EXCEPTIONAL LEARNERS COLLABORATIVE
BOARD OF EDUCATION
Board of Education Regular Meeting
November 19, 2026
8:30 AM

Location: Exceptional Learners Collaborative
990 Corporate Woods Parkway
Vernon Hills, IL 60061

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL
2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
3. *APPROVAL OF MINUTES
4. CORRESPONDENCE
5. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION
   At this time, the Board should welcome guests and representatives of the various media. The Board President will be able to offer anyone from the audience the opportunity to comment. If anyone wishes to address the board, they are given five (5) minutes. Board members can choose to address the concern, or place the item on a future agenda.

6. NEW BUSINESS
   A. PERSONNEL
      a. Executive Session We may have an executive session to discuss the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees. [5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1)]
      b. *Acceptance of Licensed/Certified/Support Staff Resignations
      c. *Approval of Appointments/Transfers/Reassignments
      d. Leaves of Absence

B. CURRICULUM, INSTRUCTION AND ASSESSMENT

a. Approval of Board Policy Updates (First Reading)
A review of the recommendations for the policies is attached. The recommendation is to adopt all of the polices/changes.

C. BUSINESS

a. FOIA Requests

None.

b. *Consideration of Monthly Financial Report
It is recommended that the Board of Education approve the list of Bills and Financial Statements as contained in the Monthly Financial Report for October.

c. Consent Agenda Items

1. Approve the Special Meeting Minutes, Regular Meeting Minutes, and Finance Committee Meeting Minutes of October 15, 2026.
2. Accept the resignations of the following individuals as noted in the Agenda Booklet of November 19, 2026, for Stephanie Kowal, Paraprofessional; and Katie Smith, Paraprofessional; as presented.
3. Approve the appointments/transfers/reassignments of the following individuals as noted in the Agenda Booklet of November 19, 2026, for Matthew Foltman, Paraprofessional; as presented.
4. Approval of Bills.
5. Approval of Financial Statement.

7. SUPERINTENDENT'S INFORMATIONAL REPORT

8. ADJOURN

~PUBLIC PARTICIPATION NOTICE~
PLEASE KNOW THIS MEETING WILL TAKE
PLACE IN PERSON AT ELC
990 CORPORATE WOODS PKWY
VERNON HILLS IL, 60061

DATE:11.19.2026

To: Dr. Megan Clarke, Superintendent & The ELC Board of Education

From: Ann Hofmeier, Director of Human Resources and Talent Acquisition

RE: Educational Staff Employment and Separations

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Employment					
Name	**Building**	**Position**	**Date**	**FTE**	**Reason**
Matt Foltman	West	Paraprofessional	11.19.2026	1	Open position
Separation Of Services					
Name	**Building**	**Position**	**Date**	**FTE**	**Reason**
Katie Smith	West	Paraprofessional	10.14.2026	1	Resignaiton
Stephanie Kowel	West	Paraprofessional	10.26.2026	1	Resignation

DATE November 19, 2026

To: The ELC Board of Education

From: Dr. Megan Clarke, Superintendent

RE: Approval of Board Policy Draft Updates Issue 123- First Reading

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Approval of Board Policy Updates- First Reading					
Policy Number	**Press Issue #**	**Policy Name**	**Policy Link:**	**Summary**	**Adopt/ Non-Adopt /Lawyer review**
2:150	123	Committees	Policy 2:150	The first update to this policy is that ELC is required establish and maintain a parent-teacher advisory committee (PTAC) to develop, with the board, policy guidelines on student discipline. Teachers must be selected in cooperation with the district's teachers or their bargaining unit. The second change to this policy is the the Behavioral Interventions Committee is also required. ELC Administration will redefine each of these committees.	Adopt
4:10	123	Fiscal and Business Management	Policy 4:10	There is a small change in this policy. A tentative budget, accompanied by an explanation, must be presented to the Board each August.	Adopt
4:80	123	Accounting and Audits	Policy 4:80	The first change to this policy is that within 30 days after receiving the	Adopt

				completed audit report a copy will be submitted to the Regional Office of Education. The second change is the ELC will ensure that the auditing firm files the the audit with ISBE on or before October 15 or the by the extension date. The final change is the AFR will be reviewed with the board before it is submitted to the Regional Superintendent of Schools. This will also be done with-in 30 days after receiving the completed audit report.	
4:170	123	Safety	Policy 4:170	Annually the ELC must complete one cardiac response drill to practice ELC's cardiac response plan. This can be done with partnership from emergency medical services. Students are not required to be a part of this drill.	Adopt
5:10	123	Equal Employment Opportunity and Minority Recruitment	Policy 5:10	The only change in this policy is that employers are required to reasonable accommodations for menopause related conditions, which includes perimenopause, menopause, and associated medical or symptomatic conditions that include, but are not limited to, vasomotor symptoms, sleep disruption, cognitive or mood changes, and osteoporosis-related changes	Adopt
5:80	123	Court Duty	Policy 5:80	This policy is up for review. No changes are recommended at this time. This policy may need to be	Adopt

				changed after negotiations.	
5:100	123	Staff Development Program	Policy 5:100	The changes in this policy are that the school's trauma bleeding control kit must be maintained. The second change is that ADA includes services animals. The final change is the removal of 105 ILCS 110/3 has been removed in the legal citations.	Adopt
5:120	123	Employee Ethics; Code of Professional Conduct; and Conflict of Interest	Policy 5:120	The first change is creating guidelines established for employee-student boundaries, and all available methods for reporting employee-student boundary violations. The second change in this policy is under employee conduct. The following has been added. All ELC employees shall exhibit positive examples of preparedness, punctuality, attendance, self-control, language, and appearance. I recommend adding employees will comply with 5:120-AP2, Employee Conduct Standards and 5:120-AP2, E, Expectations and Guidelines for Employee-Student Boundaries, both incorporated by reference into this policy.	Adopt
5:200	123	Terms and Conditions of Employment and Dismissal	Policy 5:200	The legal reference was update - 105 ILCS 5/24-8.2(c), added by P.A. 104-795, permits, but does not require, boards to award salary advancement to teachers for the completion of continuing education. To be eligible for salary advancement,	Adopt

				coursework completed on or after 7-1-26 must: (1) be graduate-level, degree-eligible credit offered through a regionally accredited institution of higher education and documented on an official academic transcript; and (2) include an instructor of record.	
5:220	123	Substitute Teachers	Policy 5:220	The dates were changed in response to Ill. Pension Code, 40 ILCS 5/16-118, amended by P.A. 104-532, allowing a TRS annuitant to work up to 120 paid days or 600 hours in a school year through June 30, 2029.	Adopt
6:60	123	Curriculum Content	Policy 6:60	The change was updated in response to 105 ILCS 5/27-605, amended by P.A. 104-803, changing instances of foreign language to world language in high school graduation requirements. Beginning with the 2028-2029 school year, 105 ILCS 5/27-605(e-10), amended by P.A.s 104-803 and 104-814, allows the substitution of at least two years of an approved career and technical education course for two years of world language courses.	Adopt
6:120	123	Education of Children with Disabilities	Policy 6:120 Answers Required	There are some language changes in the policy such as are disabled to have a disability. The second recommendation is around twice-exceptional students. We have had these students and have developed an individual plan for each student and documented it in their IEP. I am recommending that the	Adopt

				board approve 105 ILCS 5/22-50(c), added by P.A. 104-822, which authorizes a school board to adopt a policy to allow for the development of a written plan to support twice-exceptional students.	
6:235	123	Access to Electronic Networks	Policy 6-235	For this policy, ELC has started doing this work with Mr. Joe Fatheree this year and last. We agree with the recommended section titled: The Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI)-Enabled Tools. If the board wants to approve our AI plan, we will need to add additional language. I think with our work with Mr. Fatheree I feel our plan is very strong. ELC's AI applications are vetted for operational and instructional fit through our AI committee. Another suggestion under this policy is that districts maintain clear information about approved tools, their purpose and use, data security, and contact points for questions or concerns. Again, this is coming through the work of the ELC AI Committee. Part of the recommendation is that students should learn about AI, including what it is (and is not), how it works, its impact on society, and how to shape it, before and while using AI tools in the classroom. For our students at West, we will add this into class.	Adopt

				We will bring the AI plan to the board annually and make an changes as needed. During this review, we will also discuss the impact of AI and on teacher effectiveness and student outcomes. In December, Mr. Joe Fatheree will be at the meeting to discuss the work that he has done with the committee.	
6:310	123	High School Credit for Non-District Experiences; Course Substitutions; Re-Entering Students	Policy 6:310	The first change in this policy is in the language. The term now will be world language. The second change is again in language moving to a community-based heritage language school program.	Adopt
7:10	123	Equal Educational Opportunities	Policy 7:10	The only change is an update in the legal citation.	Adopt
7:50	123	School Admissions and Eligibility for Services	Policy 7:50	Again, the only change is the legal citation.	Adopt
7:150	123	Agency and Law Enforcement Requests	Policy 7:150	Only change in this policy is the legal citation was update.	Adopt
7:160	123	Student Appearance	Policy 7:160	The first change in this policy is adding Religious hairstyles, hair-related religious practices, or facial hair worn in accordance with a student's sincerely held religious beliefs, observance, or practice, including, but not limited to, uncut hair or sidelocks (known as payot or peyos), or beards, mustaches, or other facial hair, except that hair or	Adopt

				facial hair may be required to be secured, covered, or otherwise controlled during activities as deemed necessary to prevent endangerment of student health or safety.	
7:190	123	Student Discipline	Policy 7:190	The change in this policy is requiring a board policy prohibiting student use of wireless communication devices during school time, subject to certain exceptions, by the beginning of the 2027-2028 school year. The second change is around using a wireless communication device or other electronic device to take photographs in private areas such as locker rooms or bathrooms, or to otherwise violate student conduct rules. The third addition in the policy is that students may not be suspended or expelled solely for violating Board policy 7:195, Wireless Communication Devices.	Adopt
7:195	123	Wireless Communication Devices	Policy 7:195	This is a new policy, Wireless Communication Devices, and I am recommended we adopt the PRESS policy as presented.	Adopt
7:270	123	Administering Medicines to Students	Policy 7:270	The first modification is in the language throughout changing the term epinephrine injector to epinephrine delivery system. The second change is , authorizing a school nurse or trained personnel to administer undesignated glucagon to a student or provide undesignated	Adopt

				glucagon to any personnel authorized under a student's Individual Health Care Action Plan, in accordance with the student's prescriber's order or Section 504 plan, individualized education program, or other written accommodations plan, as well as adding new training and reporting requirements.	
7:290	123	Suicide and Depression Awareness and Prevention	Policy 7:290	For this policy, we can incorporate some instruction and discussion around suicide prevention curricula in grades 6-12.	Adopt

Document Status: Draft Update

SECTION 2 - GOVERNING BOARDS

2:150 Committees

The Governing Board may establish committees to assist with the Board's governance function and, in some situations, to comply with State law requirements. These committees are known as Board committees and report directly to the Board. Committee members may include both Board members and non-Board members depending on the committee's purpose. The Board President makes all Board committee appointments unless specifically stated otherwise. Board committee meetings shall comply with the Open Meetings Act. A Board committee may not take final action on behalf of the Board – it may only make recommendations to the Board.

Special Board Committees

A special committee may be created for specific purposes or to investigate special issues. A special committee is automatically dissolved after presenting its final report to the Board or at the Board's discretion.

Standing Board Committees

A standing committee is created for an indefinite term although its members will fluctuate. Standing committees are:

1. Board Policy Committee. This committee researches policy issues, and provides information and recommendations to the Board.
2. Parent-Teacher Advisory Committee (PTAC). This required committee assists in the development and annual review of student behavior policiesy and procedureitheir implementation,[C1] and provides information and recommendations to the Board. Its members are parents/guardians and teachers, and it may include other persons whose expertise or experience is needed. The committee reviews such issues as administering medicinesmedication in the schools, reciprocal reporting between the School District and local law enforcement agencies regarding criminal and civil offenses committed by students, student discipline, disruptive classroom behavior, school bus safety procedures, and the dissemination of student conduct

information.

3. Behavioral Interventions Committee. This required[C2] committee develops and monitors procedures for using behavioral interventions in accordance with Board policy 7:230, *Misconduct by Students with Disabilities*, and provides information and recommendations to the Board. At the Board President's discretion, the ~~Parent-Teacher Advisory Committee~~PTAC shall perform the duties assigned to the Behavioral Interventions Committee.

Nothing in this policy limits the authority of the Superintendent or designee to create and use committees that report to him or her or to other staff members.

LEGAL REF.:

5 ILCS 120/, Open Meetings Act.

105 ILCS 5/10-20.14 and 5/14-8.05.

CROSS REF.: 2:110 (Qualifications, Term, and Duties of Board Officers), 2:200 (Types of Governing Board Meetings), 2:240 (Board Policy Development), 7:190 (Student Behavior), 7:230 (Misconduct by Students with Disabilities)

ADOPTED: December 18, 2025

Exceptional Learners Collaborative

PRESSPlus Comments

C1. Updated for continuous improvement. Districts are required to establish and maintain a parent-teacher advisory committee (PTAC) to develop, with the board, policy guidelines on student discipline. Teachers must be selected in cooperation with the district's teachers or, if applicable, their exclusive bargaining unit. The parents/guardians on this committee, as well as other non-staff members, may not have access to student records unless the student cannot be identified or prior consent is obtained. 105 ILCS 10/6. The district's PTAC must also: (1) annually review student discipline policies and their implementation, including the impact of student behavior, specifically behavior considered gross disobedience or misconduct, on students and school personnel, and any other factors related to the safety of schools, students, and school personnel; (2) in cooperation with local law enforcement agencies, develop guidelines for reciprocal reporting of criminal and civil offenses committed by students, including attacks on school personnel in accordance with 105 ILCS 5/10-21.7; and (3) in cooperation with school bus personnel, develop school bus safety procedures. 105 ILCS 5/10-20.14, amended by P.A.s 103-896, 104-430, and 104-648, eff. 1-1-27. Completion of the statutory requirements imposed on the PTAC, as well as the Behavioral Interventions Committee, should be documented. The PTAC can also be utilized to develop and review a district's wireless communication device policy. 105 ILCS 5/10-20.88(f) (final citation pending), added by P.A. 104-657. See policy 7:195, *Wireless Communication Devices*. **Issue 123, October 2026**

C2. Updated to clarify that this committee is required. Boards must establish and maintain a behavioral interventions committee to develop procedures that reflect consideration of ISBE's guidelines on the use of behavioral interventions with students with disabilities. 105 ILCS 5/14-8.05(c). **Issue 123, October 2026**

Document Status: Draft Update

SECTION 4 - OPERATIONAL SERVICES

4:10 Fiscal and Business Management

The Executive Director/Superintendent is responsible for ELC's fiscal and business management. This responsibility includes annually preparing and presenting ELC's statement of affairs to the Governing Board and publishing it by December 1 as required by State law.

The Executive Director/Superintendent shall ensure the efficient and cost-effective operation of ELC's business management using computers, computer software, data management, communication systems, and electronic networks, including electronic mail, the Internet, and security systems. Each person using ELC's electronic network shall complete an *Authorization for Electronic Network Access*.

Budget Planning

ELC's fiscal year is from July 1 until June 30. The Executive Director/Superintendent shall present to the Board, no later than ~~athe first~~[C1] regular Board meeting in August, a tentative budget with appropriate explanation. This budget shall represent the culmination of an ongoing process of planning for the fiscal support needed for ELC's educational program. ELC's budget shall be entered upon the Ill. State Board of Education's (ISBE) *Joint Agreement Budget Form*. To the extent possible, the tentative budget shall be balanced as defined by ISBE guidelines. The Executive Director/Superintendent shall complete a tentative deficit reduction plan if one is required by ISBE guidelines.

Preliminary Adoption Procedures

After receiving the Executive Director/Superintendent's proposed budget, the Board sets the date, place, and time for:

1. A public hearing on the proposed budget, and
2. The proposed budget to be available to the public for inspection.

The Board Secretary shall arrange to publish a notice in a local newspaper stating the date, place, and time of the proposed budget's availability for public inspection and the public

hearing. The proposed budget shall be available for public inspection at least 30 days before the time of the budget hearing.

At the public hearing, the proposed budget shall be reviewed, including the cash reserve balance of all funds held by ELC related to its operational levy and, if applicable, any obligations secured by those funds, and the public shall be invited to comment, question, or advise the Board.

Final Adoption Procedures

The Board adopts a budget before September 1, or by such alternative procedure as State law may define. To the extent possible, the budget shall be balanced as defined by ISBE.

The Board adopts the budget by roll call vote. The budget resolution shall be incorporated into the meeting's official minutes. Board members' names voting *yea* and *nay* shall be recorded in the minutes.

The Executive Director/Superintendents or designee shall perform each of the following:

1. Post ELC's final annual budget, itemized by receipts and expenditures, on ELC's Internet website; notify parents/guardians that it is posted and provide the website's address.
2. File a certified copy of the budget resolution and an estimate of revenues by source anticipated to be received in the following fiscal year, certified by ELC's Chief Fiscal Officer, with the County Clerk within 30 days of the budget's adoption.
3. Submit the annual budget and other financial information to ISBE according to its requirements.

Any amendments to the budget shall be made as provided in the School Code.

Budget Amendments

The Board may amend the budget by the same procedure as provided for in the original adoption.

Implementation

The Executive Director/Superintendents or designee shall implement ELC's budget and provide the Board with a monthly financial report that includes all deficit fund balances. The amount budgeted as the expenditure in each fund is the maximum amount that may be expended for that category, except when a transfer of funds is authorized by the Board.

The Board shall act on all interfund loans, interfund transfers, transfers within funds, and transfers from the working cash fund or abatements of it, if one exists.

LEGAL REF.:

105 ILCS 5/10-17, 5/10-22.33, 5/17-1, 5/17-1.2, 5/17-1.3, 5/17-2A, 5/17-3.2, 5/17-11, 5/20-5, 5/20-8, and 5/20-10.

35 ILCS 200/18-55 *et seq*., Truth in Taxation Law.

23 Ill.Admin.Code Part 100.

CROSS REF.: 4:40 (Incurring Debt), 4:60 (Purchases and Contracts), 6:235 (Access to Electronic Networks)

ADOPTED: December 18, 2025

Exceptional Learners Collaborative

PRESSPlus Comments

C1. Updated for continuous improvement. **Issue 123, October 2026**

Document Status: Draft Update

SECTION 4 - OPERATIONAL SERVICES

4:170 Safety

Safety and Security

All ELC operations, including the education program, shall be conducted in a manner that will promote the safety and security of everyone on ELC property or at an ELC event.

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

School Safety Drill Plan

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

1. Three school evacuation drills to address and prepare students and school personnel for fire incidents. One of these three drills shall require the participation of the local fire department or district.
2. One bus evacuation drill.
3. One severe weather and shelter-in-place drill to address and prepare students and school personnel for possible tornado incidents.
4. One law enforcement lockdown drill to address a school shooting incident and to evaluate the preparedness of school personnel and students. This drill shall occur no later than 90 days after the first day of school of each year, and shall require the participation of all school personnel and students present at school at the time of the drill, except for those exempted by administrators, school support personnel, or a parent/guardian.
5. One cardiac response drill to practice the steps established in ELC's cardiac emergency response plan. This drill may be done in partnership with local emergency medical services and may be conducted without student participation.[C1]

Annual Review

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

Automated External Defibrillator (AED)

At least one automated external defibrillator (AED) shall be present in each District attendance center during the school day and during any ELC-sponsored extracurricular activity on school grounds. In addition, the Executive Director/Superintendent or designee shall implement a written plan for responding to medical emergencies at ELC's physical fitness facilities in accordance with the Fitness Facility Medical Emergency Preparedness Act and shall file a copy of the plan with the Ill. Dept. of Public Health (IDPH). The plan shall provide for at least one AED to be available at every physical fitness facility on the premises according to State law requirements.

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

Lead Testing in Water

The Executive Director/Superintendent or designee shall implement testing for lead in each source of drinking water in school buildings in accordance with the Illinois Plumbing License Law and guidance published by the IDPH. The Executive Director/Superintendent or designee shall notify parent(s)/guardian(s) about the sampling results from their children's respective school buildings.

LEGAL REF.:

105 ILCS 5/10-20.2, 5/10-20.57, 5/18-12, and 5/18-12.5.

105 ILCS 128/, School Safety Drill Act; 29 Ill.Admin.Code Part 1500.

210 ILCS 74/, Physical Fitness Facility Medical Emergency Preparedness Act.

225 ILCS 320/35.5, Ill. Plumbing License Law.

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

ADOPTED: May 15, 2025

Exceptional Learners Collaborative

PRESSPlus Comments

C1. Updated in response to 105 ILCS 128/60(c), added by P.A. 104-759, eff. 7-1-27, which requires school districts to conduct an annual cardiac response drill but does not specify that the drill must occur in each school building that houses children. Having an annual cardiac response drill in each school building that houses children ensures practical, streamlined implementation. Under the School Safety Drill Act, 105 ILCS 128/5, "school district" includes "any program of a special education joint agreement established under Section 3-15.14, 10-22.31, or 10-22.31a of the School Code. **Issue 123, October 2026**

Document Status: Draft Update

General Personnel

5:10 Equal Employment Opportunity and Minority Recruitment

ELC shall provide equal employment opportunities to all persons regardless of their race; color; creed; religion; national origin; sex; sexual orientation; age; ancestry; marital status; arrest record; military status; order of protection status; unfavorable military discharge; citizenship status provided the individual is authorized to work in the United States; work authorization status; use of lawful products while not at work; being a victim of domestic violence, sexual violence, gender violence, or any other crime of violence or use of ELC-issued equipment to record such types of violence; genetic information; physical or mental handicap or disability, if otherwise able to perform the essential functions of the job with reasonable accommodation; pregnancy, childbirth, or related medical conditions, including menopause-related conditions;[C1] reproductive health decisions; credit history, unless a satisfactory credit history is an established bona fide occupational requirement of a particular position; conviction record, unless authorized by law; family responsibilities; or other legally protected categories. No one will be penalized solely for his or her status as a registered qualifying patient or a registered designated caregiver for purposes of the Compassionate Use of Medical Cannabis Program Act, 410 ILCS 130/.

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

Administrative Implementation

The Executive Director/Superintendent shall appoint a Nondiscrimination Coordinator for personnel who shall be responsible for coordinating ELC's nondiscrimination efforts. The Nondiscrimination Coordinator may be the Executive Director/Superintendent or a Complaint Manager under policy 2:260, *Uniform Grievance Procedure*.

The Executive Director/Superintendent shall appoint a Title IX Coordinator to coordinate the ELC's efforts to comply with Title IX.

The Executive Director/Superintendent shall insert into this policy the names, office addresses, email addresses, and telephone numbers of ELC's current Nondiscrimination Coordinator, Title IX Coordinator, and Complaint Managers.

Nondiscrimination Coordinator:	**Title IX Coordinators:**	
Megan Clarke	Megan Clarke (Primary)	Richard Medina (Secondary)
990 Corporate Woods Parkway, Vernon Hills, IL 60061	990 Corporate Woods Parkway, Vernon Hills, IL 60061	990 Corporate Woods Parkway, Vernon Hills, IL 60061
mclarke@elced.org	mclarke@elced.org	rmedina@elced.org
224-513-6447	224-513-6447	224-513-6122

Complaint Managers:

Richard Medina

990 Corporate Woods
Parkway,
Vernon Hills, IL 60061

rmedina@elced.org

224-513-6122

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

Minority Recruitment

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

LEGAL REF.:

8 U.S.C. §1324a *et seq*., Immigration Reform and Control Act.

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

29 U.S.C. §206(d), Equal Pay Act.

29 U.S.C. §218d, Fair Labor Standards Act.

29 U.S.C. §621 *et seq*., Age Discrimination in Employment Act.

29 U.S.C. §701 *et seq*., Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

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

42 U.S.C. §1981 *et seq*., Civil Rights Act of 1991.

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

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

42 U.S.C. §2000ff *et seq*., Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2008.

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

42 U.S.C. §2000e(k), Pregnancy Discrimination Act.

42 U.S.C. §12111 *et seq*., Americans with Disabilities Act, Title I.

Ill. Constitution, Art. I, §§17, 18, and 19.

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

410 ILCS 130/40, Compassionate Use of Medical Cannabis Program Act.

410 ILCS 513/25, Genetic Information Privacy Act.

740 ILCS 174/, Ill. Whistleblower Act.

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

775 ILCS 35/, Religious Freedom Restoration Act.

820 ILCS 55/10, Right to Privacy in the Workplace Act.

820 ILCS 70/, Employee Credit Privacy Act.

820 ILCS 75/, Job Opportunities for Qualified Applicants Act.

820 ILCS 112/, Ill. Equal Pay Act of 2003.

820 ILCS 180/30 and 180/33, Victims' Economic Security and Safety Act.

820 ILCS 260/, Nursing Mothers in the Workplace Act.

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

ADOPTED: December 18, 2025

PRESSPlus Comments

C1. Updated in response to the Ill. Human Rights Act (IHRA), 775 ILCS 5/1-103, amended by P.A.s 104-744 and 104-793, both eff. 1-1-27. Employers must provide reasonable accommodations, including flexible scheduling or modified work hours and temperature or climate-adjusted workspace, to employees with conditions related to pregnancy, childbirth, or related conditions, including *menopause-related conditions*, which is defined as perimenopause, menopause, and associated medical or symptomatic conditions that include, but are not limited to, vasomotor symptoms, sleep disruption, cognitive or mood changes, and osteoporosis-related changes. 775 ILCS 5/2-102(J), 5/1-103(J-5) and (L-5), all added or amended by P.A. 104-793, eff. 1-1-27. Guidance from the IDHR is available at: https://dhr.illinois.gov/rights/reports-and-guidance/pregnancy-rights.html. Employers are required to post a notice summarizing the right to be free from unlawful discrimination and the right to certain reasonable accommodations, including the right to reasonable accommodations for pregnancy, which includes the right to reasonable accommodations for menopause-related conditions. 775 ILCS 5/2-102(K), amended by P.A. 104-793, eff. 1-1-27. The IDHR is required to prepare such a notice, retrievable from its website, which employers may use. **Issue 123, October 2026**

Document Status: Draft Update

General Personnel

5:100 Staff Development Program

The Superintendent or designee shall implement a staff development program. The goal of the program shall be to update and improve the skills and knowledge of staff members in order to achieve and maintain a high level of job performance and satisfaction.

Abused and Neglected Child Reporting Act (ANCRA) and *Erin's Law* Training

The staff development program shall include the Abused and Neglected Child Reporting Act (ANCRA) mandated reporter training and training on the awareness and prevention of child sexual abuse and grooming behaviors (*Erin's Law*) as follows (see Board policies 4:165, *Awareness and Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse and Grooming Behaviors*, and 5:90, *Abused and Neglected Child Reporting*):

1. Within three months of employment, each staff member must complete mandated reporter training from a provider or agency with expertise in recognizing and reporting child abuse. Mandated reporter training must be completed again at least every three years.
2. By January 31 of every year, all school personnel must complete evidence-informed training on preventing, reporting, and responding to child sexual abuse, grooming behaviors (including *sexual misconduct* as defined in *Faith's Law*), and boundary violations.

In-Service Training Requirements

The staff development program shall provide, at a minimum, within six months of employment and renewed at least once every five years thereafter (unless required more frequently by other State or federal law), the in-service training of all District staff who work with pupils on:

1. Health conditions of students, including but not limited to training on:
    a. Anaphylactic reactions and management, conducted by a person with expertise on anaphylactic reactions and management;
    b. Management of asthma, prevention of asthma symptoms, and emergency

response in the school setting;

c. The basics of seizure recognition and first aid and emergency protocols, consistent with best practice guidelines issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention;

d. The basics of diabetes care, how to identify when a diabetic student needs immediate or emergency medical attention, and whom to contact in case of emergency;

e. Current best practices regarding identification and treatment of attention deficit hyperactivity disorder; and

f. How to respond to an incident involving life-threatening bleeding, including use of a school's trauma bleeding control kit, if ~~applicable~~a kit is maintained.

2. Social-emotional learning. Training may include providing education to all school personnel about the content of the Illinois Social and Emotional Learning Standards, how they apply to everyday school interactions, and examples of how social emotional learning can be integrated into instructional practices across all grades and subjects.
3. Developing cultural competency, including but not limited to understanding and reducing implicit bias, including *implicit racial bias* as defined in 105 ILCS 5/10-20.61 (implicit bias training).
4. Identifying warning signs of mental illness, trauma, and suicidal behavior in youth, along with appropriate intervention and referral techniques, including resources and guidelines as outlined in 105 ILCS 5/2-3.166 (*Ann Marie's Law*) and the definitions of *trauma*, *trauma-responsive learning environments*, and *whole child* as set forth in 105 ILCS 5/3-11.
5. Domestic and sexual violence and the needs of expectant and parenting youth, conducted by persons with expertise in domestic and sexual violence and the needs of expectant and parenting youth. Training shall include, but is not limited to:
    a. Communicating with and listening to youth victims of domestic or sexual violence and expectant and parenting youth;
    b. Connecting youth victims of domestic or sexual violence and expectant and parenting youth to appropriate in-school services and other agencies, programs, and services as needed;
    c. Implementing the District's policies and procedures regarding such youth, including confidentiality; and
    d. Procedures for responding to incidents of teen dating violence that take place at school, on school grounds, at school-sponsored activities, or in vehicles used for school-provided transportation as outlined in in 105 ILCS 5/27-240 (see Board policy 7:185, *Teen Dating Violence Prohibited*).
6. Protections and accommodations for students, including but not limited to training on:

a. The federal Americans with Disabilities Act as it pertains to the school environment, including, but not limited to, service animals;[C1] and
b. Homelessness.

7. Educator ethics and responding to child sexual abuse and grooming behavior (see Board policy 5:120, *Employee Ethics; Code of Professional Conduct; and Conflict of Interest*); including but not limited to training on:
   a. Teacher-student conduct;
   b. School employee-student conduct; and
   c. Evidence-informed training on preventing, recognizing, reporting, and responding to child sexual abuse and grooming as outlined in 105 ILCS 5/10-23.13 (*Erin's Law*).
8. Effective instruction in violence prevention and conflict resolution, conducted in accordance with the requirements of 105 ILCS 5/27-115 (violence prevention and conflict resolution education).

Additional Training Requirements

In addition, the staff development program shall include each of the following:

1. Ongoing professional development for all school personnel and school resource officers on the requirements of 105 ILCS 5/10-22.6 and 5/10-20.14, the adverse consequences of school exclusion and justice-system involvement, effective classroom management strategies, culturally responsive discipline, trauma-responsive learning environments as defined in 105 ILCS 5/3-11(b), the appropriate and available supportive services for the promotion of student attendance and engagement, and developmentally appropriate disciplinary methods that promote positive and healthy school climates.
2. Annual continuing education and/or training opportunities (professional standards) for school nutrition program directors, managers, and staff. Each school food authority's director shall document compliance with this requirement by the end of each school year and maintain documentation for a three-year period.
3. All high school coaching personnel, including the head and assistant coaches, and athletic directors must obtain online concussion certification by completing online concussion awareness training in accordance with 105 ILCS 25/1.15. Coaching personnel and athletic directors hired on or after 8-19-14 must be certified before their position's start date.
4. The following individuals must complete concussion training as specified in the Youth Sports Concussion Safety Act: coaches and assistant coaches (whether volunteer or employee) of an interscholastic athletic activity; nurses, licensed and/or non-licensed

healthcare professionals serving on the Concussion Oversight Team; athletic trainers; game officials of an interscholastic athletic activity; and physicians serving on the Concussion Oversight Team.

5. For school personnel who work with hazardous or toxic materials on a regular basis, training on the safe handling and use of such materials.
6. For delegated care aides performing services in connection with a student's seizure action plan, training in accordance with 105 ILCS 150/, the Seizure Smart School Act.
7. For delegated care aides performing services in connection with a student's diabetes care plan, training in accordance with 105 ILCS 145/, the Care of Students with Diabetes Act.
8. For all District staff, annual sexual harassment prevention training.
9. Title IX requirements for training in accordance with 34 C.F.R. Part 106 (see Board policy 2:265, *Title IX Grievance Procedure*).
10. Training for all District employees on the prevention of discrimination and harassment based on race, color, and national origin in school as part of new employee training and at least once every two years.
11. Training for at least one designated employee at each school about the Prioritization of Urgency of Need for Services (PUNS) database and steps required to register students for it.
12. Training in accordance with 105 ILCS 5/26A for at least one staff member in each school designated as a resource for students who are parents, expectant parents, or victims of domestic or sexual violence, and for any employees whose duties include the resolution of complaints of violations of 105 ILCS 5/26A (see Board policy 7:255, *Students who are Parents, Expectant Parents, or Victims of Domestic or Sexual Violence*).

The Superintendent shall develop protocols for administering youth suicide awareness and prevention education to staff consistent with Board policy 7:290, *Suicide and Depression Awareness and Prevention*.

An opportunity shall be provided for all staff members to acquire, develop, and maintain the knowledge and skills necessary to properly administer life-saving techniques and first aid, including the Heimlich maneuver, cardiopulmonary resuscitation, and the use of an automated external defibrillator, in accordance with a nationally recognized certifying organization. Physical fitness facilities' staff must be trained in cardiopulmonary resuscitation and use of an automated external defibrillator.

LEGAL REF.:

20 U.S.C. §1681 *et seq*., Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972; 34 C.F.R. Part 106.

42 U.S.C. §1758b, Pub. L. 111-296, Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010; 7 C.F.R. Parts 210 and 235.

105 ILCS 5/2-3.62, 5/2-3.166, 5/3-11, 5/10-20.17a, 5/10-20.61, 5/10-22.6(c-5), 5/10-22.39, 5/10-23.12, 5/10-23.13, 5/22-80(h), 5/22-95, 5/22-115, 5/24-5, and 5/26A.

105 ILCS 25/1.15, Interscholastic Athletic Organization Act.

105 ILCS 145/25, Care of Students with Diabetes Act.

105 ILCS 150/25, Seizure Smart School Act.

~~105 ILCS 110/3, Critical Health Problems and Comprehensive Health Education Act.~~ C2

325 ILCS 5/4, Abused and Neglected Child Reporting Act.

745 ILCS 49/, Good Samaritan Act.

775 ILCS 5/2-109 and 5/5A-103, Ill. Human Rights Act.

23 Ill.Admin.Code §§ 22.20, 226.800, and Part 525.

77 Ill.Admin.Code §527.800.

CROSS REF.: 2:265 (Title IX Grievance Procedure), 2:270 (Discrimination and Harassment on the Basis of Race, Color, and National Origin Prohibited), 3:40 (Superintendent), 3:50 (Administrative Personnel Other Than the Superintendent), 4:160 (Environmental Quality of Buildings and Grounds), 4:165 (Awareness and Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse and Grooming Behaviors), 5:20 (Workplace Harassment Prohibited), 5:90 (Abused and Neglected Child Reporting), 5:120 (Employee Ethics; Code of Professional Conduct; and Conflict of Interest), 5:250 (Leaves of Absence), 6:15 (School Accountability), 6:20 (School Year Calendar and Day), 6:50 (School Wellness), 6:160 (English Learners), 7:10 (Equal Educational Opportunities), 7:20 (Harassment of Students Prohibited), 7:180 (Prevention of and Response to Bullying, Intimidation, and Harassment), 7:185 (Teen Dating Violence Prohibited), 7:250 (Student Support Services), 7:255 (Students Who are Parents, Expectant Parents, or Victims of Domestic or Sexual Violence), 7:270 (Administering Medicines to Students), 7:285 (Anaphylaxis Prevention, Response, and Management Program), 7:290 (Suicide and Depression Awareness and Prevention)

ADOPTED: December 18, 2025

PRESSPlus Comments

C1. Updated in response to 105 ILCS 5/10-22.39(b-30), amended by P.A. 104-628, eff. 1-1-27. **Issue 123, October 2026**

C2. Repealed by P.A. 104-391. **Issue 123, October 2026**

Document Status: Draft Update

General Personnel

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

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

The Superintendent or designee shall provide this policy, guidelines established for employee-student boundaries, and all available methods for reporting employee-student boundary violations[C1] to all ELC employees, and students, and/or parents/guardians in each of their respective handbooks, and ensure itsthey are posteding on the ELC's website, if any.

Professional and Appropriate Conduct

Professional and appropriate employee conduct are important Board goals that impact the quality of a safe learning environment and the school community, increasing students' ability to learn and the ELC's ability to educate. All ELC employees shall exhibit positive examples of preparedness, punctuality, attendance, self-control, language, and appearance.[C2]

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

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

1. Employees will comply with 5:120-AP2, *Employee Conduct Standards* and 5:120-AP2, E, *Expectations and Guidelines for Employee-Student Boundaries*, both incorporated by reference into this policy.[C3]
2. Employees who are governed by the *Code of Ethics for Illinois Educators*, adopted by the Ill. State Board of Education (ISBE), will comply with its incorporation by reference into this policy.
3. Employees are trained on educator ethics, child abuse, grooming behaviors, and employee-student boundary violations as required by law and Board policies 2:265, *Title IX Grievance Procedure*; 4:165, *Awareness and Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse and Grooming Behaviors*; 5:90, *Abused and Neglected Child Reporting*; and 5:100, *Staff Development Program*.
4. Employees maintain professional relationships with students, including maintaining employee-student boundaries based upon students' ages, grade levels, and developmental levels and following ELC-established guidelines for specific situations, including but not limited to:

    a. Transporting a student;
    b. Taking or possessing a photo or video of a student; and
    c. Meeting with a student or contacting a student outside the employee's professional role.

4. Employees report prohibited behaviors and/or boundary violations pursuant to Board policies 2:260, *Uniform Grievance Procedure*; 2:265, *Title IX Grievance Procedure*; and 5:90, *Abused and Neglected Child Reporting*.
5. Discipline up to and including dismissal will occur for any employee who violates an employee conduct standard or engages in any of the following:
    a. Violates expectations and guidelines for employee-student boundaries.
    b. Sexually harasses a student.
    c. Willfully or negligently fails to follow reporting requirements of the Abused and Neglected Child Reporting Act (325 ILCS 5/), Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (20 U.S.C. §1681 *et seq*.), or the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (20 U.S.C. § 7926).
    d. Engages in *grooming* as defined in 720 ILCS 5/11-25.
    e. Engages in grooming behaviors. Prohibited grooming behaviors include, at a

minimum, *sexual misconduct. Sexual misconduct* is any act, including but not limited to, any verbal, nonverbal, written, or electronic communication or physical activity, by an employee with direct contact with a student, that is directed toward or with a student to establish a romantic or sexual relationship with the student. Examples include, but are not limited to:

i. A sexual or romantic invitation.
ii. Dating or soliciting a date.
iii. Engaging in sexualized or romantic dialog.
iv. Making sexually suggestive comments that are directed toward or with a student.
v. Self-disclosure or physical exposure of a sexual, romantic, or erotic nature.
vi. A sexual, indecent, romantic, or erotic contact with the student.

Statement of Economic Interests

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

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

Ethics and Gift Ban

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

Prohibited Interests; Conflict of Interest; and Limitation of Authority

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

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

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

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

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

School Counselor Gift Ban

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

1. Opportunities, benefits, and services available on the same conditions as for the general public.
2. Anything for which the school counselor pays market value.
3. A gift from a relative.
4. Anything provided by an individual on the basis of a personal friendship, unless the school counselor believes that it was provided due to the official position or employment of the school counselor and not due to the personal friendship. In determining whether a gift is provided on the basis of personal friendship, the school counselor must consider the circumstances in which the gift was offered, including any of the following:

a. The history of the relationship between the individual giving the gift and the school counselor, including any previous exchange of gifts between those individuals.
b. Whether, to the actual knowledge of the school counselor, the individual who gave the gift personally paid for the gift or sought a tax deduction or business reimbursement for the gift.
c. Whether, to the actual knowledge of the school counselor, the individual who gave the gift also, at the same time, gave the same or a similar gift to other school ELC employees.

5. Bequests, inheritances, or other transfers at death.
6. Any item(s) during any calendar year having a cumulative total value of less than $100.
7. Promotional materials, including, but not limited to, pens, pencils, banners, posters, and pennants.
8. Travel, lodging, food, and beverage costs incurred by the school counselor and paid by an institution of higher education for attendance by the school counselor of an educational or military program at the institution of higher education.

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

Outside Employment

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

Incorporated by reference: 23 Ill. Admin. Code Part 22, ~~5:120-E (~~Code of Ethics for Ill. Educators.~~)~~
5:120-AP2 (Employee Conduct Standards)
5:120-AP2, E (Expectations and Guidelines for Employee-Student Boundaries)

LEGAL REF.:

U.S. Constitution, First Amendment.

2 C.F.R. §200.318(c)(1).

5 ILCS 420/4A-101, Ill. Governmental Ethics Act.

5 ILCS 430/, State Officials and Employee Ethics Act.

30 ILCS 708/, Grant Accountability and Transparency Act.

50 ILCS 135/, Local Governmental Employees Political Rights Act.

105 ILCS 5/10-22.39, 5/10-23.13, 5/22-5, 5/22-85.5, and 5/22-93.

325 ILCS 5/, Abused and Neglected Child Reporting Act.

720 ILCS 5/11-25, Criminal Code of 2012.

775 ILCS 5/5A-102, Ill. Human Rights Act.

23 Ill.Admin.Code Part 22, Code of Ethics for Ill. Educators.

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

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

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

ADOPTED: December 19, 2024

Exceptional Learners Collaborative

PRESSPlus Comments

C1. Updated in response to 105 ILCS 5/22-85.5(e), amended by P.A. 104-831, eff. 1-1-27. The purpose of this requirement is to create a culture of responsibility and shared accountability by ensuring that employee-student boundaries are widely known and transparently communicated within the school community. Best practice is to broadly interpret *handbook* to include materials provided to substitutes and any other short-term or temporary employees, as well as volunteers who interact with students. **Issue 123, October 2026**

C2. Updated in response to member feedback. Positive examples of language and appearance include conducting themselves with decorum and maintaining a professional appearance in dress and personal care. **Issue 126, October 2026**

C3. Optional. Sample conduct standards, including standards required by State and federal law, are contained in sample administrative procedures 5:120-AP2, *Employee Conduct Standards*, and 5:120-AP2, E, *Expectations and Guidelines for Employee-Student Boundaries*. These items are subjects of mandatory collective bargaining. Consult the board attorney for advice before establishing them. This means that 5:120-AP2 and 5:120-AP2, E should be considered to be part of this policy if new list item #1 is adopted. **Issue 123, October 2026**

Document Status: Draft Update

Professional Personnel

5:200 Terms and Conditions of Employment and Dismissal

The Governing Board delegates authority and responsibility to the Executive Director/Superintendent to manage the terms and conditions for the employment of professional personnel. The Executive Director/Superintendent shall act reasonably and comply with State and federal law as well as any applicable individual employment contract or collective bargaining agreement in effect. The Executive Director/Superintendent is responsible for making dismissal recommendations to the Board consistent with the Board's goal of having a highly qualified, high performing staff.

School Year and Day, Duty-Free Lunch, Salary, Assignments and Transfers, Dismissal, Evaluation

Please refer to the current:

Exceptional Learners Collaborative Employee Handbook

Nursing Mothers

The ELC accommodates employees who are nursing mothers and compensates them for reasonable time needed to express breast milk according to provisions in State and federal law.

School Social Worker Services Outside of ELC Employment

School social workers may not provide services outside of their ELC employment to any student(s) attending school at ELC. *School social worker* has the meaning stated in 105 ILCS 5/14-1.09a.

LEGAL REF.:

29 U.S.C. §218(d), Pub. L. 117-328, Pump for Nursing Mothers Act.

42 U.S.C. §2000gg *et seq*., Pub. L. 117-328, Pregnant Workers Fairness Act.

105 ILCS 5/10-19, 5/10-19.05, 5/10-20.65, 5/10-22.4, 5/14-1.09a, 5/22-96, ~~5/22.4,~~ 5/24-16.5, 5/24-2, 5/24-8, 5/24-8.2,[C1] 5/24-9, 5/24-11, 5/24-12, 5/24-21, 5/24A-1 through 24A-20.

820 ILCS 260/, Nursing Mothers in the Workplace Act.

23 Ill.Admin.Code Parts 50 (Evaluation of Educator Licensed Employees) and 51 (Dismissal of Tenured Teachers).

Cleveland Bd. of Educ. v. Loudermill, 470 U.S. 532(1985).

CROSS REF.: 5:120 (Employee Ethics; Code of Professional Conduct; and Conflict of Interest), 5:290 (Employment Termination and Suspensions), 6:20 (School Year Calendar and Day)

ADOPTED: December 18, 2025

Exceptional Learners Collaborative

PRESSPlus Comments

C1. 105 ILCS 5/24-8.2(c), added by P.A. 104-795, permits, but does not require, boards to award salary advancement to teachers for the completion of continuing education. To be eligible for salary advancement, coursework completed on or after 7-1-26 must: (1) be graduate-level, degree-eligible credit offered through a regionally accredited institution of higher education and documented on an official academic transcript; and (2) include an instructor of record. Districts determine the standards for documentation, transcript verification, institutional accreditation, salary advancement, and compliance monitoring. Boards may negotiate salary advancement or other compensation-related advancements under a collective bargaining agreement for other negotiated actions or activities. **Issue 123, October 2026**

Document Status: Draft Update

Professional Personnel

5:220 Substitute Teachers

The Executive Director/Superintendent may employ substitute teachers as necessary to replace teachers who are temporarily absent.

A substitute teacher must hold either a valid teaching or substitute license and may teach in the place of a licensed teacher who is under contract with the Board. There is no limit on the number of days that a substitute teacher may teach in ELC during the school year, except as follows:

1. A substitute teacher holding a substitute license may teach for any one licensed teacher under contract with ELC only for a period not to exceed 90 paid school days in any one school term.
2. A teacher holding a Professional Educator License or Educator License with Stipulations may teach for any one licensed teacher under contract with ELC only for a period not to exceed 120 paid school days.

The Ill. Teachers' Retirement System (TRS) limits a substitute teacher who is a TRS annuitant to substitute teaching for a period not to exceed 120 paid days or 600 paid hours in each school year through June 30, 20296,[C1] but not more than 100 paid days in the same classroom. Beginning July 1, 20296, a substitute teacher who is a TRS annuitant may substitute teach for a period not to exceed 100 paid days or 500 paid hours in any school year, unless the subject area is one where the Regional Superintendent has certified that a personnel shortage exists.

The Governing Board establishes a daily rate of pay for substitute teachers. Substitute teachers receive only monetary compensation for time worked and no other benefits.

Short-Term Substitute Teachers

A short-term substitute teacher must hold a valid short-term substitute teaching license and have completed ELC's short-term substitute teacher training program. Unless otherwise permitted by law, short-term substitutes may teach no more than five consecutive school days for each licensed teacher who is under contract with the Board.

Emergency Situations

A substitute teacher may teach when no licensed teacher is under contract with the Board if ELC has an emergency situation as defined in State law. During an emergency situation, a substitute teacher is limited to 30 calendar days of employment per each vacant position. The Executive Director/Superintendent shall notify the appropriate Regional Office of Education (ROE) within five business days after the employment of a substitute teacher in an emergency situation. The Board may continue to employ the same substitute teacher in a vacant position for 90 calendar days or until the end of the semester, whichever is greater, if, prior to the end of the then current 30-calendar-day period, ELC makes a written request to the ROE for a 30-calendar-day extension and the extension is granted by the ROE.

LEGAL REF.:

105 ILCS 5/10-20.68, 5/21B-20(2), 5/21B-20(3), and 5/21B-20(4).

105 ILCS 128/22, School Safety Drill Act.

40 ILCS 5/16-118, Ill. Pension Code.

23 Ill.Admin.Code §1.790 (Substitute Teacher) and §25.520 (Substitute Teaching License).

CROSS REF.: 5:30 (Hiring Process and Criteria)

ADOPTED: December 18, 2025

Exceptional Learners Collaborative

PRESSPlus Comments

C1. Updated in response to Ill. Pension Code, 40 ILCS 5/16-118, amended by P.A. 104-532, allowing a TRS annuitant to work up to 120 paid days or 600 hours in a school year through June 30, 2029. **Issue 123, October 2026**

Document Status: Review and Monitoring

General Personnel

5:80 Court Duty

Please refer to the current:[C1]

Exceptional Learners Collaborative Employee Handbook

LEGAL REF.:

105 ILCS 5/10-20.7.

705 ILCS 305/4.1, Jury Act.

ADOPTED: July 21, 2022

Exceptional Learners Collaborative

PRESSPlus Comments

C1. This policy is suggested to be reviewed by the Board. According to policy 2:240, *Board Policy Development*, "[t]he Board will periodically review its policies for relevancy, monitor its policies for effectiveness, and consider whether any modifications are required." IASB suggests that each policy in the Board's policy manual be reviewed at a minimum of every five years. As part of the review, the Board may choose to:

- Compare the adopted version to the current PRESS sample (available at PRESS Online by logging in at www.iasb.com), discussing any differences and/or options noted in the footnotes to determine whether local changes are necessary
- Update the policy language due to changes in local conditions
- Make no changes, but update the adoption date to reflect that the policy has been reviewed and re-adopted

Issue 123, October 2026

Document Status: Draft Update

SECTION 6 - INSTRUCTION

6:120 Education of Children with Disabilities

ELC shall provide a free appropriate public education in the least restrictive environment and necessary related services to all children with disabilities enrolled in ELC, as required by the Individuals With Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and implementing provisions of the School Code, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the Americans With Disabilities Act. The term "children with disabilities," as used in this policy, means children between ages 3 and 21 (inclusive) for whom it is determined, through definitions and procedures described in the Ill. State Board of Education (ISBE) *Special Education* rules, that special education services are needed. Children with disabilities who turn 22 years old during the school year are eligible for such services through the end of the school year.

It is the intent of ELC to ensure that students who ~~are disabled~~have a disability[C1] within the definition of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 are identified, evaluated, and provided with appropriate educational services.[Q1] Students may ~~be disabled~~have a disability within the meaning of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act even though they do not require services pursuant to IDEA.

For students eligible for services under IDEA, ELC shall follow procedures for identification, evaluation, placement, and delivery of services to children with disabilities provided in the ISBE *Special Education* rules. For those students who are not eligible for services under IDEA, but, because of disability as defined by Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, need or are believed to need special instruction or related services, ELC shall establish and implement a system of procedural safeguards. The safeguards shall cover students' identification, evaluation, and educational placement. This system shall include notice, an opportunity for the student's parent(s)/guardian(s) to examine relevant records, an impartial hearing with opportunity for participation by the student's parent(s)/guardian(s), representation by counsel, and a review procedure.

If necessary, students may also be placed in nonpublic special education programs or education facilities.

LEGAL REF.:

20 U.S.C. §1400 et seq., Individuals With Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004; 34 C.F.R. Part 300.

29 U.S.C. §794, Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Section 504; 34 C.F.R. Part 104.

42 U.S.C. §12101 et seq., Americans With Disabilities Act.

~~34 C.F.R. Part 106.~~

~~34 C.F.R. Part 300.~~

105 ILCS 5/14-1.01 *et seq.,* 5/14-7.02, and 5/14-7.02b.

23 Ill.Admin.Code Part 226.

CROSS REF.: 7:230 (Misconduct by Students with Disabilities), 8:30 (Visitors to and Conduct on School Property)

ADOPTED: March 14, 2022

Exceptional Learners Collaborative

PRESSPlus Comments

C1. Updated for continuous improvement. **Issue 123, October 2026**

Questions

Q1. *Twice-exceptional students* are those who are gifted and talented and have a disability. 105 ILCS 5/22-50(a), amended by P.A. 104-822. See 105 ILCS 5/22-50(b), added by P.A. 104-822, for suggested best practices to address the needs of twice-exceptional students and any student who is gifted, talented, or accelerated or would benefit from an advanced academic program and who is eligible for a Section 504 plan under the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 29 U.S.C. §794.

105 ILCS 5/22-50(c), added by P.A. 104-822, authorizes a school board to adopt a policy to allow for the development of a written plan to support twice-exceptional students. If the board wishes to adopt such a policy, IASB will add the following subheading to the end of this policy and add 105 ILCS 5/22-50 to the Legal References. If the board has adopted policy 6:130, *Program for the Gifted*, IASB will also add a Cross Reference to 6:130 at the end of this policy, as well as a Cross Reference to 6:120 at the end of policy 6:130.

Twice-Exceptional Students

The Superintendent or designee shall develop a written education plan to address the advanced abilities or achievement levels of *twice-exceptional students* as defined in 105 ILCS 5/22-50, through individualized services, goals, accommodations, and objectives for a student, while continuing to provide services and support for the student's disabilities in all educational settings.

Has the Board adopted the subheading shown above to allow for the development of a written plan to support twice-exceptional students?

Options

☐ No. (Default)

☐ Yes. (IASB will add the subheading, Legal Reference, and Cross References shown above.)

Question 1

Twice-exceptional students are those who are gifted and talented and have a disability. 105 ILCS 5/22-50(a), amended by P.A. 104-822. See 105 ILCS 5/22-50(b), added by P.A. 104-822, for suggested best practices to address the needs of twice-exceptional students and any student who is gifted, talented, or accelerated or would benefit from an advanced academic program and who is eligible for a Section 504 plan under the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 29 U.S.C. §794.

105 ILCS 5/22-50(c), added by P.A. 104-822, authorizes a school board to adopt a policy to allow for the development of a written plan to support twice-exceptional students. If the board wishes to adopt such a policy, IASB will add the following subheading to the end of this policy and add 105 ILCS 5/22-50 to the Legal References. If the board has adopted policy 6:130, *Program for the Gifted*, IASB will also add a Cross Reference to 6:130 at the end of this policy, as well as a Cross Reference to 6:120 at the end of policy 6:130.

Twice-Exceptional Students

The Superintendent or designee shall develop a written education plan to address the advanced abilities or achievement levels of *twice-exceptional students* as defined in 105 ILCS 5/22-50, through individualized services, goals, accommodations, and objectives for a student, while continuing to provide services and support for the student's disabilities in all educational settings.

Has the Board adopted the subheading shown above to allow for the development of a written plan to support twice-exceptional students?

- [ ] No. (Default)
- [ ] Yes. (IASB will add the subheading, Legal Reference, and Cross References shown above.)

Document Status: Draft Update

SECTION 6 - INSTRUCTION

6:235 Access to Electronic Networks

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

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

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

The Executive Director/Superintendent shall develop an implementation plan for this policy and appoint system administrator(s).

ELC 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. Furthermore, ELC will not be responsible for any unauthorized charges or fees resulting from access to the Internet.

Curriculum and Appropriate Online Behavior

The use of ELC's electronic networks shall: (1) be consistent with the curriculum adopted by ELC 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 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. Staff members may, consistent with the Executive Director/Superintendent's implementation plan, use the Internet throughout the curriculum.

ELC's electronic network is part of the curriculum and is not a public forum for general use.

Acceptable Use

All use of ELC'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. Users of ELC's electronic networks have no expectation of privacy in any material that is stored on, transmitted, or received via ELC's electronic networks. General rules for behavior and communications apply when using electronic networks. ELC's *Authorization for Electronic Network Access* contains the appropriate uses, ethics, and protocol. Electronic communications and downloaded material, including files deleted from a user's account but not erased, may be monitored or read by school officials.

Internet Safety

Technology protection measures shall be used on each ELC computer with Internet access. 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 Executive Director/Superintendent or designee. The Executive Director/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 Executive Director/ Superintendent or system administrator. The Executive Director/Superintendent or designee shall include measures in this policy's implementation plan to address the following:

1. Ensure staff supervision of student access to online electronic networks,
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.

Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI)-Enabled Tools[C1]

The Board recognizes that evidence-based technology tools that use AI (AI-enabled tools) have the potential to enhance student learning, educator effectiveness, and school operations. The use of AI-enabled tools in the ELC shall be implemented in a safe, ethical,

and equitable manner and in compliance with applicable federal and State laws. The use of AI-enabled tools shall be in accordance with Board policies, including, but not limited to, 7:340, *Student Records,* and 7:345, *Use of Educational Technologies; Student Data Privacy and Security.* Any staff use of AI-enabled tools will not replace educator judgment, human relationships, or adult accountability. Any student use of AI-enabled tools shall support and strengthen, rather than replace or diminish, students' critical thinking and agency.

To implement the use of AI-enabled tools in the ELC, the Superintendent or designee shall:

1. Develop an ELC-wide AI Plan that addresses the ELC's approach to the integration of AI;[C2]
2. Based on the ELC-wide AI Plan, establish AI Responsible Use Guidelines to address the informed and responsible use of AI in the ELC by students and staff;
3. Ensure that any AI-enabled tools used in the ELC have been properly vetted for safety, security, and operational and instructional fit, as applicable, and compliance with this policy;[C3]
4. Maintain a list of ELC-approved AI-enabled tools that is accessible to staff, students, and parents/guardians, as appropriate;[C4]
5. Ensure that staff receive regular training on AI use and students receive developmentally appropriate AI literacy instruction, as appropriate;[C5]
6. Review the ELC's AI Plan and AI Responsible Use Guidelines on an annual basis and report any necessary updates to the Board;[C6] and
7. Annually report to the Board on the impact of the use of AI-enabled tools on teacher effectiveness and student outcomes in the ELC, as applicable.[C7]

Authorization for Electronic Network Access

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

Confidentiality

All users of ELC'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 ELC's administrative procedure, *Acceptable Use of ELC's Electronic Networks,* or this policy, will result in the loss of privileges, disciplinary action, and/or appropriate legal action.

LEGAL REF.:

20 U.S.C. §1232g, Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act.

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.

105 ILCS 10/, Ill. School Student Records Act.

105 ILCS 85/, Student Online Personal Protection Act.

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), 6:60 (Curriculum Content), 6:230 (Library Media Program), 6:260 (Complaints About Curriculum, Instructional Materials, and Programs), 7:130 (Student Rights and Responsibilities), 7:190 (Student Discipline), 7:345 (Use of Educational Technologies; Student Data Privacy and Security)

ADOPTED: June 17, 2025

Exceptional Learners Collaborative

PRESSPlus Comments

C1.

The Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI)-Enabled Tools subhead is rewritten for PRESS Plus. A redlined version showing the changes made is available at PRESS Online by logging in at www.iasb.com. Please also compare this new text with the policy language previously adopted by the Board.

This entire subhead is optional, and it may be modified at the Board's discretion. For more information, see the footnotes available at PRESS Online by logging in at www.iasb.com.

The subhead is updated in response to the Ill. State Board of Education's (ISBE) nonregulatory *Statewide Guidance on the Use of Artificial Intelligence* (June 2026), available at www.isbe.net/Pages/AI-Guidance.aspx. In accordance with 105 ILCS 5/2-3.118a, added by P.A. 104-399, the Guidance addresses AI in pre-K through 12 education. The Guidance emphasizes the need for schools to reflect on local values, context, and priorities as they consider AI use. It relies on four main principles: (1) teaching and learning are shaped by relationships and by the experiences, interests, and assets each child brings to school; (2) schools serve academic, developmental and civic purposes concurrently; (3) AI is a means to inform teaching and learning rather than an end in itself; and (4) informed use (of AI) requires deliberate, context-sensitive, and *locally determined* purpose and use (emphasis added). The Guidance states the central question around AI use in schools is not whether a tool can simply perform a task, "but whether its use supports the purposes of schooling: the growth of the individual, the strengthening of human relationships, the exercise of judgment and responsibility, and preparation for thoughtful participation in a world increasingly shaped by digital and AI-mediated environments."

The U.S. Dept. of Education also issued a *Dear Colleague Letter* on 8-20-26, to help school districts make informed decisions about the responsible use of technology in classrooms, at: www.ed.gov/media/document/guidance-education-technology-and-screentime-schools-114386.pdf.

Adopting policy language that addresses AI provides (a) a way for boards to monitor how this technology is being used in the district, and (b) an opportunity for the board and the superintendent to examine all current policies, collective bargaining agreements, and administrative procedures on this subject. For suggested board monitoring questions around a district's use of AI, please see sample policy 6:235's footnote 17, available at PRESS Online by logging in at www.iasb.com.

Issue 123, October 2026

C2. If a board wishes to exercise greater oversight over the AI Plan, add the following to the end of this item: ", which shall be approved by the Board". If adding edits, use the Save Status **Adopted with Additional District Edits**. **Issue 123, October 2026**

C3. ISBE's Guidance (www.isbe.net/Pages/AI-Guidance.aspx, p. 103), recommends that AI applications be vetted for operational and instructional fit using clear questions tied to purpose and use. **Issue 123, October 2026**

C4. ISBE's Guidance (www.isbe.net/Pages/AI-Guidance.aspx, p. 10) recommends that districts maintain clear information about approved tools, their purpose and use, data security, and contact points for questions or concerns. **Issue 123, October 2026**

C5. ISBE's Guidance (www.isbe.net/Pages/AI-Guidance.aspx, p. 226) states that students should learn about AI, including what it is (and is not), how it works, its impact on society, and how to shape it, *before* and while using AI tools in the classroom. **Issue 123, October 2026**

C6. A board can modify the review schedule as desired. Federal guidance recommends that educational leaders establish the cadence in which the learning community will review and update the responsible use policy (guidelines) based on use, technological updates, and feedback. See https://downloads.microscribepub.com/il/press/federal_resources/FINAL-ED-OET-EdLeaders-AI-Toolkit-10.29.24_20250221.pdf, p. 52. ISBE Guidance also recommends "periodic review," see www.isbe.net/Documents/AIGuidance.pdf, p. 176. **Issue 123, October 2026**

C7. A board can modify the reporting schedule as desired. ISBE Guidance emphasizes the importance of having clarity on whether AI use is improving practice and/or student outcomes. See https://www.isbe.net/Documents/AIGuidance.pdf, pp. 111, 141, 227, and 229. **Issue 123, October 2026**

Document Status: Draft Update

SECTION 6 - INSTRUCTION

6:310 High School Credit for Non-District Experiences; Course Substitutions; Re-Entering Students

Credit for Non-District Experiences

A student may receive high school credit for successfully completing any of the listed courses or experiences even when it is not offered in or sponsored by the District:

1. Distance learning course, including a correspondence, virtual, or online course
2. Courses in an accredited foreign exchange program
3. Summer school or community college courses
4. College or high school courses offering dual credit at both the college and high school level
5. World~~Foreign~~[C1] language courses taken in a community-based heritage languagean ~~ethnic~~[C2] school program approved by the Ill.~~inois~~ State Board of Education
6. Work-related training at manufacturing facilities or agencies in a Tech Prep Partnership for Careers program
7. Credit earned in a Vocational Academy

The student must seek approval from the Executive Director/Superintendent or designee to receive graduation credit for any non-District course or experience. The Executive Director/ Superintendent or designee shall determine the amount of credit and whether a proficiency examination is required before the credit is awarded. As approval is not guaranteed, students should seek conditional approval of the experience before participating in a non-District course or experience. The student assumes responsibility for any fee, tuition, supply, or other expense. The student seeking credit is responsible for (1) providing documents or transcripts that demonstrate successful completion of the experience, and (2) taking a proficiency examination, if requested. The Executive Director/Superintendent or designee shall determine which, if any, non-District courses or experiences, will count toward a student's grade point average, class rank, and eligibility for athletic and extracurricular activities. When applicable, the Building Principal or designee shall, prior to the first day of

class, inform individual high school students enrolled in a mixed enrollment dual credit course that includes students who have and have not met the community college's criteria for dual credit coursework of whether or not they are eligible to earn college credit for the course. This section does not govern the transfer of credits for students transferring into the District.

Substitutions for Required Courses

Vocational or technical education. A student in grades 9-12 may satisfy one or more high school courses (including physical education) or graduation requirements by successfully completing related vocational or technical education courses if:

1. The Building Principal approves the substitution(s) and the vocational or technical education course is completely described in curriculum material along with its relationship to the required course; and
2. The student's parent/guardian requests and approves the substitution(s) in writing on forms provided by the District.

Registered Apprenticeship Program. The Executive Director/Superintendent or designee will ensure that the District complies with State law requirements for registered apprenticeship programs. The opportunities and requirements for registered apprenticeship programs contained in this policy will be posted on the District's website, and parents/ guardians and students will also be notified of such opportunities in the appropriate school handbook(s).

A student in grades 9-12 who is 16 years or older may satisfy one or more high school courses (including physical education) or graduation requirements by successfully completing a registered apprenticeship program if:

1. The registered apprenticeship program meets all criteria contained in State law;
2. The registered apprenticeship program is listed by the District, or the student identifies a registered (but not listed) apprenticeship program with a business or organization if one is not offered in the District;
3. The student enrolled in a registered apprenticeship program has the opportunity to earn post-secondary credit toward a certificate or degrees, as applicable;
4. The student's parent/guardian requests and approves the substitution(s) in writing on forms provided by the District and on its website;
5. The Building Principal approves the substitution(s); and
6. All non-academic requirements mandated by the School Code for high school graduation that would otherwise prohibit or prevent the student from participating in the registered apprenticeship program are waived.

Advanced placement computer science. The advanced placement computer science course is equivalent to a high school mathematics course. A student in grades 9-12 may substitute the advanced placement computer science course for one year of mathematics, in accordance with Section 27-22 of the School Code. The transcript of a student who completes the advanced placement computer science course will state that it qualifies as a mathematics-based, quantitative course.

Substitutions for physical education. A student in grades 9-12, unless otherwise stated, may submit a written request to the Building Principal to be excused from physical education courses for the reasons stated below. The Executive Director/Superintendent or designee shall maintain records showing that the criteria set forth in this policy were applied to the student's individual circumstances, as appropriate.

1. Ongoing participation in a marching band program for credit;
2. Enrollment in Reserve Officer's Training Corps (ROTC) program sponsored by the District;
3. Ongoing participation in an interscholastic or extracurricular athletic program;
4. Enrollment in academic classes that are required for admission to an institution of higher learning (student must be in the 11th or 12th grade); or
5. Enrollment in academic classes that are required for graduation from high school, provided that failure to take such classes will result in the student being unable to graduate (student must be in the 11th or 12th grade).

A student who is eligible for special education may be excused from physical education courses pursuant to 7:260, Exemption from Physical Education.

Volunteer service credit. A student participating in the District's Volunteer Service Credit Program, if any, may earn credit toward graduation for the performance of community service. The amount of credit given for program participation shall not exceed that given for completion of one semester of language arts, math, science, or social studies.

Re-Entering Students

Individuals younger than 21 years of age may re-enter high school to acquire a high school diploma or an equivalency certificate, subject to the limitations in Board policy 7:50, School Admissions and Student Transfers To and From Non-District Schools. Re-entering students may obtain credit through the successful completion of the following (not all of these may be available at any one time):

1. District courses
2. Non-District experiences described in this policy

3. Classes in a program established under Section 10-22.20 of the School Code, in accordance with the standards established by the Illinois Community College Board
4. Proficiency testing, correspondence courses, life experiences, and other nonformal educational endeavors
5. Military service, provided the individual making the request has a recommendation from the American Council on Education

The provisions in the section Credit for Non-District Experiences, above, apply to the receipt of credit for any non-District course.

LEGAL REF.:

105 ILCS 5/2-3.44, 5/2-3.108, 5/2-3.115(b), 5/2-3.142, 5/2-3.175, 5/10-22.43a, 5/10-20.62, 5/27-610, 5/27-710, and 5/27-1035.

110 ILCS 27/, Dual Credit Quality Act.

23 Ill.Admin.Code §§1.425(e), 1.440(f), 1.470(c), and Part 255.

CROSS REF.: 6:180 (Extended Instructional Programs), 6:300 (Graduation Requirements), 6:315 (High School Credit for Students in Grade 7 or 8), 6:320 (High School Credit for Proficiency), 7:50 (School Admissions and Student Transfers To and From Non-District Schools), 7:260 (Exemption from Physical Education)

ADOPTED: January 22, 2026

Exceptional Learners Collaborative

PRESSPlus Comments

C1. Updated in response to 105 ILCS 5/10-22.43a, amended by P.A. 104-803, replacing terms describing *world* language credits. **Issue 123, October 2026**

C2. 105 ILCS 5/2-3.44, amended by P.A. 104-803, replacing terms describing *community-based heritage language schools.* **Issue 123, October 2026**

Document Status: Draft Update

SECTION 6 - INSTRUCTION

6:60 Curriculum Content

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

1. In kindergarten through grade 8, subjects include: (a) language arts, (b) reading, (c) other communication skills, (d) science, (e) mathematics, (f) social studies, (g) art, and (h) music. A reading opportunity of 60 minutes per day will be promoted for all students in kindergarten through grade 3 whose reading levels are one grade level or more lower than their current grade level. Daily time of at least 30 minutes (with a minimum of at least 15 consecutive minutes if divided) will be provided for supervised, unstructured, child-directed play for all students in kindergarten through grade 5. Before the completion of grade 5, students will be offered at least one unit of cursive instruction. In grades 6, 7, or 8, students must receive at least one semester of civics education in accordance with Illinois Learning Standards for social science.

2. In grades 9 through 12, subjects include: (a) language arts, (b) writing intensive courses, (c) science, (d) mathematics, (e) social studies including U.S. history, American government and one semester of civics, (f) worldforeign[C1] language, (g) music, (h) art, (i) driver and safety education, and (j) career and technical education.

   Students otherwise eligible to take a driver education course must receive a passing grade in at least eight courses during the previous two semesters before enrolling in the course. The Superintendent or designee may waive this requirement if he or she believes a waiver to be in the student's best interest. The course shall include: (a) instruction necessary for the safe operation of motor vehicles, including motorcycles, to the extent that they can be taught in the classroom, (b) classroom instruction on distracted driving as a major traffic safety issue, (c) instruction on required safety and driving precautions that must be observed at emergency situations, highway construction and maintenance zones, including worker safety in those zones, and railroad crossings and their approaches, and (d) instruction concerning law enforcement procedures for traffic stops, including a demonstration of the proper

actions to be taken during a traffic stop and appropriate interactions with law enforcement. Automobile safety instruction covering traffic regulations and highway safety must include instruction on the consequences of alcohol consumption and the operation of a motor vehicle. The eligibility requirements contained in State law for the receipt of a certificate of completion from the Secretary of State shall be provided to students in writing at the time of their registration.

3. In all schools, drug and alcohol abuse prevention education, including: (a) in each year in grades K though 4, age- and developmentally appropriate instruction, study, and discussion of effective methods for the prevention and avoidance of drugs and the dangers of opioid and substance abuse, (b) in grades 5 through 12, age- and developmentally appropriate classroom instruction on alcohol and drug use and abuse, (c) in grades 6-12, the dangers of fentanyl, and (d) in grades 7 through 12, anabolic steroid abuse prevention, which must also be taught in interscholastic athletic programs.
4. In kindergarten through grade 12, provided it can be funded by private grants or the federal government, violence prevention and conflict resolution must be stressed, including: (a) causes of conflict, (b) consequences of violent behavior, (c) non-violent resolution, and (d) relationships between drugs, alcohol, and violence. In addition, anti-bias education and intergroup conflict resolution may be taught as an effective method for preventing violence and lessening tensions in schools; these prevention methods are most effective when they are respectful of individuals and their divergent viewpoints and religious beliefs, which are protected by the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States.
5. In grades kindergarten through 12, through the 2026-2027 school year, age-appropriate Internet safety must be taught, the scope of which shall be determined by the Superintendent or designee. The curriculum must incorporate Board policy 6:235, *Access to Electronic Networks*, and, at a minimum, include: (a) education about appropriate online behavior, (b) interacting with other individuals on social networking websites and in chat rooms, and (c) cyberbullying awareness and response.
6. Beginning in the fall of 2027, in grades 3-8 each year, age- and developmentally appropriate instruction on online safety.
7. In all grades, students must receive developmentally appropriate opportunities to gain computer literacy skills that are embedded in the curriculum.
8. In all grades, instruction on behaviors that violate Board policy 7:180, *Prevention of and Response to Bullying, Intimidation, and Harassment*.
9. In all schools, citizenship values must be taught, including: (a) American patriotism, (b) principles of representative government (the American Declaration of Independence, the Constitution of the United States of America and the Constitution

of the State of Illinois), (c) proper use and display of the American flag, and (d) the Pledge of Allegiance.

10. In all grades, physical education must be taught including a developmentally planned and sequential curriculum that fosters the development of movement skills, enhances health-related fitness, increases students' knowledge, offers direct opportunities to learn how to work cooperatively in a group setting, and encourages healthy habits and attitudes for a healthy lifestyle. Unless otherwise exempted, all students are required to engage in a physical education course with such frequency as determined by the Board after recommendation from the Superintendent, but at a minimum of three days per five-day week. For exemptions and substitutions, see Board policies 6:310, *High School Credit for Non-District Experiences; Course Substitutions; Re-Entering Students* and 7:260, *Exemption from Physical Education*.
11. In all schools, health education must ~~be stressed,~~ includeing:[C2] (a) human ecology, health, growth, development, personal health habits, and nutrition, (b) family life, (c) prevention and control of disease, (d) age- and developmentally appropriate and evidence-informed sexual abuse and assault awareness and prevention education in all grades, (e) public health, environmental health, disaster preparedness, and safety education, (f) mental health and illness, (g) dental health, (h) cancer education, and (i) age- and developmentally appropriate consent education. The Superintendent shall implement a comprehensive health education program in accordance with State law.
12. In all schools, abduction education that addresses the danger of and avoidance of abduction.
13. In grades 9-12, the dangers of allergies must be taught.
14. In grades 9-12, training on how to properly administer cardiopulmonary resuscitation and how to use an automated external defibrillator.
15. In all schools, career/vocational education must be taught, including: (a) the importance of work, (b) the development of basic skills to enter the world of work and/or continue formal education, (c) good work habits and values, (d) the relationship between learning and work, and (e) if possible, a student work program that provides the student with work experience as an extension of the regular classroom. A career awareness and exploration program must be available at all grade levels. In grades 6-12, students engage in career exploration and career development activities to prepare them to make informed plans and decisions about their future education and career goals. In grades 9-12, a College and Career Pathway Endorsement is awarded to students who meet the requirements for a specific endorsement area.
16. In grades 9 through 12, consumer education must be taught, including: (a) financial literacy, including consumer debt and installment purchasing (including credit

scoring, managing credit debt, and completing a loan application); budgeting; savings and investing; banking (including balancing a checkbook, opening a deposit account, and the use of interest rates); understanding simple contracts; State and federal income taxes; personal insurance policies; the comparison of prices; higher education student loans; identity-theft security; and homeownership (including the basic process of obtaining a mortgage and the concepts of fixed and adjustable rate mortgages, subprime loans, and predatory lending); and (b) the roles of consumers interacting with agriculture, business, labor unions and government in formulating and achieving the goals of the mixed free enterprise system.

17. In grades 9 through 12, intensive instruction in computer literacy, which may be included as a part of English, social studies, or any other subject.
18. In grades 9 through 12, through the 2026-2027 school year, a unit of instruction on media literacy that includes, but is not limited to the following topics: (a) accessing information to evaluate multiple media platforms and better understand the general landscape and economics of the platforms, and issues regarding the trustworthiness of the source of information; (b) analyzing and evaluating media messages to deconstruct media representations according to the authors, target audience, techniques, agenda setting, stereotypes, and authenticity to distinguish fact from opinion; (c) creating media to convey a coherent message using multimodal practices to a specific target audience that includes, but is not limited to, writing blogs, composing songs, designing video games, producing podcasts, making videos, or coding a mobile or software application; (d) reflecting on media consumption to assess how media affects the consumption of information and how it triggers emotions and behavior; and (e) social responsibility and civics to suggest a plan of action in the class, school, or community for engaging others in a respectful, thoughtful, and inclusive dialogue over a specific issue using facts and reason. Beginning in the fall of 2027, in grades 9 through 12, a unit of instruction on media literacy and Internet safety that includes, but is not limited to, all of the following topics: (a) accessing and evaluating information; (b) creating media; (c) reflecting on media consumption and social responsibility; (d) legal and social penalties for illicit actions online; and (e) reporting illicit content online.
19. In grades 9 through 12, an opportunity for students to take at least one computer science course aligned to Illinois learning standards. Computer science means the study of computers and algorithms, including their principles, hardware and software designs, implementation, and impact on society. Computer science does not include the study of everyday uses of computers and computer applications; e.g., keyboarding or accessing the Internet.
20. In all schools, environmental education, including instruction on: (a) the current problems and needs in the conservation of natural resources and (b) beginning in the fall of 2026, instruction on climate change.

21. In all schools, instruction as determined by the Superintendent or designee on United States (U.S.) history must be taught, including: (a) the principles of representative government, (b) the Constitutions of the U.S. and Illinois, (c) the role of the U.S. in world affairs, (d) the role of labor unions, (e) the role and contributions of ethnic groups, including but not limited to, African Americans, Albanians, Asian Americans, Bohemians, Czechs, French, Germans, Hispanics (including the events related to the forceful removal and illegal deportation of Mexican-American U.S. citizens during the Great Depression), Hungarians, Irish, Italians, Lithuanians, Polish, Russians, Scots, and Slovakians in the history of this country and State, (f) a study of the roles and contributions of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) people in the history of the U.S. and Illinois, (g) Illinois history, (h) the contributions made to society by Americans of different faith practices, including, but not limited to, Muslim Americans, Jewish Americans, Christian Americans, Hindu Americans, Sikh Americans, Buddhist Americans, and any other collective community of faith that has shaped America, (i) Native American nations' sovereignty and self-determination, both historically and in the present day, with a focus on urban Native Americans, and (j) the events of the Native American experience and Native American history within the Midwest and Illinois since time immemorial in accordance with 105 ILCS 5/27-20.05.

    In addition, all schools shall hold an educational program on the United States Constitution on Constitution Day, each September 17, commemorating the September 17, 1787 signing of the Constitution. However, when September 17 falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or holiday, Constitution Day shall be held during the preceding or following week.

22. In all schools, the curriculum includes instruction as determined by the Superintendent or designee on the Holocaust and crimes of genocide, including Nazi atrocities of 1933-1945, the Native American genocide in North America, Armenian Genocide, the Famine-Genocide in Ukraine, and more recent atrocities in Cambodia, Bosnia, Rwanda, and Sudan.
23. In all schools, the curriculum includes instruction as determined by the Superintendent or designee on the history, struggles, and contributions of women.
24. In all schools, the curriculum includes instruction as determined by the Superintendent or designee on Black History, including the history of the pre-enslavement of Black people from 3,000 BCE to AD 1619, the African slave trade, slavery in America, the study of the reasons why Black people came to be enslaved, the vestiges of slavery in this country, the study of the American civil rights renaissance, as well as the struggles and contributions of African-Americans.
25. In all schools offering a secondary agricultural education program, the curriculum includes courses as required by 105 ILCS 5/2-3.80.

26. In all schools, instruction during courses as determined by the Superintendent or designee on disability history, awareness, and the disability rights movement.
27. In all schools, instruction as determined by the Superintendent or designee on the events of Asian American history, including the history of Asian Americans in Illinois and the Midwest, as well as the contributions of Asian Americans toward advancing civil rights from the 19th century onward, which must include the contributions made by individual Asian Americans in government and the arts, humanities, and sciences, as well as the contributions of Asian American communities to the economic, cultural, social, and political development of the United States.
28. In kindergarten through grade 8, education must be available to students concerning effective methods of preventing and avoiding traffic injuries related to walking and bicycling.

LEGAL REF.:

Pub. L. No. 108-447, Section 111 of Division J, Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2005.

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

47 C.F.R. §54.520.

5 ILCS 465/3 and 465/3a.

20 ILCS 2605/2605-480.

105 ILCS 5/2-3.80(e) and (f), 5/10-20.79, 5/10-20.84, 5/10-23.13, 5/22-110, 5/27-105, 5/27-110, 5/27-115, 5/27-210, 5/27-215, 5/27-245, 5/27-250, 5/27-255, 5/27-260, 5/27-305, 5/27-310, 5/27-315, 5/27-405, 5/27-410 (scheduled for repeal on 7-1-27), 5/27-415 (scheduled for repeal on 7-1-27), 5/27-505, 5/27-510, 5/27-515, 5/27-520, 5/27-525, 5/27-530, 5/27-535, 5/27-540, 5/27-545, 5/27-605, 5/27-705, 5/27-710, 5/27-715, 5/27-720, 5/27-725, 5/27-810, 5/27-815, and 5/27-1050.

105 ILCS 435/, Vocational Education Act.

625 ILCS 5/6-408.5, Ill. Vehicle Code.

23 Ill.Admin.Code §§1.420, 1.425, 1.430, and 1.440.

CROSS REF.: 4:165 (Awareness and Prevention of Child Sex Abuse and Grooming Behaviors), 6:20 (School Year Calendar and Day), 6:230 (Library Media Program), 6:235 (Access to Electronic Networks), 7:180 (Prevention of and Response to Bullying,

Intimidation, and Harassment), 7:185 (Teen Dating Violence Prohibited), 7:190 (Student Behavior), 7:260 (Exemption from Physical Education)

ADOPTED: January 22, 2026

Exceptional Learners Collaborative

PRESSPlus Comments

C1. Updated in response to 105 ILCS 5/27-605, amended by P.A. 104-803, changing instances of *foreign* language to *world* language in high school graduation requirements. Beginning with the 2028-2029 school year, 105 ILCS 5/27-605(e-10), amended by P.A.s 104-803 and 104-814, allows the substitution of at least two years of an approved career and technical education course for two years of world language courses. **Issue 123, October 2026**

C2. Updated for continuous improvement. **Issue 123, October 2026**

Document Status: Draft Update

SECTION 7 - STUDENTS

7:10 Equal Educational Opportunities

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

Sex Equity

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

Any student may file a sex equity complaint by using Board policy 2:260, *Uniform Grievance Procedure*. A student may appeal the Board's resolution of the complaint to the Regional Superintendent (pursuant to 105 ILCS 5/3-10) and, thereafter, to the State Superintendent of Education (pursuant to 105 ILCS 5/2-3.8).

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

Administrative Implementation

The Executive Director/Superintendent shall appoint a Nondiscrimination Coordinator and a Title IX Coordinator. The Executive Director/Superintendent and Building Principal shall use reasonable measures to inform staff members and students of this policy and related grievance procedures.

LEGAL REF.:

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

29 U.S.C. §791 *et seq.*, Rehabilitation Act of 1973; 34 C.F.R. Part 104.

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

42 U.S.C. §11431 *et seq.*, McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act.

Plyler v. Doe, 457 U.S. 202 (1982).

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

Ill. Constitution, Art. I, §18.

105 ILCS 5/3.25b, 5/3.25d(b), 5/10-20.12, 5/10-20.60, 5/10-20.63, 5/10-22.5, 5/22-1065, 5/26A, and 5/27-1.

775 ILCS 5/1-101 *et seq.*, Illinois Human Rights Act.

775 ILCS 35/5, Religious Freedom Restoration Act.

23 Ill.Admin.Code §1.240 and Part 200.

CROSS REF.: 2:260 (Uniform Grievance Procedure), 2:265 (Title IX Grievance Procedure), 2:270 (Discrimination and Harassment on the Basis of Race, Color, and National Origin Prohibited), 7:20 (Harassment of Students Prohibited), 7:50 (School Admissions and Eligibility for Services), 7:60 (Residence), 7:70 (Attendance and Truancy), 7:130 (Student Rights and Responsibilities), 7:150 (Agency and Law Enforcement Requests), 7:180 (Prevention of and Response to Bullying, Intimidation, and Harassment), 7:185 (Teen Dating Violence Prohibited), 7:255 (Students Who are Parents, Expectant Parents, or Victims of Domestic or Sexual Violence)

ADOPTED: January 22, 2026

Exceptional Learners Collaborative

PRESSPlus Comments

C1. Updated in response to 105 ILCS 5/22-106, renumbered by P.A. 104-852. **Issue 123, October 2026**

Document Status: Draft Update

SECTION 7 - STUDENTS

7:150 Agency and Law Enforcement Requests

The District recognizes the right of every student to equal access to a free public education under State and federal law, consistent with Board policy 7:10, *Equal Educational Opportunities*. District administrators and staff stand *in loco parentis* when government agency and law enforcement authority requests occur at school.

Federal and State Law Requirements Regarding Citizenship and Immigration Status in Schools

No student shall be denied an education based on the student's, or their parent's/guardian's, actual or perceived citizenship or immigration status. Based on such status, the District will not:

1. Exclude a student from participating in, or deny them the benefits of, any District program or activity.
2. Use policies or procedures or engage in practices that have the effect of excluding a student from participating in or denying the benefits of any District program or activity.
3. Use policies or procedures or engage in practices that have the effect of excluding participation of a student's parent(s)/guardian(s) from District parental engagement activities or programs.
4. Threaten to disclose information related to the actual or perceived citizenship or immigration status of a student or a person associated with the student to any other person, entity, or immigration or law enforcement agency.
5. Disclose information related to the perceived citizenship or immigration status of a student or a person associated with the student to any other person, entity, or immigration or law enforcement agency if the District does not have direct knowledge of the student's or associated person's actual citizenship or immigration status, subject to the requirements in 105 ILCS 5/22-1065(c)(3).[C1]
6. Disclose information related to the actual citizenship or immigration status of a student or a person associated with the student to any other person or

nongovernmental entity if the District has direct knowledge of the student's or associated person's actual citizenship status, subject to the requirements in 105 ILCS 5/22-1065(c)(3).

State law does not prohibit or restrict the District from sending or receiving information about the citizenship or immigration status of an individual to or from the U.S. Dept. of Homeland Security or any other governmental entity under 8 U.S.C. §§1373 and 1644.

Responding to Agency and Law Enforcement Requests

The Director shall develop procedures to manage requests by government agencies or law enforcement authorities regarding students at school. Procedures will:

1. Recognize individual student rights and privacy.
2. Recognize the potential impact the release of information or an interview may have on an individual student.
3. Minimize potential disruption.
4. Foster a cooperative relationship with government agencies and law enforcement authorities.
5. Maintain discipline and recognize that school employees stand in the relationship of the parents/guardians to the students during the school day.
6. Comply with State law including, but not limited to, ensuring that before a law enforcement agent, school resource officer, or other school security person detains and questions on school grounds a student under 18 years of age who is suspected of committing a criminal act, the Director or designee will:
    a. Notify or attempt to notify the student's parent(s)/guardian(s) and document the time and manner in writing;
    b. Make reasonable efforts to ensure the student's parent/guardian is present during questioning or, if they are not present, ensure that school employees (including, but not limited to, a school social worker, psychologist, nurse, counselor, or any other mental health professional) are present during the questioning; and
    c. If practicable, make reasonable efforts to ensure a trained law enforcement officer to promote safe interactions and communications with the student is present during questioning.
7. Manage reviewing and authorizing requests from law enforcement agents attempting to enter a school or school facility, in accordance with the requirements of 105 ILCS 5/22-1065(c)(4).

LEGAL REF.:

U.S. Constitution, Amend. IV.

8 U.S.C. §1373 and §1644.

Plyler v. Doe, 457 U.S. 202 (1982).

Ill. Constitution, Art. I, §6.

105 ILCS 5/10-20.64, 5/10-20.68, 5/22-88, 5/22-1065, and 5/24-24.

55 ILCS 80/, Children's Advocacy Center Act.

325 ILCS 5/, Abused and Neglected Child Reporting Act.

720 ILCS 5/31-1 *et seq*., Interference with Public Officers Act.

725 ILCS 120/, Rights of Crime Victims and Witnesses Act.

CROSS REF.: 2:160 (Board Attorney), 2:260 (Uniform Grievance Procedure), and 2:270 (Discrimination and Harassment on the Basis of Race, Color, and National Origin Prohibited), 5:90 (Abused and Neglected Child Reporting), 7:10 (Equal Educational Opportunities), 7:130 (Student Rights and Responsibilities), 7:140 (Search and Seizure), 7:190 (Student Behavior)

ADOPTED: January 22, 2026

Exceptional Learners Collaborative

PRESSPlus Comments

C1. Updated in response to 105 ILCS 5/22-106, renumbered by P.A. 104-852. **Issue 123, October 2026**

Document Status: Draft Update

SECTION 7 - STUDENTS

7:160 Student Appearance

A student's appearance, including dress and hygiene, must not disrupt the educational process or compromise standards of health and safety. The ELC does not prohibit:

1. Hhairstyles historically associated with race, ethnicity, or hair texture, including, but not limited to, protective hairstyles such as braids, locks, and twists;
2. Religious hairstyles, hair-related religious practices, or facial hair worn in accordance with a student's sincerely held religious beliefs, observance, or practice, including, but not limited to, uncut hair or sidelocks (known as payot or peyos), or beards, mustaches, or other facial hair, except that hair or facial hair may be required to be secured, covered, or otherwise controlled during activities as deemed necessary to prevent endangerment of student health or safety;. C1 or
3. The ELC also does not prohibthe right of a Sstudents fromto wearing or accessorizinge the student's graduation attire with items associated with the student's cultural, ethnic, or religious identity or other characteristic or category protected under the Ill. Human Rights Act, 775 ILCS 5/1-103(Q).

Students who disrupt the educational process or compromise standards of health and safety must modify their appearance. Procedures for guiding student appearance will be developed by the Executive Director/Superintendent or designee and included in the *Student Handbook(s)*.

LEGAL REF.:

105 ILCS 5/2-3.25 and 5/10-22.25b.

Tinker v. Des Moines Indep. Sch. Dist., 393 U.S. 503 (1969).

CROSS REF.: 7:10 (Equal Educational Opportunities), 7:130 (Student Rights and Responsibilities), 7:190 (Student Discipline)

ADOPTED: January 18, 2024

Exceptional Learners Collaborative

PRESSPlus Comments

C1. Updated in response to 105 ILCS 5/10-22.25b, amended by P.A. 104-723. A school may, in the least restrictive manner practicable, require that hair or facial hair be secured, covered, or otherwise controlled during activities as deemed necessary for safety, but cannot require cutting, shaving, or other permanent alteration. **Issue 123, October 2026**

Document Status: Draft Update

SECTION 7 - STUDENTS

7:190 Student Discipline

The goals and objectives of this policy are to provide effective discipline practices that: (1) ensure the safety and dignity of students and staff; (2) maintain a positive, weapons-free, and drug-free learning environment; (3) keep school property and the property of others secure; (4) address the causes of a student's misbehavior and provide opportunities for all individuals involved in an incident to participate in its resolution; and (5) teach students positive behavioral skills to become independent, self-disciplined citizens in the school community and society.

When and *Where* Conduct Rules Apply

A student is subject to disciplinary action for engaging in *prohibited student conduct*, as described in the section with that name below, whenever the student's conduct is reasonably related to school or school activities, including, but not limited to:

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

Prohibited Student Conduct

The school administration is authorized to discipline students for gross disobedience or misconduct, including but not limited to:

1. Using, possessing, distributing, purchasing, or selling tobacco or nicotine materials, including without limitation, electronic cigarettes.

2. Using, possessing, distributing, purchasing, or selling alcoholic beverages. Students who are under the influence of an alcoholic beverage are not permitted to attend school or school functions and are treated as though they had alcohol in their possession.
3. Using, possessing, distributing, purchasing, selling, or offering for sale:

    a. Any illegal drug or controlled substance, or cannabis (including marijuana, hashish, and medical cannabis unless the student is authorized to be administered a medical cannabis infused product under *Ashley's Law*).
    b. Any anabolic steroid unless it is being administered in accordance with a physician's or licensed practitioner's prescription.
    c. Any performance-enhancing substance on the Illinois High School Association's most current banned substance list unless administered in accordance with a physician's or licensed practitioner's prescription.
    d. Any prescription drug when not prescribed for the student by a physician or licensed practitioner, or when used in a manner inconsistent with the prescription or prescribing physician's or licensed practitioner's instructions. The use or possession of medical cannabis, even by a student for whom medical cannabis has been prescribed, is prohibited unless the student is authorized to be administered a medical cannabis infused product under *Ashley's Law*.
    e. Any inhalant, regardless of whether it contains an illegal drug or controlled substance: (a) that a student believes is, or represents to be capable of, causing intoxication, hallucination, excitement, or dulling of the brain or nervous system; or (b) about which the student engaged in behavior that would lead a reasonable person to believe that the student intended the inhalant to cause intoxication, hallucination, excitement, or dulling of the brain or nervous system. The prohibition in this section does not apply to a student's use of asthma or other legally prescribed inhalant medications.
    f. Any substance inhaled, injected, smoked, consumed, or otherwise ingested or absorbed with the intention of causing a physiological or psychological change in the body, including without limitation, pure caffeine in tablet or powdered form.
    g. *Look-alike* or counterfeit drugs, including a substance that is not prohibited by this policy, but one: (a) that a student believes to be, or represents to be, an illegal drug, controlled substance, or other substance that is prohibited by this policy; or (b) about which a student engaged in behavior that would lead a reasonable person to believe that the student expressly or impliedly represented to be an illegal drug, controlled substance, or other substance that is prohibited by this policy.

h. Drug paraphernalia, including devices that are or can be used to: (a) ingest, inhale, or inject cannabis or controlled substances into the body; and (b) grow, process, store, or conceal cannabis or controlled substances.

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

4. Using, possessing, controlling, or transferring a *weapon* as that term is defined in the **Weapons** section of this policy, or violating the **Weapons** section of this policy.
5. Using or possessing an electronic paging device.
6. Using a cellular telephone, video recording device, personal digital assistant (PDA), or other electronic device in any manner that disrupts the educational environment or violates the rights of others, including using the device to take photographs in locker rooms or bathrooms, cheat, or otherwise violate student conduct rules. Unless otherwise banned under this policy or by the Building Principal, all electronic devices must be kept powered off or silenced and out-of-sight during the regular school day unless: (a) the supervising teacher grants permission; (b) use of the device is provided in a student's individualized education program (IEP) or Section 504 plan; (c) it is used during the student's lunch period, or (d) it is needed in an emergency that threatens the safety of students, staff, or other individuals.
7. Using a *wireless communication device* in violation of Board policy 7:195, *Wireless Communication Devices*.[C1]
8. Using a *wireless communication device* or other electronic device to take photographs in private areas such as locker rooms or bathrooms, or to otherwise violate student conduct rules.[C2]
9. *Sexting*, which, for purposes of this policy, is the act of creating, sending, sharing, viewing, receiving, or possessing sexually explicit messages, images, or videos electronically, regardless of whether they are authentic or computer-generated, through the use of a computer, electronic communication device, or cellular phone. Sexting also includes creating, sending, sharing, viewing, receiving, or possessing *indecent visual depictions*, *non-consensual dissemination of private sexual images*, and *non-consensual dissemination of sexually explicit digitized depictions*, as defined in State law.
10. Using or possessing a laser pointer unless under a staff member's direct supervision and in the context of instruction.
11. Disobeying rules of student conduct or directives from staff members or school officials. Examples of disobeying staff directives include refusing an ELC staff member's request to stop, present school identification, or submit to a search.

12. Engaging in academic dishonesty, including cheating, intentionally plagiarizing, using a writing service and/or generative artificial intelligence technology in place of original work unless specifically authorized by staff, wrongfully giving or receiving help during an academic examination, altering report cards, and wrongfully obtaining test copies or scores.
13. Engaging in hazing or any kind of bullying or aggressive behavior that does physical or psychological harm to a staff person or another student, or urging other students to engage in such conduct. Prohibited conduct specifically includes, without limitation, any use of violence, intimidation, force, noise, coercion, threats, stalking, harassment, sexual harassment, public humiliation, theft or destruction of property, retaliation, hazing, bullying, bullying using a school computer or a school computer network, or other comparable conduct.
14. Engaging in any sexual activity, including without limitation, offensive touching, sexual harassment, indecent exposure (including mooning), and sexual assault. This does not include the non-disruptive: (a) expression of gender or sexual orientation or preference, or (b) display of affection during non-instructional time.
15. Teen dating violence, as described in Board policy 7:185, *Teen Dating Violence Prohibited*.
16. Causing or attempting to cause damage to, or stealing or attempting to steal, school property or another person's personal property.
17. Entering school property or a school facility without proper authorization.
18. In the absence of a reasonable belief that an emergency exists, calling emergency responders (such as calling 911); signaling or setting off alarms or signals indicating the presence of an emergency; or indicating the presence of a bomb or explosive device on school grounds, school bus, or at any school activity.
19. Being absent without a recognized excuse; State law and Board policy regarding truancy control will be used with chronic and habitual truants.
20. Being involved with any public school fraternity, sorority, or secret society, by: (a) being a member; (b) promising to join; (c) pledging to become a member; or (d) soliciting any other person to join, promise to join, or be pledged to become a member.
21. Being involved in gangs or gang-related activities, including displaying gang symbols or paraphernalia.
22. Violating any criminal law, including but not limited to, assault, battery, arson, theft, gambling, eavesdropping, vandalism, and hazing.
23. Making an explicit threat on an Internet website against a school employee, a student, or any school-related personnel if the Internet website through which the threat was made is a site that was accessible within the school at the time the threat was made or was available to third parties who worked or studied within the school

grounds at the time the threat was made, and the threat could be reasonably interpreted as threatening to the safety and security of the threatened individual because of his or her duties or employment status or status as a student inside the school.

24. Operating an unmanned aircraft system (UAS) or drone for any purpose on school grounds or at any school event unless granted permission by the Executive Director/ Superintendent or designee.
25. Engaging in any activity, on or off campus, that interferes with, disrupts, or adversely affects the school environment, school operations, or an educational function, including but not limited to, conduct that may reasonably be considered to: (a) be a threat or an attempted intimidation of a staff member; or (b) endanger the health or safety of students, staff, or school property; or (c) violate the rights of others.

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

Efforts, including the use of positive interventions and supports, shall be made to deter students, while at school or a school-related event, from engaging in aggressive behavior that may reasonably produce physical or psychological harm to someone else. The Executive Director/Superintendent or designee shall ensure that the parent/guardian of a student who engages in aggressive behavior is notified of the incident. The failure to provide such notification does not limit the Board's authority to impose discipline, including suspension or expulsion, for such behavior.

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

Disciplinary Measures

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

1. Notifying parent(s)/guardian(s).
2. Disciplinary conference.
3. Withholding of privileges.
4. Temporary removal from the classroom.
5. Return of property or restitution for lost, stolen, or damaged property.
6. In-school suspension. The Building Principal or designee shall ensure that the student is properly supervised.
7. After-school study or Saturday study provided the student's parent/guardian has been notified. If transportation arrangements cannot be agreed upon, an alternative disciplinary measure must be used. The student must be supervised by the detaining teacher or the Building Principal or designee.
8. Community service with local public and nonprofit agencies that enhances community efforts to meet human, educational, environmental, or public safety needs. The District will not provide transportation. School administration shall use this option only as an alternative to another disciplinary measure, giving the student and/or parent/guardian the choice.
9. Seizure of contraband; confiscation and temporary retention of personal property that was used to violate this policy or school disciplinary rules.
10. Suspension of bus riding privileges in accordance with Board policy 7:220, *Bus Conduct*.
11. Out-of-school suspension from school and all school activities in accordance with Board policy 7:200, *Suspension Procedures*. A student who has been suspended may also be restricted from being on school grounds and at school activities.
12. Expulsion from school and all school activities for a definite time period not to exceed two calendar years in accordance with Board policy 7:210, *Expulsion Procedures*. A student who has been expelled may also be restricted from being on school grounds and at school activities.
13. Transfer to an alternative program if the student is expelled or otherwise qualifies for the transfer under State law. The transfer shall be in the manner provided in Article 13A or 13B of the School Code.
14. Notifying juvenile authorities or other law enforcement whenever the conduct involves criminal activity, including but not limited to, illegal drugs (controlled substances), *look-alikes*, alcohol, or weapons or in other circumstances as authorized by the reciprocal reporting agreement between ELC and local law enforcement agencies.

Students may not be suspended or expelled solely for violating Board policy 7:195, *Wireless Communication Devices*.[C3]

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

Corporal punishment is prohibited in all circumstances. *Corporal punishment* is defined as a discipline method in which a person deliberately inflicts pain upon a student in response to the student's unacceptable behavior or inappropriate language, with an aim to halt an offense, prevent its recurrence, or set an example for others. It includes slapping, paddling, or prolonged maintenance of students in physically painful positions, or intentional infliction of bodily harm. Corporal punishment does not include reasonable force as permitted by 105 ILCS 5/10-20.33.

Isolated Time Out, Time Out, and Physical Restraint

Neither isolated time out, time out, nor physical restraint shall be used to discipline or punish a student. These methods are only authorized for use as permitted in 105 ILCS 5/10-20.33, Ill. State Board of Education (ISBE) rules (23 Ill.Admin.Code §§ 1.280, 1.285), and ELC's procedure(s).

Weapons

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

1. A firearm, meaning any gun, rifle, shotgun, or weapon as defined by Section 921 of Title 18 of the United States Code (18 U.S.C. § 921), firearm as defined in Section 1.1 of the Firearm Owners Identification Card Act (430 ILCS 65/), or firearm as defined in Section 24-1 of the Criminal Code of 2012 (720 ILCS 5/24-1).
2. A knife, brass knuckles, or other knuckle weapon regardless of its composition, a billy club, or any other object if used or attempted to be used to cause bodily harm, including *look-alikes* of any firearm as defined above.

The expulsion requirement under either paragraph 1 or 2 above may be modified by the Executive Director/Superintendent, and the Executive Director/Superintendent's determination may be modified by the Board on a case-by-case basis. The Executive Director/Superintendent or designee may grant an exception to this policy, upon the prior request of an adult supervisor, for students in theatre, cooking, ROTC, martial arts, and similar programs, whether or not school-sponsored, provided the item is not equipped, nor

intended, to do bodily harm.

This policy's prohibitions concerning weapons apply regardless of whether: (1) a student is licensed to carry a concealed firearm, or (2) the Board permits visitors, who are licensed to carry a concealed firearm, to store a firearm in a locked vehicle in a school parking area.

Re-Engagement of Returning Students

The Executive Director/Superintendent or designee shall maintain a process to facilitate the re-engagement of students who are returning from an out-of-school suspension, expulsion, or an alternative school setting. The goal of re-engagement shall be to support the student's ability to be successful in school following a period of exclusionary discipline and shall include the opportunity for students who have been suspended to complete or make up work for equivalent academic credit.

Required Notices

A school staff member shall immediately notify the office of the Building Principal in the event that he or she: (1) observes any person in possession of a firearm on school grounds, becomes aware of any person in possession of a firearm on school grounds, or becomes aware of any threat of gun violence on school grounds; however, such action may be delayed if immediate notice would endanger students under his or her supervision, (2) observes or has reason to suspect that any person on school grounds is or was involved in a drug-related incident, or (3) observes a battery committed against any staff member or is subject to a battery. *School grounds* includes modes of transportation to school activities and any public way within 1000 feet of the school, as well as school property itself.

Upon receiving a report of (1), above, the Building Principal or designee shall immediately notify local law enforcement. If the report of (1), above, pertains to a threat of firearm violence made by a student, the Building Principal or designee shall attempt to notify the student's parent/guardian as soon as possible and shall further attempt to contact the parent/guardian to ensure that the student does not have access to a firearm. In addition, upon receiving a report on any of the above (1)-(3), the Building Principal or designee shall notify the Executive Director/Superintendent or designee and, if a student is reportedly in possession of a firearm or threatens firearm violence, also any involved student's parent/guardian.

Upon receiving a report on any of the above (1)-(3), the Executive Director/Superintendent or designee shall immediately notify local law enforcement. The Executive Director/Superintendent or designee shall also report these incidents to ISBE through its web-based School Incident Reporting System as they occur during the year and no later than July 31 for the preceding school year.

Delegation of Authority

Each teacher, and any other school personnel when students are under his or her charge, is authorized to impose any disciplinary measure, other than suspension, expulsion, corporal punishment, or in-school suspension, that is appropriate and in accordance with the policies and rules on student discipline. Teachers, other licensed educational employees, and any other persons (whether or not a licensed employee) providing a related service for or with respect to a student, may only use reasonable force as permitted by 105 ILCS 5/10-20.33. Teachers may temporarily remove students from a classroom for disruptive behavior.

The Executive Director/Superintendent, Building Principal, Assistant Building Principal, or Dean of Students is authorized to impose the same disciplinary measures as teachers and may suspend students guilty of gross disobedience or misconduct from school (including all school functions) and from riding the school bus, up to 10 consecutive school days, provided the appropriate procedures are followed. The Board may suspend a student from riding the bus in excess of 10 school days for safety reasons.

Student Handbook

The Executive Director/Superintendent, with input from the parent-teacher advisory committee, shall prepare disciplinary rules implementing ELC's disciplinary policies. These disciplinary rules shall be presented annually to the Board for its review and approval.

A student handbook, including the ELC disciplinary policies and rules, shall be distributed to the students' parents/guardians within 15 days of the beginning of the school year or a student's enrollment.

Incorporated
by Reference: 7:190-AP4 (Use of Isolated Time Out, Time Out, and Physical Restraint)

LEGAL REF.:

20 U.S.C. §7971 *et seq.*, Pro-Children Act of 2004.

20 U.S.C. §7961 *et seq.*, Gun Free Schools Act.

105 ILCS 5/10-20.5b, 5/10-20.14, 5/10-20.28, 5/10-20.36, 5/10-20.88, 5/10-21.7, 5/10-21.10, 5/10-22.6, 5/10-27.1A, 5/10-27.1B, 5/22-33, 5/22-100, 5/22-110, 5/24-24, 5/26-12, 5/27-240, and 5/31-3.

410 ILCS 130/, Compassionate Use of Medical Cannabis Pilot Program.

410 ILCS 647/, Powdered Caffeine Control and Education Act.

430 ILCS 66/, Firearm Concealed Carry Act.

23 Ill.Admin.Code §§1.280, 1.285.

CROSS REF.: 2:240 (Board Policy Development), 5:230 (Maintaining Student Discipline), 6:60 (Curriculum Content), 7:70 (Attendance and Truancy), 7:130 (Student Rights and Responsibilities), 7:140 (Search and Seizure), 7:150 (Agency and Law Enforcement Requests), 7:160 (Student Appearance), 7:170 (Vandalism), 7:180 (Prevention of and Response to Bullying, Intimidation, and Harassment), 7:185 (Teen Dating Violence Prohibited), 7:210 (Expulsion Procedures), 7:230 (Misconduct by Students with Disabilities), 7:270 (Administering Medicines to Students), 8:30 (Visitors to and Conduct on School Property)

ADOPTED: January 22, 2026

Exceptional Learners Collaborative

PRESSPlus Comments

C1. Updated in response to 105 ILCS 5/10-20.88(b), added by P.A. 104-657, requiring a board policy prohibiting student use of *wireless communication devices* during *school time*, subject to certain exceptions, by the beginning of the 2027-2028 school year. However, districts that have existing wireless communication device policies in place before 7-28-26 which limit the use of such devices "during a majority of or the entirety of a school day" are not required to adopt a policy meeting the requirements of 105 ILCS 5/10-20.88 until the 2031-2032 school year. Consult the board attorney for guidance if the board wishes to rely on an existing policy and delay implementation of a new policy that complies with 105 ILCS 5/10-20.88. **Issue 123, October 2026**

C2. See sample policy 7:195, *Wireless Communication Devices*, for a definition of *wireless communication device*. Making a video recording or live video transmission of another person without their consent in a restroom, locker room, or changing room is a Class 4 felony. 720 ILCS 5/26-4. A minor who distributes or disseminates an indecent visual depiction of another minor through the use of a computer or electronic communication device may be subject to adjudication as a minor in need of supervision. 705 ILCS 405/3-40. Additionally, operating transmitters designed to jam or block wireless communications violates the federal Communications Act of 1934. 47 U.S.C. §§301, 302a, and 333. Fines are as high as $10,000 for each violation and/or imprisonment, and the device may also be seized. 47 U.S.C. §§501-510. **Issue 123, October 2026**

C3. 105 ILCS 5/10-20.88(e), added by P.A. 104-657, and 105 ILCS 5/10-22.6, amended by P.A. 104-657. The law is unclear regarding whether a school may issue in-school suspensions solely for violations of its wireless communication device policy. 105 ILCS 5/10-20.88(e) prohibits "suspensions," but 105 ILCS 5/10-22.6 prohibits out-of-school suspensions only. Consult the board attorney for guidance if the district wants to use in-school suspensions as a disciplinary consequence for violations of the policy. **Issue 123, October 2026**

Document Status: Draft Update - New

7:195 Wireless Communication Devices

New/Unpublished Section

The District limits the use of wireless communication devices in accordance with State law.[C1] This policy is intended to minimize distractions in the educational environment and support students' learning, behavior, and overall well-being.[C2]

Definitions

Wireless communication device means any portable wireless device that has the capability to provide voice, messaging, or other data communication between two or more parties, including, but not limited to:

1. Cellular telephones;
2. Tablet computers;
3. Laptop computers;
4. Gaming devices; and
5. Wearable devices, including smart watches or smart glasses, unless the capability to provide messaging or transmit other data communications has been disabled.[Q1]

Wireless communication device does not include any device that the District or a teacher has directly issued to, provided for, or required a student to possess and use for educational purposes.[C3]

School time means the time students spend on a school campus during the regular school day, beginning with the designated arrival time for students through the designated dismissal time for students, including instructional time, recess, lunch, and passing periods.[Q2] School time does not include a before-school or after-school activity or a student's presence at an off-campus learning opportunity.

Device Use

Students are prohibited from using wireless communication devices during school time, except under the following circumstances:[C4]

1. A licensed physician, physician assistant, or nurse practitioner determines that the

possession or use of a wireless communication device is necessary for the management of the student's health care, and the student uses the device only as prescribed by the licensed physician, physician assistant, or nurse practitioner.

2. A wireless communication device is required by a student's individualized education program, Section 504 Plan, the student's health care provider's medical orders, or another written accommodation plan.
3. School personnel have determined that a wireless communication device is necessary for a student who is an English learner, as defined in 105 ILCS 5/14C-2, to access learning materials.
4. School personnel determine, on a case-by-case basis, that a wireless communication device is necessary for a student caregiver who is routinely responsible for the care and well-being of a family member.
5. When required by State or federal law.
6. In the event of an emergency, when authorized by the District's emergency crisis and response plans, protocols, or procedures.
7. When school personnel authorize a student to use a wireless communication device for educational purposes. Any such use shall be in accordance with Board policy 6:220, *Bring Your Own Technology (BYOT) Program; Responsible Use and Conduct*.

Device Storage[C5]

All wireless electronic devices must be powered off or silenced and out of sight during school time. Each Building Principal shall issue guidance to students and staff within their respective school buildings regarding how wireless communication devices must be stored during school time. Storage methods may include, but are not limited to, lockers, backpacks or personal bags, classroom storage solutions, and/or secured pouches/containers.[C6]

Enforcement

Uniform enforcement of this policy at each of the District's schools is important for its effective and fair implementation. Staff shall implement this policy consistently and in a trauma-informed and developmentally appropriate manner.[C7]

Each Building Principal shall establish administrative responses for students who violate this policy, consistent with Board policy 7:190, *Student Behavior*.[C8] Administrative responses may include, but are not limited to, verbal reminders/redirection, student conference, temporary confiscation of the device, parent/guardian notification, restorative intervention, and/or other additional supports.[C9] No student will be suspended, expelled, be required to pay a fee or fine, or be referred to a school resource officer or local law enforcement solely

for violating this policy.[C10] If, as a response to violating this policy, a parent/guardian must retrieve the wireless communication device at a school building, the Building Principal shall provide an alternative for cases in which a parent/guardian is unable to appear in person.[C11]

The Board and District staff are not liable for damage to a wireless communication device if the device is stored in good faith and in accordance with this policy.[C12]

Policy Posting and Distribution

This policy shall be posted on the District's website and published in the student handbook(s).[C13] The Superintendent shall also annually provide this policy to staff, including new employees and substitute teachers when hired, as well as students and their parents/guardians by posting it on the District's website.[C14]

In addition to this policy, the student handbook(s) shall also include the consequences for violations of this policy.[C15]

Policy Review[C16]

At least once every three years, pursuant to 105 ILCS 5/10-20.88 and Board policy 2:240, *Board Policy Development*, the Board will review and make any necessary and appropriate updates to this policy. In conducting its review, the Board will gather and consider input from the teachers' local collective bargaining agent, administrators, and parents/guardians and consider any available data on the enforcement of this policy. The Board may utilize its Parent-Teacher Advisory Committee to accomplish the policy review.

LEGAL REF.:

105 ILCS 5/10-20.88 (final citation pending).

CROSS REF.: 1:30 (School District Philosophy), 2:150 (Committees), 6:220 (Bring Your Own Technology (BYOT) Program; Responsible Use and Conduct), 6:235 (Access to Electronic Networks), 7:190 (Student Behavior)

PRESSPlus Comments

C1. Created in response to 105 ILCS 5/10-20.88 (final citation pending), added by P.A. 104-657, requiring a board policy to be adopted by the beginning of the 2027-2028 school year that prohibits student use of *wireless communication devices* during *school time*. The law requires "each school board" to adopt this policy; consult your board attorney regarding the applicability of this requirement to your specific organization.

However, districts that have existing wireless communication device policies in place before 7-28-26 which limit the use of such devices "during a majority of or the entirety of a school day" are not required to adopt a policy meeting the requirements of 105 ILCS 5/10-20.88 until the 2031-2032 school year. The law requires "each school board" to adopt this policy; consult your board attorney regarding the applicability of this requirement to your specific organization. Also consult the board attorney for guidance if the board wishes to rely on an existing policy and delay implementation of a new policy that complies with 105 ILCS 5/10-20.88.

Development of this policy must include input from the local collective bargaining agent representing teachers (if any), administrators, and parents/guardians. The law encourages, but does not require, input from students. A board may utilize its existing parent-teacher advisory committee established under 105 ILCS 5/10-20.14 to develop the policy. See sample policy 2:150, *Committees*. The Ill. State Board of Education (ISBE) was required to develop a template for a model wireless communication device policy, see the *Model Cell Phone Policy*, available at: www.isbe.net/Documents/Model-Cell-Phone-Policy.pdf. A board's policy does not have to be based on the ISBE model, but this sample policy is consistent with ISBE's model. **Issue 123, October 2026**

C2. This introductory paragraph can be customized based on local needs and conditions. **Issue 123, October 2026**

C3. See sample policy 6:235, *Access to Electronic Networks*, and sample administrative procedure 6:235-AP1, *Acceptable Use of the District's Electronic Networks*, for rules regarding the use of devices that a district issues to students.**Issue 123, October 2026**

C4. Items #1-5 are required by 105 ILCS 5/10-20.88(c), added by P.A. 104-657. Items #6 and #7 are optional and can be deleted. See sample administrative procedure 4:170-AP1, *Comprehensive Safety and Security Plan*, available at PRESS Online by logging in at www.iasb.com, at Section G., **School Emergency Operations and Crisis Response Plan**, and its footnote 5, regarding student use of devices during an emergency. **Issue 123, October 2026**

C5. 105 ILCS 5/10-20.88(b)(2), added by P.A. 104-657, requires the policy to incorporate guidance for wireless communication storage within a school building during school time, but it does not prescribe the manner of storage for wireless communication devices in schools. This sample policy allows for flexibility at the building level based upon the conditions and needs of a particular school building by delegating the guidance to the building principal. Districts may choose from a variety of storage solutions ranging in cost, from hanging door caddies to magnetized pouches/ containers with centralized locking systems. The law does not specifically require devices to be powered off, silenced, or out of sight, but these restrictions are included as a best practice to minimize distractions in the learning environment.

Staff, as used in this sample policy, is intended to include substitute teachers, who also need to be familiar with the guidance on device storage at the buildings where they substitute. **Issue 123, October 2026**

C6. This sentence is optional. It is based on ISBE's *Model Cell Phone Policy*. **Issue 123, October 2026**

C7. Required by 105 ILCS 5/10-20.88(b)(3), added by P.A. 104-657. See 105 ILCS 5/3-11 for trauma-related definitions, including *trauma responsive*. **Issue 123, October 2026**

C8. This sample policy authorizes building principals to establish building-level consequences based upon the needs of students in their building. The law does not require inclusion of the administrative responses for violation in board policy, but they must be included in student handbooks(s). For an additional resource on responses for violations, see: https://stand.org/illinois/our-stories/illinois-phone-free-schools-implementation-guide/, at p. 4. **Issue 123, October 2026**

C9. This sentence is optional. It is based on ISBE's *Model Cell Phone Policy*. **Issue 123, October 2026**

C10. 105 ILCS 5/10-20.88(e), added by P.A. 104-657, and 105 ILCS 5/10-22.6, amended by P.A. 104-657. The prohibition on these types of disciplinary consequences does not extend to a student's use of a wireless communication device to commit gross disobedience or other misconduct.

The law is unclear regarding whether a school can issue students in-school suspensions solely for violations of this policy. 105 ILCS 5/10-20.88(e) prohibits "suspensions," but 105 ILCS 5/10-22.6 prohibits out-of-school suspensions only. Consult the board attorney for guidance if the district wants to include in-school suspensions as a disciplinary consequence for violating this policy. **Issue 123, October 2026**

C11. 105 ILCS 5/10-20.88(b)(4), added by P.A. 104-657. This requirement is intended to accommodate those parents/guardians who are unable to physically pick up a device at school due to other commitments, such as working. An alternative could include a call with the parent/guardian to review the policy violation and confirm the device's return to the student or permitting a parent/guardian to designate another adult to pick up the device. **Issue 123, October 2026**

C12. 105 ILCS 5/10-20.88(g), added by P.A. 104-657. Statutory immunity does not apply if damage to a device is "caused by the willful or wanton conduct of school personnel." **Issue 123, October 2026**

C13. Required by 105 ILCS 5/10-20.88(b) and (h), added by P.A. 104-657. The Ill. Principals Association (IPA) maintains a handbook service that coordinates with PRESS material, *Online Model Student Handbook* (MSH), at: www.ilprincipals.org/msh/. **Issue 123, October 2026**

C14. 105 ILCS 5/10-20.88(h), added by P.A. 104-657, requires a district to annually provide this policy to parents, guardians, and school personnel, including new employees and substitutes teacher when hired. This sample policy manages this requirement through posting on a district's website. Provision of a hyperlink to the policy also satisfies the posting and annual notice requirements. **Issue 123, October 2026**

C15. 105 ILCS 5/10-20.88(b), added by P.A. 104-657, requires the student handbook to include the policy *and* administrative responses (consequences) for violations of the policy. **Issue 123, October 2026**

C16. 105 ILCS 5/10-20.88(f), added by P.A. 104-657. A board may utilize its existing parent-teacher advisory committee established under 105 ILCS 5/10-20.14 to review this policy. See policy 2:150, *Committees*. **Issue 123, October 2026**

Questions

Q1. A Board may choose to ban wearable devices altogether based on concerns that students may surreptitiously use them to record others at school, to further limit classroom distractions, and/or to address enforceability issues.

Has the Board adopted a ban on wearable devices?

Options

☐ No. (Default)

☐ Yes. (IASB will delete “, unless the capability to provide messaging or transmit other data communications is disabled” from item #5.)

Q2. A district may permit the use of wireless communication devices during lunch and/or passing periods for high school students. Districts that want to allow the use of devices during lunch and/or passing periods in high school may choose one of the following options:

Option 1: add ", except that in grades 9-12, school time shall not include lunch or passing periods." to the end of this sentence.

Option 2: add ", except in grades 9-12, school time shall not include lunch." to the end of this sentence.

Option 3: add ", except in grades 9-12, school time shall not include passing periods." to the end of this sentence.

Does the Board want to allow the use of devices during lunch and/or passing periods for high school students?

Options

☐ No. (Default)

☐ Yes. The Board allows the use of devices during lunch and passing periods. (IASB will add **Option 1** as shown above.)

☐ Yes. The Board allows the use of devices during lunch. (IASB will add **Option 2** as shown above.)

☐ Yes. The Board allows the use of devices during passing periods. (IASB will add **Option 3** as shown above.)

Document Status: Draft Update

SECTION 7 - STUDENTS

7:270 Administering Medicines to Students

Students should not take medication during school hours or during school-related activities unless it is necessary for a student's health and well-being. When a student's licensed health care provider and parent/guardian believe that it is necessary for the student to take a medication during school hours or school-related activities, the parent/guardian must request that the school dispense the medication to the child and otherwise follow ELC's procedures on dispensing medication.

No ELC employee shall administer to any student, or supervise a student's self-administration of, any prescription or non-prescription medication until a completed and signed (*SMA Form*) *School Medication Authorization Form* is submitted by the student's parent/guardian. No student shall possess or consume any prescription or non-prescription medication on school grounds or at a school-related function other than as provided for in this policy and its implementing procedures.

Nothing in this policy shall prohibit any school employee from providing emergency assistance to students, including administering medication.

Self-Administration of Medication

A student may possess and self-administer ~~an~~ epinephrine ~~injector~~, [C1] e.g., EpiPen®, and/or asthma medication prescribed for use at the student's discretion, provided the student's parent/guardian has completed and signed an *SMA Form*. The Executive Director/ Superintendent or designee will ensure an Emergency Action Plan is developed for each self-administering student.

A student may self-administer medication required under a *qualifying plan*, provided the student's parent/guardian has completed and signed an *SMA Form*. A qualifying plan means: (1) an asthma action plan, (2) an Individual Health Care Action Plan, (3) an allergy emergency action plan, (4) a plan pursuant to Section 504 of the federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973, or (5) a plan pursuant to the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. A student may also possess the supplies and equipment necessary to monitor and treat diabetes in accordance with the student's diabetes care plan and/or the supplies, equipment,

and medication necessary to treat epilepsy in accordance with the student's seizure action plan.

The ELC shall incur no liability, except for willful and wanton conduct, as a result of any injury arising from a student's self-administration of medication, including asthma medication or epinephrine ~~injectors~~, or medication required under a qualifying plan. A student's parent/guardian must indemnify and hold harmless the ELC and its employees and agents, against any claims, except a claim based on willful and wanton conduct, arising out of a student's self-administration of ~~an~~ epinephrine ~~injector~~, asthma medication, and/or a medication required under a qualifying plan.

ELC~~School District~~ Supply of Undesignated Asthma Medication

The Superintendent or designee shall implement 105 ILCS 5/22-30(f) and maintain a supply of undesignated asthma medication in the name of ELC~~the District~~ and provide or administer them as necessary according to State law. Undesignated asthma medication means an asthma

medication prescribed in the name of ELC or one of its schools. A school nurse or trained personnel, as defined in State law, may administer an undesignated asthma medication to a person when they, in good faith, believe a person is having respiratory distress. Respiratory distress may be characterized as mild-to-moderate or severe. Each building administrator and/or his or her corresponding school nurse shall maintain the names of trained personnel who have received a statement of certification pursuant to State law.

ELC Supply of Undesignated Epinephrine Delivery Systems~~Injectors~~

The Superintendent or designee shall implement 105 ILCS 5/22-30(f) and maintain a supply of undesignated epinephrine delivery systems~~injectors~~ in the name of ELC and provide or administer them as necessary according to State law. *Undesignated epinephrine delivery system~~injector~~* means an epinephrine ~~injector~~ delivery system prescribed in the name of ELC or one of its schools. A school nurse or trained personnel, as defined in State law, may administer an undesignated epinephrine delivery system~~injector~~ to a person when they, in good faith, believe a person is having an anaphylactic reaction. Each building administrator and/or his or her corresponding school nurse shall maintain the names of trained personnel who have received a statement of certification pursuant to State law.

ELC Supply of Undesignated Opioid Antagonists

The Executive Director/Superintendent or designee shall implement 105 ILCS 5/22-30(f) and maintain a supply of undesignated opioid antagonists and provide or administer them as necessary according to State law. *Opioid antagonist* means a drug that binds to opioid

receptors and blocks or inhibits the effect of opioids acting on those receptors, including, but not limited to, naloxone hydrochloride or any other similarly acting drug approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. *Undesignated opioid antagonist* is not defined by the School Code; for purposes of this policy it means an opioid antagonist prescribed in the name of the ELC or one of its schools or obtained by the ELC without a prescription. A school nurse or trained personnel, as defined in State law, may administer an undesignated opioid antagonist to a person when they, in good faith, believe a person is having an opioid overdose. Each building administrator and/or his or her corresponding school nurse shall maintain the names of trained personnel who have received a statement of certification pursuant to State law. See the website for the Ill. Dept. of Human Services for information about opioid prevention, abuse, public awareness, and a toll-free number to provide information and referral services for persons with questions concerning substance abuse treatment.

ELC Supply of Undesignated Glucagon

The Executive Director/Superintendent or designee shall implement 105 ILCS 145/27 and 5/22-30 and maintain a supply of undesignated glucagon in the name of the ELC in accordance with manufacturer's instructions.

When a student's prescribed glucagon is not available or has expired, a school nurse or delegated care aide may administer undesignated glucagon only if he or she is authorized to do so by a student's diabetes care plan, Individual Health Care Action Plan, Section 504 plan, individualized education program, or other written accommodations plan. C2

Administration of Medical Cannabis

The Compassionate Use of Medical Cannabis Program Act allows a *medical cannabis infused product* to be administered to a student by one or more of the following individuals:

1. A parent/guardian of a student who is a minor who registers with the Ill. Dept. of Public Health (IDPH) as a *designated caregiver* to administer medical cannabis to their child. A designated caregiver may also be another individual other than the student's parent/guardian. Any designated caregiver must be at least 21 years old and is allowed to administer a *medical cannabis infused product* to a child who is a student on the premises of his or her school or on his or her school bus if:

    a. Both the student and the designated caregiver possess valid registry identification cards issued by IDPH;
    b. Copies of the registry identification cards are provided to ELC;
    c. That student's parent/guardian completed, signed, and submitted a *School*

Medication Authorization Form - Medical Cannabis; and

d. After administering the product to the student, the designated caregiver immediately removes it from school premises or the school bus.

2. A properly trained school nurse or administrator, who shall be allowed to administer the *medical cannabis infused product* to the student on the premises of the child's school, at a school-sponsored activity, or before/after normal school activities, including while the student is in before-school or after-school care on school-operated property or while being transported on a school bus.
3. The student him or herself when the self-administration takes place under the direct supervision of a school nurse or administrator.

Medical cannabis infused product (product) includes oils, ointments, foods, and other products that contain usable cannabis but are not smoked or vaped. Smoking and/or vaping medical cannabis is prohibited.

The product may not be administered in a manner that, in the opinion of the ELC or school, would create a disruption to the educational environment or cause exposure of the product to other students. A school employee shall not be required to administer the product.

Discipline of a student for being administered a product by a designated caregiver, or by a school nurse or administrator, or who self-administers a product under the direct supervision of a school nurse or administrator pursuant to this policy is prohibited. ELC may not deny a student attendance at a school solely because he or she requires administration of the product during school hours.

Void Policy

The **ELC Supply of Undesignated Asthma Medication** section of the policy is void whenever the Superintendent or designee is, for whatever reason, unable to: (1) obtain for ELC a prescription for undesignated asthma medication from a physician or advanced practice nurse licensed to practice medicine in all its branches, or

The **ELC Supply of Undesignated Epinephrine ~~Injectors~~ Delivery Systems** section of the policy is void whenever the Superintendent or designee is, for whatever reason, unable to: (1) obtain for ~~the District~~ELC a prescription for undesignated epinephrine ~~injectors~~ delivery systems from a physician or advanced practice nurse licensed to practice medicine in all its branches, or (2) fill ELC's prescription for undesignated school epinephrine delivery systems~~injectors~~.

The **ELC Supply of Undesignated Opioid Antagonists** section of the policy is void whenever the Executive Director/Superintendent or designee is unable to obtain a supply of

opioid antagonists due to a shortage, in which case the ELC shall make reasonable efforts to maintain a supply.

The **ELC Supply of Undesignated Glucagon** section of the policy is void whenever the Executive Director/Superintendent or designee is, for whatever reason, unable to: (1) obtain for the ELC a prescription for glucagon from a qualifying prescriber, or (2) fill the ELC's prescription for undesignated school glucagon.

The **Administration of Medical Cannabis** section of the policy is void and ELC reserves the right not to implement it if the ELC or school is in danger of losing federal funding.

Administration of Undesignated Medication

Upon any administration of an undesignated medication permitted by State law, the Executive Director/Superintendent or designee(s) must ensure all notifications required by State law and administrative procedures occur.

Undesignated Medication Disclaimers

Upon implementation of this policy, the protections from liability and hold harmless provisions applicable under State law apply.

No one, including without limitation, parents/guardians of students, should rely on the ELC for the availability of undesignated medication. This policy does not guarantee the availability of undesignated medications. Students and their parents/guardians should consult their own physician regarding these medication(s).

LEGAL REF.:

105 ILCS 5/10-20.14b, 5/10-22.21b, 5/22-30, and 5/22-33.

105 ILCS 145/, Care of Students with Diabetes Act.

105 ILCS 150/, Seizure Smart School Act.

410 ILCS 130/, Compassionate Use of Medical Cannabis Program Act.

720 ILCS 550/, Cannabis Control Act.

23 Ill.Admin.Code §1.540.

CROSS REF.: 7:285 (Anaphylaxis Prevention, Response, and Management Program)

ADOPTED: July 17, 2025

Exceptional Learners Collaborative

PRESSPlus Comments

C1. Updated throughout in response to 105 ILCS 5/22-30, amended by P.A.s 104-762, eff. 1-1-27, and 104-803, changing the term epinephrine injector to epinephrine delivery system. **Issue 123, October 2026**

C2. 105 ILCS 5/22-30(b-10), amended by P.A. 104-655, eff. 1-1-27, authorizing a school nurse or *trained personnel* to administer undesignated glucagon to a student or provide undesignated glucagon to any personnel authorized under a student's Individual Health Care Action Plan, in accordance with the student's prescriber's order or Section 504 plan, individualized education program, or other written accommodations plan, as well as adding new training and reporting requirements. See sample administrative procedure 7:270-AP2, *Checklist for District Supply of Undesignated Medication(s),* available at PRESS Online by logging in at www.iasb.com. **Issue 123, October 2026**

Document Status: Draft Update

SECTION 7 - STUDENTS

7:290 Suicide and Depression Awareness and Prevention

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

Suicide and Depression Awareness and Prevention Program

The Executive Director/Superintendent or designee shall develop, implement, and maintain a suicide and depression awareness and prevention program (Program) that advances the Board's goals of increasing awareness and prevention of depression and suicide. This program must be consistent with the requirements of *Ann Marie's Law* listed below; each listed requirement, 1-6, corresponds with the list of required policy components in the School Code Section 5/2-3.166(c)(2)-(7). The Program shall include:

1. Protocols for administering youth suicide awareness and prevention education to students and staff.

    a. For students, implementation will incorporate 105 ILCS 5/27-215 (requiring education for students on mental health and illness, including suicide prevention curricula in grades 6-12 if the Superintendent or designee determines that opportunities for integration exist). C1
    b. For staff, implementation will incorporate Board policy 5:100, Staff Development, and teacher's institutes under 105 ILCS 5/3-14.8 (requiring coverage of the warning signs of suicidal behavior).

2. Procedures for methods of suicide prevention with the goal of early identification and referral of students possibly at risk of suicide. Implementation will incorporate:
    a. The training required by 105 ILCS 5/10-22.39 for all ELC staff who work with students to identify the warning signs of suicidal behavior in youth along with appropriate intervention and referral techniques, including methods of prevention, procedures for early identification, and referral of students at risk of suicide; and

b. Ill. State Board of Education (ISBE)-recommended guidelines and educational materials for staff training and professional development, along with ISBE-recommended resources for students containing age-appropriate educational materials on youth suicide and awareness, if available ~~pursuant to *Ann Marie's Law*~~ on ISBE's website pursuant to *Ann Marie's Law*.

3. Methods of intervention, including procedures that address an emotional or mental health safety plan for use during the school day and at school-sponsored events for a student identified as being at increased risk of suicide including those students who: (A) suffer from a mental health disorder; (B) suffer from a substance abuse disorder; (C) engage in self-harm or have previously attempted suicide; (D) reside in an out-of-home placement; (E) are experiencing homelessness; (F) are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or questioning (LGBTQ); (G) are bereaved by suicide; or (H) have a medical condition or certain types of disabilities. Implementation will incorporate paragraph number 2, above, along with Board policies:
    a. 6:65, *Student Social and Emotional Development*, implementing the goals and benchmarks of the Ill. Learning Standards and 405 ILCS 49/15(b) (requiring student social and emotional development in the ELC's educational program);
    b. 6:120, *Education of Children with Disabilities*, implementing special education requirements for the ELC;
    c. 7:10, *Equal Educational Opportunities*, and its implementing administrative procedure and exhibit, implementing supports for equal educational opportunities for students who are LGBTQ;
    d. 7:50, *School Admissions and Eligibility for Services*, implementing State law requirements related to students who are in foster care;
    e. 7:250, *Student Support Services*, implementing the Children's Mental Health Act, 405 ILCS 49/ (requiring protocols for responding to students with social, emotional, or mental health issues that impact learning ability); and
    f. State and/or federal resources that address emotional or mental health safety plans for students who are possibly at an increased risk for suicide, if available on the ISBE's website pursuant to *Ann Marie's Law*.
4. Methods of responding to a student or staff suicide or suicide attempt. Implementation of this requirement shall incorporate building-level Student Support Committee(s) established through Board policy 7:250, *Student Support Services*.
5. Reporting procedures. Implementation of this requirement shall incorporate Board policy 7:250, *Student Support Services*, in addition to other State and/or federal resources that address reporting procedures.
6. A process to incorporate ISBE-recommended resources on youth suicide awareness and prevention programs, including current contact information for such programs in

the ELC's Suicide and Depression Awareness and Prevention Program.

Illinois Suicide Prevention Strategic Planning Committee

The Executive Director/Superintendent or designee shall attempt to develop a relationship between the ELC and the Illinois Suicide Prevention Strategic Planning Committee, the Illinois Suicide Prevention Coalition Alliance, and/or a community mental health agency. The purpose of the relationship is to discuss how to incorporate the goals and objectives of the Illinois Suicide Prevention Strategic Plan into the ELC Suicide Prevention and Depression Awareness Program.

Monitoring

The Board will review and update this policy pursuant to *Ann Marie's Law* and Board policy 2:240, *Board Policy Development*.

Information to Staff, Parents/Guardians, and Students

The Executive Director/Superintendent shall inform each school district employee about this policy and ensure its posting on the ELC website. The Executive Director/Superintendent or designee shall provide a copy of this policy to the parent or legal guardian of each student enrolled in the ELC. Student and staff identification (ID) cards, ELC's website, and student handbooks and planners will contain the support information as required by State law.

Implementation

This policy shall be implemented in a manner consistent with State and federal laws, including the Student Confidential Reporting Act, 5 ILCS 860/, Children's Mental Health Act, 405 ILCS 49/, Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities Confidentiality Act, 740 ILCS 110/, and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, 42 U.S.C. §12101 *et seq*.

The ELC, Board, and its staff are protected from liability by the Local Governmental and Governmental Employees Tort Immunity Act. Services provided pursuant to this policy: (1) do not replace the care of a physician licensed to practice medicine in all of its branches or a licensed medical practitioner or professional trained in suicide prevention, assessments and counseling services, (2) are strictly limited to the available resources within the ELC, (3) do not extend beyond the school day and/or school-sponsored events, and (4) cannot guarantee or ensure the safety of a student or the student body.

LEGAL REF.:

42 U.S.C. § 1201 *et seq*., Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

105 ILCS 5/2-3.166, 5/3-14.8, 5/10-20.81, 5/10-22.24a, 5/10-22.24b, 5/10-22.39, 5/14-1.01 *et seq*., 5/14-7.02, 5/14-7.02b, and 5/27-215.

5 ILCS 860/, Student Confidential Reporting Act.

405 ILCS 49/, Children's Mental Health Act.

740 ILCS 110/, Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities Confidentiality Act.

745 ILCS 10/, Local Governmental and Governmental Tort Immunity Act.

CROSS REF.: 2:240 (Board Policy Development), 5:100 (Staff Development Program), 6:65 (Student Social and Emotional Development), 6:120 (Education of Children with Disabilities), 7:180 (Prevention of and Response to Bullying, Intimidation, and Harassment), 7:250 (Student Support Services)

ADOPTED: January 22, 2026

Exceptional Learners Collaborative

PRESSPlus Comments

C1. Updated in response to 105 ILCS 5/27-215, amended by P.A. 104-808, eff. 1-1-27. This sample policy directs the superintendent or designee to determine whether such instruction can be integrated because implementation of the policy is staff work. See www.iasb.com/training-and-events/training/training-resources/foundational-principles-of-effective-governance (Principle #4). **Issue 123, October 2026**

Document Status: Draft Update

SECTION 7 - STUDENTS

7:50 School Admissions and Eligibility for Services

Special education services shall be available to eligible children with disabilities from the age of three (3) through the age of twenty-one (21) who are enrolled in the Member Districts or at ELC West.

Unless otherwise determined by a student's Individualized Education Program (IEP) team, the student who has successfully completed a secondary program shall be granted a diploma by the student's resident school district and all eligibility for public school education is terminated, including special education and related services. The parent and the student shall participate in the decision to terminate public school responsibility prior to age twenty-two (22).

LEGAL REF:

8 U.S.C. §1101 *et seq.,* Illegal Immigrant and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996.

20 U.S.C. §1232g, Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act.

20 U.S.C. §1400 *et seq*., Individuals With Disabilities Education Improvement Act.

29 U.S.C. §794, Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Section 504.

42 U.S.C. §11431 *et seq*., McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act.

105 ILCS 5/2-3.13a, 5/10-20.12, 5/10-20.59, 5/10-22.5a, 5/14-1.02, 5/14-1.03a, 5/22-1065,[C1] 5/26-1, and 5/26-2.

105 ILCS 10/8.1, Ill. School Student Records Act.

105 ILCS 45/, Education for Homeless Children Act.

105 ILCS 70/, Educational Opportunity for Military Children Act.

325 ILCS 50/, Missing Children Records Act.

325 ILCS 55/, Missing Children Registration Law.

410 ILCS 315/2, Communicable Disease Prevention Act.

20 Ill.Admin.Code Part 1290, Missing Person Birth Records and School Registration.

23 Ill.Admin.Code Part 226, Special Education.

23 Ill.Admin.Code Part 375, Student Records.

CROSS REF.: 6:300 (Graduation Requirements), 7:60 (Residency), 7:70 (Attendance and Truancy), 7:150 (Agency and Law Enforcement Requests)

ADOPTED: June 18, 2026

Exceptional Learners Collaborative

PRESSPlus Comments

C1. Updated in response to 105 ILCS 5/22-106, renumbered by P.A. 104-852. **Issue 123, October 2026**

Checks Issued

Bank Account: AP **EXCEPTIONAL LEARNERS COLLABORATIVE**

Check Number	Name on Check	Run Description	Run Type	Check Type	Statement Date	Check Date	Cash Post Date	Amount
00013603	EXCEPTIONAL LEARNERS COLLABORATIVE	7H VENDOR LIABILITIES 10.09.26	R	R		10/09/2026	10/09/2026	112,797.87
00013604	ACCURATE BIOMETRICS, INC	AP 10.09.26	R	R		10/09/2026	10/09/2026	1,086.75
00013605	PERSPECTIVES, LTD	AP 10.09.26	R	R		10/09/2026	10/09/2026	428.40
00013606	BUFFALO GROVE ROTARY CLUB	AP 10.09.26	R	R		10/09/2026	10/09/2026	102.50
00013607	CDW LLC	AP 10.09.26	R	R		10/09/2026	10/09/2026	5,594.12
00013608	CENTRA HEALTHCARE SOLUTIONS INC	AP 10.09.26	R	R		10/09/2026	10/09/2026	10,661.25
00013609	CINTAS CORPORATION	AP 10.09.26	R	R		10/09/2026	10/09/2026	956.69
00013610	COMCAST BUSINESS	AP 10.09.26	R	R		10/09/2026	10/09/2026	1,625.14
00013611	CORPORATE WOODS ASSOCIATES LLC	AP 10.09.26	R	R		10/09/2026	10/09/2026	14,775.45
00013612	CORPORATE WOODS ASSOCIATES LLC	AP 10.09.26	R	R		10/09/2026	10/09/2026	19,858.07
00013613	CRISIS PREVENTION INSTITUTE	AP 10.09.26	R	R		10/09/2026	10/09/2026	5,828.75
00013614	EVERWAY LLC	AP 10.09.26	R	R		10/09/2026	10/09/2026	1,098.00
00013615	LANGUAGE LINE SERVICES, INC	AP 10.09.26	R	R		10/09/2026	10/09/2026	65.15
00013616	NUVENTO INC	AP 10.09.26	R	R		10/09/2026	10/09/2026	3,000.00
00013617	SOLIANT HEALTH	AP 10.09.26	R	R		10/09/2026	10/09/2026	15,675.50
00013618	SUNBELT STAFFING	AP 10.09.26	R	R		10/09/2026	10/09/2026	5,569.56
00013619	WESTONE	AP 10.09.26	R	R		10/09/2026	10/09/2026	92.50
00013620	AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES	SPEC AMAZON AP 10.16.26	R	R		10/16/2026	10/16/2026	3,336.77
00013621	EXCEPTIONAL LEARNERS COLLABORATIVE	7I VENDOR LIABILITIES 10.23.26	R	R		10/23/2026	10/23/2026	113,267.64
00013622	ADLAI E. STEVENSON HIGH SCHOOL	AP 10.23.26	R	R		10/23/2026	10/23/2026	40,350.00
00013623	AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES	AP 10.23.26	R	R		10/23/2026	10/23/2026	3,105.91
00013624	ASPIRE CONSULTING INC	AP 10.23.26	R	R		10/23/2026	10/23/2026	10,435.17
00013625	AT&T	AP 10.23.26	R	R		10/23/2026	10/23/2026	1,600.49
00013626	CANON FINANCIAL SERVICES, INC	AP 10.23.26	R	R		10/23/2026	10/23/2026	593.00
00013627	CENTRA HEALTHCARE SOLUTIONS INC	AP 10.23.26	R	R		10/23/2026	10/23/2026	6,750.00

Checks Issued

Bank Account: AP — **EXCEPTIONAL LEARNERS COLLABORATIVE**

Check Number	Name on Check	Run Description	Run Type	Check Type	Statement Date	Check Date	Cash Post Date	Amount
00013628	CINTAS CORPORATION	AP 10.23.26	R	R		10/23/2026	10/23/2026	146.88
00013629	COMED	AP 10.23.26	R	R		10/23/2026	10/23/2026	1,363.64
00013630	COMED	AP 10.23.26	R	R		10/23/2026	10/23/2026	1,594.53
00013631	COMED	AP 10.23.26	R	R		10/23/2026	10/23/2026	327.63
00013632	CRISIS PREVENTION INSTITUTE	AP 10.23.26	R	R		10/23/2026	10/23/2026	2,499.00
00013633	JORDAN DEBOY	AP 10.23.26	R	R		10/23/2026	10/23/2026	197.00
00013634	ECOLAB	AP 10.23.26	R	R		10/23/2026	10/23/2026	305.53
00013635	FIRST STUDENT INC	AP 10.23.26	R	R		10/23/2026	10/23/2026	208.62
00013636	ALEXA HALBERT	AP 10.23.26	R	R		10/23/2026	10/23/2026	650.00
00013637	NEXTIVA INC	AP 10.23.26	R	R		10/23/2026	10/23/2026	1,311.67
00013638	NIHIP	AP 10.23.26	R	R		10/23/2026	10/23/2026	221,960.36
00013639	NORTH SHORE GAS	AP 10.23.26	R	R		10/23/2026	10/23/2026	59.39
00013640	NORTH SHORE GAS	AP 10.23.26	R	R		10/23/2026	10/23/2026	100.65
00013641	OTICON INC.	AP 10.23.26	R	R		10/23/2026	10/23/2026	140.00
00013642	JENNIFER RIVERA	AP 10.23.26	R	R		10/23/2026	10/23/2026	33.29
00013643	SOLIANT HEALTH	AP 10.23.26	R	R		10/23/2026	10/23/2026	16,546.25
00013644	SOLUTION TREE INC	AP 10.23.26	R	R		10/23/2026	10/23/2026	799.00
00013645	SUN LIFE FINANCIAL	AP 10.23.26	R	R		10/23/2026	10/23/2026	3,376.42
00013646	SUNBELT STAFFING	AP 10.23.26	R	R		10/23/2026	10/23/2026	5,618.97
00013647	UNC TEACCH AUTISM PROGRAM	AP 10.23.26	R	R		10/23/2026	10/23/2026	5,901.05
00013648	VERIZON WIRELESS	AP 10.23.26	R	R		10/23/2026	10/23/2026	352.10
00013649	WASTE MANAGEMENT SERVICES	AP 10.23.26	R	R		10/23/2026	10/23/2026	1,502.76
00013650	OLD NATIONAL BANK	SEP 2026 PCARD	R	R		10/23/2026	10/23/2026	9,387.83
8000001063	ELC for EMPLOYEE BENEFITS CORPORATION	7H VENDOR LIABILITIES 10.09.26	R	W		10/09/2026	10/09/2026	5,580.32
8000001064	EQUITABLE EQUI-VEST	7H VENDOR LIABILITIES 10.09.26	R	W		10/09/2026	10/09/2026	6,690.51
8000001065	FIDELITY INVESTMENTS	7H VENDOR LIABILITIES 10.09.26	R	W		10/09/2026	10/09/2026	2,293.34
8000001066	IRS - FICA	7H VENDOR LIABILITIES 10.09.26	R	W		10/09/2026	10/09/2026	31,289.20
8000001067	IRS - MEDICARE	7H VENDOR LIABILITIES 10.09.26	R	W		10/09/2026	10/09/2026	12,754.24

Checks Issued

Bank Account: AP — **EXCEPTIONAL LEARNERS COLLABORATIVE**

Check Number	Name on Check	Run Description	Run Type	Check Type	Statement Date	Check Date	Cash Post Date	Amount
8000001068	IRS - TAX WITH	7H VENDOR LIABILITIES 10.09.26	R	W		10/09/2026	10/09/2026	37,061.89
8000001069	PlanMember	7H VENDOR LIABILITIES 10.09.26	R	W		10/09/2026	10/09/2026	2,979.00
8000001070	STATE OF IL DEPT OF REVENUE	7H VENDOR LIABILITIES 10.09.26	R	W		10/09/2026	10/09/2026	18,894.70
8000001071	Teachers Health Insurance Security	7H VENDOR LIABILITIES 10.09.26	R	W		10/09/2026	10/09/2026	3,155.44
8000001072	Teachers Retirement System	7H VENDOR LIABILITIES 10.09.26	R	W		10/09/2026	10/09/2026	19,253.87
8000001073	VOYA INSTITUTIONAL TRUST COMPANY	7H VENDOR LIABILITIES 10.09.26	R	W		10/09/2026	10/09/2026	2,105.46
8000001074	ELC for EMPLOYEE BENEFITS CORPORATION	7I VENDOR LIABILITIES 10.23.26	R	W		10/23/2026	10/23/2026	5,674.49
8000001075	EQUITABLE EQUI-VEST	7I VENDOR LIABILITIES 10.23.26	R	W		10/23/2026	10/23/2026	6,690.51
8000001076	FIDELITY INVESTMENTS	7I VENDOR LIABILITIES 10.23.26	R	W		10/23/2026	10/23/2026	4,393.34
8000001077	ILLINOIS MUNICIPAL RETIREMENT FUND	7I VENDOR LIABILITIES 10.23.26	R	W		10/23/2026	10/23/2026	61,742.03
8000001078	IRS - FICA	7I VENDOR LIABILITIES 10.23.26	R	W		10/23/2026	10/23/2026	31,310.30
8000001079	IRS - MEDICARE	7I VENDOR LIABILITIES 10.23.26	R	W		10/23/2026	10/23/2026	12,709.98
8000001080	IRS - TAX WITH	7I VENDOR LIABILITIES 10.23.26	R	W		10/23/2026	10/23/2026	36,644.09
8000001081	PlanMember	7I VENDOR LIABILITIES 10.23.26	R	W		10/23/2026	10/23/2026	2,979.00
8000001082	STATE OF IL DEPT OF REVENUE	7I VENDOR LIABILITIES 10.23.26	R	W		10/23/2026	10/23/2026	18,674.09
8000001083	Teachers Health Insurance Security	7I VENDOR LIABILITIES 10.23.26	R	W		10/23/2026	10/23/2026	3,010.86
8000001084	Teachers Retirement System	7I VENDOR LIABILITIES 10.23.26	R	W		10/23/2026	10/23/2026	18,330.35
8000001085	VOYA INSTITUTIONAL TRUST COMPANY	7I VENDOR LIABILITIES 10.23.26	R	W		10/23/2026	10/23/2026	2,105.46
8000001086	WISCONSIN DEPT OF REVENUE	7I VENDOR LIABILITIES 10.23.26	R	W		10/23/2026	10/23/2026	1,322.28

Checks Issued

Bank Account: AP — **EXCEPTIONAL LEARNERS COLLABORATIVE**

Check Number	Name on Check	Run Description	Run Type	Check Type	Statement Date	Check Date	Cash Post Date	Amount
						Grand Totals:	**72 Total Checks**	**1,000,682.00**

Payroll Summaries

Check Date: 10/1/2026 - 10/31/2026 **EXCEPTIONAL LEARNERS COLLABORATIVE**

Payroll Run	Pay Gross	Fed Gross	Fed Tax	State Gross	IL Gross	IL Tax	WI Gross	WI Tax	SS Gross	SS Tax	Med Gross	Med Tax
10/9/26 - 7H BI-WEEKLY PAYROLL 10.09.26	459,652.31	402,332.53	37,061.89	402,332.53	388,234.29	18,894.70	14,098.24	668.42	252,332.27	15,644.60	439,804.22	6,377.12
10/23/26 - 7I BI-WEEKLY PAYROLL 10.23.26	457,069.97	397,903.73	36,644.09	397,903.73	384,080.09	18,674.09	13,823.64	653.86	252,502.29	15,655.15	436,859.66	6,375.52
Totals:	**916,722.28**	**800,236.26**	**73,705.98**	**800,236.26**	**772,314.38**	**37,568.79**	**27,921.88**	**1,322.28**	**504,834.56**	**31,299.75**	**876,663.88**	**12,752.64**

Services Sold to Nonmember Districts
ELC Contractual - Revenue / Expenses / Profit
(July 2026-June 2027)

REVENUE

Nonmember Services Revenue Allocation	July Services Revenue	August Services Revenue	September Services Revenue	October Services Revenue	November Services Revenue	December Services Revenue	January Services Revenue	February Services Revenue	March Services Revenue	April Services Revenue	May Services Revenue	June Services Revenue	Total Services Revenue
Nonmember	243.03	152,658.25	164,817.12										317,718.40
D96													0.00
D125													0.00
D103													0.00
Total	**243.03**	**152,658.25**	**164,817.12**	**0.00**	**0.00**	**0.00**	**0.00**	**0.00**	**0.00**	**0.00**	**0.00**	**0.00**	**317,718.40**

EXPENSES BY DISTRICT

Nonmember Services Expenses Allocation	July Services Expenses	August Services Expenses	September Services Expenses	October Services Expenses	November Services Expenses	December Services Expenses	January Services Expenses	February Services Expenses	March Services Expenses	April Services Expenses	May Services Expenses	June Services Expenses	Total Services Expenses
Nonmember	4,183.67	108,477.21	117,471.17	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	230,132.05
D96													0.00
D125													0.00
D103													0.00
Total	**4,183.67**	**108,477.21**	**117,471.17**	**0.00**	**0.00**	**0.00**	**0.00**	**0.00**	**0.00**	**0.00**	**0.00**	**0.00**	**230,132.05**

PROFIT

Nonmember Profit Allocation to Member Districts*	July Services Profit	August Services Proft	September Services Profit	October Services Profit	November Services Profit	December Services Profit	January Services Profit	February Services Profit	March Services Profit	April Services Profit	May Services Profit	June Services Profit	Total Nonmember Profit
D96 (18.07%)	-712.07	7,983.51	8,555.41										15,826.85
D125 (80.96%)	-3,190.34	35,768.97	38,331.28										70,909.91
D103 (.97%)	-38.22	428.56	459.26										849.59
Total	**-3,940.64**	**44,181.04**	**47,345.95**	**0.00**	**0.00**	**0.00**	**0.00**	**0.00**	**0.00**	**0.00**	**0.00**	**0.00**	**87,586.35**

0.00

**Estimated Profit Distribution based on Estimated Pre-Bill 2026/2027 Summary*

EXPENSES BY OBJECT

Nonmember Services Expenses	July Services Expenses	August Services Expenses	September Services Expenses	October Services Expenses	November Services Expenses	December Services Expenses	January Services Expenses	February Services Expenses	March Services Expenses	April Services Expenses	May Services Expenses	June Services Expenses	Total Services Expenses
Nonmember Salary and Benefits	159.88	97,258.27	104,638.15										202,056.30
Curriculum – Non Member													0.00
IEP – Non-Member													0.00
Mentor/Jobalike Stipend - Non Member													0.00
Professional Development - Non Member		622.90	129.00										751.90
Purchased Services (Contract Staff) – Non-Member	-4,052.25	2,520.00	12,062.25										10,530.00
Travel - Non Member													0.00
Translation Services - Non Member													0.00
Testing Materials - Non Member													0.00
Software - Non Member			599.99										599.99
Technology Supplies - Non Member													0.00
Dues - Non Member													0.00
General Supplies - Non Member			41.78										41.78
TRS Administrator (.7 FTE)	8,076.04	8,076.04											16,152.08
Total	**4,183.67**	**108,477.21**	**117,471.17**	**0.00**	**0.00**	**0.00**	**0.00**	**0.00**	**0.00**	**0.00**	**0.00**	**0.00**	**230,132.05**

Services Sold to Nonmember Districts
District Contractual - Revenue / Expenses / Profit
(July 2026-June 2027)

REVENUE

Base Services Sold Revenue Allocation	July Services Revenue	August Services Revenue	September Services Revenue	October Services Revenue	November Services Revenue	December Services Revenue	January Services Revenue	February Services Revenue	March Services Revenue	April Services Revenue	May Services Revenue	June Services Revenue	Total Services Revenue
Base (Audiologist)		1,100.75	6,901.53										8,002.28
D96													0.00
D125													0.00
D103													0.00
Total	**0.00**	**1,100.75**	**6,901.53**	**0.00**	**0.00**	**0.00**	**0.00**	**0.00**	**0.00**	**0.00**	**0.00**	**0.00**	**8,002.28**

EXPENSES BY DISTRICT

Base Services Expenses Allocation	July Services Expenses	August Services Expenses	September Services Expenses	October Services Expenses	November Services Expenses	December Services Expenses	January Services Expenses	February Services Expenses	March Services Expenses	April Services Expenses	May Services Expenses	June Services Expenses	Total Services Expenses
Base Salary and Benefits		733.85	2,168.21										2,902.06
D96													0.00
D125													0.00
D103													0.00
Total	**0.00**	**733.85**	**2,168.21**	**0.00**	**0.00**	**0.00**	**0.00**	**0.00**	**0.00**	**0.00**	**0.00**	**0.00**	**2,902.06**

PROFIT

Base Profit Allocation to Member Districts*	July Services Profit	August Services Proft	September Services Profit	October Services Profit	November Services Profit	December Services Profit	January Services Profit	February Services Profit	March Services Profit	April Services Profit	May Services Profit	June Services Profit	Total Base Profit	
D96 (18.07%)		66.30	855.31										921.61	
D125 (80.96%)		297.04	3,832.10										4,129.14	
D103 (.97%)		3.56	45.91										49.47	
Total	**0.00**	**366.90**	**4,733.32**	**0.00**	**0.00**	**0.00**	**0.00**	**0.00**	**0.00**	**0.00**	**0.00**	**0.00**	**5,100.22**	**0.00**

**Estimated Profit Distribution based on Estimated Pre-Bill 2026/2027 Summary*

October 2026 Treasurer's Report

	Fund	Beginning Cash Balance 10/1/26	Revenue Received October 2026	Less Disbursements October 2026	Est. Fund Balance
10	Education	$ 3,368,711	$ 7,565,164	$ 1,913,775	$ 9,020,100
20	Operations & Maintenance	(770)	-	85,127	(85,897)
40	Transportation	12,485	-	209	12,276
50	IMRF/Social Security	3,347	177	77,825	(74,301)
99	Student Activity	$ 36,432	$ -	$ -	36,432
Grand Total		$ 3,420,205	$ 7,565,341	$ 2,076,936	$ 8,908,610

Less: Outstanding Checks	$ (230,856)
Cash Balance	$ 9,139,465

Restricted Fund Balance

125 Adlai E. Stevenson High School - Terminal Reserve (Held with Old National)	$ (12,099)
12,099 - FY23 True Up Monies Balance	
Flex Spending Account	$ (14,736)
Student Activity Account	$ (36,432)

Unrestricted Fund Balance

Exceptional Learners Collaborative	$ 8,857,442

October 2026 Statement of Expenditure by Object

	Overhead by Object	Budget	MTD	YTD	Remaining Budget
100	Salaries	$ 2,334,369	$ 79,342	$ 437,329	$ 1,897,040
200	Benefits	778,605	46,680	215,284	563,321
300	Purchased Services	863,500	43,068	269,633	593,867
400	Supplies	286,500	11,270	97,452	189,048
500	Captial Outlay	152,000	-	-	152,000
600	Dues/Fees	25,000	773	7,961	17,039
700	Equipment	110,000	(164)	38,839	71,161
	Grand Total	$ 4,549,974	$ 180,969	$ 1,066,498	$ 3,483,476

	D96 by Object	Budget	MTD	YTD	Remaining Budget
100	Salaries	$ 1,770,464	$ 133,671	$ 408,978	$ 1,361,486
200	Benefits	520,647	37,003	102,046	418,601
300	Purchased Services	52,700	214	908	51,792
400	Supplies	22,500	104	13,922	8,578
500	Captial Outlay	-	-	-	-
600	Dues/Fees	3,000	706	3,478	(478)
700	Equipment	750	140	140	610
	Grand Total	$ 2,370,061	$ 171,838	$ 529,472	$ 1,840,589

	D103 by Object	Budget	MTD	YTD	Remaining Budget
100	Salaries	$ 92,087	$ 5,000	$ 15,224	$ 76,863
200	Benefits	12,751	621	1,892	10,859
300	Purchased Services	37,100	-	125	36,975
400	Supplies	12,750	-	10,580	2,170
500	Captial Outlay	-	-	-	-
600	Dues/Fees	250	-	1,454	(1,204)
700	Equipment	500	-	-	500
	Grand Total	$ 155,438	$ 5,621	$ 29,275	$ 126,163

	D125 by Object	Budget	MTD	YTD	Remaining Budget
100	Salaries	$ 3,585,333	$ 257,501	$ 848,735	$ 2,736,598
200	Benefits	1,215,762	87,518	249,273	966,489
300	Purchased Services	104,600	118	20,881	83,719
400	Supplies	36,200	1,543	10,375	25,825
500	Captial Outlay	-	-	-	-
600	Dues/Fees	20,000	116	6,486	13,514
700	Equipment	1,000	-	-	1,000
	Grand Total	$ 4,962,895	$ 346,796	$ 1,135,751	$ 3,827,144

	D114 by Object	Budget	MTD	YTD	Remaining Budget
100	Salaries	$ 650,086	$ 50,082	$ 159,400	$ 490,686
200	Benefits	175,823	11,379	30,416	145,407
300	Purchased Services	4,800	186	186	4,614
400	Supplies	4,750	-	2,849	1,901
500	Captial Outlay	-	-	-	-
600	Dues/Fees	250	-	-	250
700	Equipment	-	-	-	-
	Grand Total	$ 835,709	$ 61,647	$ 192,850	$ 642,859

	ELC West by Object	Budget	MTD	YTD	Remaining Budget
100	Salaries	$ 3,792,976	$ 273,052	$ 909,486	$ 2,883,490
200	Benefits	1,249,257	80,531	258,053	991,204
300	Purchased Services	485,500	105,451	219,856	265,644
400	Supplies	229,100	11,271	100,723	128,377
500	Captial Outlay	78,000	-	-	78,000
600	Dues/Fees	7,500	60	269	7,231
700	Equipment	41,000	-	144	40,856
	Grand Total	$ 5,883,333	$ 470,365	$ 1,488,531	$ 4,394,802

	Non-Member by Object	Budget	MTD	YTD	Remaining Budget
100	Salaries	$ 1,471,200	$ 117,982	$ 300,009	$ 1,171,191
200	Benefits	378,080	26,523	50,700	327,380
300	Purchased Services	54,450	19,226	30,508	23,942
400	Supplies	5,000	52	694	4,306
500	Captial Outlay	-	-	-	-
600	Dues/Fees	500	112	112	388
700	Equipment	-	-	-	-
	Revenue returned to Members	2,500,000	-	-	2,500,000
	Grand Total	$ 4,409,230	$ 163,895	$ 382,023	$ 4,027,207

	$ 23,166,640	**$ 1,401,131**	**$ 4,824,398**	**$ 18,342,242**
			20.82%	

October 2026 Statement of Revenue by Object

Source of Revenue	Budget	MTD	YTD	Remaining Budget
Evidence Based Funding	$ 95,535	$ 8,686	$ 26,058	$ 69,477
Medicaid Admin Outreach	72,100	-	-	72,100
Medicaid Fee For Service	392,000	-	3,625	388,375
Member Services	16,402,500	5,233,154	5,234,501	11,167,999
Non-Member Services	107,760	181,535	181,535	(73,775)
Related Services	3,041,980	-	4,629	3,037,351
SpEd Tuition - ELC West	3,190,170	1,472,496	1,696,008	1,494,162
SpEd Transportation State Aid	43,900		12,262	31,638
Interest	7,535	-	749	6,786
Miscellaneous	138,765	-	-	138,765
Grand Total	$ 23,492,245	$ 6,895,871	$ 7,159,367	$ 16,332,878
			30.48%	

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE EXCEPTIONAL LEARNERS COLLABORATIVE BOARD OF EDUCATION, LAKE COUNTY, ILLINOIS, HELD THURSDAY OCTOBER 15, 2026, AT 8:00 A.M. IN THE EXCEPTIONAL LEARNERS COLLABORATIVE TRAINING ROOM, VERNON HILLS, ILLINOIS.

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

President Neault called the meeting to order at 8:03 A.M. On roll call, Ms. Neault, Mr. Burns, and Ms. Peterson answered. Also in attendance was Superintendent Dr. Clarke and Director of Business and Operations CSBO Draegert.

Absent: None

DISCUSSION TOPIC

a. BOARD OF EDUCATION INFORMATION

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Ms. Neault moved, seconded by Mr. Burns that the Board of Education adjourn to executive session to discuss the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance or dismissal of a specific employee [5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1)] and/or matters related to potential litigation [5 ILCS 120/2(c)(11)]. On roll call, Ms. Neault, Mr. Burns, and Ms. Peterson voted aye. The motion carried unanimously. (8:28 A.M.)

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Neault moved, seconded by Mr. Burns that the meeting be adjourned. By voice vote, the motion carried unanimously. (8:29 A.M.)

_____ SECRETARY

_____ PRESIDENT

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE EXCEPTIONAL LEARNERS COLLABORATIVE BOARD OF EDUCATION, LAKE COUNTY, ILLINOIS, HELD THURSDAY OCTOBER 15, 2026, AT 8:30 A.M. IN THE EXCEPTIONAL LEARNERS COLLABORATIVE TRAINING ROOM, VERNON HILLS, ILLINOIS.

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

President Neault called the meeting to order at 8:30 A.M. On roll call, Ms. Neault, Mr. Burns, and Ms. Peterson answered. Also in attendance were Superintendent Sheridan, Superintendent Dr. Clarke, Assistant Superintendent of Teaching, Learning, and Professional Growth Bhardwaj, Superintendent Dr. Reynolds, Superintendent Dr. Custable, Director of Business and Operations CSBO Draegert, and Recording Secretary Cone.

Absent: Director of Human Resources and Talent Acquisition Hofmeier

APPROVAL OF PSYCHOEDUCATIONAL RESOURCE SERVICES AGREEMENT

Ms. Peterson moved, seconded by Mr. Burns that the Board of Education approve the Psychoeducational Resource Services Agreement, as presented. On roll call, Mr. Burns, Ms. Neault, and Ms. Peterson voted aye.

APPROVAL OF AGREEMENT OF SERVICES WITH DR. JOE FATHEREE

Ms. Peterson moved, seconded by Mr. Burns that the Board of Education approve the agreement of Services with Dr. Joe Fatheree, as presented. On roll call, Ms. Peterson, Mr. Burns, and Ms. Neault voted aye.

FOIA REQUESTS

The Board of Education was presented with one request under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and the status of the District's response.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Mr. Burns moved, seconded by Ms. Peterson that the Board of Education approve the Consent Agenda Items, as noted in the Agenda Booklet of October 15, 2026. On roll call, Ms. Neault, Mr. Burns, and Ms. Peterson voted aye. The motion carried unanimously.

1) Approve the Special Meeting Minutes and Regular Meeting Minutes of September 17, 2026.

2) Accept the resignations of the following individuals as noted in the Agenda Booklet of October 15, 2026, for Corey Watts, Paraprofessional; Diana Chavez Cuevas, Paraprofessional; and Swoofie Louis, Paraprofessional; as presented.

3) Approve the appointments/transfers/reassignments of the following individuals as noted in the Agenda Booklet of October 15, 2026, for Mykhia Ross, Paraprofessional; Jasmine Snyder, Paraprofessional; Katie Smith, Paraprofessional; and Brenda Santos, Paraprofessional; as presented.

4) Approval of Bills.

5) Approval of Financial Statement.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Peterson moved, seconded by Mr. Burns that the meeting be adjourned. By voice vote, the motion carried unanimously. (9:04 AM)

_____ SECRETARY

_____ PRESIDENT

MINUTES OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE EXCEPTIONAL LEARNERS COLLABORATIVE BOARD OF EDUCATION, LAKE COUNTY, ILLINOIS, HELD THURSDAY OCTOBER 15, 2026, AFTER REGULAR BOARD MEETING IN THE EXCEPTIONAL LEARNERS COLLABORATIVE TRAINING ROOM, VERNON HILLS, ILLINOIS.

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

President Neault called the meeting to order at 9:08 A.M. On roll call, Ms. Neault, Mr. Burns, and Ms. Peterson answered. Also in attendance were Superintendent Dr. Clarke, Director of Business and Operations CSBO Draegert, and Recording Secretary Cone.

Absent: None.

DISCUSSION TOPIC

a. FINANCE UPDATE

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Burns moved, seconded by Ms. Peterson that the meeting be adjourned. By voice vote, the motion carried unanimously. (10:04 A.M.)

_____ _____

SECRETARY PRESIDENT