

Regular Meeting of the Board of Education

Wednesday, May 15, 2024 6:00 PM

Navajo Heights Elementary School, 12401 S. Oak Park Avenue, Palos Heights, Illinois 60463

1. Call to Order

1.A. Pledge to the Flag

1.B. Roll Call

2. Superintendent's Report

3. Approval of the Consent Agenda Items

3.A. Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of April 17, 2024

3.B. Approval of the Minutes of the Closed Session Meeting of April 17, 2024

3.C. Approval of May 2024 Bills & April 2024 Payroll

3.D. Review of Schools' Activity Accounts

3.E. Approval of Board of Education Meeting Schedule 2024-2025

3.F. Personnel Report

4. Old Business

4.A. Ratify Contract for Preschool Construction Project

5. New Business

5.A. Approval of ELA K-5 Pilot Curricular Resource

5.B. Policy First Read

5.C. Country House Lunch Contract Renewal

6. Audience Participation

If you are coming up to speak, please identify yourself by name and connection to the district and we ask that comments remain brief to accommodate everyone wishing to speak. Policy ordinarily provides up to 3 minutes per speaker.

7. Information Items

7.A. YTD Financial Summary

7.B. Freedom of Information Act Items (none)

7.C. Additional Information Items, if any

8. Closed Session

9. **Return to Open Session**

10. **Adjournment**

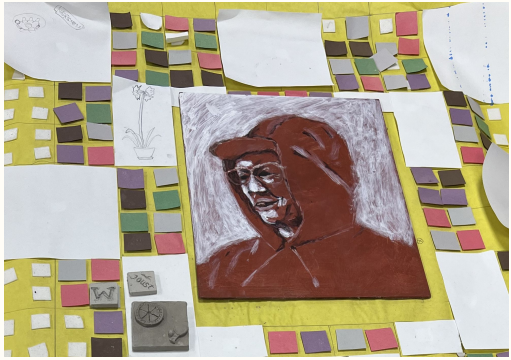
Mike Maholland



In Loving Memory

Art Teacher
Independence

Mike Maholland Art Award & Memorial

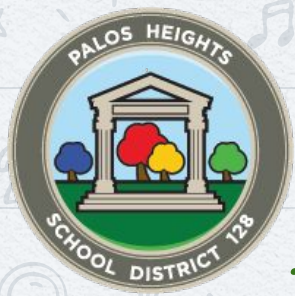


*8th Grade Art Award
Memorial Tree & Paver
Student Created Portrait*





District 128 Recognition & Retirement Celebration



SPECIAL RECOGNITION

Evan Katsenis

Those That Excel Special Recognition Award

Moira Touhy

Golden Apple Accelerator Program

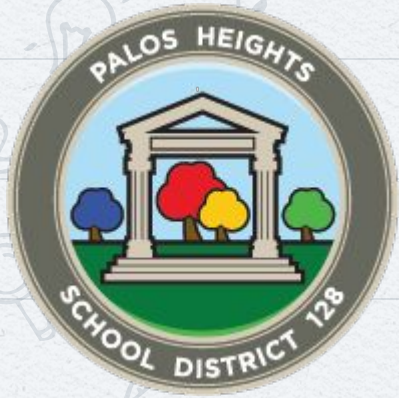
Mary Kate Moroney

Doctorate in Curriculum & Instruction

Lauren Weaver

National Board Certification





TENURE ACQUISITION

As of August 20, 2024

Tracy Arvetis

Angelica Barylłowicz

Mandy Buresh

Bridget Kay

Kristen Ortman

Shannon Quaid

Molly Quinn



The image features four interlocking puzzle pieces arranged in a 2x2 grid. The top-left piece is dark blue with the text '5 YEARS' in pink. The top-right piece is light blue with '10 YEARS' in dark blue. The bottom-left piece is dark blue with '15 YEARS' in orange. The bottom-right piece is dark blue with '20 YEARS' in red. The background is a vibrant floral pattern with various flowers in shades of blue, yellow, pink, and orange on a dark blue background.

5 YEARS

10 YEARS

15 YEARS

20 YEARS

Celebrating Years of Service

5 YEARS of SERVICE

Beth Ross

Health Aide
Independence



Christine Van Essen

Paraprofessional
Indian Hill

Merryl Brownlow

Superintendent
District

Amanda Curran

First Grade
Chippewa

Kristin Harris

Paraprofessional
Navajo

10 YEARS of SERVICE

Betsy Holman

4th Grade
Navajo



Kevin Kirk

Principal
Independence

Kim Anoman

Business Manager
District

15 YEARS of SERVICE

Carrie Duran

Paraprofessional
Navajo



Kristen Ortman

Special Education
Independence

Erica Germany

STEM
Indian Hill, Chippewa, Navajo

Leslie Baudo

Custodian
Indian Hill

20 YEARS of SERVICE



Julie MacFarlane

Special Education
Independence





Happy Retirement!

From all of your Friends at Palos Heights District 128



RETIREE



Greg Blouzdis



10 Years of Service

A Look Back and A Look Forward

FAVORITE
MEMORY

Finding out
my nephew
went to
Chippewa on
my 1st day at
work

RETIREMENT
PLANS

Traveling around
the country in an
RV with my wife

3 THINGS YOU MIGHT NOT KNOW...

- Got drafted into the army as a military policeman
- Drove a forklift for Dominick's Food for 43 years
- Raced a stock car at the old raceway park

Greg
Blouzdis



RETIREE



Pam Koutras




25 Years of Service

THE MANY HATS PAM WEARS



WORLD'S GREATEST
SECRETARY

Secretary



CREATIVE DIRECTOR

Crafter



CHEERLEADER

Cheerleader



YOUR FAV
PARTY PLANNER

Party Planner



THERAPIST
I'LL BE THERE FOR YOU

Therapist



ACTIVITY
DIRECTOR

Activity Director



YOUR MOM.

"Mom"

IT WILL TAKE MORE THAN ONE PERSON TO FILL THEM

NEXT STOP ON HER JOURNEY...



RETIREMENT HOME ACTIVITY DIRECTOR



October 2024



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY		
Pam Koutras Activity Director		1 International Coffee Day- Coffee Taste Testing Event	2 Learn to use a Cricket Machine	3 Learn to Embroider	4 World Animal Day – Dress as your favorite animal	5 Spooky Movie Night		
		6 Mad Hatter Day – Make your own crazy hat	7 World Habitat Day – Build a diorama for your favorite animal from World Animal Day	8 Pierogi Day – Learn to make your won pierogi	9 Bring Your Teddy Bear to Activity Time – Make your own Teddy Bear outfit	10 Handbag Day – Decorate your own reusable grocery bag	11 It's My Party Day – Make your own party hat	12 Week 1 – Design and begin making your Halloween costume
		13 Train Your Brain Day – Wordle Puzzle Day	14 Spooky Spider Day – Crochet your own spider	15 I Love Lucy Day – Taste Test Chocolate Candies	16 World Food Day- Cooking Class	17 Wear Something Gaudy Day	18 Chocolate Cupcake Day	19 Week 2 – Keep working on your Halloween costume
		20 Brandied Fruit Day – Brandy Taste Test	21 Reptile Awareness Day – Show with The Reptile Guy	22 Nut Day – Make your own peanut butter	23 Skeleton Sighting – Build your own skeleton from pasta or Q-tips	24 Line Dancing Class – get ready for a fall fling	25 Greasy Food Day – Decorate your own bib	26 Week 3 – Finish your Halloween costume
		27 Grandparents Day – invite grandkids to a social	28 Animation Day. – Learn to draw a cartoon character	29 Pumpkin Decorating Day	30 Candy Corn Day – Make a picture out of candy corn	31 Halloween Party – Wear your costume		



IEP RETIREMENT TRANSITION PLAN



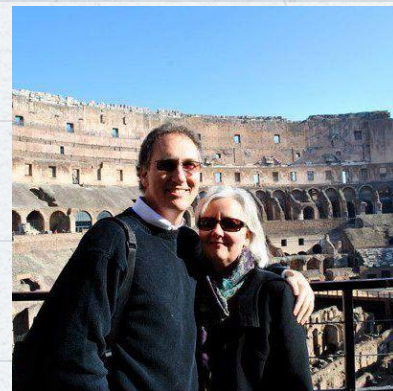
CATHERINE LESLIE
29 YEARS OF SERVICE

A LITTLE BIT ABOUT CATHY

- Catherine Leslie
- Resides with her husband, Kevin
- Director of Student Services Palos Heights School District 128
- Has served District 128 for 29 years
 - x Preschool Teacher
 - x Early Childhood Director
 - x Principal
 - x Director of Student Services



INTERESTS



- ✘ Cathy is a golfing queen
- ✘ Cathy enjoys spending time with her grandchildren
- ✘ Cathy loves to travel



STRENGTHS

- ✘ Child advocate
- ✘ Collaborative
- ✘ Problem-solver
- ✘ Sense of humor
- ✘ Kind heart

CONCERNS

- ✘ Planning equitable time with travel and golf to visit her grandkids
- ✘ Ability to prioritize travel destinations
 - ✘ Golf handicap

ACCOMMODATIONS

- ✘ Extra time to enjoy life
- ✘ New golf accessories
- ✘ Use of a travel agent
- ✘ How to Babysit a Grandma for her Grandkids

FUTURE – LEARNING PLANS

- ✘ Exploring new cultures and places
 - ✘ Maybe learn a new language or two?
 - ✘ Mastering baby talk and baby sign language
 - ✘ Golf lessons

GOALS FOR THE COMING YEAR

- ✘ Plan at least one golf lesson per week in the summer and fall
- ✘ A minimum of two grandkid visits per month
- ✘ At least one trip planned every quarter
- ✘ **ENJOY RETIREMENT**

District 128 will be dedicating the bench area in front of Indian Hill with a plaque honoring Cathy as Founding Director and her years of service to District 128



The district will also be installing a paver at IJHS honoring her 29 years and her role as Director of Student Services



Palos Heights School District 128

12809 S. McVicker Ave • Palos Heights, IL 60463
Phone: (708) 597-9040 • Fax: (708) 597 9089 • www.palos128.org

Merryl B. Brownlow, Ed.D.
Superintendent

2024-2025 School Year Board of Education Meeting Dates

Board Meetings are held on Wednesdays.

Meetings take place at 6:00pm at Independence Junior High.

No July 2024 Meeting

August 14, 2024

September 18, 2024

October 16, 2024

November 13, 2024

December 18, 2024

January 29, 2025

No February 2025 Meeting

March 19, 2025

April 16, 2025 Meeting

May 7, 2025 Meeting

June 11, 2025

INDIAN HILL
12800 S. Austin Ave
(708) 597-1285

CHIPPEWA
12425 S. Austin Ave
(708) 388-7260

NAVAJO HEIGHTS
12401 S. Oak Park Ave
(708) 385-3269

INDEPENDENCE JR. HIGH
6610 W. Highland Dr
(708) 448-0737

Project Memorandum

Date: May 13, 2024

To: Dr. Merryl Brownlow, Superintendent of Schools

From: Patrick J. Callahan, AIA, ALEP, NCARB, LEED-AP

Re: Indian Hill Preschool Classroom Alterations

Pursuant to our discussion at the April Board Meeting, we have received an updated proposal from Bear Construction in the adjusted amount of \$164,255. This updated proposal was based on the revised scope discussed at that meeting. The Board authorized the administration to pursue the Cooperative Pricing for the Omnia Cooperative to secure the work to be completed by the start of the 2024-25 School Year. The approved amount was a not to exceed \$135,000. To be ratified at the May Board meeting.

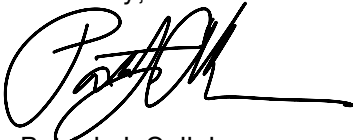
This current proposal exceeds the Boards April Action by about \$29, 255. To achieve the targeted cost of \$135,000 previously presented to the Board of Education, Studio GC recommends accepting the following scope credits:

- Flooring \$8,000.
 - Electrical \$9,000.
 - Sidewalk \$12,518.
 - Downspout reroute \$4,500.
- Total Credit Amount: \$34, 018.

This results in a proposal for the Board Consideration of \$130, 237. The credited work is still important to the project but does not affect the operations of the classroom for it's intended purpose. To that end, StudioGC will work with the district to seek out local contractors to complete the above itemized scope to perform the work at a more economical cost.

I will attend the Board meeting to address and questions that might arise. Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions.

Sincerely,



Patrick J. Callahan



May 13, 2024
Studio GC
223 W. Jackson Blvd Suite 1200
Chicago, Illinois 60606
Attn: Pat Callahan

RE: Palos SD 128 – Interior Renovation

Mr. Callahan,

BEAR Construction has visited the project site with Studio GC and agreed to the following scope of work based on plans dated 05.07.24. We are pleased to present the following scope of work and rough project budget based on our experience with the Choice Partners/RS Means Construction Task Catalog for your review.

Scope of Work

Option 2 Base Scope

- Demolish and removal of existing doors, door frames, shelving, millwork, flooring, cmu partitions, and drywall partitions per drawings.
- Demolish existing cmu to create new door openings.
- Provide and install new VCT flooring per drawings. Includes skim coat allowance and standard VCT flooring product.
- Provide and install vinyl wall base.
- Provide and install CMU infills per drawings.
- Provide and install 15 preschool lockers. (Material allowance of \$2,000 for the lockers)
- Provide and install lightweight curtain divider in gym. (Material allowance of \$5,000 for the curtain)
- Provide and install new door, frame, and hardware.
- Relocate existing security system and light switch.
- Relocate existing bathroom door.
- Provide and install new preschool sized water closet and lavatory.

The rough budgeted cost to complete the above scope of work for option 2 is: **Ninety Thousand Three Hundred Fifty Two Dollars, \$90,352.00. Pricing may vary slightly based on materials selected.**



5/7/24 Updated Scope

Demolition - Add \$3,500

- Flooring removal per updated plans

Flooring - Add \$8,000

- Provide and install new carpet and VCT flooring per drawings. Includes 1/16" skim coat for carpet and standard VCT flooring product.
- Provide and install vinyl wall base.

Masonry - Add \$2,750

- Patch CMU wall for new plumbing lines at sink basin.

DFH - Add \$3,877

- Provide and install 1 new wood door, 1 HM frame, 1 vision panel, and 1 set of door hardware

Cubbie & Millwork – Add \$9,500

- Provide and install an additional (15 ea) 9" wide laminate cubbies - (\$3,080)
- Provide new upper cabinets in Preschool Classroom.
- Relocate existing millwork as indicated on plans.

Electrical – Add \$9,000

- Relocate projector screen and electrical conduits in gym to accommodate divider curtain.
- Relocate switching for relocated door openings.
- Relocate 2x4 light fixture
- Plumbing fixture feed for automatic faucets

Plumbing – Add \$11,526

- Provide hand wash sink with auto faucets.
- Material Cost of *Just Manufacturing Stainless Steel Sink Basin Fixture and Faucets* – (\$6,100)

Concrete – Add \$21,250 for concrete and \$4,500 for storm work

- Provide new exterior concrete stoop and sidewalk.
- Provide Concrete Stoop – (\$8,732)
- Provide 5' wide sidewalk – (\$12,518)
- Route downspout underground to storm basin.

Clarifications

- This proposal excludes any permits or permit fees that may be required.
- This proposal excludes low voltage conduits or cabling.
- This proposal excludes exterior security work.
- This proposal excludes any engineering or design services or fees.
- This proposal excludes any OT or off-hour work.
- This proposal excludes the removal and/or disposal of any hazardous materials.



The budgeted cost to complete the above scope of work with 5/7/24 scope updates is: **One Hundred Sixty-Four Thousand, Two Hundred Fifty Five, \$164,255.**

Please review this proposal at your earliest convenience and contact us with any questions. BEAR Construction appreciates the opportunity to provide the above proposal. Please let us know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

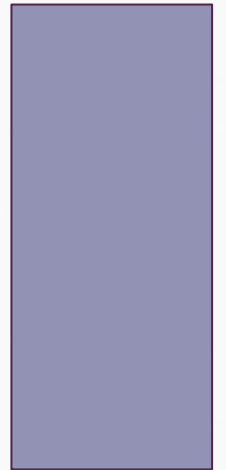
Addie Domasica
Project Executive



DISTRICT 128
K-5 ELA
Core Program Review

BOARD OF EDUCATION PRESENTATION

May 2024



K-5 ELA Committee Members

Note: 6th Grade ELA, Jessica Gabriel joined the final session

MEMBER	ROLE	AFFILIATION
Molly Quinn	Kindergarten Teacher	Indian Hill
Tracy Arvetis	Grade 1 Teacher	Chippewa
Colleen Dunford	Grade 2 Teacher	Chippewa
Brigitte Sullivan	Grade 3 Teacher	Chippewa
Mary Ellen White	Special Education	Chippewa
Jessica Ryan	Grade 4 Teacher	Navajo
Betsy Holman	Grade 5 Teacher	Navajo
Gayle Greenwald	Gifted Education, Special Education	Grades 3-8
Desiree Willner	English Language Learning	All Schools
Mary Kate Moroney	Curriculum Coordinator	All Schools
Jaime Herron	Literacy Consultant	South Cook Regional Office
Mary Lynn Duffy	Principal	Chippewa
Kaitlin Curran	Principal	Navajo

Programs Reviewed

The team reviewed four programs in depth, all of which received top ratings from EdReports.

- Savvas MyView
- McGrawHill Wonders
- Great Minds Wit & Wisdom

RECOMMENDED RESOURCE:

- **HMH Into Reading**

Note: *Foundations is the foundational skills program previously adopted at K-3. Grades 4 & 5 foundational skills & vocabulary instruction is built into the program being recommended.*

Timeline

Spring 2023

January 24
February 21
February 23

April 25
June 7
June 8

- Discussed Anchor Standards
- Developed a Understanding of the Progression of ELA Skills
- Identified the Need for a Strong Word Study Program at Grades 4 and 5
- Scaffolded Extended Response Protocols
- Discussed the Need for Gradual Release Throughout Grade Levels
- Identified Evidence-based Practices to be Implemented Regardless of Resource Piloted

Fall 2023

September 26
October 10
October 24

October 25
November 28
December 14

- Confirmed the Importance of Student Discourse
- Designed Resource Rubric
- Revised the Rubric
- Discussed ELL Needs
- Initial Presentations with Each Resource
- Follow Up Meetings with Each Resource

Spring 2024

January 23
January 30
February 20

March 18
April 30

- Presented Sample Lessons from Potential Resources
- Compared the Resources to the Rubric
- Followed Up with Each Resource Representative

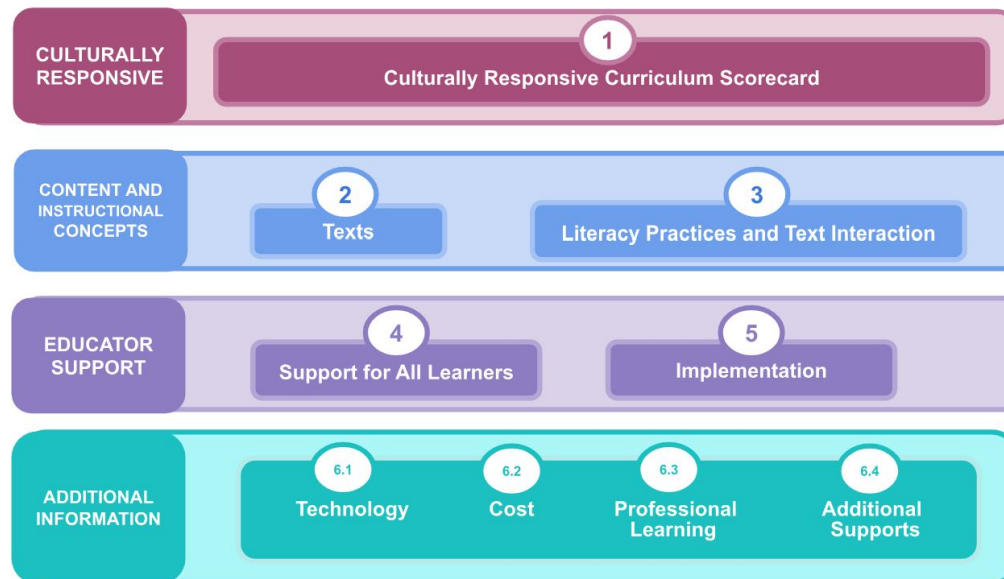
Program Criteria Review

(See sample tool in the Board Packet)

Resource:

Category	Description
Culturally Responsive	This category ensures that the curricular resource is culturally responsive and measures the extent to which people of different cultures, skin tones, abilities, etcetera are central to a story and ensures characters accurately reflect the histories and experiences of their cultures.
Content and Instructional Concepts	This category focuses on how well standards are addressed by instructional materials. Sections within this category evaluate guidance for effective teaching and learning specific to the content.
Educator Supports	This category focuses on aspects of instructional materials that directly relate to tools and resources for supporting instruction. Sections within this category focus on the guidance and support students and educators need to ensure all students learn and succeed.
Additional Information	This category provides additional information on technology, cost, professional learning, and additional language support as shared by the publisher.

This rubric was modified from the Texas Resource Review for Foundational Literacy



Click Image for Full Rubric

Category	Section	Total Possible Points	HMH- Into Reading	SAVVAS- MyView	Display on Report
Culturally Responsive Curriculum	Culturally Responsive Curricular Materials	6	6	6	HMH 100% of section points SAVVAS 100% of section points
Content and Instructional Supports (2-3)	Texts	12	12	12	HMH 100% of section points SAVVAS 100% of section points
	Literacy Practices and Text Interactions				
	Gradual Release	16	16	8	HMH 100% of section points SAVVAS 50% of section points
	Reading: Questions & Tasks	10	10	5	HMH 100% of section points SAVVAS 50% of section points
	Writing	12	10	10	HMH 83% of section points SAVVAS 83% of section points
	Speaking and Listening	4	4	4	HMH 100% of section points SAVVAS 100% of section points
	Integration of ELA Strategies	8	8	6	HMH 100% of section points SAVVAS 75% of section points
Educator Supports (4-5)	Support for All Learners	16	12	12	HMH 100% of section points SAVVAS 100% of section points
	Implementation	18	18	17	HMH 100% of section points SAVVAS 94% of section points

Program Research Highlights

- Academic and/or domain-specific vocabulary reinforced in and out of context
- Scaffolded diverse and high-interest texts are available
- Multiple opportunities for students to respond to reading
- Utilization of Informational and Literature Texts
- Daily writing opportunities in response to to reading

- Reflective writing opportunities
- Offer opportunities for various writing forms, such as narrative, expository, persuasive, and descriptive aligned to reading skills
- Assessment items mirror IAR

Program Strategies

- Discussion-based approaches
- Variety of texts to apply analyzing skills practice
- Variety of genres
- Correlated with NWEA MAP Assessments
- Differentiation materials for all sub groups and at-risk learners
- Offers project-based learning for students
- Small group lessons encourage cooperative learning

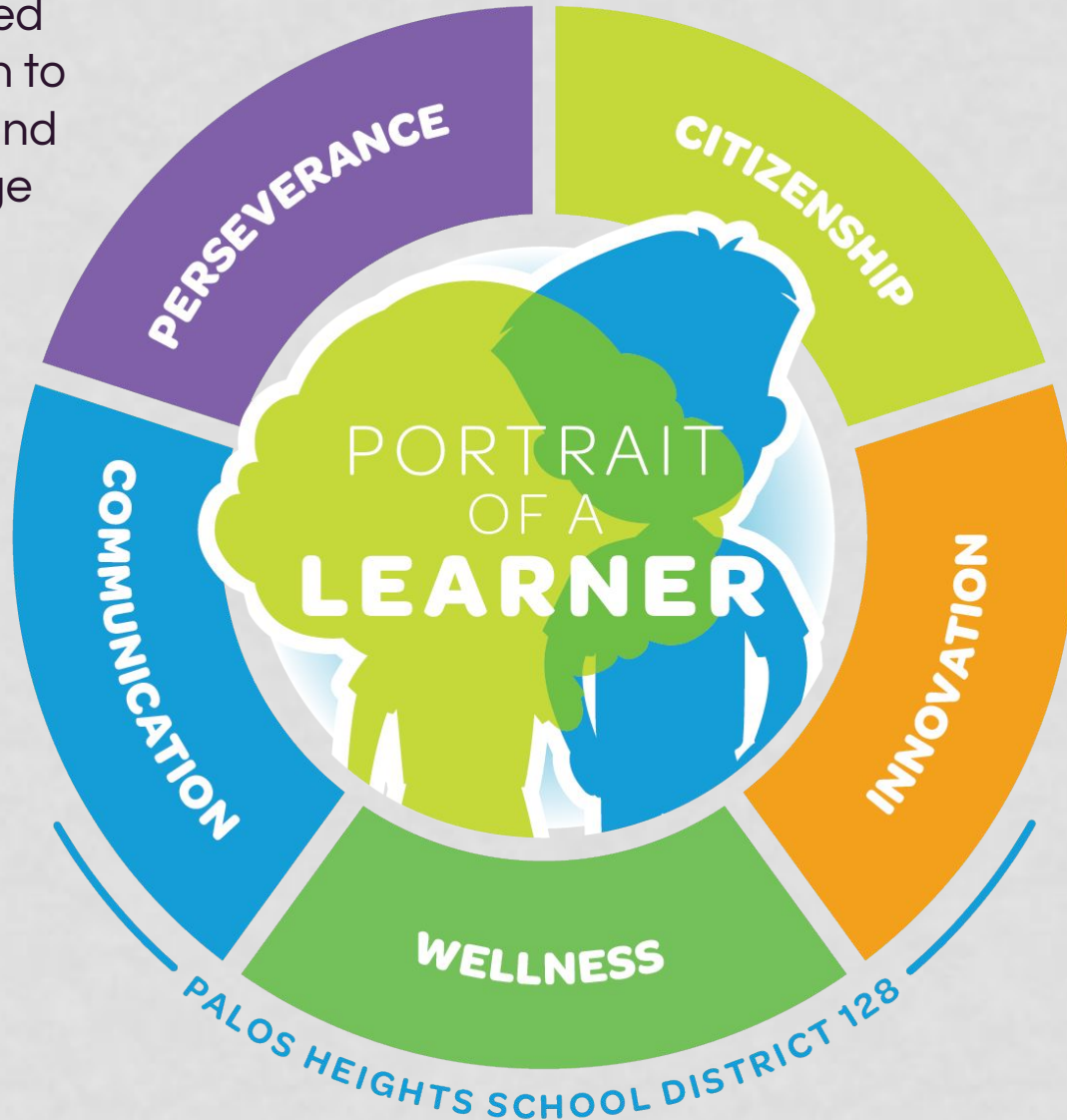
- Fosters active engagement with texts through discussions and reflective writing
- Use a variety of texts to develop skills in analyzing, interpreting, and synthesizing information.
- Teach grammar, sentence structure, and organization within the context of writing and communication.

Staff Feedback

- Structured lessons with accessible online resources, including vocabulary cards and practice materials.
- Engaging mentor texts with strong text-based questions and turn-and-talk discussions.
- Authentic Literature, relatable and engaging to students.
- Texts are diverse and students see themselves reflected.
- Effective intervention strategies, utilizing decodable stories and previous texts to build foundational skills.
- Utilization of anchor charts and interactive activities for both fiction and nonfiction texts.
- Rigorous assessments and small group activities, fostering student engagement and skill development.
- Rigorous formative assessments to gauge student progress, adding accountability and informing instructional decisions.

Scaffolded instruction to support and challenge

Alignment and Integration of Social Studies Standards



Turn and Talk Discussion

Project Based Learning

Alignment and Integration of CASEL Standards

Financial Implications

Fiscal Year	Materials Cost	Prof Dev Cost	Cost Savings (Free Materials)
2025 (Pilot)	\$64,000 ESSER III \$10,000 Dist Budget	\$30,000 ESSER III	\$77,700 All Student Materials
2026 - 2028 3-Yr Purchase	Consumables \$60,000 (\$20,000 per year)	\$10,000 Title II - FY 26	NA

- The district will receive all printed student materials and online student access at no cost.
- Teacher materials, English Learner materials and leveled libraries will be paid for by the ESSER III grant funds. The leveled libraries stand alone for small group instruction and will be part of our permanent collection regardless of the adoption. The teacher materials can be returned if we do not move forward with adoption.
- Professional development support for implementation will be paid for from ESSER III grant funds.
- Future student materials costs are absorbed in our existing consumable budget.

Questions?

Document Status: Review and Monitoring

2:50 Board Member Term of Office

The term of office for a Board of Education member begins immediately after both of the following occur: [PRESSPlus1](#)

1. The election authority canvasses the votes and declares the winner(s); this occurs within 21 days after the consolidated election held on the first Tuesday in April in odd-numbered years.
2. The successful candidate takes the oath of office as provided in Board policy 2:80, *Board Member Oath and Conduct*.

The term ends 4 years later when the successor assumes office.

LEGAL REF.:

[10 ILCS 5/2A-1.1](#), [5/22-17](#), and [5/22-18](#).

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

CROSS REF.: 2:30 (School District Elections), 2:80 (Board Member Oath and Conduct), 2:210 (Organizational Board of Education Meeting)

PRESSPlus Comments

PRESSPlus 1. 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 114, March 2024

Document Status: Review and Monitoring

2:60 Board Member Removal from Office

If a majority of the Board of Education determines that a Board member has willfully failed to perform his or her official duties, it may request the appropriate Intermediate Service Center to remove such member from office. [PRESSPlus1](#)

LEGAL REF.:

[105 ILCS 5/3-15.5.](#)

CROSS REF.: 2:70 (Vacancies on the Board of Education - Filling Vacancies)

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Issue 114, March 2024

Document Status: Review and Monitoring

2:140 Communications To and From the Board

The Board of Education welcomes communications from staff members, parents/guardians, students, and community members. Individuals may submit questions or communications for the School Board's consideration to the Superintendent or may use the electronic link to the Board's email address(es) posted on the District's website. [PRESSPlus1](#)

The Superintendent or designee shall:

1. Ensure that the home page for the District's website contains an active electronic link to the email address(es) for the School Board, and
2. During the Board's regular meetings, report for the Board's consideration all questions or communications submitted through the active electronic link along with the status of the District's response in the Board meeting packet.

If contacted individually, Board members will refer the person to the appropriate level of authority, except in unusual situations. Board members' questions or communications to staff or about programs will be channeled through the Superintendent's office. Board members will not take individual action that might compromise the Board or District. There is no expectation of privacy for any communication sent to the Board or its members, whether sent by letter, email, or other means.

Board Member Use of Electronic Communications

For purposes of this section, *electronic communications* includes, without limitation, electronic mail, electronic chat, instant messaging, texting, and any form of social networking. Electronic communications among a majority or more of a Board-quorum shall not be used for the purpose of discussing District business. Electronic communications among Board members shall be limited to: (1) disseminating information, and (2) messages not involving deliberation, debate, or decision-making. The following list contains examples of permissible electronic communications:

- Agenda item suggestions
- Reminders regarding meeting times, dates, and places
- Board meeting agendas or information concerning agenda items
- Individual emails to community members, subject to the other limitations in this policy

In accordance with the Open Meetings Act and the Oath of Office taken by Board members, individual Board members will not (a) reply to an email on behalf of the entire Board, or (b) engage in the discussion of District business through electronic communications with a majority of a Board-quorum.

LEGAL REF.:

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

[50 ILCS 205/20](#), Local Records Act.

CROSS REF.: 2:220 (School Board Meeting Procedure), 3:30 (Chain of Command), 8:110 (Public Suggestions and Concerns)

PRESSPlus Comments

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Issue 114, March 2024

Document Status: Review and Monitoring

2:140-E Exhibit - Guidance for Board Member Communications, Including Email Use

The Open Meetings Act (OMA) requires the Board of Education to discuss District business only at a properly noticed Board meeting. [5 ILCS 120/](#). Other than during a Board meeting, a majority or more of a Board-quorum may not engage in contemporaneous interactive communication, whether in person or electronically, to discuss District business. This *Guidance* assumes a Board has seven members and covers issues arising from Board policy 2:140, *Communications To and From the Board*. [PRESSPlus1](#)

Communications Between or Among Board Members and/or the Superintendent Outside of a Properly Noticed Board Meeting

1. The Superintendent or designee is permitted to email information to Board members. For example, the Superintendent may email Board meeting agendas and supporting information to Board members. When responding to a single Board member's request, the Superintendent should copy all other Board members and include a *do not reply/forward* alert to the group, such as: **"BOARD MEMBER ALERT: This email is in response to a request. Do not reply or forward to the group but only to the sender."**
2. Board members are permitted to discuss any matter except District business with each other, whether in person or by telephone or email, regardless of the number of members participating in the discussion. For example, they may discuss league sports, work, or current events.
3. Board members are permitted to provide information to each other, whether in person or by telephone or email, that is non-deliberative and non-substantive. Examples of this type of communication include scheduling meetings and confirming receipt of information.
4. A Board member is not permitted to discuss District business with more than one other Board member at a time, whether in person or by telephone or email. Stated another way, a Board member may discuss District business in person or by telephone or email with only one other Board member at a time. However, a Board member should not facilitate interactive communication by discussing District business in a series of visits with, or telephone calls or emails to, Board members individually.
5. A Board member should include a *do not reply/forward* alert when emailing a message concerning District business to more than one other Board member. The following is an example of such an alert: **"BOARD MEMBER ALERT: This email is not for interactive discussion purposes. The recipient should not reply to it or forward it to any other individual."**
6. Board members should not forward email received from another Board member.

When Must the Electronic Communications Sent or Received by Individual Board Members Be Disclosed Pursuant to a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Request?

An electronic communication must be disclosed if it is a *public record* as defined by FOIA, unless a specific exemption applies. A public record is any recorded information "pertaining to the transaction of public business, regardless of physical form or characteristics, having been prepared by or for, or having been or being used by, received by, in the possession of, or under the control of any public body." [5 ILCS 140/2](#). Email sent or received by an individual Board member may be, depending on

the content and circumstances, subject to disclosure as a *public record* (unless a FOIA exemption is applicable).

If a Board member uses a District-provided device or email address to discuss public business, the email is subject to disclosure under FOIA, barring an applicable exemption. If a Board member uses a private device and email address, the communication is subject to FOIA if it satisfies this test:

First, the communication pertains to the transaction of public business, and

Second, the communication was: (1) prepared by a public body, (2) prepared for a public body, (3) used by a public body, (4) received by a public body, (5) possessed by a public body, and/or (6) controlled by a public body.

This test is from the appellate court decision in *City of Champaign v. Madigan*, 992 N.E.2d 629 (Ill.App.4th 2013).

The following *examples* describe FOIA's treatment of electronic communications:

1. If an electronic communication does not pertain to public business, it is not a public record and is not subject to a FOIA request.
2. An electronic communication pertaining to public business that is:
 - a. Sent and/or received by an individual Board member using a personal electronic device and personal email address while he or she is at home or work **would not be a public record**. Individual Board members, alone, cannot conduct school District business. As stated earlier, emails among a majority or more of a Board-quorum violate OMA and, thus, are subject to disclosure during proceedings to enforce OMA.
 - b. Sent and/or received by an individual Board member on a District-issued device or District-issued email address **will be a public record** and subject to FOIA. The electronic communication is under the control of the District.
 - c. Received by an individual Board member on a personal electronic device and then forwarded by the Board member to a District-owned device or server **will be a public record** and subject to FOIA. The electronic communication is under the control of the District.
 - d. Received by an individual Board member using a personal electronic device and personal email address, and then forwarded by the Board member to enough members to constitute a majority or more of a Board-quorum **will be a public record** and subject to FOIA. The electronic communication is in the District's possession.
 - e. Either sent to or from a Board member's personal electronic device during a Board meeting **will be a public record** and subject to FOIA. The electronic communication is in the District's possession because Board members were functioning collectively as a public body.

The District's Freedom of Information Officer and/or Board Attorney will help determine when a specific communication must be disclosed pursuant to a FOIA request.

When Must Electronic Communications Be Retained?

Email that qualifies under FOIA as a *public record* will need to be stored pursuant to the Local Records Act (LRA), only if it is evidence of the District's organization, function, policies, procedures, or activities or contains informational data appropriate for preservation. [50 ILCS 205/](#). An example is any email from a Board officer concerning a decision made in his or her capacity as an officer. If a Board

member uses his or her personal email, he or she must copy this type of email to the appropriate District office where it will be stored. If made available, Board members should use their email accounts provided by the District, and the District will automatically store the official record messages. The District will delete these official record messages as provided in an applicable, approved **retention schedule**. Of course, email pertaining to public business that is sent or received by a Board Member using a District-issued device or email address will be subject to FOIA, even if the email does not need to be retained under the LRA.

Important: Do not destroy any email concerning a topic that is being litigated without obtaining the Board attorney's direction. In federal lawsuits, there is an automatic discovery of virtually all types of electronically created or stored data that might be relevant. Attorneys will generally notify their clients at the beginning of a legal proceeding not to destroy any electronic records that might be relevant. This is referred to as a *litigation hold*. For more discussion of a litigation hold, see 2:250-AP2, *Protocols for Record Preservation and Development of Retention Schedules*. In addition, any person who knowingly with the intent to defraud any party destroys, removes, or conceals any public record commits a Class 4 felony. [50 ILCS 205/4](#).

PRESSPlus Comments

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Issue 114, March 2024

Document Status: Review and Monitoring

4:20 Fund Balances

The Superintendent or designee shall maintain operating fund balances adequate to ensure the District's ability to maintain levels of service and pay its obligations in a prompt manner in spite of unforeseen events or unexpected expenses. The Superintendent or designee shall inform the Board whenever it should discuss drawing upon its reserves or borrowing money. [PRESSPlus1](#)

The School District will seek to establish year-end fund balances representing 50 percent of the annual revenues for each operating fund by budgeting a surplus in each fund.

CROSS REF.: 4:10 (Fiscal and Business Management), 4:80 (Accounting and Audits)

PRESSPlus Comments

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Issue 114, March 2024

Document Status: Review and Monitoring

5:35 Compliance with the Fair Labor Standards Act

Job Classifications [PRESSPlus1](#)

The Superintendent will ensure that all job positions are identified as either "exempt" or "non-exempt" according to State law and the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) and that employees are informed whether they are "exempt" or "non-exempt." "Exempt" and "non-exempt" employee categories may include certificated and non-certificated job positions. All non-exempt employees, whether paid on a salary or hourly basis, are covered by minimum wage and overtime provisions.

Workweek and Compensation

The workweek for District employees will be 12:00 a.m. Saturday until 11:59 p.m. Friday. Non-exempt employees will be compensated for all hours worked in a workweek including overtime. For non-exempt employees paid a salary, the salary is paid for a 40-hour workweek even if an employee is scheduled for less than 40 hours. "Overtime" is time worked in excess of 40 hours in a single workweek.

Overtime

A non-exempt employee shall not work overtime without his or her supervisor's express approval. All supervisors of non-exempt employees shall: (1) monitor overtime use on a weekly basis and report such use to the business office, (2) seek the Superintendent or designee's written pre-approval for any long term or repeated use of overtime that can be reasonably anticipated, (3) ensure that overtime provisions of this policy and the FLSA are followed, and (4) ensure that employees are compensated for any overtime worked. Accurate and complete time sheets of actual hours worked during the workweek shall be signed by each employee and submitted to the business office. The business office will review work records of employees on a regular basis, make an assessment of overtime use, and provide the assessment to the Superintendent. In lieu of overtime compensation, non-exempt employees may receive compensatory time-off, according to Board policy 5:310, *Compensatory Time-Off*.

Suspension Without Pay

No exempt employee shall have his or her salary docked, such as by an unpaid suspension, if the deduction would cause a loss of the exempt status. Licensed employees may be suspended without pay in accordance with Board policy 5:240, *Suspension*. Non-licensed employees may be suspended without pay in accordance with Board policy 5:290, *Employment Termination and Suspensions*.

Implementation

The Superintendent or designee shall implement the policy in accordance with the FLSA, including its required notices to employees. In the event of a conflict between the policy and State or federal law, the latter shall control.

LEGAL REF.:

[820 ILCS 105/4a](#).

Fair Labor Standards Act, [29 U.S.C. §201](#) *et seq.*, [29 C.F.R. Parts 516](#), [541](#), [548](#), [553](#), [778](#), and [785](#).

CROSS REF.: 5:240 (Suspension), 5:290 (Employment Termination and Suspensions), 5:310 (Compensatory Time-Off)

PRESSPlus Comments

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Issue 114, March 2024

Document Status: Review and Monitoring

5:40 Communicable and Chronic Infectious Disease

The Superintendent or designee shall develop and implement procedures for managing known or suspected cases of a communicable and chronic infectious disease involving District employees that are consistent with State and federal law, Illinois Department of Public Health rules, and Board of Education policies. [PRESSPlus1](#)

An employee with a communicable or chronic infectious disease will be permitted to retain his or her position whenever, after reasonable accommodations and without undue hardship, there is no substantial risk of transmission of the disease to others, provided an employee is able to continue to perform the position's essential functions. An employee with a communicable and chronic infectious disease remains subject to the Board's employment policies including sick and/or other leave, physical examinations, temporary and permanent disability, and termination.

LEGAL REF.:

[42 U.S.C. §12101](#) et seq., Americans With Disabilities Act, amended by the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act (ADAAA), [Pub. L. 110-325](#); [29 C.F.R. §1630.1](#) et seq.

[29 U.S.C. §791](#), Rehabilitation Act of 1973; [34 C.F.R. §104.1](#) et seq.

[105 ILCS 5/24-5](#).

[20 ILCS 2305/6](#), Department of Public Health Act.

[820 ILCS 40/](#), Personnel Record Review Act.

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

CROSS REF.: 2:150 (Committees), 4:180 (Pandemic Preparedness; Management; and Recovery), 5:30 (Hiring Process and Criteria), 5:180 (Temporary Illness or Temporary Incapacity)

PRESSPlus Comments

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Document Status: Review and Monitoring

5:210 Resignations

Please refer to the following current agreement: [PRESSPlus1](#)

"Palos Heights School District 128, PHEA Teacher Contract."

LEGAL REF.:

[105 ILCS 5/24-14.](#)

Park Forest Heights School Dist. v. State Teacher Certification Bd., 363 Ill.App.3d 433 (1st Dist. 2006).

ADOPTED: April 9, 2014

PRESSPlus Comments

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Issue 113, October 2023

Document Status: Review and Monitoring

6:40 Curriculum Development

Adoption [PRESSPlus1](#)

The Superintendent shall recommend a comprehensive curriculum that is aligned with:

1. The District's educational philosophy and goals,
2. Student needs as identified by research, demographics, and student achievement and other data,
3. The knowledge, skills, and abilities required for students to become life-long learners,
4. The minimum requirements of State and federal law and regulations for curriculum and graduation requirements,
5. The curriculum of non-District schools that feed into or from a District school, provided that the necessary cooperation and information is available,
6. The Illinois State Learning Standards and any District learning standards, and
7. Any required State or federal student testing.

The Board of Education will adopt, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, a curriculum that meets the above criteria.

Experimental Educational Programs and Pilot Projects

The Superintendent may recommend experimental educational programs and/or pilot projects for Board consideration. Proposals must include goals, material needs, anticipated expenses, and an evaluation process. The Superintendent shall submit to the Board periodic progress reports for programs that exceed one year in duration and a final evaluation with recommendation upon the program's completion.

Development

The Superintendent shall develop a curriculum review program to monitor the current curriculum and promptly suggest changes to make the curriculum more effective, to take advantage of improved teaching methods and materials, and to be responsive to social change, technological developments, student needs, and community expectations.

The Superintendent shall report to the Board as appropriate, the curriculum review program's efforts to:

1. Regularly evaluate the curriculum and instructional program.
2. Ensure the curriculum continues to meet the stated adoption criteria.
3. Include input from a cross-section of teachers, administrators, parents/guardians, and students, representing all schools, grade levels, disciplines, and specialized and alternative programs.
4. Coordinate with the process for evaluating the instructional program and materials.

Curriculum Guides and Course Outlines

The Superintendent shall develop and provide subject area curriculum guides to appropriate staff members.

LEGAL REF.:

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

[105 ILCS 5/10-20.8](#) and [5/10-19](#).

CROSS REF.: 6:60 (Curriculum Content), 6:65 (Student Social and Emotional Development), 6:70 (Teaching About Religions), 6:80 (Teaching About Controversial Issues) 6:100 (Using Animals in the Educational Program), 6:110 (Programs for Students At Risk of Academic Failure and/or Dropping Out of School and Graduation Incentives Program), 6:120 (Education of Children with Disabilities), 6:130 (Program for the Gifted), 6:135 (Accelerated Placement Program), 6:140 (Education of Homeless Children), 6:145 (Migrant Students), 6:150 (Home and Hospital Instruction), 6:160 (English Learners), 6:170 (Title I Programs), 6:180 (Extended Instructional Programs), 7:10 (Equal Educational Opportunities), 7:15 (Student and Family Privacy Rights)

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Issue 114, March 2024

Document Status: Review and Monitoring

6:185 Remote Educational Program

Consistent with [105 ILCS 5/10-29](#), the Superintendent shall develop and maintain a remote educational program to provide certain qualifying students with an opportunity to participate in an educational program delivered remotely at all times, including during the COVID-19 pandemic. [PRESSPlus1](#)

In determining whether a remote educational program is appropriate to meet a student's individual learning needs, the District and a person authorized to enroll the student under [Section 10-20.12b of the School Code](#) (generally speaking, the student's parent or guardian) will consider, at a minimum, the student's prior attendance, disciplinary record, and academic history.

Participation in the Remote Educational Program

The Superintendent or designee may authorize individual student participation in a remote educational program if the following criteria are met:

- The student provides evidence of enrollment in the District pursuant to Board policies 7:60 *Residence* and 7:30 *Student Assignment and Intra-District Transfer*.
- The student must be a legal resident of the School District at all times during participation in the remote educational program.
- School District personnel must make a determination that the remote educational program is appropriate to meet the student's individual learning needs.
- The student's Individualized Education Program (IEP) team or Section 504 Team (if applicable) authorizes the remote instruction. The student's IEP summary or Section 504 Plan must set forth with specificity the special education and/or related services and/or accommodations the student will receive during the period of remote instruction.
- Space in the remote educational program is available; participation in the remote educational program will be on a first-come, first-served basis.
- The School District reserves the right to place students in the remote educational program as a disciplinary consequence, after providing the student with a hearing and opportunity to respond.

When it is determined that a student will participate in a remote educational program, School District personnel will prepare a remote educational plan for each individual student that is approved by the District and a person authorized to enroll the student (generally speaking, the student's parent or guardian). Amendments to the student's remote educational plan, if any, must also be approved in the same manner. In situations where the person authorized to enroll the student does not agree with the remote educational plan, the student will not be eligible to participate in the remote educational program, with the exception of students who are placed in the remote educational program as a disciplinary consequence.

The School District reserves the right to discontinue or revise the remote educational program at any time, in its sole discretion. The School District also reserves the right to specify the length of time that a student must remain enrolled in the remote educational program, e.g., by trimester, semester, or school year. Decisions to extend a student's participation in the remote educational program will take

into consideration the student's best interests, including the student's progress in the program.

Students participating in the remote educational program must participate in all assessments administered by the District pursuant to State and federal law and Board policy 6:340 *Student Testing and Assessment Program*.

Administrative Procedures

The remote educational program shall:

- Align its curriculum to State learning standards.
- Provide instruction and educational experiences consistent with those given to students at the same grade level in the District.
- Be delivered by instructors that meet the qualifications in Board policy 5:190, *Teacher Qualifications*. Instructors have the responsibility for planning instruction, diagnosing learning needs, prescribing content delivery through class activities, assessing learning, reporting outcomes to administrators and parents/guardians, and evaluating the effects of instruction.
- Provide a remote educational program during the period of time from and including the opening date to the closing date of the District's regular school term. The program may operate on any calendar day, notwithstanding whether it is a student attendance day or institute day on the District's calendar or any other provision of law restricting instruction on that day. The remote educational program may be offered outside of the regular school term as part of any authorized summer school program.
- Comply with other State and federal laws and align with all applicable Board policies.
- Be monitored by the Board pursuant to Board policy 2:240, *Board Policy Development*, and included as a topic for discussion in the annual report required by Board policy 6:10, *Educational Philosophy and Objectives*. It shall include a discussion of the process for renewal of the program when applicable.

LEGAL REF:

[105 ILCS 5/10-29](#) (as currently written and hereafter amended)

[23 Ill. Admin. Code 226.360](#) (as currently written and hereafter amended)

CROSS REF: 2:240 (Board Policy Development), 5:190 (Teacher Qualifications), 6:10 (Educational Philosophy and Objectives), 6:340 (Student Testing and Assessment Program), 7:30 (Student Assignment and Intra-District Transfer), and 7:60 (Residence)

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Issue 114, March 2024

Document Status: Review and Monitoring

4:110 Transportation

~~The District shall provide free transportation for any student in the District who resides: (1) at a distance of one and one half miles or more from his or her assigned school, unless the Board of Education has certified to the Ill. State Board of Education that adequate public transportation is available, or (2) if adequate public transportation is not available, within one and one half miles from his or her assigned school where walking to or from school or to or from a pick up point or bus stop would constitute a serious safety hazard due to either (a) vehicular traffic or rail crossing or (b) a course or pattern of criminal activity, as defined in the Ill. Streetgang Terrorism Omnibus Prevention Act, 740 ILCS 147/. The District may provide and charge a fee for transportation for other students residing within one and one half miles from their assigned school. A student's parent(s)/guardian(s) may file a petition with the Board requesting transportation due to the existence of a serious safety hazard.~~ Free transportation service and vehicle adaptation is provided for a special education student if included in the student's individualized educational program. The District may provide transportation to and from school-sponsored activities. Non-public school students shall be transported in accordance with State law. Homeless students shall be transported in accordance with [Section 45/1-15 of the Education for Homeless Children Act](#). Foster care students shall be transported in accordance with [Section 6312\(c\)\(5\)\(B\) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act](#). [PRESSPlus1](#)

~~If a student is at a location within the District, other than his or her residence, for child care purposes at the time for transportation to and/or from school, that location may be considered for purposes of determining the 1½ miles from the school attended. Unless the Superintendent or designee establishes new routes, pick up and drop off locations for students in day care must be along the District's regular routes. The District will not discriminate among types of locations where day care is provided, which may include the premises of licensed providers, relatives' homes, or neighbors' homes.~~

~~Bus schedules and routes shall be determined by the Transportation Director and shall be altered only with the Transportation Director's approval and direction. In setting the routes, the pick up and discharge points should be as safe for students as possible.~~

No school employee may transport students in school or private vehicles unless authorized by the administration.

~~Every vehicle regularly used for the transportation of students must pass safety inspections in accordance with State law and Ill. Dept. of Transportation regulations. The strobe light on a school bus may be illuminated only when the bus is actually being used as a school bus and (1) is stopping or stopped for loading or discharging students on a highway outside an urban area, or (2) is bearing one or more students.~~

All contracts for charter bus services must contain the clause prescribed by State law regarding criminal background checks for bus drivers.

Pre-Trip and Post-Trip Vehicle Inspection

Each contract between the District and a private sector school bus company must require the company to have a pre-trip and post-trip inspection policy to ensure that no passenger is left behind or

remains on the vehicle at the end of a route. The policy must require, at a minimum, that the school bus driver: (1) tests the two-way radio or cellular radio telecommunication device and ensures that it is functioning properly before the bus is operated, and (2) walks to the rear of the bus before leaving the bus at the end of each route, work shift, or work day, to check the bus for children or other passengers in the bus.

LEGAL REF.:

[20 U.S.C. §6312\(c\)\(5\)\(B\)](#), Elementary and Secondary Education Act.

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

[105 ILCS 5/10-22.22](#) and [5/29-1](#) *et seq.*

[105 ILCS 45/1-15](#) and [/1-17](#).

[625 ILCS 5/1-148.3a-5](#), [5/1-182](#), [5/11-1414.1](#), [5/12-813.1](#), [5/12-815](#), [5/12-816](#), [5/12-821](#), and [5/13-109](#).

[23 Ill.Admin.Code §§1.510](#) and [226.750](#); [Part 120](#).

[92 Ill.Admin.Code Part 440](#).

CROSS REF.: 4:170 (Safety), 5:100 (Staff Development Program), 5:120 (Employee Ethics; Code of Professional Conduct; and Conflict of Interest), 5:280 (Duties and Qualifications), 6:140 (Education of Homeless Children), 6:170 (Title I Programs), 7:220 (Bus Conduct)

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Issue 114, March 2024

Document Status: Draft Update - New

2:270 Discrimination and Harassment on the Basis of Race, Color, and National Origin Prohibited

New/Unpublished Section

NEW

Discrimination and harassment on the basis of race, color, or national origin [PRESSPlus1](#) negatively affect a student's ability to learn and an employee's ability to work. Providing an educational and workplace environment free from such discrimination and harassment is an important District goal. The District does not discriminate on the basis of actual or perceived race, color, or national origin in any of its education programs or activities, and it complies with federal and State non-discrimination laws.

Examples of Prohibited Conduct [PRESSPlus2](#)

Examples of conduct that may constitute discrimination on the basis of race, color, or national origin include: disciplining students more harshly and frequently because of their race, color, or national origin; denying students access to high-rigor academic courses, extracurricular activities, or other educational opportunities based on their race, color, or national origin; denying language services or other educational opportunities to English learners; and assigning students special education services based on a student's race, color, or national origin.

Harassment is a form of prohibited discrimination. Examples of conduct that may constitute harassment on the basis of race, color, or national origin include: the use of racial, ethnic or ancestral slurs or stereotypes; taunts; name-calling; offensive or derogatory remarks about a person's actual or perceived race, color, or national origin; the display of racially-offensive symbols; racially-motivated physical threats and attacks; or other hateful conduct.

Making a Report or Complaint; Investigation Process [PRESSPlus3](#)

Individuals are encouraged to promptly report claims or incidences of discrimination or harassment based on race, color, or national origin to the Nondiscrimination Coordinator, a Complaint Manager, or any employee with whom the student is comfortable speaking. Reports under this policy will be processed under Board policy 2:260, *Uniform Grievance Procedure*.

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

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

This policy does not impair or otherwise diminish the existing rights of unionized employees to request an exclusive bargaining representative to be present during any investigatory interviews, nor does this policy diminish any rights available under an applicable collective bargaining agreement, including, but not limited to, a grievance procedure.

Federal and State Agencies

If the District fails to take necessary corrective action to stop harassment based on race, color, or national origin, further relief may be available through the Ill. Dept. of Human Rights (IDHR) or the U.S. Dept. of Education's Office for Civil Rights. [PRESSPlus4](#) To contact IDHR, go to: <https://dhr.illinois.gov/about-us/contact-idhr.html> or call (312) 814-6200 (Chicago) or (217) 785-5100 (Springfield).

Prevention and Response Program

The Superintendent or designee shall establish a prevention and response program to respond to complaints of discrimination based on race, color, and national origin, including harassment, and retaliation. The program shall include procedures for responding to complaints which: [PRESSPlus5](#)

1. Reduce or remove, to the extent practicable, barriers to reporting discrimination, harassment, and retaliation;
2. Permit any person who reports or is the victim of an incident of alleged discrimination, harassment, or retaliation to be accompanied when making a report by a support individual of the person's choice who complies with the District's policies and rules;
3. Permit anonymous reporting, except that an anonymous report may not be the sole basis of any disciplinary action;
4. Offer remedial interventions or take such disciplinary action as may be appropriate on a case-by-case basis;
5. Offer, but do not require or unduly influence, a person who reports or is the victim of an incident of harassment or retaliation the option to resolve allegations directly with the accused; and
6. Protects a person who reports or is the victim of an incident of harassment or retaliation from suffering adverse consequences as a result of a report of, investigation of, or a response to the incident.

Policy Posting and Distribution

This policy shall be posted on the District's website. [PRESSPlus6](#) The Superintendent shall annually inform staff members of this policy by posting it in a prominent and accessible location such as the District website, ^{and} employee handbook, ~~staff intranet site,~~ [PRESSPlus7](#) and/or in other areas where policies and rules of conduct are made available to staff. The Superintendent shall annually inform students and their parents/guardians of this policy by posting it on the District's website [PRESSPlus8](#) and including an age-appropriate summary of the policy in the student handbook(s). [PRESSPlus9](#)

Enforcement

Any District employee who is determined, after an investigation, to have engaged in conduct prohibited by this policy will be subject to remedial action and/or disciplinary action, up to and including discharge.

Any District student who is determined, after an investigation, to have engaged in conduct prohibited by this policy will be subject to remedial action and/or disciplinary action, including but not limited to, suspension and expulsion consistent with Board policy 7:190, *Student Behavior*.

Any third party who is determined, after an investigation, to have engaged in conduct prohibited by this policy will be addressed in accordance with the authority of the Board in the context of the relationship of the third party to the District, e.g., vendor, parent, invitee, etc. Any person making a knowingly false accusation regarding prohibited conduct will likewise be subject to remedial and/or disciplinary action.

Retaliation Prohibited

Retaliation against any person for bringing complaints, participating in the complaint process, or otherwise providing information about discrimination or harassment based on race, color, or national origin is prohibited (see Board policy 2:260, *Uniform Grievance Procedure*).

Individuals should report allegations of retaliation to the Building Principal, an administrator, the Nondiscrimination Coordinator, and/or a Complaint Manager.

LEGAL REF.:

42 U.S.C. §2000d, 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.

105 ILCS 5/22-95 (final citation pending).

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

CROSS REF.: 2:260 (Uniform Grievance Procedure), 5:10 (Equal Employment Opportunity and Minority Recruitment), 5:20 (Workplace Harassment Prohibited), 5:90 (Abused and Neglected Child Reporting), 5:120 (Employee Ethics; Code of Professional Conduct; and Conflict of Interest), 7:10 (Equal Educational Opportunities), 7:20 (Harassment of Students Prohibited), 7:180 (Prevention of and Response to Bullying, Intimidation, and Harassment), 7:190 (Student Behavior), 7:240 (Conduct Code for Participants in Extracurricular Activities)

PRESSPlus Comments

PRESSPlus 1. This policy is created in response to 105 ILCS 5/22-95 (final citation pending), added by P.A. 103-472, the Racism-Free Schools Law (RFSL). The law requires school districts to have a written policy (or policies) in place by 8-1-24 that prohibit discrimination and harassment based on race, color, and national origin, as well as retaliation. Like other non-discrimination and harassment policies in the PRM, this new policy utilizes the existing complaint process in sample policy 2:260, *Uniform Grievance Procedure*.

The policy must contain the following: (1) descriptions of various forms of discrimination and harassment based on race, color, and national origin, including examples; (2) the district's internal process for filing a complaint regarding a violation of the policy; (3) an overview of the district's prevention and response program that includes procedures for responding to complaints of discrimination and harassment based on race, color, and national origin and retaliation; (4) potential remedies for a violation of the policy; (5) a prohibition on retaliation for making a complaint or participating in the complaint process; (6) the legal recourse available to the Ill. Dept. of Human Rights (IDHR) and federal agencies if a district fails to take corrective action; and (7) directions on how to contact IDHR.

For more information, see the PRESS Issue 114 Update Memo and the footnotes of sample policy 2:270, *Discrimination and Harassment on the Basis of Race, Color, and National Origin Prohibited*, available at PRESS Online by logging in at www.iasb.com. **Issue 114, March 2024**

PRESSPlus 2. Required by 105 ILCS 5/22-95(b)(1)(A) (final citation pending), added by P.A. 103-472, eff. 8-1-24. The examples of discrimination and harassment under this subhead are based on definitions provided by the U.S. Dept. of Education's Office for Civil Rights, see

www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/frontpage/faq/race-origin.html#racehar1 and www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/ocr-factsheet-shared-ancestry-202301.pdf, and the U.S. Equal Opportunity Employment Commission, see www.eeoc.gov/racecolor-discrimination. **Issue 114, March 2024**

PRESSPlus 3. Required by 105 ILCS 5/22-95(b)(1)(B) (final citation pending), added by P.A. 103-472, eff. 8-1-24. **Issue 114, March 2024**

PRESSPlus 4. Required by 105 ILCS 5/22-95(b)(1)(F). **Issue 114, March 2024**

PRESSPlus 5. Items 1-6 must be addressed in a district's procedures for responding to complaints of discrimination and harassment based on race, color, and national origin. See sample administrative procedure 2:270-AP, *Prevention and Response Program for Complaints of Discrimination and Harassment Based on Race, Color, and National Origin*, available at PRESS Online by logging in at www.iasb.com. **Issue 114, March 2024**

PRESSPlus 6. 105 ILCS 5/22-95(b)(3) (final citation pending), added by P.A. 103-472, eff. 8-1-24, requires districts to post this policy in their website if one exists. If the district does not maintain a website, strike this sentence, and use the Save Status "Adopted with Additional District Edits." **Issue 114, March 2024**

PRESSPlus 7. 105 ILCS 5/22-95(b)(2) (final citation pending), added by P.A. 103-472, eff. 8-1-24, requires this policy to be "posted in a prominent and accessible location and distributed in such a manner as to ensure notice of the policy to all employees." A district website or staff intranet site qualifies as a prominent and accessible location. If a district does not maintain a website and/or staff intranet, delete ~~District website~~ and/or ~~staff intranet site~~ from this sentence, as applicable, and use the Save Status "Adopted with Additional District Edits." **Issue 114, March 2024**

PRESSPlus 8. If the district does not maintain a website, delete ~~posting it on the District's website~~ and from the sentence, and use the Save Status "Adopted with Additional District Edits." **Issue 114, March 2024**

PRESSPlus 9. 105 ILCS 5/22-95(b)(3) (final citation pending), added by P.A. 103-472, eff. 8-1-24, requires districts to publish the policy in student handbook(s). The law also requires a district to annually distribute a "summary of the policy in accessible, age-appropriate language" to students and parents/guardians. The summary may, but does not have to be, included in a student handbook to satisfy the annual distribution requirement. For ease of administration, this sample policy refers to inclusion in the student handbook(s). Districts may find it cumbersome to include both the policy and an age-appropriate summary of the same policy in a handbook. Consult the board attorney for guidance if the district would like to include a hyperlink to the policy, rather than the full text of the policy in the handbook. The Ill. Principals Association maintains a handbook service that coordinates with PRESS material, Online Model Student Handbook (MSH), at: www.ilprincipals.org/msh. **Issue 114, March 2024**

Document Status: Draft Update

2:40 Board Member Qualifications

A Board of Education member must be, on the date of election or appointment, a United States citizen, at least 18 years of age, a resident of Illinois and the District for at least one year immediately preceding the election, and a registered voter.

Reasons making an individual ineligible for Board membership include holding an incompatible office, and certain types of State or federal employment, and conviction of an infamous crime. [PRESSPlus1](#) A child sex offender, as defined in State law, is ineligible for Board of Education membership.

LEGAL REF.:

Ill. Constitution, Art. II, § 1; Art. IV, § 2(e); Art. VI, § 13(b).

[105 ILCS 5/10-3](#) and [5/10-10](#).

CROSS REF.: 2:30 ([Board of Education School District Elections](#)), 2:70 (Vacancies on the Board of Education - Filling Vacancies)

PRESSPlus Comments

PRESSPlus 1. Updated for continuous improvement. Individuals who have been or are convicted of an infamous crime are ineligible for board membership. 105 ILCS 5/10-11. Examples of an infamous crime include, not are not limited to, any felony, bribery, and perjury. Consult with the board attorney regarding other possible infamous crimes. **Issue 114, March 2024**

Document Status: Draft Update

2:260 Uniform Grievance Procedure

A student, parent/guardian, employee, or community member should notify any District Complaint Manager if one believes that the Board of Education, its employees, or its agents have violated his or her rights guaranteed by the [State](#) or federal [Constitution](#), State or federal statute, or Board policy, or have a complaint regarding any one of the following:

1. Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act, [42 U.S.C. §12101](#) et seq.
2. Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, [20 U.S.C. §1681](#) et seq., excluding Title IX sexual harassment complaints governed by [Board](#) policy 2:265, *Title IX ~~Sexual Harassment~~ [PRESSPlus1](#) Grievance Procedure*
3. Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, [29 U.S.C. §791](#) et seq.
4. [Discrimination and/or harassment on the basis of race, color, or national origin prohibited by the Illinois Human Rights Act, 775 ILCS 5/; Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 42 U.S.C. §2000d et seq.; and/or Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 42 U.S.C. §2000e et seq. \(see Board policy 2:270, *Discrimination and Harassment on the Basis of Race, Color, and National Origin Prohibited*\) \[PRESSPlus2\]\(#\)](#)
5. ~~Equal Employment Opportunities Act (Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964)~~, 42 U.S.C. §2000e et seq. (see also number 4, above, for discrimination and/or harassment on the basis of race, color, or national origin)
6. Sexual harassment prohibited by the State Officials and Employees Ethics Act, 5 ILCS 430/70-5(a); Illinois Human Rights Act, 775 ILCS 5/; and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 42 U.S.C. §2000e et seq. (Title IX sexual harassment complaints are addressed under [Board](#) policy 2:265, *Title IX ~~Sexual Harassment~~ Grievance Procedure*)
7. Breastfeeding accommodations for students, [105 ILCS 5/10-20.60](#)
8. Bullying, [105 ILCS 5/27-23.7](#)
9. Misuse of funds received for services to improve educational opportunities for educationally disadvantaged or deprived children
10. Curriculum, instructional materials, and/or programs
11. Victims' Economic Security and Safety Act, [820 ILCS 180/](#)
12. Illinois Equal Pay Act of 2003, [820 ILCS 112/](#)
13. Provision of services to homeless students
14. Illinois Whistleblower Act, [740 ILCS 174/](#)
15. Misuse of genetic information prohibited by the Illinois Genetic Information Privacy Act, [410 ILCS 513/](#); and Titles I and II of the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act, [42 U.S.C. §2000ff et seq.](#)
16. Employee Credit Privacy Act, [820 ILCS 70/](#).

The Complaint Manager will first attempt to resolve complaints without resorting to this grievance procedure. If a formal complaint is filed under this policy, the Complaint Manager will address the complaint promptly and equitably. A student and/or parent/guardian filing a complaint under this policy may forego any informal suggestions and/or attempts to resolve it and may proceed directly to this

grievance procedure. The Complaint Manager will not require a student or parent/guardian complaining of any form of harassment to attempt to resolve allegations directly with the accused (or the accused's parents/guardians); this includes mediation.

Right to Pursue Other Remedies Not Impaired

The right of a person to prompt and equitable resolution of a complaint filed under this policy shall not be impaired by the person's pursuit of other remedies, e.g., criminal complaints, civil actions, etc. Use of this grievance procedure is not a prerequisite to the pursuit of other remedies and use of this grievance procedure does not extend any filing deadline related to the pursuit of other remedies. If a person is pursuing another remedy subject to a complaint under this policy, the District will continue with a simultaneous investigation under this policy.

Deadlines

All deadlines under this policy may be extended by the Complaint Manager as he or she deems appropriate. As used in this policy, *school business days* means days on which the District's main office is open.

Filing a Complaint

A person (hereinafter Complainant) who wishes to avail oneself of this grievance procedure may do so by filing a complaint with any District Complaint Manager. The Complainant shall not be required to file a complaint with a particular Complaint Manager and may request a Complaint Manager of the same gender. The Complaint Manager may request the Complainant to provide a written statement regarding the nature of the complaint or require a meeting with a student's parent(s)/guardian(s). The Complaint Manager shall assist the Complainant as needed.

For any complaint alleging bullying and/or cyberbullying of students, the Complaint Manager shall process and review the complaint according to Board policy 7:180, *Prevention of and Response to Bullying, Intimidation, and Harassment*, in addition to any response required by this policy. For any complaint alleging sexual harassment or other violation of Board policy 5:20, *Workplace Harassment Prohibited*, the Complaint Manager shall process and review the complaint according to that policy, in addition to any response required by this policy.

Investigation Process

The Complaint Manager will investigate the complaint or appoint a qualified person to undertake the investigation on the individual's behalf. The Complaint Manager shall ensure both parties have an equal opportunity to present evidence during an investigation. If the Complainant is a student under 18 years of age, the Complaint Manager will notify the student's parents/guardians that they may attend any investigatory meetings in which their child is involved. The complaint and identity of the Complainant will not be disclosed except: (1) as required by law, this policy, or any collective bargaining agreement, (2) as necessary to fully investigate the complaint, or (3) as authorized by the Complainant.

The identity of any student witnesses will not be disclosed except: (1) as required by law, this policy, or any collective bargaining agreement, (2) as necessary to fully investigate the complaint, or (3) as authorized by the parent/guardian of the student witness, or by the student if the student is 18 years of age or older.

The Complaint Manager will inform, at regular intervals, the person(s) filing a complaint under this policy about the status of the investigation. Within 30 school business days after the date the complaint was filed, the Complaint Manager shall file a written report of his or her findings with the

Superintendent. The Complaint Manager may request an extension of time.

The Superintendent will keep the Board informed of all complaints.

If a complaint contains allegations involving the Superintendent or Board member(s), the written report shall be filed directly with the Board, which will make a decision in accordance with paragraph four of the following section of this policy.

Decision and Appeal

Within five school business days after receiving the Complaint Manager's report, the Superintendent shall mail the written decision to the Complainant and the accused by registered mail, return receipt requested, and/or personal delivery as well as to the Complaint Manager. All decisions shall be based upon the *preponderance of evidence* standard.

Within 10 school business days after receiving the Superintendent's decision, the Complainant or the accused may appeal the decision to the Board by making a written request to the Complaint Manager. The Complaint Manager shall promptly forward all materials relative to the complaint and appeal to the Board.

Within 30 school business days after an appeal of the Superintendent's decision, the Board shall affirm, reverse, or amend the Superintendent's decision or direct the Superintendent to gather additional information. Within five school business days after the Board's decision, the Superintendent shall inform the Complainant and the accused of the Board's action.

For complaints containing allegations involving the Superintendent or Board member(s), within 30 school business days after receiving the Complaint Manager's or outside investigator's report, the Board shall mail its written decision to the Complainant and the accused by registered mail, return receipt requested, and/or personal delivery as well as to the Complaint Manager. This policy shall not be construed to create an independent right to a hearing before the Superintendent or Board. The failure to strictly follow the timelines in this grievance procedure shall not prejudice any party.

Appointing a Nondiscrimination Coordinator and Complaint Managers

The Superintendent shall appoint a Nondiscrimination Coordinator to manage the District's efforts to provide equal opportunity employment and educational opportunities and prohibit the harassment of employees, students, and others. The Nondiscrimination Coordinator also serves as the District's Title IX Coordinator.

The Superintendent shall appoint at least one Complaint Manager to administer this policy. If possible, the Superintendent will appoint two Complaint Managers, ~~one of~~ each of a different gender. The District's Nondiscrimination Coordinator may be appointed as one of the Complaint Managers.

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

Nondiscrimination Coordinator:

Merryl Brownlow

12809 S. McVickers Avenue
Palos Heights, IL 60463

mbrownlow@palos128.org

708-597-9040

Complaint Managers:

Merryl Brownlow

Jason Smit

12809 S. McVickers Avenue
Palos Heights, IL 60463

12809 S. McVickers Avenue
Palos Heights, IL 60463

mbrownlow@palos128.org

jsmit@palos128.org

708-597-9040

708-597-9040

LEGAL REF.:

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

[20 U.S.C. §1232g](#), Family Education Rights Privacy Act.

[20 U.S.C. §1400](#), The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

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

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

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

[29 U.S.C. §791](#) *et seq.*, Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

[29 U.S.C. §2612](#), Family and Medical Leave Act.

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

42 U.S.C. §2000e *et seq.*, [Equal Employment Opportunities Act](#) (Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964).

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

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

[42 U.S.C. §12101](#) *et seq.*, Americans With Disabilities Act.

105 ILCS 5/2-3.8, 5/3-10, 5/10-20, 5/10-20.5, 5/10-20.7a, 5/10-20.60, 5/10-20.69 5/10-20.75 (final citation pending), 5/10-22.5, 5/22-19, 5/22-95 (final citation pending), 5/24-4, 5/27-1, 5/27-23.7, and 45/1-15.

[5 ILCS 415/10](#)(a)(2), Government Severance Pay Act.

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

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

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

[740 ILCS 175/](#), Ill. False Claims Act.

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

[820 ILCS 180/](#), Victims' Economic Security and Safety Act; [56 Ill.Admin.Code Part 280](#).

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

[820 ILCS 70/](#), Employee Credit Privacy Act, ~~70/10(b), and 70/25.~~

[23 Ill.Admin.Code §§1.240, 200.40, 226.50](#), and [226.570](#).

CROSS REF.: 2:105 (Ethics and Gift Ban), 2:265 (Title IX ~~Sexual Harassment~~ Grievance Procedure), 2:270 (Discrimination and Harassment on the Basis of Race, Color, and National Origin Prohibited), 5:10 (Equal Employment Opportunity and Minority Recruitment), 5:20 (Workplace Harassment Prohibited), 5:30 (Hiring Process and Criteria), 5:90 (Abused and Neglected Child Reporting), 6:120 (Education of Children with Disabilities), 6:140 (Education of Homeless Children), 6:170 (Title I Programs), 6:260 (Complaints About Curriculum, Instructional Materials, and Programs), 7:10 (Equal Educational Opportunities), 7:15 (Student and Family Privacy Rights), 7:20 (Harassment of Students Prohibited), 7:180 (Prevention of and Response to Bullying, Intimidation, and Harassment), 7:185 (Teen Dating Violence Prohibited), 7:310 (Restrictions on Publications; Elementary Schools), 8:70 (Accommodating Individuals with Disabilities), 8:95 (Parental Involvement), 8:110 (Public Suggestions and Concerns)

PRESSPlus Comments

PRESSPlus 1. Updated to incorporate the title change to 2:265, *Title IX Sexual Harassment Grievance Procedure*, in anticipation of Title IX rulemaking. **Issue 114, March 2024**

PRESSPlus 2. Updated in response to 105 ILCS 5/22-95 (final citation pending), added by P.A. 103-472, eff. 8-1-24, requiring a district to have an internal process for the filing of complaints regarding discrimination and harassment based on race, color, and national origin. Policy 2:270, *Discrimination and Harassment on the Basis of Race, Color, and National Origin Prohibited*, utilizes this policy as an internal complaint process. See also sample administrative procedure 2:270-AP, *Prevention and Response Program for Complaints of Discrimination and Harassment Based on Race, Color, and National Origin*, available at PRESS Online by logging in at www.iasb.com, which includes additional procedures to be followed when responding to complaints of discrimination and harassment on the basis of race, color, and national origin. **Issue 114, March 2024**

Document Status: Draft Update

2:265 Title IX Grievance Procedure

Title has been updated. Original Title: Title IX Sexual Harassment Grievance Procedure

Sexual harassment^{PRESSPlus1} affects a student's ability to learn and an employee's ability to work. Providing an educational and workplace environment free from sexual harassment is an important District goal. The District does not discriminate on the basis of sex in any of its education programs or activities, and it complies with Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (Title IX) and its implementing regulations ([34 C.F.R. Part 106](#)) concerning everyone in the District's education programs and activities, including applicants for employment, students, parents/guardians, employees, and third parties.

Title IX Sexual Harassment Prohibited

Sexual harassment as defined in Title IX (Title IX Sexual Harassment) is prohibited. Any person, including a District employee or agent, or student, engages in Title IX Sexual Harassment whenever that person engages in conduct on the basis of an individual's sex that satisfies one or more of the following:

1. A District employee conditions the provision of an aid, benefit, or service on an individual's participation in unwelcome sexual conduct; or
2. Unwelcome conduct determined by a reasonable person to be so severe, pervasive, and objectively offensive that it effectively denies a person equal access to the District's educational program or activity; or
3. *Sexual assault* as defined in [20 U.S.C. §1092\(f\)\(6\)\(A\)\(v\)](#), *dating violence* as defined in [34 U.S.C. §12291\(a\)\(11\)](#), *domestic violence* as defined in [34 U.S.C. §12291\(a\)\(12\)](#), or *stalking* as defined in [34 U.S.C. §12291\(a\)\(36\)](#).

Examples of sexual harassment include, but are not limited to, touching, crude jokes or pictures, discussions of sexual experiences, teasing related to sexual characteristics, spreading rumors related to a person's alleged sexual activities, rape, sexual battery, sexual abuse, and sexual coercion.

Definitions from [34 C.F.R. §106.30](#)

Complainant means an individual who is alleged to be the victim of conduct that could constitute sexual harassment.

Education program or activity includes locations, events, or circumstances where the District has substantial control over both the *Respondent* and the context in which alleged sexual harassment occurs.

Formal Title IX Sexual Harassment Complaint means a document filed by a *Complainant* or signed by the Title IX Coordinator alleging sexual harassment against a *Respondent* and requesting that the District investigate the allegation.

Respondent means an individual who has been reported to be the perpetrator of the conduct that could constitute sexual harassment.

Supportive measures mean non-disciplinary, non-punitive individualized services offered as appropriate, as reasonably available, and without fee or charge to the *Complainant* or the *Respondent* before or after the filing of a *Formal Title IX Sexual Harassment Complaint* or where no *Formal Title IX Sexual Harassment Complaint* has been filed.

Title IX Sexual Harassment Prevention and Response

The Superintendent or designee will ensure that the District prevents and responds to allegations of Title IX Sexual Harassment as follows:

1. Ensures that the District's comprehensive health education program in Board policy 6:60, *Curriculum Content*, incorporates (a) age-appropriate sexual abuse and assault awareness and prevention programs in grades pre-K through 12, and (b) age-appropriate education about the warning signs, recognition, dangers, and prevention of teen dating violence in grades 7-12. This includes incorporating student social and emotional development into the District's educational program as required by State law and in alignment with Board policy 6:65, *Student Social and Emotional Development*.
2. Incorporates education and training for school staff pursuant to policy 5:100, *Staff Development Program*, and as recommended by the Superintendent, Title IX Coordinator, Nondiscrimination Coordinator, Building Principal, or a Complaint Manager.
3. Notifies applicants for employment, students, parents/guardians, employees, and collective bargaining units of this policy and contact information for the Title IX Coordinator by, at a minimum, prominently displaying them on the District's website, if any, and in each handbook made available to such persons.

Making a Report

A person who wishes to make a report under this Title IX Sexual Harassment grievance procedure may make a report to the Title IX Coordinator, Nondiscrimination Coordinator, Building Principal, a Complaint Manager, or any employee with whom the person is comfortable speaking. A person who wishes to make a report may choose to report to a person of the same gender.

School employees shall respond to incidents of sexual harassment by promptly making or forwarding the report to the Title IX Coordinator. An employee who fails to promptly make or forward a report may be disciplined, up to and including discharge.

The Superintendent shall insert into this policy and keep current the name, office address, email address, and telephone number of the Title IX Coordinator.

Title IX Coordinator:

Merryl Brownlow

12809 S. McVickers Avenue
Palos Heights, IL 60463

mbrownlow@palos128.org

708-597-9040

Processing and Reviewing a Report or Complaint

Upon receipt of a report, the Title IX Coordinator and/or designee will promptly contact the *Complainant* to: (1) discuss the availability of supportive measures, (2) consider the *Complainant's* wishes with respect to *supportive measures*, (3) inform the *Complainant* of the availability of *supportive measures* with or without the filing of a *Formal Title IX Sexual Harassment Complaint*, and (4) explain to the *Complainant* the process for filing a *Formal Title IX Sexual Harassment Complaint*.

Further, the Title IX Coordinator will analyze the report to identify and determine whether there is another or an additional appropriate method(s) for processing and reviewing it. For any report received, the Title IX Coordinator shall review Board policies 2:260, *Uniform Grievance Procedure*; 5:20, *Workplace Harassment Prohibited*; 5:90, *Abused and Neglected Child Reporting*; 5:120, *Employee Ethics; Code of Professional Conduct; and Conflict of Interest*; 7:20, *Harassment of Students Prohibited*; 7:180, *Prevention of and Response to Bullying, Intimidation, and Harassment*; 7:185, *Teen Dating Violence Prohibited*; and 7:190, *Student Behavior*, to determine if the allegations in the report require further action.

Reports of alleged sexual harassment will be confidential to the greatest extent practicable, subject to the District's duty to investigate and maintain an educational program or activity that is productive, respectful, and free of sexual harassment.

Formal Title IX Sexual Harassment Complaint Grievance Process

When a *Formal Title IX Sexual Harassment Complaint* is filed, the Title IX Coordinator will investigate it or appoint a qualified person to undertake the investigation.

The Superintendent or designee shall implement procedures to ensure that all *Formal Title IX Sexual Harassment Complaints* are processed and reviewed according to a Title IX grievance process that fully complies with [34 C.F.R. §106.45](#). The District's grievance process shall, at a minimum:

1. Treat *Complainants* and *Respondents* equitably by providing remedies to a *Complainant* where the *Respondent* is determined to be responsible for sexual harassment, and by following a grievance process that complies with [34 C.F.R. §106.45](#) before the imposition of any disciplinary sanctions or other actions against a *Respondent*.
2. Require an objective evaluation of all relevant evidence – including both inculpatory and exculpatory evidence – and provide that credibility determinations may not be based on a person's status as a *Complainant*, *Respondent*, or witness.
3. Require that any individual designated by the District as a Title IX Coordinator, investigator, decision-maker, or any person designated by the District to facilitate an informal resolution process:
 - a. Not have a conflict of interest or bias for or against complainants or respondents generally or an individual *Complainant* or *Respondent*.
 - b. Receive training on the definition of sexual harassment, the scope of the District's *education program or activity*, how to conduct an investigation and grievance process (including hearings, appeals, and informal resolution processes, as applicable), and how to serve impartially.
4. Require that any individual designated by the District as an investigator receiving training on issues of relevance to create an investigative report that fairly summarizes relevant evidence.
5. Require that any individual designated by the District as a decision-maker receive training on issues of relevance of questions and evidence, including when questions and evidence about

the *Complainant's* sexual predisposition or prior sexual behavior are not relevant.

6. Include a presumption that the *Respondent* is not responsible for the alleged conduct until a determination regarding responsibility is made at the conclusion of the grievance process.
7. Include reasonably prompt timeframes for conclusion of the grievance process.
8. Describe the range of possible disciplinary sanctions and remedies the District may implement following any determination of responsibility.
9. Base all decisions upon the *preponderance of evidence* standard.
10. Include the procedures and permissible bases for the *Complainant* and *Respondent* to appeal.
11. Describe the range of *supportive measures* available to *Complainants* and *Respondents*.
12. Not require, allow, rely upon, or otherwise use questions or evidence that constitute, or seek disclosure of, information protected under a legally recognized privilege, unless the person holding such privilege has waived the privilege.

Enforcement

Any District employee who is determined, at the conclusion of the grievance process, to have engaged in sexual harassment will be subject to disciplinary action up to and including discharge. Any third party who is determined, at the conclusion of the grievance process, to have engaged in sexual harassment will be addressed in accordance with the authority of the Board in the context of the relationship of the third party to the District, e.g., vendor, parent, invitee, etc. Any District student who is determined, at the conclusion of the grievance process, to have engaged in sexual harassment will be subject to disciplinary action, including, but not limited to, suspension and expulsion consistent with student behavior policies. Any person making a knowingly false accusation regarding sexual harassment will likewise be subject to disciplinary action.

This policy does not increase or diminish the ability of the District or the parties to exercise any other rights under existing law.

Retaliation Prohibited

The District prohibits any form of retaliation against anyone who, in good faith, has made a report or complaint, assisted, or participated or refused to participate in any manner in a proceeding under this policy. Any person should report claims of retaliation using Board policy 2:260, *Uniform Grievance Procedure*.

Any person who retaliates against others for reporting or complaining of violations of this policy or for participating in any manner under this policy will be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including discharge, with regard to employees, or suspension and expulsion, with regard to students.

LEGAL REF.:

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

[Davis v. Monroe County Bd. of Educ.](#), 526 U.S. 629 (1999).

[Gebser v. Lago Vista Independent Sch. Dist.](#), 524 U.S. 274 (1998).

CROSS REF.: 2:260 (Uniform Grievance Procedure), 5:10 (Equal Employment Opportunity and Minority Recruitment), 5:20 (Workplace Harassment Prohibited), 5:90 (Abused and Neglected Child Reporting), 5:100 (Staff Development Program), 5:120 (Employee Ethics; Code of Professional Conduct; and Conflict of Interest), 6:60 (Curriculum Content), 6:65 (Student Social and Emotional Development), 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), 7:190 (Student Behavior)

PRESSPlus Comments

PRESSPlus 1. The policy title only is changed to delete the term *sexual harassment* in anticipation of Title IX rulemaking. The U.S. Department of Education is expected to release final Title IX regulations within the next few months. It is expected that the scope of the updated regulations will be expanded to apply to all sex discrimination allegations, not merely to allegations of sexual harassment (as current regulations do). **Issue 114, March 2024**

Document Status: Draft Update

4:190 Targeted School Violence Prevention Program

Threats and acts of targeted school violence harm the District's environment and school community, diminishing students' ability to learn and a school's ability to educate. Providing students and staff with access to a safe and secure District environment is an important Board goal. While it is not possible for the District to completely eliminate threats in its environment, a Targeted School Violence Prevention Program (Program) using the collective efforts of local school officials, staff, students, families, and the community helps the District reduce these risks to its environment.

The Superintendent or designee shall develop and implement the Program. The Program oversees the maintenance of a District environment that is conducive to learning and working by identifying, assessing, classifying, responding to, and managing threats and acts of targeted school violence. The Program shall be part of the District's Comprehensive Safety and Security Plan, required by Board policy 4:170, *Safety*, and shall:

1. Establish a District-level School Violence Prevention Team to: (a) develop a District-level Targeted School Violence Prevention Plan, and (b) oversee the District's Building-level Threat Assessment Team(s).
2. Establish Building-level Threat Assessment Team(s) to assess and intervene with individuals whose behavior may pose a threat to safety. This team may serve one or more schools.
3. Require all District staff, volunteers, and contractors to report any expressed threats or behaviors that may represent a threat to the community, school, or self. [PRESSPlus1](#)
4. Encourage parents/guardians and students to report any expressed threats or behaviors that may represent a threat to the community, school, or self. [PRESSPlus2](#)
5. Comply with State and federal law and align with Board policies.

The Local Governmental and Governmental Employees Tort Immunity Act protects the District from liability. The Program does not: (1) replace the care of a physician licensed to practice medicine in all of its branches or a licensed medical practitioner or professional trained in violence prevention, assessments and counseling services, (2) extend beyond available resources within the District, (3) extend beyond the school day and/or school-sponsored events, or (4) guarantee or ensure the safety of students, District staff, or visitors.

LEGAL REF.:

[105 ILCS 5/10-20.14](#), [5/10-21.7](#), [5/10-27.1A](#), [5/10-27.1B](#), [5/24-24](#), and [5/27-23.7](#).

[105 ILCS 128/](#), School Safety Drill Act.

[745 ILCS 10/](#), Local Governmental and Governmental Employees Tort Immunity Act.

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

CROSS REF.: 2:240 (Board Policy Development), 4:170 (Safety), 5:90 (Abused and Neglected Child Reporting), 5:100 (Staff Development Program), 5:230 (Maintaining Student Discipline), 6:65 (Student Social and Emotional Development), 6:270 (Guidance and Counseling Program), 7:140 (Search and

Seizure), 7:150 (Agency and Police Interviews), 7:180 (Prevention of and Response to Bullying, Intimidation, and Harassment), 7:185 (Teen Dating Violence Prohibited), 7:190 (Student Behavior), 7:250 (Student Support Services), 7:290 (Suicide and Depression Awareness and Prevention), 7:340 (Student Records), 8:30 (Visitors to and Conduct on School Property), 8:100 (Relations with Other Organizations and Agencies)

PRESSPlus Comments

PRESSPlus 1. Updated in response to *Threat Assessment in Virginia Public Schools: Model Policies, Procedures, and Guidelines*, Fifth Edition (July 2023), Virginia Center for School and Campus Safety, Virginia Dept. of Criminal Justice Services, at:

www.dcjs.virginia.gov/sites/dcjs.virginia.gov/files/k-12_threat_assessment_management_mppg_mpd.pdf.

In alignment with this policy, sample administrative procedure 4:190-AP2, *Threat Assessment Team (TAT)*, requires the TAT to train staff and other members of the school community to recognize and report possible threats, and sample exhibit 4:190-AP2, E6, *Targeted School Violence Prevention and Threat Assessment Education*, requires all district staff, volunteers, and contractors to report any expressed threats or behaviors that may represent a threat to the community, school, or self. Sample administrative procedures and exhibits can be accessed at PRESS Online by logging in at www.iasb.com. **Issue 114, March 2024**

PRESSPlus 2. In alignment with this policy, sample administrative procedure 4:190-AP2, *Threat Assessment Team (TAT)*, requires the TAT to train parents/guardians and other members of the school community to recognize and report possible threats, and sample exhibit 4:190-AP2, E6, *Targeted School Violence Prevention and Threat Assessment Education*, encourages parents/guardians and students to report any expressed threats or behaviors that may represent a threat to the community, school, or self. **Issue 114, March 2024**

Document Status: Draft Update

5:10 Equal Employment Opportunity and Minority Recruitment

The School District shall provide equal employment opportunities to all persons regardless of their race; color; creed; religion; national origin; sex; sexual orientation; age; ancestry; marital status; arrest record; military status; order of protection status; unfavorable military discharge; citizenship status provided the individual is authorized to work in the United States; work authorization status; use of lawful products while not at work; being a victim of domestic violence, sexual violence, gender violence, or any other crime of violence; genetic information; physical or mental handicap or disability, if otherwise able to perform the essential functions of the job with reasonable accommodation; pregnancy, childbirth, or related medical conditions; credit history, unless a satisfactory credit history is an established bona fide occupational requirement of a particular position; conviction record, unless authorized by law; or other legally protected categories. No one will be penalized solely for one's 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 ~~for the~~ under Board policy 2:260, Uniform Grievance Procedure, or in the case of denial of equal employment opportunities on the basis of race, color, or national origin, Board policy 2:270, Discrimination and Harassment on the Basis of Race, Color, and National Origin Prohibited. [PRESSPlus1](#) These individuals are listed below. No employee or applicant will be discriminated or retaliated against because one: (1) requested, attempted to request, used, or attempted to use a reasonable accommodation as allowed by the Illinois Human Rights Act, or (2) initiated a complaint, was a witness, supplied information, or otherwise participated in an investigation or proceeding involving an alleged violation of this policy or State or federal laws, rules or regulations, provided the employee or applicant did not make a knowingly false accusation nor provide knowingly false information.

Administrative Implementation

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

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

Nondiscrimination Coordinator:

Merryl Brownlow

12809 S. McVickers Avenue
Palos Heights, IL 60463

mbrownlow@palos128.org

708-597-9040

Complaint Managers:

Merryl Brownlow

Jason Smit

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

Minority Recruitment

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

LEGAL REF.:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

~~[42 U.S.C. §2000d](#) *et seq.*, Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.~~

[42 U.S.C. §2000gg](#) *et seq.*, Pregnant Workers Fairness Act.

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

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

[III. 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/](#), III. 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](#), III. 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/](#), III. Equal Pay Act of 2003.

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

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

CROSS REF.: 2:260 (Uniform Grievance Procedure), 2:265 (Title IX [Sexual Harassment](#) Grievance Procedure), [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)

PRESSPlus Comments

PRESSPlus 1. Updated in response to 105 ILCS 5/22-95 (final citation pending), added by P.A. 103-472, eff. 8-1-24, requiring a board to adopt a policy (or policies) that prohibits discrimination and harassment based on race, color, and national origin, as well as retaliation. **Issue 114, March 2024**

Document Status: Draft Update

5:20 Workplace Harassment Prohibited

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

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

Sexual Harassment Prohibited

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

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

Making a Report or Complaint

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

Employees are encouraged to promptly report information regarding violations of this policy. Employees may choose to report to a person of the employee's same gender. Every effort should be

made to file such complaints as soon as possible, while facts are known and potential witnesses are available.

Aggrieved individuals, if they feel comfortable doing so, should directly inform the person engaging in the harassing conduct or communication that such conduct or communication is offensive and must stop.

Whom to Contact with a Report or Complaint

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

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

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

Nondiscrimination Coordinator:

Merryl Brownlow

12809 S. McVickers Avenue
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Complaint Managers:

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Investigation Process

Any District employee who receives a report or complaint of harassment must promptly forward the report or complaint to the Nondiscrimination Coordinator or a Complaint Manager. Any employee who

fails to promptly forward a report or complaint may be disciplined, up to and including discharge.

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

For any report or complaint alleging sexual harassment that, if true, would implicate Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 ([20 U.S.C. §1681 et seq.](#)), the Nondiscrimination Coordinator or designee shall consider whether action under Board policy 2:265, *Title IX Sexual Harassment Grievance Procedure*, should be initiated.

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

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

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

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

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

Enforcement

A violation of this policy by an employee may result in discipline, up to and including discharge. A violation of this policy by a third party will be addressed in accordance with the authority of the Board in the context of the relationship of the third party to the District, e.g., vendor, parent/guardian, invitee, etc. Any person making a knowingly false accusation regarding harassment will likewise be subject to disciplinary action, which for an employee may be up to and including discharge.

Retaliation Prohibited

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

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

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

Recourse to State and Federal Fair Employment Practice Agencies

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

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

LEGAL REF.:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

PRESSPlus Comments

PRESSPlus 1. Updated in response to 105 ILCS 5/22-95 (final citation pending), added by P.A. 103-472, eff. 8-1-24, requiring a board to adopt a policy (or policies) that prohibits discrimination and harassment based on race, color, and national origin, as well as retaliation. The policy is also updated to incorporate the title change to 2:265, *Title IX Sexual Harassment Grievance Procedure*, in anticipation of Title IX rulemaking. **Issue 114, March 2024**

Removing all items that are not required to be included in policy to simplify the management of this policy and avoid potential annual changes based on constantly changing state requirements.

Document Status: Draft Update - Rewritten

5:100 Staff Development Program

The Superintendent or designee shall implement a staff development program. [PRESSPlus1](#) 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. Additionally, the development program for licensed staff members shall be designed to effectuate any School Improvement Plans so that student learning objectives meet or exceed goals established by the District and State.

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*), [PRESSPlus2](#) 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: [PRESSPlus3](#)

1. Health conditions of students, including but not limited to training on:
 - a. Chronic health conditions of students;
 - b. Anaphylactic reactions and management, conducted by a person with expertise on anaphylactic reactions and management;
 - c. Management of asthma, prevention of asthma symptoms, and emergency response in the school setting; [PRESSPlus4](#)
 - d. 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;
 - e. 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;
 - f. Current best practices regarding identification and treatment of attention deficit hyperactivity disorder; and
 - g. How to respond to an incident involving life-threatening bleeding, including use of a school's trauma bleeding control kit, if applicable. [PRESSPlus5](#)
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*).
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 105 ILCS 110/3.10 (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; 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 5/27-23.4 (violence prevention and conflict resolution education).

~~Additional Training Requirements~~

In addition, the staff development program shall include each of the following: ~~PRESSPlus6~~

1. ~~Ongoing professional development for teachers, administrators, school resource officers, and staff regarding the adverse consequences of school exclusion and justice-system involvement, effective classroom management strategies, culturally responsive discipline, 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. 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.
4. For school personnel who work with hazardous or toxic materials on a regular basis, training on the safe handling and use of such materials.
5. 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.
6. 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.
7. For all District staff, annual sexual harassment prevention training.
8. Title IX requirements for training as follows (see Board policy 2:265, *Title IX Grievance Procedure*):
 - a. For all District staff, training on the definition of sexual harassment, the scope of the District's education program or activity, all relevant District policies and procedures, and the necessity to promptly forward all reports of sexual harassment to the Title IX Coordinator.
 - b. For school personnel designated as Title IX coordinators, investigators, decision-makers, or informal resolution facilitators, training on the definition of sexual harassment, the scope of the District's education program or activity, how to conduct an investigation and grievance process (including hearings, appeals, and informal resolution processes, as applicable), and how to serve impartially.
 - c. For school personnel designated as Title IX investigators, training on issues of relevance to create an investigative report that fairly summarizes relevant evidence.
 - d. For school personnel designated as Title IX decision-makers, training on issues of relevance of questions and evidence, including when questions and evidence about a complainant's sexual predisposition or prior sexual behavior are not relevant.
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. [PRESSPlus7](#)
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. [PRESSPlus8](#)

~~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*. [Q1](#)~~

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, and 5/24-5.

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.

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), 7:270 (Administering Medicines to Students), 7:285 (Anaphylaxis Prevention, Response, and Management Program), 7:290 (Suicide and Depression Awareness and Prevention), 7:305 (Student Athlete Concussions and Head Injuries)

Questions and Answers:

***Required Question 1. For districts that have a practice of providing instruction in life-saving techniques and first-aid in their staff development programs, insert the following optional paragraph that restates 105 ILCS 5/3-11, 105 ILCS 110/3, and 77 Ill.Admin.Code §527.800:

"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."

Persons performing CPR are generally exempt from civil liability if they are trained in CPR (745 ILCS 49/10); persons performing automated external defibrillation are generally exempt from civil liability if they were trained and acted according to the standards of the American Heart Association (745 ILCS 49/12).

Would the board like to add the optional paragraph shown above, restating 105 ILCS 5/3-11, 105 ILCS 110/3, and 77 Ill.Admin.Code §527.800?

No. (Default)

○ Yes. (IASB will add the optional paragraph shown above, restating 105 ILCS 5/3-11, 105 ILCS 110/3, and 77 Ill.Admin.Code §527.800.)

PRESSPlus Comments

PRESSPlus 1. This policy is rewritten due to Public Act 103-542, which significantly streamlines school in-service training requirements into eight categories. Though P.A. 103-542 was to be effective on 1-1-24, most of its changes become operative on 7-1-24. As a result, legislative action during Veto Session amended the effective date of P.A. 103-542 to 7-1-24. For more information, see the footnotes of sample policy 5:100, *Staff Development Program*, available at PRESS Online by logging in at www.iasb.com.

This policy contains items on which collective bargaining may be required. Any policy that impacts upon wages, hours, and terms and conditions of employment, is subject to collective bargaining upon request by the employee representative, even if the policy involves an inherent managerial right. **Issue 114, March 2024**

PRESSPlus 2. Sexual misconduct under Faith's Law is defined in 105 ILCS 5/22-85.5(c), added by P.A. 102-676. **Issue 114, March 2024**

PRESSPlus 3. This list of in-service trainings is required by State law but only numbers 4, 5(d), and 7 are required to be specified in board policy. **Issue 114, March 2024**

PRESSPlus 4. Consult the board attorney about whether:

1. All asthma action plans should require immediate 911 calls based upon In re Estate of Stewart, 406 Ill.Dec. 345 (2nd Dist. 2016); In re Estate of Stewart, 412 Ill.Dec. 914 (Ill. 2017) (school district's appeal denied). The court held that a teacher's failure to dial 911 immediately upon a student's asthma attack was willful and wanton conduct, subjecting the school district to liability under the Local Governmental and Governmental Employees Tort Immunity Act.
2. The duties and responsibilities of the district when it asks for but does not receive an asthma action plan from a parent/guardian and the logistics of distributing any received plans to those employees who need to know based upon Stewart, above.

Issue 114, March 2024

PRESSPlus 5. From 6-30-23 through 7-1-24, 105 ILCS 5/10-22.39(g), added by P.A. 103-128, requires that at least once every two years, all District personnel be trained on methods to respond to trauma, including instruction on how to respond to an incident involving life-threatening bleeding and, if applicable, how to use a school's trauma kit. See 105 ILCS 5/10-20.85, added by P.A. 103-128, for a definition of *trauma kit*. To avoid confusion between trauma related to life-threatening bleeding and trauma as defined in 105 ILCS 5/3-11(b), added by P.A. 103-413, this policy uses the phrase *trauma bleeding control kit* instead of *trauma kit*.

Beginning with the 2024-25 school year, training on life-threatening bleeding must be completed within six months of employment and renewed within two years. Beginning with the 2027-28 school year, training on life-threatening bleeding must be completed within six months of employment and renewed at least once every five years thereafter. 105 ILCS 5/10-22.39(b-5)(7), added by P.A. 103-542, eff. 7-

1-24. **Issue 114, March 2024**

PRESSPlus 6. Optional. These in-services and/or trainings are required by State and/or federal law but are not required to be specified in board policy. Putting this optional list into the policy will help the board monitor that the required in-service and training topics are being covered. While it is possible to *pick and choose*, this practice is likely to add more confusion to an already confusing responsibility. Unless noted, the School Code does not mandate the frequency with which the training must occur. Several other trainings that are mentioned in laws other than the School Code are addressed in other sample policies and procedures. **Issue 114, March 2024**

PRESSPlus 7. Updated in response to 775 ILCS 5/5A-103(c), added by P.A. 103-472, eff. 8-1-24. For training requirement details, see sample administrative procedure 2:270-AP, *Prevention and Response Program for Complaints of Discrimination and Harassment Based on Race, Color, and National Origin*, available at PRESS Online by logging in at www.iasb.com. **Issue 114, March 2024**

PRESSPlus 8. 105 ILCS 5/2-3.163(c), amended by P.A. 103-504. **Issue 114, March 2024**

Document Status: Draft Update

5:300 Schedules and Employment Year

The Superintendent shall supervise a process for setting work schedules and an employment year for educational support employees in accordance with State and federal law, Board of Education policy, and applicable agreements and shall:

1. Assign each employee one supervisor who will establish a work schedule, including breaks, as required by building or District needs, workload, and the efficient management of human resources;
2. Allow for the ability to respond to changing circumstances by altering work schedules as needed; and
3. Consider the well-being of the employee. The Superintendent's approval is required to establish a flexible work schedule or job-sharing.

Breaks

An employee who works at least 7.5 continuous hours shall receive a 30-minute duty-free meal break that begins within the first five hours of the employee's workday. The District accommodates employees who are nursing mothers according to State and federal law.

LEGAL REF.:

~~Fair Labor Standards Act, 29 U.S.C. §§207 et seq and 218d, Fair Labor Standards Act.~~ [PRESSPlus1](#)

[105 ILCS 5/10-20.14a](#), [5/10-22.34](#), and [5/10-23.5](#).

[740 ILCS 137/](#), Right to Breastfeed Act.

[820 ILCS 105/](#), Minimum Wage Law.

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

CROSS REF.: [5:10 \(Equal Employment Opportunity and Minority Recruitment\)](#), [5:35 \(Compliance with the Fair Labor Standards Act\)](#)

~~ADOPTED: January 10, 2018~~

PRESSPlus Comments

PRESSPlus 1. The Legal References are updated. **Issue 114, March 2024**

Document Status: Draft Update

7:10 Equal Educational Opportunities

Equal educational and extracurricular opportunities shall be available for all students without regard to color, race, nationality, religion, sex, sexual orientation, ancestry, age, physical or mental disability, gender identity, status of being homeless, immigration status, order of protection status, actual or potential marital or parental status, including pregnancy. Further, the District will not knowingly enter into agreements with any entity or any individual that discriminates against students on the basis of sex or any other protected status, except that the District remains viewpoint neutral when granting access to school facilities under Board of Education policy 8:20, *Community Use of School Facilities*. Any student may file a discrimination grievance 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*. [PRESSPlus1](#)

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 appropriate Intermediate Service Center (pursuant to [105 ILCS 5/3-10](#)) and, thereafter, to the State Superintendent of Education (pursuant to [105 ILCS 5/2-3.8](#)).

Administrative Implementation

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

LEGAL REF.:

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

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

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

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

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

[Ill. Constitution, Art. I](#), §18.

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

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

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

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

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

PRESSPlus Comments

PRESSPlus 1. Updated in response to 105 ILCS 5/22-95 (final citation pending), added by P.A. 103-472, eff. 8-1-24, requiring a board to adopt a policy (or policies) that prohibits discrimination and harassment based on race, color, and national origin, as well as retaliation. **Issue 114, March 2024**

Document Status: Draft Update

Recommend as Presented;
Legal Updates

7:10-E Exhibit - Equal Educational Opportunities Within the School Community

The School District welcomes diversity in its schools. Board Policy 7:10, Equal Educational Opportunities cites the many civil rights laws that guarantee equal education opportunities to all students. In addition, the policies below address the equal educational opportunities, health, safety, and general welfare of students within the District. These policies are not a complete list, and depending on the factual context, another policy not specifically listed may apply:

1. 2:260, *Uniform Grievance Procedure*, contains the process for an individual to seek resolution of a complaint. A student may use this policy to complain about bullying. The District Complaint Manager shall address the complaint promptly and equitably.
2. 2:265, Title IX Grievance Procedure, contains the process that must be followed for complaints of Title IX harassment. [PRESSPlus1](#)
3. 2:270, Discrimination and Harassment on the Basis of Race, Color, and National Origin Prohibited, prohibits any person from discriminating against or harassing a student based on race, color, or national origin.
4. 6:65, *Student Social and Emotional Development*, requires that social and emotional learning be incorporated into the District's curriculum and other educational programs.
5. 7:10, *Equal Educational Opportunities*, requires that equal educational and extracurricular opportunities be available to all students without regard to, among other protected statuses, sex, sexual orientation, and gender identity.
6. 7:20, *Harassment of Students Prohibited*, prohibits any person from harassing, intimidating, or bullying a student based on an actual or perceived characteristic that is identified in the policy including, among other protected statuses, sex, sexual orientation, and gender identity.
7. 7:130, *Student Rights and Responsibilities*, recognizes that all students are entitled to rights protected by the U.S. and Illinois Constitutions and laws for persons of their age and maturity in a school setting.
8. 7:160, *Student Appearance*, prohibits students from dressing or grooming in such a way as to disrupt the educational process, interfere with a positive teaching/learning climate, or compromise reasonable standards of health, safety, and decency. It recognizes that students have the right to wear hairstyles historically associated with race, ethnicity, or hair texture, and to wear or accessorize the student's graduation attire with items associated with the student's cultural, ethnic, or religious identity, or other characteristic protected by State law.
9. 7:180, *Prevention of and Response to Bullying, Intimidation, and Harassment*, contains the comprehensive structure for the District's bullying prevention program.
10. 7:250, *Student Support Services*, directs the Superintendent to develop protocols for responding to students' social, emotional, or mental health needs that impact learning.
11. 7:340, *Student Records*, contains the comprehensive structure for managing school student records, keeping them confidential, and providing access as allowed or required.

PRESSPlus Comments

PRESSPlus 1. Updated in response to a five-year review. **Issue 114, March 2024**

Document Status: Draft Update

7:20 Harassment of Students Prohibited

No person, including a School District employee or agent, or student, shall harass, intimidate, or bully a student on the basis of actual or perceived: race; color; national origin; military status; unfavorable discharge status from military service; sex; sexual orientation; gender identity; gender-related identity or expression; ancestry; age; religion; physical or mental disability; order of protection status; status of being homeless; actual or potential marital or parental status, including pregnancy; physical appearance; socioeconomic status; academic status; [PRESSPlus1](#) association with a person or group with one or more of the aforementioned actual or perceived characteristics; or any other distinguishing characteristic. The District will not tolerate harassing, intimidating conduct, or bullying whether verbal, physical, sexual, or visual, that affects the tangible benefits of education, that unreasonably interferes with a student's educational performance, or that creates an intimidating, hostile, or offensive educational environment. Examples of prohibited conduct include name-calling, using derogatory slurs, stalking, sexual violence, causing psychological harm, threatening or causing physical harm, threatened or actual destruction of property, or wearing or possessing items depicting or implying hatred or prejudice of one of the characteristics stated above.

Sexual Harassment Prohibited

The District shall provide an educational environment free of verbal, physical, or other conduct or communications constituting harassment on the basis of sex as defined and otherwise prohibited by State and federal law. See Board policies 2:265, [PRESSPlus2](#) Title IX ~~Sexual Harassment~~ *Grievance Procedure*, and 2:260, *Uniform Grievance Procedure*.

Making a Report or Complaint

Students are encouraged to promptly report claims or incidences of bullying, intimidation, harassment, sexual harassment, or any other prohibited conduct to the Nondiscrimination Coordinator, Building Principal, Assistant Building Principal, Dean of Students, a Complaint Manager, or any employee with whom the student is comfortable speaking. A student may choose to report to an employee of the student's same gender.

Reports under this policy will be considered a report under Board policy 2:260, *Uniform Grievance Procedure*, and/or Board policy 2:265, Title IX ~~Sexual Harassment~~ *Grievance Procedure*. The Nondiscrimination Coordinator and/or Complaint Manager shall process and review the report according to the appropriate grievance procedure.

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

Nondiscrimination Coordinator:

Merryl Brownlow

12809 S. McVickers Avenue
Palos Heights, IL 60463

mbrownlow@palos128.org

708-597-9040

Complaint Managers:

Merryl Brownlow

Jason Smit

12809 S. McVickers Avenue
Palos Heights, IL 60463

12809 S. McVickers Avenue
Palos Heights, IL 60463

mbrownlow@palos128.org

jsmit@palos128.org

708-597-9040

708-597-9040

The Superintendent shall use reasonable measures to inform staff members and students of this policy by including:

1. For students, age-appropriate information about the contents of this policy in the District's student handbook(s), on the District's website, and, if applicable, in any other areas where policies, rules, and standards of conduct are otherwise posted in each school.
2. For staff members, this policy in the appropriate employee handbook(s), if applicable, and/or in any other areas where policies, rules, and standards of conduct are otherwise made available to staff.

Investigation Process

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

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

For any report or complaint alleging sexual harassment that, if true, would implicate Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 ([20 U.S.C. §1681 et seq.](#)), the Nondiscrimination Coordinator or designee shall consider whether action under Board policy 2:265, *Title IX Sexual Harassment Grievance Procedure*, should be initiated.

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

Prohibited. [PRESSPlus3](#)

For any other alleged student harassment that does not require action under [Board policies](#) 2:265, [Title IX Sexual Harassment Grievance Procedure](#), or [2:270, Discrimination and Harassment on the Basis of Race, Color, and National Origin Prohibited](#), the Nondiscrimination Coordinator or a Complaint Manager or designee shall consider whether an investigation under [Board policies](#) 2:260, [Uniform Grievance Procedure](#), and/or [7:190, Student Behavior](#), should be initiated, regardless of whether a written report or complaint is filed.

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

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

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

Enforcement

Any District employee who is determined, after an investigation, to have engaged in conduct prohibited by this policy will be subject to disciplinary action up to and including discharge. Any third party who is determined, after an investigation, to have engaged in conduct prohibited by this policy will be addressed in accordance with the authority of the Board in the context of the relationship of the third party to the District, e.g., vendor, parent, invitee, etc. Any District student who is determined, after an investigation, to have engaged in conduct prohibited by this policy will be subject to disciplinary action, including but not limited to, suspension and expulsion consistent with the behavior policy. Any person making a knowingly false accusation regarding prohibited conduct will likewise be subject to disciplinary action.

Retaliation Prohibited

Retaliation against any person for bringing complaints or providing information about harassment is prohibited (see [Board policies](#) 2:260, *Uniform Grievance Procedure*, and [2:265, Title IX Sexual Harassment Grievance Procedure](#), and [2:270, Discrimination and Harassment on the Basis of Race, Color, and National Origin Prohibited](#)).

Students should report allegations of retaliation to the Building Principal, an administrator, the Nondiscrimination Coordinator, and/or a Complaint Manager.

LEGAL REF.:

[20 U.S.C. §1681](#) et seq., Title IX of the Educational 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](#).

[105 ILCS 5/10-20.12](#), [5/10-22.5](#), [5/10-23.13](#), [5/27-1](#), and [5/27-23.7](#).

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

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

[Davis v. Monroe County Bd. of Educ.](#), 526 U.S. 629 (1999).

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

[Gebser v. Lago Vista Independent Sch. Dist.](#), 524 U.S. 274 (1998).

West v. Derby Unified Sch. Dist. No. 260, 206 F.3d 1358 (10th Cir. 2000).

CROSS REF.: 2:260 (Uniform Grievance Procedure), 2:265 (Title IX **Sexual Harassment** Grievance Procedure), **2:270 (Discrimination and Harassment on the Basis of Race, Color, and National Origin Prohibited)**, 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), 7:10 (Equal Educational Opportunities), 7:180 (Prevention of and Response to Bullying, Intimidation, and Harassment), 7:185 (Teen Dating Violence Prohibited), 7:190 (Student Behavior), 7:240 (Conduct Code for Participants in Extracurricular Activities)

PRESSPlus Comments

PRESSPlus 1. Updated in response to 105 ILCS 5/27-23.7, amended by P.A. 103-47, adding protected categories to the prohibition on bullying. **Issue 114, March 2024**

PRESSPlus 2. Updated in response to the title change to 2:265, *Title IX Sexual Harassment Grievance Procedure*, in anticipation of Title IX rulemaking. **Issue 114, March 2024**

PRESSPlus 3. Updated in response to 105 ILCS 5/22-95 (final citation pending), added by P.A. 103-472, eff. 8-1-24, requiring a board to adopt a policy (or policies) that prohibits discrimination and harassment based on race, color, and national origin, as well as retaliation. **Issue 114, March 2024**

Document Status: Draft Update

7:180 Prevention of and Response to Bullying, Intimidation, and Harassment

Bullying, intimidation, and harassment diminish a student's ability to learn and a school's ability to educate. Preventing students from engaging in these disruptive behaviors and providing all students equal access to a safe, non-hostile learning environment are important District goals.

Bullying on the basis of actual or perceived race, color, religion, sex, national origin, ancestry, physical appearance, socioeconomic status, academic status, [PRESSPlus1](#) pregnancy, parenting status, homelessness, age, marital status, physical or mental disability, military status, sexual orientation, gender-related identity or expression, unfavorable discharge status from the military service, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender-related identity or expression, ancestry, age, religion, physical or mental disability, order of protection status, status of being homeless, or actual or potential marital or parental status, including pregnancy, association with a person or group with one or more of the aforementioned actual or perceived characteristics, or any other distinguishing characteristic **is prohibited** in each of the following situations:

1. During any school-sponsored education program or activity.
2. While in school, on school property, on school buses or other school vehicles, at designated school bus stops waiting for the school bus, or at school-sponsored or school-sanctioned events or activities.
3. Through the transmission of information from a school computer, a school computer network, or other similar electronic school equipment.
4. Through the transmission of information from a computer that is accessed at a nonschool-related location, activity, function, or program or from the use of technology or an electronic device that is not owned, leased, or used by ~~at the S school D~~ district or school if the bullying causes a substantial disruption to the educational process or orderly operation of a school. This [paragraph](#) (item ~~(#4)~~) applies only ~~in cases in which when~~ a school administrator or teacher receives a report that bullying through this means has occurred ~~and~~; it does not require ~~a district or school to~~ staff ~~or~~ [members to](#) monitor any nonschool-related activity, function, or program.

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

Bullying includes *cyberbullying* and means any severe or pervasive physical or verbal act or conduct, including communications made in writing or electronically, directed toward a student or students that has or can be reasonably predicted to have the effect of one or more of the following:

1. Placing the student or students in reasonable fear of harm to the student's or students' person or property;
2. Causing a substantially detrimental effect on the student's or students' physical or mental health;
3. Substantially interfering with the student's or students' academic performance; or
4. Substantially interfering with the student's or students' ability to participate in or benefit from the services, activities, or privileges provided by a school.

Bullying may take various forms, including without limitation one or more of the following: harassment, threats, intimidation, stalking, physical violence, sexual harassment, sexual violence, theft, public

humiliation, destruction of property, or retaliation for asserting or alleging an act of bullying. This list is meant to be illustrative and non-exhaustive.

Cyberbullying means bullying through the use of technology or any electronic communication, including without limitation any transfer of signs, signals, writing, images, sounds, data, or intelligence of any nature transmitted in whole or in part by a wire, radio, electromagnetic system, photo-electronic system, or photo-optical system, including without limitation electronic mail, Internet communications, instant messages, or facsimile communications. *Cyberbullying* includes the creation of a webpage or weblog in which the creator assumes the identity of another person or the knowing impersonation of another person as the author of posted content or messages if the creation or impersonation creates any of the effects enumerated in the definition of *bullying*. *Cyberbullying* also includes the distribution by electronic means of a communication to more than one person or the posting of material on an electronic medium that may be accessed by one or more persons if the distribution or posting creates any of the effects enumerated in the definition of *bullying*.

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

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

Bullying Prevention and Response Plan

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

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

Nondiscrimination Coordinator:

Merryl Brownlow
12809 S. McVickers Avenue
Palos Heights, IL 60463
mbrownlow@palos128.org
708-597-9040

Complaint Managers:

Merryl Brownlow
12809 S. McVickers Avenue
Palos Heights, IL 60463
mbrownlow@palos128.org
708-597-9040

Jason Smit
12809 S. McVickers Avenue
Palos Heights, IL 60463
jsmit@palos128.org
708-597-9040

4. Consistent with federal and State laws and rules governing student privacy rights, the Superintendent or designee shall promptly inform parent(s)/guardian(s) of all students involved in an alleged incident of bullying will be notified of such, along with threats, suggestions, or instances of self-harm determined to be the result of bullying, within 24 hours after the school's administration is made aware of the student's involvement in the incident. and discuss, aAs appropriate, the school's administration shall also discuss the availability of social work services, counseling, school psychological services, other interventions, and restorative measures. The school shall make diligent efforts to notify a parent or legal guardian, utilizing all contact information the school has available or that can be reasonably obtained within the 24-hour period. [PRESSPlus2](#)
5. The Superintendent or designee shall promptly investigate and address reports of bullying, by, among other things:
 - a. Making all reasonable efforts to complete the investigation within 10 school days after the date the report of the a bullying incident of bullying was received and taking into consideration additional relevant information received during the course of the investigation about the reported bullying incident of bullying.
 - b. Involving appropriate school support personnel and other staff persons with knowledge, experience, and training on bullying prevention, as deemed appropriate, in the investigation process.
 - c. Notifying the Building Principal or school administrator or designee of the report of the reported incident of bullying as soon as possible after the report is received.
 - d. Consistent with federal and State laws and rules governing student privacy rights,

providing parents and guardians of the students who are parties to the investigation information about the investigation and an opportunity to meet with the Building Principal or school administrator or his or her designee to discuss the investigation, the findings of the investigation, and the actions taken to address the reported incident of bullying.

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

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

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

- 1) An updated version of the policy with the amendment/modification date included in the reference portion of the policy;
- 2) If no revisions are deemed necessary, a copy of board minutes indicating that the policy

was re-evaluated and no changes were deemed to be necessary; or

3) A signed statement from the Board President indicating that the Board re-evaluated the policy and no changes to it were necessary.

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

12. The Superintendent or designee shall fully implement the Board policies, including without limitation, the following:
 - a. 2:260, *Uniform Grievance Procedure*. A student may use this policy to complain about bullying.
 - b. 2:265, *Title IX Sexual Harassment Grievance Procedure*. Any person may use this policy to complain about sexual harassment in violation of Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972. [PRESSPlus3](#)
 - c. 2:270, *Discrimination and Harassment on the Basis of Race, Color, and National Origin Prohibited*. Any person may use this policy to complain about discrimination or harassment on the basis of race, color, or national origin in violation of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and/or the Illinois Human Rights Act. [PRESSPlus4](#)
 - d. 6:60, *Curriculum Content*. Bullying prevention and character instruction is provided in all grades in accordance with State law.
 - e. 6:65, *Student Social and Emotional Development*. Student social and emotional development is incorporated into the District's educational program as required by State law.
 - f. 6:235, *Access to Electronic Networks*. This policy states that the use of the District's electronic networks is limited to: (1) support of education and/or research, or (2) a legitimate business use.
 - g. 7:20, *Harassment of Students Prohibited*. This policy prohibits any person from harassing, intimidating, or bullying a student based on an identified actual or perceived characteristic (the list of characteristics in 7:20 is the same as the list in this policy).
 - h. 7:185, *Teen Dating Violence Prohibited*. This policy prohibits teen dating violence on school property, at school sponsored activities, and in vehicles used for school-provided transportation.
 - i. 7:190, *Student Behavior*. This policy prohibits, and provides consequences for, hazing, bullying, or other aggressive behaviors, or urging other students to engage in such conduct.
 - j. 7:310, *Restrictions on Publications; Elementary Schools*. This policy prohibits students from and provides consequences for: (1) accessing and/or distributing at school any written, printed, or electronic material, including material from the Internet, that will cause substantial disruption of the proper and orderly operation and discipline of the school or school activities, and (2) creating and/or distributing written, printed, or electronic material, including photographic material and blogs, that causes substantial disruption to school operations or interferes with the rights of other students or staff members.

LEGAL REF.:

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

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

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

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

CROSS REF.: 2:240 (Board Policy Development), 2:260 (Uniform Grievance Procedure), 2:265 (Title IX [Sexual Harassment](#) Grievance Procedure), [2:270 \(Discrimination and Harassment on the Basis of Race, Color, and National Origin Prohibited\)](#), 4:170 (Safety), 5:230 (Maintaining Student Discipline), 6:60 (Curriculum Content), 6:65 (Student Social and Emotional Development), 6:235 (Access to Electronic Networks), 7:20 (Harassment of Students Prohibited), 7:185 (Teen Dating Violence Prohibited), 7:190 (Student Behavior), 7:220 (Bus Conduct), 7:230 (Misconduct by Students with Disabilities), 7:240 (Conduct Code for Participants in Extracurricular Activities), 7:285 (Anaphylaxis Prevention, Response, and Management Program), 7:310 (Restrictions on Publications; Elementary Schools)

PRESSPlus Comments

PRESSPlus 1. Updated in response to 105 ILCS 5/27-23.7, amended by P.A. 103-47, adding protected categories to the prohibition on bullying. The bases are also re-ordered to align with the order they are listed within the Ill. State Board of Education (ISBE) Model Bullying Prevention Policy (available at www.isbe.net/Documents/Model-Bullying-Prevention-Policy.pdf).

Additionally, 105 ILCS 5/27-23.7(f), added by P.A. 103-47, requires districts to collect non-identifiable data regarding verified allegations of bullying within the District and submit it in an annual report to ISBE by no later than August 15 of each year, beginning with the 2024-25 school year through the 2030-31 school year. ISBE must adopt rules for data submission that include but are not limited to: (1) a record of each verified allegation of bullying and action taken; and (2) whether the instance of bullying was based on actual or perceived characteristics identified in 105 ILCS 5/27-23.7(a) and, if so, lists the relevant characteristics. **Issue 114, March 2024**

PRESSPlus 2. Updated in response to 105 ILCS 5/27-23.7, amended by P.A. 103-47, requiring notification within 24 hours to the parents/guardians of students involved in bullying incidents. **Issue 114, March 2024**

PRESSPlus 3. Updated to incorporate the title change to 2:265, *Title IX Sexual Harassment Grievance Procedure*, in anticipation of Title IX rulemaking. **Issue 114, March 2024**

PRESSPlus 4. Updated in response to 105 ILCS 5/22-95 (final citation pending), added by P.A. 103-472, eff. 8-1-24, requiring a board to adopt a policy (or policies) that prohibits discrimination and harassment based on race, color, and national origin, as well as retaliation. **Issue 114, March 2024**

FOOD SERVICE AGREEMENT

This Food Service Agreement (the “Agreement”) is made as of this 15th day of May 2024, and effective on July 1, 2024, between Palos Heights School District 128 (the “District”), and Country House Restaurant of Alsip, Inc., an Illinois corporation (“Country House”).

RECITALS

WHEREAS, the District operates and manages a School Lunch Program providing lunch meals and beverages for its students at Independence Junior High School, Indian Hill School, Chippewa Elementary School, and Navajo Heights School (collectively “the Schools”);

WHEREAS, the District does not have the resources to provide the lunch meals and beverages for its School Lunch Program at the Schools;

WHEREAS, the District wishes to engage Country House for the purpose of providing it with lunch meals and beverages in order to facilitate its provision of lunch meals and beverages to its students in connection with its operation of its School Lunch Program at the Schools;

WHEREAS, Country House wishes to provide the District with lunch meals and beverages in order to assist the District with its provision of lunch meals and beverages to its students at the Schools;

NOW THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual covenants and conditions contained herein, the District and Country House agree as follows:

SECTION ONE SCOPE OF SERVICES

Country House shall provide the following services: (a) prepare and deliver the lunch meals and beverages agreed upon as set forth in SECTION TWO A. below, and (b) set up such lunch meals and beverages ready for serving.

**SECTION TWO
MENU SELECTION PRICING AND PAYMENT**

- A. As soon as practicable prior to the end of each month, the District and Country House shall agree upon the number of lunch meals and beverages to be provided by Country House at each of the Schools for the following month as well as the days of service, menu and price to be charged to the District for such lunch meals and beverages.

- B. No later than the fifth (5th) day of each month Country House shall present to the District a detailed invoice itemizing the lunch meals and beverages provided by Country House to the Schools for the previous month. Such invoice shall be due and payable in accordance with the Illinois *Local Government Prompt Payment Act* (50 ILCS 505/1, *et seq.*) after delivery of such invoice to the District.

- C. The prices charged by Country House for lunch meals and beverages shall be inclusive of food and beverage costs, meal and beverage preparation and delivery, and meal and beverage set up. For the 2024-2025 school year will be \$6.25 for paid lunches (including beverage) and \$4.50 for the free/reduced lunches.

- D. The services to be provided by Country House hereunder and the prices to be charged by Country House are on the condition that the District places no less than sixty (60) meal and beverage orders per month when students are in attendance during the regular school term.

**SECTION THREE
TERM OF AGREEMENT**

Subject to SECTION FOUR below, this Agreement shall be for a one (1) year period commencing on July 1, 2024 and expiring on June 30, 2025 (“Initial Term”). Either the District or Country House may terminate this Agreement effective at the expiration of its Initial Term by providing written notice of termination at least sixty (60) days prior to the expiration of the Initial Term. If such

notice is not provided by either party, this Agreement shall continue on the same terms and conditions set forth in this Agreement for one (1) additional period of one (1) year.

SECTION FOUR TERMINATION

This Agreement may be terminated prior to its expiration by either party upon the material breach of this Agreement by the other party. In the event of a claimed breach, the non-breaching party shall provide fifteen (15) days notice to the other party specifying the factual circumstances giving rise to the breach. If the breach is not cured to the satisfaction of the non-breaching party within the fifteen (15) day period, this Agreement will terminate automatically upon the expiration of the notice period.

SECTION FIVE TYPE OF FOOD AND BEVERAGES

Country House shall furnish and provide the highest quality food and beverage items.

SECTION SIX LEGAL COMPLIANCE AND INSURANCE

A. Country House shall comply with all municipal, county, state and federal health laws in the delivery of its services under this Agreement.

B. Country House maintains adequate insurance in connection with the services to be provided hereunder, including general comprehensive liability and workers' compensation insurance.

SECTION SEVEN INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR STATUS

Country House shall be an independent contractor. No partnership is intended to be entered into by this Agreement.

**SECTION EIGHT
FORCE MAJEURE**

Neither Party shall be liable for the nonperformance of, or for the failure or delay to perform, any obligation under this Agreement arising out of or resulting from circumstances beyond the control of the affected Party, including without limitation, natural disasters or acts of God; fire; flood; war; epidemics, pandemics, or outbreak of communicable disease; public health crises; quarantines; government acts, orders or restrictions; health or safety related school closure; or civil commotion or disorder (each, a “Force Majeure Event”).

So long as any Force Majeure Event continues, the Parties’ obligations under this Agreement shall be suspended and excused. Further, upon the occurrence of a Force Majeure Event, the Parties shall discuss what, if any, modifications of the terms of this Agreement or modifications of performance or of obligations may be necessary to address the Force Majeure Event and in order to arrive at an equitable solution. Failing this, either Party may then terminate this Agreement by providing ten (10) days prior written notice to the other Party and this Agreement shall terminate upon the expiration of the notice period.

**SECTION NINE
INDEMNIFICATION**

Each Party shall indemnify, defend, and hold harmless, the other, including their respective boards, board members, officers, employee, and agents from and against all claims, suits, judgments, liabilities, or costs (including reasonable attorneys fees) for injury, illness, or death to persons, and damage or destruction to property to the extent arising from the negligent acts or omissions or intentional misconduct of the indemnifying party or its employees or agents. The obligations of this Section Nine shall survive expiration or termination of this Agreement.

**SECTION TEN
ASSIGNMENT**

This Agreement may not be assigned by Country House without the prior written consent of the School.

**SECTION ELEVEN
COMPLETE AGREEMENT**

This Agreement contains all the covenants, understandings, agreements, and stipulations between the parties and the parties declare their intention to be legally bound by the Agreement. The Recitals set forth above are incorporated herein by reference.

**SECTION TWELVE
AUTHORITY TO EXECUTE**


The District's authorized representative who has executed this Agreement warrants that she is authorized by the District to execute this Agreement on its behalf. Country House's representative who has executed this Agreement warrants that he is authorized to execute this Agreement on its behalf.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the District and Country House have caused their respective names to be signed hereto by their authorized representatives.

**PALOS HEIGHTS
SCHOOL DISTRICT 128**

**COUNTRY HOUSE
RESTAURANT OF ALSIP, INC.**

By: Meryll B. Brownlow, Ed.D.
Its: Superintendent



By: David Boundas
Its: Executive Vice-President and
CFO

Statement of Revenues and Expenses

Palos Heights School District 128

April 2024



Statement of Revenue by Fund

Page 1 of 2

	Current Year Budget	Current Month	Current YTD	Budget Remaining	% of Budget Remaining	% of Budget Collected
Educational Fund						
Local Sources	8,710,000	45,000	8,247,000	463,000	5.3%	94.7%
State Sources	1,191,000	143,000	1,030,000	161,000	13.5%	86.5%
Federal Sources	1,087,000	151,000	919,000	168,000	15.5%	84.5%
Total Education Fund	10,988,000	339,000	10,196,000	792,000	7.2%	92.8%
Operations and Maintenance Fund						
Local Sources	864,000	-	827,000	37,000	4.3%	95.7%
State Sources	113,000	-	75,000	38,000	33.6%	66.4%
Total O&M Fund	977,000	-	902,000	75,000	7.7%	92.3%
Debt Service Fund						
Local Sources	1,245,000	-	1,235,000	10,000	0.8%	99.2%
Total Debt Service Fund	1,245,000	-	1,235,000	10,000	0.8%	99.2%
Transportation Fund						
Local Sources	329,000	1,000	304,000	25,000	7.6%	92.4%
State Sources	192,000	53,000	193,000	(1,000)	-0.5%	100.5%
Total Transportation Fund	521,000	54,000	497,000	24,000	4.6%	95.4%
IMRF/SS Fund						
Local Sources	379,000	-	360,000	19,000	5.0%	95.0%
Total IMRF/SS Fund	379,000	-	360,000	19,000	5.0%	95.0%
Capital Projects Fund						
Local Sources	50,000	-	7,000	43,000	86.0%	14.0%
Total Capital Projects Fund	50,000	-	7,000	43,000	86.0%	14.0%
Working Cash Fund						
Local Sources	5,000	-	3,000	2,000	40.0%	60.0%
Total Working Cash Fund	5,000	-	3,000	2,000	40.0%	60.0%
Fire Prevention & Safety Fund						
Local Sources	2,000	-	-	2,000	100.0%	0.0%
Total Fire Prev. & Safety Fund	2,000	-	-	2,000	100.0%	0.0%
GRAND TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	14,167,000	393,000	13,200,000	967,000	6.8%	93.2%

Statement of Expenditure by Fund

	Current Year Budget	Current Month	Current YTD	Budget Remaining	% of Budget Remaining	% of Budget Utilized
Educational Fund						
Salaries	7,083,000	539,000	5,109,000	1,974,000	27.9%	72.1%
Employee Benefits	1,434,000	104,000	1,014,000	420,000	29.3%	70.7%
Purchased Services	828,000	29,000	614,000	214,000	25.8%	74.2%
Supplies and Materials	571,000	36,000	321,000	250,000	43.8%	56.2%
Capital Outlay	36,000	-	25,000	11,000	30.6%	69.4%
Other Objects	599,000	72,000	540,000	59,000	9.8%	90.2%
Non-Capitalized Equipment	21,000	1,000	21,000	-	0.0%	100.0%
Total Education Fund	10,572,000	781,000	7,644,000	2,928,000	27.7%	72.3%
Operations and Maintenance Fund						
Salaries	357,000	27,000	285,000	72,000	20.2%	79.8%
Employee Benefits	84,000	7,000	68,000	16,000	19.0%	81.0%
Purchased Services	142,000	20,000	184,000	(42,000)	-29.6%	129.6%
Supplies and Materials	211,000	28,000	164,000	47,000	22.3%	77.7%
Capital Outlay	138,000	14,000	108,000	30,000	21.7%	78.3%
Non-Capitalized Equipment	5,000	-	1,000	4,000	80.0%	20.0%
Total O&M Fund	937,000	96,000	810,000	127,000	13.6%	86.4%
Debt Service Fund						
Other Objects	1,175,000	-	1,085,000	90,000	7.7%	92.3%
Total Debt Service Fund	1,175,000	-	1,085,000	90,000	7.7%	92.3%
Transportation Fund						
Salaries	24,000	2,000	19,000	5,000	20.8%	79.2%
Employee Benefits	1,000	-	2,000	(1,000)	-100.0%	200.0%
Purchased Services	586,000	95,000	358,000	228,000	38.9%	61.1%
Total Transportation Fund	611,000	97,000	379,000	232,000	38.0%	62.0%
IMRF/SS Fund						
Employee Benefits	396,000	29,000	288,000	108,000	27.3%	72.7%
Total IMRF/SS Fund	396,000	29,000	288,000	108,000	27.3%	72.7%
Capital Projects Fund						
Purchased Services	65,000	-	39,000	26,000	40.0%	60.0%
Capital Outlay	1,555,000	-	1,555,000	-	0.0%	100.0%
Total Capital Projects Fund	1,620,000	-	1,594,000	26,000	1.6%	98.4%
Life Safety Fund						
Capital Outlay	9,000	-	9,000	-	0.0%	100.0%
Total Life Safety Fund	9,000	-	9,000	-	0.0%	100.0%
GRAND TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	15,320,000	1,003,000	11,809,000	3,511,000	22.9%	77.1%

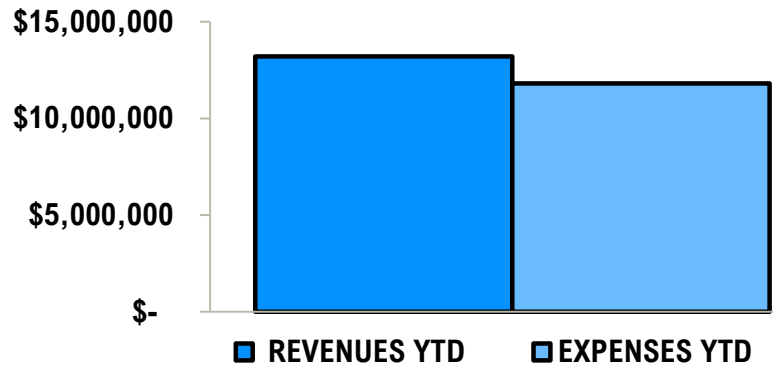
The Monthly Report

Palos Heights School District 128

April 2024

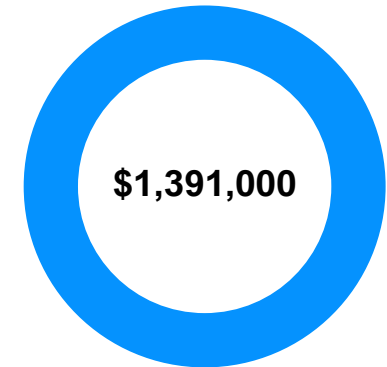


Executive Summary - April 2024 (Figures rounded to the nearest thousand)



BEGINNING BALANCE
\$9,047,000
TOTAL REVENUES - YTD
\$13,200,000
TOTAL EXPENSES - YTD
\$11,809,000
ENDING BALANCE
\$12,438,000

**YTD SURPLUS/DEFICIT
ALL FUNDS**



Fiscal Year Activity

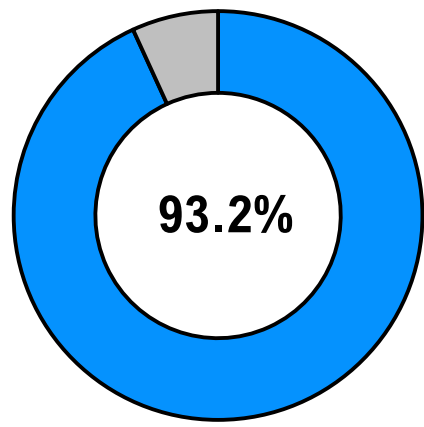
FUND	BEGINNING BALANCE	REVENUES YTD	EXPENSES YTD	TRANSFERS/ OTHER	ENDING BALANCES
Education	\$ 4,689,000	\$ 10,196,000	\$ 7,645,000	-	\$ 7,240,000
Operations and Maintenance	708,000	902,000	809,000	-	801,000
Bond and Interest	862,000	1,235,000	1,085,000	-	1,012,000
Transportation	377,000	497,000	379,000	-	495,000
IMRF/SS	189,000	360,000	288,000	-	261,000
Capital Projects	2,011,000	7,000	1,594,000	-	424,000
Working Cash	197,000	3,000	-	2,000,000	2,200,000
Tort Immunity	5,000	-	-	-	5,000
Health/Life Safety	9,000	-	9,000	-	-
Total All Funds	\$ 9,047,000	\$ 13,200,000	\$ 11,809,000	\$ 2,000,000	\$ 12,438,000
Total Operating Funds	\$ 5,971,000	\$ 11,598,000	\$ 8,833,000	\$ 2,000,000	\$ 10,736,000

**YTD SURPLUS/DEFICIT
OPERATING FUNDS**

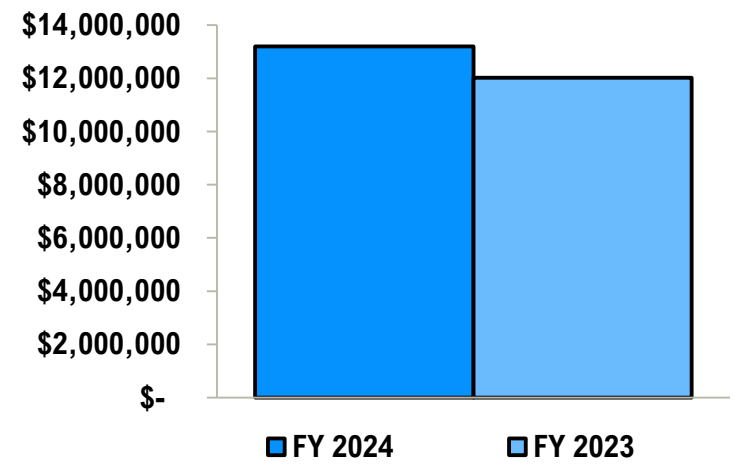


Per ISBE, the four operating funds of a school district are the Educational, Operations & Maintenance, Transportation and Working Cash Funds. These are the primary funds used by ISBE to assess a school district's financial strength.

% OF BUDGETED REVENUES RECEIVED YTD



TOTAL MONTHLY REVENUES
\$393,000
TOTAL REVENUES - YTD
\$13,200,000
TOTAL BUDGETED REVENUES
\$14,167,000



April 2024 Revenues (Current Year)

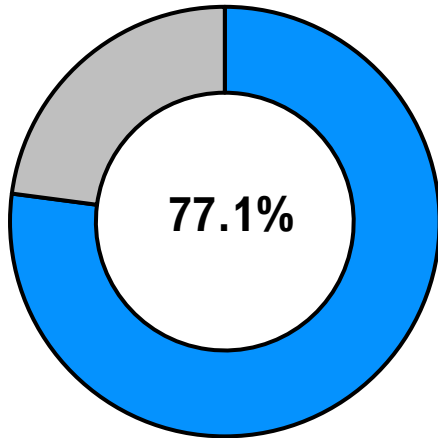
SOURCE	MONTH	YTD	BUDGET	YTD % OF BUDGET
Real Estate Taxes	\$ -	\$ 10,631,000	\$ 10,829,000	98.2%
Other Local Sources	46,000	351,000	756,000	46.4%
Evidenced Based Funding	56,000	506,000	617,000	82.0%
Other State Sources	140,000	793,000	878,000	90.3%
Federal Sources	151,000	919,000	1,087,000	84.5%
Total	\$ 393,000	\$ 13,200,000	\$ 14,167,000	93.2%

April 2023 Revenues (Prior Year)

SOURCE	MONTH	YTD
Real Estate Taxes	\$ 2,630,000	\$ 9,855,000
Other Local Sources	104,000	601,000
Evidenced Based Funding	56,000	505,000
Other State Sources	66,000	241,000
Federal Sources	83,000	817,000
Total	\$ 2,939,000	\$ 12,019,000

April 2024 YTD VS. April 2023 YTD
+\$1,181,000

% OF BUDGETED EXPENDITURES PAID YTD



TOTAL MONTHLY EXPENSES

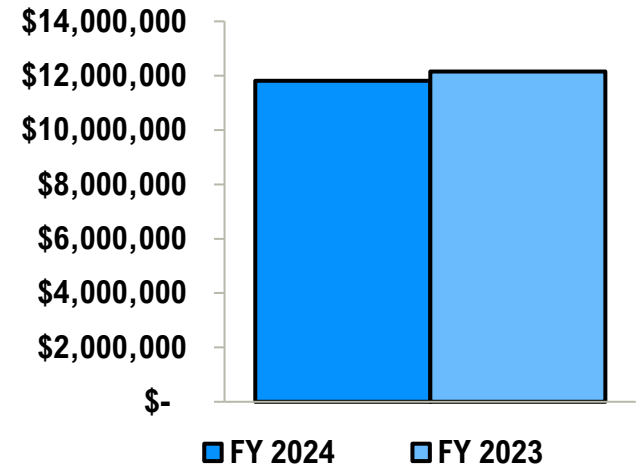
\$1,003,000

TOTAL EXPENSES - YTD

\$11,809,000

TOTAL BUDGETED EXPENSES

\$15,320,000



April 2024 Expenditures (Current Year)

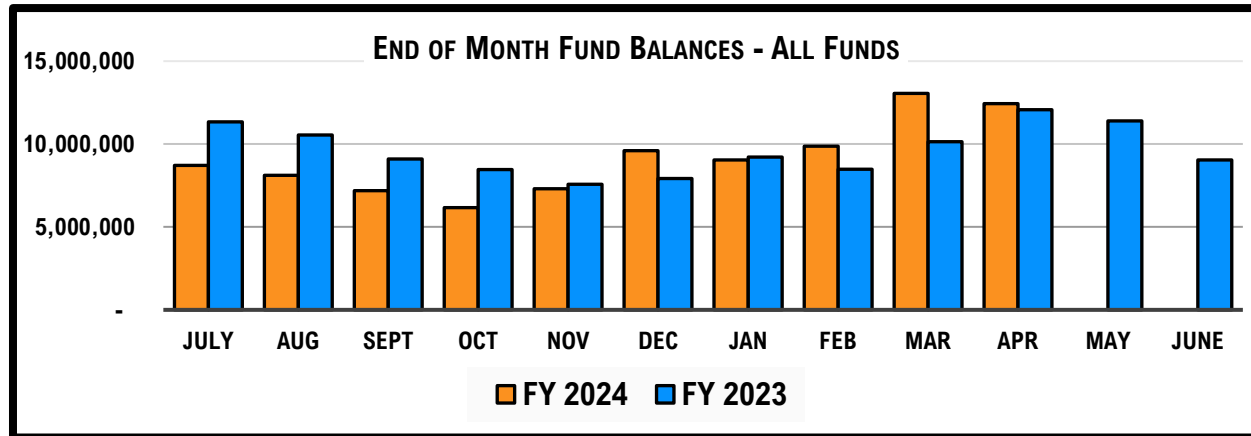
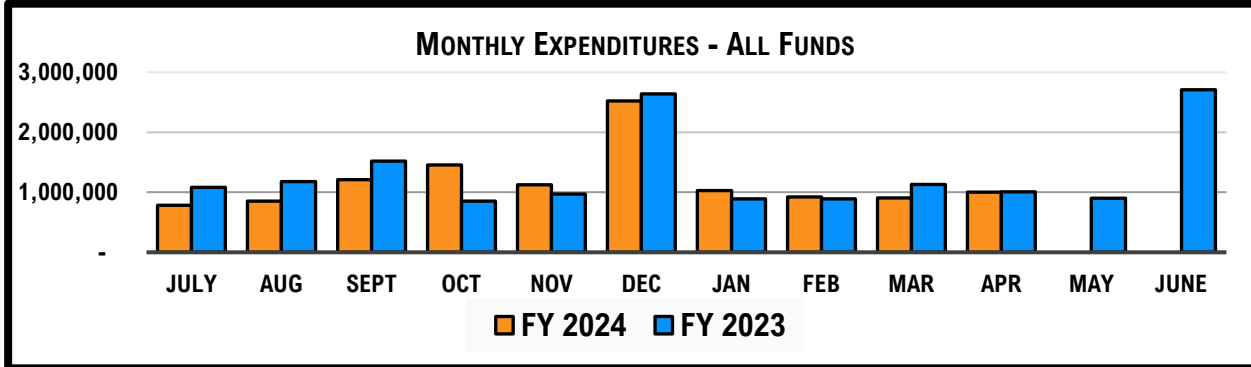
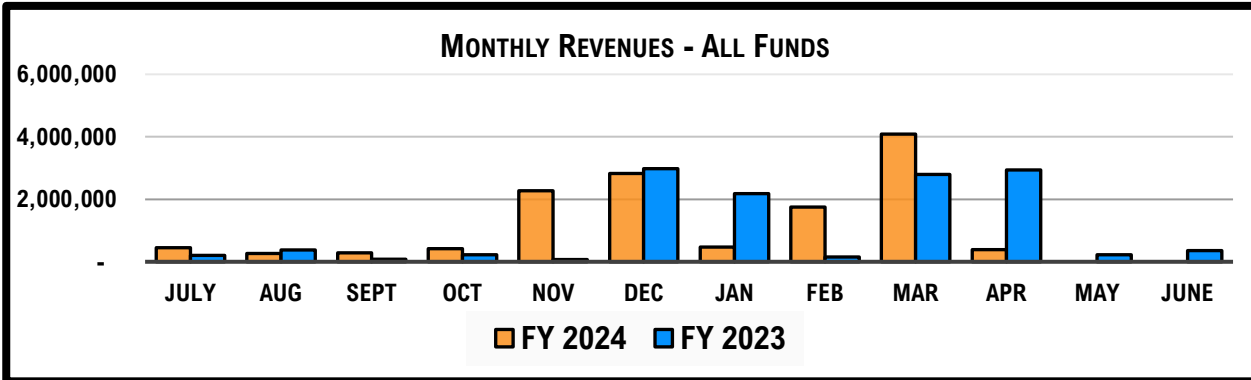
SOURCE	MONTH	YTD	BUDGET	YTD % OF BUDGET
Salaries	\$ 570,000	\$ 5,415,000	\$ 7,464,000	72.5%
Employee Benefits	141,000	1,371,000	1,915,000	71.6%
Purchased Services	144,000	1,195,000	1,621,000	73.7%
Supplies and Materials	63,000	485,000	782,000	62.0%
Capital Outlay	14,000	1,697,000	1,738,000	97.6%
Tuition and Other	70,000	540,000	599,000	90.2%
Non-Capitalized Equip	1,000	21,000	26,000	80.8%
Debt Payments	-	1,085,000	1,175,000	92.3%
Total	\$ 1,003,000	\$ 11,809,000	\$ 15,320,000	77.1%

April 2023 Expenditures (Prior Year)

SOURCE	MONTH	YTD
Salaries	\$ 529,000	\$ 5,336,000
Employee Benefits	135,000	1,391,000
Purchased Services	214,000	1,368,000
Supplies and Materials	65,000	432,000
Capital Outlay	12,000	2,039,000
Tuition and Other	54,000	392,000
Non-Capitalized Equip	-	136,000
Debt Payments	-	1,064,000
Total	\$ 1,009,000	\$ 12,158,000

April 2024 YTD VS. April 2023 YTD
-\$349,000

Cash Flow Report - April 2024



CURRENT FISCAL YEAR (2024)				
	BEGINNING BALANCE	REVENUE	EXPENSE	ENDING BALANCE
JULY	9,047,000	446,000	781,000	8,712,000
AUG	8,712,000	261,000	851,000	8,122,000
SEPT	8,122,000	282,000	1,211,000	7,193,000
OCT	7,193,000	424,000	1,455,000	6,162,000
NOV	6,162,000	2,269,000	1,127,000	7,304,000
DEC	7,304,000	2,825,000	2,523,000	9,606,000
JAN	9,606,000	471,000	1,030,000	9,047,000
FEB	9,047,000	1,746,000	924,000	9,869,000
MAR	9,869,000	4,083,000	904,000	13,048,000
APR	13,048,000	393,000	1,003,000	12,438,000
MAY				
JUNE				

PRIOR FISCAL YEAR (2023)				
	BEGINNING BALANCE	REVENUE	EXPENSE	ENDING BALANCE
JULY	12,216,000	206,000	1,082,000	11,340,000
AUG	11,340,000	376,000	1,176,000	10,540,000
SEPT	10,540,000	84,000	1,521,000	9,103,000
OCT	9,103,000	222,000	855,000	8,470,000
NOV	8,470,000	71,000	968,000	7,573,000
DEC	7,573,000	2,984,000	2,638,000	7,919,000
JAN	7,919,000	2,182,000	888,000	9,213,000
FEB	9,213,000	156,000	890,000	8,479,000
MAR	8,479,000	2,799,000	1,131,000	10,147,000
APR	10,147,000	2,939,000	1,009,000	12,077,000
MAY	12,077,000	221,000	900,000	11,398,000
JUNE	11,398,000	354,000	2,705,000	9,047,000