

Students

Student Behavior¹

The goals and objectives of this policy are to provide effective discipline practices that: (1) ensure the safety and dignity of students and staff; (2) maintain a positive, weapons-free, and drug-free learning environment; (3) keep school property and the property of others secure; (4) address the causes of a student's misbehavior and provide opportunities for all individuals involved in an incident to participate in its resolution; and (5) teach students positive behavioral skills to become independent, self-disciplined citizens in the school community and society.²

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

¹ All districts must have a policy on student discipline, including school searches and bullying prevention (105 ILCS 5/10-20.14, amended by P.A.s 103-896); re-engagement of students returning from an exclusionary discipline or an alternative school (105 ILCS 5/10-22.6(b-25), amended by P.A. 103-896); and corporal punishment (105 ILCS 5/24-24). See also 23 Ill.Admin.Code §1.280. See the Cross References for policies on searches and bullying. Each district must furnish a copy of the discipline policy to parents/guardians within 15 days after the beginning of the school year, or within 15 days after starting classes for a student who transfers into the district. 105 ILCS 5/10-20.14(a), amended by P.A.s 103-896 and 104-391. The school board must require that each school inform its pupils of the discipline policy's contents. *Id.*

School boards, along with the parent-teacher advisory committee, must annually review their pupil discipline policies, those policies' implementation, and any other factors related to the safety of their schools, students, and staff. *Id.* For more information about the parent-teacher advisory committee, see sample policy 2:150, *Committees*. The parent-teacher advisory committee, in cooperation with local law enforcement agencies, must develop, with the school board, a reciprocal reporting system. 105 ILCS 5/10-20.14(b), amended by P.A.s 103-896 and 104-430. See sample administrative procedure 7:190-AP3, *Guidelines for Reciprocal Reporting of Criminal Offenses Committed by Students*. ~~School districts are encouraged to create memoranda of understanding that define law enforcement's role in schools. See sample exhibit 7:190-E3, *Memorandum of Understanding*. In consultation with stakeholders. See also *Development of Reciprocal Reporting Systems Guidance*, developed by the Ill. State Board of Education (ISBE) in consultation with stakeholders, available at: www.isbe.net/Documents/Reciprocal-Reporting-June-2025.pdf must draft and publish guidance for development of reciprocal reporting systems by 7-1-25. *Id.*~~

~~105 ILCS 5/10-20.14(b), amended by P.A.s 103-896 and 104-430, encourages districts to create memoranda of understanding that define law enforcement's role in schools. Beginning 7-1-26, a memorandum of understanding with a local law enforcement agency is required for any district that uses a school resource officer. 105 ILCS 5/10-20.68(a-5), added by P.A. 104-430. See sample exhibit 7:190-E3, *Memorandum of Understanding*.~~

Given the unique concerns facing school officials, school disciplinary codes are not required to be drafted as narrowly or with the same precision as criminal statutes. *Bethel Sch. Dist. v. Fraser*, 478 U.S. 675 (1986).

² The goals and objectives in this policy give the board a focus for monitoring it. This list can be deleted, replaced, or modified by the board. Data on student discipline is available at: www.isbe.net/Pages/Expulsions-Suspensions-and-Truants-by-District.aspx.

See ¶n 1 in sample policy 4:170, *Safety*, for information on the U.S. School Safety Clearinghouse website at: www.schoolsafety.gov.

When and Where Conduct Rules Apply ³

A student is subject to disciplinary action for engaging in prohibited student conduct, as described in the section with that name below, whenever the student's conduct is reasonably related to school or school activities, including, but not limited to:

1. On, or within sight of, school grounds before, during, or after school hours or at any time;
2. Off school grounds at a school-sponsored activity or event, or any activity or event that bears a reasonable relationship to school;
3. Traveling to or from school or a school activity, function, or event; or
4. Anywhere, if the conduct interferes with, disrupts, or adversely affects the school environment, school operations, or an educational function, including, but not limited to, conduct that may reasonably be considered to: (a) be a threat or an attempted intimidation of a staff member; or (b) endanger the health or safety of students, staff, or school property. ⁴

Prohibited Student Conduct ⁵

The school administration is authorized to discipline students for gross disobedience or misconduct, including but not limited to:

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

³ Board policy should provide a jurisdictional statement telling students and staff the circumstances under which the district will take disciplinary action. Jurisdictional rules in board policy should generally be as broad as possible to give staff members authority to respond to unforeseen situations. Taking jurisdiction over off-campus misconduct generally survives the test of reasonableness when the misconduct has a direct nexus to the school. A countervailing interest concerns liability for off-campus student injuries, i.e., the greater the jurisdiction a district is willing to impose, the greater the scope of liability it may be assuming. Ultimately, a decision whether to discipline for off-campus misconduct requires a thorough factual inquiry to determine the degree of nexus and impact on the school. Consult the board attorney in these situations.

A U.S. Supreme Court decision and many lower court decisions address disciplining a student for off-campus misconduct. See Mahanoy Area Sch. Dist. v. B.L., 594 U.S. 180 (2021), discussed in f/n 3 of sample policy 7:240, Conduct Code for Participants in Extracurricular Activities; and J.S. v. Blue Mountain Sch. Dist., 650 F.3d 915 (3rd Cir. 2011), combined with Layshock v. Hermitage Sch. Dist., 650 F.3d 205 (3d Cir. 2011), cert. denied 565 U.S. 1156 (2012)(absent evidence that parodies of school personnel caused, or could cause, substantial disruption, school districts may not punish out-of-school expressive conduct, even if it is lewd, indecent, or offensive speech).

In contrast, the 7th Circuit Court of Appeals upheld a student's expulsion for an article in an underground newspaper titled "So You Want to be a Hacker." The article's instructions for hacking into the school's computers clearly interfered with the school's operations. Boucher v. Sch. Bd. of the Sch. Dist. of Greenfield, 134 F.3d 821 (7th Cir. 1998). See also Wisniewski v. Bd. of Educ. of the Weedsport Central Sch. Dist., 494 F.3d 34 (2nd Cir. 2007), cert. denied 552 U.S. 1296 (2008), (holding a student's transmission of an icon of a pistol with blood splattering and the words "Kill Mr. VanDer Molen" crossed the boundary of protected speech and posed a reasonably foreseeable risk that the icon would come to the attention of school authorities and materially and substantially disrupt the school).

Historically, schools have had more leeway in disciplining participants in athletics and extracurricular activities; however, the Mahanoy decision raises unresolved questions about the degree of leeway now afforded to school officials. See sample policy 7:240, Conduct Code for Participants in Extracurricular Activities at f/n 3 for further discussion.

A judge may transfer a student to another school for committing stalking or non-consensual sexual contact against another student, or for aiding and abetting such an act; the parents/guardians are responsible for transportation and other costs associated with the transfer. Stalking No Contact Order Act and the Civil No Contact Order Act, 740 ILCS 21/80 and 22/213. A school district is seldom notified when a transfer order is requested. When notified, school officials should immediately seek the board attorney's advice concerning available options.

⁴ The factual context will determine the appropriateness of taking jurisdiction. Contact the board attorney before disciplining a student for off-campus conduct. See, e.g., Doe v. Superintendent of Schs. of Stoughton, 767 N.E.2d 1054 (Mass. 2002)(suspension for off-campus commission of a felony was upheld). See f/n 3, above.

⁵ Consult the board attorney for advice on deleting or modifying any of the items in this section on prohibited student conduct.

1. Using, possessing, distributing, purchasing, or selling tobacco or nicotine materials, including without limitation, electronic cigarettes.⁶
2. Using, possessing, distributing, purchasing, or selling alcoholic beverages.⁷ Students who are under the influence of an alcoholic beverage are not permitted to attend school or school functions and are treated as though they had alcohol in their possession.
3. Using, possessing, distributing, purchasing, selling, or offering for sale:
 - a. Any illegal drug or controlled substance, or cannabis (including marijuana, hashish, and medical cannabis unless the student is authorized to be administered a medical cannabis infused product under *Ashley's Law*).⁸
 - b. Any anabolic steroid unless it is being administered in accordance with a physician's or licensed practitioner's prescription.⁹
 - c. Any performance-enhancing substance on the Illinois High School Association's most current banned substance list unless administered in accordance with a physician's or licensed practitioner's prescription.¹⁰
 - d. Any prescription drug when not prescribed for the student by a physician or licensed practitioner, or when used in a manner inconsistent with the prescription or prescribing physician's or licensed practitioner's instructions. The use or possession of medical cannabis, even by a student for whom medical cannabis has been prescribed, is prohibited

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

⁶ 105 ILCS 5/10-20.5b prohibits use of tobacco on school property. Federal law prohibits smoking within schools by anyone. Pro-Children Act of 2004, 20 U.S.C. §7971 *et seq.* Districts that fail to comply risk a civil penalty of up to \$1,000 per violation per day. 20 U.S.C. §7973(e)(1). See sample policy 8:30, *Visitors to and Conduct on School Property*, for more information.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration now regulates electronic cigarettes. 21 C.F.R. Parts 1100, 1140, and 1143. An electronic or e-cigarette resembles a regular cigarette and contains a battery-operated heating element that turns a liquid into a mist for inhaling. The liquid may contain nicotine. E-cigarettes are sometimes referred to as e-cigs, vapes, e-hookahs, vape pens, and electronic nicotine delivery systems (ENDS), and they are generally involved in *vaping*. Vaping is the act of inhaling and exhaling the aerosol, often referred to as vapor that is produced by an e-cigarette or similar device. An e-cigarette resembles a cigarette and contains a battery-operated heating element that turns a liquid into a mist for inhaling. Some e-cigarettes do not look like tobacco products and are shaped like other objects, such as USB flash drives, and are more easily concealed.

Information and resources are available at:

www.isbe.net/Pages/School-Health-Issues.aspx

www.fda.gov/tobacco-products

www.cdc.gov/tobacco/e-cigarettes/index.html

www.dph.illinois.gov/topics-services/prevention-wellness/tobacco/e-cigarettes-and-vapes

<https://nida.nih.gov/research-topics/tobacconicotine-vaping>

⁷ *Alcoholic beverages* are defined in 235 ILCS 5/1-3.01 to 3.05.

⁸ *Controlled substance* is defined in 720 ILCS 570/102(f); *cannabis* is defined in 720 ILCS 550/3(a) and in 410 ILCS 705/1-10. Either spelling, *marihuana* or *marijuana*, is correct; however, *marijuana* is more common. See f/n 11 for a discussion of medical cannabis and *Ashley's Law*.

⁹ *Anabolic steroid* is defined in 720 ILCS 570/102(c-1).

¹⁰ See sample policies 7:240, *Conduct Code for Participants in Extracurricular Activities*, and 7:300, *Extracurricular Athletics*.

unless the student is authorized to be administered a medical cannabis infused product under Ashley's Law. ¹¹

- e. Any inhalant, regardless of whether it contains an illegal drug or controlled substance: (a) that a student believes is, or represents to be capable of, causing intoxication, hallucination, excitement, or dulling of the brain or nervous system; or (b) about which the student engaged in behavior that would lead a reasonable person to believe that the student intended the inhalant to cause intoxication, hallucination, excitement, or dulling of the brain or nervous system. The prohibition in this section does not apply to a student's use of asthma or other legally prescribed inhalant medications.
- f. Any substance inhaled, injected, smoked, consumed, or otherwise ingested or absorbed with the intention of causing a physiological or psychological change in the body, including without limitation, pure caffeine in tablet or powdered form. ¹²
- g. *Look-alike* or counterfeit drugs, including a substance that is not prohibited by this policy, but one: (a) that a student believes to be, or represents to be, an illegal drug, controlled substance, or other substance that is prohibited by this policy; or (b) about which a student engaged in behavior that would lead a reasonable person to believe that the student expressly or impliedly represented to be an illegal drug, controlled substance, or other substance that is prohibited by this policy. ¹³

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

¹¹ To legally use medical cannabis, an individual must first become a *registered qualifying patient*. The use of cannabis by a *registered qualifying patient* is permitted only in accordance with the Compassionate Use of Medical Cannabis Program. 410 ILCS 130/. There are many situations in which no one, even a *registered qualifying patient*, may possess or use cannabis. This includes in a school bus or on the grounds of any preschool, or primary or secondary school unless the student meets the requirements of 105 ILCS 5/22-33, a/k/a *Ashley's Law*. 410 ILCS 130/30(a)(2) and (3). *Ashley's Law* provides that school districts "shall authorize a parent or guardian or any other individual registered with the Department of Public Health as a designated caregiver of a student who is a registered qualifying patient to administer a medical cannabis infused product to the student on the premises of the child's school or on the child's school bus if both the student (as a registered qualifying patient) and the parent or guardian or other individual (as a registered designated caregiver) have been issued registry identification cards under the Compassionate Use of Medical Cannabis Program Act." 105 ILCS 5/22-33(b). Once the product is administered, the designated caregiver must remove the product from the school premises/bus. *Id.* 105 ILCS 5/22-33(b-5) allows a properly trained school nurse or administrator to administer medical cannabis infused products to a student while at school, a school-sponsored activity, or before/after normal school activities, including while the student is in before-school or after-school care on school-operated property or while being transported on a school bus. The product may not be administered in a manner that would (in the school or district's opinion) create a disruption or expose other students to the product, and schools are not required to authorize use of the product if the school or district would lose federal funding as a result. 105 ILCS 5/22-33(c). For more information, see f/ns 22-32 in sample policy 7:270, *Administering Medicines to Students*. Contact the board attorney for advice concerning medical cannabis, including whether a federal or State law requires the district to accommodate a student who is a *registered qualifying patient*. See Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, 42 U.S.C. §12101 *et seq.*; Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004, 20 U.S.C. §1400 *et seq.*; Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Section 504, 29 U.S.C. §794; 105 ILCS 5/14-1.01 *et seq.*, 5/14-7.02, and 5/14-7.02b; and 23 Ill.Admin.Code Part 226.

¹² The Powdered Caffeine Control and Education Act states: "No person may sell, offer for sale, give away, or provide free samples of powdered pure caffeine to any person under age 18 located within the State or to any person under age 18 making the purchase from within the State." A limited exception to this prohibition exists for "the sale of any powdered pure caffeine product that receives explicit approval as safe and effective for its intended use under the federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act or is lawfully marketed under an over-the-counter monograph issued by the United States Food and Drug Administration." 410 ILCS 647/20.

¹³ *Counterfeit* and *look-alike substances* are defined in 720 ILCS 570/102(g) and (y). This provision is broader because it would apply, for example, if a student represents a powdered vitamin to be pure caffeine – pure caffeine is prohibited on campus even though it is a legal substance. Look-alike drugs should be defined; an unpublished Ill. appellate decision in 2000 found a policy prohibiting possession of *look-alikes* had vagueness problems.

- h. Drug paraphernalia, including devices that are or can be used to: (a) ingest, inhale, or inject cannabis or controlled substances into the body; and (b) grow, process, store, or conceal cannabis or controlled substances. ¹⁴

Students who are under the influence of any prohibited substance are not permitted to attend school or school functions and are treated as though they had the prohibited substance, as applicable, in their possession.

4. Using, possessing, controlling, or transferring a *weapon* as that term is defined in the **Weapons** section of this policy, or violating the **Weapons** section of this policy. ¹⁵
5. Using or possessing an electronic paging device. ¹⁶
6. Using a cellular telephone, video recording device, personal digital assistant (PDA), or other electronic device in any manner that disrupts the educational environment or violates the rights of others, including using the device to take photographs in locker rooms or bathrooms, cheat, or otherwise violate student conduct rules. Unless otherwise banned under this policy or by the Building Principal, all electronic devices must be kept powered off or silenced and out-of-sight¹⁷ during the regular school day unless: (a) the supervising teacher grants permission; (b) use of the device is provided in a student’s individualized education program (IEP) or Section 504 plan; (c) it is used during the student’s lunch period, or (d) it is needed in an emergency that threatens the safety of students, staff, or other individuals. ¹⁸
7. *Sexting*, which, for purposes of this policy, is the act of creating, sending, sharing, viewing, receiving, or possessing sexually explicit messages, images, or videos electronically, regardless of whether they are authentic or computer-generated, through the use of a computer, electronic communication device, or cellular phone. Sexting also includes creating, sending, sharing, viewing, receiving, or possessing *indecent visual depictions, non-consensual dissemination of*

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

¹⁴ *Drug paraphernalia* is defined in 720 ILCS 600/2(d), [amended by P.A. 103-336](#). Contact the board attorney for advice concerning a student who is a *registered qualifying patient*, as explained in f/n 11.

¹⁵ This language is broader than the **Weapons** section of this policy. The **Weapons** section contains the statutorily required punishment for “a student who is determined to have brought” a weapon to school along with the statutory definition of *weapon*. 105 ILCS 5/10-22.6(d). The language in item #4 is broader because it prohibits “using, possessing, controlling, or transferring” a weapon in addition to violating the **Weapons** section. See the footnotes in the **Weapons** section for a discussion of the Firearm Concealed Carry Act’s provisions.

¹⁶ 105 ILCS 5/10-21.10.

¹⁷ Delete “and out-of-sight” if the district wants to provide greater flexibility. A board should, in consultation with the superintendent and board attorney, carefully review its policy on the use of electronic devices to ensure it aligns with building-level practices and any student handbook provisions addressing student use of personal mobile devices, including, but not limited to, cell phones, smartwatches, and smart glasses.

¹⁸ State law leaves to local boards the discretion whether to prohibit student possession of cellular phones. 105 ILCS 5/10-20.28. The misuse of camera phones can seriously invade a student’s privacy. A board wanting a sweeping prohibition may use the following alternative for item #6:

Using or possessing a cellular telephone, two-way radio, video recording device, and/or other telecommunication device, unless authorized and approved by the Building Principal.

Operating transmitters designed to jam or block wireless communications violates the federal Communications Act of 1934. 47 U.S.C. §§301, 302a, and 333. Fines are as high as \$10,000 for each violation and/or imprisonment, and the device may also be seized. 47 U.S.C. §§501-510.

Making a video recording or live video transmission of another person without their consent in a restroom, locker room, or changing room is a Class 4 felony. 720 ILCS 5/26-4. A minor who distributes or disseminates an indecent visual depiction of another minor through the use of a computer or electronic communication device may be subject to adjudication as a minor in need of supervision. 705 ILCS 405/3-40.

*private sexual images, and non-consensual dissemination of sexually explicit digitized depictions, as defined in State law.*¹⁹

8. Using or possessing a laser pointer unless under a staff member's direct supervision and in the context of instruction.
9. Disobeying rules of student conduct or directives from staff members or school officials. Examples of disobeying staff directives include refusing a District staff member's request to stop, present school identification, or submit to a search.
10. Engaging in academic dishonesty, including cheating, intentionally plagiarizing, using a writing service and/or generative artificial intelligence technology in place of original work unless specifically authorized by staff,²⁰ wrongfully giving or receiving help during an academic examination, altering report cards, and wrongfully obtaining test copies or scores.
11. Engaging in hazing or any kind of bullying or aggressive behavior that does physical or psychological harm to a staff person or another student, or urging other students to engage in such conduct. Prohibited conduct specifically includes, without limitation, any use of violence, intimidation, force, noise, coercion, threats, stalking, harassment, sexual harassment, public humiliation, theft or destruction of property, retaliation, hazing, bullying, bullying using a school computer or a school computer network, or other comparable conduct.²¹

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

¹⁹ This definition of *sexting* is adapted from Merriam-Webster's definition at www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/sexting, and it incorporates offenses under State law that address the dissemination of explicit images. A district may wish to use another definition or create its own with the board attorney. See sample administrative procedure 7:190-AP6, *Guidelines for Investigating Sexting Allegations*, for definitions of the italicized terms in this paragraph and their accompanying citations. See also sample administrative procedure 7:190-AP5, *Student Handbook - Electronic Devices*.

²⁰ Optional. *Artificial intelligence (AI) is defined in State law to mean "a machine-based system that, for explicit or implicit objectives, infers, from the input it receives, how to generate outputs such as predictions, content, recommendations, or decisions that can influence physical or virtual environments" and to also include generative artificial intelligence. 105 ILCS 5/22-110, renumbered by P.A. 104-391 and incorporating by reference the definition of AI in the Digital Voice and Likeness Protection Act, 815 ILCS 550/. Generative artificial intelligence (Gen AI) is defined in State law as "an automated computing system that, when prompted with human prompts, descriptions, or queries, can produce outputs that simulate human-produced content, including, but not limited to, the following: (1) textual outputs, such as short answers, essays, poetry, or longer compositions or answers; (2) image outputs, such as fine art, photographs, conceptual art, diagrams, and other images; (3) multimedia outputs, such as audio or video in the form of compositions, songs, or short-form or long-form audio or video; and (4) other content that would be otherwise produced by human means." - 775 ILCS 5/2-101(N), added by P.A. 103-804, eff. 1-1-26*^{Id.} When not used for academic dishonesty purposes, Gen AI tools may present innovative learning opportunities for students and teaching opportunities for educators. For further information, see sample policy 6:235, *Access to Electronic Networks*, and its f/n 17, and sample administrative procedure 6:235-AP3, *Development of an Artificial Intelligence (AI) Plan and AI Responsible Use Guidelines*.

²¹ All districts must have a policy on bullying. 105 ILCS 5/27-23-722-110(d), amended by P.A. 103-47 and renumbered by P.A. 104-391. Sample policy 7:180, *Prevention of and Response to Bullying, Intimidation, and Harassment*, contains the statutory definition of bullying. Districts must also have an age-appropriate policy on sexual harassment. 105 ILCS 5/10-20.69. See sample policy 7:20, *Harassment of Students Prohibited*, and its f/n 9 for further detail.

105 ILCS 5/10-20.14(d), amended by P.A. 103-896, requires boards, in consultation with their parent-teacher advisory committees and other community-based organizations, to include provisions in their student discipline policy to address aggressive behavior, including bullying. These provisions must include procedures for notifying a student's parents/guardians about his/her aggressive behavior and early intervention procedures based upon available community-based and district resources. See sample exhibit 7:190-E1, *Aggressive Behavior Reporting Letter and Form*. ~~In consultation with stakeholders~~ *Guidance for Evidence-Based Intervention Procedures, developed by ISBE in consultation with stakeholders, is available at: www.isbe.net/Documents/Evidence-Based-Intervention-June-2025.pdf ~~must draft and publish guidance for evidence-based intervention procedures, including examples, by 7-1-25.~~ ^{Id.} *Evidence-based intervention* means an intervention that has demonstrated a statistically significant effect on improving student outcomes, documented in a peer-reviewed scholarly journal. ^{Id.}*

12. Engaging in any sexual activity, including without limitation, offensive touching, sexual harassment, indecent exposure (including mooning), and sexual assault. This does not include the non-disruptive: (a) expression of gender or sexual orientation or preference, or (b) display of affection during non-instructional time.
13. Teen dating violence, as described in Board policy 7:185, *Teen Dating Violence Prohibited*.²²
14. Causing or attempting to cause damage to, or stealing or attempting to steal, school property or another person's personal property.²³
15. Entering school property or a school facility without proper authorization.
16. In the absence of a reasonable belief that an emergency exists, calling emergency responders (such as calling 911); signaling or setting off alarms or signals indicating the presence of an emergency; or indicating the presence of a bomb or explosive device on school grounds, school bus, or at any school activity.
17. Being absent without a recognized excuse; State law and School Board policy regarding truancy control will be used with chronic and habitual truants.²⁴
18. Being involved with any public school fraternity, sorority, or secret society, by: (a) being a member; (b) promising to join; (c) pledging to become a member; or (d) soliciting any other person to join, promise to join, or be pledged to become a member.²⁵
19. Being involved in gangs or gang-related activities, including displaying gang symbols or paraphernalia.²⁶

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

Suspending students for hazing was upheld in Gendelman v. Glenbrook North High Sch. and Northfield Twp. Sch. Dist. 225, 2003 WL 21209880 (N.D.Ill. 2003). This decision may have been legislatively overturned by amending 105 ILCS 5/10-20.14.

The failure of a school official (including any administrator, teacher, counselor, support staff, or coach) to report hazing is a Class B misdemeanor. 720 ILCS 5/12C-50.1.

A person commits a felony hate crime when, by reason of the actual or perceived race, color, creed, religion, ancestry, gender, sexual orientation, physical or mental disability, or national origin of another individual or group of individuals, regardless of the existence of any other motivating factor or factors, he or she commits assault, battery, aggravated assault, intimidation, stalking, cyberstalking, misdemeanor theft, criminal trespass to residence, misdemeanor criminal damage to property, criminal trespass to vehicle, criminal trespass to real property, mob action, disorderly conduct, transmission of obscene message, harassment by telephone, or harassment through electronic communications as these crimes are defined in the Criminal Code. 720 ILCS 5/12-7.1. The penalty is heightened when the offense is committed in a school or administrative facility.

720 ILCS 5/26-1(a)(3.5) and (b) make transmitting a threat of violence, death, or bodily harm directed against persons at a school, school function, or school event, whether or not school is in session, or causing such a threat to be transmitted, a Class 4 felony.

²² All school boards must have a policy on prohibited teen dating violence. 105 ILCS ~~110/3-105/27-240~~, renumbered by P.A. 104-391. Verify that the board adopted the policy listed and amend its title in this policy, if necessary.

²³ 720 ILCS 5/26-1(a)(3.5) and (b) make threatening to destroy a school building or school property, whether or not school is in session, or causing such a threat to be transmitted, a Class 4 felony.

²⁴ 105 ILCS 5/26-2a; 5/26-9; and 5/26-12. School personnel cannot refer a truant, chronic truant, or truant minor to any other local public entity, school resource officer, or peace officer to have them issue a fine or fee as punishment for truancy. 105 ILCS 5/26-12(b), amended by P.A. 104-430. See sample policies 6:110, *Programs for Students At Risk of Academic Failure and/or Dropping Out of School and Graduation Incentives Program*, and 7:70, *Attendance and Truancy*.

²⁵ State law requires schools to suspend or expel any student who engages in this activity. 105 ILCS 5/31-3.

²⁶ See Kelly v. Bd. of Educ. of McHenry Cmty. High Sch. Dist. 156, 2007 WL 114300 (N.D.Ill. 2007) (upheld student's expulsion for drawing gang symbols while at school; testimony that the danger posed by gang signs and the presence of gangs at school supported the board's insistence on strict enforcement of board policy prohibiting gang related behavior and made expulsion a proper remedy).

740 ILCS 147/15 et seq. allows a school district to bring a civil suit against a gang, gang officers, or gang members for losses it suffers due to their criminal activity.

20. Violating any criminal law, including but not limited to, assault, battery, arson, theft, gambling, eavesdropping, vandalism, and hazing.
21. Making an explicit threat on an Internet website against a school employee, a student, or any school-related personnel if the Internet website through which the threat was made is a site that was accessible within the school at the time the threat was made or was available to third parties who worked or studied within the school grounds at the time the threat was made, and the threat could be reasonably interpreted as threatening to the safety and security of the threatened individual because of his or her duties or employment status or status as a student inside the school. ²⁷
22. Operating an unmanned aircraft system (UAS) or drone for any purpose on school grounds or at any school event unless granted permission by the Superintendent or designee. ²⁸
23. Engaging in any activity, on or off campus, that interferes with, disrupts, or adversely affects the school environment, school operations, or an educational function, including but not limited to, conduct that may reasonably be considered to: (a) be a threat or an attempted intimidation of a staff member; or (b) endanger the health or safety of students, staff, or school property. ²⁹

For purposes of this policy, the term possession includes having control, custody, or care, currently or in the past, of an object or substance, including situations in which the item is: (a) on the student's person; (b) contained in another item belonging to, or under the control of, the student, such as in the student's clothing, backpack, or automobile; (c) in a school's student locker, desk, or other school property; or (d) at any location on school property or at a school-sponsored event. ³⁰

Efforts, including the use of positive interventions and supports, shall be made to deter students, while at school or a school-related event, from engaging in aggressive behavior that may reasonably produce physical or psychological harm to someone else. The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that the parent/guardian of a student who engages in aggressive behavior is notified of the incident.³¹ The failure to provide such notification does not limit the Board's authority to impose discipline, including suspension or expulsion, for such behavior.

No disciplinary action shall be taken against any student that is based totally or in part on the refusal of the student's parent/guardian to administer or consent to the administration of psychotropic or psychostimulant medication to the student. ³²

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

²⁷ This statement of misconduct restates 105 ILCS 5/10-22.6(d-5). The following alternative provides a shorter statement but will require the administrator to check the statute before imposing discipline based on it:

Making an explicit threat on an Internet website against a school, employee, or any school-related personnel under circumstances described in 105 ILCS 5/10-22.6(d-5).

²⁸ For more information regarding unmanned aircraft systems, see www.faa.gov/uas.

²⁹ A catchall provision, e.g., this one, gives staff members authority to respond to unforeseen situations.

If the board adopts a mandatory uniform policy (see sample policy 7:165, *School Uniforms*), add the following item to the list as number 22: "Failing to comply with the mandatory uniform policy, but only after repeated attempts to secure compliance, such as conferences with parents/guardians, have been unsuccessful."

³⁰ Possession should be defined to avoid vagueness problems.

³¹ See f/n 210.

³² Mandated by 105 ILCS 5/10-20.36.

Disciplinary Measures ³³

School officials shall limit the number and duration of expulsions and out-of-school suspensions to the greatest extent practicable, and, where practicable and reasonable, shall consider forms of non-exclusionary discipline before using out-of-school suspensions or expulsions.³⁴ School personnel shall not advise or encourage students to drop out voluntarily due to behavioral or academic difficulties.³⁵ Potential disciplinary measures include, without limitation, any of the following: ³⁶

1. Notifying parent(s)/guardian(s).
2. Disciplinary conference.
3. Withholding of privileges.
4. Temporary removal from the classroom.
5. Return of property or restitution for lost, stolen, or damaged property. ³⁷

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

³³ **IMPORTANT:** [A student cannot be issued a monetary fine, fee, ticket, or citation as a school-based disciplinary consequence or for a municipal code violation on school grounds during school hours or while taking school transportation by any person. 105 ILCS 5/10-22.6\(i\), amended by P.A. 104-430.](#)

The practice of suspending or expelling a student based on the number of accumulated disciplinary infractions is illegal under 105 ILCS 5/10-22.6. This includes a system of assigning points to specific infractions and then tallying the points a student receives over a period of time to determine a disciplinary exclusion from school.

Before amendments to 105 ILCS 5/10-22.6, courts used the following factors to determine if a board abused its discretion when it expelled a student: (1) the egregiousness of the student's conduct; (2) the record of the student's past conduct; (3) the likelihood that such conduct will affect the delivery of educational services to other students; (4) the severity of the punishment; and (5) the intent of the child. [Robinson v. Oak Park](#), 213 Ill.App.3d 77 (1st Dist. 1991); [Wilson ex rel. Geiger v. Hinsdale Elementary Dist.](#), 349 Ill.App.3d 243 (2nd Dist. 2004). The amendments to 105 ILCS 5/10-22.6 called into question the validity of relying on past misconduct in suspension or expulsion decisions. At least one Ill. appellate court has held that the [Robinson](#) factors no longer apply because the legislature incorporated specific criteria for expulsion directly into 105 ILCS 5/10-22.6 when it amended the statute. [A.A. v. Bd. of Educ. Summit Sch. Dist. No. 104](#), 257 N.E.3d 617 (Ill. App. Ct. 1st Dist. 2024) [2024 IL App \(1st\) 232451](#). **Consult the board attorney for guidance.**

Aside from procedural due process protection, students have a constitutional substantive due process right. This right protects them from an abuse of government power which "shocks the conscience." While the scope of substantive due process is very limited, it is available to students who believe they were subject to arbitrary and excessive discipline. Generally, however, school officials need not fear being found guilty of a substantive due process violation. Federal courts are loath to second-guess school officials. See [Tun v. Whitticker](#), 398 F.3d 899 (7th Cir. 2005) (expulsion did not amount to a substantive due process violation because it fell short of the required *shocks the conscience* standard).

³⁴ 105 ILCS 5/10-22.6(b-5). In addition, subsection c-5 states, "[s]chool districts must make reasonable efforts to provide ongoing professional development to all school personnel, school board members, and school resource officers on the requirements of [105 ILCS 5/10-20.14], the adverse consequences of school exclusion and justice-system involvement, effective classroom management strategies, culturally responsive discipline, trauma-responsive learning environments, as defined in [105 ILCS 5/3-11(b)], the appropriate and available supportive services for the promotion of student attendance and engagement, and developmentally appropriate disciplinary methods that promote positive and healthy school climates." 105 ILCS 5/10-22.6(c-5), amended by P.A. 103-896.

³⁵ 105 ILCS 5/10-22.6(h).

³⁶ Most school attorneys advise against using a grade reduction as a disciplinary measure. A decision upholding such a policy is [Knight v. Bd. of Educ.](#), 38 Ill.App.3d 603 (4th Dist. 1976). A decision striking one is [Smith v. Sch. City of Hobart](#), 811 F.Supp. 391 (N.D.Ind. 1993) (grade reduction policy requiring 9-week grades to be reduced 4% for each day of a suspension was found unconstitutional).

³⁷ While restitution is permitted, issuing a fine or fee as a disciplinary consequence is not permitted. 105 ILCS 5/10-22.6(i). Possible parental liability for damages under the Parental Responsibility Law (740 ILCS 115/5) is discussed in f/n 2 in sample policy 7:170, *Vandalism*.

6. In-school suspension. The Building Principal or designee shall ensure that the student is properly supervised. ³⁸
7. After-school study or Saturday study³⁹ provided the student’s parent/guardian has been notified. If transportation arrangements cannot be agreed upon, an alternative disciplinary measure must be used. The student must be supervised by the detaining teacher or the Building Principal or designee.
8. Community service with local public and nonprofit agencies that enhances community efforts to meet human, educational, environmental, or public safety needs.⁴⁰ The District will not provide transportation. School administration shall use this option only as an alternative to another disciplinary measure, giving the student and/or parent/guardian the choice.
9. Seizure of contraband; confiscation and temporary retention of personal property that was used to violate this policy or school disciplinary rules. ⁴¹
10. Suspension of bus riding privileges in accordance with Board policy 7:220, *Bus Conduct*. ⁴²
11. Out-of-school suspension from school and all school activities in accordance with Board policy 7:200, *Suspension Procedures*.⁴³ A student who has been suspended may also be restricted from being on school grounds and at school activities. ⁴⁴
12. Expulsion from school and all school activities for a definite time period not to exceed two calendar years in accordance with Board policy 7:210, *Expulsion Procedures*.⁴⁵ A student who has been expelled may also be restricted from being on school grounds and at school activities.⁴⁶

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

³⁸ An in-school suspension program may focus on promoting non-violent conflict resolution and positive interaction with other students and school personnel, and districts may employ a school social worker or a licensed mental health professional to oversee in-school suspension programs. 105 ILCS 5/10-22.6(l). Providing programming during in-school suspensions is not required, however providing such programming will help distinguish them from exclusionary suspensions. See f/n 4 in sample policy 5:230, *Maintaining Student Discipline*, for further discussion of in-school suspension programs.

³⁹ Teachers may not be required to teach on Saturdays. 105 ILCS 5/24-2.

⁴⁰ See *Herndon v. Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Bd.*, 89 F.3d 174 (4th Cir. 1996) (upheld policy requiring students to complete community service in order to graduate).

⁴¹ Consult the board attorney for advice concerning confiscated devices. There is no binding Ill. court decision regarding school personnel seizing and retaining a student’s property. The Supreme Court of Arkansas held that a teacher and principal did not violate a student’s state or federal rights when they confiscated and retained a student’s cell phone for two weeks for violating school rules on cell phones. *Koch v. Adams*, 361 S.W.3d 817 (Ark. 2010).

⁴² 105 ILCS 5/10-22.6(b) and (b-30). [School Bus Safety Guidance, developed by ISBE in consultation with stakeholders, is available at: www.isbe.net/Documents/Bus-Safety-Guidance-June-2025.pdf.](http://www.isbe.net/Documents/Bus-Safety-Guidance-June-2025.pdf)

⁴³ A suspension may be imposed in only limited situations that vary according to the suspension’s length. 105 ILCS 5/10-22.6(b-15)-(b-25). This is explained in sample board policy 7:200, *Suspension Procedures*, and its footnotes.

⁴⁴ This sentence is optional. A board may make this mandatory by replacing “may also be” with “shall also be.”

⁴⁵ An expulsion may be imposed in only limited situations. 105 ILCS 5/10-22.6(b-20). This is explained in sample policy 7:210, *Expulsion Procedures*, and its footnotes.

105 ILCS 5/10-22.6(d) permits expulsion for a definite period of time not to exceed two calendar years. School officials must document whether other interventions were attempted or whether it was determined that there were no other appropriate and available interventions.

⁴⁶ This sentence is optional. A board may make this mandatory by replacing “may also be” with “shall also be.”

13. Transfer to an alternative program if the student is expelled or otherwise qualifies for the transfer under State law. The transfer shall be in the manner provided in Article 13A or 13B of the School Code. ⁴⁷
14. Notifying juvenile authorities or other law enforcement whenever the conduct involves criminal activity, including but not limited to, illegal drugs (controlled substances), look-alikes, alcohol, or weapons or in other circumstances as authorized by the reciprocal reporting agreement between the District and local law enforcement agencies. ⁴⁸

The above list of disciplinary measures is a range of options that will not always be applicable in every case. In some circumstances, it may not be possible to avoid suspending or expelling a student because behavioral interventions, other than a suspension and expulsion, will not be appropriate and available, and the only reasonable and practical way to resolve the threat and/or address the disruption is a suspension or expulsion. ⁴⁹

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

⁴⁷ 105 ILCS 5/10-22.6(a) and (b), amended by P.A. 103-896. 105 ILCS 5/13A, amended by P.A. 103-473, a/k/a *Safe Schools Law*, governs the transfer of *disruptive students*, defined to include suspension- or expulsion-eligible students in grades 6-12, to an alternative school program. See sample administrative procedure 7:190-AP9, *Administrative Transfer to Regional Safe School Program*, and the ISBE regional safe schools program webpage at: www.isbe.net/Pages/Regional-Safe-Schools-Program.aspx. 105 ILCS 5/13B governs the transfer of students to an alternative learning opportunities program. See ISBE's alternative learning opportunities program webpage at: www.isbe.net/Pages/Special-Education-Alternative-Learning-Opportunities-Programs.aspx.

Contact the board attorney regarding the necessary due process procedures before imposing a disciplinary transfer to an alternative school. The court in *Leak v. Rich Twp. High Sch. Dist.* 227 (397 Ill.Dec. 90 (1st Dist. 2015)), held that placement in an alternative school is tantamount to an expulsion. Thus, according to dicta in this decision, districts must follow expulsion procedures before a student is transferred to an alternative school. Schools may still reach agreements with parents/guardians to transfer students to such schools without completing the expulsion procedures.

The alternative program may not deny the transfer on the basis of the suspension or expulsion, except in cases in which the transfer is deemed to cause a threat to the safety of students or staff in the alternative program.

⁴⁸ 105 ILCS 5/22-88. See sample policy 7:150, *Agency and Law Enforcement Requests/Police Interviews*.

⁴⁹ **Note:** Districts that receive early childhood block grant funding (authorized by 105 ILCS 5/1C-2, amended by P.A. 103-594, of the School Code) are prohibited from expelling children from their early childhood programs. 105 ILCS 5/2-3.71(a)(7), amended by P.A. 103-594 (making it inoperative on 7-1-26), and 105 ILCS 5/10-22.6(k). On and after 7-1-26, the Dept. of Early Childhood Act, 325 ILCS 3/15-30(a)(7), added by P.A. 103-594, will prohibit expulsion of children enrolled in early childhood programs funded under 325 ILCS 3/1-10). A district may, however, transition a child to a new program if: (1) it has documented evidence that all available interventions and supports recommended by a qualified professional have been exhausted; (2) the program determines that transitioning a child is necessary for the well-being of the child or his or her peers and staff; and (3) the current and pending programs create a transition plan for the child with parent or legal guardian permission. 105 ILCS 5/2-3.71(a)(7)(C) (inoperative on 7-1-26); 325 ILCS 3/15-30(a)(7)(C) on and after 7-1-26. A district may temporarily remove a child from attendance in the group setting in the case of a serious safety threat to a child or others, or in the case of possession of a weapon as described in 105 ILCS 5/10-22.6(d), but it must then begin the process of documenting interventions and supports as outlined in the law. 105 ILCS 5/2-3.71(a)(7)(E) (inoperative on 7-1-26); 325 ILCS 3/15-30(a)(7) on and after 7-1-26. ISBE rules implementing these requirements are at 23 Ill.Admin.Code §§ 235.300-235.340. For guidance on behavior support and transition plans, including links to ISBE Form 37-50A, *Early Childhood Block Grant (ECBG) Program Transition Plan*, and ISBE Form 37-50B, *Early Childhood Block Grant (ECBG) Behavior Support Plan*, see ISBE's *Frequently Asked Questions: Behavior Support and Program Transition* (~~March 2021~~ November 2024) at: www.isbe.net/Documents/EC-FAQ-Behavior-Transition-Plan.pdf. **Consult the board attorney for advice to ensure compliance with ISBE rules.** Compliance with this law does not relieve a district of its obligations to also comply with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004 when disciplining students with disabilities. For further information, see sample policy 7:230, *Misconduct by Students with Disabilities*. For districts that receive early childhood block grant funding, add the following:

Students enrolled in the District's State-funded preschool program(s) may be temporarily removed or transitioned to a new program in accordance with federal and State law. State law prohibits the expulsion of students from the program(s).

If this language is inserted, add 105 ILCS 5/2-3.71(a)(7) to the Legal References for this policy.

Corporal punishment is prohibited in all circumstances. *Corporal punishment* is defined as a discipline method in which a person deliberately inflicts pain upon a student in response to the student's unacceptable behavior or inappropriate language, with an aim to halt an offense, prevent its recurrence, or set an example for others.⁵⁰ It includes slapping, paddling, or prolonged maintenance of students in physically painful positions, or intentional infliction of bodily harm. Corporal punishment does not include reasonable force as permitted by 105 ILCS 5/10-20.33.⁵¹

Isolated Time Out, Time Out, and Physical Restraint⁵²

Neither isolated time out, time out, nor physical restraint shall be used to discipline or punish a student. These methods are only authorized for use as permitted in 105 ILCS 5/10-20.33, Ill. State Board of Education (ISBE) rules (23 Ill.Admin.Code §§ 1.280, 1.285), and the District's procedure(s).

Weapons⁵³

A student who is determined to have brought one of the following objects to school, any school-sponsored activity or event, or any activity or event that bears a reasonable relationship to school shall be expelled for a period of at least one calendar year but not more than two calendar years:

1. A *firearm*, meaning any gun, rifle, shotgun, or weapon as defined by Section 921 of Title 18 of the United States Code (18 U.S.C. § 921), ~~firearm as defined in Section 1.1 of the Firearm~~

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

⁵⁰ 105 ILCS 5/22-100, added by P.A. 103-806.

⁵¹ The last two sentences of this paragraph paraphrase 105 ILCS 5/24-24, amended by P.A. 103-806.

⁵² *Physical restraint* or *restraint* does not include momentary periods of physical restriction by direct person to person contact, without the aid of material or mechanical devices, that are accomplished with limited force and that are designed to prevent a student from completing an act that would result in potential physical harm to himself, herself, or another or damage to property. 105 ILCS 5/10-20.33(b). Isolated time out, time out, or physical restraint may be used by staff members **only** if their use is authorized by policy and administrative procedure. 105 ILCS 5/2-3.130 and 5/10-20.33; 105 ILCS 5/24-24; 23 Ill.Admin.Code §§1.280(c) and 1.285. See sample administrative procedure 7:190-AP4, *Use of Isolated Time Out, Time Out, and Physical Restraint*. **The sample policy allows the use of isolated time out, time out, and physical restraint pursuant only to the conditions allowed in the School Code and ISBE rules.** State statute and ISBE rules contain complex restrictions on the use of isolated time out, time out, and physical restraint. 105 ILCS 5/2-3.130 and 5/10-20.33; 105 ILCS 5/24-24; 23 Ill.Admin.Code §§1.280(c) and 1.285. According to the ISBE rule, isolated time out, time out, and physical restraints are allowed only if a board authorizes their use in a policy containing the numerous components identified in the rule. To comply with ISBE's rule, a board must also incorporate by reference the district's procedure, i.e., 7:190-AP4, *Use of Isolated Time Out, Time Out, and Physical Restraint*. By doing this, the policy includes the district's procedure. **For a board that wants to prohibit the use of isolated time out, time out, and physical restraint** (1) replace the contents of this subhead with "The district prohibits the use of isolated time out, time out, and physical restraint, as defined in 105 ILCS 5/10-20.33."; (2) amend the Legal References as follows "23 Ill.Admin.Code §§~~1.280, 1.285,~~" and (3) delete "Incorporated by Reference: 7:190-AP4 (Use of Isolated Time Out, Time Out, and Physical Restraint)."

⁵³ This section paraphrases 105 ILCS 5/10-22.6(d) and contains the statutorily required punishment for bringing a weapon to school along with the statutory definition of *weapon*. When preparing for a due process hearing, a principal needs to use the applicable State and federal law definitions of *firearm* – not just the School Code.

While subsection 105 ILCS 5/10-22.6(b-10) explicitly forbids zero tolerance policies, it provides an exception for those zero tolerance policies established by State or federal law, which includes weapons in school. Section 10-22.6(d) provides that a student who brings a weapon to school, as defined in the section, "shall be expelled for a period not less than one year," unless modified by the superintendent or board. The federal Gun-Free Schools Act (20 U.S.C. §7961 *et seq.*) provides for at least a one-year expulsion for students who bring firearms to school. As directed by 20 U.S.C. §7961(b)(1), 105 ILCS 5/10-22.6(d), the superintendent and the board may modify that consequence; however, the superintendent/board may decline to exercise that discretion and instead impose the maximum penalty authorized by law. Analyzing the student's circumstances on a case-by-case basis may avoid a judicial finding that an expulsion is too severe. See *Washington v. Smith*, 248 Ill.App.3d 534 (1st Dist. 1993).

Item #4 in the **Prohibited Student Conduct** section is broader because it prohibits "using, possessing, controlling, or transferring" a weapon in addition to violating the **Weapons** section.

Owners Identification Card Act (430 ILCS 65/), or firearm as defined in Section 24-1 of the Criminal Code of 2012 (720 ILCS 5/24-1).

2. A knife, brass knuckles, or other knuckle weapon regardless of its composition, a billy club, or any other object if used or attempted to be used to cause bodily harm, including *look-alikes* of any *firearm* as defined above.

The expulsion requirement under either paragraph one or two above may be modified by the Superintendent, and the Superintendent's determination may be modified by the Board on a case-by-case basis. The Superintendent or designee may grant an exception to this policy, upon the prior request of an adult supervisor, for students in theatre, cooking, ROTC, martial arts, and similar programs, whether or not school-sponsored, provided the item is not equipped, nor intended, to do bodily harm.⁵⁴

This policy's prohibitions concerning weapons apply regardless of whether: (1) a student is licensed to carry a concealed firearm, or (2) the Board permits visitors, who are licensed to carry a concealed firearm, to store a firearm in a locked vehicle in a school parking area. ⁵⁵

Re-Engagement of Returning Students ⁵⁶

The Superintendent or designee shall maintain a process to facilitate the re-engagement of students who are returning from an out-of-school suspension, expulsion, or an alternative school setting. The goal of re-engagement shall be to support the student's ability to be successful in school following a period of exclusionary discipline and shall include the opportunity for students who have been suspended to complete or make up work for equivalent academic credit. ⁵⁷

Required Notices

A school staff member shall immediately notify the office of the Building Principal in the event that he or she: (1) observes any person in possession of a firearm on ~~or around~~ school grounds, becomes aware of any person in possession of a firearm on school grounds, or becomes aware of any threat of gun violence on school grounds; however, such action may be delayed if immediate notice would endanger students under his or her supervision, (2) observes or has reason to suspect that any person on school grounds is or was involved in a drug-related incident, or (3) observes a battery committed against any

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

⁵⁴ Optional.

⁵⁵ The Firearm Concealed Carry Act permits a properly licensed individual to carry a concealed firearm within a vehicle into a school parking area and store it in a locked vehicle out of plain view. 430 ILCS 66/65(b). The federal Gun-Free Schools Act has a similar provision. 20 U.S.C. §7961(g). The School Code, however, contains no similar exception to the ban on firearms at schools. Contact the board attorney before permitting students to store their firearms in their vehicle's trunk while parked at school.

⁵⁶ Required by 105 ILCS 5/10-22.6(b-25), amended by P.A. 103-896. See sample administrative procedure 7:190-AP8, *Student Re-Engagement Guidelines*. ~~In consultation with stakeholders~~Guidance for Re-Engagement, developed by ISBE in consultation with stakeholders, is available at: www.isbe.net/Documents/Re-Engagement-Guidance-June-2025.pdf~~must draft and publish guidance for the re-engagement of students who are suspended out of school, expelled, or returning from an alternative school setting by 7-1-25. Id.~~

⁵⁷ A goal for re-engagement is optional. Schools must permit students who were suspended, including students suspended from the school bus who do not have alternate transportation to school, to makeup work for equivalent academic credit. 105 ILCS 5/10-22.6(b-30).

staff member or is subject to a battery.⁵⁸ *School grounds* includes modes of transportation to school activities and any public way within 1000 feet of the school, as well as school property itself.

Upon receiving a report of (1), above, the Building Principal or designee shall immediately notify local law enforcement. If the report of (1), above, pertains to a threat of firearm violence made by a student, the Building Principal or designee shall attempt to notify the student's parent/guardian as soon as possible and shall further attempt to contact the parent/guardian to ensure that the student does not have access to a firearm. In addition, upon receiving a report on any of the above (1)-(3), the Building Principal or designee shall notify the Superintendent or designee and any involved student's parent/guardian.⁵⁹

Upon receiving a report on any of the above (1)-(3), the Superintendent or designee shall immediately notify local law enforcement. The Superintendent or designee shall also report these incidents to ISBE through its web-based School Incident Reporting System as they occur during the year and no later than July 31 for the preceding school year.⁶⁰

Delegation of Authority

Each teacher, and any other school personnel when students are under his or her charge, is authorized to impose any disciplinary measure, other than suspension, expulsion, corporal punishment, or in-school suspension, that is appropriate and in accordance with the policies and rules on student discipline. Teachers, other licensed educational employees, and any other persons (whether or not a licensed employee) providing a related service for or with respect to a student, may only use reasonable force as permitted by 105 ILCS 5/10-20.33. Teachers may temporarily remove students from a classroom for disruptive behavior.⁶¹

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

⁵⁸ 105 ILCS 5/10-27.1A(a), amended by P.A. 104-174; 105 ILCS 5/10-27.1B, amended by P.A.s 103-609 (first to pass both houses) and 103-780 (second to pass both houses and controlling); and 105 ILCS 5/10-21.7. *School grounds* includes the real property comprising any school, any conveyance used to transport students to school or a school-related activity, and any public way within 1,000 feet of any school ground.

⁵⁹ Id. State law imposes the duty to report firearm possession only on school officials; this duty may be also imposed on volunteers and community members. Only staff members, however, are vulnerable to committing a petty offense for their failure to report, and only staff members are protected from civil or criminal liability that might arise as a result of making a report (although the liability potential for anyone making a report is remote).

The building principal must notify the student's parent/guardian only when the alleged offense is firearm possession by a student or a threat of firearm violence by a student. 105 ILCS 5/10-27.1A(b), amended by P.A. 104-174. The policy expands this notification duty to include drug-related incidents and battery of a staff member; a board disinclined to do this should amend the second sentence as follows:

In addition, upon receiving a report on any of the above (1)-(3), the Building Principal or designee shall notify the Superintendent or designee and, if a student is reportedly in possession of a firearm or threatens firearm violence, also any involved student's parent/guardian.

⁶⁰ 105 ILCS 5/10-27.1A, amended by P.A.s 103-34, 103-609 (first to pass both houses), ~~and~~ 103-780 (second to pass both houses and controlling), and 104-174; 105 ILCS 5/10-27.1B, amended by P.A.s 103-609 (first to pass both houses) and 103-780 (second to pass both houses and controlling); and 105 ILCS 5/10-21.7. See f/n 6 and subhead **J. Required Notices** of sample administrative procedure 4:170-AP1, *Comprehensive Safety and Security Plan*. Reporting on SIRS does not satisfy the requirement to report incidents to local law enforcement authorities.

⁶¹ 105 ILCS 5/24-24, amended by P.A. 103-806, requires: (1) teachers, other licensed educational employees, and any other person (whether or not a licensed employee) providing a related service for or with respect to a student (except for individuals employed as paraprofessionals) to maintain discipline, and (2) the district to have a policy on discipline that provides that:

The Superintendent, Building Principal, Assistant Building Principal, or Dean of Students is authorized to impose the same disciplinary measures as teachers and may suspend students guilty of gross disobedience or misconduct from school (including all school functions) and from riding the school bus, up to 10 consecutive school days, provided the appropriate procedures are followed.⁶² The Board may suspend a student from riding the bus in excess of 10 school days for safety reasons. ⁶³

Student Handbook ⁶⁴

The Superintendent, with input from the parent-teacher advisory committee,⁶⁵ shall prepare disciplinary rules implementing the District's disciplinary policies. These disciplinary rules shall be presented annually to the Board for its review and approval.

A student handbook, including the District disciplinary policies and rules, shall be distributed to the students' parents/guardians within 15 days of the beginning of the school year or a student's enrollment.

Incorporated

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

[A] teacher, other licensed employee, and any other person, whether or not a licensed employee, providing a related service for or with respect to a student may only use reasonable force as permitted under [105 ILCS 5/10-20.33], shall provide that a teacher may remove a student from the classroom for disruptive behavior, and shall include provisions which provide due process to students. The policy shall prohibit the use of corporal punishment, as defined in [105 ILCS 5/22-100], in all circumstances. 105 ILCS 5/24-24, amended by P.A. 103-806.

⁶² Required by 105 ILCS 5/10-22.6(b).

⁶³ Id.

⁶⁴ 105 ILCS 5/10-20.14(a), amended by P.A. 104-391, requires schools to provide a copy of the student discipline policy to parents/guardians within 15 days after the beginning of the school year, or within 15 days after a transfer student starts classes, but it does not specify how to provide copies. For ease of administration, this policy specifies that copies will be provided via student handbooks.

⁶⁵ The board must establish and maintain a parent-teacher advisory committee to develop guidelines on student discipline. See sample policy 2:150, *Committees*. This policy's dissemination requirements are from 105 ILCS 5/10-20.14.

A comprehensive student handbook can provide notice of the school's conduct rules, extracurricular and athletic participation requirements, and other important information. The handbook can be developed by the building principal, but should be reviewed and approved by the superintendent and board. The Illinois Principals Association maintains a handbook service that coordinates with **PRESS** material, *Online Model Student Handbook (MSH)*, at: www.ilprincipals.org/msh/.

by Reference: 7:190-AP4 (Use of Isolated Time Out, Time Out, and Physical Restraint)

LEGAL REF.: 20 U.S.C. §7971 et seq., Pro-Children Act of 2004.
20 U.S.C. §7961 et seq., Gun Free Schools Act.
105 ILCS 5/10-20.5b, 5/10-20.14, 5/10-20.28, 5/10-20.36, 5/10-21.7, 5/10-21.10,
5/10-22.6, 5/10-27.1A, 5/10-27.1B, 5/22-33, 5/22-100, [5/22-110](#), 5/24-24, 5/26-
12, [5/27-24027-23.7](#), and 5/31-3.
[105 ILCS 110/3.10, Critical Health Problems and Comprehensive Health Education Act.](#)
410 ILCS 130/, Compassionate Use of Medical Cannabis Pilot Program.
410 ILCS 647/, Powdered Caffeine Control and Education Act.
430 ILCS 66/, Firearm Concealed Carry Act.
23 Ill.Admin.Code §§ 1.280, 1.285.

CROSS REF.: 2:150 (Committees), 2:240 (Board Policy Development), 5:230 (Maintaining Student Discipline), 6:110 (Programs for Students At Risk of Academic Failure and/or Dropping Out of School and Graduation Incentives Program), 7:70 (Attendance and Truancy), 7:130 (Student Rights and Responsibilities), 7:140 (Search and Seizure), 7:150 (Agency and [Law Enforcement Requests/Police Interviews](#)), 7:160 (Student Appearance), 7:170 (Vandalism), 7:180 (Prevention of and Response to Bullying, Intimidation, and Harassment), 7:185 (Teen Dating Violence Prohibited), 7:200 (Suspension Procedures), 7:210 (Expulsion Procedures), 7:220 (Bus Conduct), 7:230 (Misconduct by Students with Disabilities), 7:240 (Conduct Code for Participants in Extracurricular Activities), 7:270 (Administering Medicines to Students), 7:310 (Restrictions on Publications; Elementary Schools), 7:315 (Restrictions on Publications; High Schools), 8:30 (Visitors to and Conduct on School Property)

DRAFT