

General Personnel

Administrative Procedure - Investigations

Immigration Investigation

All newly hired employees must complete section one of the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services Form I-9 (Form I-9) no later than three business days following their first working day (Immigration Reform and Control Act, 8 U.S.C. §1324a, 8 C.F.R. §274a.2). See: www.uscis.gov/i-9. If an individual is unable to provide the required documents to complete it, the individual may present a receipt for the application of the required documents within three days of the hire. The individual must then present the required documents within 90 days of the hire. The Superintendent or designee completes section two of the Form I-9 and confirms the employee's information.

If the Employment Eligibility Verification System (E-Verify) is used to complete Form I-9, the Superintendent or designee will review the Ill. Dept. of Labor's website and its E-Verify factsheet, available at: <https://labor.illinois.gov/content/dam/soi/en/web/idol/laws-rules/legal/documents/e-verification-facts-poster.pdf>. See the Ill. Dept. of Labor Right to Privacy in the Workplace Act, 820 ILCS 55/12.

The completed Form I-9 shall be maintained in a file separate from other personnel records in order to prevent unauthorized review of personnel files. The Form I-9 shall be retained for a period of three years after the date of hire or one year after individual employment is terminated, whichever is later.

Fingerprint-based Criminal History Records Information Check (105 ILCS 5/10-21.9, amended by P.A. 102-702, eff. 7-1-23)

A fingerprint-based criminal history records information check must be initiated prior to employment, but the District may permit the individual to be hired and begin employment pending its outcome. See *Criminal History Records Information (CHRI) Checks for Certified and Non-certified School Personnel*, at: www.isbe.net/Documents/guidance_chr.pdf.

A complete criminal history records check pursuant to 105 ILCS 5/10-21.9 consists of:

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

*These checks must be conducted by the District or the Regional Superintendent¹ once every five years that an individual remains employed by the District. 105 ILCS 5/10-21.9(a-5), (a-6), amended by P.A. 102-552.

The footnotes should be removed before the material is used.

¹ Alternative for districts in suburban Cook County: replace "Regional Superintendent" with "appropriate Intermediate Service Center Executive Director" throughout this procedure.

See also policy 4:175, *Convicted Child Sex Offender; Screening; Notifications*, and administrative procedure 4:175-AP1, *Criminal Offender Notification Laws; Screening*. **Important:** 20 ILCS 2630/5.2 outlines how an individual may petition to have an arrest record expunged by the arresting authority and the records of the arrest sealed by the circuit court clerk. It also details offenses for which an individual cannot have his or her conviction sealed.

Note: The following criminal history records check guides are also available:

1. Guide to Understanding Criminal History Record Check Information is available at: <https://dph.illinois.gov/content/dam/soi/en/web/idph/files/forms/background-check-guide-071817.pdf>.
2. Ill. State Board of Education non-regulatory guidance document, Criminal History Records Information (CHRI) Checks for Certified and Non-certified School Personnel, at: www.isbe.net/Documents/guidance_chr.pdf.

The following individuals are responsible for the actions listed:

Applicant - Each applicant for employment in any position (except bus drivers employed by a private student transportation contractor) must provide a written authorization for a complete criminal history records check at the time he or she submits the application.

Individual Student Teaching or beginning a required internship - Each individual student teaching or beginning a required internship must provide written authorization for, and pay the costs of, his or her criminal history records check (including any applicable vendor's fees) prior to participating in any field experiences in the District. See 105 ILCS 5/10-21.9(g).

Applicant for Bus Driver - Each applicant for a bus driver position must complete the application required by the Secretary of State for a school bus driver permit (obtained from the District) and submit it to the District along with the necessary fingerprint submission as required by the ISP to conduct a fingerprint-based criminal history records check. The Superintendent or designee will conduct a pre-employment interview² with prospective school bus driver candidates, distribute school bus driver applications and medical forms, and submit the applicant's fingerprint cards to the ISP. The Superintendent or designee will certify in writing to the Secretary of State that all pre-employment conditions have been successfully completed, including the successful completion of a criminal history records check as required by State law. The applicant must present the certification to the Secretary of State at the time of submitting the school bus driver permit application. See 625 ILCS 5/6-106.1, amended by P.A. 102-168; 92 Ill.Admin.Code §1035.25.

Superintendent or designee - **Note:** *Add any additional steps to efficiently receive a complete criminal history records check.*

1. Fingerprint-Based Criminal History Records Check:
 - a. For all applicants, the Superintendent or designee completes the required forms to request the criminal history records checks from an appropriate ISP or LiveScan vendor. When the applicant is a successful superintendent candidate who has been offered employment by the Board, the School Board President shall ensure that these checks are completed. This may include submitting the applicant's name, sex, race, date of birth, social security number, fingerprint images, and other identifiers to the ISP and FBI on the forms prescribed by each agency.

The footnotes should be removed before the material is used.

² Any employer that asks applicants to record video interviews and uses an artificial intelligence analysis of the applicant-submitted videos must comply with the Artificial Intelligence Video Interview Act, 820 ILCS 42/.

- b. The Superintendent or designee, or when the applicant is a successful superintendent candidate who has been offered employment by the Board, the Board President, will provide the applicant with a copy of the ISP and FBI reports. Required by 105 ILCS 5/10-21.9(b) and 20 ILCS 2635/7. The applicant has the obligation and responsibility to notify the District within seven (7) working days if information in the report furnished by the ISP is inaccurate or incomplete. Id.
- c. The Superintendent or designee, or the Regional Superintendent, notifies the State Superintendent of Education in writing within 15 business days when a CHRI returns a *conviction* of a crime set forth in 105 ILCS 5/21B-80. 105 ILCS 5/21.9(e), and:

- i. Makes a preliminary determination that the applicant will be disqualified based on a conviction record when: (1) the District is prohibited by 105 ILCS 5/10-21.9 from employing the individual because the conviction is an offense listed in 105 ILCS 5/21B-80, amended by P.A. 102-552;³ (2) there is a *substantial relationship* between one or more of the previous criminal offenses and the employment sought or held; or (3) the employment would involve an *unreasonable risk* to property or to the safety or welfare of specific individuals or the general public.

Conviction record means information indicating that a person has been convicted of a felony, misdemeanor or other criminal offense, placed on probation, fined, imprisoned, or paroled pursuant to any law enforcement or military authority. 775 ILCS 5/1-103(G-5). It includes the results of a *complete criminal history records check* conducted pursuant to 105 ILCS 5/10-21.9.

Substantial relationship means a consideration of whether a job position offers the opportunity for the same or a similar offense to occur and whether the circumstances leading to the conduct for which the person was convicted will recur in the position. 775 ILCS 5/2-103.1(A).

To determine whether an applicant is disqualified based on a *substantial relationship* or *unreasonable risk*, considers the following factors: (1) length of time since the conviction; (2) number of convictions that appear on the conviction record; (3) nature and severity of the conviction and its relationship to the safety and security of others; (4) the facts or circumstances surrounding the conviction; (5) the age of the employee at the time of the conviction; and (6) evidence of rehabilitation efforts. 775 ILCS 5/2-103.1(B). See also Ill. Dept. of Human Rights (IDHR) *Conviction Record Protection – Frequently Asked Questions* (March 2021), at: <https://dhr.illinois.gov/conviction-record-protection-frequently-asked-questions.html>.

- ii. When the applicant’s conviction record disqualifies him/her/them, notifies the applicant of the preliminary decision in writing. The written notice shall contain: (1) the disqualifying convictions that are the basis for the

The footnotes should be removed before the material is used.

³ Attorneys have different opinions as to whether the IHRA requires the *interactive assessment* outlined in 775 ILCS 5/2-103.1(c), which includes preliminary and final notices, when a disqualifying offense listed in 105 ILCS 5/21B-80 is found in a conviction record; **consult the board attorney for guidance on this issue.**

preliminary decision and the District's reasoning for the disqualification; (2) a copy of the *complete criminal history records check* conducted pursuant to 105 ILCS 5/10-21.9; and (3) an explanation of the applicant's right to submit evidence challenging the accuracy of the conviction record that is the basis for the disqualification within seven (7) working days of the applicant's receipt of the copy of the conviction record⁴ if the applicant wishes to dispute the accuracy of the conviction record and/or submit evidence in mitigation, such as rehabilitation. 775 ILCS 5/2-103.1(C)(1) and (2). See 5:30-AP2, E1, *Notice of Preliminary Hiring Decision Based on Conviction Record*, for a sample letter template.

Note: Evidence of rehabilitation may include education, training, stable employment, family and community involvement, and recovery from substance abuse. For more information, see *EEOC Enforcement Guidance on the Consideration of Arrest and Conviction Records in Employment Decision under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act*, at: www.eeoc.gov/laws/guidance/enforcement-guidance-consideration-arrest-and-conviction-records-employment-decisions.

- iii. When the final decision disqualifies the applicant based on the conviction record, provides a second written notice to the applicant that contains: (1) notice of the disqualifying conviction(s) that are the basis for the final decision and the District's reasoning for the disqualification; (2) any existing procedure the employer has for the applicant to challenge the decision or request reconsideration (this is not required)⁵; and (3) the right to file a charge with the IDHR. 775 ILCS 5/2-103.1(C)(3). See 5:30-AP2, E2, *Notice of Final Hiring Decision Based on Conviction Record*, for a sample letter template.
- d. The Superintendent or designee, or the Regional Superintendent, or as applicable the entity that provides background checks for public schools, notifies the State Superintendent of education in writing⁶ within 10 business days⁷ after receiving information of a *pending* criminal charge for an offense set forth in 105 ILCS 5/21B-80. Required by 105 ILCS 5/10-21.9(e).

The footnotes should be removed before the material is used.

⁴ The IHRA requires at least five business days for the applicant to dispute the accuracy of the conviction record, but the Ill. Uniform Conviction Information Act (UCIA) provides the applicant seven working days from of receipt of the copy of the conviction information to notify the district if the information is inaccurate or incomplete. 20 ILCS 2635/7(A)(2). This procedure accommodates the longer timeline of the UCIA.

⁵ Consult the board attorney for advice about whether policy 2:260, *Uniform Grievance Procedure*, should be included in the final decision letter for new applicants and/or existing employees. That policy is limited to students, parents/guardians, employees, or community members that want to file a complaint regarding the district's alleged violation of a constitutional right, statute, or board policy.

⁶ 105 ILCS 5/10-21.9(e) requires written notice for *convictions*. While notice for *pending* criminal charges is not required to be "in writing," for ease of use, consistency in administration, alignment with the requirement to provide written notice for *convictions*, and best practices this sample text states the State Superintendent will also be notified of *pending* criminal charges in writing. Consult the board attorney for further guidance.

⁷ 105 ILCS 5/10-21.9(e) does not state whether the notice requirement is *calendar days* or *business days*. Support for it being *business days* is found later in 105 ILCS 5/10-21.9(e), which requires that notice for *convictions* be provided within 15 business days.

Note: For substitute teachers, the Superintendent will need to ensure that the District performs these checks. Contact the board attorney and/or ISBE regarding the validity of a *certificate of authorization*, if a substitute teacher presents one. From 1-1-11 through 7-1-11, the Regional Superintendent or Suburban Cook County Intermediate Service Center Executive Director, whichever is appropriate, was allowed to issue *certificates of authorization* to substitute teachers. Issuance of a *certificate of authorization* was proof that the substitute teacher applicant had met all of the requirements to substitute teach in the educational service region; i.e., a fingerprint-based criminal history records check, a physical examination, and a negative tuberculin test. Because P.A. 97-607 deleted *certificates of authorization*, substitute teachers no longer receive them because they no longer exist. For those substitute teachers who did receive them, there is not an answer to the question of whether their *certificates of authorization* are still valid. Attorneys in the field suggest looking for an expiration date on the *certificate of authorization*. If the document has no expiration date, it is likely invalid because the document no longer exists. If there is an expiration date, then the document is likely valid until the date listed.

- e. For individuals student teaching or beginning a required internship, the Superintendent or designee ensures that the individual completes the required forms, authorizations, and provides payment to the District for the costs of completing a complete criminal history records check prior to student teaching or beginning a required internship (105 ILCS 5/10-21.9(g) and policy 5:260, *Student Teachers*). For more information, see also ISBE's non-regulatory guidance document, *Criminal History Records Information (CHRI) Checks for Certified and Non-certified School Personnel*, available at: www.isbe.net/Documents/guidance_chr.pdf.
2. Screen of the Statewide offender databases upon hire and every five years thereafter that an individual remains employed by the District. 105 ILCS 5/10-21.9(a-5), (a-6), amended by P.A.s 101-531 and 102-552. The Superintendent or designee, or when the applicant is a successful superintendent candidate who has been offered employment by the Board, the Board President, performs a screen for each applicant of:
 - a. The Statewide Sex Offender Registry, <https://isp.illinois.gov/Sor/Disclaimer>, as authorized by the Sex Offender Community Notification Law (730 ILCS 152/ et seq.), and
 - b. The Statewide Murderer and Violent Offender Against Youth Registry <https://isp.illinois.gov/MVOAY/Disclaimer>, as authorized by the Murderer and Violent Offender Against Youth Registration Act (730 ILCS 154/75-154/105).

The Superintendent or designee, or when the applicant is a successful superintendent candidate who has been offered employment by the Board, the Board President, notifies the individual if he or she is identified in the database as a sex offender. Required by 105 ILCS 5/10-21.9 (a-5), (a-6), and (b). The Superintendent or designee, or the Regional Superintendent, notifies the State Superintendent of Education in writing within 15 business days, when a database screen finds a *registration* for an individual licensed by ISBE. 105 ILCS 5/21.9(e).

ISP and FBI - The ISP and FBI furnish records of convictions (until expunged), pursuant to the District's request, to the Board President. **Note:** The ISP and FBI must "furnish, pursuant to a fingerprint-based criminal history records check, records of convictions, until expunged, to the president of the school board...". See 105 ILCS 5/10-21.9(a) and (g). 20 ILCS 2630/3.3 establishes authority for the ISP to collect fees from the District if wishes to participate in a Federal *Rap Back Service*. Rap Back Service is a capability of the FBI's Next Generation Identification (NGI) system

that provides authorized agencies notification of criminal activity and, in limited cases, of civil activity, that occurs after the initial processing and retention of criminal or civil transactions, e.g., an initial fingerprint-based criminal history records check. The Board may determine that it wants to participate. Participation includes ISP submitting fingerprints that the District orders to the FBI Rap Back Service to be retained for the purpose of being searched by future submissions to the FBI Rap Back Service. For a student teacher, the report shall be returned to the Superintendent or designee (see ISBE's non-regulatory guidance document, *Criminal History Records Information (CHRI) Checks for Certified and Non-certified School Personnel*, at: www.isbe.net/Documents/guidance_chr.pdf).

Board President - The School Code requires the Board President to keep a conviction record confidential. The information may only be shared between the Board President, the Superintendent or designee, Regional Superintendent (if the check was requested by the District), State Superintendent of Education, State Educator Preparation and Licensure Board, any other person necessary to the hiring decision, the ISP and/or Statewide Sex Offender Registry for clarification purposes, or the Teachers' Retirement System of the State of Illinois (TRS) when the board learns that a teacher has been convicted of a felony. See 105 ILCS 5/10-21.9(b), 105 ILCS 5/21B-10, and 105 ILCS 5/21B-85, amended by P.A. 102-552. For further discussion about the practical implementation issues for the Board President to ensure that a fingerprint-based criminal history records information check and other database screens are initiated and completed prior to employment, see f/n 11 in 5:30, *Hiring Process and Criteria*.

Regional Superintendent/Suburban Cook County Intermediate Service Center Executive Director - The Superintendent or designee may require the applicant to authorize the Regional Superintendent or Suburban Cook County Intermediate Service Center Executive Director, whichever is appropriate, to conduct the check when an applicant is (1) seeking employment in more than one District simultaneously as (a) a substitute teacher, (b) a concurrent part-time employee, and/or (c) educational support personnel, or (2) the employee works for a contractor holding contracts with more than one district. The Regional Superintendent or Suburban Cook County Intermediate Service Center Executive Director, whichever is appropriate, also performs a check of the Statewide Sex Offender Registry, <https://isp.illinois.gov/Sor/Disclaimer>, as authorized by the Sex Offender Community Notification Law (730 ILCS 152/115), and the Violent Offender Against Youth Registry, <https://isp.illinois.gov/MVOAY/Disclaimer>, as authorized by the Murderer and Violent Offender Against Youth Registration Act (730 ILCS 154/75-154/105). See 105 ILCS 5/10-21.9 (a-5), (a-6), and (b), amended by P.A. 102-552.

Contractors - The above requirements for a *complete criminal history records check* apply to all employees and agents of contractors who have direct, daily contact with students. 105 ILCS 5/10-21.9(f). Every contractor with the District shall: (1) make every employee or agent who will have direct, daily contact with students submit to a complete criminal history records check, (2) confirm that it will make those employees available to the District for the criminal history records check, and (3) submit payment for the costs of the check(s) to the District.

Note: The provisions in 105 ILCS 5/10-21.9(f) and (g) apply to employees of contractors who have "direct, daily contact" with students. To be comprehensive and to eliminate uncertainty, this procedure and policy 4:175, *Convicted Child Sex Offender; Screening; Notifications*, may require a criminal history records check on *all* employees of contractors who may work in any school building or on school property. Whether the District uses the comprehensive language or the direct language from the School Code, the District, not the contractor, must perform the background checks. Contractors are not authorized under any State or federal law to: (1) conduct the required criminal

history background checks; or (2) see the employee's criminal history furnished by the ISP and the FBI.⁸ All contracts should also require the contractor to purchase insurance to cover misconduct by their employees and/or an indemnification clause. Additionally, the Superintendent or designee should check insurance coverage to determine whether employees of contractors are covered. See also policy 4:175, *Convicted Child Sex Offender; Screening; Notifications*, and administrative procedure 4:60-AP3, *Criminal History Records Check of Contractor Employees*, for the responsibilities of contractors. Last, if the District has received, within the last year, information that concerns the record of conviction and identification as a sex offender of any contractors' employees, the District must provide the information to another school or school district that requests it. 105 ILCS 5/10-21.9(f-5). For more information, see ISBE's non-regulatory guidance document, *Criminal History Records Information (CHRI) Checks for Certified and Non-certified School Personnel*, available at: www.isbe.net/Documents/guidance_chr.pdf. Unless notified by the individual named in a criminal history records information (CHRI) request or by the ISP that the information furnished in a CHRI report is inaccurate or incomplete, the District cannot be liable for damages to any person to whom the CHRI pertains for actions it reasonably took in reliance on the accuracy and completeness of CHRI report. 20 ILCS 2635/7(A)(3).

District - The District complies with 105 ILCS 5/10-21.9, amended by P.A.s 102-552 and 102-702, eff. 7-1-23, and 5/21B-80, amended by P.A. 102-552. It will not knowingly employ a person, or allow a person to work or student teach/complete a required internship (105 ILCS 5/10-21.9(g)) on school grounds, who:

1. Has been convicted of any one or more of the following offenses, until seven years following the end of the sentence⁹ for the criminal offense:
 - a. Those defined in the Cannabis Control Act, 720 ILCS 550/, except: 720 ILCS 550/4(a), 550/4(b), 550/4(c), 550/5(a), 550/5(b), and any offense for which the holder of a license is placed on probation under the provisions of 550/10 provided that if the terms and conditions of probation required by the court are not fulfilled, the offense is not eligible for this exception.
 - b. Those defined in the Ill. Controlled Substances Act, 720 ILCS 570/100 *et seq.*, except: any offense for which the holder of a license is placed on probation under the provisions of 570/410 provided that if the terms and conditions of probation required by the court are not fulfilled, the offense is not eligible for this exception.
 - c. Those defined in the Methamphetamine Control and Community Protection Act, 720 ILCS 646/, except: any offense for which the holder of a license is placed on probation under the provisions of 646/70 provided that if the terms and conditions of probation required by the court are not fulfilled, the offense is not eligible for this exception.
 - d. Any attempt to commit any of the offenses listed in (a)-(c) of this section.
 - e. Any offense committed or attempted in any other state or against the laws of the United States that, if committed or attempted in Illinois, would have been punishable as one or more of the offenses listed in (a)-(d) of this section.

The footnotes should be removed before the material is used.

⁸ See 4:60-AP3, *Criminal History Records Check of Contractor Employees*, at f/n 1, for discussion of the impact of 775 ILCS 5/2-103.1 on contractor employees.

⁹ *Sentence* includes any period of supervision or probation that was imposed either alone or in combination with a period of incarceration. 105 ILCS 5/21B-80(a), amended by P.A. 102-552.

2. Has been convicted of committing or attempting to commit any one or more of the following offenses:
 - a. Attempting to commit, conspiring to commit, soliciting, or committing first-degree murder or any Class X felony.
 - b. Attempting to commit, conspiring to commit, soliciting, or committing any offense defined in Article 9 (Homicide) of the Criminal Code of 1961 or the Criminal Code of 2012.
 - c. Attempting to commit, conspiring to commit, soliciting, or committing any *sex offense*. Sex offense means any offense defined in:
 - i. Sections 11-6 and 11-9 through 11-9.5, inclusive, and 11-30 (if punished as a Class 4 felony) of the Criminal Code of 1961 or the Criminal Code of 2012;
 - ii. Sections 11-14.1 through 11-21, inclusive, of the Criminal Code of 1961 or the Criminal Code of 2012;
 - iii. Sections 11-23 (if punished as a Class 3 felony), 11-24, 11-25, and 11-26 of the Criminal Code of 1961 or the Criminal Code of 2012; and
 - iv. Sections 11-1.20, 11-1.30, 11-1.40, 11-1.50, 11-1.60, 12-4.9, 12-13, 12-14, 12-14.1, 12-15, 12-16, 12-32, 12-33, 12C-45, and 26-4 (if punished pursuant to 26-4(d)(4) or (5)) of the Criminal Code of 1961 or the Criminal Code of 2012.
 - d. Any offense committed or attempted in any other state or against the laws of the United States, which if committed or attempted in Illinois, would have been punishable as one or more of the foregoing offenses.
3. Has been found to be the perpetrator of sexual or physical abuse of any minor less than 18 years of age pursuant to proceedings under Article II of the Juvenile Court Act of 1987.

Reporting New Hires

The Superintendent or designee shall timely file an IRS Form W-4 or IDES *New Hire Reporting Form* for each newly hired employee with the Ill. Dept. of Employment Security. See 820 ILCS 405/1801.1. When the applicant is a successful superintendent candidate who has been offered employment by the Board, the Board President shall ensure either the retiring Superintendent or designee performs this task.

General Personnel

Administrative Procedure - Sexual Misconduct Related Employment History Review (EHR)

Prior to hiring an applicant for a position involving *direct contact with children or students*, a sexual misconduct related employment history review (EHR) must be initiated, but the District may permit the individual to be hired and begin employment pending its outcome.¹ This applies to all permanent and temporary employment positions within a school, including substitute employees and employees of contractors. An EHR is not required for volunteers.

Glossary of Terms

Contractor - A firm holding a contract with any school including, but not limited to, food service workers, school bus drivers, and other transportation employees who have direct contact with children or students. 105 ILCS 5/22-94(b), added by P.A. 102-702, eff. 7-1-23.

Direct contact with children or students - The possibility of care, supervision, guidance, or control of children or students or routine interaction with children or students. 105 ILCS 5/22-94(b), added by P.A. 102-702, eff. 7-1-23.

Initiate an EHR - The District initiates an EHR when it submits an *Authorization for Release of Sexual Misconduct-Related Information and Current/Former Employer Response* form(s) to every current and previous employer identified by the applicant on said form(s).

School - A public or nonpublic elementary or secondary school. 105 ILCS 5/22-94(b), added by P.A. 102-702, eff. 7-1-23.

Sexual misconduct - Any act, including but not limited to, any verbal, nonverbal, written, or electronic communication or physical activity, by an employee with direct contact with a student, that is directed toward or with a student to establish a romantic or sexual relationship with the student. Examples include but are not limited to: 1) a sexual or romantic invitation, 2) dating or soliciting a date, 3) engaging in sexualized or romantic dialog, 4) making sexually suggestive comments that are directed toward or with a student, 5) self-disclosure or physical exposure of a sexual, romantic, or erotic nature, 6) a sexual, indecent, romantic, or erotic contact with the student. 105 ILCS 5/22-94(b), added by P.A. 102-702, eff. 7-1-23; 105 ILCS 5/22-85.5(c), added by P.A. 102-676.

Substitute Employees

For substitute employees, the EHR is required only prior to the initial hiring of a substitute employee or placement on a school's or district's approved substitute list. A substitute employee seeking to be added to another school's or district's substitute list must undergo another EHR. An EHR conducted upon initial hiring by a contractor or any other entity that furnishes substitute staffing services, e.g., a

The footnotes should be removed before the material is used.

¹ 105 ILCS 5/22-94(c)(4), added by P.A. 102-702, eff. 7-1-23, requires schools or contractors to *initiate* a sexual misconduct related employment history review (EHR) prior to hiring an applicant; it does not require them to wait to receive EHR results. While hiring an applicant after initiating an EHR may be necessary in some circumstances (e.g., to fill an urgent staffing need), waiting for EHR results before hiring an applicant may be prudent in other circumstances. Consult the board attorney for further guidance. See 4:60-AP4, *Sexual Misconduct Related Employment History Review (EHR) of Contractor Employees*, at f/n 1, for a discussion of this issue as it applies to contractors.

regional office of education, satisfies the EHR requirement for all schools using that contractor's/entity's services. 105 ILCS 5/22-94(i), added by P.A. 102-702, eff. 7-1-23.

Employees of Contractors

For employees of contractors, the EHR is performed either at the time of initial hiring or prior to the employee's assignment to perform work for a school involving direct contact with children or students. 105 ILCS 5/22-94(j)(1), added by P.A. 102-702, eff. 7-1-23. Contractors must maintain records documenting EHRs for all such employees and, upon the District's request, provide the District with access to the records. 105 ILCS 5/22-94(j)(2), added by P.A. 102-702, eff. 7-1-23. See Board policy 4:60, *Purchases and Contracts*, administrative procedure 4:60-AP1, *Purchases*, and administrative procedure 4:60-AP4, *Sexual Misconduct Related Employment History Review (EHR) of Contractor Employees*, for employment history review requirements for employees of contractors who have direct contact with children or students.

Employment History Review for Direct Hires

Actor	Action
Board President	When the applicant is a superintendent candidate, ensures that either the resigning Superintendent, Human Resources Administrator, or designee initiates the EHR.
Superintendent, Human Resources Administrator, or designee	<p>After a conditional hiring offer has been extended to an applicant for a temporary, permanent, or substitute position involving direct contact with children or students,² initiates the EHR and provides the applicant with:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A <i>Sexual Misconduct Disclosure</i> form, using the Ill. State Board of Education (ISBE) <i>Sexual Misconduct Disclosure Template for Applicant</i> at www.isbe.net/Documents/Temp1-ISBE-Sexual-Misconduct-Disclosure-Form-Applicant.pdf.³ 2. Copies of the <i>Authorization for Release of Sexual Misconduct-Related Information and Current/Former Employer Response</i> form, using the ISBE <i>Authorization for Release of Sexual Misconduct-Related Information and Current/Former Employer Response Template</i> at www.isbe.net/Documents/Temp2-Auth-Release-Sexual-Misconduct-Related-Info.pdf, for the applicant to complete for each current/former employer, 3. Instructions to complete and return all forms within [insert

The footnotes should be removed before the material is used.

² Optional. 105 ILCS 5/22-94, added by P.A. 102-702, eff. 7-1-23, does not specify when an applicant must undergo an EHR. To reduce administrative work, this sample procedure provides that an EHR will only occur once an applicant for a position involving direct contact with children or students reaches a particular stage in the hiring process. Alternatively, a district may choose to conduct an EHR for all applicants who reach a particular stage in the hiring process, even if the position does not involve direct contact with children or students, in case the position's job duties change to involve direct contact with children or students. If the district wishes to conduct EHRs for all applicants who reach a particular stage in the hiring process, delete for a temporary, permanent, or substitute position involving direct contact with children or students.

³ Districts must use Ill. State Board of Education templates to develop their EHR forms. 105 ILCS 5/22-94(c), added by P.A. 102-702, eff. 7-1-23. Districts may incorporate the templates into existing forms and/or add to the templates' requirements, but they cannot alter the templates' contents.

Actor	Action
	<p><i>number</i>] calendar days after receipt, and</p> <p>4. Notice that the District cannot hire an applicant who does not provide the information required by the forms (105 ILCS 5/22-94(f), added by P.A. 102-702, eff. 7-1-23).⁴</p>
Applicant	<p>Completes the <i>Sexual Misconduct Disclosure</i> form and <i>Authorization for Release of Sexual Misconduct-Related Information and Current/Former Employer Response</i> form(s) and returns them to the Superintendent, Human Resources Administrator and/or designee. 105 ILCS 5/22-94(c)(3), added by P.A. 102-702, eff. 7-1-23.</p>
Superintendent, Human Resources Administrator, or designee	<p>Reviews the applicant’s completed <i>Sexual Misconduct Disclosure</i> form and <i>Authorization for Release of Sexual Misconduct-Related Information and Current/Former Employer Response</i> form(s). Maintains copies of these forms in the personnel file. See policy 5:150, <i>Personnel Records</i>, and administrative procedure 5:150-AP, <i>Personnel Records</i>.</p> <p>Provides, to all employers identified by the applicant in Section 3 of the <i>Authorization for Release of Sexual Misconduct-Related Information and Current/Former Employer Response</i> form:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A copy of the <i>Authorization for Release of Sexual Misconduct-Related Information and Current/Former Employer Response</i> form (105 ILCS 5/22-94(c)(4), added by P.A. 102-702, eff. 7-1-23); and 2. Instructions to complete the form and return it to the Superintendent, Human Resources Administrator, or designee within 20 calendar days (105 ILCS 5/22-94(e), added by P.A. 102-702, eff. 7-1-23) after receipt. <p>For applicants licensed by ISBE, verifies the applicant’s reported previous employers with previous employers in ISBE’s Educator Licensure Information System (ELIS) to ensure accuracy. 105 ILCS 5/22-94(c)(5), added by P.A. 102-702, eff. 7-1-23.</p> <p>Reviews all responses received from the applicant’s employers and uses information in the responses to evaluate the applicant’s fitness to be hired or for continued employment. 105 ILCS 5/22-94(e), added by P.A. 102-702, eff. 7-1-23.</p> <p>May report information in the responses, as appropriate, to ISBE, a state licensing agency, a law enforcement agency, a child protective services agency, another school or contractor, or a prospective employer. <u>Id.</u></p> <p>Note: An employer, school, school administrator, or contractor who provides information or records about a current or former employee or applicant is immune from criminal and civil liability for the disclosure of</p>

The footnotes should be removed before the material is used.

⁴ This restriction only applies to applicants for temporary, permanent, or substitute positions involving direct contact with children or students. A district may choose to extend this restriction to all applicants.

Actor	Action
	<p>the information or records, unless the information or records provided were knowingly false. <u>Id.</u></p> <p>Maintains the <i>Sexual Misconduct Disclosure</i> form and all responses received from the current/former employers in the personnel file. See policy 5:150, <i>Personnel Records</i>, and administrative procedure 5:150-AP, <i>Personnel Records</i>.</p>

General Personnel

Exhibit - EHR Letter to Applicant's Current/Formal Employer

Use this letter when the District contacts an applicant's current or former employer to complete a sexual misconduct related employment history review. 105 ILCS 5/22-94.

On District Letterhead

Re: Applicant's Sexual Misconduct Related Employment History Review

Attention [*insert name of applicant's current/former employer*]:

You are receiving this letter pursuant to the Illinois School Code (105 ILCS 5/22-94) because your organization has been listed by the applicant as a current employer, a former employer that was a school or school contractor, or a former employer at which the applicant had direct contact with children or students, meaning the possibility of care, supervision, guidance, or control of children or students or routine interaction with children or students.

To help protect children and students from the threat of sexual misconduct, Illinois law requires all Illinois public/non-public elementary and secondary schools to conduct sexual misconduct related employment history reviews on certain applicants for hire. Therefore, we are required to ask, and you are required to complete, the enclosed standardized form, which was developed using a template created by the Ill. State Board of Education (ISBE). Illinois law further requires you to disclose the information requested on the enclosed form within twenty (20) calendar days of your receipt of the form. If you have an office of human resources or central office, such information must be provided by that office. Additionally, if you answer yes to any question, you must provide further information about the matter disclosed as well as all related records. Information received shall not be deemed a public record.

We will use the information we receive from you to evaluate the applicant's fitness to be hired or for continued employment. We may also report the information, as appropriate, to ISBE, a State licensing agency, a law enforcement agency, a child protective services agency, another school or contractor, or a prospective employer.

Under Illinois law, an employer, school, school administrator, or contractor who provides information or records about a current or former employee or applicant pursuant to this request is immune from criminal and civil liability for the disclosure of the information or records, unless the information or records provided were knowingly false. This immunity is in addition to, and not a limitation on, any other immunity provided by law or any absolute or conditional privileges applicable to the disclosure by virtue of the circumstances of the applicant's consent to the disclosure. Additionally, this immunity extends to any circumstances when the employer, school, school administrator, or contractor in good faith shares findings of sexual misconduct with another employer.

Unless the laws of another state prevent the release of the information or records requested, or disclosure is restricted by the terms of a contract entered into before July 1, 2023, and notwithstanding any other provisions of law to the contrary, an employer, school, school administrator, contractor, or applicant must report and disclose all relevant information, records, and documentation that may otherwise be confidential.

Please return a copy of your response by email to: *[insert email address]*, or by US mail to:

Thank you for your cooperation,

[Insert title, such as Superintendent or Human Resources Administrator]

Enclosure: *Authorization for Release of Sexual Misconduct-Related Information and Current/Former Employer Response form*

General Personnel

Abused and Neglected Child Reporting¹

Any District employee who suspects or receives knowledge that a student may be an abused or neglected² child or, for a student aged 18 through 22, an abused or neglected individual with a

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

¹ State or federal law controls this policy's content. The Abused and Neglected Child Reporting Act (ANCRA) (325 ILCS 5/) requires *education personnel* to immediately report to DCFS when they have reasonable cause to believe a child known to them in their professional or official capacities may be abused or neglected; *education personnel* includes school personnel (including administrators and certified and non-certified school employees) and educational advocates assigned to a child in accordance with the School Code. 325 ILCS 5/4(a)(4). *Education personnel* also includes board members; however, ANCRA does not require them to directly report to DCFS and instead states that a board member "shall direct or cause the school board to direct the superintendent" to report to DCFS. 325 ILCS 5/4(a)(4), (d). See the **Special School Board Member Responsibilities** subhead, below, and sample policy 2:20, *Powers and Duties of the School Board; Indemnification*.

If the report involves an *adult student with a disability*, employees should expect DCFS to instruct them to call the Ill. Dept. of Human Services Office (DHS) office of the Inspector General's statewide 24-hour toll-free telephone number at 1-800-368-1463. 325 ILCS 5/4.4a and 20 ILCS 1305/1-17(b). Reports involving an adult student with a disability may be made directly to DHS; however, for simplicity, and to preserve a superintendent's duty to disclose certain reports involving an employee or former district employee (see discussion in f/n 20 below) and the immunity for such disclosures, the sample policy directs the initial phone call to DCFS. The Dept. of Human Services Act (DHSA) (20 ILCS 1305/) allows a *required reporter* four hours to report after the initial discovery of the incident, allegation, or suspicion of any one or more of the following: mental abuse, physical abuse, sexual abuse, neglect, or financial exploitation. 20 ILCS 1305/1-17(k)(1). Only employees are required reporters. 20 ILCS 1305/1-17(a).

Any person required by law to report abuse and neglect who willfully fails to report is guilty of a Class A misdemeanor. 325 ILCS 5/4(m) and 20 ILCS 1305/1-17(k)(1).

A teaching license may be suspended or revoked for willful or negligent failure to report suspected child abuse or neglect as required by law and for *sexual misconduct*. 105 ILCS 5/21B-75, amended by P.A.s 102-552 and 102-702, eff. 7-1-23.

District employees who make a report in good faith receive immunity, except in cases of willful or wanton misconduct. See 325 ILCS 5/4 and 9. Further, for the purpose of any proceedings, civil or criminal, good faith of the person making the report is presumed. *Id.*

Every two years, each district within an Illinois county served by an accredited Children's Advocacy Center (CAC) must review its sexual abuse investigation policies and procedures to ensure consistency with 105 ILCS 5/22-85. 105 ILCS 5/10-20.71. See sample policy 7:20, *Harassment of Students Prohibited*.

² ANCRA covers abuse and neglect of children. 325 ILCS 5/3. DHSA covers abuse and neglect of adult students with a disability. 20 ILCS 1305/1-17(b). Abuse may be generally understood as any physical or mental injury or sexual abuse inflicted on a child or adult student with a disability other than by accidental means or creation of a risk of such injury or abuse by a person who is responsible for the welfare of a child or adult student with a disability. Neglect may be generally understood as abandoning a child or adult student with a disability or failing to provide the proper support, education, medical, or remedial care required by law by one who is responsible for the child's or adult student with a disability's welfare.

Abuse covered by ANCRA also includes *grooming* as defined in the Ill. Criminal Code of 2012 (720 ILCS 5/11-25). 325 ILCS 5/3(i), added by P.A. 102-676 (a/k/a *Faith's Law*).

The School Code goes further and prohibits school employees from engaging in *grooming behaviors* and *sexual misconduct*. 105 ILCS 5/10-23.13(b), amended by P.A. 102-610 (a/k/a *Erin's Law*); 105 ILCS 5/22-85.5(c), added by P.A. 102-676 (a/k/a *Faith's Law*). To streamline implementation, sample policy 5:120, *Employee Ethics; Code of Professional Conduct; and Conflict of Interest*, defines prohibited *grooming behaviors* to include *sexual misconduct* and it explicitly prohibits employees from engaging in *grooming*, *grooming behaviors*, and *sexual misconduct*. While it is possible for low-level *grooming behaviors* and/or *sexual misconduct* to not amount to *grooming* prohibited by ANCRA, best practice is to report suspected *grooming behaviors* and *sexual misconduct* to DCFS.

disability³, shall: (1) immediately report or cause a report to be made to the Ill. Dept. of Children and Family Services (DCFS) on its Child Abuse Hotline 1-800-25-ABUSE (1-800-252-2873)(within Illinois); 1-217-524-2606 (outside of Illinois); or 1-800-358-5117 (TTY), and (2) follow directions given by DCFS concerning filing a written report within 48 hours with the nearest DCFS field office.⁴ Any District employee who believes a student is in immediate danger of harm, shall first call 911. The employee shall also promptly notify the Superintendent or Building Principal that a report has been made.⁵ The Superintendent or Building Principal shall immediately coordinate any necessary notifications to the student's parent(s)/guardian(s) with DCFS, the applicable school resource officer (SRO), and/or local law enforcement.⁶ *Negligent failure to report* occurs when a District employee personally observes an instance of suspected child abuse or neglect and reasonably believes, in his or her professional or official capacity, that the instance constitutes an act of child abuse or neglect under the Abused and Neglected Child Reporting Act (ANCRA) and he or she, without willful intent, fails to immediately report or cause a report to be made of the suspected abuse or neglect to DCFS.⁷

Any District employee who discovers child pornography on electronic and information technology equipment shall immediately report it to local law enforcement, the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children's CyberTipline 1-800-THE-LOST (1-800-843-5678) or online at

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

³ State child and disabled adult protection laws define the same class of individuals differently, but with the same goal: to protect an adult student with a disability, not living in a DCFS licensed facility, who is still finishing school with an Individual Education Plan (IEP). The Dept. of Human Services Act (DHS Act) defines "adult student with a disability" as an adult student, age 18 through 21, inclusive (through the day before the student's 22nd birthday), with an IEP other than a resident of a facility licensed by DCFS. 20 ILCS 1305/1-17(b). However, 105 ILCS 5/14-1.02, amended by P.A. 102-172, provides that a student who turns 22 years old during the school year shall be eligible for IEP services through the end of the school year. This statutory definition is the basis for this sample policy's language.

For elementary districts, delete the following phrase from the first sentence: "or, for a student aged 18 through 22, an abused or neglected individual with a disability,."

⁴ 325 ILCS 5/7. For a board that wants to include what a DCFS report should contain, an optional sentence follows:

The report shall include, if known:

1. The name and address of the child, parent/guardian names, or other persons having custody;
2. The child's age;
3. The child's condition, including any evidence of previous injuries or disabilities; and
4. Any other information that the reporter believes may be helpful to DCFS for its investigation.

When two or more mandated reporters who work within the same workplace share a reasonable cause to believe that a student may be an abused or neglected child, one of them may be designated to make a single report. 325 ILCS 5/4(b). The report must include the name(s) and contact information for the other mandated reporter(s). *Id.*

⁵ ANCRA states that mandated reporters "may also notify the person in charge of [the] school[.]" 325 ILCS 5/4(e). This sample policy makes the report to the superintendent or building principal mandatory to keep the administration informed. The administration may not force the staff member to change or modify his or her report.

⁶ Optional. The sample policy makes coordination with DCFS, the SRO, and local law enforcement a step in the process of reporting, so the local agencies and school district are better able to prevent and manage the risks school officials and parents/guardians face when a DCFS report has been made, e.g., situations where parents/guardians, upon learning a DCFS report has been made involving their child(ren), commit an act of self-harm in response to the information.

For school districts in DuPage County, the DuPage County State's Attorney (SAO), Regional Office of Education (ROE), Police Dept. (PD), and DCFS have created a *Model Policy Reporting Abuse and Neglect for School Officials in DuPage County*, at: www.dupageroe.org/wp-content/uploads/Mandated_Reporting.pdf. Consult the board attorney about this reporting policy – its intent is for school officials to immediately inform the SAO that a report to DCFS has been made to allow the SAO to investigate and prevent evidence spoliation. **Note:** The DuPage SAO, ROE, and PD lack authority under ANCRA over school officials to enforce compliance with this "model reporting policy;" only DCFS has the authority under ANCRA to enforce penalties under ANCRA, not the "model reporting policy." The DuPage SAO, ROE, and PD did not consult school officials in the creation of its "model reporting policy."

⁷ 105 ILCS 5/10-23.12(c) (all district employees); 105 ILCS 5/21B-75(b) (teachers).

www.report.cybertip.org or www.missingkids.org. The Superintendent or Building Principal shall also be promptly notified of the discovery and that a report has been made. ⁸

Any District employee who observes any act of hazing that does bodily harm to a student must report that act to the Building Principal, Superintendent, or designee who will investigate and take appropriate action. If the hazing results in death or great bodily harm, the employee must first make the report to law enforcement and then to the Superintendent or Building Principal. Hazing is defined as any intentional, knowing, or reckless act directed to or required of a student for the purpose of being initiated into, affiliating with, holding office in, or maintaining membership in any group, organization, club, or athletic team whose members are or include other students. ⁹

Abused and Neglected Child Reporting Act (ANCRA), School Code, and Erin's Law Training

The Superintendent or designee shall provide staff development opportunities for District employees in the detection, reporting, and prevention of child abuse and neglect. ¹⁰

All District employees shall:

6. Before beginning employment, sign the *Acknowledgement of Mandated Reporter Status* form provided by DCFS. The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that the signed forms are retained.
7. Complete mandated reporter training as required by law within three months of initial employment and at least every three years after that date. ¹¹

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

⁸ ANCRA requires an electronic and information technology equipment worker or the worker's employer to report a discovery of child pornography depicted on an item of electronic and information technology equipment. 325 ILCS 5/4.5(b). Consult the board attorney to determine whether any district employees fit the definition of an *electronic and information technology worker*, i.e., are "persons who in the scope and course of their employment or business install, repair, or otherwise service electronic and information technology equipment for a fee."

The paragraph exceeds the State requirements by requiring *all* district employees to report a discovery of child pornography on electronic and information technology equipment. This furthers the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children's public policy goal of "empowering the public to take immediate and direct action to enforce a zero tolerance policy regarding child sexual exploitation."

Similar to school personnel who are mandated reporters, electronic and information technology equipment workers and their employers have broad immunities from criminal, civil, or administrative liabilities when they report a discovery of child pornography as required under 325 ILCS 5/4.5(b), except for willful or wanton misconduct, e.g., knowingly filing a false report. Failure to report a discovery of child pornography is a business offense subject to a fine of \$1001. 325 ILCS 5/4.5(e).

⁹ 720 ILCS 5/12C-50.1(b) creates a duty for *school officials* to report hazing. The term *school official* includes all school employees and volunteer coaches. 720 ILCS 5/12C-50.1(a). The duty to report hazing is triggered only when the employee/volunteer is fulfilling his or her responsibilities as a school official and observes hazing which results in bodily harm. 720 ILCS 5/12C-50.1(b). A report must be made to *supervising educational authorities*, which is not defined in the Act. *Id.* Common sense, however, would require the individual witnessing hazing to report it to the building principal or superintendent. Failure to report hazing is a Class B misdemeanor. 720 ILCS 5/12C-50.1(c). Failure to report hazing that resulted in death or great bodily harm is a Class A misdemeanor. *Id.* 7:190-AP1, *Hazing Prohibited*, uses the same definition of *hazing*; this definition is based on 720 ILCS 5/12C-50.

¹⁰ While it is unclear whether this is a duty or power, 105 ILCS 5/10-23.12(a), amended by P.A. 100-413, authorizes boards "[t]o provide staff development for local school site personnel who work with pupils in grades kindergarten through 8, in the detection, reporting, and prevention of child abuse and neglect."

The drill during such training should be: "If in question, report."

8. Complete an annual evidence-informed training related to child sexual abuse, grooming behaviors (including *sexual misconduct* as defined in *Faith's Law*)¹², and boundary violations as required by law and policy 5:100, *Staff Development Program*.^{13 14}

Alleged Incidents of Sexual Abuse; Investigations¹⁵

An *alleged incident of sexual abuse* is an incident of sexual abuse of a child, as defined in 720 ILCS 5/11-9.1A, that is alleged to have been perpetrated by school personnel, including a school vendor or volunteer, that occurred: on school grounds during a school activity; or outside of school grounds or not during a school activity.¹⁶

If a District employee reports an alleged incident of sexual abuse to DCFS¹⁷ and DCFS accepts the report for investigation, DCFS will refer the matter to the local Children's Advocacy Center (CAC).¹⁸ The Superintendent or designee will implement procedures to coordinate with the CAC.

¹¹ ANCRA also requires staff members, within three months of employment, to complete mandated reporter training, including a section on implicit bias and racial and ethnic sensitivity. 325 ILCS 5/4(j), amended by P.A. 102-604. This training must be completed again at least every three years. *Id.* The initial ANCRA three-month training requirement applies to the first time staff engage in their professional or official capacity. *Id.* While the law allows an extension to six months, it is unclear when such an extension is permissible. Consult the board attorney for guidance. As a best practice, to ensure compliance with the requirement in 105 ILCS 5/22-85(c) that mandated reporters annually review Ill. State Board of Education (ISBE) materials regarding notification of DCFS (see f/n 17, below), and to ease the administrative burden to track employee training schedules, a district may consider requiring annual training for all employees.

To reduce liability and align with best practices, ANCRA training for existing district employees appears prudent; however, consult the board attorney about:

1. Whether mandating existing employees to participate in ANCRA training is an item on which collective bargaining may be required. Any policy that impacts upon wages hours, and terms and conditions of employment, is subject to collective bargaining upon request by the employee representative, even if the policy involves an inherent managerial right.
2. How to comply with both the new ANCRA training requirements and whether compliance with them would also satisfy the School Code's more limited district-provided training requirement discussed in f/n 10 above.

¹² Sexual misconduct under *Faith's Law* is defined in 105 ILCS 5/22-85.5(c), added by P.A. 102-676. See f/n 2, above, regarding the inclusion of sexual misconduct in the definition of *grooming behaviors* set forth in sample policy 5:120, *Employee Ethics; Code of Professional Conduct; and Conflict of Interest*.

¹³ 105 ILCS 5/10-23.13, amended by P.A. 102-610 (a/k/a *Erin's Law*). For additional *Erin's Law* requirements and definitions, see policies and the f/n's in 4:165, *Awareness and Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse and Grooming Behaviors*; 5:100, *Staff Development Program*; 5:120, *Employee Ethics; Code of Professional Conduct; and Conflict of Interest*; and 6:60, *Curriculum Content*.

¹⁴ 105 ILCS 5/10-23.12(b) permits DCFS to cooperate with school officials to distribute informational ANCRA materials in school buildings. The following optional sentence provides that information: "The Superintendent or designee will display DCFS-issued materials that list the DCFS toll-free telephone number and methods for making a report under ANCRA in a clearly visible location in each school building."

¹⁵ Delete this subhead if your school district is not within a county served by an accredited CAC. 105 ILCS 5/22-85 governs the investigation of an *alleged incident of sexual abuse* of any child within any Illinois counties served by a CAC. For a map of accredited CACs, and to identify a CAC that may serve your district, see www.childrensadvocacycentersofillinois.org/about/map. The law is silent about investigations in counties without CACs.

¹⁶ Though 105 ILCS 5/22-85(b) defines *alleged incident of sexual abuse*, its definition is circular, using the term *sexual abuse* without defining what that means. To provide boards with clarity, the definition of *sexual abuse* used in the Ill. Criminal Code of 2012 is used.

¹⁷ 105 ILCS 5/22-85(c) provides that if a mandated reporter within a school has knowledge of an alleged incident of sexual abuse, the reporter must call the DCFS hotline immediately after obtaining the minimal information necessary to make a report, including the names of the affected parties and the allegations. It further requires ISBE to make available materials detailing the information necessary to enable notification to DCFS of an alleged incident of sexual abuse, and that all mandated reporters annually review ISBE's materials.

¹⁸ 105 ILCS 5/22-85(d).

DCFS and/or the appropriate law enforcement agency will inform the District when its investigation is complete or has been suspended, as well as the outcome of its investigation.¹⁹ The existence of a DCFS and/or law enforcement investigation will not preclude the District from conducting its own parallel investigation into the alleged incident of sexual abuse in accordance with policy 7:20, *Harassment of Students Prohibited*.

Special Superintendent Responsibilities

The Superintendent shall execute the requirements in Board policy 5:150, *Personnel Records*, whenever another school district requests a reference concerning an applicant who is or was a District employee and was the subject of a report made by a District employee to DCFS.²⁰

When the Superintendent has reasonable cause to believe that a license holder (1) committed an intentional act of abuse or neglect with the result of making a child an abused child or a neglected child under ANCRA or an act of sexual misconduct under *Faith's Law*, and (2) that act resulted in the license holder's dismissal or resignation from the District, the Superintendent shall notify the State Superintendent and the Regional Superintendent in writing, providing the Ill. Educator Identification Number as well as a brief description of the misconduct alleged.²¹ The Superintendent must make the report within 30 days of the dismissal or resignation and mail a copy of the notification to the license holder.²²

The Superintendent shall develop procedures for notifying a student's parents/guardians when a District employee, contractor, or agent is alleged to have engaged in sexual misconduct with the student as defined in *Faith's Law*. The Superintendent shall also develop procedures for notifying the student's parents/guardians when the Board takes action relating to the employment of the employee,

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

¹⁹ 105 ILCS 5/22-85(j), (k).

²⁰ ANCRA requires a superintendent, upon being requested for a reference concerning an employee or former employee, to disclose to the requesting school district the fact that a district employee has made a report involving the conduct of the applicant or caused a report to be made to DCFS. 325 ILCS 5/4(d). When a report involves an adult student with a disability, DCFS must instruct mandated reporters making these reports to call the DHS' Office of the Inspector General's statewide 24 hour toll-free telephone number: 1-800-368-1463 (325 ILCS 5/4.4a) to make a report under the DHS Act.

The DHS Act (20 ILCS 1305/1-17(l)) then requires a determination of whether a report involving an adult student with a disability should be investigated under it or the Abuse of Adults with Disabilities Intervention Act (20 ILCS 2435), however that Act was repealed by P.A. 99-049 (eff. 7-1-13). The DHS Act does not outline a duty for the superintendent, upon being requested for a reference concerning an employee or former employee, to disclose to the requesting school district the fact that a district employee has made a report involving the conduct of the applicant or caused a report to be made to DHS involving an adult student with a disability.

Given the public policy behind the amendments to 325 ILCS 5/4, a reasonable interpretation of the law is that the superintendent's duty to disclose now involves DHS reports concerning adult students with disabilities. However, with no mechanism requiring DHS to report back to the superintendent a *non-substantiated report* (DHS version of a DCFS *unfounded* report), a superintendent's duty to disclose cannot end. Consult the board attorney about managing the duty to disclose reports that involve adult students with disabilities when DCFS redirects the reporter to DHS. For more information, see policy 5:150, *Personnel Records*.

See also f/n 4 of policy 5:150, *Personnel Records*, discussing the Elementary and Secondary Education Act's (ESEA) (20 U.S.C. §7926) requirement that school policies must explicitly prohibit school districts from providing a recommendation of employment for an employee, contractor, or agent that a district knows, or has probable cause to believe, has engaged in sexual misconduct with a student or minor in violation of the law.

²¹ Alternative for districts in suburban Cook County: replace "Regional Superintendent" with "appropriate Intermediate Service Center Executive Director."

²² 105 ILCS 5/10-21.9(e-5), amended by P.A.s 102-552 and 102-702, eff. 7-1-23, requires these notifications and provides superintendents immunity from any liability, whether civil or criminal or that otherwise might result by complying with the statute.

contractor, or agent following the investigation of sexual misconduct. Notification shall not occur when the employee, contractor, or agent alleged to have engaged in sexual misconduct is the student's parent/guardian, and/or when the student is at least 18 years of age or emancipated. ²³

The Superintendent shall execute the recordkeeping requirements of *Faith's Law*. ²⁴

Special School Board Member Responsibilities

Each individual Board member must, if an allegation is raised to the member during an open or closed Board meeting that a student is an abused child as defined in ANCRA, direct or cause the Board to direct the Superintendent or other equivalent school administrator to comply with ANCRA's requirements concerning the reporting of child abuse. ²⁵

If the Board determines that any District employee, other than an employee licensed under 105 ILCS 5/21B, has willfully or negligently failed to report an instance of suspected child abuse or neglect as required by ANCRA, the Board may dismiss that employee immediately. ²⁶

When the Board learns that a licensed teacher was convicted of any felony, it must promptly report it to the State agencies listed in policy 2:20, *Powers and Duties of the School Board; Indemnification*. ²⁷

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

²³ 105 ILCS 5/22-85.10, added by P.A. 102-702, eff. 7-1-23. See sample procedure 5:90-AP2, *Parent/Guardian Notification of Sexual Misconduct*.

²⁴ 105 ILCS 5/22-94(e), added by P.A. 102-702, eff. 7-1-23. See sample procedure 5:150-AP, *Personnel Records*.

²⁵ 325 ILCS 5/4(d). This statute makes board members mandatory child abuse reporters "to the extent required in accordance with other provisions of this section expressly concerning the duty of school board members to report suspected child abuse." Thus, a board member's duty is "to direct the superintendent or other equivalent school administrator to comply with the Act's requirements concerning the reporting of child abuse" whenever an "allegation is raised to a school board member during the course of an open or closed school board meeting that a child who is enrolled in the school district of which he or she is a board member is an abused child." Of course, any board member with reason to doubt that a report was or will be made should directly contact DCF.

²⁶ 105 ILCS 5/10-23.12(c). See f/n 7, above, and f/n 3 in sample policy 2:20, *Powers and Duties of the School Board; Indemnification*.

²⁷ 105 ILCS 5/21B-85(a) and (b), amended by P.A. 102-552. Because felony charges often arise out of abuse and neglect investigation, this board duty is listed here for convenience. See the discussion in the f/ns tied to these duties in sample policy 2:20, *Powers and Duties of the School Board; Indemnification*.

LEGAL REF.: 20 U.S.C. §7926, Elementary and Secondary Education Act.
105 ILCS 5/10-21.9, 5/10-23.13, 5/21B-85, 5/22-85.5, and 5/22-85.10.
20 ILCS 1305/1-1 et seq., Department of Human Services Act.
325 ILCS 5/, Abused and Neglected Child Reporting Act.
720 ILCS 5/12C-50.1, Criminal Code of 2012.

CROSS REF.: 2:20 (Powers and Duties of the School Board; Indemnification), 3:40 (Superintendent), 3:50 (Administrative Personnel Other Than the Superintendent), 3:60 (Administrative Responsibility of the Building Principal), 4:60 (Purchases and Contracts), 4:165 (Awareness and Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse and Grooming Behaviors), 5:20 (Workplace Harassment Prohibited), 5:30 (Hiring Process and Criteria), 5:100 (Staff Development Program), 5:120 (Employee Ethics; Code of Professional Conduct; and Conflict of Interest), 5:150 (Personnel Records), 5:200 (Terms and Conditions of Employment and Dismissal), 5:290 (Employment Termination and Suspensions), 6:120 (Education of Children with Disabilities), 6:250 (Community Resource Persons and Volunteers), 7:20 (Harassment of Students Prohibited), 7:150 (Agency and Police Interviews)

General Personnel

Administrative Procedure - Coordination with Children's Advocacy Center¹

Children's Advocacy Centers (CACs) are child-focused, trauma-informed, facility-based programs that provide a multi-disciplinary, comprehensive response to child abuse. Illinois CACs are organized and operate under the Children's Advocacy Center Act. 55 ILCS 80/. CACs are accredited based on standards set by the National Children's Alliance. 55 ILCS 80/2.5. See www.nationalchildrensalliance.org/.

If the District is located within a county that is served by an accredited CAC, it must coordinate with the CAC to implement the **Alleged Incidents of Sexual Abuse; Investigations** subhead of Board policy 5:90, *Abused and Neglected Child Reporting*. 105 ILCS 5/22-85. For a map of accredited CACs, and to identify a CAC that may serve the District, see www.childrensadvocacycentersofillinois.org/about/map. Use this procedure to coordinate with the District's local CAC.

Glossary of Terms

Alleged incident of sexual abuse - An incident of sexual abuse of a child (as defined in the Ill. Criminal Code of 2012, 720 ILCS 5/11-9.1A) that is alleged to have been perpetrated by school personnel, including a school vendor or volunteer, that occurred either: on school grounds during a school activity, outside of school grounds, or not during a school activity. 105 ILCS 5/22-85(b).²

Alleged victim - A student who is alleged to be the victim of an alleged incident of sexual abuse.

Appropriate law enforcement agency - A law enforcement agency whose employees have been involved, in some capacity, with an investigation of a particular alleged incident of sexual abuse. 105 ILCS 5/22-85(b).

Child advocate - May be a school social worker, a school or equally-qualified psychologist, or a person in a position the Ill. State Board of Education (ISBE) has identified as an appropriate advocate for a student during a school's investigation into an alleged incident of sexual abuse. 105 ILCS 5/22-85(i).

Forensic interview - An interview between a trained forensic interviewer, as defined by National Children's Alliance standards, and a child in which the interviewer obtains information from children in an unbiased and fact finding manner that is developmentally appropriate and culturally sensitive to support accurate and fair decision making by the multidisciplinary team in the criminal justice and child protection systems. 55 ILCS 80/2.5.

School personnel - School employees, vendors, and volunteers.

Sexual Abuse and Sexual Assault - See Ill. Criminal Code of 2012 definitions at:

720 ILCS 5/11-9.1A. Permitting sexual abuse of a child.

720 ILCS 5/11-1.20. Criminal sexual assault.

The footnotes should be removed before the material is used.

¹ This procedure cites the minimum requirements of State law. Modify this procedure based upon the District's specific implementation needs and any additional needs of the CAC that serves the District.

² See the f/n 14 analysis in sample policy 5:90, *Abused and Neglected Child Reporting*. To provide boards with clarity, this procedure uses the definition of *sexual abuse* from the Ill. Criminal Code of 2012.

- 720 ILCS 5/11-1.30. Aggravated criminal sexual assault.
- 720 ILCS 5/11-1.40. Predatory criminal sexual assault of a child.
- 720 ILCS 5/11-1.50. Criminal sexual abuse.
- 720 ILCS 5/11-1.60. Aggravated criminal sexual abuse.

Coordination with CAC

Actor	Action
ISBE	Identifies persons in positions who may be appropriate child advocates for students during a school’s investigation into an alleged incident of sexual abuse. As of March 2023, ISBE has not identified any persons.
Superintendent or designee	<p>Establishes a CAC Communication Committee (Committee) to operate as a Superintendent committee. See 2:150-AP, <i>Superintendent Committees. Consider</i> including:</p> <p>District Nondiscrimination Coordinator (see 2:260, <i>Uniform Grievance Procedure</i>; and 2:265, <i>Title IX Sexual Harassment Grievance Procedure</i>)</p> <p>District Safety Coordinator (see 4:170-API, <i>Comprehensive Safety and Security Plan, Part C, District Safety Coordinator and Safety Team; Responsibilities</i>)</p> <p>District-level administrators</p> <p>Building Principals (Building Principals are mandatory for successful implementation of the Alleged Incidents of Sexual Abuse; Investigations subhead of policy 5:90, <i>Abused and Neglected Child Reporting</i>)</p> <p>School personnel</p> <p>Employees from the accredited CAC that serves the District</p> <p>Chairs and convenes Committee meetings for the purpose of implementing the Alleged Incidents of Sexual Abuse; Investigations subhead of policy 5:90, <i>Abused and Neglected Child Reporting</i>.</p> <p>Note: To achieve the minimum requirement of State law that the District coordinate with its local CAC, this procedure establishes an administrative committee. Establishing a committee provides a best practice for aligning with governance principles and examining implementation issues specific to each individual school district and the CACs that serve each district. While smaller school districts, e.g., one-building districts, may be able to implement a program through one meeting, larger school districts will likely require the uniform coordination this Committee provides.</p> <p>Informs the School Board of the Committee’s progress and needs by adding information items to the Board’s agendas as needed.</p> <p>Ensures that at least every two years, school personnel are trained to understand, provide information and referrals to, and address issues pertaining to students who are parents, expectant parents, or victims of</p>

Actor	Action
	<p>domestic or sexual violence. Note: 105 ILCS 5/10-22.39(d) requires this training to be conducted by persons with expertise in domestic and sexual violence and the needs of expectant and parenting students and must include training concerning each of the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Communicating with and listening to student victims of domestic or sexual violence and expectant and parenting students. 2. Connecting student victims of domestic or sexual violence and expectant and parenting students to appropriate in-school services and other agencies, programs, and services as needed. 3. Implementing the school district's policies, procedures, and protocols with regard to such students, including confidentiality.
School Personnel	<p>Upon suspecting or receiving knowledge of an alleged incident of sexual abuse, shall perform each of the following (105 ILCS 5/22-85(c))</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Immediately report to the Ill. Dept. of Children and Family Services (DCFS) on its Child Abuse Hotline 1-800-25-ABUSE (1-800-252-2873 (within Illinois); 1-217-524-2606 (outside Illinois); or 1-800-358-5117 (TTY). 2. Follow directions given by DCFS concerning filing a written report within 48 hours with the nearest DCFS field office. 25 ILCS 5/7. The written report shall include, if known, each of the following: The name and address of the child, his or her parents/guardians, or other persons having custody; The child's age; The child's condition, including any evidence of previous injuries or disabilities; and Any other information that the reporter believes may be helpful to DCFS for its investigation. 3. Promptly notify the Superintendent or Building Principal that a report has been made.
Superintendent or Building Principal	<p>Immediately coordinates any necessary notifications to the student's parents/guardians with DCFS, the applicable school resource officer (SRO), and/or local law enforcement which includes the local State's Attorney's Office.³</p> <p>Notifies the District's Nondiscrimination Coordinator of the reported alleged incident of sexual abuse.</p>
DCFS and/or Appropriate Law Enforcement Agency	<p>Determines whether to accept a reported alleged incident of sexual abuse for investigation. If a reported alleged incident is accepted, refers the matter to the CAC serving the District. 105 ILCS 5/22-85(d).</p> <p>Note: If neither DCFS nor law enforcement investigate the alleged</p>

The footnotes should be removed before the material is used.

³ This sentence implements optional language from sample policy 5:90, *Abused and Neglected Child Reporting*, and should be deleted if the board's adopted policy does not contain it.

Actor	Action
	incident of sexual abuse, the District can move forward with its own investigation without CAC involvement.
CAC	<p>Coordinates the investigation of the alleged incident of sexual abuse in accordance with its existing multidisciplinary team protocol and National Children’s Alliance accreditation standards. 105 ILCS 5/22-85(e)(1).</p> <p>Facilitates communication between the DCFS/law enforcement multidisciplinary team investigating the alleged incident of sexual abuse and the District’s Nondiscrimination Coordinator.⁴ At a minimum:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ensures that all applicable parties have each other’s contact information; and 2. Shares the CAC’s protocol regarding the process of approving the viewing of a forensic interview by school personnel, and a contact person for questions regarding the protocol. 105 ILCS 5/22-85(e)(2).
Nondiscrimination Coordinator	<p>Upon being notified of the reported alleged incident of sexual abuse by the Superintendent or Building Principal, shall:</p> <p>Open and conduct the District’s investigation into the alleged incident of sexual abuse in accordance with policy 7:20, <i>Harassment of Students Prohibited</i>.</p> <p>Schedule regular follow-up calls to the CAC to inquire whether DCFS/law enforcement has opened an investigation into the alleged incident of sexual abuse.</p> <p>If DCFS/law enforcement investigation is not opened, stops using this procedure and continues the District’s investigation in accordance with policy 7:20, <i>Harassment of Students Prohibited</i>.</p> <p>If DCFS/law enforcement investigation is opened, continues with the following steps.</p> <p>Notes the date DCFS/law enforcement opened its investigation and sets a reminder for 15 calendar days after it.</p> <p>Note: This time period is important because the CAC has 15 calendar days to conduct a forensic interview of the alleged victim. During this time, the District is cannot interview the alleged victim regarding the alleged incident.</p> <p>While the child abuse and/or criminal investigations related to the alleged incident of sexual abuse are being conducted by DCFS/law enforcement, the Nondiscrimination Coordinator:</p> <p>Continues the District’s investigation, which may include interviewing the alleged witnesses and/or the alleged perpetrator.</p>

The footnotes should be removed before the material is used.

⁴ Throughout this procedure “Nondiscrimination Coordinator” may be replaced with Title IX Coordinator or designee, Complaint Manager, School Resource Officer, or the title of any other school personnel leading the school’s investigation into the alleged incident of sexual abuse.

Actor	Action
	<p>May request information from the alleged victim or his or her parent/guardian to ensure his or her safety and well-being at school during the investigations. 105 ILCS 5/22-85(f).</p> <p>Refrains from interviewing the alleged victim until after the CAC completes its forensic interview. 105 ILCS 5/22-85(f).⁵</p> <p>Upon request, must inform DCFS/law enforcement investigators of any evidence it has gathered, as permitted by federal or State law. 105 ILCS 5/22-85(f).</p> <p>Note: Evidence gathered by the Nondiscrimination Coordinator during the District’s investigation may be confidential under the Illinois School Student Records Act (105 ILCS 10/) and the Family Rights and Educational Privacy Act (20 U.S.C. §1232g). Consult the Board Attorney regarding what disclosures, if any, are allowed in response to a request from DCFS and/or law enforcement and conditions that must be met prior to disclosure.</p> <p>Schedule regular follow-up calls with the CAC to inquire about the status of the forensic interview of the alleged victim.</p>
CAC	<p>Informs the Nondiscrimination Coordinator that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The forensic interview of the alleged victim is complete, and the electronic recording of the forensic interview may be viewed; or 2. The CAC determined a forensic interview will not be conducted. 105 ILCS 5/22-85(g), (h).
Nondiscrimination Coordinator	<p>If the electronic recording of the forensic interview of the alleged victim is available for viewing:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Verifies the CAC has obtained informed consent from an alleged victim over the age of 13 or the alleged victim’s parent/guardian for school personnel to view the forensic interview (105 ILCS 5/22-85(h)); and Note: Each CAC may have its own consent form. Contact your local CAC to confirm that it will obtain written consent from the alleged victim over the age of 13 or the alleged victim’s parent/guardian (if under the age of 13). 2. Views the electronic recording of the forensic interview. <p>If the CAC has not performed a forensic interview of the alleged victim within 15 calendar days after DCFS/law enforcement opens an investigation, notifies the CAC that the District intends to interview the</p>

The footnotes should be removed before the material is used.

⁵ The purpose of waiting to interview and coordinating with CACs is to minimize trauma of an alleged victim by preventing multiple interviews of him/her regarding the alleged incident of sexual abuse. When a DCFS/law enforcement investigation is pending, then the CAC’s forensic interview serves as the interview that other entities, e.g., school districts, may use by viewing or listening to it for their investigations. If a DCFS/law enforcement investigation is pending but the CAC does not conduct a forensic interview, then the school may conduct its own interview of the alleged victim after following the procedures outlined in this procedure.

Actor	Action
	alleged victim.
CAC	After receiving notification that the District intends to interview the alleged victim, has 10 additional calendar days to conduct a forensic interview. 105 ILCS 5/22-85(g).
Nondiscrimination Coordinator	<p>If the CAC does not conduct a forensic interview of the alleged victim within the 10 additional calendar days, proceeds with the District's interview of the alleged victim. <u>Id.</u></p> <p>If the alleged victim is under 18 years old, makes a child advocate available to the alleged victim and allows the child advocate to be present during the interview. A child advocate may be a school social worker, a school or equally qualified psychologist, or a person in a position that ISBE has identified as an appropriate advocate for a student during a school's investigation into an alleged incident of sexual abuse. 105 ILCS 5/22-85(i).</p> <p>Schedules regular follow-up calls to DCFS/law enforcement to inquire if the investigation of an incident has been suspended and/or is complete, including the outcome of the investigation. 105 ILCS 5/22-85(j), (k).</p>

General Personnel

Administrative Procedure - Parent/Guardian Notification of Sexual Misconduct ¹

When a District employee, contractor, or agent² is alleged to have engaged in *sexual misconduct* as defined in 105 ILCS 5/22-85.5(c) with a student, the District must first provide notice to the student and then provide written notice to the student’s parents/guardians.

Following the District’s investigation of the alleged sexual misconduct, additional notice must be provided when the Board takes any action relating to the employment of the alleged perpetrator, including whether employment was terminated or whether the Board accepted the employee’s resignation. Notice of formal Board action must first be provided to the student and then written notice must be provided to the student’s parents/guardians.

The only time student notification is not required before parental notification is when a District employee or agent deems it necessary to address an imminent risk of serious physical injury or death of a student or another person, including the victim. If notification is not given to the student first, then it must be given as soon as practicable and without delay following parental notification.

These parent/guardian notification procedures do not apply if the student’s parent/guardian is the alleged perpetrator of sexual misconduct, and/or if the student is at least 18 years of age or emancipated.

Sexual misconduct - Any act, including but not limited to, any verbal, nonverbal, written, or electronic communication or physical activity, by an employee with direct contact with a student, that is directed toward or with a student to establish a romantic or sexual relationship with the student. Examples include but are not limited to: 1) a sexual or romantic invitation, 2) dating or soliciting a date, 3) engaging in sexualized or romantic dialog, 4) making sexually suggestive comments that are directed toward or with a student, 5) self-disclosure or physical exposure of a sexual, romantic, or erotic nature, 6) a sexual, indecent, romantic, or erotic contact with the student. 105 ILCS 5/22-85.5(c), added by P.A. 102-676.

Notification of Alleged Sexual Misconduct

Actor	Action
Superintendent or Building Principal	Upon learning that a District employee, contractor, or agent is alleged to have engaged in sexual misconduct with a student: Verifies that the allegation has been reported to the Ill. Dept. of Children and Family Services (DCFS) in accordance with Board policy 5:90, <i>Abused and Neglected Child Reporting</i> . Immediately coordinates any necessary notifications to the student’s parents/guardians with DCFS, the applicable school resource

The footnotes should be removed before the material is used.

¹ 105 ILCS 5/22-85.10, added by P.A. 102-702, eff. 7-1-23. This procedure cites the minimum requirements of State law. Modify this procedure based upon the District’s specific implementation needs.

² Depending upon the facts, agents may also include student teachers and interns. Consult the board attorney as needed for guidance.

Actor	Action
	<p>officer, and/or local law enforcement which includes the local State's Attorney's Office. ³</p> <p>Notifies the District's Nondiscrimination Coordinator⁴ of the reported alleged sexual misconduct.</p>
<p>Nondiscrimination Coordinator</p>	<p>Upon being notified of the reported alleged sexual misconduct by the Superintendent or Building Principal, shall:</p> <p>Determine whether the alleged sexual misconduct is also being investigated by the Ill. Dept. of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and/or law enforcement.</p> <p>Open and conduct an investigation into the alleged incident of sexual misconduct in accordance with policy 7:20, <i>Harassment of Students Prohibited</i>.</p> <p>Considering any DCFS and/or law enforcement investigation(s), identify the appropriate time frame for notifying the student and the student's parents/guardians of the alleged sexual misconduct. 105 ILCS 5/22-85.10(a)(1), added by P.A. 102-702, eff. 7-1-23.</p> <p>Note: Notification must be provided as soon as feasible after the District becomes aware of the alleged sexual misconduct, subject to the requirements of 105 ILCS 5/22-85(f) restricting interviews of a student who is a victim of an alleged incident of sexual abuse. <i>Id.</i> at (a)(4). See 5:90-AP1, <i>Coordination with Children's Advocacy Center</i>.</p>
<p>Nondiscrimination Coordinator, School Counselor, and/or a staff member trained in child development</p>	<p>Notifies the student, in a developmentally appropriate manner, with a staff member present who is trained in child development or is one the student trusts, that a District employee, contractor, or agent is alleged to have engaged in sexual misconduct with the student. Notice will include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That notice will be given to the student's parent(s)/guardian(s) (105 ILCS 5/22-85.10(a)(2)(A), added by P.A. 102-702, eff. 7-1-23); 2. What information will be included in the notice to parent(s)/guardian(s) (<i>Id.</i> at (a)(2)(B)); 3. Any District and community-based counseling options for students affected by grooming behaviors identified by the Student Support Committee (see the <i>Erin's Law Counseling Options, Assistance, and Intervention</i> subhead of policy 7:250, <i>Student Support Services</i>); 4. If the student is 12 years of age or older, any available counseling

The footnotes should be removed before the material is used.

³ This sentence implements optional language from sample policy 5:90, *Abused and Neglected Child Reporting*, and should be deleted if the board's adopted policy does not contain it.

⁴ Throughout this procedure "Nondiscrimination Coordinator" may be replaced with Title IX Coordinator or designee, Complaint Manager, School Resource Officer, or the title of any other school personnel leading the school's investigation into the alleged sexual misconduct.

Actor	Action
	<p>services under 105 ILCS 5/3-550 (105 ILCS 5/22-85.10(a)(2)(C), added by P.A. 102-702, eff. 7-1-23);⁵ and</p> <p>5. Beginning 7-1-25, any available resources for the student within the school and community in accordance with 105 ILCS 5/26A, including the name and contact information of the District’s domestic and sexual violence and parenting resource coordinator under 105 ILCS 5/26A-35 (<i>Id.</i> at (a)(2)(C), (D)).</p>
Nondiscrimination Coordinator	<p>After the student notification, notifies parent(s)/guardian(s) in writing of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The alleged sexual misconduct (<i>Id.</i> at (a)(3)(A)); 2. Any District and community-based counseling options for students affected by grooming behaviors identified by the Student Support Committee (see the <i>Erin’s Law Counseling Options, Assistance, and Intervention</i> subhead of policy 7:250, <i>Student Support Services</i>); and 3. Beginning 7-1-25, any available resources for the student within the school and community in accordance with 105 ILCS 5/26A, including the name and contact information of the District’s domestic and sexual violence and parenting resource coordinator under 105 ILCS 5/26A-35 ((105 ILCS 5/22-85.10(a)(3)(B), added by P.A. 102-702).

Notification of Board Action

Actor	Action
Superintendent and Nondiscrimination Coordinator	<p>As soon as feasible after the Board takes any action relating to the employment of the alleged perpetrator, notifies the student, in a developmentally appropriate manner, of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The fact that notice will be given to the student’s parent(s)/guardian(s) (<i>Id.</i> at (b)(2)(A)); 2. Information that will be included in the notice to parents/guardians (<i>Id.</i> at (b)(2)(B)); 3. Any District and community-based counseling options for students affected by grooming behaviors identified by the Student Support Committee (see the <i>Erin’s Law Counseling Options, Assistance, and Intervention</i> subhead of policy 7:250, <i>Student Support Services</i>); 4. If the student is 12 years of age or older, any available counseling services under 405 ILCS 5/3-550 (105 ILCS 5/22-85.10(b)(2)(C), added by P.A. 102-702, eff. 7-1-23); and 5. Beginning 7-1-25, any available resources for the student within the school and community in accordance with 105 ILCS 5/26A,

The footnotes should be removed before the material is used.

⁵ See f/n 7 in sample policy 7:250, *Student Support Services*, for information regarding counseling services under 405 ILCS 5/3-550.

Actor	Action
	<p>including the name and contact information of the District’s domestic and sexual violence and parenting resource coordinator under 105 ILCS 5/26A-35 (105 ILCS 5/22-85.10(b)(2)(C), (D), added by P.A. 102-702).</p> <p>If the student is no longer enrolled when the Board takes action, written notice may be sent to the last known address in the student’s file. <u>Id.</u> at (b)(5).</p>
Superintendent	<p>After the student notification, notifies parent(s)/guardian(s), in writing of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Board’s action (<u>Id.</u> at (b)(3)(A)); 2. Whether a report concerning the alleged sexual misconduct was or will be submitted to the State Superintendent of Education and the Regional Superintendent⁶ pursuant to 105 ILCS 5/10-21.9 (<u>Id.</u> at (b)(3)(B)); 3. Any District and community-based counseling options for students affected by grooming behaviors identified by the Student Support Committee (see the <i>Erin’s Law Counseling Options, Assistance, and Intervention</i> subhead of policy 7:250, <i>Student Support Services</i>); and 4. Beginning 7-1-25, any available resources for the student within the school and community in accordance with 105 ILCS 5/26A, including the name and contact information of the District’s domestic and sexual violence and parenting resource coordinator under 105 ILCS 5/26A-35 (105 ILCS 5/22-85.10(b)(3)(C), added by P.A. 102-702). <p>If the student is no longer enrolled when the Board takes action, written notice may be sent to the last known address in the student’s file. <u>Id.</u> at (b)(5).</p>

The footnotes should be removed before the material is used.

⁶ Alternative for districts in suburban Cook County: replace “Regional Superintendent” with “appropriate Intermediate Service Center Executive Director.”

General Personnel

Personal Technology and Social Media; Usage and Conduct¹

Definitions

Includes - Means “includes without limitation” or “includes, but is not limited to.”

Social media - Media for social interaction, using highly accessible web-based and/or mobile technologies that allow users to share content and/or engage in interactive communication through online communities.² This includes, but is not limited to, services such as *Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter, Instagram, TikTok, Snapchat, and YouTube.*³

Personal technology - Any device that is not owned or leased by the District or otherwise authorized for District use and: (1) transmits sounds, images, text, messages, videos, or electronic information, (2) electronically records, plays, or stores information, or (3) accesses the Internet, or private communication or information networks. This includes computers, tablets, smartphones, and other devices.⁴

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

¹ This policy is optional. Consult the board attorney because personal technology, social media, and public employees' First Amendment rights involve unprecedented and unsettled areas of the law. In addition, personal technology and social media platforms change continually.

Therefore, instead of prohibiting specific actions, this sample policy focuses on what will not change - maintaining appropriate behavior as outlined in 5:120, *Employee Ethics; Code of Professional Conduct; and Conflict of Interest*, the Ill. Educators' Code of Ethics at 23 Ill.Admin.Code §22.20, and 105 ILCS 5/21B-75, amended by P.As. 102-552 and 102-702, eff. 7-1-23 (allows suspensions or revocations of licenses, endorsements, or approvals for abuse or neglect of a child, willful or negligent failure to report suspected child abuse or neglect, *sexual misconduct* as defined in 105 ILCS 5/22-85.5(c), *immorality*, and *unprofessional conduct*, among other things). *Immoral* has been defined by one court to mean “shameless conduct showing moral indifference to the opinions of the good and respectable members of the community.” See *Ahmad v. Bd. of Educ. of City of Chicago*, 365 Ill.App.3d 155 (1st Dist. 2006).

Consult the board attorney when a board wants to prohibit more specific actions and/or specific speech, e.g., *friending* students on Facebook or similar social media, *tweeting* or otherwise communicating with students on Twitter or similar social media sites, and text messaging or emailing students. See also the discussion in f/ns 5 & 6 below.

This policy also contains an item on which collective bargaining may be required. Any policy that impacts upon wages, hours, and terms and conditions of employment, is subject to collective bargaining upon request by the employee representative, even if the policy involves an inherent managerial right. When a policy's subject matter is superseded by a bargaining agreement, the board policy can state, “Please refer to the applicable collective bargaining agreement(s).”

² Several definitions of social media exist, and a board may wish to use another definition or create its own with the board attorney. This sample policy's definition is very broad. It is adapted from Merriam-Webster's definition at: www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/social%20media.

³ Optional. A board may want to add other sites. As of January 2023, the publication *eBizMBA Inc.* lists the top four social networking sites as Facebook, YouTube, Instagram, and Twitter respectively.

⁴ Optional.

Usage and Conduct⁵

All District employees who use personal technology and/or social media shall:⁶

1. Adhere to the high standards for **Professional and Appropriate Conduct** required by policy 5:120, *Employee Ethics; Code of Professional Conduct; and Conflict of Interest*, at all times, regardless of the ever-changing social media and personal technology platforms available. This includes District employees posting images or private information about themselves or others in a manner readily accessible to students and other employees that is inappropriate as defined by policies 5:20, *Workplace Harassment Prohibited*; 5:100, *Staff Development Program*; 5:120, *Employee Ethics; Code of Professional Conduct; and Conflict of Interest*; 6:235, *Access to Electronic Networks*; and 7:20, *Harassment of Students Prohibited*; and the Ill. Code of Educator Ethics, 23 Ill.Admin.Code §22.20.
2. Choose a District-provided or supported method whenever possible to communicate with students and their parents/guardians.
3. Not interfere with or disrupt the educational or working environment, or the delivery of education or educational support services.
4. Inform their immediate supervisor if a student initiates inappropriate contact with them via any form of personal technology or social media.
5. Report instances of suspected abuse or neglect discovered through the use of social media or personal technology pursuant to a school employee's obligations under policy 5:90, *Abused and Neglected Child Reporting*.
6. Not disclose confidential information, including but not limited to school student records (e.g., student work, photographs of students, names of students, or any other personally identifiable information about students) or personnel records, in compliance with policy

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

⁵ Whether to discipline an employee for his or her speech is always highly fact sensitive and should always occur after a consultation with the board attorney. See f/n 1 and 12. The discipline will require careful balancing of the district's obligations to protect its students with employees' rights. Further, a board may not discipline its employees for discussing the terms and conditions of their employment with co-workers and others or otherwise interfere with their employees' efforts to work to improve the terms and conditions of their workplace. 29 U.S.C. §151 *et seq.* (Illinois courts have looked to the National Labor Relations Act for guidance on what is protected activity under the Ill. Educational Labor Relations Act, 115 ILCS 5/).

⁶ The following list is optional and may contain items on which collective bargaining may be required. See f/n 1. To ensure that the listed expectations match local conditions, boards may want to initiate a conversation with the superintendent about these expectations. Expectations will be most effective when they reflect local conditions and circumstances. This conversation provides an additional opportunity for the board and superintendent to examine all current policies, collective bargaining agreements, and administrative procedures applicable to this subject. See f/n 6 of sample policy 5:120, *Employee Ethics; Code of Professional Conduct; and Conflict of Interest*, for more discussion about how to initiate this conversation, f/n 4 of sample policy 5:100, *Staff Development Program*, and the discussion in f/n 2 of sample policy 8:10, *Connection with the Community*, related to excluding followers and purging critics from social media accounts that are considered public forums. Employee conduct issues may be subjects of mandatory collective bargaining, therefore consulting the board attorney should be a part of this process. After discussing these issues, the board may have further expectations and may choose to reflect those expectations here.

- 5:130, *Responsibilities Concerning Internal Information*. For District employees, proper approval may include implied consent under the circumstances.⁷
7. Refrain from using the District’s logos without permission and follow Board policy 5:170, *Copyright*, and all District copyright compliance procedures.⁸
 8. Use personal technology and social media for personal purposes only during non-work times or hours. Any duty-free use must occur during times and places that the use will not interfere with job duties or otherwise be disruptive to the school environment or its operation.⁹
 9. Assume all risks associated with the use of personal technology and social media at school or school-sponsored activities, including students’ viewing of inappropriate Internet materials through the District employee’s personal technology or social media. The Board expressly disclaims any responsibility for imposing content filters, blocking lists, or monitoring of its employees’ personal technology and social media.¹⁰
 10. Be subject to remedial and any other appropriate disciplinary action for violations of this policy ranging from prohibiting the employee from possessing or using any personal technology or social media at school to dismissal and/or indemnification of the District for any losses, costs, or damages, including reasonable attorney fees, incurred by the District relating to, or arising out of, any violation of this policy.¹¹

Superintendent Responsibilities

The Superintendent shall:¹²

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

⁷ Inherent dangers exist when district employees use personal technology and social media without understanding how the information is used within the chosen platform and what choices are available within the platform to control it. Some examples of laws that require the safekeeping of district and school records include: the Federal Educational Rights and Privacy Act, 20 U.S.C. §1232g, and the Ill. School Student Records Act, 105 ILCS 10/ (both prohibit the unauthorized disclosure of student school records); 5 ILCS 140/7 (exempts personnel information and other items such as school security and response plans and maps from disclosure); 45 C.F.R. §164.502 (protects the employees’ health information); and 820 ILCS 40/ (governs the release of an employee’s disciplinary action). For district employees, implied consent may be sufficient in some circumstances, e.g., teachers taking pictures of each other at a birthday party in the teachers’ lounge or at a social event off school grounds and later posting those pictures on social media.

⁸ 17 U.S.C. §101 *et seq.*

⁹ 105 ILCS 5/24-9; Fair Labor Standards Act, 29 U.S.C. §201 *et seq.* See also f/ns 1 and 5 above.

¹⁰ The Children’s Internet Protection Act (CIPA) (47 U.S.C. §254(l)) requires school districts to maintain a policy and provide Internet access that protects against access to websites containing material that is obscene, pornographic, or harmful to minors. See sample policy 6:235, *Access to Electronic Networks*. Because a district cannot subject its employees’ usage of personal technology and social media to the same measures required under CIPA (i.e., content filters, blocking lists, or district monitoring of Internet website traffic for patterns of usage that could indicate inappropriate network usage), this statement seeks to balance the district’s duty by shifting responsibility for inappropriate behavior to the individual employee.

¹¹ The Ill. Human Rights Act makes it a civil rights violation to fail to take remedial action, or to fail to take appropriate disciplinary action against any employee, when the district knows that the employee committed or engaged in sexual harassment of a student. 775 ILCS 5/5A-102. Sexual harassment of a student is also prohibited by sample policy 7:20, *Harassment of Student Prohibited*, and of an employee by sample policy 5:20, *Workplace Harassment Prohibited*.

¹² 105 ILCS 5/10-16.7. The school board directs, through policy, the superintendent in his or her charge of the district’s administration. One logical method for a board to address the issue of district employees’ use of personal technology and social media is to include its expectations during its in-service trainings required by 105 ILCS 5/10-22.39. Many experts in social media risk management advocate training employees about the expectations concerning social media usage. For boards that do not want to include this as a part of the in-service, delete the phrase “during the in-service on educator ethics, teacher-student conduct, and school employee-student conduct required by policy 5:120, *Employee Ethics; Code of Professional Conduct; and Conflict of Interest.*”

1. Inform District employees about this policy during the in-service on educator ethics, teacher-student conduct, and school employee-student conduct required by policy 5:120, *Employee Ethics; Code of Professional Conduct; and Conflict of Interest*.
2. Direct Building Principals to annually:
 - a. Provide their building staff with a copy of this policy.
 - b. Inform their building staff about the importance of maintaining high standards in their school relationships.
 - c. Remind their building staff that those who violate this policy will be subject to remedial and any other appropriate disciplinary action up to and including dismissal.
3. Build awareness of this policy with students, parents, and the community.
4. Ensure that neither the District, nor anyone on its behalf, commits an act prohibited by the Right to Privacy in the Workplace Act, 820 ILCS 55/10; i.e., the *Facebook Password Law*.¹³
5. Periodically review this policy and any implementing procedures with District employee representatives and electronic network system administrator(s) and present proposed changes to the Board.

Public employee First Amendment issues involve the balance between the importance of the speech and the district's interest in maintaining order and effective school operations. The First Amendment "does not entitle primary and secondary teachers, when conducting the education of captive audiences, to cover topics, or advocate viewpoints, that depart from the curriculum adopted by the school system." See *Mayer v. Monroe Cnty. Cmty. Sch. Corp.*, 474 F.3d 477 (7th Cir. 2007). Nor is the First Amendment likely to entitle a teacher to protection for purely personal speech that does not touch on a matter of public concern. See *Pickering v. High Sch. Dist.*, 205, 391 U.S. 563 (1968). However, when public employees speak as private citizens on their own time about matters of public concern, they may face only those speech restrictions that are necessary for their employers to operate efficiently and effectively. *Garcetti v. Ceballos*, 547 U.S. 410 (2006).

¹³ Right to Privacy in the Workplace Act, 820 ILCS 55/10(b) (also known as the *Facebook Password Law*). The exception for *professional accounts* is unlikely to be available to school districts; see the explanation in f/n 24 in sample policy 5:30, *Hiring Process and Criteria*. The statute specifically permits an employer to: (1) maintain workplace policies governing the use of the employer's electronic equipment, including policies regarding Internet use, social networking site use, and electronic mail use; and (2) monitor usage of the employer's electronic equipment and electronic mail.

The statute does not prohibit an employer from (1) obtaining information about an applicant or an employee that is in the public domain or that is otherwise obtained in compliance with the statute, and (2) requesting or requiring an applicant or employee to share specific content that is reported to the employer to: (a) ensure compliance with laws and regulatory requirements, (b) investigate certain allegations as outlined in the law, and (c) prohibit certain outlined behaviors in the law. Finally, the statute does not apply to other types of personal technology that employees may use to communicate with students or other individuals, such as personal email or text messages on a personal phone. However, employers may access online accounts that the employer pays for or that an employee creates or maintains on behalf of the employer in connection with the employee's employment. Consult the board attorney about these issues.

- LEGAL REF.: 105 ILCS 5/21B-75 and 5/21B-80.
775 ILCS 5/5A-102, Ill. Human Rights Act.
820 ILCS 55/10, Right to Privacy in the Workplace Act.
23 Ill.Admin.Code §22.20, Code of Ethics for Ill. Educators.
Garcetti v. Ceballos, 547 U.S. 410 (2006).
Pickering v. High School Dist. 205, 391 U.S. 563 (1968).
Mayer v. Monroe County Community School Corp., 474 F.3d 477 (7th Cir. 2007).
- CROSS REF.: 4:165 (Awareness and Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse and Grooming Behaviors), 5:20 (Workplace Harassment Prohibited), 5:30 (Hiring Process and Criteria), 5:100 (Staff Development Program), 5:120 (Employee Ethics; Code of Professional Conduct; and Conflict of Interest), 5:130 (Responsibilities Concerning Internal Information), 5:150 (Personnel Records), 5:170 (Copyright), 5:200 (Terms and Conditions of Employment and Dismissal), 6:235 (Access to Electronic Networks), 7:20 (Harassment of Students Prohibited), 7:340 (Student Records)

General Personnel

Personnel Records ¹

Maintenance and Access to Records

The Superintendent or designee shall manage the maintenance of personnel records in accordance with State and federal law and School Board policy. Records, as determined by the Superintendent, are retained for all employment applicants, employees, and former employees given the need for the District to document employment-related decisions, evaluate program and staff effectiveness, and comply with government recordkeeping and reporting requirements. Personnel records shall be maintained in the District's administrative office, under the Superintendent's direct supervision.

Access to personnel records is available as follows:

9. An employee will be given access to his or her personnel records according to State law and guidelines developed by the Superintendent. ²
10. An employee's supervisor or other management employee who has an employment or business-related reason to inspect the record is authorized to have access.
11. Anyone having the respective employee's written consent may have access.
12. Access will be granted to anyone authorized by State or federal law to have access.
13. All other requests for access to personnel information are governed by Board policy 2:250, *Access to District Public Records*. ³

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

¹ State or federal law controls this policy's content. This policy contains an item on which collective bargaining may be required. Any policy that impacts upon wages, hours, and terms and conditions of employment, is subject to collective bargaining upon request by the employee representative, even if the policy involves an inherent managerial right.

This policy is consistent with the minimum requirements of State law. The local collective bargaining agreement may contain provisions that exceed these requirements. When a policy's subject matter is superseded by a bargaining agreement, the board policy can state, "Please refer to the applicable collective bargaining agreement(s)."

² An employee has the right to view his or her personnel file contents, with a few exceptions. Ill. Personnel Record Review Act (PRRA), 820 ILCS 40/. Thus, personnel files should contain only factual and accurate job-related information. Additionally, 105 ILCS 5/22-94(e), a/k/a *Faith's Law*, added by P.A. 102-702, eff. 7-1-23, requires a district to maintain as part of an employee's personnel file a form including sexual misconduct related information; the form is completed at the time of separation of employment or at the request of the employee. See 5:150-AP, *Personnel Records*. Finally, the PRRA identifies records that may not be kept: a record of an employee's associations, political activities, publications, communications, or non-employment activities (820 ILCS 40/9) and records identifying an employee as the subject of an investigation by the Ill. Dept. of Children and Family Services (DCFS) if the investigation resulted in an unfounded report as specified in the Abused and Neglected Child Reporting Act (820 ILCS 40/13). See f/n 5.

³ Unless a specific exemption is available, personnel file information is available to anyone making a FOIA request. 5 ILCS 140/. Specific exemptions protect the following:

1. *Private information* meaning "unique identifiers, including a person's social security number, driver's license number, employee identification number, biometric identifiers, personal financial information, passwords or other access codes, medical records, home or personal telephone numbers, and personal email addresses. Private information also includes home address and personal license plates, except as otherwise provided by law or when compiled without possibility of attribution to any person." 5 ILCS 140/7(1)(b); 5 ILCS 140/2(c)-5.
2. *Personal information* "the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy." 5 ILCS 140/7(1)(c).

Prospective Employer Inquiries Concerning a Current or Former Employee's Job Performance

The Superintendent or designee shall manage a process for responding to inquiries by a prospective employer concerning a current or former employee's job performance.⁴ The Superintendent shall:⁵

3. *Information prohibited from being disclosed under the Illinois Educational Labor Relations Act (IELRA).* 5 ILCS 140/7.5(yy); 115 ILCS 5/3(d). The prohibitions in the IELRA overlap with some categories of private information identified in FOIA and include: (a) the employee's home address (including ZIP code and county); (b) the employee's date of birth; (c) the employee's home and personal phone number; (d) the employee's personal email address; (e) any information personally identifying employee membership or membership status in a labor organization or other voluntary association affiliated with a labor organization or a labor federation; and (f) e-mails or other communications between a labor organization and its members. Unless a specific exception in the IELRA applies, if a district receives a third-party request for any of these six categories of information about an employee, the district must provide the union with a copy of the written request (or written summary of an oral request), as well as a copy of the district's response within five business days of sending the response. If the employee is not in a bargaining unit, then these notices must be given directly to the employee. 115 ILCS 5/3(d). **Note:** It is best practice to maintain union-related documents, such as grievances, separately from an employee's personnel file.
4. *Information prohibited from being disclosed by the PRRA.* 5 ILCS 140/7.5(q). The PRRA prohibits the disclosure of a performance evaluation under FOIA. 820 ILCS 40/11. The treatment of a request for a disciplinary report, letter of reprimand, or other disciplinary action depends on the age and nature of the responsive record. If the responsive record is more than four years old and is not related to an incident or attempted incident of sexual abuse, severe physical abuse, or sexual misconduct as defined in 105 ILCS 5/22-85.5(c), the request must be denied unless the disclosure is permitted by the Act. 5 ILCS 140/7.5(q); 820 ILCS 40/8, amended by P.A. 102-702, eff. 7-1-23. If the responsive record is more than four years old and is related to an incident or an attempted incident of sexual abuse, severe physical abuse, or sexual misconduct as defined in 105 ILCS 5/22-85.5(c), the request cannot be denied. 820 ILCS 40/8, amended by P.A. 102-702, eff. 7-1-23. If the responsive record is four years old or less (regardless of its nature), the district should provide the record and must notify the employee in written form or through email, if available. 820 ILCS 40/7 and 40/8, amended by P.A. 102-702, eff. 7-1-23.

The School Code prohibits the disclosure of school teacher, principal, and superintendent performance evaluations except as otherwise provided in the certified employee evaluation laws. 105 ILCS 5/24A-7.1. Finally, sexual misconduct employment history review (EHR) information received pursuant to 105 ILCS 5/22-94, added by P.A. 102-702, eff. 7-1-23, is not deemed a public record under the School Code. However, P.A. 102-702, eff. 7-1-23, did not specifically amend or reference FOIA. Districts should consult their board attorneys if they receive FOIA requests for EHR information regarding current or former employees.

The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) (Pub.L. 104-191) created national standards to protect individuals' medical records and other personal health information. If a district is a *covered entity* (i.e., offers a self-insured group health plan or flexible spending account), it must establish clear procedures to protect the employee's health information. 45 C.F.R. §164.502. Such districts should consult their attorneys and insurance provider for assistance.

⁴ The Employment Record Disclosure Act (745 ILCS 46/10) provides conditional immunity to employers responding to a reference request; it states: "Any employer or authorized employee or agent acting on behalf of an employer who, upon inquiry by a prospective employer, provides truthful written or verbal information, or information that it believes in good faith is truthful, about a current or former employee's job performance is presumed to be acting in good faith and is immune from civil liability for the disclosure and the consequences of the disclosure." This immunity statute does not, however, create an exemption to the requirements in the PRRA. The PRRA requires an employer to give an employee written notice before divulging a "disciplinary report, letter of reprimand, or other disciplinary action to a third party." 820 ILCS 40/7. An employment application may contain a waiver of this notice. *Id.*

⁵ 325 ILCS 5/4(d) requires a superintendent, upon being asked for a reference concerning an employee or former employee, to disclose to the requesting school district the fact that a district employee has made a report involving the conduct of the applicant or caused a report to be made to DCFS. For more information, see 5:150-AP, *Personnel Records*.

Required by the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) (20 U.S.C. §7926). On 6-27-2018, the U.S. Dept. of Education issued a *Dear Colleague Letter* stating that school policies must explicitly state this requirement. See the resources portion for the letter at: www2.ed.gov/policy/elsec/leg/essa/index.html. See also sample procedure 2:265-API, *Title IX Sexual Harassment Response*, at f/n 7.

14. Execute the requirements in the Abused and Neglected Child Reporting Act whenever another school district asks for a reference concerning an applicant who is or was a District employee and was the subject of a report made by a District employee to Ill. Dept. of Children and Family Services (DCFS); and
15. Comply with the federal law prohibiting the District from providing a recommendation of employment for an employee, contractor, or agent that District knows, or has probable cause to believe, has engaged in sexual misconduct with a student or minor in violation of the law,⁶ but the Superintendent or designee may follow routine procedures regarding the transmission of administrative or personnel files for that employee.
16. Manage the District's responses to employer requests for sexual misconduct related employment history review (EHR) information in accordance with *Faith's Law*.⁷

When requested for information about an employee by an entity other than a prospective employer, the District will only confirm position and employment dates unless the employee has submitted a written request to the Superintendent or designee.

LEGAL REF.: 20 U.S.C. §7926.
 105 ILCS 5/22-94.
 325 ILCS 5/4, Abused and Neglected Child Reporting Act.
 745 ILCS 46/10, Employment Record Disclosure Act.
 820 ILCS 40/, Personnel Record Review Act.
 23 Ill.Admin.Code §1.660.

CROSS REF.: 2:250 (Access to District Public Records), 5:90 (Abused and Neglected Child Reporting), 7:340 (Student Records)

Consult the board attorney about what “or has probable cause to believe, has engaged in sexual misconduct” means. For guidance, sample policy 5:90, *Abused and Neglected Child Reporting*, and its f/n 14 analysis define an “alleged incident of sexual abuse” as an incident of sexual abuse of a child, as defined in 720 ILCS 5/11-9.1A, that is alleged to have been perpetrated by school personnel, including a school vendor or volunteer, that occurred: on school grounds during a school activity; or outside of school grounds or not during a school activity.

⁶ Consult the board attorney in these situations for help about what the superintendent may or may not say. Questions exist whether the superintendent says nothing, provides a neutral reference, or whether a *recommendation* could mean positive or negative statements.

⁷ 105 ILCS 5/22-94(e), added by P.A. 102-702, eff. 7-1-23.

General Personnel

Administrative Procedure - Personnel Records

Applicant Records

Records for a successful employment applicant are maintained with the individual's employment records. Records for an unsuccessful employment applicant are maintained for no less than five years from the application date.¹ Applicant records include the following if received by the District:

- Employment application forms
- Transcripts
- Previous work experience
- References
- Such other relevant information as the District desires of applicants for screening purposes

Personnel Records

Personnel records for all employees include:

- Pre-employment records, including verification of past employment
- Dates of employment
- Valid certificate and/or evidence of required credentials for services being performed
- Criminal background investigation history and report
- Sexual Misconduct Related Employment History Review (EHR) records²
- Form I-9 required under the Immigration Reform and Control Act³
- Records maintained pursuant to Internal Revenue Service regulations
- Payroll information and deductions, including all records required to be kept by 5:35-AP2, *Employee Records Required by the Fair Labor Standards Act* (29 C.F.R. §§516.2 and 516.3)
- Records maintained for the Ill. Teachers' Retirement System or the Ill. Municipal Retirement System
- Credit release information
- Sick leave, leaves of absence, personal leave, and vacation data (where appropriate)
- Salary schedule data
- Relevant health and medical records, including the verification of freedom from tuberculosis required by the School Code (105 ILCS 5/24-5)⁴

The footnotes should be removed before the material is used.

¹ Equal Employment Opportunity Commission regulations require employers to retain all personnel records, including applications, for at least one year from the date the record was made or any personnel action was taken, whichever is later. 29 C.F.R. §1602.14. A longer retention period allows the district to gather data that may be used to defend a discrimination complaint.

² 105 ILCS 5/22-94(e), added by P.A. 102-702, eff. 7-1-23. See 5:30-AP3, *Sexual Misconduct Related Employment History Review (EHR)*.

³ For information on Form I-9, see *Handbook for Employers, Instructions for Completing Form I-9, Form I-9 Resources* at: www.uscis.gov/i-9-central/form-i-9-resources. The Ill. Right to Privacy in the Workplace Act (820 ILCS 55/) imposes requirements on employers who use the E-Verify Program, see: <https://labor.illinois.gov/laws-rules/conmed/privacy-workplace.html>.

⁴ The Americans with Disabilities Act requires that employment health and medical records be kept separately from the regular personnel file. 42 U.S.C. §12112(d)(3).

Supervisory evaluations
Promotions
Awards received
Personnel documents that have been or are intended to be used in determining an employee's qualification for promotion, transfer, discharge, or disciplinary action ⁵
Disciplinary actions and accompanying records
Notice of discharge and accompanying records
Letter of resignation or retirement
Notification that an employee is the subject of an Ill. Dept. of Children and Family Services (DCFS) investigation pursuant to the Abused and Neglected Child Reporting Act (ANCRA) and any report to DCFS made or caused to be made by a District employee concerning another employee; this record will be deleted if DCFS informs the District that the allegations were unfounded ⁶
Any additional information the District deems to be relevant
In addition to the above, personnel records for all professional personnel include:
Valid certificate for services being performed
Copies of official transcripts required by the School Code (105 ILCS 5/24-23)
Transcripts of graduate work completed
Verification of past teaching experience, if any
Record of in-service work completed
Acknowledgement of mandated reporter status
Employment records will be maintained permanently for all District employees and former employees unless the Local Records Commission's approval is obtained to dispose of them.

Restrictions on Information that May Be Kept

The District will not gather or keep a record of an employee's associations, political activities, publications, communications, or non-employment activities, unless the employee submits the information in writing or authorizes the District in writing to keep or gather such records. However, the District may gather or keep records in an employee's personnel file concerning: (1) activities or associations with individuals or groups involved in the physical, sexual, or other exploitation of a minor, or (2) activities occurring on the District's premises or during the employee's working hours that interfere with the performance of the employee's duties or activities, or those of other employees, regardless of when and where occurring, that constitute criminal conduct or may reasonably be expected to harm the District's property, operations or educational process, or programs, or that could, by the employee's actions, cause the District financial liability. 820 ILCS 40/9.

The footnotes should be removed before the material is used.

⁵ The Personnel Record Review Act (PRRA) restricts an employer's ability to use record information during a proceeding in court or before a hearing officer that was not included in the personnel record. 820 ILCS 40/4. Thus, this item becomes a statement of what must be kept in an employee's personnel record.

⁶ 820 ILCS 40/13; 325 ILCS 5/4 and 5/7.4; see the last section of this procedure for additional requirements. According to ANCRA: (1) DCFS must notify the employer of an individual who is the subject of a formal child abuse or neglect investigation if his or her employment results in frequent contact with children (325 ILCS 5/7.4(b)(4)); and (2) when a report is made by a school district employee involving the conduct of an individual employed by the district, the appropriate Child Protective Service Unit must send a copy of its final finding report to the district superintendent (325 ILCS 5/7.4(c-5)).

Access to Employee Records and Correction Requests

An employee is granted access to his or her personnel records according to provisions in the Ill. Personnel Record Review Act (PRRA), 820 ILCS 40/, and any relevant provisions in an applicable collective bargaining agreement. Except for the documents described in 820 ILCS 40/10, an employee is granted access to his or her personnel records at least two times in a calendar year at reasonable intervals. Unless otherwise indicated in an applicable bargaining agreement, access to the employee's personnel records will be according to the following guidelines:

1. The employee must submit a written inspection request to the Superintendent or the Superintendent's designee.
2. The Superintendent or designee will provide the employee the opportunity for inspection within seven working days after the request. If such deadline cannot reasonably be met, the District will have an additional seven days to comply.
3. The employee will inspect the personnel record at the District's administrative office during normal working hours or at another time mutually convenient to the employee and the Superintendent or designee.
4. Inspection of personnel records will be conducted under the supervision of an administrative staff member.
5. Neither an employee nor his or her designated representative will have access to records that are treated as exceptions in the PRRA discussed below.
6. The employee may copy material maintained in his or her personnel record. Payment for record copying will be based on the District's actual costs of duplication.
7. The employee may not remove any part of his or her personnel records from his or her file or may not remove any part of his or her personnel records from the District's administrative office.
8. Should the employee demonstrate his or her inability to inspect his or her personnel records in person, the District will mail a copy of the specific record(s) upon written request.
9. Should the employee be involved in a current grievance against the District or involved in any other contemplated proceedings against the District, the employee may designate in writing a representative who has the authority to inspect the personnel records under the same rights as the employee.
10. If the employee disagrees with any information contained in the personnel record, a removal or correction of that information may be mutually agreed upon by the District and employee. If agreement cannot be reached, the employee may submit a written statement explaining his or her position. The District will attach the employee's statement to the disputed portion of the personnel record and the statement will be included whenever that disputed record is released to a third party as long as the disputed record is part of the employee's personnel file. Inclusion of any written statement attached to the disputed record in an employee's personnel file without any further comment or action by the District will not imply or create any presumption that the District agrees with the statement's contents.

Requests by Third Parties

The Board Attorney shall be consulted whenever a subpoena or court order requests personnel record information. Any other request for personnel information by a third party will be treated as a FOIA request and immediately forwarded to the School District's Freedom of Information Officer (see 2:250-AP1, *Access to and Copying of District Public Records*). Concerning a request for a disciplinary report, letter of reprimand, or other disciplinary action:

1. If the responsive record is more than four years old and is not related to an incident or an attempted incident of sexual abuse, severe physical abuse, or sexual misconduct as defined in 105 ILCS 5/22-85.5(c), access will be denied unless the release is ordered in a legal action or arbitration. 5 ILCS 140/7.5(q); 820 ILCS 40/8, amended by 102-702, eff. 7-1-23.
2. If the responsive record is more than four years old and is related to an incident or an attempted incident of sexual abuse, severe physical abuse, or sexual misconduct as defined in 105 ILCS 5/22-85.5(c), the request cannot be denied. 820 ILCS 40/8, amended by P.A. 102-702, eff. 7-1-23.
3. If the responsive record is four years old or less, access will be granted (regardless of its nature). The District will provide the employee with written notice or through electronic mail, if available, on or before the day any such record is released, unless notice is not required under the Personnel Record Review Act. 5 ILCS 140/7.5(q); 820 ILCS 40/7 and 40/8, amended by P.A. 102-702, eff. 7-1-23.
4. The employee will not be informed if the employee has specifically waived written notice as part of a written, signed employment application with another employer; the disclosure is ordered to a party in a legal action or arbitration; or information is requested by a government agency as a result of a claim or complaint by an employee, or as a result of a criminal investigation by such agency.

A FOIA request for a performance evaluation will be denied. 820 ILCS 40/11, 5 ILCS 140/7.5(q).

Before replying to a request from a third party, the District will review the requested records and delete or redact material that is protected from disclosure. 820 ILCS 40/8, amended by P.A. 102-702, eff. 7-1-23.

Restriction on Employee Access

The PRRA, 820 ILCS 40/10, provides that the right of the employee or the employee's designated representative to inspect his or her personnel records does not extend to:

1. Letters of reference for that employee.
2. Any portion of a test document, except that the employee may see a cumulative total test score for either a section of or the entire test document.
3. Materials relating to the employer's staff planning, such as matters relating to the District's development, expansion, closing or operational goals, where the materials relate to or affect more than one employee, provided, however, that this exception does not apply if such materials are, have been or are intended to be used by the employer in determining an individual employee's qualifications for employment, promotion, transfer, or additional compensation, or in determining an individual employee's discharge or discipline.
4. Information of a personal nature about a person other than the employee if disclosure of the information would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of the other person's privacy.
5. Records relevant to any other pending claim between the District and employee that may be discovered in a judicial proceeding.
6. Investigatory or security records maintained by the District to investigate criminal conduct by an employee or other activity by the employee that could reasonably be expected to harm the District's property, operations, or education process or programs, or could by the employee's activity cause the District financial liability, unless and until the District takes adverse personnel action based on information in such records.

Complying with Requirements in the Abused and Neglected Child Reporting Act

The Superintendent will execute the requirements in ANCRA whenever a District employee makes a report to DCFS involving another District employee's conduct. This includes performing the following tasks (325 ILCS 5/4 and 820 ILCS 40/13):

1. Disclose to any school district requesting information concerning a current or former employee's job performance or qualifications the fact that he or she was the subject of another employee's report to DCFS. Only the fact that a District employee made a report may be disclosed.
2. Inform the District employee who is or has been the subject of such report that the Superintendent will make the disclosure as described above.
3. Delete the record of such a report if DCFS informs the District that the allegation was unfounded.

Complying with Requirements of Faith's Law⁷

The Superintendent or designee shall execute the recordkeeping requirements of *Faith's Law*. This includes performing the following tasks (105 ILCS 5/22-94(e)):

1. At the time of an employee's separation from employment, or upon request of any employee, ensures the completion of the *Authorization for Release of Sexual Misconduct Related Information and Current/Former Employer Response* form, using the Ill. State Board of Education *Authorization for Release of Sexual Misconduct Related Information and Current/Former Employer Response Template* at: www.isbe.net/Documents/Temp2-Auth-Release-Sexual-Misconduct-Related-Info.pdf.
2. If the District is still investigating an employee for *sexual misconduct*⁸ after the employee's separation from employment, updates the information in the *Authorization for Release of Sexual Misconduct Related Information and Current/Former Employer Response* form accordingly.⁹
3. Maintains the completed *Authorization for Release of Sexual Misconduct Related Information and Current/Former Employer Response* form in the employee's personnel file.
4. Responds to employer requests for sexual misconduct related employment history information under *Faith's Law* by: (a) completing the *Authorization for Release of Sexual Misconduct-Related Information and Current/Former Employer Response* form provided by the employer within 20 calendar days of receipt, and (b) providing to the employer any relevant information, including copies of personnel records, regarding instances of sexual misconduct in accordance with the instructions on the form.

The footnotes should be removed before the material is used.

⁷ 105 ILCS 5/22-94(e), added by P.A. 102-702, eff. 7-1-23. The contents of this subhead implement: (1) the *Faith's Law* recordkeeping requirements contained in the **Special Superintendent Responsibilities** subhead in sample policy 5:90, *Abused and Neglected Child Reporting*, and (2) the obligation to respond to employer requests for information under *Faith's Law* contained in the **Prospective Employer Inquiries Concerning a Current or Former Employee's Job Performance** subhead in sample policy 5:150, *Personnel Records*.

⁸ *Sexual misconduct* is defined in 105 ILCS 5/22-85.5(c), added by P.A. 102-676.

⁹ 105 ILCS 5/22-94(e), added by P.A. 102-702, eff. 7-1-23.

LEGAL REF.: 5 ILCS 140/, Freedom of Information Act.
105 ILCS 5/22-94.
325 ILCS 5/4 and 5/7.4, Abused and Neglected Child Reporting Act.
820 ILCS 40/, Personnel Record Review Act.
23 Ill.Admin.Code §1.660.

General Personnel

Copyright¹

Works Made for Hire²

The Superintendent shall manage the development of instructional materials and computer programs by employees during the scope of their employment in accordance with State and federal laws and School Board policies. Whenever an employee is assigned to develop instructional materials and/or computer programs, or otherwise performs such work within the scope of his or her employment, it is assured the District shall be the owner of the copyright.

Copyright Compliance

While staff members may use appropriate supplementary materials, it is each staff member's responsibility to abide by the District's copyright compliance procedures and to obey the copyright laws. The District is not responsible for any violations of the copyright laws by its staff or students. A staff member should contact the Superintendent or designee whenever the staff member is uncertain about whether using or copying material complies with the District's procedures or is permissible under the law, or wants assistance on when and how to obtain proper authorization. No staff member shall, without first obtaining the permission of the Superintendent or designee, install or download any program on a District-owned computer. At no time shall it be necessary for a District staff member to violate copyright laws in order to properly perform his or her duties.

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

¹ State or federal law controls this policy's content. Creators of original materials, including materials posted on the Internet, are granted exclusive rights, known as *copyrights* (17 U.S.C. §101 *et seq.*). These exclusive rights include reproducing and publicly performing the work. Congress granted some exceptions to exclusive rights for schools, including §107 on fair use, §108 on library reproduction and archiving, §109 on first sale, and §110 on classroom performance and display. If not covered by an exception, the copyright owner's permission must be sought before a work can be copied or performed. The fine for failing to comply with copyright law is steep making the cost of consulting with the board attorney a bargain. Fair use determinations are very fact specific. See 5:170-AP1, *Copyright Compliance*, for more information and resources, and consult the board attorney as needed for guidance.

² In evaluating a work made for hire claim, courts consider a non-exhaustive list of factors, including: (1) the hiring party's right to control the manner and means by which the product is accomplished; (2) the skill required to create the material; (3) the location of the work; (4) the duration of the relationship between the parties; (5) whether the hiring party has the right to assign additional projects to the hired party; and (6) the provision of employee benefits. *Shanton v. St. Charles Community Unit Sch. Dist. 303*, 2017 WL 4865536 (N.D.Ill. 2017)(citing *Community for Creative Non-Violence v. Reid*, 490 U.S. 730 (1989)). See also *Works Made for Hire (Circular 30)*, at: www.copyright.gov/circs/circ30.pdf.

Copyright Infringement; Designation of District Digital Millennium Copyright Act (DMCA) Agent³

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

District DMCA Agent:

Name

Address

Email

Telephone

LEGAL REF.: 17 U.S.C. §101 et seq., Federal Copyright Law of 1976.
105 ILCS 5/10-23.10.

CROSS REF.: 6:235 (Access to Electronic Networks)

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

³ Optional. Before using this text, **consult the board attorney to first identify whether the District is an *online service provider (OSP)* under the DMCA.** The DMCA is an amendment to 17 U.S.C. §101 et seq. The amendment provides limitations on OSP liability for storage, at the direction of a user, of copyrighted material residing on a system or network controlled or operated by or for the OSP. This liability limitation is called the *Safe Harbor Provision (SHP)*. **If a district is an OSP, the SHP provision will only apply if the district designates, publicizes, and registers a DMCA Agent with the federal Copyright Office (at publication time, registration was \$6).**

Districts that may benefit from the SHP are those which operate or contract to operate the following types of websites: file and information sharing sites; blogs that allow guests to post content; social media sites; and other sites that accept, publish or host content created and submitted by other parties. For further steps to designate a DMCA agent, see 5:170-AP4, *Designation of District Digital Millennium Copyright Act (DMCA) Agent; Registration Process.*

Professional Personnel

Student Teachers ¹

The Superintendent is authorized to accept students from university-approved teacher-training programs to do student teaching in the District. No individual who has been convicted of a criminal offense that would subject him or her to license suspension or revocation pursuant to Section 5/21B-80 of the School Code² or who has been found to be the perpetrator of sexual or physical abuse of a minor under 18 years of age pursuant to proceedings under Article II of the Juvenile Court Act of 1987 is permitted to student teach.

Before permitting an individual to student teach or begin a required internship in the District, the Superintendent or designee shall ensure that: ³

1. The District performed a *105 ILCS 5/10-21.9(g) Check* as described below; and
2. The individual furnished evidence of physical fitness to perform assigned duties and freedom from communicable disease pursuant to 105 ILCS 5/24-5. ⁴

A *105 ILCS 5/10-21.9(g) Check* shall include:

1. Fingerprint-based checks through (a) the Illinois State Police (ISP) for criminal history records information (CHRI) pursuant to the Uniform Conviction Information Act (20 ILCS

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

¹ State or federal law controls this policy's content. This policy contains an item on which collective bargaining may be required. Any policy that impacts upon wages, hours, and terms and conditions of employment, is subject to collective bargaining upon request by the employee representative, even if the policy involves an inherent managerial right.

This sample policy is consistent with the minimum requirements of State law. The local collective bargaining agreement may contain provisions which exceed these requirements. When a policy's subject matter is superseded by a bargaining agreement, the school board policy may state, "Please refer to the applicable collective bargaining agreement(s)."

² 105 ILCS 5/21B-80, amended by 102-552. 105 ILCS 5/10-21.9, 5/21B-15, and 5/21B-80(b) carve out an exception allowing individuals with convictions involving certain drug offenses to obtain educator licensure or reinstate a license suspension/revocation seven years after the end of an individual's sentence for these certain drug offenses. See 5:30-AP2, *Investigations*, for a list of these carved-out drug offenses. Consult the board attorney for guidance regarding whether student teachers or interns, who are typically unpaid, qualify as *employees* who must also undergo the sexual misconduct related employment history review (EHR) required by 105 ILCS 5/22-94, added by P.A. 102-702, eff. 7-1-23. Whether or not a student or intern is paid by a district may be determinative. See 5:30-AP3, *Sexual Misconduct Related Employment History Review (EHR)*. If a district has an agreement with a post-secondary institution for the placement of student interns, consult the board attorney regarding whether the institution qualifies as a *contractor* under 105 ILCS 5/22-94(b) that must perform an EHR of the intern. See 4:60-AP4, *Sexual Misconduct Related Employment History Review (EHR) of Contractor Employees*.

³ 105 ILCS 5/10-21.9(g). A student teacher or individual beginning a required internship must undergo a fingerprint-based State and national criminal history records information check and checks of the Statewide Sex Offender Database and Statewide Murderer and Violent Offender Against Youth Database prior to participating in any field experiences in the school.

For boards that want to include students participating in any field or clinical experience, amend the introductory phrase to state "Before permitting an individual to student teach, or begin a required internship, or participate in any field or clinical experience in the District," For information about screenings or fingerprint-based criminal history records information checks for students doing field or clinical experience other than student teaching, see number two in the subhead titled **Screening Individuals Who are Likely to Have Contact with Students at School or School Events** in 4:175-AP1, *Criminal Offender Notification Laws; Screening*.

⁴ 105 ILCS 5/24-5.

2635/1), and (b) the FBI national crime information databases pursuant to the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act (P.L. 109-248);

2. A check of the Illinois Sex Offender Registry (see the Sex Offender Community Notification Law (730 ILCS 152/101 et seq.); and
3. A check of the Illinois Murderer and Violent Offender Against Youth Registry (Murderer and Violent Offender Against Youth Registration Act (730 ILCS 154/75-105).

The School Code requires each individual student teaching or beginning a required internship to provide the District with written authorization for, and pay the costs of, his or her 105 ILCS 5/10-21.9(g) check (including any applicable vendor's fees).⁵ Upon receipt of this authorization and payment, the Superintendent or designee will submit the student teacher's name, sex, race, date of birth, social security number, fingerprint images, and other identifiers, as prescribed by the Ill. State Police (ISP), to the ISP.⁶ The Superintendent or designee will provide each student teacher with a copy of his or her report.⁷

Assignment

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

LEGAL REF.: 34 U.S.C. §20901 et seq., Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act, P.L. 109-248.
20 ILCS 2635/1, Uniform Conviction Information Act.
105 ILCS 5/10-21.9, 5/10-22.34, and 5/24-5.

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

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

⁵ 105 ILCS 5/10-21.9(g). See also 20 ILCS 2635/7(A)(1).

⁶ 105 ILCS 5/10-21.9(g). As a condition of employment, each school board must consider the status of a person to student teach who has an indicated finding of abuse or neglect of a child by the Ill. Dept. of Children and Family Services under the Abused and Neglected Child Reporting Act or by a child welfare agency of another jurisdiction. See f/n 6 in 4:175, *Convicted Child Sex Offender; Screening; Notifications*, for further discussion.

⁷ 20 ILCS 2635/7(A)(2). *LiveScan* is the recommended equipment for criminal history records checks. The language in this policy does not distinguish whether the district uses an authorized LiveScan vendor or owns or leases its own LiveScan equipment. Delete "(including applicable vendor's fees)" if the district owns or leases its own LiveScan equipment.

For more guidance and information on navigating the records laws surrounding criminal history records checks, along with a LiveScan vendor directory, see the Ill. State Board of Education's non-regulatory guidance document, *Criminal History Records Information (CHRI) Checks for Certified and Non-certified School Personnel*, available at: www.isbe.net/Documents/guidance_chr.pdf.

Instruction

Accelerated Placement Program ¹

The District provides an Accelerated Placement Program (APP). The APP advances the District's goal of providing educational programs with opportunities for each student to develop to his or her maximum potential.² The APP provides an educational setting with curriculum options usually reserved for students who are older or in higher grades than the student participating in the APP.³ APP options include, but may not be limited to: (a) accelerating a student in a single subject; (b) other grade-level acceleration; and (c) early entrance to kindergarten or first grade.⁴ Participation in the APP is open to all students who demonstrate high ability and who may benefit from accelerated placement. It is not limited to students who have been identified as gifted and talented.⁵ Eligibility to participate in the District's APP shall not be conditioned upon the protected classifications identified in School Board policy 7:10, *Equal Educational Opportunities*, or any factor other than the student's identification as an accelerated learner.⁶

The Superintendent or designee shall implement an APP that includes:

1. Decision-making processes that are fair, equitable, and involve multiple individuals, e.g. District administrators, teachers, and school support personnel, and a student's parent(s)/guardian(s);⁷
2. Notification processes that notify a student's parent(s)/guardian(s) of a decision affecting a student's participation in the APP;⁸

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

¹ State law requires this subject matter be covered by policy and controls its content. 105 ILCS 5/14A (the Accelerated Placement Act (APA)); 23 Ill.Admin.Code Part 227. Ill. State Board of Education (ISBE) rules require this policy to be posted on the district website, if available. 23 Ill.Admin.Code §227.60(a). ISBE rules also require districts to annually report, by July 31, demographic information regarding students participating in accelerated placement. 23 Ill.Admin.Code §227.60(c).

² Optional. Ensure this statement matches the board's current educational philosophy and objectives. See policy 6:10, *Educational Philosophy and Objectives*.

³ 105 ILCS 5/14A-17; 23 Ill.Admin.Code §227.5.

⁴ Id. For high school districts, delete “; and (e) early entrance to kindergarten or first grade” and insert the word “and” between (a) and (b).

Attorneys disagree whether the APA conflicts with 105 ILCS 5/10-20.12 (*School year – School age.*). The APA requires accelerated placement to include “early entrance to kindergarten or first grade.” 105 ILCS 5/14A-17. 105 ILCS 5/10-20.12 *permits* districts to offer early entrance to kindergarten or first grade “based upon an assessment of the student's readiness to attend school.” 105 ILCS 5/10-20.12 also states that students may enter first grade early when they: (1) are assessed for readiness; (2) have attended a non-public preschool and continued their education at that school through kindergarten; (3) were taught in kindergarten by an appropriately certified teacher; and (4) will attain the age of 6 years on or before December 31. Id. See sample policy 7:50, *School Admissions and Student Transfers To and From Non-District Schools*. **Consult the board attorney for guidance.**

⁵ 105 ILCS 5/14A-32(a)(1); 23 Ill.Admin.Code §227.5.

⁶ 105 ILCS 5/14A-25.

⁷ 105 ILCS 5/14A-32(a)(2) requires that the accelerated placement policy include “a fair and equitable decision-making process that involves multiple persons and includes a student's parents or guardians” but does not specify what individuals are to be involved or limit those individuals to district employees. Amend this listing to align with the local board's preference.

3. Assessment processes that include multiple valid, reliable indicators; and⁹
4. The automatic enrollment, in the following school term, of a student into the next most rigorous level of advanced coursework offered by the high school if the student meets or exceeds State standards in English language arts, mathematics, or science on a State assessment administered under 105 ILCS 5/2-3.64a-5, as follows:¹⁰
 - a. A student who meets or exceeds State standards in English language arts shall be automatically enrolled into the next most rigorous level of advanced coursework in English, social studies, humanities, or related subjects.
 - b. A student who meets or exceeds State standards in mathematics shall be automatically enrolled into the next most rigorous level of advanced coursework in mathematics.
 - c. A student who meets or exceeds State standards in science shall be automatically enrolled into the next most rigorous level of advanced coursework in science.

The Superintendent or designee shall annually notify the community, parent(s)/guardian(s), students, and school personnel about the APP, the process for referring a student for possible evaluation for accelerated placement, and the methods used to determine whether a student is eligible for accelerated placement, including strategies to reach groups of students and families who have been historically underrepresented in accelerated placement programs and advanced coursework.¹¹ Notification may: (a) include varied communication methods, such as student handbooks and District or school websites; and (b) be provided in multiple languages, as appropriate.¹²

⁸ *Id.* at (a)(3).

⁹ *Id.* at (a)(4).

¹⁰ Required only for districts with grades 9-12 by 105 ILCS 5/14A-32(a-5), amended by P.A. 102-209. Delete for elementary school districts. Though not set forth explicitly in the statute, ISBE asserts this provision is limited to “[d]istricts with grades 9-12.” See ISBE *Accelerated Placement Policy Guidance for Districts Frequently Asked Questions* (September 2022), at: www.isbe.net/Documents/Accelerated-Placement-Act-FAQ.pdf. The FAQ further explains that districts must “have the automatic enrollment policy in place prior to the start of the school year 2023-24 and districts will use scores from that school year to automatically enroll students during school year 2024-25.” *Id.*

A district must provide the parents/guardians of a student eligible for automatic enrollment with the option to instead enroll in alternative coursework that better aligns with the student’s postsecondary education or career goals. For a student entering grade 12, the next most rigorous level of advanced coursework in English language arts or mathematics must be a *dual credit course* (as defined in the Dual Credit Quality Act, 110 ILCS 27/5), an *Advanced Placement course* (as defined in the College and Career Success for All Students Act, 105 ILCS 302/10), or an International Baccalaureate course. The same is true for all other subjects, except that the next most rigorous level of advanced coursework may also include an honors class, an enrichment opportunity, a gifted program, or another program offered by the district. 105 ILCS 5/14A-32(a-5), amended by P.A. 102-209. See 6:135-AP, *Accelerated Placement Program Procedures*.

¹¹ Optional. 105 ILCS 5/14A-32(b)(1) permits, but does not require “procedures for annually informing the community at-large, including parents or guardians, community-based organizations, and providers of out-of-school programs, about the accelerated placement program and the methods used for the identification of children eligible for accelerated placement, including strategies to reach groups of students and families who have been historically underrepresented in accelerated placement programs and advanced coursework[.]”

¹² Optional. 105 ILCS 5/14A does not require this but it is a recommended best practice and aligns with sample policy 7:10, *Equal Educational Opportunities*.

LEGAL REF.: 105 ILCS 5/14A.
23 Ill.Admin.Code Part 227, Gifted Education.

CROSS REF.: 6:10 (Educational Philosophy and Objectives), 6:130 (Program for the Gifted),
7:10 (Equal Educational Opportunities), 7:50 (School Admissions and Student
Transfers To and From Non-District Schools)

Instruction

Administrative Procedure - Accelerated Placement Program Procedures ¹

The District's Accelerated Placement Program (APP) places qualified students in an educational setting that includes curriculum usually reserved for students who are older or in higher grades than the student, and is implemented by the Superintendent or designee. 105 ILCS 5/14A.

This administrative procedure contains seven sections as follows:

1. Definitions
2. Annual Notification
3. Referral Process
4. Evaluation Process
5. Eligibility Determination
6. Automatic Enrollment in Advanced High School Coursework
7. Program Reporting, Review, and Expanded Access Plan

Definitions ²

Accelerated placement is the placement of a student in an educational setting with curriculum that is usually reserved for students who are older or in higher grades than the student.³ Accelerated placement includes, but may not be limited to: early entrance to kindergarten or first grade, accelerating a student in a single subject, and grade acceleration.⁴

The footnotes should be removed before the material is used.

¹ Customize this procedure to meet the district's needs. It is written in general terms with regard to 105 ILCS 5/14A, the Accelerated Placement Act (APA). Districts may wish to utilize different procedures for different types of accelerated placement. For example, many districts that permit early entrance to kindergarten or first grade require that early entrance requests be submitted by a certain calendar date, often months in advance of the start of a school term, to allow sufficient time for evaluation and the determination of incoming class sizes and staffing needs. The law is silent regarding whether these deadlines may be waived or adjusted for students who move into the district after the deadline; consult the board attorney for further guidance. Districts should also consider implementing specific and objective criteria for early entrance and address such issues as who pays the costs for assessments, etc.

To provide school administrators and personnel with a familiar procedural framework, the **Referral Process**, **Evaluation Process**, and **Eligibility Determination** sections of this sample administrative procedure are loosely modeled on the Ill. Council of School Attorneys' *Special Education Procedures Assuring the Implementation of Comprehensive Programming for Children with Disabilities*. See www.iasb.com/law/icsaspedcd.cfm.

² 105 ILCS 5/14A-17 (APA), requires districts to have an accelerated placement program that includes, but need not be limited to, the following types of acceleration: early entrance to kindergarten or first grade, accelerating a child in a single subject, and grade acceleration. The APA does not define these types of acceleration however, they are defined in Ill. State Board of Education (ISBE) regulations at 23 Ill.Admin.Code §227.5.

For high school districts, delete the definitions of *early entrance to kindergarten* and *early entrance to first grade*. If the district offers additional types of acceleration, such as curriculum compacting or telescoping curriculum, then the definitions of such additional types should be added to this section.

³ 105 ILCS 5/14A-17; 23 Ill.Admin.Code §227.5.

⁴ *Id.* For high school districts, delete "early entrance to kindergarten or first grade." For districts that offer additional types of acceleration, amend this sentence to include those types in the list of accelerated placement offerings.

Early entrance to kindergarten is the admission to kindergarten of a student who: (a) is assessed for and meets the District’s readiness standards to attend school; and (b) will not be five years of age on or before September 1 of that school term. ⁵

Early entrance to first grade is the admission to first grade of a student who is assessed for and meets the District’s readiness standards to attend school. A student may, but is not required to, have attended a non-public preschool and continued his or her education at that school through kindergarten and been taught in kindergarten by an appropriately certified teacher. A student who is younger than six upon starting first grade but who was admitted early to kindergarten does not need to be reevaluated prior to admission to first grade. ⁶

Individual subject acceleration is the practice of assigning a student to a specific content area at a higher instructional level than is typical given the student’s grade for the purpose of providing access to appropriately challenging learning opportunities in one or more subject areas.⁷ It may be accomplished by either: (a) physically moving the student to a higher level class for instruction; or (b) using higher level curricular or study materials in the student’s current classroom.

Whole grade acceleration is the practice of assigning a student to a higher grade level than is typical, given the student’s age, on a full-time basis for the purpose of providing access to appropriately challenging learning opportunities.⁸ Commonly referred to as skipping a grade, grade acceleration may be done at the beginning of or during the school term.

Annual Notification ⁹

Actor	Action
Superintendent or designee	Annually notifies the community, including community-based organizations, providers of out-of-school programs, parent(s)/guardian(s), students, and school personnel, about the: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. APP 2. Process for referring a student for possible evaluation for accelerated placement, including: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Steps to be taken to make a referral; b. Individual(s) to whom a referral may be submitted; c. Deadlines by which a referral must be made;

The footnotes should be removed before the material is used.

⁵ 23 Ill.Admin.Code §227.5. Use the following alternative in a district operating on a year-round basis:

Early entrance to kindergarten is the admission to kindergarten of a student who: (a) is assessed for and meets the District’s readiness standards to attend school; and (b) will not be five years of age within 30 days after the commencement of that school term.

⁶ 23 Ill.Admin.Code §227.5.

⁷ *Id.*

⁸ *Id.*

⁹ Optional. 105 ILCS 5/14A-32(b)(1) permits, but does not require “procedures for annually informing the community at-large, including parents or guardians, community-based organizations, and providers of out-of-school programs, about the accelerated placement program and the methods used for the identification of children eligible for accelerated placement, including strategies to reach groups of students and families who have been historically underrepresented in accelerated placement programs and advanced coursework[.]” Delete if the board has not included annual notification language in its adopted policy 6:135, *Accelerated Placement Program*.

Actor	Action
	<p style="text-align: center;">and</p> <p style="text-align: center;">d. Information that must be provided in the referral.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Methods used to determine whether a student is eligible for accelerated placement. 4. Strategies used to reach groups of students and families who have been historically underrepresented in accelerated placement programs and advanced coursework. <p>Provides such notification:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. By varied communication methods, such as student handbooks and District/school websites; and 2. In multiple languages.

Referral Process

Actor	Action
<p>Parent(s)/Guardian(s), Licensed Educational Professionals, Student (with written consent of a parent/guardian), or Peer (through a licensed educational professional who has knowledge of the student’s abilities).</p> <p>In addition to the above-noted individuals, referrals for possible early entrance to kindergarten or first grade may also come from: Preschool Educator, Non-public Kindergarten Teacher, Pediatrician, or Psychologist who knows the student. ¹⁰</p>	<p>Refers a student for possible evaluation for accelerated placement using the process set forth in this procedure.</p>
<p>Student Services Director, Building Principal, or designee</p>	<p>Within [<i>insert number</i>] school days after receiving a referral, determines whether an evaluation for accelerated placement is warranted.</p>

The footnotes should be removed before the material is used.

¹⁰ 105 ILCS 5/14A-32(b)(2) recommends that the referral process allow for multiple referrers, and specifically notes that referrers for possible early entrance may include “a preschool educator, pediatrician, or psychologist who knows the child.” High school districts should delete the list of additional referrers for possible early entrance. ISBE regulations define *multiple referrers* as including, but not being limited to, “the student’s parents or guardian, current teachers, district gifted coordinator or gifted education specialist, guidance counselor, principal, and school psychologist.” 23 Ill.Admin.Code §227.5.

Actor	Action
	<p>To determine whether an evaluation is warranted, may review existing data about the student, utilize screening data, and conduct preliminary procedures such as observation of the student, consultation with the teacher or other individual making the request, and a conference with the student.</p> <p>Provides the student’s parent(s)/guardian(s) with written notice of the referral determination. For cases not warranting an evaluation, the process ends here. For cases warranting an evaluation, proceed to Evaluation Process, below.</p>

Evaluation Process

Actor	Action
Student Services Director, Building Principal, or designee	<p>Convenes an Evaluation Team (consisting of District teacher(s) and school support personnel, as appropriate) having the knowledge and skills necessary to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify multiple valid, reliable indicators¹¹ to use during the evaluation; 2. Identify appropriate assessment instruments; 3. Administer said assessments; and 4. Interpret evaluation results. <p>The composition of the team may vary depending upon the type of acceleration requested and other relevant factors.</p>
Evaluation Team	<p>Identifies multiple valid, reliable indicators and any assessment instruments appropriate to use during the evaluation.</p> <p>Prepares a written document identifying the evaluation components. This may occur without a meeting.</p>
Student Services Director, Building Principal, or designee	<p>Provides parent(s)/guardian(s) with written notification of the Evaluation Team’s conclusions regarding the evaluation components and requests parent(s)/guardian(s)’ written consent to conduct the evaluation.</p>
Parent/Guardian	<p>Provides written consent to conduct the evaluation.</p>
Evaluation Team	<p>Completes the evaluation within [<i>insert number</i>] school days following the date of receipt of parent(s)/guardian(s)’ written consent to conduct the evaluation.</p> <p>Ensures the evaluation is nondiscriminatory and follows policy 7:10, <i>Equal Educational Opportunities</i>.</p>

The footnotes should be removed before the material is used.

¹¹ Required by 105 ILCS 5/14A-32(a)(4). *Multiple valid, reliable indicators* are not defined in the APA or ISBE regulations; some attorneys prefer using “standardized and norm-referenced indicators” instead.

Eligibility Determination

Actor	Action
Evaluation Team	<p>Convenes a meeting¹² with parent(s)/guardian(s) to review evaluation results and determine eligibility for the APP. Provides parent(s)/guardian(s) with written notice of eligibility determination.</p> <p>If the student is found eligible for the APP, prepares and provides parent(s)/guardian(s) with a written plan detailing the type of acceleration the student will receive and strategies to support the student.¹³</p> <p>If the student is not found eligible for the APP, provides parent(s)/guardian(s) with written notice of their right to appeal the eligibility determination, within five calendar days after receiving the determination, by submitting a written request to the Superintendent.¹⁴</p>
Parent/Guardian	<p>If desired, within [<i>insert number</i>] calendar days after receiving written notice that student is not eligible for the APP, submits written appeal to the Superintendent.</p>
Superintendent	<p>Within [<i>insert number</i>] calendar days after receiving the written appeal request, reviews the case, and provides parent(s)/guardian(s) with written notice of his/her decision.</p> <p>The Superintendent’s decision is final.</p>

Automatic Enrollment in Advanced High School Coursework¹⁵

Actor	Action
Student Services Director, Building Principal, or designee	<p>Identifies students who qualify for automatic enrollment in the “next most rigorous level of advanced coursework” (NMR) offered by the District, for the following school term, by</p>

The footnotes should be removed before the material is used.

¹² Convening a meeting with parents/guardians is not required, however, 105 ILCS 5/14A-32(a)(2) requires “a fair and equitable decision-making process that involves multiple persons and includes a student’s parents or guardians.” A meeting logically allows the Evaluation Team to explain evaluation results, parent(s)/guardian(s) to ask questions and be heard, and all stakeholders to be involved in the eligibility determination. Delete this sentence if the district will not offer a meeting.

ISBE regulations define *multiple persons* as including, but not being limited to, “the student’s parent or guardian, current teachers, district gifted coordinator or gifted education specialist, guidance counselor, principal, and school psychologist. 23 Ill.Admin.Code §227.60.

¹³ Optional. The APA permits but does not require this written plan. 105 ILCS 5/14A-32(b)(3).

¹⁴ Optional.

¹⁵ Required only for districts with grades 9-12. 105 ILCS 5/14A-32(a-5), amended by P.A. 102-209. Delete for elementary school districts. See f/n 10 in sample policy 6:135, *Accelerated Placement Program*, for further discussion of this requirement. Written notice to parents/guardians is not required but is a best practice to memorialize that automatic enrollment into the next level of advanced coursework and the option of alternative coursework were offered to qualified students.

Actor	Action
	<p>reviewing State assessment results in English language arts, mathematics, and science.</p> <p>For English language arts, the NMR includes courses in English, social studies, humanities, or related subjects. ¹⁶</p> <p>For a student entering grade 12, the NMR in English language arts or mathematics must be a dual credit course (as defined in the Dual Credit Quality Act, 110 ILCS 27/5), an Advanced Placement course (as defined in the College and Career Success for All Students Act, 105 ILCS 302/10), or an International Baccalaureate course. The same is true for all other subjects, except that the NMR may also include an honors class, an enrichment opportunity, a gifted program, or another program offered by the District. ¹⁷</p> <p>Provides written notice to parent(s)/guardian(s) of a qualified student of the student’s eligibility for automatic enrollment in the NMR level of advanced coursework offered by the high school that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identifies the course(s) the student is eligible for, including the location and schedule, if known, of the course(s); 2. Informs the parent(s)/guardian(s) of the option to instead enroll the student in alternative coursework that better aligns with the student’s postsecondary education or career goals; ¹⁸ 3. Identifies the alternative coursework the student is eligible for, including the location and schedule, if known, of the alternative coursework; and 4. Requests that the parent(s)/guardian(s) notify the District within [<i>insert number</i>] calendar days of their course enrollment decision.
Parent/Guardian	Provides the District with written notice of their course enrollment decision within [<i>insert number</i>] calendar days after receiving the written notice.

The footnotes should be removed before the material is used.

¹⁶ *Id.* at (a-5)(1).

¹⁷ 105 ILCS 5/14A-32(a-5), amended by P.A. 102-209.

¹⁸ 105 ILCS 5/14A-32(a-5), amended by P.A. 102-209.

Program Reporting, Review, and Expanded Access Plan

Actor	Action
Superintendent, Student Services Director, or designee	Submits by July 31 each year to the Ill. State Board of Education (ISBE) through the Student Information System (SIS): ¹⁹ <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Demographic information for each student participating in the APP;2. Student participation in the APP; and3. Type of APP placement. Reviews disaggregated data on APP participation and successful completion rates to address gaps among demographic groups in accelerated placement opportunities. ²⁰ Develops and, as necessary, updates a plan to expand access to the APP and to ensure the teaching capacity necessary to meet any increased demand. ²¹

The footnotes should be removed before the material is used.

¹⁹ 23 Ill. Admin.Code §227.60(b).

²⁰ Optional. 105 ILCS 5/14A-32(b)(5).

²¹ 105 ILCS 5/14A-32(d).

Instruction

Library Media Program¹

The Superintendent or designee shall manage the District's library media program to comply with (1) State law and Ill. State Board of Education (ISBE) rule and (2) the following standards:

1. The program includes an organized collection of resources available to students and staff to supplement classroom instruction, foster reading for pleasure, enhance information literacy, and support research, as appropriate to students of all abilities in the grade levels served.
2. Financial resources for the program's resources and supplies are allocated to meet students' needs.
3. Students in all grades served have equitable access to library media resources.
4. The advice of an individual who is qualified according to ISBE rule is sought regarding the overall direction of the program, including the selection and organization of materials, provision of instruction in information and technology literacy, and structuring the work of library paraprofessionals.
5. Staff members are invited to recommend additions to the collection.

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

¹ ISBE rule controls some aspects of this policy's content; however, districts are not required to adopt a policy on any subject matter covered in it. Standards #1-4 restate requirements in 23 Ill.Admin.Code §1.420(o). Standard #2 implements the rule's requirement that each "district's annual budget shall include an identifiable allocation for resources and supplies for the program." However, the rule allows a unit district serving fewer than 400 students or an elementary or high school district serving fewer than 200 students to forego the allocation requirement; thus, they may use the following alternative to standard #2: "Resources are sufficient to meet students' needs." Standards #5, #6, and #7 may be customized or deleted, and other standards may be added. For optional Standard #7, the American Library Association's (ALA) *Library Bill of Rights* includes the following:

5. Books and other library resources should be provided for the interest, information, and enlightenment of all people of the community the library serves. Materials should not be excluded because of the origin, background, or views of those contributing to their creation.
6. Libraries should provide materials and information presenting all points of view on current and historical issues. Materials should not be proscribed or removed because of partisan or doctrinal disapproval.
7. Libraries should challenge censorship in the fulfillment of their responsibility to provide information and enlightenment.
8. Libraries should cooperate with all persons and groups concerned with resisting abridgment of free expression and free access to ideas.
9. A person's right to use a library should not be denied or abridged because of origin, age, background, or views.
10. Libraries which make exhibit spaces and meeting rooms available to the public they serve should make such facilities available on an equitable basis, regardless of the beliefs or affiliations of individuals or groups requesting their use.
11. All people, regardless of origin, age, background, or views, possess a right to privacy and confidentiality in their library use.
12. Libraries should advocate for, educate about, and protect people's privacy, safeguarding all library use data, including personally identifiable information.

See <https://www.ala.org/advocacy/intfreedom/librarybill> and its interpretation for school libraries at: <https://www.ala.org/advocacy/intfreedom/librarybill/interpretations/accessresources>. The ALA's interpretation of its *Library Bill of Rights* acknowledges that the educational level and program of the school necessarily shape the resources and services of a school library, but it states that the principles of the *Library Bill of Rights* apply equally to all libraries, including school libraries.

6. Students may freely select resource center materials as well as receive guided selection of materials appropriate to specific, planned learning experiences.
7. The program is guided by the principles of the American Library Association's *Library Bill of Rights* and its interpretation for school libraries.

Parents/guardians, employees, and community members who believe that library media program resources violate rights guaranteed by any law or Board policy may file a complaint using Board policy 2:260, *Uniform Grievance Procedure*.²

The Superintendent or designee shall establish criteria consistent with this policy for the review of objections. Parents/guardians, employees, and community members with suggestions or complaints about library media program resources may complete a *Library Media Resource Objection Form*. The Superintendent or designee shall inform the parent/guardian, employee, or community member, as applicable, of the District's decision.³

LEGAL REF.: 23 Ill.Admin.Code §1.420(o).

CROSS REF.: 6:60 (Curriculum Content), 6:170 (Title I Programs), 6:210 (Instructional Materials)

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

² Limiting the scope of complainants in this policy to parents/guardians, employees, and community members aligns with sample policy 2:260, *Uniform Grievance Procedure*.

³ The issue of school library book removals is an unsettled area of law that is often litigated; consult the board attorney for advice regarding challenges to school library books or other library resources. In the only U.S. Supreme Court case to address this issue, *Island Trees Union Free Sch. Dist. No. 26 v. Pico*, 457 U.S. 852 (1982), the Court issued a plurality (not a majority) opinion finding a board could not remove books it had characterized as "anti-American, anti-Christian, anti-Semitic, and just plain filthy," if the removal was motivated by partisan or political reasons; to do so would violate students' Constitutional right to receive information and ideas. Four dissenting justices, however, disagreed that students have a right to receive information and ideas under the First Amendment and would have deferred to the judgment of the local school board.

Students

Administrative Procedure - Responding to Complaints About Library Media Resources

Actor	Action
Parents/Guardians, Employees, or Community Members	Submits any feedback or complaints about the District’s library media resources to the Building Principal, using 6:230-AP, E, <i>Library Media Resource Objection Form</i> .
Building Principal	<p>Directs any parent/guardian, employee, or community member wishing to submit formal feedback or a complaint regarding the District’s library media resources to complete 6:230-AP, E, <i>Library Media Resource Objection Form</i>.</p> <p>If the complaint alleges a violation of law or board policy, refers the complaint to the District Complaint Manager for processing under Board policy 2:260, <i>Uniform Grievance Procedure</i>.</p> <p>Transmits the <i>Library Media Resource Objection Form</i> to the Superintendent or designee for further action.</p>
Superintendent, in consultation with the School Librarian	<p>Determines on a case-by-case basis what action, if any, will be taken in response to a complaint about a library media resource. In making a determination, considers whether the library media resource is aligned with the criteria set forth in Board policy 6:230, <i>Library Media Program</i>, specifically, does the resource in question:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Supplement classroom instruction 2. Foster reading for pleasure 3. Enhance information literacy 4. Support research 5. Align with the principles of the American Library Association’s <i>Library Bill of Rights</i> regarding selection of materials, which include: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Books and other library resources should be provided for the interest, information, and enlightenment of all people of the community the library serves. Materials should not be excluded because of the origin, background, or views of those contributing to their creation. b. Libraries should provide materials and information presenting all points of view on current and historical issues. Materials should not be proscribed or removed because of partisan or doctrinal disapproval. c. Libraries should challenge censorship in the fulfillment of their responsibility to provide information and enlightenment. <p>Consults with the Board Attorney regarding responses to complaints about library resources.</p> <p>Prepares and sends a written response to the person who submitted the <i>Library Media Resource Objection Form</i>, informing the person of the District’s decision.</p> <p>Notes on the <i>Library Media Resource Objection Form</i> the date on which the response was provided and attaches the response to the form.</p>

Instruction

Exhibit - Library Media Resource Objection Form

Use this form to submit feedback and/or complaints about the District's library media resources. Please complete this form and return it to the Building Principal, who will submit it to the Superintendent or designee. Please print.

Book/Library Resource Title

School

Please explain why you object to this library resource and state your desired outcome, if any. Please be specific.

Complainant name (*please print*)

Telephone

Email Address

Complainant represents:

Student

Parent/guardian of student

Other

Complainant address

Complainant signature

Date

Completed by the Superintendent or designee.

Written response provided to Complainant on: _____ (attach response to this form)

Superintendent or Designee Signature

Date

Students

Exhibit - Resource Guide for Bullying Prevention

General Resources

Safe2Help Illinois:

www.safe2helpil.com/

Ill. State Board of Education *School Bullying Prevention Task Force Report*:

www.isbe.net/Documents_SBPTF/sbptf_report_030111.pdf

Resources section of the website managed by the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services:

www.stopbullying.gov

Bullying in Schools - Cops – U.S. Department of Justice:

<https://cops.usdoj.gov/RIC/Publications/cops-w0018-pub.pdf>

Restorative Discipline Resources

Positive Behavior Intervention & Supports (PBIS):

www.pbis.org/

Social and Emotional Learning Standards:

www.isbe.net/Documents/SEL-Standards.pdf

Dignity in Schools:

<http://dignityinschools.org/take-action/model-school-code/>

Illinois Balanced and Restorative Justice:

<https://ibarj.org/>

Conditions for Development and Learning; Data Collection Resources

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)'s *Measuring Bullying Victimization, Perpetration, and Bystander Experiences: A Compendium of Assessment Tools*:

www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/pdf/bullycompendium-a.pdf

Safe Supportive Learning's School Climate Survey Compendium:

<https://safesupportivelearning.ed.gov/topic-research/school-climate-measurement/school-climate-survey-compendium>

CDC's *Youth Violence: Measuring Violence-Related Attitudes, Behaviors, and Influences Among Youths: A Compendium of Assessment Tools - Second Edition*:

https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/pdf/yv_compendium.pdf

CDC's *Intimate Partner Violence and Sexual Violence Victimization Assessment Instruments for Use in Healthcare Settings, Version 1*:

<https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/pdf/ipv/ipvandsvscreening.pdf>

World Health Organization's *Creating an environment for emotional and social well-being*: an important responsibility of a health promoting and child-friendly school.

<https://apps.who.int/iris/handle/10665/42819>

Rachel's Challenge:

<https://rachelschallenge.org>

Students

Exhibit - Be a Hero by Reporting Bullying

Who reports?	YOU, if you have information about bullying, harassment, and/or a threat of one of these actions. It doesn't matter whether you are the target of bullying or think someone is being bullied, please report it!
What do I report?	<p>Any activity that targets someone to be hurt in any way. Bullying, harassment, and threats take many forms. One thing they have in common – someone is targeted to be hurt. Examples of these hurtful behaviors include unwanted teasing, intimidation, physical violence, humiliation, spreading false rumors, social exclusion, or theft or destruction of property.</p> <p>Bullying, harassment, and threats may occur almost anywhere students go – in school buildings, on school grounds or buses, or at bus stops, for example. Bullying or harassing may also occur using social networking sites or cell phones.</p>
When should I report?	As soon as possible.
Where or how do I report?	<p>Tell any school staff member. You may do this in person, by phone, or by email. You may be asked to complete 7:180-AP1, E5, <i>Report Form for Bullying</i>.</p> <p>You may make an anonymous tip.</p>
Why should I report?	Fear and abuse have no place in our school. Be a hero and report bullying. If you are being bullied, a report will help you and other students who may also be targeted for bullying.
What will happen after I report?	<p>An Administrator will:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Acknowledge and review your report. 2. Treat your report with privacy and respect its sensitive nature. 3. Investigate your report. The school will not bring students who bully and those they bully into the same room to confront each other. All interviews will be private. 4. Take appropriate action that may include increased monitoring and supervision, restructuring schedules, additional resources, and disciplinary action for conduct code violations, among others. 5. Provide you with feedback, if appropriate.

Students

Exhibit - Memo to Staff Regarding Bullying

On District or School Letterhead

Date

Re: Bullying

All staff members:

Please join me in stopping and preventing student bullying in our school. The purpose of this letter is to introduce you to our three-pronged approach that will help accomplish this goal.

First - If a student reports bullying to you, respond immediately and with compassion. Ask for the basic facts (who-what-when-where). Refer the report to my office. Give the student our form for reporting bullying, 7:180-AP1, E5, *Report Form for Bullying*.

Second - Provide me your feedback and concerns. Do you know of any bullying *hot spots* that need additional supervision or monitoring? Are there known bullies or targets of bullying?

Third - Intervene immediately to stop a bullying incident. When teachers or adults ignore bullying, students interpret it as acceptable behavior. Immediately contact administration and building security or law enforcement if the incident involves a weapon or other illegal activity.

Bullying is defined in School Board policy 7:180, *Prevention of and Response to Bullying, Intimidation, and Harassment*, as follows:

Bullying means 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 have the effect of one or more of the following:

5. Placing the student or students in reasonable fear of harm to the student's or students' person or property.
6. Causing a substantially detrimental effect on the student's or students' physical or mental health.
7. Substantially interfering with the student's or students' academic performance.
8. Substantially interfering with the student's or students' ability to participate in or benefit from the services, activities, or privileges provided by a school.

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.

The Board's entire policy may be found on the District's website. Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Building Principal

Students

Exhibit - Memo to Parents/Guardians Regarding Bullying

On District or School Letterhead

Date

Re: Bullying

Dear Parents/Guardians:

At our school, bullying of any kind, by any person, is unacceptable. All students should be free from worries about being bullied. Students who bully others must be taught other, appropriate ways of interacting with peers. The purpose of this letter is to provide you with information concerning the School District's anti-bullying program and to encourage you to help us identify students who are being bullied.

The School Board policy on bullying begins with this goals statement:

Bullying, intimidation, and harassment diminish a student's ability to learn and a school's ability to educate. Preventing students from engaging in these disruptive behaviors is an important District goal.

Bullying is defined as follows:

Bullying means any severe or pervasive physical or verbal act or conduct, including communications made in writing or electronically, directed toward a student that has or can be reasonably predicted to have the effect of one or more of the following:

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

Bullying, intimidation, and/or harassment may take various forms, including without limitation: threats, stalking, physical violence, sexual harassment, theft, public humiliation, destruction of property, or retaliation for asserting or alleging an act of bullying.

I asked our school staff members to respond immediately and with compassion to a student who reports bullying or school violence. After evaluating the situation to determine if an immediate referral to my office is needed, a staff member will give the student our form for reporting bullying, 7:180-AP1, E5, *Report Form for Bullying*. I will inform you whenever your child is involved in a bullying report.

I also asked our staff members for their feedback and concerns specifically regarding locations that may be bullying *hot spots* needing additional supervision or monitoring or if there are any known bullies or targets of bullying in our building. I want to ask you to do the same thing. Please inform me if you know of any bullying *hot spots* in or around our school, or if you are aware of a known bully or target of bullying.

Finally, I requested our staff members to intervene immediately to stop a bullying incident. They will immediately contact building security and/- or law enforcement if the incident involves a weapon or other illegal activity.

Below are some of the signs that a young person is being bullied:

- Does not want to go to school and refuses to explain the reason
- Talks about not having any friends
- Has unexplained bruises, cuts, scratches, or abrasions
- Has unexplained damage to clothing, possessions, books, etc.
- Frequently loses money or possessions
- Loses interest in school and/or has declining grades
- Becomes withdrawn and/or has stress or depression symptoms

These signs do not necessarily mean your child is being bullied, but if present, ask your child whether they are being bullied.

Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Building Principal

Students

Exhibit - Report Form for Bullying

To be completed by the bullying target, witness, or person with information about an incident of bullying and submitted to the Building Principal's office. Make readily accessible via website(s) and other publicized designated areas in schools.

Please print and check appropriate boxes.

Name: _____ Date: _____

Student Parent Staff Other

Indicate here if you prefer to remain anonymous: Yes No

Are you the target of the bullying that your are reporting: Yes No

Date of incident: _____ Time of Incident: _____

Person(s) being reported as targets of bullying:

Name: _____ Student Staff

Name: _____ Student Staff

Name: _____ Student Staff

Person(s) being reported as aggressors engaged in bullying:

Name: _____ Student Staff Other

Name: _____ Student Staff Other

Name: _____ Student Staff Other

Person(s) who witnessed the bullying:

Name: _____ Student Staff Other

Name: _____ Student Staff Other

Name: _____ Student Staff Other

Was the incident based on any of these characteristics? (Check all that apply).

- Race
- Color
- Nationality
- Sex
- Sexual orientation
- Gender identity
- Pregnancy
- Gender-related expression
- Ancestry
- Age
- Religion
- Physical disability
- Mental disability
- Order of protection status
- Homeless status
- Marital status
- Parental status

- Associated with person/group with one or more of the above actual or perceived characteristics
- Other _____
- I do not know.

Student(s) were targeted for bullying in the following way(s): (Check all that apply.)

- Electronic devices (e.g., internet, social media platforms, text, email, cyberbullying, etc.)
- Written communication (e.g., handwritten notes, other written documents, email, etc.)
- Physical act or conduct (e.g., pushing, hitting, destruction of property, stalking, etc.)
- Verbal act or conduct (e.g., rumors, lies, name-calling, using derogatory slurs, etc.)
- Social (e.g., purposeful exclusion, causing psychological harm, etc.)
- Items depicting implied hatred or prejudice were worn, possessed or displayed
- Other (please explain): _____

Student(s) were targeted for bullying in the following place(s): (Check all that apply.)

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Classroom | <input type="checkbox"/> Locker room |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hallway | <input type="checkbox"/> Extracurricular activity |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cafeteria | <input type="checkbox"/> Bus |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Restroom | <input type="checkbox"/> Bus stop |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gym | <input type="checkbox"/> School or related activity or event |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ | |

Please tell us about the incident in your own words. Use as much detail as possible - what time did the incident(s) take place, who witnessed it, what was said, what types of interactions occurred (physical, written, social, electronic, etc.)

- The above information is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Students

Exhibit - Interview Form for Bullying Investigation

To be completed by the Building Principal or designee to obtain information about a bullying report. Use this form as a coversheet for each person interviewed during the investigation.

Name of person interviewed: _____ Date: _____

Name of interviewer: _____ Title: _____

Instructions for Interviewer

1. Protect the identity of the student who reports. Begin a prompt, thorough and impartial investigation by interviewing witnesses separately in a private location with a school colleague present (not the school resource officer). Use the **Questions** section below to guide your notes while you interview the person listed above. Attach to 7:180-AP1, E7, *Response to Bullying*.
2. Make your notes on a separate document and attach them to this form.
3. Review and preserve any videos, photos, screenshots or other physical evidence and label it.
4. File this form, notes, and any other evidence provided in a designated investigation and response folder.
5. Use this form to complete 7:180-AP1, E7, *Response to Bullying*.
6. Create a *Basic Facts* section, i.e., who, what, where, when, why and how.
7. Record the actions and behavior that were experienced or observed (follow-up with leading questions to complete the description of what happened and its consequences, if necessary).
8. Include open-ended questions. For example, ask "How are you feeling?" "How has what happened affected you?"

Questions

1. Has this happened before?
2. Do you fear for your safety? How? Where (at school, home, or both places)?
3. Do you fear that harm would come to any of your personal property? How?
4. In a developmentally appropriate manner, ask whether the target's health (physical, emotional, and/or mental) has been affected. How (seen by a doctor, missing school)?
5. Has your academic performance been affected? How (increase in tardiness/absences, grades going down, missed assignments)?
6. Have you quit or modified attendance in any extracurricular activities?
7. Have you changed any of your usual routines at school (using different hallway, skipping lunch in lunchroom or using different lunch period, taking different route to school, etc.)?
8. Why do you think this behavior is happening?
9. What will help make you feel safe?

Students

Exhibit - Response to Bullying

To be completed by the Building Principal and attached as a coversheet for the school office's designated bullying report investigation and response folder. Place a copy of the completed coversheet only (not attachments) in each listed student's temporary school student record. Redact all student names other than the student's name for which the record pertains.

Investigator: _____ Title: _____

Investigation

File an interview form for each party interviewed in the designated investigation and response folder.

Check here to indicate that all interview forms have been properly completed and filed.

Target: _____ Date: _____

Aggressor: _____ Date: _____

Witnesses: _____ Date: _____

_____ Date: _____

_____ Date: _____

Are there any prior documented incidents by the aggressor identified above? Yes No (Attach information)

If yes, have incidents involved target or target group previously? Yes No

Findings

Bullying Other: _____

Aggressor motivated by protected characteristics listed in policy 7:20, *Harassment of Students Prohibited*.

Bullying Investigation Response

Response and Plan for Target (Check all that apply and include descriptions.)

Contact parent/guardian: _____ Date: _____

Circle contact method: Phone Email Letter In-person Other: _____

Safety plan: _____

Increase staff supervision: _____

Education: _____

Minimize contact with aggressor: _____

District resources: (Student Services/IDEA/504) _____

Other: _____

Target follow-up scheduled date: _____ Date and initial completed: _____

Parent/guardian follow-up date: _____ Date and initial completed: _____

Circle contact method: Phone Email Letter In-person Other: _____

Provide parent/guardian with copies of Board policies 2:260 and 7:180. Date: _____

Response and Plan for Aggressor (Check all that apply and include descriptions.)

Contact parent/guardian: _____ Date: _____

Circle contact method: Phone Email Letter In-person Other: _____

7:190-E1, *Aggressive Behavior Reporting Letter and Form* sent Date: _____

Provide parent/guardian with copies of Board policies 2:260 and 7:180 Date: _____

Restorative Responses

Safety plan: _____

Increase staff supervision: _____

Education: _____

Non-District affiliated psychological services : _____

Alternative school assignment: _____

Minimize contact with target: _____

District resources (Student Services/IDEA/504): _____

Other: _____

Punitive Responses

Loss of privileges: _____

Detention: _____

Suspension: _____

Expulsion: _____

Community agency service: _____

Reciprocal Reporting Act utilized: Yes No _____

Report to School Resource Officer/Law Enforcement: _____

Other: _____

Aggressor follow-up date: _____ Date and initial completed: _____

Circle contact method: Phone Email Letter In-person Other: _____

Parent/guardian follow-up date: _____ Date and initial completed: _____

Circle contact method: Phone Email Letter In-person Other: _____

Contact District complaint manager: _____ Date: _____

Target response implementation: _____

Aggressor response implementation: _____

Systemic culture/climate intervention: _____

Referral to address needs for ideal conditions for developmental learning: _____

Other: _____

Submit reports to: Building Principal (if not the investigator) Date: _____

Superintendent Date: _____

Signature of investigator: _____ Date: _____

Students

Exhibit - Memo to Parents/Guardians Regarding Teen Dating Violence

On District or School letterhead

Date

Re: Teen Dating Violence

Dear Parents/Guardians:

At our school, teen dating violence is unacceptable. We are committed to providing our students with a school environment where they can learn free from worries about school violence. The purpose of this letter is to inform you of School Board policy, 7:185, *Teen Dating Violence Prohibited*, which is a component of the District's anti-bullying program.

Research has shown that teen dating violence can form lifelong, unhealthy habits during young adults' formative years. Educating parents/guardians, students, and staff about teen dating violence can help us identify incidents of teen dating violence at school or school-related activities. The Board's policy states that *teen dating violence* occurs whenever a student uses or threatens to use physical, mental, or emotional abuse to control an individual in the dating relationship; or uses or threatens to use sexual violence in the dating relationship.

Students in grades 7 through 12 will receive age-appropriate instruction on teen dating violence including its warning signs and prevention. School staff will also receive training on handling the signs and incidents of teen dating violence. I have asked our school staff members to respond immediately and with compassion to a student who reports teen dating violence. After evaluating the situation to determine if an immediate referral to my office is needed, a staff member will give the student our form for reporting bullying, 7:180-AP1, E5, *Report Form for Bullying*.

Finally, I have directed staff members to intervene immediately to stop incidents of teen dating violence occurring at school. They will proceed under our District's procedures for responding to incidences of bullying and school violence.

Below are some warning signs that your child may be involved in teen dating violence:

- Name-calling and *put-downs*. Does one individual in the relationship call the other person names? Do they use insults to put the other person down?
- Extreme Jealousy. Does one individual in the relationship act overly jealous when the other talks to peers? Does one individual accuse the other of flirting even when it's innocent conversation?
- Making Excuses. Does one individual in the relationship make excuses for the other? Do they have to apologize for the other person's behavior?
- Canceling or changing plans. Does one individual cancel plans often, and at the last minute? Do the reasons make sense or sound untrue?
- Monitoring. Does one individual call, text message, or check up on the other constantly? Do they demand to know the other person's plans or with whom the other person was with?
- Uncontrolled Anger. Have you seen one individual lose his or her temper? Do they throw things – or break things – when angry? Does one individual in the relationship worry a lot about upsetting the other?
- Isolation. Has one individual in the relationship given up spending time with friends? Has that individual stopped doing activities that used to be important?

- Dramatic Changes. Have either of the individuals in the relationship had appearance changes? Have they lost or gained weight? Have their grades dropped? Do they seem depressed?
- Injuries. Does one individual in the relationship have unexplained injuries, or do they give explanations that don't make sense?
- Quick Progression. Did the relationship get serious very quickly?

These signs do not necessarily mean that your child is involved in teen dating violence, but, if present, talk to your child about teen dating violence.

For more information about this issue, please see the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's educational materials at:

www.cdc.gov/injury/features/dating-violence/index.html

Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Building Principal

Students

Student Handbook - Hazing Prohibited ¹

Soliciting, encouraging, aiding, or engaging in hazing, no matter when or where it occurs, is prohibited. *Hazing* means any intentional, knowing, or reckless act directed to or required of a student for the purpose of being initiated into, affiliating with, holding office in, or maintaining membership in any group, organization, club, or athletic team whose members are or include other students. ²

Students engaging in hazing will be subject to one or more of the following disciplinary actions:

1. Removal from the extracurricular activities,
2. Conference with parents/guardians, and/or
3. Referral to appropriate law enforcement agency.

Students engaging in hazing that endangers the mental or physical health or safety of another person may also be subject to:

1. Suspension for up to 10 days, and/or ³
2. Expulsion for the remainder of the school term. ⁴

The footnotes should be removed before the material is used.

¹ State or federal law controls this student handbook provision's content. This provision concerns an area in which the law is unsettled in that a school's authority to discipline a student for off-campus hazing is unclear and highly fact-sensitive.

The district itself may be liable for a civil rights violation when school officials participate in hazing rituals. Hilton v. Lincoln-Way High Sch., 1998 WL 26174 (N.D. Ill. 1998) (female band member, who was hazed during a required retreat, stated a cause of action under §1983).

A district must identify a connection between a student's off-campus misconduct and the school before it may suspend or expel a student. In a case involving an off-campus *powder puff* football game that evolved into senior girls physically hazing junior girls, the federal judge upheld a school's authority to discipline students. saying: "When one set of students sets to prey upon another set of students in a ritualistic exercise, the consequences of which will necessarily effect the students' relationships while they are all in attendance at the same school, the ability of school officials to act in the area and discipline those who went beyond the pale of tolerable student behavior is manifest." Gendelman v. Glenbrook North High Sch. and Northfield Twp. Sch. Dist. 225, 2003 WL 21209880 (N.D. Ill. 2003). In that case, the school handbook expressly prohibited hazing and harassment; this prohibition was not limited to school sponsored events.

Schools have greater latitude to remove students from extracurricular participation than to suspend or expel them from school. See sample policy 7:240, *Conduct Code for Participation in Extracurricular Activities* and its discussion of court cases in f/n 3.

School employees who observe hazing that results in bodily injury to a student must report it to the building principal or superintendent; see sample policy 5:90, *Abused and Neglected Child Reporting*.

² According to Illinois criminal law, a person commits hazing who knowingly requires the performance of any act by a student or other person in a school, college, university, or other educational institution of this State, for the purpose of induction or admission into any group, organization, or society associated or connected with that institution if: (a) the act is not sanctioned or authorized by that educational institution; and (b) the act results in bodily harm to any person. 720 ILCS 5/12C-50(a). Hazing is a Class A misdemeanor, except hazing that results in death or great bodily harm is a Class 4 felony. 720 ILCS 5/12C-50(b). People v. Rokita, 148 Ill.2d 15 (1992)(hazing statute was not overbroad by punishing constitutionally protected speech because it reached only conduct that recklessly, knowing, or intentionally results in bodily injury).

³ See sample policy 7:200, *Suspension Procedures*, for further information concerning student suspension.

⁴ See sample policy 7:210, *Expulsion Procedures*, for further information concerning student expulsion.

Students

Administrative Procedure - Guidelines for Investigating Sexting Allegations

Establishing procedures with local law enforcement agencies and State's attorneys to investigate allegations of sexting protects the District, its staff and its students from the broad legal implications that sexting allegations present. This administrative procedure contains three sections:

1. Glossary of Terms
2. Preparation of Guidelines for Investigating Sexting Allegations
3. Investigation and Management of Sexting Allegations

Glossary of Terms

Electronic device: any type of electronic communication device, defined in the Juvenile Court Act of 1987 at 705 ILCS 405/3-40(a). It includes, but is not limited to, a wireless telephone, personal digital assistant, or a portable or mobile computer, that is capable of transmitting images or pictures. This includes cellular telephones (see www.thesaurus.com/, listing cellular and wireless telephones as synonyms). For more discussion, see f/n 3 in administrative procedure 7:190-AP5, *Student Handbook - Electronic Devices*.

Sexting: a portmanteau word of sex and texting with no clear definition. It is commonly explained as the act of sending sexually explicit photos, images, or messages electronically, primarily by mobile phone or the internet. For purposes of this procedure, it also includes:

1. Indecent visual depiction, which under the Juvenile Court Act of 1987 means a depiction or portrayal in any pose, posture, or setting involving a lewd exhibition of the unclothed or transparently clothed genitals, pubic area, buttocks, or, if such person is female,¹ a fully or partially developed breast of the person (705 ILCS 405/3-40(a) (enacted to provide law enforcement officials an alternative to bringing child pornography charges against minors in possession of indecent visual depictions through placing them under the supervision of juvenile courts)), or
2. Non-consensual dissemination of private sexual images, which under the Criminal Code of 2012 is a crime that is committed when a person:
 - a. intentionally disseminates an image of another person:
 - i. who is at least 18 years of age; and
 - ii. who is identifiable from the image itself or information displayed in connection with the image; and
 - iii. who is engaged in a sexual act or whose intimate parts are exposed, in whole or in part; and
 - b. obtains the image under circumstances in which a reasonable person would know or understand that the image was to remain private; and
 - c. knows or should have known that the person in the image has not consented to the dissemination (720 ILCS 5/11-23.5(b)).

The footnotes should be removed before the material is used.

¹ 705 ILCS 405/3-40(a) assumes sex is binary and does not address transgender females or individuals who identify as nonbinary. Consult the board attorney about this definition if an involved student is transgender or nonbinary.

Preparation of Guidelines for Investigating Sexting Allegations

This section identifies best practices to create guidelines for investigating sexting allegations at the District-wide level. The Superintendent should discuss this procedure with local law enforcement agencies and State’s attorneys to minimize the potential legal implications for students and administrators that managing sexting in school presents. Customize the procedure to each District’s specific needs.

Actor	Action
<p>Superintendent or designee</p>	<p>Convene a meeting with the Board Attorney, local law enforcement agencies, and State’s attorney to determine best practices and procedures for investigating sexting in the District. Use the Investigation and Management of Sexting Allegations section (see below) as a template for discussion at the meeting and customize it to meet local considerations as necessary.</p> <p>Ask the Board Attorney to provide direction about searching student owned electronic devices in Step 2: Isolate Evidence / Confiscate Device in the Investigation and Management of Sexting Allegations section (see below).</p> <p>Searching electronic devices involves Fourth Amendment search and seizure and the federal Stored Communication Act (SCA) (18 U.S.C. §2701) issues. Generally asking for permission, calling the parents to come and look through the phone, or getting a warrant solves this issue. Note: See <i>Searching and Seizing Computers and Obtaining Electronic Evidence Manual</i> (Sept. 2009), Chapter 3, The Stored Communication Act, at: https://www.justice.gov/file/442111/download and Orin S. Kerr, <i>A User’s Guide to the Stored Communications Act, and a Legislator’s Guide to Amending It</i>, George Washington Law Review (Aug. 2004), at: courses.ischool.berkeley.edu/i205/s10/readings/week10/kerr-storedcomm.pdf.</p> <p>Identify and list all State’s attorneys and local law enforcement agencies with jurisdiction over the District’s boundaries. Provide this list to all Building Principals in the District.</p> <p>Provide the local State’s attorney offices and law enforcement agencies with an annual list of school buildings and the names of each building’s administrators that are located within their jurisdictions.</p> <p>Invite local State’s attorney offices and law enforcement agencies to meet with District school officials to provide input on how the District should manage sexting.</p> <p>Add an agenda item about sexting to a Parent Teacher Advisory Committee meeting (see policy 2:150, <i>Committees</i>). Include information from discussions with State’s attorneys and local law enforcement about the issue. Discuss local considerations for:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Disciplinary actions and consequences in response to sexting; and

Actor	Action
	<p>2. Sexting education and prevention efforts.</p> <p>Consider adding information about the negative consequences of sexting to the District’s sex education curriculum. See, U.S. Dept. of Justice (DOJ) Guide titled <i>Citizen’s Guide to United States Federal Child Exploitation and Obscenity Laws</i>, at: www.justice.gov/criminal-ceos/citizens-guide-us-federal-child-exploitation-and-obscenity-laws; MTV’s four-part series titled <i>Sexting in America: When Privates Go Public</i>, available at: www.mtv.com/news/1631123/mtv-news-sexting-in-america-when-privates-go-public-premieres-on-valentines-day/.</p> <p>Consider adding the above resources to 4:170-AP2, E4, <i>Exhibit-Letter to Parents/Guardians About Preventing and Reducing Incidences of Sexting</i>.</p> <p>Convene a meeting with Building Principals to inform them of the District’s Investigation and Management of Sexting Allegations procedures (see below).</p> <p>Raise awareness of and increase educational opportunities about sexting as necessary. Follow the Parent Teacher Advisory Committee’s recommendations for providing sexting education and prevention efforts.²</p> <p>Invite the local State’s attorney and local law enforcement to participate in the District’s education and prevention efforts.</p>
Building Principals	<p>Educate building staff members about the procedures for Investigation and Management of Sexting Allegations (see below).</p> <p>Follow the Investigation and Management of Sexting Allegations.</p>

Investigation and Management of Sexting Allegations

This section relies upon the Building Principal or designee to manage several practical and legal implications when conducting sexting allegation investigations.

Actor	Action
Building Principal or designee	<p>Step 1: Investigate</p> <p>Determine where actions took place.</p> <p>Contact parents/guardians of all students involved.</p> <p>Contact the Superintendent and request permission to contact the Board Attorney.</p> <p>Step 2: Isolate Evidence / Confiscate Device</p> <p>NEVER transfer or store depictions on personal or school electronic devices to minimize accusations of possession of child pornography. (See 720 ILCS 5/11-20.1 <i>et seq.</i>, 720 ILCS 5/11-23.5(c) (provides an exception on transfer of an image for a lawful purpose), and 18 U.S.C.</p>

The footnotes should be removed before the material is used.

² If a district offers the National Sex Education Standards (NSES), any recommendations should align with NSES. See sample policy 6:60, *Curriculum Content*, and its fn 34.

Actor	Action
	<p>§§2251, 2252, and 2252A). Also see the DOJ’s Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section discussing child pornography issues, available at: www.justice.gov/criminal-ceos.</p> <p>Contact the Board Attorney for guidance to determine whether to involve local law enforcement or manage the situation within the District’s disciplinary policy.</p> <p>See Joshua D. Herman, <i>Criminal Law. Sexting: It’s No Joke, It’s a Crime</i>. Illinois Bar Journal, Volume 98, No. 4, P. 192 at f/n 42 (published April 2010), at: www.isba.org/ibj/2010/04/criminallaw, (quoting an attorney in the Ill. Attorney General’s High Tech Crimes Bureau who advises school administrators to immediately confiscate devices with such material on them and report the incident to law enforcement immediately, stating that possession of a sext message that is child pornography is no different than possessing a “kilo of cocaine.”)</p> <p>Follow Board policy 7:140, <i>Search and Seizure</i> and 7:150-AP, <i>Agency and Police Interviews</i>.</p> <p>Follow the Board Attorney’s direction regarding searches of student owned technological devices. See Preparation of Guidelines for Investigating Sexting Allegations (above).</p> <p>Step 3: Follow the reporting requirements of Board policy 5:90, <i>Abused and Neglected Child Reporting</i>, when applicable</p> <p>A <i>sexted</i> image may constitute child abuse depending upon the visual depiction or image, the ages of the individuals involved, and other circumstances. See 325 ILCS 5/3 and 705 ILCS 405/2-3(2) which includes sex offenses defined at 720 ILCS 5/1-1 <i>et seq.</i> School personnel are granted broad immunities against civil and criminal claims for filing reports in good faith, even if the report is unfounded. In contrast, school personnel who willfully fail to report may be guilty of a Class A misdemeanor (325 ILCS 5/4(m)) and face suspension or revocation of their licenses, endorsements, or approvals (105 ILCS 5/21B-75, amended by P.A.s 102-552 and 102-702, eff. 7-1-23).</p> <p>Step 4: Determine appropriate disciplinary actions for all students involved in the incident</p> <p>Evaluate disciplinary options. Remember that a student who forwards sexts of himself or herself likely expected the depiction to remain private. As a result, consider the social stigma, bullying, harassment, and severe embarrassment issues involved in the issue.</p> <p>Provide an equivalent discipline to all students involved in the creation, dissemination and storage of the sexted image, whenever possible.</p> <p>See Sorenen, Vitale, and Haase, <i>Sexting at School: Lessons Learned the Hard Way</i>. National School Board Association, Council of School</p>

Actor	Action
	<p>Attorney’s Inquiry & Analysis, f/n 40 (published February 2010), and available at: http://kycss.org/ns/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/SSI-Sexting-Handout-NSBA-Sexting-at-School-Lessons-Learned-the-Hard-Way.pdf. It discusses several sex equality claims against school districts for punishing students differently when they are involved in the same incident.</p> <p>For situations that may require unequal punishment, contact the Superintendent so that he or she may consult the Board Attorney.</p> <p>Step 5: Prepare a plan to prevent harassment and bullying of involved students</p> <p>Remind the students and their parents/guardians of the Board policies 7:20, <i>Harassment of Students Prohibited</i>; 7:180, <i>Prevention of and Response to Bullying Intimidation and Harassment</i>; and 7:185, <i>Teen Dating Violence Prohibited</i>.</p> <p>Instruct involved students not to harass anyone involved in the sexting incident and keep the issues confidential.</p> <p>Consider involving the social worker or school counselor, if available, in the process to assist students.</p> <p>Follow 7:180, <i>Prevention of and Response to Bullying Intimidation and Harassment</i>, for students who violate the policy.</p>

Community Relations

Community Use of School Facilities ¹

School facilities are available to community organizations during non-school hours when such use does not: (1) interfere with any school function or affect the safety of students or employees, or (2) affect the property or liability of the School District. The use of school facilities for school purposes has precedence over all other uses. The District reserves the right to cancel previously scheduled use of facilities by community organizations and other groups. The use of school facilities requires the prior approval of the Superintendent or designee and is subject to applicable procedures. ²

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

¹ State or federal law controls this policy's content. If a board wants to allow community organizations to use school facilities, it must adopt a policy. 105 ILCS 5/10-20.41. The policy must "prohibit such use if it interferes with any school functions or the safety of students or school personnel or affects the property or liability of the school district." This policy may be implemented using 8:20-E, *Application and Procedures for Use of School Facilities*. A board should discuss the implications of any access to school facilities policy with its attorney.

This policy concerns an area that is frequently litigated because of its many complex legal and practical issues. The U.S. Constitution's Free Speech and Equal Protection Clauses, as well as the federal Equal Access Act, are triggered. As a general rule, school officials can avoid constitutional problems and still open facilities to community groups by treating requests to use school facilities according to uniform rules that do not discriminate against a group on the basis of its viewpoint.

A board may avoid constitutional controversy over community use of its facilities by refusing to permit such use by all non-school groups (thereby creating a closed forum). A board may also avoid triggering the constitutional clauses and the Equal Access Act by allowing all non-school groups to use its facilities (thereby creating an open forum). If the board creates an open forum, it may still impose reasonable time, place, and manner restrictions on the use as long as the restrictions are the same for all groups. However, practically speaking, it is difficult for a board to either completely close its facilities to non-school groups or to open its facilities to all non-school groups. Most boards decide to create a limited open forum.

This policy creates a limited open public forum by allowing public use of school facilities provided the use is consistent with the public interest. See *Widmar v. Vincent*, 454 U.S. 263 (1981). A public school district may not discriminate on the basis of a group's purpose, message, or goal. Thus, any restrictions on the use by non-school groups must not discriminate against speech on the basis of viewpoint. *Lamb's Chapel v. Center Moriches Union Free School District*, 508 U.S. 384 (1993); *Good News Club v. Milford Central School*, 533 U.S. 98 (2001). A board must show neutrality to all viewpoints.

A board runs afoul of showing viewpoint neutrality if it prohibits single sex youth organizations, even those that discriminate against homosexuals, to use school facilities. Note the U.S. Supreme Court refused to apply the N.J.'s public accommodation law to the Boy Scouts because forcing the Scouts to accept a homosexual as a member would violate the Scout's freedom of expressive association. *Boy Scouts of America v. Dale*, 530 U.S. 640 (2000).

This constitutional jurisprudence was codified as the Boy Scouts of America Equal Access Act. 20 U.S.C. §7905. Schools are prohibited from denying equal access to school facilities to the Boy Scouts or any other youth group "for reasons based on membership or leadership criteria or oath of allegiance to God and country."

See sample policy 7:330, *Student Use of Buildings - Equal Access*, for a discussion of the Equal Access Act, 20 U.S.C. §4071 *et seq.*

² However, at the request of election officers, any publicly owned building must be made available for use as a polling place. 10 ILCS 5/11-4.1. For the day of the election, a school district is encouraged to (a) close the school, or (b) hold a teachers institute on that day with students not in attendance. 10 ILCS 5/11-4.1. Election officers must place markers 100 horizontal feet from a polling room's voter entrance and, if the 100 feet marker ends within the building's interior, the markers must be placed outside of the building at each entrance used by voters. The area within where the markers are placed is a campaign free zone where electioneering is prohibited. The area on polling place property beyond the campaign free zone is a public forum for the time that the polls are open on an election day and may be used for campaigning and to place temporary signs. 10 ILCS 5/17-29. A child sex offender is permitted to vote early or by absentee ballot when his or her polling place is a school. 10 ILCS 5/11-4.1.

Persons on school premises must abide by the District's conduct rules at all times.³

Student groups, school-related organizations, government agencies, and non-profit organizations are granted the use of school facilities at no costs during regularly staffed hours.⁴ Fees and costs shall apply during non-regularly staffed hours and to other organizations granted use of facilities at any time.⁵ A fee schedule and other terms of use shall be prepared by the Superintendent and be subject to annual approval by the School Board.

LEGAL REF.: 20 U.S.C. §7905, Boy Scouts of America Equal Access Act.
10 ILCS 5/11-4.1, Election Code.
105 ILCS 5/10-20.41, 5/10-22.10, and 5/29-3.5.
Good News Club v. Milford Central School, 533 U.S. 98 (2001).
Lamb's Chapel v. Center Moriches Union Free School District, 508 U.S. 384 (1993).
Rosenberger v. Rector and Visitors of Univ. of Va., 515 U.S. 819 (1995).

CROSS REF.: 7:330 (Student Use of Buildings - Equal Access), 8:25 (Advertising and Distributing Materials in Schools Provided by Non-School Related Entities), 8:30 (Visitors to and Conduct on School Property)

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

³ See sample policy 8:30, *Visitors to and Conduct on School Property*.

⁴ The decisions concerning facility-use fees are at the local board's discretion. However, the general rule applies: school officials can avoid constitutional problems by treating requests to use school facilities according to uniform rules that do not discriminate against a group on the basis of its viewpoint.

⁵ This option adds an additional restriction: "Facilities and grounds will not be made available to individuals for personal or social reasons or to business enterprises for commercial gain."

This option recognizes that districts should require bodily injury liability insurance and property damage liability in specified amounts as recommended by the district's own insurance carrier: "All non-school sponsored groups, before using the facilities during non-regularly staffed hours, must provide a certificate of insurance naming the District as an *additional insured* or otherwise show proof of insurance."