

Operational Services

Safety¹

Safety and Security

All District operations, including the education program, shall be conducted in a manner that will promote the safety and security of everyone on District property or at a District event.² The Superintendent or designee shall develop, implement, and maintain a comprehensive safety and security plan that includes, without limitation:

1. An emergency operations and crisis response plan(s) addressing prevention, preparation, response, and recovery for each school;³

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

¹ State law requires a policy on several topics in this policy and otherwise controls this policy's content. Topics previously assigned to this code number were moved in May 2014 and placed in sample policies 4:100, *Insurance Management*, and 4:175, *Convicted Child Sex Offender; Screening; Notifications*.

Grants may be available from the Ill. State Board of Education (ISBE) to support school safety improvements, including professional development; safety-related upgrades to school buildings, equipment, and facilities; additional resources to implement restorative interventions and resolution strategies as alternatives to exclusionary discipline; and crisis response mapping data. 105 ILCS 5/2-3.180, 5/2-3.181, and 128/50, added by P.A. 103-8.

Based upon the recommendation of the Federal Commission on School Safety in, the U.S. Depts. of Homeland Security, Education, Justice, and Health and Human Services created a central school safety clearinghouse website at: www.schoolsafety.gov, to share actionable recommendations to help schools prevent, protect, mitigate, respond to, and recover from emergency situations. Topics include bullying/cyberbullying, student mental health, school climate, threat assessment, emergency planning, security, recovery, and drills.

² This sample end statement should be discussed and altered accordingly before board adoption. Ask: what effect or impact will this statement have on the students and the community?

³ The term *emergency operations and crisis response plan* is used because federal agencies refer to school *emergency operations plans* and the School Safety Drill Act (105 ILCS 128/) refers to *emergency and crisis response plans*. 105 ILCS 128/55, added by P.A. 103-194 and renumbered by P.A. 103-605, requires a school building's emergency and crisis response plan, protocol, and procedures to include a plan for local law enforcement to rapidly enter a school building in an emergency.

See sample administrative procedure 4:170-AP1, *Comprehensive Safety and Security Plan*. This procedure follows the recommendations in the *Guide for Developing High-Quality School Emergency Operations Plans*, produced by a collaboration of federal agencies in June 2013 at: www.rems.ed.gov/docs/REMS_K-12_Guide_508.pdf. The *Guide* informs schools what they *need* to do, not *what* to do. It recommends a process for developing, implementing, and continually refining a school emergency operations plan as well as a discussion of its form, function, and content. See also *The Role of Districts in Developing High-Quality School Emergency Operations Plans: A Companion to the School Guide*, at: https://rems.ed.gov/docs/District_Guide_508C.pdf.

ISBE maintains a comprehensive website on school emergency and crisis response planning in compliance with the School Safety Drill Act and Joint Rules of the Office of the State Fire Marshal and ISBE (29 Ill.Admin.Code Part 1500), at www.isbe.net/Pages/School-Emergency-and-Crisis-Response-Plan-Guide.aspx. ISBE's website includes a *Sample School Emergency Operations Plan* which aligns with the federal *Guide for Developing High-Quality School Emergency Operations Plans*.

105 ILCS 128/45, amended by P.A.s 103-780 and 104-407, required school districts to implement a threat assessment procedure by 12-6-19, and to establish a threat assessment team by 2-19-20. The threat assessment procedure may be part of a board policy on targeted school violence prevention that includes the creation of a threat assessment team. For more discussion, see sample policy 4:190, *Targeted School Violence Prevention Program*.

105 ILCS 5/10-20.72 allows school districts to install a door security locking means on a door of a school building to prevent unwanted entry through the door only if the door security locking means is used: (1) by a trained school district employee; (2) during an emergency that threatens the health and safety of students and employees or during an active shooter drill; and (3) when local law enforcement officials and the local fire department have been notified of its installation prior to its use. *Id.*

2. Provisions for a coordinated effort with local law enforcement and fire officials, emergency medical services personnel, and the Board Attorney;
3. A school safety drill plan;
4. Instruction in safe bus riding practices;⁴ and
5. A clear, rapid, factual, and coordinated system of internal and external communication.

In the event of an emergency that threatens the safety of any person or property, students and staff are encouraged to follow the best practices discussed for their building regarding the use of any available cellular telephones.⁵

School Safety Drill Plan⁶

During every academic year, each school building that houses school children shall conduct, at a minimum, each of the following in accordance with the School Safety Drill Act (105 ILCS 128/):

1. Three school evacuation drills to address and prepare students and school personnel for fire incidents. One of these three drills shall require the participation of the local fire department or district.
2. One bus evacuation drill.
3. One severe weather and shelter-in-place drill to address and prepare students and school personnel for possible tornado incidents.
4. One law enforcement lockdown drill to address a school shooting incident and to evaluate the preparedness of school personnel and students. This drill shall occur no later than 90 days after the first day of school of each year, and shall require the participation of all school personnel

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

⁴ Required by 105 ILCS 128/20(b) and 105 ILCS 5/10-20.14(c), amended by P.A. 103-896, for all students. See sample administrative procedure 4:110-AP3, *School Bus Safety Rules*. ~~In consultation with stakeholders, *School Bus Safety Guidance*, developed by the Ill. State Board of Education (ISBE) in consultation with stakeholders, is available at: www.isbe.net/Documents/Bus-Safety-Guidance-June-2025.pdf. must draft and publish guidance for school bus safety procedures by 7-1-25.~~ 105 ILCS 5/10-20.14(c), amended by P.A. 103-896.

⁵ 105 ILCS 5/10-20.28. Consider discussing with local law enforcement what its preference would be and encourage staff and students to follow the recommendation. A wave of 911 cell phone calls can jam phone lines. Student use of cell phones is addressed in 7:190, *Student Behavior*.

625 ILCS 5/12-610.1(e) prohibits wireless telephone use at any time while operating a motor vehicle on a roadway in a school speed zone except for: (1) highway construction or maintenance workers within their work zones; (2) any use for emergency purposes; (3) law enforcement officers or emergency responders performing their duties; (4) a person using a wireless telephone in voice-operated mode with or without use of a headset; (5) a person with technology that uses a single button to initiate or terminate a voice communication, e.g., *HandsFreeLink*®; and (6) a person using an electronic communication device solely to report an emergency and for continued communication with emergency personnel. 625 ILCS 5/12-813.1 limits cell phone use by school bus drivers; see sample policy 4:110, *Transportation*.

⁶ Each of the listed drills is required by the School Safety Drill Act. Each drill's requirements are comprehensively covered in sample administrative procedure 4:170-AP1, *Comprehensive Safety and Security Plan*. For information about documenting minimum compliance with the School Safety Drill Act, see www.isbe.net/Pages/School-Emergency-and-Crisis-Response-Plan-Guide.aspx.

105 ILCS 5/2-3.12(f) authorizes the Ill. State Fire Marshal or a qualified fire official to whom the Ill. State Fire Marshal has delegated his or her authority to conduct an annual fire safety inspection of each school building, provided the inspection is coordinated with the regional superintendent. See also 105 ILCS 5/3-14.21(c) (inspection of schools) and 23 Ill.Admin.Code §180.300(b) (annual building and fire safety inspections). To effectively implement this law and ensure the education of students in the district is not disturbed, school officials should discuss with the Ill. State Fire Marshal and regional superintendent whether written notice may be provided to the principal requesting to schedule a mutually agreed upon time.

and students present at school at the time of the drill, except for those exempted by administrators, school support personnel, or a parent/guardian. ⁷

Annual Review

The Board or its designee will annually review each school building's emergency operations and crisis response plan(s), protocols, and procedures, as well as each building's compliance with the school safety drill plan. This annual review shall be in accordance with the School Safety Drill Act (105 ILCS 128/) and the Joint Rules of the Office of the State Fire Marshal and the Ill. State Board of Education (ISBE). ⁸

Automated External Defibrillator (AED) ⁹

At least one automated external defibrillator (AED) shall be present in each District attendance center during the school day and during any District-sponsored extracurricular activity on school grounds. In addition, the Superintendent or designee shall implement a written plan for responding to medical

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

⁷ 105 ILCS 128/20(c), ~~amended by P.A. 102-395~~. While 105 ILCS 128/20(c) uses both *lockdown drill* and *walk-through lockdown drill*, the terms are synonymous. For brevity, this material uses the term *lockdown drill*. Schools must (1) notify parents/guardians in advance of any lockdown drill that involves student participation, and (2) allow parents/guardians to exempt their child(ren) from participating for any reason. School administrators and support personnel may, at their discretion, exempt a student from participating in a lockdown drill. 105 ILCS 128/20(c)(4), ~~added by P.A. 102-395~~. When deciding whether to exempt a student, such personnel must include the student's individualized education program team or 504 plan team, if any, in the decision. 105 ILCS 128/20(c)(4), ~~amended by P.A. 103-197~~. For students who do not participate in the lockdown drill, districts must provide alternative safety education and instruction related to an active threat or active shooter event. For students who do participate in the lockdown drill, districts must allow them to ask questions related to it.

Law enforcement may only run an active shooter simulation, including simulated gun fire drills, on school days when students are not present. 105 ILCS 128/20(c)(5)-(8), ~~added by P.A. 102-395~~.

105 ILCS 128/22, added by P.A. 104-198, eff. 1-1-26, requires districts to provide all substitute personnel with: (1) training on school evacuation drills and law enforcement lockdown drills, and (2) support that includes, at a minimum, the information packet given to employees with district-approved materials outlining evacuation and lockdown procedures. Maps indicating all school exits must also be prominently displayed in every classroom. Id. See also sample administrative procedure 5:220, Substitute Teachers.

⁸ 29 Ill.Admin.Code Part 1500. The School Safety Drill Act requires each school board or its designee to conduct one annual meeting at which it reviews each building's emergency and crisis response plan, protocols, and procedures, including procedures regarding the school district's threat assessment team, the school district's hazardous substance release procedures, procedures regarding the district's cardiac emergency response plan, the efficacy and effects of law enforcement drills, and each building's compliance with the school safety drill plan. 105 ILCS 128/25, amended by P.A.s ~~102-395 and~~ 103-608 and 104-344, eff. 1-1-~~25~~26, and 128/30, amended by P.A. 103-175; 29 Ill.Admin.Code Part 1500. If the board uses a designee, it should preferably be someone other than the District Safety Coordinator to assure an unbiased audit. The statute contains detailed requirements. The board or its designee must: (1) complete a one-page report certifying that the review took place, among other things; (2) send a copy of the report to each participating party; and (3) send a copy of the report to the appropriate Regional Superintendent. 105 ILCS 128/25(c), (d). ISBE's website contains a suggested annual review checklist and a report form to document compliance at: www.isbe.net/Pages/School-Emergency-and-Crisis-Response-Plan-Guide.aspx. The American Heart Association's cardiac emergency response plan template and implementation materials are available at: www.heart.org/CERP.

⁹ 105 ILCS 5/10-20.87, added by P.A. 103-1019, ~~eff. 1-1-25~~. An AED installed and maintained according to the Physical Fitness Facility Medical Emergency Preparedness Act (210 ILCS 74/) can be used to satisfy this requirement. Id. Each indoor and outdoor physical fitness facility serving at least 100 individuals must "adopt and implement a written plan for responding to medical emergencies that occur at the facility during the time that the facility is open for use by its members or by the public." 210 ILCS 74/10(a). The facility must file the plan with the Ill. Dept. of Public Health (IDPH). Id. In addition, each indoor facility must have at least one AED on the premises, and each outdoor facility must house an AED in a building, if any, that is within 300 feet of the outdoor facility. 210 ILCS 74/15. See the statute and administrative rules for the other numerous mandates: 210 ILCS 74/, Physical Fitness Facility Medical Emergency Preparedness Act; 77 Ill.Admin.Code Part 527, Physical Fitness Facility Medical Emergency Preparedness Code. Also see sample administrative procedure 4:170-AP6, *Plan for Responding to a Medical Emergency at a Physical Fitness Facility with an AED*.

emergencies at the District's physical fitness facilities in accordance with the Fitness Facility Medical Emergency Preparedness Act and shall file a copy of the plan with the Ill. Dept. of Public Health (IDPH). The plan shall provide for at least one AED to be available at every physical fitness facility on the premises according to State law requirements.

The District shall have an AED on site as well as a trained AED user: (1) on staff during staffed business hours; and (2) available during activities or events sponsored and conducted or supervised by the District.¹⁰ The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that every AED on the District's premises is properly tested and maintained in accordance with rules developed by the IDPH.¹¹ This policy does not create an obligation to use an AED.

Carbon Monoxide Alarms ¹²

The Superintendent or designee shall implement a plan with the District's local fire officials to:

1. Determine which school buildings to equip with approved *carbon monoxide alarms* or *carbon monoxide detectors*,
2. Locate the required carbon monoxide alarms or carbon monoxide detectors within 20 feet of a carbon monoxide emitting device, and
3. Incorporate carbon monoxide alarm or detector activation procedures into each school building that requires a carbon monoxide alarm or detector. The Superintendent or designee shall ensure each school building annually reviews these procedures.

Soccer Goal Safety ¹³

The Superintendent or designee shall implement the Movable Soccer Goal Safety Act in accordance with the guidance published by the IDPH. Implementation of the Act shall be directed toward improving the safety of movable soccer goals by requiring that they be properly anchored.

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

¹⁰ 77 Ill.Admin.Code §527.600(d), (f).

¹¹ 210 ILCS 74/15(c); 77 Ill.Admin.Code §527.700.

¹² 105 ILCS 5/10-20.57. *Carbon monoxide detector* and *detector* mean a device having a sensor that responds to carbon monoxide gas and that is connected to an alarm control unit and approved in accordance with rules adopted by the Ill. State Fire Marshal. 105 ILCS 5/10-20.57(a). *Approved carbon monoxide alarm* or *alarm* means a carbon monoxide alarm that complies with all the requirements of the rules and regulations of the Ill. State Fire Marshal, bears the label of a nationally recognized testing laboratory, and complies with the most recent standards of the Underwriters Laboratories or the Canadian Standard Association. 430 ILCS 135/5.

Consult both the board attorney and the local fire officials about whether a school building is exempt from this law. Remove this subhead if the board attorney determines that every building across the entire school district is exempt. The law applies to school buildings that have or are close to any *sources of carbon monoxide*; however, it does not specifically define what that means. 430 ILCS 135/20 defines exemptions for residential units and may provide guidance on the exemption for schools. The law also fails to define *carbon monoxide emitting device*, which triggers the placement point in a school building for a carbon monoxide alarm or carbon monoxide detector.

¹³ Include this section **only if** the school district owns and controls a movable soccer goal. Movable Soccer Goal Safety Act, a/k/a *Zach's Law*, 430 ILCS 145/. The Act requires: (1) organizations that own and control a movable soccer goal to create a soccer goal safety and education policy that outlines how the organization will specifically address the safety issues associated with movable soccer goals; and (2) the IDPH to provide technical assistance materials. 430 ILCS 145/10, 20. See www.dph.illinois.gov/topics-services/prevention-wellness/injury-violence-prevention/soccer-goal-safety.

Unsafe School Choice Option ¹⁴

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 ISBE.
2. Any student who is a victim of a violent criminal offense, as defined by 725 ILCS 120/3, that occurred on school grounds during regular school hours or during a school-sponsored event.

The Superintendent or designee shall develop procedures to implement the unsafe school choice option.

Lead Testing in Water ¹⁵

The Superintendent or designee shall implement testing for lead in each source of drinking water in school buildings in accordance with the Ill. Plumbing License Law and guidance published by the

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

¹⁴ This topic must be covered in board policy. 105 ILCS 5/10-21.3a. See also 20 U.S.C. §7912 (unsafe school choice option). ISBE maintains a list of persistently dangerous schools. Districts having only one school may substitute the following for this paragraph:

The unsafe school choice option provided in State law permits students to transfer to another school within the District in certain situations. This transfer option is unavailable in this District because the District has only one school or attendance center. A student, who would otherwise have qualified for the choice option, or such a student's parent/guardian, may request special accommodations from the Superintendent or designee.

Districts with each grade in only one attendance center may substitute the following for this paragraph:

The unsafe school choice option provided in State law permits students to transfer to another school within the District in certain situations. This transfer option is unavailable in this District because each grade is in only one attendance center. A student, who would otherwise have qualified for the choice option, or such a student's parent/guardian, may request special accommodations from the Superintendent or designee.

¹⁵ 225 ILCS 320/35.5. Requires that each source of potable water in school buildings constructed on or before 1-1-00, which may be occupied by more than 10 children in grades pre-K through 5, be tested for lead. Testing for buildings constructed prior to 1-1-87 must have been conducted by 12-31-17. 225 ILCS 320/35.5(c)(4). Testing for buildings constructed between 1-2-87 and 1-1-00 must have been conducted by 12-31-18. *Id.* By 6-30-19, the IDPH was to determine whether it is necessary and appropriate to require testing for buildings constructed after 1-1-00. 225 ILCS 320/35.5(d). IDPH recommends that all schools constructed in whole or in part from 1-2-00 through 1-4-14 test all sources of potable water for lead. See IDPH's recommendations at: www.isbe.net/Documents/Improving-Water-Quality-Illinois-Schools.pdf. For high school districts, delete this subhead if no lead testing occurs.

Boards may, by resolution, use excess taxes levied for fire prevention, safety, energy conservation, and school security purposes for sampling lead in drinking water in schools and for repair and mitigation due to lead levels in the drinking water supply. 105 ILCS 5/17-2.11(j)(1).

[Beginning no later than 11-1-27, federal drinking water regulations require that community water systems \(defined at 40 C.F.R. §141.2\) annually contact all schools in their service area to provide information about the health risks from lead in drinking water. 40 C.F.R. §141.92\(c\). By 11-1-32, community water systems must notify schools that they are eligible to be sampled for lead. *Id.*](#)

IDPH.¹⁶ The Superintendent or designee shall notify parent(s)/guardian(s) about the sampling results from their children’s respective school buildings. ¹⁷

Emergency Closing

The Superintendent is authorized to close school(s) in the event of hazardous weather or other emergency that threatens the safety of students, staff members, or school property. ¹⁸

LEGAL REF.: 105 ILCS 5/10-20.2, 5/10-20.57, 5/18-12, and 5/18-12.5.
105 ILCS 128/, School Safety Drill Act; 29 Ill.Admin.Code Part 1500.
210 ILCS 74/, Physical Fitness Facility Medical Emergency Preparedness Act.
225 ILCS 320/35.5, Ill. Plumbing License Law.

CROSS REF.: 4:110 (Transportation), 4:175 (Convicted Child Sex Offender; Screening; Notifications), 4:180 (Pandemic Preparedness; Management; and Recovery), 4:190 (Targeted School Violence Prevention Program), 5:30 (Hiring Process and Criteria), 8:30 (Visitors to and Conduct on School Property), 8:100 (Relations with Other Organizations and Agencies)

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

¹⁶ 225 ILCS 320/35.5(e) requires the IDPH to post on its website guidance on mitigation actions for lead in drinking water, and ongoing water management practices, in schools. See *Mitigation Strategies for Lead Found in School Drinking Water* at: <https://dph.illinois.gov/content/dam/soi/en/web/idph/files/publications/school-lead-mitigation-strategies-050917.pdf>. See also <https://dph.illinois.gov/topics-services/environmental-health-protection/lead-in-water/testing-schools-child-care-facilities/improving-water-quality-schools.html>.

¹⁷ If any samples taken in the school exceed five parts per billion, a district must provide individual notification of sampling results, via written or electronic communication, to parents/guardians of all enrolled students that must include: (1) the corresponding sampling location within the school building; and (2) the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s website for information about lead in drinking water at: www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/basic-information-about-lead-drinking-water. 225 ILCS 320/35.5(c)(3). If any samples taken in the school are at or below five parts per billion, notification may be made in the same manner or by posting on the school’s website. *Id.*

¹⁸ When a school is closed or its starting time is delayed due to adverse weather conditions or a health or safety threat, the district may count a partial day of attendance as a full day for State aid purposes, provided: (1) at least one hour of instruction was provided or the normal start time was delayed; and (2) the superintendent provides the Regional Superintendent or the Suburban Cook County Intermediate Service Center, whichever is appropriate, with a written report in support of the partial day within 30 days. 105 ILCS 5/18-12.

105 ILCS 5/18-12.5 governs claiming State aid if a district closes one or more schools, but not all schools, during the public health emergency, as determined by ISBE in consultation with the IDPH.