

## *Document Status: Draft Update*

### **2:105 Ethics and Gift Ban**

#### Prohibited Political Activity

The following precepts govern political activities being conducted by District employees and School Board members:

1. No employee shall intentionally perform any *political activity* during any *compensated time*, as those terms are defined herein.
2. No Board member or employee shall intentionally use any District property or resources in connection with any political activity. [PRESSPlus1](#)
3. At no time shall any Board member or employee intentionally require any other Board member or employee to perform any political activity: (a) as part of that Board member's or employee's duties, (b) as a condition of employment, or (c) during any compensated time off, such as, holidays, vacation, or personal time off.
4. No Board member or employee shall be required at any time to participate in any political activity in consideration for that Board member or employee being awarded additional compensation or any benefit, whether in the form of a salary adjustment, bonus, compensatory time off, continued employment or otherwise; nor shall any Board member or employee be awarded additional compensation or any benefit in consideration for his or her participation in any political activity.

A Board member or employee may engage in any activity that: (1) is otherwise appropriate as part of his or her official duties, or (2) is undertaken by the individual on a voluntary basis that is not prohibited by this policy.

#### Limitations on Receiving Gifts

Except as permitted by this policy, no Board member or employee, and no spouse of or immediate family member living with a Board member or employee shall intentionally solicit or accept any *gift* from any *prohibited source*, as those terms are defined herein, or that is otherwise prohibited by law or policy. No prohibited source shall intentionally offer or make a gift that violates this policy.

The following are exceptions to the ban on accepting gifts from a prohibited source:

1. Opportunities, benefits, and services that are available on the same conditions as for the general public.
2. Anything for which the Board member or employee, or his or her spouse or immediate family member, pays the fair market value.
3. Any: (a) contribution that is lawfully made under the Election Code, or (b) activities associated with a fundraising event in support of a political organization or candidate.
4. Educational materials and missions.
5. Travel expenses for a meeting to discuss [District](#) [PRESSPlus2](#) business.
6. A gift from a relative, meaning those people related to the individual as father, mother, son, daughter, brother, sister, uncle, aunt, great aunt, great uncle, first cousin, nephew, niece,

husband, wife, grandfather, grandmother, grandson, granddaughter, father-in-law, mother-in-law, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, brother-in-law, sister-in-law, stepfather, stepmother, stepson, stepdaughter, stepbrother, stepsister, half brother, half sister, and including the father, mother, grandfather, or grandmother of the individual's spouse and the individual's fiancé or fiancée.

7. Anything provided by an individual on the basis of a personal friendship unless the recipient has reason to believe that, under the circumstances, the gift was provided because of the official position or employment of the recipient or his or her spouse or immediate family member and not because of the personal friendship. In determining whether a gift is provided on the basis of personal friendship, the recipient shall consider the circumstances under which the gift was offered, such as: (a) the history of the relationship between the individual giving the gift and the recipient of the gift, including any previous exchange of gifts between those individuals; (b) whether to the actual knowledge of the recipient the individual who gave the gift personally paid for the gift or sought a tax deduction or business reimbursement for the gift; and (c) whether to the actual knowledge of the recipient the individual who gave the gift also at the same time gave the same or similar gifts to other Board members or employees, or their spouses or immediate family members.
8. Food or refreshments not exceeding \$75 per person in value on a single calendar day; provided that the food or refreshments are: (a) consumed on the premises from which they were purchased or prepared; or (b) catered. *Catered* means food or refreshments that are purchased ready to consume, which are delivered by any means.
9. Food, refreshments, lodging, transportation, and other benefits resulting from outside business or employment activities (or outside activities that are not connected to the official duties of a Board member or employee), if the benefits have not been offered or enhanced because of the official position or employment of the Board member or employee, and are customarily provided to others in similar circumstances.
10. Intra-governmental and inter-governmental gifts. *Intra-governmental gift* means any gift given to a Board member or employee from another Board member or employee, and *inter-governmental gift* means any gift given to a Board member or employee from an officer or employee of another governmental entity.
11. Bequests, inheritances, and other transfers at death.
12. Any item or items from any one prohibited source during any calendar year having a cumulative total value of less than \$100.

Each of the listed exceptions is mutually exclusive and independent of every other.

A Board member or employee, his or her spouse or an immediate family member living with the Board member or employee, does not violate this policy if the recipient promptly takes reasonable action to return a gift from a prohibited source to its source or gives the gift or an amount equal to its value to an appropriate charity that is exempt from income taxation under [26 U.S.C. §501\(c\)\(3\)](#).

### Enforcement

The Board President and Superintendent shall seek guidance from the Board attorney concerning compliance with and enforcement of this policy and State ethics laws. The Board may, as necessary or prudent, appoint an Ethics Advisor for this task.

Written complaints alleging a violation of this policy shall be filed with the Superintendent or Board President. If attempts to correct any misunderstanding or problem do not resolve the matter, the Superintendent or Board President shall, after consulting with the Board Attorney, either place the alleged violation on a Board meeting agenda for the Board's disposition or refer the complainant to Board policy 2:260, *Uniform Grievance Procedure*. A Board member who is related, either by blood

or by marriage, up to the degree of first cousin, to the person who is the subject of the complaint, shall not participate in any decision-making capacity for the Board. If the Board finds it more likely than not that the allegations in a complaint are true, it shall notify the State's Attorney and/or consider disciplinary action for the employee.

### Definitions

Unless otherwise stated, all terms used in this policy have the definitions given in the State Officials and Employees Ethics Act, [5 ILCS 430/1-5](#).

*Political activity* means:

1. Preparing for, organizing, or participating in any political meeting, political rally, political demonstration, or other political event.
2. Soliciting contributions, including but not limited to the purchase of, selling, distributing, or receiving payment for tickets for any political fundraiser, political meeting, or other political event.
3. Soliciting, planning the solicitation of, or preparing any document or report regarding anything of value intended as a campaign contribution.
4. Planning, conducting, or participating in a public opinion poll in connection with a campaign for elective office or on behalf of a political organization for political purposes or for or against any referendum question.
5. Surveying or gathering information from potential or actual voters in an election to determine probable vote outcome in connection with a campaign for elective office or on behalf of a political organization for political purposes or for or against any referendum question.
6. Assisting at the polls on Election Day on behalf of any political organization or candidate for elective office or for or against any referendum question.
7. Soliciting votes on behalf of a candidate for elective office or a political organization or for or against any referendum question or helping in an effort to get voters to the polls.
8. Initiating for circulation, preparing, circulating, reviewing, or filing any petition on behalf of a candidate for elective office or for or against any referendum question.
9. Making contributions on behalf of any candidate for elective office in that capacity or in connection with a campaign for elective office.
10. Preparing or reviewing responses to candidate questionnaires.
11. Distributing, preparing for distribution, or mailing campaign literature, campaign signs, or other campaign material on behalf of any candidate for elective office or for or against any referendum question.
12. Campaigning for any elective office or for or against any referendum question.
13. Managing or working on a campaign for elective office or for or against any referendum question.
14. Serving as a delegate, alternate, or proxy to a political party convention.
15. Participating in any recount or challenge to the outcome of any election.

With respect to an employee whose hours are not fixed, *compensated time* includes any period of time when the employee is on premises under the control of the District and any other time when the employee is executing his or her official duties, regardless of location.

*Prohibited source* means any person or entity who:

1. Is seeking official action by: (a) a Board member, or (b) an employee, or by the Board member

- or another employee directing that employee;
2. Does business or seeks to do business with: (a) a Board member, or (b) an employee, or with the Board member or another employee directing that employee;
  3. Conducts activities regulated by: (a) a Board member, or (b) an employee or by the Board member or another employee directing that employee;
  4. Has an interest that may be substantially affected by the performance or non-performance of the official duties of the Board member or employee;
  5. Is registered or required to be registered with the Secretary of State under the Lobbyist Registration Act, except that an entity does not become a prohibited source merely because a registered lobbyist is one of its members or serves on its board of directors; or
  6. Is an agent of, a spouse of, or an immediate family member living with a prohibited source.

*Gift* means any gratuity, discount, entertainment, hospitality, loan, forbearance, or other tangible or intangible item having monetary value including but not limited to, cash, food and drink, and honoraria for speaking engagements related to or attributable to government employment or the official position of a Board member or employee.

#### Complaints of Sexual Harassment Made Against Board Members by Elected Officials

Pursuant to the State Officials and Employees Ethics Act ([5 ILCS 430/70-5](#)), members of the Board and other elected officials are encouraged to promptly report claims of sexual harassment by a Board member. Every effort should be made to file such complaints as soon as possible, while facts are known and potential witnesses are available. If the official feels comfortable doing so, he or she should directly inform the individual that the individual's conduct or communication is offensive and must stop.

Board members and elected officials should report claims of sexual harassment against a member of the Board to the Board President or Superintendent. If the report is made to the Superintendent, the Superintendent shall promptly notify the President, or if the President is the subject of the complaint, the Vice President. Reports of sexual harassment will be confidential to the greatest extent practicable.

When a complaint of sexual harassment is made against a member of the Board by another Board member or other elected official, the Board President shall appoint a qualified outside investigator who is not a District employee or Board member to conduct an independent review of the allegations. If the allegations concern the President, or the President is a witness or otherwise conflicted, the Vice President shall make the appointment. If the allegations concern both the President and Vice President, and/or they are witnesses or otherwise conflicted, the Board Secretary shall make the appointment. The investigator shall prepare a written report and submit it to the Board.

If a Board member has engaged in sexual harassment, the matter will be addressed in accordance with the authority of the Board.

The Superintendent will post this policy on the District website and/or make this policy available in the District's administrative office.

LEGAL REF.:

[105 ILCS 5/22-93.](#)

[5 ILCS 430/](#), State Officials and Employees Ethics Act.

[10 ILCS 5/9-25.1](#), Election Interference Prohibition Act.

CROSS REF.: 2:100 (Board Member Conflict of Interest), 2:110 (Qualifications, Term, and Duties of Board Officers), 2:260 (Uniform Grievance Procedure), 4:60 (Purchases and Contracts), 5:120 (Employee Ethics; Code of Professional Conduct; and Conflict of Interest)

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## **PRESSPlus Comments**

PRESSPlus 1. The term *use* in Item #2 is based on the Ill. Attorney General's model ordinance; it is arguably broader than the State Officials and Employees Ethics Act (SOEEA), which prohibits board members and district employees from intentionally *misappropriating* district property in connection with prohibited political activities. 5 ILCS 430/5-15(a)-(b). Some attorneys advise that a board member's mere presence on district property while engaging in a political activity on their own time (such as circulating an election petition at a school athletic event) is not a misappropriation of district property, and therefore does not violate the SOEEA. Consider that the term *use* may be easier to practically apply as a standard. Consult the board attorney for guidance on this issue. If the board wants Item #2 to match the SOEEA standard, substitute "misappropriate" in place of "use," and select the Save Status "Adopted with Additional District Edits." **Issue 117, October 2024**

PRESSPlus 2. Updated for continuous improvement. **Issue 117, October 2024**

## *Document Status: Draft Update*

### **2:120 Board Member Development**

The School Board desires that its individual members learn, understand, and practice effective governance principles. The Board is responsible for Board member orientation and development. Board members have an equal opportunity to attend State and national meetings designed to familiarize members with public school issues, governance, and legislation.

The Board President and/or Superintendent shall provide all Board members with information regarding pertinent education materials, publications, and notices of training or development.

#### Mandatory Board Member Training

Each Board member is responsible for his or her own compliance with the mandatory training laws that are described below:

1. Each Board member elected or appointed to fill a vacancy of at least one year's duration must complete at least four hours of professional development and leadership training in: (1) education and labor law; (2) financial oversight and accountability; (3) fiduciary responsibilities; and (4) trauma-informed practices for students and staff; and (5) improving student outcomes. [PRESSPlus1](#) within the first year of his or her first term.
2. Each Board member must complete training on the Open Meetings Act (OMA) no later than 90 days after taking the oath of office for the first time. After completing the training, each Board member must file a copy of the certificate of completion with the Board. Training on OMA ~~the Open Meetings Act~~ is only required once.
3. Each Board member must complete a training program on evaluations under the Performance Evaluation Reform Act (PERA) before participating in a vote on a tenured teacher's dismissal using the optional alternative evaluation dismissal process. This dismissal process is available after the District's PERA implementation date.

The Superintendent or designee shall post on the District website the names of all Board members who have completed the professional development leadership training described in number 1, above.

#### Professional Development; Adverse Consequences of School Exclusion; Student Behavior

The Board President or Superintendent, or their designees, ~~shall~~ will make reasonable efforts to provide ongoing professional development to Board members about the requirements of 105 ILCS 5/10-22.6 and 105 ILCS 5/10-20.14. [PRESSPlus2](#) adverse consequences of school exclusion and justice-system involvement, effective classroom management strategies, culturally responsive discipline, trauma-responsive learning environments. [PRESSPlus3](#) appropriate and available supportive services for the promotion of student attendance and engagement, and developmentally appropriate disciplinary methods that promote positive and healthy school climates.

#### Board Self-Evaluation

The Board will conduct periodic self-evaluations with the goal of continuous improvement.

#### New Board Member Orientation

The orientation process for newly elected or appointed Board members includes:

1. The Board President or Superintendent, or their designees, shall give each new Board member a copy of or online access to the Board Policy Manual, the Board's regular meeting minutes for the past year, and other helpful information including material describing the District and explaining the Board's roles and responsibilities.
2. The Board President or designee shall schedule one or more special Board meetings, or schedule time during regular meetings, for Board members to become acquainted and to review Board processes and procedures.
3. The Board President may request a veteran Board member to mentor a new member.
4. All new members are encouraged to attend workshops for new members conducted by the Illinois Association of School Boards.

### Candidates

The Superintendent or designee shall invite all current candidates for the office of Board member to attend: (1) Board meetings, except that this invitation shall not extend to any closed meetings, and (2) pre-election workshops for candidates.

LEGAL REF.:

[5 ILCS 120/1.05](#) and [120/2](#), Open Meetings Act.

[105 ILCS 5/10-16a](#) and [5/24-16.5](#).

CROSS REF.: 2:80 (Board Member Oath and Conduct), 2:125 (Board Member Compensation; Expenses), 2:200 (Types of School Board Meetings)

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### **PRESSPlus Comments**

PRESSPlus 1. Updated in response to 105 ILCS 5/10-16a, amended by P.A. 103-771, eff. 6-1-25. Training on improving student outcomes "must include information that is relevant to and within the scope of the duties of a school board member." **Issue 117, October 2024**

PRESSPlus 2. Updated in response to 105 ILCS 5/10-22.6(c-5), amended by P.A. 103-896. While a district must make reasonable efforts to provide professional development to board members in these areas, the inclusion of this subhead is optional. Information about professional development opportunities is available through IASB's website at: [www.iasb.com/conference-training-and-events/training/](http://www.iasb.com/conference-training-and-events/training/).

105 ILCS 5/10-22.6, amended by P.A.s 102-466, eff. 7-1-25, 102-539, and 103-896, addresses the suspension or expulsion of students and school searches. See sample policies 7:190, *Student Behavior*, 7:200, *Suspension Procedures*, 7:210, *Expulsion Procedures*, and 7:220, *Bus Conduct*, available at PRESS Online by logging in at [www.iasb.com](http://www.iasb.com). 105 ILCS 5/10-20.14, amended by P.A. 103-896, addresses parent-teacher advisory committees and their functions. See sample policy 2:150, *Committees*. **Issue 117, October 2024**

PRESSPlus 3. See 105 ILCS 5/3-11(b), amended by P.A. 103-413, for the definition of *trauma-*





## *Document Status: Draft Update*

### **4:30 Revenue and Investments**

#### Revenue

The Superintendent or designee is responsible for making all claims for property tax revenue, State Aid, special State funds for specific programs, federal funds, and categorical grants.

#### Investments

The Superintendent shall either appoint a Chief Investment Officer or serve as one. The Chief Investment Officer shall invest money that is not required for current operations, in accordance with this policy and State law.

The Chief Investment Officer and Superintendent shall use the standard of prudence when making investment decisions. They shall use the judgment and care, under circumstances then prevailing, that persons of prudence, discretion, and intelligence exercise in the management of their own affairs, not for speculation, but for investment, considering the safety of their capital as well as its probable income.

#### Investment Objectives

The objectives for the School District's investment activities are:

1. Safety of Principal - Every investment is made with safety as the primary and over-riding concern. Each investment transaction shall ensure that capital loss, whether from credit or market risk, is avoided.
2. Liquidity - The investment portfolio shall provide sufficient liquidity to pay District obligations as they become due. In this regard, the maturity and marketability of investments shall be considered.
3. Rate of Return - The highest return on investments is sought, consistent with the preservation of principal and prudent investment principles.
4. Diversification - The investment portfolio is diversified as to materials and investments, as appropriate to the nature, purpose, and amount of the funds.

#### Authorized Investments

The Chief Investment Officer may invest District funds in one or more of the following: [PRESSPlus1](#)

1. Bonds, notes, certificates of indebtedness, treasury bills, or other securities now or hereafter issued, that are guaranteed by the full faith and credit of the United States of America as to principal and interest.
2. Bonds, notes, debentures, or other similar obligations of the United States of America, its agencies, and its instrumentalities.

The term "agencies of the United States of America" includes: (a) the federal land banks, federal intermediate credit banks, banks for cooperative, federal farm credit banks, or any other entity authorized to issue debt obligations under the Farm Credit Act of 1971 and Acts amendatory

thereto, (b) the federal home loan banks and the federal home loan mortgage corporation, and (c) any other agency created by Act of Congress.

3. Interest-bearing savings accounts, interest-bearing certificates of deposit or interest-bearing time deposits or any other investments constituting direct obligations of any bank as defined by the Illinois Banking Act.
4. Short-term obligations of corporations organized in the United States with assets exceeding \$500,000,000 if: (a) such obligations are rated at the time of purchase at one of the three highest classifications established by at least two standard rating services and that mature not later than 270 days from the date of purchase, (b) such purchases do not exceed 10% of the corporation's outstanding obligations, and (c) no more than one-third of the District's funds may be invested in short-term obligations of corporations under this paragraph.
5. Obligations of corporations organized in the United States with assets exceeding \$500,000,000 if: (a) such obligations are rated at the time of purchase at one of the three highest classifications established by at least two standard rating services and which mature more than 270 days but less than ~~10~~<sup>three</sup> [PRESSPlus2](#) years from the date of purchase, (b) such purchases do not exceed 10% of the corporation's outstanding obligations, and (c) no more than one-third of the District's funds may be invested in obligations of corporations under this paragraph.
6. Money market mutual funds registered under the Investment Company Act of 1940, provided that the portfolio of any such money market mutual fund is limited to obligations described in paragraph (1) or (2) and to agreements to repurchase such obligations.
7. Interest-bearing bonds of any county, township, city, village, incorporated town, municipal corporation, school district, the State of Illinois, any other state, or any political subdivision or agency of the State of Illinois or any other state, whether the interest earned is taxable or tax-exempt under federal law. The bonds shall be (a) registered in the name of the municipality, county, or other governmental unit, or held under a custodial agreement at a bank, and (b) rated at the time of purchase within the four highest general classifications established by a rating service of nationally recognized expertise in rating bonds of states and their political subdivisions.
8. Short term discount obligations of the Federal National Mortgage Association or in shares or other forms of securities legally issuable by savings banks or savings and loan associations incorporated under the laws of this State or any other state or under the laws of the United States. Investments may be made only in those savings banks or savings and loan associations, the shares, or investment certificates that are insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation. Any such securities may be purchased at the offering or market price thereof at the time of such purchase. All such securities so purchased shall mature or be redeemable on a date or dates prior to the time when, in the judgment of the Chief Investment Officer, the public funds so invested will be required for expenditure by the District or its governing authority.
9. Dividend-bearing share accounts, share certificate accounts, or class of share accounts of a credit union chartered under the laws of this State or the laws of the United States; provided, however, the principal office of any such credit union must be located within the State of Illinois. Investments may be made only in those credit unions the accounts of which are insured by applicable law.
10. A Public Treasurers' Investment Pool created under Section 17 of the State Treasurer Act. The District may also invest any public funds in a fund managed, operated, and administered by a bank, subsidiary of a bank, or subsidiary of a bank holding company or use the services of such an entity to hold and invest or advise regarding the investment of any public funds.
11. The Illinois School District Liquid Asset Fund Plus.
12. Repurchase agreements of government securities having the meaning set out in the Government Securities Act of 1986, as now or hereafter amended or succeeded, subject to the provisions of

said Act and the regulations issued there under. The government securities, unless registered or inscribed in the name of the District, shall be purchased through banks or trust companies authorized to do business in the State of Illinois.

Except for repurchase agreements of government securities that are subject to the Government Securities Act of 1986, as now or hereafter amended or succeeded, the District may not purchase or invest in instruments that constitute repurchase agreements, and no financial institution may enter into such an agreement with or on behalf of the District unless the instrument and the transaction meet all of the following requirements:

- a. The securities, unless registered or inscribed in the name of the District, are purchased through banks or trust companies authorized to do business in the State of Illinois.
- b. The Chief Investment Officer, after ascertaining which firm will give the most favorable rate of interest, directs the custodial bank to "purchase" specified securities from a designated institution. The "custodial bank" is the bank or trust company, or agency of government, that acts for the District in connection with repurchase agreements involving the investment of funds by the District. The State Treasurer may act as custodial bank for public agencies executing repurchase agreements.
- c. A custodial bank must be a member bank of the Federal Reserve System or maintain accounts with member banks. All transfers of book-entry securities must be accomplished on a Reserve Bank's computer records through a member bank of the Federal Reserve System. These securities must be credited to the District on the records of the custodial bank and the transaction must be confirmed in writing to the District by the custodial bank.
- d. Trading partners shall be limited to banks or trust companies authorized to do business in the State of Illinois or to registered primary reporting dealers.
- e. The security interest must be perfected.
- f. The District enters into a written master repurchase agreement that outlines the basic responsibilities and liabilities of both buyer and seller.
- g. Agreements shall be for periods of 330 days or less.
- h. The Chief Investment Officer informs the custodial bank in writing of the maturity details of the repurchase agreement.
- i. The custodial bank must take delivery of and maintain the securities in its custody for the account of the District and confirm the transaction in writing to the District. The custodial undertaking shall provide that the custodian takes possession of the securities exclusively for the District; that the securities are free of any claims against the trading partner; and that any claims by the custodian are subordinate to the District's claims to rights to those securities.
- j. The obligations purchased by the District may only be sold or presented for redemption or payment by the fiscal agent bank or trust company holding the obligations upon the written instruction of the Chief Investment Officer.
- k. The custodial bank shall be liable to the District for any monetary loss suffered by the District due to the failure of the custodial bank to take and maintain possession of such securities.

13. Any investment as authorized by the Public Funds Investment Act, and Acts amendatory thereto. Paragraph 13 supersedes paragraphs 1-12 and controls in the event of conflict.

Except as provided herein, investments may be made only in banks, savings banks, savings and loan associations, or credit unions that are insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or other approved share insurer.

The Chief Investment Officer and Superintendent shall regularly consider material, relevant, and decision-useful sustainability factors in evaluating investment decisions, within the bounds of financial and fiduciary prudence. Such factors include, but are not limited to: (1) corporate governance and leadership factors, (2) environmental factors, (3) social capital factors, (4) human capital factors, and (5) business model and innovation factors, as provided under the Ill. Sustainable Investing Act, [30 ILCS 238/](#).

#### Selection of Depositories, Investment Managers, Dealers, and Brokers

The Chief Investment Officer shall establish a list of authorized depositories, investment managers, dealers and brokers based upon the creditworthiness, reputation, minimum capital requirements, qualifications under State law, as well as a long history of dealing with public fund entities. The Board will review and approve the list at least annually.

In order to be an authorized depository, each institution must submit copies of the last two sworn statements of resources and liabilities or reports of examination that the institution is required to furnish to the appropriate State or federal agency. Each institution designated as a depository shall, while acting as such depository, furnish the District with a copy of all statements of resources and liabilities or all reports of examination that it is required to furnish to the appropriate State or federal agency.

The above eligibility requirements of a bank to receive or hold public deposits do not apply to investments in an interest-bearing savings account, [demand deposit account](#), interest-bearing certificate of deposit, or interest-bearing time deposit if: (1) the District initiates the investment at or through a bank located in Illinois, and (2) the invested public funds are at all times fully insured by an agency or instrumentality of the federal government.

The District ~~shall~~ [may](#) [PRESSPlus3](#) consider a financial institution's record and current level of financial commitment to its local community when deciding whether to deposit funds in that financial institution. The District may consider factors including:

1. For financial institutions subject to the federal Community Reinvestment Act of 1977 ([CRA](#)), the current and historical ratings that the financial institution has received, to the extent that those ratings are publicly available, under the [federal Community Reinvestment Act of 1977](#) [CRA](#);
2. Any changes in ownership, management, policies, or practices of the financial institution that may affect the level of the financial institution's commitment to its community;
3. The financial impact that the withdrawal or denial of District deposits might have on the financial institution;
4. The financial impact to the District as a result of withdrawing public funds or refusing to deposit additional public funds in the financial institution; and
5. Any additional burden on the District's resources that might result from ceasing to maintain deposits of public funds at the financial institution under consideration.

[The District may not deposit public funds in a financial institution subject to the CRA unless the institution has a current rating of satisfactory or outstanding under the CRA.](#) [PRESSPlus4](#) [When investing or depositing public funds, the District may give preference to financial institutions that have a current rating of outstanding under the CRA.](#) [PRESSPlus5](#)

#### Collateral Requirements

All amounts deposited or invested with financial institutions in excess of any insurance limit shall be collateralized in accordance with the Public Funds Investment Act, [30 ILCS 235/](#). The Superintendent

or designee shall keep the Board informed of collateral agreements.

### Safekeeping and Custody Arrangements

The preferred method for safekeeping is to have securities registered in the District's name and held by a third-party custodian. Safekeeping practices should qualify for the Governmental Accounting Standards Board Statement No. 3, Deposits with Financial Institutions, Investments (including Repurchase Agreements), and Reverse Repurchase Agreements, Category I, the highest recognized safekeeping procedures.

### Controls and Report

The Chief Investment Officer shall establish a system of internal controls and written operational procedures to prevent losses arising from fraud, employee error, misrepresentation by third parties, or imprudent employee action.

The Chief Investment Officer shall provide a quarterly investment report to the Board. The report will: (1) assess whether the investment portfolio is meeting the District's investment objectives, (2) identify each security by class or type, book value, income earned, and market value, (3) identify those institutions providing investment services to the District, and (4) include any other relevant information. The investment portfolio's performance shall be measured by appropriate and creditable industry standards for the investment type.

The Board will determine, after receiving the Superintendent's recommendation, which fund is in most need of interest income and the Superintendent shall execute a transfer. This provision does not apply when the use of interest earned on a particular fund is restricted.

### Ethics and Conflicts of Interest

The Board and District officials will avoid any investment transaction or practice that in appearance or fact might impair public confidence. Board members are bound by the Board policy 2:100, *Board Member Conflict of Interest*. No District employee having influence on the District's investment decisions shall:

1. Have any interest, directly or indirectly, in any investments in which the District is authorized to invest,
2. Have any interest, directly or indirectly, in the sellers, sponsors, or managers of those investments, or
3. Receive, in any manner, compensation of any kind from any investments in that the agency is authorized to invest.

LEGAL REF.:

[30 ILCS 235/](#), Public Funds Investment Act.

[30 ILCS 238/](#), III. Sustainable Investing Act.

[105 ILCS 5/8-7](#), [5/10-22.44](#), [5/17-1](#), and [5/17-11](#).

CROSS REF.: 2:100 (Board Member Conflict of Interest), 4:10 (Fiscal and Business Management), 4:80 (Accounting and Audits)

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### **PRESSPlus Comments**

PRESSPlus 1. 30 ILCS 235/2(k), added by P.A. 103-880, eff. 1-1-25, permits a board to adopt a resolution to allow for investment of public funds in other instruments not specifically listed in the Public Funds Investment Act provided those investments comply with: (1) any other law that authorizes a board to invest funds, and (2) the investment policy adopted by the Board. There is uncertainty regarding the potential breadth and scope of this provision and procedural requirements for implementation. The board attorney and district financial advisor(s) should be consulted before adding instruments to the list of authorized investments in this policy and the board's investment portfolio in accordance with 30 ILCS 235/2(k).

Any additional investments authorized by the Board under 30 ILCS 235/2(k) should be added to this policy beginning with Item #14. If adding additional investments, select the Save Status "Adopted with Additional District Edits." **Issue 117, October 2024**

PRESSPlus 2. 30 ILCS 235/2(a)(4.5), amended by P.A. 103-880, eff. 1-1-25, extends the maturity timeframe for investments in obligations of U.S. corporations with assets exceeding \$500M from 3 years to 10 years, provided that certain conditions are met. **Issue 117, October 2024**

PRESSPlus 3. Updated in response to 30 ILCS 235/8(a). **Issue 117, October 2024**

PRESSPlus 4. Updated in response to 30 ILCS 235/8(a-5). **Issue 117, October 2024**

PRESSPlus 5. Optional. 30 ILCS 235/8(a-10). **Issue 117, October 2024**

## *Document Status: Draft Update*

### **4:60 Purchases and Contracts**

The Superintendent shall manage the District's purchases and contracts in accordance with State law, the standards set forth in this policy, and other applicable School Board policies.

#### Standards for Purchasing and Contracting

All purchases and contracts shall be entered into in accordance with applicable federal and State law. The Board Attorney shall be consulted as needed regarding the legal requirements for purchases or contracts. All contracts shall be approved or authorized by the Board.

All purchases and contracts should support a recognized District function or purpose as well as provide for good quality products and services at the lowest cost, with consideration for service, reliability, and delivery promptness, and in compliance with State law. No purchase or contract shall be made or entered into as a result of favoritism, extravagance, fraud, or corruption.

Adoption of the annual budget authorizes the Superintendent or designee to purchase budgeted supplies, equipment, and services, provided that State law is followed. Purchases of items outside budget parameters require prior Board approval, except in an emergency. Notwithstanding the above, the Superintendent shall not commit to any single, non-customary purchase or expenditure, excluding personnel, of greater than \$12,500.00 without prior Board approval.

When presenting a contract or purchase for Board approval, the Superintendent or designee shall ensure that it complies with applicable federal and State law, including but not limited to, those specified below:

1. Supplies, materials, or work involving an expenditure in excess of \$35,000 must comply with the State law bidding procedure, [105 ILCS 5/10-20.21](#), unless specifically exempted.
2. Construction, lease, or purchase of school buildings must comply with State law and Board policy 4:150, *Facility Management and Building Programs*.
3. Guaranteed energy savings must comply with [105 ILCS 5/19b-1](#) *et seq.*
4. Third party non-instructional services must comply with [105 ILCS 5/10-22.34c](#).
5. Goods and services that are intended to generate revenue and other remunerations for the District in excess of \$1,000, including without limitation vending machine contracts, sports and other attire, class rings, and photographic services, must comply with [105 ILCS 5/10-20.21](#)(b-5). The Superintendent or designee shall keep a record of: (1) each vendor, product, or service provided, (2) the actual net revenue and non-monetary remuneration from each contract or agreement, and (3) how the revenue was used and to whom the non-monetary remuneration was distributed. The Superintendent or designee shall report this information to the Board by completing the necessary forms that must be attached to the District's annual budget.
6. Any contract to purchase food with a bidder or offeror must comply with [105 ILCS 5/10-20.21](#)(b-10).
7. The purchase of paper and paper products must comply with [105 ILCS 5/10-20.19c](#) and Board policy 4:70, *Resource Conservation*.
8. Each contractor with the District is bound by each of the following:

- a. In accordance with [105 ILCS 5/10-21.9\(f\)](#): (1) prohibit any of its employees who is or was found guilty of a criminal offense listed in [105 ILCS 5/10-21.9\(c\)](#) and [5/21B-80\(c\)](#) to have direct, daily contact at a District school or school-related activity with one or more student(s); (2) prohibit any of the contractor's employees from having direct, daily contact with one or more students if the employee was found guilty of any offense in [5/21B-80\(b\)](#) (certain drug offenses) until seven years following the end of the employee's sentence for the criminal offense; and (3) require each of its employees who will have direct, daily contact with student(s) to cooperate during the District's fingerprint-based criminal history records check on him or her.
  - b. In accordance with [105 ILCS 5/22-94](#): (1) prohibit any of its employees from having *direct contact with children or students* if the contractor has not performed a sexual misconduct related employment history review (EHR) of the employee or if the District objects to the employee's assignment based on the employee's involvement in an instance of sexual misconduct as provided in [105 ILCS 5/22-94\(j\)\(3\)](#), which the contractor is required to disclose; (2) discipline, up to and including termination or denial of employment, any employee who provides false information or willfully fails to disclose information required by the EHR; (3) maintain all records of EHRs and provide the District access to such records upon request; and (4) refrain from entering into any agreements prohibited by [105 ILCS 5/22-94\(g\)](#).
  - c. In accordance with [105 ILCS 5/24-5](#): (1) concerning each new employee of a contractor that provides services to students or in schools, provide the District with evidence of physical fitness to perform the duties assigned and freedom from communicable disease; and (2) require any new or existing employee who provides services to students or in schools to complete additional health examinations as required by the District and be subject to additional health examinations, including tuberculosis screening, as required by the Ill. Dept. of Public Health rules or order of a local health official.
9. Any pavement engineering project using a coal tar-based sealant product or high polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbon sealant product for pavement engineering-related use must comply with the Coal Tar Sealant Disclosure Act.
  10. Design-build contracts must comply with [105 ILCS 5/15A-1](#) *et seq.*
  11. Any new contract for a district-administered assessment must comply with 105 ILCS 5/10-20.865 [PRESSPlus1](#)
  12. Purchases made with federal or State awards must comply with [2 C.F.R. Part 200](#) and [30 ILCS 708/](#), as applicable, and any terms of the award.

The Superintendent or designee shall: (1) execute the reporting and website posting mandates in State law concerning District contracts, and (2) monitor the discharge of contracts, contractors' performances, and the quality and value of services or products being provided.

LEGAL REF.:

[2 C.F.R. Part 200](#).

[105 ILCS 5/10-20.19c](#), [5/10-20.21](#), [5/10-20.865](#), [5/10-21.9](#), [5/10-22.34c](#), [5/15A-1](#) *et seq.*, [5/19b-1](#) *et seq.*, [5/22-94](#), and [5/24-5](#).

[30 ILCS 708/](#), Grant Accountability and Transparency Act.

[410 ILCS 170/](#), Coal Tar Sealant Disclosure Act.

[820 ILCS 130/](#), Prevailing Wage Act.



CROSS REF.: 2:100 (Board Member Conflict of Interest), 4:70 (Resource Conservation), 4:150 (Facility Management and Building Programs), 4:175 (Convicted Child Sex Offender; Screening; Notifications), 5:90 (Abused and Neglected Child Reporting)

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## **PRESSPlus Comments**

PRESSPlus 1. Updated in response to 105 ILCS 5/10-20.86, renumbered by P.A. 103-605. **Issue 117, October 2024**

## *Document Status: Draft Update*

### **4:150 Facility Management and Building Programs, Including Naming Buildings and Facilities**

The Superintendent shall manage the District's facilities and grounds as well as facility construction and building programs in accordance with the law, the standards set forth in this policy, and other applicable School Board policies. The Superintendent or designee shall facilitate: (1) inspections of schools by the Regional Superintendent and State Fire Marshal or designee, (2) review of plans and specifications for future construction or alterations of a school if requested by the relevant municipality, county (if applicable), or fire protection district, and (3) compliance with the 10-year safety survey process required by the School Code.

#### Standards for Managing Buildings and Grounds

All District buildings and grounds shall be adequately maintained in order to provide an appropriate, safe, and energy efficient physical environment for learning and teaching. The Superintendent or designee shall provide the Board with periodic reports on maintenance data and projected maintenance needs that include cost analysis. Prior Board approval is needed for all renovations or permanent alterations to buildings or grounds when the total cost will exceed \$172,500, [PRESSPlus1](#) including the cost equivalent of staff time. This policy is not intended to discourage efforts to improve the appearance of buildings or grounds that are consistent with the designated use of those buildings and grounds.

#### Standards for Green Cleaning

For each District school with 50 or more students, the Superintendent or designee shall establish and supervise a green cleaning program that complies with the guidelines established by the Illinois Green Government Coordinating Council.

#### Standards for Facility Construction and Building Programs

As appropriate, the Board will authorize a comprehensive study to determine the need for facility construction and expansion. On an annual basis, the Superintendent or designee shall provide the Board with projected facility needs, enrollment trends, and other data impacting facility use. Board approval is needed for all new facility construction and expansion.

When making decisions pertaining to design and construction of school facilities, the Board will confer with members of the staff and community, the Ill. State Board of Education, and educational and architectural consultants, as it deems appropriate. The Board's facility goals are to:

1. Integrate facilities planning with other aspects of planning and goal-setting.
2. Base educational specifications for school buildings on identifiable student needs.
3. Design buildings for sufficient flexibility to permit new or modified programs.
4. Design buildings for maximum potential for community use.
5. Meet or exceed all safety requirements.
6. Meet requirements on the accessibility of school facilities to disabled persons as specified in State and federal law.

7. Provide for low maintenance costs, energy efficiency, and minimal environmental impact.

### Naming Buildings and Facilities

Recognizing that the name for a school building, facility, or ground or field reflects on its public image, the Board's primary consideration will be to select a name that enhances the credibility and stature of the school or facility. Any request to name or rename an existing facility should be submitted to the Board. When a facility is to be named or renamed, the Board President will appoint a special committee to consider nominations and make a recommendation, along with supporting rationale, to the Board. The Board will make the final selection. The Superintendent or designee may name a room or designate some area on a school's property in honor of an individual or group that has performed outstanding service to the school without using the process in this policy.

#### LEGAL REF.:

[42 U.S.C. §12101](#) *et seq.*, Americans with Disabilities Act, ~~of 1990, implemented by~~ [28 C.F.R. Parts 35 and 36](#).

[20 ILCS 3130/](#), Green Buildings Act.

[105 ILCS 5/2-3.12](#), [5/10-20.49](#), [5/10-22.36](#), [5/10-20.63](#), and [5/17-2.11](#).

[105 ILCS 140/](#), Green Cleaning Schools Act.

[105 ILCS 230/](#), School Construction Law.

[410 ILCS 25/](#), Environmental Barriers Act.

[410 ILCS 35/25](#), Equitable Restrooms Act.

[820 ILCS 130/](#), Prevailing Wage Act.

[23 Ill.Admin.Code Part 151](#), School Construction Program; [Part 180](#), Health/Life Safety Code for Public Schools; and [Part 2800](#), Green Cleaning for Elementary and Secondary Schools.

[71 Ill.Admin.Code Part 400](#), Ill. Accessibility Code.

CROSS REF.: 2:150 (Committees), 2:170 (Procurement of Architectural, Engineering, and Land Surveying Services), 4:60 (Purchases and Contracts), 8:70 (Accommodating Individuals with Disabilities)

~~ADOPTED: September 23, 2020~~

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### **PRESSPlus Comments**

PRESSPlus 1. The \$17,500 spending limit is one-half of the \$35,000 bidding threshold for purchases or contracts. 105 ILCS 5/10-20.21, amended by P.A. 103-8. **Issue 117, October 2024**

## *Document Status: Draft Update*

### **4:170 Safety**

#### 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. 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;
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; 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.

#### School Safety Drill Plan

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

#### 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). [29 Ill.Admin.Code Part 1500.](#)

### Automated External Defibrillator (AED)

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. <sup>PRESSPlus1</sup> In addition, the Superintendent or designee shall implement a written plan for responding to medical 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 ~~automated external defibrillator (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. 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. This policy does not create an obligation to use an AED.

### Carbon Monoxide Alarms

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

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.

### Unsafe School Choice Option

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.

### Lead Testing in Water

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

### 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.

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)

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### **PRESSPlus Comments**

PRESSPlus 1. 105 ILCS 5/10-20.97, added by P.A. 103-1019. 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. **Issue 117, October 2024**

## *Document Status: Draft Update*

### **5:10 Equal Employment Opportunity and Minority Recruitment**

The School District shall provide equal employment opportunities to all persons regardless of their race; color; creed; religion; national origin; sex; sexual orientation; age; ancestry; marital status; arrest record; military status; order of protection status; unfavorable military discharge; citizenship status provided the individual is authorized to work in the United States; work authorization status; use of lawful products while not at work; being a victim of domestic violence, sexual violence, gender violence, or any other crime of violence; genetic information; physical or mental handicap or disability, if otherwise able to perform the essential functions of the job with reasonable accommodation; pregnancy, childbirth, or related medical conditions; **reproductive health decisions**; [PRESSPlus1](#) credit history, unless a satisfactory credit history is an established bona fide occupational requirement of a particular position; conviction record, unless authorized by law; **family responsibilities**; [PRESSPlus2](#) or other legally protected categories. No one will be penalized solely for his or her status as a registered qualifying patient or a registered designated caregiver for purposes of the Compassionate Use of Medical Cannabis Program Act, [410 ILCS 130/](#).

Persons who believe they have not received equal employment opportunities should report their claims to the Nondiscrimination Coordinator and/or a Complaint Manager under Board policy 2:260, *Uniform Grievance Procedure*, or in the case of denial of equal employment opportunities on the basis of race, color, or national origin, Board policy 2:270, *Discrimination and Harassment on the Basis of Race, Color, and National Origin Prohibited*. These individuals are listed below. No employee or applicant will be discriminated or retaliated against because he or she: (1) requested, attempted to request, used, or attempted to use a reasonable accommodation as allowed by the Illinois Human Rights Act, or (2) initiated a complaint, was a witness, supplied information, or otherwise participated in an investigation or proceeding involving an alleged violation of this policy or State or federal laws, rules or regulations, provided the employee or applicant did not make a knowingly false accusation nor provide knowingly false information.

#### Administrative Implementation

The Superintendent shall appoint a Nondiscrimination Coordinator for personnel who shall be responsible for coordinating the District's nondiscrimination efforts. The Nondiscrimination Coordinator may be the Superintendent or a Complaint Manager under Board policy 2:260, *Uniform Grievance Procedure*. The Nondiscrimination Coordinator also serves as the District's Title IX Coordinator.

The Superintendent shall insert into this policy the names, office addresses, email addresses, and telephone numbers of the District's current Nondiscrimination Coordinator and Complaint Managers.

#### **Nondiscrimination Coordinator:**

Kristi Boe, Human Resources Director

26655 W Eames St

Channahon, IL 60410

[kboe@mchs.net](mailto:kboe@mchs.net)

(815) 521- 4359

### **Complaint Managers:**

Jamie Soliman

26655 W Eames St

Channahon, IL 60410

[jsoliman@mchs.net](mailto:jsoliman@mchs.net)

(815) 521-4001

Joe Pacetti

26655 W Eames St

Channahon, IL 60410

[jpacetti@mchs.net](mailto:jpacetti@mchs.net)

(815) 467-2140

The Superintendent shall also use reasonable measures to inform staff members and applicants that the District is an equal opportunity employer, such as, by posting required notices and including this policy in the appropriate handbooks.

### Minority Recruitment

The District will attempt to recruit and hire minority employees. The implementation of this policy may include advertising openings in minority publications, participating in minority job fairs, and recruiting at colleges and universities with significant minority enrollments. This policy, however, does not require or permit the District to give preferential treatment or special rights based on a protected status without evidence of past discrimination.

### LEGAL REF.:

[8 U.S.C. §1324a](#) *et seq.*, Immigration Reform and Control Act.

[20 U.S.C. §1681](#) *et seq.*, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972; [34 C.F.R. Part 106](#).

[29 U.S.C. §206](#)(d), Equal Pay Act.

[29 U.S.C. §218d](#), Fair Labor Standards Act.

[29 U.S.C. §621](#) *et seq.*, Age Discrimination in Employment Act.

[29 U.S.C. §701](#) *et seq.*, Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

[38 U.S.C. §4301](#) *et seq.*, Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (1994).

[42 U.S.C. §1981](#) *et seq.*, Civil Rights Act of 1991.

[42 U.S.C. §2000d](#) *et seq.*, Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964; [34 C.F.R. Part 100](#).

[42 U.S.C. §2000e](#) *et seq.*, Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964; [29 C.F.R. Part 1601](#).

[42 U.S.C. §2000ff](#) *et seq.*, Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2008.

42 U.S.C. §2000gg *et seq.*, Pregnant Workers Fairness Act; [29 C.F.R. Part 1636](#).



[42 U.S.C. §2000e\(k\)](#), Pregnancy Discrimination Act.

[42 U.S.C. §12111](#) *et seq.*, Americans with Disabilities Act, Title I.

[Ill. Constitution, Art. I](#), §§17, 18, and 19.

[105 ILCS 5/10-20.7](#), [5/10-20.7a](#), [5/10-21.1](#), [5/10-22.4](#), [5/10-23.5](#), [5/22-19](#), [5/24-4](#), [5/24-4.1](#), and [5/24-7](#).

[410 ILCS 130/40](#), Compassionate Use of Medical Cannabis Program Act.

[410 ILCS 513/25](#), Genetic Information Privacy Act.

[740 ILCS 174/](#), Ill. Whistleblower Act.

[775 ILCS 5/1-103](#), [5/2-101](#), [5/2-102](#), [5/2-103](#), [5/2-103.1](#), [5/2-104\(D\)](#) and [5/6-101](#), Ill. Human Rights Act.

[775 ILCS 35/](#), Religious Freedom Restoration Act.

[820 ILCS 55/10](#), Right to Privacy in the Workplace Act.

[820 ILCS 70/](#), Employee Credit Privacy Act.

[820 ILCS 75/](#), Job Opportunities for Qualified Applicants Act.

[820 ILCS 112/](#), Ill. Equal Pay Act of 2003.

[820 ILCS 180/30](#), Victims' Economic Security and Safety Act.

[820 ILCS 260/](#), Nursing Mothers in the Workplace Act.

CROSS REF.: 2:260 (Uniform Grievance Procedure), 2:265 (Title IX Grievance Procedure), 2:270 (Discrimination and Harassment on the Basis of Race, Color, and National Origin Prohibited), 5:20 (Workplace Harassment Prohibited), 5:30 (Hiring Process and Criteria), 5:40 (Communicable and Chronic Infectious Disease), 5:50 (Drug- and Alcohol-Free Workplace; E-Cigarette, Tobacco, and Cannabis Prohibition), 5:70 (Religious Holidays), 5:180 (Temporary Illness or Temporary Incapacity), 5:200 (Terms and Conditions of Employment and Dismissal), 5:250 (Leaves of Absence), 5:270 (Employment At-Will, Compensation, and Assignment), 5:300 (Schedules and Employment Year), 5:330 (Sick Days, Vacation, Holidays, and Leaves), 7:10 (Equal Educational Opportunities), 7:180 (Prevention of and Response to Bullying, Intimidation, and Harassment), 8:70 (Accommodating Individuals with Disabilities)

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## PRESSPlus Comments

PRESSPlus 1. Updated in response to the Ill. Human Rights Act (IHRA), 775 ILCS 5/1-102(A) and 5/1-103(Q), amended by P.A. 103-785, eff. 1-1-25. *Reproductive health decisions* means a person's decisions regarding their use of: contraception; fertility or sterilization care; assisted reproductive technologies; miscarriage management care; healthcare related to the continuation or termination of pregnancy; or prenatal, intranatal, or postnatal care. 775 ILCS 5/1-103(O-2), added by P.A. 103-785, eff. 1-1-25. **Issue 117, October 2024**

PRESSPlus 2. Updated in response to the Ill. Human Rights Act (IHRA), 775 ILCS 5/2-102(A),

amended by P.A. 103-797, eff. 1-1-25. *Family responsibilities* means an employee's actual or perceived provision of *personal care* to a *covered family member*, as those terms are defined in the Employee Sick Leave Act, 820 ILCS 191/5. **Issue 117, October 2024**

## *Document Status: Draft Update*

### **5:20 Workplace Harassment Prohibited**

The School District expects the workplace environment to be productive, respectful, and free of unlawful discrimination, including harassment. District employees shall not engage in harassment or abusive conduct on the basis of an individual's actual or perceived race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, sex, sexual orientation, age, citizenship status, work authorization status, disability, pregnancy, marital status, family responsibilities, PRESSPlus1 reproductive health decisions, PRESSPlus2 order of protection status, military status, or unfavorable discharge from military service, nor shall they engage in harassment or abusive conduct on the basis of an individual's other protected status identified in Board policy 5:10, *Equal Employment Opportunity and Minority Recruitment*. Harassment of students, including, but not limited to, sexual harassment, is prohibited by Board policies 2:260, *Uniform Grievance Procedure*; 2:265, *Title IX Grievance Procedure*; 2:270, *Discrimination and Harassment on the Basis of Race, Color, and National Origin Prohibited*; 7:20, *Harassment of Students Prohibited*; 7:180, *Prevention of and Response to Bullying, Intimidation, and Harassment*; and 7:185, *Teen Dating Violence Prohibited*.

The District will take remedial and corrective action to address unlawful workplace harassment, including sexual harassment.

#### Sexual Harassment Prohibited

The District shall provide a workplace environment free of verbal, physical, or other conduct or communications constituting harassment on the basis of sex as defined and otherwise prohibited by State and federal law. The District provides annual sexual harassment prevention training in accordance with State law.

District employees shall not make unwelcome sexual advances or request sexual favors or engage in any unwelcome conduct of a sexual nature when: (1) submission to such conduct is made either explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of an individual's employment; (2) submission to or rejection of such conduct by an individual is used as the basis for employment decisions affecting such individual; or (3) such conduct has the purpose or effect of substantially interfering with an individual's work performance or creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working environment. Sexual harassment prohibited by this policy includes, but is not limited to, verbal, physical, or other conduct. The terms intimidating, hostile, or offensive include, but are not limited to, conduct that has the effect of humiliation, embarrassment, or discomfort. Sexual harassment will be evaluated in light of all the circumstances.

#### Making a Report or Complaint

Employees and *nonemployees* (persons who are not otherwise employees and are directly performing services for the District pursuant to a contract with the District, including contractors, and consultants) are encouraged to promptly report information regarding violations of this policy. Individuals may choose to report to a person of the individual's same gender. Every effort should be made to file such reports or complaints as soon as possible, while facts are known and potential witnesses are available.

Aggrieved individuals, if they feel comfortable doing so, should directly inform the person engaging in

the harassing conduct or communication that such conduct or communication is offensive and must stop.

### Whom to Contact with a Report or Complaint

An employee should report claims of harassment, including making a confidential report, to any of the following: his/her immediate supervisor, the Building Principal, an administrator, the Nondiscrimination Coordinator, and/or a Complaint Manager.

An employee may also report claims using Board policy 2:260, *Uniform Grievance Procedure*. If a claim is reported using Board policy 2:260, then the Complaint Manager shall process and review the claim according to that policy, in addition to any response required by this policy.

The Superintendent shall insert into this policy the names, office addresses, email addresses, and telephone numbers of the District's current Nondiscrimination Coordinator and Complaint Managers. The Nondiscrimination Coordinator also serves as the District's Title IX Coordinator.

### **Nondiscrimination Coordinator:**

Kristi Boe, Human Resources Director

26655 W Eames St

Channahon, IL 60410

[kboe@mchs.net](mailto:kboe@mchs.net)

(815) 521- 4359

### **Complaint Managers:**

Ms. Jamie Soliman

Joe Pacetti

26655 W Eames St

26655 W Eames St

Channahon, IL 60410

Channahon, IL 60410

[jsoliman@mchs.net](mailto:jsoliman@mchs.net)

[jpacetti@mchs.net](mailto:jpacetti@mchs.net)

(815) 521-4001

(815) 467-2140

### Investigation Process

Any District employee who receives a report or complaint of harassment must promptly forward the report or complaint to the Nondiscrimination Coordinator or a Complaint Manager. Any employee who fails to promptly forward a report or complaint may be disciplined, up to and including discharge.

Reports and complaints of harassment will be confidential to the greatest extent practicable, subject to the District's duty to investigate and maintain a workplace environment that is productive, respectful, and free of unlawful discrimination, including harassment.

For any report or complaint alleging sex-based harassment that, if true, would implicate Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 ([20 U.S.C. §1681 et seq.](#)), the Nondiscrimination Coordinator or designee shall consider whether action under Board policy 2:265,

*Title IX Grievance Procedure*, should be initiated.

For any report or complaint alleging harassment on the basis of race, color, or national origin, the Nondiscrimination Coordinator or a Complaint Manager or designee shall investigate under Board policy 2:270, *Discrimination and Harassment on the Basis of Race, Color, and National Origin Prohibited*.

For any other alleged workplace harassment that does not require action under Board policies 2:265, *Title IX Grievance Procedure*, or 2:270, *Discrimination and Harassment on the Basis of Race, Color, and National Origin Prohibited*, the Nondiscrimination Coordinator or a Complaint Manager or designee shall consider whether an investigation under Board policy 2:260, *Uniform Grievance Procedure*, and/or 5:120, *Employee Ethics; Code of Professional Conduct; and Conflict of Interest*, should be initiated, regardless of whether a written report or complaint is filed.

#### Reports That Involve Alleged Incidents of Sexual Abuse of a Child by School Personnel

An *alleged incident of sexual abuse* is an incident of sexual abuse of a child, as defined in [720 ILCS 5/11-9.1A\(b\)](#), that is alleged to have been perpetrated by school personnel, including a school vendor or volunteer, that occurred: on school grounds during a school activity; or outside of school grounds or not during a school activity.

Any complaint alleging an incident of sexual abuse shall be processed and reviewed according to Board policy 5:90, *Abused and Neglected Child Reporting*. In addition to reporting the suspected abuse, the complaint shall also be processed under Board policy 2:265, *Title IX Grievance Procedure*, or Board policy 2:260, *Uniform Grievance Procedure*.

#### Enforcement

A violation of this policy by an employee may result in discipline, up to and including discharge. A violation of this policy by a third party 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 harassment will likewise be subject to disciplinary action, which for an employee may be up to and including discharge.

#### Retaliation Prohibited

An employee's employment, compensation, or work assignment shall not be adversely affected by complaining or providing information about harassment. Retaliation against employees for bringing complaints or providing information about harassment is prohibited (see Board policies 2:260, *Uniform Grievance Procedure*, 2:265, *Title IX Grievance Procedure*, and 2:270, *Discrimination and Harassment on the Basis of Race, Color, and National Origin Prohibited*), and depending upon the law governing the complaint, whistleblower protection may be available under the State Officials and Employees Ethics Act ([5 ILCS 430/](#)), the Whistleblower Act ([740 ILCS 174/](#)), and/or the Ill. Human Rights Act ([775 ILCS 5/](#)).

An employee should report allegations of retaliation to his/her immediate supervisor, the Building Principal, an administrator, the Nondiscrimination Coordinator, and/or a Complaint Manager.

Employees who retaliate against others for reporting or complaining of violations of this policy or for participating in the reporting or complaint process will be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including discharge.

#### Recourse to State and Federal Fair Employment Practice Agencies

The District encourages all employees who have information regarding violations of this policy to report the information pursuant to this policy. The following government agencies are available to assist employees: the Ill. Dept. of Human Rights and the U. S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

The Superintendent shall also use reasonable measures to inform staff members, applicants, and nonemployees of this policy, which shall include posting on the District website and/or making this policy available in the District's administrative office, and including this policy in the appropriate handbooks.

LEGAL REF.:

[42 U.S.C. §2000e](#) *et seq.*, Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964; [29 C.F.R. §1604.11](#).

[20 U.S.C. §1681](#) *et seq.*, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972; [34 C.F.R. Part 106](#).

[5 ILCS 430/70-5\(a\)](#), State Officials and Employees Ethics Act.

[775 ILCS 5/2-101\(E\)](#) and (E-1), [5/2-102\(A\)](#), (A-10), (D-5), [5/2-102\(E-5\)](#), [5/2-109](#), [5/5-102](#), and [5/5-102.2](#), Ill. Human Rights Act.

[56 Ill. Admin.Code Parts 2500](#), [2510](#), [5210](#), and [5220](#).

[Vance v. Ball State Univ.](#), 570 U.S. 421 (2013).

[Crawford v. Metro. Gov't of Nashville & Davidson Cnty.](#), 555 U.S. 271 (2009).

[Jackson v. Birmingham Bd. of Educ.](#), 544 U.S. 167 (2005).

[Oncale v. Sundowner Offshore Servs.](#), 523 U.S. 75 (1998).

[Burlington Indus. v. Ellerth](#), 524 U.S. 742 (1998).

[Faragher v. City of Boca Raton](#), 524 U.S. 775 (1998).

[Harris v. Forklift Systems](#), 510 U.S. 17 (1993).

[Franklin v. Gwinnett Co. Public Schools](#), 503 U.S. 60 (1992).

[Meritor Savings Bank v. Vinson](#), 477 U.S. 57 (1986).

*Porter v. Erie Foods Int, Inc.*, 576 F.3d 629 (7th Cir. 2009).

*Williams v. Waste Mgmt.*, 361 F.3d 1021 (7th Cir. 2004).

*Berry v. Delta Airlines*, 260 F.3d 803 (7th Cir. 2001).

*Sangamon Cnty. Sheriff's Dept. v. Ill. Human Rights Com'n*, 233 Ill.2d 125 (Ill. 2009).

CROSS REF.: 2:260 (Uniform Grievance Procedure), 2:265 (Title IX Grievance Procedure), 2:270 (Discrimination and Harassment on the Basis of Race, Color, and National Origin Prohibited), 4:60 (Purchases and Contracts), 5:10 (Equal Employment Opportunity and Minority Recruitment), 5:90 (Abused and Neglected Child Reporting), 5:120 (Employee Ethics; Code of Professional Conduct; and Conflict of Interest), 7:20 (Harassment of Students Prohibited), 8:30 (Visitors to and Conduct on School Property)

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## PRESSPlus Comments

PRESSPlus 1. Updated in response to the Ill. Human Rights Act (IHRA), 775 ILCS 5/2-102(A), amended by P.A. 103-797, eff. 1-1-25. *Family responsibilities* means an employee's actual or perceived provision of *personal care* to a *covered family member*, as those terms are defined in the Employee Sick Leave Act, 820 ILCS 191/5. **Issue 117, October 2024**

PRESSPlus 2. Updated in response to the Ill. Human Rights Act (IHRA), 775 ILCS 5/1-102(A) and 5/1-103(Q), amended by P.A. 103-785, eff. 1-1-25. *Reproductive health decisions* means a person's decisions regarding their use of: contraception; fertility or sterilization care; assisted reproductive technologies; miscarriage management care; healthcare related to the continuation or termination of pregnancy; or prenatal, intranatal, or postnatal care. 775 ILCS 5/1-103(O-2), added by P.A. 103-785, eff. 1-1-25. **Issue 117, October 2024**

PRESSPlus 3. Updated in response to final regulations implementing Title IX. **Issue 117, October 2024**

## *Document Status: District Use Only*

### **5:60 Expenses**

The Board regulates the reimbursement of all travel, meal, and lodging expenses by resolution. Money shall not be advanced or reimbursed, or purchase orders issued for: (1) the expenses of any person except the employee, (2) anyone's personal expenses, or (3) entertainment expenses. Entertainment includes, but is not limited to, shows, amusements, theaters, circuses, sporting events, or any other place of public or private entertainment or amusement, unless the entertainment is ancillary to the purpose of the program or event. The District is not responsible for losses due to an employee's own negligence, losses due to normal wear, or losses due to theft, unless the theft was a result of the District's negligence. Employees must submit the appropriate itemized, signed, standardized form(s) to support any requests for expense advancements, reimbursements, or purchase orders that show the following:

1. The amount of the estimated or actual expense, with attached receipts for actual incurred expenses.
2. The name and title of the employee who is requesting the expense advancement or reimbursement. Receipts from group functions must include the names, offices, and job titles of all participants.
3. The date(s) of the official business on which the expense advancement, reimbursement, or purchase order will be or was expended.
4. The nature of the official business conducted when the expense advancement, reimbursement, or purchase order will be or was expended.

#### Advancements

The Superintendent may advance expenses to teachers and other licensed employees for the anticipated actual and necessary expenses to be incurred while attending meetings that are related to their duties and will contribute to their professional development, provided they fall below the maximum allowed in the Board's expense regulations.

Expense advancement requests must be submitted to the Superintendent or designee on the District's standardized estimated expense approval form for employees. After spending expense advancements, employees must use the District's standardized expense reimbursement form and submit to the Superintendent: (a) the itemized, signed advancement voucher that was issued, and (b) the amount of actual expenses by attaching receipts. Any portion of an expense advancement not used must be returned to the District. Expense advancements and vouchers shall be presented to the Board in its regular bill process.

#### Reimbursements and Purchase Orders

Expense reimbursements and purchase orders may be issued by the Superintendent or designee to employees, along with other expenses necessary for the performance of their duties, provided the expenses fall below the maximum allowed in the Board's expense regulations.

Expense reimbursements and purchase order approvals are not guaranteed and, when possible, employees should seek pre-approval of expenses by providing an estimation of expenses on the



District's standardized estimated expense approval form for employees, except in situations when the expense is diminutive. When pre-approval is not sought, employees must seek reimbursement on the District's standardized expense reimbursement form for employees. Expense reimbursements and purchase orders shall be presented to the Board in its regular bill process.

#### Use of Credit and Procurement Cards

Credit and procurement card usage is governed by policy 4:55, *Use of Credit and Procurement Cards*.

#### Exceeding the Maximum Allowable Expense Amount(s)

All requests for expense advancements, reimbursements, and purchase orders exceeding the maximum allowed in the Board's expense regulations may only be approved when:

1. The Board's resolution to regulate expenses allows for such approval;
2. An emergency or other extraordinary circumstance exists; and
3. The request is approved by a roll call vote at an open Board meeting.

#### Registration

When possible, registration fees will be paid by the District in advance.

#### Travel

**~~Please refer to the applicable collective bargaining agreement(s).~~**

**~~For employees not covered by a current applicable bargaining agreement:~~**

~~The least expensive method of travel will be used, provided that no hardship will be caused to the employee. Employees will be reimbursed for:~~

- ~~1. Air travel at the coach or economy class commercial airline rate. First class or business class air travel will be reimbursed only if emergency circumstances warrant. The emergency circumstances must be explained on the expense form and Board approval of the additional expense is required. Fees for the first checked bag will be reimbursed. Copies of airline tickets and baggage receipts must be attached to the expense form.~~
- ~~2. Rail or bus travel at actual cost. Rail or bus travel costs may not exceed the cost of coach airfare. Copies of tickets must be attached to the expense form to substantiate amounts.~~
- ~~3. Use of personal automobiles at the standard mileage rate approved by the Internal Revenue Service for income tax purposes. The reimbursement may not exceed the cost of coach airfare. Mileage for use of personal automobiles in trips to and from transportation terminals will also be reimbursed. Toll charges and parking costs will be reimbursed.~~
- ~~4. Automobile rental costs when the vehicle's use is warranted. The circumstances for such use must be explained on the expense form.~~
- ~~5. Taxis, airport limousines, ride sharing services, or other local transportation costs.~~

The least expensive method of travel will be used, provided that no hardship will be caused to the employee. Employees will be reimbursed for:

1. Air travel at the coach or economy class commercial airline rate. First class or business class air travel will be reimbursed only if emergency circumstances warrant. The emergency circumstances must be explained on the expense form and Board approval of the additional expense is required.

Fees for the first checked bag will be reimbursed. Copies of airline tickets and baggage receipts must be attached to the expense form.

2. Rail or bus travel at actual cost. Rail or bus travel costs may not exceed the cost of coach airfare. Copies of tickets must be attached to the expense form to substantiate amounts.

3. Automobile rental costs when the vehicle's use is warranted. The circumstances for such use must be explained on the expense form.

4. Taxis, airport limousines, ride sharing services, or other local transportation costs.

5. Use of personal automobiles at the standard mileage rate approved by the Internal Revenue Service for income tax purposes. The reimbursement may not exceed the cost of coach airfare. Mileage for use of personal automobiles in trips to and from transportation terminals will also be reimbursed. Toll charges and parking costs will be reimbursed.

Additionally:

- Mileage will not be reimbursed if district owned transportation is available. Prior to incurring mileage on a personal vehicle, the employee must inquire whether there is the availability of district-owned travel and if not, then travel must be approved by their supervisor
- Travel between home and the work site will not be reimbursed.
- Mileage will be reimbursed for the shortest route between the employee's primary worksite and the location they are visiting for business purposes.
- If the starting or ending point of business travel is the employee's home instead of their worksite, they can claim reimbursement only for the miles traveled above the typical daily commute, using the shortest route mileage.
- Only mileage over and above their typical commute will be reimbursed when traveling outside of the district.
- Odometer readings, google maps or a mileage app can be used to track mileage and must be attached to the mileage reimbursement request.
- Receipts must be attached for any other travel reimbursement requests.
- Mileage reimbursements must be submitted within ten (10) calendar days from the time of the travel (subject to non-approval if past the ten (10) days).

### **MCHS Mileage Reimbursement Policy**

This mileage reimbursement policy is effective November 20, 2024 and supersedes any previous policies and/or practices applying to situations where employees claim expenses for the use of their vehicles for business purposes.

The provisions of this mileage reimbursement policy applies to all employees of Minooka Community High School (MCHS).

This policy ensures that MCHS compensates employees adequately for any reasonable and necessary work-related miles driven using their vehicles in accordance with the Illinois School Code (820 ILCS 115/9.5).

To qualify as reimbursable, the business trip must primarily have a business purpose and be beneficial to MCHS and its everyday operations.

Traveling between home and primary building or building assigned will not be reimbursed.

Any employee who is compensated for travel between buildings will not receive additional compensation.

The mileage reimbursement will be calculated based on the shortest trip from the employee's primary worksite and location they are commuting to for business purposes. MCHS has the right to determine the reimbursement by multiplying the shortest route miles by the current standard mileage rate published by the IRS.

- Example: The employee must travel to another building and there are two routes. The route that is the shortest must be used for their mileage reimbursement request.

Only mileage beyond the normal distance to and from their primary location will be reimbursed.

- Example: The employee drives their car from home and back to a meeting. The distance is 40 miles each way and their regular commute is 5 miles each way, they must deduct 10 miles from their mileage reimbursement request.
- Example: The employee travels from their primary location to another and then drive home and do not return to their original location. If home is on the way beyond the location the employee has driven to, no reimbursement is due to the employee.

Any mileage must be accompanied by odometer readings, google maps, or a mileage app documentation. Additional travel reimbursements of tolls, parking, etc. must be accompanied by receipts.

Employees who use their vehicles for business-related purposes must have proper vehicle/liability insurance coverage.

Reimbursable mileage expenses include:

- Meetings not at their primary location
- Travel between workplace locations – if not receiving a travel stipend for travel between buildings for teaching responsibilities
- Training, if approved
- Conferences/Presentations, if approved
- Work-related travel that has been requested, required and approved (not for errands you choose to run)

Mileage that is reimbursed:

- Commute between home and work
- Travel to other locations that is not required or approved
- Training, conferences, presentations that are not required or approved

Employees claiming reimbursements must submit a complete and accurate employee reimbursement request including mileage documentation and any other receipts if applicable.

Minooka Community High School (MCHS) has the right to modify this policy at its sole discretion due to legislative changes or any other reason.

## Meals

Meals charged to the District should represent mid-fare selections for the hotel/meeting facility or general area. Tips are included with meal charges. Expense forms must explain the meal charges incurred. Alcoholic beverages will not be reimbursed.

## Lodging

Employees should request conference rate or mid-fare room accommodations. A single room rate will be reimbursed. Employees should pay personal expenses at checkout. If that is impossible, deductions for the charges should be made on the expense form.

## Miscellaneous Expenses

Employees may seek reimbursement for other expenses incurred while attending a meeting sponsored by organizations described herein by fully describing the expenses on the expense form, attaching receipts.

## Additional Requirements for Travel Expenses Charged to Federal and State Grants

All grant-related travel expenses must be pre-approved by the Superintendent or designee.

Expenses for travel, including expenses for transportation, lodging, meals, and related items incurred by employees and charged to a federal grant or State grant governed by the Grant Accountability and Transparency Act ([30 ILCS 708/](#)) must also meet the following requirements:

1. The participation of the employee is necessary to the award, and the costs are specifically related to the award.
2. Expenses must be permissible under the terms and conditions of the award.
3. Expenses must be reasonable and consistent with this policy.
4. The Board does not reimburse actual expenses or pay a per diem allowance unless the employee is on official *travel status* for more than 12 hours. However, employees remain eligible for mileage reimbursement (minus regular commuting mileage/costs) and other transportation expenses if on travel status less than 12 hours.
5. Expenses may be charged based on an actual cost basis or on a per diem basis in lieu of actual costs incurred; however, only one method may be applied per trip.
6. Commercial airfare costs in excess of the least expensive coach or economy class are prohibited except when such accommodations would: (1) require circuitous routing; (2) require travel during unreasonable hours; (3) excessively prolong travel; (4) result in additional costs that would offset transportation savings; or (5) offer accommodations not reasonably adequate for the traveler's medical needs. Qualifying circumstances must be explained on the expense form, and Board approval of the additional expense is required.
7. Per diem rates and actual reimbursement amounts for mileage, meals, and lodging may not exceed the rates established by the Governor's Travel Control Board or federal travel regulations, whichever is less. These limits do not apply when: (1) an employee stays in the lowest-priced room available at or near a hotel where a conference or seminar is located or in accommodations arranged by the conference/seminar organization, or (2) lodging at or below the established rate is unavailable. In those cases, the employee will be reimbursed for actual lodging expenses with prior approval, but in no case will the reimbursement exceed 300% of the applicable maximum per diem rate. If a conference fee includes a meal, the meal or per diem allowance will be reduced by the actual value of the meal or the applicable meal allowance, whichever is less.

8. Employees must use the least expensive compact car available when using a rental car for travel, unless an exception is approved. The Board does not reimburse employees for collision damage waiver or theft insurance.
9. The Board will reimburse travel expenses not chargeable to an award from other District funds consistent with this policy.

LEGAL REF.:

[2 C.F.R. §200.474.](#)

[30 ILCS 708/130](#), Grant Accountability and Transparency Act.

[50 ILCS 150/](#), Local Government Travel Expense Control Act.

[105 ILCS 5/10-22.32.](#)

[820 ILCS 115/9.5](#), Ill. Wage Payment and Collection Act.

CROSS REF.: 2:125 (Board Member Compensation; Expenses), 2:240 (Board Policy Development), 4:50 (Payment Procedures), 4:55 (Use of Credit and Procurement Cards)

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## Document Status: Draft Update

### 5:90 Abused and Neglected Child Reporting

Any District employee who suspects or receives knowledge that a student may be an abused or neglected child or, for a student aged 18 through 22, an abused or neglected individual with a disability, shall ~~(1)~~ immediately report or cause a report to be made to the Ill. Dept. of Children and Family Services (DCFS) on its Child Abuse Hotline 1-800-25-ABUSE (1-800-252-2873)(within Illinois); 1-217-524-2606 (outside of Illinois); or 1-800-358-5117 (TTY), ~~and (2) follow directions given by DCFS concerning filing a written report within 48 hours with the nearest DCFS field office.~~ [PRESSPlus1](#) Any District employee who believes a student is in immediate danger of harm, shall first call 911. The employee shall also promptly notify the Superintendent or Building Principal that a report has been made. The Superintendent or Building Principal shall immediately coordinate any necessary notifications to the student's parent(s)/guardian(s) with DCFS, the applicable school resource officer (SRO), and/or local law enforcement.

*Negligent failure to report* occurs when a District employee personally observes an instance of suspected child abuse or neglect and reasonably believes, in his or her professional or official capacity, that the instance constitutes an act of child abuse or neglect under the Abused and Neglected Child Reporting Act (ANCRA) and he or she, without willful intent, fails to immediately report or cause a report to be made of the suspected abuse or neglect to DCFS.

Any District employee who discovers child pornography on electronic and information technology equipment shall immediately report it to local law enforcement, the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children's CyberTipline 1-800-THE-LOST (1-800-843-5678) or online at [report.cybertip.org/](http://report.cybertip.org/) or [www.missingkids.org](http://www.missingkids.org). The Superintendent or Building Principal shall also be promptly notified of the discovery and that a report has been made.

Any District employee who observes any act of hazing that does bodily harm to a student must report that act to the Building Principal, Superintendent, or designee who will investigate and take appropriate action. If the hazing results in death or great bodily harm, the employee must first make the report to law enforcement and then to the Superintendent or Building Principal. Hazing is defined as any intentional, knowing, or reckless act directed to or required of a student for the purpose of being initiated into, affiliating with, holding office in, or maintaining membership in any group, organization, club, or athletic team whose members are or include other students.

#### Abused and Neglected Child Reporting Act (ANCRA), School Code, and *Erin's Law* Training

The Superintendent or designee shall provide staff development opportunities for District employees in the detection, reporting, and prevention of child abuse and neglect.

All District employees shall:

1. Before beginning employment, sign the *Acknowledgement of Mandated Reporter Status* form provided by DCFS. The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that the signed forms are retained.
2. Complete mandated reporter training as required by law within three months of initial employment and at least every three years after that date.

3. Complete an annual evidence-informed training related to child sexual abuse, grooming behaviors (including *sexual misconduct* as defined in *Faith's Law*), and boundary violations as required by law and policy 5:100, *Staff Development Program*.

### Alleged Incidents of Sexual Abuse: Investigations

An *alleged incident of sexual abuse* is an incident of sexual abuse of a child, as defined in [720 ILCS 5/11-9.1A](#), that is alleged to have been perpetrated by school personnel, including a school vendor or volunteer, that occurred: on school grounds during a school activity; or outside of school grounds or not during a school activity.

If a District employee reports an alleged incident of sexual abuse to DCFS and DCFS accepts the report for investigation, DCFS will refer the matter to the local Children's Advocacy Center (CAC). The Superintendent or designee will implement procedures to coordinate with the CAC.

DCFS and/or the appropriate law enforcement agency will inform the District when its investigation is complete or has been suspended, as well as the outcome of its investigation. The existence of a DCFS and/or law enforcement investigation will not preclude the District from conducting its own parallel investigation into the alleged incident of sexual abuse in accordance with policy 7:20, *Harassment of Students Prohibited*.

### Special Superintendent Responsibilities

The Superintendent shall execute the requirements in Board policy 5:150, *Personnel Records*, whenever another school district requests a reference concerning an applicant who is or was a District employee and was the subject of a report made by a District employee to DCFS.

When the Superintendent has reasonable cause to believe that a license holder (1) committed an intentional act of abuse or neglect with the result of making a child an abused child or a neglected child under ANCR or an act of sexual misconduct under *Faith's Law*, and (2) that act resulted in the license holder's dismissal or resignation from the District, the Superintendent shall notify the State Superintendent and the Regional Superintendent in writing, providing the Ill. Educator Identification Number as well as a brief description of the misconduct alleged. The Superintendent must make the report within 30 days of the dismissal or resignation and mail a copy of the notification to the license holder.

The Superintendent shall develop procedures for notifying a student's parents/guardians when a District employee, contractor, or agent is alleged to have engaged in sexual misconduct with the student as defined in *Faith's Law*. The Superintendent shall also develop procedures for notifying the student's parents/guardians when the Board takes action relating to the employment of the employee, contractor, or agent following the investigation of sexual misconduct. Notification shall not occur when the employee, contractor, or agent alleged to have engaged in sexual misconduct is the student's parent/guardian, and/or when the student is at least 18 years of age or emancipated.

The Superintendent shall execute the recordkeeping requirements of *Faith's Law*.

### Special School Board Member Responsibilities

Each individual Board member must, if an allegation is raised to the member during an open or closed Board meeting that a student is an abused child as defined in ANCR, direct or cause the Board to direct the Superintendent or other equivalent school administrator to comply with ANCR's requirements concerning the reporting of child abuse.

If the Board determines that any District employee, other than an employee licensed under [105 ILCS](#)

[5/21B](#), has willfully or negligently failed to report an instance of suspected child abuse or neglect as required by ANCRA, the Board may dismiss that employee immediately.

When the Board learns that a licensed teacher was convicted of any felony, it must promptly report it to the State agencies listed in policy 2:20, *Powers and Duties of the School Board; Indemnification*.

LEGAL REF.:

[20 U.S.C. §7926](#), Elementary and Secondary Education Act.

[105 ILCS 5/10-21.9](#), [5/10-23.13](#), [5/21B-85](#), [5/22-85.5](#), and [5/22-85.10](#).

[20 ILCS 1305/1-1](#) *et seq.*, Department of Human Services Act.

[325 ILCS 5/](#), Abused and Neglected Child Reporting Act.

[720 ILCS 5/12C-50.1](#), Criminal Code of 2012.

CROSS REF.: 2:20 (Powers and Duties of the School Board; Indemnification), 3:40 (Superintendent), 3:50 (Administrative Personnel Other Than the Superintendent), 3:60 (Administrative Responsibility of the Building Principal), 4:60 (Purchases and Contracts), 4:165 (Awareness and Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse and Grooming Behaviors), 5:20 (Workplace Harassment Prohibited), 5:30 (Hiring Process and Criteria), 5:100 (Staff Development Program), 5:120 (Employee Ethics; Code of Professional Conduct; and Conflict of Interest), 5:150 (Personnel Records), 5:200 (Terms and Conditions of Employment and Dismissal), 5:290 (Employment Termination and Suspensions), 6:120 (Education of Children with Disabilities), 6:250 (Community Resource Persons and Volunteers), 7:20 (Harassment of Students Prohibited), 7:150 (Agency and Police Interviews)

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## **PRESSPlus Comments**

PRESSPlus 1. Updated in response to 325 ILCS 5/7, amended by P.A. 103-624, eff. 1-1-25, removing the requirement for mandated reporters to confirm their oral reports in writing to the DCFS field office. **Issue 117, October 2024**



## *Document Status: Draft Update*

### **5:120 Employee Ethics; Code of Professional Conduct; and Conflict of Interest**

All District employees are expected to maintain high standards in their job performance, demonstrate integrity and honesty, be considerate and cooperative, and maintain professional and appropriate relationships with students, parents/guardians, staff members, and others.

The Superintendent or designee shall provide this policy to all District employees and students and/or parents/guardians in their respective handbooks, and ensure its posting on the District's website, if any.

#### Professional and Appropriate Conduct

Professional and appropriate employee conduct are important Board goals that impact the quality of a safe learning environment and the school community, increasing students' ability to learn and the District's ability to educate. To protect students from sexual misconduct by employees, and employees from the appearance of impropriety, State law also recognizes the importance for District employees to constantly maintain professional and appropriate relationships with students by following established expectations and guidelines for employee-student boundaries. Many breaches of employee-student boundaries do not rise to the level of criminal behavior but do pose a potential risk to student safety and impact the quality of a safe learning environment. Repeated violations of employee-student boundaries may indicate the grooming of a student for sexual abuse. As bystanders, employees may know of concerning behaviors that no one else is aware of, so their training on: (1) preventing, recognizing, reporting, and responding to child sexual abuse and grooming behavior; (2) this policy; and (3) federal and state reporting requirements is essential to maintaining the Board's goal of professional and appropriate conduct.

The Superintendent or designee shall identify employee conduct standards that define appropriate employee-student boundaries, provide training about them, and monitor the District's employees for violations of employee-student boundaries. The employee conduct standards will require that, at a minimum:

1. Employees who are governed by the *Code of Ethics for Illinois Educators*, adopted by the Ill. State Board of Education (ISBE), will comply with its incorporation by reference into this policy.
2. Employees are trained on educator ethics, child abuse, grooming behaviors, and employee-student boundary violations as required by law and policies 2:265, *Title IX Grievance Procedure*; 4:165, *Awareness and Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse and Grooming Behaviors*; 5:90, *Abused and Neglected Child Reporting*; and 5:100, *Staff Development Program*.
3. Employees maintain professional relationships with students, including maintaining employee-student boundaries based upon students' ages, grade levels, and developmental levels and following District-established guidelines for specific situations, including but not limited to:
  - a. Transporting a student;
  - b. Taking or possessing a photo or video of a student; and
  - c. Meeting with a student or contacting a student outside the employee's professional role.

4. Employees report prohibited behaviors and/or boundary violations pursuant to Board policies 2:260, *Uniform Grievance Procedure*; 2:265, *Title IX Grievance Procedure*; and 5:90, *Abused and Neglected Child Reporting*.
5. Discipline up to and including dismissal will occur for any employee who violates an employee conduct standard or engages in any of the following:
  - a. Violates expectations and guidelines for employee-student boundaries.
  - b. Sexually harasses a student.
  - c. Willfully or negligently fails to follow reporting requirements of the Abused and Neglected Child Reporting Act ([325 ILCS 5/](#)), Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 ([20 U.S.C. §1681 et seq.](#)), or the Elementary and Secondary Education Act ([20 U.S.C. § 7926](#)).
  - d. Engages in *grooming* as defined in [720 ILCS 5/11-25](#).
  - e. Engages in grooming behaviors. Prohibited grooming behaviors include, at a minimum, *sexual misconduct*. *Sexual misconduct* is any act, including but not limited to, any verbal, nonverbal, written, or electronic communication or physical activity, by an employee with direct contact with a student, that is directed toward or with a student to establish a romantic or sexual relationship with the student. Examples include, but are not limited to:
    - i. A sexual or romantic invitation.
    - ii. Dating or soliciting a date.
    - iii. Engaging in sexualized or romantic dialog.
    - iv. Making sexually suggestive comments that are directed toward or with a student.
    - v. Self-disclosure or physical exposure of a sexual, romantic, or erotic nature.
    - vi. A sexual, indecent, romantic, or erotic contact with the student.

### Statement of Economic Interests

The following employees must file a *Statement of Economic Interests* as required by the Ill. Governmental Ethics Act:

1. Superintendent;
2. Building Principal;
3. Head of any department;
4. Any employee who, as the District's agent, is responsible for negotiating one or more contracts, including collective bargaining agreement(s), in the amount of \$1,000 or greater;
5. Hearing officer;
6. Any employee having supervisory authority for 20 or more employees; and
7. Any employee in a position that requires an administrative or a chief school business official endorsement.

### Ethics and Gift Ban

Board policy 2:105, *Ethics and Gift Ban*, applies to all District employees. Students shall not be used in any manner for promoting a political candidate or issue.

### Prohibited Interests; Conflict of Interest; and Limitation of Authority

In accordance with [105 ILCS 5/22-5](#), "no school officer or teacher shall be interested in the sale, proceeds, or profits of any book, apparatus, or furniture used or to be used in any school with which such officer or teacher may be connected," except when the employee is the author or developer of

instructional materials listed with ISBE and adopted for use by the Board. An employee having an interest in instructional materials must file an annual statement with the Board Secretary.

For the purpose of acquiring profit or personal gain, no employee shall act as an agent of the District nor shall an employee act as an agent of any business in any transaction with the District. This includes participation in the selection, award, or administration of a contract supported by a federal award or State award governed by the Grant Accountability and Transparency Act (GATA) ([30 ILCS 708/](#)) when the employee has a real or apparent conflict of interest. A conflict of interest arises when an employee or any of the following individuals has a financial or other interest in or a tangible benefit from the entity selected for the contract:

1. A member of the employee's immediate family;
2. An employee's partner; or
3. An entity that employs or is about to employ the employee or one of the individuals listed in one or two above.

Employees shall neither solicit nor accept gratuities, favors, or anything of monetary value from contractors, potential contractors, or parties to agreements or subcontracts. Situations in which the interest is not substantial or the gift is an unsolicited item of nominal value must comply with State law and Board policy 2:105, *Ethics and Gift Ban*.

#### GuidanceSchool Counselor Gift Ban [PRESSPlus1](#)

GuidanceSchool counselors are prohibited from intentionally soliciting or accepting any gift from a *prohibited source* or any gift that would be in violation of any federal or State statute or rule. For guidance school counselors, a *prohibited source* is any person who is (1) employed by an institution of higher education, or (2) an agent or spouse of or an immediate family member living with a person employed by an institution of higher education. This prohibition does not apply to:

1. Opportunities, benefits, and services available on the same conditions as for the general public.
2. Anything for which the guidance school counselor pays market value.
3. A gift from a relative.
4. Anything provided by an individual on the basis of a personal friendship, unless the guidance school counselor believes that it was provided due to the official position or employment of the guidance school counselor and not due to the personal friendship. In determining whether a gift is provided on the basis of personal friendship, the guidance school counselor must consider the circumstances in which the gift was offered, including any of the following:
  - a. The history of the relationship between the individual giving the gift and the guidance school counselor, including any previous exchange of gifts between those individuals.
  - b. Whether, to the actual knowledge of the guidance school counselor, the individual who gave the gift personally paid for the gift or sought a tax deduction or business reimbursement for the gift.
  - c. Whether, to the actual knowledge of the guidance school counselor, the individual who gave the gift also, at the same time, gave the same or a similar gift to other school district employees.
5. Bequests, inheritances, or other transfers at death.
6. Any item(s) during any calendar year having a cumulative total value of less than \$100.
7. Promotional materials, including, but not limited to, pens, pencils, banners, posters, and pennants.

8. Travel, lodging, food, and beverage costs incurred by the school counselor and paid by an institution of higher education for attendance by the school counselor of an educational or military program at the institution of higher education. [PRESSPlus2](#)

A guidance school counselor does not violate this prohibition if he or she promptly returns the gift to the prohibited source or donates the gift or an amount equal to its value to a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt charity.

### Outside Employment

Employees shall not engage in any other employment or in any private business during regular working hours or at such other times as are necessary to fulfill appropriate assigned duties.

Incorporated

by reference: 5:120-E (Code of Ethics for Ill. Educators)

LEGAL REF.:

[U.S. Constitution, First Amendment.](#)

[2 C.F.R. §200.318\(c\)\(1\).](#)

[5 ILCS 420/4A-101](#), Ill. Governmental Ethics Act.

[5 ILCS 430/](#), State Officials and Employee Ethics Act.

[30 ILCS 708/](#), Grant Accountability and Transparency Act.

[50 ILCS 135/](#), Local Governmental Employees Political Rights Act.

[105 ILCS 5/10-22.39](#), [5/10-23.13](#), [5/22-5](#), [5/22-85.5](#), and [5/22-93](#).

[325 ILCS 5/](#), Abused and Neglected Child Reporting Act.

[720 ILCS 5/11-25](#), Criminal Code of 2012.

[775 ILCS 5/5A-102](#), Ill. Human Rights Act.

[23 Ill.Admin.Code Part 22](#), Code of Ethics for Ill. Educators.

[Pickering v. Board of Township H.S. Dist. 205](#), 391 U.S. 563 (1968).

[Garcetti v. Ceballos](#), 547 U.S. 410 (2006).

CROSS REF.: 2:105 (Ethics and Gift Ban), 2:265 (Title IX Grievance Procedure), 4:60 (Purchases and Contracts), 4:165 (Awareness and Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse and Grooming Behaviors), 5:90 (Abused and Neglected Child Reporting), 5:100 (Staff Development Program), 5:125 (Personal Technology and Social Media; Usage and Conduct), 5:200 (Terms and Conditions of Employment and Dismissal), 5:290 (Employment Termination and Suspensions), 7:20 (Harassment of Students Prohibited)

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### **PRESSPlus Comments**

PRESSPlus 1. Updated in response to 105 ILCS 5/22-93, amended by P.A. 103-1020, changing the term *guidance counselor* to *school counselor*. **Issue 117, October 2024**

PRESSPlus 2. Updated in response to 105 ILCS 5/22-93, amended by P.A. 103-1020. Any costs paid for by the institution of higher education may not exceed the per diem rates for travel, gift, and car expenses set by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) and referenced in the IRS's Publication 463 or a successor publication. **Issue 117, October 2024**

## *Document Status: Draft Update*

### **5:125 Personal Technology and Social Media; Usage and Conduct**

#### Definitions

**Includes** - Means "includes without limitation" or "includes, but is not limited to."

**Social media** - Media for social interaction, using highly accessible web-based and/or mobile technologies that allow users to share content and/or engage in interactive communication through online communities. This includes, but is not limited to, services such as *Facebook, LinkedIn, ~~Twitter~~ X (formerly Twitter), Threads, Instagram, TikTok, Snapchat, Discord, PRESSPlus1* and *YouTube*.

**Personal technology** - Any device that is not owned or leased by the District or otherwise authorized for District use and: (1) transmits sounds, images, text, messages, videos, or electronic information, (2) electronically records, plays, or stores information, or (3) accesses the Internet, or private communication or information networks. This includes computers, tablets, smartphones, smartwatches, PRESSPlus2 and other devices.

#### Usage and Conduct

All District employees who use personal technology and/or social media shall:

1. Adhere to the high standards for **Professional and Appropriate Conduct** required by policy 5:120, *Employee Ethics; Code of Professional Conduct; and Conflict of Interest*, at all times, regardless of the ever-changing social media and personal technology platforms available. This includes District employees posting images or private information about themselves or others in a manner readily accessible to students and other employees that is inappropriate as defined by policies 5:20, *Workplace Harassment Prohibited*; 5:100, *Staff Development Program*; 5:120, *Employee Ethics; Code of Professional Conduct; and Conflict of Interest*; 6:235, *Access to Electronic Networks*; and 7:20, *Harassment of Students Prohibited*; and the Ill. Code of Educator Ethics, [23 Ill.Admin.Code §22.20](#).
2. Choose a District-provided or supported method whenever possible to communicate with students and their parents/guardians.
3. Not interfere with or disrupt the educational or working environment, or the delivery of education or educational support services.
4. Inform their immediate supervisor if a student initiates inappropriate contact with them via any form of personal technology or social media.
5. Report instances of suspected abuse or neglect discovered through the use of social media or personal technology pursuant to a school employee's obligations under policy 5:90, *Abused and Neglected Child Reporting*.
6. Not disclose confidential information, including but not limited to school student records (e.g., student work, photographs of students, names of students, or any other personally identifiable information about students) or personnel records, in compliance with policy 5:130, *Responsibilities Concerning Internal Information*. For District employees, proper approval may include implied consent under the circumstances.

7. Refrain from using the District's logos without permission and follow Board policy 5:170, *Copyright*, and all District copyright compliance procedures.
8. Use personal technology and social media for personal purposes only during non-work times or hours. Any duty-free use must occur during times and places that the use will not interfere with job duties or otherwise be disruptive to the school environment or its operation.
9. Assume all risks associated with the use of personal technology and social media at school or school-sponsored activities, including students' viewing of inappropriate Internet materials through the District employee's personal technology or social media. The Board expressly disclaims any responsibility for imposing content filters, blocking lists, or monitoring of its employees' personal technology and social media.
10. Be subject to remedial and any other appropriate disciplinary action for violations of this policy ranging from prohibiting the employee from possessing or using any personal technology or social media at school to dismissal and/or indemnification of the District for any losses, costs, or damages, including reasonable attorney fees, incurred by the District relating to, or arising out of, any violation of this policy.

### Superintendent Responsibilities

The Superintendent shall:

1. Inform District employees about this policy.
2. Direct Building Principals to annually:
  - a. Provide their building staff with a copy of this policy.
  - b. Inform their building staff about the importance of maintaining high standards in their school relationships.
  - c. Remind their building staff that those who violate this policy will be subject to remedial and any other appropriate disciplinary action up to and including dismissal.
3. Build awareness of this policy with students, parents, and the community.
4. Ensure that neither the District, nor anyone on its behalf, commits an act prohibited by the Right to Privacy in the Workplace Act, [820 ILCS 55/10](#); i.e., the *Facebook Password Law*.
5. Periodically review this policy and any implementing procedures with District employee representatives and electronic network system administrator(s) and present proposed changes to the Board.

LEGAL REF.:

[105 ILCS 5/21B-75](#) and [5/21B-80](#).

[775 ILCS 5/5A-102](#), Ill. Human Rights Act.

[820 ILCS 55/10](#), Right to Privacy in the Workplace Act.

[23 Ill.Admin.Code §22.20](#), Code of Ethics for Ill. Educators.

[Garcetti v. Ceballos](#), 547 U.S. 410 (2006).

[Pickering v. High School Dist. 205](#), 391 U.S. 563 (1968).

[Mayer v. Monroe County Community School Corp.](#), 474 F.3d 477 (7th Cir. 2007).

CROSS REF.: 4:165 (Awareness and Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse and Grooming Behaviors), 5:20 (Workplace Harassment Prohibited), 5:30 (Hiring Process and Criteria), 5:100 (Staff Development Program), 5:120 (Employee Ethics; Code of Professional Conduct; and Conflict of Interest), 5:130 (Responsibilities Concerning Internal Information), 5:150 (Personnel Records), 5:170 (Copyright), 5:200 (Terms and Conditions of Employment and Dismissal), 6:235 (Access to Electronic Networks), 7:20 (Harassment of Students Prohibited), 7:340 (Student Records)

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## **PRESSPlus Comments**

PRESSPlus 1. Updated for continuous improvement. **Issue 117, October 2024**

PRESSPlus 2. Updated for continuous improvement. **Issue 117, October 2024**



## Document Status: Draft Update

### 5:230 Maintaining Student Discipline

Maintaining an orderly learning environment is an essential part of each teacher's instructional responsibilities. A teacher's ability to foster appropriate student behavior is an important factor in the teacher's educational effectiveness. The Superintendent shall ensure that all teachers, other ~~certificated~~ licensed [PRESSPlus1](#) educational employees (except for individuals employed as paraprofessional educators), and persons providing a student's related service(s): (1) maintain discipline in the schools as required in the School Code, and (2) follow the School Board policies and administrative procedures on student conduct, behavior, and discipline.

When a student's behavior is unacceptable, the teacher should first discuss the matter with the student, if appropriate. If the unacceptable behavior continues, the teacher should consult with the Building Principal and/or discuss the problem with the parent(s)/guardian(s). A teacher may remove any student from the learning setting whose behavior interferes with the lessons or participation of fellow students. A student's removal must be in accordance with Board policy and administrative procedures.

~~Teachers~~ [School personnel](#) shall not use disciplinary methods that may be damaging to students, such as ridicule, sarcasm, or excessive temper displays. Corporal punishment (including slapping, paddling, or prolonged maintenance of a student in physically painful positions, and intentional infliction of bodily harm) ~~is prohibited in all circumstances may not be used.~~ ~~Teachers~~ [School personnel](#) may only use reasonable force as ~~needed to keep students, school personnel, and others safe, or for self-defense or defense of property~~ [permitted by 105 ILCS 5/10-20.33.](#) [PRESSPlus2](#)

LEGAL REF.:

105 ILCS [5/22-100](#) and [5/24-24.](#) [PRESSPlus3](#)

[23 Ill.Admin.Code §1.280.](#)

CROSS REF.: 2:150 (Committees), 7:190 (Student Behavior), 7:230 (Misconduct by Students with Disabilities)

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### PRESSPlus Comments

PRESSPlus 1. Updated in response to 105 ILCS 5/24-24, amended by P.A. 103-806, eff. 1-1-25, replacing the word *certificated* with *licensed*. This change brings 105 ILCS 5/24-24 into alignment with its corresponding rule at 23 Ill.Admin.Code §1.280. **Issue 117, October 2024**

PRESSPlus 2. Updated in response to 105 ILCS 5/22-100 and 5/24-24, respectively added and amended by P.A. 103-806, eff. 1-1-25. *Corporal punishment* means "a discipline method in which a person deliberately inflicts pain upon a student in response to the student's unacceptable behavior or inappropriate language, with an aim to halt an offense, prevent its recurrence, or set an example for others." 105 ILCS 5/22-100, added by P.A. 103-806, eff. 1-1-25. See sample policy 7:190, *Student*

*Behavior*, available at PRESS Online by logging in at [www.iasb.com](http://www.iasb.com), for a discussion of corporal punishment. **Issue 117, October 2024**

PRESSPlus 3. The Legal References are updated. **Issue 117, October 2024**

## Document Status: Draft Update

### 6:60 Curriculum Content

The curriculum shall contain instruction on subjects required by State statute or regulation as follows:

1. In grades 9 through 12, subjects include: (a) language arts, (b) writing intensive courses, (c) science, (d) mathematics, (e) social studies including U.S. history, American government and one semester of civics, (f) foreign language, (g) music, (h) art, (i) driver and safety education, and (j) vocational education.

Students otherwise eligible to take a driver education course must receive a passing grade in at least eight courses during the previous two semesters before enrolling in the course. The Superintendent or designee may waive this requirement if he or she believes a waiver to be in the student's best interest. The course shall include: (a) instruction necessary for the safe operation of motor vehicles, including motorcycles, to the extent that they can be taught in the classroom, (b) classroom instruction on distracted driving as a major traffic safety issue, (c) instruction on required safety and driving precautions that must be observed at emergency situations, highway construction and maintenance zones, including worker safety in those zones, [PRESSPlus1](#) and railroad crossings and their approaches, and (d) instruction concerning law enforcement procedures for traffic stops, including a demonstration of the proper actions to be taken during a traffic stop and appropriate interactions with law enforcement. Automobile safety instruction covering traffic regulations and highway safety must include instruction on the consequences of alcohol consumption and the operation of a motor vehicle. The eligibility requirements contained in State law for the receipt of a certificate of completion from the Secretary of State shall be provided to students in writing at the time of their registration.

2. In each grade, as well as in interscholastic athletic programs, steroid abuse prevention must be taught.
3. In each grade, provided it can be funded by private grants or the federal government, violence prevention and conflict resolution must be stressed, including: (a) causes of conflict, (b) consequences of violent behavior, (c) non-violent resolution, and (d) relationships between drugs, alcohol, and violence.
4. In each grade, age-appropriate Internet safety must be taught, the scope of which shall be determined by the Superintendent or designee. The curriculum must incorporate policy 6:235, *Access to Electronic Networks* and, at a minimum, include: (a) education about appropriate online behavior, (b) interacting with other individuals on social networking websites and in chat rooms, and (c) cyberbullying awareness and response.
5. In all grades, students must receive developmentally appropriate opportunities to gain computer literacy skills that are embedded in the curriculum.
6. In all grades, character education must be taught including respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, trustworthiness, and citizenship in order to raise students' honesty, kindness, justice, discipline, respect for others, and moral courage. Instruction in all grades will include examples of behaviors that violate policy 7:180, *Prevention of and Response to Bullying, Intimidation, and Harassment*.
7. In all schools, citizenship values must be taught, including: (a) American patriotism, (b) principles of representative government (the American Declaration of Independence, the Constitution of

the United States of America and the Constitution of the State of Illinois), (c) proper use and display of the American flag, (d) the Pledge of Allegiance, and (e) the voting process.

8. In all grades, physical education must be taught including a developmentally planned and sequential curriculum that fosters the development of movement skills, enhances health-related fitness, increases students' knowledge, offers direct opportunities to learn how to work cooperatively in a group setting, and encourages healthy habits and attitudes for a healthy lifestyle. Unless otherwise exempted, all students are required to engage with such frequency as determined by the Board, but at a minimum of three days per five-day week, during the school day, except on block scheduled days, in a physical education course. For exemptions and substitutions, see policies 6:310, *High School Credit for Non-District Experiences; Course Substitutions; Re-Entering Students* and 7:260, *Exemption from Physical Education*.
9. In all schools, health education must be stressed, including: (a) proper nutrition, (b) physical fitness, (c) personal health habits ~~components necessary to develop a sound mind in a healthy body,~~ [PRESSPlus2](#) (d) dangers and avoidance of abduction, (e) age-appropriate and evidence-informed sexual abuse and assault awareness and prevention education in all grades, and (f) beginning in the fall of 2024, in grades 9-12, the dangers of fentanyl. The Superintendent shall implement a comprehensive health education program in accordance with State law.
10. In all schools, career/vocational education must be taught, including: (a) the importance of work, (b) the development of basic skills to enter the world of work and/or continue formal education, (c) good work habits and values, (d) the relationship between learning and work, and (e) if possible, a student work program that provides the student with work experience as an extension of the regular classroom. A career awareness and exploration program must be available at all grade levels. In grades 9-12, students engage in career exploration and career development activities to prepare them to make informed plans and decisions about their future education and career goals. [PRESSPlus3](#) In grades 9-12, a College and Career Pathway Endorsement is awarded to students who meet the requirements for a specific endorsement area. [PRESSPlus4](#)
11. In grades 9 through 12, consumer education must be taught, including: (a) financial literacy, including consumer debt and installment purchasing (including credit scoring, managing credit debt, and completing a loan application); budgeting; savings and investing; banking (including balancing a checkbook, opening a deposit account, and the use of interest rates); understanding simple contracts; State and federal income taxes; personal insurance policies; the comparison of prices; higher education student loans; identity-theft security; and homeownership (including the basic process of obtaining a mortgage and the concepts of fixed and adjustable rate mortgages, subprime loans, and predatory lending); and (b) the roles of consumers interacting with agriculture, business, labor unions and government in formulating and achieving the goals of the mixed free enterprise system.
12. In grades 9 through 12, intensive instruction in computer literacy, which may be included as a part of English, social studies, or any other subject.
13. In grades 9 through 12, a unit of instruction on media literacy that includes, but is not limited to, all of the following topics: (a) accessing information to evaluate multiple media platforms and better understand the general landscape and economics of the platforms, and issues regarding the trustworthiness of the source of information; (b) analyzing and evaluating media messages to deconstruct media representations according to the authors, target audience, techniques, agenda setting, stereotypes, and authenticity to distinguish fact from opinion; (c) creating media to convey a coherent message using multimodal practices to a specific target audience that includes, but is not limited to, writing blogs, composing songs, designing video games, producing podcasts, making videos, or coding a mobile or software application; (d) reflecting on media consumption to assess how media affects the consumption of information and how it triggers emotions and behavior; and (e) social responsibility and civics to suggest a plan of

action in the class, school, or community for engaging others in a respectful, thoughtful, and inclusive dialogue over a specific issue using facts and reason.

14. In grades 9 through 12, an opportunity for students to take at least one computer science course aligned to Illinois learning standards. *Computer science* means the study of computers and algorithms, including their principles, hardware and software designs, implementation, and impact on society. Computer science does not include the study of everyday uses of computers and computer applications; e.g., keyboarding or accessing the Internet.
15. In all schools, ~~environmental education conservation of natural resources must be taught,~~ including instruction on: (a) ~~home ecology~~ the current problems and needs in the conservation of natural resources, and (b) ~~endangered species~~ beginning in the fall of 2026, instruction on climate change, (c) threats to the environment, and (d) the importance of the environment to life as we know it. [PRESSPlus5](#)
16. In all schools, instruction as determined by the Superintendent or designee on United States (U.S.) history must be taught, including: (a) the principles of representative government, (b) the Constitutions of the U.S. and Illinois, (c) the role of the U.S. in world affairs, (d) the role of labor unions, (e) the role and contributions of ethnic groups, including but not limited to, African Americans, Albanians, Asian Americans, Bohemians, Czechs, French, Germans, Hispanics (including the events related to the forceful removal and illegal deportation of Mexican-American U.S. citizens during the Great Depression), Hungarians, Irish, Italians, Lithuanians, Polish, Russians, Scots, and Slovaks in the history of this country and State, (f) a study of the roles and contributions of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) people in the history of the U.S. and Illinois, (g) Illinois history, (h) the contributions made to society by Americans of different faith practices, including, but not limited to, Muslim Americans, Jewish Americans, Christian Americans, Hindu Americans, Sikh Americans, Buddhist Americans, and any other collective community of faith that has shaped America, (i) Native American nations' sovereignty and self-determination, both historically and in the present day, with a focus on urban Native Americans, and (j) beginning in the fall of 2024, the events of the Native American experience and Native American history within the Midwest and Illinois since time immemorial in accordance with [105 ILCS 5/27-20.05](#).  
In addition, all schools shall hold an educational program on the United States Constitution on Constitution Day, each September 17, commemorating the September 17, 1787 signing of the Constitution. However, when September 17 falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or holiday, Constitution Day shall be held during the preceding or following week.
17. In all high school courses concerning U.S. history or a combination of U.S. history and American government, students must view a Congressional Medal of Honor film made by the Congressional Medal of Honor Foundation, provided there is no cost for the film.
18. In all schools, the curriculum includes instruction as determined by the Superintendent or designee on the Holocaust and crimes of genocide, including Nazi atrocities of 1933-1945, the Native American genocide in North America, Armenian Genocide, the Famine-Genocide in Ukraine, and more recent atrocities in Cambodia, Bosnia, Rwanda, and Sudan.
19. In all schools, the curriculum includes instruction as determined by the Superintendent or designee on the history, struggles, and contributions of women.
20. In all schools, the curriculum includes instruction as determined by the Superintendent or designee on Black History, including the history of the pre-enslavement of Black people from 3,000 BCE to AD 1619, the African slave trade, slavery in America, the study of the reasons why Black people came to be enslaved, the vestiges of slavery in this country, the study of the American civil rights renaissance, as well as the struggles and contributions of African-Americans.
21. In all schools offering a secondary agricultural education program, the curriculum includes courses as required by [105 ILCS 5/2-3.80](#).

22. In all schools, instruction during courses as determined by the Superintendent or designee on disability history, awareness, and the disability rights movement.
23. In all schools, instruction as determined by the Superintendent or designee on the events of Asian American history, including the history of Asian Americans in Illinois and the Midwest, as well as the contributions of Asian Americans toward advancing civil rights from the 19th century onward, which must include the contributions made by individual Asian Americans in government and the arts, humanities, and sciences, as well as the contributions of Asian American communities to the economic, cultural, social, and political development of the United States.

LEGAL REF.:

[Pub. L. No. 108-447](#), Section 111 of Division J, Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2005.

[Pub. L. No. 110-385](#), Title II, 122 stat. 4096 (2008), Protecting Children in the 21st Century Act.

[47 C.F.R. §54.520](#).

[5 ILCS 465/3](#) and [465/3a](#).

[20 ILCS 2605/2605-480](#).

[105 ILCS 5/2-3.80\(e\)](#) and (f), [5/10-20.79](#), [5/10-20.84](#), [5/10-23.13](#), [5/27-3](#), [5/27-3.5](#), [5/27-5](#), [5/27-6](#), [5/27-6.5](#), [5/27-7](#), [5/27-12](#), [5/27-12.1](#), [5/27-13.1](#), [5/27-13.2](#), [5/27-20.05](#), [5/27-20.08](#), [5/27-20.3](#), [5/27-20.4](#), [5/27-20.5](#), [5/27-20.7](#), [5/27-20.8](#), [5/27-21](#), [5/27-22](#), [5/27-23.3](#), [5/27-23.4](#), [5/27-23.7](#), [5/27-23.8](#), [5/27-23.10](#), [5/27-23.11](#), [5/27-23.15](#), [5/27-23.16](#), [5/27-24.1](#), and [5/27-24.2](#).

[105 ILCS 110/3](#), Comprehensive Health Education Program.

[105 ILCS 435/](#), Vocational Education Act.

[625 ILCS 5/6-408.5](#), Ill. Vehicle Code.

[23 Ill.Admin.Code §§1.420](#), [1.425](#), [1.430](#), and [1.440](#).

CROSS REF.: 4:165 (Awareness and Prevention of Child Sex Abuse and Grooming Behaviors), 6:20 (School Year Calendar and Day), 6:40 (Curriculum Development), 6:70 (Teaching About Religions), 6:235 (Access to Electronic Networks), 7:180 (Prevention of and Response to Bullying, Intimidation, and Harassment), 7:185 (Teen Dating Violence Prohibited), 7:190 (Student Behavior), 7:260 (Exemption from Physical Education)

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## PRESSPlus Comments

PRESSPlus 1. Updated in response to 105 ILCS 5/27-24.1, amended by P.A. 103-944. **Issue 117, October 2024**

PRESSPlus 2. Updated for continuous improvement to more closely align with the Comprehensive Health Education Program (CHEP)105 ILCS 110/3. **Issue 117, October 2024**

PRESSPlus 3. 105 ILCS 5/10-20.84(a), added by P.A. 102-917 and renumbered by P.A. 103-154. Unless a board has opted out, career exploration and career development activities in grades 6-12

must be implemented by 7-1-25 in accordance with the model framework adopted by State agencies known as the PaCE Framework. See [www.isac.org/pace/il-pace-resource-materials.html](http://www.isac.org/pace/il-pace-resource-materials.html) for the middle school and high school frameworks and additional implementation resources.

To fully or partially opt out of career exploration and career development activities under 105 ILCS 5/10-20.84(d), a board must adopt a set of findings that considers the following: (1) the district's current systems for college and career readiness; (2) the district's cost of implementation balanced against the potential benefits to students and families through improved postsecondary education and career outcomes; (3) the willingness and capacity of local businesses to partner with the district for successful implementation of pathways other than education; (4) the willingness of institutions of higher education to partner with the district for successful implementation of the pathway and whether the district has sought and established a partnership agreement with a community college district incorporating provisions of the Model Partnership Agreement under the Dual Credit Quality Act (110 ILCS 27/) (see [www.isbe.net/Documents/DCQA-Model-Partnership-Agreement-Form.pdf](http://www.isbe.net/Documents/DCQA-Model-Partnership-Agreement-Form.pdf)); (5) the availability of a statewide database of participating local business partners, as provided under the Postsecondary and Workforce Readiness Act (110 ILCS 148/), for the purpose of career readiness and the accessibility of those work experiences and apprenticeships listed in the database to district students (see the link to the Work-based Learning Database at [www.isbe.net/cte](http://www.isbe.net/cte)); and (6) the availability of properly licensed teachers or teachers meeting faculty credential standards for dual credit courses to instruct in the program required for the endorsement areas. 105 ILCS 5/10-20.84(d) (1)-(6), added by P.A. 102-917 and renumbered by P.A. 103-154. A board opting out must report its findings and decision to ISBE. A board may also reverse its decision regarding implementation in whole or in part at any time.

In practice, unless a district has created its own career exploration and career development activities framework that does not align with the PaCE Framework, a board is unlikely to opt out of the PaCE Framework under 105 ILCS 5/10-20.84(a) and still implement College and Career Pathway Endorsements under 105 ILCS 5/10-20.84(c) (CCPE) because career exploration activities are a prerequisite to award of the endorsements. 23 Ill.Admin.Code §258.20.

Delete this sentence if the board has fully opted out of implementation of career exploration and career development activities under 105 ILCS 5/10-20.84(d), added by P.A. 102-917 and renumbered by P.A. 103-154. Regarding partial opt-out from this requirement, the law does not address the types of partial opt-out(s) available. As of the date of the publication of **PRESS** Issue 117 (October 2024), ISBE had not issued any rulemaking or guidance on this topic or any details regarding reporting of a full or partial opt-out to ISBE, other than to indicate to IASB that districts can submit their decision to [CTE@isbe.net](mailto:CTE@isbe.net). Boards interested in opting out from this requirement should consult the Board attorney and check for any further guidance that may be issued by ISBE. **Issue 117, October 2024**

PRESSPlus 4. 105 ILCS 5/10-20.84(b) and (c), added by P.A. 102-917 and renumbered by P.A. 103-154; 23 Ill.Admin.Code Part 258.

By 7-1-25, a board must elect to either implement CCPE or take action to opt out of it. See [www.isbe.net/pathwayendorsements](http://www.isbe.net/pathwayendorsements) for more information. 105 ILCS 5/10-20.84(c) requires a district to implement CCPE either independently, through an area career center, or through an inter-district cooperative, on the following schedule: (1) at least one endorsement area for the graduating class of 2027; (2) at least two endorsement areas for the graduating class of 2029; and (3) at least three endorsement areas for the graduating class of 2031, if a district's grade 9-12 enrollment is more than 350 students, as calculated by ISBE for the 2022-2023 school year. A board implementing CCPE must, by 7-1-25, submit the necessary application materials (including an Endorsement Plan, see 23

Ill.Admin.Code §258.20) to ISBE, or the board must adopt a timeline for implementation of the number of endorsement areas required by 105 ILCS 5/10-20.84(c). A board may opt out of implementing CCPE entirely or it may initially implement an endorsement area for the class of 2027 and then later choose to partially opt out by opting out of the class of 2029 and/or class of 2031 endorsement area schedule. 105 ILCS 5/10-20.84(c) and (d), added by P.A. 102-917 and renumbered by P.A. 103-154; 23 Ill.Admin.Code §258.40(a) and (b). A board that chooses to fully opt out of CCPE must submit documentation of its decision and specific findings to ISBE by 7-1-25. A board that later chooses to partially opt out of CCPE by opting out of the 2029 and/or 2031 endorsement area schedule must submit documentation of its decision and specific findings no later than July 1 immediately before the school year the district would be required to award the endorsement.

If fully opting out of CCPE by 7-1-25 or later partially opting out of the 2029 and/or 2031 endorsement area schedule, a board must adopt a set of findings that considers the following: (1) the district's current systems for college and career readiness; (2) the district's cost of implementation balanced against the potential benefits to students and families through improved postsecondary education and career outcomes; (3) the willingness and capacity of local businesses to partner with the district for successful implementation of pathways other than education; (4) the willingness of institutions of higher education to partner with the district for successful implementation of the pathway and whether the district has sought and established a partnership agreement with a community college district incorporating provisions of the Model Partnership Agreement under the Dual Credit Quality Act (110 ILCS 27/) (see [www.isbe.net/Documents/DCQA-Model-Partnership-Agreement-Form.pdf](http://www.isbe.net/Documents/DCQA-Model-Partnership-Agreement-Form.pdf)); (5) the availability of a statewide database of participating local business partners, as provided under the Postsecondary and Workforce Readiness Act (110 ILCS 148/), for the purpose of career readiness and the accessibility of those work experiences and apprenticeships listed in the database to district students (see the link to the Work-based Learning Database at [www.isbe.net/cte](http://www.isbe.net/cte)); and (6) the availability of properly licensed teachers or teachers meeting faculty credential standards for dual credit courses to instruct in the program required for the endorsement areas. 105 ILCS 5/10-20.84(d) (1)-(6), added by P.A. 102-917 and renumbered by P.A. 103-154. A board opting out must report its findings and decision on implementation by submitting the following information to ISBE, via the College and Career Pathway Endorsement portal: (1) the reasoning for opting out, and (2) copies of the board's meeting agenda, board findings, and board meeting minutes. 23 Ill.Admin.Code §258.40(a). A board can manage compliance with the documentation requirements by adopting a written resolution or adopting findings set forth in another document. A board may also reverse its decision regarding implementation of CCPE in whole or in part at any time.

Delete this sentence if a board has fully opted out of implementing CCPE, and delete 105 ILCS 5/10-20.84 from the Legal References if the board has fully opted out of CCPE and also fully opted out of the career exploration and career development activities in grades 6-12. **Issue 117, October 2024**

PRESSPlus 5. Updated in response to 105 ILCS 5/27-13.1, amended by P.A. 103-837, eff. 7-1-25; 23 Ill.Admin.Code §1.420(l). Instruction on the conservation of natural resources must include, but is not limited to, air pollution, water pollution, waste reduction and recycling, the effect of excessive use of pesticides, preservation of wilderness areas, forest management, protection of wildlife, and humane care of animals. Instruction on climate change must include, but is not limited to, identifying the environmental and ecological impacts of climate change on individuals and communities and evaluating solutions for addressing and mitigating the impact of climate change. Instruction on climate change must align with State learning standards, as appropriate and subject to funding, and ISBE is required to make instructional resources and professional development learning opportunities available for educators. **Issue 117, October 2024**



## Document Status: Draft Update

### 6:135 Accelerated Placement Program

The District provides an Accelerated Placement Program (APP). The APP advances the District's goal of providing educational programs with opportunities for each student to develop to his or her maximum potential. The APP provides an educational setting with curriculum options usually reserved for students who are older or in higher grades than the student participating in the APP. APP options include, but may not be limited to: (a) accelerating a student in a single subject; and (b) other grade-level acceleration. Participation in the APP is open to all students who demonstrate high ability and who may benefit from accelerated placement. It is not limited to students who have been identified as gifted and talented. Eligibility to participate in the District's APP shall not be conditioned upon the protected classifications identified in Board policy 7:10, *Equal Educational Opportunities*, or any factor other than the student's identification as an accelerated learner.

The Superintendent or designee shall implement an APP that includes:

1. Decision-making processes that are fair, equitable, and involve multiple individuals, e.g. District administrators, teachers, and school support personnel, and a student's parent(s)/guardian(s).
2. Notification processes that notify provide a student's parent(s)/guardian(s) of with:
  - a. Written notification when their child is eligible for enrollment in accelerated courses, PRESSPlus1 and
  - b. Notification of a decision affecting a student their child's participation in the APP.
3. Assessment processes that include multiple valid, reliable indicators, and
4. The automatic enrollment, in the following school term, of a student into the next most rigorous level of advanced coursework offered by the high school if the student meets or PRESSPlus2 exceeds State standards in English language arts, mathematics, or science on a State assessment administered under [105 ILCS 5/2-3.64a-5](#), as follows:
  - a. A student who meets or exceeds State standards in English language arts shall be automatically enrolled into the next most rigorous level of advanced coursework in English, social studies, humanities, or related subjects.
  - b. A student who meets or exceeds State standards in mathematics shall be automatically enrolled into the next most rigorous level of advanced coursework in mathematics.
  - c. A student who meets or exceeds State standards in science shall be automatically enrolled into the next most rigorous level of advanced coursework in science.
5. Waiver of a course completion requirement under Board policy 6:300, Graduation Requirements, if the District determines that the student has demonstrated mastery of or competency in the content of the course or unit of instruction. PRESSPlus3

LEGAL REF.:

[105 ILCS 5/14A.](#)

[23 Ill.Admin.Code Part 227](#), Gifted Education.

CROSS REF.: 6:10 (Educational Philosophy and Objectives), 6:130 (Program for the Gifted), 7:10

## **PRESSPlus Comments**

PRESSPlus 1. Required by 105 ILCS 5/14A-32(a-25), added by P.A. 103-743. **Issue 117, October 2024**

PRESSPlus 2. This provision originally applied to “a student who meets or exceeds State standards” but was amended by P.A. 103-743 to only apply to “a student who ~~meets or exceeds~~ State standards.” P.A. 103-743 also added new 105 ILCS 5/14A-32(a-10), requiring that by the beginning of the 2027-28 school year, districts with grades 9-12 state in their policy that “a student who meets State standards” will, in the following school term (the 2028-29 school year), be automatically enrolled in the next most rigorous level of advanced coursework offered by the high school. Nothing in the law prohibits districts from continuing to offer automatic enrollment to students who meet State standards before the 2028-29 school year. **Consult with the board attorney to determine whether to keep or strike “meets or” from Item #4 and its subsections (a)-(c).**  
**Issue 117, October 2024**

PRESSPlus 3. Optional. 105 ILCS 5/14A-32(a-20), added by P.A. 103-743. **Issue 117, October 2024**

## *Document Status: Draft Update*

### **6:270 Guidance and Counseling Program**

The School District provides a guidance and counseling program for students. The Superintendent or designee shall direct the District's guidance and counseling program. School counseling services, as described by State law, may be performed by school counselors or licensed educators with a school support personnel endorsement in the area of school counseling ~~a qualified guidance specialist or any certificated staff member.~~ [PRESSPlus1](#)

The guidance program will assist students to identify career options consistent with their abilities, interests, and personal values. Students shall be encouraged to seek the help of counselors to develop specific curriculum goals that conform to the student's career objectives. High school juniors and seniors will have the opportunity to receive career-oriented information. Representatives from colleges and universities, occupational training institutions and career-oriented recruiters, including the military, may be given access to the school campus in order to provide students and parents/guardians with information.

LEGAL REF.:

[105 ILCS 5/10-22.24a](#) and [5/10-22.24b](#).

[23 Ill.Admin.Code §1.420\(q\)](#).

CROSS REF.: 6:50 (School Wellness), 6:65 (Student Social and Emotional Development), 6:110 (Programs for Students At Risk of Academic Failure and/or Dropping Out of School and Graduation Incentives Program), 6:120 (Education of Children with Disabilities), 6:130 (Program for the Gifted), 7:100 (Health, Eye, and Dental Examinations; Immunizations; and Exclusion of Students), 7:250 (Student Support Services), 7:290 (Suicide and Depression Awareness and Prevention)

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### **PRESSPlus Comments**

PRESSPlus 1. 105 ILCS 5/10-22.24b, amended by P.A.s 102-876, 103-542, and 103-780, provides that school counselors as defined in 105 ILCS 5/10-22.24a or individuals who hold a Professional Educator License with a school support personnel endorsement in the area of school counseling under 105 ILCS 5/21B-25 may provide school counseling services. **Issue 117, October 2024**

## *Document Status: Draft Update*

### **7:10 Equal Educational Opportunities**

Equal educational and extracurricular opportunities shall be available for all students without regard to color, race, nationality origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, ancestry, age, physical or mental disability, gender identity, status of being homeless, immigration status, order of protection status, military status, unfavorable military discharge, PRESSPlus1 reproductive health decisions, PRESSPlus2 or actual or potential marital or parental status, including pregnancy. Further, the District will not knowingly enter into agreements with any entity or any individual that discriminates against students on the basis of sex or any other protected status, except that the District remains viewpoint neutral when granting access to school facilities under Board policy 8:20, *Community Use of School Facilities*. Any student may file a discrimination complaint by using Board policy 2:260, *Uniform Grievance Procedure*, or in the case of discrimination on the basis of race, color, or national origin, Board policy 2:270, *Discrimination and Harassment on the Basis of Race, Color, and National Origin Prohibited*.

#### Sex Equity

No student shall, based on sex, sexual orientation, or gender identity 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 may file a sex equity complaint by using Board policy 2:260, *Uniform Grievance Procedure*. A student may appeal the Board's resolution of the complaint to the Regional Superintendent (pursuant to [105 ILCS 5/3-10](#)) and, thereafter, to the State Superintendent of Education (pursuant to [105 ILCS 5/2-3.8](#)).

Any student may file a sex discrimination complaint by using Board policy 2:265, *Title IX Grievance Procedure*. PRESSPlus3

#### Administrative Implementation

The Superintendent shall appoint a Nondiscrimination Coordinator, who also serves as the District's Title IX Coordinator. The Superintendent and Building Principal shall use reasonable measures to inform staff members and students of this policy and related grievance procedures.

#### LEGAL REF.:

[20 U.S.C. §1681](#) et seq., Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972; [34 C.F.R. Part 106](#).

[29 U.S.C. §791](#) et seq., Rehabilitation Act of 1973; [34 C.F.R. Part 104](#).

[42 U.S.C. §2000d](#), Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964; [34 C.F.R. Part 100](#).

[42 U.S.C. §11431](#) et seq., McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act.

[Good News Club v. Milford Central Sch.](#), 533 U.S. 98 (2001).

[Ill. Constitution, Art. I](#), §18.

[105 ILCS 5/3.25b](#), [5/3.25d\(b\)](#), [5/10-20.12](#), [5/10-20.60](#), [5/10-20.63](#), [5/10-22.5](#), and [5/27-1](#).

[775 ILCS 5/1-101](#) *et seq.*, Illinois Human Rights Act.

[775 ILCS 35/5](#), Religious Freedom Restoration Act.

[23 Ill.Admin.Code §1.240](#) and [Part 200](#).

CROSS REF.: 2:260 (Uniform Grievance Procedure), 2:265 (Title IX Grievance Procedure), 2:270 (Discrimination and Harassment on the Basis of Race, Color, and National Origin Prohibited), 6:65 (Student Social and Emotional Development), 7:20 (Harassment of Students Prohibited), 7:50 (School Admissions and Student Transfers To and From Non-District Schools), 7:60 (Residence), 7:130 (Student Rights and Responsibilities), 7:160 (Student Appearance), 7:180 (Prevention of and Response to Bullying, Intimidation, and Harassment), 7:185 (Teen Dating Violence Prohibited), 7:250 (Student Support Services), 7:330 (Student Use of Buildings - Equal Access), 7:340 (Student Records), 8:20 (Community Use of School Facilities)

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## **PRESSPlus Comments**

PRESSPlus 1. Updated to more comprehensively reflect categories protected by the Ill. Human Rights Act (775 ILCS 5/). **Issue 117, October 2024**

PRESSPlus 2. Updated in response to the Ill. Human Rights Act (IHRA), 775 ILCS 5/1-102(A) and 5/1-103(Q), amended by P.A. 103-785, eff. 1-1-25. *Reproductive health decisions* means a person's decisions regarding their use of: contraception; fertility or sterilization care; assisted reproductive technologies; miscarriage management care; healthcare related to the continuation or termination of pregnancy; or prenatal, intranatal, or postnatal care. 775 ILCS 5/1-103(O-2), added by P.A. 103-785, eff. 1-1-25. **Issue 117, October 2024**

PRESSPlus 3. Updated in response to final regulations implementing Title IX. **Issue 117, October 2024**

## *Document Status: Draft Update*

### **7:100 Health, Eye, and Dental Examinations; Immunizations; and Exclusion of Students**

#### Required Health Examinations and Immunizations

A student's parents/guardians shall present proof that the student received a health examination, with proof of the immunizations against, and screenings for, preventable communicable diseases, as required by the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH), within one year prior to:

1. Entering the ninth grade; and
2. Enrolling in an Illinois school, regardless of the student's grade (including nursery school, special education, Head Start programs operated by elementary or secondary schools, and students transferring into Illinois from out-of-state or out-of-country).

Proof of immunization against meningococcal disease is required for students in grade 12.

As required by State law:

1. Health examinations must be performed by a physician licensed to practice medicine in all of its branches, an advanced practice registered nurse, or a physician assistant who has been delegated the performance of health examinations by a supervising physician.
2. A diabetes screening is a required part of each health examination; diabetes testing is not required.
3. An age-appropriate developmental screening and an age-appropriate social and emotional screening are required parts of each health examination. A student will not be excluded from school due to his or her parent/guardian's failure to obtain a developmental screening or a social and emotional screening.
4. The District will provide informational materials regarding influenza, ~~and influenza vaccinations, meningococcal disease, and meningococcal vaccinations~~ [PRESSPlus1](#) developed, provided, or approved by the IDPH when it provides information on immunizations, infectious diseases, medications, or other school health issues to students' parents/guardians.

Unless an exemption or extension applies, the 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 District. New students who register after October 15 of the current school year shall have 30 days following registration to comply with the health examination and immunization regulations. 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 the physician, advanced practice registered nurse, physician assistant, or local health department responsible for administering the immunizations.

A student transferring from out-of-state who does not have the required proof of immunizations by October 15 may attend classes only if he or she has proof that an appointment for the required vaccinations is scheduled with a party authorized to submit proof of the required vaccinations. If the required proof of vaccination is not submitted within 30 days after the student is permitted to attend

classes, the student may no longer attend classes until proof of the vaccinations is properly submitted.

### Eye Examination

Parents/guardians are encouraged to have their children undergo an eye examination whenever health examinations are required.

Parents/guardians of students entering an Illinois school for the first time shall present proof before October 15 of the current school year that the student received an eye examination within one year prior to entry of the school. A physician licensed to practice medicine in all of its branches, or a licensed optometrist, must perform the required eye examination.

If a student fails to present proof by October 15, the school may hold the student's report card until the student presents proof: (1) of a completed eye examination, or (2) that an eye examination will take place within 60 days after October 15. The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that parents/guardians are notified of this eye examination requirement in compliance with the rules of the IDPH. Schools shall not exclude a student from attending school due to failure to obtain an eye examination.

### Dental Examination

All children in kindergarten and the second, sixth, and ninth grades must present proof of having been examined by a licensed dentist before May 15 of the current school year in accordance with rules adopted by the IDPH.

If a child in the second, sixth, or ninth grade fails to present proof by May 15, the school may hold the child's report card until the child presents proof: (1) of a completed dental examination, or (2) that a dental examination will take place within 60 days after May 15. The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that parents/guardians are notified of this dental examination requirement at least 60 days before May 15 of each school year.

### Exemptions

In accordance with rules adopted by the IDPH, a student will be exempted from this policy's requirements for:

1. Religious grounds, if the student's parents/guardians present the IDPH's Certificate of Religious Exemption form to the Superintendent or designee. When a Certificate of Religious Exemption form is presented, the Superintendent or designee shall immediately inform the parents/guardians of exclusion procedures pursuant to Board policy 7:280, *Communicable and Chronic Infectious Disease*, and State rules if there is an outbreak of one or more diseases from which the student is not protected.
2. Health examination or immunization requirements on medical grounds, if the examining physician, advanced practice registered nurse, or physician assistant provides written verification.
3. Eye examination requirement, if the student's parents/guardians show 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.
4. Dental examination requirement, if the student's parents/guardians show an undue burden or a lack of access to a dentist.

### Homeless Child

Any homeless child shall be immediately admitted, even if the child or child's parent/guardian is unable to produce immunization and health records normally required for enrollment. School Board policy 6:140, *Education of Homeless Children*, governs the enrollment of homeless children.

LEGAL REF.:

[42 U.S.C. §11431](#) et seq., McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act.

[105 ILCS 5/27-8.1](#) and [45/1-20](#).

[410 ILCS 45/7.1](#), Lead Poisoning Prevention Act.

[410 ILCS 315/2e](#), Communicable Disease Prevention Act.

[23 Ill.Admin.Code §1.530](#).

[77 Ill. Admin.Code Part 664](#), Socio-Emotional and Developmental Screening.

[77 Ill.Admin.Code Part 665](#), Child and Student Health Examination and Immunization.

77 Ill.Admin.Code Part 690, Control of [Notifiable](#) [Communicable](#) Diseases [and Conditions Code](#).

CROSS REF.: 6:30 (Organization of Instruction), 6:140 (Education of Homeless Children), 6:180 (Extended Instructional Programs), 7:50 (School Admissions and Student Transfers To and From Non-District Schools), 7:280 (Communicable and Chronic Infectious Disease)

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## **PRESSPlus Comments**

PRESSPlus 1. Updated in response to 105 ILCS 5/27-8.1(8.5), amended by P.A. 103-985, eff. 1-1-25. **Issue 117, October 2024**



## *Document Status: Draft Update*

### **7:180 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 District goals.

Bullying on the basis of actual or perceived race, color, religion, sex, national origin, ancestry, physical appearance, socioeconomic status, academic status, pregnancy, parenting status, homelessness, age, marital status, physical or mental disability, military status, sexual orientation, gender-related identity or expression, unfavorable discharge from military service, order of protection status, 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 nonschool-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. This paragraph (item #4) applies only when a school administrator or teacher receives a report that bullying through this means has occurred; it does not require staff members to monitor any nonschool-related activity, function, or program.

#### Definitions from [105 ILCS 5/27-23.7](#)

*Bullying* includes *cyberbullying* 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.

*Bullying* may take various forms, including without limitation one or more of the following: harassment, threats, intimidation, stalking, physical violence, sexual harassment, sexual violence, theft, public humiliation, destruction of property, or retaliation for asserting or alleging an act of bullying. This list is meant to be illustrative and non-exhaustive.

*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 or messages if the creation or impersonation creates 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 or posting creates any of the effects enumerated in the definition of *bullying*.

*Restorative measures* means a continuum of school-based alternatives to exclusionary discipline, such as suspensions and expulsions, that: (i) are adapted to the particular needs of the school and community, (ii) contribute to maintaining school safety, (iii) protect the integrity of a positive and productive learning climate, (iv) teach students the personal and interpersonal skills they will need to be successful in school and society, (v) serve to build and restore relationships among students, families, schools, and communities, (vi) reduce the likelihood of future disruption by balancing accountability with an understanding of students' behavioral health needs in order to keep students in school, and (vii) increase student accountability if the incident of bullying is based on religion, race, ethnicity, or any other category that is identified in the Ill. Human Rights Act.

*School personnel* means persons employed by, on contract with, or who volunteer in a school district, including without limitation school and school district administrators, teachers, school social workers, school counselors, school psychologists, school nurses, cafeteria workers, custodians, bus drivers, school resource officers, and security guards.

### Bullying Prevention and Response Plan

The Superintendent or designee shall develop and maintain a bullying prevention and response plan that advances the District's goal of providing all students with a safe learning environment free of bullying and harassment. This plan must be consistent with the requirements listed below.

1. The District uses the definition of *bullying* as provided in this policy.
2. Bullying is contrary to State law and the policy of this District. However, nothing in the District's bullying prevention and response plan is intended to infringe upon any right to exercise free expression or the free exercise of religion or religiously based views protected under the [First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution](#) or under [Section 3 of Article I of the Illinois Constitution](#).
3. Students are encouraged to immediately report bullying. A report may be made orally or in writing to the Nondiscrimination Coordinator, Building Principal, Assistant Building Principal, Dean of Students, a Complaint Manager, or any staff member with whom the student is comfortable speaking. Anyone, including staff members and parents/guardians, who has information about actual or threatened bullying is encouraged to report it to the District named officials or any staff member. The District named officials and all staff members are available for help with a bully or to make a report about bullying. Anonymous reports are also accepted at [www.mchs.net](http://www.mchs.net) under Students & Parents/Anonymous Tip Center; however, this shall not be construed to permit formal disciplinary action solely on the basis of an anonymous report.

### **Nondiscrimination Coordinator:**

Kristi Boe, Human Resources Director

26655 W Eames St

Channahon, IL 60410

[kboe@mchs.net](mailto:kboe@mchs.net)

(815) 521- 4359

**Complaint Managers:**

Ms. Jamie Soliman

26655 W Eames St

Channahon, IL 60410

[jsoliman@mchs.net](mailto:jsoliman@mchs.net)

(815) 521-4001

Joe Pacetti

26655 W Eames St

Channahon, IL 60410

[jpacetti@mchs.net](mailto:jpacetti@mchs.net)

(815) 467-2140

4. Consistent with federal and State laws and rules governing student privacy rights, the parents/guardians of all students involved in an alleged incident of bullying will be notified of such, along with threats, suggestions, or instances of self-harm determined to be the result of bullying, within 24 hours after the school's administration is made aware of the student's involvement in the incident. As appropriate, the school's administration shall also discuss the availability of social work services, counseling, school psychological services, other interventions, and restorative measures. The school shall make diligent efforts to notify a parent or legal guardian, utilizing all contact information the school has available or that can be reasonably obtained within the 24-hour period.
5. The Superintendent or designee shall promptly investigate and address reports of bullying, by, among other things:
  - a. Making all reasonable efforts to complete the investigation within 10 school days after the date the report of a bullying incident was received and taking into consideration additional relevant information received during the course of the investigation about the reported bullying incident.
  - b. Involving appropriate school support personnel and other staff persons with knowledge, experience, and training on bullying prevention, as deemed appropriate, in the investigation process.
  - c. Notifying the Building Principal or school administrator or designee of the reported incident of bullying as soon as possible after the report is received.
  - d. Consistent with federal and State laws and rules governing student privacy rights, providing parents/guardians of the students who are parties to the investigation information about the investigation and an opportunity to meet with the Building Principal or school administrator or his or her designee to discuss the investigation, the findings of the investigation, and the actions taken to address the reported incident of bullying.

The Superintendent or designee shall investigate whether a reported incident of bullying is within the permissible scope of the District's jurisdiction and shall require that the District provide the victim with information regarding services that are available within the District and community, such as counseling, support services, and other programs.

6. The Superintendent or designee shall use interventions to address bullying, that may include, but are not limited to, school social work services, restorative measures, social-emotional skill building, counseling, school psychological services, and community-based services.
7. A reprisal or retaliation against any person who reports an act of bullying **is prohibited**. Any person's act of reprisal or retaliation will be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including discharge with regard to employees, or suspension and/or expulsion with regard to students.
8. A student will not be punished for reporting bullying or supplying information, even if the District's investigation concludes that no bullying occurred. However, a person who is found to have falsely accused another of bullying, as a means of retaliation, as a means of bullying, or provided false information will be treated as either: (a) *bullying*, (b) student discipline up to and including suspension and/or expulsion, and/or (c) both (a) and (b) for purposes of determining any consequences or other appropriate remedial actions.
9. The District's bullying prevention and response plan is based on the engagement of a range of school stakeholders, including students and parents/guardians.
10. The Superintendent or designee shall post this policy on the District's publicly accessible website, if any, and include it in the student handbook, and, where applicable, post it where other policies, rules, and standards of conduct are currently posted. The policy must be distributed annually to parents/guardians, students, and school personnel (including new employees when hired), and must also be provided periodically throughout the school year to students and faculty.
11. Pursuant to State law and Board policy 2:240, *Board Policy Development*, the Board monitors this policy every two years by conducting a review and re-evaluation of this policy to make any necessary and appropriate revisions. The Superintendent or designee shall assist the Board with its re-evaluation and assessment of this policy's outcomes and effectiveness. Updates to this policy will reflect any necessary and appropriate revisions. This process shall include, without limitation:
  - a. The frequency of victimization;
  - b. Student, staff, and family observations of safety at a school;
  - c. Identification of areas of a school where bullying occurs;
  - d. The types of bullying utilized; and
  - e. Bystander intervention or participation.

The evaluation process may use relevant data and information that the District already collects for other purposes. Acceptable documentation to satisfy the re-evaluated policy submission include one of the following:

- 1) An updated version of the policy with the amendment/modification date included in the reference portion of the policy;
- 2) If no revisions are deemed necessary, a copy of board minutes indicating that the policy was re-evaluated and no changes were deemed to be necessary; or
- 3) A signed statement from the Board President indicating that the Board re-evaluated the policy and no changes to it were necessary.

The Superintendent or designee must post the information developed as a result of the policy re-evaluation on the District's website, or if a website is not available, the information must be provided to school administrators, Board members, school personnel, parents/guardians, and students. Reviews and re-evaluations in years they are due must be submitted to ISBE by September 30.

12. The Superintendent or designee shall fully implement the Board policies, including without limitation, the following:
- a. 2:260, *Uniform Grievance Procedure*. A student may use this policy to complain about bullying.
  - b. 2:265, *Title IX Grievance Procedure*. Any person may use this policy to complain about sexual harassment discrimination [PRESSPlus1](#) in violation of Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972.
  - c. 2:270, *Discrimination and Harassment on the Basis of Race, Color, and National Origin Prohibited*. Any person may use this policy to complain about discrimination or harassment on the basis of race, color, or national origin in violation of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and/or the Illinois Human Rights Act.
  - d. 6:60, *Curriculum Content*. Bullying prevention and character instruction is provided in all grades in accordance with State law.
  - e. 6:65, *Student Social and Emotional Development*. Student social and emotional development is incorporated into the District's educational program as required by State law.
  - f. 6:235, *Access to Electronic Networks*. This policy states that the use of the District's electronic networks is limited to: (1) support of education and/or research, or (2) a legitimate business use.
  - g. 7:20, *Harassment of Students Prohibited*. This policy prohibits any person from harassing, intimidating, or bullying a student based on an identified actual or perceived characteristic (the list of characteristics in 7:20 is the same as the list in this policy).
  - h. 7:185, *Teen Dating Violence Prohibited*. This policy prohibits teen dating violence on school property, at school sponsored activities, and in vehicles used for school-provided transportation.
  - i. 7:190, *Student Behavior*. This policy prohibits, and provides consequences for, hazing, bullying, or other aggressive behaviors, or urging other students to engage in such conduct.
  - j. 7:315, *Restrictions on Publications; High Schools*. This policy prohibits students from and provides consequences for: (1) accessing and/or distributing at school any written, printed, or electronic material, including material from the Internet, that will cause substantial disruption of the proper and orderly operation and discipline of the school or school activities, and (2) creating and/or distributing written, printed, or electronic material, including photographic material and blogs, that causes substantial disruption to school operations or interferes with the rights of other students or staff members.

LEGAL REF.:

[105 ILCS 5/10-20.14](#), [5/10-22.6](#)(b-20), [5/24-24](#), and [5/27-23.7](#).

[405 ILCS 49/](#), Children's Mental Health Act.

[775 ILCS 5/1-103](#), Ill. Human Rights Act.

[23 Ill.Admin.Code §§1.240](#), [1.280](#), and [1.295](#).

CROSS REF.: 2:240 (Board Policy Development), 2:260 (Uniform Grievance Procedure), 2:265 (Title IX Grievance Procedure), 2:270 (Discrimination and Harassment on the Basis of Race, Color, and National Origin Prohibited), 4:170 (Safety), 5:230 (Maintaining Student Discipline), 6:60 (Curriculum Content), 6:65 (Student Social and Emotional Development), 6:235 (Access to Electronic Networks),

7:20 (Harassment of Students Prohibited), 7:185 (Teen Dating Violence Prohibited), 7:190 (Student Behavior), 7:220 (Bus Conduct), 7:230 (Misconduct by Students with Disabilities), 7:240 (Conduct Code for Participants in Extracurricular Activities), 7:285 (Anaphylaxis Prevention, Response, and Management Program), 7:315 (Restrictions on Publications; High Schools)

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## **PRESSPlus Comments**

PRESSPlus 1. Updated in response to final regulations implementing Title IX. **Issue 117, October 2024**

## *Document Status: Draft Update*

### **7:200 Suspension Procedures**

#### In-School Suspension

The Superintendent or designee is authorized to maintain an in-school suspension program. The program shall include, at a minimum, each of the following:

1. Before assigning a student to in-school suspension, the charges will be explained and the student will be given an opportunity to respond to the charges.
2. Students are supervised by licensed school personnel.
3. Students are given the opportunity to complete classroom work during the in-school suspension for equivalent academic credit.

#### Out-of-School Suspension

The Superintendent or designee shall implement suspension procedures that provide, at a minimum, for each of the following:

1. A conference during which the charges will be explained and the student will be given an opportunity to respond to the charges before he or she may be suspended.
2. A pre-suspension conference is not required, and the student can be immediately suspended when the student's presence poses a continuing danger to persons or property or an ongoing threat of disruption to the educational process. In such cases, the notice and conference shall follow as soon as practicable.
3. An attempted phone call to the student's parent(s)/guardian(s).
4. A written notice of the suspension to the parent(s)/guardian(s) and the student, which shall:
  - a. Provide notice to the parent(s)/guardian(s) of their child's right to a review of the suspension;
  - b. Include information about an opportunity to make up work missed during the suspension for equivalent academic credit;
  - c. Detail the specific act of gross disobedience or misconduct resulting in the decision to suspend;
  - d. Provide rationale or an explanation of how the chosen number of suspension days will address the threat or disruption posed by the student or his or her act of gross disobedience or misconduct; and
  - e. Depending upon the length of the out-of-school suspension, include the following applicable information:
    - i. For a suspension of 3 school days or less, an explanation that the student's continuing presence in school would either pose:
      - a) A threat to school safety, or
      - b) A disruption to other students' learning opportunities.

- ii. For a suspension of 4 or more school days, an explanation:
  - a) That other appropriate and available behavioral and disciplinary interventions have been exhausted,
  - b) As to whether school officials attempted other interventions or determined that no other interventions were available for the student, and
  - c) That the student's continuing presence in school would either:
    - i) Pose a threat to the safety of other students, staff, or members of the school community, or
    - ii) Substantially disrupt, impede, or interfere with the operation of the school.
- iii. For a suspension of ~~5~~<sup>4</sup> **PRESSPlus1** or more school days, the information listed in section 4.e.ii., above, along with documentation by the Superintendent or designee determining what, if any, appropriate and available support services will be provided to the student during the length of his or her suspension.

- 5. A summary of the notice, including the reason for the suspension and the suspension length, must be given to the Board by the Superintendent or designee.
- 6. Upon request of the parent(s)/guardian(s), a review of the suspension shall be conducted by the Board or a hearing officer appointed by the Board. At the review, the student's parent(s)/guardian(s) may appear and discuss the suspension with the Board or its hearing officer and may be represented by counsel. Whenever there is evidence that mental illness may be the cause for the suspension, the Superintendent or designee shall invite a representative from a local mental health agency to consult with the Board. After presentation of the evidence or receipt of the hearing officer's report, the Board shall take such action as it finds appropriate. If the suspension is upheld, the Board's written suspension decision shall specifically detail items (a) and (e) in number 4, above.

LEGAL REF.:

[Goss v. Lopez](#), 419 U.S. 565 (1975).

[105 ILCS 5/10-20.14](#), [5/10-22.6](#).

[23 Ill.Admin.Code §1.280](#).

CROSS REF.: 5:100 (Staff Development Program), 7:130 (Student Rights and Responsibilities), 7:190 (Student Behavior), 7:220 (Bus Conduct)

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## **PRESSPlus Comments**

PRESSPlus 1. Updated in response to 105 ILCS 5/10-22.6(b-25), amended by P.A. 103-896. In consultation with stakeholders, the Ill. State Board of Education (ISBE) must draft and publish guidance for the re-engagement of students who are suspended out-of-school, expelled, or returning from an alternative school setting by 7-1-25. **Issue 117, October 2024**



## Document Status: Draft Update

### 8:10 Connection with the Community

#### Public Relations

The Board President is the official spokesperson for the School Board. The Superintendent is the District's chief spokesperson. The Board, in collaboration with the Superintendent<sup>PRESSPlus1</sup> or designee, shall plan and implement a District public relations program that will:

1. Develop community understanding of school operation.
2. Gather community attitudes and desires for the District.
3. ~~Secure~~ Ensure<sup>PRESSPlus2</sup> adequate financial support for a sound educational program.
4. Help the community feel a more direct responsibility for the quality of education provided by their schools.
5. Earn the community's goodwill, respect, and trust~~confidence~~.
6. Promote a genuine spirit of cooperation between the school and the community.
7. Keep the news media and community accurately informed.
8. ~~Coordinate with the District Safety Coordinator to provide accurate and timely information to the appropriate individuals during an emergency.~~

The public relations program should include:

1. Regular news releases concerning District programs, policies, activities, and special event management for distribution by, for example, posting on the District website, using District social media ~~platforms~~ accounts,<sup>PRESSPlus3</sup> ~~e.g., Facebook, Twitter, etc.,~~ and/or sending to the news media.
2. News conferences, ~~and~~ interviews, and official Board or District statements, as requested or needed. The Board President and Superintendent will coordinate their respective media relations efforts. As official spokesperson for the Board,<sup>PRESSPlus4</sup> the Board President will communicate on behalf of the Board to the news media and community. Statements made by Board members when not authorized by the Board will be considered personal comments of the Board member, and Board members are encouraged to identify such statements as their personal opinions. Official Board or District statements (other than those made directly to the media) will be made through the District website and/or its social media accounts, at official District events, or through other official communication methods, such as District email or mailings. Individuals may speak for the District only with prior approval from the Superintendent.<sup>PRESSPlus5</sup>
3. Publications having a high quality of editorial content and effective format. All publications shall identify the District, school, department, or classroom and shall include the name of the Superintendent, the Building Principal, and/or the author and the publication date.
4. Other efforts that highlight the District's programs and activities.

#### Community Engagement

Community engagement is a process that the Board uses to actively involve diverse citizens in dialogue, deliberation, and collaborative thinking around common interests for the District's schools. Effective community engagement [PRESSPlus6](#) is essential to create trust and support among the community, Board, Superintendent, and District staff. [PRESSPlus7](#)

The Board, in consultation with the Superintendent, determines the purpose(s) and objective(s) of any community engagement initiative articulates the District's community engagement goals.

For each community engagement initiative:

1. The Board will:
  1. Commit to the determined purpose(s) and objective(s), and
  2. Provide information about the expected nature of the public's involvement.
2. The Superintendent will:
  1. Identify the effective tools and tactics that will advance the Board's purpose(s) and objective(s);
  2. At least annually, prepare a report for the community engagement initiative, and/or
  3. Prepare a final report of the community engagement initiative.

The Board will periodically: (1) review whether its community engagement initiative goals(s) are achieving the identified purpose(s) and objective(s); (2) consider what, if any, modifications would improve effectiveness; and (3) determine whether to continue individual initiativestactics.

CROSS REF.: 2:110 (Qualifications, Term, and Duties of Board Officers)

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## **PRESSPlus Comments**

PRESSPlus 1. The board and superintendent should have a conversation regarding which objectives the board, superintendent, or both the board and superintendent together will implement. **Issue 117, October 2024**

PRESSPlus 2. Updated throughout for continuous improvement. **Issue 117, October 2024**

PRESSPlus 3. Updated in response to the U.S. Supreme Court case Lindke v. Freed, 601 U.S. 187 (2024), which held that a government official's speech on social media is attributable to the government if the official: (1) has actual authority to speak on behalf of the government on a particular matter; and (2) purports to exercise that authority when speaking on social media. If an official's speech on social media is attributable to the government, then the official's social media posts will be subject to scrutiny under the First Amendment. Social media accounts of government officials that are clearly labeled as personal (e.g., "This is the personal page of [insert name]") or with a disclaimer (e.g., "the views expressed are strictly my own") are presumed to contain only personal posts, though that presumption can be challenged depending on the particular facts. The Court did not distinguish between elected or appointed government officials and employees, suggesting that the same test would apply to government employees.

Because those who post on a district's social media accounts typically have authority to speak on the district's behalf, such accounts are likely either *limited public forums* (also referred to as *nonpublic forums*) or *public forums*. See, e.g., People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals v. Tabak, 2024 WL

3573661 (D.C. Cir. 2024)(finding the National Institutes of Health's (NIH) social media accounts were limited public forums because use of the accounts was limited to discussion of certain subjects; however, the NIH violated the First Amendment when it filtered out comments based on the plaintiff's viewpoints). Consider that school districts are different than federal government agencies and must ensure other duties to students, e.g., safety and security, which may require excluding certain comments from the district's social media accounts. **Issue 117, October 2024**

PRESSPlus 4. In alignment with the IASB *Foundational Principles of Effective Governance*, the school board president is the board's spokesperson (see sample policy 2:110, *Qualifications, Term, and Duties of Board Officers*) and the superintendent is the district's spokesperson. **Issue 117, October 2024**

PRESSPlus 5. This item aligns with sample policy 2:110, *Qualifications, Term, and Duties of Board Officers*, and the board member oath of office in 105 ILCS 5/10-16.5, which requires board members to swear or affirm that they "shall recognize that a board member has no legal authority as an individual and that decisions can only be made by a majority vote at a public board meeting." Making official statements through the district's website and official social media accounts, rather than through personal or "mixed use" accounts is a best practice and a strategy to mitigate First Amendment liability for board members and employees who communicate through social media platforms. Additionally, it is a best practice for board members or employees with social media accounts to clearly label their personal accounts as personal and limit district-related communications to official district accounts. **Issue 117, October 2024**

PRESSPlus 6. For training resources, see [www.iasb.com/conference-training-and-events/training/workshops/reflecting-on-communication-and-community-engageme/](http://www.iasb.com/conference-training-and-events/training/workshops/reflecting-on-communication-and-community-engageme/) and [www.iasb.com/about-us/publications/journal/2022-illinois-school-board-journal/september-october-2022/engaging-with-the-community-%C2%A0a-time-to-reflect-and/](http://www.iasb.com/about-us/publications/journal/2022-illinois-school-board-journal/september-october-2022/engaging-with-the-community-%C2%A0a-time-to-reflect-and/) **Issue 117, October 2024**

PRESSPlus 7. These statements are based on IASB's *Foundational Principles of Effective Governance*, principle #2, "The board connects with the community." The first sentence applies the definition of community engagement to a board and its school district. See [www.iasb.com/conference-training-and-events/training/training-resources/foundational-principles-of-effective-governance/](http://www.iasb.com/conference-training-and-events/training/training-resources/foundational-principles-of-effective-governance/). **Issue 117, October 2024**

