

Community Relations

Visitors to and Conduct on School Property ¹

The following definitions apply to this policy:

School property - District and school buildings, grounds, and parking areas; vehicles used for school purposes; and any location used for a School Board meeting, school athletic event, or other school-sponsored or school-sanctioned events or activities. ²

Visitor - Any person other than an enrolled student or District employee.

All visitors to school property are required to report to the Building Principal's office and receive permission to remain on school property. All visitors must sign a visitors' log, show identification, and wear a visitor's badge. When leaving the school, visitors must return their badge. On those occasions when large groups of parents/guardians, friends, and/or community members are invited onto school property or when community members are attending Board meetings, visitors are not required to sign in but must follow school officials' instructions. Persons on school property without permission will be directed to leave and may be subject to criminal prosecution. ³

Except as provided in the next paragraph, any person wishing to confer with a staff member should contact that staff member to make an appointment. Conferences with teachers are held, to the extent possible, outside school hours or during the teacher's conference/preparation period.

Requests to access a school building, facility, and/or educational program, or to interview personnel or a student for purposes of assessing the student's special education needs, should be made at the appropriate building. Access shall be facilitated according to guidelines from the Superintendent or designee. ⁴

The School District expects mutual respect, civility, and orderly conduct among all people on school property or at a school event. No person on school property or at a school event (including visitors, students, and employees) shall perform any of the following acts:

¹ State or federal law controls this policy's content. Boards may make and enforce reasonable rules of conduct and sportsmanship for school events and deny future admission to school events to violators for up to one year provided a notice and hearing are given. 105 ILCS 5/24-24. See f/n 20 below.

This policy contains an item on which collective bargaining may be required. Any policy that impacts upon wages, hours, and terms and conditions of employment, is subject to collective bargaining upon request by the employee representative, even if the policy involves an inherent managerial right.

² School-sponsored or school-sanctioned events or activities aligns with the text of 105 ILCS 5/27-23.7(a).

³ This paragraph is up to the local board's discretion. Many public school buildings were built before school security was the concern it is now. A first step in creating a secure environment is to manage access to school buildings. Along with limiting the entrances that may be used, school officials should post signs with instructions for visitors and a warning to trespassers. Signs may be as simple as "Visitors Must Report to Office" and "No Trespassing – Violators will be Prosecuted." Applicable criminal trespass laws include: 720 ILCS 5/21-1 (criminal damage to property); 5/21-1.2 (institutional vandalism); 5/21-3 (criminal trespass to real property); 5/21-5 (criminal trespass to State supported land); 5/21-5.5 (criminal trespass to a safe school zone); 5/21-9 (criminal trespass to a place of public amusement); 5/21-11 (distributing or delivering written or printed solicitation on school property). This sample policy identifies board members as visitors.

The following optional provisions must be modified according to local conditions:

Option 1: The Superintendent or designee may post certain school facilities for the community's use on non-school days when they are not being used for school purposes.

Option 2: The Superintendent or designee shall manage a program to allow community use of the following facilities on non-school days, during the daylight, provided they are not being used for school purposes: tennis courts, playground, and track.

⁴ 105 ILCS 5/14-8.02(g-5). See sample administrative procedure 6:120-AP2, *Access to Classrooms and Personnel*, and sample exhibit 6:120-AP2, E1, *Request to Access Classroom(s) or Personnel for Special Education Evaluation and/or Observation Purposes*.

1. Strike, injure, threaten, harass, or intimidate a staff member, Board member, sports official or coach, or any other person. ⁵
2. Behave in an unsportsmanlike manner, or use vulgar or obscene language.
3. Unless specifically permitted by State law, possess a weapon, any object that can reasonably be considered a weapon or looks like a weapon, or any dangerous device. ⁶
4. Damage or threaten to damage another's property. ⁷
5. Damage or deface school property. ⁸
6. Violate any Illinois law, ⁹ or town or county ordinance.
7. Smoke or otherwise use tobacco products. ¹⁰
8. Distribute, consume, use, possess, or be impaired by or under the influence of an alcoholic beverage, cannabis, other lawful product, or illegal drug. ¹¹
9. Be present when the person's alcoholic beverage, cannabis, other lawful product, or illegal drug consumption is detectable, regardless of when and/or where the use occurred. ¹²

⁵ See e.g., 720 ILCS 5/12-2 (aggravated assault); 5/12-2(b)(9) (aggravated assault against a sports official or coach); 5/12-3.05(c) (aggravated battery on public property); 5/12-3.05(d)(3) (aggravated battery against a school employee); 5/12-9 (threats to public officials); 5/24-1.2 (discharge of a firearm).

⁶ With one exception, a license to carry a firearm does not permit an individual to carry a concealed firearm on or into any building, real property, and/or parking area under the control of an elementary or secondary school, or any bus paid for in whole or part with public funds. 430 ILCS 66/65(a). The following optional provision adds that exception, which is a restatement of 430 ILCS 66/65(b), to the text in number 3:

An individual licensed to carry a concealed firearm under the Illinois Firearm Concealed Carry Act is permitted to: (a) carry a concealed firearm within a vehicle into a parking area controlled by a school or the District and may store a firearm or ammunition concealed in a case within a locked vehicle or locked container out of plain view within the vehicle in the parking area, and/or (b) carry a concealed firearm in the immediate area surrounding his or her vehicle in a parking area controlled by a school or the District for the limited purpose of storing or retrieving a firearm within the vehicle's trunk.

Other relevant weapons laws include 705 ILCS 405/5-407 (juvenile in possession of a firearm), 720 ILCS 5/24-9 (firearms; child protection); 720 ILCS 5/24-1(c) (unlawful use of weapons in schools); 720 ILCS 5/24-1.2, 5/24-3 (unlawful delivery or sale of a firearm near school); 705 ILCS 405/5-130, 405/5-805 (minor 15 years or older who commits aggravated battery with a firearm at school is tried as an adult).

⁷ See e.g., 720 ILCS 5/2-19.5 (definition of school), 5/16-1 (theft), 5/18-1 (robbery; aggravated robbery), 5/19-1 (burglary), and 21-1 (criminal damage to property).

⁸ See e.g., 720 ILCS 5/21-1.01 (criminal damage to government supported property), 21-1.2 (institutional vandalism), and 21-1.3 (criminal defacement of property).

⁹ See e.g., 720 ILCS 5/11-9.3 (presence within school zone by child sex offenders prohibited), 5/11-14 (prostitution), and 5/11-18, **amended by P.A. 103-1071, eff. 7-1-25** (patronizing a **prostitute person engaged in the sex trade**); 720 ILCS 5/21-11 (soliciting students to commit illegal acts).

¹⁰ Required by 105 ILCS 5/10-20.5b and 410 ILCS 82/1 *et seq.* Federal law prohibits smoking inside schools (20 U.S.C. §7973); districts failing to comply with the federal no-smoking ban risk a civil penalty of up to \$1000 per violation per day.

¹¹ See 720 ILCS 570/407 (delivery of controlled substance on or within 1000 feet of a school) and 410 ILCS 705/ (Cannabis Regulation and Tax Act). See also the discussion in f/n's 5 and 6 of sample policy 5:50, *Drug- and Alcohol-Free Workplace; E-Cigarette, Tobacco, and Cannabis Prohibition*; this statement must be consistent with employee working conditions and employee conduct standards (see sample administrative procedure 5:120-AP2, *Employee Conduct Standards*).

¹² Each board and superintendent may want to engage in a conversation regarding how the district might partner with local law enforcement to enforce this policy and the penalties available under the Cannabis Regulation and Tax Act, e.g., posting signs barring community members from bringing in weapons, alcohol, cannabis, tobacco, etc. Signage reminding visitors of the policy may make it easier for staff and/or local law enforcement to enforce.

10. Use or possess medical cannabis, unless he or she has complied with policy 7:270, *Administering Medicines to Students*, implementing *Ashley's Law*.¹³
11. Impede, delay, disrupt, or otherwise interfere with any school activity or function (including using cellular phones in a disruptive manner).¹⁴
12. Enter upon any portion of school premises at any time for purposes other than those that are lawful and authorized by the Board.
13. Operate a motor vehicle: (a) in a risky manner, (b) in excess of 20 miles per hour, or (c) in violation of an authorized District employee's directive.¹⁵
14. Engage in any risky behavior, including roller-blading, roller-skating, or skateboarding.¹⁶
15. Violate other District policies or regulations, or a directive from an authorized security officer or District employee.
16. Engage in any conduct that interferes with, disrupts, or adversely affects the District or a School function.

Convicted Child Sex Offender¹⁷

State law prohibits a child sex offender from being present on school property or loitering within 500 feet of school property when persons under the age of 18 are present, unless the offender is:

1. A parent/guardian of a student attending the school and has notified the Building Principal of his or her presence at the school for the purpose of: (i) attending a conference at the school with school personnel to discuss the progress of his or her child academically or socially, (ii) participating in child review conferences in which evaluation and placement decisions may be made with respect to his or her child regarding special education services, or (iii) attending conferences to discuss other student issues concerning his or her child such as retention and promotion; or

¹³ Managing cannabis on district property and the school setting presents many unsettled and complex legal issues. To legally use medical cannabis in Illinois, an individual must first become a *registered qualifying patient*. The use of cannabis by a *registered qualifying patient* is permitted only in accordance with the Compassionate Use of Medical Cannabis Program Act (Medical Cannabis Program Act (MCPA)). 410 ILCS 130/. There are many situations in which no one, even a *registered qualifying patient*, may possess or use cannabis, including (a) in a school bus, (b) on the grounds of any preschool or primary or secondary school, or (c) in close physical proximity to anyone under the age of 18 years of age. 410 ILCS 130/30(a)(2), (3), and (4). However, *Ashley's Law*, 105 ILCS 5/22-33(b) and (g), allows **parents/guardians and other designated caregivers** to administer medical cannabis infused products to students who are *registered qualifying patients* at school or on the school bus, and requires school boards to adopt a policy to implement the law unless the district would lose federal funding. See sample policy 7:270, *Administering Medicines to Students* and its f/n 22.

Remember that *Ashley's Law* requires the designated caregiver to remove the product from the school premises or the school bus after administering it to the student, so as a result, sample policy 7:270, *Administering Medicines to Students*, requires immediate removal of medical cannabis infused products after administering them to the student (see f/n 27 of that policy for further discussions).

¹⁴ See e.g., 720 ILCS 5/21.2-1 *et seq.* (interference with a public institution of education).

¹⁵ See e.g., 625 ILCS 5/11-605 (special speed limit zones). 625 ILCS 5/12-610.1(e) prohibits wireless telephone use while operating a motor vehicle on a roadway in a school speed zone except for emergency purposes. 625 ILCS 5/12-803(f), added by P.A. 103-404, prohibits motor vehicle drivers from making contact with any portion of a stopped school bus or making contact with a school child within 30 feet of the school bus.

¹⁶ The pivotal question in a negligence case is whether the defendant acted reasonably. A ban on rollerblading demonstrates that the district took reasonable steps to reduce the risk of injury.

¹⁷ 720 ILCS 5/11-9.3(a). **The definition of child sex offender is found at 720 ILCS 11-9.3(d), amended by P.A. 103-1071, eff. 7-1-25.** The statute assigns the child sex offender the "duty to remain under the direct supervision of a school official." In order to ensure this happens and to protect students, the sample policy requires the superintendent, or designee who is a certified employee, to supervise a child sex offender whenever the offender is in a child's vicinity. See also the Sex Offender Community Notification Law (730 ILCS 152/101 *et seq.*); Murderer and Violent Offender Against Youth Community Notification Law (730 ILCS 154/75 - 154/105); sample policy 4:170, *Safety*; and sample administrative procedure 4:175-API, *Criminal Offender Notification Laws; Screening*.

2. Has permission to be present from the Board, Superintendent, or Superintendent's designee. If permission is granted, the Superintendent or Board President shall provide the details of the offender's upcoming visit to the Building Principal.

In all cases, the Superintendent, or designee who is a certified employee, shall supervise a child sex offender whenever the offender is in a child's vicinity.

Exclusive Bargaining Representative Agent ¹⁸

Upon notifying the Building Principal's office, authorized agents of an exclusive bargaining representative will be provided reasonable access to employees in the bargaining unit they represent in accordance with State law. Such access shall be conducted in a manner that will not impede the normal operations of the District.

Enforcement

Any staff member may request identification from any person on school property; refusal to provide such information is a criminal act.¹⁹ The Building Principal or designee shall seek the immediate removal of any person who refuses to provide requested identification.

Any person who engages in conduct prohibited by this policy may be ejected from or denied admission to school property in accordance with State law.²⁰ The person also may be subject to being denied admission to school athletic or extracurricular events for up to one calendar year in accordance with the procedures below.²¹

Procedures to Deny Future Admission to Athletic or Extracurricular School Events

Before any person may be denied admission to athletic or extracurricular school events, the person has a right to a hearing before the Board. The Superintendent may refuse the person admission pending such hearing. The Superintendent or designee must provide the person with a hearing notice, delivered

¹⁸ 105 ILCS 5/24-25; 115 ILCS 5/3(c). If a provision contained in a collective bargaining agreement addresses this issue, it will supersede this policy for those covered employees. In such cases, the board policy should be amended to state, "Please refer to the applicable collective bargaining agreement." For employees whose collective bargaining agreement does not address this subject, the policy should reflect the board's current practice. Consult the board attorney about this subhead. It is an item on which collective bargaining may be required. Any policy that impacts wages, hours, or terms and conditions of employment, is subject to collective bargaining upon request by the employee representative, even if the policy involves an inherent managerial right. Amend the language to reflect what is recommended by the board attorney.

The School Code permits bargaining representatives to meet with employees during *duty-free time* upon notice to the school office. The Ill. Educational Labor Relations Act expanded the rights of access by bargaining representatives to also include meeting with employees during the employee work day if the meeting: (1) is to investigate and discuss grievances and workplace-related complaints (no time limit is specified) or (2) is with a newly hired employee within the first two weeks of employment (or on a later date if mutually agreed upon by the employee and bargaining representative) for one hour or less. In those circumstances, the district may not dock employee pay or charge leave time. 115 ILCS 5/3(c). However, the access must be *reasonable* and "shall at all times be conducted in a manner so as not to impede normal operations." *Id.* Consult the board attorney for guidance regarding specific requests and whether, if granted, they would impede normal operations, e.g., requests for access to staff while they are performing instructional or supervisory duties. Determining whether normal operations are impeded will likely depend upon the position and duties of the employee in the district.

¹⁹ 105 ILCS 5/24-25. Refusal to provide such information is a Class A misdemeanor.

²⁰ 105 ILCS 5/10-20.5 (rules), 5/10-22.10 (control and supervision of school houses and school grounds); 720 ILCS 5/21-3 (criminal trespass to real property), 5/21-5 (criminal trespass to State supported land), 5/21-5.5 (criminal trespass to a safe school zone). See f/n 3, above.

²¹ See *Nuding v. Cerro Gordo Comm. Unit Sch. Dist.*, 313 Ill. App.3d 344 (4th Dist. 2000) (board was authorized to ban parent from attending all school events and extracurricular activities by 105 ILCS 5/24-24 and to enforce conduct rules at its meetings by 105 ILCS 5/10-20.5; the ban was based on the parent's exposing a toy gun and a pocketknife at a board meeting); *Jordan ex rel. Edwards v. O'Fallon Tp. High Sch. Dist.*, 302 Ill.App.3d 1070 (5th Dist. 1999) (105 ILCS 5/24-24 did not give a high school athlete the right, under the due process clause, to a notice and hearing before he could be suspended from participating in interscholastic athletics; the statute expands the schools' authority to ban people from attending school events for breaching conduct and sportsmanship code).

or sent by certified mail with return receipt requested, at least ten days before the Board hearing date. The hearing notice must contain: ²²

1. The date, time, and place of the Board hearing;
2. A description of the prohibited conduct;
3. The proposed time period that admission to school events will be denied; and
4. Instructions on how to waive a hearing. ²³

LEGAL REF.: 20 U.S.C. §7971 et seq., Pro-Children Act of 2001.
Nuding v. Cerro Gordo Community Unit School Dist., 313 Ill. App.3d 344 (4th Dist. 2000).
 105 ILCS 5/10-20.5, 10-20.5b, 5/10-22.10, 5/22-33, 5/24-25, and 5/27-23.7(a).
 115 ILCS 5/3(c), Ill. Educational Labor Relations Act.
 410 ILCS 130/, Compassionate Use of Medical Cannabis Program Act.
 410 ILCS 705/, Cannabis Tax and Regulation Act.
 430 ILCS 66/, Firearm Concealed Carry Act.
 720 ILCS 5/11-9.3, 5/21-1, 5/21-1.2, 5/21-3, 5/21-5, 5/21-5.5, 5/21-9, and 5/21-11.

CROSS REF.: 2:200 (Types of School Board Meetings), 2:230 (Public Participation at School Board Meetings and Petitions to the Board), 4:170 (Safety), 5:50 (Drug- and Alcohol-Free Workplace; E-Cigarette, Tobacco, and Cannabis Prohibition), 6:120 (Education of Children with Disabilities), 6:250 (Community Resource Persons and Volunteers), 7:190 (Student Behavior), 7:270 (Administering Medicines to Students), 8:20 (Community Use of School Facilities)

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²² 105 ILCS 5/24-24. If a violator is a student, the hearing should be held in a closed meeting. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(9). Otherwise, a hearing regarding denial of admission to *school events or property* pursuant to 105 ILCS 5/24-24 may take place in an open meeting or in a closed meeting so long as the board prepares and makes available for public inspection a written decision setting forth its determinative reasoning. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(4.5), added by P.A. 103-311. Note: while 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(4.5), added by P.A. 103-311, refers to *school events or property*, 105 ILCS 5/24-24 only authorizes boards to deny admission to athletic and extracurricular *events*. The term *events* is arguably broader than *property* as school events may take place offsite; consult the board attorney for guidance.

Some boards prefer an open meeting hearing to make it publicly known what alleged conduct could result in someone being denied admission to athletic or extracurricular events, while others prefer a closed meeting hearing so as not to provide a public platform to someone alleged to have engaged in prohibited conduct. Consult the board attorney to determine the best approach for the district and to ensure alignment with local practices and conditions.

This text aligns with 105 ILCS 5/24-24 and only requires a hearing for denying admission to *school events*. The court in Nuding (see f/n 20, above) did not specifically answer whether a board meeting qualified as a *school event* under 105 ILCS 5/24-24, but it upheld the board's right to enforce conduct rules at its meetings under 105 ILCS 5/10-20.5.

Consult the board attorney if the district would like to deny an individual admission to board meetings. This issue involves a balancing of a board's interest in the orderly transaction of its public business and the efficiency of its meetings against an individual's: (a) statutory rights to attend meetings and/or comment to and ask questions of the board (105 ILCS 5/10-16 and 5 ILCS 120/2.06(g)), and (b) constitutional freedoms and rights of speech, the press, assembly, and to petition the government (U.S. Constitution, First Amendment and Ill. Constitution, Art. I, §§ 1, 2, 4, and 5).

²³ The hearing requirement is for the violator's benefit and, consequently, the violator should be able to waive it.