



2024-2025

# STUDENT RIGHTS & RESPONSIBILITIES

WEST AURORA SCHOOL  
DISTRICT 129



# **2024 - 2025 Student Rights and Responsibilities**

## **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION**

West Aurora School District 129 believes in a culture that embraces the curiosity, complexity, and joy of learning. We want every person in the organization to feel welcomed, seen, and safe at school. Our students play an important part in shaping their learning experience by influencing themselves, others, and the learning environment around them.

Our students have the right to equitable treatment and access to the educational programs. This document outlines the Rights and Responsibilities of students in District 129 and will be distributed, implemented, enforced, and is always open for review or change by the Board of Education.

District 129's Board of Education upholds the Constitutional rights of its students and believes:

- Every student should know the expectations for responsible behavior.
- The parent/guardian and student are responsible for the behavior of the student.
- The District must do all it can to teach, encourage, and support responsible decision making.

The Board authorizes the Superintendent and District administrative staff to promote, implement, and enforce these Rights and Responsibilities.

## **ARTICLE I - GENERAL GUIDES FOR STUDENT CONDUCT**

### **A. General Student Rights**

All students have the right to:

- Be free from discrimination on the basis of race, color, nationality, immigration status, sex, sexual orientation, religion, ancestry, age, physical or mental disability, gender identity, status of being homeless, order of protection status, or actual or potential marital or parental status, including pregnancy.
- Attend a school in a safe and secure setting that promotes learning.
- The freedom of speech and the non-disruptive gathering of people.
- Be advised of the standards of acceptable and unacceptable behavior.
- Due process - the ability for the student to provide their side of the story
- Take part in decisions affecting their schools and District through a student government made up of representatives selected from and by the entire student body.
- Voluntarily engage in individually-initiated, non-disruptive prayer. The right to pray is consistent with the Free Exercise and Establishment Clauses of the United States and Illinois Constitutions, and shall not be sponsored, promoted or endorsed in any manner by the school or any school employee.



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## **B. General Student Responsibilities**

There are general responsibilities that go along with attending District 129. A District 129 student is expected to:

- Know and follow the school expectations and regulations.
- Respect the rights of every District employee and student.
- Speak and write in a manner that is not libelous, slanderous, obscene, discriminatory or unjustly damaging to others.
- Be dressed and groomed in a way that meets reasonable standards of health and safety.
- Be on time and present in assigned classes with necessary materials.
- Behave in ways that do not interfere with the education of others.
- Maintain the best possible level of work in his/her classes.
- Strive to meet District goals and objectives and perform at the expected levels for his/her grade.
- Respect the authority of District administration, teachers, student services, security and other staff to maintain reasonable behavior at all times during school activities.

## **C. Rights and Responsibilities in Specific Areas**

### **1. Enrollment Requirements:**

Parent(s)/guardian(s) of students enrolling in the District for the first time must present:

- a. A certified original copy of the student's birth certificate within 30-days of enrollment or other reliable proof, as determined by the Department of Education. If a birth certificate that indicates the child's identity and age is unavailable, an affidavit explaining the inability to produce a copy of the birth certificate must be provided. Other reliable proof of the child's identity and age shall include a passport, visa or other governmental documentation of the child's identity. Failure to provide an original birth certificate or other reliable proof warrants the school district to notify the Illinois State Police or local law enforcement agency.
- b. Proof of residence, as required by board Policy 7.060, Residence
  - Only students who are residents of the District may attend a District school without a tuition charge. To prove residency within the District, a parent/guardian will be asked to provide three (3) documents. These documents may include, but are not limited to: a mortgage statement, lease contract, utility bill, insurance proof, or financial documents. Photo identification of the parent/guardian is required at the initial registration, but it is not accepted for residency purposes.

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- c. Proof of disease immunization or detection and required physical examination, as required by State Law and Board Policy 7.100, Health, Eye, and Dental Examinations, Immunizations, and Exclusion of Students. *Note: Requirements for providing proof of immunization will be revised as needed and applied consistent with Board policy, and local, state, and federal guidance addressing the unique health and safety considerations by the COVID-19 pandemic.*

### McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Act

Any student who meets the homeless criteria shall be immediately enrolled, even if the student or student's parent/guardian is unable to produce records normally required for enrollment. School and National Lunch fees associated with a homeless student's enrollment should also immediately be waived upon identification/registration. Board Policy 6.140, Education of Homeless Children, and its implementing administrative procedure govern the enrollment of homeless students.

## **2. District Transportation**

- a. The district will provide free transportation for all District students who reside:
- A distance of one-and-one half (1.5) miles or more from their assigned schools; or
  - Within one-and-one half (1.5) miles of their assigned school, but for whom walking would constitute a serious safety hazard due to vehicular traffic as determined by Illinois Department of Transportation standards of rail crossing, or a course or pattern of criminal activity as determined by the local law enforcement agency and adequate public transportation is not available.

A student's parent/guardian may file a petition with the board requesting transportation due to the existence of a serious safety hazard. Free transportation will be provided in accordance with the McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Act and the Every Student Succeeds Act.

- b. School Bus Safety Expectations:
- Arrive at the bus stop (5) minutes before the designated pick-up time.
  - Be safe. Stand at least (5) feet from the bus/street until the bus comes to a complete stop. Do not board the bus until the driver signals you to do so. Use the handrails and board the bus in a single file and orderly fashion.
  - Find the first seat available. Sit facing forward with your feet on the floor. Keep your hands, arms, head and personal items inside the bus at all times. Keep personal items and clutter out of the aisle.
  - Do not eat or drink on the bus.
  - Be courteous to the driver and other passengers. Talk in a quiet voice. Remain silent at railroad crossings.
  - Remain in your seat until the bus comes to a complete stop. After exiting, always cross in front of the bus. Never walk alongside the bus, crawl under the bus, or attempt to re-enter the bus after exiting.
  - Students must ride their assigned route. Students wishing to ride home with a peer will not be permitted if it is not the student's assigned bus route.

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- Using or possessing a cellular telephone, video/audio recording device or other electronic device (including but not limited to computers, smartphones and tablets) in any manner that jeopardizes the safe travel of the school bus or violates the rights of others is prohibited.
  - Follow the driver's directions. Drivers reserve the right to give direct instructions to student(s) in order to preserve the safe and secure transportation of the student(s).
  - Dress code and grooming guidelines are expected to be followed while on District-provided transportation.
- c. All students must follow the District's School Bus Safety Expectations. The District is authorized to suspend a student from riding the school bus for up to 10 consecutive school days for engaging in gross disobedience or misconduct, including but not limited to:
- Prohibited student conduct as defined in Board Policy 7.190, *Student Discipline*.
  - Willful injury or threat of injury to a bus driver or another driver.
  - Willful defacement of the bus.
  - Use of profanity, slanderous, or obscene language that is unjustly damaging to others.
  - Willful disobedience of a directive from a bus driver or another supervisor.

Such other behavior as the Superintendent or designee deems to threaten the safe operation of the bus and/or its occupants. If a student is suspended from riding the bus for gross disobedience or misconduct on a bus, the board may suspend the student from riding the school bus for a period in excess of 10 school days for safety reasons. Students suspended from the bus who do not have alternate transportation to school shall have the opportunity to make up work for equivalent credit. It is the responsibility of the student's parent/guardian to notify school officials that a student suspended from the bus does not have alternate transportation to school and it is the parent/guardian's responsibility to request homework.

- d. Electronic visual and audio recordings may be used on school buses to monitor conduct and to promote and maintain a safe environment for students and employees when transportation is provided for school-related activity. Notice of electronic recordings shall be displayed on the exterior of the vehicle's entrance door in compliance with State law and the expectations of the Illinois Department of Transportation, Division of Traffic Safety. Students are prohibited from tampering with electronic devices with electronic recording devices. Students who violate this policy shall be disciplined in accordance with the Board's discipline policy and restitution to the district for any necessary repairs or replacements may be involved.

### **3. Attendance**

In District 129, we believe every student can be successful with the support and collaboration between home and school. Our priority is to create a positive and safe learning environment for our students that promotes a sense of belonging, allowing them to be connected to their school community.

As a district, we realize that hardships, illness, and other circumstances prevent students from attending school. During these gaps in education, the opportunities to engage in classroom activities, course

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instruction, peer-to-peer connections, and student-teacher interactions can not be duplicated. Each day brings something of educational value that supports the growth of our students academically and socially. We find that absences from school can create both frustration and anxiety when students return to school.

District 129 is committed to working alongside parents/guardians to foster an environment of both equity and opportunity and to provide a learning community that allows children to explore the complexity, curiosity, and joy of learning. See Board Policy 7.070, *Attendance and Truancy*.

### **Home and School Commitment**

The District 129 staff wants your child to recognize their own strengths and limitations, set and attain their goals, be successful problem solvers, and do so in an environment that promotes a sense of belonging.

#### **District 129 commits to the following**

- Provide quality instruction that is based on principles of effective teaching
- Provide resources in the most effective way to advance your child's achievement
- Provide learning experiences that stimulate and challenge your child
- Implement equitable disciplinary practices
- Be available for collaborative communication and receptive to your feedback and ideas about your child
- Communicate honestly to you in regards to your child
- Continually reflect on our practices to ensure we are always providing and doing all we can to meet the needs of your child

#### **Parent Commitment**

- Send child(ren) to school every day, unless they are ill (please call the attendance line to report the absence)
- Assure children arrive at school on time, but even if they are late, bring them anyway
- Work with your child(ren) to assure they arrive at school ready to learn. Let the school know if your child needs additional support/resources to make learning happen.
- Encourage and support your child's learning at home
- Connect with teachers if there are concerns about your child's learning.
- Be open and responsive to communication from your child's teachers and other school staff
- Encourage your child to do assigned homework to the best of their ability and ask for help from the school if needed

#### **Student Commitment**

- Arrive at school on time
- Arrive to class on time
- Be ready to learn
- Bring a positive attitude everyday
- Complete assigned work to one's best ability
- Ask for help when needed (we all need help, so don't be embarrassed to ask)

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- Establish a good study routine at home to be prepared and rested for the next day
- Establish and work with a support system at home and school to achieve success

Because school attendance is the responsibility of students and their parents/guardians. A parent/guardian who has custody of a student between the ages of 6 and 17 years of age is required to see that the student attends the assigned public school in the District for the school session unless the student:

- Attends an approved private or parochial school.
- Is found by a doctor or psychiatrist to be physically or mentally unable to attend a regular school program.
- Is employed (the job must be covered under the Child Labor Law and meet the consent of the Superintendent of the Regional Office of Education).
- Any child over 12 and under 14 years of age while in confirmation classes.
- Any child absent because of his or her religion forbids secular activity on a particular day.
- Any child 16 years of age or older who is employed and is enrolled in a graduation incentives program.

The parent/guardian of a student who is enrolled must authorize all absences from school and notify the school in advance or at the time of the student's absence. A valid cause for absence includes the following:

Absences that total ten percent (10%) or more of school days of the most recent academic school year, including absences with and without valid cause, including out-of-school suspensions, for an enrolled student, are defined as chronic absenteeism and require school districts to collect and review the data and determine needed resources to engage chronically absent students and their families. Absences from school will be considered excused or unexcused as follows:

### Excused Absences

- Personal illness
- Mental or behavioral health related absence
- Pregnancy/postpartum
- Serious family emergency
- Death in the family
- Attendance at religious classes and/or holidays that were approved beforehand
- Attendance at a civic event, by a middle or high school student, that was approved beforehand
- Medical, Dental, and/or Vision appointments documented by qualified medical personnel
- Circumstances causing reasonable concern to the parent/guardian for emotional, mental, or physical safety or health of the student
- District transportation failures
- Prearranged absences approved by building administration – *For example: Students of voting age may be excused for up to two hours to exercise their right to vote in local, state, and/or federal elections.*
- Students in grades 6-12 who sound "Taps" at a military honors funeral for a deceased veteran



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- When a student's parent/guardian, who is an active duty member or member of the uniformed services, has been called to duty for, is on leave from, or has immediately returned from deployment to a combat zone or combat-support postings.

Students absent for a valid cause may make up missed homework and classwork assignments in a reasonable timeframe.

### Unexcused Absences

- An unauthorized absence from a classroom or other assigned area
  - Personal or avoidable absences and appointments
  - Any full-day absence not reported by a parent or guardian
  - Any false call made by someone other than a parent or guardian or other authorized adult.
- a. The Superintendent or designee shall direct the appropriate District personnel to develop procedures to be used with a student who is truant. If a student's absence is unexcused, it will be recorded as truant. A habitual truant is defined as a student who is absent from school, without a valid cause, for five percent (5%) or more of the previous 180 regular attendance days. A note from a qualified medical professional may be required for each health-related absence if requested by school administration.

The following support services may be offered to a student who is truant:

- Parent-teacher conferences
- Administrative home visit
- Counseling services
- Truant's alternative and optional education program
- Alternative school placement
- Community agency services
- Remediation program (such remediation program for a student 17 years or older includes assessment and support services)

If these supportive services prove ineffective and the behavior persists, building administration will solicit the resources of the Kane County Regional Office of Education and take reasonable diagnostic measures to identify the cause of absence (such as interviews with relevant persons and administrative home visits).

- b. If a student is absent from more than 15 consecutive school days and after multiple documented attempts have been made to contact the parent/guardian, with no response, the district will notify the parent/guardian by letter, at the last known address, that their student will be withdrawn from school for non-attendance. Parents/guardians wishing to re-enroll their student should contact the registration office, [registration@sd129.org](mailto:registration@sd129.org).
- c. Students, age 17 years or older, who are absent without valid cause for 20% or more of the attendance days for two consecutive semesters may be denied enrollment the following semester.



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### **4. Corporal Punishment**

The Illinois School Code permits teachers to use reasonable force to maintain the safety of students, personnel and other persons in the school, or for the purpose of self-defense of school property; however, Board policy prohibits corporal punishment including the intentional infliction of bodily harm, slapping, paddling, or prolonged maintenance of students in physically painful positions.

### **5. Dress and Grooming**

West Aurora School District 129's mission is to foster equity and opportunity for all students. Student dress provides students with the ability to express who they are as individuals and feel comfortable in our school environments. Our dress code aims to free all members of our school community from being singled out or restricted based on race, sex, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, ethnicity, religion, cultural observance, household income, or body type/size.

#### **Our Values**

- All students are able to wear clothes that are comfortable, safe, and provide them the right to express who they are as individuals.
- All students are responsible for respecting individual rights to freedom of expression

#### **Our Goals**

- Maintain a safe learning environment
- Allow students to wear clothing that represents their identified gender
- Allow students to wear religious attire without fear of discipline or discrimination

#### **Dress Code**

Students must wear a shirt, pants/shorts/skirt, dress, and shoes to ensure certain body parts (genitalia, buttock, and breasts) are covered and non-disruptive to the educational process or interfere with the maintenance of a positive learning climate.

Following the above requirements, students may wear:

- Religious headwear
- Hoodie sweatshirts (wearing the hood over head is allowed, but the face must be visible to school staff. Hoods should be removed if directed by a staff member.)
- Hats worn inside the school building must be worn forward facing and may not depict any of the following characteristics (Hats should be removed if directed by a staff member.)
- Fitted pants, yoga pants, and "skinny" type jeans (must be opaque/not see through)
- Pajama-like pants (for example: flannel or fleece pants)
- Athletic attire

Students cannot wear:

- Violent language or images or gang identification
- Images or language depicting, drugs, alcohol, vaping, or paraphernalia (anything illegal)
- Hate speech, profanity, or pornography
- Images or language that creates a hostile or intimidating environment based on any protected class or marginalized groups
- Any clothing that reveals visible undergarments (waistbands and straps are ok)
- Bulletproof vest, body armor, or tactical gear
- Swimsuits

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- Footwear that may damage the flooring
- Accessories that could be considered dangerous or could be used as a weapon.
- Any item that covers the face except as a religious observance or personal protective equipment (PPE)

### **6. Health Guidelines**

#### **Required Health Examinations & Immunizations**

A student's parent(s)/guardian(s) shall present proof that the student received a health examination and the immunizations against, and screenings for, preventable communicable diseases, as required by the Illinois Department of Public Health, within one year prior to:

- Entering kindergarten or the first grade
- Entering the sixth or ninth grades
- Enrolling in an Illinois school, regardless of the student's grade (including transferring from out of state or other educational institution)

As required by State law:

The required health examinations, including diabetes, lead, and developmental screenings, must be performed by a physician licensed to practice medicine in all of its branches (MD or OD), an advanced practice nurse (APN) who has a written collaborative agreement with a collaborating physician authorizing the advanced practice nurse to perform health examinations, or a physician assistant (PA) who has been delegated the performance of health examinations by a supervising physician.

Unless the student is homeless or some other exemption or extension applies, failure to comply with the above requirements by October 15 of the current school year will result in the student's exclusion from school until the required health forms are presented to the District. New students who register after October 15 of the current school year shall have 30 days following registration to comply with the health examination and immunization regulations.

#### **Required Vision & Dental Examinations**

##### **Vision**

All children enrolling in kindergarten and any student enrolling for the first time in a public, private, or parochial school shall have an eye examination, signed by a licensed optometrist or medical doctor who performs eye exams, on the Eye Examination Report form, as required by the Illinois Department of Public Health.

##### **Dental**

All children enrolling in kindergarten and the second, sixth, and ninth grades of any public, private, or parochial school shall have a dental examination signed by a licensed dentist, on Proof of School Dental Examination form, as required by the Illinois Department of Public Health.

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### **Mandated Vision & Hearing Screenings**

#### **Vision**

- Vision screening must be provided annually for:
  - Preschool children 3 years of age or older in any public or private educational program or licensed care facility.
  - School age children in kindergarten, second, and eighth grades
  - Students who receive special education services, are referred by a teacher, or who are transfer students.
- In lieu of the screening services required, a completed and signed form, indicating that an eye examination by a doctor specializing in diseases of the eye or licensed optometrist has been administered within the previous 12 months is acceptable.

#### **Hearing**

- Hearing Screening must be provided annually for
  - preschool children 3 years of age or older in any public or private educational program or licensed child care facility
  - school age children grades kindergarten, first, second and third
  - students who receive special education services, are referred by a teacher or who are transfer students
- In lieu of the screening services required, a completed and signed report form, indicating the child had an ear examination by a physician and an audiological evaluation completed by an audiologist within the previous 12 months is acceptable.

#### **Exemptions**

In accordance with rules adopted by the Illinois Department of Public Health, a student will be exempted from the policy's requirements for:

- Health examination and/or immunization requirements on medical grounds if a physician provides written verification.
- Health examination and/or immunization requirements on religious grounds if the student's parents/guardians presents a statement for each vaccination/examination requested along with the completed Illinois Certificate of Religious Exemption, signed by the students health care provider (health care provider responsible for performing the child's health examination includes physicians licensed to practice medicine in all its branches (MD or DO), advanced practice nurses, or physician assistants).

For additional information on the District's procedures related to physical and immunizations, see Board Policy 7.100, *Health, Eye and Dental Examinations; Immunizations; and Exclusion of Students*.

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### **Administration of Medication**

The administration of medication to students during regular school hours and during school-related activities is strongly discouraged unless absolutely necessary for the critical well being and health of the student. When a student's licensed health care provider and parent/guardian believe that it is necessary for the

student to take a medication during school hours or school-related activities, the parent/guardian must request that the school dispense the medication to the child and otherwise follow the District's Medication Authorization procedures on dispensing medication.

No District employee shall administer to any student, or supervise a student's self-administration of, any prescription or non-prescription medication until the student's parent/guardian submits a completed and physician-signed "Medication Authorization Form." The only exception to the policy is the "Self Administration of Asthma Medication Authorization Form," which requires only a parent/guardian signature. No student shall possess or consume any prescription or non-prescription medication on school grounds or at a school-related function other than as provided for in the policy and its implementing procedures. The District may request annually from parents or guardians updated documentation of the child's health condition in the form of, but not limited to, physician notes, updated authorization forms and documentation regarding such health plans related to, Asthma, Allergy, Seizure and/or Diabetes, when applicable.

A parent/guardian must bring any medications that are to be administered to a student at school to the office. Prescriptions must be in original packaging and a "Medication Authorization Form" must be on file in order for the medication to be given at school. Students are not permitted to self-carry medications to school unless permitted as described below. See Board Policy 7.270, *Administering Medication to Students*, for additional information.

### **Self-Administration of Medication**

A student may possess an epinephrine auto-injector or glucagon for immediate use at the student's discretion, provided the student's parent/guardian and physician has completed and signed a "Medication Authorization Form," indicating the student's permission to self-carry. A student may possess medication prescribed for asthma (inhaler) for immediate use at the student's discretion, provided the student's parent/guardian has completed and signed the "Self-Administration of Asthma Medication Authorization Form". The school District shall incur no liability, except for willful and wanton conduct, as a result of any injury arising from a student's self-administration of glucagon, epinephrine auto-injector or asthma medication (inhaler) or the storage of any medication by school personnel. For the safety of others, students are responsible for ensuring the safe disposal of used supplies or materials from the self-administered medication and/or related medical supplies.

### **Administration of Undesignated Medication**

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

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The District may maintain a supply of undesignated epinephrine auto-injectors and provide or administer them as necessary. Undesignated epinephrine auto-injector means an epinephrine auto-injector prescribed in the name of the District or one of its schools. A school nurse or trained personnel who in good faith

believes a person is having an anaphylactic reaction may administer an undesignated epinephrine auto-injector.

The District may maintain a supply of undesignated asthma medication and provide or administer them as necessary. Undesignated asthma medication means an asthma medication prescribed in the name of the District or one of its schools. A school nurse or trained personnel who in good faith believes a person is having respiratory distress may administer undesignated asthma medication.

The District may maintain a supply of undesignated glucagon prescribed in the name of the District or one of its schools in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. When a student's prescribed glucagon is not available or expired, a school nurse or delegated care aide may administer undesignated glucagon only if he or she is authorized to do so by a student's diabetes medical management plan.

The District maintains a supply of undesignated opioid antagonists and provide or administer them as necessary. Undesignated opioid antagonist means a drug that binds to opioid receptors and blocks or inhibits the effect of opioids acting on those receptors, including, but not limited to, naloxone hydrochloride or any other similarly acting drug approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration prescribed in the name of the District or one of its schools. A school nurse or trained personnel who in good faith believes a person is having an opioid overdose may administer undesignated opioid antagonist medication.

For information on District procedures related to the prevention and treatment of anaphylaxis, see Board Policy 7.285, *Anaphylactic Policy* and/or 7.285 AP, *Anaphylaxis School Procedure*.

### **Undesignated Medication Liability**

When a school nurse or other trained personnel administers an undesignated epinephrine auto-injector to a person whom the school nurse or other trained personnel in good faith believes is having an anaphylactic reaction, administers undesignated asthma medication to a person whom the school nurse or trained personnel in good faith believes is having respiratory distress, or administers an opioid antagonist to a person whom the school nurse or trained personnel in good faith believes is having an opioid overdose, notwithstanding the lack of notice to the parents or guardians of the pupil or the absence of the parents' or guardians' signed statement acknowledging no liability, except for willful and wanton conduct, the school district, public school, or nonpublic school and its employees and agents and a physician, a physician assistant, or an advanced practice nurse providing standing protocol or prescription for undesignated epinephrine auto-injectors, undesignated asthma medication, or the use of an opioid antagonist, shall incur no liability or professional discipline, except for willful and wanton conduct, as a result of any injury arising from the use of an undesignated epinephrine auto-injector, the use of undesignated asthma medication, or the use of an opioid antagonist regardless of whether authorization was given by the pupil's parents or guardians or by the pupil's physician, physician assistant, or advanced practice nurse.

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A student's parent/guardian indemnify and hold harmless the District and its employees and agents against any claims, except a claim based on willful and wanton conduct, arising out of a student's self-administration of an epinephrine auto-injector, self-administration of asthma medication, or administration of an

undesigned opioid antagonist or the storage of any medication by school personnel and as a result of any injury arising from the District's administration of asthma medication, an epinephrine auto-injector, or an opioid antagonist regardless of whether authorization was given by the pupil's parents or guardians or by the pupil's physician, physician assistant, or advanced practice registered nurse.

### **Administration of Medical Cannabis**

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

1. A parent/guardian of a student who is a minor or another individual who registers with the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) as a designated caregiver to administer medical cannabis to the student. Any designated caregiver must be at least 21 years old and is allowed to administer a medical cannabis infused product to a child who is a student on the premises of his or her school or on his or her school bus if:
  - a. Both the student and the designated caregiver possess valid registry identification cards issued by IDPH;
  - b. Copies of the registry identification cards are provided to the District;
  - c. That student's parent/guardian completed, signed, and submitted a School Medication Authorization Form - Medical Cannabis; and
  - d. After administering the product to the student, the designated caregiver immediately removes it from school premises or the school bus.
2. A properly trained school nurse or administrator, who shall be allowed to administer the medical cannabis infused product to the student on the premises of the child's school, at a school-sponsored activity, or before/after normal school activities, including while the student is in before-school or after-school care on school-operated property or while being transported on a school bus.
3. The student him or herself when the self-administration takes place under the direct supervision of a school nurse or administrator.

Medical cannabis infused products include oils, ointments, foods, and other products that contain usable cannabis, but are not smoked or vaped. Smoking and/or vaping medical cannabis is prohibited. It may not be administered in a manner that, in the opinion of the District or school, would create a disruption to the educational environment or cause exposure of the product to other students. A school employee shall not be required to administer the product.

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

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### **Void Policy**

The **School District Supply of Undesignated Epinephrine Auto-Injectors** section of the policy is void whenever the Superintendent or designee is, for whatever reason, unable to: (1) obtain for the District a prescription for undesignated epinephrine auto-injectors from a physician, a physician assistant, or an

advanced practice nurse, or (2) fill the District's prescription for undesignated school epinephrine auto-injectors.

The **School District Supply of Undesignated Asthma Medication** section of the policy is void whenever the Superintendent or designee is, for whatever reason, unable to: (1) obtain for the District a prescription for undesignated asthma medication from a physician, a physician assistant, or an advanced practice nurse, or (2) fill the District's prescription for undesignated school Asthma medication.

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

The **School District Supply of Undesignated Opioid Antagonists** section of the policy is void whenever the Superintendent or designee is, for whatever reason, unable to: (1) obtain for the District a prescription for opioid antagonist from a health care professional who has been delegated prescriptive authority of opioid antagonists in accordance with Section 5-23 of the Substance Use Disorder Act, or (2) fill the District's prescription for undesignated school opioid antagonists.

For complete information on the District's Medication Administration Policy, See Board Policy 7.270 *Administering Medicines to Students*.

### **Pediculosis (Head Lice)**

The District follows recommendations from the Illinois Department of Public Health, Centers for Disease Control, the American Academy of Pediatrics and the National Association of School Nurses in the school policy and treatment guidelines for cases of head lice. Studies suggest that an evidence-based approach to head lice management will significantly reduce unnecessary school absences.

Students with live head lice do not need to be sent home early from school; they can go home at the end of the day, be treated, and return to class after appropriate treatment has begun. Nits may persist after treatment, but successful treatment should get rid of crawling lice. Schools should not exclude students for active infestation or when nits remain after appropriate lice treatment.

When lice/nits are found on a child at school, the child's parent/guardian will be informed. Any household contacts that attend school in West Aurora School District will be called to the health office to be checked. Parents/Guardians are encouraged to take their child(ren) home for treatment. If the parent/guardian is not available, the student may remain in school. Current evidence-based research indicates that identified children create little risk of head lice transfer without direct contact or the sharing of hair utensils/clothing. Information on treatment options and/or educational material will be given to parents/guardians.

The District's goal is to support the family in eradication of this pest. The presence of repeated infestations of head lice can be disruptive to the student's academic success and the educational environment.



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### **Student Concussions**

Students who exhibit signs, symptoms, or behaviors consistent with a concussion or head injury must be removed from participation or competition at that time. Such students will not be allowed to return to play

unless cleared by a physician, physician assistant, certified athletic trainer, or advance practice nurse. Students who have experienced concussions will be supported by the District in accordance with the school's Return-to-Play and Return-to-Learn protocols. Parents/guardians should notify the building principal and nurse if they are aware that their student has suffered a concussion. See Board Policy 7.305 *Student Athlete Concussions and Head Injuries*.

### **Suicide Prevention Information**

Contact information for suicide prevention resources are the following:

- National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 800-273-8255 or 988
- Suicide Prevention Services of Batavia: 630-482-9696
- Crisis Text Line: Text HOME to 741741
- Safe2Help Illinois Helpline: 844-4-SAFEIL, Text - 72332, or Download SAFE2HELP Illinois mobile application - [www.safe2helpIL.com](http://www.safe2helpIL.com)

## **7. Student Records**

- a. A student's school records are confidential, and information from them will not be released other than as provided by law. State and federal law gives the parent/guardian and eligible students certain rights with respect to their student records. These rights are to:
  1. Inspect and copy the student's education records no later than 10 business days after the day the school receives a request for access, unless the District extends the response time by no more than 5 business days from the original due date. There may be a charge for copies, not to exceed \$.35 per page. This fee will be waived for those unable to afford such cost. This includes the right to review and copy a student's school records prior to any special education eligibility or IEP meeting.
  2. Request the amendment of the student's education records that the parent/guardian or eligible student believes are inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise in violation of the student's privacy rights under state and federal law.
  3. Request removal from the student's academic transcript of one or more scores received on college entrance examinations through the submission of a written request stating the name of each college entrance examination that is subject of the request and the dates of the scores that are to be removed.
  4. Provide written consent before the school discloses personally identifiable information ("PII") from the student's education records, except to the extent that state and federal law authorize disclosure without consent. The District may disclose PII from the education records of a student without obtaining prior written consent of the parent(s)/guardian(s) or the eligible student:

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- To other school officials, including teachers, whom the school has determined to have legitimate educational interests. A school official includes, but is not limited to, a person within the District such as an administrator, supervisor, teacher, instructor, support staff member (including health or medical staff and law enforcement unit personnel), volunteers, a person

serving on the School Board, a person or company with whom the school has contracted as its agent to provide a service instead of using its own employees or officials (such as an attorney, auditor, medical consultant, accountant, insurance provider, therapist, physician, educational technology vendor, collection agency, contractor, consultant, other party to whom the school has outsourced institutional services or functions, or other business services in consultation with individuals and organizations outside the institution), or a parent or student serving on an official committee (such as a disciplinary or grievance committee) or assisting another school official in performing his or her tasks. A school official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility including, but not limited to, an educational interest in the student, or in the management and administration of education in the District as a more general matter or provision of services related to the institution's mission.

- To officials of another school district in which a student seeks or intends to enroll, or is already enrolled if the disclosure is for purposes of the student's enrollment or transfer.
- To persons authorized or required by state or federal law to gain such access, as provided in the regulations.
- To appropriate officials in connection with a health or safety emergency.
- To comply with a judicial order or lawfully issued subpoena.
- Information the District has designated as "directory information" (see below).

Any release of information other than specified above requires the prior, specific, dated, written consent of the parent/guardian or eligible student. A record of any release of information shall be made and kept as part of the student's school record.

5. Copy any student school record that is proposed to be destroyed or deleted.
6. Prohibit the release of directory information concerning the student.
7. Request the military recruiters or institutions of higher learning not be granted access to the name, address, and telephone numbers of a secondary school student without prior written consent.
8. File a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the District to comply with requirements of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). The Family Policy Compliance Office (FPCO) administers FERPA, the Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA) and provisions of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) that require local educational agencies that receive ESEA funds to provide military recruiters with contact information on students unless their parents/guardians opt out of the disclosure. You may contact the United

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States Department of Education at the following address: *Family Policy Compliance Office - U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Ave SW, Washington, D.C. 20202-4605*

- b. Permanent records shall consist of basic, identifying personal information necessary to a school in the education of a student:
- Student and parent/guardian names and addresses
  - Birth date and place
  - Gender
  - Attendance record
  - Accident reports and health records
  - Academic transcript—including grades, class rank, grade level achieved and, if allowed by District policy, scores on college entrance examinations when requested in writing by a student, parent/guardian, or the person who enrolled the students
  - Honors and awards received
  - School-sponsored activity information
  - Proof of release of permanent record information
- c. Temporary records consist of all information not required in the student’s permanent records:
- Family background information
  - Aptitude information
  - Psychological evaluations
  - Achievement test results
  - Disciplinary information
  - Special education files
  - Section 504 Educational Plans
  - Any verified information from non-educational agencies or persons
  - Proof of release of temporary record information
- d. Permanent records will be maintained for 60-years after the student has withdrawn from school or has graduated. Temporary records will be maintained for 5-years after the student has withdrawn from school. The school shall notify the parent/guardian and student of the destruction schedule for both permanent and temporary student records and of the right to request a copy of such records prior to destruction. After 5-years, special education records may be transferred to the custody of the parent/guardian of the student, if the student has succeeded to the rights of the parent/guardian. The further usefulness of these records will be explained if requested.
- e. “Directory Information” may be released to the general public unless a parent/guardian or eligible student informs the District in writing within 10 school days after publication of this Notice that such directory information with respect to his/her student shall not be released. Directory information includes the following:
- Student’s full legal name
  - Parent/guardian names

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- Student's grade level
- Degrees, honors, and awards received
- Information as to participation in school sponsored activities, organization, and athletics in school publications such as the school newspaper, school yearbook, activity or athletic programs, information sheets or rosters, and the District's website

Additionally, student name and address information may be provided to law enforcement agencies in an effort to assist in maintaining a safe school and community environment for students, staff, and community members.

If a parent/guardian or eligible student does not want directory information released, he/she must indicate this preference in the annual school registration document. This notice must be received by the District no later than a student's first day of school.

- f. Both parents/guardians have a right to see the school records of their student unless there is a certified copy of a court order on file at the school that specifically denies access to school records. Questions about these rights should be directed to the school office.
- g. No person may condition the granting or withholding of any right, privilege or benefits or make as a condition of employment, credit, or insurance the securing by any individual of any information from a student's temporary record which such individual may obtain through the exercise of any right secured under state law.
- h. No student record (official or unofficial) can be withheld due to unpaid fees/fines or because of missing books or equipment.
- i. For the annual notice about the District's educational technology vendors pursuant to the Student Online Personal Protection Act (SOPPA), 105 ILCS 85/28(e), added by P.A. 101-516, please review the *Student Data Privacy; Notice to Parents About Educational Technology Vendors located on District 129's website, sd129.org*.

### **8. School Fees**

- a. Full use of educational services and academic credit will not be refused because a parent/guardian cannot pay for materials or other school fees. Fee waiver applications are available from both the school and administration office. The application must be completed and approved before the responsibility to pay fees is waived, the general income guideline for determination will be qualification for the federal National School Lunch Program.
- b. The District shall also waive school registration fees for students determined by the District to be protected under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Act.
- c. No student record (official or unofficial) can be withheld due to unpaid fees/fines or because of missing books or equipment.

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- d. The parent/guardian is legally responsible for school fees, not the student. Any action taken by the school to collect these fees will be taken against the parent/guardian.
- e. In the event that a family is denied an income-based waiver, they may appeal for a waiver based on hardship to the District's finance office.
- f. Participation in some activities is a privilege and not a right. Student fees must be paid in full or a parent/guardian should enroll in a District established payment plan to participate in some extracurricular activities. These activities include, but are not limited to:
  - Athletics
  - Homecoming, prom, eighth-grade dance
  - Parking permits
  - Graduation and promotion ceremonies *See also Policy 4.140, Waiver of Student Fees*

### **9. Discrimination and Sex Equity**

Equal educational and extracurricular opportunities shall be available for all students without regard to race, color, nationality, immigration status, sex, sexual orientation, religion, ancestry, age, physical or mental disability, gender identity, status of being homeless, order of protection status, or actual or potential marital or parental status. Including pregnancy. *See Board Policy 7.10*

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.

Furthermore, the District will not knowingly enter into agreements with any entity or any individual that discriminates against students on the basis of any protection status. The District remains neutral when granting access to school facilities under *Board Policy 8.020 Community Use of School Facilities*.

Any student may file a discrimination complaint by using Board Policy 2.260, Uniform Grievance Procedure, or a sexual harassment complaint by using Board Policy 2.265 *Title IX Sexual Harassment Grievance Procedure*, found in the District's Non-Discrimination Commitment on the website, [sd129.org](http://sd129.org). District 129 Nondiscrimination Coordinator: *Dr. Valerie McCall, Director of Educational Equity, 630-301-5108 or [valerie.mccall@sd129.org](mailto:valerie.mccall@sd129.org)*

### **10. Bullying, Intimidation, Harassment, and Sexual Harassment Prohibited**

Bullying, including cyber-bullying, is defined as any severe or pervasive physical or verbal act or conduct, including communications made in writing or electronically, directed toward another person that has or can be reasonably predicted to:

1. Place a person in reasonable fear of harm to their person or property
2. Cause a substantially detrimental effect on a person's physical or mental health
3. Substantially interfere with a student's academic performance; and/or

## **2024 - 2025 Student Rights and Responsibilities**

4. Substantially interfere with a student's ability to participate in or benefit from the services, activities or privileges provided by a school.

In other words, bullying consists of intentionally aggressive behavior, repeated over time that involves an imbalance of power. Cyber bullying inflicted through the use of computers, cell phones, and other electronic devices. No person, including a District employee or agent, or student, shall harass, intimidate or bully a student based upon the basis of actual or perceived race, color, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender-related identity or expressions, ancestry, religion, age, physical or mental disability, order of protection status, status of being homeless, or actual potential marital or parental status, including pregnancy, physical appearance, socioeconomic status, academic status, and any other protected characteristic, or association with a person or group with one or more of the aforementioned actual or perceived characteristics.

The District will not tolerate harassing, intimidating conduct, bullying, or cyber bullying whether verbal, physical, 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, 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. *See Board Policy 7.180.*

The District will not tolerate harassing, intimidating conduct, bullying or cyber-bullying whether verbal, physical, or visual, of a staff member by a student or parent/guardian when the harassing, intimidating or bullying conduct interferes with, disrupts, or adversely affects the school environment, school operations, school property or an educational function, or is reasonably forecasted to cause such interference, disruption, or adverse impact. The prohibited harassment, intimidation, bullying, or cyber-bullying may include, but is not limited to, conduct that may reasonably be considered: a) a threat or attempted intimidation of a staff member; or b) endanger the health or safety of student or staff. A staff member who believes he or she is a victim of harassment, intimidation, or bullying, is encouraged to discuss the matter with his or building principal or assistant principal. The staff member may also report a concern to the District 129 Nondiscrimination Coordinator: *Dr. Valerie McCall, Director of Educational Equity, 630-301-5108* or [valerie.mccall@sd129.org](mailto:valerie.mccall@sd129.org)

### **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; 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

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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. *See Board Policy 7.20.*

### **Discrimination and Harassment Based on Race, Color, and National Origin Prohibited**

Discrimination and harassment based on race, color, or national origin negatively affect a student's ability to learn, and the District prohibits them under its Board Policies. Preventing and responding to these and other types of discrimination and harassment are important District goals.

Examples of actions that may be discrimination if they are done based on a student's race, color, or national origin include: disciplining a student more harshly or more often for the same misconduct; denying a student access to specific courses or activities; denying language services to English learners; and deciding what special education services to offer to a student. Harassment is also a form of discrimination, and examples of actions that can be harassment include: racial slurs; humiliating comments about a student's actual or apparent race, color, or national origin; the display of symbols of racial or ethnic violence; and hostile or intimidating comments, threats, or physical attacks that are motivated by race, color, or national origin.

The District has established a prevention and response program to respond to complaints of discrimination based on race, color, and national origin, including harassment, and retaliation. Students are encouraged to promptly report their concerns about discrimination, harassment, or retaliation to the Building Principal, Assistant Building Principal, Dean of Students, Nondiscrimination Coordinator, a Complaint Manager, or any employee with whom the student is comfortable speaking.

### **Making a Complaint: Enforcement**

Students who believe they are victims of discrimination, harassment, intimidation, bullying and/or sexual harassment or have witnessed such conduct are encouraged to discuss the matter with District 129's Nondiscrimination Coordinator. Students may also discuss the matter with the Building Principal, Assistant Principal, or Dean of Students or any employee with whom the student is comfortable speaking. A student may choose to report to a person of the student's same sex. Complaints will be kept confidential to the extent possible given the need to investigate. Students who make good faith complaints will not be disciplined. District 129 Nondiscrimination Coordinator: *Dr. Valerie McCall, Director of Educational Equity, 630-301-5108 or [valerie.mccall@sd129.org](mailto:valerie.mccall@sd129.org)*

Notification will be made to parents/guardians of all students involved in an alleged incident of bullying within 24 hours of the School's administration being made aware of a student's involvement in the incident. The District will discuss, as appropriate, the availability of social work services, counseling services, school psychologist services, and other interventions and restorative measures.

### **Title IX Sexual Harassment Prohibited and Grievance Procedure**

Sexual Harassment Defined: Sexual harassment as defined in Title IX (Title IX Sexual Harassment) and Board Policy 2:265; Title IX Sexual Harassment Grievance Procedure, is prohibited. Any person, including a District



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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)(10), domestic violence as defined in 34 U.S.C. §12291(a)(8), or stalking as defined in 34 U.S.C. §12291(a)(30).

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.

### **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/Nondiscrimination Coordinator, Building Principal, Assistant Building Principal, Dean of Students, 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. Non-Discrimination/Title IX Coordinator: *Dr. Valerie McCall, Director of Educational Equity, 630-301-5108 or [valerie.mccall@sd129.org](mailto:valerie.mccall@sd129.org). See Board Policy 2.265 for complete policy.*

### **11. Teen Dating Violence**

Engaging in teen dating violence that takes place at school, on school property, at school-sponsored activities, or in vehicles used for school-provided transportation is prohibited. The term teen dating violence occurs whenever a student who is 13-19 years of age uses or threatens to use physical, mental, or emotional abuse to control an individual in the dating relationship; or uses or threatens to use sexual violence in the dating relationship. *See Board Policy 7.185.*

### **12. Awareness and Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse and Grooming Behaviors**

Sexual abuse, grooming behaviors, inappropriate employee-student relationships, and other boundary violations harm students, their parents/guardians, the District's environment, the school community and the community at large, while diminishing a student's ability to learn. Such conduct and other sexual misconduct are prohibited pursuant to Board Policy 5:120[A1]. To increase awareness and understanding of these issues, the District encourages parents/guardians, students and all members of the school community to closely

review Board Policy 5:120, *Employee Ethics, Conduct, and Conflict of Interest*, Board Policy 4:165, *Awareness and Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse and Grooming Behaviors*, and the information listed below.

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### ***Warning Signs of Child Sexual Abuse***

Warning signs of child sexual abuse include, but are not limited to, the following behaviors:

#### Physical signs

- Sexually transmitted infections (STIs) or other genital infections
- Signs of trauma to the genital area, such as unexplained bleeding, bruising, or blood on the sheets, underwear, or other clothing
- Unusual weight gain or loss

#### Behavioral signs

- Excessive talk about or knowledge of sexual topics
- Keeping secrets
- Not talking as much as usual
- Not wanting to be left alone with certain people or being afraid to be away from primary caregivers
- Regressive behaviors or resuming behaviors that the child had grown out of, such as thumb sucking or bedwetting
- Overly compliant behavior
- Sexual behavior that is inappropriate for the child's age
- Spending an unusual amount of time alone
- Trying to avoid removing clothing to change or bathe

#### Emotional signs

- Change in eating habits or unhealthy eating patterns, like loss of appetite or excessive eating
- Signs of depression, such as persistent sadness, lack of energy, changes in sleep or appetite, withdrawing from normal activities, or feeling "down"
- Change in mood or personality, such as increased aggression
- Decrease in confidence or self-image
- Anxiety, excessive worry, or fearfulness
- Increase in unexplained health problems such as stomach aches and headaches
- Loss or decrease in interest in school, activities, and friends
- Nightmares or fear of being alone at night
- Self-harming behaviors or expressing thoughts of suicide or suicidal behavior
- Failing grades
- Drug or alcohol use

### ***Grooming Behavior & Warning Signs***

A person commits "grooming" when the person knowingly uses a computer on-line service, Internet service, local bulletin board service, or any other device capable of electronic data storage or transmission, performs an act in person or by conduct through a third party, or uses written communication to seduce, solicit, lure,

or entice, or attempt to seduce, solicit, lure, or entice, a child, a child's guardian, or another person believed by the person to be a child or a child's guardian, to commit any sex offense as defined in Section 2 of the Sex Offender Registration Act, to distribute photographs depicting the sex organs of the child, or to otherwise

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engage in any unlawful sexual conduct with a child or with another person believed by the person to be a child.

Warning signs of grooming include, but are not limited to, the following behaviors

- Sexual or romantic invitations to a student via any form of communication
- Dating or soliciting a date from a student
- Engaging in sexualized or romantic dialog with a student through any form of communication
- Making sexually suggestive comments that are directed toward or with a student
- Self-disclosure or physical exposure of a sexual, romantic, or erotic nature through any form of communication
- Sexual, indecent, romantic, or erotic contact with a student
- Failing to respect boundaries or listening when a student says “no”
- Engaging in touching that a student or student’s parents/guardians have indicated is unwanted
- Trying to be a student’s friend rather than filling an adult role in the student’s life
- Talking with students about personal problems or relationships
- Expressing unusual interest in a student’s sexual development, such as commenting on sexual characteristics or sexualizing normal behaviors
- Giving a student gifts without occasion or reason
- Restricting a student’s access to other adults

### ***Inappropriate Relationships and Other Boundary Violations by Adults & Warning Signs***

All District personnel, employees, volunteers, and visitors are expected to maintain professional and appropriate relationships with students based upon students’ ages, grade levels, and developmental levels. Adults in schools breach adult-student boundaries when they misuse their position of power over a student in a way that compromises the student’s health, safety, or general welfare.

Warning signs of boundary violations include, but are not limited to, the following behaviors

- Favoring a certain student by inviting the student to “hang out” or by granting special privileges
- Engaging in peer-like behavior with a student
- Discussing personal issues with a student
- Spending time alone with a student outside of their role in the student’s life or making up excuses to be alone with a student
- Failing to maintain age-appropriate relationships with a student
- Meeting with a student off-campus without parent/guardian knowledge and/or permission
- Dating, requesting, or participating in a private meeting with a student (in person or virtually) outside of a professional role
- Transporting a student in a school or private vehicle without administrative authorization
- Giving gifts, money, or treats to an individual student
- Sending a student on personal errands
  
- Intervening in a serious student problem instead of referring the student to an appropriately trained professional
- Taking and using photos/videos of students for non-educational purposes

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- Initiating or extending contact with a student beyond the school day in a one-on-one or non-group setting
- Inviting a student to an employee's home
- Adding a student on personal social networking sites as contacts when unrelated to a legitimate educational purpose
- Privately messaging a student
- Maintaining intense eye contact with a student
- Making comments about a student's physical attributes, including excessively flattering comments
- Disclosing confidential information
- Invading personal space

### ***Reporting & Referral Information for Sexual Abuse, Grooming and/or Boundary Violations***

If you/your student believe you/your student are a victim of child sexual abuse, grooming behaviors, or boundary violations, immediately contact the Building Principal, a school counselor, or another trusted adult employee of the District.

To make a report of alleged child sexual abuse or grooming, parents/guardians may also contact: Local Police Department or the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services Hotline at 1.800.25.ABUSE (2873).

### ***Available Resources & Assistance Information***

For parents/guardians and students seeking counseling services or other resources for children affected by sexual abuse, the following resources are also available:

- National Sexual Assault Hotline at 800.656.HOPE (4673)
- National Sexual Abuse Chatline at [online.rainn.org](http://online.rainn.org)
- Safe2Help Illinois at 1-844-4-SAFEIL or Text - 72332
- Kane County Child Advocacy Center at (630) 208-5160
- Parents/guardians and students may also contact the school counselor or school social worker for more information regarding available resources and support services for children affected by sexual abuse.

### **13. Disability Accommodations**

Individuals with disabilities will be provided an opportunity to participate in all school-sponsored services, programs, or activities. Individuals with disabilities should notify the District or building administration if they have a disability that will require special assistance or accommodations. The notification should occur as far in advance as possible of the school-sponsored function, program or meeting.

Students with disabilities who do not qualify for an Individualized Education Program ("IEP") may instead qualify for series under Section 504 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973, if the students (1) has a

physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activity, (2) has a record of a physical or mental impairment, or (3) is regarded as having a physical or mental impairment.

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If a parent/guardian believes their student qualifies for a Section 504 Plan, you may contact the District's Director of Special Education, *Ms. Jennifer Herman, at 1877 W. Downer Place, Aurora, Illinois 60506 or 630-301-5082*, for more information regarding the identification, assessment, and student placement.

### **14. Special Education**

The District shall provide a free appropriate public education in the least restrictive environment and necessary related services to all children with disabilities enrolled in the District, as required by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act ("IDEA") and implementing provisions of the school Code, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the Americans with Disabilities Act. The term "children with disabilities," as used in this policy, means children between ages 3 to their 22<sup>nd</sup> birthday, unless an exception applies, for whom it is determined, through definitions and procedures described in the Illinois State Board of Education's Special Education Administrative Expectations, that special education services are needed.

PA 102-172 changed the age of eligibility definition to "An eligible student who requires continued public school educational experience to facilitate his or her successful transition and integration into adult life is eligible for such services through age 21, inclusive, which, for purposes of this Article, means the day before the student's 22nd birthday, unless his or her 22nd birthday occurs during the school year, in which case he or she is eligible for such services through the end of the school year."

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

For students eligible for services under IDEA, the District shall follow procedures for identification, evaluation, placement, and delivery of services to children with disabilities provided by Illinois State Board of Education's Special Education Administrative Expectations. If a student is determined to be eligible under IDEA, services will be delivered by learning behavior specialists or speech pathologists. Students may qualify for services provided by other related service providers as deemed necessary including, but not limited to, speech and language therapists, occupational and physical therapists, school psychologists, school social workers, teachers of the visually impaired, and hearing itinerants. Students with disabilities receive special education assistance within the learning environment determined most appropriately which may include within their home schools and the regular classroom environment; within special education classrooms; within public therapeutic settings, or within non-district facilities when alternatives to the public school setting are needed.

For those students who are not eligible for services under IDEA, but because of the disability as defined by Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, need or are believed to need special instruction or related services, the District shall establish and implement a system of procedural safeguards. The safeguards shall

cover students' identification, evaluation and development of an educational plan. This system shall include notice, an opportunity for the student's parent/guardian to examine relevant records, an impartial hearing with opportunity for participation by the student's parent/guardian, representation by counsel, and a review

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procedure. Copies of the publication “Explanation of Procedural Safeguards Available to Parents of Students with Disabilities” may be obtained from the District office, upon request. For more information regarding the provision of special education and related services within the District, please contact the District’s Director of Special Education.

Parents or guardians may request, at any time, a copy of the related service log that records the delivery of related services administered under a student’s individualized education program and the minutes of each type of related service (speech and language service, occupational therapy services, physical therapy services, school social work services, school counseling services, school psychology services, and school nursing services) that has been administered.

Additionally, interpretation services are available at IEP team meetings for parents/guardians whose native language is not English or for parents/guardians who are deaf. If a qualified interpreter is not available, the school may use outside vendors, including telephonic interpreters. A parent/guardian requiring interpretation services at an IEP meeting may contact their student’s case manager or building administrator in writing, by phone, or email at least 5 business days before an IEP meeting to request an interpreter at the meetings. A parent or guardian has the right to request that the interpreter serve no other role in the IEP meeting other than interpreter, and the school should make reasonable efforts to fulfill this request. In addition to interpretation services, written translations of vital IEP process documents may be available to parents/guardians of students with IEPs. A parent/guardian may contact the case manager or building administrator with any questions or complaints about interpretation services and/or to find out more information or to address concerns regarding translation of vital IEP documents.

Regarding translation of vital IEP documents: 23 IAC 226.530. School districts are now required to notify all parents of children eligible for an IEP that written translations of vital IEP process documents are available, how to request translated documents, and whom to contact with any questions or complaints about the translations. This notice must be provided in English, in all common languages, and in the parent’s preferred language, if known and practicable.

Public Act 103-0504- the District handbook will now include the name of the designated trained PUNS employee. The Prioritization of Urgency of Need for Services (PUNS) Database: the District shall determine a student’s PUNS database registration status at the annual review IEP meeting for students with intellectual or developmental disabilities. If a student is not registered, the IEP team will refer the student to the District’s designated trained employee, Brooke Madden - (630) 301-5360 - [bmadden@sd129.org](mailto:bmadden@sd129.org)

### **15. Alternative Learning Opportunities**

The Superintendent or designee shall develop, maintain, and supervise a program for students at risk of academic failure or dropping out of school due to behavioral or social emotional risk factors. The program

shall include education and support services addressing individual learning styles, career development, and social emotional needs for students in grades 6-12 who have or will acquire the number of credits to earn a high school diploma prior to a student’s 21<sup>st</sup> birthday, and may include:

- Parent-teacher conferences

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- Counseling services
- Psychological testing
- Truants' alternative and optional education program
- Alternative school placement
- Community agency services
- Career development
- Alternative learning opportunities program, in conformity with Alternative Learning Opportunities Law, as it may be amended from time-to-time
- Graduation incentives program
- Remediation program and credit recovery

### **16. Sex and Violent Offender Against Youth Community Notification**

State law requires that all school districts provide parents/guardians with information about sex offenders and violent offenders against youth. The Illinois Sex Offender Registry is located on the Illinois State Police's website at <http://www.isp.state.il.us/sor/>. The Illinois Statewide Child Murderer and Violent Offender Against Youth Registry, also located on the Illinois State Police's website, is <http://www.isp.state.il.us/cmvo/>.

### **17. Student Expression**

- a. A student has the right to say or write what he/she believes on political and social issues.
- b. School officials may reasonably control the time and place of speeches, gathering of groups and distribution of written materials.
- c. Students must respect the opinions and feelings of others when using their freedom of speech and encourage all viewpoints to be expressed.
- d. Students must take responsibility for what they say, as they may be subject to lawsuits for libel (publishing a false statement that is damaging to a person's reputation), slander (making a false spoken statement that is damaging to a person's reputation), and/or obscenity.
- e. Student newspapers and other District-approved publications including web-based media are not a public forum, and student opinions may be subject to revision by administration.
- f. A statement made on or off campus, including through social media, which interferes with, disrupts, or adversely affects the school environment, school operations, or an educational function may be subject to disciplinary action.

### **18. Married and/or Pregnant Students**

- a. Married and/or pregnant students may receive all education services and join in all programs and activities of the school under the same expectations as other students, as long as their physical or mental condition allows them to do so.



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- b. Pregnant students may make other choices to the regular school program in agreement with the local school staff, their significant other or parent/guardian, and with the written consent of the pregnant student's physician. Other choices might include home tutoring, adult evening classes, or other alternative learning opportunities.
- c. Breastfeeding students shall be provided reasonable accommodations on a school campus to express breast milk, breastfeed an infant child, or address other needs related to breastfeeding.

### **19. Search and Seizure**

In order to maintain order and security in the schools, school authorities are authorized to conduct reasonable searches of school property and equipment, as well as of students and their personal effects. "School Authorities" includes school resource police officers.

- a. School authorities may inspect and search, including through use of a metal detector wand, school property and equipment owned or controlled by the school (such as lockers, desks and parking lots), as well as personal effects left there by a student, without notice to or the consent of the student. Students have no reasonable expectation of privacy in these places or areas or in their personal effects left there.
- b. School authorities may search a student and/or the student's personal effects in the student's possession (such as purses, wallets, book bags, lunch boxes, etc.), including through use of a metal detector wand, when there is a reasonable ground for suspecting that the search will produce evidence that the particular student has violated or is violating either the law or the District's expectations and regulations. The search itself must be conducted in a manner that is reasonably related to its objective and not excessively intrusive in light of the student's age and sex, and the nature of the infraction.
- c. The contents of a student's cell phone, another electronic device, or social media accounts may be searched in the event school officials have a reasonable suspicion that the device/account has been used in violation of school expectations and regulations and that a search of its contents will disclose evidence of such a violation.
- d. If a search produces evidence that the student has violated or is violating either the law or the District's policies or expectations, such evidence may be seized and impounded by school authorities, and disciplinary action may be taken. When appropriate, such evidence may be transferred to law enforcement authorities.

### **20. Access to Students**

- a. No person other than the parent/guardian or school personnel will have permission to visit the student at school or remove the student from school unless 1) such person has the consent of the parent/guardian, 2) the release is pursuant to a court order, 3) such person has a warrant to arrest the student, or 4) the release is clearly for the student's welfare. In the event that any questions arise, the Building Principal or designee will make the decision.

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- b. The Superintendent or designee must approve any out-of-district research projects that ask for information involving students in the District. If a student, identified by name, is involved in a research project, written permission by the parent(s)/guardian(s) and the student will be needed before the student can participate. Surveys created by a third party may also be inspected prior to distributing/administering them to students. Requests to inspect such materials should be directed to the Building Principal.

### **21. Tobacco and Smoking/Vaping**

All District schools and properties are tobacco-, smoke-, and vape-free. No persons may use tobacco materials (including chewing tobacco, electronic cigarettes/vaping, and hookah products) on District property at any time, including during extracurricular activities and events.

### **22. Re-enrollment of Students**

Students aged 17 years or older who have dropped out of school or cannot graduate before their 21<sup>st</sup> birthday because of a lack of credits shall be denied re-enrollment. Academic counseling shall be provided to such students to direct them to alternative education programs.

### **23. Restraint and Time Out**

The school District has a restraint and time out (RTO) plan, consistent with the *Illinois State Board of Education restraint and time out reduction goals*, which provides a continuous evaluation of best practices for providing alternatives to time out and restraint. This plan is available by request to your building administration.

### **24. School Visitation Rights Act**

An employed parent/guardian unable to meet with educators because of a work conflict may be entitled to an allotment of time from their employers to attend necessary educational or behavioral conferences at their student's school. Additional information may be obtained from the school office.

### **25. Right to Request Personnel Information**

A parent/guardian has the right to request information regarding their professional qualifications from any teacher who is instructing their student. Information regarding the following may be requested:

- Whether or not the teacher has met state certification requirements
- Whether or not the teacher is teaching under emergency or provisional status
- The bachelor's degree major of the teacher
- Any other certifications or degrees held by the teacher and the subject areas of the certifications or degrees
- If services are being provided by paraprofessionals, and if so, their qualifications

Requests for information should be sent to District 129, Human Resources Department, 1877 W. Downer Place, Aurora, IL 60506.

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### **26. Right to Inspect Particular Instructional Materials**

A parent/guardian has the right to inspect any instructional material used as part of their student's educational curriculum.

### **27. Unsafe School Choice Option**

A parent/guardian of a student who has been the victim of a violent crime at a Title I school or who attends a "persistently dangerous school" as determined by the state, will be offered school choice. Contact the office of the Superintendent for additional information.

### **28. Service Reimbursement**

Schools may be reimbursed for some services performed for students receiving Medicaid. This will not reduce the amount of Medicaid reimbursement the parent/guardian will receive, but will generate extra monies that can be used for District students.

### **29. Limited English Proficient Students**

a. As required by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), Section 1112(3), the District will inform the parent/guardian of a limited English proficient student identified for participation or participating in a language instruction educational program, as determined under part C of Title III of Every Student Succeeds Act:

- The reasons for their student being identified
- Their student's level of English proficiency
- The instructional method used
- How their student's program will meet their student's needs
- How the program will help the student learn English
- Exit requirements for the program to meet the objectives of any limited English proficiency
- For a child with a disability pursuant to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, how the program meets the student's objectives in his IEP
- Information regarding parental rights, including:
  - The right that parents have to have their child immediately removed from such a program upon their request.
  - The option that parents have to decline to enroll their child in such a program or to choose another program or method of instruction, if available.
  - Assisting parents in selecting among various programs and methods of instruction, if more than one program or method is offered by the eligible entity.

b. As required by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), Section 1112(3)(B), the District must notify the parent/guardian of a student identified as English learners during the school year of the student's eligibility to receive English language services during the first two weeks of the student being placed in a language instruction educational program.

c. As required by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), Sections 1112(3)(C), the District has implemented an effective means of outreach to its parents/guardians of limited English proficient students to inform them how they can be involved in their student's education, and be active participants in assisting their

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students to attain English proficiency, achieve at high levels in core academic subjects, and meet the challenging state academic achievement and content standards. In addition, the outreach includes holding and sending notice of opportunities for regular meetings to formulate and respond to parent/guardian recommendations.

### **30. McKinney-Vento: Education of Homeless Children and Youth**

- a. As required by the McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Improvement Act, Section 722(e)(3)(C), the District will provide a parent/guardian written notice at the time their homeless child or youth seeks enrollment in school, and at least twice annually while the child or youth is enrolled in such school. In the case of an unaccompanied youth, the youth will receive the notification. The notification shall be signed by the parent/guardian, sets the general rights provided under this subtitle, includes contact information for the local liaison for homeless children and youths, and specifically states:
  - The choice of schools that homeless children and youths are eligible to attend
  - That no homeless child or youth is required to attend a separate school for homeless children or youth
  - That homeless children and youth shall be provided comparable services including transportation services, educational services, and meals through the school meals programs
  - That homeless children and youth should not be stigmatized by school personnel
- b. As required by Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), the McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Improvement Act, Section 722(g)(2), in the case of an unaccompanied homeless youth, the District shall ensure that the homeless liaison assists in placement or enrollment decisions, considers the views of such unaccompanied youth, and provides notice to such youth to the right of appeal.
- c. As required by Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), the McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Improvement Act, Section 722(G), the District shall ensure that public notice of the educational rights of homeless children and youth is disseminated in places where such children and youth receive services. Such places include, but are not limited to, school buildings, family shelters, soup kitchens, and public libraries. The materials being disseminated should be done in a manner and form understandable to the parent/guardian of homeless children and youth, and unaccompanied youth.

For additional information please contact, Dr. Dawn Marmo - [dmarmo@sd129.org](mailto:dmarmo@sd129.org)

### **31. Student Privacy**

- a. As required by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), the District has adopted student privacy policies and provides notice of the adoption or continued use of such policies directly to the parent/guardian of District students. The District provides such notice at the beginning of the school year and within a reasonable period of time after any substantive policy change and offers an opportunity for the parent/guardian to opt the student out.

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- b. As required by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), the Board adopted and uses policies regarding student privacy, parental access to information, and administration of certain physical examinations to minors. (Copies of these policies are available upon request.) *See Board Policy 7.015*

### **32. Assessments**

Students must participate in assessments mandated by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) and by the State of Illinois or the District. A parent/guardian may request information regarding any State or local educational agency policy regarding student participation in any assessments mandated by ESSA Section 1111(b)(2). Assessments required by ESSA, the State of Illinois or the District include: teacher-created classroom assessments, Performance Series, the Cognitive Abilities Test, the SAT Suite of Assessments, the Illinois Snapshots of Early Literacy, Accessing Comprehension and Communication in English from State to State, Dynamic Learning Maps, the Illinois Science Assessments and the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for college and Careers.

### **33. Acceptable Use of Electronic Networks**

#### Safe, Responsible, Respectful

All use of electronic networks shall be consistent with the District's goal of promoting educational excellence by facilitating resource sharing, innovation, and communication. These procedures do not attempt to state all required or proscribed behavior by users. However, some specific examples are provided. The failure of any user to follow these procedures will result in the loss of privileges, disciplinary action, and/or legal action.

#### Terms and Conditions

- *Acceptable Use*—Access to the District's electronic network must be: (a) for the purpose of education or research, and be consistent with the District's educational objectives, or (b) for legitimate business use.
- *Privileges*—The use of the District's electronic network is a privilege, not a right, and inappropriate use will result in a cancellation of those privileges. The system administrator or building administration will make all decisions regarding whether or not a user has violated these procedures and may deny, revoke, or suspend access at any time. His or her decision is final.
- *Unacceptable Use*—The user is responsible for his or her actions and activities involving the network. Some examples of unacceptable uses are:
  - a. Using the network for any illegal activity, including violation of copyright or other contracts, or transmitting any material in violation of any state or federal law.
  - b. Unauthorized downloading of software, regardless of whether it is copyrighted or de-virused.
  - c. Downloading of copyrighted material for anything other than personal use.
  - d. Using the network for private financial or commercial gain.

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- e. Wastefully using resources, such as file space.
- f. Hacking or gaining unauthorized access to files, resources or entities.
- g. Invading the privacy of an individual, including the unauthorized disclosure, dissemination, and use of information about anyone that is of a personal nature, including a photograph.
- h. Using another user's account or password without his/her consent.
- i. Posting material authored or created by another without his/her consent.
- j. Posting anonymous messages.
- k. Using the network for commercial or private advertising.
- l. Accessing, submitting, posting, publishing, or displaying any defamatory, inaccurate, abusive, obscene, profane, sexually-oriented, threatening, racially-offensive, harassing, or illegal material.
- m. Using the network while access privileges are suspended or revoked.
- n. Attempting to subvert or render inoperable computer networks via Denial of Service attacks or other attempts to render the District's network inoperable via malicious software or network tools.
- o. Plugging unauthorized network devices into the District's wired network ports.
- *Network Etiquette*—the user is expected to abide by the generally accepted expectations of network etiquette. These include, but are not limited to, the following:
  - a. Do not become abusive in messages to others.
  - b. Use appropriate language. Do not swear, or use vulgarities or any other inappropriate language.
  - c. Do not reveal personal information, including the addresses or telephone numbers of students or colleagues.
  - d. Recognize that email is not private. Systems administrators and District officials have access to all email.
  - e. Do not use the network in any way that would disrupt its use by other users.
  - f. Consider all communications and information accessible via the network to be part of a public domain.

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- *No Warranties*—The District makes no warranties of any kind, whether expressed or implied, for the service it is providing. The District will not be responsible for any damages the user suffers. This includes loss of data resulting from delays, non-deliveries, missed deliveries, or service interruptions caused by its negligence or the user’s errors or omissions. Use of any information obtained via the Internet is at the user’s risk. The District specifically denies any responsibility for the accuracy or quality of information obtained through its services.
- *Indemnification*—The user agrees to indemnify the District for any losses, costs, or damages, including reasonable attorney fees, incurred by the District relating to, or arising out of, any violation of these procedures.
- *Security*—Network security is a high priority. If the user can identify a security problem on the Internet, the user must notify the system administrator or building administrator. Do not demonstrate the problem to other users. Keep your account and password confidential. Do not use another individual’s account without written permission from that individual. Attempts to log on to the Internet as a system administrator will result in cancellation of user privileges. Any user identified as a security risk may be denied access to the network.
- *Vandalism*—Vandalism will result in cancellation of privileges and in other disciplinary action. Vandalism is defined as any malicious attempt to harm or destroy data of another user, the Internet, or any other network. This includes, but is not limited to, the uploading or creation of computer viruses. Vandalism also includes physically damaging District-owned technology devices. The District may collect restitution for damages.
- *Telephone Charges*—The District assumes no responsibility for any unauthorized charges or fees, including telephone charges, long-distance charges, per-minute surcharges, and/or equipment or line costs.
- *Copyright Web Publishing Expectations*—Copyright law and District Policy prohibit the re-publishing of text or graphics found on the web, District-administered social media sites, District websites, or file servers without explicit written permission.
  - a. For each re-publication (on a website or file server) of a graphic or text file that was produced externally, there must be a notice at the bottom of the page crediting the original producer and noting how and when permission was granted. If possible, the notice should also include the web address of the original source.
  - b. Students and staff engaged in producing web pages must provide library media specialists with email or hard copy permissions before the web pages are published. Printed evidence of the status of “public domain” documents must be provided.



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- c. The absence of a copyright notice may not be interpreted as permission to copy the materials. Only the copyright owner may provide the permission. The manager of the website displaying the material may not be considered a source of permission.
  - d. The fair use expectations governing student reports in classrooms are less stringent and permit limited use of graphics and text.
  - e. Student work may only be published if there is a written permission from both the parent/guardian and student.
- *Use of Email*—The District’s email system, and its constituent software, hardware, and data files are owned and controlled by the District. The District provides email to aid students and staff members in fulfilling their duties and responsibilities and as an education tool.
    - a. The District reserves the right to access and disclose the contents of any account on its system without prior notice or permission from the account’s user. Unauthorized access by any student or staff member to an email account is strictly prohibited.
    - b. Each person should use the same degree of care in drafting an email message as would be put into a written memorandum or document. Nothing should be transmitted in an email message that would be inappropriate in a letter or memorandum.
    - c. Electronic messages transmitted via the District’s Internet gateway carry with them an identification of the user’s Internet domain. This domain is a registered name and identifies the author as being affiliated with the District. Great care should be taken, therefore, in the composition of such messages and how such messages might reflect on the name and reputation of the District. Users will be held personally responsible for the content of any and all email messages transmitted to external recipients.
    - d. Any messages received from unknown senders via the Internet should either be immediately deleted or forwarded to the system administrator. Downloading any file attached to any internet-based message is prohibited unless the user is certain of the message’s authenticity and the nature of the file so transmitted. In no case should users open attachments or follow Internet links to unfamiliar addresses. Doing so puts the District’s computer network and equipment in danger of being infected with malware.
    - e. Use of the District’s email system constitutes consent to these regulations.
  - *Internet Safety* - Internet access is limited to only those acceptable uses as detailed in these procedures. Internet safety is almost assured if users will not engage in unacceptable uses, as detailed in these procedures, and otherwise follow these procedures.

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Staff members shall supervise students while students are using District Internet access to ensure that the students abide by the Terms and Conditions for Internet access contained in these procedures.

Each District-issued electronic device with Internet access has a filtering device that blocks entry to visual depictions that are 1) obscene, 2) pornographic, 3) harmful or inappropriate for students as defined by the Children’s Internet Protection Act and as determined by the Superintendent or designee.

- *Right to Privacy in the School Setting Act* - School officials may not request or require a student or a student’s parent/guardian to provide a password or other related account information to gain access to the student’s personal non-school account or profile on a social networking website. School officials may conduct an investigation or require a student to cooperate in an investigation if there is specific information about activity on the student’s account on a social networking website that violates a school disciplinary rule or policy. In the course of an investigation, the student may be required to share the content that is reported so that school officials may make a factual determination.
- *District Use of Third Party Web-Based Programs and Services*—The District strives to provide its students with the most effective web-based tools and applications for learning. To that end, the District may utilize web-based programs and services operated by third parties. For students to use these programs, certain personally identifiable information, such as the student’s name and email address, must be provided to the third party operator.
- The Children’s Online Privacy Protection Act (“COPPA”) requires that these web operators obtain verifiable parental consent before collecting personal information from children under age 13. However, COPPA permits school districts to consent to the collection of personal information on behalf of their students.

For more information on the web-based tool currently being utilized within the District, please contact the Director of Technology.

### **D. Delegation of Authority**

1. The Superintendent or designee may develop, make known and enforce other expectations of conduct. These expectations will follow Board policy.
2. In cooperation with the Aurora and North Aurora Police Departments, a school resource officer, an employee of the prospective city of which the school is located, is assigned to serve the student populations at West Aurora High School, Herget, Jefferson, Jewel, and Washington Middle Schools. The school resource officer also serves other schools in the District as needed. The responsibility of the school resource officer is not to enforce discipline but rather to be involved in activities that could be potentially unlawful.

### **E. Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS)**

The social and emotional learning of District students is supported through a Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) so all students have the opportunity to achieve academic, social, and emotional success in a nurturing and safe environment. MTSS is a proactive system approach to establishing the behavioral supports and social culture

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needed for all students in a school to achieve social, emotional, and academic success. MTSS applies evidence-based programs, practices, and strategies for all students to increase academic performance, improve safety, decrease problem behavior, and establish a positive school culture. MTSS applies a three-tiered system of support and a problem-solving process to enhance the capacity of schools to effectively educate all students.

- MTSS provides more intensive support for students not responding adequately to a universal system of support.
- MTSS provides systems for schools to design, implement, and evaluate effective school-wide, classroom, non-classroom, and children-specific intervention plans.
- Data-based decision-making is the hallmark of MTSS, allowing successes to be easily shared with all relevant stakeholders.

### **ARTICLE II**

#### **GROSS DISOBEDIENCE OR MISCONDUCT**

The general expectations place the responsibility for good student behavior on the student. This applies to all District activities, whether on or off school grounds, including District parking lots. The laws of the State of Illinois permit a student to be suspended or expelled for gross disobedience or misconduct. Prior to using out-of-school suspensions or expulsions, school officials shall consider using forms of non-exclusionary discipline.

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

#### **A. Jurisdiction**

The grounds for disciplinary action, including those described more thoroughly later in this section, apply whenever the student’s conduct is reasonably related to school or school activities, including but not limited to the following:

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

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### **B. Prohibited Student Conduct**

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

1. Using, possessing, distributing, purchasing, or selling tobacco materials, and/or paraphernalia (including, but not limited to, electronic cigarettes, vaping batteries, and hookahs/hookah products).
2. Using (being under the influence of), possessing, distributing, purchasing, or selling alcoholic beverages or beverages containing alcohol, are not permitted to attend school or school functions.
3. Using, possessing, distributing, purchasing or selling drugs and substances as described below:
  - a. Any illegal drug, controlled substance, or cannabis (including marijuana, hashish, and medical cannabis unless the student is authorized to be administered a medical cannabis-infused product and such use to possession is pursuant to Board Policy 7:270).
  - b. Any anabolic steroid unless administered in accordance with a physician or licensed practitioner's prescription.
  - c. Any prescription drug when not prescribed for the student by a physician or licensed practitioner, or when used in a manner inconsistent with the prescription or prescribing physician or licensed practitioner's instructions. The use or possession of medical cannabis, even by a student for whom medical cannabis has been prescribed, is prohibited unless the user or possession is pursuant to Board Policy 7:270.
  - d. Any performance-enhancing substance on the Illinois High School Association's most current banned substance list, unless administered in accordance with a physician's or licensed practitioner's prescription.
  - e. Any inhalant, regardless of whether it contains an illegal drug or controlled substance: (a) that a student believes is, or represents to be capable of, causing intoxication, hallucination, excitement, or dulling of the brain or nervous system; or (b) about which the student engaged in behavior that would lead a reasonable person to believe that the student intended the inhalant to cause intoxication, hallucination, excitement, or dulling of the brain or nervous system. The prohibition in this section does not apply to a student's use of asthma or other legally prescribed inhalant medications.
  - f. "Look-alike" or counterfeit drugs, including a substance not containing an illegal drug or controlled substance, but one: (a) that a student believes to be, or represents to be, an illegal drug or controlled substance; or (b) about which a student engaged in behavior that would lead a reasonable person to believe that the student expressly or impliedly represented to be an illegal drug or controlled substance.
  - g. Drug and/or tobacco paraphernalia, including devices that are or can be used to: (a) ingest, inhale, or inject cannabis or controlled substances. The use or possession of drug paraphernalia, even by a student

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for whom medical cannabis has been prescribed, is prohibited unless the user or possession is pursuant to Board Policy 7:270.

- h. Students who are under the influence of any prohibited substance are not permitted to attend school or school functions and are treated as though they had the prohibited substance, as applicable, in their possession.
4. Using, possessing, controlling or transferring a weapon.
- a. A student who uses, possesses, controls, or transfers a weapon, or any other object that can reasonably be considered, or looks like, a weapon, may be expelled for one calendar year, but no more than two (2) calendar years. The Superintendent may modify the recommended expulsion period and the board may modify the Superintendent's recommendation on a case-by-case basis.
  - b. A "weapon" means: 1) any gun, rifle, shotgun, a weapon as defined by Section 921 of Title 18, United States Code, firearm as defined in Section 1.1 of the Firearm Owners Identification Act, or use of a weapon as defined in Section 24-1 of the Criminal Code; 2) any other object if used or attempted to be used to cause bodily harm, including but not limited to, knives, razor blades, brass knuckles, billy clubs; or 3) "look-alikes" of any weapon as defined above. Any item, such as a baseball bat, pipe, bottle, lock, stick, pencil, and pen, pepper spray is considered to be a weapon if used or attempted to be used to cause bodily harm.
  - c. The Superintendent or designee may grant an expectation to this policy, upon the prior request of an adult supervisor, for students in theater, cooking, ROTC, martial arts, or similar program, whether or not school-sponsored, provided the item is not equipped, or not intended, to do bodily harm.
5. Using or possessing a cellular telephone, video/audio recording device, or other electronic device (including but not limited to computers, smartphones, tablets, and wrist worn two-way communication devices) in any manner that disrupts the educational environment or violates the rights of others, including but not limited to:
- a. Using the device to take inappropriate photographs of others in locker rooms, bathrooms, or elsewhere.
  - b. Using the device for the purpose of engaging in academic dishonesty.
  - c. Using features of a personal device to disrupt the educational environment.
  - d. Otherwise violating student conduct expectations.

Unless otherwise banned under this policy or by the building administration, all non-school issued electronic devices must be kept silenced and out-of-sight during the regular school day, unless:

- a. The supervising teacher grants permission.
- b. Use of the device is provided in a student's individualized education program (IEP).
- c. Is needed in an emergency that threatens the safety of students, staff, or other individuals. Students may be in possession of cellular phones during after-school hours.

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6. Using or possessing a laser pointer unless under a staff member's direct supervision and in the context of instruction.
7. Disobeying expectations of student conduct, including, but not limited to horseplay, physical and verbal confrontations, dress code violations (including but not limited to facial coverings due to the COVID-19 pandemic), and non-compliance to staff directives.
8. Engaging in academic dishonesty, including, but not limited to, cheating intentionally, plagiarizing, using a writing service and/or generative artificial intelligence technology in place of original work unless specifically authorized by staff, wrongfully giving or receiving help during an academic examination, wrongfully obtaining test copies or scores, and using personal devices to engage in academic dishonesty (Article IIB-5).
9. Engaging in hazing or any kind of bullying, including cyberbullying, on a District-issued or personal device (see definitions of bullying and cyberbullying in Article I, Number 10), or aggressive behavior that does physical or psychological harm to another student or any urging of other students to engage in such conduct that has potential to disrupt or compromise the safety of the educational environment. Prohibited conduct includes any use of violence, force, noise, coercion, threats, intimidation, fear, harassment, hazing, or other comparable conduct. A student may report an incident of bullying to the building administration/staff, as provided in Article I-10.
10. Causing or attempting to cause damage to, or stealing or attempting to steal, school property or another person's personal property.
11. Being absent without recognized excuse; State law and School Board Policy 7.070 regarding truancy control will be used with chronic and habitual truants.
12. Being involved with any public-school fraternity, sorority, or secret society, by:
  - a. Being a member.
  - b. Promising to join.
  - c. Pledging to become a member.
  - d. Soliciting any other person to join, promise to join, or be pledged to become a member.
13. Being involved in gangs or gang-related activities, including displaying gang symbols, colors and/or paraphernalia.
14. Violating any criminal law, including but not limited to, assault, battery, arson, theft, gambling, eavesdropping, trespassing, hazing and setting false alarms (i.e. fire alarm pulls, bomb threats, and 911 calls from within the school buildings).
15. Making an explicit threat on an internet-based website or app against a school or school-related personnel or a student if the Internet-based website and/or app through which the threat was made is a site that was accessible within the school at the time the threat was made or was available to third parties who worked or

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studied within the school grounds at the time the threat was made, and the threat could be reasonably interpreted as threatening to the safety and security of the threatened individual or school community.

16. Engaging in any activity, on or off campus, including but not limited to making an explicit threat on an Internet-based website or app, at any time, against a school employee, a student, or any school-related personnel, that interferes with, disrupts, or adversely affects the school environment, school operations, or an educational function, including but not limited to, conduct that may reasonably be considered to: (a) be a threat or an attempted intimidation of a staff member, or (b) endanger the health or safety of students, staff, or school property.
17. Violating the District's "Acceptable Use of Network and Technology Resource Procedures."

### **C. Misconduct by Students with Disabilities**

1. Behavioral Interventions shall be used with students with disabilities (as defined by Article 14 of the School Code) to promote and strengthen desirable behaviors and reduce identified inappropriate behaviors. The District will establish and maintain a committee to develop, implement, and monitor procedures on the use of behavioral interventions for students with disabilities.
2. The District shall comply with the provisions of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act ("IDEA") and the Illinois State Board of Education's Special Education Administrative expectations when disciplining special education students. Special education students shall be subject to District's standard discipline code, including consequences, provided that the District's standard discipline code is administered consistent with the IDEA and the Illinois State Board of Education's Special Education Administrative expectations.

No special education student shall be expelled if the student's particular act of gross disobedience or misconduct is a manifestation of his or her disability. Any special education student whose gross disobedience or misconduct is not a manifestation of his or her disability may be expelled pursuant to the expulsion procedures, except that such disabled student shall continue to receive educational services as provided in the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act during such period of expulsion.

## **ARTICLE III**

### **BEHAVIORAL AND DISCIPLINARY INTERVENTIONS AND ACTIONS**

The District recognizes its responsibility to provide a quality education for students. Quality education requires a climate conducive to learning. In order to produce that type of climate, the Board further recognizes that it has an obligation to provide order and discipline in the schools and to do all within its power to avoid disruptions of the educational process.

The procedures outlined in the following sections are designed to make students aware of the types of behaviors upon which the school will act, and types of behavioral and disciplinary interventions and consequences that might be expected as a result of these behaviors. Violations that occur in school, on school grounds, to and from school, on school buses, or at school activities are subject to behavioral and disciplinary action. Violations occurring off school



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grounds that interfere with, disrupt, or adversely affect the school environment, school operations, or an educational function may also be subject to behavioral and disciplinary interventions and consequences.

### **A. Behavioral and Disciplinary Interventions and Actions**

The District employs a universal system of supports designed to promote academic, social, and emotional success for all students in a nurturing and safe environment. In addition, for students who have not responded to the universal system of support, the District has designed and implemented an MTSS system, which is a proactive systematic approach to establishing the behavioral supports and social culture needed for all students in a school to achieve social, emotional, and academic success. Students who engage in misconduct, despite these systems of support, will receive behavioral and disciplinary interventions and consequences to address the misconduct. Not all behavioral and disciplinary interventions and consequences are appropriate to address an act of misconduct. Determination of the appropriate behavioral and disciplinary interventions and consequences will be proportionate to the misconduct and will be designed to improve behavior. Our procedures are designed to involve the student, teacher, parent(s)/guardian(s), counselor, school administrators, Superintendent, and/or Board in the process. The following behavioral and disciplinary interventions are available:

1. **Universal Systems of Supports** are the core programs and strategies provided to all students within the school building to promote successful student outcomes and prevent school failure.
2. **Conferences** are used to discuss concerns and possible solutions. Staff members, students or parents(s)/guardian(s) may request a conference.
3. **Check-In-Check-Out (CICO)** is a structured, individualized intervention aimed at fostering positive staff-student interactions to enhance self-monitoring of behavior. This approach incorporates daily progress monitoring tools and includes targeted skill deficit instruction during student-staff check-ins.
4. **Social-Emotional Groups and Counseling Groups** are intervention groups created in response to student-specific skill deficit areas. The purpose of the group session is to teach and foster the development of deficit skills in a controlled environment. Progress monitoring is used to track student progress and skill development.
5. **Social Emotional Learning/Wayfinder** is a research-backed curriculum that supports students' academic engagement and holistic well-being with resources that help build strong relationships, develop future-ready skills, and guide students to live purposeful lives. This is done through experiential learning lessons and activities that support Collaboration, Empathy, Self-Awareness, Adaptability, Agency, and Purpose.
6. **General Education Behavior Intervention Plan (BIP)** is an intervention that identifies an individual student's target behaviors. These target behaviors have been identified as adversely impacting the academic setting or the student's academic or social-emotional progress. Based upon the target behaviors, responses and supports are identified and used consistently amongst all staff who interact with the student. Progress monitoring methods are identified as part of a BIP. A BIP has a designated duration for implementation.

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7. **Restorative Conferences and Practices** "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, and (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 Illinois Human Rights Act. (In accordance with PA 102-0241)
8. **Detention** is a temporary detainment before school, after school, or during lunch. Teachers and office staff are to give parent(s)/guardian(s) a one day notice for detention assignments.
9. **Social Probation** (Middle and High School Only) is a means to withhold extracurricular events (sporting events, dances, field trips, etc.) from a student for a determined amount of time. This determination is made by school administration when a student is demonstrating an inability to follow school expectations, is making poor academic choices, or is disregarding attendance policies.
10. **Athletic and Activity Suspension** (Middle and High School Only) is the temporary removal of a student from District-sponsored extracurricular activities for a determined amount of time. The determination is made by school administration. During an athletic and activity suspension, students are not allowed to attend or participate in school activities on or off school grounds.
11. **Bus Suspension** is the temporary removal of a student from District-provided transportation for a period up to 10 days (although, this can be extended due to safety concerns). This penalty is designed to discourage acts of student misconduct that could pose a threat to the safety of students or staff in a moving vehicle, or while traveling to and from school-sponsored events.
12. **In-School Intervention (ISI)** may be assigned to students by an administrator for a portion of a school day or multiple days. The expectation of ISI is to maintain academic progress while assigned to the intervention.  
  
Students may also be asked to complete SEL assignments as well. Students who do not follow expectations in ISI may receive further behavioral and disciplinary interventions and consequences.
13. **Out-of-School Suspension (OSS)** is the temporary exclusion of a student from school by an administrator for a period not to exceed 10 consecutive school days. During a suspension, suspended students are not allowed on any District 129 school grounds nor may they attend or participate in any District 129 school activities on or off school grounds. Suspended students will be given the opportunity to make up work for equivalent academic credit.
14. **Reinstatement Conference** is the process in which an administrator arranges to meet with the student and/or parent upon return to school after an out-of-school suspension.

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15. **Alternative Educational Placement or Setting** is a means, at the administration's discretion, to place a student who impacts the safety, wellbeing, or educational programming of the school community or of individuals in the school community, in a District-approved educational program in lieu of a recommendation for possible expulsion.
16. **Blackhawk Academy** is District 129's non-traditional learning environment of multiple programs aligned to address the varying needs of District 129 students in grades 6-12. Both the Regional Safe School Program (RSSP) and the Alternative Learning Opportunities Program (ALOP) are operated in collaboration with Kane County Regional Office of Education and are components of Blackhawk Academy. A student's home school may make a referral for a student to attend a Blackhawk Academy program if the building has exhausted all efforts of intervention to address a student's social, emotional, behavioral, or academic skill deficits.
17. **Expulsion** is the exclusion of the student from school for a period of more than 10 days and up to two (2) calendar years.

### **B. Suspension Procedures**

1. Before a student may be suspended, the student shall be provided a conference during which the charges will be explained, and the student will be given an opportunity to respond to the charges.
2. A pre-suspension conference is not required, and the student can be immediately suspended when the student's presence poses a continuing danger to persons or property, or is an ongoing threat of disruption to the educational process. In such cases, the notice and conference shall follow as soon as practicable.
3. Any suspension shall be reported immediately to the student's parent(s)/guardian(s). A written notice of the suspension shall be provided to the student's parent(s)/guardian(s).
  - a. For suspensions of three (3) or fewer school days, the written notice shall:
    - Detail the specific act of gross disobedience or misconduct resulting in the decision to suspend.
    - List the duration of the suspension, including the specific dates of suspension.
    - Advise the student of his ability to complete make-up schoolwork for equivalent academic credit.
  
    - Notify parent(s)/guardian(s) of their right to a review of the suspension.
  - b. For suspensions of four (4) or more school days, the written suspension notice shall:
    - Detail the specific act of gross disobedience or misconduct resulting in the decision to suspend.
    - List the duration of the suspension, including the specific dates of suspension.
    - Advise the student of his ability to complete make-up schoolwork for equivalent academic credit.
    - Notify parent(s)/guardian(s) of their right to a review of the suspension.
  - c. For suspensions of five (5) or more school days, the written suspension notice shall include all of the items noted in 3(b) above, and shall also document whether appropriate and available support services are to be provided to the student during the suspension or whether it was determined that there are no such appropriate and available services.

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The School Board must be given a summary of the notice, including the reason for the suspension and the suspension length.

4. Upon request of the parent(s)/guardian(s), a review of the suspension shall be conducted by the Board, or a hearing officer appointed by the Board. At the review, the student's parent(s)/guardian(s) may appear and discuss the suspension with the Board, or its hearing officer, and may be represented by counsel. After presentation of the evidence, or receipt of the hearing officer's report, the Board shall take such action as it finds appropriate.

### **C. Expulsion Procedures**

1. Before a student may be expelled, the student and his or her parent(s)/guardian(s) shall be provided with a written request to appear at a hearing to determine whether the student shall be expelled. The request shall be sent by registered or certified mail, return receipt requested. The request shall:
  - Detail the specific act of gross disobedience or misconduct resulting in the decision to recommend expulsion.
  - Advise the parent(s)/guardian(s) of the proposed duration of the recommended expulsion.
  - Include the time, date, and place for the hearing.
  - Include a short description of what will happen during the hearing.
  - Include a statement indicating that the School Code allows the Board to expel a student for a definite period of time not to exceed two (2) calendar years, as determined on a case-by-case basis.
  - Request that the student or parent(s)/guardian(s) inform the District if the student will be represented by an attorney and, if so, the attorney's name.
2. The Board shall conduct the hearing or appoint a hearing officer. If a hearing officer is appointed, he or she shall submit his or her report to the Director of Student Services. The Director of Student Services shall then share the hearing officer's report with the Board. The report includes evidence presented at the hearing. The Board shall then take such final action as it finds appropriate.

During the expulsion hearing, the Board or hearing officer shall hear evidence concerning whether the student is guilty of the gross disobedience or misconduct as charged. The student and his or her parent(s)/guardian(s) may be represented by counsel, offer evidence, present witnesses, cross-examine witnesses who testify, and otherwise present reasons why the student should not be expelled. After presentation of the evidence, or receipt of the hearing officer's report, the Board shall take such action as it finds appropriate. If the Board acts to expel the student, the written expulsion decision shall:

- Detail the specific reason why removing the student from his or her learning environment is in the best interest of the school.
- Provide a rationale for the specific duration of the recommended expulsion.
- Document that school officials determined that all appropriate and available behavioral and disciplinary interventions have been exhausted by specifying which interventions were attempted, or whether school officials determined that no other appropriate and available interventions existed for the student.

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- Document that the student’s continuing presence in school would (1) pose a threat to the safety of other students, staff, or members of the school community, or (2) substantially disrupt, impede, or interfere with the operation of the school.

## **Student Support Resources**

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline

988

Suicide Prevention Services (Batavia)

630-482-9699

National Crisis Counseling Text Line

Text HOME to 741741

SAFE2HELP Illinois

*Seek Help Before Harm*

1-844-4-SAFEIL

Text - 72332

Download the SAFE2HELP Illinois mobile app

Bookmark the page: [www.safe2helpIL.com](http://www.safe2helpIL.com)