

Students

Student Discipline 1

Prohibited Student Conduct 2

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

1. Using, possessing, distributing, purchasing, or selling tobacco or tobacco products, or any alternative nicotine product (e.g., electronic cigarettes), or any cartridge or component of an alternative nicotine product. ³
2. Using, possessing, distributing, purchasing, or selling alcoholic beverages. ⁴ 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, or selling:
 - a. Any illegal drug or controlled substance, or cannabis (including medical cannabis, marijuana, and hashish). ⁵
 - b. Any anabolic steroid unless being administered in accordance with a physician's or licensed practitioner's prescription. ⁶
 - 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.~~ ⁷[N/A] Any prescription drug when not prescribed for

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¹ All districts must have a policy on student discipline, including corporal punishment (105 ILCS 5/10-20.14; 23 Ill.Admin.Code §1.280). Teachers and other certificated employees must maintain discipline (105 ILCS 5/24-24). Staff members may *not* use isolated time out or physical restraint unless their use is authorized by policy and administrative procedure (105 ILCS 5/2-3.130, 5/10-20.33, and 5/24-24; 23 Ill.Admin.Code §1.280(c) and 1.285). See f/n 36 and 7:190-AP4, *Use of Isolated Time Out and Physical Restraint*. Given the unique concerns facing school officials, school disciplinary codes are not required to be drafted as narrowly or with the same precisions as criminal statutes. Bethel School Dist. v. Fraser, 106 S.Ct. 3159 (1986).

² Boards for elementary districts may customize the items listed as *prohibited student conduct* that clearly will not apply to their students.

³ 105 ILCS 5/10-20.5b prohibits use of tobacco on school property. Federal law prohibits smoking within schools by anyone (Pro-Children Act of 1994, 20 U.S.C. §6081). Districts that fail to comply risk a civil penalty of up to \$1,000 per violation per day. See policy 8:30, *Visitors to and Conduct on School Property*, for more information.

State and federal law have not yet addressed electronic cigarettes. An electronic or e-cigarette resembles a regular cigarette. It contains a battery-operated heating element that turns a liquid into a mist for inhaling. The liquid may contain nicotine. Information, albeit limited, is posted on the U.S. Food and Drug Administration website at:

www.fda.gov/tobaccoproducts/default.htm, and
www.fda.gov/newsevents/publichealthfocus/ucm252360.htm.

Boards may use the following alternative to prohibit electronic cigarettes: "Using, possessing, distributing, purchasing, or selling tobacco materials or electronic cigarettes."

⁴ Alcoholic beverages are defined in 235 ILCS 5/1-3.01 to 3.05.

⁵ Controlled substance is defined in 720 ILCS 570/102; cannabis is defined in 720 ILCS 550/3. Either spelling, *marihuana* or *marijuana*, is correct; however, *marijuana* is more common. See f/n 8 for a discussion of medical cannabis.

⁶ Anabolic steroid is defined in 720 ILCS 570/102.

~~⁷ 105 ILCS 25/2 requires IHSA to prohibit a student from participating in an IHSA-sponsored athletic competition unless the student has agreed not to use any performance enhancing substances on IHSA's current banned drug list and to submit to performance enhancing substance testing. See policy 7:240, *Conduct Code for Participants in Extracurricular Activities*.~~

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. ⁸

- d. 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.
- e. "Look-alike" or counterfeit drugs, including a substance not containing an illegal drug or controlled substance, but one: (a) that a student believes to be, or represents to be, an illegal drug or controlled substance; 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 or controlled substance. ⁹
- f. 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. ¹⁰

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. ¹¹
- 5. Using or possessing an electronic paging device. Using a cellular telephone, video recording device, personal digital assistant (PDA), tablet, mobile device (defined as any electronic device that has the capability of accessing the Internet, through wireless connection of other means), or other electronic device in any manner that disrupts the educational environment or violates the rights of others, including, but not limited to, sexting, using the device to take photographs in locker rooms or bathrooms, cheat, text messaging others or otherwise violating student conduct rules. ~~Prohibited conduct specifically includes, without limitation, creating, sending, sharing, viewing, receiving, or possessing an indecent visual depiction of oneself or another person through the use of a computer, electronic communication device, or cellular phone. [addressed by addition of sexting provision below]~~ Unless otherwise banned under this policy or by the Building Principal, All electronic devices must be kept powered-

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⁸ 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 Pilot Program (410 ILCS 130/, added by P.A. 98-122). There are many situations in which no one, even a *registered qualifying patient*, may possess or use cannabis, including in a school bus or on the grounds of any preschool, or primary or secondary school (410 ILCS 130/30(a)(2)&(3)). See also www2.illinois.gov/gov/mcpp/Pages/default.aspx. Contact the board attorney for advice concerning medical cannabis.

⁹ Look-alike and counterfeit substances are defined in 720 ILCS 570/102. Look-alike drugs should be defined; an unpublished Ill. appellate decision in 2000 found a policy prohibiting possession of look-alikes had vagueness problems.

¹⁰ Drug paraphernalia is defined in 720 ILCS 600/2.

¹¹ 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). 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.

off and out-of-sight 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 needed in an emergency that threatens the safety of students, staff, or other individuals [or \(d\) use of the device is permitted pursuant to Board Policy 6:235, Access to Electronic Networks](#). **12**

6. Using or possessing a laser pointer unless under a staff member’s direct supervision and in the context of instruction.
7. 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 [legally valid](#) search.
8. Engaging in academic dishonesty, including cheating, intentionally plagiarizing, wrongfully giving or receiving help during an academic examination, and wrongfully obtaining test copies or scores.
9. 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. Teen dating violence, as described in Board policy 7:185, *Teen Dating Violence Prohibited*, is prohibited. **13**

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12 105 ILCS 5/10-21.10 prohibits student possession of electronic paging devices, but 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 #5:

Using or possessing a cellular telephone, electronic signaling device, 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, & 333). Fines are as high as \$11,000 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 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).

13 All districts must have a policy on bullying (105 ILCS 5/27-23.7(d). Policy 7:180, *Preventing Bullying, Intimidation, and Harassment*, contains the statutory definition of *bullying*.

105 ILCS 5/10-20.14 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. Implementing procedures must include a method for informing parents/guardians when their child or ward engaged in aggressive behavior as well as early intervention procedures based upon available community and district resources. See 7:190-E, *Aggressive Behavior Reporting Letter and Form*.

All school boards must have a policy on prohibited teen dating violence (105 ILCS 110/3.10, added by P.A. 98-190). Verify that the board adopted the policy listed and amend its title in this policy, if necessary.

A trial court’s order enjoining a student’s expulsion for committing aggressive behavior was overturned in [Wilson ex rel. Geiger v. Hinsdale Elementary School Dist. 181](#), 810 N.E.2d 637 (Ill.App.2, 2004). The board expelled an 11-year-old student for bringing 2 CDs to school containing a song entitled, “Gonna Kill Mrs. Cox’s Baby.” Mrs. Cox was the student’s pregnant science teacher. The student was expelled for the remainder of the school year for violating the district’s policy prohibiting aggressive behavior. The Court of Appeals reversed the trial court’s temporary restraining order (that had stopped the penalty’s imposition until after a trial) finding that the student had violated school rules subjecting him to exclusion and that the penalty was not unreasonable, arbitrary, capricious, or oppressive.

See also [Gendelman v. Glenbrook North High School and Northfield Township School District 225](#), 2003 WL 21209880 (N.D.Ill., 2003)(student suspensions for hazing were upheld).

10. Causing or attempting to cause damage to, or stealing or attempting to steal, school property or another person's personal property. **14**
11. Being absent without a recognized excuse; State law and School Board policy regarding truancy control will be used with chronic and habitual truants. **15**
12. 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. **16**
13. Being involved in gangs or gang-related activities, including displaying gang symbols or paraphernalia. **17**
14. Violating any criminal law, including but not limited to, assault, battery, arson, theft, gambling, ~~eavesdropping~~, [Note: the IL eavesdropping law was struck down as unconstitutional] and hazing.
15. Engaging in "Sexting"; defined as sending, forwarding, displaying, possessing, sharing, retaining, storing or posting sexually explicit, lewd, indecent, or pornographic photographs or messages, including text, audio, video and image media, by or on a cell phone, computer, tablet, mobile device, or other electronic means including an electronic storage site on the internet, including but not limited to social networking sites. [from current policy with highlighted revision]
16. 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

The failure of a school official (including any administrator, teacher, counselor, support staff, or coach) to report hazing is a crime (720 ILCS 5/12C-50.1, added by P.A. 98-393).

A person commits a felony hate crime when, by reason of the actual or perceived race, color, creed, religion, ancestry, sexual orientation, disability, or national origin of another person, he or she commits assault or battery (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 makes 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.

14 720 ILCS 5/26-1 makes 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.

15 105 ILCS 5/26-2a, 5/26-9, and 5/26-12. See policy 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*.

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

17 See *Kelly v. Board of Educ. of McHenry Community High School 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). Significantly, the General Assembly recognized in 105 ILCS 5/27-23.7(a), that "[g]iven the higher rates of criminal offending among gang members, as well as the availability of increasingly lethal weapons, the level of criminal activity by gang members has taken on new importance for law enforcement agencies, schools, the community, and prevention efforts."

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.

inside the school. ¹⁸ This language reflects a recent amendment to the School Code, which now expressly prohibits this behavior.

17. Any other acts which violate the law, other Board Policy, or otherwise are of such an egregious nature as to constitute, on its face, gross disobedience or misconduct.

18. 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; or (c) cause, or may reasonably cause substantial injury or disruption or material interference with school related activities or the rights of other students or school personnel. ¹⁹

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. ²⁰

Efforts, including the use of early intervention and progressive discipline, 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. Board policy 7:180, Preventing Bullying, Intimidation, and Harassment, will be used to address students who have demonstrated behaviors that put them at risk for aggressive behavior, including without limitation bullying. The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that the parent/guardian of a student who engages in aggressive behavior is notified of the incident. ²¹ 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. ²²

The grounds for disciplinary action, including those described more thoroughly later in this policy, apply whenever the student’s conduct is reasonably related to school or school activities, including, but not limited to: ²³

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¹⁸ 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 Section 10-22.6(d-5) of the School Code.

¹⁹ 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 7:165, *School Uniforms*), add the following item to the list as number 17: “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.”

²⁰ *Possession* should be defined to avoid vagueness problems.

²¹ See f/n 13.

²² Mandated by 105 ILCS 5/10-20.36.

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; or (c) cause, or may reasonably cause substantial injury or disruption or material interference with school related activities or the rights of other students or school personnel. ²⁴

²³ A school's power over students does not cease when students leave the campus. Illinois statutes provide little guidance concerning off-campus jurisdiction. Board policy must provide a jurisdictional statement telling students and staff the circumstances under which the district will take disciplinary action. Rules taking jurisdiction of off-campus misconduct generally survive the test of reasonableness if they are limited to situations having a direct nexus to the school. Jurisdictional rules in board policy should generally be as broad as possible in order to give staff members authority to respond to unforeseen situations. However, 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 factual inquiry to determine the degree of nexus and impact on the school. Two decisions issued by the same federal court of appeals are informative. Both cases involved students who created a very unflattering MySpace profile parodying their principal but there was little evidence that the profiles caused, or could cause, substantial disruption in the schools. Absent this factor, the school districts were not empowered to punish out-of-school expressive conduct, even if it is lewd, indecent, or offensive speech. *J.S. v. Blue Mountain Sch. Dist., combined with Layshock v. Hermitage Sch. Dist.*, 650 F.3d 205 (3d Cir. 2011), *cert. denied* 2012 WL 117558 (U.S.).

There are many other decisions on disciplining a student for off-campus misconduct; for examples, see: *Morse v. Frederick*, 127 S.Ct. 2618 (2007)(held school's compelling interest in stopping student drug abuse allows schools to prohibit student speech that maybe reasonably regarded as promoting illegal drug use); *Boucher v. School Dist. of Greenfield*, 134 F.3d 821 (7th Cir. 1998)(upheld expulsion for off-campus speech – an article explaining how to hack into the school's computers); *Giles v. Brookville Area School District*, 669 A.2d 1079 (Pa. Commw. 1995)(upheld expulsion for selling marijuana to another student off-campus where negotiations took place on campus); *J.S. v. Bethlehem Area School District*, 807 A.2d 847 (Pa. 2002)(suspension upheld for posting on a private web site derogatory, offensive, and threatening statements directed toward a teacher); *Wisniewski v. Weedsport Cent. School District.*, 494 F.3d 34 (2nd Cir. 2007), (upheld suspension for off-campus speech - an instant message icon illustrating a pistol firing a bullet at teacher's head with words "kill Mr. Vandermolen."); *Doe v. Pulaski Co. Special School*, 306 F.3d 616 (8th Cir. 2002) (vacated holding in *Doe v. Pulaski Co. Special School*, 263 F.3d 833 (8th Cir. 2001), holding that the school board did not violate the student's First Amendment rights when it expelled him for writing a letter at home referring to killing his girlfriend).

Note that the law is different regarding participants in athletics and extracurricular activities. See policy 7:240, *Conduct Code for Participants in Extracurricular Activities*.

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. School officials should immediately seek the board attorney's advice concerning available options.

²⁴ Suspending or expelling a student for off-campus misconduct is problematic when the school's jurisdiction is premised on nothing more than "the student's presence at school may reasonably be considered to create an interference with school purposes or an educational function." If possible, other grounds for jurisdiction should be added. The factual context will determine jurisdiction. Even when there is no other jurisdictional ground, if the nature of the conduct is particularly troublesome, a detrimental impact on the school can be inferred. See *Doe v. Superintendent of Schools of Stoughton*, 767 N.E.2d 1054 (Mass., 2002)(suspension for off-campus commission of a felony was upheld).

Disciplinary Measures 25

Disciplinary measures may include: 26

1. Disciplinary conference.
2. Withholding of privileges.
3. Seizure of contraband.
4. Suspension from school and all school activities for up to 10 days, provided that appropriate procedures are followed. 27 A suspended student is prohibited from being on school grounds.
5. Suspension of bus riding privileges, provided that appropriate procedures are followed. 28
6. Expulsion from school and all school-sponsored activities and events for a definite time period not to exceed 2 calendar years, provided that the appropriate procedures are followed. 29 An expelled student is prohibited from being on school grounds. 30
7. Notifying juvenile authorities or other law enforcement whenever the conduct involves illegal drugs (controlled substances), “look-alikes,” alcohol, weapons or other potential criminal offenses.
8. Notifying parents/guardians.
9. Temporary removal from the classroom.
10. In-school suspension for a period not to exceed 5 school days. The Building Principal or designee shall ensure that the student is properly supervised. 31

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25 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.

An example of the judicial reluctance to interfere is Tun v. Whitticker, 398 F.3d 899 (7th Cir., 2005). A student named Brandon brought a substantive due process claim against the school for expelling him without evidence of wrongdoing. Brandon and three others were expelled for allowing nude pictures of themselves to be taken in the school shower. After Brandon appealed using the school’s procedures, the expulsion was rescinded and his record expunged of any reference to the incident. Brandon, however, brought a federal court action alleging that his substantive due process rights were violated. While the Court believed that school officials overacted to boys “just horsing around,” it did not believe the expulsion amounted to a substantive due process violation - it fell short of the required “shocks the conscience” standard.

26 Most school attorneys advise against using a grade reduction as a disciplinary measure. One case upheld the application of such a policy. Knight v. Board of Education, 348 N.E.2d 299 (Ill.App. 4, 1976). Another case, however, found unconstitutional, a grade reduction policy requiring 9-week grades to be reduced 4% for each day of a suspension. Smith v. School City of Hobart, 811 F.Supp. 391 (N.D.Ind., 1993).

27 105 ILCS 5/10-22.6. The next sentence is optional.

28 Id.

29 105 ILCS 5/10-22.6. The Indiana Supreme Court upheld a policy to deny semester credit to a student expelled anytime during the semester. South Gibson School Board v. Sollman, 768 N.E.2d 437 (Ind. 2002). An optional provision, such as the following, should be discussed with the board attorney before adoption:

Unless the Building Principal determines otherwise, a student expelled anytime during a semester will be denied credit for the semester regardless of whether the student had completed sufficient course work to earn a passing grade before being expelled.

30 Optional (105 ILCS 5/10-22.6).

31 State law does not cover in-school suspensions. Generally, an educational program must be included in an in-school suspension; otherwise, it may become a regular suspension with procedural requirements.

11. **After-school study or Saturday study**[the current policy says “Detention/Saturday School”] ³² 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.
12. Community service with local public and nonprofit agencies that enhances community efforts to meet human, educational, environmental, or public safety needs. ³³ 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.

A student may be immediately transferred 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. ³⁴

Corporal punishment is prohibited. Corporal punishment is defined as 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 needed to maintain safety for students, staff, or other persons, or for the purpose of self-defense or defense of property. ³⁵ ³⁶

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³² Teachers may not be required to teach on Saturdays (105 ILCS 5/24-2).

³³ Optional. See *Herndon v. Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Bd.*, 89 F.3d 174 (C.A. 4, 1996)(upheld policy requiring students to complete community service in order to graduate).

³⁴ 105 ILCS 5/10-22.6(a)&(b). Subsection 10-22.6(b) uses the phrase “is suspended in excess of 20 school days” even though a 20-consecutive day suspension should be treated as an expulsion. *Goss v. Lopez*, 95 S.Ct. 729 (1975). An alternative program is probably available to a student who is suspended for 11 to 20 consecutive days because that student is technically expelled and, as such, qualifies under subsection (a) of Section 10-22.6. Contact the board attorney if the district wants to interpret the statute as referring to *cumulative* school days so that it can transfer a student to an alternative program upon his or her suspension in excess of 20 *cumulative* school days.

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.

³⁵ This paragraph paraphrases 105 ILCS 5/24-24.

³⁶ **The sample policy prohibits the use of isolated time out and physical restraint by not specifically permitting their use.** State statute and ISBE rules contain complex restrictions on the use of isolated time out and physical restraints (105 ILCS 5/2-3.130, 5/10-20.33, and 5/24-24; 23 Ill.Admin.Code §1.280(c) and 1.285). According to the ISBE rule, isolated time out and physical restraints are prohibited unless a board authorizes their use in a policy containing the numerous components identified in the rule. **A board that wants to authorize the use of isolated time out and physical restraints should insert the paragraph below.** To comply with ISBE’s rule, a board must also incorporate by reference the procedure developed by the superintendent, i.e., 7:190-AP4, *Use of Isolated Time Out and Physical Restraint*. By doing this, the procedure becomes part of the policy.

School staff members shall not use isolated time out and physical restraints other than as permitted in Section 10-20.33 of the School Code, State Board of Education rules, and procedures developed by the Superintendent.

Neither isolated time out nor physical restraints shall be used to discipline or punish a student.

If the above option is used, add the following before the Legal References on the final page: “Incorporated by Reference: 7:190-AP4, *Use of Isolated Time Out and Physical Restraint*.”

Weapons 37

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 2 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 Owners Identification Card Act (430 ILCS 65/), or firearm as defined in Section 24-1 of the Criminal Code of 1961 (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 1 or 2 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. 38

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. 39

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; 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 staff member. 40 Upon receiving such a report, the Building Principal or designee shall immediately notify the local

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37 This section restates 105 ILCS 5/10-22.6. See also the Gun-Free Schools Act, 20 U.S.C. §7151 *et seq.* This section contains the statutorily required punishment for bringing a weapon to school along with the statutory definition of *weapon* (105 ILCS 5/10-22.6). 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.

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. 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*, 618 N.E.2d 561 (Ill.App., 1993).

38 Optional.

39 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 a locked vehicle out of plain view (430 ILCS 66/65(a), added by P.A. 98-63). The Federal Gun-Free Schools Act has a similar provision (20 U.S.C. §7151(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.

40 105 ILCS 5/10-27.1A, 5/10-27.1B, and 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. To satisfy the reporting requirement, ISBE created the School Incident Reporting System (SIRS), a web-based application on IWAS for schools to report incidents electronically. Reporting on SIRS does not satisfy the requirement to report incidents to local law enforcement authorities.

law enforcement agency, State Police, and any involved student's parent/guardian. ⁴¹ "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.

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 certificated educational employees, and other persons providing a related service for or with respect to a student, may use reasonable force as needed to maintain safety for other students, school personnel, or other persons, or for the purpose of self-defense or defense of property. ⁴² Teachers may temporarily remove students from a classroom for disruptive behavior. ⁴³

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. ⁴⁴ The Board may suspend a student from riding the bus in excess of 10 school days for safety reasons. ⁴⁵

Student Handbook

The Superintendent, with input from the parent-teacher advisory committee, ⁴⁶ 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.

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

⁴¹ Id. State law imposes this 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 parents/guardians only when the alleged offense is firearm possession. The policy expands this notification duty; a board disinclined to do this should substitute the following sentence:

Upon receiving such a report, the Building Principal or designee shall immediately notify the applicable local law enforcement agency, State Police, and, if a student is reportedly in possession of a firearm, also the student's parents/guardians.

⁴² Required by 105 ILCS 5/24-24 and 23 Ill.Admin.Code §1.280.

⁴³ Id.

⁴⁴ Required by 105 ILCS 5/10-22.6.

⁴⁵ Id.

⁴⁶ The board must establish and maintain a parent-teacher advisory committee to develop guidelines on student discipline. See 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. It is called **Online Model Student Handbook**, and is described at www.ilprincipals.org/resources/model-student-handbook.

LEGAL REF.: Gun-Free Schools Act, 20 U.S.C. §7151 et seq.
Pro-Children Act of 1994, 20 U.S.C. §6081.
410 ILCS 130/, Compassionate Use of Medical Cannabis Pilot Program.
430 ILCS 66/, Firearm Concealed Carry 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, 5/24-24, 5/26-12, 5/27-23.7, 5/31-3, and
110/3.10.
23 Ill.Admin.Code §1.280.

CROSS REF.: 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), [6:235 \(Access to Electronic
Networks\)](#); 7:70 (Attendance and Truancy), 7:130 (Student Rights and
Responsibilities), 7:140 (Search and Seizure), 7:150 (Agency and Police
Interviews), 7:160 (Student Appearance), 7:170 (Vandalism), 7:180 (Preventing
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),
8:30 (Visitors to and Conduct on School Property)[\[reminder – confirm that the
Board has all of these policies and that the numbering is correct\]](#)