

Document Status: Draft Update - Rewritten

Operational Services

4:180 Pandemic Preparedness; Management; and Recovery

Title has been updated. Original Title: Pandemic Preparedness

The School Board recognizes that the District will play an essential role along with the local health department and emergency management agencies in protecting the public's health and safety during a pandemic. [PRESSPlus1](#)

A pandemic is a global outbreak of disease. Pandemics happen when a new virus emerges to infect individuals and, because there is little to no pre-existing immunity against the new virus, it spreads sustainably. [PRESSPlus2](#)

To prepare the School District community for a pandemic, the Superintendent or designee shall: (1) learn and understand how the roles that the federal, State, and local government function; (2) form a pandemic planning team consisting of appropriate District personnel and community members to identify priorities and oversee the development and implementation of a comprehensive pandemic school action plan; and (3) build awareness of the final plan among staff, students, and community.

Emergency School Closing [PRESSPlus3](#)

In the case of a pandemic, the Governor may declare a disaster due to a public health emergency that may affect any decision for an emergency school closing. Decisions for an emergency school closing will be made by the Superintendent in consultation with and, if necessary, at the direction of the Governor, Ill. Dept. of Public Health, District's local health department, emergency management agencies, and/or Regional Office of Education. [Q1](#)

During an emergency school closing, the Board President and the Superintendent [Q2](#) may, to the extent the emergency situation allows, examine existing Board policies pursuant to Policy 2:240, *Board Policy Development*, and recommend to the Board for consideration any needed amendments or suspensions to address mandates that the District may not be able to accomplish or implement due to a pandemic. [PRESSPlus4](#)

Board Meeting Procedure: No Physical Presence of Quorum and Participation by Audio or Video [PRESSPlus5](#)

A disaster declaration related to a public health emergency [PRESSPlus6](#) may affect the Board's ability to meet in person and generate a quorum of members who are physically present at the location of a meeting. Policy 2:220, *School Board Meeting Procedure*, governs Board meetings by video or audio conference without the physical presence of a quorum.

Payment of Employee Salaries During Emergency School Closures [PRESSPlus7](#)

The Superintendent shall consult with the Board to determine the extent to which continued payment of salaries and benefits will be made to the District's employees, pursuant to Board policies 3:40, *Superintendent*, 3:50, *Administrative Personnel Other Than the Superintendent*, 5:35, *Compliance with the Fair Labor Standards Act*, 5:200, *Terms and Conditions of Employment and Dismissal*, and 5:270, *Employment At-Will, Compensation, and Assignment*, and consistent with: (1) applicable laws, regulations, federal or State or local emergency declarations, executive orders, and agency directives; (2) collective bargaining agreements and any bargaining obligations; and (3) the terms of any grant under which an employee is being paid.

Suspension of In-Person Instruction: Remote and/or Blended Remote Learning Day Plan(s) [PRESSPlus8](#)

When the Governor declares a disaster due to a public health emergency pursuant to 20 ILCS 3305/7, and the State Superintendent of Education declares a requirement for the District to use *Remote Learning Days* or *Blended Remote Learning Days*, the Superintendent shall approve and present to the Board for adoption [PRESSPlus9](#) a Remote and/or Blended Remote Learning Day Plan (Plan) that: [Q3](#)

1. Recommends to the Board for consideration any suspensions or amendments to curriculum-related policies to reduce any Board-required graduation or other instructional requirements in excess of minimum curricular requirements specified in School Code that the District may not be able to provide due to the pandemic; [PRESSPlus10](#)
2. Implements the requirements of 105 ILCS 5/10-30; and
3. Ensures a plan for periodic review of and/or amendments to the Plan when needed and/or required by statute, regulation, or State guidance.

LEGAL REF.:

105 ILCS 5/10-16.7, 5/10-20.5, 5/10-20.56, and 5/10-30.

5 ILCS 120/2.01 and 120/7(e), Open Meetings Act.

20 ILCS 2305/2(b), Ill. Dept. of Public Health Act (Part 1).

20 ILCS 3305/, Ill. Emergency Management Agency Act.

115 ILCS 5/, Ill. Educational Labor Relations Act.

CROSS REF.: 1:20 (District Organization, Operations, and Cooperative Agreements), 2:20 (Powers and Duties of the School Board; Indemnification), 2:220 (School Board Meeting Procedure), 2:240 (Board Policy Development), 3:40 (Superintendent), 3:50 (Administrative Personnel Other Than the Superintendent), 3:70 (Succession of Authority), 4:170 (Safety), 5:35 (Compliance with the Fair Labor Standards Act), 5:200 (Terms and Conditions of Employment and Dismissal), 5:270 (Employment At-Will, Compensation, and Assignment), 6:20 (School Year Calendar and Day), 6:60 (Curriculum Content), 6:300 (Graduation Requirements), 7:90 (Release During School Hours), 8:100 (Relations with Other Organizations and Agencies)

Questions and Answers:

***Required Question 1. Is your district served by an Intermediate Service Center rather than an ROE (suburban Cook County)?

- No. (default)
- Yes. (IASB will replace "Regional Office of Education" with "Intermediate Service Center")

***Required Question 2. This sample policy uses the board president and superintendent as the default text because during a pandemic, it may be difficult for a board policy committee to meet pursuant emergency executive orders that are issued, etc. See policies 2:150, *Committees*, and 2:240, *Board Policy Development*. Does the board prefer its policy committee to engage in this work?

- No. (default)
- Yes. (IASB will replace "Board President and the Superintendent" with "Board Policy Committee")

***Required Question 3. Remote Learning Days (RLDs) and Blended Remote Learning Days (BRLDs) are different from *e-learning days/e-learning programs*. RLD/BRLDs are for use when the governor declares a disaster under 20 ILCS 3305/ and the state superintendent has declared a requirement for the district to use them to provide remote instruction to pre-kindergarten through grade 12 that count as pupil attendance days under 105 ILCS 5/10-19.05(j-5), amended by P.A. 101-643. 105 ILCS 5/10-30(1), added by P.A. 101-643. BRLDs allow districts to utilize "hybrid models of in-person and remote instruction. E-learning days are part of an e-learning program that require a board to, among other things, hold a public hearing and obtain approval by the Regional Office of Education (or Intermediate Service Center) to allow the district to provide instruction to students electronically while they are not physically present due to inclement weather and other unexpected events. 105 ILCS 5/10-20.56(b), amended by P.As. 101-12 and 101-643. School districts with e-learning programs may adapt them for use during RLDs and BRLDs (105 ILCS 5/10-20.56(a), amended by P.As. 101-12 and 101-643, and 5/10-30(2), added by P.A. 101-643.

Has the board adopted an e-learning program pursuant to 105 ILCS 5/10-20.56, added by P.A. 101-12?

- No. (default)
 - Yes. (IASB will add the following text to number two after 105 ILCS 5/10-30: "by adapting into a Plan the District's e-learning program implemented pursuant to 105 ILCS 5/10-20.56")
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PRESSPlus Comments

PRESSPlus 1. This policy is renamed from *Pandemic Preparedness* to *Pandemic Preparedness: Management; and Recovery*. It is updated in response to the General Assembly, the Ill. State Board of Education (ISBE), Ill. Attorney General, and the U.S. Dept. of Education taking a number of actions and/or issuing guidance documents to address the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic as it affects public school operations and student learning. Its purpose is to establish board direction about pandemic preparedness, management, and recovery issues and inform the community about the board's role during a pandemic.

Certain subheads of this policy are required; see further PRESS Plus comments for more information.

A redlined version showing the changes and more information in the footnotes can be found at PRESS Online, accessed by logging in at www.iasb.com. **Issue 104, June 2020**

PRESSPlus 2. This paragraph embodies the CDC's pandemic definition. See www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/cases-updates/summary.html. The **Illinois Pandemic Influenza Preparedness and Response Plan**, Version 5.0, May 2014, also defines pandemic at page 9; however, that definition is specific to influenza. The new COVID-19 coronavirus is not an influenza virus yet was characterized as a pandemic by the World Health Organization. At the time of publication during the 2020 COVID-19 pandemic, it was not clear whether this Illinois resource's definition will be amended. **Issue 104, June 2020**

PRESSPlus 3. In times of emergency, the functions of different levels of State and federal government often become cloudy, and determining what governmental entity has powers to take a particular action can be confusing. The concept of federalism, or the coexistence of federal and state governments with their own local powers, was utilized during the response to the 2020 COVID-19 pandemic. Federalism is premised on the Constitutional limits of federal power. See U.S. Const. Art, I, Sec. 8 (limiting powers of Congress providing only those powers enumerated). Generally, during the 2020 COVID-19 pandemic, Illinois and other states were left with these remaining powers of government to respond to the crisis. In general, President Trump's administration set broad national policy, particularly with respect to international travel and the approval of treatments, and suggested guidance that States could follow regarding mitigation measures. The states' governors and local leaders made other state-specific or locality-specific decisions based upon the local conditions in each community. Depending upon the federal administration in power at the time of a pandemic, the federal government may seek to play a greater or lesser role in the management of a pandemic.

During the 2020 COVID-19 pandemic, the Governor and ISBE issued many directives and/or guidance, including reliance upon the advice and recommendations of local public health departments. See www.isbe.net/Documents/ISBE-Guidance-to-School-Coronavirus.pdf. And see other 2020 COVID-19 guidance documents as follows:

- Ill. Gov. Pritzker, ISBE, Ill. Association of School Admin., Ill. Principals' Assoc., Ill. Ed. Assoc., and Ill. Fed. of Teachers Joint Statement: www.isbe.net/Documents/Joint-Statement-Updated%203-27-20.pdf.
- IDPH-ISBE joint schools guidance: www.dph.illinois.gov/topics-services/diseases-and-conditions/diseases-a-z-list/coronavirus/schools-guidance
- IDPH-ISBE joint workplace health and safety guidance: www.dph.illinois.gov/covid19/community-guidance/workplace-health-and-safety-guidance
- Restore Illinois Plan: www2.illinois.gov/dceo/Pages/RestoreILP3.aspx.

During the 2020 COVID-19 pandemic, several protests occurred and many lawsuits were filed challenging Ill. Gov. Pritzker's extensions of disaster declaration emergency power under IEMA, 20 ILCS 3305/7. See the 2020 COVID-19 Executive Orders (EO) at: coronavirus.illinois.gov/s/resources-for-executive-orders. Controversies existed across party and regional lines with all branches of government looking to balance the need to protect human life against the desire to preserve personal liberty. Gov. Pritzker's EOs faced unsettled challenges in both the courts of law and public opinion as a five-phased plan to re-open Illinois was also being introduced a/k/a *Restore Illinois Plan* (coronavirus.illinois.gov/s/restore-illinois-introduction). **Issue 104, June 2020**

PRESSPlus 4. Examples include, but are not limited to, policies 6:20, *School Year Calendar and Day*, 6:300, *Graduation Requirements*, 6:310, *High School Credit for Non-District Experiences; Course Substitutions; Re-Entering Students*. For Executive Orders addressing these issues, see the footnotes available at PRESS Online by logging in at www.iasb.com. **Issue 104, June 2020**

PRESSPlus 5. 5 ILCS 120/2.01 and 120/7(e), amended by P.A. 101-640. See also 105 ILCS 5/10-6 and 5/10-12. See policy 2:220 and Board exhibit 2:220-E9 for more information. **Issue 104, June 2020**

PRESSPlus 6. While 5 ILCS 120/7(e)(1), amended by P.A. 101-640, uses the phrase "related to public health concerns," the text "due to public health emergency" aligns with Ill. Emergency Act (IEMA), 20 ILCS 3305/4 and 7, the governing statute of disaster declarations. For ease of understanding and alignment with IEMA, this policy uses "public health emergency." **Issue 104, June 2020**

PRESSPlus 7. Required if a district wishes to continue to charge employee salaries and benefits to a grant during an extended school closure, depending upon the specific terms of government orders and/or guidance issued during a pandemic. 2 C.F.R. Part 200 (see www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/M-20-17.pdf, extended until 9-30-20 by www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/M-20-26.pdf) and 30 ILCS 708/.

During the 2020 COVID-19 pandemic, Gov. Pritzker and ISBE issued directives and/or guidance regarding payment of school

district employees that may impact a board's decision regarding continued payment of employees during an extended closure. ISBE and the Governor suspended in-person learning and issued a Joint Statement (JS) with other school administrator and union groups, which purported to mandate that all school district employees on the district's payroll be paid as if districts were functioning normally and they were performing their normal work. See www.isbe.net/Documents/Joint-Statement-Updated%203-27-20.pdf. The JS cited no specific authority for the payment mandate. Additionally, changes to wages, hours, terms and conditions of employment, even when made during an extraordinary circumstance such as a pandemic, remain subject to collective bargaining obligations.

See sample procedure 4:180-AP3, *Grant Flexibility; Payment of Employee Salaries During a Pandemic*, and its footnotes, available at PRESS Online by logging in at www.iasb.com. **Issue 104, June 2020**

PRESSPlus 8. 105 ILCS 5/10-30(3), added by P.A. 101-643, requires the “[board] to adopt and the superintendent to approve” these plans upon the following statutory triggers: (1) the governor declaring a disaster pursuant to 20 ILCS 3305/, and (2) the state superintendent of education declaring a requirement for a school district, multiple school districts, a region, or the entire State.

See sample administrative procedure 6:20-AP, *Remote and/or Blended Remote Learning Day Plan(s)*, available at PRESS Online by logging in at www.iasb.com, for the specifics of implementing Remote Learning Days (RLDs) and/or Blended Remote Learning Days (BLRDs).

Implementing a plan under this subhead contains items on which collective bargaining may be required. Any policy that impacts wages, hours, or 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 subhead of the policy concerns an area in which the law is unsettled. See 105 ILCS 5/10-30(7), added by P.A. 101-643 (stating that it does not increase or diminish any collective bargaining rights under existing law, and that aspects of the plan that impact the wages or other terms or conditions of employment will need to be bargained with the exclusive bargaining representative(s)).

To avoid confusion, note that the triggers under the Open Meetings Act (OMA), 5 ILCS 120/7, amended by P.A. 101-640, for when a school board may conduct its meetings by audio or video conference without the physical presence of a quorum are a bit more broad: (1) the “governor **or the director of IDPH** has issued a disaster declaration of a disaster as defined in 20 ILCS 3305/, and (2) all or part of the jurisdiction of the [school board] is covered by the disaster area. This means that it is possible for the board to meet remotely under OMA if the director of IDPH declares a disaster, but the School Code requires the governor to be the one to declare the disaster under 20 ILCSA 3305/ in order for the state superintendent of education to declare that a district implement RLD/BRLDs. **Issue 104, June 2020**

PRESSPlus 9. 105 ILCS 5/10-30(3), added by P.A. 101-643 states “the district shall adopt a remote and blended remote learning day plan approved by the district superintendent.” For ease of administration, to avoid confusion during implementation, and to align with the IASB Foundational Principles of Effective Governance (www.iasb.com/principles_popup.cfm), this policy assigns the duty to *adopt* the remote and blended remote learning day plan (plan) by “the district” to the board. In alignment with this policy, administrative procedure 6:20-AP, *Remote and/or Blended Remote Learning Day Plan(s)*, requires the superintendent to *approve* the plan and present it to the board for *adoption* prior to district-wide implementation and posting on the district's website. **Issue 104, June 2020**

PRESSPlus 10. 105 ILCS 5/10-30(8), added by P.A. 101-643 does not excuse districts from completing all statutory and regulatory curricular mandates and offerings. **Issue 104, June 2020**