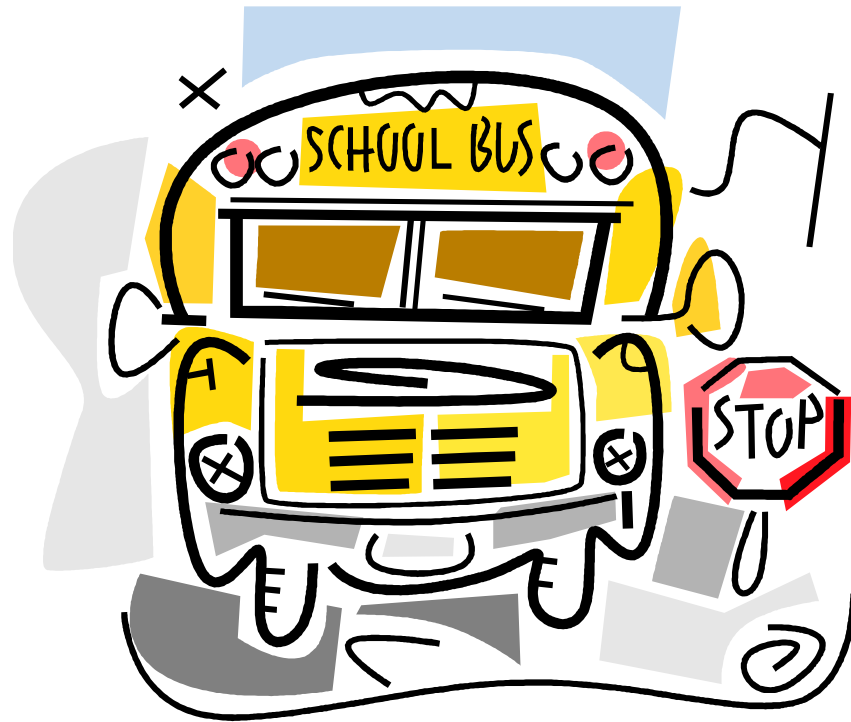


# JEFFERSON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



## STUDENT AND PARENT INFORMATION HANDBOOK

**2026 – 2027**

Jefferson School  
Second and Third Grade  
Crystal Thorpe, Principal  
Kelli Full, Assistant Principal  
800 Fourth Ave.  
Phone: 815-934-9661  
Fax: 815-206-8187  
[www.dps170.org](http://www.dps170.org)

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## STAFF DIRECTORY

Mrs. Crystal Thorpe-Principal  
Mrs. Kelli Full, Assistant Principal

Mrs. Leann Wagner- Secretary  
Mrs. Jody Wolf- Office Assistant  
Mrs. Sara Faley- Nurse

Mrs. Marissa Krager- Social Worker  
Mrs. Danielle Andrews- 2<sup>nd</sup> grade  
Ms. Candace Buikema- 3<sup>rd</sup> grade  
Mrs. Kim Conderman- 2<sup>nd</sup> grade  
Miss Katie Dewey- 3<sup>rd</sup> grade  
Ms. Teesha Keen – 2<sup>nd</sup> grade  
Miss Leah Saunders- 2<sup>nd</sup> grade  
Ms. Kelsey Stone- 2<sup>nd</sup> grade  
Mrs. DeeAnn Wendt- 2<sup>nd</sup> grade  
Mrs. Shana Engelkes- 3<sup>rd</sup> grade  
Mrs. Lisa Hoyle- 3<sup>rd</sup> grade  
Mrs. Jennifer Kuehl- 3<sup>rd</sup> grade  
Mr. Carter Schlegel- 3<sup>rd</sup> grade  
Miss Jordan Saunders- 3<sup>rd</sup> grade  
Ms. Carlee Schultz- 3<sup>rd</sup> grade  
Mr. Jeff Masters- Physical Education  
Mrs. Breanna Shippert- Physical Education  
Mrs. Leah Meeks- Music  
Mrs. Liz Spaulding- Special Education  
Ms. Paige Cater- Special Education  
Mrs. Lauren Merrill- Special Education  
Mrs. Darien Thorpe- Speech  
Mrs. Andrea Willey- Occupational Therapy  
Mrs. Amy Scott- Title I Reading  
Mr. Dan Siriann- EL Instructor  
Mrs. Mary Beth Zachary- Library Para  
Mr. Bob Wendt- Technology  
Mr. Rob Long- Custodian  
Ms. Tina Popkins- Custodian  
Mr. Tommy Mekeel  
Mr. Mike Adams-Custodian

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**Student/Parent Handbook Acknowledgement and Pledge**

Name of Student: \_\_\_\_\_

**Student Acknowledgement and Pledge**

I acknowledge receiving and/or being provided electronic access to the Student/Parent Handbook and School Board policy on student behavior. I have read these materials and understand all rules, responsibilities and expectations. In order to help keep my school safe, I pledge to adhere to all School and School District rules, policies and procedures.

I understand that the Student/Parent Handbook and School District policies may be amended during the year and that such changes are available on the School District website or in the school office.

I understand that my failure to return this acknowledgement and pledge will not relieve me from being responsible for knowing or complying with School and School District rules, policies and procedures.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**Parent/Guardian Acknowledgement**

I acknowledge receiving and/or being provided electronic access to the Student/Parent Handbook and School Board policy on student behavior. I have read these materials and understand all rules, responsibilities and expectations.

I understand that the Student/Parent Handbook and School District policies may be amended during the year and that such changes are available on the School District website or in the school office.

I understand that my failure to return this acknowledgement will not relieve me or my child from being responsible for knowing or complying with School and School District rules, policies and procedures.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

# DIXON PUBLIC SCHOOLS #170

*"A Place to Grow"*

[www.dps170.org](http://www.dps170.org)

1335 Franklin Grove Road  
Dixon, Illinois 61021

Phone: (815) 373-4966  
Fax: (815) 284-8576

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Kellie Glenn – Washington Elementary Principal  
Crystal Thorpe– Jefferson Elementary Principal  
Joseph Sagel – Madison Elementary Principal

Dear Parents and Students,

Welcome to the Jefferson School family. We are dedicated to assuring the success of all children. Our staff has a strong belief that we must work together with our parents/guardians in order for all children to achieve up to their highest potential. This means that students, parents and staff must all do their part to make Jefferson School a great place for children to learn. Success in any team effort is dependent upon all members fulfilling their responsibilities.

In order to assist stakeholders in fulfilling their responsibilities, Jefferson school has developed the following handbook. The Jefferson School Student/Parent handbook outlines our policies and procedures. Please read it and become familiar with policies and procedures, as they affect you and your child's participation in school and school related activities.

If you have questions regarding this handbook or school related policies and procedures, I strongly urge you to contact me at the Jefferson School office, 815-934-9661.

The Jefferson School family looks forward to teaming with you to provide your child with the best educational experience possible.

Sincerely,

Crystal Thorpe  
Principal  
Jefferson Elementary School

## General School Information

This handbook is a summary of the school's rules and expectations, and is not a comprehensive statement of school procedures. The Board's comprehensive policy manual is available for public inspection through the District's website ([www.dps170.org](http://www.dps170.org)) or at the Board office, located at:

1335 Franklin Grove Rd.  
Dixon, IL 61021

The School Board governs the school district, and is elected by the community. Current School Board members are:

Linda Wegner, President  
Brandon Rogers, Vice-President  
Linda Leblanc-Parks, Secretary  
Kathleen Schaefer, Member  
Melissa Gates, Member  
David Fritts, Member  
Jon Wadsworth, Member

The School Board has hired the following administrative staff to operate the school:

Melydi Huyett, Superintendent  
Doug Stansford, Assistant-Superintendent  
Crystal Thorpe, Principal

The school is located and may be contacted at:

800 Fourth Ave  
Dixon, IL 61021  
815-934-9661

## **Birth Certificate Requirement for Enrollment**

A certified copy of the student's birth certificate. If a birth certificate is not presented, the Superintendent or designee shall notify in writing the person enrolling the student that within 30 days he or she must provide a certified copy of the student's birth certificate. A student will be enrolled without a birth certificate. When a certified copy of the birth certificate is presented, the school shall promptly make a copy for its records, place the copy in the student's permanent record, and return the certified copy to the person enrolling the child. If a person enrolling a student fails to provide a certified copy of the student's birth certificate, the Building Principal shall immediately notify the local law enforcement agency and shall also notify the person enrolling the student in writing that, unless he or she complies within 10 days, the case shall be referred to the local law enforcement authority for investigation. If compliance is not obtained within that 10-day period, the Principal shall so refer the case. The Principal shall immediately report to the local law enforcement authority any material received pursuant to this paragraph that appears inaccurate or suspicious in form or content.

## **Visitors**

Part of keeping students and faculty safe is knowing who is in our buildings at all times. Dixon Public Schools uses the Raptor system to track visitors, contractors, and volunteers each time they enter our schools.

Upon entering a district building, visitors must present a valid state-issued ID, which is scanned into the system and checked against the national registered sexual offender database. It is important to note that the Raptor system only scans the visitor's name, date of birth and photo. Additional visitor data from the driver's license is not gathered, nor is the system connected to any other system, such as the Department of Motor Vehicles. Other information on the ID is not scanned by the system and is not accessible to any of the users. Once entry is approved, Raptor issues a badge that identifies the visitor and the date. All visitors must check out in the office before departing from the building.

Pre-scan opportunities will be available for interested visitors planning to attend these types of special events - (student award assemblies, classroom parties, conferences, etc.) throughout the school year. Once this is issued, and you have your badge with you, you do not need to scan your state ID when you enter the building for special events. Any day to day activities and visits you are still required to go through the check-in process upon each visit. Visitors are expected to abide by all school rules during their time on school property. A visitor who fails to conduct himself or herself in a manner that is appropriate will be asked to leave and may be subject to criminal penalties for trespass and/or disruptive behavior.

Interested parents/guardians and visitors may contact the appropriate school building to inquire about pre-scan opportunities.

## **Equal Opportunity and Sex Equity**

Equal educational and extracurricular opportunities are available to all students without regard to race, color, nationality, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, ancestry, age, religious beliefs, physical or mental disability, status as homeless, or actual or potential marital or parental status, including pregnancy.

No student shall, based on sex or sexual orientation, be denied equal access to programs, activities, services, or benefits or be limited in the exercise of any right, privilege, advantage, or denied equal access to educational and extracurricular programs and activities.

Any student or parent/guardian with a sex equity or equal opportunity concern should contact:  
Doug Stansford 815-373-4966.

### **Animals on School Property**

In order to assure student health and safety, animals are not allowed on school property, except in the case of a service animal accompanying a student or other individual with a documented disability. This rule may be temporarily waived by the building principals in the case of an educational opportunity for students, provided that (a) the animal is appropriately housed, humanely cared for, and properly handled, and (b) students will not be exposed to a dangerous animal or an unhealthy environment.

### **School Volunteers**

All school volunteers must complete the “Volunteer Information Form” and be approved by the school principal prior to assisting at the school. Forms are available in the school office. Some teachers utilize parent volunteers in the classroom. The individual teachers make this decision. Teachers who desire parent volunteers will notify parents. For school-wide volunteer opportunities, please contact the building principal.

Volunteers are required to check in and out at the main office and receive a visitor badge before going to their destination.

### **Invitations & Gifts**

We would like to remind parents of the following procedures regarding the distribution of invitations for parties such as birthdays and holiday parties:

The schools will allow invitations to be put in take home folders **if every child in a class gets an invitation.** For an accurate count of students in a given class, please call the school’s office.

### **Treats & Snacks [K-8]**

Due to health concerns and scheduling, treats and snacks for any occasion must be arranged in advance with the classroom teacher. All treats and snacks must be store bought and prepackaged in individual servings. No homemade treats or snacks are allowed at school. Treats and snacks may not require refrigeration and must have a clearly printed list of ingredients on the packaging. We strongly encourage you to select a treat or snack with nutritional value.

### **Emergency Weather Days**

The District’s plan, should we have the need to take an emergency weather or “snow day,” is to utilize a Remote Learning Day. Instead of calling off school, or taking an emergency day, if at all possible, we will transition to a Remote Learning Day. Our hope is we will remain in school with little interruption throughout the duration of the fall and winter months, but we understand that may not be a possibility. This means on the days prior to any impending potential severe weather, we will be sending home additional work packets with our elementary students “just in case.” We will take this additional precaution to ensure students have learning materials if we have an emergency weather/snow day. We will also be utilizing Seesaw for lessons, but want to ensure there is no disruption to learning. Students in grades 6-12 will access Canvas for their lessons on emergency weather/snow days.

The one exception to us not implementing a Remote Learning Day would be if we were somehow caught off guard with a severe-weather event that wasn’t predicted ahead of time, and we were unable to provide our kids with the appropriate learning resources or families lacked power to utilize our technology platforms of Seesaw

and Canvas. Should something like this occur, we would take a regular “snow day” and we would make that day up in June. Otherwise, Remote Learning Days are counted as school days and do not have to be made up. Emergency Weather days will be communicated through an automated phone call, text message, and notice on our website and social media pages so families know the learning plan for that day.

### **School Closings**

Dixon Public Schools uses a rapid notification system to inform parents of cancellation or postponements through the telephone system.

The rapid notification system launches calls to the parents about weather-related cancellation or postponements. It is very important that you listen to the recorded message that comes through your phone when the District launches a call.

Information concerning the closing of schools will also be given on area radio stations, will be broadcast on local TV stations, and posted on our website.

### **Closing of Schools Due to Major Emergency or Crisis**

In the event of a major crisis emergency (one that would call for the evacuation of students and for intervention of police, fire, and other outside agencies):

The rapid notification system launches calls to the parents about the emergency. It is very important that you listen to the recorded message that comes through your phone when the District launches a call.

Do not come to the school to check on the safety of your child. Listen to the local radio stations for directions to a “pick up” area for students. It will likely be away from the school.

Do not call 9-1-1 for information. Your call will only tie up lines of communication for those agencies who are working to resolve the problem. Again, listen to the local radio stations for information. Those stations will receive and announce all of the relevant information that is known at the time.

### **Video & Audio Monitoring Systems**

A video and/or audio monitoring system may be in use on school busses and a video monitoring system may be in use in public areas of the school building. These systems have been put in place to protect students, staff, visitors and school property. If a discipline problem is captured on audiotape or videotape, these recordings may be used as the basis for imposing student discipline. If criminal actions are recorded, a copy of the tape may be provided to law enforcement personnel.

### **Accommodating Individuals with Disabilities**

Individuals with disabilities will be provided an opportunity to participate in all school-sponsored services, programs, or activities. Individuals with disabilities should notify the superintendent or building principal if they have a disability that will require special assistance or services and, if so, what services are required. This notification should occur as far in advance as possible of the school-sponsored function, program, or meeting.

### **Students with Food Allergies**

State law requires our school district to annually inform parents of students with life-threatening allergies or life-threatening chronic illnesses of the applicable provisions of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and other applicable federal statutes, state statutes, federal regulations and state rules.

If your student has a life-threatening allergy or life-threatening chronic illness, please notify the building principal at (815) 284-7724.

Federal law protects students from discrimination due to a disability that substantially limits a major life activity. If your student has a qualifying disability, an individualized Section 504 Plan will be developed and implemented to provide the needed supports so that your student can access his or her education as effectively as students without disabilities.

Not all students with life-threatening allergies and life-threatening chronic illnesses may be eligible under Section 504. Our school district also may be able to appropriately meet a student's needs through other means.

### **Care of Students with Diabetes**

If your child has diabetes and requires assistance with managing this condition while at school and school functions, a Diabetes Care Plan must be submitted to the building principal. Parents/guardians are responsible for and must:

- a. Inform the school in a timely manner of any change which needs to be made to the Diabetes Care Plan on file with the school for their child.
- b. Inform the school in a timely manner of any changes to their emergency contact numbers or contact numbers of health care providers.
- c. Sign the Diabetes Care Plan.
- d. Grant consent for and authorize designated School District representatives to communicate directly with the health care provider whose instructions are included in the Diabetes Care Plan.

For further information, please contact the building principal.

### **Authorization to Provide Diabetes Care, Release of Health Care Information, and Acknowledgement of Responsibilities**

As provided by the Care of Students with Diabetes Act, I hereby authorize [School District] and its employees, as well as any and all Delegated Care Aides named in the Diabetes Care Plan or later designated by the District, to provide diabetes care to my child, \_\_\_\_\_, consistent with the Diabetes Care Plan. I authorize the performance of all duties necessary to assist my child with management of his/her diabetes during school.

I acknowledge that it is my responsibility to ensure that the School is provided with the most up- to-date and complete information regarding my child's diabetes and treatment. Therefore, I consent to the release of information about my child's diabetes and treatment by my child's health care provider(s), \_\_\_[child's health care provider(s)]\_\_\_, to representatives of [School District]. I further authorize District representatives to communicate directly with the health care provider(s).

I also understand that the information in the Diabetes Care Plan will be released to appropriate school employees and officials who have responsibility for or contact with my child, \_\_\_\_\_, and who may need to know this information to maintain my child's health and safety.

Pursuant to Section 45 of the Care of Students with Diabetes Act, I acknowledge that the District and District employees are not liable for civil or other damages as a result of conduct, other than willful or wanton misconduct, related to the care of a student with diabetes.

Parent's Signature\*: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\*Failure of Parent(s) to execute this document does not affect the civil immunity afforded the District and school employees by Section 45 of the Care of Students with Diabetes Act for civil or other damages as a result of conduct, other than willful or wanton misconduct, related to the care of a student with diabetes, or any other immunities or defenses to which the District and its employees are otherwise entitled.

### **Suicide and Depression Awareness and Prevention**

Youth suicide impacts the safety of the school environment. It also affects the school community, diminishing the ability of surviving students to learn and the school's ability to educate. Suicide and depression awareness and prevention are important goals of the school district.

The school district maintains student and parent resources on suicide and depression awareness and prevention. Much of this information, including a copy of school district's policy, is posted on the school district website. Information can also be obtained from the school office.

### **Attendance**

Illinois law requires that whoever has custody or control of any child between six (by September 1<sup>st</sup>) and seventeen years of age shall assure that the child attends school in the district in which he or she resides, during the entire time school is in session (unless the child has already graduated from high school). Illinois law also requires that whoever has custody or control of a child who is enrolled in the school, regardless of the child's age, shall assure that the child attends school during the entire time school is in session.

There are certain exceptions to the attendance requirement for children who: attend private school, are physically or mentally unable to attend school (including a pregnant student suffering medical complications as certified by her physician), are lawfully and necessarily employed, are between the ages of 12 and 14 while in confirmation classes, have a religious reason requiring absence, or are 16 or older and employed and enrolled in a graduation incentive program.

### **Release Time for Religious Instruction/Observance**

A student will be released from school, as an excused absence, to observe a religious holiday or for religious instruction. The student's parent/guardian must give written notice to the building principal at least 5 calendar days before the student's anticipated absence(s).

Students excused for religious reasons will be given an opportunity to make up any examination, study, or work requirement.

### **Make-Up Work**

If a student's absence is excused or if a student is suspended from school, he/she will be permitted to make up all missed work, including homework and tests, for equivalent academic credit. Students who are unexcused from school will not be allowed to make up missed work.

## Student Absences

*State law requires that parents call the school when their children are absent for any reason.* If the parents do not call, the school will be required by law to call you either at home or at work. If we do not hear from you by 10:00 a.m. the truant officer may be contacted.

To assist you in making the call, the Dixon Public Schools have installed a telephone answering system so that phone calls can be made during non-office hours. Please observe the following procedure in making your calls:

1. Call before 8:00 a.m.
2. Use the school's main phone line 815-284-7724.
3. State the child's name, grade and teacher.
4. State the reason for the absence.
5. State the date(s) of the absence – if you know the child will be absent for more than one day, please list all dates and one call will be sufficient for that absence.

## Definition of Absences

**Excused Absences** - for illness (including mental or behavioral health of the student), doctor/dental appointments, court appearances, late buses, death in family, and other family emergencies, and extra-curricular activities.

**NOTE:** You may receive occasional letters from the school office regarding the number of absences your child has incurred.

**Unexcused Absences** - for absences not described above – oversleeping, car problems, school not notified by parent of absence and over one day of absence due to a lice infestation.

**NOTE:** Students with three (3) or more unexcused absences will be turned over to the Lee/Ogle Regional Office of Education.

**Prearranged Absences** - for family vacations (five days maximum), religious observances, and others approved by the administrator. Requests for prearranged absences require a two-day notice. Work during the absence may not be available before the student leaves. The student is responsible to work with teachers to complete any assignments the teacher deems necessary before or after the absence to minimize the effect on their learning. Additionally, a student will be excused for up to 5 days in cases where the student's parent/guardian is an active duty member of the uniformed services and has been called to duty for, is on leave from, or has immediately returned from deployment to a combat zone or combat-support postings. The Board of Education, in its discretion, may excuse a student for additional days relative to such leave or deployment.

**NOTE:** The above list is not all inclusive. Situations not covered above, or exceptions to the above will be handled on an individual basis with the building principal.

In cases of communicable diseases, a child may return to school when he/she has recovered and the danger of carrying the disease is past. **If a child had strep throat or RSV (a respiratory illness), a doctor's written excuse is required upon the child returning to school.** No doctor's excuse is required for other communicable diseases unless the school nurse, principal or other school official requests it. The District Health Services Coordinator recommends that a child maintain a normal temperature for 24 hours before returning to school. Any student requiring crutches, cane, wheelchair, etc. to attend class must present a doctor's note for admittance.

## Excessive Absences Require a Medical Note

After ten (10) excused absences per school year, the school may require you to acquire a medical note from a physician stating the specific medical reasons for the student's continued absences. The physician note must be

received within one week of the absence. If not, the absences would be unexcused. While seeking a medical excuse, the student's parent or guardian must still comply with absence notification procedures. Should a parent or guardian choose not to secure a medical excuse, the absence will be considered unexcused. Medical notes must state the specific days that a student is excused from school and be signed by a doctor.

### **Truancy**

Student attendance is critical to the learning process. Truancy is therefore a serious issue and will be dealt with in a serious manner by the school and district.

Students who miss 9 days of the prior 180 regular school days without valid cause (a recognized excuse) are considered chronic truants. Students who are chronic truants will be offered support services and resources aimed at correcting the truancy issue.

If chronic truancy persists after support services and other resources are made available, the school and district will take further action, including:

- Referral to the truancy officer
- Reporting to officials under the Juvenile Court Act
- Referral to the State's Attorney
- Appropriate school discipline

A parent or guardian who knowingly and willfully permits a child to be truant is in violation of State law.

### **Grading & Promotion**

School report cards are issued to students on a quarterly basis. For questions regarding grades, please contact the classroom teacher.

The decision to promote a student to the next grade level is based on successful completion of the curriculum, attendance, performance on standardized tests and other testing. A student will not be promoted based upon age or any other social reason not related to academic performance.

### **Homework**

Homework is used as a way for students to practice what they have learned in the classroom. The time requirements and the frequency of homework will vary depending on a student's teacher, ability and grade level

### **Home and Hospital Instruction**

A student who is absent from school, or whose physician anticipates his or her absence from school, because of a medical condition may be eligible for instruction in the student's home or hospital.

A student who is unable to attend school because of pregnancy will be provided home instruction, correspondence courses, or other courses of instruction before (1) the birth of the child when the student's physician indicates, in writing, that she is medically unable to attend regular classroom instruction, and (2) for up to 3 months after the child's birth or a miscarriage.

For information on home or hospital instruction, contact your school principal.

### **Fines, Fees, and Charges; Waiver of Student Fees**

The school establishes fees and charges to fund certain school activities. Some students may be unable to pay these fees. Students will not be denied educational services or academic credit due to the inability of their parent or guardian to pay fees or certain charges. Students whose parent or guardian is unable to afford student fees may receive a fee waiver. A fee waiver does not exempt a student from charges for lost and damaged books, locks, materials, supplies, and/or equipment.

Applications for fee waivers may be submitted by a parent or guardian of a student who has been assessed a fee. As student is eligible for a fee waiver if at least one of the following prerequisites is met:

1. The student currently lives in a household that meets the free lunch or breakfast eligibility guidelines established by the federal government pursuant to the National School Lunch Act; or
2. The student or the student's family is currently receiving aid under Article IV of the Illinois Public Aid Code (Aid to Families of Dependent Children).

The building principal will give additional consideration where one or more of the following factors are present:

- An illness in the family;
- Unusual expenses such as fire, flood, storm damage, etc.;
- Seasonal employment;
- Emergency situations; or
- When one or more of the parents/guardians are involved in a work stoppage.

The building principal will notify the parent/guardian promptly as to whether the fee waiver request has been granted or denied. Questions regarding the fee waiver application process should be addressed to the building principal. Applications are available in the school office.

**Must complete the Lunch Waiver Form as well to accompany this form for Fee Waiver**

**APPLICATION FOR WAIVER OF FEES**

(Submit to District Office at 1335 Franklin Grove Rd., Dixon IL 61021)

School(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Student(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Describe Fees: \_\_\_\_\_

I, the undersigned, parent/guardian of the above named student(s) hereby request the Board of Education of Dixon Public Schools waive the above-mentioned fee(s) because:

(Place an "X" on the line which applies):

The student is receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) or Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC). (Those with a Dept. of Human Res. MEDICAL card do NOT automatically qualify.) Evidence of TANF OR AFDC is needed.

The above-named student(s) is from a household whose gross income\*\* is at or below the levels shown below:

<u>Family</u> <u>Size</u>	<u>Annual</u> <u>Income</u>	<u>Monthly</u> <u>Income</u>	<u>Weekly</u> <u>Income</u>
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I am aware that providing false information to obtain a fee waiver is a felony under Illinois Law. (This box must be marked for the application to be valid).

**Extenuating Circumstances - (list other reasons you are unable to afford fees)\*\***

(To be taken into consideration by the District):

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Print name of parent/guardian)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature of parent/guardian)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Address)

\*\*The Dixon Public Schools reserve the right to require evidence at any time of household income or other documentation related to waiving fees.

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Rev. 05/05

### **Breakfast Program**

All students may eat breakfast in the cafeteria from 7:15 am – 7:45 am. The cost is free to students on free lunch; **\$0.30** to those on reduced lunch; and **\$0.40** to all others.

Breakfast money should be sent in a separate envelope from lunch money and marked with your child's name, teachers name and that it is breakfast money. Please see that your child has time to eat a nutritious breakfast. This provides for an enhanced learning environment.

### **Lunch Program**

All students attending the elementary schools may participate in the lunch program. Lunch money should be brought to school in an envelope marked with the student name, classroom teacher's name and dollar amount. Students should turn this envelope into their classroom teacher. Parents may also turn lunch money into the school office or put money on their lunch account at [www.dps170.org](http://www.dps170.org) under the Parent Portal tab.

The student price for a complete hot lunch that includes milk or juice is **\$3.00** and **\$.40** for those on reduced lunch. Free or reduced lunch students who choose to bring a cold lunch will not receive free milk or juice. If the parent desires them to have milk or juice they will be required to purchase it at regular price.

Milk or juice is available for those students carrying sack lunches or for those who wish to purchase an extra milk or juice with their hot lunch. Milk is **\$0.75**. Students may purchase milk in the same manner as their lunch. Students may also pay cash on a daily basis in the lunch line. All students must pay **\$0.75** for milk if purchased alone, regardless of their lunch status.

*It is the policy of **Whitson Food Service** that students may not charge meals.*

### **Bus Policies**

**Dixon Public Schools contracts Illinois Central Bus Company to provide transportation for our students:**

Illinois Central Bus Company,  
1335 Franklin Grove Road  
Dixon, IL 61021  
Phone: 815-284-8600

Bus transportation will be provided for any student in the District who resides 1 ½ miles or more from the student's home school. If a student resides within 1 ½ miles of their home school but has a serious crossing hazard determined by the District then bus transportation would be provided. Special Education students will be provided transportation as indicated on the student's individual education plan. The District may provide transportation to and from school-sponsored activities. Homeless students shall be transported in accordance with the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act.

### **Bus Safety Rules**

Student safety is the primary consideration while riding school transportation. Students are expected to follow all bus safety rules and directions from the bus driver at all times.

1. Be aware of moving traffic and pay attention to your surroundings.
2. Dress properly for the weather. Make sure all drawstrings, ties, straps, etc. on all clothing, backpacks and other items, are shortened or removed to lessen the likelihood of them getting caught in bus doors, railings or aisles.
3. Arrive on time at the bus stop and stay away from the street while waiting for the bus.

4. Stay away from the bus until it stops completely and the driver signals you to board. Enter in single file without pushing. Always use the handrail.
5. Take a seat right away and remain seated facing forward. Keep your hands, arms, and head inside the bus.
6. Talk quietly on the bus. No shouting or creating loud noises that may distract the driver. Tablets, computers, smart phones, smart watches, and other electronic devices must be silenced on the bus unless a student uses headphones.
7. Help keep the bus neat and clean. Keep belongings out of the aisle and away from emergency exits. Eating and drinking are not allowed on the bus.
8. Always listen to the driver's instructions. Be courteous to the driver and other students. Sit with your hands to yourself and avoid making noises that would distract the driver or bother other passengers.
9. Wait until the bus pulls to a complete stop before standing up. Use the handrail when exiting the bus.
10. Stay out of the danger zone next to the bus where the driver may have difficulty seeing you. Take at least five giant steps (10 feet) away from the bus and out of the danger zone, until you can see the driver and the driver sees you. Never crawl under a bus.
11. If you must cross the street after you get off the bus, wait for the driver's signal and then cross in front of the bus. Cross the street only after checking both ways for traffic, even after the driver's signal.
12. Never run back to the bus, even if you dropped or forgot something.

### **Bus Conduct**

Students are expected to follow all schools when riding the school bus. A student may be suspended from riding the bus for up to 10 consecutive school days for engaging in gross disobedience or misconduct, including but not limited to, the following:

1. Violating any school rule or school district policy.
2. Willful injury or threat of injury to a bus driver or to another rider.
3. Willful and/or repeated defacement of the bus.
4. Repeated use of profanity.
5. Repeated willful disobedience of a directive from a bus driver or other supervisor.
6. Such other behavior as the building principal deems to threaten the safe operation of the bus and/or its occupants.

If a student is suspended from riding the bus for gross disobedience or misconduct on a bus, the School Board may suspend the student from riding the school bus for a period in excess of 10 days for safety reasons.

A student suspended from riding the bus who does not have alternate transportation to school shall have the opportunity to complete or make up work for equivalent academic credit. It shall be the responsibility of the student's parent or guardian to notify the school that the student does not have alternate transportation.

### **Student Drop Off and Pick Up**

A.M. Drop Off      7:20-8:00 a.m.

If you are only dropping your child off at school and are not intending to stay, please use the South entrance to the school and use the diagonal parking to drop off your child. We ask that you leave immediately after your child has safely exited the vehicle to make room for the next vehicle. Please do not stand or park behind parked vehicles so they do not get blocked in and prevent traffic flow.

If you are planning to stay at school with your child for a few minutes or are visiting the school, please use the North entrance and park in the area of the parking lot that is designated for parents and visitors. (The staff parking is clearly marked and at the back of the lot furthest from the school). Please be watchful for both students and bus traffic.

P.M. student pickup 2:45 p.m.

Second grade students that are to be picked up from school will be dismissed from the North set of doors near the gymnasium. Second grade parents are asked to use the north parking area designated for parents to pick up their children. Because parking is limited we ask that parents depart as soon as students are safely in their vehicle to make room for other parents to park.

Third grade students that are to be picked up from school will be dismissed from the South set of doors (Main entrance). Third grade parents are asked to use the south parking area (diagonal parking) designated for parents to pick up their children. Because parking is limited we ask that parents depart as soon as students are safely in their vehicle to make room for other parents to park.

## **Immunization, Health, Eye and Dental Examinations**

### **Required Health Examinations and Immunizations**

All students are required to present appropriate proof of a health examination and the immunizations against, and screenings for, preventable communicable diseases within one year prior to:

1. Entering kindergarten or the first grade;
2. Entering the sixth and ninth grades; and
3. Enrolling in an Illinois school for the first time, regardless of the student's grade.

Proof of immunization against meningococcal disease is required for students in grades 6 and 12. A diabetes screening must be included as part of the health exam (though diabetes testing is not required). Students between the age of one and seven must provide a statement from a physician assuring that the student was "risk-assessed" or screened for lead poisoning.

Failure to comply with the above requirements by October 15 of the current school year will result in the student's exclusion from school until the required health forms are presented to the school, subject to certain exceptions. New students who register mid-term have 30 days following registration to comply with the health examination and immunization requirements. If a medical reason prevents a student from receiving a required immunization by October 15, the student must present, by October 15, an immunization schedule and a statement of the medical reasons causing the delay. The schedule and statement of medical reasons must be signed by an appropriate medical professional.

### **Eye Examination**

All students entering kindergarten or the school for the first time must present proof by October 15 of the current school year of an eye examination performed within one year. Failure to present proof by October 15, allows the school to hold the student's report card until the student presents: (1) proof of a completed eye examination, or (2) that an eye examination will take place within 60 days after October 15.

### **Dental Examination**

All students entering kindergarten, second and sixth grades must present proof by May 15 of the current school year of having been examined by a licensed dentist within the last 18 months. Failure to present proof allows the school to hold the child's report card until the student presents: (1) proof of a completed dental examination, or (2) that a dental examination will take place within 60 days after May 15.

### **Exemptions**

A student will be exempted from the above requirements for:

1. Medical grounds if the student’s parent/guardian presents to the building principal a signed statement explaining the objection;
2. Religious grounds if the student’s parent/guardian presents to the building principal a completed Certificate of Religious Exemption;
3. Health examination or immunization requirements on medical grounds if a physician provides written verification;
4. Eye examination requirement if the student’s parent/guardian shows an undue burden or lack of access to a physician licensed to practice medicine in all of its branches who provides eye examinations or a licensed optometrist; or
5. Dental examination requirement if the student’s parent/guardian shows an undue burden or a lack of access to a dentist.

**Student Medication**

Taking medication during school hours or during school-related activities is prohibited unless it is necessary for a student’s health and well-being. When a student’s licensed health care provider and parent/guardian believe that it is necessary for the student to take a medication during school hours or school-related activities, the parent/guardian must request that the school dispense the medication to the child by completing a “School Medication Authorization Form.”

No school or district employee is allowed to administer to any student, or supervise a student’s self-administration of, any prescription or non-prescription medication until a completed and signed School Medication Authorization Form is submitted by the student’s parent/guardian. No student is allowed to possess or consume any prescription or non-prescription medication on school grounds or at a school-related function other than as provided for in this procedure.

**Self-Administration of Medication**

A student may possess an epinephrine auto-injector (EpiPen®) and/or an asthma inhaler prescribed for use at the student’s discretion, provided the student’s parent/guardian has completed and signed a School Medication Authorization Form. The school and district shall incur no liability, except for willful and wanton conduct, as a result of any injury arising from a student’s self-administration of medication or epinephrine auto-injector or the storage of any medication by school personnel. A student’s parent/guardian must agree to indemnify and hold harmless the school district and its employees and agents, against any claims, except a claim based on willful and wanton conduct, arising out of a student’s self-administration of an epinephrine auto-injector and/or asthma inhaler, or the storage of any medication by school personnel.

**Student Medical Authorization Form**

(Required when a student needs to take prescription and non-prescription medication to be taken at school.)

Student’s Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Birth Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Emergency Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

School: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_ Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

*To be completed by the student’s physician, physician assistant, or advanced practice RN (Note: for asthma inhalers only, use the “Asthma Inhalers” section below):*

Physician’s Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Office Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Office Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Emergency Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Medication name: \_\_\_\_\_

Purpose: \_\_\_\_\_

Dosage: \_\_\_\_\_ Frequency: \_\_\_\_\_

Time medication is to be administered or under what circumstances:

Prescription date: \_\_\_\_\_ Order date: \_\_\_\_\_ Discontinuation date: \_\_\_\_\_

Diagnosis requiring medication: \_\_\_\_\_

Is it necessary for this medication to be administered during the school day?  Yes  No

Expected side effects, if any: \_\_\_\_\_

Time interval for re-evaluation: \_\_\_\_\_

Other medications student is receiving: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Physician's signature Date

**Asthma Inhalers**

*Parent(s)/Guardian(s) please attach prescription label here:*

**For only parents/guardians of students who need to carry asthma medication or an epinephrine auto-injector:**

I authorize the School District and its employees and agents, to allow my child or ward to carry and self-administer his or her asthma inhaler and/or use his or her epinephrine auto-injector: (1) while in school, (2) while at a school-sponsored activity, (3) while under the supervision of school personnel, or (4) before or after normal school activities, such as while in before-school or after-school care on school-operated property. Illinois law requires the School District to inform parent(s)/guardian(s) that it, and its employees and agents, incur no liability, except for willful and wanton conduct, as a result of any injury arising from a student's self-administration of medication or epinephrine auto-injector (105 ILCS 5/22-30).

**Please initial below to indicate (a) receipt of this information, and (b) authorization for your child to carry and use his or her asthma medication or epinephrine auto-injector.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian initials

**For all Parents/Guardians:**

By signing below, I agree that I am primarily responsible for administering medication to my child. However, in the event that I am unable to do so or in the event of a medical emergency, I hereby authorize the School District and its employees and agents, in my behalf, to administer or to attempt to administer to my child (or to allow my child to *self-administer* pursuant to State law, while under the supervision of the employees and agents of the School District), lawfully prescribed medication in the manner described above. **I acknowledge that it may be necessary for the administration of medications to my child to be performed by an individual other than a school nurse and specifically consent to such practices**, and I agree to indemnify and hold harmless the School District and its employees and agents against any claims, except a claim based on willful and wanton conduct, arising out of the administration or the child's self-administration of medication.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian printed name

Address (if different from Student's above): \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Emergency Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Additional Information:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Medicaid One Year Notice**

If your child receives special education services and is also Medicaid eligible, Lee County Special Education Association can seek partial reimbursement from Medicaid for health services documented on your child's Individualized Education Program (IEP). Medicaid reimbursement is a source of federal funds approved by Congress to help school districts maintain and improve diagnostic and therapeutic services for students.

The reimbursement process requires the school district to provide Medicaid with your child's name, birth date, and Medicaid number. Federal law requires annual notification of our intent to pursue this reimbursement opportunity.

If you approve of the release of information to Medicaid, **do nothing.**

If you object to the release of information to Medicaid, now or at any time in the future, please state your objection in writing and forward it to:

Corena Steinmeyer, Director  
Lee County Special Education Association  
1335 Franklin Grove Road  
Dixon, IL 61021

Regardless of your decision, the district must continue to provide, at no cost to you, the services listed in your child's IEP. This program has no impact on your child's or your family's current or future Medicaid benefits. Under federal law, participation in this program **CANNOT:**

- a) decrease lifetime coverage or any other public insurance benefit,
- b) result in the family paying for services that would otherwise be covered by Medicaid,
- c) increase your premiums or lead to discontinuation of benefits or insurance, or
- d) result in the loss of eligibility for home and community-based waivers.

Your continued consent allows the district to recover a portion of the costs associated with providing health services to your child.

**Guidance & Counseling**

The school provides a guidance and counseling program for students. The school's counselors are available to those students who require additional assistance.

### **Unsafe School Choice Option**

The unsafe school choice option allows students to transfer to another District school or to a public charter school within the District. The unsafe school choice option is available to: (1) All students attending a persistently dangerous school, as defined by State law and identified by the Illinois State Board of Education; and (2) Any student who is a victim of a violent criminal offense that occurred on school grounds during regular school hours or during a school-sponsored event.

### **Safety Drill Procedures and Conduct**

Safety drills will occur at times established by the school principal. Students are required to be silent and shall comply with the directives of school officials during emergency drills. There will be a minimum of three (3) evacuation drills, a minimum of one (1) severe weather (shelter-in-place) drill, a minimum of one (1) law enforcement drill to address a school shooting incident, and a minimum of one (1) bus evacuation drill each school year. There may be other drills at the direction of the administration. Drills will not be preceded by a warning to the students. The law enforcement lockdown drill will be announced in advance and a student's parent/guardian may elect to exclude their child from participating in this drill. All other drills will not be preceded by a warning to students.

### **Communicable Diseases**

The school will observe recommendations of the Illinois Department of Public Health regarding communicable diseases.

1. Parents are required to notify the school nurse if they suspect their child has a communicable disease.
2. In certain cases, students with a communicable disease may be excluded from school or sent home from school following notification of the parent or guardian.
3. The school will provide written instructions to the parent and guardian regarding appropriate treatment for the communicable disease.
4. A student excluded because of a communicable disease will be permitted to return to school only when the parent or guardian brings to the school a letter from the student's doctor stating that the student is no longer contagious or at risk of spreading the communicable disease.

### **Head Lice**

The school will observe recommendations of the Illinois Department of Public Health regarding head lice.

1. Parents are required to notify the school nurse if they suspect their child has head lice.
2. Infested students will be sent home following notification of the parent or guardian.
3. The school will provide written instructions to parent or guardian regarding appropriate treatment for the infestation.
4. A student excluded because of head lice will be permitted to return to school only when the parent or guardian brings the student to school to be checked by the school nurse or building principal and the child is determined to be free of the head lice and eggs (nits). Infested children are prohibited from riding the bus to school to be checked for head lice.

### **General Building Conduct**

Students shall not arrive at school before 7:25 a.m. and classes begin at 7:45 a.m. and students are dismissed at 2:45 p.m. each day. The following rules shall apply, and failure to abide by the rules may result in discipline:

- Hats and bandanas shall not be worn in the building. Any hat brought to school shall be removed before entering.
- Students shall not run, talk loudly or yell in the hallways nor shall they push, shove or hit others.
- Students shall not write on walls, desks or deface or destroy school property.
- Chewing of gum is not permitted in the school building.
- Skateboards are not permitted at school.
- Water guns, play guns, and/or real guns are not permitted at school.

Students are taught specific expectations for each setting in the building and those expectations are recognized and reinforced through PBIS (Positive Behavior Intervention & Supports) and through character education, the 8 Keys of Excellence. For more information on your school's specific PBIS program or character education, please contact your classroom teacher or the building principal.

### **School Dress Code / Student Appearance**

Students are expected to wear clothing in a neat, clean, and well-fitting manner while on school property and/or in attendance at school sponsored activities. Students are to use discretion in their dress and are not permitted to wear apparel that causes a substantial disruption in the school environment.

- Student dress (including accessories) may not advertise, promote, or picture alcoholic beverages, illegal drugs, drug paraphernalia, violent behavior, or other inappropriate images.
- Student dress (including accessories) may not display lewd, vulgar, obscene, or offensive language or symbols, including gang symbols.
- Hats, coats, bandannas, sweat bands, **hoods**, and sun glasses may not be worn in the building during the school day.
- Hair styles, dress, and accessories that pose a safety hazard are not permitted in the shop, laboratories, or during physical education.
- Clothing with holes, rips, tears, and clothing that is otherwise poorly fitting, showing skin and/or undergarments may not be worn at school.
- The length of shorts or skirts must be appropriate for the school environment.
- Appropriate footwear must be worn at all times. Sandals must have a back. Flip flops or similar footwear may not be worn at school. Students must have appropriate shoes for physical education.
- If there is any doubt about dress and appearance, the building principal will make the final decision.
- Student whose dress causes a substantial disruption of the orderly process of school functions or endangers the health or safety of the student, other students, staff or others may be subject discipline.
  - The school does not prohibit hairstyles historically associated with race, ethnicity, or hair texture, including, but not limited to, protective hairstyles such as braids, locks, and twists.

### **Student Use of Electronic Devices**

The use of electronic devices and other technology at school is a privilege, not a right. Students are prohibited from using electronic devices, except as provided herein. An electronic device includes, but is not limited to, the following: cell phone, smart watch, audio or video recording device, personal digital assistant (PDA), iPod®, iPad®, laptop computer, tablet computer, or other similar electronic device. Pocket pagers and other paging devices are not allowed on school property at any time, except with the express permission of the building principal.

During instructional time—including class periods, passing periods, and lunch—electronic devices must be powered off, kept out of sight, and stored in their designated grade-level location and/or student locker unless: (a) permission is granted by an administrator, teacher, or school staff member; (b) use of the device is provided

in a student's Individualized Education Program (IEP); or (c) it is needed in an emergency that threatens the safety of students, staff, or other individuals. Students are allowed to use electronic devices after school starting at 2:45.

Electronic devices may never be used in any manner that disrupts the educational environment, violates student conduct rules, or violates the rights of others. This includes, but is not limited to, the following:

1. Using the device to take photographs in locker rooms or bathrooms;
2. Cheating; and
3. Creating, sending, sharing, viewing, receiving, or possessing an indecent visual depiction or non-consensual dissemination of private sexual images (i.e., sexting).

The school and school district are not responsible for the loss, theft, or damage to any electronic device brought to school.

Students in violation of this procedure are subject to the following consequences:

1. First offense – The device will be confiscated by school personnel. A verbal warning will be assigned. The student will receive the device back at the end of the period.
2. Second offense – The device will be confiscated. A 15-minute detention will be assigned. The student's parent/guardian will be notified, and the student will pick up the device in the school office at the end of the day.
3. Third offense – The device will be confiscated. A 30-minute detention will be assigned. The student's parent/guardian will be notified and required to pick up the device in the school office.
4. Fourth offense – Students must turn in their phone at the beginning of the day and pick it up at the end of the day from the main office until the end of the quarter.

Multiple electronic device violations or misuse that significantly disrupts the learning environment or impacts the mental or physical well-being of others may result in disciplinary action. Consequences may include, but are not limited to, suspension of electronic device privileges, suspension from school, or a possible recommendation to the Board of Education for expulsion from Dixon Public Schools. Please refer to Student Behavior – Prohibited Student Conduct.

School officials may conduct an investigation, or require a student to cooperate in an investigation, if there is specific information about activity on the student's account on a social networking website that violates a school disciplinary rule or policy. In the course of an investigation, the student may be required to share the content that is reported in order to allow school officials to make a factual determination.

### **Student Behavior**

**Copies of all School District policies on student behavior are available online through the School District's website or in the school office.**

#### **Prohibited Student Conduct**

Students may be disciplined for gross disobedience or misconduct, including but not limited to the following:

1. Using, possessing, distributing, purchasing, selling or offering for sale tobacco or nicotine materials, including electronic cigarettes or e-cigarettes.

2. Using, possessing, distributing, purchasing, or selling alcoholic beverages. Students who are under the influence of an alcoholic beverage are not permitted to attend school or school functions and are treated as though they had alcohol in their possession.
3. Using, possessing, distributing, purchasing, selling or offering for sale:
  - a. Any illegal drug, controlled substance, or cannabis (including marijuana, medical cannabis and hashish).
  - b. Any anabolic steroid unless it is being administered in accordance with a physician's or licensed practitioner's prescription.
  - c. Any performance-enhancing substance on the Illinois High School Association's most current banned substance list unless administered in accordance with a physician's or licensed practitioner's prescription.
  - d. Any prescription drug when not prescribed for the student by a physician or licensed practitioner, or when used in a manner inconsistent with the prescription or prescribing physician's or licensed practitioner's instructions. The use or possession of medical cannabis, even by a student for whom medical cannabis has been prescribed, is prohibited.
  - e. Any inhalant, regardless of whether it contains an illegal drug or controlled substance: (a) that a student believes is, or represents to be capable of, causing intoxication, hallucination, excitement, or dulling of the brain or nervous system; or (b) about which the student engaged in behavior that would lead a reasonable person to believe that the student intended the inhalant to cause intoxication, hallucination, excitement, or dulling of the brain or nervous system. The prohibition in this section does not apply to a student's use of asthma or other legally prescribed inhalant medications.
  - f. "Look-alike" or counterfeit drugs, including a substance that is not prohibited by this policy, but one: (a) that a student believes to be, or represents to be, an illegal drug, controlled substance, or other substance that is prohibited by this policy; or (b) about which a student engaged in behavior that would lead a reasonable person to believe that the student expressly or impliedly represented to be an illegal drug, controlled substance or other substance that is prohibited by this policy.
  - g. Drug paraphernalia, including devices that are or can be used to: (a) ingest, inhale, or inject cannabis or controlled substances into the body; and (b) grow, process, store, or conceal cannabis or controlled substances.
  - h. Any substance inhaled, injected, smoked, consumed or otherwise ingested or absorbed with the intention of causing a physiological or psychological change in the body, including without limitation, pure caffeine in a tablet or powdered form.

Students who are under the influence of any prohibited substance are not permitted to attend school or school functions and are treated as though they have the prohibited substance, as applicable, in their possession.

4. Using, possessing, controlling or transferring a "weapon" or violating the procedures listed below under the Weapons Prohibition section of this handbook procedure.
5. Using or possessing an electronic paging device.
6. Cell phones are to be turned off upon the beginning of the school day (7:45), and they must remain off until the end of the school day (2:45). Staff has the authority to confiscate visible and audible cell phones during school hours. Confiscated cell phones will be returned to students at the end of the school day. Multiple offences may result in the parent being asked to come to school and pick up the cell phone.
7. Using or possessing a laser pointer unless under a staff member's direct supervision and in the context of instruction.
8. Disobeying rules of student conduct or directives from staff members or school officials. Examples of disobeying staff directives include refusing a staff member's request to stop, present school identification or submit to a search.
9. Engaging in academic dishonesty, including cheating, intentionally plagiarizing, wrongfully giving or receiving help during an academic examination, altering report cards and wrongfully obtaining test copies or scores.
10. Engaging in bullying, hazing or any kind of aggressive behavior that does physical or psychological harm to a staff person or another student or encouraging other students to engage in such behavior. Prohibited conduct specifically includes, without limitation, any use of violence, intimidation, force, noise, coercion, threats, stalking, harassment, sexual harassment, public humiliation, theft or destruction of property, retaliation, hazing, bullying, bullying using a school computer or a school computer network or other comparable conduct.
11. Engaging in any sexual activity, including without limitation, offensive touching, sexual harassment, indecent exposure (including mooning) and sexual assault.
12. Engaging in teen dating violence.

13. Causing or attempting to cause damage to, stealing, or attempting to steal, school property or another person's personal property.
14. Entering school property or a school facility without proper authorization.
15. In the absence of a reasonable belief that an emergency exists, calling emergency responders (calling 9-1-1); signaling or setting off alarms or signals indicating the presence of an emergency; or indicating the presence of a bomb or explosive device on school grounds, school bus or at any school activity.
16. Being absent without a recognized excuse.
17. Being involved with any public-school fraternity, sorority, or secret society.
18. Being involved in a gang or engaging in gang-like activities, including displaying gang symbols or paraphernalia.
19. Violating any criminal law, including but not limited to, assault, battery, arson, theft, gambling, eavesdropping, vandalism, and hazing.
20. Engaging in any activity, on or off campus, that interferes with, disrupts, or adversely affects the school environment, school operations, or an educational function, including but not limited to, conduct that may reasonably be considered to: (a) be a threat or an attempted intimidation of a staff member; or (b) endanger the health or safety of students, staff, or school property.
21. Making an explicit threat on an Internet website against a school employee, a student, or any school-related personnel if the Internet website through which the threat was made is a site that was accessible within the school at the time the threat was made or was available to third parties who worked or studied within the school grounds at the time the threat was made, and the threat could be reasonably interpreted as threatening to the safety and security of the threatened individual because of his or her duties or employment status or status as a student inside the school.
22. Operating an unarmed aircraft system (AUS) or drone for any purpose on school grounds or at any school event unless granted permission by the building principal.

For purposes of these rules, the term "possession" includes having control, custody, or care, currently or in the past, of an object or substance, including situations in which the item is: (a) on the student's person; (b) contained in another item belonging to, or under the control of, the student, such as in the student's clothing, backpack, or automobile; (c) in a school's student locker, desk, or other school property; (d) at any location on school property or at a school-sponsored event; or (e) in the case of drugs and alcohol, substances ingested by the person.

Efforts, including the use of positive interventions and supports shall be made to deter students, while at school or a school-related event, from engaging in aggressive behavior that may reasonably produce physical or psychological harm to someone else.

No disciplinary action shall be taken against any student that is based totally or in part on the refusal of the student's parent/guardian to administer or consent to the administration of psychotropic or psychostimulant medication to the student.

### **When and Where Conduct Rules Apply**

The grounds for disciplinary action also apply whenever the student's conduct is reasonably related to school or school activities, including but not limited to:

1. On, or within sight of, school grounds before, during, or after school hours or at any time;
2. Off school grounds at a school-sponsored activity or event, or any activity or event that bears a reasonable relationship to school;
3. Traveling to or from school or a school activity, function, or event; or
4. Anywhere, if the conduct interferes with, disrupts, or adversely affects the school environment, school operations, or an educational function, including but not limited to, conduct that may reasonably be considered to: (a) be a threat or an attempted intimidation of a staff member; or (b) endanger the health or safety of students, staff, or school property.

## **Disciplinary Measures**

School officials shall limit the number and duration of expulsions and out-of-school suspensions to the greatest extent practicable, and, where practicable and reasonable, shall consider forms of non-exclusionary discipline before using out-of-school suspensions or expulsions. School personnel shall not advise or encourage students to drop out of school voluntarily due to behavioral or academic difficulties. Potential disciplinary measures include, without limitation, any of the following measures:

1. Notifying parents/guardians.
2. Disciplinary conference.
3. Withholding of privileges.
4. Temporary removal from the classroom.
5. Return of property or restitution for lost, stolen or damaged property.
6. In-school suspension.
7. After-school study. (If transportation arrangements cannot be made in advance, an alternative disciplinary measure will be assigned to the student.)
8. Community service.
9. Seizure of contraband; confiscation and temporary retention of the personal property that was used to violate school rules.
10. Suspension of bus riding privileges.
11. Suspension from school and all school activities for up to 10 days. A suspended student is prohibited from being on school grounds.
12. Expulsion from school and all school activities for a definite time period not to exceed 2 calendar years. An expelled student is prohibited from being on school grounds.
13. Transfer to an alternative program if the student is expelled or otherwise qualifies for transfer under State law.
14. Notifying juvenile authorities or other law enforcement whenever the conduct involves criminal activity, such as, illegal drugs (controlled substances), "look-alikes," alcohol or weapons or in other circumstances as authorized by the reciprocal reporting agreement between the District and local law enforcement agencies.

The above list of disciplinary measures is a range of options that will not always be applicable in every case. In some circumstances, it may not be possible to avoid suspending or expelling a student because behavioral interventions, other than a suspension or expulsion, will not be appropriate and available, and the only reasonable and practical way to resolve the threat and/or address the disruption is a suspension or expulsion.

## **Corporal Punishment**

Corporal punishment is illegal and will not be used. Corporal punishment is defined as slapping, paddling, or prolonged maintenance of students in physically painful positions, or intentional infliction of bodily harm. Corporal punishment does not include reasonable force as needed to maintain safety for students, staff, or other persons, or for the purpose of self-defense or defense of property.

## **Weapons Prohibition**

A student who is determined to have brought one of the following objects to school, any school-sponsored activity or event, or any activity or event that bears a reasonable relationship to school shall be expelled for a period of not less than one year but not more than 2 calendar years:

(1) A firearm, meaning any gun, rifle, shotgun, weapon as defined by Section 921 of Title 18 of the United States Code, firearm as defined in Section 1.1 of the Firearm Owners Identification Card Act, or firearm as defined in Section 24-1 of the Criminal Code of 1961. The expulsion period may be modified by the superintendent, and the superintendent's determination may be modified by the board on a case-by-case basis.

(2) A knife, brass knuckles or other knuckle weapon regardless of its composition, a billy club, or any other object if used or attempted to be used to cause bodily harm, including “look alike” of any firearm as defined above.

The expulsion requirement may be modified by the superintendent, and the superintendent's determination may be modified by the board on a case-by-case basis.

### **Gang & Gang Activity Prohibited**

“Gang” is defined as any group, club or organization of two or more persons whose purposes include the commission of illegal acts. No student on or about school property or at any school activity or whenever the student’s conduct is reasonably related to a school activity, shall: (1) wear, possess, use, distribute, display, or sell any clothing, jewelry, paraphernalia or other items which reasonably could be regarded as gang symbols; commit any act or omission, or use either verbal or non-verbal gestures, or handshakes showing membership or affiliation in a gang; or (2) use any speech or commit any act or omission in furtherance of the interest of any gang or gang activity, including, but not limited to, soliciting others for membership in any gangs; (3) request any person to pay protection or otherwise intimidate, harass or threaten any person; (4) commit any other illegal act or other violation of district policies, (5) or incite other students to act with physical violence upon any other person.

### **Re-Engagement of Returning Students**

The building principal or designee shall meet with a student returning to school from an out-of-school suspension, expulsion or alternative school setting. The goal of this meeting shall be to support the student’s ability to be successful in school following a period of exclusion and shall include an opportunity for students who have been suspended to complete or make-up missed work for equivalent academic credit.

**Short and Long Term Suspension Reporting Forms**

**Short Term (1-3 days) Suspension Reporting Form**

(Updated November 2021)

Dear Parent/Guardian(s):

Illinois law requires a School District to provide the following information to a parent/guardian of a child who is suspended from school due to an act of gross disobedience or misconduct.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student

\_\_\_\_\_  
Incident Date

Student handbook rules and /or Board policy violated:

\_\_\_\_\_

Date and time of pre-suspension conference with student:

\_\_\_\_\_  
*(If this conference was not held because the student's conduct posed an immediate danger to persons or property, list the date and time he pre-suspension conference will be conducted.)*

**Date(s) of Suspension:**

\_\_\_\_\_

Date student is eligible to return to school:

\_\_\_\_\_

**Description of incident:** *(List all pertinent information, including the ate, time and location, regarding the specific act(s) of gross disobedience or misconduct resulting in the decision to suspend.)*

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Rationale for the specific for duration of the suspension:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

It has further determined that: *(At least one of the following must be completed.)*

- I. **Your child's continued presence at school poses a threat to school safety.** Due to the egregious nature of your child's conduct (i.e., physical harm, violence, threatened) and/or the history or record of your child's past conduct, school officials have determined that your child is likely to engage in similar conduct in the future. These determinations include, but are not limited to, one or more of the following: *(List explanation below.)*
- 
- 
- 

- II. **Your child's continued presence at school poses a disruption to other student's learning opportunities.** Due to the egregious nature of your child's conduct (i.e., physical harm, violence, threat and /or history or record of your child's past conduct, school officials have determined that (a) your child is likely to engage in similar conduct in the future, and/or (b) the presence of your child at school will foster a culture that his or her behaviors(s) at school is/are acceptable or tolerated. These determinations include, but are not limited to, one or more of the following: *(List explanation below.)*
- 
- 
- 

The school is required to make all reasonable efforts to resolve threats or disruptions and minimize the length of out-of-school suspensions. The following behavioral and disciplinary interventions have been exhausted. *(List all behavioral and disciplinary interventions and resources previously utilized to address the student's behavior or indicate if there are no appropriate and available interventions and resources; e.g., any previous correspondence with parents or guardians about the behavior, check-in/check-out, functional behavioral analysis (FBA), behavioral improvement plan (BIP), social academic instruction group (SAIG), in-school suspension, out-of-school suspension and/or other interventions and resources.)*

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**During the period of suspension, your child may not be present at school, on grounds owned or controlled by the School District or at any School District activity. Failure to comply with this directive constitutes a trespass and will be dealt with accordingly.**

Upon returning to school, your child will be given an opportunity to make up work missed during suspension for equivalent academic credit.

To discuss this matter, you may contact the Building Principal, Alternatively, you have the right to have the suspension reviewed by the School Board or a hearing officer acting on the Board's behalf. To schedule a Board hearing, please send a written request within ten (10) calendar days to (insert name and address of the superintendent.)

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Building Principal  
Cc: Board of Education

Date

**Long Term (4-10) Suspension Reporting Form**

Dear Parent/Guardian(s):

Illinois law requires a School District to provide the following information to a parent/guardian of a child who is suspended from school due to an act of gross disobedience or misconduct.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student

\_\_\_\_\_  
Incident Date

Student handbook rules and /or Board policy violated:

\_\_\_\_\_

Date and time of pre-suspension conference with student:

\_\_\_\_\_  
*(If this conference was not held because the student's conduct posed an immediate danger to persons or property, list the date and time he pre-suspension conference will be conducted.)*

**Date(s) of Suspension:**

\_\_\_\_\_

Date student is eligible to return to school:

\_\_\_\_\_

**Description of incident:** *(List all pertinent information, including the ate, time and location, regarding the specific act(s) of gross disobedience or misconduct resulting in the decision to suspend.)*

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Rationale for the specific for duration of the suspension:**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

It has further determined that: *(At least one of the following must be completed.)*

- I. Your child's continued presence at school poses a threat to school safety.** Due to the egregious nature of your child's conduct (i.e., physical harm, violence, threatened) and/or the history or record of your child's past conduct, school officials have determined that your child is likely to engage in similar conduct in the future. These determinations include, but are not limited to, one or more of the following: *(List explanation below.)*
- 
- 
- 

- II. Your child's continued presence at school poses a disruption to other student's learning opportunities.** Due to the egregious nature of your child's conduct (i.e., physical harm, violence, threat and /or history or record of your child's past conduct, school officials have determined that (a) your child is likely to engage in similar conduct in the future, and/or (b) the presence of your child at school will foster a culture that his or her behaviors(s) at school is/are acceptable or tolerated. These determinations include, but are not limited to, one or more of the following: *(List explanation below.)*
- 
- 
- 

The school is required to make all reasonable efforts to resolve threats or disruptions and minimize the length of out-of-school suspensions. The following behavioral and disciplinary interventions have been exhausted. *(List all behavioral and disciplinary interventions and resources previously utilized to address the student's behavior or indicate if there are no appropriate and available interventions and resources; e.g., any previous correspondence with parents or guardians about the behavior, check-in/check-out, functional behavioral analysis (FBA), behavioral improvement plan (BIP), social academic instruction group (SAIG), in-school suspension, out-of-school suspension and/or other interventions and resources.)*

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**During the period of suspension, your child may not be present at school, on grounds owned or controlled by the School District or at any School District activity. Failure to comply with this directive constitutes a trespass and will be dealt with accordingly.**

Your child will be given an opportunity to complete missed assignments or work missed during the suspension for equivalent academic credit in accordance with School District Policy.

Students who are suspended out-of-school for longer than four (4) days must be provided with appropriate and available support services during the period of suspension. The following support services are appropriate and available to your child: (Note that this requirement only applies to students who are suspended out-of-school for 5 through 10 school days. List all support services or indicate if no support services are appropriate and available.)

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To discuss this matter, you may contact the Building Principal. Alternatively, you have the right to have the suspension reviewed by the School Board or a hearing officer acting on the Board's behalf. To schedule a Board hearing, please send a written request within ten (10) calendar days to (insert name and address of the Superintendent).

\_\_\_\_\_  
Principal

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Cc: Board of Education

## **Prevention of and Response to Bullying, Intimidation, and Harassment**

Bullying, intimidation, and harassment diminish a student's ability to learn and a school's ability to educate. Preventing students from engaging in these disruptive behaviors and providing all students equal access to a safe, non-hostile learning environment are important school goals.

Bullying on the basis of actual or perceived race, color, national origin, immigration status, military status, unfavorable discharge status from the military service, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender-related identity or expression, ancestry, age, religion, physical or mental disability, order of protection status, status of being homeless, or actual or potential marital or parental status, including pregnancy, association with a person or group with one or more of the aforementioned actual or perceived characteristics, or any other distinguishing characteristic is prohibited in each of the following situations:

1. During any school-sponsored education program or activity.
2. While in school, on school property, on school buses or other school vehicles, at designated school bus stops waiting for the school bus, or at school-sponsored or school-sanctioned events or activities.
3. Through the transmission of information from a school computer, a school computer network, or other similar electronic school equipment.
4. Through the transmission of information from a computer that is accessed at a non-school-related location, activity, function, or program or from the use of technology or an electronic device that is not owned, leased, or used by the school district or school if the bullying causes a substantial disruption to the educational process or orderly operation of a school.

*Bullying* includes cyber-bullying (bullying through the use of technology or any electronic communication) and means any severe or pervasive physical or verbal act or conduct, including communications made in writing or electronically, directed toward a student or students that has or can be reasonably predicted to have the effect of one or more of the following:

1. Placing the student or students in reasonable fear of harm to the student's or students' person or property;
2. Causing a substantially detrimental effect on the student's or students' physical or mental health;
3. Substantially interfering with the student's or students' academic performance; or
4. Substantially interfering with the student's or students' ability to participate in or benefit from the services, activities, or privileges provided by a school.

Cyberbullying means bullying through the use of technology or any electronic communication, including without limitation any transfer of signs, signals, writing, images, sounds, data, or intelligence of any nature transmitted in whole or in part by a wire, radio, electromagnetic system, photo-electronic system, or photo-optical system, including without limitation electronic mail, Internet communications, instant messages, or facsimile communications. Cyberbullying includes the creation of a webpage or weblog in which the creator assumes the identity of another person or the knowing impersonation of another person as the author of posted content of messages if the creation or impersonation create any of the effects enumerated in the definition of bullying. Cyberbullying also includes the distribution by electronic means of a communication to more than one person or the posting of material on an electronic medium that may be accessed by one or more persons if the distribution of posting creates any other effects enumerated in the definition of bullying.

Examples of prohibited conduct include name-calling, using derogatory slurs, stalking, sexual violence, causing psychological harm, threatening or causing physical harm, threatened or actual destruction of property, or wearing or possessing items depicting or implying hatred or prejudice of one of the characteristics stated above.

Students and parents/guardians are encouraged to immediately report bullying. A report may be made orally or in writing to the building principal or any staff member with whom the student is comfortable speaking. Anyone, including staff members, who has information about actual or threatened bullying is required to report it to the building principal or any staff member. Anonymous reports are also accepted by phone call or in writing. A reprisal or retaliation against any person who reports an act of bullying is prohibited. A student's act of reprisal or retaliation will be treated as bullying for purposes of determining any consequences or other appropriate remedial actions.

A student will not be punished for reporting bullying or supplying information, even if the school's investigation concludes that no bullying occurred. However, knowingly making a false accusation or providing knowingly false information will be treated as bullying for purposes of determining any consequences or other appropriate remedial actions.

Students and parents/guardians are also encouraged to read the following school district policies: 7:20, *Harassment of Students Prohibited* and 7:180, *Prevention of and Response to Bullying, Intimidation and Harassment*.

### **Bullying Policy**

Pursuant to Public Act 98-0669, our Bullying Policy and supporting documents can be found at [http://jefferson.dps170.org/sites/jefferson.dps170.org/files/jefferson\\_bullying.pdf](http://jefferson.dps170.org/sites/jefferson.dps170.org/files/jefferson_bullying.pdf)

Should you have any questions or are unable to access these documents, please contact the building principal and/or main office to assist you. The letter to parents on bullying as well as the form for parents or students to report it is in the handbook in the following pages as well.

### **DIXON PUBLIC SCHOOLS #170**

*"A Place to Grow"*  
[www.dixonschools.org](http://www.dixonschools.org)

1335 Franklin Grove Road  
Dixon, Illinois 61021

Phone: (815) 373-4966  
Fax: (815) 284-8576

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August 16<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians:

At our school, bullying of any kind, by any person, is unacceptable. All students should be free from worries about being bullied. Students who bully others must be taught other, appropriate ways of interacting with peers. The purpose of this letter is to provide you with information concerning the School District's anti-bullying program and to encourage you to help us identify students who are being bullied. Pursuant to Public Act 98-0669, our Bullying Policy and supporting documents can be found at <http://www.dps170.org/index.php/student.html>.

The School Board policy on bullying begins with this goals statement:

Bullying, intimidation, and harassment diminish a student's ability to learn and a school's ability to educate. Preventing students from engaging in these disruptive behaviors is an important District goal.

Bullying is defined as follows:

Bullying means any severe or pervasive physical or verbal act or conduct, including communications made in writing or electronically, directed toward a student that has or can be reasonably predicted to have the effect of one or more of the following:

1. Placing the student in reasonable fear of harm to the student's person or property.
2. Causing a substantially detrimental effect on the student's physical or mental health.
3. Substantially interfering with the student's academic performance.
4. Substantially interfering with the student's ability to participate in or benefit from the services, activities, or privileges provided by a school.

Bullying, intimidation, and/or harassment may take various forms, including without limitation: threats, stalking, physical violence, sexual harassment, theft, public humiliation, destruction of property, or retaliation for asserting or alleging an act of bullying.

I have asked our school staff members to respond immediately and with compassion to a student who reports bullying or school violence. After evaluating the situation to determine if an immediate referral to my office is needed, a staff member will give the student our form for reporting bullying, 7:180-AP1, E5, *Report Form for Bullying and School Violence*. I will inform you whenever your child is involved in a bullying report.

I also asked our staff members for their feedback and concerns specifically regarding locations that may be bullying *hot spots* needing additional supervision or monitoring or if there are any known bullies or targets of bullying in our building. I want to ask you to do the same thing. Please inform me if you know of any bullying *hot spots* in or around our school, or if you are aware of a known bully or target of bullying.

Finally, I requested our staff members to intervene immediately to stop a bullying incident. They will immediately contact the office and law enforcement will be contacted if the incident involves a weapon or other illegal activity.

Below are some of the signs that a young person is being bullied:

- Does not want to go to school and refuses to explain the reason
- Talks about not having any friends
- Has unexplained bruises, cuts, scratches, or abrasions
- Has unexplained damage to clothing, possessions, books, etc.
- Frequently loses money or possessions
- Loses interest in school and/or has declining grades
- Becomes withdrawn and/or has stress or depression symptoms

These signs do not necessarily mean your child is being bullied, but if present, ask your child whether he or she is being bullied.

Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Crystal Thorpe  
Principal  
Jefferson Elementary School  
Dixon, IL

### **Report Form for Bullying and School Violence**

*To be completed by the bullying target, witness, or person with information about an incident of bullying or school violence and submitted to the Building Principal's office. Make readily accessible via website(s) and other publicized designated areas in schools.*

*Please print and check appropriate boxes.*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Student  Parent  Staff  Other \_\_\_\_\_

Indicate here if you prefer to remain anonymous.  Yes  No

Are you the target of the bullying or school violence that you are reporting?  Yes  No

Date of incident: \_\_\_\_\_ Time of incident: \_\_\_\_\_

Person(s) being reported as targets of bullying or school violence:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  Student  Staff

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  Student  Staff

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  Student  Staff

Person(s) being reported as aggressors engaged in bullying or school violence:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  Student  Staff  Other

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  Student  Staff  Other

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  Student  Staff  Other

Person(s) who witnessed the bullying or school violence:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  Student  Staff  Other

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  Student  Staff  Other

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  Student  Staff  Other

Was the incident based on any of these characteristics? (Check all that apply.)

- |   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Race   | <input type="checkbox"/> Color                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Nationality         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sex  | <input type="checkbox"/> Sexual orientation         | <input type="checkbox"/> Gender identity     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gender-related identity  | <input type="checkbox"/> Gender-related expression  | <input type="checkbox"/> Ancestry            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Age  | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Physical disability |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mental disability  | <input type="checkbox"/> Order of protection status | <input type="checkbox"/> Homeless status     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Marital status   | <input type="checkbox"/> Parental status            | <input type="checkbox"/> Pregnancy           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Associated with person/group with one or more of the above actual or perceived characteristics |   |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____  |   |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I do not know.   |   |  |

Student(s) were targeted for bullying in the following way(s): (Check all that apply.)

- Electronic devices (e.g., internet, Social media platforms, text, email, cyberbullying, etc.)
- Written communication (e.g., handwritten notes, other written documents, email, etc.)
- Physical act or conduct (e.g., pushing, hitting, destruction of property, stalking, etc.)
- Verbal act or conduct (e.g., rumors, lies, name-calling, using derogatory slurs, etc.)
- Social (e.g., purposeful exclusion, causing psychological harm, etc.)
- Items depicting implied hatred or prejudice were worn, possessed or displayed
- Other (*please explain*): \_\_\_\_\_

Student(s) were targeted for bullying in the following place(s): (Check all that apply.)

- |                                      |  |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Classroom   | <input type="checkbox"/> Locker room                         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hallway     | <input type="checkbox"/> Extracurricular activity            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cafeteria   | <input type="checkbox"/> Bus                                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Restroom    | <input type="checkbox"/> Bus stop                            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gym         | <input type="checkbox"/> School or related activity or event |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |  |

Please tell us about the incident in your own words. Use as much detail as possible - what time did the incident(s) take place, who witnessed it, what was said, what types of interactions occurred (physical, written, social, electronic, etc.)

The above information is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## **Harassment Prohibited**

### **Harassment Prohibited**

No person, including a school district employee, agent, or student, shall harass, intimidate, or bully a student on the basis of actual or perceived race; color; national origin; military status; unfavorable discharge status from military service; sex; sexual orientation; gender identity<sup>1</sup>; gender-related identity or expression; ancestry; age; religion; physical or mental disability; order of protection status; status of being homeless; actual or potential marital or parental status, including pregnancy; physical appearance; socioeconomic status; academic status; association with a person or group with one or more of the aforementioned actual or perceived characteristics; or any other distinguishing characteristic. The District will not tolerate harassing, intimidating conduct, or bullying whether verbal, physical, sexual, or visual, that affects the tangible benefits of education, that unreasonably interferes with a student's educational performance, or that creates an intimidating, hostile, or offensive educational environment. Examples of prohibited conduct include name-calling, using derogatory slurs, stalking, sexual violence, causing psychological harm, threatening or causing physical harm, threatened or actual destruction of property, or wearing or possessing items depicting or implying hatred or prejudice of one of the characteristics stated above.

### **Sexual Harassment Prohibited (Title IX)**

Sexual harassment as defined in Title IX (Title IX Sexual Harassment) is prohibited. Any person, including a District employee or agent, or student, engages in Title IX Sexual Harassment when that person engages in conduct on the basis of an individual's sex that satisfies one or more of the following:

1. A District employee conditions the provision of an aid, benefit, or service on an individual's participation in unwelcome sexual conduct; or
2. Unwelcome conduct determined by a reasonable person to be so severe, pervasive, and objectively offensive that it effectively denies a person equal access to the District's educational program or activity; or
3. Sexual assault as defined in or stalking as defined in District policy and federal law.

Examples of sexual harassment include, but are not limited to, touching, rape, sexual battery, sexual abuse, sexual coercion, crude jokes or pictures, discussions of sexual experiences, teasing related to sexual characteristics, and spreading rumors related to a person's alleged sexual activities.

### **Making a Report or Complaint**

Students are encouraged to promptly report claims or incidents of bullying, intimidation, harassment, sexual harassment, or any other prohibited conduct to the Nondiscrimination Coordinator, Title IX Coordinator, Building Principal, Assistant Building Principal, Dean of Students, a Complaint Manager, or any employee with whom the student is comfortable speaking.

**Non-Discrimination Coordinator:****Title IX Coordinator:**

Asst. Superintendent -  
Doug Stansford  
1335 Franklin Grove Rd.,  
Dixon, IL 61021  
[dstansford@dps170.org](mailto:dstansford@dps170.org)  
815-373-4966

Asst. Superintendent -  
Doug Stansford  
1335 Franklin Grove Rd.,  
Dixon, IL 61021  
[dstansford@dps170.org](mailto:dstansford@dps170.org)  
815-373-4966

**Complaint Managers:<sup>2</sup>**

Female Administrator –  
Crystal Thorpe  
800 Fourth Ave.,  
Dixon, IL 61021  
[Cthorpe@dps170.org](mailto:Cthorpe@dps170.org)

Male Administrator -  
Marc Campbell  
1335 Franklin Grove Rd.,  
Dixon, IL 61021  
[mcampbell@dps170.org](mailto:mcampbell@dps170.org)

Any person making a knowingly false accusation regarding prohibited conduct will likewise be subject to discipline.

**Investigation Process**

All complaints will be investigated by the District in accordance with state and federal law and corresponding District policies.

**Enforcement**

Any District employee who is determined, after an investigation, to have engaged in conduct prohibited by this policy will be subject to remedial action and/or disciplinary action, up to and including discharge.

Any District student who is determined, after an investigation, to have engaged in conduct prohibited by this policy will be subject to remedial action and/or disciplinary action, including but not limited to, suspension and expulsion, consistent with the student discipline information in this handbook.

Any third party who is determined, after an investigation, to have engaged in conduct prohibited by this policy will be addressed in accordance with the authority of the Board in the context of the relationship of the third party to the District, e.g., vendor, parent/guardian, invitee, etc. Any person making a knowingly false accusation regarding prohibited conduct will likewise be subject to remedial and/or disciplinary action.

**Retaliation Prohibited**

Retaliation against any person for bringing complaints, participating in the complaint process, or otherwise providing information about discrimination or harassment based on race, color, or national origin is prohibited.

Individuals should report allegations of retaliation to the Building Principal, an administrator, the Nondiscrimination Coordinator, and/or a Complaint Manager.

### Cafeteria Rules

- Students shall not save seats for other students.
- Students shall walk to lunch and shall be orderly and quiet during lunch.
- Trays shall be thrown away in the appropriate trash can. No food shall leave the cafeteria.
- Loud talking, yelling, screaming, and other disruptions are prohibited.
- Students shall not throw food, milk cartons or other items.
- Students shall not trade or share food.
- Students shall follow the instructions of the lunchroom aides and show proper respect toward all cafeteria personnel.
- Students shall remain seated while in the cafeteria except to dispose of trash.
- Students shall immediately become silent when staff or presenters make announcements in the cafeteria.
- Students shall report spills and broken containers to cafeteria staff immediately.
- Students shall be dismissed from the cafeteria by the lunch room supervisor.

Misbehavior will result in disciplinary action in according to the school's disciplinary procedures.

### Cold Weather Playground Policy

It is school policy to have students remain outdoors before school or during recess whenever possible. The factors used in determining this decision are: temperature, wind chill, and precipitation. During cold weather, we will use the following guidelines when deciding if students will go outside during their lunch period:

If the actual temperature is below eighteen (18) degrees or the wind chill is below zero (0) degrees, students will be allowed inside the building. **Please be sure your child(ren) come to school properly dressed with coats, hats, and gloves.**

### P.E. Policy

P.E. classes are required by the State of Illinois. The school will require a doctor's note if the parent requested a P.E. restriction for their child to miss more than one P.E. class. Students are required to have gym shoes as P.E. is a daily requirement.

In order to be excused from participation in physical education, a student must present an appropriate excuse from his or her parent/guardian or from a person licensed under the Medical practice act. The excuse may be based on medical or religious prohibitions. An excuse based on religious reasons must include a signed statement from a member of the clergy that corroborates the religious reason for the request. Upon written notice from a student's parent/guardian, a student will be excused from engaging in physical activity components of physical education during a period of religious fasting.

Students with an Individualized Education Program may also be excused from physical education courses under the following situations:

1. He or she (a) is in grades 3-12, (b) his or her IEP requires that special education support and services be provided during physical education time, and (c) the parent/guardian agrees or the IEP team makes the determination; or
2. He or she (a) has an IEP, (b) is participating in an adaptive athletic program outside of school setting, and (c) the parent/guardian documents the student's participation as required by the Superintendent or designee.

A student requiring adapted physical education will receive that service in accordance with the student's Individualized Education Program

Special activities in physical education will be provided for a student whose physical or emotional condition, as determined by a person licensed under the Medical Practices Act, prevents his or her participation in the physical education course.

State law prohibits the School District from honoring parental excuses based upon a student's participation in athletic training, activities, or competitions conducted outside the auspices of the School District.

Students who have been excused from physical education shall return to the course as soon as practical. The following considerations will be used to determine when a student shall return to a physical education course:<sup>2</sup>

1. The time of year when the student's participation ceases; and
2. The student's class schedule

### **Field Trips**

Field trips are a privilege for students. Students must abide by all school policies during transportation and during field-trip activities, and shall treat all field trip locations as though they are school grounds. Failure to abide by school rules and/or location rules during a field trip may subject the student to discipline.

All students who wish to attend a field trip must receive written permission from a parent or guardian with authority to give permission. Students may be prohibited from attending field trips for any of the following reasons:

- Failure to receive appropriate permission from parent/guardian or teacher;
- Behavioral or safety concerns;
- Denial of permission from administration;
- Other reasons as determined by the school.

### **Access to Student Social Networking Passwords & Websites**

School officials may conduct an investigation or require a student to cooperate in an investigation if there is specific information about activity on the student's account on a social networking website that violates a school disciplinary rule or policy. In the course of an investigation, the student may be required to share the content that is reported in order to allow school officials to make a factual determination.

### **Internet Acceptable Use**

All use of electronic network use must be consistent with the school's goal of promoting educational excellence by facilitating resource sharing, innovation, and communication. These rules do not attempt to state all required or proscribed behavior by users. However, some specific examples are provided. **The failure of any user to follow these rules will result in the loss of privileges, disciplinary action, and/or appropriate legal action.**

**Acceptable Use** - Access to the electronic network must be: (a) for the purpose of education or research, and be consistent with the District's educational objectives, or (b) for legitimate business use.

**Privileges** - The use of the electronic network is a privilege, not a right, and inappropriate use will result in a cancellation of those privileges. The system administrator or Building Principal will make all decisions regarding whether or not a user has violated these procedures and may deny, revoke, or suspend access at any time. His or her decision is final.

**Unacceptable Use** - The user is responsible for his or her actions and activities involving the network. Some examples of unacceptable uses are:

- a. Using the network for any illegal activity, including violation of copyright or other contracts, or transmitting any material in violation of any State or federal law;
- b. Unauthorized downloading of software, regardless of whether it is copyrighted or de-virused;
- c. Downloading of copyrighted material for other than personal use;
- d. Using the network for private financial or commercial gain;
- e. Wastefully using resources, such as file space;
- f. Hacking or gaining unauthorized access to files, resources, or entities;
- g. Invading the privacy of individuals, that includes the unauthorized disclosure, dissemination, and use of information about anyone that is of a personal nature including a photograph;
- h. Using another user's account or password;
- i. Posting material authored or created by another without his/her consent;
- j. Posting anonymous messages;
- k. Using the network for commercial or private advertising;
- l. Accessing, submitting, posting, publishing, or displaying any defamatory, inaccurate, abusive, obscene, profane, sexually oriented, threatening, racially offensive, harassing, or illegal material; and
- m. Using the network while access privileges are suspended or revoked.

### **Guidelines for Student Distribution of Non-School-Sponsored Publications**

A student or group of students seeking to distribute more than 10 copies of the same material on one or more days to students must comply with the following guidelines:

1. The student(s) must notify the building principal of the intent to distribute, in writing, at least 24 hours before distributing the material. No prior approval of the material is required.
2. The material may be distributed at times and locations selected by the building principal, such as, before the beginning or ending of classes at a central location inside the building.
3. The building principal may impose additional requirements whenever necessary to prevent disruption, congestion, or the perception that the material is school-endorsed.
4. Distribution must be done in an orderly and peaceful manner, and may not be coercive.
5. The distribution must be conducted in a manner that does not cause additional work for school personnel. Students who distribute material are responsible for cleaning up any materials left on school grounds.
6. Students must not distribute material that:
  - a. Will cause substantial disruption of the proper and orderly operation and discipline of the school or school activities;
  - b. Violates the rights of others, including but not limited to, material that is libelous, invades the privacy of others, or infringes on a copyright;
  - c. Is socially inappropriate or inappropriate due to the students' maturity level, including but not limited to, material that is obscene, pornographic, or pervasively lewd and vulgar, contains indecent and vulgar language, or sexting as defined by School Board policy and Student Handbook;
  - d. Is reasonably viewed as promoting illegal drug use; or
  - e. Is primarily prepared by non-students and distributed in elementary and/or middle schools.
7. A student may use the School District's Uniform Grievance Procedure to resolve a complaint.
8. Whenever these guidelines require written notification, the appropriate administrator may assist the student in preparing such notification.

A student or group of students seeking to distribute 10 or fewer copies of the same publication on one or more days to students must distribute such material at times and places and in a manner that will not cause substantial disruption of the proper and orderly operation and discipline of the school or school activities and in compliance with paragraphs 4, 5, 6, and

## **Non-School Sponsored Publications Accessed or Distributed On Campus**

Creating, distributing, and/or accessing non-school sponsored publications shall occur at a time and place and in a manner that will not cause disruption, be coercive, or result in the perception that the distribution or the publication is endorsed by the School District.

Students are prohibited from creating, distributing, and/or accessing at school any publication that:

1. Will cause a material and substantial disruption of the proper and orderly operation and discipline of the school or school activities;
2. Violates the rights of others, including but not limited to material that is libelous, slanderous or obscene, invades the privacy of others, or infringes on a copyright;
3. Is socially inappropriate or inappropriate due to maturity level of the students, including but not limited to material that is obscene, pornographic, or pervasively lewd and vulgar, contains indecent and vulgar language, or *sexting* as defined by School Board policy and the Student Handbook;
4. Is reasonably viewed as promoting illegal drug use;
5. Is distributed in kindergarten through eighth grade and is primarily prepared by non-students, unless it is being used for school purposes. However, material from outside sources or the citation to such sources may be allowed, as long as the material to be distributed or accessed is primarily prepared by students<sup>3</sup>; or
6. Encourages or incites students to violate any Board policies.

Accessing or distributing *on-campus* includes accessing or distributing on school property or at school-related activities. A student engages in gross disobedience and misconduct and may be disciplined for: (1) accessing or distributing forbidden material, or (2) for writing, creating, or publishing such material intending for it to be accessed or distributed at school.

## **Non-School Sponsored Publications Accessed or Distributed Off-Campus**

A student engages in gross disobedience and misconduct and may be disciplined for creating and/or distributing a publication that: (1) causes a substantial disruption or a foreseeable risk of a substantial disruption to school operations, or (2) interferes with the rights of other students or staff members.

### **Search and Seizure**

In order to maintain order safety and security in the schools, school authorities are authorized to conduct reasonable searches of school property and equipment, as well as of students and their personal effects. "School authorities" includes school liaison police officers.

### **School Property and Equipment as well as Personal Effects Left There by Students**

School authorities may inspect and search school property and equipment owned or controlled by the school (such as, lockers, desks, and parking lots), as well as personal effects left there by a student, without notice to or the

consent of the student. Students have no reasonable expectation of privacy in these places or areas or in their personal effects left there.

The building principal may request the assistance of law enforcement officials to conduct inspections and searches of lockers, desks, parking lots, and other school property and equipment for illegal drugs, weapons, or other illegal or dangerous substances or materials, including searches conducted through the use of specially trained dogs.

### Students

School authorities may search a student and/or the student's personal effects in the student's possession (such as, purses, wallets, knapsacks, book bags, lunch boxes, etc.) when there is a reasonable ground for suspecting that the search will produce evidence the particular student has violated or is violating either the law or the school or district's student rules and policies. The search will be conducted in a manner that is reasonably related to its objective of the search and not excessively intrusive in light of the student's age and sex, and the nature of the infraction.

School officials may require a student to cooperate in an investigation if there is specific information about activity on the student's account on a social networking website that violates the school's disciplinary rules or school district policy. In the course of the investigation, the student may be required to share the content that is reported in order for the school to make a factual determination.

### Seizure of Property

If a search produces evidence that the student has violated or is violating either the law or the school or district's policies or rules, evidence may be seized and impounded by school authorities, and disciplinary action may be taken. When appropriate, evidence may be transferred to law enforcement authorities.

## **Education of Children with Disabilities**

The School District shall provide a free appropriate public education in the least restrictive environment and necessary related services to all children with disabilities enrolled in the District, as required by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and implementing provisions of the School Code, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the Americans with Disabilities Act. The term "children with disabilities," as used in this policy, means children between ages 3 and 21 (inclusive) for whom it is determined, through definitions and procedures described in the Illinois State Board of Education's Special Education rules, that special education services are needed.

It is the intent of the District to ensure that students who are disabled within the definition of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 are identified, evaluated, and provided with appropriate educational services. Students may be disabled within the meaning of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act even though they do not require services pursuant to the IDEA. For students eligible for services under IDEA, the District shall follow procedures for identification, evaluation, placement, and delivery of services to children with disabilities provided in the Illinois State Board of Education's Special Education rules. For those students who are not eligible for services under IDEA, but, because of disability as defined by Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, need or are believed to need special instruction or related services, the District shall establish and implement a system of procedural safeguards. The safeguards shall cover students' identification, evaluation, and educational placement. This system shall include notice, an opportunity for the student's parent(s)/guardian(s) to examine relevant records, an impartial hearing with opportunity for participation by the student's parent(s)/guardian(s), representation by counsel, and a review procedure.

The District maintains membership with Lee County Special Education Association (LCSEA), which shall assist the District in fulfilling its obligations to the District's disabled students.

### **Discipline of Students with Disabilities**

#### **Behavioral Interventions**

Behavioral interventions shall be used with students with disabilities to promote and strengthen desirable behaviors and reduce identified inappropriate behaviors. The School Board will establish and maintain a committee to develop, implement, and monitor procedures on the use of behavioral interventions for children with disabilities.

#### **Discipline of Special Education Students**

The District shall comply with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004 and the Illinois State Board of Education's *Special Education* rules when disciplining special education students. No special education student shall be expelled if the student's particular act of gross disobedience or misconduct is a manifestation of his or her disability.

# *Lee County Special Education Association*

Corena Steinmeyer, Director

1335 Franklin Grove Road, Dixon, IL  
Phone: (815) 284-6651 Fax: (815) 284-9680

## MEMO

To: Administrators  
From: Corena Steinmeyer  
Re: Public Act 101-0515 amends Section 5/14-8.02f and creates a new Section 5/14-8.02g of the Illinois School Code to require that all Illinois school districts and special education cooperatives:  
Date: 10/2/19

Starting in 2020-2021 and annually thereafter, within 20 days from the beginning of the school year *post on district website and include in Parent/Student Handbooks, the following:*

**Students with disabilities may receive related services as part of their individual education programs (IEPs). The Dixon School District will maintain related service logs that record the type and number of minutes of the related service(s) administered to such students. Copies of any related service logs will be available to parents/guardians at their child's annual review IEP meeting. Parents/guardians of students with disabilities may also request copies of their child's related service logs at any time.**

Note: This Public Act also amends the Illinois School Student Records Act to include related service logs as part of a child's temporary school student records that must be maintained by school districts and special education cooperatives.

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### **Request to Access Classroom or Personnel for Special Education Evaluation or Observation**

The parent/guardian of a student receiving special education services, or being evaluated for eligibility, is afforded reasonable access to educational facilities, personnel, classrooms, and buildings. This same right of access is afforded to an independent educational evaluator or a qualified professional retained by or on behalf of a parent or child.

For further information, please contact the school principal.

### **Student Privacy Protections**

### Surveys by Third Parties

Before a school official or staff member administers or distributes a survey or evaluation created by a third party to a student, the student's parent/guardian may inspect the survey or evaluation, upon their request and within a reasonable time of their request. This applies to every survey: (1) that is created by a person or entity other than a district official, staff member, or student, (2) regardless of whether the student answering the questions can be identified, and (3) regardless of the subject matter of the questions.

Parents who object to disclosure of information concerning their child to a third party may do so in writing to the building principal.

### Surveys Requesting Personal Information

School officials and staff members will not request, nor disclose, the identity of any student who completes any survey or evaluation (created by any person or entity, including the school or district) containing one or more of the following items:

1. Political affiliations or beliefs of the student or the student's parent/guardian.
2. Mental or psychological problems of the student or the student's family.
3. Sexual behaviors or attitudes.
4. Illegal, anti-social, self-incriminating, or demeaning behavior.
5. Critical appraisals of other individuals with whom students have close family relationships.
6. Legally recognized privileged or analogous relationships, such as those with lawyers, physicians, and ministers.
7. Religious practices, affiliations, or beliefs of the student or the student's parent/guardian.
8. Income other than that required by law to determine program eligibility.

The student's parent/guardian may inspect the survey or evaluation upon, and refuse to allow their child to participate in the survey. The school will not penalize any student whose parent/guardian exercised this option.

### Instructional Material

A student's parent/guardian may inspect, upon their request, any instructional material used as part of their child's educational curriculum within a reasonable time of their request.

## **Student Records**

A school student record is any writing or other recorded information concerning a student and by which a student may be identified individually that is maintained by a school or at its direction or by a school employee, regardless of how or where the information is stored, except for certain records kept in a staff member's sole possession; records maintained by law enforcement officers working in the school; video and other electronic recordings that are created in part for law enforcement, security, or safety reasons or purposes; and electronic recordings made on school buses.

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and the Illinois Student Records Act afford parents/guardians and students over 18 years of age ("eligible students") certain rights with respect to the student's school records. They are:

- 1. The right to inspect and copy the student's education records within n10 business days of the day the District receives a request for access.**

The degree of access a student has to his or her records depends on the student's age. Students less than 18 years of age have the right to inspect and copy only their permanent record. Students 18 years of age or older have access and copy rights to both permanent and temporary records. A parent/guardian or student should submit to the building principal a written request that identifies the record(s) he or she wishes to inspect. The principal will make arrangements for access and notify the parent/guardian or student of the time and place where the records may be inspected. The District charges \$.35 per page for copying but no one will be denied their right to copies of their records for inability to pay this cost.

These rights are denied to any person against whom an order of protection has been entered concerning the student.

## **2. The right to request the amendment of the student's education records that the parent/ guardian or eligible student believes are inaccurate, irrelevant, or improper.**

A parent/guardian or eligible student may ask the District to amend a record that is believed to be inaccurate, irrelevant, or improper. Requests should be sent to the building principal and should clearly identify the record the parent/guardian or eligible student wants changed and the specific reason a change is being sought.

If the District decides not to amend the record, the District will notify the parent/guardian or eligible student of the decision and advise him or her of their right to a hearing regarding the request for amendment. Additional information regarding the hearing procedures will be provided to the parent/guardian or eligible student when notified of the right to a hearing.

## **3. The right to permit disclosure of personally identifiable information contained in the student's education records, except to the extent that the FERPA or Illinois School Student Records Act authorizes disclosure without consent.**

Disclosure without consent is permitted to school officials with legitimate educational or administrative interests. A school official is a person employed by the District as an administrator, supervisor, instructor, or support staff member (including health or medical staff and law enforcement unit personnel); a person serving on the School Board; a person or company with whom the District has contracted to perform a special task (such as an attorney, auditor, medical consultant, or therapist); or any parent/guardian or student serving on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee, or assisting another school official in performing his or her tasks. A school official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility.

Upon request, the District discloses education records without consent to officials of another school district in which a student has enrolled or intends to enroll, as well as to any person as specifically required by State or federal law. Before information is released to these individuals, the parents/guardians or eligible student will receive prior written notice of the nature and substance of the information, and an opportunity to inspect, copy, and challenge such records.

Academic grades and references to expulsions or out-of-school suspensions cannot be challenged at the time a student's records are being forwarded to another school to which the student is transferring.

Disclosure is also permitted without consent to: any person for research, statistical reporting or planning, provided that no student or parent/guardian can be identified; any person named in a court order; appropriate persons if the knowledge of such information is necessary to protect the health or safety of the student or other persons; and juvenile authorities when necessary for the discharge of their official duties who request information before adjudication of the student.

## **4. The right to a copy of any school student record proposed to be destroyed or deleted.**

The permanent record is maintained for at least 60 years after the student transfers, graduates, or permanently withdraws. The temporary record is maintained for at least 5 years after the student transfers, graduates, or permanently withdraws. Temporary records that may be of assistance to a student with a disability who graduates or permanently withdraws, may, after 5 years, be transferred to the parent/guardian or to the student, if the student has succeeded to the rights of the parent/guardian. Student temporary records are reviewed every 4 years or upon a student's change in attendance centers, whichever occurs first.

## **5. The right to prohibit the release of directory information.**

Throughout the school year, the District may release directory information regarding students, limited to:

Name

Address

Grade level

Birth date and place

Parent/guardian names, addresses, electronic mail addresses, and telephone numbers

Photographs, videos, or digital images used for informational or news-related purposes (whether by a media outlet or by the school) of a student participating in school or school-sponsored activities, organizations, and athletics that have appeared in school publications, such as yearbooks, newspapers, or sporting or fine arts programs

Academic awards, degrees, and honors

Information in relation to school-sponsored activities, organizations, and athletics

Major field of study

Period of attendance in school

*Any parent/guardian or eligible student may prohibit the release of any or all of the above information by delivering a written objection to the building principal within 30 days of the date of this notice.*

**6. The right contained in this statement: No person may condition the granting or withholding of any right, privilege or benefits or make as a condition of employment, credit, or insurance the securing by any individual of any information from a student's temporary record which such individual may obtain through the exercise of any right secured under State law.**

**7. The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the District to comply with the requirements of FERPA.**

The name and address of the Office that administers FERPA is:

Family Policy Compliance Office  
U.S. Department of Education  
400 Maryland Avenue, SW  
Washington DC 20202-4605

### **Student Biometric Information**

Before collecting biometric information from students, the school must seek the permission of the student's parent/guardian or the student, if over the age of 18. Biometric information means information that is collected from students based on their unique characters, such as a fingerprint, voice recognition or retinal scan.

### **Teacher Qualifications**

Parents/guardians may request information about the qualifications of their child's teachers and paraprofessionals, including: Whether the teacher has met State certification requirements, whether the teacher is teaching under an emergency permit or other provisional status by which State licensing criteria have been waived, the teacher's college major, whether the teacher has any advanced degrees and the subject of the degrees, and whether any instructional aides or paraprofessionals provide services to your child and, if so, their qualifications.

If you would like to receive any of this information, please contact the school office.

### **Standardized Testing**

Students and parents/guardians should be aware that students in grades 3-8 will take the Illinois Assessment of Readiness (IAR) test between the end of March and April. Parents are encouraged to cooperate in preparing students for the standardized testing, because the quality of the education the school can provide is partially dependent upon the school's ability to continue to prove its success in the state's standardized tests. Parents can assist their students achieve their best performance by doing the following:

1. Encourage students to work hard and study throughout the year;
2. Ensure students get a good night's sleep the night before exams;
3. Ensure students eat well the morning of the exam, particularly ensuring they eat sufficient protein;
4. Remind and emphasize for students the importance of good performance on standardized testing;
5. Ensure students are on time and prepared for tests, with appropriate materials;
6. Teach students the importance of honesty and ethics during the performance of these and other tests;
7. Encourage students to relax on testing day.

### **Homeless Child's Right to Education**

When a child loses permanent housing and becomes a homeless person as defined at law, or when a homeless child changes his or her temporary living arrangements, the parent or guardian of the homeless child has the option of either:

- (1) continuing the child's education in the school of origin for as long as the child remains homeless or, if the child becomes permanently housed, until the end of the academic year during which the housing is acquired;
- (2) enrolling the child in any school that non-homeless students who live in the attendance area in which the child or youth is actually living are eligible to attend.

More information on available community resources and assistance is available if you contact the school office.

### **Sex Education Instruction**

Students will not be required to take or participate in any class or course in comprehensive sex education if his or her parent or guardian submits a written objection. The parent or guardian's decision will not be the reason for any student discipline, including suspension or expulsion. Nothing in this Section prohibits instruction in sanitation, hygiene or traditional courses in biology.

Parents or guardians may examine the instructional materials to be used in any district sex education class or course.

### **Complaints About Curriculum, Instructional Materials, and Programs:**

#### **Ability to Opt-Out of Certain Course Content and Programs**

Parents or guardians have the right to inspect all instructional materials used as a part of their child's education. If you believe that curriculum, instructional materials, or programs violate rights guaranteed by any law or Board policy, you may file a complaint under the District's uniform grievance policy.

Parents or guardians with other suggestions or complaints about curriculum, instructional materials, or programs should complete a Curriculum Objection Form, which is available from the school office. A parent or guardian may also request that their child be exempt from using a particular instructional material or participating in certain course content or programs by completing a Curriculum Objection Form.

Exempting a child from using instructional material or refusing to allow a child from taking or participating in course content or a program that allows parents or guardians to object in writing and/or opt their child out of participation shall not be reason for disciplinary action or academic penalty to the student.

### **English Learners**

The school offers opportunities for English Learners to develop high levels of academic attainment in English and to meet the same academic content and student academic achievement standards that all children are expected to attain.

Parents/guardians of English Learners will be: (1) given an opportunity to provide input to the program, and (2) provided notification regarding their child's placement in, and information about, the District's English Learners programs.

For questions related to this program or to express input in the school's English Learners program, contact your school principal.

### **School Visitation Rights**

The School Visitation Rights Act permits employed parents/guardians, who are unable to meet with educators because of a work conflict, the right to time off from work under certain conditions to attend necessary school

functions such as parent-teacher conferences. Letters verifying participation in this program are available from the school office upon request.

### **Mandated Reporters**

All school personnel, including teachers and administrators, are required by law to immediately report any and all suspected cases of child abuse or neglect to the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services.

### **Pesticide Application Notice**

The district maintains a registry of parents/guardians of students who have registered to receive written or telephone notification prior to the application of pesticides to school grounds. To be added to the list, please contact the central office (815-284-7722)

Notification will be given before application of the pesticide. Prior notice is not required if there is imminent threat to health or property.

### **Asbestos Notification**

**DIXON PUBLIC SCHOOLS #170**

**“A Place to Grow”**

**[www.dps170.org](http://www.dps170.org)**

Phone: (815) 373-4966

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Kevin Schultz  
Director of Building & Grounds

6/6/2025

Annual notification to parents and employees:

In accordance with the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA), Dixon School District #170 has had its school buildings inspected for the presence of asbestos containing materials and plans developed for the management of the materials identified. The inspection and management plans for each building are available for review during our normal office hours in each schools' administrative office and the District's administrative office without any cost of restrictions.

The management plans are routinely updated to reflect the completion of response actions, post response actions and surveillances and re-inspections.

Six-month surveillance and three-year reinspection are conducted to evaluate the condition of the asbestos containing materials. They will continue to be completed as long as asbestos containing materials remain in each building.

District #170 will continue its efforts to maintain all asbestos containing material in an intact and undamaged condition and will voluntarily remove asbestos containing materials in compliance with the federal and state regulations in conjunction with planned renovation work as funds become available.

This notification is posted annually on the District's website and within the students' handbook.

#### **Sex Offender Notification Law**

State law prohibits a convicted child sex offender from being present on school property when children under the age of 18 are present, except for in the following circumstances as they relate to the individual's child(ren):

1. To attend a conference at the school with school personnel to discuss the progress of their child.
2. To participate in a conference in which evaluation and placement decisions may be made with respect to their child's special education services.
3. To attend conferences to discuss issues concerning their child such as retention or promotion.

In all other cases, convicted child sex offenders are prohibited from being present on school property unless they obtain written permission from the superintendent or school board.

Anytime that a convicted child sex offender is present on school property – including the three reasons above - he/she is responsible for notifying the principal's office upon arrival on school property and upon departure from school property. It is the responsibility of the convicted child sex offender to remain under the direct supervision of a school official at all times he/she is in the presence or vicinity of children.

A violation of this law is a Class 4 felony.

### **Sex Offender & Violent Offender Community Notification Laws**

State law requires that all school districts provide parents/guardians with information about sex offenders and violent offenders against youth.

You may find the Illinois Sex Offender Registry on the Illinois State Police's website at:

<http://www.isp.state.il.us/sor/>.

You may find the Illinois Statewide Child Murderer and Violent Offender Against Youth Registry on the Illinois State Police's website at:

<http://www.isp.state.il.us/cmvo/>.

### **Employee Conduct Standards**

School districts are required to include in their student handbook the District's Employee Code of Professional Conduct. These standards, in part, define appropriate conduct between school employees and students. A copy of these standards can be found on the District's website or requested from the Superintendent's office.

### **Annual Report Card**

Each year, the District is required to disseminate an annual report card that includes information on the District as a whole and each school served by the District, with aggregate and disaggregated information for each required subgroup of students including: student achievement on academic assessments (designated by category), graduation rates, district performance, teacher qualifications, and certain other information required by federal law. When available, this information will be placed on the District's website at

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