

General Personnel

Hiring Process and Criteria 1

The District hires the most qualified personnel consistent with budget and staffing requirements and in compliance with School Board policy on equal employment opportunity and minority recruitment.² The Superintendent is responsible for recruiting personnel and making hiring recommendations to the Board.³ If the Superintendent's recommendation is rejected, the Superintendent must submit another.⁴ No individual will be employed who has been convicted of a criminal offense listed in 105 ILCS 5/21B-80(c).⁵

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¹ State or federal law controls this policy's content. This policy contains an item on which impact 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 See policy 5:10, *Equal Employment Opportunity and Minority Recruitment*. Districts may not classify a job as either a *male* or *female* job. 29 C.F.R. §1604.5, 34 C.F.R. §106.55.

³ Boards must consider the superintendent's recommendations concerning, among other things, "the selection, retention, and dismissal of employees." 105 ILCS 5/10-16.7. The board may want to use this alternative sentence:

All personnel decisions are made by the Board, but only on the recommendation of the Superintendent.

Subject to an applicable collective bargaining agreement in effect on 6-13-11, a board that fills a "new or vacant teaching position" must select a candidate based on: (1) certifications, (2) qualifications, (3) merit and ability (including performance evaluation, if available), and (4) relevant experience, provided that the length of continuing service with the district must not be considered a factor, unless all other factors are determined by the school district to be equal. 105 ILCS 5/24-1.5. The statute does not define "new or vacant teaching positions." The requirement does not apply to filling vacant positions under 105 ILCS 5/24-12 (reduction in force and recall). Consult the board attorney about these issues.

⁴ An additional optional sentence follows:

The Superintendent may select personnel on a short-term basis for a specific project or emergency condition before the Board's approval.

⁵ 105 ILCS 5/10-21.9(c), amended by P.A. 101-531; 105 ILCS 5/21B-80, amended by P.A. 101-531, allows individuals with criminal histories involving certain drug convictions to apply for or to reinstate their educator licenses seven years after their sentence for the criminal offense is completed. Consult the board attorney about whether the board wants to continue prohibiting employment for any individual who has a criminal history involving these exempted drug offenses.

For more discussion regarding criminal history records checks and screenings required by 105 ILCS 5/10-21.9, amended by P.A.s 101-531 and 101-643, see f/ns 5 and 6 in policy 4:175, *Convicted Child Sex Offender; Screening; Notifications*.

All applicants must complete a District application in order to be considered for employment. ⁶

Job Descriptions

The Board maintains the Superintendent's job description and directs, through policy, the Superintendent, in his or her charge of the District's administration. ⁷

The Superintendent shall develop and maintain a current comprehensive job description for each position or job category; however, a provision in a collective bargaining agreement or individual contract will control in the event of a conflict. ⁸

Investigations

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that a fingerprint-based criminal history records check and a check of the Statewide Sex Offender Database and Violent Offender Against Youth Database is

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⁶ Any person who applies for employment as a teacher, principal, superintendent, or other certificated employee who willfully makes a false statement on his or her application for employment, material to his or her qualifications for employment, which he or she does not believe to be true, is guilty of a Class A misdemeanor. 105 ILCS 5/22-6.5. District employment applications must contain a statement to this effect. Id. Each employment application for these positions must state the following (Id.):

Failure to provide requested employment or employer history which is material to the applicant's qualifications for employment or the provision of statements which the applicant does not believe to be true may be a Class A misdemeanor.

Any employer that asks applicants to record video interviews and uses an artificial intelligence analysis of the applicant-submitted videos must comply with the Artificial Intelligence Video Interview Act, 820 ILCS 42/, added by P.A. 101-260.

⁷ 105 ILCS 5/10-16.7. The foundation for a productive employment relationship begins with a board's policy, a thoughtfully crafted employment contract and job description, and procedures for communications and ongoing assessment. See IASB's *Foundational Principles of Effective Governance*, **Principle 3. The board employs a superintendent**, at: www.iasb.com/conference-training-and-events/training/training-resources/foundational-principles-of-effective-governance/.

See also 3:40-E, *Checklist for the Superintendent Employment Contract Negotiation Process*, for best practice discussions about establishing the board-superintendent employment relationship and contract.

⁸ Job descriptions will become the basis for categorizing a teacher into one or more positions that the teacher is qualified to hold for reduction in force (RIF) dismissal and recall purposes. 105 ILCS 5/24-12(b), amended by P.A. 101-643. A board should consult with its attorney to review its current list of job descriptions and discuss the district's specific responsibilities.

A job description is evidence of a position's *essential functions*. 29 C.F.R. §1630.2(n). The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) protects individuals who have a disability and are qualified, with reasonable accommodation, to perform the *essential functions* of the job. 42 U.S.C. §12101 *et seq.*, amended by the ADA Amendments Act (ADAAA), Pub. L. 110-325. Determining which functions are essential may be critical to determining if an individual with a disability is qualified. An individual is qualified to perform a job even though he or she is unable, due to a disability, to perform tasks which are incidental to the job. Only when an individual is unable to perform the *essential functions* of a job may a district deny the individual employment opportunities. 29 C.F.R. §1630.2(m). For a definition of essential functions see Id. at 1630.2(n). Whether a particular function is essential is a factual determination.

Important: The ADAAA makes significant changes to the ADA's definition of disability that broadened the scope of coverage and overturned a series of U.S. Supreme Court decisions that made it difficult to prove that an impairment was a qualifying disability. There is information about the regulations and a link to them at: www.ecoc.gov/laws/regulations/adaaa_fact_sheet.cfm. Consult the board attorney regarding how these amendments impact the district's hiring processes.

performed on each applicant as required by State law.⁹ When the applicant is a successful superintendent candidate who has been offered employment by the Board, the Board President shall ensure that these checks are completed.¹⁰ The Superintendent or designee, or if the applicant is a successful superintendent candidate, then the Board President shall notify an applicant if the applicant is identified in either database.¹¹ The School Code requires the Board President to keep a conviction record confidential and share it only with the Superintendent, Regional Superintendent, State Superintendent, State Educator Preparation and Licensure Board, any other person necessary to the hiring decision, or for purposes of clarifying the information, the Ill. Dept. of State Police and/or Statewide Sex Offender Database.¹² The Board reserves its right to authorize additional background inquiries beyond a fingerprint-based criminal history records check when it deems it appropriate to do so, in accordance with applicable laws.

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⁹ The policy's requirements on criminal records checks for applicants for employment are mandated by 105 ILCS 5/10-21.9, amended by P.A.s 101-72, 101-531, and 101-643. See administrative procedure 5:30-AP2, *Investigations*, for the process and positions requiring criminal background investigation. The Statewide Sex Offender Database (a/k/a Sex Offender Registry) is available at: www.isp.state.il.us/sor. The Statewide Murderer and Violent Offender Against Youth Database is available at: www.isp.state.il.us/cmvo/. For more discussion regarding criminal history records checks and screenings required by 105 ILCS 5/10-21.9, amended by P.A.s 101-531 and 101-643, see f/n 5 in policy 4:175, *Convicted Child Sex Offender; Screening; Notifications*. See policy 4:60, *Purchases and Contracts*, for requirements concerning criminal background checks of employees of contractors who have *direct, daily contact* with students.

¹⁰ *Id.* If a board wants to require additional background inquiries beyond the fingerprint-based criminal history records information check required by 105 ILCS 5/10-21.9, amended by P.A.s 101-72, 101-531, and 101-643, including the federal *Rap Back Service* (20 ILCS 2630/3.3, added by P.A. 100-718) and/or checks through consumer reporting agencies regulated by the Fair Credit Reporting Act (15 U.S.C. §1681 *et seq.*), consult the board attorney. For more detailed information, see the laws listed in sample exhibit 3:40-E, *Checklist for the Superintendent Employment Contract Negotiation Process*, under the checklist item entitled **Conditions of Employment**, in the **Other Background Check Laws** row.

¹¹ 105 ILCS 5/10-21.9(b), amended by P.A.s 101-72 and 101-531, and 105 ILCS 5/21B-10. The School Code requires the board president to keep a conviction record confidential. It is impossible to know whether a fingerprint-based criminal history records check and a check of the Statewide Sex Offender and Violent Offender Against Youth Databases on a successful superintendent candidate will come back with a conviction record.

Therefore, in accordance with best practice (ensuring compliance and aligning with good governance principles), this policy does not assign a designee for the board president to complete this task. However, to balance the requirement to keep conviction records confidential with the practical implementation of ensuring a fingerprint-based criminal history records check and a check of the Statewide Sex Offender and Violent Offender Against Youth Databases are performed on each successful superintendent applicant, a board president may want to designate the duty to order these checks to the individuals otherwise listed in 105 ILCS 5/10-21.9(b), amended by P.A.s 101-72 and 101-531. Those individuals include the board president, the superintendent or designee, regional superintendent (if the check was requested by the district), state superintendent of education, state Educator Preparation and Licensure Board, any other person necessary to the hiring decision, or for clarification purposes, the Ill. Dept. of State Police and/or Statewide Sex Offender Registry.

¹² *Id.* at 5/10-21.9(b), amended by P.A.s 101-72 and 101-531. The School Code continues to define the board president's role in conducting criminal background investigations and receiving the results of these investigations, including the results for employees of district contractors. 105 ILCS 5/10-21.9. Many districts delegate this task in the hiring process to a human resources department.

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

For more discussion regarding responses to results obtained by criminal history records checks and screenings as required by 105 ILCS 5/10-21.9(e), amended by P.A.s 101-531 and 101-643, see f/n 6 in policy 4:175, *Convicted Child Sex Offender; Screening; Notifications*.

Each newly hired employee must complete a U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services Form as required by federal law. ¹³

The District retains the right to discharge any employee whose criminal background investigation reveals a conviction for committing or attempting to commit any of the offenses outlined in 105 ILCS 5/21B-80 or who falsifies, or omits facts from, his or her employment application or other employment documents. If an indicated finding of abuse or neglect of a child has been issued by the Ill. Department of Children and Family Services or by a child welfare agency of another jurisdiction for any applicant for student teaching, applicant for employment, or any District employee, then the Board must consider that person's status as a condition of employment. ¹⁴

The Superintendent shall ensure that the District does not engage in any investigation or inquiry prohibited by law and complies with each of the following: ¹⁵

1. The District uses an applicant's credit history or report from a consumer reporting agency only when a satisfactory credit history is an established bona fide occupational requirement of a particular position. ¹⁶
2. The District does not screen applicants based on their current or prior wages or salary histories, including benefits or other compensation, by requiring that the wage or salary history satisfy minimum or maximum criteria. ¹⁷
3. The District does not request or require a wage or salary history as a condition of being considered for employment, being interviewed, continuing to be considered for an offer of employment, an offer of employment, or an offer of compensation. ¹⁸

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¹³ Immigration Reform and Control Act, 8 U.S.C. §1324a *et seq.* Consult with the board attorney regarding the district's rights and responsibilities under all Illinois laws if the district uses any electronic employment verification system, including *E-Verify* and/or the Basic Pilot Program. 820 ILCS 55/12. This statute urges employers who voluntarily use *E-Verify* (formerly known as the Basic Pilot/Employment Eligibility Verification Program) to consult the Ill. Dept. of Labor's website for current information on the accuracy of *E-Verify* and to review and understand their legal responsibilities relating to the use of any electronic employment verification systems. See *f/n 2* in 5:150-AP, *Personnel Records*, for a more detailed discussion of *E-Verify* issues.

¹⁴ 105 ILCS 5/10-21.9(c) and (g), amended by P.A. 101-531. See *f/n 6* in 4:175, *Convicted Child Sex Offender; Screening; Notifications*, for further discussion.

¹⁵ As an alternative to describing the prohibited investigations, a board may substitute this sentence:

The Superintendent shall ensure that the District does not engage in any investigation or inquiry prohibited by law, including without limitation, investigation into or inquiry concerning: (1) credit history or report unless a satisfactory credit history is an established bona fide occupational requirement of a particular position; (2) claim(s) made or benefit(s) received under Workers' Compensation Act; and (3) access to an employee's or applicant's social networking website, including a request for passwords to such sites.

The default policy provision and the alternative stated above – whichever is selected – may be made a prohibition rather than a duty of the superintendent; to do this, delete the stricken text as follows: “~~The Superintendent shall ensure that the District does not engage . . .~~”

¹⁶ Employee Credit Privacy Act, 820 ILCS 70/10. This Act allows inquiries into an applicant's credit history or credit report or ordering or obtaining an applicant's credit report from a consumer reporting agency when a satisfactory credit history is an *established bona fide occupational requirement* of a particular position. The Act identifies circumstances that permit a satisfactory credit history to be a job requirement, such as, the position's duties include custody of or unsupervised access to cash or marketable assets valued at \$2,500 or more.

¹⁷ 820 ILCS 112/10(b-5), added by P.A. 101-177. If an employer violates this subsection, the employee may recover in a civil action any damages incurred, special damages up to \$10,000, injunctive relief, and costs and reasonable attorney's fees. 820 ILCS 112/30(a-5), added by P.A. 101-177.

¹⁸ *Id.*

4. The District does not request or require an applicant to disclose wage or salary history as a condition of employment. ¹⁹
5. The District does not ask an applicant or applicant's current or previous employers about wage or salary history, including benefits or other compensation. ²⁰
6. The District does not ask an applicant or applicant's previous employers about claim(s) made or benefit(s) received under the Workers' Compensation Act. ²¹
7. The District does not request of an applicant or employee access in any manner to his or her personal online account, such as social networking websites, including a request for passwords to such accounts. ²²
8. The District provides equal employment opportunities to all persons. See policy 5:10, *Equal Employment Opportunity and Minority Recruitment*.

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¹⁹ *Id.*

²⁰ 820 ILCS 112/10(b-10), added by P.A. 101-177. **Note:** Attorneys caution that using the exceptions in 820 ILCS 112/10(b-10)(1) and (2), added by P.A. 101-177, may trigger litigation. Violating this subsection entitles an employee to recover in a civil action any damages incurred, special damages up to \$10,000, injunctive relief, and costs and reasonable attorney's fees. 820 ILCS 112/30(a-5), added by P.A. 101-177.

A school board that wishes to preserve these exceptions should consult its board attorney; then they may supplement number 5 by adding the following after "compensation":

unless the applicant's wage or salary history is a matter of public record, or is contained in a document completed by the applicant's current or former employer and then made available to the public by the employer, or then submitted or posted by the employer to comply with State or federal law; or the applicant is a current employee applying for a position with the same current employer.

²¹ Right to Privacy in the Workplace Act, 820 ILCS 55/10(a).

²² *Id.* at 55/10(b)(6)(B) (commonly known as the *Facebook Password Law*). A *personal online account* is defined as an online account used primarily by a person for personal purposes. *Personal online account* does not include an account created, maintained, used, or accessed for the business purpose of a person's employer or prospective employer. *Id.* at 55/10(b)(5). Bracketed explanations follow the statutory language:

"Nothing in this subsection shall prohibit or restrict an employer from complying with a duty to screen employees or applicants prior to hiring...provided that the password, account information, or access sought by the employer only relates to an online account that:

(A) an employer supplies or pays; or

(B) an employee creates or maintains on behalf of under the direction of an employer in connection with that employee's employment."

[Based on this explanation, it is implausible that an applicant would have an account, service, or profile for business purposes of a school employer.]

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 (district's) electronic equipment and electronic mail. The statute also states that it does *not prohibit* an employer from obtaining information about an applicant or an employee that is in the public domain or that is otherwise obtained in compliance with the statute. Finally, the statute does not apply to all types of personal technology that employees may use to communicate with students or other individuals, such as text messages on a personal phone. Consult the board attorney about these issues.

Physical Examinations ²³

Each new employee must furnish evidence of physical fitness to perform assigned duties and freedom from communicable disease. The physical fitness examination must be performed by a physician licensed in Illinois, or any other state, to practice medicine and surgery in any of its branches, a licensed advanced practice registered nurse, or a licensed physician assistant who has been delegated the authority by his or her supervising physician to perform health examinations. The employee must have the physical examination performed no more than 90 days before submitting evidence of it to the District.

Any employee may be required to have an additional examination by a physician who is licensed in Illinois to practice medicine and surgery in all its branches, a licensed advanced practice registered nurse, or a licensed physician assistant who has been delegated the authority by his or her supervising physician to perform health examinations, if the examination is job-related and consistent with business necessity.²⁴ The Board will pay the expenses of any such examination.

Orientation Program

The District's staff will provide an orientation program for new employees to acquaint them with the District's policies and procedures, the school's rules and regulations, and the responsibilities of their position. Before beginning employment, each employee must sign the *Acknowledgement of Mandated Reporter Status* form as provided in policy 5:90, *Abused and Neglected Child Reporting*.

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²³ 105 ILCS 5/24-5, amended by P.A.s 100-513, 100-855, and 101-81. According to this statute, a new or existing employee or substitute teacher 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).

The last sentence of the first paragraph exceeds State law requirements and may be deleted.

Note that while examination by a spiritual leader/practitioner is sufficient for purposes of leaves, the statute does not permit an examination by a spiritual leader/practitioner for initial employment exams. This difference may present a constitutional issue; contact the board attorney for an opinion if an applicant wants to use an examination by a spiritual leader/practitioner.

Federal law limits pre-employment medical inquiries to whether the applicant is able to perform job-related functions; required medical examinations of applicants is forbidden. American with Disabilities Act (ADA), 42 U.S.C. §12112(d)(2); see also f/n 8 for an explanation regarding the ADA. Districts may condition an employment offer on taking and passing medical inquiries or physical exams, provided that all entering employees in the same classification receive the same conditional offer.

²⁴ The State law (105 ILCS 5/24-5, amended by P.A.s 100-513, 100-855, and 101-81) allowing boards to require physicals of current employees "from time to time," is superseded by the ADA. 42 U.S.C. §12112(d)(4). The ADA allows medical inquiries of current employees only when they are job-related and consistent with business necessity or part of a voluntary employee wellness program. *Id.* Districts may deny jobs to individuals with disabilities who pose a direct threat to the health or safety of others in the workplace, provided that a reasonable accommodation would not either eliminate the risk or reduce it to an acceptable level. 42 U.S.C. §12113; 29 C.F.R. §1630.2(r). See f/n 8 for an explanation regarding the ADA.

See the f/n 23 for a discussion of examinations by spiritual leaders/practitioners.

LEGAL REF.: 105 ILCS 5/10-16.7, 5/10-20.7, 5/10-21.4, 5/10-21.9, 5/21B-10, 5/21B-80, 5/10-22.34, 5/10-22.34b, 5/22-6.5, and 5/24-5.
20 ILCS 2630/3.3, Criminal Identification Act.
820 ILCS 55/, Right to Privacy in the Workplace Act.
820 ILCS 70/, Employee Credit Privacy Act.
Americans with Disabilities Act, 42 U.S.C. §12112, and 29 C.F.R. Part 1630.
Fair Credit Reporting Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1681 *et seq.*
Immigration Reform and Control Act, 8 U.S.C. §1324a *et seq.*
Duldulao v. St. Mary of Nazareth Hospital, 136 Ill. App. 3d 763 (1st Dist. 1985),
aff'd in part and remanded 115 Ill.2d 482(Ill. 1987).
Kaiser v. Dixon, 127 Ill. App. 3d 251 (2nd Dist. 1984).
Molitor v. Chicago Title & Trust Co., 325 Ill. App. 124 (1st Dist. 1945).

CROSS REF.: 2:260 (Uniform Grievance Procedure), 3:50 (Administrative Personnel Other Than the Superintendent), 4:60 (Purchases and Contracts), 4:175 (Convicted Child Sex Offender; Screening; Notifications), 5:10 (Equal Employment Opportunity and Minority Recruitment), 5:40 (Communicable and Chronic Infectious Disease), 5:90 (Abused and Neglected Child Reporting), 5:125 (Personal Technology and Social Media; Usage and Conduct), 5:220 (Substitute Teachers), 5:280 (Educational Support Personnel - Duties and Qualifications)

General Personnel

Administrative Procedure - Investigations

Immigration Investigation

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

If the Employment Eligibility Verification System (E-Verify) is used to complete Form I-9, the Superintendent or designee will review the Ill. Dept. of Labor's website and its E-Verify factsheet, available at: www2.illinois.gov/idol/Laws-Rules/legal/Pages/privacy-workplace.aspx. See the Ill. Dept. of Labor Right to Privacy in the Workplace Act, 820 ILCS 55/12.

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

Fingerprint-based Criminal History Records Information Check (105 ILCS 5/10-21.9, amended by P.A.s 101-72, 101-531, and 101-643)

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

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

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

*These checks must be conducted by the District or the Regional Superintendent once every five years that an individual remains employed by the District. 105 ILCS 5/10-21.9(a-5), (a-6), amended by P.A. 101-531.

See also policy 4:175, *Convicted Child Sex Offender; Screening; Notifications*, and administrative procedure 4:175-AP1, *Criminal Offender Notification Laws; Screening*. **Important:** 20 ILCS 2630/5.2 outlines how an individual may petition to have an arrest record expunged by the arresting

authority and the records of the arrest sealed by the circuit court clerk. It also details offenses for which an individual cannot have his or her conviction sealed.

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

1. Guide to Understanding Criminal History Record Check Information is available at: www.isp.state.il.us/docs/5-727.pdf.
2. ISBE's non-regulatory guidance document, Criminal History Records Information (CHRI) Checks for Certified and Non-certified School Personnel, at: www.isbe.net/Documents/guidance_chr.pdf.

The following individuals are responsible for the actions listed:

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

Individual Student Teaching or beginning a required internship - Each individual student teaching or beginning a required internship must provide written authorization for, and pay the costs of, his or her criminal history records check (including any applicable vendor's fees) prior to participating in any field experiences in the District. See 105 ILCS 5/10-21.9(g), amended by P.A. 101-531.

Applicant for Bus Driver - Each applicant for a bus driver position must complete the application required by the Secretary of State for a school bus driver permit (obtained from the District) and submit it to the District along with the necessary fingerprint submission as required by the ISP to conduct a fingerprint-based criminal history records check. The Superintendent or designee will conduct a pre-employment interview¹ with prospective school bus driver candidates, distribute school bus driver applications and medical forms, and submit the applicant's fingerprint cards to the ISP. The Superintendent or designee will certify in writing to the Secretary of State that all pre-employment conditions have been successfully completed, including the successful completion of a criminal history records check as required by State law. The applicant must present the certification to the Secretary of State at the time of submitting the school bus driver permit application. See 625 ILCS 5/6-106.1, amended by P.A. 101-458; 92 Ill.Admin.Code §1035.

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

1. Fingerprint-Based Criminal History Records Check:

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

The Superintendent or designee, or when the applicant is a successful superintendent candidate who has been offered employment by the Board, the Board President, will provide

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¹ Any employer that asks applicants to record video interviews and uses an artificial intelligence analysis of the applicant-submitted videos must comply with the Artificial Intelligence Video Interview Act, 820 ILCS 42/, added by P.A. 101-260.

the applicant with a copy of the ISP and FBI reports. Required by 105 ILCS 5/10-21.9(b) amended by P.A. 101-531.

The Superintendent or designee, or the Regional Superintendent, notifies the State Superintendent of Education in writing within 15 business days when a CHRI returns a *conviction* of a crime set forth in 105 ILCS 5/21B-80. 105 ILCS 5/21.9(e), amended by P.A. 101-531.

The Superintendent or designee, or the Regional Superintendent, or as applicable the entity that provides background checks for public schools, notifies the State Superintendent of education in writing² within 10 business days³ after receiving information of a *pending* criminal charge for an offense set forth in 105 ILCS 5/21B-80. Required by 105 ILCS 5/10-21.9(e), amended by P.A.s 101-531 and 101-643.

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

For individuals student teaching or beginning a required internship, the Superintendent or designee ensures that the individual completes the required forms, authorizations, and provides payment to the District for the costs of completing a complete criminal history records check prior to student teaching or beginning a required internship (105 ILCS 5/10-21.9(g), amended by P.A. 101-531, and policy 5:260, *Student Teachers*). For more information, see also ISBE's non-regulatory guidance document, *Criminal History Records Information (CHRI) Checks for Certified and Non-certified School Personnel*, available at: www.isbe.net/Documents/guidance_chr.pdf.

2. Screen of the Statewide offender databases upon hire and every five years thereafter that an individual remains employed by the District. 105 ILCS 5/10-21.9(a-5), (a-6), amended by P.A. 101-531. The Superintendent or designee, or when the applicant is a successful superintendent candidate who has been offered employment by the Board, the Board President, performs a screen for each applicant of:

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² 105 ILCS 5/10-21.9(e), amended by P.A. 101-643, requires written notice for *convictions*. While notice for *pending* criminal charges is not required to be "in writing," for ease of use, consistency in administration, alignment with the requirement to provide written notice for *convictions*, and best practices this sample text states the State Superintendent will also be notified of *pending* criminal charges in writing. Consult the board attorney for further guidance.

³ 105 ILCS 5/10-21.9(e), amended by P.A. 101-643, does not state whether the notice requirement is *calendar* days or *business* days. Support for it being *business* days is found later in 105 ILCS 5/10-21.9(e), which requires that notice for *convictions* be provided within 15 business days.

- a. The Statewide Sex Offender Registry, www.isp.state.il.us/sor, as authorized by the Sex Offender Community Notification Law (730 ILCS 152/ et seq.), and
- b. The Statewide Murderer and Violent Offender Against Youth Registry www.isp.state.il.us/cmvo/, as authorized by the Murderer and Violent Offender Against Youth Community Notification Act (730 ILCS 154/75-154/105).

The Superintendent or designee, or when the applicant is a successful superintendent candidate who has been offered employment by the Board, the Board President, notifies the individual if he or she is identified in the database as a sex offender. Required by 105 ILCS 5/10-21.9 (a-5), (a-6), and (b), amended by P.A. 101-531. The Superintendent or designee, or the Regional Superintendent, notifies the State Superintendent of Education in writing within 15 business days, when a database screen finds a *registration* for an individual licensed by ISBE. 105 ILCS 5/21.9(e), amended by P.A. 101-531.

ISP and FBI - The ISP and FBI furnish records of convictions (until expunged), pursuant to the District's request, to the Board President. **Note:** The ISP and FBI must "furnish, pursuant to a fingerprint-based criminal history records check, records of convictions, until expunged, to the president of the school board...". See 105 ILCS 5/10-21.9(a) and (g), amended by P.A. 101-531. 20 ILCS 2630/3.3, added by P.A. 100-718, establishes authority for the ISP to collect fees from the District if wishes to participate in a Federal *Rap Back Service*. Rap Back Service is a capability of the FBI's Next Generation Identification (NGI) system that provides authorized agencies notification of criminal activity and, in limited cases, of civil activity, that occurs after the initial processing and retention of criminal or civil transactions, e.g., an initial fingerprint-based criminal history records check. The Board may determine that it wants to participate. Participation includes ISP submitting fingerprints that the District orders to the FBI Rap Back Service to be retained for the purpose of being searched by future submissions to the FBI Rap Back Service. For a student teacher, the report shall be returned to the Superintendent or designee (see ISBE's non-regulatory guidance document, *Criminal History Records Information (CHRI) Checks for Certified and Non-certified School Personnel*, at: www.isbe.net/Documents/guidance_chr.pdf).

Board President - The School Code requires the Board President to keep a conviction record confidential. The information may only be shared between the Board President, the Superintendent or designee, Regional Superintendent (if the check was requested by the District), State Superintendent of Education, State Educator Preparation and Licensure Board, any other person necessary to the hiring decision, or for clarification purposes, the ISP and/or Statewide Sex Offender Registry. See 105 ILCS 5/10-21.9(b), amended by P.A. 101-531, and 105 ILCS 5/21B-10. For further discussion about the practical implementation issues for the Board President to ensure that a fingerprint-based criminal history records information check and other database screens are initiated and completed prior to employment, see f/n 11 in 5:30, *Investigations*.

Regional Superintendent/Suburban Cook County Intermediate Service Center - The Superintendent or designee may require the applicant to authorize the Regional Superintendent or Suburban Cook County Intermediate Service Center, whichever is appropriate, to conduct the check when an applicant is (1) seeking employment in more than one District simultaneously as (a) a substitute teacher, (b) a concurrent part-time employee, and/or (c) educational support personnel, or (2) the employee works for a contractor holding contracts with more than one district. The Regional Superintendent or Suburban Cook County Intermediate Service Center, whichever is appropriate, also performs a check of the Statewide Sex Offender Registry, www.isp.state.il.us/sor, as authorized by the Sex Offender Community Notification Law (730 ILCS 152/115), and the Violent Offender Against Youth Registry, www.isp.state.il.us/cmvo/, as authorized by the Murderer and Violent

Offender Against Youth Community Notification Law (730 ILCS 154/75-154/105). See 105 ILCS 5/10-21.9 (a-5), (a-6), and (b), amended by P.A. 101-72.

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

Note: The provisions in 105 ILCS 5/10-21.9(f) and (g), amended by P.A. 101-531, apply to employees of contractors who have “direct, daily contact” with students. To be comprehensive and to eliminate uncertainty, this procedure and policy 4:175, *Convicted Child Sex Offender; Screening; Notifications*, may require a criminal history records check on *all* employees of contractors who may work in any school building or on school property. Whether the District uses the comprehensive language or the direct language from the School Code, the District, not the contractor, must perform the background checks. Contractors are not authorized under any State or federal law to: (1) conduct the required criminal history background checks; or (2) see the employee’s criminal history furnished by the ISP and the FBI. All contracts should also require the contractor to purchase insurance to cover misconduct by their employees and/or an indemnification clause. Additionally, the Superintendent or designee should check insurance coverage to determine whether employees of contractors are covered. See also policy 4:175, *Convicted Child Sex Offender; Screening; Notifications*, and administrative procedure 4:60-AP3, *Criminal History Records Check of Contractor Employees*, for the responsibilities of contractors. Last, if the District has received, within the last year, information that concerns the record of conviction and identification as a sex offender of any contractors’ employees, the District must provide the information to another school or school district that requests it (105 ILCS 5/10-21.9(f-5)). For more information, see ISBE’s non-regulatory guidance document, *Criminal History Records Information (CHRI) Checks for Certified and Non-certified School Personnel*, available at: www.isbe.net/Documents/guidance_chr.pdf. Unless notified by the individual named in a criminal history records information (CHRI) request or by the ISP that the information furnished in a CHRI report is inaccurate or incomplete, the District cannot be liable for damages to any person to whom the CHRI pertains for actions it reasonably took in reliance on the accuracy and completeness of CHRI report (20 ILCS 2635/7(A)(3)).

District - The School District complies with 105 ILCS 5/10-21.9, amended by P.A.s 101-72 and 101-531, and 5/21B-80, amended by P.A. 101-531. It will not knowingly employ a person, or allow a person to work or student teach/complete a required internship (105 ILCS 5/10-21.9(g)) on school grounds, who:

1. Has been convicted of any one or more of the following offenses, until seven years following the end of the sentence⁴ for the criminal offense:
 - a. Those defined in the Cannabis Control Act, 720 ILCS 550/, except: 720 ILCS 550/4(a), 550/4(b), 550/4(c), 550/5(a), 550/5(b) (each amended by P.A. 100-27), and any offense for which the holder of a license is placed on probation under the provisions of 550/10 provided that if the terms and conditions of probation required by the court are not fulfilled, the offense is not eligible for this exception.

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

⁴ *Sentence* includes any period of supervision or probation that was imposed either alone or in combination with a period of incarceration. 105 ILCS 5/21B-80(a), amended by P.A.101-531.

- b. Those defined in the Ill. Controlled Substances Act, 720 ILCS 570/100 *et seq.*, except: any offense for which the holder of a license is placed on probation under the provisions of 570/410 provided that if the terms and conditions of probation required by the court are not fulfilled, the offense is not eligible for this exception.
 - c. Those defined in the Methamphetamine Control and Community Protection Act, 720 ILCS 646/, except: any offense for which the holder of a license is placed on probation under the provisions of 646/70 provided that if the terms and conditions of probation required by the court are not fulfilled, the offense is not eligible for this exception.
 - d. Any attempt to commit any of the offenses listed in (a)-(c) of this section.
 - e. Any offense committed or attempted in any other state or against the laws of the United States that, if committed or attempted in Illinois, would have been punishable as one or more of the offenses listed in (a)-(d) of this section.
2. Has been convicted of committing or attempting to commit any one or more of the following offenses:
- a. Attempting to commit, conspiring to commit, soliciting, or committing first-degree murder or any Class X felony.
 - b. Attempting to commit, conspiring to commit, soliciting, or committing any *sex offense*. Sex offense means any offense defined in:
 - i. Sections 11-6 and 11-9 through 11-9.5, inclusive, and 11-30 (if punished as a Class 4 felony) of the Criminal Code of 1961 or the Criminal Code of 2012;
 - ii. Sections 11-14.1 through 11-21, inclusive, of the Criminal Code of 1961 or the Criminal Code of 2012;
 - iii. Sections 11-23 (if punished as a Class 3 felony), 11-24, 11-25, and 11-26 of the Criminal Code of 1961 or the Criminal Code of 2012; and
 - iv. Sections 11-1.20, 11-1.30, 11-1.40, 11-1.50, 11-1.60, 12-4.9, 12-13, 12-14, 12-14.1, 12-15, 12-16, 12-32, 12-33, 12C-45, and 26-4 (if punished pursuant to 26-4(d)(4) or (5)) of the Criminal Code of 1961 or the Criminal Code of 2012.
 - c. Any offense committed or attempted in any other state or against the laws of the United States, which if committed or attempted in Illinois, would have been punishable as one or more of the foregoing offenses.
3. Has been found to be the perpetrator of sexual or physical abuse of any minor less than 18 years of age pursuant to proceedings under Article II of the Juvenile Court Act of 1987.

Reporting New Hires

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

General Personnel

Administrative Procedure - Resource Guide for Family and Medical Leave

Web Resources

Compilation of resources from the U.S. Dept. of Labor (DOL), Wage & Hour Division
www.dol.gov/whd/fmla

Revised FMLA Poster

www.dol.gov/whd/regs/compliance/posters/fmlaen.pdf

Certification of Health Care Provider for Employee's Serious Health Condition

www.dol.gov/whd/forms/WH-380-E.pdf

Note: Consult the Board Attorney to ensure that: (1) the District is using the most recent version of the DOL's FMLA notification and certification forms, (2) Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act (GINA) safe harbor protections are adequately customized into these forms (the DOL did not include in its forms the specific instructions included in GINA's sample safe harbor provision), and (3) both federal and State law requirements are met.

Certification of Health Care Provider for Family Member's Serious Health Condition

www.dol.gov/whd/forms/WH-380-F.pdf

See **Note**, above.

Notice of Eligibility and Rights & Responsibilities

www.dol.gov/whd/forms/WH-381.pdf

Designation Notice

www.dol.gov/whd/forms/WH-382.pdf

Certification of Qualifying Exigency For Military Family Leave (PDF)

www.dol.gov/whd/forms/WH-384.pdf

Certification for Serious Injury or Illness of Covered Servicemember -- for Military Family Leave

www.dol.gov/whd/forms/WH-385.pdf

Fact Sheet #28 (Non-Military) (PDF)

www.dol.gov/whd/regs/compliance/whdfs28.htm

Fact Sheet #28A (Military) (PDF)

www.dol.gov/whd/regs/compliance/whdfs28a.htm

Department of Labor Rules

29 C.F.R. Part 825,

http://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-idx?tpl=/ecfrbrowse/Title29/29cfr825_main_02.tpl

Subpart A - Coverage Under the Family and Medical Leave Act §825.100

§825.100	The Family and Medical Leave Act
§825.101	Purpose of the Act
§825.102	Definitions

§825.103	[Reserved]
§825.104	Covered employer
§825.105	Counting employees for determining coverage
§825.106	Joint employer coverage
§825.107	Successor in interest coverage
§825.108	Public agency coverage
§825.109	Federal agency coverage
§825.110	Eligible employees
§825.111	Determining whether 50 employees are employed within 75 miles
§825.112	Qualifying reasons for leave, general rule
§825.113	Serious health condition
§825.114	Inpatient care
§825.115	Continuing treatment
§§825.116-118	[Reserved]
§825.119	Leave for treatment of substance abuse
§825.120	Leave for pregnancy or birth
§825.121	Leave for adoption or foster care
§825.122	Definitions of covered servicemember, spouse, parent, son or daughter, next of kin of a covered servicemember, adoption, foster care, son or daughter on active duty or call to covered active duty status, son or daughter of a covered servicemember, and parent of a covered servicemember
§825.123	Unable to perform the functions of the position
§825.124	Needed to care for a family member or covered servicemember
§825.125	Definition of health care provider
§825.126	Leave because of a qualifying exigency
§825.127	Leave to care for a covered servicemember with a serious injury or illness (military caregiver leave)

Subpart B - Employee Leave Entitlements Under the Family and Medical Leave Act

§825.200	Amount of leave
§825.201	Leave to care for a parent
§825.202	Intermittent leave or reduced leave schedule
§825.203	Scheduling of intermittent or reduced schedule leave
§825.204	Transfer of an employee to an alternative position during intermittent leave or reduced schedule leave
§825.205	Increments of FMLA leave for intermittent or reduced schedule leave
§825.206	Interaction with the FLSA
§825.207	Substitution of paid leave
§825.208	[Reserved]
§825.209	Maintenance of employee benefits
§825.210	Employee payment of group health benefit premiums
§825.211	Maintenance of benefits under multi-employer health plans
§825.212	Employee failure to pay health plan premium payments
§825.213	Employer recovery of benefit costs
§825.214	Employee right to reinstatement
§825.215	Equivalent position
§825.216	Limitations on an employee's right to reinstatement
§825.217	Key employee, general rule

§825.218	Substantial and grievous economic injury
§825.219	Rights of a key employee
§825.220	Protection for employees who request leave or otherwise assert FMLA rights
Subpart C - Employee and Employer Rights and Obligations Under the Act	
§825.300	Employer notice requirements
§825.301	Designation of FMLA leave
§825.302	Employee notice requirements for foreseeable FMLA leave
§825.303	Employee notice requirements for unforeseeable FMLA leave
§825.304	Employee failure to provide notice
§825.305	Certification, general rule
§825.306	Content of medical certification for leave taken because of an employee's own serious health condition or the serious health condition of a family member
§825.307	Authentication and clarification of medical certification for leave taken because of an employee's own serious health condition or the serious health condition of a family member; second and third opinions
§825.308	Recertifications for leave taken because of an employee's own serious health condition or the serious health condition of a family member
§825.309	Certification for leave taken because of a qualifying exigency
§825.310	Certification for leave taken to care for a covered servicemember (military caregiver leave)
§825.311	Intent to return to work
§825.312	Fitness-for-duty certification
§825.313	Failure to provide certification
Subpart D - Enforcement Mechanisms	
§825.400	Enforcement, general rules
§825.401	Filing a complaint with the Federal Government
§825.402	Violations of the posting requirement
§825.403	Appealing the assessment of a penalty for willful violation of the posting requirement
§825.404	Consequences for an employer when not paying the penalty assessment after a final order is issued
Subpart E - Recordkeeping Requirements	
§825.500	Recordkeeping requirements
Subpart F - Special Rules Applicable to Employees of Schools	
§825.600	Special rules for school employees, definitions
§825.601	Special rules for school employees, limitations on intermittent leave
§825.602	Special rules for school employees, limitations on leave near the end of an academic term
§825.603	Special rules for school employees, duration of FMLA leave
§825.604	Special rules for school employees, restoration to an equivalent position
Subpart G - Effect of Other Laws, Employer Practices, and Collective Bargaining Agreements on Employee Rights Under FMLA	
§825.700	Interaction with employer's policies
§825.701	Interaction with State laws
§825.702	Interaction with Federal and State anti-discrimination laws

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; 105 ILCS 5/27-24.2, amended by P.A. 101-450; and 23 Ill.Admin.Code Part 252 (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 in 2013.

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.s 100-596 and 101-643: (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 (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.

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.

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.

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).

Educational Support Personnel

Employment At-Will, Compensation, and Assignment 1

Employment At-Will ²

Unless otherwise specifically provided, District employment is at-will, meaning that employment may be terminated by the District or employee at any time for any reason, other than a reason prohibited by law, or no reason at all.³ Nothing in School Board policy is intended or should be construed as altering the employment at-will relationship.

Exceptions to employment at-will may include employees who are employed annually, have an employment contract, or are otherwise granted a legitimate interest in continued employment. The Superintendent is authorized to make exceptions to employing nonlicensed employees at-will but shall maintain a record of positions or employees who are not at-will.

Compensation

The Board will determine salary and wages for educational support personnel. Increments are dependent on evidence of continuing satisfactory performance. An employee covered by the overtime

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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.

A collective bargaining agreement may contain provisions that supersede this policy, in which case, the policy might state: "Please refer to the current bargaining agreement between the Educational Support Personnel and the School Board."

While the term *educational support personnel* is not defined in the School Code, at least one appellate court and one circuit court decision found in dicta that the term refers to nonlicensed employees, such as clerical workers, custodians, cafeteria workers, bus drivers, and teachers' aides. Laukhuf v. Congerville-Eureka-Goodfield School Dist, 2003 WL 23936148 (11th Cir. 2003)(non-precedential); Buckelley v. Georgetown-Ridge Farm Community Unit School Dist., 215 Ill.App.3d 506 (4th Dist. 1991).

² Illinois law does not specifically create a protected property interest in continued employment for nonlicensed employees, except in a reduction in force. However, whether an employee is actually employed at-will depends on the specific facts. This determination is important because the dismissal of an employee having a protected property right in continued employment requires a notice and hearing. Cleveland Bd of Educ. v. Loudermill, 470 U.S. 532 (1985). *See also* Griggsville-Perry Community Unit School Dist. v. Ill. Educ. Labor Relations Bd., 368 Ill.Dec. 494 (2013)(upheld an arbitrator's finding that the requirement to provide a pre-discharge written notice was drawn from the essence of the agreement).

Even with this policy, it is safest to presume that all nonlicensed employees are at least employed annually. This is a good assumption 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, or an oral promise. Arneson v. Bd of Trustees, McKendree College, 210 Ill.App.3d 844 (5th Dist. 1991). Moreover, there are several exceptions to at-will including prohibitions against discrimination and retaliatory discharge (Michael v. Precision Alliance Group, 351 Ill.Dec. 890 (5th Dist. 2011)(common law recognizes a cause of action for retaliatory discharge when the employee engaged in protected activity). Consult the board attorney for help determining whether an employee is employed *at-will*).

A district, by policy or handbook, may not take away a previously given property interest in continued employment to current employees; only those employees hired afterwards could be affected. Duldulao v. St. Mary of Nazareth Hospital, 136 Ill.App.3d 763 (1st Dist. 1985); Kaiser v. Dixon, 127 Ill.App.3d 251 (2nd Dist. 1984).

For a discussion of prohibited dismissal reasons, *see* 5:10, *Equal Employment Opportunity and Minority Recruitment*. Volunteer firefighters may not be fired for responding to an emergency. 50 ILCS 748/.

³ 105 ILCS 5/10-23.5. For more information on RIF, *see* policy 5:290, *Employment Termination and Suspensions*.

provisions in State or federal law shall not work overtime without the prior authorization from the employee's immediate supervisor.⁴ Educational support personnel are paid twice a month.⁵

Assignment

The Superintendent is authorized to make assignments and transfers of educational support personnel.

LEGAL REF.: 105 ILCS 5/10-22.34 and 5/10-23.5.

CROSS REF.: 5:10 (Equal Employment Opportunity and Minority Recruitment) 5:35 (Compliance with the Fair Labor Standards Act), 5:290 (Employment Termination and Suspensions), 5:310 (Compensatory Time-Off)

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

⁴ For information regarding overtime, see policy 5:35, *Compliance with the Fair Labor Standards Act*.

⁵ 820 ILCS 115/3. However, the wages of employees who are *exempt* as defined in the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) (29 U.S.C. §201 et seq.) may be paid once a month. For a discussion of the FLSA, see 5:35, *Compliance with the Fair Labor Standards Act*.