Policy Committee Meeting

Wednesday, July 28, 2021 9:00 AM
Grodsky Administration Building, 700 N Schoenbeck Rd, Prospect Heights, IL 60070

I. **Call to Order**

II. **Roll Call**

III. **Working Items**

A. Press Policy 107 1st read

1. Policy 1:10 School District Legal Status

2. Policy 1:20 District Organization, Operations, and Cooperative Agreements

3. Policy 1:30 School District Philosophy

4. Policy 2:10 School District Governance

5. Policy 2:20 Powers and Duties of the School Board; Indemnification

6. Policy 2:30 School District Elections

7. Policy 2:130 Board-Superintendent Relationship

8. Policy 2:240 Board Policy Development

9. Policy 3:30 Chain of Command

10. Policy 5:10 Equal Employment Opportunity and Minority Recruitment

11. Policy 5:30 Hiring Process and Criteria

12. Policy 6:100 Using Animals in the Educational Program

13. Policy 6:145 Migrant Students

14. Policy 6:160 English Learners

15. Policy 6:170 Title I Programs

16. Policy 6:235 Access to Electronic Networks

17. Policy 6:255 Assemblies and Ceremonies

18. Policy 6:260 Complaints About Curriculum, Instruction Materials, and Programs

19. Policy 7:220 Bus Conduct

20. Policy 7:230 Misconduct by Students with Disabilities

21. Policy 7:280 Communicable and Chronic Infectious Disease

22. Policy 8:90 Parent Organizations and Booster Clubs

IV. **Old Business**

V. **New Business**

VI. **Adjournment**

School District Organization

School District Legal Status [1]

The Illinois Constitution requires the State to provide for an efficient system of high-quality public educational institutions and services in order to achieve the educational development of all persons to the limits of their capabilities.

The General Assembly has implemented this mandate through the creation of school districts. The District is governed by the laws for school districts serving a resident population of not fewer than 1,000 and not more than 500,000. [2]

The School Board constitutes a body corporate that possesses all the usual powers of a corporation for public purposes, and in that name may sue and be sued, purchase, hold and sell personal property and real estate, and enter into such obligations as are authorized by law.

LEGAL REF.: Ill. Constitution, Art. X, Sec. 1.
105 ILCS 5/10-1 et seq.

CROSS REF.: 2:10 (School District Governance), 2:20 (Powers and Duties of the School Board; Indemnification)

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

[1] State or federal law controls this policy's content.

[2] See f/n 2 of policy 2:10, *School District Governance*, for a discussion of school districts having a population of less than 1,000 inhabitants.

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School District Organization

District Organization, Operations, and Cooperative Agreements

The District is organized and operates as follows: [1]

[*INSERT DISTRICT'S ORGANIZATION and OPERATIONS*]

The District enters into and participates in joint programs and intergovernmental agreements with units of local government and other school districts in order to jointly provide services and activities in a manner that will increase flexibility, scope of service opportunities, cost reductions, and/or otherwise benefit the District and the community.[2] The Superintendent shall manage these activities to the extent the program or agreement requires the District's participation, and shall provide periodic implementation or operational data and/or reports to the School Board concerning these programs and agreements. The District participates in the following joint programs and intergovernmental agreements: [3]

[*INSERT APPLICABLE JOINT PROGRAMS*]

LEGAL REF.: Ill. Constitution, Art. VII, Sec. 10.
5 ILCS 220/, Intergovernmental Cooperation Act.

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

[1] State law controls this policy's content. Whatever school system is established by the State legislature must be free and open to all, without discrimination. Lewis E. v. Spagnolo, 287 Ill.App.3d 822 (3rd. Dist. 1997). Boards may use the following sentence as the first sentence, customizing it as appropriate: "The District is organized and operates as a Unit District serving the educational needs of children in grades Pre-K through 12 and others as required by the School Code."

[2] Ill. Constitution, Art. VII, Sec. 10; 5 ILCS 220/. A number of provisions in the School Code which provide authority for boards to jointly provide programs with other school districts or colleges that meet specified criteria, including: (1) 105 ILCS 5/10-22.20a (vocational and career education); (2) 5/10-22.e (science and math partnership school); (3) 5/10-22.31 (special education), (4) 5/10-22.31a (joint educational programs); (5) 5/10-22.31b (joint building program); (6) 5/10-20.42 (wind and solar farms).

[3] In some districts, the joint educational programs and intergovernmental agreements in which they participate change frequently; boards in those districts should omit this sentence and should not list the joint educational programs and intergovernmental agreements. While this list may be limited to only educational programs, some boards may choose to also list insurance co-ops or other similar joint agreements.

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School District Organization

School District Philosophy [1]

The School District, in an active partnership with parents and community, will promote excellence in a caring environment in which all students learn and grow. This partnership aims to empower all students to develop strong self-respect and to become responsible learners and decision-makers. The School District is committed to developing and using a visionary and innovative curriculum,[2] a knowledgeable and dedicated staff, and sound fiscal and management practices.

CROSS REF: 2:10 (School District Governance), 3:10 (Goals and Objectives), 6:10 (Educational Philosophy and Objectives)

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

[1] Replace the text in this sample policy with the district's mission, vision, and/or belief statement, if any. A mission statement is a statement of purpose: why the district exists, what benefits it intends to deliver, and who will receive those benefits. See IASB's *Foundational Principles of Effective Governance*, at www.iasb.com/principles_popup.cfm.

[2] Alternatively, strike "visionary and innovative" and substitute: "comprehensive and challenging".

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School Board

School District Governance [1]

The District is governed by a School Board consisting of seven members.[2] The Board's powers and duties include the authority to adopt, enforce, and monitor all policies for the management and governance of the District's schools. [3]

Official action by the Board may only occur at a duly called and legally conducted meeting. Except as otherwise provided by the Open Meetings Act, a quorum must be physically present at the meeting. [4]

As stated in the Board member oath of office prescribed by the School Code, a Board member has no legal authority as an individual. [5]

LEGAL REF.: 5 ILCS 120/, Open Meetings Act.
105 ILCS 5/10-1, 5/10-10, 5/10-12, 5/10-16.5, 5/10-16.7, and 5/10-20.5.

CROSS REF.: 1:10 (School District Legal Status), 2:20 (Powers and Duties of the School Board; Indemnification), 2:80 (Board Member Oath and Conduct), 2:120 (Board Member Development), 2:200 (Types of School Board Meetings), 2:220 (School Board Meeting Procedure)

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

[1] State law controls this policy's content. IASB sample policies are aligned with the IASB *Foundational Principles of Effective Governance*, www.iasb.com/principles_popup.cfm.

Sample policy 2:120, *Board Member Development*, contains the board member training requirements.

[2] School districts having a population between 1,000 and 500,000 inhabitants are governed by a seven-member board of education. 105 ILCS 5/10-10. School districts having a population of less than 1,000 are governed by a three-member board of school directors, unless it is governed by a special act, or is a consolidated district, or a district in which the membership was increased by the passage of a proposition. 105 ILCS 5/10-1.

[3] 105 ILCS 5/10-16.7 and 5/10-20.

[4] 5 ILCS 120/2.01 and 120/7(e)(1)-(10), amended by P.A. 101-640; see also 105 ILCS 5/10-12.

The Open Meetings Act (OMA) defines *meeting* as "any gathering, whether in person or by video or audio conference, telephone call, electronic means (such as, without limitation, electronic mail, electronic chat, and instant messaging), or other means of contemporaneous interactive communication, of a majority of a quorum of the members of a public body held for the purpose of discussing public business." 5 ILCS 120/1.02. A quorum must be physically present for all meetings, except under limited circumstances during a public health emergency. 5 ILCS 120/2.01 and 120/7(e). During the COVID-19 pandemic, the Open Meetings Act was amended to give public bodies the flexibility to meet without the presence of a physical quorum during a disaster declaration related to a public health emergency. See f/n 32 of policy 2:220, *School Board Meeting Procedure*, and its subhead **No Physical Presence of Quorum and Participation by Audio or Video; Disaster Declaration**.

[5] The oath is found in 105 ILCS 5/10-16.5. Specific board officers may have individual authority; for example, the president may call a special meeting. 105 ILCS 5/10-16.

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School Board

Powers and Duties of the School Board; Indemnification

The major powers and duties of the School Board include, but are not limited to:

1. Organizing the Board after each consolidated election by electing officers and establishing its regular meeting schedule and, thereafter, taking action during lawfully called meetings to faithfully fulfill the Board's responsibilities in accordance with State and federal law. [1]
2. Formulating, adopting, and modifying Board policies, at its sole discretion, subject only to mandatory collective bargaining agreements and State and federal law. [2]
3. Employing a Superintendent and other personnel, making employment decisions, dismissing personnel, including determining whether an employee has willfully or negligently failed to report an instance of suspected child abuse or neglect as required by 325 ILCS 5/,[3] and establishing an equal employment opportunity policy that prohibits unlawful discrimination. [4]
4. Directing, through policy, the Superintendent, in his or her charge of the District's administration. [5]
5. Approving the annual budget, tax levies, major expenditures, payment of obligations, annual audit, and other aspects of the District's financial operation; and making available a statement of financial affairs as provided in State law. [6]
6. Entering contracts using the public bidding procedure when required. [7]

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

[1] State law controls this policy's content. School board powers listed in the School Code are not exclusive, meaning that a board may exercise "all other powers not inconsistent with this Act that may be requisite or proper for the maintenance, operation, and development of any school or schools under the jurisdiction of the board." 105 ILCS 5/10-20. This policy's intent is to list the *major* statutory powers and duties – not all of them. See also 105 ILCS 5/10-20.5 and 5/10-21.

For power/duty #1, see 105 ILCS 5/10-16 and 5/10-16.5 and policies 2:80, *Board Member Oath and Conduct*, and 2:210, *Organizational School Board Meeting*. Boards that elect officers for one-year terms and/or hold organizational meetings yearly, replace the default text in number 1 with the following:

> Annually organizing the Board by electing officers and establishing its regular meeting schedule and, thereafter, taking action during lawfully called meetings to faithfully fulfill the Board's responsibilities in accordance with Board policy and State and federal law.

[2] 105 ILCS 5/10-20.5 and policy 2:240, *Board Policy Development*; 105 ILCS 5/10-21; and 115 ILCS 5/, Ill. Educational Labor Relations Act.

[3] 105 ILCS 5/10-23.12(c), added by P.A. 101-531; 105 ILCS 5/21B-75(b), amended by P.A. 101-531. For further discussion see f/n 22 in policy 5:90, *Abused and Neglected Child Reporting*. **Note:** While 105 ILCS 5/10-23.12(c) permits boards to *immediately* dismiss certain employees upon the determination that he or she has willfully or negligently failed to report, this does not negate a board's responsibility to provide employees with due process required by the law and district policies and procedures. Consult the board attorney for further guidance.

[4] 105 ILCS 5/10-21.4 (employing superintendent); 5/10-20.7 and 5/10-21.1 (teachers); 5/10-21.9 (criminal history records checks); 5/10-22.34 (non-certificated personnel (this statute still uses *certificated* rather than *licensed*)); 5/10-22.4 (dismissing teachers for cause); and 5/10-23.5 and 5/24-12 (reduction in force). See policies in the **PRESS** Policy Reference Manual Sections 3, General School Administration, and 5, Personnel.

[5] 105 ILCS 5/10-16.7.

[6] 105 ILCS 5/10-20.19 and 5/17-1 et seq. See policies in the **PRESS** Policy Reference Manual Section 4, Operational Services.

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7. Providing, constructing, controlling, and maintaining adequate physical facilities; making school buildings available for use as civil defense shelters; and establishing a resource conservation policy. [8]

8. Establishing an equal educational opportunities policy that prohibits unlawful discrimination. [9]

9. Approving the curriculum, textbooks, and educational services. [10]

10. Evaluating the educational program and approving School Improvement and District Improvement Plans. [11]

11. Presenting the District report card and School report card(s) to parents/guardians and the community; these documents report District, School, and student performance. [12]

12. Establishing and supporting student behavior policies designed to maintain an environment conducive to learning, including deciding individual student suspension or expulsion cases brought before it. [13]

13. Establishing attendance units within the District and assigning students to the schools. [14]

14. Establishing the school year. [15]

15. Requiring a moment of silence to recognize veterans during any type of school event held at a District school on November 11. [16]

16. Providing student transportation services pursuant to State law. [17]

17. Entering into joint agreements with other boards to establish cooperative educational programs or provide educational facilities. [18]

18. Complying with requirements in the Abused and Neglected Child Reporting Act (ANCRA). Specifically, 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

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[7] 105 ILCS 5/10-20.21. See policy 4:60, *Purchases and Contracts*.

[8] For the first clause, see 105 ILCS 5/10-20.6, 5/10-20.12, 5/10-22.10, 5/10-22.35A, and 5/10-22.36; and policy 4:150, *Facility Management and Building Programs*. For the second clause, see 105 ILCS 5/10-22.35. For the third clause, see 105 ILCS 5/10-20.19c and policy 4:70, *Resource Conservation*.

[9] Many civil rights laws guarantee equal educational opportunities; see policy 7:10, *Equal Educational Opportunities*.

[10] 105 ILCS 5/10-20.8. See policies in the **PRESS** Policy **R**eference **M**anual Section 6, Instruction.

[11] 105 ILCS 5/2-3.25d, which addressed school and district improvement plans, was repealed by P.A. 100-1046. 105 ILCS 5/2-3.25f, and 105 ILCS 5/27-1. For more specific information about school and district improvement plans, see policy 6:10, *Educational Philosophy and Objectives*, and f/n 6 in policy 6:15, *School Accountability*.

[12] 105 ILCS 5/10-17a, amended by P.A.s 100-364, 100-465, 100-807, 100-863, 100-1121, and 101-68. This statute details the requirements for *presenting* the district report card and school report card(s), including presenting them at a regular school board meeting and posting them on the district's website.

[13] 105 ILCS 5/10-22.6, amended by P.A.s 100-105, 100-810, and 100-1035. See policies 7:190, *Student Behavior*; 7:200, *Suspension Procedures*; and 7:210, *Expulsion Procedures*.

[14] 105 ILCS 5/10-21.3 and 5/10-22.5. See policy 7:30, *Student Assignment and Intra-District Transfer*.

[15] 105 ILCS 5/10-19, amended by P.A.s 100-465, 101-12, and 101-643, and 23 Ill.Admin.Code §1.420. See policy 6:20, *School Year Calendar and Day*.

[16] Recognizing veterans on Nov. 11 is required by 105 ILCS 5/10-20.46.

[17] 105 ILCS 5/10-22.22. See policy 4:110, *Transportation*.

[18] 105 ILCS 5/10-22.31a. See policy 1:20, *District Organization, Operations, and Cooperative Agreements*.

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ANCRA, direct or cause the Board to direct the Superintendent or other equivalent school administrator to comply with ANCRA's requirements concerning the reporting of child abuse. [19]

19. Communicating the schools' activities and operations to the community and representing the needs and desires of the community in educational matters. [20]

Indemnification [21]

To the extent allowed by law, the Board shall defend, indemnify, and hold harmless School Board members, employees, volunteer personnel (pursuant to 105 ILCS 5/10-22.34, 10-22.34a and 10-22.34b), mentors of certified staff (pursuant to 105 ILCS 5/2-3.53a, 2-3.53b, and 105 ILCS 5/21A-5 et seq.), and student teachers who, in the course of discharging their official duties imposed or authorized by law, are sued as parties in a legal proceeding. Nothing herein, however, shall be construed as obligating the Board to defend, indemnify, or hold harmless any person who engages in criminal activity, official misconduct, fraud, intentional or willful and wanton misconduct, or acts beyond the authority properly vested in the individual.

LEGAL REF.: 105 ILCS 5/10, 5/17-1, and 5/27-1.
115 ILCS 5/, Ill. Educational Labor Relations Act.
325 ILCS 5/, Abused and Neglected Child Reporting Act.

CROSS REF.: 1:10 (School District Legal Status), 1:20 (District Organization, Operations, and Cooperative Agreements), 2:10 (School District Governance), 2:80 (Board Member Oath and Conduct), 2:140 (Communications To and From the Board), 2:210 (Organizational School Board Meeting), 2:240 (Board Policy Development), 4:60 (Purchases and Contracts), 4:70 (Resource Conservation), 4:100 (Insurance Management), 4:110 (Transportation), 4:150 (Facility Management and Building Programs), 5:10 (Equal Employment Opportunity and Minority Recruitment), 5:90 (Abused and Neglected Child Reporting), 6:10 (Educational Philosophy and Objectives), 6:15 (School Accountability), 6:20 (School Year Calendar and Day), 7:10 (Equal Educational Opportunities), 7:30 (Student Assignment and Intra-District Transfer), 7:190 (Student Behavior), 7:200 (Suspension Procedures), 7:210 (Expulsion Procedures), 8:10 (Connection with the Community), 8:30 (Visitors to and Conduct on School Property)

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

[19] 325 ILCS 5/4(d), amended by P.A. 101-564. *Abuse* and *neglect* are defined in 325 ILCS 5/3; for a *disabled adult student* see 20 ILCS 1305/1-17(b).

[20] See policy 8:10, *Connection with the Community*.

[21] 105 ILCS 5/10-20.20 (duty to indemnify) and 5/10-22.3 (duty to insure against loss or liability). These statutes identify the same individuals for protection except that the indemnification statute includes mentors of certified staff members. See f/n 3 in policy 4:100, *Insurance Management*.

Public officials or employees who are sued or incur loss because of the performance of their duties imposed or authorized by law on behalf of the public entity are entitled to indemnification. McQuillan on Municipal Corporations §12.137 (3rd ed. 1973). Public employees who must defend themselves in actions based upon the performance of official duties are entitled to indemnification. Wayne Twp. Bd. of Auditors v. Ludwig, 154 Ill.App.3d 899 (2nd Dist. 1987). The public's interest is served by indemnifying public officials and employees in the performance of their official duties in order to recruit and retain qualified public employees and officials.

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School Board

School District Elections [1]

School District elections are non-partisan, governed by the general election laws of the State, and include the election of School Board members, various public policy propositions, and advisory questions.[2] Board members are elected at the consolidated election held on the first Tuesday in April in odd-numbered years.[3] If, however, that date conflicts with the celebration of Passover, the consolidated election is postponed to the first Tuesday following the last day of Passover.[4] The canvass of votes is conducted by the election authority within 21 days after the election. [5]

The Board, by proper resolution, may cause to be placed on the ballot: (a) public policy referendum according to Article 28 of the Election Code, or (b) advisory questions of public policy according to Section 9-1.5 of the School Code. [6]

The Board Secretary serves as the local election official. He or she receives petitions for the submission of a public question to referenda and forwards them to the proper election officer and otherwise provides information to the community concerning District elections. [7]

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

[1] State law controls this policy's content. Consult the board attorney early concerning any election question.

[2] 105 ILCS 5/9-10 provides that nominating petitions are filed with the county clerk or the county board of election commissioners if one was created pursuant to 10 ILCS 5/6A-1. Objections to nominating petitions or to a petition for a public question are submitted to the county officers electoral board. 10 ILCS 5/10-8 and 10-9. The Election Code also addresses reportable campaign contributions (10 ILCS 5/9); simultaneous filing of nominating petitions (10 ILCS 5/10-6.2); withdrawal from nomination (10 ILCS 5/10-7); Electoral Board duties (10 ILCS 5/10-10); and advertising in proximity of a polling place (10 ILCS 5/19A-70). See also 10 ILCS 5/1-3 (definitions), 5/2A (time of holding elections), and 5/28 (submitting public questions). The school board secretary or clerk has no statutory duties regarding the election of members to the school board. He or she is well-advised to refer all questions to the county clerk or the county board of election commissioners, whichever is applicable.

[3] 10 ILCS 5/2A-1.1.

[4] 10 ILCS 5/2A-1.1a.

[5] The appropriate *election authority* (county clerk or election commission) canvasses the vote for school district elections. 10 ILCS 5/1-8. The election authority must canvass the vote within 21 days after the election. 10 ILCS 5/22-17 and 5/22-18. Within 28 days after the consolidated election, boards must hold an organizational meeting to elect officers and fix a time and place for regular meetings. 105 ILCS 5/10-16. See policy 2:210, *Organizational School Board Meeting*.

[6] This policy addresses two types of public questions: (1) binding referendum governed by 10 ILCS 5/28, and (2) advisory questions of public policy governed by 105 ILCS 5/9-1.5. An advisory question must be authorized by majority vote of the board. A third type of public question – a voter-initiated petition – is not covered in the policy; the board does not have any duties regarding this type of petition. A voter-initiated petition must be filed with the school board secretary who, if the timelines are met, must certify the question to be placed on the ballot to the county clerk. 10 ILCS 5/10-15, 5/28-2, and 5/28-5.

[7] 10 ILCS 5/28-6 provides that any petition for the submission of a public question to referendum must be filed with the *local election official*. The board secretary or clerk is the *local election official*. 105 ILCS 5/9-2 and 10 ILCS 5/1-3. See f/n 2 as many of the duties of the *local election official* were reassigned after the 2014 changes to the law. The board may delete the following PR function: "~~and otherwise provides information to the community concerning District elections~~."

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LEGAL REF.: 10 ILCS 5/1-3, 5/2A, 5/9, 5/10-9, 5/22-17, 5/22-18, and 5/28.
105 ILCS 5/9.

CROSS REF.: 2:40 (Board Member Qualifications), 2:50 (Board Member Term of Office), 2:210 (Organizational School Board Meeting)

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School Board

Board-Superintendent Relationship [1]

The School Board directs, through policy, the Superintendent in his or her charge of the administration of the District by delegating its authority to operate the District and provide leadership to staff. The Board employs and evaluates the Superintendent and holds him or her responsible for the operation of the District in accordance with Board policies and State and federal law. [2]

The Board-Superintendent relationship is based on mutual respect for their complementary roles. The relationship requires clear communication of expectations regarding the duties and responsibilities of both the Board and Superintendent.

The Board considers the recommendations of the Superintendent as the District's Chief Executive Officer. The Board adopts policies necessary to provide general direction for the District and to encourage achievement of District goals. The Superintendent develops plans, programs, and procedures needed to implement the policies and directs the District's operations.

LEGAL REF.: 105 ILCS 5/10-16.7 and 5/10-21.4.

CROSS REF.: 3:40 (Superintendent)

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

[1] State law controls this policy's content. 105 ILCS 5/10-16.7 requires the board to make all employment decisions pertaining to the superintendent as well as "to direct, through policy, the superintendent in his or her charge of the administration of the school district, including without limitation considering the recommendations of the superintendent concerning the budget, building plans, the locations of sites, the selection, retention, and dismissal of employees, and the selection of textbooks, instructional material, and courses of study." It also requires the "board [to] evaluate the superintendent in his or her administration of board policies and his or her stewardship of the assets of the district."

Open and honest communication between the board and superintendent about expectations is crucial. The superintendent and board should periodically discuss, for example, the amount, type, and timing of information each expects to give and receive. Discussing each party's role and using a formal, written superintendent evaluation process will further clarify role expectations.

[2] Boards may want to incorporate additional governance concepts into the first sentence, e.g., by holding the superintendent responsible for progress toward district ends. See IASB's *Foundational Principles of Effective Governance,* www.iasb.com/principles_popup.cfm. The IASB guide titled *The Superintendent Evaluation Process* contains information on strengthening the board-superintendent relationship. It is available at: www.iasb.com/training/superintendent-evaluation-process.pdf.

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School Board

Board Policy Development [1]

The School Board governs using written policies. Written policies ensure legal compliance, establish Board processes, articulate District ends, delegate authority, and define operating limits. Board policies also provide the basis for monitoring progress toward District ends. [2]

Policy Development

Anyone may propose new policies, changes to existing policies, or deletion of existing policies. Staff suggestions should be processed through the Superintendent. Suggestions from all others should be made to the Board President or the Superintendent.

A Board Policy Committee will consider all policy suggestions and provide information and recommendations to the Board. [3]

The Superintendent is responsible for: (1) providing relevant policy information and data to the Board, (2) notifying those who will implement or be affected by or required to implement a proposed policy and obtaining their advice and suggestions, and (3) having policy recommendations drafted into written form for Board deliberation. The Superintendent shall seek the counsel of the Board Attorney when appropriate.

Policy Adoption and Dissemination

Policies or policy revisions will not be adopted at the Board meeting at which they are first introduced, except when: (1) appropriate for a consent agenda because no Board discussion is required, or (2) necessary or prudent in order to meet emergency or special conditions or to be legally compliant.[4] Further Board consideration may be given at a subsequent meeting(s) and after opportunity for community input. The adoption of a policy will serve to supersede all previously adopted policies on the same topic.

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

[1] State law requires this subject matter be covered by policy. See 105 ILCS 5/10-20.5 and 5/10-16.7.

105 ILCS 5/10-16.7 requires the board to make all employment decisions pertaining to the superintendent as well as "to direct, through policy, the superintendent in his or her charge of the administration of the school district, including, without limitation, considering the recommendations of the superintendent concerning the budget, building plans, the locations of sites, the selection, retention, and dismissal of employees, and the selection of textbooks, instructional material, and courses of study." Rather than being a laundry list of mandated written board policies, this list provides items on which boards must make decisions after considering the superintendent's recommendations. The statute also requires the "board [to] evaluate the superintendent in his or her administration of board policies and his or her stewardship of the assets of the district." Boards have broad incidental powers to adopt all necessary policies. Thomas v. Bd. of Educ. of Cmty. Unit Sch. Dist. 1, 117 Ill.App.3d 374 (5th Dist. 1983).

[2] See the IASB's *Foundational Principles of Effective Governance*, available on line at: www.iasb.com/pdf/found_prin.pdf.

[3] Optional. See policy 2:150, *Committees*.

[4] State law does not require a first reading before a board adopts a policy. The use of a consent agenda allows a board to vote on a matter without discussion. Policies or policy revisions may be appropriate for a consent agenda when providing for legal compliance; correcting substantive grammar, spelling, or punctuation; or clarifying pre-existing policy language. A board member may make a motion to remove any item from the consent agenda to the regular agenda for discussion. See policy 2:220, *School Board Meeting Procedure*.

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The Board policies are available for public inspection in the District's main office during regular office hours.[5] Copy requests should be made pursuant to Board policy 2:250, *Access to District Public Records*.

Board Policy Review and Monitoring

The Board will periodically review its policies for relevancy, monitor its policies for effectiveness, and consider whether any modifications are required. The Board may use an annual policy review and monitoring calendar. [6]

Words Importing Gender [7]

Throughout this policy manual, words importing the masculine and/or feminine gender include all gender neutral/inclusive pronouns.

Superintendent Implementation

The Board will support any reasonable interpretation of Board policy made by the Superintendent.[8] If reasonable minds differ, the Board will review the applicable policy and consider the need for further clarification.

In the absence of Board policy, the Superintendent is authorized to take appropriate action.

Suspension of Policies

The Board, by a majority vote of members present at any meeting, may temporarily suspend a Board policy except those provisions that are controlled by law or contract. The failure to suspend with a specific motion does not invalidate the Board action.

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

[5] This sentence must be customized to include where and how policies are available, such as, through School Board Policies Online or the district's website.

[6] Optional.

[7] Optional. Consult the board attorney to determine whether inclusion of a subhead related to gender neutral/inclusive pronouns is appropriate for the district. This subhead's text mirrors language from the Ill. Statute on Statutes importing words applying the masculine gender to include the female gender. See 5 ILCS 70/1.04.

For students, State law prohibits gender-based discrimination, including transgender and gender non-conforming students. 775 ILCS 5/5-101(A)(11); 775 ILCS 5/1-103(O-1); and 23 Ill.Admin.Code §1.240. Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (20 U.S.C. §1681) also prohibits exclusion and discrimination on the basis of sex. 20 U.S.C. §1681(a). See also policy 7:10, *Equal Educational Opportunities*.

For employees, the Equal Employment Opportunities Act (a/k/a Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964) prohibits discrimination because of an individual's sex, which includes sexual orientation and/or transgender status. See 42 U.S.C. §2000e et seq., amended by The Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act of 2009, Pub.L. 111-2; Bostock v. Clayton Cnty., 140 S.Ct. 1731 (2020); and Hively v. Ivy Tech, 853 F.3d 339 (7th Cir. 2017). See also policy 5:10, *Equal Employment Opportunity and Minority Recruitment*.

[8] The board delegates authority to the superintendent through written board policy. The board will not substitute its judgment for that of the superintendent when the superintendent acts reasonably based upon his or her policy interpretation. See the IASB's *Foundational Principles of Effective Governance*, available online at: www.iasb.com/pdf/found_prin.pdf.[1] The chain of command communicates the channels of authority that should be consistently followed with informal conversations that can solve issues without use of the more formal policy 2:260, *Uniform Grievance Procedure*, other administrative procedures, and/or collective bargaining agreements. See IASB's *Foundational Principles of Effective Governance*, at www.iasb.com/principles_popup.cfm.

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LEGAL REF.: 105 ILCS 5/10-20.5.

CROSS REF.: 2:150 (Committees), 2:250 (Access to District Public Records), 3:40 (Superintendent)

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General School Administration

Chain of Command

The Superintendent shall develop an organizational chart indicating the channels of authority and reporting relationships for school personnel. These channels should be followed, and no level should be bypassed except in unusual situations. [1]

All personnel should refer matters requiring administrative action to the responsible administrator, and may appeal a decision to a higher administrative officer. Whenever possible, each employee should be responsible to only one immediate supervisor. When this is not possible, the division of responsibility must be clear.

CROSS REF.: 1:20 (District Organization, Operations, and Cooperative Agreements), 2:140 (Communications To and From the Board), 3:70 (Succession of Authority), 8:110 (Public Suggestions and Concerns)

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[1] The chain of command communicates the channels of authority that should be consistently followed with informal conversations that can solve issues without use of the more formal policy 2:260, *Uniform Grievance Procedure*, other administrative procedures, and/or collective bargaining agreements. See IASB's *Foundational Principles of Effective Governance*, at www.iasb.com/principles_popup.cfm.

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General Personnel

Equal Employment Opportunity and Minority Recruitment [1]

The School District shall provide equal employment opportunities[2] to all persons regardless of their race; color; creed; religion;[3] national origin; sex;[4] sexual orientation;[5] age;[6] ancestry; marital status;[7]

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[1] Federal and State law (see the policy's Legal References) require that all districts have a policy on equal employment opportunities and control this policy's content. **This is a complex, confusing, and highly litigated area of the law; consult the board attorney for advice on the application of these laws to specific fact situations.**

[2] *Equal employment opportunities* apply to virtually all terms and conditions of employment, e.g., discharge, hire, promotion, pay, demotion, and benefits (see the policy's Legal References). The Ill. Constitution protects the following categories from discrimination in employment: race, color, creed, national ancestry, sex, and handicap. Art. I, §§17, 18, and 19. The Ill. Human Rights Act (IHRA) protects the following categories from discrimination in employment, whether *actual* or *perceived*: race, color, religion, sex, national origin, ancestry, age, marital status, physical or mental disability, military status, order of protection status, sexual orientation, pregnancy, unfavorable discharge from military service, and citizenship status. 775 ILCS 5/1-102 and 5/1-103, amended by P.A. 101-221. The IHRA requires employers to annually disclose to the Ill. Dept. of Human Rights (IDHR) certain information about adverse judgments and administrative rulings where there was a finding of sexual harassment or unlawful discrimination under any federal, State, or local law, as well as data regarding settlement agreements, if requested by an IDHR investigator. 775 ILCS 5/2-108, added by P.A. 101-221, scheduled to be repealed on 1-1-30.

The Equal Employment Opportunities Act (EEOA, a/k/a Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964) prohibits discrimination because of an individual's race, color, religion, sex, or national origin. 42 U.S.C. §2000e et seq., amended by The Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act of 2009 (LLFPA), Pub.L. 111-2.

Under the Workplace Transparency Act (WTA) (820 ILCS 96/, added by P.A. 101-221), employers may not, as a condition of employment or continued employment, prevent prospective or current employees from making truthful statements or disclosures about alleged unlawful employment practices, including discrimination. Id. at 96/1-25.

The LLFPA clarifies that a discriminatory compensation decision or other practice occurs each time an employee is paid or receives a last benefits check pursuant to the discriminatory compensation decision as opposed to only from the time when the discriminatory compensation decision or other practice occurred. The Act has no legislative history available to define what the phrase *or other practice* might mean beyond a discriminatory compensation decision; however, in a guidance document, the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) states that practices "may include employer decisions about base pay or wages, job classifications, career ladder or other noncompetitive promotion denials, tenure denials, and failure to respond to requests for raises." See *Equal Pay Act of 1963 and Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act of 2009* (2014), at www.eeoc.gov/laws/guidance/equal-pay-act-1963-and-lilly-ledbetter-fair-pay-act-2009.

The Ill. Equal Pay Act of 2003 (EPA) offers additional protection by prohibiting the payment of wages to one sex less than the opposite sex or to an African-American less than a non-African-American *for the same or substantially similar work*. 820 ILCS 112/, amended by P.A.s 100-1140 and 101-177. The Ill. Dept. of Labor (IDOL) enforces the EPA. The EPA also prohibits employers from requesting or requiring applicants to disclose wage or salary history as a condition of being considered for employment or as a condition of employment. Id. at 112/10(b-5), added by P.A. 101-177. If an applicant voluntarily offers such information without prompting, an employer still cannot use that information in making an offer or determining future pay. See administrative procedure 5:30-AP1, *Interview Questions*, for sample permissible inquiries on this topic. Employers may seek wage or salary history from an applicant's current or former employer if that information is a matter of public record under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA); however, districts that wish to undertake such searches should exercise caution; the fact a district seeks out publicly available wage information could still be used against it in a pay discrimination claim. Id. at 112/10(b-10), added by P.A. 101-177. Consult the board attorney for further guidance.

While not exhaustive, other laws protecting these and additional classifications are named in subsequent footnotes.

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arrest record;[8] military status; order of protection status;[9] unfavorable military discharge;[10] citizenship status provided the individual is authorized to work in the United States;[11] use of lawful

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[3] 775 ILCS 5/2-102 of the IHRA, amended by P.A.s 100-100, 100-588, and 101-221 contains a *religious discrimination* subsection. It expressly prohibits employers from requiring a person to violate a sincerely held religious belief to obtain or retain employment unless, after engaging in a bona fide effort, the employer demonstrates that it is unable to reasonably accommodate the employee's or prospective employee's sincerely held religious belief, practice, or observance without undue hardship on the conduct of the employer's business. Religious beliefs include, but are not limited to: the wearing of any attire, clothing, or facial hair in accordance with the requirements of his/her religion. 775 ILCS 5/2-102(E-5). Employers may, however, enact a dress code or grooming policy that restricts attire, clothing, or facial hair to maintain workplace safety or food sanitation. Id.

In addition to the IHRA and the federal EEOA (discussed in f/n 2), see 775 ILCS 35/, Religious Freedom Restoration Act.

[4] Discrimination on the basis of sex under the EEOA includes discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or transgender status. Bostock v. Clayton Cnty., 140 S.Ct. 1731 (2020); Hively v. Ivy Tech, 853 F.3d 339 (7th Cir. 2017). In addition to the IHRA and the federal EEOA (discussed in f/n 2), see Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (Title IX). 20 U.S.C. §1681 et seq.; 34 C.F.R. Part 106. See policy 2:265, *Title IX Sexual Harassment Grievance Procedure*. The federal Equal Pay Act prohibits an employer from paying persons of one sex less than the wage paid to persons of the opposite sex for equal work. 29 U.S.C. §206(d). See f/n 2 above for more information on State equal pay protections, including on the basis of sex. The LLFPA defines *date of underpayment* as each time wages are underpaid. Employees have one year from the time they become aware of the underpayment to file a complaint with the IDOL. 820 ILCS 112/15(b).

[5] *Sexual orientation* means actual or perceived heterosexuality, homosexuality, bisexuality, or gender-related identity; it does not include a physical or sexual attraction to a minor by an adult. 775 ILCS 5/1-103(O-1).

[6] Age Discrimination in Employment Act (ADEA) (29 U.S.C. §621 et seq.), amended by LLFPA (see f/n 2). 29 C.F.R. Part 1625, amended the EEOC regulations under ADEA to reflect the U.S. Supreme Court's decision in General Dynamic Systems, Inc. v. Cline, 540 U.S. 581 (2004), holding the ADEA to permit employers to favor older workers because of age. Thus, favoring an older person over a younger person is not unlawful discrimination, even when the younger person is at least 40 years old.

[7] 105 ILCS 5/10-22.4 and 775 ILCS 5/1-103(Q), amended by P.A. 101-221. The term *marital status* means an individual's legal status of being married, single, separated, divorced, or widowed. 775 ILCS 5/1-103(J). This statutory definition does not encompass the identity of one's spouse. Thus, school districts may adopt no-spouse policies. Boaden v. Dept. of Law Enforcement, 171 Ill.2d 230 (Ill. 1996).

[8] Districts may not make employment decisions on the basis of arrest history, but may use job-disqualifying criminal convictions provided specific conditions are met. 775 ILCS 5/2-103 and 5/2-103.1, added by P.A. 101-656. See f/n 18, below. The Job Opportunities for Qualified Applicants Act prohibits an employer from asking about a criminal record until the employer determines that the applicant is qualified for the position; however, this does not apply when employers are required to exclude applicants with certain criminal convictions from employment. School employers should limit their requests for criminal convictions to *job-disqualifying* convictions, as permitted by the IHRA. 775 ILCS 5/2-103.1, added by P.A. 101-656; 820 ILCS 75/15. See also the IDHR's guidance, *Conviction Record Protection – Frequently Asked Questions*, at www2.illinois.gov/dhr/Pages/Conviction_Record_Protection_Frequently_Asked_Questions.aspx and the EEOC's guidance, *Consideration of Arrest and Conviction Records in Employment Decisions*, at: www.eeoc.gov/laws/guidance/arrest_conviction.cfm.

[9] 775 ILCS 5/1-103(Q), amended by P.A. 101-221. The term *order of protection status* means a person protected under an order of protection issued pursuant to the Ill. Domestic Violence Act of 1986, Article 112A of the Code of Criminal Procedure of 1963, the Stalking No Contact Order Act, the Civil No Contact Order Act, or an order of protection issued by a court of another state. 775 ILCS 5/1-103(K-5), amended by P.A. 100-714.

[10] *Military status* means a person's status on active duty or in status as a veteran in the U.S. Armed Forces, veteran of any reserve component of U.S. Armed Forces, or current member or veteran of the Ill. Army National Guard or Ill. Air National Guard. 775 ILCS 5/1-103(J-1). *Unfavorable military discharge* does not include those characterized as RE-4 or *dishonorable*. 775 ILCS 5/1-103(P). The Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act of 1994 prohibits employers from discriminating or retaliating against any person for reasons related to past, present, or future service in a *uniformed service*. 38 U.S.C. §4301 et seq.

[11] 775 ILCS 5/1-102(C). According to the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986, all employers must verify that employees are either U.S. citizens or authorized to work in the U.S. 8 U.S.C. §1324(a) et seq.

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products while not at work;[12] being a victim of domestic violence, sexual violence, or gender violence;[13] genetic information;[14] physical or mental handicap or disability, if otherwise able to perform the essential functions of the job with reasonable accommodation;[15] pregnancy, childbirth, or related medical conditions;[16] credit history, unless a satisfactory credit history is an established bona fide occupational requirement of a particular position;[17] conviction record, unless authorized by

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[12] The Right to Privacy in the Workplace Act prohibits discrimination based on use of lawful products, e.g., alcohol, cannabis, and tobacco, off premises during non-working hours. 820 ILCS 55/5, amended by P.A. 101-27.

[13] 820 ILCS 180/30, amended by P.A. 101-221, Victims' Economic Security and Safety Act. *Gender violence* means: (1) one or more acts of violence or aggression that are a criminal offense under State law committed, at least in part, on the basis of a person's actual or perceived sex or gender, (2) a physical intrusion or invasion of a sexual nature under coercive conditions that is a criminal offense under State law, or (3) a threat to commit one of these acts. 820 ILCS 180/10(12.5), added by P.A. 101-221. An employer is prohibited from discriminating against any individual, e.g. an applicant for employment, because he or she "is an employee whose employer is subject to Section 21 of the Workplace Violence Prevention Act." The Workplace Violence Prevention Act allows an employer to seek a *workplace protection restraining order* when there is a credible threat of violence at the workplace. 820 ILCS 275/. Section 21 requires the employer seeking a *workplace protection restraining order* to notify the employee who is a victim of unlawful violence. 820 ILCS 275/21.

[14] Illinois' Genetic Information Privacy Act (GIPA) (410 ILCS 513/25) and Title II of Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act (GINA) (42 U.S.C. §2000ff et seq.). Both laws protect job applicants and current and former employees from discrimination based on their genetic information. Note that GIPA provides greater protections to Illinois employees than Title II of GINA. GIPA, amended by P.A. 100-396, prohibits employers from penalizing employees who do not disclose genetic information or do not choose to participate in a program requiring disclosure of the employee's genetic information. See f/n 12 in policy 2:260, *Uniform Grievance Procedure*, for the definition of genetic information and a detailed description of both statutes, including of Title I of GINA affecting the use of genetic information in health insurance. The EEOC vacated certain 2016 ADA and GINA wellness program regulations following an adverse court ruling. 83 Fed. Reg. 65296. Those rules provided guidance to employers on the extent to which they could use incentives (such as discounted health plan costs) to encourage employees to participate in wellness programs that asked for employee and family health information. Consult the board attorney for guidance regarding specific application of ADA and GINA and how they integrate with other related laws, e.g., the Family Medical Leave Act and other State laws governing time off for sickness and workers' compensation.

[15] Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) (42 U.S.C. §12101 et seq.), amended by the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act of 2008 (ADAAA) (Pub. L. 110-325) and modified by the LLFPA; Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. §701 et seq.).

[16] 775 ILCS 5/2-102(I). Employers must provide reasonable accommodations to employees with conditions related to pregnancy, childbirth, or related conditions. 775 ILCS 5/2-102(J). Employers are required to post a notice summarizing the right to be free from unlawful discrimination and the right to certain reasonable accommodations. 775 ILCS 5/2-102(K). The IDOL is required to prepare such a notice, retrievable from its website, which employers may use.

Federal law also prohibits employers from discriminating against employees and applicants on the basis of pregnancy, childbirth, or related medical conditions. 42 U.S.C. §2000e(k). State law also prohibits the State, which includes school districts, from interfering with or discriminating against an individual's fundamental right to continue a pregnancy or to have an abortion. 775 ILCS 55/, added by P.A. 101-13. Pregnant workers with pregnancy-related impairments may have disabilities for which they may be entitled to reasonable accommodation under the ADA. Guidance from the EEOC (6-25-15) is available at: www.eeoc.gov/laws/guidance/pregnancy_qa.cfm.

[17] 820 ILCS 70/, Employee Credit Privacy Act. Unless a satisfactory credit history is an *established bona fide occupational requirement* of a particular position, an employer may not: (1) refuse to hire, discharge, or otherwise discriminate against an individual with respect to employment because of the individual's credit history or credit report; (2) inquire about an applicant's or employee's credit history; or (3) order or obtain an applicant's or employee's credit report from a consumer reporting agency. The Act identifies circumstances that permit a satisfactory credit history to be a job requirement, such as, the position's duties include custody of or unsupervised access to cash or marketable assets valued at $2,500 or more.

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law;[18] or other legally protected categories.[19] [20] [21] [22] 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/. [23]

Persons who believe they have not received equal employment opportunities should report their claims to the Nondiscrimination Coordinator and/or a Complaint Manager for the Uniform Grievance Procedure. 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

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[18] 775 ILCS 5/2-103.1(A), added by P.A. 101-656. The IHRA prohibits an employer from *disqualifying* or taking other *adverse action* against an applicant or employee based on a *conviction record* unless: (1) otherwise authorized by law; (2) there is a *substantial relationship* between the criminal offense and the employment sought; or (3) granting the employment would involve an unreasonable risk to property or to the safety or welfare of specific individuals or the general public. Id. Disqualification or adverse action includes refusal to hire, segregation, and actions with respect to recruitment, hiring, promotion, renewal of employment, selection for training or apprenticeship, discharge, discipline, tenure or terms, privileges, or conditions of employment. Id. If a board wants to terminate or take other adverse action against a *current* district employee based in whole or in part on a conviction record, it still must comply with all applicable statutory, policy, and bargaining agreement provisions. Boards should consult the board attorney to ensure all legal obligations are met.

Districts that wish to disqualify or take other adverse action against an applicant or employee based on a conviction record must first engage them in an *interactive assessment*, providing the individual with the opportunity to submit evidence in mitigation or to dispute the accuracy of the conviction record. See policy 5:30, *Hiring Process and Criteria*, at f/n 5, and administrative procedure 5:30-AP2, *Investigations*, for more information.

[19] Insert the following optional sentence (775 ILCS 5/1-103(A) and 29 U.S.C. §631):

Age, as used in this policy, means the age of a person who is at least 40 years old.

[20] Insert the following optional provision (29 U.S.C. §705(10)(A)-(B), (20)(C)(v), (20)(D) and 42 U.S.C. §12114):

Handicap and *disability*, as used in this policy, excludes persons:

1. Currently using illegal drugs;
2. Having a currently contagious disease or infection and who, by reason of such disease or infection, would constitute a direct threat to the health or safety of other individuals or who, by reason of the currently contagious disease or infection, are unable to perform the duties of the job; or
3. Whose current alcohol use prevents them from performing the job's duties or constitutes a direct threat to the property or safety of others.

Persons who have successfully completed or are participating in a drug rehabilitation program are considered *disabled*.

[21] Districts may not make residency in the district a condition of employment for teachers or educational support personnel. 105 ILCS 5/24-4.1, 5/10-23.5. This ban on residency requirements for teachers applies only to instructional personnel, and not, for example, to assistant principals. Owen v. Kankakee Sch. Dist., 261 Ill.App.3d 298 (3rd Dist. 1994). Districts also may not ask an applicant, or the applicant's previous employer, whether the applicant ever received, or filed a claim for, benefits under the Workers' Compensation Act or Workers' Occupational Diseases Act. 820 ILCS 55/10(a). Districts are also prohibited from requiring, requesting, or coercing an employee or potential employee to provide a user name and password or any password or other related account information to gain or demand access to his or her personal online account. 820 ILCS 55/10(b). While the law does not prohibit employers from viewing public information, consult the board attorney before engaging in this practice.

[22] School districts must accommodate mothers who choose to continue breastfeeding after returning to work. See 740 ILCS 137/, Right to Breastfeed Act; 820 ILCS 260/, amended by P.A. 100-1003, Nursing Mothers in the Workplace Act (NMWA); and 29 U.S.C. §207(r), Fair Labor Standards Act. At least one court has ruled an implied private right of action may exist under the NMWA. Spriesch v. City of Chicago, 2017 WL 4864913 (N.D.Ill. 2017). See sample language for a personnel handbook in 5:10-AP, *Workplace Accommodations for Nursing Mothers*.

[23] 410 ILCS 130/40, amended by P.A. 101-363; 77 Ill.Admin.Code Part 946. To legally use medical cannabis, an individual must first become a *registered qualifying patient*. Their *use* of cannabis, e.g. permissible locations, is governed by the Compassionate Use of Medical Cannabis Program Act. 410 ILCS 130/, amended by P.A.s 100-660 and 101-363. There are many situations in which no one, even a registered qualifying patient, may possess or use cannabis except as provided under *Ashley's Law* (105 ILCS 5/22-33, added by P.A.s 100-660, and amended by P.A.s 101-363, and 101-370), including in a school bus or on the grounds of any preschool, or primary or secondary school. 410 ILCS 130/30(a)(2)(3), amended by P.A.s 100-660 and 101-363. See policy 5:50, *Drug- and Alcohol-Free Workplace; E-Cigarette, Tobacco, and Cannabis Prohibition*, at f/n 9 for further discussion.

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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. [24]

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 for the Uniform Grievance Procedure. The Nondiscrimination Coordinator also serves as the District's Title IX Coordinator. [25]

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.[26]

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

[24] 775 ILCS 5/6-101. Discrimination on the basis of a request for or use of a reasonable accommodation is a civil rights violation under the IHRA. Id. Most discrimination laws prohibit retaliation against employees who oppose practices made unlawful by those laws, including, for example, the EEOA, Title IX, ADA, ADEA, Victims' Economic Security and Safety Act, the EPA, and the Ill. Whistleblower Act (IWA).

The IWA specifically prohibits employers from retaliating against employees for: (1) disclosing information to a government or law enforcement agency, where the employee has reasonable cause to believe that the information discloses a violation of a State or federal law, rule, or regulation (740 ILCS 174/15(b)); (2) disclosing information in a court, an administrative hearing, or before a legislative commission or committee, or in any other proceeding where the employee has reasonable cause to believe that the information reveals a violation of a State or federal law, rule or regulation (740 ILCS 174/15(a)); (3) refusing to participate in an activity that would result in a violation of a State or federal law, rule, or regulation, including, but not limited to, violations of FOIA (740 ILCS 174/20); and (4) disclosing or attempting to disclose public corruption or wrongdoing (740 ILCS 174/20.1). The definition of retaliation is expanded to include *other retaliation* and *threatening retaliation.* 740 ILCS 174/20.1, 20.2.

The Ill. False Claims Act defines *State* to include school districts. 740 ILCS 175/2(a). Thus, boards may seek a penalty from a person for making a false claim for money or property. 740 ILCS 175/4. For information regarding the IWA and the tort of retaliatory discharge, see Thomas v. Guardsmark, 487 F.3d 531 (7th Cir. 2007)(discussing the elements of retaliatory discharge and IWA); Sherman v. Kraft General Foods, Inc., 272 Ill.App.3d 833 (4th Dist. 1995)(finding employee who reported asbestos hazard had a cause of action for retaliatory discharge).

[25] The Nondiscrimination and Title IX Coordinator(s) need not be the same person. If the district uses a separate Title IX Coordinator who does not also serve as the Nondiscrimination Coordinator, delete "~~The Nondiscrimination Coordinator also serves as the District's Title IX Coordinator.~~," insert a hard return to create a new paragraph, and insert "The Superintendent shall appoint a Title IX Coordinator to coordinate the District's efforts to comply with Title IX." Then, list the Title IX and Nondiscrimination Coordinators' names and contact information separately in this policy.

[26] Title IX regulations require districts to designate and authorize at least one employee to coordinate their efforts to comply with Title IX and to refer to that employee as the *Title IX Coordinator*. 34 C.F.R. §106.8(a). Districts must identify the Title IX Coordinator by name, office address, email address, and telephone number. Id. See f/n 19 in policy 2:260, *Uniform Grievance Procedure*.

While the names and contact information are required by law to be listed, they are not part of the adopted policy and do not require board action. This allows for additions and amendments to the names and contact information when necessary. It is important for updated names and contact information to be inserted into this policy and regularly monitored.

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Nondiscrimination Coordinator: [27]

_____
Name

_____
Address

_____
Email

_____
Telephone

Complaint Managers:

_____	_____
Name	Name
_____	_____
Address	Address
_____	_____
Email	Email
_____	_____
Telephone	Telephone

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. [28]

Minority Recruitment [29]

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,

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[27] Best practice is that throughout the district's board policy manual, the same individual be named as Nondiscrimination Coordinator. In contrast, Complaint Managers identified in individual policies may vary depending upon local district needs.

[28] In addition to notifying employees of the Uniform Grievance Procedure, a district must notify them of the person(s) designated to coordinate the district's compliance with Title IX and the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. 34 C.F.R. §§106.8(a), 104.8(a). The Nondiscrimination Coordinator may be the same individual for both this policy and policy 7:10, *Equal Educational Opportunities*, as well as a Complaint Manager for policy 2:260, *Uniform Grievance Procedure*. A comprehensive faculty handbook can provide required notices, along with other important information, to recipients. The handbook can be developed by the building principal, but should be reviewed and approved by the superintendent and school board. Any *working conditions* contained in the handbook may be subject to mandatory collective bargaining.

[29] All districts must have a policy on minority recruitment. 105 ILCS 5/10-20.7a. Unlike minority recruitment efforts, affirmative action plans are subject to significant scrutiny because of the potential for reverse discrimination. The U.S. Constitution's guarantee of equal protection prohibits school districts from using racial hiring quotas without evidence of past discrimination. See 29 C.F.R. §1608.1 et seq. (EEOC's guidelines for affirmative action plans); Wygant v. Jackson Bd. of Ed., 476 U.S. 267 (1986) (The goal of remedying societal discrimination does not justify race-based layoffs.); City of Richmond v. J.A. Croson Co., 488 U.S. 469 (1989) (Minority contractor quota struck; quotas must be narrowly tailored to remedy past discrimination and the city failed to identify the need for remedial action and whether race-neutral alternatives existed.).

The IHRA states that it shall not be construed as requiring any employer to give preferential treatment or special rights based on sexual orientation or to implement affirmative action policies or programs based on sexual orientation. 775 ILCS 5/1-101.1.

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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. §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. §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. §2000d et seq., Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.
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, 5/2-102, 103, 103.1, 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 Sexual Harassment Grievance Procedure), 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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General Personnel

Hiring Process and Criteria [1]

The District hires the most qualified personnel consistent with budget and staffing requirements and in compliance with School Board policy on equal employment opportunity and minority recruitment.[2] The Superintendent is responsible for recruiting personnel and making hiring recommendations to the Board.[3] If the Superintendent's recommendation is rejected, the Superintendent must submit another.[4] No individual will be employed who has been convicted of a criminal offense listed in 105 ILCS 5/21B-80(c). [5]

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

[1] State or federal law controls this policy's content. This policy contains an item on which impact bargaining may be required. Any policy that impacts upon wages, hours, and terms and conditions of employment, is subject to collective bargaining upon request by the employee representative, even if the policy involves an inherent managerial right.

[2] See policy 5:10, *Equal Employment Opportunity and Minority Recruitment*. Districts may not classify a job as either a *male* or *female* job. 29 C.F.R. §1604.5, 34 C.F.R. §106.55.

[3] Boards must consider the superintendent's recommendations concerning, among other things, "the selection, retention, and dismissal of employees." 105 ILCS 5/10-16.7. The board may want to use this alternative sentence:

All personnel decisions are made by the Board, but only on the recommendation of the Superintendent.

Subject to an applicable collective bargaining agreement in effect on 6-13-11, a board that fills a "new or vacant teaching position" must select a candidate based on: (1) certifications, (2) qualifications, (3) merit and ability (including performance evaluation, if available), and (4) relevant experience, provided that the length of continuing service with the district must not be considered a factor, unless all other factors are determined by the school district to be equal. 105 ILCS 5/24-1.5. The statute does not define "new or vacant teaching positions." The requirement does not apply to filling vacant positions under 105 ILCS 5/24-12 (reduction in force and recall). Consult the board attorney about these issues.

[4] An additional optional sentence follows:

The Superintendent may select personnel on a short-term basis for a specific project or emergency condition before the Board's approval.

[5] 775 ILCS 5/2-103.1, added by P.A. 101-656, prohibits employers from using conviction records as a basis to refuse to hire or to take any adverse action against an applicant or employee unless: (1) otherwise authorized by law; (2) there is a *substantial relationship* between the criminal offense and the employment sought; or (3) granting the employment would involve an unreasonable risk to property or to the safety or welfare of specific individuals or the general public. For the disqualifying offenses listed in 105 ILCS 5/21B-80, a district does not have to show a *substantial relationship* between the offense and the position or that hiring or continuing to employ the person would involve an unreasonable risk. However, the Ill. Dept. of Human Rights (IDHR) interprets the Ill. Human Rights Act (IHRA) to still require the employer to notify the applicant of the disqualification pursuant to law and to afford the applicant at least five business days to respond in case the applicant wants to dispute the accuracy of the conviction record. Id. at 5/2-103.1(C). See IDHR's *Conviction Record Protection – Frequently Asked Questions* (March 2021), at:

www2.illinois.gov/dhr/Pages/Conviction_Record_Protection_Frequently_Asked_Questions.aspx. See administrative procedure 5:30-AP2, *Investigations,* and its footnotes for more detail regarding the IHRA notice requirements. **Note:** The protections of 775 ILCS 5/2-103.1 do not cover *unpaid interns*, which may include student teachers in the K-12 context. The definition of *employee* in the IHRA only extends to include unpaid interns for civil rights violations involving sexual harassment. 775 ILCS 5/2-101(A)(1)(c) and 5/2-102(D).

105 ILCS 5/10-21.9(c), amended by P.A. 101-531; 105 ILCS 5/21B-80, amended by P.A. 101-531, allows individuals with criminal histories involving certain drug convictions to apply for or to reinstate their educator licenses seven years after their sentence for the criminal offense is completed. Consult the board attorney about whether the board wants to continue prohibiting employment for any individual who has a criminal history involving these exempted drug offenses.

For more discussion regarding criminal history records checks and screenings required by 105 ILCS 5/10-21.9, amended by P.A.s 101-531 and 101-643, see f/ns 5 and 6 in policy 4:175, *Convicted Child Sex Offender; Screening; Notifications*.

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All applicants must complete a District application in order to be considered for employment. [6]

Job Descriptions

The Board maintains the Superintendent's job description and directs, through policy, the Superintendent, in his or her charge of the District's administration. [7]

The Superintendent shall develop and maintain a current comprehensive job description for each position or job category; however, a provision in a collective bargaining agreement or individual contract will control in the event of a conflict. [8]

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

[6] Any person who applies for employment as a teacher, principal, superintendent, or other certificated employee who willfully makes a false statement on his or her application for employment, material to his or her qualifications for employment, which he or she does not believe to be true, is guilty of a Class A misdemeanor. 105 ILCS 5/22-6.5. District employment applications must contain a statement to this effect. Id. Each employment application for these positions must state the following (Id.):

> Failure to provide requested employment or employer history which is material to the applicant's qualifications for employment or the provision of statements which the applicant does not believe to be true may be a Class A misdemeanor.

Many districts ask applicants about disqualifying criminal convictions on their employment applications or at another point before a job offer is made. State law does not expressly prohibit this practice; however, guidance issued by IDHR regarding implementation of 775 ILCS 5/1-103(G-5) and 5/2-103.1, added by P.A. 101-656, states "[u]nless authorized by law, an employer is prohibited from inquiring about an applicant's conviction record prior to making a job offer to the applicant." See IDHR's *Conviction Record Protection – Frequently Asked Questions* guidance issued by IDHR (March 2021), at:

www2.illinois.gov/dhr/Pages/Conviction_Record_Protection_Frequently_Asked_Questions.aspx. It is also unclear if an applicant's mere disclosure of a disqualifying conviction on an application, absent results of a fingerprint-based criminal history records check, Ill. Sex Offender Registry check, or Violent Offender Against Youth Registry check, triggers the district's obligation to provide notice to the applicant under 775 ILCS 5/2-103.1(C); see also f/n 5, above. Consult the board attorney for advice on these issues and how they may affect application processes.

Any employer that asks applicants to record video interviews and uses an artificial intelligence analysis of the applicant-submitted videos must comply with the Artificial Intelligence Video Interview Act, 820 ILCS 42/, added by P.A. 101-260.

[7] 105 ILCS 5/10-16.7. The foundation for a productive employment relationship begins with a board's policy, a thoughtfully crafted employment contract and job description, and procedures for communications and ongoing assessment. See IASB's *Foundational Principles of Effective Governance*, **Principle 3. The board employs a superintendent**, at:

www.iasb.com/conference-training-and-events/training/training-resources/foundational-principles-of-effective-governance/.

See also 3:40-E, *Checklist for the Superintendent Employment Contract Negotiation Process*, for best practice discussions about establishing the board-superintendent employment relationship and contract.

[8] Job descriptions will become the basis for categorizing a teacher into one or more positions that the teacher is qualified to hold for reduction in force (RIF) dismissal and recall purposes. 105 ILCS 5/24-12(b), amended by P.A. 101-643. A board should consult with its attorney to review its current list of job descriptions and discuss the district's specific responsibilities.

A job description is evidence of a position's *essential functions*. 29 C.F.R. §1630.2(n). The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) protects individuals who have a disability and are qualified, with reasonable accommodation, to perform the *essential functions* of the job. 42 U.S.C. §12101 et seq., amended by the ADA Amendments Act (ADAAA), Pub. L. 110-325. Determining which functions are essential may be critical to determining if an individual with a disability is qualified. An individual is qualified to perform a job even though he or she is unable, due to a disability, to perform tasks which are incidental to the job. Only when an individual is unable to perform the *essential functions* of a job may a district deny the individual employment opportunities. 29 C.F.R. §1630.2(m). For a definition of essential functions see Id. at 1630.2(n). Whether a particular function is essential is a factual determination.

Important: The ADAAA made significant changes to the ADA's definition of disability that broadened the scope of coverage and overturned a series of U.S. Supreme Court decisions that made it difficult to prove that an impairment was a qualifying disability. There is information about the regulations and a link to them at: www.eeoc.gov/laws/regulations/adaaa_fact_sheet.cfm. Consult the board attorney regarding how these amendments impact the district's hiring processes.

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Investigations

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that a fingerprint-based criminal history records check and a check of the Statewide Sex Offender Database and Violent Offender Against Youth Database is performed on each applicant as required by State law.[9] When the applicant is a successful superintendent candidate who has been offered employment by the Board, the Board President shall ensure that these checks are completed.[10] The Superintendent or designee, or if the applicant is a successful superintendent candidate, then the Board President shall notify an applicant if the applicant is identified in either database.[11] The School Code requires the Board President to keep a conviction record confidential and share it only with the Superintendent, Regional Superintendent, State Superintendent, State Educator Preparation and Licensure Board, any other person necessary to the hiring decision, or for purposes of clarifying the information, the Ill. Dept. of State Police and/or Statewide Sex Offender Database.[12] The Board reserves its right to authorize additional background inquiries beyond a fingerprint-based criminal history records check when it deems it appropriate to do so, in accordance with applicable laws.

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

[9] The policy's requirements on criminal records checks for applicants for employment are mandated by 105 ILCS 5/10-21.9, amended by P.A.s 101-72, 101-531, and 101-643. See administrative procedure 5:30-AP2, *Investigations*, for the process and positions requiring criminal background investigation and what steps a district must take if it wants to disqualify an applicant based on a conviction record. The Statewide Sex Offender Database (a/k/a Sex Offender Registry) is available at: www.isp.state.il.us/sor. The Statewide Murderer and Violent Offender Against Youth Database is available at: www.isp.state.il.us/cmvo/. For more discussion regarding criminal history records checks and screenings required by 105 ILCS 5/10-21.9, amended by P.A.s 101-531 and 101-643, see f/n 5 in policy 4:175, *Convicted Child Sex Offender; Screening; Notifications*. See policy 4:60, *Purchases and Contracts*, for requirements concerning criminal background checks of employees of contractors who have *direct, daily contact* with students.

[10] Id. If a board wants to require additional background inquiries beyond the fingerprint-based criminal history records information check required by 105 ILCS 5/10-21.9, amended by P.A.s 101-72, 101-531, and 101-643, including the federal *Rap Back Service* (20 ILCS 2630/3.3, added by P.A. 100-718) and/or checks through consumer reporting agencies regulated by the Fair Credit Reporting Act (15 U.S.C. §1681 et seq.), consult the board attorney. For more detailed information, see the laws listed in sample exhibit 3:40-E, *Checklist for the Superintendent Employment Contract Negotiation Process*, under the checklist item entitled **Conditions of Employment**, in the **Other Background Check Laws** row.

[11] 105 ILCS 5/10-21.9(b), amended by P.A.s 101-72 and 101-531, and 105 ILCS 5/21B-10. The School Code requires the board president to keep a conviction record confidential. It is impossible to know whether a fingerprint-based criminal history records check and a check of the Statewide Sex Offender and Violent Offender Against Youth Databases on a successful superintendent candidate will come back with a conviction record.

Therefore, in accordance with best practice (ensuring compliance and aligning with good governance principles), this policy does not assign a designee for the board president to complete this task. However, to balance the requirement to keep conviction records confidential with the practical implementation of ensuring a fingerprint-based criminal history records check and a check of the Statewide Sex Offender and Violent Offender Against Youth Databases are performed on each successful superintendent applicant, a board president may want to designate the duty to order these checks to the individuals otherwise listed in 105 ILCS 5/10-21.9(b), amended by P.A.s 101-72 and 101-531. Those individuals include the board president, the superintendent or designee, regional superintendent (if the check was requested by the district), state superintendent of education, state Educator Preparation and Licensure Board, any other person necessary to the hiring decision, or for clarification purposes, the Ill. Dept. of State Police and/or Statewide Sex Offender Registry.

[12] Id. at 5/10-21.9(b), amended by P.A.s 101-72 and 101-531. The School Code continues to define the board president's role in conducting criminal background investigations and receiving the results of these investigations, including the results for employees of district contractors. 105 ILCS 5/10-21.9. Many districts delegate this task in the hiring process to a human resources department.

Use this alternative for districts in suburban Cook County: replace "Regional Superintendent" with "appropriate Intermediate Service Center."

For more discussion regarding responses to results obtained by criminal history records checks and screenings as required by 105 ILCS 5/10-21.9(e), amended by P.A.s 101-531 and 101-643, see f/n 6 in policy 4:175, *Convicted Child Sex Offender; Screening; Notifications*.

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Each newly hired employee must complete a U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services Form as required by federal law. [13]

The District retains the right to discharge any employee whose criminal background investigation reveals a conviction for committing or attempting to commit any of the offenses outlined in 105 ILCS 5/21B-80[14] or who falsifies, or omits facts from, his or her employment application or other employment documents. If an indicated finding of abuse or neglect of a child has been issued by the Ill. Department of Children and Family Services or by a child welfare agency of another jurisdiction for any applicant for student teaching, applicant for employment, or any District employee, then the Board must consider that person's status as a condition of employment. [15]

The Superintendent shall ensure that the District does not engage in any investigation or inquiry prohibited by law and complies with each of the following: [16]

1. The District uses an applicant's credit history or report from a consumer reporting agency only when a satisfactory credit history is an established bona fide occupational requirement of a particular position. [17]
2. The District does not screen applicants based on their current or prior wages or salary histories, including benefits or other compensation, by requiring that the wage or salary history satisfy minimum or maximum criteria. [18]
3. The District does not request or require a wage or salary history as a condition of being considered for employment, being interviewed, continuing to be considered for an offer of employment, an offer of employment, or an offer of compensation. [19]

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

[13] Immigration Reform and Control Act, 8 U.S.C. §1324a et seq. Consult with the board attorney regarding the district's rights and responsibilities under all Illinois laws if the district uses any electronic employment verification system, including *E-Verify* and/or the Basic Pilot Program. 820 ILCS 55/12. This statute urges employers who voluntarily use *E-Verify* (formerly known as the Basic Pilot/Employment Eligibility Verification Program) to consult the Ill. Dept. of Labor's website for current information on the accuracy of *E-Verify* and to review and understand their legal responsibilities relating to the use of any electronic employment verification systems. See f/n 2 in 5:150-AP, *Personnel Records*, for a more detailed discussion of *E-Verify* issues.

[14] See f/n 5, above.

[15] 105 ILCS 5/10-21.9(c) and (g), amended by P.A. 101-531. See f/n 6 in 4:175, *Convicted Child Sex Offender; Screening; Notifications*, for further discussion.

[16] As an alternative to describing the prohibited investigations, a board may substitute this sentence:

The Superintendent shall ensure that the District does not engage in any investigation or inquiry prohibited by law, including without limitation, investigation into or inquiry concerning: (1) credit history or report unless a satisfactory credit history is an established bona fide occupational requirement of a particular position; (2) claim(s) made or benefit(s) received under Workers' Compensation Act; and (3) access to an employee's or applicant's social networking website, including a request for passwords to such sites.

The default policy provision and the alternative stated above – whichever is selected – may be made a prohibition rather than a duty of the superintendent; to do this, delete the stricken text as follows: "The ~~Superintendent shall ensure that the~~ District does not engage … ."

[17] Employee Credit Privacy Act, 820 ILCS 70/10. This Act allows inquiries into an applicant's credit history or credit report or ordering or obtaining an applicant's credit report from a consumer reporting agency when a satisfactory credit history is an *established bona fide occupational requirement* of a particular position. The Act identifies circumstances that permit a satisfactory credit history to be a job requirement, such as, the position's duties include custody of or unsupervised access to cash or marketable assets valued at $2,500 or more.

[18] 820 ILCS 112/10(b-5), added by P.A. 101-177. If an employer violates this subsection, the employee may recover in a civil action any damages incurred, special damages up to $10,000, injunctive relief, and costs and reasonable attorney's fees. 820 ILCS 112/30(a-5), added by P.A. 101-177.

[19] Id.

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4. The District does not request or require an applicant to disclose wage or salary history as a condition of employment. [20]
5. The District does not ask an applicant or applicant's current or previous employers about wage or salary history, including benefits or other compensation. [21]
6. The District does not ask an applicant or applicant's previous employers about claim(s) made or benefit(s) received under the Workers' Compensation Act. [22]
7. The District does not request of an applicant or employee access in any manner to his or her personal online account, such as social networking websites, including a request for passwords to such accounts. [23]
8. The District provides equal employment opportunities to all persons. See policy 5:10, *Equal Employment Opportunity and Minority Recruitment.*

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

[20] Id.

[21] 820 ILCS 112/10(b-10), added by P.A. 101-177. **Note:** Attorneys caution that using the exceptions in 820 ILCS 112/10(b-10)(1) and (2), added by P.A. 101-177, may trigger litigation. Violating this subsection entitles an employee to recover in a civil action any damages incurred, special damages up to $10,000, injunctive relief, and costs and reasonable attorney's fees. 820 ILCS 112/30(a-5), added by P.A. 101-177.

A school board that wishes to preserve these exceptions should consult its board attorney; then they may supplement number 5 by adding the following after "compensation":

unless the applicant's wage or salary history is a matter of public record, or is contained in a document completed by the applicant's current or former employer and then made available to the public by the employer, or then submitted or posted by the employer to comply with State or federal law; or the applicant is a current employee applying for a position with the same current employer.

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

[23] Id. at 55/10(b)(6)(B) (commonly known as the *Facebook Password Law*). A *personal online account* is defined as an online account used primarily by a person for personal purposes. *Personal online account* does not include an account created, maintained, used, or accessed for the business purpose of a person's employer or prospective employer. Id. at 55/10(b)(5). Bracketed explanations follow the statutory language:

"Nothing in this subsection shall prohibit or restrict an employer from complying with a duty to screen employees or applicants prior to hiring…provided that the password, account information, or access sought by the employer only relates to an online account that:

(A) an employer supplies or pays; or

(B) an employee creates or maintains on behalf of under the direction of an employer in connection with that employee's employment."

[Based on this explanation, it is implausible that an applicant would have an account, service, or profile for business purposes of a school employer.]

The statute specifically permits an employer to: (1) maintain workplace policies governing the use of the employer's electronic equipment, including policies regarding Internet use, social networking site use, and electronic mail use; and (2) monitor usage of the employer's (district's) electronic equipment and electronic mail. The statute also states that it does *not prohibit* an employer from obtaining information about an applicant or an employee that is in the public domain or that is otherwise obtained in compliance with the statute. Finally, the statute does not apply to all types of personal technology that employees may use to communicate with students or other individuals, such as text messages on a personal phone. Consult the board attorney about these issues.

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Physical Examinations [24]

Each new employee must furnish evidence of physical fitness to perform assigned duties and freedom from communicable disease. The physical fitness examination must be performed by a physician licensed in Illinois, or any other state, to practice medicine and surgery in any of its branches, a licensed advanced practice registered nurse, or a licensed physician assistant who has been delegated the authority by his or her supervising physician to perform health examinations. The employee must have the physical examination performed no more than 90 days before submitting evidence of it to the District.

Any employee may be required to have an additional examination by a physician who is licensed in Illinois to practice medicine and surgery in all its branches, a licensed advanced practice registered nurse, or a licensed physician assistant who has been delegated the authority by his or her supervising physician to perform health examinations, if the examination is job-related and consistent with business necessity.[25] The Board will pay the expenses of any such examination.

Orientation Program

The District's staff will provide an orientation program for new employees to acquaint them with the District's policies and procedures, the school's rules and regulations, and the responsibilities of their position. Before beginning employment, each employee must sign the *Acknowledgement of Mandated Reporter Status* form as provided in policy 5:90, *Abused and Neglected Child Reporting*.

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

[24] 105 ILCS 5/24-5, amended by P.A.s 100-513, 100-855, and 101-81. According to this statute, a new or existing employee or substitute teacher employee may be subject to additional health examinations, including tuberculosis screening, as required by rules adopted by the Ill. Dept. of Public Health or by order of a local public health official. The Ill. Dept. of Public Health does not require school employees to be screened for tuberculosis other than workers in child day care and preschool settings. 77 Ill.Admin.Code §696.140(a)(3).

The last sentence of the first paragraph exceeds State law requirements and may be deleted.

Note that while examination by a spiritual leader/practitioner is sufficient for purposes of leaves, the statute does not permit an examination by a spiritual leader/practitioner for initial employment exams. This difference may present a constitutional issue; contact the board attorney for an opinion if an applicant wants to use an examination by a spiritual leader/practitioner.

Federal law limits pre-employment medical inquiries to whether the applicant is able to perform job-related functions; required medical examinations of applicants is forbidden. American with Disabilities Act (ADA), 42 U.S.C. §12112(d)(2); see also f/n 8 for an explanation regarding the ADAAA. Districts may condition an employment offer on taking and passing medical inquiries or physical exams, provided that all entering employees in the same classification receive the same conditional offer.

[25] The State law (105 ILCS 5/24-5, amended by P.A.s 100-513, 100-855, and 101-81) allowing boards to require physicals of current employees "from time to time," is been superseded by the ADA. 42 U.S.C. §12112(d)(4). The ADA allows medical inquiries of current employees only when they are job-related and consistent with business necessity or part of a voluntary employee wellness program. Id. Districts may deny jobs to individuals with disabilities who pose a direct threat to the health or safety of others in the workplace, provided that a reasonable accommodation would not either eliminate the risk or reduce it to an acceptable level. 42 U.S.C. §12113; 29 C.F.R. §1630.2(r). See f/n 8 for an explanation regarding the ADAAA.

See f/n 24 for a discussion of examinations by spiritual leaders/practitioners.

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LEGAL REF.: 105 ILCS 5/10-16.7, 5/10-20.7, 5/10-21.4, 5/10-21.9, 5/21B-10, 5/21B-80, 5/10-22.34, 5/10-22.34b, 5/22-6.5, and 5/24-5.
20 ILCS 2630/3.3, Criminal Identification Act.
820 ILCS 55/, Right to Privacy in the Workplace Act.
820 ILCS 70/, Employee Credit Privacy Act.
Americans with Disabilities Act, 42 U.S.C. §12112, and 29 C.F.R. Part 1630.
Fair Credit Reporting Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1681 et seq.
Immigration Reform and Control Act, 8 U.S.C. §1324a et seq.
Duldulao v. St. Mary of Nazareth Hospital, 136 Ill. App. 3d 763 (1st Dist. 1985), *aff'd in part and remanded* 115 Ill.2d 482(Ill. 1987).
Kaiser v. Dixon, 127 Ill. App. 3d 251 (2nd Dist. 1984).
Molitor v. Chicago Title & Trust Co., 325 Ill. App. 124 (1st Dist. 1945).

CROSS REF.: 2:260 (Uniform Grievance Procedure), 3:50 (Administrative Personnel Other Than the Superintendent), 4:60 (Purchases and Contracts), 4:175 (Convicted Child Sex Offender; Screening; Notifications), 5:10 (Equal Employment Opportunity and Minority Recruitment), 5:40 (Communicable and Chronic Infectious Disease), 5:90 (Abused and Neglected Child Reporting), 5:125 (Personal Technology and Social Media; Usage and Conduct), 5:220 (Substitute Teachers), 5:280 (Duties and Qualifications)

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Instruction

Using Animals in the Educational Program [1]

Animals may be brought into school facilities for educational purposes according to procedures developed by the Superintendent assuring: (a) the animal is appropriately housed, humanely cared for, and properly handled, and (b) students will not be exposed to a dangerous animal or an unhealthy environment. [2]

Animal Experiments

Experiments on living animals are prohibited; however, behavior studies that do not impair an animal's health or safety are permissible. [3]

Animal Dissection

The dissection of dead animals or parts of dead animals shall be allowed in the classroom only when the dissection exercise contributes to or is a part of an illustration of pertinent study materials. All dissection of animals shall be confined to the classroom and must comply with the School Code.

Students who object to performing, participating in, or observing the dissection of animals are excused from classroom attendance without penalty during times when such activities are taking place.[4] No student will be penalized or disciplined for refusing to perform, participate in, or observe a dissection. The Superintendent or designee shall inform students of: (1) their right to refrain from performing, participating in, or observing dissection, and (2) which courses contain a dissection unit and which of those courses offers an alternative project. [5]

LEGAL REF.: 105 ILCS 5/2-3.122, 5/27-14, and 112/.

CROSS REF.: 6:40 (Curriculum Development)

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

[1] State or federal law controls this policy's content.

[2] This paragraph is optional and is not controlled by State or federal statute or rule.

[3] This sentence's first clause is required by 105 ILCS 5/27-14; the clause after the semi-colon is a reasonable interpretation that will allow the use of mouse-mazes.

[4] 105 ILCS 112/25 prohibits schools from penalizing a student who refuses to perform, participate in, or observe dissection.

[5] ISBE's guidelines for helping schools give notice to students, parents, teachers, and administrators are available under the RESOURCES heading at: www.isbe.net/Pages/Science-Mandates.aspx. State law does not require that objecting students receive an alternative project. Instead, it says that the student may be given an alternative project that provides the student, through means other than dissection, with knowledge similar to that expected to be gained during the dissection project.

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Instruction

Migrant Students [1]

The Superintendent will develop and implement a program to address the needs of migrant children in the District in accordance with federal law.

This program will:

1. Identify migrant students and assess their educational and related health and social needs.
2. Provide a full range of services to migrant students through appropriate local, State, and federal educational programs,[2] including applicable Title I programs, special education, gifted education, vocational education, language programs, counseling programs, and elective classes.
3. Provide migrant children with full and appropriate opportunities to meet the same challenging State academic standards that all children are expected to meet. [3]
4. Provide, to the extent feasible: [4]
   a. Advocacy and outreach programs to migrant children and their families, including helping such children and families gain access to other education, health, nutrition, and social services,
   b. Professional development programs, including mentoring, for District staff,
   c. Family literacy programs,
   d. The integration of information technology into educational and related programs, and
   e. Programs to facilitate the transition of secondary school students to postsecondary education or employment. [5]

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

[1] State or federal law controls this policy's content. The first sentence of this policy allows a school board to consider the goals for its migrant education program and to amend the sample policy accordingly. The Migrant Education Program is a federally funded program authorized under Title I, Part C, of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). 20 U.S.C. §6391 et seq.; 34 C.F.R. §200.81 et seq.

To qualify for the program, a migrant child must: (1) be younger than the age of 22, (2) have not earned a high school diploma or an equivalent degree, (3) have moved on his/her own as a migratory worker or with/to join/to precede a parent, spouse or guardian who is a migratory worker; and (4) have moved within the preceding 36 months due to economic necessity, from one school district to another, and from one residence to another. 20 U.S.C. §6399; see also www.isbe.net/Pages/Migrant-Education-Program.aspx. . Although most of the requirements are directed to State agencies, local school districts that receive State money for these programs will be held to many of the same requirements by the State. For additional information, see ISBE's collection of material about the Migrant Education Program in Illinois at www.isbe.net/Pages/Migrant-Education-Program.aspx.

[2] 20 U.S.C. §§ 6394(b)(1)(A), 6396(a)(1)(E).

[3] 20 U.S.C. §§ 6391(3), 6394(b)(2), 6396(a)(1)(C).

[4] 20 U.S.C. §6394(c)(7).

[5] For an elementary school district that wants to delete subsection e, amend 4(c)-4(e) as follows:

c. Family literacy programs, and
d. The integration of information technology into educational and related programs. ~~, and~~
~~e. Programs to facilitate the transition of secondary school students to postsecondary education or employment.~~

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5. Provide programs, activities, and procedures for the engagement of parents/guardians and family members of migrant students in an understandable format and language. [6]

Migrant Education Program for Parent/Guardian and Family Member Engagement

Parents/guardians and family members of migrant students will be involved in and regularly consulted about the development, implementation, operation, and evaluation of the migrant program.

Parents/guardians and family members of migrant students will receive instruction regarding their role in improving the academic achievement of their children.

LEGAL REF.: 20 U.S.C. §6318.
20 U.S.C. §6391 et seq., Education of Migratory Children.
34 C.F.R. §200.81 et seq.

CROSS REF.: 6:170 (Title I Programs)

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

[6] 20 U.S.C. §6394(c)(3).

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Instruction

English Learners [1]

The District offers opportunities for resident English Learners to achieve at high levels in academic subjects and to meet the same challenging State academic standards that all children are expected to meet. The Superintendent or designee shall develop and maintain a program for English Learners that will:

1. Assist all English Learners to achieve English proficiency, facilitate effective communication in English, and encourage their full participation in school activities and programs as well as promote participation by the parents/guardians of English Learners. [2]
2. Appropriately identify students with limited English language proficiency. [3]

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

[1] State or federal law controls this policy's content. The assessment and accountability provisions in the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), as amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act, and State law include English Learners. 20 U.S.C. §§6312, 6314, 6315, and 6318. **Note**: Applicable regulations at 34 C.F.R. Part 200 have not been updated; amendments to the regulations are highly likely within the next year. 34 C.F.R. Part 200.

ESEA Title III, Part A, also known as the English Language Acquisition, Language Enhancement, and Academic Achievement Act, provides funding to support schools' efforts to help children who are English learners "achieve at high levels in academic subjects so that all English learners can meet the same challenging State academic standards that all children are expected to meet." 20 U.S.C. §6812(2). Reimbursement for programs is contingent on the submission and approval of a program plan and request for reimbursement in accordance with the requirements in 105 ILCS 5/14C-12 and 23 Ill.Admin.Code Part 228. This policy uses *English Learners* (EL) rather than *English Language Learners* (ELL) or *Limited English Proficient* (LEP). LEP and ELL are no longer terms used generally among educators and researchers in the field of English language acquisition. 37 Ill. Reg. 16804. The Ill. State Board of Education (ISBE) now uses the term *English learners*, which are synonymous with LEP and ELL. P.A. 99-30 also deleted language from "English ~~language~~ learner."

For purposes of this policy, *English Learners* is synonymous with the School Code definition, which means: (1) all students in grades Pre-K through 12 who were not born in the United States, whose native tongue is a language other than English, and who are incapable of performing ordinary classwork in English; and (2) all students in grades Pre-K through 12 who were born in the United States of parents possessing no or limited English-speaking ability and who are incapable of performing ordinary classwork in English. 105 ILCS 5/14C-2. **Note**: The Ill. Administrative Code definition of *English Learners* has not been amended since the effective date of P.A. 99-30 and still provides that *English Learners* means any student in preschool, kindergarten or any of grades 1 through 12, whose home language background is a language other than English and whose proficiency in speaking, reading, writing, or understanding English is not yet sufficient to provide the student with: (1) the ability to meet the State's proficiency level of achievement on State assessments; (2) the ability to successfully achieve in classrooms where the language of instruction is English, or (3) the opportunity to participate fully in the school setting. 23 Ill.Admin.Code §228.10.

The Office for Civil Rights (OCR) at the U.S. Dept. of Education (DOE) and the Civil Rights Division at the U.S. Dept. of Justice (DOJ) have issued joint guidance to assist school districts and all public schools in meeting their legal obligations to ensure that English Learners can participate meaningfully and equally in educational programs and services. The guidance is available at: www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/letters/colleague-el-201501.pdf (copy and paste link into browser if clicking doesn't work). In support of this guidance, the Office of English Language Acquisition released an *English Learner (EL) Tool Kit* to assist school districts in providing EL students with the support necessary to achieve their full academic potential. The *Tool Kit* is available at: www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/oela/english-learner-toolkit/index.html.

[2] This policy's first sentence and the first numbered paragraph both allow a school board to consider the goals for its English Learners programs; a board should amend the sample policy accordingly.

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3. Comply with State law regarding the Transitional Bilingual Educational Program (TBE) or Transitional Program of Instruction (TPI), whichever is applicable. [4]
4. Comply with any applicable State and federal requirements for the receipt of grant money for English Learners and programs to serve them. [5]
5. Determine the appropriate instructional program and environment for English Learners. [6]
6. Annually assess the English proficiency of English Learners and monitor their progress in order to determine their readiness for a mainstream classroom environment. [7]
7. Include English Learners, to the extent required by State and federal law, in the District's student assessment program to measure their achievement in reading/language arts and mathematics. [8]
8. Provide information to the parents/guardians of English Learners about: (a) the reasons for their child's identification, (b) their child's level of English proficiency, (c) the method of instruction to be used, (d) how the program will meet their child's needs, (e) how the program will specifically help their child learn English and meet age-appropriate academic achievement standards for grade promotion and graduation, (f) specific exit requirements of the program, (g) how the program will meet their child's individualized education program, if applicable, and (h) information on parent/guardian rights. Parents/guardians will be regularly apprised of their child's progress and involvement will be encouraged. [9]

Parent Involvement [10]

Parents/guardians of English Learners will be informed how they can: (1) be involved in the education of their children; (2) be active participants in assisting their children to attain English proficiency, achieve at high levels within a well-rounded education, and meet the challenging State academic standards expected of all students; and (3) participate and serve on the District's Transitional Bilingual Education Programs Parent Advisory Committee.

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

[3] 23 Ill.Admin.Code §228.15. Districts must administer a home language survey to each student entering the district's schools for the first time within 30 days after the student's enrollment. The survey's purpose is to identify students of non-English background. ISBE's website contains useful information about communicating with parents/guardians of English Learners (www.isbe.net/Pages/Resources-for-Families-of-English-Learners.aspx), including sample Home Language Surveys and program letters in many languages (www.isbe.net/Pages/English-Learners-Forms-and-Notifications.aspx).

For purposes of identifying students eligible to receive special education, districts must administer non-discriminatory procedures to English Learners coming from homes in which a language other than English is used (105 ILCS 5/14-8.02).

[4] 105 ILCS 5/14C-3, and 23 Ill.Admin.Code §§228.25, and 228.30.

[5] 20 U.S.C. §§6312, 6314, 6315, 6318, and 6801 et seq.; 34 C.F.R. Part 200; 105 ILCS 5/14C-1 et seq.; and 23 Ill.Admin.Code Part 228.

[6] 23 Ill.Admin.Code §228.25.

[7] 23 Ill.Admin.Code §228.25(b). Districts must annually assess the English language proficiency of all English learners using the assessment prescribed by the State Superintendent of Education. This assessment is the Assessing Comprehension and Communication in English State to State for English Language Learners (ACCESS for ELLs) test. See www.isbe.net/Pages/EnglishLearnerIdentificationAssessment.aspx.

[8] 34 C.F.R. Part 200.

[9] 20 U.S.C. §6312(e)(3)(A) and 23 Ill.Admin.Code §228.40.

[10] 20 U.S.C. §6312(e)(3)(C) and 23 Ill.Admin.Code Part 228. 105 ILCS 5/14C-10 requires school districts to establish parental advisory committees for transitional bilingual education programs. See 2:150-AP, *Superintendent Committees*.

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LEGAL REF.: 20 U.S.C. §§6312, 6314, 6315, and 6318.
20 U.S.C. §6801 et seq.
34 C.F.R. Part 200.
105 ILCS 5/14C-1 et seq.
23 Ill.Admin.Code Part 228.

CROSS REF.: 6:15 (School Accountability), 6:170 (Title I Programs), 6:340 (Student Testing and Assessment Program)

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Instruction

Title I Programs [1]

The Superintendent or designee shall pursue funding under Title I, Improving the Academic Achievement of the Disadvantaged, of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, to supplement instructional services and activities in order to improve the educational opportunities of educationally disadvantaged or deprived children.

All District schools, regardless of whether they receive Title I funds, shall provide services that, taken as a whole, are substantially comparable. Teachers, administrators, and other staff shall be assigned to schools in a manner that ensures equivalency among the District's schools. Curriculum materials and instructional supplies shall be provided in a manner that ensures equivalency among the District's schools. [2]

Title I Parent and Family Engagement

The District maintains programs, activities, and procedures for the engagement of parents/guardians and families of students receiving services, or enrolled in programs, under Title I. These programs, activities, and procedures are described in District-level and School-level compacts.

District-Level Parent and Family Engagement Compact [3]

The Superintendent or designee shall develop a *District-Level Parent and Family Engagement Compact* according to Title I requirements. The *District-Level Parent and Family Engagement Compact* shall contain: (1) the District's expectations for parent and family engagement, (2) specific strategies for effective parent and family engagement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance, and (3) other provisions as required by federal law. The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that the *Compact* is distributed to parents/guardians of students receiving services, or enrolled in programs, under Title I.

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

[1] State or federal law controls this policy's content. **This policy is mandatory for any district that receives or desires to receive Title I funds.** Title I is part of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. 20 U.S.C. §6301 et seq. It was amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act. Pub. L. 114-95.

[2] This paragraph, or similar language, is mandatory for each district receiving Title I funds. 20 U.S.C. §6321(c)(2)(A)(iii).

[3] 20 U.S.C. §6318(a)(2) requires each district receiving Title I funds to "develop jointly with, agree on with, and distribute to, parents and family members of participating children a written parent and family engagement policy." This requirement is accomplished in this sample policy by mandating the superintendent or designee to develop a *District-Level Parent and Family Engagement Compact*, according to Title I requirements. A sample *District-Level Parent and Family Engagement Compact* is contained in 6:170-AP1, E1, *District-Level Parent and Family Engagement Compact*. A sample process for developing a parent and family engagement compact is contained in 6:170-AP1, *Checklist for Development, Implementation, and Maintenance of Parent and Family Engagement Compacts for Title I Programs*.

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School-Level Parent and Family Engagement Compact[4]

Each Building Principal or designee shall develop a *School-Level Parent and Family Engagement Compact* according to Title I requirements. This *School-Level Parent and Family Engagement Compact* shall contain: (1) a process for continually involving parents/guardians in its development and implementation, (2) how parents/guardians, the entire school staff, and students share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement, (3) the means by which the school and parents/guardians build and develop a partnership to help children achieve the State's high standards, and (4) other provisions as required by federal law. Each Building Principal or designee shall ensure that the *Compact* is distributed to parents/guardians of students receiving services, or enrolled in programs, under Title I.

Incorporated by Reference: 6:170-AP1, E1 (District-Level Parent and Family Engagement Compact) and 6:170-AP1, E2 (School-Level Parent and Family Engagement Compact)

LEGAL REF.: Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, 20 U.S.C. §6301-6514.

CROSS REF.: 2:260 (Uniform Grievance Procedure), 4:110 (Transportation), 5:190 (Teacher Qualifications), 5:280 (Duties and Qualifications), 6:15 (School Accountability), 6:140 (Education of Homeless Children), 6:145 (Migrant Students), 6:160 (English Learners), 7:10 (Equal Educational Opportunities), 7:30 (Student Assignment), 7:60 (Residence), 7:100 (Health, Eye, and Dental Examinations; Immunizations; and Exclusion of Students), 8:95 (Parental Involvement)

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

[4] 20 U.S.C. §6318(b)(1) requires each school served under Title I to "jointly develop with, and distribute to, parents and family members of participating children a written parent and family engagement policy, agreed on by such parents, that shall describe the means for carrying out the requirements of subsections (c) through (f)." This requirement is accomplished in this sample policy by mandating the building principal or designee to develop a *School-Level Parent and Family Engagement Compact*, according to Title I requirements. A sample *School-Level Parent and Family Engagement Compact* is contained in 6:170-AP1, E2, *School-Level Parent and Family Engagement Compact*. A sample process for developing a parental involvement compact is contained in 6:170-AP1, *Checklist for Development, Implementation, and Maintenance of Parent and Family Engagement Compacts for Title I Programs.*

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Instruction

Access to Electronic Networks [1]

Electronic networks are a part of the District's instructional program and serve to promote educational excellence by facilitating resource sharing, innovation, and communication.[2]

The term *electronic networks* includes all of the District's technology resources, including, but not limited to:

1. The District's local-area and wide-area networks, including wireless networks (Wi-Fi), District-issued Wi-Fi hotspots, and any District servers or other networking infrastructure;
2. Access to the Internet or other online resources via the District's networks or to any District-issued online account from any computer or device, regardless of location;
3. District-owned or District-issued computers, laptops, tablets, phones, or similar devices.

The Superintendent shall develop an implementation plan for this policy and appoint system administrator(s). [3]

The School District is not responsible for any information that may be lost or damaged, or become unavailable when using the network, or for any information that is retrieved or transmitted via the Internet.[4] Furthermore, the District will not be responsible for any unauthorized charges or fees resulting from access to the Internet.

Curriculum and Appropriate Online Behavior

The use of the District's electronic networks shall: (1) be consistent with the curriculum adopted by the District as well as the varied instructional needs, learning styles, abilities, and developmental levels of the students, and (2) comply with the selection criteria for instructional materials and library

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

[1] State or federal law requires this subject matter be covered by policy. State or federal law controls this policy's content. This policy contains an item on which collective bargaining may be required. Any policy that impacts upon wages, hours, and terms and conditions of employment, is subject to collective bargaining upon request by the employee representative, even if the policy involves an inherent managerial right. This policy concerns an area in which the law is unsettled.

A policy on Internet safety is necessary to receive *E-rate* funds under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grants (20 U.S.C. §7131) and to qualify for universal service benefits under the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA) (47 U.S.C. §254(h) and (l)).

Generally, federal rules prohibit schools from soliciting or accepting gifts or other things of value exceeding $20 from Internet service providers that participate or are seeking to participate in the E-rate program. 47 C.F.R. §54.503. However, during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) temporarily waived its rules prohibiting such gifts to enable service providers to support remote learning efforts without impacting school E-rate funding. See https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DA-20-1479A1.pdf.

[2] This goal is repeated in exhibits 6:235-AP1, E1, *Student Authorization for Access to the District's Electronic Networks*, and 6:235-AP1, E2, *Staff Authorization for Access to the District's Electronic Networks*.

[3] Topics for the implementation plan include integration of the Internet in the curriculum, staff training, and safety issues. The implementation plan can also include technical information regarding service providers, establishing Internet accounts, distributing passwords, software filters, menu creation, managing resources and storage capacity, and the number of access points for users to connect to their accounts. Another topic is investigation of inappropriate use.

[4] No system can guarantee to operate perfectly or to prevent access to inappropriate material; this policy statement attempts to absolve the district of any liability.

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resource center materials. As required by federal law and Board policy 6:60, *Curriculum Content*, students will be educated about appropriate online behavior, including but not limited to: (1) interacting with other individuals on social networking websites and in chat rooms, and (2) cyberbullying awareness and response.[5] Staff members may, consistent with the Superintendent's implementation plan, use the Internet throughout the curriculum.

The District's electronic network is part of the curriculum and is not a public forum for general use. [6]

Acceptable Use [7]

All use of the District's electronic networks must be: (1) in support of education and/or research, and be in furtherance of the goals stated herein, or (2) for a legitimate school business purpose. Use is a privilege, not a right.[8] Users of the District's electronic networks have no expectation of privacy in any material that is stored on, transmitted, or received via the District's electronic networks. General rules for behavior and communications apply when using electronic networks. The District's administrative procedure, *Acceptable Use of the District's Electronic Networks*, contains the appropriate uses, ethics, and protocol.[9] Electronic communications and downloaded material,

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

[5] Required by 47 U.S.C. §254(h)(5)(B)(iii) and 47 C.F.R. §54.520(c)(i) only for districts that receive *E-rate* discounts for Internet access or plan to become participants in the *E-rate* discount program. All boards receiving an *E-rate* funding for Internet access were required to certify that they had updated their Internet safety policies. See, *FCC Report and Order 11-125* (August 11, 2011). This sentence is optional if the district only receives discounts for telecommunications, such as telephone service, unless the district plans to participate in the *E-rate* discount program.

[6] School authorities may reasonably regulate student expression in school-sponsored publications for education-related reasons. Hazelwood Sch. Dist. v. Kuhlmeier, 484 U.S. 260 (1988). This policy allows such control by clearly stating that school-sponsored network information resources are not a "public forum" open for general student use but are, instead, part of the curriculum.

It is an unfair labor practice (ULP) under the Ill. Educational Labor Relations Act (IELRA) for an employer to discourage employees from becoming or remaining members of a union. 115 ILCS 5/14(a)(10), added by P.A. 101-620. In connection with that potential penalty, the IELRA requires employers to establish email policies in an effort to prohibit the use of its email system by outside sources. 115 ILCS 5/14 (c-5), added by P.A. 101-620. This policy aligns with IELRA requirements by clarifying the District's electronic network is not a public forum for general use by outside parties and by limiting use of the network to the purposes stated under the **Acceptable Use** subhead. However, districts are still prohibited under the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution from suppressing messages based on viewpoint and may be subject to liability if they affirmatively block individual senders. See Perry Educ. Ass'n v. Perry Local Educators' Ass'n, 460 U.S. 37 (1983); Columbia Univ. v. Trump, 302 F.Supp.3d 541 (S.D.N.Y. 2018). Consult the board attorney if the board wants to amend this policy to prohibit access by specific parties and/or before taking steps to "block" any specific party from the district's email system based on the content of the party's message.

[7] This paragraph provides general guidelines for acceptable use regardless of whether Internet use is supervised. In practice, many districts allow for incidental personal use of their networks during duty-free times. The specific rules are provided in exhibits 6:235-AP1, E1, *Student Authorization for Access to the District's Electronic Networks,* and 6:235-AP1, E2, *Staff Authorization for Access to the District's Electronic Networks* (see also f/n 1). This paragraph's application to faculty may have collective bargaining implications.

[8] The "privilege, not a right" dichotomy is borrowed from cases holding that a student's removal from a team does not require due process because such participation is a privilege rather than a right. The deprivation of a privilege typically does not trigger the Constitution's due process provision. Clements v. Bd. of Educ. of Decatur Public Sch. Dist. No. 61, 133 Ill.App.3d 531 (4th Dist. 1985). Nevertheless, before access privileges are revoked, the user should be notified and allowed to give an explanation.

[9] If students are allowed only supervised access and are not required to sign the *Authorization for Access to the District's Electronic Networks*, the provisions from the *Authorization* should be used as administrative procedures for covering student Internet use. See 6:235-AP1, *Acceptable Use of the District's Electronic Networks*. This is an optional sentence:

> The Superintendent shall establish administrative procedures containing the appropriate uses, ethics, and protocol for Internet use.

The Harassing and Obscene Communications Act criminalizes harassing and obscene electronic communication. 720 ILCS 5/26.5.

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including files deleted from a user's account but not erased, may be monitored or read by school officials. [10]

Internet Safety [11]

Technology protection measures shall be used on each District computer with Internet access.[12] They shall include a filtering device that protects against Internet access by both adults and minors to visual depictions that are: (1) obscene, (2) pornographic, or (3) harmful or inappropriate for students, as defined by federal law and as determined by the Superintendent or designee.[13] The Superintendent or designee shall enforce the use of such filtering devices. An administrator, supervisor, or other authorized person may disable the filtering device for bona fide research or other lawful purpose, provided the person receives prior permission from the Superintendent or system administrator.[14] The Superintendent or designee shall include measures in this policy's implementation plan to address the following: [15]

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

[10] The Fourth Amendment protects individuals from searches only when the person has a legitimate expectation of privacy. This provision attempts to avoid Fourth Amendment protection for communications and downloaded material by forewarning users that their material may be read or searched, thus negating any expectation of privacy.

Email and computer files are "public records" as defined in the Ill. Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) if they are, as in this policy, "under control" of the school board. 5 ILCS 140/2. They may be exempt from disclosure, however, when they contain information that, if disclosed, "would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy." 5 ILCS 140/7.

Alternatively, a school board may believe that making email semi-private enhances its educational value. The following grants limited privacy to email communications and can be substituted for the sample policy's sentence preceding this footnote:

> School officials will not intentionally inspect the contents of email without the consent of the sender or an intended recipient, unless as required to investigate complaints regarding email that is alleged to contain material in violation of this policy or the District's administrative procedure, *Acceptable Use of the District's Electronic Networks*.

[11] See f/n 1.

[12] While it is best practice to do so, neither CIPA nor the rules for the E-Rate program specifically address whether school-owned computers or other mobile computing devices must be filtered when using a non-school Internet connection. Consult the board attorney for guidance on this issue.

[13] This sample policy language is broader than the requirements in federal law (20 U.S.C. §7131, 47 U.S.C. §254, and 47 C.F.R. §54.520(c)(i)). It does not distinguish between minors (children younger than 17) and non-minors. The terms, *minor*, *obscene*, *child pornography*, and *harmful to minors* have not changed, but are now explicitly referred to in the regulations at 47 C.F.R. §54.520(a). Federal law defines *harmful to minors* as:

> ...any picture, image, graphic image file, or other visual depiction that–(i) taken as a whole and with respect to minors, appeals to a prurient interest in nudity, sex, or excretion; (ii) depicts, describes, or represents, in a patently offensive way with respect to what is suitable for minors, an actual or simulated sexual act or sexual contact, actual or simulated normal or perverted sexual acts, or a lewd exhibition of the genitals; and (iii) taken as a whole, lacks serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value as to minors.
>
> The Federal Communications Commission specifically declined to find that access to social networking websites are per se *harmful to minors*. School officials have discretion about whether or not to block access to these and similar sites. See supra f/n 3.

[14] Permitted by 20 U.S.C. §7131(c). The policy's provision for prior approval is not in the law and may be omitted. The entire sentence may be eliminated if a board does not want the filtering device to be disabled.

[15] In order to qualify for universal service benefits under the federal Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA), the district's Internet safety policy must address the items listed in the sample policy. 47 U.S.C. §254(l). The sample policy accomplishes this task by requiring these items be addressed in the policy's implementation plan or administrative procedure.

Note that federal law required school boards to hold at least one hearing or meeting to address the *initial* adoption of the Internet safety policy. Later revisions of the existing policy need not follow the public notice rule of CIPA, though a board will still need to follow its policy regarding revisions and the mandates of FOIA.

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1. Ensure staff supervision of student access to online electronic networks, [16]
2. Restrict student access to inappropriate matter as well as restricting access to harmful materials,
3. Ensure student and staff privacy, safety, and security when using electronic communications,
4. Restrict unauthorized access, including "hacking" and other unlawful activities, and
5. Restrict unauthorized disclosure, use, and dissemination of personal identification information, such as, names and addresses.

Authorization for Electronic Network Access [17]

Each staff member must sign the *Authorization for Access to the District's Electronic Networks* as a condition for using the District's electronic network. Each student and his or her parent(s)/guardian(s) must sign the *Authorization* before being granted unsupervised use. [18]

Confidentiality

All users of the District's computers to access the Internet shall maintain the confidentiality of student records. Reasonable measures to protect against unreasonable access shall be taken before confidential student information is loaded onto the network.

Violations

The failure of any user to follow the terms of the District's administrative procedure, *Acceptable Use of the District's Electronic Networks,* or this policy, will result in the loss of privileges, disciplinary action, and/or appropriate legal action.

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

CIPA also requires this policy and its documentation to be retained for at least five years after the last day of service delivered in a particular funding year. This means the five year retention requirement begins on the last day of service delivered under E-rate, not from the day the policy was initially adopted. Consult the board attorney about this requirement and the best practices for your individual board.

[16] Monitoring the online activities of *students* is broader than the requirement in federal law to monitor *minors*. The definition of minor for this purpose is "any individual who has not attained the age of 17 years." See 47 C.F.R. §54.520(a)(4)(i). The use of the word *students* is a best practice.

[17] The District's administrative procedure, 6:235-AP1, *Acceptable Use of the District's Electronic Networks*, rather than this board policy, specifies appropriate conduct, ethics, and protocol for Internet use. This is consistent with the principle that detailed requirements are not appropriate for board policy; instead, they should be contained in separate district documents that are authorized by board policy. Keeping technical rules specifying acceptable use out of board policy will allow for greater flexibility, fewer changes to the policy manual, and adherence to the belief that board policy should be confined to governance issues and the provision of guidance on significant district issues. This sample policy only requires staff and students to sign the *Authorization*; however, all users of the District's Electronic Networks, including board members and volunteers, are bound by this policy and its implementing procedure and should be familiar with their content.

[18] The Superintendent's implementation plan should describe appropriate supervision for students on the Internet who are not required, or refuse, to sign the *Authorization.*

The use of personal electronic communication devices owned by students but used to gain Internet access that has been funded by *E-rate* is not addressed yet. The FCC has indicated that it does plan to address the issues associated with the application of CIPA requirements to this situation.

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LEGAL REF.:	20 U.S.C. §7131, Elementary and Secondary Education Act. 47 U.S.C. §254(h) and (l), Children's Internet Protection Act. 47 C.F.R. Part 54, Subpart F, Universal Service Support for Schools and Libraries. 115 ILCS 5/14(c-5), Ill. Educational Labor Relations Act. 720 ILCS 5/26.5.
CROSS REF.:	5:100 (Staff Development Program), 5:170 (Copyright), 6:40 (Curriculum Development), 6:60 (Curriculum Content), 6:210 (Instructional Materials), 6:220 (Bring Your Own Technology (BYOT) Program; Responsible Use and Conduct), 6:230 (Library Media Program), 6:260 (Complaints About Curriculum, Instructional Materials, and Programs), 7:130 (Student Rights and Responsibilities), 7:190 (Student Behavior), 7:310 (Restrictions on Publications; Elementary Schools), 7:315 (Restrictions on Publications; High Schools), 7:345 (Use of Educational Technologies; Student Data Privacy and Security)
ADMIN. PROC.:	6:235-AP1 (Acceptable Use of the District's Electronic Networks), 6:235-AP1, E1 (Student Authorization for Access to the District's Electronic Networks), 6:235-AP1, E2 (Staff Authorization for Access to the District's Electronic Networks)

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Instruction

Assemblies and Ceremonies [1]

Assemblies must be approved by the Superintendent or designee and be consistent with the District's educational objectives.

The District shall not endorse or otherwise promote invocations, benedictions, and group prayers at any school assembly, ceremony, or other school-sponsored activity. [2]

LEGAL REF.: Lee v. Weisman, 505 U.S. 577 (1992).
Santa Fe Independent Sch. Dist. v. Doe, 530 U.S. 290 (2000).
Jones v. Clear Creek Independent Sch. Dist., 930 F.2d 416 (5th Cir. 1991), *cert. granted, judgement vacated*, 505 U.S. 1215 (1992), *remand*, 977 F.2d 963, *reh'g denied*, 983 F.2d 234 (5th Cir. 1992), and *cert. denied*, 508 U.S. 967 (1993).

CROSS REF.: 6:70 (Teaching About Religion), 6:80 (Teaching About Controversial Issues)

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

[1] State or federal law controls this policy's content.

[2] School-sponsored prayers or invocations at athletic events, graduation, and performances violate the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. Lee v. Weisman, 505 U.S. 577 (1992). Even permitting students to deliver a "brief invocation and/or message" as part of pre-game ceremonies at football games is unconstitutional when the district retains control of the message's content. Santa Fe Independent Sch. Dist. v. Doe, 530 U.S. 290 (2000), and Workman v. Greenwood Cmty. Sch. Corp., 2010 WL 1780043 (S.D.Ind. 2010). Using a student-led message to solemnize a school event is problematic, especially when the student-led message was historically a prayer or when the purpose is to solemnize an athletic event as opposed to an event like graduation. However, the Supreme Court denied review of the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals decision affirming a school board's policy that allowed nonsectarian and nonproselytizing student-led prayer during graduation ceremonies. Jones v. Clear Creek Independent Sch. Dist., 508 U.S. 967(1993), *cert. denied*. In that case, high school seniors were permitted to choose student volunteers to deliver nonsectarian, nonproselytizing invocation at graduation ceremonies. The following is the policy upheld in that case:

1. The use of an invocation and/or benediction at the high school graduation exercise shall rest within the discretion of the graduating senior class, with the advice and counsel of the senior class principal [class sponsor];
2. The invocation and benediction, if used, shall be given by a student volunteer; and
3. Consistent with the principle of equal liberty of conscience, the invocation and benediction shall be nonsectarian and nonproselytizing in nature.

A board should consult its attorney before adopting such a policy.

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Instruction

Complaints About Curriculum, Instructional Materials, and Programs

Parents/guardians have the right to inspect any instructional material used as part of their child's educational curriculum pursuant to School Board policy 7:15, *Student and Family Privacy Rights*. [1]

Persons who believe that curriculum, instructional materials, or programs violate rights guaranteed by any law or Board policy should file a complaint using Board policy 2:260, *Uniform Grievance Procedure*. Persons with all other suggestions or complaints about curriculum, instructional materials, or programs should complete a *Curriculum Objection* form. A parent/guardian may request that his/her child be exempt from using a particular instructional material or program by completing a *Curriculum Objection* form. [2]

LEGAL REF.: 20 U.S.C. §1232h, Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment.

CROSS REF.: 2:260 (Uniform Grievance Procedure), 7:15 (Student and Family Privacy Rights), 8:110 (Public Suggestions and Concerns)

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

[1] 20 U.S.C. §1232h(c)(1)(C)(i).

[2] A school district is not required to automatically accommodate a student's or his/her parents' religious beliefs by allowing the student to opt out of reading required materials or programs. A student is entitled to accommodation only if a district's requirement *burdens* his/her free exercise of religion and the requirement is not justified by a *compelling state interest*. Mozert v. Hawkins Co. Bd. of Educ., 827 F.2d 1058 (6th Cir. 1987). A student's free exercise right would unlikely be burdened by compelling the student to be exposed to ideas with which his/her religion disagrees. See Fleischfresser v. Directors of Sch. Dist. 200, 15 F.3d 680 (7th Cir. 1994). On the other hand, compelling a student to perform an act that violates the student's religious beliefs would burden his/her free exercise right, and the school district would need to justify the requirement with a compelling state interest in order to be able to enforce it.

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Students

Bus Conduct [1]

All students must follow the District's *School Bus Safety Rules*.

School Bus Suspensions

The Superintendent, or any designee as permitted in the School Code, is authorized to suspend a student from riding the school bus for up to 10 consecutive school days for engaging in gross disobedience or misconduct, including but not limited to, the following:

1. Prohibited student conduct as defined in School Board policy 7:190, *Student Behavior*.
2. Willful injury or threat of injury to a bus driver or to another rider.
3. Willful and/or repeated defacement of the bus.
4. Repeated use of profanity.
5. Repeated willful disobedience of a directive from a bus driver or other supervisor.
6. Such other behavior as the Superintendent or designee deems to threaten the safe operation of the bus and/or its occupants.

If a student is suspended from riding the bus for gross disobedience or misconduct on a bus, the School Board may suspend the student from riding the school bus for a period in excess of 10 days for safety reasons. The District's regular suspension procedures shall be used to suspend a student's privilege to ride a school bus. [2]

Academic Credit for Missed Classes During School Bus Suspension [3]

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

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

[1] All districts must have a policy on student discipline. 105 ILCS 5/10-20.14; 23 Ill.Admin.Code §1.280. State law requires the parent-teacher advisory committee, in cooperation with school bus personnel, to develop with the board, school bus safety procedures. 105 ILCS 5/10-20.14(c). See 4:110-AP3, *School Bus Safety Rules*.

[2] Attorneys disagree whether 105 ILCS 5/10-22.6(b) applies to school bus suspensions; this sentence applies the law to school bus suspensions. 7:200, *Suspension Procedure*, satisfies the procedural requirements in 105 ILCS 5/10-22.6(b). Delete this sentence only at the direction of the board attorney.

[3] The first sentence of this subhead is required by 105 ILCS 5/10-22.6(b-30).

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Electronic Recordings on School Buses [4]

Electronic visual and audio recordings may be used on school buses to monitor conduct and to promote and maintain a safe environment for students and employees when transportation is provided for any school related activity. Notice of electronic recordings shall be displayed on the exterior of the vehicle's entrance door and front interior bulkhead in compliance with State law and the rules of the Illinois Department of Transportation, Division of Traffic Safety.

Students are prohibited from tampering with electronic recording devices. Students who violate this policy shall be disciplined in accordance with the Board's discipline policy and shall reimburse the School District for any necessary repairs or replacement.

LEGAL REF.: Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, 20 U.S.C. §1232g; 34 C.F.R. Part 99.
105 ILCS 5/10-20.14, 5/10-22.6, and 10/.
720 ILCS 5/14-3(m).
23 Ill.Admin.Code Part 375, Student Records.

CROSS REF.: 4:110 (Transportation), 4:170 (Safety), 7:130 (Student Rights and Responsibilities), 7:170 (Vandalism), 7:190 (Student Behavior), 7:200 (Suspension Procedures), 7:230 (Misconduct by Students with Disabilities), 7:340 (Student Records)

ADMIN. PROC.: 4:110-AP3 (School Bus Safety Rules)

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

[4] This section is optional; it contains the statutory prerequisites for districts that want to use electronic audio and visual recording devices on school buses. 720 ILCS 5/14-3(m). These required prerequisites reside in an exception to the criminal eavesdropping statute. The criminal eavesdropping statute prohibits recording a conversation in which someone has a reasonable expectation of privacy without the consent of all parties but allows citizens to record public conversations without obtaining consent. While the criminal eavesdropping statute was legislatively corrected as of 12-30-2014, 720 ILCS 5/14-3(m) remains the same. Districts should consult with their board attorney regarding the requirements of the statute.

In addition, consult with the board attorney concerning the status of video and/or audio recordings that were made on school buses. Confusion surrounds whether or not videotapes are *education records* for purposes of the federal Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (20 U.S.C.§1232g) and/or *school student records* as defined in the Ill. School Student Records Act (ISSRA) (105 ILCS 10/). The Ill. State Board of Education (ISBE) considerably reduced the confusion by stating in its rule that *school student records* do not include video or other electronic recordings "created at least in part for law enforcement or security or safety reasons or purposes." 23 Ill.Admin.Code §375.10. ISBE rules also specify that: (1) electronic recordings made on school buses, as defined in the exemption from the criminal offense of eavesdropping in 720 ILCS 5/14-3(m), are not *school student records*, and (2) no image on a school security recording may be designated as directory information. 23 Ill.Admin.Code §§ 375.10, 375.80(a)(2)(B). This treatment exempts school bus videos from the multiple requirements in ISSRA. However, when responding to a request under the Freedom of Information Act (5 ILCS 140/) for recordings on school buses, a district will need to find an exemption other than the recording is a *school student record.*

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Students

Misconduct by Students with Disabilities [1]

Behavioral Interventions [2]

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

Discipline of Special Education Students [3]

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

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

[1] State or federal law controls this policy's content. State law requires each district to have a policy on student behavior (105 ILCS 5/10-20.14; 23 Ill.Admin.Code §1.280) plus "policies and procedures" on behavioral interventions (105 ILCS 5/14-8.05). In its continuing commitment to help school districts and special education cooperatives comply with ISBE's requirements for policy and procedure, the Ill. Council of School Attorneys, special education committee, reviewed this policy and prepared extensive procedures, *Special Education Procedures Assuring the Implementation of Comprehensive Programming for Children with Disabilities*. These procedures plus other material are available gratis on the IASB website at iasb.com/law/icsaspeced.cfm.

[2] State law specifies what must be covered in the mandatory "policies and procedures" on behavioral interventions. 105 ILCS 5/14-8.05(c). They must "be developed with the advice of parents with students with disabilities and other parents, teachers, administrators, advocates for persons with disabilities, and individuals with knowledge or expertise in the development and implementation of behavioral interventions for persons with disabilities." Id. A board that wants to highlight the components of the procedures may add the following:

> The committee shall review the State Board of Education's guidelines on the use of behavioral interventions and use them as a non-binding reference. This policy and the behavioral intervention procedures shall be furnished to the parents/guardians of all students with individual education plans within 15 days after their adoption or amendment by, or presentation to, the School Board or at the time an individual education plan is first implemented for a student; all students shall be informed annually of this policy and the procedures. At the annual individualized education plan review, this policy shall be given to the parents/guardians and the behavioral interventions procedures explained and made available to them on request.

[3] A special education student may not be expelled for behavior or a condition that is a manifestation of the student's disability. 34 C.F.R. §300.530.

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LEGAL REF.: Individuals With Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004, 20 U.S.C. §§1412, 1413, and 1415.
Gun-Free Schools Act, 20 U.S.C. §7151 et seq.
34 C.F.R. §§300.101, 300.530 - 300.536.
105 ILCS 5/10-22.6 and 5/14-8.05.
23 Ill.Admin.Code §226.400.
Honig v. Doe, 108 S.Ct. 592 (1988).

CROSS REF.: 2:150 (Committees), 6:120 (Education of Children with Disabilities), 7:130 (Student Rights and Responsibilities), 7:190 (Student Behavior), 7:200 (Suspension Procedures), 7:210 (Expulsion Procedures), 7:220 (Bus Conduct)

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Students

Communicable and Chronic Infectious Disease [1]

A student with or carrying a communicable and/or chronic infectious disease has all rights, privileges, and services provided by law and the School Board's policies.[2] The Superintendent will develop procedures to safeguard these rights while managing health and safety concerns.

LEGAL REF.: 105 ILCS 5/10-21.11.
23 Ill.Admin.Code §§ 1.610 and 226.300.
77 Ill.Admin.Code Part 690.
20 U.S.C. §1400 et seq., Individuals With Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004.
29 U.S.C. §794(a), Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Section 504.

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

[1] 105 ILCS 5/10-21.11 requires all boards to adopt a policy on the appropriate manner of managing children with chronic infectious diseases. State or federal law controls this policy's content. This policy concerns an area in which the law is unsettled in that competing interests (balancing the protection of the afflicted student's rights against the protection of the health and safety of the student body) have not been completely resolved.

[2] A student with a contagious disease is probably a *handicapped individual* under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. 29 U.S.C. §794(a). See Sch. Bd. of Nassau Co. v. Arline, 480 U.S. 273 (1987) (teacher with tuberculosis was handicapped under Section 504); Thomas v. Atascadero Unified Sch. Dist., 662 F.Supp. 376 (C.D. Ca. 1986) (a child with AIDS was a *handicapped person* under Section 504); Dist. 27 Cmty. Sch. Bd. v. Bd. of Educ. of the City of New York, 502 N.Y.S.2d 325 (1986).

Students with contagious diseases may also qualify for special education under the Individuals With Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004. 20 U.S.C. §1400 et seq. Each school district, independently or in cooperation with other districts, must provide a comprehensive program of special education that meets the needs of children ages 3 to 21 with exceptional characteristics as identified in State law, specifically including physical or health impairments. 105 ILCS 5/Art. 14.

Decisions to place a student in a class outside regular classes due to infectious disease must be based on medical evaluations indicating a need to protect the health and safety of others. Cmty. High Sch. Dist. 155 v. Denz, 124 Ill.App.3d 129 (2nd Dist. 1984).

Cases involving contagious diseases are highly fact-specific. Generally, the appropriate treatment of a student depends on the severity of the disease and the risk of infecting others, but in all cases, the board attorney should be consulted.

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Community Relations

Parent Organizations and Booster Clubs

Parent organizations and booster clubs are invaluable resources to the District's schools. While parent organizations and booster clubs have no administrative authority and cannot determine District policy, the School Board welcomes their suggestions and assistance.

Parent organizations and booster clubs may be recognized by the Board and permitted to use the District's name, a District school's name, or a District school's team name, or any logo attributable to the District provided they first receive the Superintendent or designee's express written consent. Consent to use one of the above-mentioned names or logos will generally be granted if the organization or club has by-laws containing the following: [1]

1. The organization's or club's name and purpose, such as, to enhance students' educational experiences, to help meet educational needs of students, to provide extra athletic benefits to students, to assist specific sports teams or academic clubs through financial support, or to enrich extracurricular activities.
2. The rules and procedures under which it operates.
3. An agreement to adhere to all Board policies and administrative procedures.
4. A statement that membership is open and unrestricted, meaning that membership is open to all parents/guardians of students enrolled in the school, District staff, and community members.
5. A statement that the District is not, and will not be, responsible for the organization's or club's business or the conduct of its members, including on any organization or club websites or social media accounts.
6. An agreement to maintain and protect its own finances.
7. A recognition that money given to a school cannot be earmarked for any particular expense. Booster clubs may make recommendations, but cash or other valuable consideration must be given to the District to use at its discretion. The Board's legal obligation to comply with Title

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

[1] For boards that want to require all parent organizations and booster clubs to have 501(c)(3) status, use the following paragraph:

> Parent organizations and booster clubs may be recognized by the Board and permitted to use the District's name, a District school's name, or a District school's team name, or any logo attributable to the District provided they first receive the Superintendent or designee's express written consent. Consent to use one of the above-mentioned names or logos will generally be granted if the organization or club is a 501(c)(3) that has submitted proof of its status and has by-laws containing the following:

A 501(c)(3) organization is an organization that qualifies for exemption from federal income tax because it is organized and operated exclusively for one or more of the following purposes: religious; charitable; scientific; testing for public safety; literary; educational; fostering national or international amateur sports competition (but only if none of its activities involve providing athletic facilities or equipment); or the prevention of cruelty to children or animals. For more information, see www.irs.gov/charities-and-nonprofits.

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IX by providing equal athletic opportunity for members of both genders will supersede an organization or club's recommendation. [2]

Permission to use one of the above-mentioned names or logos may be rescinded at any time and does not constitute permission to act as the District's representative. At no time does the District accept responsibility for the actions of any parent organization or booster club regardless of whether it was recognized and/or permitted to use any of the above-mentioned names or logos.[3] The Superintendent shall designate an administrative staff member to serve as the recognized liaison to parent organizations or booster clubs. The liaison will serve as a resource person and provide information about school programs, resources, policies, problems, concerns, and emerging issues. Building staff will be encouraged to participate in the organizations.

CROSS REF.: 8:80 (Gifts to the District)

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

[2] Booster clubs are understandably selective in their support. However, by accepting booster club assistance that creates vast gender differences, a board may face claims that it has violated Title IX. Title IX's focus is on equal funding opportunities, equal facility availability, similar travel and transportation treatment, comparable coaching, and comparable publicity. 34 C.F.R. Part 106.

[3] Booster clubs present potential liabilities to a school district beyond loss of funds because they seldom are properly organized (they generally are not incorporated or otherwise legally recognized), carry no insurance, raise and handle large sums, and club members hold themselves out as agents of the school (after all, no funds could be raised but for the school connection). A disclaimer, such as the one presented here, may not be sufficient. A district may take several actions, after discussion with its attorney, to minimize liability, such as adding a requirement to item 6 above that the club: (1) operate under the school's authority (activity accounts); or (2) be properly organized and demonstrate fiscal responsibility by being a 501(c)(3) organization, obtaining a bond, and/or arranging regular audits. Ultimately, the best way to minimize liability is to be sure that the district's errors and omissions insurance covers parent organizations and booster clubs.

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