

General School Administration

Administrative Responsibility of the Building Principal 1

Duties and Authority

The School Board, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, employs Building Principals as the chief administrators and instructional leaders of their assigned schools, and may employ Assistant Principals. The primary responsibility of a Building Principal is the improvement of instruction.² Each Building Principal shall perform all duties as described in State law as well as such other duties as specified in his or her employment agreement or as the Superintendent may assign, that are consistent with the Building Principal's education and training.³ Each Building Principal and Assistant Principal shall complete State law requirements to be a prequalified evaluator before conducting an evaluation of a teacher or assistant principal.⁴

Evaluation Plan

The Superintendent or designee shall implement an evaluation plan for Principals and Assistant Principals that complies with Section 24A-15 of the School Code and relevant Illinois State Board of

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¹ State or federal law controls this policy's content.

² Required by 105 ILCS 5/10-21.4a.

³ An alternative follows: "...or as agreed upon by the Building Principal and Superintendent."

The principal's duties are generally described in 105 ILCS 5/10-21.4a and 5/24A-15(c-5). However, many other statutes impose additional duties, e.g., 105 ILCS 127/2 (requires principals to report to the police any certain violations of the Cannabis Control Act, Controlled Substance Act, and Methamphetamine Control and Community Protection Act occurring at specified locations); 105 ILCS 5/10-27.1A(b)20-14 (requires the principal or designee to immediately notify local law enforcement upon receiving a report of a person in possession of a firearm on school grounds, and, if that person is a student, to notify a student's parent/guardian ~~reciprocal reporting of criminal offenses committed by students~~); and 730 ILCS 152/ and 154/ (requires notification to parents/guardians that information about sex offenders and violent offenders against youth is available). The county clerk may appoint high school principals or their designees as deputy registrars to accept voter registrations of eligible students any qualified resident of the State. (10 ILCS 5/4-6.2(a), amended by P.A. 100-1027). The Firearm Concealed Carry Act requires a principal to notify the Ill. Dept. of State Police whenever he or she determines that a student (or any person) poses a "clear and present danger to himself, herself or to others." (430 ILCS 66/105; 405 ILCS 5/6-103.3, amended by P.A. 98-63). Lawyers disagree whether this requirement violates the federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act.- Contact the board attorney for advice.

⁴ This restates 105 ILCS 5/24A-3 and 23 Ill.Admin.Code Part 50, Subpart E. Individuals who evaluate teachers, principals, or assistant principals must: (1) be prequalified, and (2) participate in a regularly scheduled retraining program. The prequalification and retraining programs must be either developed or approved by the Ill. State Board of Education (ISBE).

105 ILCS 5/24A-5 permits a first-year principal to evaluate a teacher; however, a new two-year evaluation plan must be established for any tenured teacher who is evaluated by a first-year principal. (105 ILCS 5/24A-5, amended by P.A. 98-470).

Anyone who has not previously been a principal in Ill. must participate in ISBE's new principal mentoring program; however, implementation of a principal mentoring program in any given year is dependent upon an appropriation. (105 ILCS 5/2-3.53a; 23 Ill.Admin.Code Part 35). Annually by June 1, each superintendent must report to the State Superintendent or designee the expected number of 1st first-year and 2nd second-year principals along with information specified in 23 Ill.Admin.Code §35.20.

Education rules.—5 Using that plan, the Superintendent or designee shall evaluate each Building Principal and Assistant Principal.—6 The Superintendent or designee may conduct additional evaluations.

Qualifications and Other Terms and Conditions of Employment

Qualifications and other terms and conditions of employment are found in Board policy 3:50, *Administrative Personnel Other Than the Superintendent*.

LEGAL REF.: 10 ILCS 5/4-6.2.
105 ILCS 5/2-3.53a, 5/10-20.14, 5/10-21.4a, 5/10-23.8a, 5/10-23.8b, and 5/24A-15.
105 ILCS 127/.
23 Ill.Admin.Code Parts 35 and 50, Subpart D.

CROSS REF.: 3:50 (Administrative Personnel Other Than the Superintendent), 5:250 (Leaves of Absence)

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⁵ Each district must implement a performance evaluation plan for its principals and assistant principals. (105 ILCS 5/24A-15, 23 Ill.Admin.Code §50.300). A board may substitute this alternative for the first sentence: “The Superintendent or designee shall implement a principal and assistant principal evaluation plan that complies with State law.” The statutory deadline for evaluating principals and assistant principals depends on whether the individual’s employment contract is for one year or multiple years: (1) the evaluation of individuals on a single-year contract must take place annually by March 1, and (2) the evaluation of individuals on a multi-year contract must take place by March 1 of the contract’s final year. (105 ILCS 5/24A-15). Individual contracts may require an earlier deadline.

⁶ Required by 105 ILCS 5/10-21.4a and 5/24A-15. For a principal who also serves as the district superintendent, the evaluator must be appointed by the school and not be the person whose performance as principal is being evaluated. (23 Ill.Admin.Code §50.300). In addition, the evaluator must hold a valid professional educator license endorsed for superintendent issued under Article 21B and have completed the prequalification process and any retraining, as applicable. Add this option if appropriate: “...or, in the absence of the Superintendent or his or her designee, an individual appointed by the School Board who holds a valid professional educator license endorsed for superintendent.”