

**LA HARPE COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT 347**

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## **Community Relations**

### **Connection with the Community**

#### **Public Relations**

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

1. Develop community understanding of school operation.
2. Gather community attitudes and desires for the District.
3. Ensure adequate financial support for a sound educational program.
4. Help the community feel a more direct responsibility for the quality of education provided by their schools.
5. Earn the community's goodwill, respect, and trust.
6. Promote a genuine spirit of cooperation between the school and the community.
7. Keep the news media and community accurately informed.

The public relations program should include:

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

#### **Community Engagement**

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

The Board, in consultation with the Superintendent articulates the District's community engagement goals.

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

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

## Community Relations

### Community Use of School Facilities

School facilities are available to community organizations during non-school hours when such use does not: (1) interfere with any school function or affect the safety of students or employees, or (2) affect the property or liability of the School District. The use of school facilities for school purposes has precedence over all other uses. The District reserves the right to cancel previously scheduled use of facilities by community organizations and other groups. The use of school facilities requires the prior approval of the Superintendent or designee and is subject to applicable procedures.

Persons on school premises must abide by the District's conduct rules at all times.

Student groups, school-related organizations, government agencies, and non-profit organizations are granted the use of school facilities at no costs during regularly staffed hours. Fees and costs shall apply during non-regularly staffed hours and to other organizations granted use of facilities at any time. A fee schedule and other terms of use shall be prepared by the Superintendent and be subject to annual approval by the School Board.

- LEGAL REF.: 20 U.S.C. §7905, Boy Scouts of America Equal Access Act.  
 10 ILCS 5/11-4.1, Election Code.  
 105 ILCS 5/10-20.41, 5/10-22.10, and 5/29-3.5.  
Good News Club v. Milford Central School, 533 U.S. 98 (2001).  
Lamb's Chapel v. Center Moriches Union Free School District, 508 U.S. 384 (1993).  
Rosenberger v. Rector and Visitors of Univ. of Va., 515 U.S. 819 (1995).
- CROSS REF.: 7:330 (Student Use of Buildings - Equal Access), 8:25 (Advertising and Distributing Materials in Schools Provided by Non-School Related Entities), 8:30 (Visitors to and Conduct on School Property)

## Community Relations

### Exhibit - Application and Procedures for Use of School Facilities

*To be submitted to the Superintendent.*

**This application must be approved before a non-school related group is allowed to use school facilities.** School organizations, school-sponsored programs, and organizations whose primary purpose is to provide financial assistance to the school are all considered, for the purpose of this application, to be school-related. Use of school facilities for school purposes has precedence over all other uses.

<b>Organization name</b>	<b>Requested school facility</b>
<b>Supervisor from organization</b> <i>(must be 21 years of age or older)</i>	<b>Phone/email address</b>
<b>Program/activity</b>	<b>Date(s) and start/end time(s)</b>
<b>Equipment needed</b>	<b>Materials to be brought into facility</b>
<b>Room arrangement, including decorations</b>	<b>Food service required</b>

**1. All non-school related groups must supply adequate supervision to ensure proper care and use of school facilities.**

- The non-school related group is responsible to the Board for the use and care of the school facility. All adult supervisors must have cell phones with them at all times.
- Sufficient, competent adult supervision must be provided and the adult supervisor must ensure that no minor is left alone after the activity.
- Only the cafeteria, auditorium, gymnasium, and athletic field, along with needed hallways and parking areas, are available for community use. Entering any room or area not in use by the group is prohibited. The adult supervisor will vacate the facility at the scheduled end time. Use of the school facility is not permitted past the agreed end time.
- No furniture or equipment may be moved without prior approval from the Building Principal.
- Signs, displays, or materials may not be attached, nailed, or otherwise affixed to walls.

*Initial here if this is agreeable*

**2. All non-school related groups must agree to:**

- Indemnify and hold harmless the Board and its agents and employees for and from any and all loss including attorneys' fees, damages, expense, and liability arising out of its use of school property.
- Pay any damages to school facilities, furniture, or equipment arising out of its use of school property whether such damage was accidental or deliberate. The cost of damages will be based on the repair or replacement cost, the choice of which is at the Board's discretion.
- Supply proof of insurance naming *[insert name of the District]* as an additional insured and verifying that the group maintains adequate insurance coverage against personal injury and/or property loss: \_\_

Insurance provider name and contact number

*Initial here if this is agreeable*

**3. All non-school related groups must pay the following fees:**

Rental charge (unless waived by Board policy):

Meal and beverage service (cost as determined by the cafeteria supervisor):

*Initial here if this is agreeable*

**4. Payment Method:      Check   Money Order   Credit Card**

If payment is by check, please make check payable to:

[insert name of District]

If payment by credit card, please indicate the following: Visa   Master Card   Am Ex

Expiration date:   Credit Card No.:

CVV:

Today's date:

Authorized amount:

Authorized signature:

**5. All non-school related groups must agree to use appropriate emergency procedures including calling 9-1-1 for medical emergencies and whenever an Automatic External Defibrillator (AED) is used.**

*Initial here if this is agreeable*

**6. All non-school related groups must agree to follow the District's Plan for Responding to a Medical Emergency at a Physical Fitness Facility with an AED, 4:170-AP6.**

**Important:** The District will not supervise the activity nor will it supply trained AED users to act as emergency responders at any time, including during staffed business hours.

Activity being proposed is not in a physical fitness facility.

*Initial here if this is agreeable*

Copy of the District's Plan for Responding to a Medical Emergency at a Physical Fitness Facility with an AED has been provided. 77 Ill.Admin.Code §§527.400(a) and 527.800(c). **Important:** State law encourages all non-District coaches, instructors, judges, referees, or other similarly situated non-District anticipated rescuers who use the physical fitness facility in conjunction with the supervision of physical fitness activities to complete a course of instruction that would qualify them as a trained AED user under Ill. law. 410 ILCS 4/10; 77 Ill.Admin.Code §527.100.

*Initial here that a copy of the Plan was received and that the Applicant has read and understands the above note.*

**7. If the request involves a physical fitness facility, the non-school related group must:**

- Designate at least one adult supervisor who agrees to be an emergency responder. All emergency responders are encouraged to be trained in CPR and trained AED users.
- Give a copy of the District's plan for responding to medical emergencies to each designated emergency responder.
- Require that 9-1-1 be called for medical emergencies and whenever an AED is used.
- Ensure that each designated emergency responder knows the location of first aid equipment and any AED.
- Ensure that only trained AED users operate an AED, unless the circumstances do not allow time for a trained AED user to arrive.
- Arrange for at least one emergency responder to have a tour of the facility before the activity.
- Ensure that if an AED is used, the Superintendent is informed and all appropriate forms are completed.

*Initial here if this is agreeable*

**I certify that I am authorized to act for the above-named organization. I understand that: (1) the granting of this request does not constitute recognition of my organization as a school-related group or activity, and (2) my organization may not represent itself or any of its activities as school-related.**

**I agree to: (1) abide by the conditions stated in this application, and (2) adhere to all Board policies and administrative procedures applicable to this use of the school's facility.**

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Applicant name *(please print)*

---

Telephone number

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Address

---

Email address

---

Applicant signature

---

Date

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The Superintendent or designee will base his or her decision on the information being provided in this application as well as other criteria deemed important. *(Note to Superintendent or designee: After approving or denying this application, return a copy of it to the person making the request, keep the original in the central office, and send a copy to the appropriate Building Principal.)*

**Approved**

**Denied**

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Superintendent or designee

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Date

## **Community Relations**

### **Advertising and Distributing Materials in Schools Provided by Non-School Related Entities**

No material or literature shall be posted or distributed that would: (1) disrupt the educational process, (2) violate the rights or invade the privacy of others, (3) infringe on a trademark or copyright, or (4) be defamatory, obscene, vulgar, or indecent. No material, literature, or advertisement shall be posted or distributed without advance approval as described in this policy.

### **Community, Educational, Charitable, or Recreational Organizations**

Community, educational, charitable, recreational, or similar groups may, under procedures established by the Superintendent, advertise events pertinent to students' interests or involvement. All advertisements must (1) be student-oriented, (2) prominently display the sponsoring organization's name, and (3) be approved in advance by the Superintendent or designee. The District reserves the right to decide where and when any advertisement or flyer is distributed, displayed, or posted.

### **Commercial Companies and Political Candidates or Parties**

Commercial companies may purchase space for their advertisements in or on: (1) athletic field fences; (2) athletic, theater, or music programs; (3) student newspapers or yearbooks; (4) scoreboards; or (5) other appropriate locations. The advertisements must be consistent with this policy and its implementing procedures and be appropriate for display in a school context. Prior approval from the Board is needed for advertisements on athletic fields, scoreboards, or other building locations. Prior approval is needed from the Superintendent or designee for advertisements on athletic, theater, or music programs; student newspapers and yearbooks; and any commercial material related to graduation, class pictures, or class rings.

No individual or entity may advertise or promote its interests by using the names or pictures of the School District, any District school or facility, staff members, or students except as authorized by and consistent with administrative procedures and approved by the Board.

Material from candidates and political parties will not be accepted for posting or distribution, except when used as part of the curriculum.

LEGAL REF.: Lamb's Chapel v. Center Moriches Union Free Sch. Dist., 508 U.S. 384 (1993).  
Berger v. Rensselaer Central Sch. Corp., 982 F.2d 1160 (7th Cir. 1993), *cert. denied*, 113 S.Ct. 2344 (1993).  
Sherman v. Community Consolidated Sch. Dist. 21, 8 F.3d 1160 (7th Cir. 1993), *cert. denied*, 8 F.3d 1160 (1994).  
Hedges v. Wauconda Community Unit Sch. Dist. No. 118, 9 F.3d 1295 (7th Cir. 1993).  
Victory Through Jesus Sports Ministry v. Lee's Summit R-7 Sch. Dist., 640 F.3d 329 (8th Cir. 2011), *cert. denied*, 565 U.S. 1036 (2011).  
DiLoreto v. Downey Unified Sch. Dist., 196 F.3d 958 (9th Cir. 1999).

CROSS REF.: 7:325 (Student Fundraising Activities), 7:330 (Student Use of Buildings - Equal Access)



## Community Relations

### Administrative Procedure - Advertising and Distributing Materials in Schools Provided by Non-School Related Entities

#### Requests from Community, Educational, Charitable, Recreational, or Other Organizations

Actor	Action
Community, Educational, Charitable, Recreational, or Other Organizations	<p>Direct to the Building Principal all requests to advertise events pertinent to students' interests or involvement.</p> <p>Specifically describe the material or content proposed to be displayed, distributed, included in the school's website, and/or included on District-issued electronic learning devices.</p> <p>Request specific dates for the material to be displayed or distributed.</p>
Building Principal	Refers all materials to the Superintendent or designee for screening to ensure compliance with the District's policy and procedures.
Superintendent or designee	<p>Screens all material before distributing or posting it to ensure compliance with the District's policy and procedures, including that all material and content be student-oriented, have the sponsoring organization's name prominently displayed, and clearly state that the organization is not affiliated with the District.</p> <p>Rejects all requests to post or distribute material or content that would: (a) disrupt the educational process, (b) violate the rights or invade the privacy of others, (c) infringe on a trademark or copyright, or (d) be defamatory, obscene, vulgar, or indecent. Determines the appropriate location for the content, provided that any distribution by staff is done without discussion.</p> <p>Informs the organization whether its request is accepted or rejected.</p> <p>Removes all materials and/or content that are out-of-date from the building, website, and/or District-issued learning devices.</p>
Community, Educational, Charitable, Recreational, or Other Organizations	<p>Deliver the material or content to the school. The school will not make copies.</p> <p>Provide in electronic format any information that the Building Principal agreed to publish on the school's website or District-issued learning devices.</p>

#### Requests from Commercial Companies to Advertise and/or Distribute Material

Actor	Action
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Commercial Companies	<p>Direct to the Superintendent all requests to advertise on school grounds, in school publications, or on District-issued learning devices.</p> <p>Specifically identify the requested location for advertisements, i.e.: (a) athletic field fences, (b) athletic, theater, or music programs, (c) student newspapers or yearbooks, (d) scoreboards, and/or (e) other appropriate locations.</p> <p>Prominently display the company's name on all advertising.</p> <p>Provide a copy of the proposed advertisement to the Superintendent.</p>										
Superintendent	<p>Screens all proposed ads to ensure that they follow Board policy 8:25, <i>Advertising and Distributing Materials in Schools Provided by Non-School Related Entities</i>, and will not: (a) disrupt the educational process, (b) violate the rights or invade the privacy of others, (c) infringe on a trademark or copyright, or (d) be defamatory, obscene, vulgar, or indecent.</p> <p>May approve a commercial request related to graduation, class pictures, or class rings.</p> <p>For all other commercial requests, makes a dispositional recommendation during an open School Board meeting.</p> <p>After the Board's decision, takes all appropriate steps.</p>										
School Board	<p>From time-to-time, by Board resolution, determines minimum fees for advertising space. All fees are subject to negotiation and Board approval. Current minimum fees are:</p> <table> <tr> <td>Athletic field fences</td><td>\$</td></tr> <tr> <td>Athletic, theater, or music programs</td><td>\$</td></tr> <tr> <td><u>Student newspapers or yearbooks</u></td><td>\$</td></tr> <tr> <td>Scoreboards</td><td>\$</td></tr> <tr> <td><u>Other appropriate locations</u></td><td>\$</td></tr> </table>	Athletic field fences	\$	Athletic, theater, or music programs	\$	<u>Student newspapers or yearbooks</u>	\$	Scoreboards	\$	<u>Other appropriate locations</u>	\$
Athletic field fences	\$										
Athletic, theater, or music programs	\$										
<u>Student newspapers or yearbooks</u>	\$										
Scoreboards	\$										
<u>Other appropriate locations</u>	\$										

## **Community Relations**

### **Visitors to and Conduct on School Property**

The following definitions apply to this policy:

**School property** - District and school buildings, grounds, and parking areas; vehicles used for school purposes; and any location used for a School Board meeting, school athletic event, or other school-sponsored or school-sanctioned events or activities.

**Visitor** - Any person other than an enrolled student or District employee.

All visitors to school property are required to report to the Building Principal's office and receive permission to remain on school property. All visitors must sign a visitors' log, show identification, and wear a visitor's badge. When leaving the school, visitors must return their badge. On those occasions when large groups of parents/guardians, friends, and/or community members are invited onto school property or when community members are attending Board meetings, visitors are not required to sign in but must follow school officials' instructions. Persons on school property without permission will be directed to leave and may be subject to criminal prosecution.

Except as provided in the next paragraph, any person wishing to confer with a staff member should contact that staff member to make an appointment. Conferences with teachers are held, to the extent possible, outside school hours or during the teacher's conference/preparation period.

Requests to access a school building, facility, and/or educational program, or to interview personnel or a student for purposes of assessing the student's special education needs, should be made at the appropriate building. Access shall be facilitated according to guidelines from the Superintendent or designee.

The School District expects mutual respect, civility, and orderly conduct among all people on school property or at a school event. No person on school property or at a school event (including visitors, students, and employees) shall perform any of the following acts:

1. Strike, injure, threaten, harass, or intimidate a staff member, Board member, sports official or coach, or any other person.
2. Behave in an unsportsmanlike manner, or use vulgar or obscene language.
3. Unless specifically permitted by State law, possess a weapon, any object that can reasonably be considered a weapon or looks like a weapon, or any dangerous device.
4. Damage or threaten to damage another's property.
5. Damage or deface school property.
6. Violate any Illinois law, or town or county ordinance.
7. Smoke or otherwise use tobacco products.
8. Distribute, consume, use, possess, or be impaired by or under the influence of an alcoholic beverage, cannabis, other lawful product, or illegal drug.
9. Be present when the person's alcoholic beverage, cannabis, other lawful product, or illegal drug consumption is detectable, regardless of when and/or where the use occurred.
10. Use or possess medical cannabis, unless he or she has complied with policy 7:270, *Administering Medicines to Students*, implementing *Ashley's Law*.
11. Impede, delay, disrupt, or otherwise interfere with any school activity or function (including using cellular phones in a disruptive manner).

12. Enter upon any portion of school premises at any time for purposes other than those that are lawful and authorized by the Board.
13. Operate a motor vehicle: (a) in a risky manner, (b) in excess of 20 miles per hour, or (c) in violation of an authorized District employee's directive.
14. Engage in any risky behavior, including roller-blading, roller-skating, or skateboarding.
15. Violate other District policies or regulations, or a directive from an authorized security officer or District employee.
16. Engage in any conduct that interferes with, disrupts, or adversely affects the District or a School function.

#### Convicted Child Sex Offender

State law prohibits a child sex offender from being present on school property or loitering within 500 feet of school property when persons under the age of 18 are present, unless the offender is:

1. A parent/guardian of a student attending the school and has notified the Building Principal of his or her presence at the school for the purpose of: (i) attending a conference at the school with school personnel to discuss the progress of his or her child academically or socially, (ii) participating in child review conferences in which evaluation and placement decisions may be made with respect to his or her child regarding special education services, or (iii) attending conferences to discuss other student issues concerning his or her child such as retention and promotion; or
2. Has permission to be present from the Board, Superintendent, or Superintendent's designee. If permission is granted, the Superintendent or Board President shall provide the details of the offender's upcoming visit to the Building Principal.

In all cases, the Superintendent, or designee who is a licensed employee, shall supervise a child sex offender whenever the offender is in a child's vicinity.

#### Exclusive Bargaining Representative Agent

Upon notifying the Building Principal's office, authorized agents of an exclusive bargaining representative will be provided reasonable access to employees in the bargaining unit they represent in accordance with State law. Such access shall be conducted in a manner that will not impede the normal operations of the District.

#### Enforcement

Any staff member may request identification from any person on school property; refusal to provide such information is a criminal act. The Building Principal or designee shall seek the immediate removal of any person who refuses to provide requested identification.

Any person who engages in conduct prohibited by this policy may be ejected from or denied admission to school property in accordance with State law. The person also may be subject to being denied admission to school athletic or extracurricular events for up to one calendar year in accordance with the procedures below.

#### Procedures to Deny Future Admission to Athletic or Extracurricular School Events

Before any person may be denied admission to athletic or extracurricular school events, the person has a right to a hearing before the Board. The Superintendent may refuse the person admission pending such hearing. The Superintendent or designee must provide the person with a hearing notice, delivered or sent by certified mail with return receipt requested, at least ten days before the Board hearing date. The hearing notice must contain:

1. The date, time, and place of the Board hearing;
2. A description of the prohibited conduct;
3. The proposed time period that admission to school events will be denied; and
4. Instructions on how to waive a hearing.

LEGAL REF.: 20 U.S.C. §7971 et seq., Pro-Children Act of 2001.  
Nuding v. Cerro Gordo Community Unit School Dist., 313 Ill. App.3d 344 (4th Dist. 2000).  
105 ILCS 5/10-20.5, 10-20.5b, 5/10-22.10, 5/22-33, 5/22-110, and 5/24-25.  
115 ILCS 5/3(c), Ill. Educational Labor Relations Act.  
410 ILCS 130/, Compassionate Use of Medical Cannabis Program Act.  
410 ILCS 705/, Cannabis Tax and Regulation Act.  
430 ILCS 66/, Firearm Concealed Carry Act.  
720 ILCS 5/11-9.3, 5/21-1, 5/21-1.2, 5/21-3, 5/21-5, 5/21-5.5, 5/21-9, and 5/21-11.

CROSS REF.: 2:200 (Types of School Board Meetings), 2:230 (Public Participation at School Board Meetings and Petitions to the Board), 4:170 (Safety), 5:50 (Drug- and Alcohol-Free Workplace; E-Cigarette, Tobacco, and Cannabis Prohibition), 6:120 (Education of Children with Disabilities), 6:250 (Community Resource Persons and Volunteers), 7:190 (Student Behavior), 7:270 (Administering Medicines to Students), 8:20 (Community Use of School Facilities)

## **Community Relations**

### **Administrative Procedure - Definition of Child Sex Offender**

*This procedure is intended as a reference, but it may not reflect recent legislative updates. This procedure is intended as a reference, but it may not reflect recent legislative updates. Before relying on it, check the Ill. General Assembly website, [www.ilga.gov](http://www.ilga.gov), for the current statute. Note: there is a lag between when a bill becomes law and when the law is updated at [www.ilga.gov](http://www.ilga.gov).*

#### **Child Sex Offender**

720 ILCS 5/11-9.3(d), amended by P.A. 104-245

(1) *Child sex offender* means any person who:

- (i) Has been charged under Illinois law, or any substantially similar federal law or law of another state, with a sex offense set forth in paragraph (2) of this subsection (d) or the attempt to commit an included sex offense, and
  - (A) Is convicted of such offense or an attempt to commit such offense; or
  - (B) Is found not guilty by reason of insanity of such offense or an attempt to commit such offense; or
  - (C) Is found not guilty by reason of insanity pursuant to subsection (c) of Section 104-25 of the Code of Criminal Procedure of 1963 of such offense or an attempt to commit such offense; or
  - (D) Is the subject of a finding not resulting in an acquittal at a hearing conducted pursuant to subsection (a) of Section 104-25 of the Code of Criminal Procedure of 1963 for the alleged commission or attempted commission of such offense; or
  - (E) Is found not guilty by reason of insanity following a hearing conducted pursuant to a federal law or the law of another state substantially similar to subsection (c) of Section 104-25 of the Code of Criminal Procedure of 1963 of such offense or of the attempted commission of such offense; or
  - (F) Is the subject of a finding not resulting in an acquittal at a hearing conducted pursuant to a federal law or the law of another state substantially similar to subsection (a) of Section 104-25 of the Code of Criminal Procedure of 1963 for the alleged violation or attempted commission of such offense; or
- (ii) Is certified as a sexually dangerous person pursuant to the Illinois Sexually Dangerous Persons Act, or any substantially similar federal law or the law of another state, when any conduct giving rise to such certification is committed or attempted against a person less than 18 years of age; or
- (iii) Is subject to the provisions of Section 2 of the Interstate Agreements on Sexually Dangerous Persons Act.

Convictions that result from or are connected with the same act, or result from offenses committed at the same time, shall be counted for the purpose of this Section as one conviction. Any conviction set aside pursuant to law is not a conviction for purposes of this Section.

(2) Except as otherwise provided in paragraph (2.5), *sex offense* means:

- (i) A violation of any of the following Sections of the Criminal Code of 1961 or the Criminal Code of 2012:
  - 10-4 (forcible detention),

- 10-7 (aiding or abetting child abduction under Section 10-5(b)(10)),
  - 10-5(b)(10) (child luring),
  - 11-1.40 (predatory criminal sexual assault of a child),
  - 11-6 (indecent solicitation of a child), 11-6.5 (indecent solicitation of an adult),
  - 11-9.1 (sexual exploitation of a child),
  - 11-9.2 (custodial sexual misconduct),
  - 11-9.5 (sexual misconduct with a person with a disability),
  - 11-14.3(a)(1) (promoting prostitution by advancing prostitution),
  - 11-14.3(a)(2)(A) (promoting prostitution by profiting from prostitution by compelling a person to be a person engaged in the sex trade),
  - 11-14.3(a)(2)(c) (promoting prostitution by profiting from prostitution by means other than as described in subparagraphs (A) and (B) of paragraph (2) of subsection (a) of Section 11-14.3),
  - 11-14.4 (promoting commercial sexual exploitation of a child),
  - 11-18.1 (patronizing a sexually exploited child),
  - 11-20.1 (child sexual abuse material or child pornography),
  - 11-20.1B (aggravated child pornography),
  - 11-21 (harmful material),
  - 11-25 (grooming),
  - 11-26 (traveling to meet a minor or traveling to meet a child),
  - 12-33 (ritualized abuse of a child),
  - 11-20 (obscenity) (when that offense was committed in any school, on real property comprising any school, in any conveyance owned, leased, or contracted by a school to transport students to or from school or a school related activity, or in a public park),
  - 11-30 (public indecency) (when committed in a school, on real property comprising a school, in any conveyance owned, leased, or contracted by a school to transport students to or from school or a school related activity, or in a public park). An attempt to commit any of these offenses.
- (ii) A violation of any of the following Sections of the Criminal Code of 1961 or the Criminal Code of 2012, when the victim is a person under 18 years of age:
- 11-1.20 (criminal sexual assault),
  - 11-1.30 (aggravated criminal sexual assault),
  - 11-1.50 (criminal sexual abuse),
  - 11-1.60 (aggravated criminal sexual abuse).
- An attempt to commit any of these offenses.
- (iii) A violation of any of the following Sections of the Criminal Code of 1961 or the Criminal Code of 2012, when the victim is a person under 18 years of age and the defendant is not a parent of the victim:
- 10-1 (kidnapping),
  - 10-2 (aggravated kidnapping),
  - 10-3 (unlawful restraint),
  - 10-3.1 (aggravated unlawful restraint),
  - 11-9.1(A) (permitting sexual abuse of a child).

An attempt to commit any of these offenses.

- (iv) A violation of any former law of this State substantially equivalent to any offense listed in clause (2)(i) or (2)(ii) of subsection (d) of this Section.

(2.5) For the purposes of subsections (b-5) and (b-10) only, a sex offense means:

- (i) A violation of any of the following Sections of the Criminal Code of 1961 or the Criminal Code of 2012:

10-5(b)(10) (child luring),

10-7 (aiding or abetting child abduction under Section 10-5(b)(10)),

11-1.40 (predatory criminal sexual assault of a child),

11-6 (indecent solicitation of a child),

11-6.5 (indecent solicitation of an adult),

11-9.2 (custodial sexual misconduct),

11-9.5 (sexual misconduct with a person with a disability),

11-11 (sexual relations within families),

11-14.3(a)(1) (promoting prostitution by advancing prostitution),

11-14.3(a)(2)(A) (promoting prostitution by profiting from prostitution by compelling a person to be a person engaged in the sex trade),

11-14.3(a)(2)(C) (promoting prostitution by profiting from prostitution by means other than as described in subparagraphs (A) and (B) of paragraph (2) of subsection (a) of Section 11-14.3),

11-14.4 (promoting commercial sexual exploitation of a child),

11-18.1 (patronizing a sexually exploited child),

11-20.1 (child sexual abuse material or child pornography),

11-20.1B (aggravated child pornography),

11-25 (grooming),

11-26 (traveling to meet a minor or traveling to meet a child), or

12-33 (ritualized abuse of a child).

An attempt to commit any of these offenses.

- (ii) A violation of any of the following Sections of the Criminal Code of 1961 or the Criminal Code of 2012, when the victim is a person under 18 years of age:

11-1.20 (criminal sexual assault),

11-1.30 (aggravated criminal sexual assault),

11-1.60 (aggravated criminal sexual abuse), and

subsection (a) of Section 11-1.50 (criminal sexual abuse).

An attempt to commit any of these offenses.

- (iii) A violation of any of the following Sections of the Criminal Code of 1961 or the Criminal Code of 2012, when the victim is a person under 18 years of age and the defendant is not a parent of the victim:

10-1 (kidnapping),

10-2 (aggravated kidnapping),

10-3 (unlawful restraint),

10-3.1 (aggravated unlawful restraint),



11-9.1(A) (permitting sexual abuse of a child).

An attempt to commit any of these offenses.

- (iv) A violation of any former law of this State substantially equivalent to any offense listed in this paragraph (2.5) of this subsection.
- (3) A conviction for an offense of federal law or the law of another state that is substantially equivalent to any offense listed in paragraph (2) of subsection (d) of this Section shall constitute a conviction for the purpose of this Section. A finding or adjudication as a sexually dangerous person under any federal law or law of another state that is substantially equivalent to the Sexually Dangerous Persons Act shall constitute an adjudication for the purposes of this Section.

## **Community Relations**

### **Exhibit - Letter to Parent Regarding Visits to School by Child Sex Offenders**

Date:

Dear Parent/Guardian:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student's Name (*Please print*)

\_\_\_\_\_  
School

State law places restrictions on child sex offenders' access to school property. See 720 ILCS 5/11-9.3. It prohibits a child sex offender from knowingly being present on school property or loitering within 500 feet of school property when persons under the age of 18 are present, unless the offender: (1) is a parent/guardian of a student and the parent/guardian is: (a) attending a conference at the school with school personnel to discuss the progress of his or her child academically or socially, (b) participating in child review conferences in which evaluation and placement decisions may be made with respect to his or her child regarding special education services, or (c) attending conferences to discuss other student issues concerning his or her child (such as retention and promotion) and notifies the Building Principal of his or her presence at the school or has permission to be present from the Superintendent or the School Board. If permission is granted, the Superintendent or Board President must inform the Building Principal where the offender will be, the nature of the offender's visit, and the hours in which the offender will be present in the school. A child sex offender must notify the Building Principal's office upon arrival on school property, remain under the direct supervision of a school official at all times, and notify the Building Principal's office upon departure from school property. A child sex offender who violates these provisions of the law is guilty of a Class 4 felony.

#### **Instructions for Child Sex Offenders**

To lawfully visit school property, a child sex offender must complete 8:30-E2, *Child Sex Offender's Request for Permission to Visit School Property*, for each visit to school property.

Sincerely,

School Administrator

## Community Relations

### Exhibit - Child Sex Offender's Request for Permission to Visit School Property

State law places restrictions on child sex offenders' access to school property. See 720 ILCS 5/11-9.3. If you are a child sex offender, you must complete this form to lawfully visit school property whenever students are present. After a decision is made whether to grant or deny your request for permission to visit, a copy will be returned to you. This information will be kept in the District's main office as well as in the Building Principal's office where you are seeking permission to visit.

---

Name (*Please print*)

---

Address

---

Signature

---

Date

---

School (Visit Location)

---

Date and Time of Visit

Complete the following if you are a parent/guardian of a student attending the above-listed school.

I request permission to visit the school for the following reason(s):

- ☐ To attend a conference with school personnel to discuss the academic or social progress of my child.
- ☐ To participate in my child's review conference in which evaluation and placement decisions may be made with respect to my child regarding special education services.
- ☐ To attend a conference to discuss other student issues concerning my child such as retention and promotion.
- ☐ Other (*Please be specific*): \_\_\_\_\_

Complete the following if you are **not** a parent/guardian of a student who attends the school you are requesting to visit.

- ☐ I request permission to visit the school for the following reason(s) (*Please be specific*): \_\_\_\_\_

---

*The following is to be completed by District personnel only:*

☐ **Permission Granted**

☐ **Permission Denied**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature (*Superintendent, Designee, or Board President*)

**Visit Supervision** (*To be completed by the staff member supervising the child sex offender*)

Supervisor's Name (*Please print*)

Visitor's Time In

\_\_\_\_\_  
Visitor's Time Out

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Supervisor's Signature

## **Community Relations**

### **Accommodating Individuals with Disabilities**

Individuals with disabilities shall be provided an opportunity to participate in all school-sponsored services, programs, or activities and will not be subject to illegal discrimination. When appropriate, the District may provide to persons with disabilities aids, benefits, or services that are separate or different from, but as effective as, those provided to others.

The District will provide auxiliary aids and services when necessary to afford individuals with disabilities equal opportunity to participate in or enjoy the benefits of a service, program, or activity.

Each service, program, website, or activity operated in existing facilities shall be readily accessible to, and useable by, individuals with disabilities. New construction and alterations to facilities existing before January 26, 1992, will be accessible when viewed in their entirety.

The Superintendent or designee is designated the Title II Coordinator and shall:

1. Oversee the District's compliance efforts, recommend necessary modifications to the School Board, and maintain the District's final Title II self-evaluation document, update it to the extent necessary, and keep it available for public inspection for at least three years after its completion date.
2. Institute plans to make information regarding Title II's protection available to any interested party.

Individuals with disabilities should notify the Superintendent or Building Principal if they have a disability that will require special assistance or services and, if so, what services are required. This notification should occur as far in advance as possible of the school-sponsored function, program, or meeting.

Individuals with disabilities may allege a violation of this policy or federal law by reporting it to the Superintendent or designated Title II Coordinator, or by filing a grievance under the Uniform Grievance Procedure.

LEGAL REF.: Americans with Disabilities Act, 42 U.S.C. §§12101 et seq. and 12131 et seq.; 28 C.F.R. Part 35.  
Rehabilitation Act of 1973 §104, 29 U.S.C. §794 (2006).  
105 ILCS 5/10-20.51.  
410 ILCS 25/, Environmental Barriers Act.  
71 Ill.Admin.Code Part 400, Illinois Accessibility Code.

CROSS REF.: 2:260 (Uniform Grievance Procedure), 4:150 (Facility Management and Building Programs)

## **Community Relations**

### **Gifts to the District**

The School Board appreciates gifts from any education foundation, other entities, or individuals. All gifts must adhere to each of the following:

1. Be accepted by the Board or, if less than \$500.00 in value, the Superintendent or designee. Individuals should obtain a pre-acceptance commitment before identifying the District, any school, or school program or activity as a beneficiary in any fundraising attempt, including without limitation, any Internet fundraising attempt.
2. Be given without a stated purpose or with a purpose deemed by the party with authority to accept the gift to be compatible with the Board's educational objectives and policies.
3. Be consistent with the District's mandate to provide equal educational and extracurricular opportunities to all students in the District as provided in Board policy 7:10, *Equal Educational Opportunities*. State and federal laws require the District to provide equal treatment for members of both sexes to educational programming, extracurricular activities, and athletics. This includes the distribution of athletic benefits and opportunities.
4. Permit the District to maintain resource equity among its learning centers.
5. Be viewpoint neutral when the gift involves the incorporation of any messages. The Superintendent or designee shall manage a process for the review and approval of donations involving the incorporation of messages into or placing messages upon school property.
6. Comply with all laws applicable to the District including, without limitation, the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Prevailing Wage Act, the Health/Life Safety Code for Public Schools, and all applicable procurement and bidding requirements.

The District will provide equal treatment to all individuals and entities seeking to donate money or a gift. Upon acceptance, all gifts become the District's property. The acceptance of a gift is not an endorsement by the Board, District, or school of any product, service, activity, or program. The method of recognition is determined by the party accepting the gift.

LEGAL REF.: 20 U.S.C. §1681 et seq., Title IX of the Education Amendments; 34 C.F.R. Part 106.  
105 ILCS 5/16-1.  
23 Ill.Admin.Code §200.40.

CROSS REF.: 4:60 (Purchases and Contracts), 4:150 (Facility Management and Building Programs), 6:10 (Educational Philosophy and Objectives), 6:210 (Instructional Materials), 7:10 (Equal Educational Opportunities)

## **Community Relations**

### **Parent Organizations and Booster Clubs**

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

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

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

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

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

## **Community Relations**

### **Parental Involvement**

In order to assure collaborative relationships between students' families and the District, and to enable parents/guardians to become active partners in their children's education, the Superintendent shall:

1. Keep parents/guardians thoroughly informed about their child's school and education.
2. Encourage parents/guardians to be involved in their child's school and education.
3. Establish effective two-way communication between parents/guardians and the District.
4. Seek input from parents/guardians on significant school-related issues.
5. Inform parents/guardians on how they can assist their children's learning.

The Superintendent shall periodically report to the School Board on the implementation of this policy.

CROSS REF.: 6:170 (Title I Programs), 6:250 (Community Resource Persons and Volunteers), 8:10 (Connection with the Community), 8:90 (Parent Organizations and Booster Clubs)

ADMIN. PROC.: 6:170-AP1, E1 (District-Level Parent and Family Engagement Compact), 6:170-AP1, E2 (School-Level Parent and Family Engagement Compact)



## **Community Relations**

### **Administrative Procedure - Parental Involvement**

Building Principals shall advocate effective, comprehensive family involvement in education that will promote parents/guardians becoming active partners in education. Building Principals shall, at least once every semester, provide a written report to the Superintendent on parental involvement programs and efforts in their buildings. This administrative procedure identifies opportunities for parental involvement.

**The District or school provides notices to parents/guardians on the following topics (list may not be exhaustive):**

Public hearing on holding school or scheduling teachers' institutes, parent-teacher conferences, or staff development on certain holidays. 105 ILCS 5/24-2(b)(2).

Free and reduced-price food service. 7 C.F.R. §245.5; 23 Ill.Admin.Code §305.10(c).

Fee and fine waiver. 23 Ill.Admin.Code §1.245.

Applications of pest control and/or lawn care products. 225 ILCS 235/10.3, 415 ILCS 65/3.

Parental school visitation rights. 820 ILCS 147/25.

Child's placement in English learner programs. 105 ILCS 5/14C-4.

Major school-sponsored events, including parent-teacher conferences, given to non-custodial parents. 105 ILCS 5/10-21.8.

Unexplained absence from school of a student in K-8 (within two hours). 105 ILCS 5/26-3b.

Graduation requirements, particularly when a student's eligibility for graduation may be in question. 23 Ill.Admin.Code §1.440(e).

A student's suspension and/or expulsion. 105 ILCS 5/10-22.6.

Electronic audio and/or visual recording devices if located on school buses. 720 ILCS 5/14-3(m).

Physician who prescribes District's supply of epinephrine injectors is protected from liability, with limited exceptions. 105 ILCS 5/22-30(c).

Availability of the District report card. 105 ILCS 5/10-17a(5).

District's intent to withdraw from a special education joint agreement, if applicable. 105 ILCS 5/10-22.31, amended by P.A. 104-218, eff. 7-1-26.

See also:

6:170-AP2, *Notice to Parents Required by Elementary and Secondary Education, McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance, and Protection of Pupil Rights Laws*

7:190-E2, *Student Handbook Checklist*

7:340-AP1, E1, *Notice to Parents/Guardians and Students of Their Rights Concerning a Student's School Records*

**State laws have created parental involvement opportunities on the following topics:**

**Students Records**

Parents/guardians have many rights concerning their student's school records, including the right to access the records (105 ILCS 10/5); the right to challenge the content (105 ILCS 10/7); and a non-custodial parent has the right to receive copies of school correspondence and reports (105 ILCS 5/10-21.8).

**Parent-Teacher Advisory Committees**

The School Board establishes a parent-teacher advisory committee(s) on student discipline and behavior interventions for special education students. 105 ILCS 5/10-20.14 and 5/14-8.05(c).

#### Curriculum Involvement

The District must involve the parents/guardians of a child with disabilities in their child's education and placement. 20 U.S.C. § 1414 and 1415; 34 C.F.R. § 300.322, 501, 503, 504, 507 and 508; 105 ILCS 5/14-1 et seq., 23 Ill.Admin.Code §§ 226.500, 510, 520, 530 and 610.

If parent(s)/guardian(s) opts their child(ren) out in writing, the student is not required to take National Sex Education Standards (NSES) classes or courses. 105 ILCS 5/27-1015, renumbered by P.A. 104-391, and 110/3, and see also 6:60-AP1, E1, *Requests to Examine Materials and Statutory Opt-outs*.

A parent/guardian has the right to examine instructional materials to be used in National Sex Education Standards (NSES) classes or courses. 105 ILCS 5/27-1015, renumbered by P.A. 104-391, and 110/3. See also 2:250-E2, *Immediately Available District Public Records and Web-Posted Reports and Records*, and 6:60-AP1, E1, *Requests to Examine Materials and Statutory Opt-outs*.

The Board determines the instructional program with involvement of parents/guardians. 23 Ill.Admin.Code § 1.410.

The District may consult with parent/guardian on an individual remediation plan for students demonstrating a proficiency level comparable to the average pupil performance one grade or more below current placement. 105 ILCS 5/2-3.64(b), repealed by P.A. 98-972; however, there is no penalty for continuing this practice when it is in the best interests of a student.

The District must notify parents/guardians of graduation requirements and when a student's eligibility for graduation may be in question. 23 Ill.Admin.Code § 1.440(e).

The Board may use parent/guardian volunteers as: (1) assistants under the immediate supervision of a licensed teacher (105 ILCS 5/10-22.34); (2) supervisors, chaperones, or sponsors for non-academic activities (105 ILCS 5/10-22.34a); and (3) guest lecturers or resource persons under the immediate supervision of a certificated teacher (105 ILCS 5/10-22.34b).

Upon a parent/guardian's request, a student must be released for religious instruction or observance. 105 ILCS 5/26-1(5).

The District must post the school report card on its website and, upon request, send it to parents/guardians. If the District does not maintain a website, the report card must be sent to parents/guardians without request. The District must send a written notice home to parents/guardians stating: (1) that the report card is available on the website; (2) the website address; (3) that a printed copy will be sent upon request; and (4) the telephone number to call to request a printed copy. 105 ILCS 5/10-17a.

#### Conferences and Hearings

The District must notify parents/guardians and consult with them and keep them involved with the education and placement of their child with disabilities. 20 U.S.C. § 1414 and 1415; 34 C.F.R. § 300.322, 501, 503, 504, 507 and 508; 105 ILCS 5/14-1 et seq., 23 Ill.Admin.Code §§ 226.500, 510, 520, 530 and 610.

If applicable, the District must notify all parents/guardians of students with disabilities residing in the District of its intent to withdraw from the special education joint agreement and hold a public hearing at least 18 months before the District's proposed withdrawal date to review the District's plan for educating students after the withdrawal. 105 ILCS 5/10-22.31, amended by P.A. 104-218, eff. 7-1-26.

Parents/guardians have the right to an unpaid leave from work to attend educational or behavioral conferences. 820 ILCS 147/1 et seq.

The District may use two days for parent-teacher conferences and may add more days to the teacher work year subject to collective bargaining. 105 ILCS 5/3-11.

A non-custodial parent receives notices of parent-teacher conferences. 105 ILCS 5/10-21.8.

A hearing with the parents/guardians must precede a student's expulsion. 105 ILCS 5/10-22.6(a).

A parent involved with the Illinois child welfare system has certain rights, including: (1) to be notified of and invited to attend all of the child's school meetings; (2) to have all meetings scheduled at times and places that allow for the parent to participate; and (3) to be provided transportation assistance when necessary to attend meetings. Child Welfare Disclosure to Parents Act, 20 ILCS 522/, added by P.A. 104-254.

#### Report on Parental Involvement

Parental involvement must be included in the school report card. 105 ILCS 5/10-17a.

#### **The following Board policies provide opportunities for parental involvement:**

##### School Board

- 2:150 *Committees*
- 2:260 *Uniform Grievance Procedure*

##### Operational Services

- 4:10 *Fiscal and Business Management*
- 4:110 *Transportation*
- 4:130 *Free and Reduced-Price Food Services*
- 4:140 *Waiver of Student Fees*
- 4:160 *Environmental Quality of Buildings and Grounds*
- 4:170 *Safety*

##### Personnel

- 5:230 *Maintaining Student Discipline*

##### Instruction

- 6:60 *Curriculum Content*
- 6:120 *Education of Children with Disabilities*
- 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*
- 6:190 *Extracurricular and Co-Curricular Activities*
- 6:235 *Access to Electronic Networks*
- 6:270 *Guidance and Counseling Program*
- 6:280 *Grading and Promotion*
- 6:300 *Graduation Requirements*
- 6:310 *High School Credit for Non-District Experiences; Course Substitutions; Re-Entering Students*
- 6:340 *Student Testing and Assessment Program*

##### Students

- 7:15 *Student and Family Privacy Rights*
- 7:20 *Harassment of Students Prohibited*
- 7:30 *Student Assignment and Intra-District Transfer*
- 7:40 *Nonpublic School Students, Including Parochial and Home-Schooled Students*
- 7:50 *School Admissions and Student Transfers To and From Non-District Schools*
- 7:60 *Residence*

7:70	<i>Attendance and Truancy</i>
7:80	<i>Release Time for Religious Instruction/Observance</i>
7:90	<i>Release During School Hours</i>
7:100	<i>Health, Eye, and Dental Examinations; Immunizations; and Exclusion of Students</i>
7:165	<i>School Uniforms</i>
7:170	<i>Vandalism</i>
7:180	<i>Prevention of and Response to Bullying, Intimidation, and Harassment</i>
7:185	<i>Teen Dating Violence Prohibited</i>
7:190	<i>Student Behavior</i>
7:200	<i>Suspension Procedures</i>
7:210	<i>Expulsion Procedures</i>
7:220	<i>Bus Conduct</i>
7:230	<i>Misconduct by Students with Disabilities</i>
7:240	<i>Conduct Code for Participants in Extracurricular Activities</i>
7:250	<i>Student Support Services</i>
7:260	<i>Exemption from Physical Education</i>
7:270	<i>Administering Medicines to Students</i>
7:275	<i>Orders to Forgo Life-Sustaining Treatment</i>
7:280	<i>Communicable and Chronic Infectious Disease</i>
7:285	<i>Food Allergy Management Program</i>
7:290	<i>Suicide and Depression Awareness and Prevention</i>
7:300	<i>Extracurricular Athletics</i>
7:305	<i>Student Athlete Concussions and Head Injuries</i>
7:340	<i>Student Records</i>

#### Community Relations

8:30	<i>Visitors to and Conduct on School Property</i>
8:90	<i>Parent Organizations and Booster Clubs</i>
8:95	<i>Parental Involvement</i>

#### School-level parental involvement programs include:

1. Keeping parents/guardians thoroughly informed about their child's school and programs.  
Develop and distribute a comprehensive student handbook.  
Distribute information to parents/guardians on their school visitation rights.  
Promote open houses/curriculum nights.  
Promote parent/guardian-teacher conferences.  
Provide progress reporting and report cards, and keep parents/guardians informed when their child is not adequately progressing and there is a likelihood of retention.  
Publish newsletters.  
Sponsor financial information nights.
2. Encouraging involvement in their child's school and education.  
Support and encourage parents/guardians volunteer opportunities.  
Work with the PTO to promote parents/guardians volunteer opportunities.  
Develop and use outreach programs to community groups and organizations.
3. Establishing effective two-way communication between all parents/guardians and District personnel.  
Monthly Building Principal coffees.  
Work with PTO leadership to ensure parental input.  
Train personnel to collaborate with families of diverse backgrounds, including backgrounds that might impede parental/guardian participation, e.g., illiteracy or language difficulty.

4. Seeking the advice of parents/guardians on school governance issues and methods to fulfill the District's educational mission.

Work with PTO leadership to ensure parental input.

Establish a school-community advisory committee to identify, consider, and discuss educational problems and issues.

5. Informing parents/guardians how they can assist their children's learning

Provide information to parents/guardians about activities they can do at home.

Provide programs on how to establish a home environment that supports learning and appropriate behavior.

Implement a homework-hotline.

## Community Relations

### Exhibit - Letter Notifying Parents/Guardians of School Visitation Rights

*On District letterhead*

Date

Dear Parents/Guardians:

The School Visitation Rights Act permits employed parents/guardians, who are unable to meet with educators because of a work conflict, the right to time off from work to attend necessary educational or behavioral conferences at their child's school. Please review the following copy of this Act to determine if you are entitled to a school visitation leave.

Sincerely,

Superintendent

\*\*\*\*\*

### SCHOOL VISITATION RIGHTS ACT

820 ILCS 147/

#### 147/1. **Short title**

This Act may be cited as the School Visitation Rights Act.

#### 147/5. **Policy**

The General Assembly of the State of Illinois finds that the basis of a strong economy is an educational system reliant upon parental involvement. The intent of this Act is to permit employed parents and guardians who are unable to meet with educators because of a work conflict the right to an allotment of time during the school year to attend necessary educational or behavioral conferences at the school their children attend.

#### 147/10. **Definitions**

As used in this Act:

- (a) "Employee" means a person who performs services for hire for an employer for:
  - (1) at least 6 consecutive months immediately preceding a request for leave under this Act; and
  - (2) an average number of hours per week equal to at least one-half the full-time equivalent position in the employer's job classification, as defined by the employer's personnel policies or practices or in accordance with a collective bargaining agreement, during those 6 months.

"Employee" includes all individuals meeting the above criteria but does not include an independent contractor.
- (b) "Employer" means any of the following: a State agency, officer, or department, a unit of local government, a school district, an individual, a corporation, a partnership, an association, or a nonprofit organization.
- (c) "Child" means a biological, adopted or foster child, a stepchild or a legal ward of an employee and who is enrolled in a primary or secondary public or private school in this State or a state which shares a common boundary with Illinois.
- (d) "School" means any public or private primary or secondary school or educational facility located in this State or a state which shares a common boundary with Illinois.

- (e) "School administrator" means the principal or similar administrator who is responsible for the operations of the school.

**147/15. School conference and activity leave**

- (a) An employer must grant an employee leave of up to a total of 8 hours during any school year, and no more than 4 hours of which may be taken on any given day, to attend school conferences, behavioral meetings, or academic meetings related to the employee's child if the conference or meeting cannot be scheduled during non-work hours; however, no leave may be taken by an employee of an employer that is subject to this Act unless the employee has exhausted all accrued vacation leave, personal leave, compensatory leave and any other leave that may be granted to the employee except sick leave and disability leave. Before arranging attendance at the conference or activity, the employee shall provide the employer with a written request for leave at least 7 days in advance of the time the employee is required to utilize the visitation right. In emergency situations, no more than 24 hours' notice shall be required. The employee must consult with the employer to schedule the leave so as not to disrupt unduly the operations of the employer.
- (b) Nothing in this Act requires that the leave be paid.
- (c) For regularly scheduled, non-emergency visitations, schools shall make time available for visitation during regular school hours and evening hours.

**147/20. Compensation**

An employee who utilizes or seeks to utilize the rights afforded by this Act may choose the opportunity to make up the time so taken as guaranteed by this Act on a different day or shift as directed by the employer. An employee who exercises his rights under this Act shall not be required to make up the time taken, but if such employee does not make up the time taken, such employee shall not be compensated for the time taken. An employee who does make up the time taken shall be paid at the same rate as paid for normal working time. Employers shall make a good faith effort to permit an employee to make up the time taken for the purposes of this Act. If no reasonable opportunity exists for the employee to make up the time taken, the employee shall not be paid for the time. A reasonable opportunity to make up the time taken does not include the scheduling of make-up time in a manner that would require the payment of wages on an overtime basis. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Section, if unpaid leave under this Act conflicts with the unreduced compensation requirement for exempt employees under the federal Fair Labor Standards Act, an employer may require an employee to make up the leave hours within the same pay period.

**147/25. Notification**

The State Superintendent of Education shall notify each public and private primary and secondary school of this Act. Each public and private school shall notify parents or guardians of the school's students of their school visitation rights. The Department of Labor shall notify employers of this Act.

**147/30. Verification**

Upon completion of school visitation rights by a parent or guardian, the school administrator shall provide the parent or guardian documentation of the school visitation. The parent or guardian shall submit such verification to the employer. The State Superintendent and the Director of the Department of Labor shall suggest a standard form of documentation of school visitation to schools for use as required by this Section. The standard form of documentation shall include, but not be limited to, the exact time and date the visitation occurred and ended. Failure of a parent or guardian to submit the verification statement from the school to his or her employer within 2 working days of the school visitation subjects the employee to the standard disciplinary procedures imposed by the employer for unexcused absences from work.

**147/35. Employee rights**

No employee shall lose any employee benefits, except as provided for in Section 20 of this Act, for exercising his or her rights under this Act. Nothing in this Act shall be construed to affect an employer's obligation to comply with any collective bargaining agreement or employee benefit plan. Nothing in this Act shall prevent an employer from providing school visitation rights in excess of the requirements of this Act. The rights afforded by this Act shall not be diminished by any collective bargaining act or by any employee benefit plan.

An employer may not terminate an employee for an absence from work if the absence is due solely to the employee's attendance at a school conference, behavioral meeting, or academic meeting, as provided in Section 15.

**147/40. Applicability**

This Act applies solely to public and private employers that employ at least 50 or more individuals in Illinois, and to their employees.

**147/45. Violation**

Any employer who violates this Act is guilty of a petty offense and may be fined not more than \$100 for each offense.

**147/49. Limits on leave**

No employer that is subject to this Act is required to grant school visitation leave to an employee if granting the leave would result in more than 5% of the employer's work force or 5% of an employer's work force shift taking school conference or activity leave at the same time.



## **Community Relations**

### **Exhibit - Verification of School Visitation**

*To be completed by the parent/guardian and given to the Building Principal. Please print.*

This document serves to verify that the named parent/guardian attended a school conference or classroom activity for his or her child held on the date and time indicated below.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student

\_\_\_\_\_  
Conference/Classroom activity

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date/time of conference/classroom activity

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian signature

\*\*\*\*\*

*To be signed by the Building Principal and returned to the parent/guardian.*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Building Principal signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

## **Community Relations**

### **Relations with Other Organizations and Agencies**

The District shall cooperate with other organizations and agencies, including but not limited to:

- County Health Department
- Law enforcement agencies
- Fire authorities
- Planning authorities
- Zoning authorities
- Illinois Emergency Management Agency (IEMA), local organizations for civil defense, and other appropriate disaster relief organizations concerned with civil defense
- Other school districts

CROSS REF.: 1:20 (District Organization, Operations, and Cooperative Agreements), 4:170 (Safety), 4:180 (Pandemic Preparedness; Management; and Recovery), 5:90 (Abused and Neglected Child Reporting), 7:150 (Agency and Law Enforcement Requests)

## **Community Relations**

### **Public Suggestions and Concerns**

The School Board is interested in receiving suggestions and concerns from members of the community. Any individual may make a suggestion or express a concern by contacting any District or School office. Community members who email the District or any District employee or board member are expected to abide by the standards in Board policy 6:235, *Access to Electronic Networks*, and should, to the extent possible, limit their communications to relevant individuals. All suggestions and/or concerns will be referred to the appropriate level staff member or District administrator who is most able to respond in a timely manner. Each concern or suggestion shall be considered on its merit.

An individual who is not satisfied may file a grievance under Board policy 2:260, *Uniform Grievance Procedure*. The Board encourages, but does not require, individuals to follow the channels of authority prior to filing a grievance. Neither this policy nor the *Uniform Grievance Procedure* create an independent right to a hearing before the Board.

LEGAL REF.: 115 ILCS 5/14(c-5), Ill. Educational Labor Relations Act.

CROSS REF.: 2:140 (Communications To and From the Board), 2:230 (Public Participation at School Board Meetings and Petitions to the Board), 2:260 (Uniform Grievance Procedure), 3:30 (Chain of Command), 6:235 (Access to Electronic Networks), 6:260 (Complaints About Curriculum, Instructional Materials and Programs), 8:10 (Connection with the Community)