

Document Status: Review and Monitoring

1:10 School District Legal Status

The Illinois Constitution requires the State to provide for an efficient system of high-quality public educational institutions and services in order to achieve the educational development of all persons to the limits of their capabilities. [PRESSPlus1](#)

The General Assembly has implemented this mandate through the creation of school districts. The District is governed by the laws for school districts serving a resident population of not fewer than 1,000 and not more than 500,000.

The Board of Education constitutes a body corporate that possesses all the usual powers of a corporation for public purposes, and in that name may sue and be sued, purchase, hold and sell personal property and real estate, and enter into such obligations as are authorized by law.

LEGAL REF.:

Ill. Constitution, Art. X, Sec. 1.

105 ILCS 5/10-1 et seq.

CROSS REF.: 2:20 (Powers and Duties of the Board of Education; Indemnification)

PRESSPlus Comments

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

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Issue 119, June 2025

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1:20 District Organization, Operations, and Cooperative Agreements

The District is organized and operates as an elementary district serving the needs of children in grades K through 8 and others as required by the School Code. [PRESSPlus1](#)

The District enters into and participates in joint programs and intergovernmental agreements with units of local government and other school districts in order to jointly provide services and activities in a manner that will increase flexibility, scope of service opportunities, cost reductions, and/or otherwise benefit the District and the community. The Superintendent shall manage these activities to the extent the program or agreement requires the District's participation, and shall provide periodic implementation or operational data and/or reports to the Board concerning these programs and agreements.

LEGAL REF.:

Ill. Constitution, Art. VII, Sec. 10.

5 ILCS 220/, Intergovernmental Cooperation Act.

PRESSPlus Comments

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Issue 119, June 2025

Document Status: Draft Update

2:80 Board Member Oath and Conduct

Each Board of Education member, before taking their seat on the Board, shall take the following oath of office:

I, (name), do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will faithfully discharge the duties of the office of member of the Board of Education of River Trails School District 26, in accordance with the Constitution of the United States, the Constitution of the State of Illinois, and the laws of the State of Illinois, to the best of my ability.

I further swear (or affirm) that:

I shall respect taxpayer interests by serving as a faithful protector of the School District's assets;

I shall encourage and respect the free expression of opinion by my fellow Board members and others who seek a hearing before the Board, while respecting the privacy of students and employees;

I shall recognize that a Board member has no legal authority as an individual and that decisions can be made only by a majority vote at a public Board meeting;

I shall abide by majority decisions of the Board, while retaining the right to seek changes in such decisions through ethical and constructive channels;

As part of the Board of Education, I shall accept the responsibility for my role in the equitable and quality education of every student in the School District;

I shall foster with the Board extensive participation of the community, formulate goals, define outcomes, and set the course for River Trails School District 26;

I shall assist in establishing a structure and an environment designed to ensure all students have the opportunity to attain their maximum potential through a sound organizational framework;

I shall strive to ensure a continuous assessment of student achievement and all conditions affecting the education of our children, in compliance with State law;

I shall serve as education's key advocate on behalf of students and our community's school (or schools) to advance the vision for River Trails School District 26; and

I shall strive to work together with the District Superintendent to lead the School District toward fulfilling the vision the Board has created, fostering excellence for every student in the areas of academic skills, knowledge, citizenship, and personal development.

The Board President will administer the oath in an open Board meeting; in the absence, of the President, the Vice President will administer the oath. If neither is available, the Board member with

the longest service on the Board will administer the oath.

The Board adopts the Illinois Association of School Boards' *Code of Conduct for Members of School Boards (Code)*. [PRESSPlus1](#) A copy of the Code shall be displayed in the regular Board meeting room. [Q1](#)

LEG. REF:

105 ILCS 5/10-16.5.

CROSS REF.: 2:20 (Powers and Duties of the Board of Education; Indemnification), [2:60 \(Board Member Removal from Office\)](#), 2:100 (Board Member Conflict of Interest), 2:105 (Ethics and Gift Ban),

Previously Adopted: February 19, 2019

Questions and Answers:

***Required Question 1. The School Code does not specifically address what happens when board members violate their oath of office, nor does it create an opportunity to take legal action for such violations. *Collins v. Bd. of Educ. of North Chicago Comm. Unit Sch. Dist. 187*, 792 F.Supp.2d 992 (N.D.Ill. 2011). **Consult the board attorney for guidance when considering any type of disciplinary action or sanction against a board member.**

Depending on the situation, a board self-evaluation or private one-on-one meetings with a board member may be appropriate to address an issue relating to board member behavior (for a list of IASB workshops, see www.iasb.com/conference-training-and-events/training/workshops/). When a board member's violation of the oath of office also constitutes a willful failure to perform his or her official duties, the board may request the regional superintendent to remove the member from office. See sample policy 2:60, *Board Member Removal from Office*, available at PRESS Online by logging in at www.iasb.com, at footnote 2, for further discussion. A board member whose conduct violates conflict of interest laws may also be subject to criminal liability and removal from office. See sample policy 2:100, *Board Member Conflict of Interest*, and its footnotes, for additional information. In consultation with the board attorney, a board may also consider other actions to address a member's violation of the oath of office, such as publicly censuring a member. *Houston Comm. College System v. Wilson*, 595 U.S. 468 (2022) (holding that a college board of trustees did not violate a trustee's First Amendment rights when it adopted a resolution censuring him for "reprehensible" conduct). Other sanctions may be also warranted, depending on the facts. For example, in *Earnest v. Jasper Cty. Comm. Unit Sch. Dist. No. 1*, 371 F.Supp.3d 459 (S.D.Ill 2019), a court held a board member was not deprived of his liberty interest under the 14th Amendment when the board limited his access to confidential board packet information after it found the board member shared confidential personnel and student information with members of the public.

To encourage appropriate conduct, boards may wish to have their policy express potential consequences for violating the oath of office or the *Code of Conduct for Members of School Boards*. Such boards may add the following sentence to the end of this policy:

"A board member who fails to abide by the oath of office or the *Code* may be subject to action by the Board, including, but not limited to, formal censure and/or referral to the Regional Superintendent for removal from office under Board policy 2:60, *Board Member Removal from Office*."

Has the Board adopted this policy to include the optional sentence shown above?

- ☐ No. (Default)
 - ☐ Yes. (For districts in suburban Cook County, IASB will replace "Regional Superintendent" with "appropriate Intermediate Service Center Executive Director.")
-

PRESSPlus Comments

PRESSPlus 1. Updated for continuous improvement. **Issue 119, June 2025**

Document Status: Draft Update

2:130 Board-Superintendent Relationship

The Board of Education directs, through policy, the Superintendent in their charge of the administration of the District by delegating its authority to operate the District and provide leadership to staff. The Board employs and evaluates the Superintendent and holds them responsible for the operation of the District in accordance with Board policies and State and federal law.

The Board-Superintendent relationship is based on mutual respect for their complementary roles. The relationship requires clear communication of expectations regarding the duties and responsibilities of both the Board and Superintendent.

The Board considers the recommendations of the Superintendent as the District's Chief Executive Officer. The Board adopts policies necessary to provide ~~general~~ [PRESSPlus1](#) direction for the District and to encourage achievement of District goals. The Superintendent develops plans, programs, and procedures needed to implement the policies and directs the District's operations.

LEGAL REF.:

105 ILCS 5/10-16.7 and 5/10-21.4.

CROSS REF.: 3:40 (Superintendent)

PRESSPlus Comments

PRESSPlus 1. Updated in response to a PRESS five-year review. PRESS Editors have a quality assurance goal to ensure that a review of each piece of the 1500+ page IASB PRESS Policy Reference Manual occurs once every five years. **Issue 119, June 2025**

Document Status: Review and Monitoring

2:240 Board Policy Development

The Board of Education governs using written policies. Written policies ensure legal compliance, establish Board processes, articulate District ends, delegate authority, and define operating limits. Board policies also provide the basis for monitoring progress toward District ends. [PRESSPlus1](#)

Policy Development

Anyone may propose new policies, changes to existing policies, or elimination of existing policies. Staff suggestions should be processed through the Superintendent. Suggestions from all others should be made to the Board President or the Superintendent.

A Board Policy Committee will consider all policy suggestions, and provide information and recommendations to the Board.

The Superintendent is responsible for: (1) providing relevant policy information and data to the Board, (2) notifying those who may implement or be affected by or required to implement a proposed policy and obtaining their advice and suggestions, and (3) having policy recommendations drafted into written form for Board deliberation. The Superintendent shall seek the counsel of the Board attorney when appropriate.

Policy Adoption and Dissemination

Policies or policy revisions will not be adopted at the Board meeting at which they are first introduced, except when: (1) appropriate for a consent agenda because no Board discussion is required, or (2) necessary or prudent in order to meet emergency or special conditions or to be legally compliant. Further Board consideration will be given at a subsequent meeting(s) and after opportunity for community input. The policy will be on public display for 30 days. The adoption of a policy will serve to supersede all previously adopted policies on the same topic.

The Board of Education policies are available for public inspection in the District's main office during regular office hours or on the District Webpage. Copy requests should be made pursuant to Board policy 2:250, *Access to District Public Records*.

Board Policy Review and Monitoring

The Board of Education will periodically review its policies for relevancy, monitor its policies for effectiveness, and consider whether any modifications are required. The Board may use an annual policy review and monitoring calendar.

Words Importing Gender

Throughout this policy manual, words importing the masculine and/or feminine gender include all gender neutral/inclusive pronouns.

Superintendent Implementation

The Board will support any reasonable interpretation of Board of Education policy made by the

Superintendent. If reasonable minds differ, the Board will review the applicable policy and consider the need for further clarification.

In the absence of Board of Education policy, the Superintendent is authorized to take appropriate action.

Suspension of Policies

The Board, by a majority vote of members present at any meeting, may temporarily suspend a Board policy except those provisions that are controlled by law or contract. The failure to suspend with a specific motion does not invalidate the Board action.

LEGAL REF.:

105 ILCS 5/10-20.5.

CROSS REF.: 2:150 (Committees), 2:250 (Access to District Public Records), 3:40 (Superintendent)

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3:30 Chain of Command

The Superintendent shall develop an organizational chart indicating the channels of authority and reporting relationships for school personnel. These channels should be followed, and no level should be bypassed except in unusual situations. [PRESSPlus1](#)

All personnel should refer matters requiring administrative action to the responsible administrator, and may appeal a decision to a higher administrative officer. Whenever possible, each employee should be responsible to only one immediate supervisor. When this is not possible, the division of responsibility must be clear.

CROSS REF.: 1:20 (District Organization, Operations, and Cooperative Agreements), 2:140 (Communications To and From the Board), 3:70 (Succession of Authority)

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4:50 Payment Procedures

The Treasurer shall prepare a list of all due and payable bills, indicating vendor name and amount, and shall present it to the Board of Education in advance. These bills shall be reviewed by the Board of Education, after which they may be approved for payment by Board of Education order. [PRESSPlus1](#)

The Treasurer is authorized, without further Board approval, to pay Social Security taxes, wages, pension contributions, utility bills, and other recurring bills. These disbursements shall be included in the listing of bills presented to the Board.

The Board authorizes the Superintendent or designee to establish revolving funds and a petty cash fund system for school cafeterias, lunchrooms, athletics, or similar purposes, provided such funds are maintained in accordance with Board policy 4:80, *Accounting and Audits*, and remain in the custody of an employee who is properly bonded according to State law.

LEGAL REF.:

105 ILCS 5/8-16, 5/10-7, and 5/10-20.19.

23 Ill.Admin.Code §100.70.

CROSS REF.: 4:55 (Use of Credit and Procurement Cards), 4:60 (Purchases and Contracts), 4:80 (Accounting and Audits)

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4:90 Student Activity and Fiduciary Funds

The Board, upon the Superintendent or designee's recommendation, establishes student activity funds to be managed by student organizations under the guidance and direction of a staff member for educational, recreational, or cultural purposes. The Board, upon the Superintendent or designee's recommendation, also establishes fiduciary funds to be supervised by the Superintendent or designee. The District has custodial responsibilities for fiduciary funds but no direct involvement in the management of such funds. [PRESSPlus1](#)

Student Activity Funds

The Superintendent or designee shall be responsible for supervising student activity funds in accordance with Board policy 4:80, *Accounting and Audits*; State law; and the Ill. State Board of Education (ISBE) rules for student activity funds. The Board will appoint a treasurer for each fund to serve as the fund's sole custodian and be bonded in accordance with the School Code. The treasurer shall have all of the responsibilities specific to the treasurer listed in ISBE rules for school activity funds, including the authority to make loans between activity funds.

Unless otherwise instructed by the Board, a student activity fund's balance will carry over to the next fiscal year. An account containing student activity funds that is inactive for 12 consecutive months shall be closed and its funds transferred to another student activity fund or authorized fund with a similar purpose.

Fiduciary Funds

The Superintendent or designee shall be responsible for supervising fiduciary funds in accordance with Board policy 4:80, *Accounting and Audits*; State law; and ISBE rules for fiduciary funds. The Board will appoint a treasurer for each fund to serve as the fund's sole custodian and be bonded in accordance with the School Code. The treasurer shall have all of the responsibilities specific to the treasurer listed in the ISBE rules for fiduciary funds.

LEGAL REF.:

105 ILCS 5/8-2 and 5/10-20.19.

23 Ill.Admin.Code §§100.20, 100.80, and 100.85.

CROSS REF.: 4:80 (Accounting and Audits), 7:325 (Student Fundraising Activities)

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4:180 Pandemic Preparedness; Management; and Recovery

The School Board recognizes that the District will play an essential role along with the local health department and emergency management agencies in protecting the public's health and safety during a pandemic. [PRESSPlus1](#)

A pandemic is a global outbreak of disease. Pandemics happen when a new virus emerges to infect individuals and, because there is little to no pre-existing immunity against the new virus, it spreads sustainably.

To prepare the School District community for a pandemic, the Superintendent or designee shall: (1) learn and understand how the roles that the federal, State, and local government function; (2) form a pandemic planning team consisting of appropriate District personnel and community members to identify priorities and oversee the development and implementation of a comprehensive pandemic school action plan; and (3) build awareness of the final plan among staff, students, and community.

Emergency School Closing

In the case of a pandemic, the Governor may declare a disaster due to a public health emergency that may affect any decision for an emergency school closing. Decisions for an emergency school closing will be made by the Superintendent in consultation with and, if necessary, at the direction of the Governor, Ill. Dept. of Public Health, District's local health department, emergency management agencies, and/or Intermediate Service Center.

During an emergency school closing, the Board Policy Committee may, to the extent the emergency situation allows, examine existing Board policies pursuant to Policy 2:240, *Board Policy Development*, and recommend to the Board for consideration any needed amendments or suspensions to address mandates that the District may not be able to accomplish or implement due to a pandemic.

Board Meeting Procedure; No Physical Presence of Quorum and Participation by Audio or Video

A disaster declaration related to a public health emergency may affect the Board's ability to meet in person and generate a quorum of members who are physically present at the location of a meeting. Policy 2:220, *School Board Meeting Procedure*, governs Board meetings by video or audio conference without the physical presence of a quorum.

Payment of Employee Salaries During Emergency School Closures

The Superintendent shall consult with the Board to determine the extent to which continued payment of salaries and benefits will be made to the District's employees, pursuant to Board policies 3:40, *Superintendent*, 3:50, *Administrative Personnel Other Than the Superintendent*, 5:35, *Compliance with the Fair Labor Standards Act*, 5:200, *Terms and Conditions of Employment and Dismissal*, and 5:270, *Employment At-Will, Compensation, and Assignment*, and consistent with: (1) applicable laws, regulations, federal or State or local emergency declarations, executive orders, and agency directives; (2) collective bargaining agreements and any bargaining obligations; and (3) the terms of any grant under which an employee is being paid.

Suspension of In-Person Instruction; Remote and/or Blended Remote Learning Day Plan(s)

When the Governor declares a disaster due to a public health emergency pursuant to 20 ILCS 3305/7, and the State Superintendent of Education declares a requirement for the District to use *Remote Learning Days* or *Blended Remote Learning Days*, the Superintendent shall approve and present to the Board for adoption a Remote and/or Blended Remote Learning Day Plan (Plan) that:

1. Recommends to the Board for consideration any suspensions or amendments to curriculum-related policies to reduce any Board-required graduation or other instructional requirements in excess of minimum curricular requirements specified in School Code that the District may not be able to provide due to the pandemic;
2. Implements the requirements of 105 ILCS 5/10-30 by adapting into a Plan the District's e-learning program implemented pursuant to 105 ILCS 5/10-20.56; and
3. Ensures a plan for periodic review of and/or amendments to the Plan when needed and/or required by statute, regulation, or State guidance.

LEGAL REF.:

105 ILCS 5/10-16.7, 5/10-20.5, 5/10-20.56, and 5/10-30.

5 ILCS 120/2.01 and 120/7(e), Open Meetings Act.

20 ILCS 2305/2(b), Ill. Dept. of Public Health Act (Part 1).

20 ILCS 3305/, Ill. Emergency Management Agency Act.

115 ILCS 5/, Ill. Educational Labor Relations Act.

CROSS REF.: 1:20 (District Organization, Operations, and Cooperative Agreements), 2:20 (Powers and Duties of the School Board; Indemnification), 2:220 (School Board Meeting Procedure), 2:240 (Board Policy Development), 3:40 (Superintendent), 3:50 (Administrative Personnel Other Than the Superintendent), 3:70 (Succession of Authority), 4:170 (Safety), 5:35 (Compliance with the Fair Labor Standards Act), 5:200 (Terms and Conditions of Employment and Dismissal), 5:270 (Employment At-Will, Compensation, and Assignment), 6:20 (School Year Calendar and Day), 6:60 (Curriculum Content), 6:300 (Graduation Requirements), 7:90 (Release During School Hours), 8:100 (Relations with Other Organizations and Agencies)

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5:270 Employment At-Will, Compensation, and Assignment

Employment At-Will [PRESSPlus1](#)

Unless otherwise specifically provided, District employment is at-will, meaning that employment may be terminated by the District or employee at any time for any reason, other than a reason prohibited by law, or no reason at all. Nothing in Board of Education policy is intended or should be construed as altering the employment at-will relationship.

Exceptions to employment at-will may include employees who are employed annually, have an employment contract, or are otherwise granted a legitimate interest in continued employment. The Superintendent is authorized to make exceptions to employing nonlicensed employees at-will but shall maintain a record of positions or employees who are not at-will.

Compensation and Assignment

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

The Board of Education will determine salary and wages for educational support personnel. Increments are dependent on evidence of continuing satisfactory performance. An employee covered by the overtime provisions in State or federal law shall not work overtime without the prior authorization from the employee's immediate supervisor.

The Superintendent is authorized to make assignments and transfers of educational support personnel.

LEGAL REF.:

105 ILCS 5/10-22.34 and 5/10-23.5.

CROSS REF.: 5:10 (Equal Employment Opportunity and Minority Recruitment) 5:35 (Compliance with the Fair Labor Standards Act), 5:290 (Employment Termination and Suspensions), 5:310 (Compensatory Time-Off)

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7:40 Nonpublic School Students, Including Parochial and Home-Schooled Students

Part-Time Attendance [PRESSPlus1](#)

The District accepts nonpublic school students, including parochial and home-schooled students, who live within the District for part-time attendance in the District's regular education program on a space-available basis. Requests for part-time attendance must be submitted to the principal of the school in the school attendance area where the student resides. All requests for attendance in the following school year must be submitted before May 1.

A student accepted for partial enrollment must comply with all discipline and attendance requirements established by the school. He or she may participate in any co-curricular activity associated with a District class in which he or she is enrolled. The parent(s)/guardian(s) of a student accepted for partial enrollment must pay all fees, pro-rated on the basis of a percentage of full-time fees. Transportation to and/or from school is provided on regular bus routes to or from a point on the route nearest or most easily accessible to the nonpublic school or student's home. This transportation shall be on the same basis as the District provides transportation for its full-time students. Transportation on other than established bus routes is the responsibility of the parent(s)/guardian(s).

Students with a Disability

The District accepts for part-time attendance those children for whom it has been determined that special education services are needed, are enrolled in nonpublic schools, and otherwise qualify for enrollment in the District. Requests must be submitted by the student's parent/guardian. Special educational services shall be provided to such students as soon as possible after identification, evaluation, and placement procedures provided by State law, but no later than the beginning of the next school semester following the completion of such procedures. Transportation for such students shall be provided only if required in the child's individualized educational program on the basis of the child's disabling condition or as the special education program location may require.

Extracurricular Activities, Including Interscholastic Competition

A nonpublic school student is eligible to participate in interscholastic competition, provided his or her participation adheres to the regulations established by any association in which the School District maintains a membership, and non-athletic extracurricular activities. A nonpublic student who participates in an extracurricular activity is subject to all policies, regulations, and rules that are applicable to other participants in the activity.

Assignment When Enrolling Full-Time in a District School

Grade placement by, and academic credits earned at, a nonpublic school will be accepted if the school has a Certificate of Nonpublic School Recognition from the Illinois State Board of Education, or, if outside Illinois, if the school is accredited by the state agency governing education.

A student who, after receiving instruction in a non-recognized or non-accredited school, enrolls in the District will: (1) be assigned to a grade level according to academic proficiency, and/or (2) have

academic credits recognized by the District if the student demonstrates appropriate academic proficiency to the school administration. Any portion of a student's transcript relating to such instruction will not be considered for placement on the honor roll or computation in class rank.

Notwithstanding the above, recognition of grade placement and academic credits awarded by a nonpublic school is at the sole discretion of the District. All school and class assignments will be made according to Board policy 7:30, *Student Assignment and Intra-District Transfer*, as well as administrative procedures implementing this policy.

LEGAL REF.:

105 ILCS 5/10-20.24 and 5/14-6.01.

CROSS REF.: 4:110 (Transportation), 6:170 (Title I Programs), 6:190 (Extracurricular and Co-Curricular Activities), 7:30 (Student Assignment and Intra-District Transfer), 7:300 (Extracurricular Athletics)

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7:90 Release During School Hours

For safety and security reasons, a prior written or oral consent of a student's custodial parent/guardian is required before a student is released during school hours: (1) at any time before the regular dismissal time or at any time before school is otherwise officially closed, and/or (2) to any person other than a custodial parent/guardian. [PRESSPlus1](#)

CROSS REF.: 4:170 (Safety)

~~ADOPTED: November 3, 2010~~

PRESSPlus Comments

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7:130 Student Rights and Responsibilities

All students are entitled to enjoy the rights protected by the U.S. and Illinois Constitutions and laws for persons of their age and maturity in a school setting. Students should exercise these rights reasonably and avoid violating the rights of others. Students who violate the rights of others or violate District policies or rules will be subject to disciplinary measures. [PRESSPlus1](#)

Students may, during the school day, during noninstructional time, voluntarily engage in individually or collectively initiated, non-disruptive prayer or religious-based meetings that, consistent with the Free Exercise and Establishment Clauses of the U.S. and Illinois Constitutions, are not sponsored, promoted, or endorsed in any manner by the school or any school employee. *Noninstructional time* means time set aside by a school before actual classroom instruction begins or after actual classroom instruction ends.

LEGAL REF.:

20 U.S.C. §7904.

105 ILCS 20/5.

Tinker v. Des Moines Independent School District, 89 S.Ct. 733 (1969).

CROSS REF.: 7:140 (Search and Seizure), 7:150 (Agency and Police Interviews), 7:160 (Student Appearance), 7:190 (Student Behavior)

PRESSPlus Comments

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

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

Issue 119, June 2025

Document Status: Draft Update

7:140 Search and Seizure

In order to maintain order and security in the schools, school authorities are authorized to conduct reasonable searches of school property and equipment, as well as of students and their personal effects. "School authorities" includes school liaison police officers.

School Property and Equipment as well as Personal Effects Left There On School Property by Students [PRESSPlus1](#)

School authorities may inspect and search school property and equipment owned or controlled by the school (such as, lockers, desks, and parking lots), as well as personal effects left there by a student, without notice to or the consent of the student. Students have no reasonable expectation of privacy in these places or areas or in their personal effects left there.

The Superintendent may request the assistance of law enforcement officials to conduct inspections and searches of lockers, desks, parking lots, and other school property and equipment for illegal drugs, weapons, or other illegal or dangerous substances or materials, including searches conducted through the use of specially trained dogs.

Students

School authorities may search a student and/or the student's personal effects in the student's possession (such as, purses, wallets, knapsacks, book bags, lunch boxes, etc.) when there is a reasonable ground for suspecting that the search will produce evidence the particular student has violated or is violating either the law or the District's student conduct rules. The search itself must be conducted in a manner that is reasonably related to its objective and not excessively intrusive in light of the student's age and sex, and the nature of the infraction.

When feasible, the search should be conducted as follows:

1. By a [certificated licensed](#) employee or liaison police officer of the same sex as the student.
2. Outside the view of others, including students, and
3. In the presence of a school administrator or school employee,

Immediately following a search, a written report shall be made by the school authority who conducted the search, and given to the Superintendent.

Seizure of Property

If a search produces evidence that the student has violated or is violating either the law or the District's policies or rules, such evidence may be seized and impounded by school authorities, and disciplinary action may be taken. When appropriate, such evidence may be transferred to law enforcement authorities.

Notification Regarding Student Accounts or Profiles on Social Networking Websites

The Superintendent or designee shall notify students and their parents/guardians of each of the

following in accordance with the Right to Privacy in the School Setting Act, 105 ILCS 75/:

1. School officials may not request or require a student or his or her parent/guardian to provide a password or other related account information to gain access to the student's account or profile on a social networking website.
2. School officials may conduct an investigation or require a student to cooperate in an investigation if there is specific information about activity on the student's account on a social networking website that violates a school disciplinary rule or policy. In the course of an investigation, the student may be required to share the content that is reported in order to allow school officials to make a factual determination.

LEGAL REF.:

T.L.O. v. New Jersey, 469 U.S. 325 (1985).

Vernonia Sch. ~~901~~ Dist. 47J v. Acton, 515 U.S. 646 (1995).

Safford Unified Sch. ~~901~~ Dist. No. 1 v. Redding, 557 U.S. 364 (2009).

105 ILCS 5/10-20.14, 5/10-22.6, and 5/10-22.10a.

Right to Privacy in the School Setting Act, 105 ILCS 75/, Right to Privacy in the School Setting Act.

Cornfield v. Consolidated High Sch. ~~901~~ Dist. No. 230, 991 F.2d 1316 (7th Cir. 1993).

People v. Dilworth, 169 Ill.2d 195 (1996), cert. denied, 116 S.Ct. 1692 517 U.S. 1197 (1996).

People v. Pruitt, 278 Ill.App.3d 194 (1st Dist. 1996), app. denied, 167 Ill.2d 564 667 N.E. 2d 1061 (Ill.App.1, 1996).

T.L.O. v. New Jersey, 469 U.S. 325 (1985).

Vernonia School Dist. 47J v. Acton, 515 U.S. 646 (1995).

Safford Unified School Dist. No. 1 v. Redding, 557 U.S. 364 (2009).

CROSS REF.: 7:130 (Student Rights and Responsibilities), 7:150 (Agency and Police Interviews), 7:190 (Student Behavior)

PRESSPlus Comments

PRESSPlus 1. Updated throughout in response to a PRESS five-year review. PRESS Editors have a quality assurance goal to ensure that a review of each piece of the 1500+ page IASB PRESS Policy Reference Manual occurs once every five years. **Issue 119, June 2025**

Document Status: Draft Update

7:300 Extracurricular Athletics

Student participation in school-sponsored extracurricular athletic activities is contingent upon the following:

1. The student must meet the academic criteria set forth in Board policy 6:190, *Extracurricular and Co-Curricular Activities*.
2. A parent/guardian of the student must provide written permission for the student's participation, giving the District full waiver of responsibility of the risks involved.
3. The student must present a current certificate of physical fitness issued by a licensed physician, an advanced practice registered nurse, or a physician assistant. The ***Pre-Participation Physical Examination Form***, offered by the Illinois High School Association and the Illinois Elementary School Association, is the preferred certificate of physical fitness.
4. The student must show proof of accident insurance coverage either by a policy purchased through the District-approved insurance plan or a parent/guardian written statement that the student is covered under a family insurance plan.
5. The student must agree to follow all conduct rules and the coaches' instructions.
6. The student and his or her parent(s)/guardian(s) must: (a) comply with the eligibility rules of, and complete any forms required by, any sponsoring association (such as, the Illinois Elementary School Association, the Illinois High School Association, or the Southern Illinois Junior High School Athletic Association), and (b) complete all forms required by the District including, without limitation, signing an acknowledgment of receiving information about the Board's concussion policy 7:305, *Student Athlete Concussions and Head Injuries*.

The Superintendent or designee (1) is authorized to impose additional requirements for a student to participate in extracurricular athletics, provided the requirement(s) comply with Board policy 7:10, *Equal Educational Opportunities*, and (2) shall maintain the necessary records to ensure student compliance with this policy.

LEGAL REF.:

105 ILCS 5/10-20.30, ~~5/10-20.54~~, [PRESSPlus1](#) 5/22-80, and 25/2.

23 Ill.Admin.Code §1.530(b).

CROSS REF.: 4:100 (Insurance Management), 4:170 (Safety), 6:190 (Extracurricular and Co-Curricular Activities), 7:10 (Equal Educational Opportunities), 7:20 (Harassment of Students Prohibited), 7:240 (Conduct Code for Participants in Extracurricular Activities), 7:305 (Student Concussions and Head Injuries), 7:340 (Student Records)

PRESSPlus Comments

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Reference Manual occurs once every five years. **Issue 119, June 2025**

Document Status: Review and Monitoring

7:325 Student Fundraising Activities

No individual or organization is allowed to ask students to participate in fundraising activities while the students are on school grounds during school hours or during any school activity. Exceptions are:

1. School-sponsored student organizations; and [PRESSPlus1](#)
2. Parent organizations and booster clubs that are recognized pursuant to policy 8:90, *Parent Organizations and Booster Clubs*.

The Superintendent or designee shall manage student fundraising activities in alignment with the following directives:

1. Fundraising efforts shall not conflict with instructional activities or programs.
2. For any school that participates in the School Breakfast Program or the National School Lunch Program, fundraising activities involving the sale of food and beverage items to students during the school day while on the school campus must comply with the Ill. State Board of Education rules concerning the sale of competitive food and beverage items.
3. Participation in fundraising efforts must be voluntary.
4. Student safety must be paramount, and door-to-door solicitations are discouraged.
5. For school-sponsored student organizations, a school staff member must supervise the fundraising activities and the student activity funds treasurer must safeguard the financial accounts.
6. The fundraising efforts must be to support the organization's purposes and/or activities, the general welfare, a charitable cause, or the educational experiences of students generally.
7. The funds shall be used to the maximum extent possible for the designated purpose.
8. Any fundraising efforts that solicit donor messages for incorporation into school property, e.g., tiles or bricks, or placement upon school property, e.g., posters or placards, must:
 - a. Develop viewpoint neutral guidelines for the creation of messages;
 - b. Inform potential donors that all messages are subject to review and approval, and that messages that do not meet the established guidelines must be resubmitted or the donation will be returned; and
 - c. Place a disclaimer on all fundraising information and near the completed donor messages that all messages are "solely the expression of the individual donors and not an endorsement by the District of any message's content."

LEGAL REF.:

105 ILCS 5/10-20.19(3).

23 Ill.Admin.Code Part 305, School Food Service.

CROSS REF.: 4:90 (Student Activity and Fiduciary Funds), 4:120 (Food Services), 8:80 (Gifts to the District), 8:90 (Parent Organizations and Booster Clubs)

PRESSPlus Comments

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

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Issue 119, June 2025

Document Status: Draft Update

8:80 Gifts to the District

The Board of Education appreciates gifts from any education foundation, other entities, or individuals. All gifts must adhere to each of the following:

1. Be accepted by the Board or, if less than \$500.00 in value, the Superintendent or designee. Individuals should obtain a pre-acceptance commitment before identifying the District, any school, or school program or activity as a beneficiary in any fundraising attempt, including without limitation, any Internet fundraising attempt.
2. Be given without a stated purpose or with a purpose deemed by the party with authority to accept the gift to be compatible with the Board's educational objectives and policies.
3. Be consistent with the District's mandate to provide equal educational and extracurricular opportunities to all students in the District as provided in Board policy 7:10, *Equal Educational Opportunities*. State and federal laws require the District to provide equal treatment for members of both sexes to educational programming, extracurricular activities, and athletics. This includes the distribution of athletic benefits and opportunities.
4. Permit the District to maintain resource equity among its learning centers.
5. Be viewpoint neutral when the gift involves the incorporation of any messages. [PRESSPlus1](#) The Superintendent or designee shall manage a process for the review and approval of donations involving the incorporation of messages into or placing messages upon school property.
6. Comply with all laws applicable to the District including, without limitation, the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Prevailing Wage Act, the Health/Life Safety Code for Public Schools, and all applicable procurement and bidding requirements.

The District will provide equal treatment to all individuals and entities seeking to donate money or a gift. Upon acceptance, all gifts become the District's property. The acceptance of a gift is not an endorsement by the Board, District, or school of any product, service, activity, or program. The method of recognition is determined by the party accepting the gift.

LEGAL REF.:

20 U.S.C. §1681 et seq., Title IX of the Education Amendments; implemented by 34 C.F.R. Part 106.

105 ILCS 5/16-1.

23 Ill.Admin.Code §200.40.

CROSS REF.: 4:60 (Purchases and Contracts), 4:150 (Facility Management and Building Programs), 6:10 (Educational Philosophy and Objectives), 6:210 (Instructional Materials), 7:10 (Equal Educational Opportunities)

PRESSPlus Comments

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quality assurance goal to ensure that a review of each piece of the 1500+ page IASB PRESS Policy Reference Manual occurs once every five years. **Issue 119, June 2025**

Document Status: Review and Monitoring

8:110 Public Suggestions and Concerns

The School Board is interested in receiving suggestions and concerns from members of the community. Any individual may make a suggestion or express a concern by contacting any District or School office. Community members who e-mail the District or any District employee or board member are expected to abide by the standards in Board policy 6:235, *Access to Electronic Networks*, and should, to the extent possible, limit their communications to relevant individuals. All suggestions and/or concerns will be referred to the appropriate level staff member or District administrator who is most able to respond in a timely manner. Each concern or suggestion shall be considered on its merit. [PRESSPlus1](#)

An individual who is not satisfied may file a grievance under Board policy 2:260, *Uniform Grievance Procedure*. The Board encourages, but does not require, individuals to follow the channels of authority prior to filing a grievance. Neither this policy nor the *Uniform Grievance Procedure* create an independent right to a hearing before the Board.

LEGAL REF.:

115 ILCS 5/14(c-5), Ill. Educational Labor Relations Act.

CROSS REF.: 2:140 (Communications To and From the Board), 2:230 (Public Participation at School Board Meetings and Petitions to the Board), 2:260 (Uniform Grievance Procedure), 3:30 (Chain of Command), 6:235 (Access to Electronic Networks), 6:260 (Complaints About Curriculum, Instructional Materials and Programs), 8:10 (Connection with the Community)

PRESSPlus Comments

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