

Actor	Action
	<p>management plan to intervene with, address, and reduce the threat by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Designating a TAT member as case manager to monitor the status of the subject and to notify the TAT of any change in status, response to interventions/referrals, or additional information that would be cause for reassessment and/or changes in interventions strategies; Assisting the subject, and any impacted staff or students, in accessing appropriate school and community-based resources for support and/or further intervention; Appointing one or more TAT members to engage directly with the subject to prevent the subject from becoming isolated; and Using the least intrusive interventions and strategies that are sufficient, fair, and reasonable to address the concerns identified. See 4:190-AP2, E5, <i>Threat Assessment Case Management Strategies</i>, for interventions and strategies, including those that are subject-based, target-based, and environmental/systems-based. <p>Documents this process and any case updates using 4:190-AP2, E2, <i>Threat Assessment Documentation</i>.</p> <p>Submits updates regularly, e.g., at least every 30 days, until the case is resolved and the subject no longer poses a threat to the school, its students, or its staff.</p> <p>Maintains documentation in accordance with Board policy, State records laws, and administrative procedures.</p>

Reporting Threats to Outside Agencies

Following is the process to notify the Local Law Enforcement Agency (LLEA) and/or the Ill. State Police (ISP) about certain types of threats:

Actor	Action
Superintendent or designee	<p>Reports batteries committed against teachers, teacher personnel, administrative personnel, or educator support personnel to: (1) the LLEA immediately after the occurrence of the attack, and (2) ISBE through its web-based School Incident Reporting System (SIRS) as they occur during the year and no later than August 1 for the preceding school year. 105 ILCS 5/10-21.7, amended by P.A. 102-894.</p> <p>Immediately notifies the LLEA and the ISP upon receiving a report from any school personnel regarding a verified incident involving:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A firearm in a school or on school-owned or leased property. 105 ILCS 5/10-27.1A(b). Drugs in a school or on school-owned or leased property, including any conveyance owned, leased, or used by the school for the transport of students or school personnel. 105 ILCS 5/10-27.1A(b).
Building Principal	<p>Reports to the LLEA threats to the safety and welfare of students and teachers by illegal use of drugs and alcohol, by illegal use or possession of weapons, or by gang activity. 105 ILCS 5/10-21.4a.</p>

Actor	Action
	<p>Reports other threats to the LLEA as necessary and appropriate.</p> <p>Immediately notifies the LLEA upon receiving a report that any person has been observed in possession of a firearm on school grounds (other than a law enforcement official engaged in the conduct of his or her official duties).</p> <p>If the person found to be in possession of a firearm on school grounds is a student, the Building Principal or designee shall also immediately notify the student's parent/guardian. 105 ILCS 5/10-21.7A(b).</p> <p>Reports directly to the ISP within 24 hours of a determination that a student or other person poses a clear and present danger to himself, herself, or others. 430 ILCS 66/105 and 405 ILCS 5/6-103.3; 20 Ill.Admin.Code §1230.120(b).</p>

General Personnel

Equal Employment Opportunity and Minority Recruitment¹

The School District shall provide equal employment opportunities² to all persons regardless of their race;³ color; creed; religion;⁴ national origin; sex;⁵ sexual orientation;⁶ age;⁷ ancestry; marital status;⁸

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¹ Federal and State law (see the policy's Legal References) require that all districts have a policy on equal employment opportunities and control this policy's content. **This is a complex, confusing, and highly litigated area of the law; consult the board attorney for advice on the application of these laws to specific fact situations.**

² *Equal employment opportunities* apply to virtually all terms and conditions of employment, e.g., discharge, hire, promotion, pay, demotion, and benefits (see the policy's Legal References). The Ill. Constitution protects the following categories from discrimination in employment: race, color, creed, national ancestry, sex, and handicap. Art. I, §§17, 18, and 19. The Ill. Human Rights Act (IHRA) protects the following categories from discrimination in employment, whether *actual* or *perceived*: race, color, religion, sex, national origin, ancestry, age, marital status, physical or mental disability, military status, order of protection status, sexual orientation, pregnancy, unfavorable discharge from military service, arrest record, conviction record (unless authorized by law), citizenship status, and work authorization status. 775 ILCS 5/1-102, amended by P.A.s 101-221 and 102-233; 5/1-103, amended by P.A.s 101-221, 101-565, 102-362, 102-419, and 101-656; and 775 ILCS 5/2-103.1, added by P.A. 101-656. The IHRA requires employers to annually disclose to the Ill. Dept. of Human Rights (IDHR) certain information about adverse judgments and administrative rulings where there was a finding of sexual harassment or unlawful discrimination under any federal, State, or local law, as well as data regarding settlement agreements, if requested by an IDHR investigator. 775 ILCS 5/2-108, added by P.A. 101-221, scheduled to be repealed on 1-1-30.

The Equal Employment Opportunities Act (EEOA, a/k/a Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964) prohibits discrimination because of an individual's race, color, religion, sex, or national origin. 42 U.S.C. §2000e *et seq.*, amended by The Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act of 2009 (LLFPA), Pub.L. 111-2.

Under the Workplace Transparency Act (WTA) (820 ILCS 96/, added by P.A. 101-221), employers may not, as a condition of employment or continued employment, prevent prospective or current employees from making truthful statements or disclosures about alleged unlawful employment practices, including discrimination. *Id.* at 96/1-25.

The LLFPA clarifies that a discriminatory compensation decision or other practice occurs each time an employee is paid or receives a last benefits check pursuant to the discriminatory compensation decision as opposed to only from the time when the discriminatory compensation decision or other practice occurred. The Act has no legislative history available to define what the phrase *or other practice* might mean beyond a discriminatory compensation decision; however, in a guidance document, the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) states that practices “may include employer decisions about base pay or wages, job classifications, career ladder or other noncompetitive promotion denials, tenure denials, and failure to respond to requests for raises.” See *Equal Pay Act of 1963 and Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act of 2009* (2014), at: www.eeoc.gov/laws/guidance/equal-pay-act-1963-and-lilly-ledbetter-fair-pay-act-2009.

The Ill. Equal Pay Act of 2003 (EPA) offers additional protection by prohibiting the payment of wages to one sex less than the opposite sex or to an African-American less than a non-African-American *for the same or substantially similar work*. 820 ILCS 112/, amended by P.A. 101-177. The Ill. Dept. of Labor (IDOL) enforces the EPA. The EPA also prohibits employers from requesting or requiring applicants to disclose wage or salary history as a condition of being considered for employment or as a condition of employment. *Id.* at 112/10(b-5), added by P.A. 101-177. If an applicant voluntarily offers such information without prompting, an employer still cannot use that information in making an offer or determining future pay. See administrative procedure 5:30-AP1, *Interview Questions*, for sample permissible inquiries on this topic. Employers may seek wage or salary history from an applicant's current or former employer if that information is a matter of public record under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA); however, districts that wish to undertake such searches should exercise caution; the fact a district seeks out publicly available wage information could still be used against it in a pay discrimination claim. *Id.* at 112/10(b-10), added by P.A. 101-177. Consult the board attorney for further guidance.

While not exhaustive, other laws protecting these and additional classifications are named in subsequent footnotes.

arrest record;⁹ military status; order of protection status;¹⁰ unfavorable military discharge;¹¹ citizenship status provided the individual is authorized to work in the United States;¹² work

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³ The IHRA defines race to include traits associated with race, including, but not limited to, hair texture and protective hairstyles such as braids, locks, and twists. 775 ILCS 5/1-103(M-5), added by P.A. 102-1102, eff. 1-1-23. The law allows employers to implement dress codes or adopt grooming policies that include restrictions on attire, clothing, or facial hair to maintain workplace safety or food sanitation. 775 ILCS 5/2-102(E-5). Title VII does not have a definition of race, but EEOC guidance provides that “[r]ace discrimination includes discrimination on the basis of ancestry or physical or cultural characteristics associated with a certain race, such as skin color, hair texture or styles, or certain facial features.” See the EEOC’s *Questions and Answers about Race and Color Discrimination in Employment*, at: www.eeoc.gov/laws/guidance/questions-and-answers-about-race-and-color-discrimination-employment.

⁴ 775 ILCS 5/2-102 of the IHRA, amended by P.A.s 101-221 and 102-233, contains a *religious discrimination* subsection. It expressly prohibits employers from requiring a person to violate a sincerely held religious belief to obtain or retain employment unless, after engaging in a bona fide effort, the employer demonstrates that it is unable to reasonably accommodate the employee’s or prospective employee’s sincerely held religious belief, practice, or observance without undue hardship on the conduct of the employer’s business. Religious beliefs include, but are not limited to: the wearing of any attire, clothing, or facial hair in accordance with the requirements of his/her religion. 775 ILCS 5/2-102(E-5). Employers may, however, enact a dress code or grooming policy that restricts attire, clothing, or facial hair to maintain workplace safety or food sanitation. *Id.*

In addition to the IHRA and the federal EEOA (discussed in f/n 2), see 775 ILCS 35/, Religious Freedom Restoration Act.

⁵ Discrimination on the basis of sex under the EEOA includes discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or transgender status. *Bostock v. Clayton Cnty.*, 140 S.Ct. 1731 (2020); *Hively v. Ivy Tech*, 853 F.3d 339 (7th Cir. 2017). In addition to the IHRA and the federal EEOA (discussed in f/n 2), see Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (Title IX). 20 U.S.C. §1681 *et seq.*; 34 C.F.R. Part 106. See sample policy 2:265, *Title IX Sexual Harassment Grievance Procedure*. The federal Equal Pay Act prohibits an employer from paying persons of one sex less than the wage paid to persons of the opposite sex for equal work. 29 U.S.C. §206(d). See f/n 2 above for more information on State equal pay protections, including on the basis of sex. The LFPFA defines *date of underpayment* as each time wages are underpaid. Employees have one year from the time they become aware of the underpayment to file a complaint with the IDOL. 820 ILCS 112/15(b).

⁶ *Sexual orientation* means actual or perceived heterosexuality, homosexuality, bisexuality, or gender-related identity; it does not include a physical or sexual attraction to a minor by an adult. 775 ILCS 5/1-103(O-1).

⁷ Age Discrimination in Employment Act (ADEA) (29 U.S.C. §621 *et seq.*), amended by LFPFA (see f/n 2). 29 C.F.R. Part 1625, amended the EEOC regulations under ADEA to reflect the U.S. Supreme Court’s decision in *General Dynamic Systems, Inc. v. Cline*, 540 U.S. 581 (2004), holding the ADEA permits employers to favor older workers because of age. Thus, favoring an older person over a younger person is not unlawful discrimination, even when the younger person is at least 40 years old.

⁸ 105 ILCS 5/10-22.4 and 775 ILCS 5/1-103(Q), amended by P.A. 101-221. The term *marital status* means an individual’s legal status of being married, single, separated, divorced, or widowed. 775 ILCS 5/1-103(J). This statutory definition does not encompass the identity of one’s spouse. Thus, school districts may adopt no-spouse policies. *Boaden v. Dept. of Law Enforcement*, 171 Ill.2d 230 (Ill. 1996).

⁹ Districts may not make employment decisions on the basis of arrest history, but may use job-disqualifying criminal convictions provided specific conditions are met. 775 ILCS 5/2-103 and 5/2-103.1, added by P.A. 101-656. See f/n 18, below. The Job Opportunities for Qualified Applicants Act prohibits an employer from asking about a criminal record until the employer determines that the applicant is qualified for the position; however, this does not apply when employers are required to exclude applicants with certain criminal convictions from employment. School employers should limit their requests for criminal convictions to *job-disqualifying* convictions, as permitted by the IHRA. 775 ILCS 5/2-103.1, added by P.A. 101-656; 820 ILCS 75/15. See also the IDHR’s guidance, *Conviction Record Protection – Frequently Asked Questions*, at: www2.illinois.gov/dhr/Pages/Conviction_Record_Protection_Frequently_Asked_Questions.aspx and the EEOC’s guidance, *Consideration of Arrest and Conviction Records in Employment Decisions* (2012), at: www.eeoc.gov/laws/guidance/arrest_conviction.cfm.

¹⁰ 775 ILCS 5/1-103(Q), amended by P.A. 101-221. The term *order of protection status* means a person protected under an order of protection issued pursuant to the Ill. Domestic Violence Act of 1986 (750 ILCS 60/), Article 112A of the Code of Criminal Procedure of 1963 (725 ILCS 5/112A-1.5), the Stalking No Contact Order Act (740 ILCS 21/), the Civil No Contact Order Act (740 ILCS 22/), or an order of protection issued by a court of another state. 775 ILCS 5/1-103(K-5).

authorization status;¹³ use of lawful products while not at work;¹⁴ being a victim of domestic violence, sexual violence, gender violence, or any other crime of violence;¹⁵ genetic information;¹⁶ physical or mental handicap or disability, if otherwise able to perform the essential functions of the job with reasonable accommodation;¹⁷ pregnancy, childbirth, or related medical conditions;¹⁸ credit

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¹¹ *Military status* means a person's status on active duty or in status as a veteran in the U.S. Armed Forces, veteran of any reserve component of U.S. Armed Forces, or current member or veteran of the Ill. Army National Guard or Ill. Air National Guard. 775 ILCS 5/1-103(J-1). *Unfavorable military discharge* does not include those characterized as RE-4 or *dishonorable*. 775 ILCS 5/1-103(P). The Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act of 1994 prohibits employers from discriminating or retaliating against any person for reasons related to past, present, or future service in a *uniformed service*. 38 U.S.C. §4301 *et seq.*

¹² 775 ILCS 5/1-102(C). According to the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986, all employers must verify that employees are either U.S. citizens or authorized to work in the U.S. 8 U.S.C. §1324(a) *et seq.*

¹³ 775 ILCS 5/2-102(A), amended by P.A. 102-233. *Work authorization status* means the status of being a person born outside of the United States, and not a U.S. citizen, who is authorized by the federal government to work in the United States. 775 ILCS 5/2-101(L), added by P.A. 102-233. Under the IHRA, it is a civil rights violation for an employer to refuse to honor a legal work authorization; however, employers are not required to sponsor any applicant or employee to obtain or modify work authorization status, unless required by federal law. 775 ILCS 5/2-102(G), amended by P.A. 102-233; 775 ILCS 5/2-104(D), added by P.A. 102-233.

¹⁴ The Right to Privacy in the Workplace Act prohibits discrimination based on use of lawful products, e.g., alcohol, cannabis, and tobacco, off premises during non-working hours. 820 ILCS 55/5, amended by P.A. 101-27.

¹⁵ 820 ILCS 180/30, amended by P.A.s 101-221, 102-487, and 102-890, Victims' Economic Security and Safety Act. *Gender violence* means: (1) one or more acts of violence or aggression that are a criminal offense under State law committed, at least in part, on the basis of a person's actual or perceived sex or gender, (2) a physical intrusion or invasion of a sexual nature under coercive conditions that is a criminal offense under State law, or (3) a threat to commit one of these acts. 820 ILCS 180/10(12.5), added by P.A. 101-221. *Other crime of violence* means conduct prohibited by 720 ILCS 5/9 (homicide), 720 ILCS 5/11 (sex offenses), 720 ILCS 5/12 (bodily harm), 720 ILCS 5/26.5 (harassing and obscene communications), 720 ILCS 5/29D (terrorism), and 720 ILCS 5/33A (armed violence), or similar provision of the Criminal Code of 1961. 820 ILCS 180/10(2.5), added by P.A. 102-487.

An employer is prohibited from discriminating against any individual, e.g., an applicant for employment, because he or she "is an employee whose employer is subject to Section 21 of the Workplace Violence Prevention Act." The Workplace Violence Prevention Act allows an employer to seek a *workplace protection restraining order* when there is a credible threat of violence at the workplace. 820 ILCS 275/. Section 21 requires the employer seeking a *workplace protection restraining order* to notify the employee who is a victim of *unlawful violence*. 820 ILCS 275/21.

¹⁶ Illinois' Genetic Information Privacy Act (GIPA) (410 ILCS 513/25) and Title II of Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act (GINA) (42 U.S.C. §2000ff *et seq.*). Both laws protect job applicants and current and former employees from discrimination based on their genetic information. Note that GIPA provides greater protections to Illinois employees than Title II of GINA. GIPA prohibits employers from penalizing employees who do not disclose genetic information or do not choose to participate in a program requiring disclosure of the employee's genetic information. See f/n 12 in sample policy 2:260, *Uniform Grievance Procedure*, for the definition of genetic information and a detailed description of both statutes, including of Title I of GINA affecting the use of genetic information in health insurance. The EEOC vacated certain 2016 ADA and GINA wellness program regulations following an adverse court ruling. 83 Fed. Reg. 65296. Those rules provided guidance to employers on the extent to which they could use incentives (such as discounted health plan costs) to encourage employees to participate in wellness programs that asked for employee and family health information. Consult the board attorney for guidance regarding specific application of ADA and GINA and how they integrate with other related laws, e.g., the Family Medical Leave Act and other State laws governing time off for sickness and workers' compensation.

¹⁷ Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) (42 U.S.C. §12101 *et seq.*), amended by the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act of 2008 (ADAAA) (Pub. L. 110-325) and modified by the LFFPA; Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. §701 *et seq.*).

¹⁸ 775 ILCS 5/2-102(I). Employers must provide reasonable accommodations to employees with conditions related to pregnancy, childbirth, or related conditions. 775 ILCS 5/2-102(J). Employers are required to post a notice summarizing the right to be free from unlawful discrimination and the right to certain reasonable accommodations. 775 ILCS 5/2-102(K). The IDOL is required to prepare such a notice, retrievable from its website, which employers may use.

history, unless a satisfactory credit history is an established bona fide occupational requirement of a particular position;¹⁹ conviction record, unless authorized by law;²⁰ or other legally protected categories.^{21 22 23 24} No one will be penalized solely for his or her status as a registered qualifying

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Federal law also prohibits employers from discriminating against employees and applicants on the basis of pregnancy, childbirth, or related medical conditions. 42 U.S.C. §2000e(k). State law also prohibits the State, which includes school districts, from interfering with or discriminating against an individual's fundamental right to continue a pregnancy or to have an abortion. 775 ILCS 55/, added by P.A. 101-13. Pregnant workers with pregnancy-related impairments may have disabilities for which they may be entitled to reasonable accommodation under the ADA. Guidance from the EEOC is available at: www.eeoc.gov/pregnancy-discrimination.

¹⁹ 820 ILCS 70/, Employee Credit Privacy Act. Unless a satisfactory credit history is an *established bona fide occupational requirement* of a particular position, an employer may not: (1) refuse to hire, discharge, or otherwise discriminate against an individual with respect to employment because of the individual's credit history or credit report; (2) inquire about an applicant's or employee's credit history; or (3) order or obtain an applicant's or employee's credit report from a consumer reporting agency. The Act identifies circumstances that permit a satisfactory credit history to be a job requirement, such as, the position's duties include custody of or unsupervised access to cash or marketable assets valued at \$2,500 or more. *Id.* at 70/10.

²⁰ 775 ILCS 5/2-103.1(A), added by P.A. 101-656. The IHRA prohibits an employer from *disqualifying* or taking other *adverse action* against an applicant or employee based on a *conviction record* unless: (1) otherwise authorized by law; (2) there is a *substantial relationship* between the criminal offense and the employment sought; or (3) granting the employment would involve an unreasonable risk to property or to the safety or welfare of specific individuals or the general public. *Id.* Disqualification or adverse action includes refusal to hire, segregation, and actions with respect to recruitment, hiring, promotion, renewal of employment, selection for training or apprenticeship, discharge, discipline, tenure or terms, privileges, or conditions of employment. *Id.* If a board wants to terminate or take other adverse action against a *current* district employee based in whole or in part on a conviction record, it still must comply with all applicable statutory, policy, and bargaining agreement provisions. Boards should consult the board attorney to ensure all legal obligations are met.

Districts that wish to disqualify or take other adverse action against an applicant or employee based on a conviction record must first engage them in an *interactive assessment*, providing the individual with the opportunity to submit evidence in mitigation or to dispute the accuracy of the conviction record. See sample policy 5:30, *Hiring Process and Criteria*, at f/n 5, and administrative procedure 5:30-AP2, *Investigations*, for more information.

²¹ Insert the following optional sentence (775 ILCS 5/1-103(A) and 29 U.S.C. §631):

Age, as used in this policy, means the age of a person who is at least 40 years old.

²² Insert the following optional provision (29 U.S.C. §705(10)(A)-(B), (20)(C)(v), (20)(D) and 42 U.S.C. §12114):

Handicap and *disability*, as used in this policy, excludes persons:

1. Currently using illegal drugs;
2. Having a currently contagious disease or infection and who, by reason of such disease or infection, would constitute a direct threat to the health or safety of other individuals or who, by reason of the currently contagious disease or infection, are unable to perform the duties of the job; or
3. Whose current alcohol use prevents them from performing the job's duties or constitutes a direct threat to the property or safety of others.

Persons who have successfully completed or are participating in a drug rehabilitation program are considered *disabled*.

²³ Districts may not make residency in the district a condition of employment for teachers or educational support personnel. 105 ILCS 5/24-4.1, 5/10-23.5. This ban on residency requirements for teachers applies only to instructional personnel, and not, for example, to assistant principals. *Owen v. Kankakee Sch. Dist.*, 261 Ill.App.3d 298 (3rd Dist. 1994). Districts also may not ask an applicant, or the applicant's previous employer, whether the applicant ever received, or filed a claim for, benefits under the Workers' Compensation Act or Workers' Occupational Diseases Act. 820 ILCS 55/10(a). Districts are also prohibited from requiring, requesting, or coercing an employee or potential employee to provide a user name and password or any password or other related account information to gain or demand access to his or her personal online account. 820 ILCS 55/10(b). While the law does not prohibit employers from viewing public information, consult the board attorney before engaging in this practice.

²⁴ School districts must accommodate mothers who choose to continue breastfeeding after returning to work. See 740 ILCS 137/, Right to Breastfeed Act; 820 ILCS 260/, Nursing Mothers in the Workplace Act (NMWA); and 29 U.S.C. §207(r), Fair Labor Standards Act. At least one court has ruled an implied private right of action may exist under the NMWA. *Spriesch v. City of Chicago*, 2017 WL 4864913 (N.D.Ill. 2017). See sample language for a personnel handbook in 5:10-AP, *Workplace Accommodations for Nursing Mothers*.

patient or a registered designated caregiver for purposes of the Compassionate Use of Medical Cannabis Program Act, 410 ILCS 130/.²⁵

Persons who believe they have not received equal employment opportunities should report their claims to the Nondiscrimination Coordinator and/or a Complaint Manager for the Uniform Grievance Procedure. These individuals are listed below. No employee or applicant will be discriminated or retaliated against because he or she: (1) requested, attempted to request, used, or attempted to use a reasonable accommodation as allowed by the Illinois Human Rights Act, or (2) initiated a complaint, was a witness, supplied information, or otherwise participated in an investigation or proceeding involving an alleged violation of this policy or State or federal laws, rules or regulations, provided the employee or applicant did not make a knowingly false accusation nor provide knowingly false information.²⁶

Administrative Implementation

The Superintendent shall appoint a Nondiscrimination Coordinator for personnel who shall be responsible for coordinating the District's nondiscrimination efforts. The Nondiscrimination Coordinator may be the Superintendent or a Complaint Manager for the Uniform Grievance Procedure. The Nondiscrimination Coordinator also serves as the District's Title IX Coordinator.²⁷

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²⁵ 410 ILCS 130/40, amended by P.A. 101-363; 77 Ill.Admin.Code Part 946. To legally use medical cannabis, an individual must first become a *registered qualifying patient*. Their use of cannabis, e.g., permissible locations, is governed by the Compassionate Use of Medical Cannabis Program Act. 410 ILCS 130/, amended by P.A.s 100-660 and 101-363. There are many situations in which no one, even a registered qualifying patient, may possess or use cannabis except as provided under *Ashley's Law* (105 ILCS 5/22-33, added by P.A.s 100-660, and amended by P.A.s 101-363, and 101-370), including in a school bus or on the grounds of any preschool, or primary or secondary school. 410 ILCS 130/30(a)(2)(3), amended by P.A. 101-363. See sample policy 5:50, *Drug- and Alcohol-Free Workplace; E-Cigarette, Tobacco, and Cannabis Prohibition*, at f/n 9 for further discussion.

²⁶ 775 ILCS 5/6-101. Discrimination on the basis of a request for or use of a reasonable accommodation is a civil rights violation under the IHRA. *Id.* Most discrimination laws prohibit retaliation against employees who oppose practices made unlawful by those laws, including, for example, the EEOA, Title IX, ADA, ADEA, Victims' Economic Security and Safety Act, the EPA, and the Ill. Whistleblower Act (IWA).

The IWA specifically prohibits employers from retaliating against employees for: (1) disclosing information to a government or law enforcement agency, where the employee has reasonable cause to believe that the information discloses a violation of a State or federal law, rule, or regulation (740 ILCS 174/15(b)); (2) disclosing information in a court, an administrative hearing, or before a legislative commission or committee, or in any other proceeding where the employee has reasonable cause to believe that the information reveals a violation of a State or federal law, rule or regulation (740 ILCS 174/15(a)); (3) refusing to participate in an activity that would result in a violation of a State or federal law, rule, or regulation, including, but not limited to, violations of FOIA (740 ILCS 174/20); and (4) disclosing or attempting to disclose public corruption or wrongdoing (740 ILCS 174/20.1). The definition of retaliation is expanded to include *other retaliation* and *threatening retaliation*. 740 ILCS 174/20.1, 20.2.

The Ill. False Claims Act defines *State* to include school districts. 740 ILCS 175/2(a). Thus, boards may seek a penalty from a person for making a false claim for money or property. 740 ILCS 175/4. For information regarding the IWA and the tort of retaliatory discharge, see *Thomas v. Guardsmark*, 487 F.3d 531 (7th Cir. 2007)(discussing the elements of retaliatory discharge and IWA); *Sherman v. Kraft General Foods, Inc.*, 272 Ill.App.3d 833 (4th Dist. 1995)(finding employee who reported asbestos hazard had a cause of action for retaliatory discharge).

²⁷ The Nondiscrimination and Title IX Coordinator(s) need not be the same person. If the district uses a separate Title IX Coordinator who does not also serve as the Nondiscrimination Coordinator, delete "~~The Nondiscrimination Coordinator also serves as the District's Title IX Coordinator.~~," insert a hard return to create a new paragraph, and insert "The Superintendent shall appoint a Title IX Coordinator to coordinate the District's efforts to comply with Title IX." Then, list the Title IX and Nondiscrimination Coordinators' names and contact information separately in this policy.

The Superintendent shall insert into this policy the names, office addresses, email addresses, and telephone numbers of the District's current Nondiscrimination Coordinator and Complaint Managers.²⁸

Nondiscrimination Coordinator: ²⁹

Name

Address

Email

Telephone

Complaint Managers:

_____ Name	_____ Name
_____ Address	_____ Address
_____ Email	_____ Email
_____ Telephone	_____ Telephone

The Superintendent shall also use reasonable measures to inform staff members and applicants that the District is an equal opportunity employer, such as, by posting required notices and including this policy in the appropriate handbooks.³⁰

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²⁸ Title IX regulations require districts to designate and authorize at least one employee to coordinate their efforts to comply with Title IX and to refer to that employee as the *Title IX Coordinator*. 34 C.F.R. §106.8(a). Districts must identify the Title IX Coordinator by name, office address, email address, and telephone number. *Id.* See f/n 21 in sample policy 2:260, *Uniform Grievance Procedure*.

While the names and contact information are required by law to be listed, they are not part of the adopted policy and do not require board action. This allows for additions and amendments to the names and contact information when necessary. It is important for updated names and contact information to be inserted into this policy and regularly monitored.

²⁹ Best practice is that throughout the district's board policy manual, the same individual be named as Nondiscrimination Coordinator. In contrast, Complaint Managers identified in individual policies may vary depending upon local district needs.

³⁰ In addition to notifying employees of the Uniform Grievance Procedure, a district must notify them of the person(s) designated to coordinate the district's compliance with Title IX and the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. 34 C.F.R. §§106.8(a), 104.8(a). The Nondiscrimination Coordinator may be the same individual for both this policy and policy 7:10, *Equal Educational Opportunities*, as well as a Complaint Manager for sample policy 2:260, *Uniform Grievance Procedure*. A comprehensive faculty handbook can provide required notices, along with other important information, to recipients. The handbook can be developed by the building principal, but should be reviewed and approved by the superintendent and school board. Any *working conditions* contained in the handbook may be subject to mandatory collective bargaining.

Minority Recruitment ³¹

The District will attempt to recruit and hire minority employees. The implementation of this policy may include advertising openings in minority publications, participating in minority job fairs, and recruiting at colleges and universities with significant minority enrollments. This policy, however, does not require or permit the District to give preferential treatment or special rights based on a protected status without evidence of past discrimination.

LEGAL REF.: 8 U.S.C. §1324a et seq., Immigration Reform and Control Act.
20 U.S.C. §1681 et seq., Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972; 34 C.F.R. Part 106.
29 U.S.C. §206(d), Equal Pay Act.
29 U.S.C. §621 et seq., Age Discrimination in Employment Act.
29 U.S.C. §701 et seq., Rehabilitation Act of 1973.
38 U.S.C. §4301 et seq., Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (1994).
42 U.S.C. §1981 et seq., Civil Rights Act of 1991.
42 U.S.C. §2000e et seq., Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964; 29 C.F.R. Part 1601.
42 U.S.C. §2000ff et seq., Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2008.
42 U.S.C. §2000d et seq., Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.
42 U.S.C. §2000e(k), Pregnancy Discrimination Act.
42 U.S.C. §12111 et seq., Americans with Disabilities Act, Title I.
Ill. Constitution, Art. I, §§17, 18, and 19.
105 ILCS 5/10-20.7, 5/10-20.7a, 5/10-21.1, 5/10-22.4, 5/10-23.5, 5/22-19, 5/24-4, 5/24-4.1, and 5/24-7.
410 ILCS 130/40, Compassionate Use of Medical Cannabis Program Act.
410 ILCS 513/25, Genetic Information Privacy Act.
740 ILCS 174/, Ill. Whistleblower Act.
775 ILCS 5/1-103, 5/2-101, 5/2-102, 5/2-103, 5/2-103.1, 5/2-104(D) and 5/6-101, Ill. Human Rights Act.
775 ILCS 35/, Religious Freedom Restoration Act.
820 ILCS 55/10, Right to Privacy in the Workplace Act.
820 ILCS 70/, Employee Credit Privacy Act.
820 ILCS 75/, Job Opportunities for Qualified Applicants Act.
820 ILCS 112/, Ill. Equal Pay Act of 2003.
820 ILCS 180/30, Victims' Economic Security and Safety Act.
820 ILCS 260/, Nursing Mothers in the Workplace Act.

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³¹ All districts must have a policy on minority recruitment. 105 ILCS 5/10-20.7a. Unlike minority recruitment efforts, affirmative action plans are subject to significant scrutiny because of the potential for reverse discrimination. The U.S. Constitution's guarantee of equal protection prohibits school districts from using racial hiring quotas without evidence of past discrimination. See 29 C.F.R. §1608.1 et seq. (EEOC's guidelines for affirmative action plans); Wygant v. Jackson Bd. of Ed., 476 U.S. 267 (1986) (The goal of remedying societal discrimination does not justify race-based layoffs.); City of Richmond v. J.A. Croson Co., 488 U.S. 469 (1989) (Minority contractor quota struck; quotas must be narrowly tailored to remedy past discrimination and the city failed to identify the need for remedial action and whether race-neutral alternatives existed.).

The IHRA states that it shall not be construed as requiring any employer to give preferential treatment or special rights based on sexual orientation or to implement affirmative action policies or programs based on sexual orientation. 775 ILCS 5/1-101.1.

CROSS REF.: 2:260 (Uniform Grievance Procedure), 2:265 (Title IX Sexual Harassment Grievance Procedure), 5:20 (Workplace Harassment Prohibited), 5:30 (Hiring Process and Criteria), 5:40 (Communicable and Chronic Infectious Disease), 5:50 (Drug- and Alcohol-Free Workplace; E-Cigarette, Tobacco, and Cannabis Prohibition), 5:70 (Religious Holidays), 5:180 (Temporary Illness or Temporary Incapacity), 5:200 (Terms and Conditions of Employment and Dismissal), 5:250 (Leaves of Absence), 5:270 (Employment, At-Will, Compensation, and Assignment), 5:300 (Schedules and Employment Year), 5:330 (Sick Days, Vacation, Holidays, and Leaves), 7:10 (Equal Educational Opportunities), 7:180 (Prevention of and Response to Bullying, Intimidation, and Harassment), 8:70 (Accommodating Individuals with Disabilities)

General Personnel

Workplace Harassment Prohibited¹

The School District expects the workplace environment to be productive, respectful, and free of unlawful discrimination, including harassment. District employees shall not engage in harassment or abusive conduct on the basis of an individual's actual or perceived race², color, religion³, national origin, ancestry, sex, sexual orientation, age, citizenship status, work authorization status, disability, pregnancy, marital status, order of protection status, military status, or unfavorable discharge from

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¹ State or federal law controls this policy's content. Federal law requires districts to take action to prevent sexual harassment and to disseminate a policy regarding its prohibition of sex discrimination. 29 C.F.R. §1604.11(f); 34 C.F.R. §106.8(b). State law requires districts to establish a policy to prohibit sexual harassment. 5 ILCS 430/70-5(a), amended by P.A. 101-221. See f/n 4 below. Harassment based on a protected status is a form of discrimination that violates many State and federal laws (see the policy's Legal References).

Workplace harassment policies have typically focused on *sexual* harassment since it receives the most attention. However, the broad prohibitions against discrimination in State and federal civil rights laws will cover harassing conduct that is motivated by animus against any protected status. See *Porter v. Erie Foods Int'l, Inc.*, 576 F.3d 629 (7th Cir. 2009) (recognizing a cause of action for race harassment). For a list of protected statuses, see sample policy 5:10, *Equal Employment Opportunity and Minority Recruitment*. This policy prohibiting harassment has a separate section on sexual harassment because of the extensive statutory and case law regarding it.

Under the Ill. Human Rights Act (IHRA), harassment is unlawful if it has the purpose or effect of substantially interfering with an individual's work performance or creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working environment. 775 ILCS 5/2-101(E-1), added by P.A. 101-221. *Working environment* is not limited to a physical location to which an employee is assigned. *Id.* Harassment is unlawful on the basis of the specifically-listed categories in this policy whether that status is *actual* or *perceived*. *Id.*

An employer is liable under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Title VII) for an employee's harassment of a co-worker if the employer was negligent with respect to the offensive behavior by, for example, failing to take remedial action when it knew or should have known about the harassment. 42 U.S.C. §2000e *et seq.* An employer is liable under the IHRA for harassment by its nonmanagerial and nonsupervisory employees if it becomes aware of the conduct and fails to take reasonable corrective measures. 775 ILCS 5/2-102(A), amended by P.A. 101-221. However, when the perpetrator is the victim's supervisor, the employer will be vicariously liable for the supervisor's actions. Lack of knowledge of a supervisor's misconduct is no defense. *Burlington Indus. v. Ellerth*, 524 U.S. 742 (1998); *Faragher v. City of Boca Raton*, 524 U.S. 775 (1998). A *supervisor* is someone who has the authority to demote, discharge, or take other negative job action against the victim. *Vance v. Ball State Univ.*, 570 U.S. 421 (2013). Note that the IHRA (775 ILCS 5/2-102(D)) imposes strict liability on the employer when an employee has been sexually harassed by supervisory personnel regardless of whether the harasser has any authority over the complainant. *Sangamon Cnty. Sheriff's Dept. v. Ill. Human Rights Com'n*, 233 Ill.2d 125 (Ill. 2009). Additionally, under the IHRA, an employer is liable for the harassment of *nonemployees* by nonmanagerial and nonsupervisory employees if it becomes aware of the conduct and fails to take reasonable corrective measures. 775 ILCS 5/2-102(A-10) and (D-5), added by P.A. 101-221. Nonemployees are those who are directly performing services for an employer pursuant to a contract, such as contractors or consultants. *Id.*

Not all harassing conduct is unlawful discrimination, even if it is disruptive and hurtful. If a board wants to include language in this policy prohibiting employees from engaging in intimidating or offensive conduct that is *not* a civil rights violation, it should consult the board attorney.

² See sample policy 5:10, *Equal Employment Opportunity and Minority Recruitment*, at f/n 3, for information about the definition of *race*.

³ The IHRA contains a *religious discrimination* subsection. 775 ILCS 5/2-102(E-5). It expressly prohibits employers from requiring a person to violate a sincerely held religious belief to obtain or retain employment unless, after engaging in a bona fide effort, the employer demonstrates that it is unable to reasonably accommodate the employee's or prospective employee's sincerely held religious belief, practice, or observance without undue hardship on the conduct of the employer's business. Religious beliefs include, but are not limited to: the wearing of any attire, clothing, or facial hair in accordance with the requirements of his/her religion. *Id.* Employers may, however, enact a dress code or grooming policy that restricts attire, clothing, or facial hair to maintain workplace safety or food sanitation. *Id.*

military service, nor shall they engage in harassment or abusive conduct on the basis of an individual's other protected status identified in Board policy 5:10, *Equal Employment Opportunity and Minority Recruitment*. Harassment of students, including, but not limited to, sexual harassment, is prohibited by Board policies 2:260, *Uniform Grievance Procedure*; 2:265, *Title IX Sexual Harassment Grievance Procedure*; 7:20, *Harassment of Students Prohibited*; 7:180, *Prevention of and Response to Bullying, Intimidation, and Harassment*; and 7:185, *Teen Dating Violence Prohibited*.

The District will take remedial and corrective action to address unlawful workplace harassment, including sexual harassment.

Sexual Harassment Prohibited ⁴

The District shall provide a workplace environment free of verbal, physical, or other conduct or communications constituting harassment on the basis of sex as defined and otherwise prohibited by State and federal law. The District provides annual sexual harassment prevention training in accordance with State law. ⁵

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⁴ The IHRA (775 ILCS 5/2-102(D)) provides that sexual harassment is a civil rights violation:

For any employer, employee, agent of any employer, employment agency or labor organization to engage in sexual harassment; provided, that an employer shall be responsible for sexual harassment of the employer's employees by non-employees or non-managerial and non-supervisory employees only if the employer becomes aware of the conduct and fails to take reasonable corrective measures.

See sample policy 2:265, *Title IX Sexual Harassment Grievance Procedure*, for the definition of Title IX sexual harassment (20 U.S.C. §1681 *et seq.*), and see f/n 3 of it for examples of employee sexual harassment that may violate Title IX. Title IX's reach is broad because an alleged complainant or alleged respondent may be *anyone* in the district's educational program or activity. This includes applicants for employment, students, parents/guardians, any employee, and third parties. Districts are liable for Title IX sexual harassment when *any* district employee has *actual knowledge* of sexual harassment or allegations of sexual harassment against anyone in the district (except when the only employee with knowledge is the perpetrator of the alleged sexual harassment). 34 C.F.R. §106.30.

The State Officials and Employees Ethics Act (SOEEA) (5 ILCS 430/70-5(a), amended by P.A. 101-221) requires governmental entities (including school districts) to adopt an ordinance or resolution establishing a policy to prohibit sexual harassment. Unlike the powers granted by the Ill. General Assembly to municipalities to pass ordinances, school boards govern by rules referred to as *policies*. 105 ILCS 5/10-20.5. Further, school boards may only exercise powers given to them that are consistent with the School Code that may be requisite or proper for the maintenance, operation, and development of any school or schools under the jurisdiction of the board. 105 ILCS 5/10-20.

The policy must include, at a minimum: (1) a prohibition on sexual harassment; (2) details on how an individual can report an allegation of sexual harassment, including options for making a confidential report to a supervisor, ethics officer, Inspector General, or the Ill. Dept. of Human Rights (IDHR); (3) a prohibition on retaliation for reporting sexual harassment allegations, including availability of whistleblower protections under the SOEEA, the Whistleblower Act (740 ILCS 174/), and the IHRA (775 ILCS 5/); (4) the consequences: (a) of a violation of the prohibition on sexual harassment and (b) for knowingly making a false report; and (5) a mechanism for reporting and independent review of allegations of sexual harassment made against an elected official of the governmental unit by another elected official of a governmental unit. 5 ILCS 430/70-5(a), amended by P.A. 101-221. Sample policy 2:105, *Ethics and Gift Ban*, covers item (5) of this list.

⁵ 775 ILCS 5/2-109, added by P.A. 101-221. See sample policy 5:100, *Staff Development Program*, at f/n 4. Districts may use a free, online model program to be offered by the Ill. Dept. of Human Rights (IDHR), develop their own program, or utilize a combination of the two, as long as it includes the following, at a minimum: (1) an explanation of sexual harassment consistent with the IHRA, (2) examples of conduct that constitutes unlawful harassment, (3) a summary of relevant federal and State law concerning sexual harassment and remedies available to victims of sexual harassment, and (4) a summary of responsibilities of employers in the prevention, investigation, and corrective measures of sexual harassment. *Id.* at 5/2-109(B), added by P.A. 101-221. For IDHR's online model program, see its *Model Sexual Harassment Prevention Training Program* page at: <https://www2.illinois.gov/dhr/Training/Pages/State-of-Illinois-Sexual-Harassment-Prevention-Training-Model.aspx>. Employers that fail to comply with this training requirement may face financial penalties. *Id.* Training on other types of workplace harassment is not required by law; however it is best practice.

District employees shall not make unwelcome sexual advances or request sexual favors or engage in any unwelcome conduct of a sexual nature when: (1) submission to such conduct is made either explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of an individual's employment; (2) submission to or rejection of such conduct by an individual is used as the basis for employment decisions affecting such individual; or (3) such conduct has the purpose or effect of substantially interfering with an individual's work performance or creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working environment.⁶ Sexual harassment prohibited by this policy includes, but is not limited to, verbal, physical, or other conduct. The terms intimidating, hostile, or offensive include, but are not limited to, conduct that has the effect of humiliation, embarrassment, or discomfort. Sexual harassment will be evaluated in light of all the circumstances.

Making a Report or Complaint

Employees and *nonemployees*⁷ (persons who are not otherwise employees and are directly performing services for the District pursuant to a contract with the District, including contractors, and consultants) are encouraged to promptly report information regarding violations of this policy. Individuals may choose to report to a person of the individual's same gender. Every effort should be made to file such reports or complaints as soon as possible, while facts are known and potential witnesses are available.

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⁶ This definition is from State and federal law. 775 ILCS 5/2-101(E) and 29 C.F.R. §1604.11. *Working environment* is not limited to a physical location to which an employee is assigned. 775 ILCS 5/2-101(E), amended by P.A. 101-221. The harassing conduct must be severe or pervasive so as to alter the conditions of the employee's work environment by creating a hostile or abusive situation. *Williams v. Waste Mgmt.*, 361 F.3d 1021 (7th Cir. 2004). The surrounding circumstances, expectations, and relationships will distinguish between teasing or rough-housing and conduct that a reasonable person would find severely hostile or abusive. In addition, while same-sex gender harassment claims are actionable, the victim must show that s/he suffered disadvantageous employment conditions to which members of the other sex were not exposed. *Oncale v. Sundowner Offshore Servs.*, 523 U.S. 75 (1998).

⁷ 775 ILCS 5/2-102(A-10) and (D-5), added by P.A. 101-221. See also f/n 1, above, for discussion regarding nonemployees.

Aggrieved individuals, if they feel comfortable doing so, should directly inform the person engaging in the harassing conduct or communication that such conduct or communication is offensive and must stop.

Whom to Contact with a Report or Complaint⁸

An employee should report claims of harassment, including making a confidential report, to any of the following: his/her immediate supervisor, the Building Principal, an administrator, the Nondiscrimination Coordinator, and/or a Complaint Manager.⁹

An employee may also report claims using Board policy 2:260, *Uniform Grievance Procedure*. If a claim is reported using Board policy 2:260, then the Complaint Manager shall process and review the claim according to that policy, in addition to any response required by this policy.

The Superintendent shall insert into this policy the names, office addresses, email addresses, and telephone numbers of the District's current Nondiscrimination Coordinator and Complaint Managers. The Nondiscrimination Coordinator also serves as the District's Title IX Coordinator.¹⁰

Nondiscrimination Coordinator:

Name

Address

Email

Telephone

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

⁸ While the names and contact information are required by law to be listed, they are not part of the adopted policy and do not require board action. This allows for additions and amendments to the names and contact information when necessary. It is important for updated names and contact information to be inserted into this policy and regularly monitored.

⁹ 5 ILCS 430/70-5(a) requires that a school board policy prohibiting sexual harassment include details for reporting an allegation of sexual harassment, including options for making a confidential report to a supervisor and an ethics officer. 5 ILCS 430/20-23 defines ethics officers as being designated by State agencies under the jurisdiction of the Executive Ethics Commission. School districts are not State agencies (5 ILCS 430/1-5) and do not have ethics officers; thus, this sample policy substitutes Complaint Manager for ethics officer. Note also that the IDHR has established a Sexual Harassment Hotline Call Center and website to help the public find resources and assistance for the filing of sexual harassment complaints. The hotline can be reached Monday through Friday with the exception of State holidays, between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., at 1-877-236-7703. See www2.illinois.gov/sites/sexualharassment/Pages/default.aspx. All communications received by the IDHR are exempt from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

¹⁰ Title IX regulations require districts to identify the name, office address, email address, and telephone number of the person who is responsible for coordinating the district's compliance efforts. The Nondiscrimination and Title IX Coordinator(s) need not be the same person. If the district uses a separate Title IX Coordinator who does not also serve as the Nondiscrimination Coordinator, delete "~~The Nondiscrimination Coordinator also serves as the District's Title IX Coordinator,~~" and supplement the previous sentence to state "The Superintendent shall insert into this policy the names, office addresses, email addresses, and telephone numbers of the District's current Nondiscrimination Coordinator, Title IX Coordinator, and Complaint Managers." Then, list the Title IX and Nondiscrimination Coordinators' names and contact information separately in this policy.

Complaint Managers:

_____ Name	_____ Name
_____ Address	_____ Address
_____ Email	_____ Email
_____ Telephone	_____ Telephone

Investigation Process

Any District employee who receives a report or complaint of harassment must promptly forward the report or complaint to the Nondiscrimination Coordinator or a Complaint Manager.¹¹ Any employee who fails to promptly forward a report or complaint may be disciplined, up to and including discharge.

Reports and complaints of harassment will be confidential to the greatest extent practicable, subject to the District's duty to investigate and maintain a workplace environment that is productive, respectful, and free of unlawful discrimination, including harassment.

For any report or complaint alleging sexual harassment that, if true, would implicate Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (20 U.S.C. §1681 *et seq.*), the Nondiscrimination Coordinator or designee¹² shall consider whether action under policy 2:265, *Title IX Sexual Harassment Grievance Procedure*, should be initiated.

For any other alleged workplace harassment that does not require action under policy 2:265, *Title IX Sexual Harassment Grievance Procedure*, the Nondiscrimination Coordinator or a Complaint Manager or designee shall consider whether an investigation under policy 2:260, *Uniform Grievance Procedure*, and/or 5:120, *Employee Ethics; Code of Professional Conduct; and Conflict of Interest*,¹³ should be initiated, regardless of whether a written report or complaint is filed.

Reports That Involve Alleged Incidents of Sexual Abuse of a Child by School Personnel¹⁴

An *alleged incident of sexual abuse* is an incident of sexual abuse of a child, as defined in 720 ILCS 5/11-9.1A(b), 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.

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¹¹ If the district's Nondiscrimination Coordinator does not also serve as the Title IX Coordinator, supplement this sentence to state "Any District employee who receives a report or complaint of harassment must promptly forward the report or complaint to the Nondiscrimination Coordinator, Title IX Coordinator, or a Complaint Manager."

¹² "Nondiscrimination Coordinator or designee" is used where Title IX is potentially implicated. In contrast, if Title IX is likely not implicated then "Nondiscrimination Coordinator or a Complaint Manager or designee" is used (see next paragraph in policy text). If the district's Nondiscrimination Coordinator does not also serve as the Title IX Coordinator, delete "Nondiscrimination" and insert "Title IX" in its place.

¹³ See administrative procedure 5:120-AP2, *Employee Conduct Standards* and its exhibit 5:120-AP2, E, *Expectations and Guidelines for Employee-Student Boundaries*.

¹⁴ Required for districts located within a county served by an accredited Children's Advocacy Center (CAC). Delete this subhead if your school district is within a county not served by an accredited CAC. 105 ILCS 5/22-85, added by P.A. 101-531 (governing the investigation of an *alleged incident of sexual abuse* of any child within any Illinois counties served by a CAC). For further discussion see f/n 14 in sample policy 5:90, *Abused and Neglected Child Reporting*.

Any complaint alleging an incident of sexual abuse shall be processed and reviewed according to policy 5:90, *Abused and Neglected Child Reporting*. In addition to reporting the suspected abuse, the complaint shall also be processed under policy 2:265, *Title IX Sexual Harassment Grievance Procedure*, or policy 2:260, *Uniform Grievance Procedure*.

Enforcement¹⁵

A violation of this policy by an employee may result in discipline, up to and including discharge.¹⁶ A violation of this policy by a third party will be addressed in accordance with the authority of the Board in the context of the relationship of the third party to the District, e.g., vendor, parent, invitee, etc. Any person making a knowingly false accusation regarding harassment will likewise be subject to disciplinary action, which for an employee that may be up to and including discharge.¹⁷

Retaliation Prohibited

An employee's employment, compensation, or work assignment shall not be adversely affected by complaining or providing information about harassment. Retaliation against employees for bringing complaints or providing information about harassment is prohibited (see Board policy 2:260, *Uniform Grievance Procedure*), and depending upon the law governing the complaint, whistleblower protection may be available under the State Officials and Employees Ethics Act (5 ILCS 430/), the Whistleblower Act (740 ILCS 174/), and the Ill. Human Rights Act (775 ILCS 5/).¹⁸

An employee should report allegations of retaliation to his/her immediate supervisor, the Building Principal, an administrator, the Nondiscrimination Coordinator, and/or a Complaint Manager.

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¹⁵ See *Berry v. Delta Airlines*, 260 F.3d 803, 811 (7th Cir. 2001) ("If an employer takes reasonable steps to discover and rectify the harassment of its employees ... it has discharged its legal duty.")

In addition to violating other civil rights laws, a school district violates the *public accommodations* article in the IHRA if it fails to take corrective action to stop severe or pervasive harassment. 775 ILCS 5/5-102 and 5/5-102.2, amended by P.A. 102-1102, eff. 1-1-23.

¹⁶ 5 ILCS 430/70-5(a)(consequences of a violation of the prohibition on sexual harassment). When discharge is the penalty, examine 50 ILCS 205/3c. It requires a school district to post on its website and make available to news media specific information about severance agreements that it enters into because an employee or contractor was found to have engaged in sexual harassment or sexual discrimination, as defined by the IHRA or Title VII. *Id.* Additionally, under the Workplace Transparency Act (WTA), employers may not require confidentiality clauses in settlement or termination agreements involving alleged unlawful employment practices under federal or State civil rights laws, except under specific conditions. 820 ILCS 96/1-30, added by P.A. 101-221.

Prior to the passage of 50 ILCS 205/3c and the WTA, members of the public could already access copies of severance agreements between school districts and their former employees under FOIA. The Ill. Atty. Gen. Public Access Counselor (PAC) directed a public body to release a settlement agreement that arose out of claims of sexual harassment. PAO 14-4. The PAC noted that the public body could not withhold the entire settlement agreement under 5 ILCS 140/7(1)(c), which exempts personal information that would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of privacy. Instead, it could redact personal information from the agreement, such as the complainants' names in order to protect their privacy. *Id.* However, data regarding settlement agreements involving allegations of sexual harassment or other unlawful discrimination that an employer must report to IDHR under 775 ILCS 5/2-108 is categorically exempt from FOIA. 5 ILCS 140/7.5(oo), added by P.A. 101-221. See f/n 6 in sample policy 2:260, *Uniform Grievance Procedure*, for more discussion about reconciling 50 ILCS 205/3c with another new law, the Government Severance Pay Act (GSPA) (5 ILCS 415/10(a)(1)), which prohibits school district employees with contract provisions for severance pay to receive any severance pay if they are fired for *misconduct* by the board.

¹⁷ 5 ILCS 430/70-5(a)(consequences for knowingly making a false report of sexual harassment).

¹⁸ *Id.* (prohibition on retaliation for reporting sexual harassment allegations, including availability of whistleblower protections under the SOEEA, the Whistleblower Act (740 ILCS 174/), and the IHRA (775 ILCS 5/)).

Crawford v. Metro. Gov't of Nashville & Davidson Cnty., 555 U.S. 271 (2009) (holding the anti-retaliation provision in EEOA protects an employee who spoke out about harassment, not only on his or her own initiative, but also in answering questions during an employer's internal investigation).

Employees who retaliate against others for reporting or complaining of violations of this policy or for participating in the reporting or complaint process will be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including discharge.

Recourse to State and Federal Fair Employment Practice Agencies ¹⁹

The District encourages all employees who have information regarding violations of this policy to report the information pursuant to this policy. The following government agencies are available to assist employees: the Ill. Dept. of Human Rights and the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

The Superintendent shall also use reasonable measures to inform staff members, applicants, and nonemployees of this policy, which shall include posting on the District website and/or making this policy available in the District's administrative office, and including this policy in the appropriate handbooks. ²⁰

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

¹⁹ 5 ILCS 430/70-5(a)(how an individual can report an allegation of sexual harassment, including options for making a confidential report to the Inspector General or the IDHR). This sample policy does not reference the Inspector General because the Inspector General does not have jurisdiction over public school districts. See 5 ILCS 430/20 (executive inspectors general), 5 ILCS 430/25 (legislative inspector general). School districts must also annually disclose to IDHR certain data about *adverse judgment or administrative rulings* made against them where there was a finding of sexual harassment or unlawful discrimination under federal, State, or local laws. 775 ILCS 5/2-108, added by P.A. 101-221 (scheduled to be repealed on 1-1-30). See IDHR's *FAQ for Employers under Section 5/2-108 and Form IDHR 2-108*, at: www2.illinois.gov/dhr/Pages/default.aspx.

²⁰ A district must notify employees of the grievance procedure and the person(s) designated to coordinate the district's compliance with Title IX. 34 C.F.R. §106.8. The nondiscrimination coordinator can be the same individual for both this policy and policy 7:10, *Equal Educational Opportunities*, as well as the complaint manager in policy 2:260, *Uniform Grievance Procedure*. A comprehensive faculty handbook can provide required notices, along with other important information to recipients. The handbook can be developed by the building principal, but should be reviewed and approved by the superintendent and board. Any *working conditions* contained in the handbook may be subject to mandatory collective bargaining.

Informing nonemployees is not required by law. However, given the potential for employer liability under the IHRA for harassment of nonemployees, best practice is to publicize this policy to those individuals as well.

LEGAL REF.: 42 U.S.C. §2000e et seq., Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964; 29 C.F.R. §1604.11.
20 U.S.C. §1681 et seq., Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972; 34 C.F.R. Part 106.
5 ILCS 430/70-5(a), State Officials and Employees Ethics Act.
775 ILCS 5/2-101(E) and (E-1), 5/2-102(A), (A-10), (D-5), 5/2-102(E-5), 5/2-109, 5/5-102, and 5/5-102.2, Ill. Human Rights Act.
56 Ill. Admin.Code Parts 2500, 2510, 5210, and 5220.
Vance v. Ball State Univ., 570 U.S. 421 (2013).
Crawford v. Metro. Gov't of Nashville & Davidson Cnty., 555 U.S. 271 (2009).
Jackson v. Birmingham Bd. of Educ., 544 U.S. 167 (2005).
Oncale v. Sundowner Offshore Servs., 523 U.S. 75 (1998).
Burlington Indus. v. Ellerth, 524 U.S. 742 (1998).
Faragher v. City of Boca Raton, 524 U.S. 775 (1998).
Harris v. Forklift Systems, 510 U.S. 17 (1993).
Franklin v. Gwinnett Co. Public Schools, 503 U.S. 60 (1992).
Meritor Savings Bank v. Vinson, 477 U.S. 57 (1986).
Porter v. Erie Foods Int, Inc., 576 F.3d 629 (7th Cir. 2009).
Williams v. Waste Mgmt., 361 F.3d 1021 (7th Cir. 2004).
Berry v. Delta Airlines, 260 F.3d 803 (7th Cir. 2001).
Sangamon Cnty. Sheriff's Dept. v. Ill. Human Rights Com'n, 233 Ill.2d 125 (Ill. 2009).

CROSS REF.: 2:260 (Uniform Grievance Procedure), 2:265 (Title IX Sexual Harassment Grievance Procedure), 4:60 (Purchases and Contracts), 5:10 (Equal Employment Opportunity and Minority Recruitment), 5:90 (Abused and Neglected Child Reporting), 5:120 (Employee Ethics; Code of Professional Conduct; and Conflict of Interest), 7:20 (Harassment of Students Prohibited), 8:30 (Visitors to and Conduct on School Property)