

## **Community Relations**

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

The following definitions apply to this policy:

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

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

In addition to prohibitions stated in other District policies, 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 District property.
6. Violate any Illinois law or town or county ordinance.
7. Smoke or otherwise use tobacco products, e-cigarettes and/or other electronic nicotine delivery systems.
8. Consume, use, possess, distribute or be impaired by or under the influence of alcoholic beverage, cannabis, other lawful product or illegal drug.
9. Be present when the person's alcoholic beverage, cannabis, or other lawful product, or illegal drug consumption is detectible, 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 which are lawful and authorized by the Board.
13. Violate the Rockford Public Schools Discipline Code or other District policies or regulations or a directive from an authorized security officer or District employee.
14. Engage in any risky behavior, including roller-blading, roller skating, or skateboarding.
15. 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;
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 on a public way 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 requested permission of the Building Principal to be present 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 conference 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
2. Has permission to be present from the School 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 certified employee, shall supervise a sex offender whenever the offender is in a child's vicinity.

### **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 school property. The person is also subject to being denied admission to school events or meetings for up to one calendar year.

### **Denial of Access**

If the Principal determines that the conduct of a visitor warrants denial of access, the Principal may request that the Superintendent notify the visitor that access to a school building and/or grounds is denied. The Superintendent shall review the allegations of misconduct, and the Superintendent or his/her designee may notify the visitor that his/her access is denied up to one year and state the reasons therefore. The notification shall be in writing and shall advise the visitor that he/she may request mediation before the Superintendent who may modify or rescind the notice.

If the visitor objects to the decision of the Superintendent after the mediation hearing, he/she may appeal the determination within 10 days to the Board of Education. Said hearing shall be held before a hearing officer appointed by the Board who shall conduct a hearing and render a report including findings of fact to the Board of Education. The Superintendent may refuse the person admission pending such hearing. The Board shall consider said report and may affirm, reject, or modify the decisions of the Superintendent.

LEGAL REF.: Nuding v. Cerro Gordo Community Unit School Dist., 730 N.E.2d 96 (4<sup>th</sup> Dist. 2000)  
Pro-Children Act of 1994, 20 U.S.C §7181 *et seq.*; 105 ILCS 5/10-20.5b, 5/22-33, and 5/24-25 and 5/27-237(a); 720 ILCS 5/11-9.3; 115 ILCS 5/3(c); 410 ILCS 130/1 *et seq.*; 430 ILCS 66/1 *et seq.*; 410 ILCS 705/1 *et seq.*,

CROSS REF.: 4.170, 5.50, 6.120, 6.250, 7.190, 7.270 and 8.20

Adopted: October 28, 1997  
Revised: July 10, 2000  
February 14, 2006

March 23, 2010  
May 8, 2012  
October 28, 2014  
August 8, 2017  
December 13, 2022