

Board of Education Issue 119 Policy Review

[Issue 119 Newsletter](#)

POLICY #	PERSON	OVERVIEW OF POLICY/CHANGES
2:80 Board Member Oath and Conduct	Brian	This policy includes the full oath of office. There is a required question for the Board to answer regarding optional language about violations of the oath.
2:130 Board-Superintendent Relationship	Brian	This policy describes the relative roles of and relationship between the Board and Superintendent. There are no substantive changes to the policy.
8:80 Gifts to the District	Brian	This policy describes parameters for the receipt of gifts to the district. There are no substantive changes. Legal references and footnotes are updated as part of a five-year review.
1:10 School District Legal Status	Brian	This policy describes the legal status of the district within the state of Illinois. There are no substantive changes to the policy. Legal references have been updated as part of a five-year review.
1:20 District Organization, Operations, and Cooperative Agreements	Brian	This policy describes the PreK-8 scope of the district's operations, as well as how the district works with other entities and organizations. There are no substantive changes to the policy. Legal references and footnotes have been updated for continuous improvement.
1:30 School District Philosophy	Brian	This policy articulates the (updated) mission, vision, and core values of the district.
2:10 School District Governance	Brian	This policy describes the membership and functioning of the board as a whole and as individuals. There are no substantive changes to the policy. Footnotes have been updated as part of a five-year review.
2:240 Board Policy Development	Brian	This policy describes the process for developing, adopting, and reviewing/monitoring policy. There are no substantive changes to the policy. Footnotes have been updated as part of a five-year review.
7:180 Prevention of and Response to Bullying, Intimidation, and Harassment	Brian	This is not part of Issue 119, but districts are required to review their bullying policy annually. This policy addresses multiple elements of the prevention of bullying, including but not limited to defining bullying, describing reporting procedures, and addressing the district's response.

Document Status: Draft Update

BOARD OF EDUCATION

2:80 Board Member Oath and Conduct

Each Board of Education member, before taking his or her 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 School District 45, 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 School District 45;

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 School District 45; 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}

LEGAL REF.:

[105 ILCS 5/10-16.5.](#)

CROSS REF.: 1:30 (School District Philosophy), 2:20 (Powers and Duties of the Board of Education; Indemnification), 2:50 (Board Member Term of Office), [2:60 \(Board Member Removal from Office\)](#), 2:100 (Board Member Conflict of Interest), 2:105 (Ethics and Gift Ban), 2:210 (Organizational Board of Education Meeting)

Adopted: July 17, 2023

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.")
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PRESSPlus Comments

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

Document Status: Draft Update

BOARD OF EDUCATION

2:130 Board-Superintendent Relationship

The Board of Education directs, through policy, the Superintendent in his or her 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 him or her 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)

Adopted: September 7, 2021

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: Draft Update

COMMUNITY RELATIONS

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 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)

Adopted: May 4, 2020

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: Review and Monitoring

SCHOOL DISTRICT ORGANIZATION

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.: 2:10 (School District Governance), 2:20 (Powers and Duties of the Board of Education; Indemnification)

Adopted: August 16, 2021

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: Review and Monitoring

SCHOOL DISTRICT ORGANIZATION

1:20 District Organization, Operations, and Cooperative Agreements

The District is organized and operates as an Elementary District serving the educational needs of children in grades Pre-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 of Education concerning these programs and agreements.

LEGAL REF.:

[Ill. Constitution, Art. VII](#), Sec. 10.

[5 ILCS 220/](#), Intergovernmental Cooperation Act.

Adopted: August 16, 2021

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SCHOOL DISTRICT ORGANIZATION

1:30 School District Philosophy

The School District, in an active partnership with parents and community, will promote excellence in a caring environment in which all students learn and grow. This partnership aims to empower all students to develop strong self-respect and to become responsible learners and decision-makers. The School District is committed to developing and using a visionary and innovative curriculum, a knowledgeable and dedicated staff, and sound fiscal and management practices.

Mission and Vision

Mission: Empowering all learners to cultivate hope, build confidence, and realize their full potential.

Vision: District 45 will serve as a supportive and collaborative community where all students are responsible, resilient, and ready to excel.

Core Values

We value **BELONGING**; therefore, we prioritize inclusivity for our students, staff, families, and community.

We value meaningful **LEARNING**; therefore, we provide authentic and engaging experiences to ensure all students acquire essential knowledge and skills necessary for continued success.

We value the **SAFETY** of all students and staff; therefore, we work to ensure a safe and secure school environment.

We value **TRUST** as essential to a healthy environment; therefore, our words and actions are open, honest, and respectful.

We value honest, responsible **COMMUNICATION** that is representative of diverse perspectives; therefore, we create opportunities for all voices to engage and be heard.

We value **COMMUNITY**; therefore, we create and sustain partnerships and connections that benefit our students and families.

CROSS REF: 2:10 (School District Governance), 3:10 (Goals and Objectives), 6:10 (Educational Philosophy and Objectives)

Adopted: October 4, 2021

Document Status: Review and Monitoring

BOARD OF EDUCATION

2:10 School District Governance

The District is governed by a Board of Education consisting of seven members. The Board's powers and duties include the authority to adopt, enforce, and monitor all policies for the management and governance of the District's schools. [PRESSPlus1](#)

Official action by the Board may only occur at a duly called and legally conducted meeting. Except as otherwise provided by the Open Meetings Act, a quorum must be physically present at the meeting.

As stated in the Board member oath of office prescribed by the School Code, a Board member has no legal authority as an individual.

LEGAL REF.:

[5 ILCS 120/](#), Open Meetings Act.

[105 ILCS 5/10-1](#), [5/10-10](#), [5/10-12](#), [5/10-16.5](#), [5/10-16.7](#), and [5/10-20.5](#).

CROSS REF.: 1:10 (School District Legal Status), 2:20 (Powers and Duties of the Board of Education; Indemnification), 2:80 (Board Member Oath and Conduct), 2:120 (Board Member Development), 2:200 (Types of Board of Education Meetings), 2:220 (Board of Education Meeting Procedure)

Adopted: August 16, 2021

PRESSPlus Comments

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Document Status: Review and Monitoring

BOARD OF EDUCATION

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 deletion 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.

The Superintendent is responsible for: (1) providing relevant policy information and data to the Board, (2) notifying those who will 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 may be given at a subsequent meeting(s) and after opportunity for community input. The adoption of a policy will serve to supersede all previously adopted policies on the same topic.

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

Board Policy Review and Monitoring

The Board 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 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 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)

Adopted: September 20, 2021

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

STUDENTS

7:180 Prevention of and Response to Bullying, Intimidation, and Harassment

Bullying, intimidation and harassment of students are contrary to state law and District policy.

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that the District creates positive conditions for learning and development that support the academic, social and emotional well-being of all District students.

This policy prohibits bullying, intimidation and/or harassment of students on the basis of actual or perceived race, color, religion, sex, national origin, ancestry, physical appearance, socioeconomic status, academic status, pregnancy, parenting status, homelessness, age, marital status, physical or mental disability, military status, sexual orientation, gender-related identity or expression, unfavorable discharge from military service, order of protection status, association with a person or group with one or more of the aforementioned actual or perceived characteristics, or any other distinguishing characteristic. The District will not tolerate harassment, intimidating conduct, or bullying that interferes with a student's educational performance, or creates a hostile educational environment.

Bullying, intimidation and harassment are prohibited:

- While in school, on school property, on school buses or other school vehicles, at designated school bus stops waiting for the school bus, or at school-sponsored or school-sanctioned events or activities; or
- During any school-sponsored education program or activity;
- Through the transmission of information from a school computer, a school computer network, or other similar electronic school equipment; or
- Through the transmission of information from a computer that is accessed at a non-school-related location, activity, function, or program or from the use of technology or an electronic device that is not owned, leased, or used by the District or its schools if the bullying causes a substantial disruption to the educational process or orderly operation of a school.

This policy shall be communicated annually to students, their parents/guardians and District personnel in relevant handbooks and shall be posted on the District's publicly accessible website.

The District shall implement this policy by: 1) conducting prompt and thorough investigations of all alleged incidents of bullying, intimidation and/or harassment; 2) providing each student who violates this policy with appropriate consequences and remedial actions; and 3) protecting students against retaliation for reporting such conduct.

Bullying Defined

Bullying includes cyber-bullying and is defined as any severe or pervasive physical or verbal act or conduct, including communications made in writing or electronically, directed toward a student or students that has or can be reasonably predicted to:

1. Place the student or students in reasonable fear of harm to the student's or students' person or property;
2. Cause a substantially detrimental effect on the student's or students' physical or mental health;
3. Substantially interfere with the student's or students' academic performance; and/or
4. Substantially interfere with the student's or students' ability to participate in or benefit from the services, activities, or privileges provided by a school.

Examples of bullying include, but are not limited to: name-calling, using derogatory slurs, harassment, threats, intimidation, stalking, causing psychological harm, threatening or causing physical violence, sexual harassment, sexual violence, theft, public humiliation, threatened or actual destruction of property, wearing or possessing items which depict or imply hatred of or prejudice against individuals based on one or more of the distinguishing characteristics listed in the second paragraph of this policy, or retaliation for asserting or alleging an act of bullying.

Bullying may take various forms, including without limitation one or more of the following: harassment, threats, intimidation, stalking, physical violence, sexual harassment, sexual violence, theft, public humiliation, destruction of property, or retaliation for asserting or alleging an act of bullying. This list is meant to be illustrative and non-exhaustive.

Cyber-bullying

Cyber-bullying is defined as bullying through the use of technology or any electronic communication, including without limitation any transfer of signs, signals, writing, images, sounds, data, or intelligence of any nature transmitted in whole or in part by a wire, radio, electromagnetic system, photo electronic system, or photo optical system, including without limitation electronic mail, Internet communications, instant message, or facsimile communications.

Cyber-bullying includes, but is not limited to:

- The creation of a webpage or weblog in which the creator assumes the identity of another person or the knowing impersonation of another person as the author of posted content or messages if the creation or impersonation creates any of the effects enumerated in the above definition of bullying.
- The distribution by electronic means of a communication to more than one person or the posting of material on an electronic medium that may be accessed by one or more persons if the distribution or posting creates any of the effects enumerated in the above definition of bullying.

Bullying is contrary to State law and the policy of the non-sectarian nonpublic school and is consistent with subsection (a-5) of this Section [free exercise of religion]. Nothing in this Section is intended to infringe upon any right to exercise free expression or the free exercise of religion or religiously based views protected under the [First Amendment to the United States Constitution](#) or under [Section 3 of Article 1 of the Illinois Constitution](#).

Reporting Procedures

All school employees shall report claims or incidents which could constitute bullying, intimidation, or harassment to the Nondiscrimination Coordinator, Title IX Coordinator, Building Principal, Building Assistant Principal, or a Complaint Manager using the attached Bullying, Intimidation, Harassment and School Violence Report Form. Students are encouraged to report claims or incidents which they reasonably believe could constitute bullying, intimidation, or harassment to any school employee. Complaints will be kept confidential to the extent possible given the need to fully investigate the complaint. Anonymous reports will be accepted; however, this shall not be construed to permit formal disciplinary action solely on the basis of an anonymous report.

The Superintendent shall insert the names, addresses, and telephone numbers of the District’s current Nondiscrimination Coordinator and Complaint Managers in the spaces provided below. At least one of these Complaint Managers shall be female, and at least one shall be male.

Nondiscrimination Coordinator	Title IX Coordinator
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Dr. Annetta Spychalski 255 W. Vermont St. Villa Park, IL 60181 aspychalski@d45.org 630-516-7899	Dr. Annetta Spychalski 255 W. Vermont St. Villa Park, IL 60181 aspychalski@d45.org 630-516-7899
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Complaint Manager

Dr. Brian Graber

255 W. Vermont St. Villa Park, IL 60181

bgraber@d45.org

630-516-7326

Complaint Manager

Ms. Christine Arado

255 W. Vermont St. Villa Park, IL 60181

carado@d45.org

630-516-7327

Reprisal/Retaliation Prohibited

Reprisal or retaliation against any person who reports an act of bullying is strictly prohibited. Any person who is found to have engaged in reprisal or retaliation will be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including discharge with regard to employees, or suspension and/or expulsion with regard to students.

False Accusations of Bullying Prohibited

Falsely accusing any person of bullying and/or knowingly providing false information regarding a bullying investigation is strictly prohibited. A person who is found to have falsely accused another of bullying, as a means of retaliation, as a means of *bullying*, or to have provided false information regarding a bullying investigation will be treated as either: (a) *bullying*, (b) student discipline up to and including suspension and/or expulsion, and/or (c) both (a) and (b) for purposes of determining any consequences or other appropriate remedial actions.

Investigation Procedures

The Superintendent or designee shall promptly investigate reports of bullying and make all reasonable efforts to complete the investigation within 10 school days after the date the report of bullying was received. The Superintendent or designee will:

1. Notify the building principal and/or relevant school administrator or designee of the report of bullying as soon as possible after it is received;
2. Take into consideration additional relevant information received during the course of the investigation about the reported incident of bullying;
3. Involve appropriate school support personnel and other staff with knowledge, experience, and training on bullying prevention, as deemed appropriate;
4. Afford the individual(s) alleged to have engaged in bullying, intimidating and/or harassing behavior and the student(s) allegedly targeted by bullying, intimidating and/or harassing behavior an opportunity to file a written statement in response to the bullying report;
5. Interview, separately, students who were involved in or who witnessed the bullying, intimidating and/or harassing behavior; and
6. Consistent with federal and state student privacy laws, provide the parents/guardians of students

who are parties to the investigation with:

- a. Information about the investigation; and
 - b. An opportunity to meet with the building principal or relevant school administrator or designee to discuss the investigation, the findings of the investigation, and the actions taken to address the reported incident of bullying.
7. Consistent with federal and state student privacy laws, provide the parents/guardians of students who are parties to the investigation with:
- a. Information about the investigation; and
 - b. An opportunity to meet with the building principal or relevant school administrator or designee to discuss the investigation, the findings of the investigation, and the actions taken to address the reported incident of bullying.

Interventions and Notice to Parents/Guardians

The Superintendent or designee shall use interventions to address bullying which may include, but are not limited to: school social work services, restorative measures, social-emotional skill building, counseling, school psychological services, and community-based services.

Consistent with federal and state student privacy laws, the Superintendent or designee shall promptly report to parents/guardians of all students involved in the incident of bullying and discuss, as appropriate, the availability of these interventions.

Discipline and Consequences

Any District student who is determined, after an investigation, to have engaged in conduct prohibited by this policy will be subject to a range of consequences, including discipline up to suspension and/or expulsion, educational consequences and behavioral consequences. The development of consequences for a student who engages in bullying behavior will be grounded in ongoing efforts within the District to implement social and emotional learning, positive behavioral interventions and supports, the overarching curriculum, discipline policies and other violence prevention efforts. All parents/guardians shall be notified, as required by State law, whenever their student engages in aggressive behavior.

Any District employee or who is determined, after an investigation, to have engaged in conduct prohibited by this policy will be subject to disciplinary action up to and including discharge.

Restorative Practices

Consistent with federal and State laws and rules governing student privacy rights, includes procedures for promptly informing parents or guardians of all students involved in the alleged incident of bullying and discussing, as appropriate, the availability of social work services, counseling, school psychological services, other interventions, and restorative measures.

"Restorative measures" means a continuum of school-based alternatives to exclusionary discipline, such as suspensions and expulsions, that

- are adapted to the particular needs of the school and community,
- contribute to maintaining a school safety,
- protect the integrity of a positive and productive learning climate,
- teach students the personal and interpersonal skills they will need to be successful in school and

society,

- serve to build and restore relationships among students, families, schools, and communities, and
- reduce the likelihood of future disruption by balancing accountability with an understanding of students' behavioral health needs in order to keep students in school
- increase student accountability if the incident of bullying is based on religion, race, ethnicity, or any other category that is identified in the Illinois Human Rights Act.

Professional Development

The Superintendent or designee shall develop and maintain a program to monitor bullying that includes collecting and analyzing appropriate data on the nature and extent of bullying in the District's schools and, after identifying appropriate indicators, assesses the effectiveness of the various strategies, programs, and procedures. Results of this assessment shall be reported to the Board annually along with recommendations to enhance effectiveness.

The District recognizes that accurate and current information about the causes and consequences of bullying and school violence to students and school personnel is critical to effective prevention and intervention. The District will ensure that all District personnel receive professional development that addresses the causes and consequences of bullying and school violence and strategies to effectively prevent and intervene when such behaviors occur.

This policy is based on the engagement of a range of school stakeholders, including seventh and eighth grade students and parents/guardians. The District shall evaluate this policy at least every two years after its initial adoption and shall file this policy and any updates with the Illinois State Board of Education.

The District's policy evaluation process will assess the outcomes and effectiveness of the policy through a review of factors including, but not limited to: the frequency of victimization; student, staff and family observations of safety at schools; identification of areas of schools where bullying occurs; the types of bullying utilized; and bystander intervention or participation. Information developed as a result of this policy evaluation will be made available on the District's website. This policy is consistent with the policies of the school board, charter school, or non-public, non-sectarian elementary or secondary school.

LEGAL REF.:

[105 ILCS 5/10-20.14](#), [5/10-22.6](#)(b-20), [5/24-24](#), and [5/27-23.7](#).

[405 ILCS 49/](#), Children's Mental Health Act.

[775 ILCS 5/1-103](#), Ill. Human Rights Act.

[23 Ill.Admin.Code §§1.240](#), [1.280](#), and [1.295](#).

CROSS REF.: 2:240 (Board Policy Development), 2:260 (Uniform Grievance Procedure), 2:265 (Title IX Grievance Procedure), 2:270 (Discrimination and Harassment on the Basis of Race, Color, and National Origin Prohibited), 4:170 (Safety), 5:230 (Maintaining Student Discipline), 6:60 (Curriculum Content), 6:65 (Student Social and Emotional Development), 6:235 (Access to Electronic Networks), 7:20 (Harassment of Students Prohibited), 7:185 (Teen Dating Violence Prohibited), 7:190 (Student Behavior), 7:220 (Bus Conduct), 7:230 (Misconduct by Students with Disabilities), 7:240 (Conduct Code for Participants in Extracurricular Activities), 7:285 (Anaphylaxis Prevention, Response, and Management Program), 7:310 (Restrictions on Publications; Elementary Schools)

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Adopted: July 15, 2025

School District 45 - DuPage County
