

General Personnel

Employee Ethics; Conduct; and Conflict of Interest 1

Professional and Appropriate Conduct

All District employees are expected to maintain high standards in their school relationships, to demonstrate integrity and honesty, to be considerate and cooperative, and to maintain professional and appropriate relationships with students, parents, staff members, and others.² In addition, the *Code of Ethics for Illinois Educators*, adopted by the Illinois State Board of Education, is incorporated by reference into this policy.³ Any employee who sexually harasses a student, willfully or negligently fails to report an instance of suspected child abuse or neglect as required by the Abused and Neglected Child Reporting Act (325 ILCS 5/),⁴ or otherwise violates an employee conduct standard will be subject to discipline up to and including dismissal. ⁵

Statement of Economic Interests

The following employees must file a *Statement of Economic Interests* as required by the Illinois Governmental Ethics Act: ⁶

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

¹ The State Officials and Employees Ethics Act (5 ILCS 430/), requires a policy on a subject-matter covered in this sample policy; State and federal law controls its content. This policy contains items 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.

² 105 ILCS 5/10-22.39 requires each board to conduct in-service training on educator ethics, teacher-student conduct, and school employee-student conduct for all personnel. These expectations will be most effective when the in-service curriculum reflects local conditions and circumstances. While the School Code only requires the in-service, the requirement presents an opportunity for each board and the superintendent to examine all current policies, collective bargaining agreements, and administrative procedures on this subject. Each board may then want to have a conversation with the superintendent and direct him or her to develop a curriculum for the in-service that instructs all district staff to maintain boundaries and act appropriately, professionally, and ethically with students. See discussion in third option of f/n 3, 5:100, *Staff Development Program*. After its discussion of these issues, the board may have further expectations and may choose to reflect those expectations here.

775 ILCS 5/2-109, added by P.A. 101-221, eff. 1-1-20, requires districts to provide annual workplace sexual harassment prevention training to all employees. See f/n 4 in policy 5:20, *Workplace Harassment Prohibited*, for further detail about the training requirements.

³ 23 Ill.Admin.Code Part 22. Boards are not required to include ISBE's *Code of Ethics for Illinois Educators* in a board policy. Incorporating it by reference into a policy demonstrates a board's commitment to the *Code's* principles and may allow a board to enforce the *Code* independently from any action taken by the State Superintendent.

Use this optional sentence to establish a requirement that the board can monitor: "The Superintendent or designee shall identify appropriate employee conduct standards and provide them to staff members." Sample conduct standards are contained in administrative procedure 5:120-AP2, *Employee Conduct Standards*. Consult the board attorney for advice on whether the board must offer to negotiate employee conduct standards with the applicable exclusive bargaining representative before establishing them.

⁴ 325 ILCS 5/4(a)(4), amended by P.A. 101-564, eff. 1-1-20; 105 ILCS 5/10-23.12(c) (all district employees), added by P.A. 101-531; 105 ILCS 5/21B-75(b) (teachers), amended by P.A. 101-531.

⁵ This sentence is optional. 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 7:20, *Harassment of Students Prohibited*, and of an employee by 5:20, *Workplace Harassment Prohibited*.

⁶ 5 ILCS 420/4A-101. Any county clerk may use a mandatory system of Internet-based filing of economic interest statements; if done, the clerk must post the statements, without the addresses, of the filers, on a publicly accessible website. 5 ILCS 420/4A-108.

1. Superintendent;
2. Building Principal;
3. Head of any department;
4. Any employee who, as the District’s agent, is responsible for negotiating one or more contracts including collective bargaining agreement(s), in the amount of \$1,000 or greater;
5. Hearing officer;
6. Any employee having supervisory authority for 20 or more employees; and
7. Any employee in a position that requires an administrative or a chief school business official endorsement.

Ethics and Gift Ban

School Board policy 2:105, *Ethics and Gift Ban*, applies to all District employees.⁷ Students shall not be used in any manner for promoting a political candidate or issue.

Prohibited Interests; Conflict of Interest; and Limitation of Authority

In accordance with Section 22-5 of the School Code, “no school officer or teacher shall be interested in the sale, proceeds, or profits of any book, apparatus, or furniture used or to be used in any school with which such officer or teacher may be connected,” except when the employee is the author or developer of instructional materials listed with the Illinois State Board of Education and adopted for use by the Board.⁸ An employee having an interest in instructional materials must file an annual statement with the Board Secretary. ⁹

For the purpose of acquiring profit or personal gain, no employee shall act as an agent of the District nor shall an employee act as an agent of any business in any transaction with the District. This includes participation in the selection, award or administration of a contract supported by a federal award or State award governed by the Grant Accountability and Transparency Act (GATA) (30 ILCS 708/) when the employee has a real or apparent conflict of interest.¹⁰ A conflict of interest arises

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⁷ The State Officials and Employees Ethics Act prohibits State employees from engaging in certain political activities and accepting certain gifts. 5 ILCS 430/. The Act requires all school districts to adopt an *ordinance or resolution* “in a manner no less restrictive” than the Act’s provisions. See policy 2:105, *Ethics and Gift Ban*.

Districts may not inhibit or prohibit employees from petitioning, making public speeches, campaigning for or against political candidates, speaking out on public policy questions, distributing political literature, making campaign contributions, and seeking public office. 50 ILCS 135/, Governmental Employees Political Rights Act. An employee may not use his/her position of employment to coerce or inhibit others in the free exercise of their political rights or engage in political activities at work. *Id.*

⁸ This sentence quotes 105 ILCS 5/22-5 because the statute does not define important terms making it difficult to paraphrase. No appellate decision defines *school officer* or *apparatus*, or what is meant by *connected*. The statute was enacted in 1961 but earlier versions were in the School Code much longer. A violation of this prohibition is a Class A misdemeanor.

⁹ *Id.*

¹⁰ 2 C.F.R. §200.318(c)(1) prohibits employees, officers, or agents of a school district from participating in the selection, award, or administration of a contract supported by a federal award if they have a real or apparent *conflict of interest*. The uniform federal rules on procurement standards in 2 C.F.R. Part 200 also apply to eligible State grants through the Grant Accountability and Transparency Act (GATA)(30 ILCS 708/.) Authoritative sources and guidance regarding conflict of interest and financial disclosure are provided through the GATA Resource Library at www.grants.illinois.gov. See also the Ill. State Board of Education’s *Procurement and Purchasing Checklist* at: www.isbe.net/Pages/Audit-and-Monitoring-Review-Requirements-and-Tools.aspx.

when an employee or any of the following individuals has a financial or other interest in the entity selected for the contract:

1. Any person that has a close personal relationship with an employee that may compromise or impair the employee's fairness and impartiality, including a member of the employee's immediate family or household;
2. An employee's business partner; or
3. An entity that employs or is about to employ the employee or one of the individuals listed in one or two above. ¹¹

Employees shall neither solicit nor accept gratuities, favors, or anything of monetary value from contractors, potential contractors, or parties to agreements or contracts.¹² Situations in which the interest is not substantial or the gift is an unsolicited item of nominal value must comply with State law and Board policy 2:105, *Ethics and Gift Ban*. ¹³

Outside Employment

Employees shall not engage in any other employment or in any private business during regular working hours or at such other times as are necessary to fulfill appropriate assigned duties.

Incorporated

by reference: 5:120-E (Code of Ethics for Illinois Educators)

LEGAL REF.:

U.S. Constitution, First Amendment.
2 C.F.R. §200.318(c)(1).
5 ILCS 420/4A-101, Ill. Governmental Ethics Act.
5 ILCS 430/, State Officials and Employee Ethics Act.
30 ILCS 708/, Grant Accountability and Transparency Act.
50 ILCS 135/, Local Governmental Employees Political Rights Act.
105 ILCS 5/10-22.39 and 5/22-5.
325 ILCS 5/, Abused and Neglected Child Reporting Act.
775 ILCS 5/5A-102, Ill. Human Rights Act.
23 Ill.Admin.Code Part 22, Code of Ethics for Illinois Educators.
Pickering v. Board of Township H.S. Dist. 205, 391 U.S. 563 (1968).
Garcetti v. Ceballos, 547 U.S. 410 (2006).

CROSS REF.:

2:105 (Ethics and Gift Ban), 4:60 (Purchases and Contracts), 5:100 (Staff Development Program), 5:125 (Personal Technology and Social Media; Usage and Conduct)

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¹¹ Id.

¹² Id.

¹³ Id. The rule provides flexibility for school districts to “set standards for situations in which the financial interest is not substantial or the gift is an unsolicited item of nominal value,” along with “disciplinary actions to be applied for violations.” Referring to sample policy 2:105, *Ethics and Gift Ban* for these standards provides clarity and consistency. Policy 2:105, *Ethics and Gift Ban*, refers to **Limitations on Receiving Gifts** in the Ethics Act at 5 ILCS 430/10-10 – 10-30, along with discussion of the specific penalties available under the Ethics Act at 5 ILCS 430/50-5 in its **Enforcement** subhead.

General Personnel

Administrative Procedure - Statement of Economic Interests for Employees

Date	Action
Upon initial employment	All employees who are required to file a statement of economic interests (see School Board policy 5:120, <i>Employee Ethics; Conduct; and Conflict of Interest</i>) must file such a statement upon initial employment if employed by May 1. 5 ILCS 420/4A-105(c).
On or before February 1, annually ¹	Superintendent or designee shall certify to the appropriate county clerks a list of names and addresses of employees who are required to file a statement of economic interests (see School Board policy 5:120, <i>Employee Ethics; Conduct; and Conflict of Interest</i>). The list shall set out the names in alphabetical order by county of residence. The Superintendent or designee shall send the list to county clerks of the counties in which those employees reside, or if any employee resides outside of Illinois, to the county clerk of the county in which the District’s principal office is located. 5 ILCS 420/4A-106.5, added by P.A. 101-221.
On or before April 1, annually	County clerk of each county shall notify employees whose names have been certified to him or her of the requirements for filing statement of economic interests. 5 ILCS 420/4A-106.5, added by P.A. 101-221.
On or before May 1, annually	All employees who are required to file a statement of economic interests (see Board policy 5:120, <i>Employee Ethics; Conduct; and Conflict of Interest</i>) must file a statement of economic interests with the county clerk of the county in which the principal District office is located (5 ILCS 420/4A-106.5), unless he or she has already filed a statement in relation to the District within the calendar year. 5 ILCS 420/4A-105.
After January 1, 2011	Any county clerk who uses a system of Internet-based filing of economic interest statements must: (1) post the contents of statements, without filers’ addresses or signatures, that were filed using the Internet on a publicly accessible website, and (2) otherwise comply with 5 ILCS 420/4A-108. The times for the filing of statements of economic interests set forth in Section 4A-105 must be followed in any system of Internet-based filing.

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¹ Confirm the February 1st deadline with the county clerk because the deadline no longer appears in 5 ILCS 420/106.5, added by P.A. 101-221.

General Personnel

Administrative Procedure - Employee Conduct Standards 1

Professional and ethical behavior is expected of all District staff members. The standards listed below serve as a notice of expected conduct. The standards are intended to protect the health, safety, and general welfare of students and employees, ensure the community a degree of accountability within the School District, and define misconduct justifying disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal. The listed standards are not a complete list of expectations, and depending on the factual context, an employee may be disciplined for conduct that is not specifically listed. The conduct standards apply to all District employees to the extent they do not conflict with an applicable collective bargaining agreement; in the event of a conflict, the provision is severable and the applicable bargaining agreement will control. In addition, each educator must comply with 5:120-E, *Code of Ethics for Illinois Educators*, adopted by the Ill. State Board of Education (ISBE) (23 Ill.Admin.Code Part 22).

All school employees shall:

1. Exhibit positive examples of preparedness, punctuality, attendance, self-control, language, and appearance.
2. Exemplify honesty and integrity. Violations of this standard include, but are not limited to, falsifying, misrepresenting, omitting, or erroneously reporting the professional qualifications of oneself or another individual or information submitted in connection with job duties or during the course of an official inquiry/investigation.
3. Maintain a professional relationship with all students, both in and outside the school and attend all in-service trainings on educator ethics, teacher-student conduct, and school, employee-student conduct for all personnel (105 ILCS 5/10-22.39). Violations of this standard include, but are not limited to: (a) committing any act of child abuse or cruelty to children; (b) willfully or negligently failing to report an instance of suspected child abuse or neglect as required by the Abused and Neglected Child Reporting Act (325 ILCS 5/); (c) engaging in harassing behavior; (d) soliciting, encouraging, or consummating an inappropriate written, verbal, or physical relationship with a student; and (e) furnishing

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¹ This procedure is a tool to assist local consideration of employee conduct standards and should not be automatically added to the district's procedure or personnel manual. Many districts already have collective bargaining agreements and/or personnel manuals addressing conduct and misconduct. These items are subjects of mandatory collective bargaining. Moreover, an employee conduct code is most effective when it reflects local conditions and circumstances. As employee conduct rules are frequently litigated, obtaining legal advice is a necessary part of their development.

The introductory paragraph recognizes that an applicable collective bargaining agreement will supersede a conflicting provision of the procedure. It also provides coverage for those employees who are not included in a bargaining unit. **This language, however, does not relieve a district from its collective bargaining mandate because the district would still be adopting conduct rules without bargaining.** Use the following alternative when the district intends to use the conduct rules for only those employees who are not represented by an exclusive bargaining agent:

The employee conduct standards apply to only those District employees who are not represented by an exclusive bargaining representative.

Our sample policies contain many personnel conduct rules. The following policies authorize the superintendent or designee to develop and implement procedures, e.g., conduct standards: 5:120, *Employee Ethics; Conduct; and Conflict of Interest*; and 3:40, *Superintendent*.

tobacco, alcohol, cannabis, or any other illegal/unauthorized substance, including e-cigarettes, to any student or allowing a student under his or her supervision to use tobacco, alcohol, cannabis (including medical cannabis unless the student is authorized to be administered a medical cannabis infused product by the school employee pursuant to *Ashley's Law*²), or any other illegal/unauthorized substance.

4. Maintain a safe and healthy environment, free from being impaired by and/or under the influence of prohibited substances to ensure high quality performance for the District and its students. The use of illegal drugs and/or abuse and misuse of alcohol, drugs, and other lawful products³ while on District premises or while performing work for the District diminishes the District's credibility and ability to educate students⁴ about drug and substance abuse prevention pursuant to Board policy 6:60, *Curriculum*. Violations of this standard include, but are not limited to, engaging in any of the prohibited activities listed in the District's drug- and alcohol-free workplace policy.⁵ Examples include using or being impaired by or under the influence of illegal drugs; abusing, misusing, and/or being impaired by or under the influence of alcohol, drugs, and/or other lawful products⁶ when performing work for the District when impairment is detectable regardless of when and/or where the use occurred; and/ or using or being impaired or under the influence of or possessing medical cannabis⁷ in a school bus or on school grounds.
5. Maintain a safe and healthy environment, free from harassment, intimidation, bullying, hazing, and violence, and free from bias and discrimination. Violations of this standard include, but are not limited to: (a) unless specifically permitted by the Firearm Concealed Carry Act, carrying a firearm on or into any District controlled building, real property, or parking area, or any transportation vehicle paid for in whole or in part with public funds;⁸ (b) willfully or negligently failing to immediately report suspected cases of child abuse or neglect or of gender harassment;⁹ (c) knowingly failing to report hazing to supervising educational authorities or, in the event of death or great bodily harm, to law enforcement;¹⁰ and (d) failing to appropriately respond to a witnessed or reported incident of student-on-student bullying, harassment, hazing, or teen dating violence.
6. Comply with the Professional Testing Practices for Educators, prepared and published by ISBE for educators who administer any standardized test (at www.isbe.net/Documents/prof-test-prac.pdf). This document contains numerous examples of actions that violate test security; actions that must not be part of test preparation; actions that must not occur during test administration; and actions that must be avoided when reporting test results.

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² See f/n 11 in policy 7:190, *Student Behavior*, for a discussion of medical cannabis and *Ashley's Law*.

³ The Right to Privacy in the Workplace Act (RPWA) prohibits discrimination based on use of lawful products off premises during non-working and non on-call hours, e.g., alcohol, tobacco, and cannabis. 820 ILCS 55/5, amended by P.A. 101-27. But see f/n 7, below.

⁴ 105 ILCS 5/27-13.2 and 23.4 (provided it can be funded by private grants or the federal government).

⁵ See policy 5:50, *Drug- and Alcohol-Free Workplace; E-Cigarette, Tobacco, and Cannabis Prohibition*.

⁶ 820 ILCS 55/5, amended by P.A. 101-27, allows employers to regulate employees' use of lawful products which impair an employee's ability to perform assigned duties.

⁷ An employer may discipline any employee, including one who is a *registered qualifying patient*, for violating a drug-free workplace policy. 410 ILCS 130/50 and 705/10-35(a)(1), added by P.A. 101-27.

⁸ Firearm Concealed Carry Act, 430 ILCS 66/65(a)(1), (2), and (8).

⁹ 325 ILCS 5/4(a)(4), amended by P.A. 101-564, eff. 1-1-20; 105 ILCS 5/10-23.12(c) (all district employees), added by P.A. 101-531; 105 ILCS 5/21B-75(b) (teachers), amended by P.A. 101-531.

¹⁰ 720 ILCS 5/12C-50.1.

7. Honor the public trust when entrusted with public funds and property by acting with a high level of honesty, accuracy, and responsibility. Violations of this standard include, but are not limited to: (a) misusing public or school-related funds; (b) failing to account for funds collected from students or parents/guardians; (c) submitting fraudulent requests for reimbursement of expenses or for pay; (d) co-mingling District or school funds with personal funds or checking accounts; and (e) using school property without the approval of the supervising school official.
8. Maintain integrity with students, colleagues, parents/guardians, community members, and businesses concerning business dealings and when accepting gifts and favors. Violations of this standard include, but are not limited to, soliciting students or parents/guardians to purchase supplies or services from the employee or to participate in activities that financially benefit the employee without fully disclosing the interest.
9. Respect the confidentiality of student and personnel records, standardized test material, and other information covered by confidentiality agreements. Violations of this standard include, but are not limited to: (a) disclosing confidential information concerning student academic and disciplinary records, health and medical information, family status and/or income, and assessment/testing results, unless disclosure is required or permitted by law; and (b) disclosing confidential information restricted by State or federal law.
10. Demonstrate conduct that follows generally recognized professional standards and attend all in-service trainings on educator ethics, teacher-student conduct, and school employee-student conduct for all personnel (105 ILCS 5/10-22.39). Unethical conduct is any conduct that impairs the employee's ability to function professionally in his or her employment position or a pattern of behavior or conduct that is detrimental to the health, welfare, discipline, or morals of students.
11. Comply with all State and federal laws and rules regulating public schools and School Board policies, including but not limited to: 2:105 (Ethics and Gift Ban), 5:10 (Equal Employment Opportunity and Minority Recruitment), 5:20 (Workplace Harassment Prohibited), 5:30 (Hiring Process and Criteria), 5:50 (Drug- and Alcohol-Free Workplace; E-Cigarette, Tobacco, and Cannabis Prohibition), 5:60 (Expenses), 5:90 (Abused and Neglected Child Reporting), 5:100 (Staff Development Program), 5:120 (Employee Ethics; Conduct; and Conflict of Interest), 5:130 (Responsibilities Concerning Internal Information), 5:140 (Solicitations By or From Staff), 5:170 (Copyright), 5:180 (Temporary Illness or Temporary Incapacity), 5:200 (Terms and Conditions of Employment and Dismissal), 5:230 (Maintaining Student Discipline), 5:280 (Duties and Qualifications), 5:290 (Employment Termination and Suspensions), 6:235 (Access to Electronic Networks), 7:20 (Harassment of Students Prohibited), 7:180 (Prevention of and Response to Bullying, Intimidation, and Harassment), 7:190 (Student Behavior), 7:340 (Student Records), and 8:30 (Visitors to and Conduct on School Property).

Conviction of any employment disqualifying criminal offense listed in 105 ILCS 5/10-21.9 or 5/21B-80 will result in dismissal.

Before disciplinary action is taken, the supervisor will conduct a fair and objective investigation to determine whether the employee violated a standard or other work rule and the extent that any violation impacts educational or operational activities, effectiveness, or efficiency. Discipline must be appropriate and reasonably related to the seriousness of the misconduct and the employee's record. Any applicable provision in a contract, bargaining agreement, or State law will control the disciplinary process.

General Personnel

Personal Technology and Social Media; Usage and Conduct 1

Definitions

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

Social media - Media for social interaction, using highly accessible communication techniques through the use of web-based and mobile technologies to turn communication into interactive dialogue.² This includes, but is not limited to, services such as *Facebook*, *LinkedIn*, *Twitter*, *Instagram*, *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.⁴ This includes laptop computers (e.g., laptops, ultrabooks, and chromebooks), tablets (e.g., iPads®, Kindle®, Microsoft Surface®, and other Android® platform or Windows® devices), smartphones (e.g., iPhone®, BlackBerry®, Android® platform phones, and Windows Phone®), and other devices (e.g., iPod®).⁵

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¹ This policy is optional. Consult the board attorney because personal technology and social media involve an unprecedented area of the law. Public employees’ First Amendment rights involve an unsettled area of the law. 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; 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.A. 101-531 (allows suspensions or revocations of certificates for abuse or neglect of a child, willful or negligent failure to report suspected child abuse or neglect, *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. Board of Education of City of Chicago*, 356 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 6 & 7 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.”

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 a frequently cited Wikipedia definition at www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Social_media. Merriam-Webster’s definition is at www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/social%20.

³ Optional. A board may want to add other sites. As of July 2019, the publication *eBizMBA Inc.* lists the top four social networking sites as Facebook, YouTube, Twitter, and Instagram, respectively.

⁴ *Personal technology* is not yet defined. It is the title of a weekly column in *The Wall Street Journal*. The column was created and is authored by Walt Mossberg, who frequently directs readers to his review of new technologies on a website titled *All Things Digital* at to www.allthingsd.com/author/walt/. Many of the reviewed devices operate as described in this sample definition.

⁵ Optional.

Usage and Conduct ⁶

All District employees who use personal technology and social media shall: ⁷

1. Adhere to the high standards for appropriate school relationships required by policy 5:120, *Employee Ethics; 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 policy 5:20, *Workplace Harassment Prohibited*; 5:100, *Staff Development Program*; 5:120, *Employee Ethics; Conduct; and Conflict of Interest*; 6:235, *Access to Electronic Networks*; 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. Comply with policy 5:130, *Responsibilities Concerning Internal Information*. This means that personal technology and social media may not be used to share, publish, or transmit information about or images of students and/or District employees without proper approval. For District employees, proper approval may include implied consent under the circumstances. ⁸
5. Refrain from using the District's logos without permission and follow Board policy 5:170, *Copyright*, and all District copyright compliance procedures. ⁹

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⁶ 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 7. 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.*

⁷ 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 2 of policy 5:120, *Employee Ethics; Conduct; and Conflict of Interest*, for more discussion about how to initiate this conversation and f/n 3 of policy 5:100, *Staff Development Program*. 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.

⁸ 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 Facebook.

⁹ 17 U.S.C. §101 *et seq.*

6. 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. **10**
7. 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. **11**
8. 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. **12**

The Superintendent shall: **13**

1. Inform District employees about this policy during the in-service on educator ethics, teacher-student conduct, and school employee-student conduct required by Board policy 5:120, *Employee Ethics; 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.

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10 105 ILCS 5/24-9; Fair Labor Standards Act, 29 U.S.C. §201 *et seq.* See also f/ns 1 and 6 above.

11 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 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.

12 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 7:20, *Harassment of Student Prohibited*, and of an employee by 5:20, *Workplace Harassment Prohibited*.

13 105 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 Board policy 5:120, *Employee Ethics; Conduct; and Conflict of Interest*."

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 County Community School 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 School 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).

3. Build awareness of this policy with students, parents, and the community.
4. Ensure that no one for the District, or on its behalf, requests of an employee or applicant access in any manner to his or her social networking website or requests passwords to such sites. **14**
5. Periodically review this policy and any procedures with District employee representatives and electronic network system administrator(s) and present proposed changes to the Board.

LEGAL REF.: 105 ILCS 5/21B-75 and 5/21B-80.
 Ill. Human Rights Act, 775 ILCS 5/5A-102.
 Code of Ethics for Ill. Educators, 23 Ill.Admin.Code §22.20.
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.: 5:20 (Workplace Harassment Prohibited), 5:30 (Hiring Process and Criteria),
 5:100 (Staff Development Program), 5:120 (Employee Ethics; 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)

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

14 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 19 in 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.

General Personnel

Personnel Records ¹

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:

1. An employee will be given access to his or her personnel records according to State law and guidelines developed by the Superintendent. ²
2. 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.
3. Anyone having the respective employee's written consent may have access.
4. Access will be granted to anyone authorized by State or federal law to have access.
5. 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."

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. In addition, 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, amended by P.A. 101-531) 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).

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 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 DCFS. ⁵

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.: 745 ILCS 46/10.
820 ILCS 40/.
23 Ill.Admin.Code §1.660.

CROSS REF.: 2:250 (Access to District's Public Records), 7:340 (Student Records)

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

3. *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 or severe physical abuse, 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. 101-531. If the responsive record is more than four years old and is related to an incident or an attempted incident of sexual abuse or severe physical abuse, the request cannot be denied. 820 ILCS 40/8, amended by P.A. 101-531. 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. 101-531.

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.

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), amended by P.A. 101-564, eff. 1-1-20, 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*.

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
- Form I-9 required under the Immigration Reform and Control Act ²
- 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) 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 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 For information on Form I-9, see *Handbook for Employers, Instructions for Completing Form I-9*, at: www.uscis.gov/files/form/m-274.pdf. The Ill. Right to Privacy in the Workplace Act (820 ILCS 55/) imposes requirements on employers who use the E-Verify Program, see: www2.illinois.gov/idol/Laws-Rules/legal/Documents/everify.pdf#search=e%2Dverify%20program and www2.illinois.gov/idol/Laws-Rules/legal/Documents/everify.pdf#search=e%2Dverify%20program.

³ 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).

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 ⁵

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, amended by P.A. 101-531.

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:

The footnotes should be removed before the material is used.

⁴ 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.

⁵ 820 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)).

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 or severe physical abuse, 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 P.A. 101-531.
2. If the responsive record is more than four years old and is related to an incident or an attempted incident of sexual abuse or severe physical abuse, the request cannot be denied. 820 ILCS 40/8, amended by P.A. 101-531.

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. 101-531.
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. 101-531.

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.

LEGAL REF.: 5 ILCS 140/, Freedom of Information Act.
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.

Professional Personnel

Teacher Qualifications ¹

A teacher, as the term is used in this policy, refers to a District employee who is required to be licensed under State law.² The following qualifications apply:

1. Each teacher must: ³
 - a. Have a valid Illinois Professional Educator License issued by the State Superintendent of Education with the required endorsements as provided in the School Code.
 - b. Provide the District Office with a complete transcript of credits earned in institutions of higher education.
 - c. On or before September 1 of each year, unless otherwise provided in an applicable collective bargaining agreement, provide the District Office with a transcript of any credits earned since the date the last transcript was filed.
 - d. Notify the Superintendent of any change in the teacher's transcript.
2. All teachers working in a program supported with federal funds under Title I, Part A must meet applicable State certification and licensure requirements. ⁴

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 concerns an area in which the law is unsettled.

² 105 ILCS 5/21B et seq., amended by P.A. 100-596; 23 Ill.Admin. Code §1.610 et seq., §1.705 et seq., Part 25, amended at 42 Ill.Reg. 8830, and 105 ILCS 5/27-24.2, amended by P.A. 101-450 (contracted driver education teacher).

School boards may participate in the Illinois Teacher Corps; however as of 9-1-11 individuals may no longer be admitted to Illinois Teacher Corps programs. 105 ILCS 5/21-11.4, repealed on 6-30-13.

³ Subparagraph 1a is required for all teachers by 105 ILCS 5/21B-15 (qualifications of educators). Four types of educator licenses are listed in 105 ILCS 5/21B-20, amended by P.A. 100-596: (1) Professional Educator License; (2) Educator License with Stipulations (including endorsements for alternative provisional educator, alternative provisional superintendent, career and technical educator, provisional career and technical educator, transitional bilingual educator, language, visiting international educator, paraprofessional educator, chief school business official, provisional in-state educator, school support personnel intern, and special education area); (3) Substitute Teaching License; and (4) until 6-30-23, Short-Term Substitute Teaching License. Districts may not require an individual who holds a valid Professional Educator License or Educator License with Stipulations to seek or hold a Substitute Teaching License to teach as a substitute teacher. 105 ILCS 5/21B-20(3), added by P.A. 100-596. See also 23 Ill.Admin.Code §1.610 et seq., §1.705 et seq., and Part 25, amended at 42 Ill.Reg. 8830 (per §25.100, teachers are no longer endorsed in any course subjects in which they earn grades lower than a "C" in college). The Ill. State Board of Education's (ISBE) *Educator Licensure Information System* (ELIS) is a web-based system that allows educators, administrators, and the public to access licensure information. See www.isbe.net/Pages/Educator-Licensure-Information-System.aspx.

Subparagraph 1b and 1c are required of all teachers by 105 ILCS 5/24-23. Some boards add the word "official" to the phrase, "complete official transcript of credits."

Subparagraph 1d is optional but informs the superintendent when a teacher may be eligible to change lanes on the salary schedule.

⁴ The *highly qualified* teacher requirement of the No Child Left Behind Act, formerly found in §6319 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA, 20 U.S.C. §6319), was repealed by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA, Pub. L. 114-95, eff. 12-10-15). ESEA federal implementing regulation 34 C.F.R. §200.55 was updated on 7-7-17 (82 Fed. Reg. 31706), however State implementing regulations at 23 Ill. Admin.Code Part 25, Appendix D have not been updated yet. In *Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) Frequently Asked Questions* (8-12-16) (www.isbe.net/Documents/ESSA-faq.pdf), ISBE advised that districts did not need to comply with the *highly qualified* teacher requirement during the 2016-17 school year.

The Superintendent or designee shall:

1. Monitor compliance with State and federal law requirements that teachers be appropriately licensed; **5**
2. Through incentives for voluntary transfers, professional development, recruiting programs, or other effective strategies, ensure that minority students and students from low-income families are not taught at higher rates than other students by unqualified, out-of-field, or inexperienced teachers; and
3. Ensure parents/guardians of students in schools receiving Title I funds are notified of their right to request their students' classroom teachers' professional qualifications. **6**

LEGAL REF.: 20 U.S.C. §6312(e)(1)(A).
105 ILCS 5/10-20.15, 5/21-11.4, 5/21B-15, 5/21B-20, 5/21B-25, and 5/24-23.
23 Ill.Admin.Code §1.610 et seq., §1.705 et seq., and Part 25.

CROSS REF.: 6:170 (Title I Programs)

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

ESEA, as amended by ESSA, requires that each state plan contain assurances that the state educational agency will ensure that all teachers and paraprofessionals meet state certification/licensure requirements. 20 U.S.C. §6311(g)(2)(J).

5 See the ISBE webpage on educator licensure approval requirements at www.isbe.net/Pages/educator-licensure-approvals.aspx.

ESEA, as amended by ESSA, requires districts to provide parents timely notice that the parent's child has been assigned, or has been taught for four or more consecutive weeks by, a teacher who does not meet applicable State certification or licensure requirements at the grade level and subject area in which the teacher has been assigned. 20 U.S.C. §6312(e)(1)(B)(ii). For a sample notice, see 5:190-E2, *Notice to Parents When Their Child Is Assigned To or Has Been Taught for at Least Four Straight Weeks By a Teacher Who Does Not Meet Applicable State Certification/Licensure Requirements*.

6 20 U.S.C. §6312(e)(1)(A).

Professional Personnel

Terms and Conditions of Employment and Dismissal ¹

The School Board delegates authority and responsibility to the Superintendent to manage the terms and conditions for the employment of professional personnel. The Superintendent shall act reasonably and comply with State and federal law as well as any applicable collective bargaining agreement in effect. The Superintendent is responsible for making dismissal recommendations to the Board consistent with the Board's goal of having a highly qualified, high performing staff. ²

School Year

Teachers shall work according to the school calendar adopted by the Board, which shall have a minimum of 176 student attendance days and a minimum of 180 teacher work days, including teacher institute days.³ Teachers are not required to work on legal school holidays unless the District has followed applicable State law that allows it to hold school or schedule teachers' institutes, parent-teacher conferences, or staff development on the third Monday in January (the Birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.); February 12 (the Birthday of President Abraham Lincoln); the first Monday in March (known as Casimir Pulaski's birthday); the second Monday in October (Columbus Day); and November 11 (Veterans' Day). ⁴

School Day

Teachers are required to work the school day adopted by the Board.⁵ Teachers employed for at least four hours per day shall receive a duty-free lunch equivalent to the student lunch period, or 30 minutes, whichever is longer. ⁶

The District accommodates employees who are nursing mothers according to provisions in State and federal law. ⁷

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 items 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. The local collective bargaining agreement may contain provisions that exceed these requirements. In such cases, the board policy should be amended to state, "Please refer to the applicable collective bargaining agreement."

Evaluation, tenure, and dismissals changed significantly from 2013 to 2016 as P.A.s 96-861, 97-8, and 98-513 were implemented. These public acts are referred to as *Education Reform* or *Education Reform Acts*.

² This paragraph is consistent with the IASB's *Foundational Principles of Effective Governance*. Boards have three options for using this paragraph: (1) use it as an introduction to the policy; (2) use it alone leaving the specific other topics for administrative implementation; or (3) do not use it.

³ 105 ILCS 5/10-19, amended by P.A. 101-12. See 6:20, *School Year Calendar and Day*.

⁴ 105 ILCS 5/24-2(b). See 5:330, *Sick Days, Vacation, Holidays, and Leaves*, for a holiday listing as well as a discussion of the case finding the State-mandated school holiday on Good Friday unconstitutional. 105 ILCS 5/24-2 prohibits districts from making a deduction "from the time or compensation of a school employee on account of any legal or special holiday."

⁵ A school day is required to consist of a minimum of five clock hours under the direct supervision of a teacher or non-teaching personnel or volunteer personnel that provides non-teaching or supervisory duties as specified in 105 ILCS 5/10-22.34(a) in order to qualify as a full day of attendance. 105 ILCS 5/10-19.05(a), added by P.A. 101-12. See www.isbe.net/school-calendar for ISBE's instructional day changes notice regarding this law. See 105 ILCS 5/10-19.05, added by P.A. 101-12, for additional exceptions to the attendance calculation.

⁶ 105 ILCS 5/24-9.

Salary

Teachers shall be paid according to the salaries fixed by the Board, but in no case less than the minimum salary provided by the School Code.⁸ Teachers shall be paid at least monthly on a 10- or 12-month basis. ⁹

Assignments and Transfers

The Superintendent is authorized to make teaching, study hall, extra class duty, and extracurricular assignments.¹⁰ In order of priority, assignments shall be made based on the District's needs and best interests, employee qualifications, and employee desires.

School Social Worker Services Outside of District Employment

School social workers may not provide services outside of their District employment to any student(s) attending school in the District. *School social worker* has the meaning stated in 105 ILCS 5/14-1.09a. ¹¹

Dismissal

The District will follow State law when dismissing a teacher. ¹²

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

⁷ 740 ILCS 137/; 820 ILCS 260/, amended by P.A. 100-1003. Ill. law requires more of employers than federal law. Consult the board attorney to ensure the district is properly accommodating nursing mothers. See 5:10-AP, *Workplace Accommodations for Nursing Mothers*.

⁸ 105 ILCS 5/10-20.7, 5/10-21.1, 5/24-1, and 5/24-8, amended by P.A. 101-443, eff. 6-1-20, beginning with the 2020-2021 school year, (minimum salary). Salaries are a mandatory subject of collective bargaining. 115 ILCS 5/10. Annually, by Oct. 1, each district must: (1) during an open school board meeting, report salary and benefits information for the superintendent, administrators, and teachers; (2) publish that information on the district's website, if any; and (3) provide this information to ISBE. 105 ILCS 5/10-20.47. According to a Public Access Counselor (PAC) *Informal Mediation* letter interpreting Sec. 7.3 of the Open Meetings Act (OMA) (5 ILCS 120/7.3), an IMRF employer must post on its website the names of employees having a total compensation package that exceeds \$75,000 per year. 2012 PAC 19808 (Informal Mediation by the Ill. Attorney General's Public Access Counselor (PAC); see PAC Annual Report for 2012 at www.foia.ilattorneygeneral.net/pdf/Public_Access_Counselor_Annual_Report_2012.pdf).

⁹ 105 ILCS 5/24-21.

¹⁰ Districts are required to have a policy on the distribution of the listed assignments. 23 Ill.Admin.Code § 1.420(d).

Absent an individual or collective bargaining agreement, the board has unilateral discretion to assign or retain a teacher to or in an extracurricular duty. *Betebenner v. Bd. of Educ.*, 336 Ill.App. 448 (4th Dist. 1949); *Dist. 300 Educ. Assoc. v. Bd. of Educ.*, 31 Ill.App.3d 550 (2nd Dist. 1975); *Lewis v. Bd. of Educ.*, 181 Ill.App. 3d 689 (5th Dist. 1989).

¹¹ Optional. This subhead provides information to district employees and the community that 105 ILCS 5/14-1.09a, amended by P.A. 100-356, prohibits school social workers from moonlighting by providing services to students attending the districts in which they are employed. Delete "~~5/10-20.60, 5/14-1.09a,~~" from the Legal References if the board deletes this subhead.

¹² All dismissal laws in the chart below were amended by the *Education Reform Acts*. Beginning with 2020-2021 school year, 105 ILCS 5/24A-5.5, added by P.A. 101-591, requires districts to develop and implement a local appeals process for unsatisfactory ratings issued to teachers under 105 ILCS 5/24A-5. Districts must: (1) develop the process in cooperation with the bargaining unit or teachers, if applicable, and (2) include an assessment of the original rating by a panel of qualified evaluators agreed to by the PERA joint committee (105 ILCS 5/24A-4(b)).

Non-tenure Teacher Discharge	105 ILCS 5/24-11
Tenured and Non-tenure Teachers Reduction in Force	105 ILCS 5/24-12(b) and (c)
Tenured Teacher Discharge Where Cause Remediable	105 ILCS 5/24-12(d) (prior reasonable warning required) 105 ILCS 5/24-12(d) (procedural mandates) 105 ILCS 5/10-22.4 (general authority)

Evaluation

The District’s teacher evaluation system will be conducted under the plan developed pursuant to State law. 13

On an annual basis, the Superintendent will provide the Board with a written report which outlines the results of the District’s teacher evaluation system.

LEGAL REF.: 105 ILCS 5/10-19, 5/10-19.05, 5/10-20.65, 5/14-1.09a, 5/22.4, 5/24-16.5, 5/24-2, 5/24-8, 5/24-9, 5/24-11, 5/24-12, 5/24-21, 5/24A-1 through 24A-20.
820 ILCS 260/1 et seq.
23 Ill.Admin.Code Parts 50 (Evaluation of Educator Licensed Employees) and 51 (Dismissal of Tenured Teachers).
Cleveland Bd. of Educ. v. Loudermill, 470 U.S. 532(1985).

CROSS REF.: 5:290 (Employment Termination and Suspensions), 6:20 (School Year Calendar and Day)

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Tenured Teacher Discharge Where Cause Irremediable	105 ILCS 5/24-12(d) (no prior warning required) 105 ILCS 5/24-12(d) (procedural mandates) 105 ILCS 5/10-22.4 (general authority)
Tenured Teacher Discharge Failure to complete remediation plan with a rating of <i>Proficient</i>	105 ILCS 5/24A-5(m) (participation in remediation plan after unsatisfactory evaluation) 105 ILCS 5/24-12(d)(1) (no prior warning required if cause(s) were subject of remediation plan) 105 ILCS 5/24-12(d) (procedural mandates) 105 ILCS 5/10-22.4 (general authority)
Tenured Teacher Discharge - Optional Alternative Evaluative Dismissal Process for PERA Evaluation Failure to complete remediation plan with a <i>Proficient</i> or better rating 105 ILCS 5/24A-2.5	105 ILCS 5/24-16.5(d) (provide written notice) 105 ILCS 5/24-16.5 (pre-remediation and remediation procedural mandates) 105 ILCS 5/24-16.5(e) and (f) (school board makes final decision with only PERA-trained board members participating in vote)
Tenured Teacher Discharge <i>Unsatisfactory</i> PERA evaluation within 36 months of completing a remediation plan 105 ILCS 5/24A-2.5	105 ILCS 5/24A-5(n) (forego remediation and proceed to dismissal) 105 ILCS 5/24-12(d) (procedural mandates) 105 ILCS 5/10-22.4 (general authority)
Educational Support Personnel Employees (non-licensed)	105 ILCS 5/10-23.5, amended by PA. 101-46
Probationary Teacher (non-tenure teacher)	105 ILCS 5/24-11

Various components of a RIF (e.g., impact and decision to RIF) and an evaluation plan (e.g., development, implementation, and impact) may be subject to mandatory collective bargaining. Central City Educ. Assoc. v. IELRB, 149 Ill.2d 496 (Ill. 1992).

Teacher RIF procedures were changed by 105 ILCS 5/24-12. See *PERA Overview for School Board Members*, question 13, “What is the process for selecting teachers for a reduction in force/layoff (RIF)” at: www.iasb.com/law/PERAoverview.pdf.

According to a binding opinion from the Ill. Public Access Counselor, a board must identify an employee by name in a motion to dismiss him or her. PAO 13-16. As this may be a significant change in practice with possible other legal consequences, a board should consult with the board attorney on this issue before dismissing employee.

13 Teacher evaluation plans are covered in *PERA Overview for School Board Members* at: www.iasb.com/law/PERAoverview.pdf.

Professional Personnel

Substitute Teachers ¹

The Superintendent may employ substitute teachers as necessary to replace teachers who are temporarily absent.

A substitute teacher must hold either a valid teaching or substitute license or short-term substitute license and may teach in the place of a licensed teacher who is under contract with the Board.² There is no limit on the number of days that a substitute teacher may teach in the District during the school year, except as follows: ³

1. A substitute teacher holding a substitute license may teach for any one licensed teacher under contract with the District only for a period not to exceed 90 paid school days in any one school term.
2. A teacher holding a Professional Educator License⁴ or Educator License with Stipulations⁵ may teach for any one licensed teacher under contract with the District only for a period not to exceed 120 paid school days.
3. A short-term substitute teacher holding a short-term substitute teaching license may teach for any one licensed teacher under contract with the District only for a period not to exceed five consecutive school days. ⁶

The Illinois Teachers' Retirement System (TRS) limits a substitute teacher who is a TRS annuitant to substitute teaching for a period not to exceed 120 paid days or 600 paid hours in each school year, but not more than 100 paid days in the same classroom. Beginning July 1, 2020, a substitute teacher who is a TRS annuitant may substitute teach for a period not to exceed 100 paid days or 500 paid hours in

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¹ State law controls this policy's content. Policy 5:30, *Hiring Process and Criteria*, contains the requirements for pre-employment investigations, e.g., a fingerprint based criminal history records check. See also 5:30-AP2, *Investigations*. Each board may require new substitute teacher employees to furnish evidence of physical fitness to perform duties assigned and must require new substitute teacher employees to furnish evidence of freedom from communicable disease. 105 ILCS 5/24-5(b-5), added by P.A. 100-855. Evidence may consist of a physical examination, which must be performed within 90 days before the time it is presented to the board, and the substitute teacher bears the cost of the physical examination. Id. A new or existing substitute teacher may also be subject to additional health examinations as required by the Ill. Dept. of Public Health or by order of a local public health official. Id.

² 23 Ill.Admin.Code §1.790(a)(2), added by 41 Ill.Reg. 6924, requires that any individual who serves as a substitute teacher for driver's education be endorsed for driver's education pursuant to 23 Ill.Admin.Code §25.100(k), amended at 42 Ill.Reg. 8884.

³ Substitute teaching licenses are governed by 105 ILCS 5/21B-20(3), amended by P.A. 100-596; 23 Ill.Admin.Code §1.790, amended at 42 Ill.Reg. 11551; and 23 Ill.Admin.Code §25.520, amended at 42 Ill.Reg. 8930.

⁴ Professional educator licenses are governed by 105 ILCS 5/21B-20(1) and 23 Ill.Admin.Code Part 25, amended at 42 Ill.Reg. 8830.

⁵ Educator licenses with stipulations are governed by 105 ILCS 5/21B-20(2), amended by P.A. 100-596, and 23 Ill.Admin.Code Part 25, amended at 42 Ill.Reg. 8830. 105 ILCS 5/21B-20(2)(E), amended by P.A. 100-13, permits an individual who holds a valid career and technical educator endorsement on an Educator License with Stipulations but who does not hold a bachelor's degree to substitute teach in career and technical education classrooms. Similarly, 105 ILCS 5/21B-20(2)(F), amended by P.A. 100-13, permits an individual who holds a provisional or part-time provisional career and technical educator endorsement on an Educator License with Stipulations but who does not hold a bachelor's degree to substitute teach in career and technical education classrooms.

⁶ 105 ILCS 5/21B-20(4), added by P.A. 100-596. Districts may not hire a short-term substitute teacher for teacher absences lasting six or more days. Id.

any school year, unless the subject area is one where the Regional Superintendent has certified that a personnel shortage exists. ⁷

The School Board establishes a daily rate of pay for substitute teachers. Substitute teachers receive only monetary compensation for time worked and no other benefits. ⁸

Short-Term Substitute Teachers ⁹

A short-term substitute teacher must hold a valid short-term substitute teaching license and have completed the District's short-term substitute teacher training program.¹⁰ Short-term substitutes may teach no more than five consecutive school days for each licensed teacher who is under contract with the Board. ¹¹

Emergency Situations ¹²

A substitute teacher may teach when no licensed teacher is under contract with the Board if the District has an emergency situation as defined in State law. During an emergency situation, a substitute teacher is limited to 30 calendar days of employment per each vacant position. The Superintendent shall notify the appropriate Regional Office of Education within five business days after the employment of a substitute teacher in an emergency situation.

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

⁷ 40 ILCS 5/16-118, amended by P.A. 100-596 (specifying permissible paid days and hours for TRS annuitants), and 16-150.1, amended by P.A. 101-49 (TRS annuitants may return to teaching in a subject shortage area until 6-30-21). Use this alternative for districts in suburban Cook County: replace "Regional Superintendent" with "appropriate Intermediate Service Center."

⁸ If a board provides substitute teachers other benefits, it may consider listing them here.

⁹ 105 ILCS 5/21B-20(4), added by P.A. 100-596, governs Short-Term Substitute Teaching Licenses, which may be issued from 7-1-18 until 6-30-23. Short-Term Substitute Teaching Licenses are not eligible for endorsements. *Id.* Applicants for a Short-Term Substitute Teaching License must hold an associate's degree or have completed at least 60 credit hours from a regionally accredited institution of higher education. Individuals who have had their Professional Educator License or Educator License with Stipulations suspended or revoked are not eligible to be short-term substitutes. *Id.* Short-term substitutes may not be hired for teacher absences lasting six or more days. *Id.* 105 ILCS 5/21B-20(4) repeals on 7-1-23.

¹⁰ 105 ILCS 5/10-20.68, added by P.A. 100-596, requires boards to conduct this training. This requirement provides an opportunity for each board and the superintendent to examine all current policies, collective bargaining agreements, and administrative procedures on this subject. Each board may then want to have a conversation with the superintendent and direct him or her to develop a curriculum for a short-term substitute teacher training program that provides individuals who hold a Short-Term Substitute Teaching License with information on curriculum, classroom management techniques, school safety, and district and building operations. See also 5:220-AP, *Substitute Teachers*, and f/n 3 in 5:220-AP. These expectations will be most effective when they reflect local conditions and circumstances. Training and curriculum for a short-term substitute teacher training program may be subjects of mandatory collective bargaining, therefore consulting with the board attorney should be a part of this process. A district would commit an unfair labor practice by implementing new programs for staff without first offering to negotiate them with the applicable exclusive bargaining representative.

School boards may choose to also offer this training program to individuals who hold a Substitute Teaching License and/or substitute teachers holding a Professional Educator License. This provision repeals on 7-1-23.

¹¹ See f/n 6.

¹² 105 ILCS 5/21B-20(3). An *emergency situation* is defined as one where an unforeseen vacancy has occurred and (i) a teacher is unable to fulfill his or her contractual duties, or (ii) the district's teacher capacity needs exceed previous indications and the district is actively engaged in advertising to hire a fully licensed teacher for the vacant position.

Use this alternative for districts in suburban Cook County: replace "Regional Office of Education" with "appropriate Intermediate Service Center."

LEGAL REF.: 105 ILCS 5/10-20.68, 5/21B-20(2), 5/21B-20(3), and 5/21B-20(4).
23 Ill.Admin.Code §1.790 (Substitute Teacher) and §25.520 (Substitute Teaching License).

CROSS REF.: 5:30 (Hiring Process and Criteria)

Professional Personnel

Administrative Procedure - Substitute Teachers 1

Minimum Qualifications of the Substitute Teacher

Substitute teachers are generally required to have one of the following that is valid in Illinois:

1. Professional educator license or professional educator license with stipulations that required a bachelor's degree for issuance
2. Substitute teaching license

Exceptions in 105 ILCS 5/21B-20(2)(E) and (F) allow individuals who do not hold a bachelor's degree to substitute teach in career and technical education classrooms if they hold an educator license with stipulations and such license holds: a career and technical educator endorsement; a provisional career and technical educator endorsement; or a part-time provisional career and technical educator endorsement.

Additionally, any individual who serves as a substitute teacher for driver's education must be endorsed for driver's education pursuant to 23 Ill.Admin.Code §25.100(k), amended at 42 Ill.Reg. 8884.

Minimum Qualifications of the Short-Term Substitute Teacher 2

Short-term substitute teachers must:

1. Hold a valid Short-Term Substitute Teaching License; and
2. Have completed the District's short-term substitute teacher training program.

The District's short-term substitute teacher training program provides short-term substitutes with information on curriculum, classroom management techniques, school safety, and District and building operations. This training program is also available to individuals who hold a Substitute Teaching License and/or substitute teachers holding a Professional Educator License. ³

Personnel File Requirements

All substitute teachers shall have each of the following documents on file with the District Administrative Office.

1. Completed application for employment and transcript of college credits
2. Evidence of license registration

The footnotes should be removed before the material is used.

¹ These sample procedures must be amended to reflect actual practice. It should be clear who has responsibility for maintaining the substitute list, contacting them, recording work days, and evaluating them. A superintendent may also refer to a Substitute Handbook, if one exists, as well as additional pay provisions.

² 105 ILCS 5/21B-20(4), added by P.A. 100-596, governs Short-Term Substitute Teaching Licenses, which may be issued from 7-1-18 until 6-30-23.

³ 105 ILCS 5/10-20.68, added by P.A. 100-596, requires boards to conduct this training. This provision repeals on 7-1-23. For further discussion see f/n 10 in 5:220, *Substitute Teachers*.

3. Evidence of physical fitness to perform assigned duties and freedom from communicable disease ⁴
4. State and federal tax forms
5. If applicable, Immigration and Naturalization Service, Form I-9
6. Signed *Acknowledgement of Mandated Reporter Status* form provided by DCFS and, if applicable, evidence that the individual completed mandated reporter training within one year of initial employment and at least every five years after that date (required by the Abused and Neglected Child Reporting Act, 325 ILCS 5/4)

Contact ISBE, the ROE, or Intermediate Service Center with questions. More information is on the ISBE website, *Substitute Teacher License* at: www.isbe.net/Pages/Educator-Licensure-Requirements.aspx.

District Responsibilities

1. The Superintendent or designee maintains a list of all substitute teachers in the District Administrative Office.
2. The Superintendent or designee verifies:
 - a. Criminal background check results
 - b. Appropriate license and registration
 - c. References and employment verification

Additional Requirements and Procedures

1. Board policy 4:175, *Convicted Child Sex Offender; Criminal Background Check and/or Screen; Notification*
2. Administrative procedure 4:175-AP1, *Criminal Offender Notification Laws; Screening*
3. Board policy 5:10, *Equal Employment Opportunity and Minority Recruitment*
4. Board policy 5:30, *Hiring Process and Criteria*
5. Administrative procedure 5:30-AP2, *Investigations*
6. Board policy 5:150, *Personnel Records*

Standard Duties of All Substitute Teachers

1. Keep and leave a status report of lesson plans completed and leave a report of the group's accomplishments.
2. Manage all recording of assignments and grading during the time worked as outlined in the applicable collective bargaining agreement or duties for substitute teachers.
3. Prepare plans for the following day's work.
4. Follow the regular teacher's lesson plans.
5. Leave the classroom and its equipment in order.

The footnotes should be removed before the material is used.

⁴ 105 ILCS 5/24-5, amended by P.A. 100-513, states “[a] new or existing employee may be subject to additional health examinations, including tuberculosis screening, as required by rules adopted by the Ill. Dept. of Public Health or by order of a local public health official.” The Ill. Dept. of Public Health does not require school employees to be screened for tuberculosis other than workers in child day care and preschool settings. 77 Ill.Admin.Code §696.140(a)(3).

6. Leave a note reporting any unusual experience with a student during the day.
7. Hold as confidential any information concerning staff, parents, or students.
8. Be consistent in dealing with others; emphasize the positive, yet be firm and sympathetic.
9. When notified in time, arrive at least 20 minutes before the school period starts, and remain on duty at least 20 minutes after dismissal time.
10. Check with the office when reporting for substitute duty, and check with the office before leaving to see if you will be needed the next day.
11. If temporarily or permanently withdrawing from substitute work, so inform the District office.
12. Report any issues you encounter to the Building Principal.

Compensation

1. The rate of pay for substitute teachers is established from time-to-time by the School Board.
2. Substitute teachers are employed and paid for only days actually worked. Substitutes are not paid for holidays, vacation days, or days of illness.

Assignment Procedures

Substitute teachers will be called as needed from the office of the Building Principal. Only individuals who are on the substitute teacher list, as compiled by the Superintendent or designee, may be called for substitute work. Substitute teachers are given as much notice as possible; however, they may be called the morning they are needed.

Building-Level Responsibilities

The person arranging for a substitute teacher's service shall provide each substitute with the information relevant to the service, for example:

1. District map with locations of District schools indicated
2. District and school building emergency procedures, location of emergency equipment, etc.
3. School directory
4. School calendar and handbook
5. District student behavior policy and procedures

LEGAL REF.: 105 ILCS 5/10-20.68, 5/21B-20(2), 5/21B-20(3), 5/21B-20(4), and 5/24-5.
23 Ill.Admin.Code §1.790 (Substitute Teacher) and §25.520 (Substitute Teacher License).

Professional Personnel

Leaves of Absence ¹

Each of the provisions in this policy applies to all professional personnel to the extent that it does not conflict with an applicable collective bargaining agreement or individual employment contract or benefit plan; in the event of a conflict, such provision is severable and the applicable bargaining agreement or individual agreement will control.

Sick and Bereavement Leave ²

Each full-time professional staff member is granted 10 days sick leave each school year at full pay. Unused days are allowed to accumulate to 180 days. Sick leave is defined in State law as personal illness, quarantine at home, serious illness or death in the immediate family or household, or birth, adoption, or placement for adoption.

As a condition for paying sick leave after three days absence for personal illness or 30 days for birth³ or as the Board or Superintendent deem necessary in other cases, the Board or Superintendent may

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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. The introductory paragraph recognizes that an applicable collective bargaining agreement or individual employment contract will supersede a conflicting provision of the policy. It also provides policy coverage for those professional personnel who are not included in a bargaining unit or have employment contracts with conflicting provisions. Alternatively, if the policy's subject matter is superseded by a bargaining agreement, the board policy may state, "Please refer to the applicable collective bargaining agreement."

Districts must coordinate leaves provided by State law and the local bargaining agreement with the leave granted by the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) (29 U.S.C. §2612), amended by Sec. 565 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010 (Pub. L. 111-84). The FMLA grants eligible employees 12 weeks unpaid leave each year for: (1) the birth and first-year care of a child; (2) the adoption or foster placement of a child; (3) the serious health condition of an employee's spouse, parent, or child; (4) the employee's own serious health condition; (5) the existence of any qualifying exigency arising out of the fact that the employee's spouse, son, daughter, or parent is on *covered active duty*; and (6) to care for the employee's spouse, child, parent, or next of kin who is a covered servicemember with a serious injury or illness. Districts are permitted to count paid leave (granted by State law or board policy) taken for an FMLA purpose against an employee's FMLA entitlement. 29 C.F.R. §825.207. See policy 5:185, *Family and Medical Leave*.

A plethora of State laws grant leaves to employees of the State and municipalities but are not applicable to school districts, including the Employee Blood Donation Leave Act (820 ILCS 149/), Local Government Disaster Service Volunteer Act (50 ILCS 122/), Organ Donor Leave Act (5 ILCS 327/), and Civil Air Patrol Leave Act (820 ILCS 148/).

² The provisions in this section are required by 105 ILCS 5/24-6, amended by P.A. 100-513. Each specified number of days in this section is the statutory minimum. Before adopting this policy or applying its provisions, the district should examine any applicable bargaining agreements.

Consult the board attorney about the Employee Sick Leave Act. 820 ILCS 191/. It prohibits employers from limiting the use of sick time to an employee's own illnesses and allows employees to use employer-provided sick leave to care for an ill or injured *family member* or to attend a medical appointment with a family member. The law defines family members as a child, stepchild, spouse, domestic partner, sibling, parent, mother- or father-in-law, grandchild, grandparent, or stepparent. *Id.* at 191/10(b). Leave may be taken under the same terms for which the employee would be permitted to take leave for his or her own illness or injury.

require that the staff member provide a certificate from: (1) a physician licensed in Illinois to practice medicine and surgery in all its branches, (2) a chiropractic physician licensed under the Medical Practice Act, (3) a licensed advanced practice registered nurse, (4) a licensed physician assistant who has been delegated the authority to perform health examinations by his or her supervising physician, or (5) if the treatment is by prayer or spiritual means, a spiritual adviser or practitioner of the employee's faith. If the Board or Superintendent requires a certificate during a leave of less than three days for personal illness, the District shall pay the expenses incurred by the employee.

The use of paid sick leave for adoption or placement for adoption is limited to 30 days unless a longer leave is provided in an applicable collective bargaining agreement. The Superintendent may require that the employee provide evidence that the formal adoption process is underway. ⁴

Child Bereavement Leave ⁵

State law allows a maximum of 10 unpaid work days for eligible employees (Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993, 20 U.S.C. §2601 *et seq.*) to take child bereavement leave. The purpose, requirements, scheduling, and all other terms of the leave are governed by the Child Bereavement Leave Act. Child bereavement leave allows for: (1) attendance by the bereaved staff member at the funeral or alternative to a funeral of his or her child, (2) making arrangements necessitated by the death of the staff member's child, or (3) grieving the death of the staff member's child, without any adverse employment action.

The leave must be completed within 60 days after the date on which the employee received notice of the death of his or her child. However, in the event of the death of more than one child in a 12-month period, an employee is entitled to up to a total of six weeks of bereavement leave during the 12-month period, subject to certain restrictions under State and federal law. Other existing forms of leave may be substituted for the leave provided in the Child Bereavement Leave Act. This policy does not create any right for an employee to take child bereavement leave that is inconsistent with the Child Bereavement Leave Act.

Sabbatical Leave ⁶

Sabbatical leave may be granted in accordance with the School Code.

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³ The School Code does not state a time limit for how sick leave must be taken, including for birth. Some employee and unions have taken the position that the 30 days of sick leave for birth can be used consecutively before and after an intervening summer break. However, an Illinois appellate court found that to interpret 105 ILCS 5/24-6 to allow sick leave for birth to be taken over such a long break was unreasonable and not a fair reading of the statute. *Dynak v. Bd. of Education of Wood Dale Sch. Dist. 7*, 2019 IL App (2d) 180551. Consult the board attorney regarding requests for sick leave when the timing involves an intervening school break.

⁴ 105 ILCS 5/24-6.

⁵ Child Bereavement Leave Act, 820 ILCS 154/. These paragraphs discuss child bereavement leave. 820 ILCS 154/5, defines an *eligible employee* under the same terms as an employee under FMLA (29 U.S.C. 2601 *et seq.*). See f/n 1 above.

The Act also provides that the leave must be completed within 60 days of the employee learning of the death of his or her *child*, as defined by 820 ILCS 154/. However, that 60 day limitation does not apply where more than one child dies in a 12-month period. There may be times where an employer may want to grant more than 10 unpaid work days, e.g., when a deceased child lived in a foreign country, etc. Consult the board attorney to resolve the complexities of determining whether an employee is an eligible employee under the FMLA that would trigger this Act.

⁶ State law provides guidelines for sabbatical leaves but does not require boards to offer them. 105 ILCS 5/24-6.1.

Personal Leave 7

Professional staff members are granted one personal leave day per year. A personal leave day is defined as a day to allow professional personnel time to conduct personal business (but not vacation, travel, or work stoppage), which is impossible to schedule at a time other than during a school day. Any unused personal leave day in a school year will be credited to the cumulative sick leave.

The use of a personal day is subject to the following conditions:

1. Except in cases of emergency or unavoidable situations, personal leave requests should be submitted to the Building Principal three days in advance of the requested date,
2. No personal leave days may be used immediately before or immediately after a holiday unless the Superintendent grants prior approval,
3. Personal leave may not be used in increments of less than one-half day,
4. Personal leave days are subject to a substitute's availability,
5. Personal leave days may not be used during the first and/or last five days of the school year,
6. Personal leave days may not be used on in-service and/or institute training days, and
7. Personal leave may not be used by more than 10% of the teaching staff in each building at the same time.

Leave of Absence Without Pay 8

The Board may grant a leave of absence without pay to tenured professional staff members who have rendered satisfactory service and desire to return to employment in a similar capacity at a time determined by the Board.

Each leave of absence shall be of the shortest possible duration required to meet the leave's purpose consistent with a reasonable continuity of instruction for students.

Leave to Serve as an Election Judge 9

Any staff member who was appointed to serve as an election judge under State law may, after giving at least 20-days' written notice to the District, be absent without pay for the purpose of serving as an election judge. The staff member is not required to use any form of paid leave to serve as an election judge. No more than 10% of the District's employees may be absent to serve as election judges on the same Election Day.

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

⁷ State law does not address personal leave. It is not uncommon for professional staff to be granted more than one day of personal leave a year.

⁸ State law does not address leaves of absence without pay other than stating that a mutually agreed leave will not affect a teacher's contractual continued service. 105 ILCS 5/24-13.

⁹ This paragraph restates 10 ILCS 5/13-2.5. The statute does not state whether the notice requirement is *calendar* days or *business* days. Support for it being *calendar* days is found in 10 ILCS 5/1-6; support for it being *business* days is found in 10 ILCS 5/1-3.

Rather than duplicate the statute's requirements in separate policies, policy 5:330, *Sick Days, Vacation, Holidays, and Leaves*, grants the leave to support personnel on the terms applicable to professional staff.

Child-Rearing Leave 10

The Board shall grant a professional staff member's request for a non-paid, child-rearing leave, not to exceed the balance of the school year plus one additional school year (but in no event shall such leave exceed three semesters), provided the request complies with this policy. Nothing in this section shall prohibit a professional staff member from using paid sick days as provided in this policy. 11

A teacher should request, if possible, a child-rearing leave by notifying the Superintendent in writing no later than 90 days before the requested leave's beginning date.12 The request should include the proposed leave dates. The leave shall end before a new school year begins or before the first day of school after winter recess. 13

Subject to the insurance carrier's approval, the teacher may maintain insurance benefits at his or her own expense during a child-rearing leave.

A professional staff member desiring to return before the leave's expiration will be assigned to an available vacancy for which the teacher is qualified, subject to scheduling efficiency and instruction continuity.

Leaves for Service in the Military 14

Leaves for service in the U.S. Armed Services or any of its reserve components and the National Guard, as well as re-employment rights, will be granted in accordance with State and federal law. A professional staff member hired to replace one in military service does not acquire tenure.

General Assembly Leave 15

Leaves for service in the General Assembly, as well as re-employment rights, will be granted in accordance with State and federal law. A professional staff member hired to replace one in the General Assembly does not acquire tenure.

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

10 The School Code does not address child-rearing. FMLA grants eligible employees a combined total of 12 weeks each year, with exceptions for teachers at the end of the school year, for, among other things, a child's: (1) birth and first-year care, and (2) adoption or foster placement (see policy 5:185, *Family and Medical Leave*). Districts not covered by the FMLA must treat a request for child-care leave to care for an adopted infant on terms comparable to those given biological mothers. McWright v. Alexander, 982 F.2d 222 (7th Cir. 1992).

11 Districts offering a child-rearing or maternity leave must be very careful not to violate anti-discrimination laws. Districts can prohibit pregnant teachers from combining paid disability leave with an unpaid maternity leave, provided that non-pregnant teachers are likewise prohibited from combining a paid disability leave with an unpaid general leave of absence. Maganuco v. Leyden Comm. High Sch. Dist. 212, 939 F.2d 440 (7th Cir., 1991); U.S. v. Consol. High Sch. Dist. 230, 983 F.2d 790 (7th Cir. 1993); E.E.O.C. v. Elgin Teachers' Ass'n., 780 F.Supp. 1195 (N.D.Ill. 1991). A sick leave bank exclusion of maternity benefits violates Title VII. U.S. v. Consol. High Sch. Dist. 230, *supra*.

12 The length of the notice - here 90 days - is *not* covered by State or federal law. If an employee fails to provide this notice, the employee still has the right to request a family and medical leave which has a much shorter notice requirement (see policy 5:185, *Family and Medical Leave*), and could be followed by a child-rearing leave.

13 For a high school, omit "the first day of school after winter recess" and insert "at the semester break." Alternatively, the board may want to be more flexible by stating:

Every effort shall be made to have the leave minimally interrupt instructional continuity by ending . . .

14 Required by the School Code (105 ILCS 5/10-20.7b, 5/24-13, and 5/24-13.1); the Service Member Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (330 ILCS 61/, added by P.A. 100-1101, streamlining several job-related protection laws into one statute, mandating leave for *active service*, and requiring the public employer to make up the difference between military pay and regular compensation); and the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (38 U.S.C. §4301 *et seq.*).

15 Required by 105 ILCS 5/24-13.

Leave for Employment in Department of Defense 16

The Board may grant teachers a leave of absence to accept employment in a Dept. of Defense overseas school.

School Visitation Leave

An eligible professional staff member is entitled to eight hours during any school year, no more than four hours of which may be taken on any given day, to attend school conferences, behavioral meetings, or academic meetings related to the teacher's child, if the conference or meeting cannot be scheduled during non-work hours.¹⁷ Professional staff members must first use all accrued vacation leave, personal leave, compensatory leave, and any other leave that may be granted to the professional staff member, except sick, and disability leave. ¹⁸

The Superintendent shall develop administrative procedures implementing this policy consistent with the School Visitation Rights Act. ¹⁹

Leaves for Victims of Domestic Violence, Sexual Violence, or Gender Violence 20

An unpaid leave from work is available to any staff member who: (1) is a victim of domestic violence, sexual violence, or gender violence, or (2) has a family or household member who is a victim of such violence whose interests are not adverse to the employee as it relates to the domestic violence, sexual violence, or gender violence. The unpaid leave allows the employee to seek medical help, legal assistance, counseling, safety planning, and other assistance without suffering adverse employment action.

The Victims' Economic Security and Safety Act governs the purpose, requirements, scheduling, and continuity of benefits, and all other terms of the leave. Accordingly, if the District employs at least 50 employees, an employee is entitled to a total of 12 work weeks of unpaid leave during any 12-month period.²¹ Neither the law nor this policy creates a right for an employee to take unpaid leave that

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¹⁶ State law provides guidelines for Dept. of Defense leaves but does not require boards to offer them. 105 ILCS 5/24-13.1.

¹⁷ 820 ILCS 147/15, amended by P.A. 101-486, eff. 8-1-20.

¹⁸ *Id.* The school visitation leave entitlement applies to both professional and educational support personnel. Rather than duplicate its requirements in separate policies, policy 5:330, *Sick Days, Vacation, Holidays, and Leaves*, grants the leave on the same terms applicable to professional staff.

¹⁹ 820 ILCS 147/. Parents of children with *serious health conditions* may also be eligible to use FMLA leave for individualized education program (IEP) meetings. See U.S. Dept. of Labor *Wage and Hour Division Opinion Letter*, FMLA 2019-2-A (8-8-19), available at: www.dol.gov/whd/opinion/search/index.htm?FMLA.

²⁰ Required by the Victims' Economic Security and Safety Act, (VESSA) (820 ILCS 180/, amended by P.A. 101-221, eff. 1-1-20, and 56 Ill.Admin.Code §280). *Gender violence* means: (1) one or more acts of violence or aggression that is 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, eff. 1-1-20. *Sexual violence* is not specifically defined in VESSA. While the law applies to all school districts (820 ILCS 180/10(10)), the number of employees determines the number of total workweeks of leave available during any 12-month period (820 ILCS 180/20(a)(2)). The term *employee* includes part-time workers. The Ill. Dept. of Labor must furnish to all employers a notice summarizing the law's requirements (*Your Rights Under Illinois Employment Laws* at: www2.illinois.gov/idol/Documents/flsposter.pdf#search=Your%20Rights%20Under%20Illinois%20Employment%20Laws). All districts must post this notice in a conspicuous place where notices to employees are customarily posted.

²¹ If the district employs fewer than 50 employees, it may substitute the following sentence: "Accordingly, if the District employs at least 15 but not more than 49 employees, an employee is entitled to a total of eight work weeks of unpaid leave during any 12-month period." 820 ILCS 180/20(a)(2).

exceeds the unpaid leave time allowed under, or is in addition to the unpaid leave time permitted by, the federal Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 (29 U.S.C. §2601 et seq.). ²²

Leaves to Serve as an Officer or Trustee of a Specific Organization

Upon request, the Board will grant: (1) an unpaid leave of absence to an elected officer of a State or national teacher organization that represents teachers in collective bargaining negotiations,²³ (2) twenty days of paid leave of absence per year to a trustee of the Teachers' Retirement System in accordance with 105 ILCS 5/24-6.3,²⁴ and (3) a paid leave of absence for the local association president of a State teacher association that is an exclusive bargaining agent in the District, or his or her designee, to attend meetings, workshops, or seminars as described in 105 ILCS 5/24-6.2. ²⁵

LEGAL REF.: 10 ILCS 5/13-2.5
105 ILCS 5/24-6, 5/24-6.1, 5/24-6.2, 5/24-6.3, 5/24-13, and 5/24-13.1.
330 ILCS 61/, Service Member Employment and Reemployment Rights Act.
820 ILCS 147/, School Visitation Rights Act.
820 ILCS 154/, Child Bereavement Leave Act.
820 ILCS 180/, Victims' Economic Security and Safety Act.

CROSS REF.: 5:180 (Temporary Illness or Temporary Incapacity), 5:185 (Family and Medical Leave), 5:330 (Sick Days, Vacation, Holidays, and Leaves)

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

If the district employs at least one but not more than 14 employees, it may substitute the following sentence: "Accordingly, if the District employs at least one but not more than 14 employees, an employee is entitled to a total four (4) work weeks of leave during any 12-month period." 820 ILCS 180/20(a)(2).

²² VESSA states that an employee does not have a right to take unpaid leave that exceeds the unpaid leave time allowed under the FMLA. 820 ILCS 180/20(a)(2). Section 25 creates an ambiguity by stating, "[t]he employer may not require the employee to substitute available paid or unpaid leave for [leave available to victims of domestic violence, sexual violence, or gender violence]," 820 ILCS 180/25, amended by P.A. 101-221, eff. 1-1-20. Contact the board attorney for advice resolving this ambiguity.

²³ Required by 105 ILCS 5/24-13.

²⁴ Required by 105 ILCS 5/24-6.3. See policy 5:330, *Sick Days, Vacation, Holidays, and Leaves*, for the leave for an elected trustee for the Ill. Municipal Retirement Fund.

²⁵ Required by 105 ILCS 5/24-6.2.

Professional Personnel

Administrative Procedure - School Visitation Leave 1

Eligible employees

These administrative procedures apply to both professional staff and educational service personnel. An employee is eligible for a school visitation leave if he or she has worked for the District at least six consecutive months immediately before the request and works at least one-half of the full-time equivalent position. 820 ILCS 147/40. Periods when school is not in session will not count as a break in consecutive service. ²

School Visitation Leave

An employee is entitled to eight hours during any school year, no more than four hours of which may be taken on any given day, to attend school conferences, behavioral meetings, or academic meetings related to the employee's child, if the conference or meeting cannot be scheduled during non-work hours. Employees must first use all accrued vacation leave, personal leave, compensatory leave, and any other leave that may be granted to the employee, except sick and disability leave. 820 ILCS 147/15.

Request

An employee must request a school conference and activity leave in writing at least seven days in advance; in an emergency situation, 24 hours' notice is required. The employee must consult with the employer to schedule the leave so as to minimize disruption. 820 ILCS 147/15. A leave request may be denied if granting the leave would result in more than 5% of the work force, or work force shift, taking leave at the same time. 820 ILCS 147/49.

Compensation

A school visitation leave is unpaid. The District will attempt, however, to give the employee the opportunity to make-up the time taken for such a leave, subject to the requirements relating to reduction of pay of exempt employees in the federal Fair Labor Standards Act. 820 ILCS 147/20. The employee taking a visitation leave will not lose any benefits. 820 ILCS 147/35.

Verification

An employee returning from a school visitation leave must provide the Building Principal with verification of the visitation from the school administrator of the school visited. Failure to provide this verification within two working days of the visitation will subject the employee to the standard disciplinary procedures for unexcused absences from work. 820 ILCS 147/30.

LEGAL REF.: 820 ILCS 147/, School Visitation Rights Act.

The footnotes should be removed before the material is used.

¹ The School Visitation Rights Act applies to only those districts employing at least 50 people (820 ILCS 147/40). Modify this procedure to align with board policy. Customize it to reflect the district's practice, particularly to specify the district's treatment of eligible employees.

² This provision is not in State law, but is consistent with other laws concerning school employees.

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 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 Community Notification Law (730 ILCS 154/75-105).

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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 P.A. 101-531. 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.

³ 105 ILCS 5/10-21.9(g), amended by P.A. 101-531. 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 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 The requirements for *physical fitness* and *freedom from communicable disease* apply to student teachers as of 7-16-14. 105 ILCS 5/24-5.

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 Department of State Police, to the Department of State Police.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.: Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act, P.L. 109-248.
Uniform Conviction Information Act, 20 ILCS 2635/1.
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), amended by P.A. 101-531. See also 20 ILCS 2635/7(A)(1).

⁶ 105 ILCS 5/10-21.9(g), amended by P.A. 101-531. 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 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.

Educational Support Personnel

Drug and Alcohol Testing for School Bus and Commercial Vehicle Drivers 1

The District shall adhere to State and federal law and regulations requiring a drug and alcohol testing program for school bus and commercial vehicle drivers. The Superintendent or designee manages a program to implement State and federal law defining the circumstances and procedures for the testing. ²

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

¹ State and federal law controls this policy's content. The federal Omnibus Transportation Testing Act of 1991 requires that all persons subject to commercial driver's license requirements be tested for alcohol, marijuana, cocaine, amphetamines, opiates (including heroin), and phencyclidine (PCP). Cannabis remains a *Schedule I* (c)(17) controlled substance under federal law (21 U.S.C. §812) meaning it has no currently accepted medical use in treatment. Federal drug testing requirements for commercial and school bus drivers, including random testing, are unaffected by the legalization of cannabis for medical and recreational use at the State level. See 5:285-AP, *Drug and Alcohol Testing for School Bus and Commercial Vehicle Drivers* and U.S. Dept. of Transportation's *Recreational Marijuana Notice* (12-3-12) ("We want to make it perfectly clear that the state initiatives will have no bearing on the Department of Transportation's regulated drug testing program. **The Department of Transportation's Drug and Alcohol Testing Regulation – 49 CFR Part 40 – does not authorize the use of Schedule I drugs, including marijuana, for any reason.**")(emphasis added) and *Medical Marijuana Notice* (4-29-19), available at: www.transportation.gov/odapc/program-guidance. State law continues to permit the imposition of civil and criminal penalties for being school bus permit drivers who use cannabis while on duty. 410 ILCS 705/10-35(a)(9).

625 ILCS 5/6-106.1c contains State law requirements for reasonable suspicion drug and alcohol testing of school bus driver permit holders. If an employer has reasonable suspicion to believe that a school bus driver permit holder is under the influence of alcohol, drugs, or intoxicating compounds, the employer must require the permit holder to undergo testing at a licensed testing facility before driving any vehicle for which a school bus driver permit is required. The employer's reasonable suspicion must be based on specific, contemporaneous observations of the appearance, behavior, speech, or body odors. 49 CFR §382.307. State law makes employers of school bus driver permit holders who do not hold commercial driver's licenses subject to federal law regarding reasonable suspicion testing. The employer must report to the Ill. Secretary of State if the permit holder refuses testing or if the testing reveals the presence of alcohol, drugs, or intoxicating compounds. A school bus permit holder whose test discloses any amount of alcohol or drugs, or who refuses testing, will have his or her school bus permit suspended for three years.

State law also allows for drug and alcohol testing for any driver on a public roadway; i.e., *implied consent*. 625 ILCS 5/11-501.1.

Drug testing by government entities constitutes a search of an individual, thereby invoking State and federal constitutional law. In determining whether post-employment testing of a school bus driver is permissible, a court will balance the privacy interests of the employee against the district's interest. *International Brotherhood of Teamsters v. Department of Transportation*, 932 F.2d 1292 (9th Cir. 1991). For districts that employ staff members in positions requiring a commercial driver's license, see the U.S. Dept. of Transportation - Office of the Secretary, Office of Drug and Alcohol Policy and Compliance's guidance and best practices document titled **What Employers Need to Know About DOT Drug and Alcohol Testing**, available at: www.transportation.gov/odapc/employer_handbook.

² An optional provision for districts that contract-out their transportation services:

This policy shall not be implemented, and no administrative procedures will be needed, until it is reasonably foreseeable that the District will hire staff for a position(s) requiring a commercial driver's license.

LEGAL REF.: 625 ILCS 5/6-106.1 and 5/6-106.1c.
49 U.S.C. §31306, Alcohol and Controlled Substances Testing (Omnibus Transportation Employee Testing Act of 1991, P.L. 102-143).
49 C.F.R. Parts 40 (Procedures for Transportation Workplace Drug and Alcohol Testing Programs), 382 (Controlled Substance and Alcohol Use and Testing), and 395 (Hours of Service of Drivers).

CROSS REF.: 4:110 (Transportation), 5:30 (Hiring Process and Criteria), 5:280 (Duties and Qualifications)

Educational Support Personnel

Administrative Procedure - Drug and Alcohol Testing for School Bus and Commercial Vehicle Drivers ¹

The District's drug and alcohol testing program shall apply to all individuals in positions that require a commercial driver's license² and those that require an Illinois school bus driver permit.³ This includes casual, intermittent, or occasional drivers, leased drivers and independent owner-operator contractors, as well as full-time, regularly employed drivers.⁴ The Superintendent or designee will identify which positions are covered by the various provisions of this procedure.

Pre-Employment Tests

A pre-employment drug test shall be required of an applicant only after he/she has been offered the position. ⁵

Drug tests shall be conducted before the first time a driver performs any safety-sensitive function for the District.⁶ Safety-sensitive functions include all on-duty functions performed from the time a driver begins work or is required to be ready to work until he/she is relieved from work and all responsibility for performing work.⁷ Exceptions may be made for drivers who have participated in the

The footnotes should be retained.

¹ State and federal law control this procedure. Before using this procedure, a district should seek legal advice concerning the law's requirements, identifying which employees are covered, and determining any collective bargaining implications or bargaining agreement alignment issues. This procedure should not be used by the district to determine the type of licensure a specific position requires. A district that contracts out the testing of employees subject to mandatory drug and alcohol testing should replace this sample procedure with the procedure supplied by its contractor, while retaining those portions that apply to the employer of a school bus driver permit holder, where the district is that employer. IASB sponsors a Drug and Alcohol Testing Consortium administered by the Mid-West Truckers Association. See www.iasb.com/sponsored/datest.cfm for more information.

Federal drug testing requirements for commercial and school bus drivers, including random testing, are unaffected by the legalization of cannabis for medical and recreational use at the State level. See policy 5:285, *Drug and Alcohol Testing for School Bus and Commercial Vehicle Drivers*, at f/n 1 for further information.

² Commercial motor vehicle (CMV) means a motor vehicle or combination of motor vehicles used in commerce to transport passengers or property if the motor vehicle . . . (3) is designed to transport 16 or more passengers, including the driver. 49 C.F.R. §383.5. A commercial driver's license is required of the driver of any vehicle designed to transport 16 or more passengers, including the driver. 49 C.F.R. §383.91(a)(3); 625 ILCS 5/6-500(6)(A)(ii).

³ 625 ILCS 5/1-148.3a-5; 5/1-182; 5/1-217; 5/6-104.

See www.isbe.net/Documents/transportation_admin_manual.pdf for helpful links to ISBE documents.

⁴ Definition of *driver* at 49 C.F.R. §382.107.

⁵ This optional paragraph defers drug testing until after a job offer is made in order to limit the number of applicants tested.

⁶ 49 C.F.R. §382.301(a)-(c). If desired, the district may also do a pre-employment alcohol test as allowed by 49 C.F.R. 382.301(d).

⁷ Definition of *safety-sensitive function* at 49 C.F.R. §382.107. Safety-sensitive function means all time from the time a driver begins to work or is required to be in readiness to work until the time he/she is relieved from work and all responsibility for performing work, including: driving; remaining in readiness to operate the vehicle; waiting to be dispatched; all time, other than driving time, in or upon a commercial motor vehicle; inspecting and servicing equipment; supervising, performing or assisting in loading and unloading; repairing or obtaining and waiting for help with a disabled vehicle; performing other requirements related to accidents; and performing any other work for the district or paid work for any other entity.

drug testing program required by law within the previous 30 days, provided that the District has been able to make all verifications required by law. **8**

Pre-employment testing shall also be required of employees returning to work after a layoff period if the employee was removed from the random testing pool. If the employee remains in the random testing pool, additional testing shall not be necessary.

Controlled Substance Use **9**

Drivers shall inform their supervisors if at any time they are using a drug that their physician has prescribed for therapeutic purposes.¹⁰ Drivers using a Schedule I controlled substance cannot perform safety-sensitive functions.¹¹ Drivers using a non-Schedule I controlled substance may continue to perform safety-sensitive functions only if a licensed medical practitioner who is familiar with the driver's medical history has advised the driver that the substance will not adversely affect his/her ability to safely operate a commercial motor vehicle.¹² If the District has actual knowledge that a driver has used a controlled substance, it shall not permit the driver to perform or continue to perform a safety-sensitive function. **13**

Pre-Duty Use of Alcohol **14**

No driver shall perform safety-sensitive functions within four hours after using alcohol. If the District has actual knowledge that a driver has used alcohol within four hours, it shall not permit the driver to perform or continue to perform safety-sensitive functions.

On-Duty Use of Alcohol **15**

No driver shall use alcohol while performing safety-sensitive functions. If the District has actual knowledge that a driver is using alcohol while performing safety-sensitive functions, it shall not permit the driver to perform or continue to perform safety-sensitive functions.

Post-Accident Tests **16**

Alcohol tests shall be conducted as soon after an accident¹⁷ as practicable on any surviving driver:

1. Who was performing safety-sensitive functions with respect to the vehicle, if the accident involved the loss of human life; or **18**

The footnotes should be retained.

8 49 C.F.R. §382.301(b).

9 49 C.F.R. §382.213.

10 Pursuant to 49 C.F.R. §382.213(d), the district may require a driver to inform the district when using any therapeutic drug.

11 49 C.F.R. §382.213(a).

12 49 C.F.R. §382.213(b).

13 49 C.F.R. §382.213(c).

14 49 C.F.R. §382.207. See sample policy 5:50, *Drug- and Alcohol-Free Workplace; E-Cigarette, Tobacco, and Cannabis Prohibition*, which may be more restrictive than this federal regulation.

15 49 C.F.R. §382.205.

16 A school bus driver operating a school bus at the time of an accident is deemed by the Illinois implied consent law to have given consent to submit to tests to be administered at the direction of a law enforcement officer of the driver's breath, blood, or urine for the purpose of determining the presence of alcohol, or other drugs, in the person's system. 625 ILCS 5/6-516.

17 *Accident* is defined at 49 C.F.R. §390.5.

18 49 C.F.R. §382.303(a)(1).

2. Who receives a citation within eight hours of the occurrence under State or local law for a moving traffic violation arising from the accident, if the accident involved: **19**
 - a. Bodily injury to any person who, as a result of the injury, immediately receives medical treatment away from the scene of the accident; or
 - b. One or more motor vehicles incurring disabling damage²⁰ as a result of the accident, requiring the motor vehicle to be transported away from the scene by a tow truck or other motor vehicle.

Controlled substance tests shall be conducted as soon after an accident as practicable on any surviving driver:

1. Who was performing safety-sensitive functions with respect to the vehicle, if the accident involved loss of human life; **21**
2. Who receives a citation within 32 hours of occurrence under State or local law for a moving traffic violation arising from the accident, if the accident involved:
 - a. Bodily injury to any person who, as a result of the injury, immediately receives medical treatment away from the scene of the accident; or
 - b. One or more motor vehicles incurring disabling damage as a result of the accident, requiring the motor vehicle to be transported away from the scene by a tow truck or other motor vehicle. **22**

Drivers shall make themselves readily available for testing, absent the need for immediate medical attention. **23**

No driver required to take a post-accident alcohol test shall use alcohol for eight hours following the accident, or until he/she undergoes a post-accident alcohol test, whichever occurs first. **24**

If an alcohol test is not administered within two hours following the accident or if a drug test is not administered within 32 hours following the accident, the District shall prepare and maintain records explaining why the test was not conducted.²⁵ Tests will not be given if not administered within eight hours after the accident for alcohol or within 32 hours for drugs. **26**

Tests conducted by authorized federal, State, or local officials shall fulfill post-accident testing requirements provided they conform to applicable legal requirements and are obtained by the District. Breath and blood tests meet the requirements of alcohol testing.²⁷ A urine test meets the requirements of a controlled substances test. **28**

The footnotes should be retained.

19 49 C.F.R. §382.303(a)(2).

20 *Disabling damages* means damage which precludes departure of a motor vehicle from the scene of the accident in its usual manner in daylight after simple repairs. 49 C.F.R. §390.5.

21 49 C.F.R. §382.303(b)(1).

22 49 C.F.R. §382.303(b)(2).

23 49 C.F.R. §382.303(e).

24 49 C.F.R. §382.209.

25 49 C.F.R. §382.303(d)(1)

26 49 C.F.R. §382.303(d)(1); (d)(2).

27 49 C.F.R. §382.303(g)(1).

28 49 C.F.R. §382.303(g)(2).

Random Tests 29

Alcohol and drug tests shall be conducted on a random basis at unannounced times throughout the year. The number of random alcohol and drug tests shall be at least equal to those required by federal regulations. Drivers shall be selected by a scientifically valid random process, and each driver shall have an equal chance of being tested each time selections are made.³⁰ Tests for alcohol shall be conducted just before, during, or just after the performance of safety-sensitive functions. ³¹

Employees off work due to leaves, vacation, and layoffs shall be informed that they remain subject to random testing. Employees drawn for such testing shall be notified and tested as soon as practicable after they return to duty. ³²

Probable Cause Tests (Applicable to School Bus Driver Permit Holders) 33

A driver who has received a Uniform Traffic Ticket while in control of a school bus or any other vehicle owned or operated by or for the District, when the vehicle is being used over a regularly scheduled route for the transportation of persons enrolled as students in grade 12 or below, in connection with any activity of the District, may be tested for alcohol. To justify an alcohol test, a police officer must have probable cause to believe that the driver has consumed any amount of an alcoholic beverage based upon evidence of the driver's physical condition or other first hand knowledge of the police officer.

Upon receipt of a law enforcement officer's sworn report that the test result was positive or that the driver refused to be tested, the Secretary of State will notify both the permit holder and the District of the sanction (sanction is effective on the 46th day following the date notice was given).

Reasonable Suspicion Tests (Applicable to School Bus Driver Permit Holders) 34

An alcohol or drug test shall be conducted if a supervisor or District official trained in accordance with law has reasonable suspicion that a driver has violated the District's alcohol or drug prohibitions. This reasonable suspicion must be based on specific, contemporaneous, articulable observations concerning the driver's appearance, behavior, speech, or body odors. The observations may include indications of the chronic and withdrawal effects of controlled substances. ³⁵

Alcohol tests are authorized for reasonable suspicion only if the required observations are made during, just before, or just after the period of the work day when the driver must comply with alcohol prohibitions.³⁶ An alcohol test may not be conducted by the supervisor or District official who

The footnotes should be retained.

²⁹ 49 C.F.R. §382.305. The random tests described above must be conducted throughout the calendar year, not just at one time. Further, they should not be conducted at the same time each calendar year, and employees should be tested the same day as the tests are announced. Pursuant to 49 C.F.R. §382.305(b), the number of random alcohol tests annually must equal 10 percent of the average number of driver positions and the number of random drug tests annually must equal 25 percent of the average number of driver positions. However, the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration Administrator is authorized to modify these percentages annually based on reported industry violation rates. 49 C.F.R. §382.305(c).

³⁰ 49 C.F.R. §382.305(i).

³¹ 49 C.F.R. §382.305(m).

³² Optional.

³³ 625 ILCS 5/6-106.1a.

³⁴ 625 ILCS 5/6-106.1c. All applicants for a school bus driver permit must consent, in writing, to the release of results of reasonable suspicion drug and alcohol testing under Section 6-106.1c by the employer of the applicant to the Secretary of State. 625 ILCS 5/6-106.1(a)(15).

³⁵ 49 C.F.R. §382.307(a)-(b). Pursuant to 49 C.F.R. §382.603, persons designated to determine whether reasonable suspicion exists must receive at least 60 minutes of training that covers the physical, behavioral, speech, and performance indicators of alcohol misuse and an additional 60 minutes of training covers the indicators of controlled substance use.

³⁶ 49 C.F.R. §382.307(d).

determines that reasonable suspicion exists to conduct such a test.³⁷ If an alcohol test is not administered within two hours following a determination of reasonable suspicion, the District shall prepare and maintain a record explaining why the alcohol test was not promptly administered. If an alcohol test is not administered within eight hours following a determination of reasonable suspicion, the District shall cease attempts to administer the alcohol test and shall state in the record the reasons for not administering the test.³⁸ Notwithstanding the absence of a reasonable suspicion alcohol test, no driver shall report for duty or remain on duty requiring the performance of safety-sensitive functions while he or she is under the influence of or impaired by alcohol. ³⁹

A supervisor or District official who makes observations leading to a controlled substance reasonable suspicion test shall make a written record of his/her observations within 24 hours of the observed behavior or before the results of the drug test are released, whichever is earlier. ⁴⁰

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that an employee under reasonable suspicion is transported to the designated collection or testing site. ⁴¹

The Superintendent or designee shall notify the Secretary of State, in a manner and form prescribed by the Secretary, of the result of a reasonable suspicion test when: (i) the test indicates an alcohol concentration greater than 0.00; (ii) the test indicates a positive result on a National Institute on Drug Abuse five-drug panel utilizing the federal standards set forth in 49 C.F.R. 40.87; or (iii) when a driver refuses testing. The notification to the Secretary must be submitted within 48 hours of the refusal of testing or the employer's receipt of the test results. ⁴²

Commercial Driver's License Drug and Alcohol Clearinghouse Checks for all CDL Drivers ⁴³

Beginning 1-6-20, prior to employment, the District⁴⁴ will conduct a full query of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration's Drug and Alcohol Clearinghouse to obtain information about the

The footnotes should be retained.

³⁷ 49 C.F.R. §382.307(c).

³⁸ 49 C.F.R. §382.307(e)(1).

³⁹ 49 C.F.R. §382.307(e)(2). Except as provided in Section 382.307(e)(2), no employer shall take any action under 49 C.F.R. 382 against a driver based solely on the driver's behavior and appearance, with respect to alcohol use, in the absence of an alcohol test. This does not prohibit an employer with independent authority of this part from taking any action otherwise consistent with the law. 49 C.F.R. §382.307(e)(3).

⁴⁰ 49 C.F.R. §382.307(f).

⁴¹ Optional.

⁴² All provisions in the paragraph are required by 625 ILCS 5/6-106.1c.

⁴³ 49 C.F.R. Part 382, Subpart G. The Drug and Alcohol Clearinghouse is a secure online database that gives employers, the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA), state driver licensing agencies, and state law enforcement real-time information about CDL holders' drug and alcohol program violations. Beginning 1-6-20, employers and consortia/third-party administrators are required to report drug and alcohol program violations to the Clearinghouse and, for a fee, check that no current or prospective employees are prohibited from performing safety-sensitive functions, such as operating a motor vehicle, due to an unresolved drug and alcohol program violations. See www.clearinghouse.fmcsa.dot.gov for comprehensive FAQ information about the Clearinghouse, including information on queries, consent for queries, reporting and recordkeeping obligations. Until 1-6-23, prospective employers must conduct manual inquiries with a driver's previous employers to satisfy the three-year timeframe for pre-employment driver investigations required under 49 C.F.R. §391.23(e). Thereafter, employers will be able to rely on the Clearinghouse to satisfy that requirement, provided the prospective employee was previously subject to drug and alcohol testing through the FMCSA. Employers must retain records of Clearinghouse queries and responses for three years; as of 1-6-23, an employer who maintains a valid Clearinghouse registration satisfies that requirement. 49 C.F.R. §382.701(e).

⁴⁴ An employer may designate a consortium or third-party administrator to perform queries of the Clearinghouse and report violations to the Clearinghouse on its behalf. 49 C.F.R. §382.107.

driver's eligibility under federal rules to perform a safety-sensitive function.⁴⁵ For current employees, the District will, at least annually, conduct a limited query⁴⁶ of the Clearinghouse for each driver. If information exists in the Clearinghouse about the individual driver, the District will conduct a full query within 24 hours to determine the driver's eligibility under federal rules to perform any safety-sensitive function. If the District fails to conduct a full query within 24 hours, it will not allow the driver to continue to perform any safety-sensitive function until it conducts the full query and confirms that the driver may perform such functions.

Enforcement for Non-School Bus Driver Permit Holders

No driver shall report for duty or remain on duty requiring the performance of safety-sensitive functions while having an alcohol concentration of 0.04 or greater. If the District has actual knowledge that a driver has an alcohol concentration of 0.04 or greater, it shall not permit the driver to perform or continue to perform safety-sensitive functions. ⁴⁷

Federal laws require that any driver who refuses to submit to a post-accident, random, reasonable suspicion test, or follow-up test as described below, shall not perform or continue to perform safety-sensitive functions. The District shall not permit a driver who refuses to submit to such tests to perform or continue to perform safety-sensitive functions. ⁴⁸

A driver who is tested and found to have an alcohol concentration of .02 or greater, but less than 0.04, may not perform or continue to perform safety-sensitive functions, including driving a commercial motor vehicle, until the start of the driver's next regularly scheduled duty period, but not less than 24 hours after the test was administered. ⁴⁹

A driver who tests positive for drugs or an alcohol concentration of 0.04 or greater shall be subject to District disciplinary action up to and including dismissal. ⁵⁰

A driver who violates District prohibitions related to drugs and alcohol shall receive from the District the names, addresses, and telephone numbers of substance abuse professionals and counseling and

The footnotes should be retained.

⁴⁵ Under federal rules, no employer can allow a driver to perform any safety-sensitive function if the results of a Clearinghouse query show the driver (1) has a verified positive, adulterated, or substituted controlled substances test result, (2) has an alcohol confirmation test with a concentration of .04 or higher, (3) has refused to submit to a required alcohol or drug test, (4) the employer has *actual knowledge* (see f/n 53) that the driver used alcohol or drug in violation of federal rules, except where the Clearinghouse query demonstrates that the driver has successfully completed all return-to-work requirements. 49 C.F.R. §382.701(d). Bus driver permit holders in Illinois are subject to more stringent standards than the federal rules; see the **Enforcement for School Bus Driver Permit Holders** subhead in this procedure.

⁴⁶ Employers may choose to conduct *full queries* post-employment for their annual (or more frequent) checks of the Clearinghouse, but full queries require drivers to give specific electronic consent through the Clearinghouse for each query. *Limited queries*, which simply alert employers to the existence of a record about resolved or unresolved drug and alcohol program violations, only require an employee's general written consent, which can be effective for more than one year and allow for multiple limited queries. See 49 C.F.R. §§382.701(a)(2) and 382.703. A sample limited consent form will be posted by the FMCSA on the Clearinghouse website for employers' reference. See www.clearinghouse.fmcsa.dot.gov for updates.

⁴⁷ 49 C.F.R. §382.201.

⁴⁸ 49 C.F.R. §382.211.

⁴⁹ 49 C.F.R. §382.505(a). Federal law provides that no employer shall take any action under 49 C.F.R. 382 against a driver based solely on test results showing an alcohol concentration less than 0.04. This does not prohibit an employer with authority independent of this part from taking any action otherwise consistent with law. 49 C.F.R. §382.505(b).

⁵⁰ Federal law prohibits an employer from taking action against a driver based solely on test results showing an alcohol concentration less than .04. State law prohibits discrimination based on the use of lawful products during non-work hours. 820 ILCS 55/5. However, 820 ILCS 55/5 does not apply to the use of those lawful products that impair an employee's ability to perform the employee's assigned duties. In an attempt to find congruity between the state and federal standards, this procedure uses an alcohol concentration of 0.04 or greater as the level at which a Non-School Bus Permit Holders duties would be impaired.

treatment programs available to evaluate and resolve drug and alcohol-related problems. The employee shall be evaluated by a substance abuse professional (SAP) who shall determine what help the driver needs in resolving such a problem. Any SAP who determines that a driver needs assistance shall not refer the driver to a private practice, person, or organization in which he/she has a financial interest, except under circumstances allowed by law. **51**

An employee identified as needing help in resolving a drug or alcohol problem shall be evaluated by a SAP to determine that he/she has properly followed the prescribed rehabilitation program. **52**

If an employee is permitted to return to the performance of safety-sensitive functions, the District will not allow, require, permit or authorize a driver to operate a commercial motor vehicle during any period in which the District determines that a driver is not in compliance with the return-to-duty requirements, after the occurrence of any of the following events:

1. The driver receives a positive, adulterated, or substituted drug test result.
2. The driver receives an alcohol confirmation test result of 0.04 or higher alcohol concentration.
3. The driver refused to submit to a test for drugs or alcohol required by federal regulations.
4. The driver used alcohol prior to a post-accident alcohol test.
5. An employer has *actual knowledge*⁵³ that a driver has:
 - a. Used alcohol while performing safety-sensitive functions;
 - b. Used alcohol within four hours of performing safety-sensitive functions; or
 - c. Used a controlled substance. **54**

Return-to-Duty Tests for Non-School Bus Driver Permit Holders

If a driver who has violated the District's drug or alcohol prohibition is returned to performing safety-sensitive duties, a drug or alcohol test shall be conducted. **55**

The District shall not allow employees whose conduct involved drugs to return to duty in a safety-sensitive function until the return-to-duty drug test produces a verified negative result. The District shall not allow employees whose conduct involved alcohol to return to duty in a safety-sensitive function until the return-to-duty alcohol test indicates an alcohol concentration of 0.02 or less. **56**

The footnotes should be retained.

51 The choice of SAP and assignment of costs shall be made in accordance with employer/driver agreements and employer policies. The assignment of costs of the SAP may be a matter within the scope of negotiations. 49 C.F.R. §40.289(c). As an employer, the district is not required to provide a SAP's evaluation or any subsequent recommended education or treatment for an employee who has violated a DOT drug and alcohol regulation. 49 C.F.R. §289(a).

52 49 C.F.R. §§40.281-40.313; 49 C.F.R. §382.605. If the district offers an employee an opportunity to return to a DOT safety-sensitive duty following a violation, it must, before the employee again performs that duty, ensure that the employee receives an evaluation by a SAP meeting the requirements of §40.281 and that the employee successfully complies with the SAP's evaluation recommendations. 49 C.F.R. §40.289(b).

53 *Actual knowledge* means actual knowledge by an employer that a driver has used alcohol or controlled substances based on the employer's direct observation of the employee, information provided by the driver's previous employer(s), a traffic citation for driving a CMV while under the influence of alcohol or controlled substances or an employee's admission of alcohol or controlled substance use, except as provided in §382.121 (voluntary self-identification program). 49 C.F.R. §382.107.

54 49 C.F.R. §382.217.

55 49 C.F.R. §40.305; 49 C.F.R. §382.605.

56 49 C.F.R. §382.309; 49 C.F.R. §40.305.

Follow-Up Tests for Non-School Bus Driver Permit Holders

A driver who violates the District's drug or alcohol prohibition and is subsequently identified by a SAP as needing assistance in resolving a drug or alcohol problem shall be subject to unannounced follow-up testing as directed by the SAP in accordance with the law.⁵⁷ The District must carry out the substance abuse professional's follow-up testing requirements. ⁵⁸

Follow-up testing shall consist of at least six tests in the first 12 months following the driver's return to duty.⁵⁹ Testing shall not occur beyond 60 months from the date of the driver's return to duty.⁶⁰ The substance abuse professional may terminate the follow-up testing if he/she determines that the employee has successfully demonstrated compliance. ⁶¹

Maintenance of Records for Non-School Bus Driver Permit Holders

Employee drug and alcohol test results and records shall be maintained under strict confidentiality and released only in accordance with the law. Upon written request, a driver shall receive copies of any records pertaining to his/her use of drugs or alcohol, including any records pertaining to his/her drug or alcohol tests. Records shall be made available to a subsequent employer or other identified persons only as expressly requested in writing by the driver. ⁶²

Enforcement for School Bus Driver Permit Holders

In Illinois, a person whose privilege to possess a school bus driver permit has been canceled under 625 ILCS 5/6-106.1a is not eligible for restoration of the privilege until the expiration of three years from the effective date of the cancellation if the person has refused or failed to complete a test or tests to determine blood alcohol concentration, or has submitted to testing with a blood alcohol concentration of more than 0.00. ⁶³

The Ill. Secretary of State must suspend a school bus driver permit for a period of three years upon receiving notice that the holder refused to submit to an alcohol or drug test as required by Section 5/6-106.1c or has submitted to a test required by that Section that disclosed an alcohol concentration of more than 0.00 or disclosed a positive result on a National Institute on Drug Abuse five-drug panel, utilizing federal standards set forth in 49 C.F.R. 40.87. ⁶⁴

A driver who tests positive for drugs or is found to have an alcohol concentration of greater than 0.00 shall have their employment terminated. ⁶⁵

The footnotes should be retained.

⁵⁷ 49 C.F.R. §40.309; 49 C.F.R. §382.311.

⁵⁸ Id.

⁵⁹ 49 C.F.R. §40.307(d); 49 C.F.R. §382.311. The district may schedule follow-up testing on dates of its choosing, but it must ensure that the tests are unannounced with no discernible pattern as to their timing, and that the employee is given no advance notice. 49 C.F.R. §40.309(b).

⁶⁰ 49 C.F.R. §40.307(d)(2).

⁶¹ 49 C.F.R. §40.301(c)(2); 49 C.F.R. §382.311.

⁶² 49 C.F.R. §§382.401-382.405. 49 C.F.R. §§382.401, 382.403 identifies records that the district must keep for varying periods of time in connection with alcohol misuse and controlled substances use prevention programs. 49 C.F.R. §382.405 prohibits the release of information required to be maintained by 49 C.F.R. §382.401 except as required by law.

⁶³ 625 ILCS 5/6-106.1b.

⁶⁴ 625 ILCS 5/6-106.1(g)(7); 92 Ill.Admin.Code §1035.35.

⁶⁵ If handled correctly by the district, the incongruity between State and federal law in this area is a non-issue given that a driver who has had his or her license suspended for a three year period is no longer able to fulfill the duties of the job for which he or she was hired. The district should consult with the board attorney in order to determine how best to move forward with the termination of the suspended driver.

Notifications

Each driver shall receive educational materials that explain the requirements of the Code of Federal Regulations, Title 49, Part 382, together with a copy of the District's policy and regulations for meeting these requirements. Representatives of employee organizations shall be notified of the availability of this information.⁶⁶ The information shall identify all of the following: ⁶⁷

1. The person designated by the District to answer drivers' questions about the materials;
2. The categories of drivers who are subject to the Code of Federal Regulations, Title 49, Part 382;
3. Sufficient information about the safety-sensitive functions performed by drivers to make clear what period of the work day the driver is required to comply with Part 382;
4. Specific information concerning driver conduct that is prohibited by Part 382;
5. The circumstances under which a driver will be tested for drugs and/or alcohol under Part 382, including post-accident testing under §382.303(d);
6. The procedures that will be used to test for the presence of drugs and alcohol, protect the driver and the integrity of the testing processes, safeguard the validity of test results, and ensure that test results are attributed to the correct driver, including post-accident information, procedures and instructions required by §382.303(d); ⁶⁸
7. The requirement that a driver submit to drug and alcohol tests administered in accordance with Part 382;
8. An explanation of what constitutes a refusal to submit to a drug or alcohol test and the attendant consequences;
9. The consequences for drivers found to have violated the drug and alcohol prohibitions of Part 382, including the requirement that the driver be removed immediately from safety-sensitive functions and the procedures for referral, evaluation, and treatment;
10. The consequences for drivers who do not hold a school bus driver permit found to have an alcohol concentration of 0.02 or greater but less than 0.04;
11. The consequences for drivers who hold a school bus driver permit found to have an alcohol concentration over 0.00; ⁶⁹
12. The effects of drugs and alcohol on an individual's health, work, and personal life; signs and symptoms of a drug or alcohol problem (the driver's or a coworker's); and available methods of intervening when a drug or alcohol problem is suspected, including confrontation, referral to an employee assistance program, and/or referral to management;⁷⁰ and

The footnotes should be retained.

⁶⁶ Required by 49 C.F.R. §382.601.

⁶⁷ 49 C.F.R. §382.601(b).

⁶⁸ 49 C.F.R. Part 40 specifies detailed testing procedures that must be used to ensure accuracy, reliability, and confidentiality. These procedures include training and proficiency requirements and requirements for a suitable test location. Firms with which the district contracts for collection and laboratory services can be expected to provide information about the procedures they use; these procedures should be distributed to employees and included in the district's regulation.

⁶⁹ There is no requirement to notify the district and provide information to School Bus Driver Permit holders specifically addressing the legal requirements applicable to them under Illinois law. The district should also inform School Bus Driver Permit holders of the disciplinary consequences for violating any Illinois drug and alcohol laws specifically pertaining to school bus permit holders.

⁷⁰ 49 C.F.R. §382.601(b)(11).

13. Other legal requirements, District policies, and disciplinary consequences related to the use of alcohol and drugs. **71**

Each driver shall sign a statement certifying that he/she has received a copy of the above materials. **72**

Before any driver operates a commercial motor vehicle, the District shall provide him/her with post-accident procedures that will make it possible to comply with post-accident testing requirements. **73**

Before drug and alcohol tests are performed, pursuant to 49 C.F.R. §382, the District shall inform drivers that the tests are required by these regulations. **74**

The District shall notify a driver of the results of a pre-employment drug test if the driver requests such results within 60 calendar days of being notified of the disposition of his/her employment application. **75**

The District shall notify a driver of the results of random, reasonable suspicion, and post-accident drug tests if the test results are verified positive. The District shall also tell the driver which controlled substance(s) were verified as positive. **76**

The footnotes should be retained.

71 Pursuant to 49 C.F.R. §382.601(c), materials supplied to drivers may also include information about other policies and disciplinary consequences based on the district's authority independent of 49 C.F.R. §382 and described as such. Such additional policies or consequences must be clearly and obviously described as being based on independent authority. Id.

72 49 C.F.R. §382.601(d).

73 49 C.F.R. §382.303(f).

74 49 C.F.R. §382.113. 49 C.F.R. §382.113 also states that employers shall not falsely represent that a test was administered under 49 C.F.R. Part 382.

75 49 C.F.R. §382.411(a).

76 Id.

Educational Support Personnel

Employment Termination and Suspensions ¹

Resignation and Retirement

An employee is requested to provide two weeks' notice of a resignation.² A resignation notice cannot be revoked once given. An employee planning to retire should notify his or her supervisor at least two months before the retirement date.

Non-RIF Dismissal ³

The District may terminate an at-will employee at any time for any or no reason, but not for a reason prohibited by State or federal law.

Employees who are employed annually or have a contract, or who otherwise have a legitimate expectation of continued employment, may be dismissed: (1) at the end of the school year or at the end of their respective contract after being provided appropriate notice and after compliance with any

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. School officials should consult with their attorneys before adopting this policy or taking any action under it.

If a local collective bargaining agreement contains provisions that exceed these requirements, it will supersede this policy for those covered employees. In such cases, the board policy should be amended to state, "Please refer to the applicable collective bargaining agreement." For employees not covered, the policy should reflect the board's current practice.

Administrative procedures implementing this policy should include guidelines for exit interviews. These guidelines should include a list of items to discuss with the employee, e.g., the reasons for the termination; how the district could improve its policies, procedures, and working conditions; how to reduce employee turnover; and information about the employee's benefits, including continued health insurance coverage.

² Optional provision:

In most cases, resigning employees are permitted to work until their effective resignation date.

³ If employed at-will, the employee may be dismissed at any time for a non-discriminatory reason unless the dismissal is for a reduction in force. See 5:270, *Employment At-Will, Compensation, and Assignment*. **Important:** whether a specific employee is actually employed at-will depends on the specific facts. Griggsville-Perry Community Unit Sch. Dist. v. Ill. Educ. Labor Relations Bd., 368 Ill. Dec. 494 (Ill. 2013) (upheld an arbitrator's finding that the requirement to provide a pre-discharge written notice was drawn from the essence of the agreement); Cleveland Bd. of Educ. v. Loudermill, 470 U.S. 532 (1985). See also Baird v. Warren Comm. Unit Sch. Dist., 389 F.3d 685 (7th Cir. 2004)(because board members denied a dismissed superintendent procedural due process rights, they were denied qualified immunity).

It is safest to presume that all non-licensed employees are employed for the school year because districts routinely assure next-year employment so that the employee will not qualify for summer unemployment. In addition, annual employment may be created through a collective bargaining agreement, past practice, an employees' handbook, personnel policy manual, an oral promise, or any type of specific annual allocation per year, e.g., vacation or sick day allotments. Thus, the sample policy addresses those employees "with an annual or longer contract or who otherwise have a legitimate expectation of continued employment." A dismissal at the end of the school year or end of a contract generally requires only minimal due process. A mid-year or mid-contract dismissal will require significantly greater due process.

Even if an employee is at-will, a district should consider giving a dismissal reason. The failure to give a reason may provoke an employee into challenging the dismissal, e.g., by alleging illegal discrimination or retaliation for exercising a protected right or whistleblowing.

Consult the board attorney to determine: (1) which employees are at-will, have annual employment, or have a different expectation for their length of employment, and (2) the level of due process to provide specific employees in the event of a dismissal.

applicable contractual provisions, or (2) mid-year or mid-contract provided appropriate due process procedures are provided.

The Superintendent is responsible for making dismissal recommendations to the School Board consistent with the Board's goal of having a highly qualified, high performing staff. This includes recommending a non-licensed employee for immediate dismissal for willful or negligent failure to report an instance of suspected child abuse or neglect as required by 325 ILCS 5/. 4

Reduction in Force and Recall 5

The Board may, as necessary or prudent, decide to decrease the number of educational support personnel or to discontinue some particular type of educational support service and, as a result of that action, dismiss or reduce the hours of one or more educational support employees. When making decisions concerning reduction in force and recall, the Board will follow Sections 10-22.34c (outsourcing non-instructional services) and 10-23.5 (procedures) of the School Code, to the extent they are applicable and not superseded by legislation or an applicable collective bargaining agreement.

Final Paycheck

A terminating employee's final paycheck will be adjusted for any unused, earned vacation credit.⁶ Employees are paid for all earned vacation. Terminating employees will receive their final pay on the next regular payday following the date of termination, except that an employee dismissed due to a reduction in force shall receive his or her final paycheck on or before the next regular pay date following the last day of employment. 7

Suspension

Except as provided below, the Superintendent is authorized to suspend an employee without pay as a disciplinary measure, during an investigation into allegations of misconduct or pending a dismissal hearing whenever, in the Superintendent's judgment, the employee's presence is detrimental to the District. A disciplinary suspension shall be with pay: (1) when the employee is exempt from the overtime provisions,⁸ or (2) until an employee with an employment contract for a definite term is

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

⁴ 105 ILCS 5/10-23.12(c), added by P.A. 101-531; 105 ILCS 5/21B-75(b), amended by P.A. 101-531. For further discussion see f/n 3 in policy 2:20, *Powers and Duties of the School Board; Indemnification*.

⁵ 105 ILCS 5/10-23.5, amended by P.A. 101-46, grants educational support personnel significant protection during a RIF. Among those protections, support personnel maintain any rights accrued during their prior service if they are laid off and recalled to a vacant position within the statutory recall period. *Id.*

Unless otherwise defined by a collective bargaining agreement, the board can define the position categories for a seniority list. *Cook v. Eldorado Community Unit Sch. Dist.*, 354 Ill.App. 3d 256 (5th Dist. 2004). While the statute gives boards the discretion to define *categories of positions*, boards may not define *categories* differently for lay-off/recall purposes than for other purposes. 105 ILCS 5/10-22.34c governs layoffs as a result of a third party non-instructional services contract. See *Community Unit Sch. Dist. No. 5 v. Ill. Educ. Labor Relations Bd.*, 382 Ill.Dec. 120 (4th Dist. 2014)(no unfair labor practice occurred when a school employer outsourced its transportation services and dismissed bus drivers as a result of bona fide and legitimate reasons, not anti-union animus, and the district had bargained in good faith with the union.

⁶ A district may also adjust an employee's final paycheck for advanced vacation leave, *provided* that the employee agreed to deduct a specified amount of pay equaling the advanced vacation. 56 Ill.Admin.Code §300.760. If employees are required to execute such an agreement before taking unearned vacation leave, add the following phrase to this sentence: "or, if the employee agreed in writing, vacation time taken that was not earned."

⁷ These final paycheck requirements are in 105 ILCS 5/10-23.5.

⁸ Employees who are exempt from overtime requirements become eligible for overtime if they are subject to disciplinary suspensions without pay. *Auer v. Robbins*, 519 U.S. 452 (1997). Although the U.S. Dept. of Labor modified this rule in 2004, the Illinois legislature rejected these rule changes. 820 ILCS 105/4a. Illinois employers must use the federal rules as they existed on March 30, 2003.

provided a notice and hearing according to the suspension policy for professional employees.⁹ Upon receipt of a recommendation from the Ill. Dept. Children and Family Services (DCFS) that the District remove an employee from his or her position when he or she is the subject of a pending DCFS investigation that relates to his or her employment with the District, the Board or Superintendent or designee, in consultation with the Board Attorney, will determine whether to: ¹⁰

1. Let the employee remain in his or her position pending the outcome of the investigation; or
2. Remove the employee as recommended, proceeding with:
 - a. A suspension with pay; or
 - b. A suspension without pay.

Any criminal conviction resulting from the investigation or allegations shall require the employee to repay to the District all compensation and the value of all benefits received by the employee during the suspension. The Superintendent will notify the employee of this requirement when the employee is suspended. ¹¹

LEGAL REF.: 5 ILCS 430 *et seq.*
105 ILCS 5/10-22.34c and 5/10-23.5.
325 ILCS 5/7.4(c-10).
820 ILCS 105/4a.

CROSS REF.: 5:90 (Abused and Neglected Child Reporting), 5:240 (Suspension), 5:270 (Employment At-Will, Compensation, and Assignment)

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⁹ A suspension of an employee having a protected property right in continued employment requires a notice and hearing. See f/n 3 for additional discussion.

¹⁰ This sentence is optional. 325 ILCS 5/7.4(c-5), amended by P.A. 100-176. Consult the board attorney about suspending an employee without pay pursuant to a *DCFS 325 ILCS 5/7.4(c-5)-recommendation*. This sample language balances the interests of student safety and employee due process when the district receives a recommendation to a remove an employee who is the subject of a DCFS investigation from employment.

Note: Liability may exist when a district receives a *325 ILCS 5/7.4(c-5)-recommendation* and does not remove the employee as a result. Consider In re Estate of Stewart v. Oswego Comm. Unit. Sch. Dist. No. 308, 406 Ill.Dec. 345 (2nd Dist. 2016)(finding district's response to a student health emergency was willful and wanton as it had prior information regarding appropriate response protocols and denying tort immunity to district); In re Estate of Stewart, 412 Ill.Dec. 914 (Ill. 2017) (school district's appeal denied).

¹¹ The repayment requirements in the first sentence of this paragraph are in 5 ILCS 430/5-60(b). The second sentence is optional.

Educational Support Personnel

Sick Days, Vacation, Holidays, and Leaves ¹

Each of the provisions in this policy applies to all educational support personnel to the extent that it does not conflict with an applicable collective bargaining agreement or individual employment contract or benefit plan; in the event of a conflict, such provision is severable and the applicable bargaining agreement or individual agreement will control.

Sick and Bereavement Leave ²

Full or part-time educational support personnel who work at least 600 hours per year receive 10 paid sick leave days per year. Part-time employees will receive sick leave pay equivalent to their regular

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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. The introductory paragraph recognizes that an applicable collective bargaining agreement or individual employment contract will supersede a conflicting provision of the policy. Alternatively, if the policy's subject matter is superseded by a bargaining agreement, the board policy may state, "Please refer to the applicable collective bargaining agreement."

Districts must coordinate leaves provided by State law and the local bargaining agreement with the leave granted by the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) (29 U.S.C. §2612), amended by Sec. 565 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010 (Pub. L. 111-84). The FMLA grants eligible employees 12 weeks unpaid leave each year for: (1) the birth and first-year care of a child; (2) the adoption or foster placement of a child; (3) the serious health condition of an employee's spouse, parent, or child; (4) the employee's own serious health condition; (5) the existence of any qualifying exigency arising out of the fact that the employee's spouse, son, daughter, or parent is on (or has been notified of an impending call to) *covered active duty* in the Armed Forces; and (6) to care for the employee's spouse, child, parent, or next of kin who is a covered servicemember with a serious injury or illness. The definition of *covered servicemember* includes a veteran "who is undergoing medical treatment, recuperation, or therapy for a serious injury or illness" if the veteran was a member of the Armed Forces "at any time during the period of 5 years preceding the date on which the veteran undergoes that medical treatment, recuperation, or therapy." 29 U.S.C. §2611. Districts are permitted to count paid leave (granted by State law or board policy) taken for an FMLA purpose against an employee's FMLA entitlement. 29 C.F.R. §825.207. See policy 5:185, *Family and Medical Leave*.

A plethora of State laws grant leaves to employees of the State and municipalities, but are not applicable to school districts, including the Employee Blood Donation Leave Act (820 ILCS 149/), Local Government Disaster Service Volunteer Act (50 ILCS 122/), Organ Donor Leave Act (5 ILCS 327/), and Civil Air Patrol Leave Act (820 ILCS 148/).

² This section contains the minimum benefits provided by 105 ILCS 5/24-6. Each specified number of days in this section is the statutory minimum. The School Code does not address whether an employee's 10 paid sick leave days are available upon employment, accrued over months, or after working for a certain period of time, e.g., one year. Also be aware that the Employee Sick Leave Act (820 ILCS 191/) allows employees to use employer-provided sick leave to care for an ill or injured *family* member or to attend a medical appointment with a family member. The law defines family members as a child, stepchild, spouse, domestic partner, sibling, parent, mother- or father-in-law, grandchild, grandparent, or stepparent. *Id.* at 191/10(b). Leave may be taken under the same terms for which the employee would be permitted to take leave for his or her own illness or injury. Before adopting this policy or applying its provisions, the district should examine any applicable bargaining agreements. Strict accounting of unused sick days is important to avoid:

1. Employees accumulating sick time on a full-time basis when they are truly working part-time hours;
2. Inconsistent treatment; and
3. Inaccurate reporting to IMRF (credit is given for full day unused sick days upon retirement). 40 ILCS 5/7-139(a)(8).

workday. Unused sick leave shall accumulate to a maximum of 180 days, including the leave of the current year. ³

Sick leave is defined in State law as personal illness, quarantine at home, serious illness or death in the immediate family or household, or birth, adoption, or placement for adoption. The Superintendent and/or designee shall monitor the use of sick leave.

As a condition for paying sick leave after three days absence for personal illness or 30 days for birth or as the Board or Superintendent deem necessary in other cases, the Board or Superintendent may require that the staff member provide a certificate from: (1) a physician licensed in Illinois to practice medicine and surgery in all its branches, (2) a chiropractic physician licensed under the Medical Practice Act, (3) a licensed advanced practice registered nurse, (4) a licensed physician assistant who has been delegated the authority to perform health examinations by his or her supervising physician, or (5) if the treatment is by prayer or spiritual means, a spiritual adviser or practitioner of the employee's faith. If the Board or Superintendent requires a certificate during a leave of less than three days for personal illness, the District shall pay the expenses incurred by the employee.

The use of paid sick leave for adoption or placement for adoption is limited to 30 days unless a longer leave is provided in an applicable collective bargaining agreement. The Superintendent may require that the employee provide evidence that the formal adoption process is underway. ⁴

Vacation ⁵

Twelve-month employees shall be eligible for paid vacation days according to the following schedule:

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³ As this policy is consistent with the minimum requirements of State law, this provision on the maximum number of sick days that may be accumulated is based on the minimum number required as stated in 105 ILCS 5/24-6. The number may be increased to meet or exceed the number IMRF will recognize for retirement credit purposes. The following alternative does this: "Unused sick leave shall accumulate to the maximum number of days that IMRF will recognize for retirement credit purposes."

The following optional provisions apply to boards that want to address the IMRF's requirement that public bodies must have a written plan allowing eligible employees to convert their eligible accumulated sick leave to service credit upon their retirement. See 40 ILCS 5/7-139(a)(8). See also IMRF General Memorandum #555 at:

www.imrf.org/en/publications-and-archive/general-memos/2007-general-memos/general-memo-555.

Option 1: No collective bargaining agreement applies and the board wants to publicize its written plan. Insert the following sentence: This policy is the District's written plan allowing eligible employees to convert eligible accumulated sick leave to service credit upon a District employee's retirement under the Ill. Municipal Retirement Fund.

Option 2: A local collective bargaining agreement contains the written plan and the board wants to publicize it. Insert the following sentence: Please refer to the applicable collective bargaining agreement(s) for the District's written plan allowing eligible employees to convert eligible accumulated sick leave to service credit upon an employee's retirement under the Ill. Municipal Retirement Fund.

Option 3: A district maintains two separate sick leave plans, one for employees under a collective bargaining agreement, and one for non-unionized employees. Insert the text for both Option 1 and Option 2.

Note: If Options 1, 2, or 3 are chosen, add 40 ILCS 5/7-139 to the Legal References. If the board does not have a written sick leave plan for purposes of IMRF sick leave to service credit conversion or does not wish to include it in the policy, do not include any of the options above or add the citation to the Legal References.

⁴ 105 ILCS 5/24-6, amended by P.A. 100-513.

⁵ State law does not require districts to give employees vacations.

<u>Length of Employment</u>		<u>Monthly Accumulation</u>	<u>Maximum Vacation Leave Earned Per Year</u>
<u>From:</u>	<u>To:</u>		
Beginning of year 2	End of year 5	0.83 Days	10 Days per year
Beginning of year 6	End of year 15	1.25 Days	15 Days per year
Beginning of year 16	End of year	1.67 Days	20 Days per year

Part-time employees who work at least half-time are entitled to vacation days on the same basis as full-time employees, but the pay will be based on the employee's average number of part-time hours per week during the last vacation accrual year. The Superintendent will determine the procedure for requesting vacation.

Vacation days earned in one fiscal year must be used by the end of the following fiscal year; they do not accumulate. Employees resigning or whose employment is terminated are entitled to the monetary equivalent of all earned vacation. **6**

Holidays 7

Unless the District has a waiver or modification of the School Code pursuant to Section 2-3.25g or 24-2(b) allowing it to schedule school on a holiday listed below, District employees will not be required to work on:

New Year's Day	Labor Day
Martin Luther King Jr.'s Birthday	Columbus Day
Abraham Lincoln's Birthday	Veteran's Day
Casimir Pulaski's Birthday	Thanksgiving Day
Memorial Day	Christmas Day
Independence Day	

A holiday will not cause a deduction from an employee's time or compensation. The District may require educational support personnel to work on a school holiday during an emergency or for the continued operation and maintenance of facilities or property.

Personal Leave 8

Full-time educational support personnel have one paid personal leave day per year. The use of a personal day is subject to the following conditions:

1. Except in cases of emergency or unavoidable situations, a personal leave request should be submitted to the Building Principal three days before the requested date.

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6 Required by 820 ILCS 115/5 and 56 Ill.Admin.Code §300.520 (Earned Vacations).

7 Holidays are listed in 105 ILCS 5/24-2. For information on the waiver process, see 2:20-E, *Waiver and Modification Request Resource Guide*. Holidays not specified in the statute may be added to the policy; however, boards adding additional holidays should monitor and review to ensure the list remains current.

A State-mandated school holiday on *Good Friday* is unconstitutional according to *Metzl v. Leininger*, 57 F.3d 618 (7th Cir. 1995). Closing school on religious holidays may be permissible for those districts able to demonstrate that remaining open would be a waste of educational resources because of widespread absenteeism. Also, districts may be able to close school on Good Friday by adopting a *spring holiday* rationale or ensuring that it falls within spring break. School districts should discuss their options, including the collective bargaining implications, with their board attorney.

8 State law does not address personal leave. It is not uncommon for boards to grant educational support personnel the same number of personal leave days as are granted to professional staff.

2. No personal leave day may be used immediately before or immediately after a holiday, or during the first and/or last five days of the school year, unless the Superintendent grants prior approval.
3. Personal leave may not be used in increments of less than one-half day.
4. Personal leave is subject to any necessary replacement's availability.
5. Personal leave may not be used on an in-service training day and/or institute training days.
6. Personal leave may not be used when the employee's absence would create an undue hardship.

Leave to Serve as a Trustee of the Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund

Upon request, the Board will grant 20 days of paid leave of absence per year to a trustee of the Ill. Municipal Retirement Fund in accordance with 105 ILCS 5/24-6.3. ⁹

Other Leaves

Educational support personnel receive the following leaves on the same terms and conditions granted professional personnel in Board policy 5:250, *Leaves of Absence*:

1. Leaves for Service in the Military and General Assembly. ¹⁰
2. School Visitation Leave. ¹¹
3. Leaves for Victims of Domestic Violence, Sexual Violence, or Gender Violence. ¹²
4. Child Bereavement Leave. ¹³
5. Leave to serve as an election judge. ¹⁴

LEGAL REF.: 105 ILCS 5/10-20.7b, 5/24-2, and 5/24-6.
 330 ILCS 61/, Service Member Employment and Reemployment Rights Act.
 820 ILCS 147, School Visitation Rights Act.
 820 ILCS 154/, Child Bereavement Leave Act.
 820 ILCS 180/, Victims' Economic Security and Safety Act.
School Dist. 151 v. ISBE, 154 Ill.App.3d 375 (1st Dist. 1987); Elder v. Sch. Dist. No.127 1/2, 60 Ill.App.2d 56 (1st Dist. 1965).

CROSS REF.: 5:180 (Temporary Illness or Temporary Incapacity), 5:185 (Family and Medical Leave), 5:250 (Leaves of Absence)

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⁹ Required by 105 ILCS 5/24-6.3. A similar leave exists for an elected trustee for the Ill. Teachers' Retirement System. See 5:250, *Leaves of Absence*.

¹⁰ Military leave is governed by the School Code (105 ILCS 5/10-20.7b, 5/24-13, and 13.1); the Service Member Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (330 ILCS 61/, added by P.A. 100-1101, streamlining several job-related protection laws into one statute, mandating leave for *active service* and requiring the public employer to make up the difference between military pay and regular compensation); and the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (38 U.S.C. §4301 *et seq.*).

Granting General Assembly leave to ESPs is optional.

¹¹ 820 ILCS 147/, amended by P.A. 101-486, eff. 8-1-20. See policy 5:250, *Leaves of Absence*, and 5:250-AP, *School Visitation Leave*.

¹² Required by Victims' Economic Security and Safety Act (820 ILCS 180/, amended by P.A. 101-221, eff. 1-1-20) and 56 Ill.Admin.Code Part 280. Important information about this leave is discussed in f/ns 20, 21, and 22 of 5:250, *Leaves of Absence*.

¹³ 820 ILCS 154/. Important information about this leave is discussed in f/n 5 of 5:250, *Leaves of Absence*.

¹⁴ 10 ILCS 5/13-2.5.