



HINCKLEY-BIG ROCK CUSD #429

Cultivating our future

PRESS PLUS ISSUE 120 Summary

Overview

PRESS Issue 120 reflects updates required primarily by recent changes in state and federal law. While the majority of policies remain substantively unchanged, this update includes revisions to terminology, definitions, and cross-referenced footnotes to ensure alignment with current statutory language and regulatory guidance.

Immigration, Student Rights & Safe Schools

PA 104-288 – Safe Schools for All Act (Effective 1/1/26)

- Requires districts to have policies and procedures in place by 7/1/26; certain practices are prohibited beginning 1/1/26.
- Affirms students' right to FAPE regardless of immigration status and seeks to reduce fear-based absenteeism.
- Schools may not publish the place of birth as directory information.
- Establishes a private right of action with potential monetary damages for violations.
- Policies and APs were renamed and rewritten to align with immigration-related protections for students and parents.

Affected Policies / APs:

- 7:150 – Agency and Law Enforcement
- 7:340, 7:340-AP1, 7:340-AP1-E1

District Operations & Safety

Emergency Contracts (PA 104-393, eff. 7/1/26)

- Emergency non-instructional contracts (e.g., bus drivers) limited to 3 months, renewable up to three times without union agreement.

Affected Policies / APs:

- 4:60, 4:60-AP2-E

Public Funds & Financial Reporting (PA 104-92; PA 104-261; PA 104-174, eff. 1/1/26)

- Updates Public Funds Investment Act.
- Districts file AFR and audit with ROE; auditors file with ISBE.

- Annual Statement of Affairs must be posted on the website.
- Optional language clarifies Superintendent responsibilities.

Affected Policies:

- 4:30 – Revenue and Investments
- 4:80 – Accounting and Audits

Threats of Gun Violence (PA 104-174, eff. 1/1/26)

- Reporting standard expanded from firearm possession to awareness of a threat of gun violence.
- If threat involves a student, district must attempt to notify parents ASAP.

Affected Policies / APs:

- 3:60
- 4:170, 4:170-AP1
- 4:190-AP2
- 7:190, 7:190-E3

Student Transportation for Activities (PA 104-367, eff. 1/1/26)

- Allows transportation on activity buses for career and curriculum-related activities.

Affected Policy:

- 6:240

Personnel & Training

Substitute Training Requirements (PA 104-198, eff. 1/1/26)

- Substitutes must be trained on drills and receive the same safety materials as employees, including lockdown procedures and exit maps.

Affected Policies / APs:

- 4:170, 4:170-AP1
- 5:220, 5:220-AP
- 5:200

Student Growth Footnote Updates (PA 104-20)

- Footnote-only revisions; no substantive policy changes.

Affected Policies:

- 2:150-AP
- Footnotes in 2:120, 3:10, 3:50

Nursing Mothers in the Workplace (PA 104-76, eff. 1/1/26)

- Breaks to pump breast milk must be paid and may run concurrently with other breaks.

Affected Policies / APs:

- 5:200, 5:300, 5:10-AP

Racism-Free Training (IDHR)

- Initial training required by 7/1/26, then every 2 years.

Affected Policies / APs:

- 2:270, 2:270-AP
- 5:100

Victims Economic Security and Safety Act (PA 104-171, eff. 1/1/26)

- Permits use of district equipment to document domestic violence incidents.

Affected Policy:

- 5:10 (footnotes)

Grooming Definition (PA 104-245, eff. 1/1/26)

- Defines grooming as a pattern of conduct (two or more acts) involving minors under age 17.

Affected Policies / APs:

- 5:90 (footnotes)
- 5:120 (footnotes)
- 5:120-AP2

Ensuring Success in Schools (PA 104-391)

- Renumbering and technical updates aligned with School Code changes.

Affected Policy / AP:

- 7:255, 7:255-AP1

Curriculum & Instruction

School Code Mandate Reduction Council / Health Education (PA 104-391)

- Defines basic consent education as required and non-opt-out.
- Optional Comprehensive Health Education Program (CHEP) remains Board-determined.
- Erin's Law opt-out timeline error noted in statute.

Affected Policies / APs:

- 6:60, 6:60-AP1, 6:60-AP1-E

Religious Instruction Objections (Mahmoud v. Taylor)

- Requires consistent application of criteria for instructional opt-outs.

Affected Policies / APs:

- 6:260, 6:260-AP

FAFSA Point of Contact (PA 104-13)

- Each high school must designate one staff member.

Affected Policies:

- 6:300, 6:300-E2

Middle School Credit (PA 104-267)

- Allows credit for grades 7–8 via competency-based exam option.

Affected Policy:

- 6:315

Artificial Intelligence Guidance (PA 104-399)

- ISBE to issue AI guidance by 7/1/26.

Student Behavior, Mental Health & Attendance

Student Ticketing & Discipline (PA 104-430)

- Schools may not impose fines/fees through municipalities for school-based behavior.
- Staff may not refer truancy cases to law enforcement.
- Annual Parent/Teacher Advisory review of discipline required.
- Schools with SROs must maintain an MOU.

Affected Policies / APs:

- 7:70
- 7:180
- 7:190, 7:190-E3, 7:190-AP3, 7:190-AP7

Commemorative Holidays (PA 104-391)

- Observance is optional.

Affected Policy:

- 6:20

Cultural & Observance Days (PA 104-115)

- ISBE required to publish observance dates annually.

Employee ID Suicide Prevention (PA 104-264)

- Suicide prevention resources required on staff ID cards (grades 6–12).

Affected Policies / APs:

- 7:290, 7:290-AP

Student Records – IEP Summary (PA 104-356)

- Summary of performance must remain in permanent record unless parent/student opts out.

Mental Health Screenings

- Required beginning 2027–28 school year.

