

General School Administration

Superintendent¹

Duties and Authority

The Superintendent is the District's executive officer and is responsible for the administration and management of the District schools in accordance with School Board policies and directives, and State and federal law. District management duties include, without limitation, preparing, submitting, publishing, and posting reports and notifications as required by State and federal law,² including the special reporting responsibilities in policy 5:90, *Abused and Neglected Child Reporting*.³ The Superintendent is authorized to develop administrative procedures and take other action as needed to implement Board policy and otherwise fulfill his or her responsibilities. The Superintendent may delegate to other District staff members the exercise of any powers and the discharge of any duties imposed upon the Superintendent by Board policies or by Board vote. The delegation of power or duty, however, shall not relieve the Superintendent of responsibility for the action that was delegated.⁴

Qualifications

The Superintendent must be of good character and of unquestionable morals and integrity. The Superintendent shall have the experience and the skills necessary to work effectively with the Board, District employees, students, and the community. The Superintendent must have and maintain a

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¹ State law controls this policy's content. Unless the district has only one school with fewer than four teachers, the board must employ a superintendent or a chief executive officer as allowed under specific circumstances. 105 ILCS 5/10-21.4. This statute assigns some specific duties to the superintendent including to: (1) make recommendations to the board concerning the budget, building plans, the locations of sites, the selection, retention, and dismissal of teachers and all other employees, the selection of textbooks, instructional material, and courses of study; (2) report to the board, Ill. State Board of Education (ISBE), and chief administrative official any employee named in an abused child report; and (3) keep or cause to be kept the records and accounts as directed and required by the board, aid in making reports required by the board, and perform such other duties as the board may delegate to him/her. 105 ILCS 5/10-16.7 requires boards to direct, through policy, the superintendent, in his or her charge of the district's administration.

ISBE is required, subject to an annual appropriation by the General Assembly, to establish a new superintendent mentoring program. With limited exceptions, any individual serving as a first-time superintendent in Illinois must participate in the mentoring program for two school years. 105 ILCS 5/2-3.53b. The ISBE-selected provider will assign a mentor to a new superintendent based on similarity of grade level or type of district, learning needs, and geographical proximity. The mentor must not be required to evaluate the new superintendent on the basis of the mentoring relationship.

² See 2:250-E2, *Immediately Available District Public Records and Web-Posted Reports and Records*, for an annotated list of documents and reports that must be posted on the district's website, if the district has a website. While not comprehensive, see the IASB's *Annual School Calendar* for the required reports that do not need web-posting, available on the IASB website at: www.iasb.com/policy-services-and-school-law/illinois-laws-affecting-schools/annual-school-calendar/.

³ 105 ILCS 5/10-21.9(e-5), amended by P.A.s 102-552 and 102-702. See the discussion in the f/n's tied to the text of the **Special Superintendent Responsibilities** subhead in sample policy 5:90, *Abused and Neglected Child Reporting*.

⁴ This paragraph strengthens the policy's connection to the IASB's *Foundational Principles of Effective Governance*. See www.iasb.com/principles.cfm. It allows the superintendent broad delegation authority even when a policy fails to specifically provide for delegation.

Professional Educator License with a superintendent endorsement issued by the Illinois State Educator Preparation and Licensure Board.⁵

Evaluation

The Board will evaluate, at least annually, the Superintendent's performance and effectiveness, using standards and objectives developed by the Superintendent and Board that are consistent with State law, the Board's policies, and the Superintendent's contract.⁶ A specific time should be designated for a formal evaluation session with all Board members present. The evaluation should include a discussion of professional strengths as well as performance areas needing improvement.

The Superintendent shall annually present evidence of professional growth through attendance at educational conferences, in-service training, or similar continuing education pursuits.⁷

Compensation and Benefits⁸

The Board and the Superintendent shall enter into an employment agreement that conforms to Board policy and State law. This contract shall govern the employment relationship between the Board and the Superintendent. The terms of the Superintendent's employment agreement, when in conflict with this policy, will control.

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⁵ 105 ILCS 5/21B-20 and 5/21B-25 govern Professional Educator Licenses and superintendent endorsements. See also 23 Ill.Admin.Code §§25.355 (superintendent endorsement) and 29.100 (Ill. Professional School Leader Standards).

⁶ 105 ILCS 5/10-16.7 requires a board to evaluate the superintendent. See *The Superintendent Evaluation Process* at: www.iasb.com/iasb/media/documents/superintendent-evaluation-process.pdf. While greater detail may be added to this paragraph (e.g., a timeline, self-evaluation provision, and discussion requirements), a board must be sure that the policy and the superintendent's contract are consistent.

⁷ The reporting requirements in this paragraph are optional, but school boards must "require evaluators to participate in an in-service training on the evaluation of licensed personnel provided or approved by [ISBE] prior to undertaking any evaluation and at least once during each license renewal cycle." 105 ILCS 5/24A-3.

⁸ According to 105 ILCS 5/10-23.8, a superintendent must be employed under either: (1) a one-year contract, in which case he or she gains and retains tenure rights; or (2) a multi-year performance-based contract, in which case he or she waives all tenure rights but does not lose any previously acquired tenure credit with the district. A multi-year performance-based contract must contain specific student performance and academic improvement goals and indicators; see 3:40-E, *Checklist for the Superintendent Employment Contract Negotiation Process*. Residency requirements, if desired, should be included in a superintendent's employment contract.

The employment contract should be *in writing* even though the School Code does not require it to be written. Contact the board attorney for assistance. An administrator who is not working under a written contract is presumed to have a contract of one year's duration. *Bd. of Educ. of Schaumburg Cmty. Consol. Sch. Dist. No. 54 v. TRS*, 368 Ill.Dec. 341 (4th Dist. 2013)(interpreting 105 ILCS 5/10-23.8a). The Ill. Statute of Frauds may make it impossible to execute an *oral* multi-year administrator contract or to *orally* extend a multi-year written contract. 740 ILCS 80/1.

The Open Meetings Act requires all Ill. Municipal Retirement Fund (IMRF) employers, which includes school boards, to: (1) within six business days after approving a budget, web-post each employee's total compensation package if it exceeds \$75,000 per year; and (2) at least six days before approval, web-post an employee's total compensation package if it is \$150,000 or more. 5 ILCS 120/7.3. Conflicting opinions concern whether school districts must comply with these posting requirements for their employees who do not participate in IMRF. Contact the board attorney for advice.

Annually by Oct. 1, each school board must report to ISBE the base salary and benefits of the superintendent, administrators, and teachers it employs. 105 ILCS 5/10-20.47. Before this annual reporting to ISBE, the information must be presented at a regular school board meeting and then posted on the district's website, if any.

LEGAL REF.: 105 ILCS 5/10-16.7, 5/10-20.47, 5/10-21.4, 5/10-21.9, 5/10-23.8, 5/21B-20, 5/21B-25, 5/24-11, and 5/24A-3.
5 ILCS 120/7.3, Open Meetings Act.
23 Ill.Admin.Code §§1.310, 1.705, and 25.355.

CROSS REF: 2:20 (Powers and Duties of the School Board; Indemnification), 2:130 (Board-Superintendent Relationship), 2:240 (Board Policy Development), 3:10 (Goals and Objectives), 4:165 (Awareness and Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse and Grooming Behaviors), 4:175 (Convicted Child Sex Offender; Screening; Notifications), 5:30 (Hiring Process and Criteria), 5:90 (Abused and Neglected Child Reporting), 5:120 (Employee Ethics; Code of Professional Conduct; and Conflict of Interest), 5:150 (Personnel Records), 5:210 (Resignations), 5:290 (Employment Termination and Suspensions)