free from sexual harassment is an important District goal. The District does not discriminate on the basis of sex in any of its education programs or activities, and it complies with Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (Title IX) and its implementing regulations ([34 C.F.R. Part 106](#)) concerning everyone in the District's education programs and activities, including applicants for employment, students, parents/guardians, employees, and third parties.

#### Title IX Sexual Harassment Prohibited

Sexual harassment as defined in Title IX (Title IX Sexual Harassment) is prohibited. Any person, including a District employee or agent, or student, engages in Title IX Sexual Harassment whenever that person engages in conduct on the basis of an individual's sex that satisfies one or more of the following:

1. A District employee conditions the provision of an aid, benefit, or service on an individual's participation in unwelcome sexual conduct; or
2. Unwelcome conduct determined by a reasonable person to be so severe, pervasive, and objectively offensive that it effectively denies a person equal access to the District's educational program or activity; or
3. *Sexual assault* as defined in 20 U.S.C. §1092(f)(6)(A)(v), *dating violence* as defined in 34 U.S.C. §12291(a)(11~~9~~), *domestic violence* as defined in 34 U.S.C. §12291(a)(12~~8~~), or *stalking* as defined in 34 U.S.C. §12291(a)(36~~9~~). [PRESSPlus1](#)

Examples of sexual harassment include, but are not limited to, touching, crude jokes or pictures, discussions of sexual experiences, teasing related to sexual characteristics, spreading rumors related to a person's alleged sexual activities, rape, sexual battery, sexual abuse, and sexual coercion.

#### Definitions from [34 C.F.R. §106.30](#)

*Complainant* means an individual who is alleged to be the victim of conduct that could constitute sexual harassment.

*Education program or activity* includes locations, events, or circumstances where the District has substantial control over both the *Respondent* and the context in which alleged sexual harassment occurs.

*Formal Title IX Sexual Harassment Complaint* means a document filed by a *Complainant* or signed by the Title IX Coordinator alleging sexual harassment against a *Respondent* and requesting that the District investigate the allegation.

*Respondent* means an individual who has been reported to be the perpetrator of the conduct that could constitute sexual harassment.

*Supportive measures* mean non-disciplinary, non-punitive individualized services offered as appropriate, as reasonably available, and without fee or charge to the *Complainant* or the *Respondent* before or after the filing of a *Formal Title IX Sexual Harassment Complaint* or where no *Formal Title IX Sexual Harassment Complaint* has been filed.

#### Title IX Sexual Harassment Prevention and Response

The Superintendent or designee will ensure that the District prevents and responds to allegations of Title IX Sexual Harassment as follows:

1. Ensures that the District's comprehensive health education program in Board policy 6:60, *Curriculum Content*, incorporates (a) age-appropriate sexual abuse and assault awareness and prevention programs in grades pre-K through 12, and (b) age-appropriate education about the warning signs, recognition, dangers, and prevention of teen dating violence in grades 7-12. This includes incorporating student social and emotional development into the District's educational program as required by State law and in alignment with Board policy 6:65, *Student Social and Emotional Development*.
2. Incorporates education and training for school staff pursuant to policy 5:100, *Staff Development Program*, and as recommended by the Superintendent, Title IX Coordinator, Nondiscrimination Coordinator, Building Principal, Assistant Building Principal, or a Complaint Manager.
3. Notifies applicants for employment, students, parents/guardians, employees, and collective bargaining units of this policy and contact information for the Title IX Coordinator by, at a minimum, prominently displaying them on the District's website, if any, and in each handbook made available to such persons.

#### Making a Report

A person who wishes to make a report under this Title IX Sexual Harassment grievance procedure may make a report to the Title IX Coordinator, Nondiscrimination Coordinator, Building Principal, Assistant Building Principal, a Complaint Manager, or any employee with whom the person is comfortable speaking. A person who wishes to make a report may choose to report to a person of the same gender.

School employees shall respond to incidents of sexual harassment by promptly making or forwarding the report to the Title IX Coordinator. An employee who fails to promptly make or forward a report may be disciplined, up to and including discharge.

The Superintendent shall insert into this policy and keep current the name, office address, email address, and telephone number of the Title IX Coordinator.

#### **Title IX Coordinator:**

Edward Condon, Superintendent.

7776 Lake Street, River Forest, IL 60305

[condone@district90.org](mailto:condone@district90.org)

708/771-8282

#### Processing and Reviewing a Report or Complaint

Upon receipt of a report, the Title IX Coordinator and/or designee will promptly contact the *Complainant* to: (1) discuss the availability of supportive measures, (2) consider the *Complainant's*

wishes with respect to *supportive measures*, (3) inform the *Complainant* of the availability of *supportive measures* with or without the filing of a *Formal Title IX Sexual Harassment Complaint*, and (4) explain to the *Complainant* the process for filing a *Formal Title IX Sexual Harassment Complaint*.

Further, the Title IX Coordinator will analyze the report to identify and determine whether there is another or an additional appropriate method(s) for processing and reviewing it. For any report received, the Title IX Coordinator shall review Board policies 2:260, *Uniform Grievance Procedure*; 5:20, *Workplace Harassment Prohibited*; 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*; 7:180, *Prevention of and Response to Bullying, Intimidation, and Harassment*; 7:185, *Teen Dating Violence Prohibited*; and 7:190, *Student Behavior*, to determine if the allegations in the report require further action.

Reports of alleged sexual harassment will be confidential to the greatest extent practicable, subject to the District's duty to investigate and maintain an educational program or activity that is productive, respectful, and free of sexual harassment.

#### Formal Title IX Sexual Harassment Complaint Grievance Process

When a *Formal Title IX Sexual Harassment Complaint* is filed, the Title IX Coordinator will investigate it or appoint a qualified person to undertake the investigation.

The Superintendent or designee shall implement procedures to ensure that all *Formal Title IX Sexual Harassment Complaints* are processed and reviewed according to a Title IX grievance process that fully complies with [34 C.F.R. §106.45](#). The District's grievance process shall, at a minimum:

1. Treat *Complainants* and *Respondents* equitably by providing remedies to a *Complainant* where the *Respondent* is determined to be responsible for sexual harassment, and by following a grievance process that complies with [34 C.F.R. §106.45](#) before the imposition of any disciplinary sanctions or other actions against a *Respondent*.
2. Require an objective evaluation of all relevant evidence – including both inculpatory and exculpatory evidence – and provide that credibility determinations may not be based on a person's status as a *Complainant*, *Respondent*, or witness.
3. Require that any individual designated by the District as a Title IX Coordinator, investigator, decision-maker, or any person designated by the District to facilitate an informal resolution process:
  - a. Not have a conflict of interest or bias for or against complainants or respondents generally or an individual *Complainant* or *Respondent*.
  - b. Receive training on the definition of sexual harassment, the scope of the District's *education program or activity*, how to conduct an investigation and grievance process (including hearings, appeals, and informal resolution processes, as applicable), and how to serve impartially.
4. Require that any individual designated by the District as an investigator receiving training on issues of relevance to create an investigative report that fairly summarizes relevant evidence.
5. Require that any individual designated by the District as a decision-maker receive training on issues of relevance of questions and evidence, including when questions and evidence about the *Complainant's* sexual predisposition or prior sexual behavior are not relevant.
6. Include a presumption that the *Respondent* is not responsible for the alleged conduct until a



- determination regarding responsibility is made at the conclusion of the grievance process.
7. Include reasonably prompt timeframes for conclusion of the grievance process.
  8. Describe the range of possible disciplinary sanctions and remedies the District may implement following any determination of responsibility.
  9. Base all decisions upon the *preponderance of evidence* standard.
  10. Include the procedures and permissible bases for the *Complainant* and *Respondent* to appeal.
  11. Describe the range of *supportive measures* available to *Complainants* and *Respondents*.
  12. Not require, allow, rely upon, or otherwise use questions or evidence that constitute, or seek disclosure of, information protected under a legally recognized privilege, unless the person holding such privilege has waived the privilege.

### Enforcement

Any District employee who is determined, at the conclusion of the grievance process, to have engaged in sexual harassment will be subject to disciplinary action up to and including discharge. Any third party who is determined, at the conclusion of the grievance process, to have engaged in sexual harassment 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, invitee, etc. Any District student who is determined, at the conclusion of the grievance process, to have engaged in sexual harassment will be subject to disciplinary action, including, but not limited to, suspension and expulsion consistent with student behavior policies. Any person making a knowingly false accusation regarding sexual harassment will likewise be subject to disciplinary action.

This policy does not increase or diminish the ability of the District or the parties to exercise any other rights under existing law.

### Retaliation Prohibited

The District prohibits any form of retaliation against anyone who, in good faith, has made a report or complaint, assisted, or participated or refused to participate in any manner in a proceeding under this policy. Any person should report claims of retaliation using Board policy 2:260, *Uniform Grievance Procedure*.

Any person who retaliates against others for reporting or complaining of violations of this policy or for participating in any manner under this policy will be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including discharge, with regard to employees, or suspension and expulsion, with regard to students.

### LEGAL REF.:

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

[Davis v. Monroe County Bd. of Educ.](#), 526 U.S. 629 (1999).

[Gebser v. Lago Vista Independent Sch. Dist.](#), 524 U.S. 274 (1998).

CROSS REF.: 2:260 (Uniform Grievance Procedure), 5:10 (Equal Employment Opportunity and Minority Recruitment), 5:20 (Workplace Harassment Prohibited), 5:90 (Abused and Neglected Child Reporting), 5:100 (Staff Development Program), 5:120 (Employee Ethics; Code of Professional Conduct; and Conflict of Interest), 6:60 (Curriculum Content), 6:65 (Student Social and Emotional Development), 7:10 (Equal Educational Opportunities), 7:20 (Harassment of Students Prohibited), 7:180 (Prevention of and Response to Bullying, Intimidation, and Harassment), 7:185 (Teen Dating Violence Prohibited), 7:190 (Student Behavior)

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## **PRESSPlus Comments**

PRESSPlus 1. Updated in response to changed citations to the definitions of *dating violence*, *domestic violence*, and *stalking* from the 2022 reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA). The policy uses the updated VAWA citations, although the Title IX regulations at 34 C.F.R. §106.30, which contain pinpoint citations to VAWA, have not been updated. **Issue 110, October 2022**

## *Document Status: Review and Monitoring*

### **3:10 Strategic Plan**

The River Forest School District Strategic Plan will provide a framework for continuous refinement of the educational experience offered by the District, while balancing the economic interests of the community. Grounded in the Mission of River Forest School District 90, the Plan represents the best in current educational thinking tempered by the best of River Forest parenting. However, the Plan is merely a beginning and its implementation is dependent on the identification of actions specific and necessary to each goal. The Board of Education continues to depend on parents and community leaders for their strong support and commitment to the educational needs of the community. [PRESSPlus1](#)

LEGAL REF.:

[105 ILCS 5/10-21.4](#), and [5/10-21.4a](#).

CROSS REF.: 1:30 (School District Philosophy), 2:20 (Powers and Duties of the Board of Education; Indemnification), 6:10 (Educational Philosophy and Objectives)

~~ADOPTED: March 19, 2007~~

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### **PRESSPlus Comments**

PRESSPlus 1. This policy is suggested to be reviewed by the Board. According to policy 2:240, *Board Policy Development*, "[t]he Board will periodically review its policies for relevancy, monitor its policies for effectiveness, and consider whether any modifications are required." IASB suggests that each policy in the Board's policy manual be reviewed at a minimum of every five years. As part of the review, the Board may choose to:

- Compare the adopted version to the current PRESS sample (available at PRESS Online by logging in at [www.iasb.com](http://www.iasb.com)), discussing any differences and/or options noted in the footnotes to determine whether local changes are necessary
- Update the policy language due to changes in local conditions
- Make no changes, but update the adoption date to reflect that the policy has been reviewed and re-adopted

**Issue 110, October 2022**

## *Document Status: Draft Update*

### **4:10 Fiscal and Business Management**

The Superintendent or designee is responsible for the School District's fiscal and business management. This responsibility includes annually preparing and presenting the District's statement of affairs to the Board of Education and publishing it before December 1, as required by State law.

The Superintendent shall ensure the efficient and cost-effective operation of the District's business management using computers, computer software, data management, communication systems, and electronic networks, including electronic mail, the Internet, and security systems. Each person using the District's electronic network shall complete an *Authorization for Access to the District's Electronic Networks*.

#### Budget Planning

The District's fiscal year is from July 1 until June 30. The Superintendent shall present to the Board of Education, no later than the first regular meeting in August, a tentative budget with appropriate explanation. This budget shall represent the culmination of an ongoing process of planning for the fiscal support needed for the District's educational program. The District's budget shall be entered upon the Ill. State Board of Education's (ISBE) *School District Budget Form*. The tentative budget shall be balanced as defined by ISBE guidelines. Otherwise, the Superintendent shall complete a tentative deficit reduction plan if one is required by ISBE guidelines.

#### Preliminary Adoption Procedures

After receiving the Superintendent or designee's proposed budget, the Board of Education sets the date, place, and time for:

1. A public hearing on the proposed budget, and
2. The proposed budget to be available to the public for inspection.

The Business Manager shall arrange to publish a notice in a local newspaper stating the date, place, and time of the proposed budget's availability for public inspection and the public hearing. The proposed budget shall be available for public inspection at least 30 days before the time of the budget hearing.

At the public hearing, the proposed budget shall be reviewed, including the cash reserve balance of all funds held by the District related to its operational levy and, if applicable, any obligations secured by those funds. [PRESSPlus1](#) and the public shall be invited to comment, question, or advise the Board of Education.

#### Final Adoption Procedures

The Board of Education adopts a budget before the end of the first quarter of each fiscal year (September 30), or by such alternative procedure as State law may provide. The budget shall be balanced as defined by ISBE; if not balanced, the Board will adopt a deficit reduction plan to balance the District's budget within three years according to ISBE requirements.

The Board of Education adopts the budget by roll call vote. The budget resolution shall be incorporated into the meeting's official minutes. Board of Education members' names voting yea and nay shall be recorded in the minutes.

The Superintendent or designee shall perform each of the following:

1. Post the District's final annual budget, itemized by receipts and expenditures, on the District's Internet website.
2. Notify parents/guardians that the budget is posted and provide the website's address.
3. File a certified copy of the budget resolution and an estimate of revenues by source anticipated to be received in the following fiscal year, certified by the District's Chief Fiscal Officer, with the County Clerk within 30 days of the budget's adoption.
4. Ensure disclosure to the public of the cash reserve balance of all funds held by the district related to its operational levy and, if applicable, any obligations secured by those funds, at the public hearing at which the Board certifies its operational levy. [PRESSPlus2](#)
5. Make all preparations necessary in order for the Board to timely file its Certificate of Tax Levy, including preparations to comply with the Truth in Taxation Act, and file a Certificate of Tax Levy with the County Clerk on or before the last Tuesday in December. The Certificate lists the amount of property tax money to be provided for the various funds in the budget.
6. Submit the annual budget, a deficit reduction plan if one is required by ISBE guidelines, and other financial information to ISBE according to its requirements.

Any amendments to the budget or Certificate of Tax Levy shall be made as provided in the School Code and Truth in Taxation Act.

#### Budget Amendments

The Board of Education may amend the budget by the same procedure as provided for in the original adoption.

#### Implementation

The Superintendent or designee shall implement the District's budget and provide the Board of Education with a monthly financial report that includes all fund balances.

The Board shall act on all interfund loans, interfund transfers, transfers within funds, and transfers from the working cash fund or abatements of it, if one exists.

#### Legal Level of Budgetary Control

The Superintendent or designee is authorized to transfer budget amounts, provided funds are transferred between the same function and object codes. The Board of Education is authorized to transfer up to a legal level of 10% of the total budget between functions within any fund. However, any revisions that alter the total expenditure of any fund must be approved by the Board of Education after following the public hearing process mandated by law.

LEGAL REF.:

105 ILCS 5/10-17, 5/10-22.33, 5/17-1, 5/17-1.2, 5/17-1.3, 5/17-2A, 5/17-3.2, 5/17-11, 5/20-5, 5/20-8, and 5/20-10.

35 ILCS 200/18-55 et seq., Truth in Taxation Law.

23 Ill.Admin.Code Part 100.

CROSS REF.: 4:40 (Incurring Debt), 4:60 (Purchases and Contracts), 6:235 (Access to Electronic Networks)

ADOPTED: February 22, 2011

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### **PRESSPlus Comments**

PRESSPlus 1. Updated in response to 105 ILCS 5/17-1.3, added by P.A. 102-895, requiring districts to disclose this cash reserve balance information “at the public hearing at which the district certifies its budget and levy for the taxable year.” The statute does not specify the manner in which the disclosure must be made; for ease of administration, the added text manages disclosure at the budget hearing by including it in the budget review. To provide evidence of compliance, consider as a best practice recording this disclosure in the board meeting minutes and/or presenting it in writing. The term *operational levy* is not defined in the statute, but it may refer to a district’s *operating funds*, which Ill. State Board of Education rules define as the Educational, Operations and Maintenance, Transportation, and Working Cash funds. 23 Ill. Admin.Code §100.20. Consult the board attorney for guidance. **Issue 110, October 2022**

PRESSPlus 2. Required by 105 ILCS 5/17-1.3, added by P.A. 102-895. Consult the board attorney about the meaning of the *public hearing* for the levy and if the disclosure must always be made at the board meeting at which the board certifies the district’s levy, or only in those instances where notice and a *public hearing* are required by the Truth in Taxation Law. 35 ILCS 200/18-70. Similar to the disclosure of cash reserves made at the budget hearing, a district may want to manage compliance for the levy hearing by incorporating the information into the presentation of the levy at the board meeting. **Issue 110, October 2022**

## *Document Status: Review and Monitoring*

### **4:55 Use of Credit and Procurement Cards**

The Superintendent and employees designated by the Superintendent are authorized to use District credit and procurement cards to simplify the acquisition, receipt, and payment of purchases and travel expenses incurred on the District's behalf. Credit and procurement cards shall only be used for those expenses that are for the District's benefit and serve a valid and proper public purpose; they shall not be used for personal purchases. Cardholders are responsible for exercising due care and judgment and for acting in the District's best interests. [PRESSPlus1](#)

The Superintendent or designee shall manage the use of District credit and procurement cards by employees. It is the Board's responsibility, through the audit and approval process, to determine whether District credit and procurement card use by the Superintendent is appropriate.

In addition to the other limitations contained in this and other Board policies, District credit and procurement cards are governed by the following restrictions:

1. Credit and/or procurement cards may only be used to pay certain job-related expenses or to make purchases on behalf of the Board or District or any student activity fund, or for purposes that would otherwise be addressed through a conventional revolving fund.
2. The Superintendent or designee shall instruct the issuing bank to block the cards' use at unapproved merchants.
3. Each cardholder, other than the Superintendent, may charge no more than \$1500 in a single purchase and no more than \$3500 within a given month without prior authorization from the Superintendent.
4. The Superintendent or designee must approve the use of a District credit or procurement card whenever such use is by telephone, fax, and the Internet. Permission shall be withheld when the use violates any Board policy, is from a vendor whose reputation has not been verified, or would be more expensive than if another available payment method were used.
5. The consequences for unauthorized purchases include, but are not limited to, reimbursing the District for the purchase amount, loss of cardholding privileges, and, if made by an employee, discipline up to and including discharge.
6. All cardholders must sign a statement affirming that they are familiar with this policy.
7. The Superintendent shall implement a process whereby all purchases using a District credit or procurement card are reviewed and approved by someone other than the cardholder or someone under the cardholder's supervision whenever possible.
8. Cardholders must submit the original, itemized receipt to document all purchases.
9. No individual may use a District credit or procurement card to make purchases in a manner contrary to State law, including, but not limited to, the bidding and other purchasing requirements in [105 ILCS 5/10-20.21](#), or any Board policy.
10. The Superintendent or designee shall account for any financial or material reward or rebate offered by the company or institution issuing the District credit or procurement card and shall ensure that it is used for the District's benefit.

LEGAL REF.:

[105 ILCS 5/10-20.21.](#)

[23 Ill.Admin.Code §100.70\(d\).](#)

CROSS REF.: 4:50 (Payment Procedures), 4:60 (Purchases and Contracts), 4:80 (Accounting and Audits), 4:90 (Student Activity and Fiduciary Funds), 5:60 (Expenses)

~~ADOPTED: April 20, 2009~~

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### **PRESSPlus Comments**

PRESSPlus 1. This policy is suggested to be reviewed by the Board. According to policy 2:240, *Board Policy Development*, "[t]he Board will periodically review its policies for relevancy, monitor its policies for effectiveness, and consider whether any modifications are required." IASB suggests that each policy in the Board's policy manual be reviewed at a minimum of every five years. As part of the review, the Board may choose to:

- Compare the adopted version to the current PRESS sample (available at PRESS Online by logging in at [www.iasb.com](http://www.iasb.com)), discussing any differences and/or options noted in the footnotes to determine whether local changes are necessary
- Update the policy language due to changes in local conditions
- Make no changes, but update the adoption date to reflect that the policy has been reviewed and re-adopted

**Issue 110, October 2022**



## Document Status: Draft Update

### 4:140 Waiver of Student Fees

The Superintendent will recommend to the Board for adoption what fees, if any, will be charged for the use of textbooks, consumable materials, extracurricular activities, and other school fees. Students will pay fees for loss of school books or other school-owned materials.

Fees and fines [PRESSPlus1](#) are waived for students who meet the eligibility criteria for fee waiver contained in this policy. In order that no student be denied educational services or academic credit due to the inability of parents/guardians to pay student fees and fines and charges, the Superintendent will recommend to the Board for adoption what additional student fees and fines, if any, the District will waive for students who meet the eligibility criteria for fee waiver. ~~Students receiving a fee waiver are not exempt from charges for lost and damaged books, locks, materials, supplies, and equipment.~~

The Superintendent shall ensure that a notice of waiver applicability is provided to parents/guardians with every bill for fees and/or fines. [PRESSPlus2](#) and that applications for fee waivers are widely available and distributed according to State law and Ill. State Board of Education (ISBE) rule, and that provisions for assisting parents/guardians in completing the application are available.

#### Eligibility Criteria

A student shall be eligible for a fee and fine waiver when:

1. ~~The student currently lives in a household that meets the same income guidelines, with the same limit based on household size, that are used for the federal free meals program~~ free lunch or breakfast eligibility guidelines established by the federal government pursuant to the National School Lunch Act, 42 U.S.C. 1758; 7 C.F.R. Part 245 of sec.; or
2. The student's parents/guardians are veterans or active-duty military personnel with income at or below 200% of the federal poverty line. [PRESSPlus3](#) or
3. The student is homeless, as defined in the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. §11434a). [PRESSPlus4](#)
4. The student or student's family is currently receiving aid under Article IV of The Illinois Public Aid Code (Aid to Families with Dependent Children).

#### Verification

The Superintendent or designee shall establish a process for determining a student's eligibility for a waiver of fees and fines in accordance with State law requirements ~~must follow the verification requirements of 7 C.F.R. 245.6a when using the free lunch or breakfast eligibility guidelines pursuant to The National School Lunch Act as the basis for waiver of the student's fee(s).~~ [PRESSPlus5](#)

If a student receiving a waiver is found to be no longer eligible during the school year, the Superintendent or designee shall notify the student's parent/guardian and charge the student a prorated amount based upon the number of school days remaining in the school year.

~~When using a District established or other independent verification process, the Superintendent or designee may not require verification more often than every 60 calendar days. The Superintendent or designee shall not use any information from any independent verification process to determine free~~

~~lunch or breakfast eligibility pursuant to The National School Lunch Act.~~

### Determination and Appeal

The Superintendent or designee will notify the parent(s)/guardian(s) promptly as to whether the fee waiver request has been granted or denied. The denial of a fee waiver request may be appealed to the Superintendent by submitting the appeal in writing to the Superintendent within 14 days of the denial. The Superintendent or designee shall respond within 14 days of receipt of the appeal. The Superintendent's decision may be appealed to the Board of Education. The decision of the Board is final and binding.

### LEGAL REF.:

42 U.S.C. §11434a, McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act.

105 ILCS 5/10-20.13, 5/10-22.25, 5/27-24.2, and 5/28-19.2.

23 Ill.Admin.Code §1.245 [*may contain unenforceable provisions*].

CROSS REF.: 4:130 (Free and Reduced-Price Food Services), 6:140 (Education of Homeless Children)

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### **PRESSPlus Comments**

PRESSPlus 1. Updated in response to 105 ILCS 5/10-20.13, amended by P.A. 102-805, eff. 1-1-23, requiring districts to waive fees and fines, including fines for the loss of school property, for all eligible students. While districts are only required to waive fines for the *loss* of school property and not the *damage* of school property, this policy extends fine waivers to both for ease of implementation and to encourage students to return school property even if damaged (instead of claiming property is lost to avoid a fine). **Issue 110, October 2022**

PRESSPlus 2. Required by 105 ILCS 5/10-20.13(b), as amended by P.A. 102-805, eff. 1-1-23. **Issue 110, October 2022**

PRESSPlus 3. Updated in response to 105 ILCS 5/10-20.13, amended by P.A. 102-1032. 105 ILCS 5/10-20.13(b), as amended by P.A. 102-1032, does not specify whether the *income* at or below 200% of the federal poverty line is the household income or solely the income of the veteran/active-duty military parent/guardian. Consult the board attorney for guidance. **Issue 110, October 2022**

PRESSPlus 4. Updated in response to 105 ILCS 5/10-20.13(b), amended by P.A. 102-805, eff. 1-1-23, adding homeless children and youth as students eligible for fee and fine waivers. See also non-regulatory guidance at [www.isbe.net/Documents/guidance\\_reg.pdf](http://www.isbe.net/Documents/guidance_reg.pdf), which states that students who are homeless, migrant, in foster care, runaway, or participating in Head Start are categorically eligible for school fee waivers. **Issue 110, October 2022**

PRESSPlus 5. For districts that establish an application process that is completely independent of a student's application for, eligibility for, or participation in the federal free meals program, see sample exhibit 4:140-E1, *Application for Fee Waiver*. For districts that tie the application process to the federal free meals program application and only ask for *verification* in accordance with the meals

program, see sample exhibit 4:140-E2, *Application for Fee Waiver Based on Federal Free Meals Program*. The sample exhibits are available at **PRESS** Online by logging in at [www.iasb.com](http://www.iasb.com). **Issue 110, October 2022**

## *Document Status: Draft Update*

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

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.

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 employee-student<sup>PRESSPlus1</sup> boundary violations pursuant to policy 5:120, *Employee Ethics; Code of Professional Conduct; and Conflict of Interest*;
  - b. Evidence-informed content on preventing, recognizing, reporting, and responding to child sexual abuse, grooming behaviors, and employee-student 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; Code of Professional Conduct; and Conflict of Interest*; and
  - c. How to report child sexual abuse, grooming behaviors, and/or employee-student 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 of child sexual abuse, grooming behaviors, and employee-student boundary violations with evidence-informed educational information that also includes:
  - a. Assistance, referral, or resource information, including how to recognize grooming behaviors, appropriate relationships between District employees and students based

- upon policy 5:120, *Employee Ethics; Code of Professional 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 employee-student 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.

LEGAL REF.:

105 ILCS 5/10-23.13, 5/22-85.5, 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; Code of Professional Conduct; and Conflict of Interest), 6:60 (Curriculum Content), 7:20 (Harassment of Students Prohibited), 7:250 (Student Support Services)

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**PRESSPlus Comments**

PRESSPlus 1. Updated throughout to align with changes made to 5:120, *Employee Ethics; Code of Professional Conduct; and Conflict of Interest*, in response to *Faith's Law*, 105 ILCS 5/22-85.5, added by P.A. 102-676. **Issue 110, October 2022**

## *Document Status: Draft Update - Rewritten*

### **5:120 Employee Ethics; Code of Professional Conduct; and Conflict of Interest**

*Title has been updated. Original Title: Employee Ethics; Conduct; and Conflict of Interest*

All District employees are expected to maintain high standards in their job performance, demonstrate integrity and honesty, be considerate and cooperative, and maintain professional and appropriate relationships with students, parents/guardians, staff members, and others. [PRESSPlus1](#)

The Superintendent or designee shall provide this policy to all District employees and students and/or parents/guardians in their respective handbooks, and ensure its posting on the District's website, if any. [PRESSPlus2](#)

#### Professional and Appropriate Conduct

Professional and appropriate employee conduct are important Board goals that impact the quality of a safe learning environment and the school community, increasing students' ability to learn and the District's ability to educate. To protect students from sexual misconduct by employees, and employees from the appearance of impropriety, State law also recognizes the importance for District employees to constantly maintain professional and appropriate relationships with students by following established expectations and guidelines for employee-student boundaries. Many breaches of employee-student boundaries do not rise to the level of criminal behavior but do pose a potential risk to student safety and impact the quality of a safe learning environment. Repeated violations of employee-student boundaries may indicate the grooming of a student for sexual abuse. As bystanders, employees may know of concerning behaviors that no one else is aware of, so their training on: (1) preventing, recognizing, reporting, and responding to child sexual abuse and grooming behavior; (2) this policy; and (3) federal and state reporting requirements is essential to maintaining the Board's goal of professional and appropriate conduct. [PRESSPlus3](#)

The Superintendent or designee shall identify employee conduct standards [PRESSPlus4](#) that define appropriate employee-student boundaries, provide training about them, and monitor the District's employees for violations of employee-student boundaries. The employee conduct standards will require that, at a minimum:

1. Employees who are governed by the *Code of Ethics for Illinois Educators*, adopted by the Ill. State Board of Education (ISBE), will comply with its incorporation by reference into this policy. [PRESSPlus5](#)
2. Employees are trained on educator ethics, child abuse, grooming behaviors, and employee-student boundary violations as required by law and policies 2:265, *Title IX Sexual Harassment Grievance Procedure*; 4:165, *Awareness and Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse and Grooming Behaviors*; 5:90, *Abused and Neglected Child Reporting*; and 5:100, *Staff Development Program*. [PRESSPlus6](#)
3. Employees maintain professional relationships with students, including maintaining employee-student boundaries based upon students' ages, grade levels, and developmental levels and following District-established guidelines for specific situations, including but not limited to:
  - a. Transporting a student;

- b. Taking or possessing a photo or video of a student; and
  - c. Meeting with a student or contacting a student outside the employee's professional role.
4. Employees report prohibited behaviors and/or boundary violations pursuant to Board policies 2:260, *Uniform Grievance Procedure*; 2:265, *Title IX Sexual Harassment Grievance Procedure*; and 5:90, *Abused and Neglected Child Reporting*.[PRESSPlus7](#)
  5. Discipline up to and including dismissal will occur for any employee who violates an employee conduct standard or engages in any of the following:[PRESSPlus8](#)
    - a. Violates expectations and guidelines for employee-student boundaries.[PRESSPlus9](#)
    - b. Sexually harasses a student.
    - c. Willfully or negligently fails to follow reporting requirements of the Abused and Neglected Child Reporting Act (325 ILCS 5/), Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (20 U.S.C. §1681 *et seq.*), or the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (20 U.S.C. § 7926).[PRESSPlus10](#)
    - d. Engages in *grooming* as defined in 720 ILCS 5/11-25.[PRESSPlus11](#)
    - e. Engages in grooming behaviors. Prohibited grooming behaviors include, at a minimum, *sexual misconduct*. *Sexual misconduct*[PRESSPlus12](#) is any act, including but not limited to, any verbal, nonverbal, written, or electronic communication or physical activity, by an employee with direct contact with a student, that is directed toward or with a student to establish a romantic or sexual relationship with the student. Examples include, but are not limited to:
      - i. A sexual or romantic invitation.
      - ii. Dating or soliciting a date.
      - iii. Engaging in sexualized or romantic dialog.
      - iv. Making sexually suggestive comments that are directed toward or with a student.
      - v. Self-disclosure or physical exposure of a sexual, romantic, or erotic nature.
      - vi. A sexual, indecent, romantic, or erotic contact with the student.

#### Statement of Economic Interests

The following employees must file a *Statement of Economic Interests* as required by the Ill. Governmental Ethics Act:

1. Superintendent;
2. Building Principal;
3. Head of any department;
4. Any employee who, as the District's agent, is responsible for negotiating one or more contracts, including collective bargaining agreement(s), in the amount of \$1,000 or greater;
5. Hearing officer;
6. Any employee having supervisory authority for 20 or more employees; and
7. Any employee in a position that requires an administrative or a chief school business official endorsement.

#### Ethics and Gift Ban

Board policy 2:105, *Ethics and Gift Ban*, applies to all District employees. Students shall not be used in any manner for promoting a political candidate or issue.

### Prohibited Interests; Conflict of Interest; and Limitation of Authority

In accordance with 105 ILCS 5/22-5, "no school officer or teacher shall be interested in the sale, proceeds, or profits of any book, apparatus, or furniture used or to be used in any school with which such officer or teacher may be connected," except when the employee is the author or developer of instructional materials listed with ISBE and adopted for use by the Board. An employee having an interest in instructional materials must file an annual statement with the Board Secretary.

For the purpose of acquiring profit or personal gain, no employee shall act as an agent of the District nor shall an employee act as an agent of any business in any transaction with the District. This includes participation in the selection, award, or administration of a contract supported by a federal award or State award governed by the Grant Accountability and Transparency Act (GATA) (30 ILCS 708/) when the employee has a real or apparent conflict of interest. A conflict of interest arises when an employee or any of the following individuals has a financial or other interest in or a tangible benefit from the entity selected for the contract:

1. A member of the employee's immediate family;
2. An employee's partner; [PRESSPlus13](#) or
3. An entity that employs or is about to employ the employee or one of the individuals listed in one or two above.

Employees shall neither solicit nor accept gratuities, favors, or anything of monetary value from contractors, potential contractors, or parties to agreements or subcontracts. Situations in which the interest is not substantial or the gift is an unsolicited item of nominal value must comply with State law and Board policy 2:105, *Ethics and Gift Ban*.

### Outside Employment

Employees shall not engage in any other employment or in any private business during regular working hours or at such other times as are necessary to fulfill appropriate assigned duties.

Incorporated  
by reference: 5:120-E (Code of Ethics for Ill. Educators)

### LEGAL REF.:

- U.S. Constitution, First Amendment.
- 2 C.F.R. §200.318(c)(1).
- 5 ILCS 420/4A-101, Ill. Governmental Ethics Act.
- 5 ILCS 430/, State Officials and Employee Ethics Act.
- 30 ILCS 708/, Grant Accountability and Transparency Act.
- 50 ILCS 135/, Local Governmental Employees Political Rights Act.
- 105 ILCS 5/10-22.39, 5/10-23.13, 5/22-5, 5/22-85.5, and 5/22-93.
- 325 ILCS 5/, Abused and Neglected Child Reporting Act.
- 720 ILCS 5/11-25, Criminal Code of 2012.



775 ILCS 5/5A-102, Ill. Human Rights Act.

23 Ill.Admin.Code Part 22, Code of Ethics for Ill. Educators.

Pickering v. Board of Township H.S. Dist. 205, 391 U.S. 563 (1968).

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

CROSS REF.: 2:105 (Ethics and Gift Ban), 2:265 (Title IX Sexual Harassment Grievance Procedure), 4:60 (Purchases and Contracts), 4:165 (Awareness and Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse and Grooming Behaviors), 5:90 (Abused and Neglected Child Reporting), 5:100 (Staff Development Program), 5:125 (Personal Technology and Social Media; Usage and Conduct), 5:200 (Terms and Conditions of Employment and Dismissal), 5:290 (Employment Terminations and Suspensions), 7:20 (Harassment of Students Prohibited)

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## **PRESSPlus Comments**

PRESSPlus 1. This policy is renamed in response to Faith's Law, 105 ILCS 5/22-85.5, added by P.A. 102-676, so its title explicitly references an employee code of professional conduct. It is rewritten to set forth expectations more clearly for employee behavior, including maintaining appropriate boundaries with students.

This policy largely cites 105 ILCS 5/22-85.5, a small portion of the *Faith's Law* package. *Faith's Law* is the entirety of Public Act 102-676, which closed significant legal loopholes related to combating grooming by: (1) broadening the definition of grooming prohibited by the Criminal Code of 2012 (720 ILCS 5/11-25); (2) authorizing the Ill. Dept. of Children and Family Services to investigate grooming allegations under the Abused and Neglected Child Reporting Act (325 ILCS 5/3); and (3) requiring the Ill. State Board of Education (ISBE) to, by 7-1-23, develop and maintain a resource guide for students, parents/guardians, and teachers about sexual abuse response and prevention resources available in their community (105 ILCS 5/2-3.188). A *Faith's Law* trailer bill, P.A. 102-702, eff. 7-1-23, further combats grooming by amending School Code provisions related to district and third-party contractor hiring practices, suspension and revocation of employee licenses, and criminal history records checks for prospective and current employees. **Issue 110, October 2022**

PRESSPlus 2. Required by 105 ILCS 5/22-85.5(e), added by P.A. 102-676. See sample exhibits 2:250-E2, *Immediately Available District Public Records and Web-Posted Reports and Records*, and 7:190-E2, *Student Handbook Checklist*. The Ill. Principals Association (IPA) maintains a handbook service that coordinates with **PRESS** material, *Online Model Student Handbook (MSH)*, at: [www.ilprincipals.org/msh](http://www.ilprincipals.org/msh). The sample exhibits are available at **PRESS** Online by logging in at [www.iasb.com](http://www.iasb.com). **Issue 110, October 2022**

PRESSPlus 3. See 105 ILCS 5/22-85.5(b), added by P.A. 102-676. **Issue 110, October 2022**

PRESSPlus 4. Sample conduct standards are contained in administrative procedure 5:120-AP2, *Employee Conduct Standards*, available at **PRESS** Online by logging in at [www.iasb.com](http://www.iasb.com). These items are subjects of mandatory collective bargaining. Consult the board attorney for advice before establishing them. **Issue 110, October 2022**

PRESSPlus 5. 105 ILCS 5/22-85.5(d)(1), added by P.A. 102-676; 23 Ill.Admin.Code Part 22. 105 ILCS 5/22-85.5(d)(1) requires boards to incorporate ISBE's *Code of Ethics for Illinois Educators* in their policies. Prior to this law requiring boards to incorporate the *Code* by reference, this policy incorporated it to demonstrate a board's commitment to the *Code's* principles, potentially allowing a board to enforce the *Code* independently from any action taken by the State Superintendent. **Issue 110, October 2022**

PRESSPlus 6. 105 ILCS 5/22-85.5(d)(5), added by P.A. 102-676, requires districts to reference required employee training related to child abuse and educator ethics in its employee professional conduct policy. **Issue 110, October 2022**

PRESSPlus 7. Required by 105 ILCS 5/22-85.5(d)(4), added by P.A. 102-676. See also 105 ILCS 5/10-23.13(b), amended by P.A. 102-610. **Issue 110, October 2022**

PRESSPlus 8. Required by 105 ILCS 5/22-85.5(f), added by P.A. 102-676. **Issue 110, October 2022**

PRESSPlus 9. Sample expectations and guidelines are contained in administrative procedure 5:120-AP2, E, *Expectations and Guidelines for Employee-Student Boundaries*, available at **PRESS** Online by logging in at [www.iasb.com](http://www.iasb.com). These items are subjects of mandatory collective bargaining. Consult the board attorney for advice before establishing them. **Issue 110, October 2022**

PRESSPlus 10. Required by 105 ILCS 5/22-85.5(d)(4), added by P.A. 102-676. **Issue 110, October 2022**

PRESSPlus 11. 720 ILCS 5/11-25(a), amended by P.A. 102-676, defines *grooming* as follows: "A person commits grooming when he or she knowingly uses a computer on-line service, Internet service, local bulletin board service, or any other device capable of electronic data storage or transmission, performs an act in person or by conduct through a third party, or uses written communication to seduce, solicit, lure, or entice, or attempt to seduce, solicit, lure, or entice, a child, a child's guardian, or another person believed by the person to be a child or a child's guardian, to commit any sex offense as defined in Section 2 of the Sex Offender Registration Act, to distribute photographs depicting the sex organs of the child, or to otherwise engage in any unlawful sexual conduct with a child or with another person believed by the person to be a child. As used in this Section, 'child' means a person under 17 years of age." **Issue 110, October 2022**

PRESSPlus 12. Required by 105 ILCS 5/22-85.5(d)(2), added by P.A. 102-676. This definition of *sexual misconduct* is adapted from 105 ILCS 5/22-85.5(c), added by P.A. 102-676. It results from collaboration to implement some recommendations of the *Make Sexual and Severe Physical Abuse Fully Extinct (Make S.A.F.E.) Taskforce* and was endorsed by Stop Educator Sexual Abuse Misconduct & Exploitation (S.E.S.A.M.E.), a national organization working to prevent sexual exploitation, abuse, and harassment of students by teachers and other school staff. See [www.sesamenet.org/](http://www.sesamenet.org/) for further information. **Issue 110, October 2022**

PRESSPlus 13. The law does not define *partner*; consult the board attorney about whether this term includes domestic partners, business partners, or both. **Issue 110, October 2022**

## *Document Status: Draft Update*

### **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, [PRESSPlus1](#) color, religion, national origin, ancestry, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, citizenship status, work authorization status, disability, pregnancy, marital status, order of protection status, military status, or unfavorable discharge from military service, nor shall they engage in harassment or abusive conduct on the basis of an individual's other protected status 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 Sexual Harassment Grievance Procedure*; 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 which 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:**

Edward Condon, Superintendent.  
7776 Lake Street, River Forest, IL 60305  
[condone@district90.org](mailto:condone@district90.org)  
708/771-8282

### **Complaint Managers:**

Dr. Alison Hawley,  
~~Director of Curriculum & Instruction~~ *Update Title*  
7776 Lake Street, River Forest, IL 60305  
[hawleya@district90.org](mailto:hawleya@district90.org)  
708/771-8282

Anthony Cozzi, *Update Title*  
~~Director of Finance and Facilities~~  
7776 Lake Street, River Forest, IL 60305  
[cozzia@district90.org](mailto:cozzia@district90.org)  
708/771-8282

### 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 sexual 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 policy 2:265, *Title IX Sexual Harassment Grievance Procedure*, should be initiated.

For any other alleged workplace harassment that does not require action under policy 2:265, *Title IX Sexual Harassment Grievance Procedure*, the Nondiscrimination Coordinator or a Complaint Manager or designee shall consider whether an investigation under policy 2:260, *Uniform Grievance*

*Procedure*, and/or 5:120, *Employee Ethics; 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 policy 5:90, *Abused and Neglected Child Reporting*. In addition to reporting the suspected abuse, the complaint shall also be processed under policy 2:265, *Title IX Sexual Harassment Grievance Procedure*, or 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, 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 policy 2:260, *Uniform Grievance Procedure*), 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 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.

~~Burlington Indus. v. Ellerth, 524 U.S. 742 (1998); Vance v. Ball State Univ., 570 U.S. 421 (2013).~~ PRESSPlus2

~~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).~~

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

~~Faragher v. City of Boca Raton, 524 U.S. 775 (1998).~~

~~Franklin v. Gwinnett Co. Public Schools, 503 U.S. 60 (1992).~~

~~Harris v. Forklift Systems, 510 U.S. 17 (1993).~~

~~Jackson v. Birmingham Bd. of Educ., 544 U.S. 167 (2005).~~

~~Meritor Savings Bank v. Vinson, 477 U.S. 57 (1986).~~

~~Oncale v. Sundowner Offshore Servs., 523 U.S. 75 (1998).~~

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

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

~~Vance v. Ball State Univ., 133 S. Ct. 2434 (2013).~~

~~Williams v. Waste Mgmt., 361 F.3d 1021 (7th Cir. 2004); 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 Sexual Harassment Grievance Procedure), 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)

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### **PRESSPlus Comments**

PRESSPlus 1. The Ill. Human Rights Act defines race to include traits associated with race, including, but not limited to, hair texture and protective hairstyles such as braids, locks, and twists. 775 ILCS 5/1-103(M-5), added by P.A. 102-1102, eff. 1-1-23. The law allows employers to implement dress codes or adopt grooming policies that include restrictions on attire, clothing, or facial hair to maintain workplace safety or food sanitation. 775 ILCS 5/2-102(E-5). Title VII does not have a definition of race, but U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) guidance provides that “[r]ace discrimination includes discrimination on the basis of ancestry or physical or cultural characteristics associated with a certain race, such as skin color, hair texture or styles, or certain facial features.” See the EEOC’s *Questions and Answers about Race and Color Discrimination in Employment*, at: [www.eeoc.gov/laws/guidance/questions-and-answers-about-race-and-color-discrimination-employment](http://www.eeoc.gov/laws/guidance/questions-and-answers-about-race-and-color-discrimination-employment). **Issue 110, October 2022**

PRESSPlus 2. The Legal References are updated. **Issue 110, October 2022**



## *Document Status: Review and Monitoring*

### **5:170 General Copyright Restrictions and Copyright Restrictions Involving the Development of Instructional Materials and Computer Programs by Employees**

#### Copyright Compliance [PRESSPlus1](#)

While staff members may use appropriate supplementary materials, it is each staff member's responsibility to abide by the District's copyright compliance procedures and to obey the copyright laws. The District is not responsible for any violations of the copyright laws by its staff or students. A staff member should contact the Superintendent or designee whenever the staff member is uncertain about whether using or copying materials complies with the District's procedures or is permissible under the law, or wants assistance on when and how to obtain proper authorization. No staff member shall install or download any program on a District-owned computer except with the permission of the Superintendent or designee obtained in advance. At no time shall it be necessary for a District staff member to violate copyright laws in order to properly perform his or her duties.

#### Ownership of Copyrights

The Superintendent shall manage the development of instructional and other materials and computer programs by employees during the scope of their employment in accordance with Illinois and federal laws and Board policy. All materials developed by an employee within the scope of employment with the District shall be classified as "works for hire" and are the District's property. The District is entitled to all proceeds from the sale of "works for hire" other than computer programs.

#### Sale of Computer Programs

The employee who develops a computer program is entitled to a share of the proceeds from its sale as agreed to by the District. Neither the employee nor the District may receive more than 90% of the proceeds. The negotiation may be conducted by an employee's representative.

"Proceeds" are the profits after deducting expenses and shall be computed by the District. The proceeds of a computer program developed by more than one employee shall be equitably distributed among such employees, in proportion to their participation in the program's development, and the District.

#### Copyright Infringement: Designation of District Digital Millennium Copyright Act (DMCA) Agent

The employee listed below receives complaints about copyright infringement within the use of the District's online services. The Superintendent or designee will register this information with the federal Copyright Office as required by federal law.

#### **District DMCA Agent:**

Edward Condon, Superintendent

7776 Lake Street

River Forest, IL

[condone@district90.org](mailto:condone@district90.org)

708.771.8282

LEGAL REF.:

Federal Copyright Law of 1976, [17 U.S.C. §101](#) *et seq.*

[105 ILCS 5/10-23.10.](#)

CROSS REF.: 6:235 (Computer Network and Internet Safety, Access and Use)

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### **PRESSPlus Comments**

PRESSPlus 1. This policy is suggested to be reviewed by the Board. According to policy 2:240, *Board Policy Development*, "[t]he Board will periodically review its policies for relevancy, monitor its policies for effectiveness, and consider whether any modifications are required." IASB suggests that each policy in the Board's policy manual be reviewed at a minimum of every five years. As part of the review, the Board may choose to:

- Compare the adopted version to the current PRESS sample (available at PRESS Online by logging in at [www.iasb.com](http://www.iasb.com)), discussing any differences and/or options noted in the footnotes to determine whether local changes are necessary
- Update the policy language due to changes in local conditions
- Make no changes, but update the adoption date to reflect that the policy has been reviewed and re-adopted

**Issue 110, October 2022**

## *Document Status: Review and Monitoring*

### **5:190 Teacher Qualifications**

A teacher, as the term is used in this policy, refers to a District employee who is required to be licensed under State law. The following qualifications apply: [PRESSPlus1](#)

1. Each teacher must:
  - a. Have a valid Illinois Professional Educator License issued by the State Superintendent of Education with the required endorsements as provided in the School Code.
  - b. Provide the District Office with a complete official transcript of credits earned in institutions of higher education.
  - c. On or before September 1 of each year, unless otherwise provided in an applicable collective bargaining agreement, provide the District Office with an official transcript of any credits earned since the date the last transcript was filed.
  - d. Notify the Superintendent of any change in the teacher's transcript.
2. All teachers working in a program supported with federal funds under Title I, Part A must meet applicable State certification and licensure requirements.

The Superintendent or designee shall:

1. Monitor compliance with State and federal law requirements that teachers be appropriately licensed;
2. Through incentives for voluntary transfers, professional development, recruiting programs, or other effective strategies, ensure that minority students and students from low-income families are not taught at higher rates than other students by unqualified, out-of-field, or inexperienced teachers.
3. Ensure parents/guardians of students in schools receiving Title I funds are notified of their right to request their students' classroom teachers' professional qualifications.

LEGAL REF.:

[20 U.S.C. §6312\(e\)\(1\)\(A\)](#).

[105 ILCS 5/10-20.15](#), [5/21-11.4](#), [5/21B-15](#), [5/21B-20](#), [5/21B-25](#), and [5/24-23](#).

[23 Ill.Admin.Code §1.610 et seq.](#), [§1.705 et seq.](#), and [Part 25](#).

ADOPTED: January 17, 2017

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### **PRESSPlus Comments**

PRESSPlus 1. This policy is suggested to be reviewed by the Board. According to policy 2:240, *Board Policy Development*, "[t]he Board will periodically review its policies for relevancy, monitor its policies for effectiveness, and consider whether any modifications are required." IASB suggests that each policy in the Board's policy manual be reviewed at a minimum of every five years. As part of the review, the Board may choose to:

- Compare the adopted version to the current PRESS sample (available at PRESS Online by logging in at [www.iasb.com](http://www.iasb.com)), discussing any differences and/or options noted in the footnotes to determine whether local changes are necessary
- Update the policy language due to changes in local conditions
- Make no changes, but update the adoption date to reflect that the policy has been reviewed and re-adopted

**Issue 110, October 2022**

## *Document Status: Draft Update*

### **5:220 Substitute Teachers**

The Superintendent may employ substitute teachers as necessary to replace teachers who are temporarily absent.

A substitute teacher must hold either a valid teaching or substitute license ~~or short-term substitute license~~ and may teach in the place of a licensed teacher who is under contract with the Board. There is no limit on the number of days that a substitute teacher may teach in the District during the school year, except as follows:

1. A substitute teacher holding a substitute license may teach for any one licensed teacher under contract with the District only for a period not to exceed 120 days beginning with the 2021-2022 through the 2022-2023 school year. [PRESSPlus1](#) otherwise 90 paid school days in any one school term.
2. A teacher holding a Professional Educator License or Educator License with Stipulations may teach for any one licensed teacher under contract with the District only for a period not to exceed 120 paid school days.
3. ~~A short-term substitute teacher holding a short-term substitute teaching license may teach for any one licensed teacher under contract with the District only for a period not to exceed five consecutive school days.~~

The Ill. Teachers' Retirement System (TRS) limits a substitute teacher who is a TRS annuitant to substitute teaching for a period not to exceed 120 paid days or 600 paid hours in each school year, but not more than 100 paid days in the same classroom. Beginning July 1, 2023, a substitute teacher who is a TRS annuitant may substitute teach for a period not to exceed 100 paid days or 500 paid hours in any school year, unless the subject area is one where the Regional Superintendent has certified that a personnel shortage exists.

The Board establishes a daily rate of pay for substitute teachers. Substitute teachers receive only monetary compensation for time worked and no other benefits.

#### Short-Term Substitute Teachers

A short-term substitute teacher must hold a valid short-term substitute teaching license and have completed the District's short-term substitute teacher training program. Unless otherwise permitted by law. [PRESSPlus2](#) Short-term substitutes may teach no more than five consecutive school days for each licensed teacher who is under contract with the Board.

#### Emergency Situations

A substitute teacher may teach when no licensed teacher is under contract with the Board if the District has an emergency situation as defined in State law. During an emergency situation, a substitute teacher is limited to 30 calendar days of employment per each vacant position. The Superintendent shall notify the appropriate Intermediate Service Center within five business days after the employment of a substitute teacher in an emergency situation.

LEGAL REF.:

105 ILCS 5/10-20.68, 5/21B-20(2), 5/21B-20(3), and 5/21B-20(4).

40 ILCS 5/16-118. III. Pension Code.

23 Ill.Admin.Code §1.790 (Substitute Teacher) and §25.520 (Substitute Teaching License).

CROSS REF.: 5:30 (Hiring Process and Criteria)

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### **PRESSPlus Comments**

PRESSPlus 1. Updated in response to 105 ILCS 5/21B-20(3), amended by P.A. 102-717. **Issue 110, October 2022**

PRESSPlus 2. Updated in response to 105 ILCS 5/21B-20(4), amended by P.A. 102-712, permitting short-term substitute teachers to substitute for a licensed teacher for up to 15 (rather than five) consecutive school days, if the Governor has declared a disaster due to a public health emergency, through 6-30-23. **Issue 110, October 2022**

## *Document Status: Draft Update*

### **5:250 Leaves of Absence**

Sick Leave, Bereavement Leave, [PRESSPlus1](#) Sabbatical Leave, Personal Leave, Association Leave, Religious Holidays, Jury Duty and Subpoenas

**Please refer to the applicable collective bargaining agreement(s).**

As a condition for paying sick leave after three days absence for personal illness or as the Board or Superintendent deem necessary in other cases, the Board or Superintendent may require that the staff member provide a certificate from: (1) a physician licensed in Illinois to practice medicine and surgery in all its branches, (2) a mental health professional licensed in Illinois providing ongoing care or treatment to the staff member, (3) a chiropractic physician licensed under the Medical Practice Act, (4) a licensed advanced practice registered nurse, (5) a licensed physician assistant who has been delegated the authority to perform health examinations by his or her supervising physician, or (6) if the treatment is by prayer or spiritual means, a spiritual adviser or practitioner of the employee's faith. If the Board or Superintendent requires a certificate during a leave of less than three days for personal illness, the District shall pay the expenses incurred by the employee.

Staff members are entitled to use up to 30 days of paid sick leave because of the birth of a child that is not dependent on the need to recover from childbirth. Such days may be used at any time within the 12-month period following the birth of the child. Intervening periods of nonworking days or school not being in session, such as breaks and holidays, do not count towards the 30 working school days. As a condition of paying sick leave beyond the 30 working school days, the Board or Superintendent may require medical certification.

For purposes of adoption, placement for adoption, or acceptance of a child in need of foster care, paid sick leave may be used for reasons related to the formal adoption or the formal foster care process prior to taking custody of the child or accepting the child in need of foster care, and for taking custody of the child or accepting the child in need of foster care. Such leave is limited to 30 days, unless a longer leave is provided in an applicable collective bargaining agreement, and need not be used consecutively once the formal adoption or foster care process is underway. The Board or Superintendent may require that the employee provide evidence that the formal adoption or foster care process is underway.

*Family and Medical Leave Act ("FMLA")* leave is normally unpaid. The Board may always designate an employee's qualifying leave as *FMLA* leave. In the case of any *FMLA* leave, all policies and rules regarding the use of paid sick leave apply when paid leave is substituted for unpaid *FMLA* leave. However, any substitution of sick leave for unpaid *FMLA* leave will count against the employee's *FMLA* leave entitlement. In cases of the birth of the employee's child or the employee's adoption of a child, the employee may elect to substitute his/her accrued paid sick leave for unpaid *FMLA* leave as permitted by the *FMLA* and the *Illinois School Code*. Use of compensated *FMLA* leave shall not preclude the use of other applicable unpaid leave that will extend the employee's leave beyond twelve (12) weeks, provided that the use of *FMLA* leave shall not serve to extend such other unpaid leave.

Family ~~Child~~ Bereavement Leave [PRESSPlus2](#)

State law allows a maximum of 10 unpaid work days for eligible employees (Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993, 20 U.S.C. §2601 et seq.) to take ~~family~~<sup>child</sup> bereavement leave. The purpose, requirements, scheduling, and all other terms of the leave are governed by the Family<sup>Child</sup> Bereavement Leave Act. Eligible employees may use family<sup>child</sup> bereavement leave, without any adverse employment action, ~~allows~~ for: (1) attendance by the bereaved staff member at the funeral or alternative to a funeral of ~~his or her child~~<sup>a covered family member</sup>, which includes an employee's child, stepchild, domestic partner,<sup>PRESSPlus3</sup> sibling, parent, mother-in-law, father-in-law, grandchild, grandparent, or stepparent (2) making arrangements necessitated by the death of the ~~staff member's child~~<sup>covered family member</sup>, ~~or~~ (3) grieving the death of the ~~staff member's child~~<sup>covered family member</sup>, without any adverse employment action, or (4) absence from work due to a Significant Event,<sup>PRESSPlus4</sup> which includes: (i) miscarriage, (ii) an unsuccessful round of intrauterine insemination or of an assisted reproductive technology procedure, (iii) a failed adoption match or an adoption that is not finalized because it is contested by another party, (iv) a failed surrogacy agreement, (v) a diagnosis that negatively impacts pregnancy or fertility, or (vi) a still birth. An employee qualifying for leave due to a Significant Event will not be required to identify which specific reason applies to the employee's request.

The leave must be completed within 60 days after the date on which the employee received notice of the death of ~~his or her child~~<sup>the covered family member</sup> or the date on which an event under item (4) above occurs. However, in the event of the death of more than one ~~child~~<sup>covered family member</sup> in a 12-month period, an employee is entitled to up to a total of six weeks of bereavement leave during the 12-month period, subject to certain restrictions under State and federal law. Other existing forms of leave may be substituted for the leave provided in the Family<sup>Child</sup> Bereavement Leave Act. This policy does not create any right for an employee to take ~~family~~<sup>child</sup> bereavement leave that is inconsistent with the Family<sup>Child</sup> Bereavement Leave Act.

#### Leave of Absence Without Pay

The Board of Education has sole discretion to grant a leave of absence without pay to tenured professional staff members who have rendered satisfactory service and desire to return to employment in a similar capacity at a time determined by the Board of Education.

Each leave of absence shall be of the shortest possible duration required to meet the leave's purpose consistent with a reasonable continuity of instruction for students.

The granting of leave in one instance shall not constitute a precedent for any other application. All leave applications shall be in writing, in sufficient detail to describe the nature of the desired leave, and submitted in advance to the Superintendent or designee.

#### Leaves for Service in the Military

Leaves for service in the U.S. Armed Services or any of its reserve components and the National Guard, as well as re-employment rights, will be granted in accordance with State and Federal law. A professional staff member hired to replace one in military service does not acquire tenure.

#### General Assembly

Leaves for service in the General Assembly, as well as re-employment rights, will be granted in accordance with State and federal law. A professional staff member hired to replace one in the General Assembly does not acquire tenure.

#### Leave for Employment in Department of Defense

The Board of Education may grant professional staff members a leave of absence to accept



employment in a Dept. of Defense overseas school.

### School Visitation Leave

An eligible professional staff member is entitled to eight hours during any school year, no more than four hours of which may be taken on any given day, to attend school conferences, behavioral meetings, or academic meetings related to the teacher's child, if the conference or meeting cannot be scheduled during non-work hours. Professional staff members must first use all accrued vacation leave, personal leave, compensatory leave, and any other leave that may be granted to the professional staff member, except sick, and disability leave.

The Superintendent shall develop administrative procedures implementing this policy consistent with the School Visitation Rights Act.

### Leaves for Victims of Domestic Violence, Sexual Violence, Gender Violence, or Other Crime of Violence

An unpaid leave from work is available to any staff member who: (1) is a victim of domestic violence, sexual violence, gender violence, or any other crime of violence or (2) has a family or household member who is a victim of such violence whose interests are not adverse to the employee as it relates to the domestic violence, sexual violence, gender violence, or any other crime of violence. The unpaid leave allows the employee to seek medical help, legal assistance, counseling, safety planning, and other assistance without suffering adverse employment action.

The Victims' Economic Security and Safety Act governs the purpose, requirements, scheduling, and continuity of benefits, and all other terms of the leave. Accordingly, if the District employs at least 50 employees, an employee is entitled to a total of 12 work weeks of unpaid leave during any 12-month period. Neither the law nor this policy creates a right for an employee to take unpaid leave that exceeds the unpaid leave time allowed under, or is in addition to the unpaid leave time permitted by, the federal Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 ([29 U.S.C. §2601 et seq.](#)).

### Leave to Serve as an Election Judge

Any staff member who was appointed to serve as an election judge under State law may, after giving at least 20-days' written notice to the District, be absent without pay for the purpose of serving as an election judge. The staff member is not required to use any form of paid leave to serve as an election judge. No more than 10% of the District's employees may be absent to serve as election judges on the same Election Day.

### COVID-19 Paid Administrative Leave [PRESSPlus5](#)

During any time when the Governor has declared a disaster due to a public health emergency under 20 ILCS 3305/7, paid administrative leave is available to eligible employees if the District, State or any of its agencies, or the local health department has issued guidance, mandates, or rules related to COVID-19 that restrict an employee from being on District property for a reason outlined in State law.

For an employee to be eligible for COVID-19 paid administrative leave, the employee must be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 [PRESSPlus6](#) as defined in 105 ILCS 5/10-20.83 (final citation pending).  
[Q1](#)

The employee will receive as many days of administrative leave as required to abide by the public health guidance, mandates, and requirements issued by the Ill. Dept. of Public Health, unless a longer period has been negotiated with the exclusive bargaining representative.

As a condition of being granted COVID-19 paid administrative leave, an employee shall provide all documentation necessary to substantiate the employee's eligibility for the leave, as requested by the Superintendent or designee. [PRESSPlus7](#) An employee who is on COVID-19 paid administrative leave will receive the employee's regular rate of pay; the leave will not diminish any other leave or benefits of the employee. Employees may not accrue COVID-19 paid administrative leave.

LEGAL REF.:

105 ILCS 5/10-20.83 (final citation pending), 5/24-6, 5/24-6.1, 5/24-6.2, 5/24-6.3, 5/24-13, and 5/24-13.1.

~~10 ILCS 5/13-2.5.~~

~~105 ILCS 5/24-6, 5/24-6.1, 5/24-6.2, 5/24-6.3, 5/24-13, and 5/24-13.1.~~

10 ILCS 5/13-2.5, Election Code.

330 ILCS 61/, Service Member Employment and Reemployment Rights Act.

820 ILCS 147/, School Visitation Rights Act.

820 ILCS 154/, Child Bereavement Leave Act.

820 ILCS 180/, Victims' Economic Security and Safety Act.

CROSS REF.: 5:180 (Temporary Illness or Temporary Incapacity), 5:185 (Family and Medical Leave), 5:330 (Sick Days, Vacation, Holidays, and Leaves)

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### Questions and Answers:

\*\*\*Required Question 1. Does the board require fully vaccinated employees to participate in a district COVID-19 testing program?

No. (Default)

Yes. (IASB will add "and participate in the District's COVID-19 testing program" to the end of this sentence.)

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### PRESSPlus Comments

PRESSPlus 1. 105 ILCS 5/24-6, amended by P.A. 102-697, requires districts to return sick leave used by a fully vaccinated teacher for a qualifying COVID-19 related reason during the 2021-2022 school year, provided the teacher was "fully vaccinated against COVID-19" by 5-10-22. The law prohibits districts from rescinding the returned sick leave in the event the definition of "fully vaccinated against COVID-19" is later updated by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) or the Ill. Dept. of Public Health (IDPH) to include recommended booster doses. **Issue 110, October 2022**

PRESSPlus 2. Updated in response to the ~~Family~~ Child Bereavement Act, 820 ILCS 154/, amended by P.A. 102-1050, eff. 1-1-23, expanding the entitlement to unpaid bereavement leave to *covered family members*, and to include absences related to unsuccessful pregnancies and adoptions. The

employer may require reasonable documentation as specified in 105 ILCS 154/10(d), amended by P.A. 102-1050, eff. 1-1-23, but may not require that an employee identify which specific category under item (4) in the first paragraph of this subhead pertains to the leave. **Issue 110, October 2022**

PRESSPlus 3. *Domestic partner*, when used to refer to an unmarried employee, includes: (1) the person recognized as the domestic partner of the employee under any domestic partnership or civil union law of a state or political subdivision of a state, or (2) an unmarried adult who is in a committed, personal relationship with the employee, who is not a domestic partner as described in item (1) and who the employee designates as that employee's domestic partner. 820 ILCS 154/5, amended by P.A. 102-1050, eff. 1-1-23. **Issue 110, October 2022**

PRESSPlus 4. Note the term *Significant Event* does not appear in the statute; it is included in this policy text as a shorthand term to refer to those events listed in 820 ILCS 154/10(a)(4). **Issue 110, October 2022**

PRESSPlus 5. Required by 105 ILCS 5/10-20.83 (final citation pending), added by P.A. 102-697. Whether some or all of the COVID-19 related reasons listed in 105 ILCS 5/10-20.83(b) and (c) (final citation pending) apply will depend upon current health guidance and/or rules. The law requires that this leave also be provided retroactively to an employee for a qualifying reason *prior* to 4-5-22 if the employee was fully vaccinated by 5-10-22. The law prohibits districts from rescinding the paid leave if the definition of "fully vaccinated against COVID-19" is later updated by the CDC or IDPH to include recommended booster doses.

Consult the board attorney for guidance about whether the board must accommodate an employee's religion or disability by exempting the employee from the COVID-19 vaccination prerequisite in 105 ILCS 5/10-20.83 (final citation pending), added by P.A. 102-697, and/or if the board and union may agree that this leave will extend to all unvaccinated employees. Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 requires employers to accommodate an employee's sincere religious objection to an employer vaccination requirement unless doing so would be an "undue hardship" on the employer. 42 U.S.C §2000e(j). Similarly, the Americans with Disabilities Act requires an employer to exempt an employee with a disability (including pregnancy-related disability) from a safety-related standard, such as a vaccination requirement, unless the employee poses a *direct threat* to the health or safety of the employee or others while on the job. 29 C.F.R. §1630.2(r). See also the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission guidance document, *What You Should Know About COVID-19 and the ADA, the Rehabilitation Act, and Other EEO Laws*, at: [www.eeoc.gov/wysk/what-you-should-know-about-covid-19-and-ada-rehabilitation-act-and-other-eeo-laws](http://www.eeoc.gov/wysk/what-you-should-know-about-covid-19-and-ada-rehabilitation-act-and-other-eeo-laws). **Issue 110, October 2022**

PRESSPlus 6. "Fully vaccinated against COVID-19" means: (1) two weeks after receiving the second dose in a two-dose series of a COVID-19 authorized for emergency use, licensed, or otherwise approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), or (2) two weeks after receiving a single dose of a COVID-19 vaccine authorized for emergency use, licensed, or otherwise approved by the FDA. If the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) later revises the definition of "fully vaccinated against COVID-19" to include booster doses, and the Ill. Dept. of Public Health (IDPH) adopts the CDC's revised definition, then employees will have five weeks after IDPH's action to receive a booster (if eligible) to remain eligible for COVID-19 paid administrative leave. 105 ILCS 5/10-20.83(g) (final citation pending), added by P.A. 102-697. **Issue 110, October 2022**

PRESSPlus 7. This sentence is optional. 105 ILCS 5/10-20.83(d) (final citation pending), added by

P.A. 102-697. It is a best practice for boards to require appropriate documentation to verify employee eligibility for the leave benefit. **Issue 110, October 2022**

## *Document Status: Review and Monitoring*

### **5:260 Student Teachers**

The Superintendent is authorized to accept students from university-approved teacher-training programs to do student teaching in the District. No individual who has been convicted of a criminal offense that would subject him or her to license suspension or revocation pursuant to Section [5/21B-80](#) of the School Code or who has been found to be the perpetrator of sexual or physical abuse of a minor under 18 years of age pursuant to proceedings under Article II of the Juvenile Court Act of 1987 is permitted to student teach. [PRESSPlus1](#)

Before permitting an individual to student teach or begin a required internship in the District, the Superintendent or designee shall ensure that:

1. The District performed a [105 ILCS 5/10-21.9\(g\)](#) Check as described below; and
2. The individual furnished evidence of physical fitness to perform assigned duties and freedom from communicable disease pursuant to [105 ILCS 5/24-5](#).

A [105 ILCS 5/10-21.9\(g\)](#) Check shall include:

1. Fingerprint-based checks through (a) the Illinois State Police (ISP) for criminal history records information (CHRI) pursuant to the Uniform Conviction Information Act ([20 ILCS 2635/1](#)), and (b) the FBI national crime information databases pursuant to the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act ([P.L. 109-248](#));
2. A check of the Illinois Sex Offender Registry (see the Sex Offender Community Notification Law ([730 ILCS 152/101 et seq.](#)); and
3. A check of the Illinois Murderer and Violent Offender Against Youth Registry (Murderer and Violent Offender Against Youth Community Notification Law ([730 ILCS 154/75-105](#)).

The School Code requires each individual student teaching or beginning a required internship to provide the District with written authorization for, and pay the costs of, his or her [105 ILCS 5/10-21.9\(g\)](#) check (including any applicable vendor's fees). Upon receipt of this authorization and payment, the Superintendent or designee will submit the student teacher's name, sex, race, date of birth, social security number, fingerprint images, and other identifiers, as prescribed by the Department of State Police, to the Department of State Police. The Superintendent or designee will provide each student teacher with a copy of his or her report.

#### Assignment

The Superintendent or designee shall be responsible for coordinating placements of all student teachers within the District. Student teachers should be assigned to supervising teachers whose qualifications are acceptable to the District and the students' respective colleges or universities.

LEGAL REF.:

Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act, [P.L. 109-248](#).

Uniform Conviction Information Act, [20 ILCS 2635/1](#).

[105 ILCS 5/10-21.9](#), [5/10-22.34](#), and [5/24-5](#).

CROSS REF.: 4:175 (Convicted Child Sex Offender; Screening; Notifications), 5:190 (Teacher Qualifications)

ADOPTED: January 17, 2017

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### **PRESSPlus Comments**

PRESSPlus 1. This policy is suggested to be reviewed by the Board. According to policy 2:240, *Board Policy Development*, "[t]he Board will periodically review its policies for relevancy, monitor its policies for effectiveness, and consider whether any modifications are required." IASB suggests that each policy in the Board's policy manual be reviewed at a minimum of every five years. As part of the review, the Board may choose to:

- Compare the adopted version to the current PRESS sample (available at PRESS Online by logging in at [www.iasb.com](http://www.iasb.com)), discussing any differences and/or options noted in the footnotes to determine whether local changes are necessary
- Update the policy language due to changes in local conditions
- Make no changes, but update the adoption date to reflect that the policy has been reviewed and re-adopted

**Issue 110, October 2022**

## *Document Status: Draft Update*

### **5:280 Duties and Qualifications**

All Educational Support Personnel: (1) must meet qualifications specified in job descriptions, (2) must be able to perform the essential tasks listed and/or assigned, and (3) are subject to Board policies as they may be changed from time-to-time at the Board's sole discretion.

#### Paraprofessionals

Paraprofessionals provide supervised instructional support. Service as a paraprofessional requires an educator license with stipulations endorsed for a paraprofessional educator unless a specific exemption is authorized by the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE).

Educational support personnel with only non-instructional duties (e.g., providing technical educational support for computers, providing personal care services, or performing clerical duties) are not paraprofessionals and the requirements in this section do not apply. In addition, individuals completing their clinical experiences and/or student teaching do not need to comply with this section, provided their service otherwise complies with ISBE rules.

#### Educational Support and Nonlicensed ~~Unlicensed~~ Personnel Working with Students and Performing Non-Instructional Duties

Educational support personnel and ~~nonlicensed~~ ~~unlicensed~~ personnel performing non-instructional duties may be used:

1. For supervising lunch rooms, recess, study halls, long distance teaching reception areas used incidental to instructional programs transmitted by electronic media (e.g., computers, video, and audio), detention and discipline areas, and school-sponsored extracurricular activities;
2. As supervisors, chaperones, or sponsors for non-academic school activities or for school activities connected to the academic program during any time in which the Governor has declared a disaster due to a public health emergency, in accordance with ISBE rule: [PRESSPlus1](#)  
or
3. For non-teaching duties not requiring instructional judgment or student evaluation.

Nothing in this policy prevents an educational support personnel employee from serving as a guest lecturer or resource person under a certificated teacher's direction and with the administration's approval.

#### Relationship with Students

Educational support personnel are not ordinarily expected to exercise any supervision over students unless it is a part of the job description as assigned by the Superintendent. Exceptions to this policy would be in the case of vandalism, malicious mischief, or fighting. In such cases the employee is not to take disciplinary action but may take action to prevent injury to individuals and damage to property. If physical restraint is required, the pupils involved are to be conducted to the Building Principal for disciplinary action. All incidents are to be reported to the Building Principal as promptly as possible.

LEGAL REF.:

34 C.F.R. §200.58.

105 ILCS 5/10-22.34, 5/10-22.34a, and 5/10-22.34b.

625 ILCS 5/6-104 and 5/6-106.1, Ill. Vehicle Code.

23 Ill.Admin.Code §§1.280, 1.630, and 25.510.

CROSS REF.: 4:110 (Transportation), 4:170 (Safety), 5:30 (Hiring Process and Criteria), 5:35 (Compliance with the Fair Labor Standards Act), 6:250 (Community Resource Persons and Volunteers)

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### **PRESSPlus Comments**

PRESSPlus 1. Updated in response to 23 Ill.Admin.Code §1.630(c), amended at 45 Ill.Reg. 9446 by P.A 102-894. **Issue 110, October 2022**



## *Document Status: Draft Update*

### **5:320 Evaluation**

Each educational support staff member's job performance shall be evaluated by his/her direct supervisor. The evaluation process includes scheduled annual evaluations, on forms applicable to the job classification, and day-to-day appraisals. Evaluations should be completed before the annual salary review. Supervisors should consider the employee's work quality, promptness, attendance, reliability, conduct, judgment, and cooperativeness. [PRESSPlus1](#)

Supervisors shall provide a copy of the completed evaluation to the employee and shall provide an opportunity to discuss it. The original should be signed by the employee and filed with the Superintendent.

As appropriate, supervisors should discuss job performance issues that require attention with employees.

~~ADOPTED: March 19, 2007~~

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### **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](http://www.iasb.com), to determine whether changes are necessary. **Issue 110, October 2022**