

**McLEAN COUNTY UNIT DISTRICT No. 5**



**EARLY LEARNING HANDBOOK**

**EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION**



**McLean County Unit School District No. 5**

1809 West Hovey Avenue

Normal, IL 61761-4439

Phone: 309.557.4400 • Fax: 309.557.4501

Web: [www.unit5.org](http://www.unit5.org)

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Revised July 2024

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Letter from Early Learning Coordinator

McLean County Unit District No.5

1809 West Hovey Avenue

Normal, IL 61761-4339

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Welcome to the McLean County Unit District No. 5 Schools!

Our district is very pleased to present this comprehensive handbook for your use during the coming school year. A significant effort is put forth to provide student transfers between buildings with a minimal degree of change. Although many daily procedures have been standardized, each school still maintains its own unique history, traditions, and school climate.

All handbook and school rules apply to all school-sponsored events, even those activities occurring off-campus. The handbook does not equate to an irrevocable contractual commitment to the student, but only reflects the current status of the rules and policies. **Changes in State and federal laws may indicate amendments to sources identified in this handbook during the school year. Please see the Board's comprehensive policy manual on the District's website [https://www.boardpolicyonline.com/?b=mclean\\_5](https://www.boardpolicyonline.com/?b=mclean_5) or at the Board office, located at 1809 West Hovey Avenue, Normal, Illinois for current information.**

If you have questions regarding any aspect of our early learning program, please feel free to contact your child's teacher or the building principal.

We pledge to make every effort to assure that your child has a meaningful and enjoyable education in our school district.

Sincerely,

Kris Pennington

Early Learning Coordinator

## McLean County Unit District No. 5 Contact Information

1809 West Hovey Avenue  
Normal, IL 61761-4339  
Phone: 309.557.4400  
Fax: 309.557.4501  
Web: [www.unit5.org](http://www.unit5.org)  
General E-mail: [district@unit5.org](mailto:district@unit5.org)

## Early Learning School Information

Brigham Early Learning Center  
Principal: Erin O'Grady  
201 Brigham School Rd  
Bloomington, IL 61704  
E-Mail: [ogradye@unit5.org](mailto:ogradye@unit5.org)  
Phone: 309.557.4411  
Fax: 309.557.4512

Sugar Creek Elementary  
Principal: Scott Vogel  
200 N Towanda Ave  
Normal, IL 61761  
E-Mail: [vogels@unit5.org](mailto:vogels@unit5.org)  
Phone: 309.557.4425  
Fax: 309.557.4526

## District and School Web Pages



*McLean County Unit District No. 5*

**<http://www.unit5.org>**

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Visit our McLean County Unit District No. 5 website. The website is an excellent source for learning more about Unit 5's mission, policies, curriculum, administration information, school calendar, lunch menus, policies, and current district events.

Visit our local websites for more information about each site:

**Sugar Creek Elementary School**  
<https://sugarcreek.unit5.org/>

**Brigham School**  
<https://brigham.unit5.org/>



## Section 1 - Introductory Information and General Notices

### **Overview**

This handbook is a summary of the program’s rules and expectations, and is not a comprehensive statement of school procedures. The Board’s comprehensive policy manual is available for public inspection through the District’s website [https://www.boardpolicyonline.com/?b=mclean\\_5](https://www.boardpolicyonline.com/?b=mclean_5) or at the Board office, located at **1809 W. Hovey Avenue, Normal, Illinois.**

### **McLean County Unit District 5 Mission Statement**

Unit 5 will educate each student to achieve personal excellence.

### **McLean County Unit District 5 Early Learning Purpose Statement**

The purpose of the Unit 5 Early Learning Program is to provide a stimulating and nurturing environment for young children. Students are given the chance to become successful and build self-confidence. The program is designed to increase student opportunities, help prepare for future achievements, and meet individual needs and goals in eight domains of learning, which are guided by the Illinois Early Learning State Standards: Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, Physical Development and Health, Fine Arts, Foreign/Primary Language, Social/Emotional.

### **McLean County Unit District 5 Diversity Statement**

Dear Unit 5 Community Members,

Unit 5’s commitment to respecting diversity in all of its forms is vital to attaining the District mission of “educating each student to achieve personal excellence.” The district remains dedicated to expanding awareness of diversity issues; engaging in proactive diversity planning; and maintaining a welcoming, effective learning environment. With the assistance of the Unit 5 Diversity and Inclusion Committee, the district will continue to establish and achieve diversity goals that will enrich our educational community. Thank you for your involvement in and contributions to our efforts.

Sincerely,

Dr. Kristen Kendrick-Weikle  
Superintendent

Dayna Brown  
Dir. Of Communications/Community Relations  
Diversity Officer

## Admission Requirements

### Age Requirements

To be eligible for admission, a child must be between the ages of three (3) and five (5) years old, but not five (5) on or before September 1 of that school term. Children with developmental delays, which affect normal growth and development, or who are at risk of academic failure may be eligible for services and supports. Special education eligibility will be based on the presence of noted delays in one or more of the developmental areas. Eligibility is determined by the Individualized Educational Program (IEP) team.

### Admission Procedure

Eligible early learning students enrolling in the District for the first time must present:

- **Certified** birth certificate or other reliable proof of identity and age
- Proof of residence, as required by Board Policy 7.60
- Proof of disease immunization or detection and the required physical examination as required by State law and Board Policy 7.100
- Enrollment in general education classrooms is contingent upon state funding, as the program is funded by Illinois grant funds.

### Visitors

All visitors, including parents and siblings, are required to enter through the front door of the building and proceed immediately to the main office. Visitors should identify themselves and inform office personnel of their reason for being at school.

Visitors must sign in, identifying their name, the date and time of arrival, and the classroom or location they are visiting. Approved visitors must take a badge identifying themselves as a guest and place the badge to their outer clothing in a clearly visible location. Visitors are required to proceed immediately to their location in a quiet manner. All visitors must return to the main office, return their badge and sign out before leaving the school.

Visitors are expected to abide by all school rules during their time on school property. A visitor who fails to conduct himself or herself in a manner that is appropriate will be asked to leave and may be subject to criminal penalties for trespass and/or disruptive behavior.

No person on school property or at a school event shall perform any of the following acts:

1. Strike, injure, threaten, harass, or intimidate a staff member, board member, sports official or coach, or any other person.
2. Behave in an unsportsmanlike manner or use vulgar or obscene language.
3. Unless specifically permitted by State law, possess a weapon, any object that can reasonably be considered a weapon or looks like a weapon, or any dangerous device.
4. Damage or threaten to damage another's property.
5. Damage or deface school property.
6. Violate any Illinois law or municipal, local or county ordinance.
7. Smoke or otherwise use tobacco or vaping products.

8. Distribute, consume, use, possess, or be impaired by or under the influence of an alcoholic beverage, cannabis, other lawful product, or illegal drug.
9. Be present when the person’s alcoholic beverage, cannabis, other lawful product, or illegal drug consumption is detectible, regardless of when and/or where the use occurred.
10. Use or possess medical cannabis, unless he or she has complied with Illinois’ Compassionate Use of Medical Cannabis Act and district policies.
11. Impede, delay, disrupt, or otherwise interfere with any school activity or function (including using cellular phones in a disruptive manner).
12. Enter upon any portion of school premises at any time for purposes other than those that are lawful and authorized by the board.
13. Operate a motor vehicle: (a) in a risky manner, (b) in excess of 20 miles per hour, or (c) in violation of an authorized district employee’s directive.
14. Engage in any risky behavior, including roller-blading, roller-skating, or skateboarding.
15. Violate other district policies or regulations, or a directive from an authorized security officer or district employee.
16. Engage in any conduct that interferes with, disrupts, or adversely affects the district or a school function.

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

**Cross Reference:**

Board Policy 8.30, *Visitors to and Conduct on School Property*

**School Volunteers**

All school volunteers must complete the “Volunteer Information Form and Waiver of Liability” and be approved by the school principal prior to assisting at the school. Forms are available in the school office. Some teachers utilize parent volunteers in the classroom. The individual teachers make this decision. Teachers who desire parent volunteers will notify parents. For school-wide volunteer opportunities, please contact the building principal.

Volunteers are required to check in and out at the main office and receive a visitor badge before going to their destination.

**Cross Reference:**

Board Policy 6.250, *Community Resource Persons and Volunteers*

Administrative Procedure 6.250-AP1 *Securing and Screening Resource Persons and Volunteers*

Exhibit 6.250-E1 *Volunteer Information Form and Waiver of Liability*

**Animals on School Property**

In order to assure student health and safety, animals are not allowed on school property, except in the case of a service animal accompanying a student or other individual with a documented disability. This rule may be temporarily waived by

the building principals in the case of an educational opportunity for students, provided that (a) the animal is appropriately housed, humanely cared for, and properly handled, and (b) students will not be exposed to a dangerous animal or an unhealthy environment.

**Cross Reference:**

*Administrative Procedure 6.120-AP3, Service Animal Access Requests*

**Invitations & Gifts**

Party invitations or gifts for classmates should not be brought to school to be distributed. The office is unable to release addresses and phone numbers of students.

**Equal Educational Opportunities and Sex Equity**

Equal educational and co-curricular opportunities are available to all students without regard to race, color, nationality, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, ancestry, age, religion, physical or mental disability, status as homeless, immigration status, order of protection status, or actual or potential marital or parental status, including pregnancy.

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

Any student or parent/guardian with a sex equity or equal opportunity concern should contact the Unit Office, 309.557.4400.

**Cross Reference:**

*Board Policy 7.10, Equal Educational Opportunities*

*Board Policy 2.260, Uniform Grievance Procedure*

**Video & Audio Monitoring Systems**

A video and/or audio monitoring system may be in use on school buses and a video monitoring system may be in use in public areas of the school building. These systems have been put in place to protect students, staff, visitors and school property. If a discipline problem is captured on audiotape or videotape, these recordings may be used as the basis for imposing student discipline. If criminal actions are recorded, a copy of the tape may be provided to law enforcement personnel.

**Accommodating Individuals with Disabilities**

Individuals with disabilities will be provided an opportunity to participate in all school-sponsored services, programs, or activities. Individuals with disabilities should notify the superintendent or building principal if they have a disability that will require special assistance or services and, if so, what services are required. This notification should occur as far in advance as possible of the school-sponsored function, program, or meeting.

**Cross Reference:**

*Board Policy 8.70, Accommodating Individuals with Disabilities*

## Awareness and Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse, Grooming Behaviors, and Boundary Violations

Child sexual abuse, grooming behaviors, and boundary violations harm students, their parent/guardian, the District's environment, its school communities, and the community at large, while diminishing a student's ability to learn.

### Warning Signs of Child Sexual Abuse

Warning signs of child sexual abuse include the following.

#### 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

### Warning Signs of Grooming Behaviors

School and District employees are expected to maintain professional and appropriate relationships with students based upon students' ages, grade levels, and developmental levels.

Prohibited grooming is defined as (i) any act, including but not limited to, any verbal, nonverbal, written, or electronic communication or physical activity, (ii) by an employee with direct contact with a student, (iii) that is directed toward or with a student to establish a romantic or sexual relationship with the student. Examples of grooming behaviors include, but are not limited to, the following behaviors:

- Sexual or romantic invitations to a student
- Dating or soliciting a date from a student
- Engaging in sexualized or romantic dialog with a student
- Making sexually suggestive comments that are directed toward or with a student
- Self-disclosure or physical exposure of a sexual, romantic, or erotic nature
- 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
- Failing to maintain age-appropriate relationships with students
- Talking with students about personal problems or relationships
- 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
- 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
- Spending a lot of time with a student
- Restricting a student’s access to other adults

## **Warning Signs of Boundary Violations**

School and District employees breach employee-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. Examples of boundary violations include:

- 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
- 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
- Sexual or romantic invitations toward or from a student
- Taking and using photos/videos of students for non-educational purposes
- 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
- Engaging in sexualized or romantic dialog
- Making sexually suggestive comments directed toward or with a student
- Disclosing confidential information
- Self-disclosure of a sexual, romantic, or erotic nature
- Full frontal hugs
- Invading personal space

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

Additional Resources include:

National Sexual Assault Hotline at 800.656.HOPE (4673)

National Sexual Abuse Chatline at [online.rainn.org](https://online.rainn.org)

Illinois Department of Children and Family Services Hotline at 1.800.25.ABUSE (2873)

Cross Reference: Board Policy 4.165

## **Prevention of Anaphylaxis**

While it is not possible for the School or District to completely eliminate the risks of an anaphylactic emergency, the District maintains a comprehensive policy on anaphylaxis prevention, response, and management in order to reduce these risks and provide accommodations and proper treatment for anaphylactic reactions. Parent(s)/guardian(s) and students who desire more information or who want a copy of the District's policy may contact the Building Principal.

Cross Reference:

7:285, Food Allergy Management Program

7:285-AP1, Administrative Procedure ~ Implementing a Food Allergy Management Program

## **Sexual Abuse Response and Prevention Resource Guide**

The Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) maintains a resource guide on sexual abuse response and prevention. The guide contains information on and the location of children's advocacy centers, organizations that provide medical evaluations and treatment to victims of child sexual abuse, organizations that provide mental health evaluations and services to victims and families of victims of child sexual abuse, and organizations that offer legal assistance to and provide advocacy on behalf of victims of child sexual abuse. This guide can be accessed through the ISBE website at [www.isbe.net](http://www.isbe.net) or you may request a copy of this guide by contacting the school's office.

## **Secure Gun Storage**

The Board of Education of McLean County Unit 5 has adopted a resolution directing the Superintendent to include information in student handbooks about safe gun storage and the legal obligations regarding the secure storage of firearms. Unsecured firearms put children and staff at risk in our schools and beyond. Adults may be liable both criminally and civilly when a child gains unsupervised access to firearms which are not appropriately and securely stored. According to the Everytown for Gun Safety Support Fund, "#NotAnAccident Index," <https://everytownresearch.org/maps/notanaccident/>, every year, nearly 350 children under the age of 18 unintentionally shoot themselves or someone else. That is roughly one unintentional shooting per day. More than 1,200 children die by gun suicide each year. In the overwhelming majority of these incidents, the gun used was one that belonged to someone in their home.

One study found that although 70 % of parents believe their teen cannot access the gun(s) in their home, more than one-third were contradicted by their child's report. The study also found that in households where parents said their child could not access a firearm, 21.8% of their children indicated that they could access a firearm within 5 minutes and 14.9% indicated that they could access a firearm in more than 5 minutes but less than 1 hour. Research shows that secure firearm storage practices are associated with up to an 85% reduction in the risk of self-inflicted and unintentional firearm injuries among children and teens. Storing firearms securely protects children in the home as well as students throughout the school district and community.

Nothing in the foregoing shall be read to establish an implied or contractual right of action for a victim of gun violence.

1. Everytown for Gun Safety Support Fund, “#NotAnAccident Index,” <https://everytownresearch.org/maps/notanaccident/>. Analysis includes incidents that occurred between 2015 and 2019.
2. Id.
3. Johnson RM, Barber C, Azrael D, Clark DE, Hemenway D. Who are the owners of firearms used in adolescent suicides? *Suicide and Life-Threatening Behavior*. 2010;40(6):609-611.
4. Id.
5. Salhi C, Azrael D, Miller M. Parent and Adolescent Reports of Adolescent Access to Household Firearms in the United States. *JAMA Netw Open*. 2021;4(3):e210989. doi:10.1001/jamanetworkopen.2021.0989
6. Id.
7. <https://everytownresearch.org/solution/responsible-gun-storage/>

## Section 2 - Attendance and Promotion

### Attendance & Absences

#### **Arrival and Dismissal**

Morning Session: 7:45-10:15 AM  
 Afternoon Session: 11:45-2:15 PM  
 Full Day session: 7:45 AM-2:15 PM

*There is no school supervision prior to the start of each session or following the dismissal times.*

#### **Leaving While School Is In Session**

When a student needs to leave school early, parent(s)/guardian(s) should call the school or send a note indicating what time the child will be leaving. Students must be signed out in the office by a parent/guardian. If the student returns on the same day, he/she must be signed in by a parent/guardian in the office before returning to class.

#### **Student Absences**

Subject to specific requirements in State law, the following children are not required to attend public school: (1) any child attending a private school (including a home school) or parochial school, (2) any child who is physically or mentally unable to attend school (including a pregnant student suffering medical complications as certified by her physician), (3) any child lawfully and necessarily employed, (4) any child over 12 and under 14 years of age while in confirmation classes, (5) any child absent because of religious reasons, including to observe a religious holiday, for religious instruction, or because his or her religion forbids secular activity on a particular day(s) or time of day, and (6) any child 16 years of age or older who is employed and is enrolled in a graduation incentives program.

For students who are required to attend school there are two types of absences: excused and unexcused. The school may require documentation explaining the reason for the student’s absence.

#### **Excused Absences**

Absences for the reasons listed below are considered “valid causes” and will be marked as an excused absence. Documentation or proof of the reason may be required from a professional source in some cases.



1. Illness (including up to 5 days per school year for mental or behavioral health of the student) or injury
2. Serious illness or death in the family
3. Medical or dental appointment (an appointment card or other verification from the doctor's or dentist's office may be required.)
4. Unavoidable accident or emergency
5. Observance of a religious holiday or event
6. Circumstances that cause reasonable concern to the parent/guardian for the student's mental, emotional, or physical health or safety
7. Court appearance (beyond student's control)
8. College Visit / Military Visit (with verification)
8. Attending a military honors funeral to sound "Taps" if the child is in grades 6 through 12
9. Military Family Absence \*
10. Other situations beyond the control of the student as determined by the Board of Education in Board Policy 7.70

\*A student will be excused for up to five (5) days in cases where the student's parent/guardian is an active duty member of the uniformed services and has been called to duty for, is on leave from, or has immediately returned from deployment to a combat zone or combat-supported postings. Students are responsible for obtaining assignments and ensuring assignment completion.

Students who are excused from school will be given a reasonable timeframe to make up missed homework and classwork assignments.

## **Unexcused Absences**

All other absences are considered unexcused. Requests for excused absences for reasons other than those listed above should be made to the Board of Education. Unexcused absences include but are not limited to:

1. Truancy
2. Oversleeping
3. Missing the bus
4. Lack of ride to school
5. Private vehicle breakdown or failure to start
6. Working
7. Personal business
8. Participation in non-school sponsored activities
9. Vacation

## **Reporting Absences**

Each day that a student is absent, the student's parent or guardian is required to call the school attendance line at 309.557.4460 (Brigham) or 309.557.4474 (Sugar Creek) or 309-557-4464 (Fairview) before 8:30 AM for AM students and 12:30 for PM students to explain the reason for the absence. If a call has not been made to the school by 9:45 AM/ 1:45 PM on the day of a student's absence, a school official will call the home to inquire why the student is not at school. If the parent or guardian cannot be contacted, the student will be required to submit a signed note from the parent or guardian explaining the reason for the absence. Failure to do so shall result in an unexcused absence. Upon request of the parent or guardian, the reason for an absence will be kept confidential.

**Tardiness**

All students are expected to be in their classroom when school begins. Students who are more than 5 minutes late must be signed in at the office.

**Cross Reference:**

Board Policy 7.70, *Attendance and Truancy*

**Prearranged Absences**

Any time that parents/guardians know in advance their child will be absent from school due to family vacation or unavoidable circumstances not considered as excused, the parent/guardian must contact the Principal to request a Prearranged Absence. Please note that pre arranging an absence does not excuse absences that would otherwise be unexcused.

**Chronic Absenteeism**

“Chronic absence” means absences that total 10% or more of school days of the most recent academic school year, including absences with (excused) and without (unexcused) valid cause, as defined in Section 26-2a of the School Code, and out-of-school suspensions for an enrolled student.

The early years are an extremely important period in a child’s learning and development. Missed learning opportunities in the early years make it difficult for a child to enter kindergarten ready for success. Attendance patterns in the early years serve as predictors of chronic absenteeism and reduced educational outcomes in later school years.

The school district will collect and review its chronic absence data and determine what support and resources are needed to positively engage chronically absent students and their families to encourage the habit of daily attendance and promote success. The school will make every effort to inform parents of excessive student absences. However, it is the responsibility of the parent to see that their child is in regular attendance.

Students who are at risk of reaching or exceeding chronic absence levels, the school staff will attempt to identify the cause of the student’s absenteeism, including interviews with the student, his or her parent/guardian, and staff members or other people who may have information. For students who are chronically absent, the school will provide supportive services, consistent with Board Policy 7.70, including parent-teacher conferences, student and/or family counseling, or information about community service agencies. The school staff may visit the family and offer the family guidance, help, and resources for avoiding chronic absenteeism and promoting regular attendance. If after conducting outreach and working with the family to get the child to school, if a wait list has been established, students with chronic absenteeism may be dropped from the program. Written notification of drop will be provided to parent/guardian. Regular attendance is essential for successful completion of school.

**Release Time for Religious Instruction/Observance**

A student will be released from school, as an excused absence, to observe a religious holiday or for religious instruction. The student’s parent/guardian must give written notice to the building principal at least 5 calendar days before the student’s anticipated absence(s).

Students excused for religious reasons will be given an opportunity to make up any examination, study, or work requirement.

**Cross Reference:**

Board Policy 7.80, *Release Time for Religious Instruction/Observance*

## **Emergency School Closings**

When it is necessary for school to dismiss early or be canceled, verification will be given to the news media, as well as by a school message system, so parents will know when to expect their children home. School may be dismissed early due to weather (such as snow or excessive heat), on Staff Improvement Days or on other special days as determined by the Board of Education.

The decision to dismiss early due to inclement weather is made prior to 11:00 AM and the media will be notified at that time. It is best to tune in one of the following radio stations if you suspect that early dismissal is a possibility – WJBC 1230 AM, WBNQ 101.5 FM. This information will also be available on the District’s website, [www.unit5.org](http://www.unit5.org). Please do not call the school or Unit Office for this information.

Please arrange with your children what they are to do in case of early dismissal. It is difficult for last minute arrangements to be made for students.

All school functions are canceled when school is dismissed early.

**Cross Reference:**

Board Policy 4.170, *Safety*

## **Grading & Promotion**

### **Progress Reporting**

Early Learning Progress reports are issued to students three times per year (November, February, May). For questions regarding progress monitoring, please contact the classroom teacher.

If the student turns five (5) on or before September 1 of the upcoming school year he/she is age eligible for kindergarten and is not eligible for the early learning program.

## Section 3 – Food Program

The early learning program participates in the National School Lunch Program and receives Federal funds to provide healthy meals (breakfast and lunch) to all of the enrolled children. The amount of reimbursement the program receives is based on the information you provide on the Household Eligibility Application which is provided during registration. Part of the USDA requirement is to complete the application. The information will be kept confidential and only available to staff directly connected with administering the NSLP.

### Free and Reduced-Price Food Services; Meal Charge Notifications

The following notification is provided to all households of students at the beginning of each school year as federally required notification regarding eligibility requirements and the application process for the free and reduced-price food services that are listed in Board policy 4:130, Free and Reduced-Price Food Services, and 4:140, Waiver of Student Fees. This notification is also provided to households of students transferring to the District during the school year. For more information, see [www.fns.usda.gov/school-meals/unpaid-meal-charges](http://www.fns.usda.gov/school-meals/unpaid-meal-charges), and/or contact the Building Principal or designee.

### Free and Reduced-Price Food Services Eligibility

When the parents/guardians of students are unable to pay for their child(ren)'s meal services, meal charges will apply per a student's eligibility category and will be processed by the District accordingly.

A student's eligibility for free and reduced-price food services shall be determined by the income eligibility guidelines, family-size income standards, set annually by the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, and distributed by the Ill. State Board of Education.

### Meal Charges for Meals Provided by the District

The Building Principal and District staff will work jointly to prevent meal charges from accumulating. Every effort to collect all funds due to the District will be made on a regular basis and before the end of the school year. Contact your Building Principal or designee about whether your child(ren)'s charges may be carried over at the end of the school year, i.e., beyond June 30th.

Unpaid meal charges are considered delinquent debt when payment is overdue as defined by Board policy 4:45, Insufficient Fund Checks and Debt Recovery and the Hunger-Free Students' Bill of Rights Act (105 ILCS 123/). The District will make reasonable efforts to collect charges classified as delinquent debt, including repeated contacts to collect the amounts and, when necessary, requesting that the student's parent(s)/guardian(s) apply for meal benefits to determine if the student qualifies for such benefits under Board policy 4:130, Free and Reduced-Price Food Services. The District will provide a federally reimbursable meal or snack to a student who requests one, regardless of the student's ability to pay or negative account balance.

When a student's funds are low and when there is a negative balance, reminders will be provided to the staff, students, and their parent(s)/guardian(s) at regular intervals during

the school year. State law allows the Building Principal to contact parents(s)/guardian(s) to attempt collection of the owed money when the amount owed is more than the amount of five lunches [or insert lower amount]. If a parent/guardian regularly fails to provide meal money for the child(ren) that he/she is responsible for in the District and does not qualify for free meal benefits or refuses to apply for such benefits, the Building Principal or designee will direct the next course of action. Continual failure to provide meal money may require the District to notify the Ill. Dept. of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and/or take legal steps to recover the unpaid meal charges, up to and including seeking an offset under the State Comptroller Act, if applicable.

## Section 4 - Transportation and Parking

### **Bus Transportation**

The district provides bus transportation to and from school for all early learning students living within district boundaries. Early Learning buses also have a bus monitor in addition to the driver.

The early learning program provides free transportation services and vehicle adaptation for a special education student if included in the student's individualized educational program. Non-public school students shall be transported in accordance with State law. Homeless students shall be transported in accordance with the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act.

For questions regarding school transportation issues, contact the transportation call center at 309.557.4287 (557-4BUS).

### **Bus Service**

- The driver's primary responsibility is to the road conditions and traffic for the safety of transporting the students. When the driver's attention is distracted by misconduct, everyone is put in jeopardy.
- The driver is not required to wait at any loading point; therefore, be ready to board the bus five (5) minutes ahead of your designated stop time.
- Bus service will be available if inclement weather causes early dismissal. See information under Section 2 – Attendance and Promotion "Emergency School Closings".

### **Bus Conduct**

While students are on the bus, they are under the supervision of the bus driver. In most cases, bus discipline problems can be handled by the bus driver. In the case of a written disciplinary referral, student bus problems will be investigated and handled by the Building Principal.

Parents will be informed of any and all inappropriate student behavior on a bus. Parents are encouraged to discuss bus safety and appropriate behavior with their children before the beginning of the school year and regularly during the year.

## **Prohibited Bus Conduct**

Gross disobedience or misconduct providing grounds for suspension from riding the school bus include:

- Prohibited student conduct as defined in Board Policy 7.190, *Student Behavior*.
- Willful injury or threat of injury to a bus driver or to another rider.
- Willful and/or repeated defacement of the bus.
- Repeated use of profanity.
- Repeated willful disobedience of the bus driver's or other supervisor's directives.
- Such other behavior as the administration deems to threaten the safe operation of the bus and/or its occupants. bus.

In the interest of the student's safety and in compliance with State law, students are expected to observe the following rules:

- Students must scan their Bus ID when they board the bus and when they exit the bus
- Choose a seat and sit in it immediately upon entering the bus.
- Do not stand in the entrance or in the aisle.
- Do not move from one seat to another while on the bus.
- Keep all parts of the body and all objects inside the bus.
- Loud conversation, singing, boisterous conduct, unnecessary noise or profanity is not allowed.
- Enter and exit the bus only when the bus is fully stopped.
- All school rules apply while on the bus, at a bus stop, or waiting for the bus.
- Use emergency door only in an emergency.
- In the event of emergency, stay on the bus and await instructions from the bus driver.
- Good behavior and behavior that will not distract the bus driver from operating the bus safely is required.
- Crowding, pushing, scuffling, and other needless commotion are grounds for disciplinary action.
- Do not open windows.
- Keep the bus neat and clean.
- Athletic footwear equipped with cleats or spikes are not allowed on the bus.
- Inappropriate behavior will be reported to school authorities and failure to observe safety rules may result in suspension from bus services.
- Be waiting at your bus stop on time.
- Never tamper with, damage, or deface anything in or on the bus, or any of the bus or school equipment.
- Keep book bags, books, packages, coats, and other objects out of the aisles.
- Keep all body parts clear of the aisles when seated.
- Eating is not permitted on the bus.
- Parents will be liable for any defacing or damage students do to the bus.

- Instructions for crossing the road must be followed to the smallest detail at all times.
- Cross at least ten feet in front of the bus and then cross the street when the driver signals.
- While unloading, allow the closest to the front off first.
- Move away from the bus door quickly after unloading. Stay clear of the rear wheels.
- Never walk behind the bus.
- No headphones, food, drink, or candy.
- No talking when the bus comes to a railroad crossing, so the driver can hear any approaching trains.
- Do not talk to the driver unless it is an emergency.

Students may be suspended from riding the school bus for up to 10 consecutive school days for engaging in gross disobedience or misconduct. If a student is suspended from riding the bus for gross disobedience or misconduct on a bus, the student may be suspended from riding the school bus for a period in excess of 10 days for safety reasons. The district's regular suspension procedures shall be used to suspend a student's privilege to ride a school bus.

## **Bus Discipline**

The driver may report students who refuse to follow the bus behavior rules or maintain appropriate behavior to the school office for disciplinary action.

Generally, the following procedures will be used in disciplining a rider:

- **On the first offense**, the teacher will speak with the student to address the reported incident.
- **On the second offense**, the Principal will meet with the student to address the reported incident. A copy of the bus report will be sent home.
- **On the third offense**, the Principal will meet with the student to address the reported incident and the parents will be telephoned. The result of this telephone conference may be suspension from riding the bus for up to 3 days. A copy of the bus report will be sent home.
- **On the fourth offense**, the Principal will meet with the student to address the reported incident and the parents will be telephoned. The parents may be required to come to the school office for a conference. The student may be suspended from the bus for up to 5 days. A copy of the bus report will be given to the parents.
- **On the fifth offense**, the Principal will meet with the student to address the reported incident, and the parents telephoned. The student may be suspended from the bus for up to ten days. A copy of the bus report will be sent to the parents.

***Any further reports may result in an immediate bus suspension and referral for possible suspension from the bus for the remainder of the school year. Bus riding is a privilege that may be revoked.***

## **Private Transportation**

Students may accept private transportation to or from school only as arranged by their custodial parents. Parents may call the office regarding transportation arrangements with anyone other than an appropriate family member or a Unit 5 school bus.

## **Use of Video Cameras on School Buses**

Video cameras may be used on school buses as necessary in order to monitor conduct and maintain a safe environment

for students and employees. The content of the videotapes are student records and are subject to District policy and procedure concerning school student records. Only those people with a legitimate educational or administrative purpose may view the videotapes. In most instances, individuals with a legitimate educational or administrative purpose will be the superintendent, principal, transportation director, bus driver, and sponsor, coach, or other supervisor. If the content of a videotape becomes the subject of a student disciplinary hearing, it will be treated like other evidence in the proceeding.

## Cross Reference:

Administrative Procedure 7.220-AP1, *Electronic Recordings on School Buses*

## Bicycles

When accompanied by an adult, riding bicycles to and from school is permitted. Ride safely by observing the following practices:

- Obey all traffic signs and regulations.
- Stay to the right.
- Ride single file.
- Yield to motor vehicles and pedestrians.
- Signal your intentions.
- Do not ride near vehicles parked in the parking lot.

## Pedestrians

Students are expected to use sidewalks wherever available and to observe safety precautions when crossing streets.

## Field Trips

The children may occasionally take field trips to enrich their language and provide new experiences. All field trips not within walking distance of the school are taken on a bus. Parents will be notified in advance of the trip.

## Parking

The school has many locations available for school visitor parking.

Vehicles MAY NOT be parked or located in the bus lanes or fire lanes at ANY TIME. Bus lanes and fire lanes are clearly marked. Vehicles located in these locations may be ticketed and/or towed by the police.

## Cross Reference:

Board Policy 4.110, *Transportation*

Administrative Procedure 4.170-AP3, *School Bus Safety Rules*

Board Policy 7.220, *Bus Conduct*

Administrative Procedure 7.220-AP1, *Electronic Recordings on School Buses*



## Section 5- Health and Safety

### Immunization, Health, Eye and Dental Examinations

#### **School Nurse**

The primary function of the school nurse is to promote student health and safety and maintain student records. All elementary Certified School Nurses are assigned to multiple schools. If a student becomes ill or injured at school when the nurse is not present, another school official will provide care. Please contact the school nurse at your child's school any time you have questions or concerns.

This handbook is not intended to be all inclusive. Students will be excluded from school for any health condition that in the professional, clinical judgment of the Certified School Nurse places that student or others in the school community at a health or safety risk. Certified School Nurses utilize Evidence Based Practice and collaboration with healthcare professionals and organizations to make decisions best for the students and school community.

#### **Health Information**

Health information gathered through screening registration forms, physical exams, oral/written communication by a health care provider or parent/guardian may be shared by the certified school nurse with those individuals (i.e. teachers or other school personnel) who have an educational interest in enhancing the health and safety of the student. This information may be shared via written or electronic communication or by direct personal contact. If you do not wish this information to be shared, please send a written request to the school office by the end of the first week of attendance.

#### **Emergency Numbers**

Emergency information will be maintained for all students and should be filled out during the registration process. It is important to have the name and phone number of a person other than the parent/guardian to call in case of a school emergency when parents cannot be reached. Please contact your school office if any changes in this emergency information occur during the school year.

#### **Illness or Accidents at School**

All accidents and illnesses which occur at school or at a school function are to be reported to the office. If they are considered serious or if the accident or illness remains in question to the school nurse or office staff, parents will be notified.

The Illinois General Assembly does not require school districts to carry student accident insurance. If a student is injured at school or during a school activity, the parent/guardian's health insurance company should be contacted for coverage.

Additionally, the State of Illinois All Kids health insurance program is available to all children in the state regardless of income level. This program provides health insurance for children, which includes accident insurance. Information about the All Kids program can be found at [www.illinois.gov/hfs/medicalprograms/allkids](http://www.illinois.gov/hfs/medicalprograms/allkids)

### Student Concussions and Head Injuries

If a student sustains a physician-diagnosed concussion, either during school hours or outside of school, parents are requested to notify the school. If a student's parent/guardian is requesting academic accommodations after a concussion, the Unit 5 Concussion Staging Form must be completed by the student's physician (elementary, junior high, high school) or athletic trainer (high school only) and submitted to the school nurse.

A student athlete who exhibits signs, symptoms, or behaviors consistent with a concussion in a practice or game will be removed from participation or competition at that time. A student athlete who has been removed from an interscholastic contest for a possible concussion or head injury may not return to that contest unless cleared to do so by a physician licensed to practice medicine in all its branches in Illinois or a certified athletic trainer. If not cleared to return to that contest, a student athlete may not return to play or practice until the student athlete has provided his or her school with the Unit 5 Concussion Staging Document, signed by the student, the student's parent/guardian, and the student's physician licensed to practice medicine in all its branches in Illinois or a certified athletic trainer working in conjunction with a physician licensed to practice medicine in all its branches in Illinois.

### School Insurance

A low cost accident policy is offered to all students. While the schools have no obligation in case of an accident, the District is glad to cooperate with the agency and offer this limited, yet liberal policy for your consideration. Briefly, students may be insured for the school year for the accidents, which occur while engaged in any school-sponsored activity or between home and school. Enrollment information and claim forms for the collection of insurance payments due to accidents may be obtained in the school offices.

### Physicals and Immunizations

**ILLINOIS LAW REQUIRES** that all students entering an early child-hood program, kindergarten, sixth or ninth grades, or transferring from out of state have a physical examination within one calendar year **PRIOR** to the date of entry. The examination must be reported on the Illinois DHS-Certificate of Child Health Examination form & include a complete immunization record and medical history. Students transferring from another Illinois school must present copies of their current Illinois school health records.

Section 27-8.1 of the Illinois School Code states: "If a child does not comply then the **LOCAL SCHOOL AUTHORITY SHALL EXCLUDE THAT CHILD FROM SCHOOL** until such time as the child presents proof of having had either the health examination or those required immunizations which are medically possible to receive immediately."

All students entering ECE, Pre-K, Kindergarten, 6th grade, and 9th grade must submit a current physical exam and complete immunization record by the **FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL**. Children without physicals and immunizations will **NOT** be allowed to start school until the school nurse receives the records. **NO** appointment cards will be accepted.

I understand that if my student will be entering a pre-kindergarten program (for the first time), kindergarten, sixth, or ninth grade, that I must show proof that (s)he has received a new physical exam on the IL-DHS physical exam form **BEFORE THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL**. *Sports physicals are NOT accepted for this requirement.* Immunizations are *also* required **BEFORE THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL** for several grades; check with your healthcare provider for details. It is strongly recommended that you turn in these requirements by the walk in registration date each year either in person or by mailing it to the school.

Parents or guardians who object to health examination or immunizations on religious grounds must present an Illinois Certificate of Religious Exemption to Required Immunizations and/or Examinations Form found at:

<https://dph.illinois.gov/content/dam/soi/en/web/idph/files/forms/religious-exemption-form-081815-040816.pdf>

The form must be signed by the child's parent or legal guardian, **AND** the child's health care provider responsible for performing the child's health examination. If a child cannot be fully immunized because of health reasons (medical contraindication), the physician must state this fact on the health examination certificate.

In the event of a diagnosed case of a communicable disease the school nurse will consult with the McLean County Health Department to determine the need to exclude students not protected by immunizations, utilizing the most current Illinois Department Public Health Rules and Regulations.

The following immunizations are required by the State of Illinois for children in grades Pre-K through 12. The specific requirements for each are determined in Section 665.240 (Basic Immunization) and Section 665.250 (Proof of Immunity) of Title 77 of the Illinois Administrative Code.

1. DPT/DTap/Tdap
2. OPV/IPV
3. Measles/Mumps/Rubella (MMR)
4. Varicella
5. Hepatitis B (required for early learning programs and 6th grades and up)
6. Hib (required for early learning programs)
7. Pneumococcal (required for early learning programs)
8. Meningococcal (required for 6th-8th grades and 12th grade)

### Dental Exams

Public Act 93-946 requires all Illinois children in **kindergarten, second, and sixth grades** to have an oral health exam. Each child shall present proof of exam by a dentist prior to **May 15** of the school year.

### Vision Exams

Illinois law requires all children in **kindergarten or enrolling for the first time in an Illinois school** to have an eye examination completed by an eye doctor. Each child shall present proof of exam by an eye doctor prior to the **first day of the school year**.

### Exemptions

A student will be exempted from the above requirements for:

1. Religious grounds if the student's parent/guardian presents to the building principal an Illinois Certificate of Religious Exemption to Required Immunizations and/or Examinations Form found at: <https://dph.illinois.gov/content/dam/soi/en/web/idph/files/forms/religious-exemption-form-081815-040816.pdf>
2. The form must be signed by the child's parent or legal guardian, **AND** the child's health care provider responsible for performing the child's health examination.
3. Health examination or immunization requirements on medical grounds if a physician provides written verification;
4. Eye examination requirement if the student's parent/guardian shows an undue burden or lack of access to a physician licensed to practice medicine in all of its branches who provides eye examinations or a licensed optometrist; or
5. Dental examination requirement if the student's parent/guardian shows an undue burden or a lack of access to a dentist.

**Cross Reference:**

Board Policy 7.100, *Health, Eye and, Dental Examinations; Immunizations; and Exclusion of Students*

**Vision and Hearing Screenings**

Vision and hearing screenings will be conducted at state-mandated grade levels. Vision screening is not a substitute for a complete eye and vision evaluation by an eye doctor. Your child is not required to undergo the mandated vision screening IF a report of an eye examination within the last 12 months by an optometrist is on file at the school. The vision examination report must be completed and signed by the optometrist. This section of the student handbook constitutes notice to parents and guardians of students in the grades mandated for vision and hearing screenings. Vision and hearing screenings will be conducted for all students in the mandated grades unless the parent provides a written request that the student not be screened, or, in the case of vision screening, provides a current eye examination report.

**Communicable Diseases**

For everyone's protection, sick children must be at home, not at school. When reporting the student's absence, please report the reason for the child's absence. The school needs to be informed of any student having a special health problem or communicable disease. Children with the following conditions should not be in school:

- A **fever** within the last 24 hours of 100° F or higher
- Vomiting or diarrhea within the last 24 hours
- A frequent or disruptive cough or other signs of an acute **respiratory infection**
- Any **contagious illness** such as "strep throat" that requires antibiotic therapy. Once a student has been **fever free and on antibiotics for at least 24 hours free without the use of fever-reducing medications**, he/she may return to school.
- Any **undiagnosed skin rash**. A student with a rash may attend school upon presenting a **physician's note** stating the rash is not contagious.
- Pronounced **lethargy or fatigue** that interferes with participation in learning activities.
- Any other health condition that in the professional, clinical judgment of the School Nurse places that student or others in the school community at a health or safety risk. In the absence of the Certified School Nurse, this determination may be made by the building principal or his/her designee.

**Care of Students with Chronic Health Conditions**

State law requires our school district to annually inform parents of students with life-threatening allergies or life-threatening chronic illnesses like Diabetes of the applicable provisions of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and other applicable federal statutes, State statutes, federal regulations and State rules.

Federal law protects students from discrimination due to a disability that substantially limits a major life activity. If your student has a qualifying disability, an individualized Section 504 Plan will be developed and implemented to provide the needed supports so that your student can access his or her education as effectively as students without disabilities.

Not all students with life-threatening allergies and life-threatening chronic illnesses may be eligible under Section 504. Our school district also may be able to appropriately meet a student's needs through other means. Federal law protects students from discrimination due to a disability that substantially limits a major life activity. If your student has a qualifying disability, an individualized Section 504 Plan will be developed and implemented to provide the needed supports so that your student can access his or her education as effectively as students without disabilities.

Not all students with life-threatening allergies and life-threatening chronic illnesses may be eligible under Section 504. Our school district also may be able to appropriately meet a student's needs through other means.

It is the parent/guardian's responsibility to inform the School Nurse or Principal of their child's health concern. The School Nurse will then work with the family, the student, the student's physician and the classroom teacher to develop a Plan of Action. It is the parent's responsibility to ensure that The Plan and all medication and procedure forms (if needed) are completed and signed by the physician and parent before they will be implemented. Please contact your School Nurse for further information.

## Treats and Snacks

Due to health concerns, allergies and scheduling, snacks for any occasion must be arranged in advance with the classroom teacher other than students in the full day preschool program. Full day students will be served a snack in the afternoon. All snacks must be store bought. No homemade snacks are allowed at school. Snacks are not to require refrigeration and must have a clearly printed label. We strongly encourage you to select a snack with nutritional value, such as fresh fruits and vegetables. Birthday recognitions cannot include food items. The decision will be left up to each school as to how they would like to recognize a student's birthday, but it cannot include food items.

### Cross Reference:

Board Policy 7.285, *Food Allergy Management Program*

Administrative Procedure 7.285-AP1, *Implementing a Food Allergy Management Program*

Exhibit 7.285-E1, *Food Allergy Awareness*

Board Policy 6.50, *School Wellness*

## Head Lice

The school will observe recommendations of the Illinois Department of Public Health regarding head lice.

1. Parents are required to notify the school nurse if they suspect their child has head lice.
2. Infested students will be sent home following notification of the parent or guardian.
3. The school will provide written instructions to parent or guardian regarding appropriate treatment for the infestation.
4. A student excluded because of head lice will be permitted to return to school only when the student is checked by the school nurse or building principal and the child is determined to be free from an active infestation.

**Bed Bugs**

The Superintendent or designee may implement procedures to further a healthy school environment and prevent or reduce the adverse health effects of bed bugs and spread of disease. Policy #7.250-AP1 Administrative Procedure - Bed Bug Protocol will be followed to provide a healthy, pest-free environment.

**Physical Education/ Participation**

Students who have restrictions for participation in physical education due to medical prohibitions beyond three days must present documentation from the physician, signed and dated, stating the restriction and length of time it is to be in effect. A parent note is sufficient for 3 days of exemption from PE. An excuse may also be based on religious prohibitions. An excuse based on religious reasons must include a signed statement from a member of the clergy that corroborates the religious reason for the request.

**Medication at School**

Students should not take medication during school hours or during school-related activities unless it is necessary for a student's health and well-being. When a student's licensed healthcare provider and parent/guardian believe that it is necessary for the student to take medication during school hours or school-related activities, the parent/guardian and healthcare provider with prescriptive authority must complete a *School Medication Authorization Form* requesting that the school dispense the medication to the child and otherwise follow the District's procedures on dispensing medication.

Except when: (1) the school nurse or a delegated school employee administers or supervises a student's self-administration of limited over-the-counter medications; or (2) the school nurse or trained personnel, as defined by State law, administers an undesignated epinephrine injector, e.g.: EpiPen<sup>®</sup>, an opioid antagonist, undesignated asthma medication, or undesignated glucagon to a person that the school nurse or trained personnel in good faith professionally believes is having an anaphylactic reaction, an opioid related overdose, respiratory distress, or life-threatening low blood sugar under a standing protocol from a licensed physician; no District employee shall administer to any student, or supervise a student's self-administration of, any prescription or non-prescription medication until a completed and signed School Medication Authorization Form is submitted by the student's parent/guardian. A parent/guardian may opt-out from the administration by or supervision of a student's self-administration by the school nurse or delegated school employee of limited over-the-counter medications during online registration or by completing Exhibit 7.270-E9, [Parent/Guardian Opt-Out from Administration or Self-Administration of Limited Over-the-Counter Medications](#).

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 Board Policy 7.270 and its implementing procedures.

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

**School District Supply of Undesignated Limited Over-the-Counter Medication**

The Superintendent or designee may maintain a supply of undesignated limited over-the-counter medications in the name of the District and provide or administer them as necessary consistent with Policy 7.270. This may include but is not limited to: normal saline skin cleanser, Lubriderm lotion, anti-itch cream, eye irritation relief drops, contact solution, orajel, antibiotic ointment, first aid and burn cream, and numbing wipes.

**Self-Administration of Medication**

A student may possess and self-administer an epinephrine injector and/or asthma medication prescribed for use at the student's discretion. A student may self-administer other medication, including medication required under a qualifying plan, dispensed by a delegated school employee, provided the student's parent/guardian and healthcare provider with prescriptive authority has completed and signed a *School Medication Authorization Form*. A student's self-administration of medication other than an epinephrine injector or asthma medication must be under the direct supervision of a delegated school employee. A qualifying plan means: (1) an asthma action plan; (2) an Individual Health Care Action Plan; (3) an Illinois Food Allergy Emergency Action Plan and Treatment Authorization Form; (4) a plan pursuant to Section 504 of the federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973; or (5) a plan pursuant to the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

The 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 medication, including asthma medication, epinephrine injector, or medication required under a qualifying plan, or the storage of any medication by school personnel. A student's parent/guardian must 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 asthma medication, an epinephrine injector, opioid antagonist, and/or medication, or the storage of any medication by school personnel.

**School District Supply of Undesignated Asthma Medication**

The Superintendent or designee shall implement 105 ILCS 5/22-30(f) and maintain a supply of undesignated asthma medication in the name of the District and provide or administer them as necessary according to State law. Undesignated asthma medication means an asthma medication prescribed in the name of the District or one of its schools. A school nurse or trained personnel, as defined in State law, may administer an undesignated asthma medication to a person when they, in good faith, believe a person is having respiratory distress. Respiratory distress may be characterized as mild-to- moderate or severe. Each building administrator and/or his or her corresponding school nurse shall maintain the names of trained personnel who have received a statement of certification pursuant to State law.

**District Supply of Undesignated Epinephrine Injectors**

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

**District Supply of Undesignated Opioid Antagonists**

The Superintendent or designee shall implement Section 22-30(f) of the School Code and maintain a supply of undesignated opioid antagonists in the name of the District and provide or administer them as necessary according to State law. Opioid antagonist means a drug that binds to opioid receptors and blocks or inhibits the effect of opioids acting on those receptors, including, but not limited to, naloxone hydrochloride or any other similarly acting drug approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. Undesignated opioid antagonist is not defined by the School Code; for purposes of this policy it means an opioid antagonist prescribed in the name of the District or one of its schools. A school nurse or trained personnel, as defined in State law, may administer an undesignated opioid antagonist to a person when they, in good faith, believe a person is having an opioid overdose. Each building administrator and/or his or her

corresponding school nurse shall maintain the names of trained personnel who have received a statement of certification pursuant to State law. See the website for the Ill. Dept. of Human Services for information about opioid prevention, abuse, public awareness, and a toll-free number to provide information and referral services for persons with questions concerning substance abuse treatment.



## **School District Supply of Undesignated Glucagon**

The Superintendent or designee shall implement 105 ILCS 145/27 and maintain a supply of undesignated glucagon in the name of the District in accordance with manufacturer's instructions.

When a student's prescribed glucagon is not available or has expired, a school nurse or delegated care aide may administer undesignated glucagon only if he or she is authorized to do so by a student's diabetes care plan.

## **Administration of Medical Cannabis**

The Compassionate Use of Medical Cannabis Program Act allows a parent/guardian of a student who is a minor or any other individual who is at least 21 years of age to register with the Ill. Dept. of Public Health (IDPH) as a designated caregiver to administer a medical cannabis infused product to a student.

A designated caregiver 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:

1. Both the student and the designated caregiver possess valid registry identification cards issued by IDPH;
2. Copies of the registry identification cards are provided to the District; and
3. That student's parent/guardian completed, signed, and submitted a *School Medication Authorization Form - Medical Cannabis*, specifying the times where or the special circumstances under which the medical cannabis infused product must be administered.

After administering the product to the student, the designated caregiver shall immediately remove it from school premises or the school bus. The product 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.

State law does not require school personnel to administer medical cannabis to students. Trained school nurses and administrators are allowed, but not required, to administer a medical cannabis infused product to a student who is a registered qualifying patient. Prior to the administration of a medical cannabis infused product under subsection, a school nurse or school administrator must annually complete training curriculum developed by the State Board of Education, in consultation with the Department of Public Health, on the administration of medical cannabis infused products and must submit to the school's administration proof of its completion.

A trained school nurse or administrator is allowed to administer a medical cannabis infused product to a child who is a student while on school premises, at a school-sponsored activity, or before or after normal school activities, including while the student is in before-school or after-school care on school-operated property or while the student is being transported on a school bus if:

1. The student possesses a valid registry identification card issued by IDPH;
2. A copy of the registry identification card is provided to the District; and
3. That student's parent/guardian completed, signed, and submitted a *School Medication Authorization Form - Medical Cannabis*, specifying the times where or the special circumstances under which the medical cannabis infused product must be administered.

The written authorization and a copy of the registry identification card(s) must be kept on file in the office of the school nurse. Medical cannabis infused products must be stored with the school nurse at all times in a manner consistent with storage of other student medication at the school and may be accessible only by the school nurse or a school administrator.

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

Discipline of a student for being administered a product by a designated caregiver pursuant to this Board Policy 7.270 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.

### **Void Policy**

The School District Supply of Undesignated Asthma Medication section of Board Policy 7.270 and this Handbook 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 or advanced practice nurse licensed to practice medicine in all its branches, or (2) fill the District's prescription for undesignated school asthma medication.

This School District Supply of Undesignated Epinephrine Injectors section of Board Policy 7.270 and this Handbook is void whenever the Superintendent or designee is, for whatever reason, unable to: (1) obtain for the District a prescription for undesignated epinephrine injectors from a physician or advanced practice nurse licensed to practice medicine in all its branches, or (2) fill the District's prescription for undesignated school epinephrine injectors.

The School District Supply of Undesignated Opioid Antagonists section of Board Policy 7.270 and this Handbook is void whenever the Superintendent or designee is, for whatever reason, unable to: (1) obtain for the District a prescription for opioid antagonists from a health care professional who has been delegated prescriptive authority for 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.

The School District Supply of Undesignated Glucagon section of Board Policy 7.270 and this Handbook is void whenever the Superintendent or designee is, for whatever reason, unable to: (1) obtain for the District a prescription for glucagon from a qualifying prescriber; or (2) fill the District's prescription for undesignated school glucagon.

The Administration of Medical Cannabis section of Board Policy 7.270 and this Handbook is void and the District reserves the right not to implement it if the District or school is in danger of losing federal funding.

### **Administration of Undesignated Medication**

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

### **Disclaimers**

Upon implementation of Board Policy 7.270, the protections from liability and hold harmless provisions applicable under State law apply.

No one, including without limitation parent(s)/guardian(s) of students, should rely on the District for the availability of undesignated medications. Board Policy 7.270 and this Handbook do not guarantee the availability of undesignated medications. Students and their parents/guardians should consult their own physician regarding these medications.

**Cross Reference:**

Board Policy 7.270, *Administering Medicines to Students*  
Administrative Procedure 7.270-AP1, *Dispensing Medication*  
Exhibit 7.270-E1, *School Medication Authorization Form*

**Disability Assistance**

Persons with a disability of either a temporary or permanent nature may receive help by request through the nurse, counselors, or administrators.

**Safety Drill Procedures and Conduct**

Safety drills will occur at times established by the school board. Students are required to be silent and shall comply with the directives of school officials during emergency drills. There will be a minimum of three (3) evacuation drills, one (1) severe weather (shelter-in-place) drill, one (1) law enforcement lockdown drill to address a school shooting incident, and one (1) bus evacuation drill each school year. There may be other drills at the direction of the administration. The law enforcement lockdown drill will be announced in advance and a student’s parent/guardian may elect to exclude their child from participating in this drill. All other drills will not be preceded by a warning to the students.

**Cross Reference:**

Board Policy 4.170, *Safety*  
Administrative Procedure 4.170-AP1, *Comprehensive Safety and Crisis Program*

**Reunification Site**

In the event a relocation from school and a student-parent reunification is necessary, the following are designated as the reunification sites for the following early learning schools:

School	Reunification Site
Brigham	Eastview Christian Church
Fairview	Eastview Christian Church
Sugar Creek	Eastview Christian Church

**Building Security**

For the safety of our students, Unit 5 has adopted a closed-building concept. All exterior doors are locked. All visitors to the building are required to check into the office to report their purpose for being in the school. Visitors will be given an appropriate ID Badge to wear during their stay. We encourage everyone to cooperate in providing a safe learning environment for the children.

## Section 6-Discipline and Conduct

### General Building Conduct

Students enrolled in the Unit 5 schools shall conduct themselves in a mature manner, acting with due regard for the supervisory authority vested by the Board of Education in district employees. Good self-discipline is positive and encourages the student to exercise his/her individual rights, within established guidelines, and to respect the rights and welfare of others.

Education proceeds effectively with appropriate and consistent discipline. Teachers and other certified employees shall maintain discipline in the schools. In all matters relating to the conduct and discipline of the students, they stand in the relationship of parents and guardians to the students. They shall exercise such control over students as would be exercised by a kind, firm, and judicious parent. This relationship shall extend to all activities connected with the school program and may be exercised at any time for the safety and supervision of the students.

When a certified employee acts to help a student conduct himself properly, emphasis shall be placed upon the growth of the student toward self-discipline. A progressive form of discipline, tempered by the conditions and circumstances of the offense, shall be followed. Unit 5 does not permit the use of corporal punishment as a means of disciplining students. A teacher is granted the right to remove a student from the classroom for disruptive behavior. Physical contact or restraint may be appropriate when a teacher or other supervisor is required to employ it in self-defense, for the safety of students, or to help maintain control. In all instances necessitating disciplinary action, due process will be afforded the student as outlined in the Illinois School Code, 105 ILCS 5/10-22.6.

Any student who is disobedient or insubordinate or who gives evidence of inappropriate behavior may be suspended, not to exceed ten days, by the Principal. Such suspension will be reported immediately to the Superintendent and the student's parents or guardians, along with a full statement of the reasons for such suspension. The parents or guardians of the suspended student shall be informed of the due process procedures and of their right to have a review of the suspension by the Board of Education. The Principal shall inform the Superintendent if the parents or guardians wish to request or waive the review.

A student may be expelled only by the Board of Education on recommendation of the Superintendent for gross disobedience or misconduct. Expulsion shall take place only after the parents or guardians have been requested to appear with a hearing officer to discuss their child's behavior. Such request shall be made by registered or certified mail and shall state the time, place, and purpose of the meeting. If the Board's decision is to expel the student, the reasons for dismissal and the date on which the expulsion is to become effective will be stated.

School personnel may order the removal of a child with a disability (IEP) from the child's current placement for not more than ten consecutive school days for any violation of school rules, and additional removal of not more than ten consecutive school days in the same school year for separate incidents of misconduct. The parents or guardians of the special education student are afforded all rights and privileges to have a hearing pertaining to either the decision about the relationship of the behavior to the suspension and expulsion itself.

The discipline policy of Unit 5 has been formulated by the Board with input from teachers, parents, and administrators. The policy is subject to an annual review.

### **General Expectations**

- Students shall not run, talk loudly or yell in the hallways nor shall they push, shove or hit others.

- Students shall not write on walls, desks or deface or destroy school property.
- Chewing of gum is not permitted in the school building.
- Skateboards are not permitted at school.
- Water guns, play guns, and/or real guns are not permitted at school.
- No portable listening devices, electronic devices or cameras are permitted without permission from the principal

## **Student Behavior Philosophy**

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In support of our mission to educate each student to achieve personal excellence, the District will endeavor to create a safe and secure climate, free from the threat of harm to person or property in all school related settings.

It is the shared responsibility of schools, families and communities to achieve this by teaching, recognizing and reinforcing appropriate behavior. To the greatest extent possible the District will use positive behavior management strategies to encourage all students to maintain personal conduct consistent with District expectations, avoiding any cause for disciplinary action. Students are accountable for conducting themselves within the parameters of District expectations and for complying with reasonable corrective actions imposed for violations. When violations occur, incidents will be investigated thoroughly to determine appropriate disciplinary action, intervention and/or supports. Discipline will be administered in a fair and equitable, but not necessarily equal, manner in consideration of individual circumstances.

Parents/guardians are encouraged to review District expectations with their student(s) at the beginning of each school year.

## **Student Behavior**

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The goals and objectives of Board Policy 7.190, Student Behavior are to provide effective discipline practices that:

- (1) Ensure the safety and dignity of students and staff;
- (2) Maintain a positive, weapons-free and drug-free learning environment;
- (3) Keep school property and the property of others secure;
- (4) Address the causes of a student's misbehavior and provide opportunities for all individuals involved in an incident to participate in its resolution; and
- (5) Teach students positive behavioral skills to become independent, self-disciplined citizens in the school community and society.

## **When and Where Conduct Rules Apply**

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

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

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The school administration is authorized to discipline students for gross disobedience or misconduct. Parents/guardians should review Board Policy 7.190, Student Behavior, for a complete list of prohibited student conduct, which includes, but is not limited to:

1. Using, possessing, controlling, or transferring a “weapon”, as that term is defined in the *Weapons* section of this policy, or a look-alike weapon, or violating the *Weapons* section of this policy.
2. Using or possessing an electronic mobile device including but not limited to mobile (i.e. cellular/smart) phone, video recording device, personal digital assistant (PDA), iPod, mp3 player, laptop, netbook, iPad, tablet, or other similar electronic device in any manner that disrupts the educational environment or violates the rights of others.

Students are allowed to possess and use electronic mobile devices in school, provided they do not cause a disruption, and are not used, seen or heard during instructional time unless:

- (a) The supervising teacher grants permission;
  - (b) Use of the device is provided in a student’s IEP; or
  - (c) It is needed in an emergency that threatens the safety of students, staff, or other individuals.
3. Disobeying rules of student conduct or directives from staff members or school officials. Examples of disobeying staff directives include refusing a District staff member’s request to stop, present school identification, or submit to a search.
  4. Engaging in academic dishonesty, including cheating, intentionally plagiarizing, wrongfully giving or receiving help during an academic examination, altering report cards, and wrongfully obtaining test copies or scores.
  5. Engaging in hazing or any kind of bullying or aggressive behavior that does physical or psychological harm to a staff person or another student, or urging other students to engage in such conduct. Prohibited conduct specifically includes, without limitation, any use of violence, intimidation, force, noise, coercion, threats, stalking, harassment, sexual harassment, public humiliation, theft or destruction of property, retaliation, hazing, bullying, bullying using a school computer or a school computer network, or other comparable conduct.
  6. Taking or relocating school or personal property without permission. Causing or attempting to cause damage to, or stealing or attempting to steal, school property or another person’s personal property.
  7. Entering school property or a school facility without proper authorization.
  8. In the absence of a reasonable belief that an emergency exists, calling emergency responders (such as calling 911); signaling or setting off alarms or signals indicating the presence of an emergency; or indicating the presence of a bomb or explosive device on school grounds, a school bus, or at any school activity.
  9. Engaging in any activity, on or off campus, that: interferes with, disrupts, or adversely affects the school environment, school operations, or an educational function, including but not limited to, conduct that may reasonably be considered to: (a) be a threat or an attempted intimidation of a staff member; or (b) endanger the health or safety of students, staff, or school property.

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

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

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

## **Disciplinary Measures**

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Where practicable and reasonable, school officials will consider forms of non-exclusionary discipline before using transitioning. Disciplinary measures may include, without limitation, any of the following:

1. Notifying parent/guardian.
2. Disciplinary conference.
3. Withholding of privileges.
4. Return of property or restitution for lost, stolen, or damaged property.
5. Detention provided the student’s parent/guardian has been notified. If transportation arrangements cannot be agreed upon, an alternative disciplinary measure must be used. The student must be supervised by the detaining teacher or the Building Principal or designee.
6. Community service with local public and nonprofit agencies that enhances community efforts to meet human, education, environmental, or public safety needs. The District will not provide transportation. School administration may use this option as an alternative to another disciplinary measure giving the student and/or parent/guardian the choice.
7. Seizure of contraband; confiscation and temporary retention of personal property that was used to violate this handbook or school disciplinary rules.
8. Planned transition to another program.
9. Temporary removal from attendance in a group setting

No early childhood student may be expelled. Planned transitions to settings that are able to better meet a child’s needs are not considered an expulsion.

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

**Cross Reference:**  
*7.190, Student Behavior*

## **Transition to Another Program**

When persistent and serious challenging behaviors emerge, the early childhood program shall document steps taken to ensure that the child can participate safely in the program; including observations of initial and ongoing challenging behaviors, strategies for remediation and intervention plans to address the behaviors, and communication with the parent or legal guardian, including participation of the parent or legal guardian in planning and decision-making.

The early childhood program shall, with parental or legal guardian consent as required, utilize a range of community resources, if available and deemed necessary, including, but not limited to, developmental screenings, referrals under the Individual with Disabilities Education Act, and consultation with infant and early childhood mental health consultants and the child's health care provider. The program shall document attempts to engage these resources, including parent or legal guardian participation and consent attempted and obtained. Communication with the parent or legal guardian shall take place in a culturally and linguistically competent manner.

If there is documented evidence that all available interventions and supports recommended by a qualified professional have been exhausted and the program determines in its professional judgment that transitioning a child to another program is necessary for the well-being of the child or his or her peers and staff, with parent or legal guardian permission, both the current and pending programs shall create a transition plan designed to ensure continuity of services and the comprehensive development of the child. Communication with families shall occur in a culturally and linguistically competent manner.

## **Temporary Removal from Attendance in a Group Setting**

In the case of the determination of a serious safety threat to a child or others, or if the student is determined to have brought a firearm, a knife, brass knuckles or other knuckle weapon regardless of its composition, a billy club, or any other object if used or attempted to be used to cause bodily harm, including "lookalikes" of any firearm to school, any school-sponsored activity or event, or any activity or event that bears a reasonable relationship to school, the temporary removal of a child from attendance in group settings may be used. Temporary removal of a child from attendance in a group setting shall trigger the process detailed in this section, with the child placed back in a group setting as quickly as possible.

Isolated time out, time out, and physical restraint shall only be used if the student's behavior presents an imminent danger of serious physical harm to the student or others and other less restrictive and intrusive measures were tried and proven ineffective in stopping it. The school may not use isolated time out, time out, and physical restraint as discipline or punishment, convenience for staff, retaliation, a substitute for appropriate educational or behavioral support, a routine safety matter, or to prevent property damage in the absence of imminent danger of serious physical harm to the student or others.

Corporal punishment is prohibited. Corporal punishment is defined as slapping, paddling, or prolonged maintenance of students in physically painful positions, or intentional infliction of bodily harm. Corporal punishment does not include reasonable force as needed to maintain safety for students, staff, or other persons, or for the purpose of self-defense or defense of property.

## **Weapons**

A student, who uses, possesses, controls, or transfers one of the following weapons at school, on school grounds, on a school bus, at any school-sponsored activity or event, or at any activity or event that bears a reasonable relationship to school, shall be expelled for at least one calendar year but not more than two calendar years:

1. A firearm, meaning any gun, rifle, shotgun, a weapon as defined by Section 921 of Title 18, United States Code



(18 U.S.C. § 921), firearm as defined in Section 1.1 of the Firearm Owners Identification Act (430 ILCS 65/), or firearm as defined in Section 24-1 of the Criminal Code of 1961 (720 ILCS 5/24-1);

2. Ammunition;
3. A knife, billy club, brass knuckles, or other knuckle weapon regardless of its composition;
4. A look-alike firearm;
5. Any other object if used or attempted to be used to cause bodily harm.

Students should report suspected possession or use of such items to any counselor, teacher, or administrator. Arrangements to bring such items to school for classroom demonstrations must be made in advance with one of the Assistant Principals.

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

## **Required Notices**

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A school staff member shall immediately notify the office or the Building Principal in the event that he or she: (1) observes any person in possession of a firearm on or around school grounds; however, such action may be delayed if immediate notice would endanger students under his or her supervision, (2) observes or has reason to suspect that any person on school grounds is or was involved in a drug-related incident, or (3) observes a battery committed against any staff member. Upon receiving such a report, the Building Principal or designee shall immediately notify the local law enforcement agency, State Police, and any involved student's parent/guardian. "School grounds" includes modes of transportation to school activities and any public way within 1,000 feet of the school, as well as school property itself.

## **Re-Engagement of Returning Students**

The building principal or designee shall meet with a student returning to school from an out-of-school suspension, expulsion or alternative school setting. The goal of this meeting shall be to support the student's ability to be successful in school following a period of exclusion, and shall include an opportunity for students who have been suspended to complete or make-up missed work for equivalent academic credit.

## **Delegation of Authority**

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Each teacher, and any other school personnel when students are under his or her charge, is authorized to impose any disciplinary measure, other than suspension, expulsion, corporal punishment or in-school suspension, that is appropriate and in accordance with the policies and rules on student discipline. Teachers, other certificated educational employees and other persons providing a related service for or with respect to a student, may use reasonable force as needed to maintain safety for other students, school personnel, or other persons, or for the purpose of self-defense or defense of property. Teachers may temporarily remove students from a classroom for disruptive behavior.

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

## **Student Handbook**

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

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

### **Cross Reference:**

Board Policy 7.190, *Student Behavior*

Administrative Procedure 7.190-AP2, *Gang Activity Prohibited*

## **Academic Dishonesty**

Any student who knowingly participates in behavior that results in academic dishonesty will be subject to consequences.

The use of computer translators, electronic tampering or other misuse of computer technology in the academic setting, and any form of plagiarism, will be considered academic dishonesty.

Academic dishonesty may result in reduction of grade, loss of credit and/or other appropriate consequences.

Any student engaging in academic dishonesty, including cheating, intentionally plagiarizing, using a writing service and/or emerging technologies (***including but not limited to generative artificial intelligence technology***) in place of original work unless specifically authorized by staff, wrongfully giving or receiving help during an academic examination, altering report cards, or wrongfully obtaining test copies or scores will be subject to consequences, including possible reduction of grade, loss of credit and/or other appropriate consequences.

First Offense will be addressed by the classroom teacher, and the appropriate assistant principal will be notified. Subsequent offenses will be referred to the appropriate assistant principal, and consequences issued.

Suspension and/or dismissal from co-curricular activities are realistic consequences. In addition, any stipulations outlined by sponsors of such activities will be seriously considered in the disposition of each case.

## **Fighting**

Fighting presents a substantial threat to both personal safety and reasonable order within the school and will not be tolerated. A fight will be defined as "two or more individuals involved in aggressive physical contact with one another." Students need to avoid a physical confrontation at all costs. If this situation is present, students must walk away and report to an adult immediately. Students involved in a first incident of fighting will be subject to suspension from school. Fights may be reported to appropriate law enforcement agencies. Subsequent incidents will result in a suspension of up to ten days and a possible recommendation for expulsion from school.

## **Vandalism/Damage to Property**

Students will be held responsible for damaging or defacing school property or the property of others in any way. Students will pay appropriate restitution for the repair, clean up, or replacement of affected property and will be subject to other disciplinary action as deemed appropriate by the school administration. The offender may be reported to appropriate law enforcement agencies.

**Prevention of and Response to Bullying, Intimidation, and Harassment**

Bullying, intimidation, and harassment diminish a student's ability to learn and a school's ability to educate. Preventing students from engaging in these disruptive behaviors and providing all students equal access to a safe, non-hostile learning environment are important District goals. Bullying on the basis of actual or perceived race, color, national origin, military status, unfavorable discharge from military service, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender-related identity or expression, ancestry, age, religion, physical or mental disability, order of protection status, homelessness, or actual or marital status or parenting status, including pregnancy, association with a person or group with one or more of the aforementioned actual or perceived characteristics, or any other distinguishing characteristic **is prohibited** in each of the following situations:

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

**Definitions from Section 27-23.7 of the School Code (105 ILCS 5/27-23.7)**

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

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

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

Bullying may take various forms, including without limitation one or more of the following: harassment, threats, intimidation, stalking, physical violence, sexual harassment, sexual violence, theft, public humiliation, destruction of property, or retaliation for asserting or alleging an act of bullying. This list is meant to be illustrative and non-exhaustive.

## **Bullying Prevention and Response Plan**

The Superintendent or designee shall develop and maintain a bullying prevention and response plan that advances the district’s goal of providing all students with a safe learning environment free of bullying and harassment. This plan must be consistent with the requirements listed below; each numbered requirement, 1-12, corresponds with the same number in the list of required policy components in 105 ILCS 5/27-23.7(b) 1-2.

1. The District uses the definition of *bullying* as provided in this policy.
2. Bullying is contrary to State law and the policy of this District. However, nothing in the District’s bullying prevention and response plan is intended to infringe upon any right to exercise free expression or the free exercise of religion or religiously based views protected under the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution or under Section 3 of Article I of the Illinois Constitution.
3. Students are encouraged to immediately report bullying. A report may be made orally or in writing to the District Complaint Manager, building Principal, nondiscrimination coordinator, or any staff member with whom the student is comfortable speaking. All school staff members are available for help with a bully or to make a report about bullying. Anyone, including staff members and parents/guardians, who has information about actual or threatened bullying is encouraged to report it to the District Complaint Manager or any staff member. Anonymous reports are also accepted.

<b>Complaint Manager:</b>	Name: M. Curt Richardson
	Address: 1809 West Hovey Ave; Normal, IL 61761
	Email: <a href="mailto:richardmc@unit5.org">richardmc@unit5.org</a>
	Telephone: (309) 557-4082

4. Consistent with federal and State laws and rules governing student privacy rights, the Superintendent or designee shall promptly inform the parents/guardians of every student involved in an alleged incident of bullying and discuss, as appropriate, the availability of social work services, counseling, school psychological services, other interventions, and restorative measures.
5. The Superintendent or designee shall promptly investigate and address reports of bullying, by, among other things:
  - a. Making all reasonable efforts to complete the investigation within 10 school days after the date the report of a bullying incident was received and taking into consideration additional relevant information received during the course of the investigation about the reported bullying incident.
  - b. Involving appropriate school support personnel and other staff persons with knowledge, experience, and training on bullying prevention, as deemed appropriate, in the investigation process.
  - c. Notifying the Building Principal or school administrator or designee of the reported incident of bullying as soon as possible after the report is received.
  - d. Consistent with federal and State laws and rules governing student privacy rights, providing parents/guardians of the students who are parties to the investigation information about the investigation and an opportunity to meet with the Building Principal or school administrator or his or her designee to discuss the investigation, the findings of the investigation, and the actions taken to address the reported incident of bullying.

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

7. A reprisal or retaliation against any person who reports an act of bullying **is prohibited**. A student's act of reprisal or retaliation will be treated as *bullying* for purposes of determining any consequences or other appropriate remedial actions.
8. A student will not be punished for reporting bullying or supplying information, even if the District's investigation concludes that no bullying occurred. However, knowingly making a false accusation or providing knowingly false information will be treated as *bullying* for purposes of determining any consequences or other appropriate remedial actions.
9. The District's bullying prevention and response plan must be based on the engagement of a range of school stakeholders, including students and parents/guardians.
10. The Superintendent or designee shall post this policy on the District's Internet website, if any, and include it in the student handbook, and, where applicable, post it where other policies, rules, and standards of conduct are currently posted. The policy must also be distributed annually to parents/guardians, students, and school personnel, including new employees when hired.
11. The Superintendent or designee shall assist the Board with its evaluation and assessment of this policy's outcomes and effectiveness. This process shall include, without limitation:
  - a. The frequency of victimization;
  - b. Student, staff, and family observations of safety at a school;
  - c. Identification or areas of a school where bullying occurs;
  - d. The types of bullying utilized; and
  - e. Bystander intervention or participation.

The evaluation process may use relevant data and information that the District already collects for other purposes. The Superintendent or designee must post the information developed as a result of the policy evaluation on the District's website, or if a website is not available, the information must be provided to school administrators, Board members, school personnel, parents/guardians, and students.

12. The Superintendent or designee shall fully implement the *Board policies*, including without limitation, the following:
  - a. 2.260 ~ A student may use this policy to complain about bullying.
  - b. 6.60 ~ Bullying prevention and character instruction is provided in all grades in accordance with State law.
  - c. 6.65 ~ Student social and emotional development is incorporated in the District's educational program as required by State law.
  - d. 6.235 ~ This policy states that the use of the District's electronic networks is limited to: (1) support of education and/or research, or (2) a legitimate business use.
  - e. 7.20 ~ This policy prohibits *any* person from harassing, intimidating, or bullying a student based on an actual or perceived characteristic (the list of characteristics in 7.20 is the same as the list in this policy).
  - f. 7.185 ~ This policy prohibits teen dating violence on school property, at school sponsored activities, and in vehicles used for school-provided transportation.
  - g. 7.190 ~ This policy prohibits, and provides consequences for, hazing, bullying, or other aggressive behaviors, or urging other students to engage in such conduct.

- h. 7.310 ~ This policy prohibits students from, and provides consequences for: (i) accessing and/or distributing at school any written, printed, or electronic material, including material from the Internet, that will cause substantial disruption of the proper and orderly operation and discipline of the school or school activities, and (ii) creating and/or distributing written, printed, or electronic material, including photographs and Internet material and blogs, that causes substantial disruption to school operations or interferes with the rights of other students or staff members.

### Cross-References:

Board Policy 2.260, *Uniform Grievance Procedure*  
 Board Policy 7.20, *Harassment of Students Prohibited*  
 Board Policy 7.180, *Preventing Bullying, Intimidation, and Harassment*  
 Board Policy 7.190, *Student Behavior*

### Sexual Harassment Prohibited

Sexual harassment of students is prohibited. Any person, including a District employee or agent, or student, engages in sexual harassment whenever he or she makes sexual advances, requests sexual favors, and/or engages in other verbal or physical conduct, including sexual violence, of a sexual or sex-based nature, imposed on the basis of sex, that:

1. Denies or limits the provision of educational aid, benefits, services, or treatment; or that makes such conduct a condition of a student's academic status; or
2. Has the purpose or effect of:
  - a. Substantially interfering with a student's educational environment;
  - b. Creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive educational environment;
  - c. Depriving a student of educational aid, benefits, services, or treatment; or
  - d. Making submission to or rejection of such conduct the basis for academic decisions affecting a student.

The terms *intimidating*, *hostile*, and *offensive* include conduct that has the effect of humiliation, embarrassment, or discomfort. Examples of sexual harassment include touching, crude jokes or pictures, discussions of sexual experiences, teasing related to sexual characteristics, and spreading rumors related to a person's alleged sexual activities. The term *sexual violence* includes a number of different acts. Examples of sexual violence include, but are not limited to, rape, sexual assault, sexual battery, sexual abuse, and sexual coercion.

### Discrimination and Harassment on the Basis of Race, Color, and National Origin Prohibited

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

### Examples of Prohibited Conduct

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

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

### Making a Report or Complaint: Investigation Process

Individuals are encouraged to promptly report claims or incidences of discrimination or harassment based on race, color, or national origin to the Nondiscrimination Coordinator, a Complaint Manager, or any employee with whom the student is comfortable speaking. Reports under this policy will be processed under Board Policy 2.260, Uniform Grievance Procedure.

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

### Federal and State Agencies

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

### Prevention and Response Program

The District maintains a prevention and response program to respond to complaints of discrimination based on race, color, and national origin, including harassment, and retaliation. The program includes procedures for responding to complaints which:

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

## Enforcement

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

Any District student who is determined, after an investigation, to have engaged in conduct prohibited by this policy will be subject to remedial action and/or disciplinary action, including but not limited to, suspension and expulsion consistent with Board Policy 7.190, Student Behavior.

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

## Retaliation Prohibited

Retaliation against any person for bringing complaints, participating in the complaint process, or otherwise providing information about discrimination or harassment based on race, color, or national origin is prohibited (see Board policy 2.260, Uniform Grievance Procedure).

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

Cross Reference Board Policy 2.270

## **Making a Complaint, Enforcement**

Students are encouraged to report claims or incidences of bullying, harassment, sexual harassment, or any other prohibited conduct to the Nondiscrimination Coordinator, Building Principal, Associate Principal, Assistant Principal, or a Complaint Manager, or anonymously via the District's *Bullying Hotline* (phone number is located on the District's website and in the *Parent/Student Handbook*). 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.

An allegation that a student was a victim of any prohibited conduct perpetrated by another student shall be referred to the Building Principal, Associate Principal, or Assistant Principal, for appropriate action.

Contact the District Office for the names, addresses, and telephone numbers of the District's current Nondiscrimination Coordinator and Complaint Managers. At least one of these individuals will be female, and at least one will be male.

<b>Complaint Manager:</b>	Name:	M. Curt Richardson
and	Address:	1809 West Hovey Ave; Normal IL 61761
<b>Nondiscrimination</b>	Email:	<a href="mailto:richardmc@unit5.org">richardmc@unit5.org</a>
<b>Coordinator:</b>	Telephone:	(309) 557-4082



**Complaint Manager:** Name: Dayna Brown  
Address: 1809 West Hovey Ave; Normal IL 61761  
Email: [brownda@unit5.org](mailto:brownda@unit5.org)  
Telephone: (309) 557-4032

The Superintendent or designee shall use reasonable measures to inform staff members and students of this policy, such as, by including this policy in appropriate handbooks.

Any District employee who is determined, after an investigation, to have engaged in conduct prohibited by this policy will be subject to disciplinary action up to and including discharge. Any District student who is determined, after an investigation, to have engaged in conduct prohibited by this policy will be subject to disciplinary action, including but not limited to, suspension and expulsion consistent with the discipline policy. Any person making a knowingly false accusation regarding prohibited conduct will likewise be subject to disciplinary action up to and including discharge, with regard to employees, or suspension and expulsion, with regard to students.

### Cross Reference:

- Board Policy 2.260, *Uniform Grievance Procedure*
- Board Policy 7.20, *Harassment of Students Prohibited*
- Board Policy 7.180, *Preventing Bullying, Intimidation, and Harassment*
- Board Policy 7.190, *Student Behavior*

## Section 7-Internet, Technology, Publications

### Acceptable Use of the District's Electronic Networks

All use of the District's 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 prohibited 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

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

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

Acceptable Use - Access to the District's electronic networks 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 - Use of the District's electronic networks is a privilege, not a right, and inappropriate use may result in a cancellation of those privileges, disciplinary action, and/or appropriate legal action. The system administrator or Building Principal 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 electronic networks. Some examples of unacceptable uses are:

- A. Using the electronic networks for any illegal activity, including violation of copyright or other intellectual property rights or contracts, or transmitting any material in violation of any State or federal law;
- B. Using the electronic networks to engage in conduct prohibited by board policy;
- C. Unauthorized downloading of software or other files, regardless of whether it is copyrighted or scanned for malware;
- D. Unauthorized use of personal removable media devices (such as flash or thumb drives);
- E. Downloading of copyrighted material for other than personal use;
- F. Using the electronic networks for private financial or commercial gain;
- G. Wastefully using resources, such as file space;
- H. Hacking or attempting to hack or gain unauthorized access to files, accounts, resources, or entities by any means;
- I. Invading the privacy of individuals, including the unauthorized disclosure, dissemination, and use of information about anyone that is of a personal nature, such as a photograph or video;
- J. Using another user's account or password;
- K. Disclosing any network or account password (including your own) to any other person, unless requested by the system administrator;
- L. Posting or sending material authored or created by another without his/her consent;
- M. Posting or sending anonymous messages;
- N. Creating or forwarding chain letters, spam, or other unsolicited messages;
- O. Using the electronic networks for commercial or private advertising;
- P. Accessing, sending, posting, publishing, or displaying any abusive, obscene, profane, sexual, threatening, harassing, illegal, or knowingly false material;
- Q. Misrepresenting the user's identity or the identity of others; and
- R. Using the electronic networks while access privileges are suspended or revoked.

Network Etiquette - The user is expected to abide by the generally accepted rules of network etiquette. These include, but are not limited to, the following:

- A. Be polite. 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 the District's electronic networks are not private. People who operate District technology have access to all email and other data. Messages or other evidence relating to or in support of illegal activities may be reported to the authorities.

- E. Do not use the networks in any way that would disrupt its use by other users.
- F. Consider all communications and information accessible via the electronic networks to be private property.

**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 own risk. The District specifically denies any responsibility for the accuracy or quality of information obtained through its services.

**Indemnification** - By using the District's electronic networks, 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 or suspect a security problem on the network, the user must promptly notify the system administrator or Building Principal. Do not demonstrate the problem to other users. Keep user account(s) and password(s) confidential. Do not use another individual's account without written permission from that individual. Attempts to log-on to the network as a system administrator will result in cancellation of user privileges. Any user identified as a security risk may be denied access to the networks.

**Vandalism** - Vandalism will result in cancellation of privileges and 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 malware, such as viruses and spyware.

**Telephone Charges** - The District assumes no responsibility for any unauthorized charges or fees, including telephone charges, texting or data use charges, long-distance charges, per-minute surcharges, and/or equipment or line costs.

**Copyright Web Publishing Rules** - Copyright law and District policy prohibit the re-publishing of text or graphics found on the Internet or on District websites or file servers/cloud storage without explicit written permission.

- A. For each re-publication (on a website or file server) of a graphic or a 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 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.
- 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 rules 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 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 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 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 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 message received from an unknown sender via the Internet, such as spam or potential phishing emails, 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 that message's authenticity and the nature of the file so transmitted.
- 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 supported if users will not engage in unacceptable uses, as detailed in these procedures, and otherwise follow these procedures.

Staff members will 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 computer with Internet access has a filtering device that blocks entry to visual depictions that are: (1) obscene, (2) pornographic, or (3) harmful or inappropriate for students, as defined by the Children's Internet Protection Act and as determined by the Superintendent or designee.

The system administrator and Building Principals shall monitor student Internet access.

Receipt and Acknowledgement of the Student Acceptable Use of Electronic Networks procedure is required before access to Electronic Networks is granted. Elementary students and their parents/guardians must initial next to the Acceptable Use statement as well as sign the receipt and acknowledgement section of the Early Learning Handbook before students will be granted access.

### Cross Reference:

Board Policy 6.235, *Access to Electronic Networks*

Administrative Procedures 6.235-AP1 *Student Acceptable Use of Electronic Networks*

Exhibit 6.235-E2 *Student Authorization of Acceptable Use of Electronic Networks*

### **Annual Notice to Parents about Educational Technology**

School districts throughout the State of Illinois contract with different educational technology vendors for beneficial K-12 purposes such as providing personalized learning and innovative educational technologies, and increasing efficiency in school operations.

Under Illinois' Student Online Personal Protection Act, or SOPPA (105 ILCS 85/), educational technology vendors and other entities that operate Internet websites, online services, online applications, or mobile applications that are designed,

marketed, and primarily used for K-12 school purposes are referred to in SOPPA as operators. SOPPA is intended to ensure that student data collected by operators is protected, and it requires those vendors, as well as school districts and the IL State Board of Education, to take a number of actions to protect online student data.

Depending upon the particular educational technology being used, our District may need to collect different types of student data, which is then shared with educational technology vendors through their online sites, services, and/or applications. Under SOPPA, educational technology vendors are prohibited from selling or renting a student's information or from engaging in targeted advertising using a student's information. Such vendors may only disclose student data for K-12 school purposes and other limited purposes permitted under the law.

In general terms, the types of student data that may be collected and shared include personally identifiable information (PII) about students or information that can be linked to PII about students, such as:

- Basic identifying information, including student or parent/guardian name and student or parent/guardian contact information, username/password, student ID number
- Demographic information
- Enrollment information
- Assessment data, grades, and transcripts
- Attendance and class schedule
- Academic/extracurricular activities
- Special indicators (e.g., disability information, English language learner, free/reduced meals or homeless/foster care status)
- Conduct/behavioral data
- Health information
- Food purchases
- Transportation information
- In-application performance data
- Student-generated work
- Online communications
- Application metadata and application use statistics
- Permanent and temporary school student record information

Operators may collect and use student data only for K-12 purposes, which are purposes that aid in the administration of school activities, such as:

- Instruction in the classroom or at home (including remote learning)
- Administrative activities
- Collaboration between students, school personnel, and/or parents/guardians
- Other activities that are for the use and benefit of the school district

## Section 8-Search and Seizure

### Search and Seizure

In order to maintain order safety 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 officers.

### Access to Student Social Networking Passwords & Websites

School officials may 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 the school's disciplinary rules or school district policy. In the course of the investigation, the student may be required to share the content that is reported in order for the school to make a factual determination. School authorities officials may not request or require a student or his or her parent or guardian to provide a password or other related account information in order to gain access to the student's account or profile on a social networking website if school authorities have reasonable cause to believe that a student's account on a social networking website contains evidence that a student has violated a school disciplinary rule or procedure.

### School Property and Equipment as well as Personal Effects Left There by Students

School authorities may inspect and search 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. The Principal may request the assistance of law enforcement officials to conduct inspections and searches of lockers, desks, parking lots, and other school property and equipment for illegal drugs, **weapons**, or other illegal or dangerous substances or materials, including searches conducted through the use of specially trained dogs.

### Students

School authorities may search a student and/or the student's personal effects in the student's possession (such as, purses, wallets, knapsacks, book bags, lunch boxes, etc.) when there is a reasonable ground for suspecting that the search will produce evidence the particular student has violated or is violating either the law or the school or district's rules and policies. The search will be conducted in a manner that is reasonably related to its objective of the search and not excessively intrusive in light of the student's age and sex, and the nature of the infraction.

### Seizure of Property

If a search produces evidence that the student has violated or is violating either the law or the school or district's policies or rules, evidence may be seized and impounded by school authorities, and disciplinary action may be taken. When appropriate, evidence may be transferred to law enforcement authorities.

#### Cross Reference:

Board Policy 7.140, *Search and Seizure*

## Section 9- Special Education

### Education of Children with Disabilities

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 or the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act are identified, evaluated and provided with appropriate educational services.

The district provides a free appropriate public education in the least restrictive environment and necessary related services to all children with disabilities enrolled in the district. The term “children with disabilities” means children between ages 3 and the day before their 22<sup>nd</sup> birthday for whom it is determined that special education services are needed, except those children with disabilities who turn 22 years of age during the school year are eligible for special education services through the end of the school year. It is the intent of the district to ensure that students with disabilities are identified, evaluated, and provided with appropriate educational services.

A copy of the publication “Explanation of Procedural Safeguards Available to Parents of Students with Disabilities” may be obtained from the school or district special education office.

Students with disabilities who do not qualify for an individualized education program, as required by the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and implementing provisions of this Illinois law, may qualify for services under Section 504 of the federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 if the student (i) has a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities, (ii) has a record of a physical or mental impairment, or (iii) is regarded as having a physical or mental impairment.

For further information, please contact: Carrie Chapman, Director of Special Education: 557.4400

**Cross Reference:**

Board Policy 6.120, *Education of Children with Disabilities*

**Discipline of Students with Disabilities**

The school will comply with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) when disciplining a child with a disability as defined under IDEA. Behavioral interventions will be used with students with disabilities to promote and strengthen desirable behaviors and reduce identified inappropriate behaviors. No child with a disability shall be expelled if the child’s particular act of gross disobedience or misconduct is a manifestation of his or her disability as determined through a manifestation hearing. 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.

Isolated Time Out, Time Out, and Physical Restraint Isolated time out, time out, and physical restraint shall only be used if the student’s behavior presents an imminent danger of serious physical harm to the student or others, and other less restrictive and intrusive measures were tried and proven ineffective in stopping it. The School may not use isolated time out, time out, or physical restraint as discipline or punishment, convenience for staff, retaliation, as a substitute for appropriate educational or behavioral support, a routine safety matter, or to prevent property damage in the absence of imminent danger of serious physical harm to the student or others. The use of prone restraint is prohibited.

**Cross Reference:**

Board Policy 7.230, *Misconduct by Students with Disabilities*

## Request to Access Classroom or Personnel for Special Education Evaluation or Observation

The parent/guardian of a student receiving special education services, or being evaluated for eligibility, is afforded reasonable access to educational facilities, personnel, classrooms, and buildings. This same right of access is afforded to an independent educational evaluator or a qualified professional retained by or on behalf of a parent or child. For further information, please contact the Principal.

### Cross Reference:

Board Policy 6.120, *Education of Children with Disabilities*

Exhibit 6.120-AP2,E1 *Request to Access Classroom(s) or Personnel for Special Education Evaluation and/or Observation Purposes*

## Related Service Logs

For a child with an individualized education program (“IEP”), the school district must create related service logs that record the type of related services administered under the child's IEP and the minutes of each type of related service that has been administered. The school will provide a child's parent/guardian a copy of the related service log at the annual review of the child's IEP upon request and at any other time upon request.

### Cross Reference:

PRESS 7:340-AP1, *School Student Records*

## PUNS (Prioritization of Urgency of Need for Services)

Database Information for Students and Parents or Guardians

The Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS) maintains a statewide database known as the PUNS database (Prioritization of Urgency of Need for Services) that records information about individuals with intellectual disabilities or developmental disabilities who are potentially in need of services.

IDHS uses the data on PUNS to select individuals for services as funding becomes available, to develop proposals and materials for budgeting, and to plan for future needs. The PUNS database is available for children with intellectual disabilities or developmental disabilities with unmet service needs.

Registration to be included on the PUNS database is the first step toward receiving developmental disabilities services in this State. A child who is not on the PUNS database will not be in the queue for State developmental disabilities services.

For more information and to sign up for PUNS, see the Illinois Department of Human Services PUNS information page at <https://www.dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx?item=41131>

You may also contact the following District employee for assistance:

Carrie Chapman, Director of Special Education: 557.4400



**Section 10 - Student Records, Privacy****Student Privacy Protections****Surveys**

All surveys requesting personal information from students, as well as any other instrument used to collect personal information from students, must advance or relate to the District's educational objectives, or assist students' career choices. This applies to all surveys, regardless of whether the student answering the questions can be identified or who created the survey.

**Surveys by Third Parties**

Before a school official or staff member administers or distributes a survey or evaluation created by a third party to a student, the student's parent/guardian may inspect the survey or evaluation, upon their request and within a reasonable time of their request. This applies to every survey: (1) that is created by a person or entity other than a district official, staff member, or student, (2) regardless of whether the student answering the questions can be identified, and (3) regardless of the subject matter of the questions.

Parents who object to disclosure of information concerning their child to a third party may do so in writing to the Principal.

**Surveys Requesting Personal Information**

School officials and staff members will not request, nor disclose, the identity of any student who completes any survey or evaluation (created by any person or entity, including the school or district) containing one or more of the following items:

1. Political affiliations or beliefs of the student or the student's parent/guardian.
2. Mental or psychological problems of the student or the student's family.
3. Behavior or attitudes about sex.
4. Illegal, anti-social, self-incriminating, or demeaning behavior.
5. Critical appraisals of other individuals with whom students have close family relationships.
6. Legally recognized privileged or analogous relationships, such as those with lawyers, physicians, and ministers.
7. Religious practices, affiliations, or beliefs of the student or the student's parent/guardian.
8. Income other than that required by law to determine eligibility for participation in a program or for receiving financial assistance under such program.

The student's parent/guardian may inspect the survey or evaluation upon, and refuse to allow their child to participate in the survey. The school will not penalize any student whose parent/guardian exercised this option.

**Cross References:**

Board Policy 7.15, *Student and Family Privacy Rights*

Exhibit 7.15-E1, *Notification to Parents of Family Privacy Rights*

**Instructional Material**

A student's parent/guardian may inspect, upon their request, any instructional material used as part of their child's educational curriculum within a reasonable time of their request.

The term "instructional material" means instructional content that is provided to a student, regardless of its format, printed or representational materials, audio-visual materials, and materials in electronic or digital formats (such as materials accessible through the Internet). The term does not include academic tests or academic assessments.

### **Complaints About Curriculum, Instructional Materials, and Programs**

Parents or guardians have the right to inspect all instructional materials used as a part of their child's education. If you believe that curriculum, instructional materials, or programs violate rights guaranteed by any law or Board policy, you may file a complaint under the District's uniform grievance policy. Parents or guardians with other suggestions or complaints about curriculum, instructional materials, or programs should complete a Curriculum Objection Form, which is available from the school office. A parent or guardian may also request that their child be exempt from using a particular instructional material or program by completing a Curriculum Objection Form.

### **Prohibition on Selling or Marketing Students' Personal Information**

No school official or staff member may market or sell personal information concerning students (or otherwise provide that information to others for that purpose). The term personal information means individually identifiable information including: (1) a student or parent's first and last name, (2) a home or other physical address (including street name and the name of the city or town), (3) a telephone number, (4) a Social Security identification number or (5) driver's license number or State identification card.

Unless otherwise prohibited by law, The above paragraph does not apply: (1) if the student's parent/guardian have consented; or (2) to the collection, disclosure or, use of personal information collected from students for the exclusive purpose of developing, evaluating or providing educational products or services for, or to, students or educational institutions., such as the following:

1. College or other postsecondary education recruitment, or military recruitment.
2. Book clubs, magazines, and programs providing access to low-cost literary products.
3. Curriculum and instructional materials used by elementary schools and secondary schools.
4. Tests and assessments to provide cognitive, evaluative, diagnostic, clinical, aptitude, or achievement information about students (or to generate other statistically useful data for the purpose of securing such tests and assessments) and the subsequent analysis and public release of the aggregate data from such tests and assessments.
5. The sale by students of products or services to raise funds for school-related or education-related activities.
6. Student recognition programs.

Under no circumstances may a school official or staff member provide a student's personal information to a business organization or financial institution that issues credit or debit cards A parent/guardian who desires to opt their child out of participation in activities provided herein or who desires a copy or access to a survey or any other material described herein may contact the Building Principal.

A complete copy of the District's Student and Family Privacy Rights policy may be obtained from the Superintendent's office or accessed on the District's website.

**Cross Reference:**Board Policy 7.15, *Student and Family Privacy Rights*Exhibit 7.15-E1, *Notification to Parents of Family Privacy Rights***Student Records****Definition**

A school student record is any writing or other recorded information concerning a student and by which a student may be individually identified, maintained by a school or at its direction or by an employee of a school, regardless of how or where the information is stored.

A school record does not include any of the following:

1. Writings or other recorded information maintained by an employee for his or her exclusive use, provided they are destroyed not later than the student's graduations or permanent withdrawal, and are not released or disclosed to any other person except a substitute teacher ILCS 105 ILCS 10/2(d)
2. Information maintained by law enforcement professionals working in the school 105 ILCS 10/2(d)

**Categories of School Student Records**

The district maintains permanent records and temporary records for each student. Student permanent records are maintained for not less than 60 years and student temporary records are maintained for not less than 5 years after a student has transferred, graduated or otherwise permanently withdrawn.

A student's permanent record contains the following information:

1. Basic identifying information;
2. Academic transcript;
3. Attendance record;
4. Accident reports and health record;
5. Record of release of permanent record information;
6. High school State assessment test scores;

And may also consist of:

7. Honors and awards received; and
8. Participation in extracurricular activities or athletics.

A student's temporary record contains the following information:

1. A record of release of temporary record information;
2. Elementary State assessment test scores;
3. Completed home language survey form;
4. Information regarding serious infractions that resulted in discipline; and any biometric information that is collected;
5. Information provided under Section 8.6 of the Abused and Neglected Child Reporting Act;

And may also consist of:

6. Family background information;
7. Intelligence test scores, group and individual;
8. Aptitude test scores;
9. Reports of psychological evaluations;
10. Elementary and secondary achievement level test results;
11. Participation in extracurricular activities or athletics;
12. Honors and awards received;
13. Teacher anecdotal records;
14. Other disciplinary information;
15. Special education files;
16. Any verified reports or information from non-educational persons, agencies or organizations; and
17. Other verified information of clear relevance to the education of the student.

## Inspection and Access

A parent or any person specifically designated as a representative by a parent has the right to inspect and copy all school student permanent and temporary records of that parent's child. A student shall have the right to inspect and copy his or her school student permanent record. Costs for copies of school student records or any portion thereof shall be \$.15 per page, provided, however, no parent or student shall be denied a copy of school student records due to inability to bear the cost of such copying.

No person who is prohibited by an order of protection from inspecting or obtaining school records of a student pursuant to the Illinois Domestic Violence Act of 1986 shall have any right of access to, or inspection of, the school records of that student. The district may prohibit a parent's or student's access to confidential letters and statements of recommendation furnished in connection with applications for employment to a post-secondary educational institution or the receipt of an honor or honorary recognition.

A parent or student request to inspect and copy records must be granted within a reasonable time, and in no case later than 15 school days after the date of receipt of such request.

## Confidentiality

School student records are confidential and information contained therein will not be released other than as provided by law. No school student records or information contained therein may be released, transferred, disclosed or otherwise disseminated, except as follows:

1. To a parent, student, or authorized representative;
2. To an employee of the district with current demonstrable educational or administrative interest in the student, in furtherance of such interest;
3. To the official records custodian of another school in which the student has enrolled, or intends to enroll, upon the request of such official or student;
4. To any person for the purpose of research, statistical reporting, or planning;
5. Pursuant to a court order;
6. To any person as specifically required by State or federal law;
- 6.5 To juvenile authorities when necessary for the discharge of their official duties;
7. To appropriate persons in connection with an emergency if the knowledge of such information is necessary to protect the health or safety of the student or other persons;
8. To any person, with the prior specific dated written consent of the parent;
9. To a governmental agency in furtherance of an investigation of a student's school attendance;
10. To committee members who fall within the meaning of "state and local officials and authorities" for the

purposes of identifying serious habitual juvenile offenders and matching those offenders with community resources; or

11. To the Department of Healthcare and Family Services in furtherance of the requirements of Section 2-3.131, 3-14.29, 10-28, or 34-18.26 of the School Code or Section 10 of the School Breakfast and Lunch Program Act.
12. To the Illinois State Board of Education or another State government agency in order to audit federal and State programs or perform research and planning.

Information may not be released pursuant to subparagraphs (3) or (6) above unless the parent receives prior written notice of the nature and substance of the information proposed to be released, and an opportunity to inspect and copy such records and to challenge their contents.

## **Challenging Student Records**

Parents may challenge any entry in their child's school student records except for academic grades and references to expulsions or out-of-school suspensions if the challenge is made at the time the student's school student records are forwarded to another school to which the student is transferring. Challenges can be made on the basis of:

1. Accuracy;
2. Relevance; or
3. Propriety.

Challenges must be in writing, request a hearing, and contain notice of the specific entry or entries to be challenged and the basis of the challenge. When a challenge is received by the district, an initial informal conference with the parents will be scheduled within 10 business days. If the challenge is not resolved by the informal conference, a hearing will be held. A hearing officer, who shall not be employed in the attendance center in which the student is enrolled, shall be appointed by the district. The hearing officer will conduct a hearing within a reasonable time, but no later than 15 days after the informal conference, unless an extension of time is agreed upon by the parents and school officials. The hearing officer will notify parents and school officials of the time and place of the hearing.

At the hearing each party shall have the following rights:

1. The right to present evidence and to call witnesses;
2. The right to cross-examine witnesses;
3. The right to counsel;
4. The right to a written statement of any decision and the reasons therefore;

A verbatim record of the hearing will be made. A written decision of the hearing officer will be transmitted to the parents and the school district no later than 10 business days after the hearing and will be based solely on the information presented at the hearing. Any party has the right to appeal the decision of the hearing officer to the Regional Superintendent within 20 school days after such decision is transmitted. If the parent appeals, the parent shall inform the school and within 10 business days the school will forward a transcript of the hearing, a copy of the record entry in question and any other pertinent materials to the Regional Superintendent. The school may initiate an appeal by the same procedures. The Regional Superintendent will make findings and issue a written decision to the parents and the school within 20 school days of the receipt of the appeal documents. Final decisions of the Regional Superintendent may be appealed to the circuit court of the county in which the school is located.

## **Directory Information**

The district routinely discloses "directory" type information without consent. Directory information is limited to: student's name, address, gender, grade level, birth date and place, parents' names and address; parent's electronic address; information in relation to school-sponsored activities, organizations,; and period of attendance at the school.

Any parent/guardian or eligible student (student 18 or older) may prohibit the release of directory information by delivering a written request to the building principal within 30 days of the date of this notice.

## Destruction of School Student Records

The district destroys school student records when it is no longer required to maintain them. Before any school student records are destroyed or information deleted, the parent of the child to whom those records pertain will be given reasonable prior notice at his or her last known address and an opportunity to copy the records and information proposed to be destroyed or deleted.

## Adverse Action

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 that the individual may obtain through the exercise of any right secured under the School Student Records Act.

### Cross Reference:

Board Policy 7.340, *Student Records*

Administrative Procedures 7.340-AP1, *School Student Records*

## Student Records and Privacy

Medical records will only be released to the student's parent/guardian or their designee (with written consent from the parent). Identification will be required.

### Cross Reference:

Board Policy 7.340, *Student Records*

## Section 11-Parental Rights and Notifications

### Teacher Qualifications

In accordance with ESEA Section 1111(h)(6) *PARENTS RIGHT-TO-KNOW*, McLean County Unit 5 is notifying every parent that you have the right and may request information regarding the professional qualifications of your child's classroom teacher. Whether the teacher has met State certification requirements;

- Whether the teacher has met State certification requirements;
- Whether the teacher is teaching under an emergency permit or other provisional status by which State licensing criteria have been waived;
- The teacher's college major;
- Whether the teacher has any advanced degrees and, if so, the subject of the degrees; and
- Whether any instructional aides or paraprofessionals provide services to your child and, if so, their qualifications.

If you would like to receive any of this information, please contact the school office.

### Cross Reference:

Board Policy 5.190, *Teacher Qualifications*

## Erin’s Law- Child Protection

“Erin’s Law” (Public Act 96-1524) requires that all public schools in the state to implement a prevention-oriented child sexual abuse program. Students in kindergarten through fifth grade will participate in the Second Step Child Protection program. Parents or guardians may see an overview of the program at <http://www.cfchildren.org/child-protection> or examine the instructional materials to be used for the lesson by contacting the school. Lessons are provided annually to all students in kindergarten through fifth grade.

### Cross Reference:

Board Policy 6.60-AP1 *Comprehensive Health Education*

## Homeless Child’s Right to Education

When a child loses permanent housing and becomes a homeless person as defined at law, or when a homeless child changes his or her temporary living arrangements, the parent or guardian of the homeless child has the option of either:

1. Continuing the child's education in the school of origin for as long as the child remains homeless or, if the child becomes permanently housed, until the end of the academic year during which the housing is acquired; or
2. Enrolling the child in any school that non-homeless students who live in the attendance area in which the child or youth is actually living are eligible to attend.

### Cross Reference:

Administrative Procedure, 6.140-AP1, *Education of Homeless Children*

## English Learners

The school offers opportunities for English Learners to develop high levels of academic attainment in English and to meet the same academic content and student academic achievement standards that all children are expected to attain.

Parents/guardians of English Learners will be: (1) be involved in the education of their children; and (2) be active participants in assisting their children to attain English proficiency, achieve at high levels within a well-rounded education, and meet the challenging State academic standards expected of all students; and (3) participate and serve on the District’s Transitional Bilingual Education Programs Parent Advisory Committee.

For questions related to this program or to express input in the school’s English Learners program, contact the Director of Multilingual Services, Leslie Webbat the unit office, 309.557.4039.

### Cross Reference:

Board Policy 6.160, *English Learners*

## Pesticide Application Notice

The district maintains a registry of parents/guardians of students who have registered to receive written or telephone

notification prior to the application of pesticides to school grounds. To be added to the list, please contact the Director of Operations at the Unit Office 309.557.4400.

Notification will be given before application of the pesticide. Prior notice is not required if there is imminent threat to health or property in which case the Structural Pest Control Act shall control.

**Cross Reference:**

Administrative Procedure 4.160-AP1, *Environmental Quality of Buildings and Grounds*

**School Visitation Rights**

The School Visitation Rights Act permits employed parents/guardians, who are unable to meet with educators because of a work conflict, the right to time off from work under certain conditions to attend necessary school functions such as parent-teacher conferences, academic meetings and behavioral meetings. Letters verifying participation in this program are available from the school office upon request.

**Mandated Reporters**

All school personnel, including teachers and administrators, are required by law to immediately report any and all suspected cases of child abuse or neglect to the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services.

**Cross Reference:**

Board Policy 5.90, *Abused and Neglected Child Reporting*

**Asbestos Abatement Statement**

Unit 5 has submitted its Management Plan prepared pursuant to the requirements of the *Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act* for each Unit 5 elementary school. Copies of the Management Plan are available in the administrative office of the school district and in each elementary school office. These plans are available for your inspection during the normal business hours Monday through Friday, and during other times by special arrangement.

The above statement is required under the rule of the *Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act*. It signifies that asbestos has been identified in the buildings. The asbestos was removed from the buildings. We would like to emphasize that to our knowledge, the above conditions do not pose a health hazard for those using our facilities. The above notice is required due to the law, which makes it necessary to conduct a survey, prepare and plan, notify the public and remove the designated asbestos in a timely fashion.

**Transfer to Another School**

If a student is a victim of a violent crime that occurred on school grounds during regular school hours or during a school-sponsored event, the parent/guardian may request a transfer to another public school within the district.

**Cross References:**

Board Policy 4.170, *Safety*

**Student Handbook**

The Superintendent, with input from the parent-teacher advisory committee, shall prepare disciplinary rules



implementing the District’s disciplinary policies. These disciplinary rules shall be presented annually to the Board for its review and approval.

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

### **Sex Offender Notification Law**

State law prohibits a convicted child sex offender from being present on school property when children under the age of 18 are present, except for in the following circumstances as they relate to the individual’s child (ren):

1. To attend a conference at the school with school personnel to discuss the progress of their child.
2. To participate in a conference in which evaluation and placement decisions may be made with respect to their child’s special education services.
3. To attend conferences to discuss issues concerning their child such as retention or promotion.

In all other cases, convicted child sex offenders are prohibited from being present on school property unless they obtain written permission from the Superintendent or school board.

Anytime that a convicted child sex offender is present on school property – including the three reasons above - he/she is responsible for notifying the Principal's office upon arrival on school property and upon departure from school property. It is the responsibility of the convicted child sex offender to remain under the direct supervision of a school official at all times he/she is in the presence or vicinity of children.

A violation of this law is a Class 4 felony.

### **Cross References:**

Administrative Procedure 4.170-AP2, *Criminal Offender Notification Laws*

### **Sex Offender & Violent Offender Community Notification Laws**

State law requires schools to notify parents/guardians during school registration or parent-teacher conferences that information about sex offenders and violent offenders against youth is available to the public on the Illinois State’s Police website. The Illinois State Police website contains the following:

- Illinois Sex Offender Registry on the Illinois State Police’s website, <https://isp.illinois.gov/Sor>
- Illinois Statewide Child Murderer and Violent Offender Against Youth Registry on the Illinois State Police’s website, <https://isp.illinois.gov/MVOAY/Disclaimer>
- Frequently Asked Questions Concerning Sex Offenders, <https://isp.illinois.gov/Sor/FAQs>

### **Title IX – Civil Rights**

In June 1972, the Congress passed Title IX of the Education Amendments, a law that affects virtually every education institution in the country. The law prohibits discrimination by sex in educational programs that receive federal money. The spirit of the law is reflected in the opening statement: Under Title IX, *“No person in the United States shall on the basis of sex be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving federal financial assistance..”*

## **Title IX Grievance Procedure**

1. A student or an employee shall present his/her complaint in writing to his/her building principal.
2. The building principal shall investigate the complaint within five working days and arrange for a hearing.
3. Failing a resolution at stage 1, the student or employee may present a statement of his/her grievance to the grievance officer.
4. The Title IX Coordinator for McLean County Unit District No. 5 shall serve as the grievance officer and render his/her opinion within five working days from the time of the hearing.
5. Failing a resolution at stage 2, the student or employee may present a statement of his/her grievance to the Superintendent who shall determine the matter within five working days from the time of the hearing.
6. Failing a resolution of stage 3, the student or employee may present a statement of his/her grievance to the Board of Education who shall determine the matter.
7. Failing a resolution at stage 4, the grievant may file a complaint with the Circuit Court.

There shall be no reprisal against any student or employee for filing a grievance or for utilizing the grievance procedure. For maintaining confidentiality, grievances will not be filed in a student's file or an employee's personnel file. The grievance file will be kept in the office of the grievance officer. The grievant has the same access to this file as he/she does to his/her own personnel file.

"McLean County Unit District No. 5 is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action institution in accordance with Civil Rights legislation and does not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, national origin, sex, age, handicap, or other factors prohibited by law in any of its educational programs, admissions, or employment policies."

### **Concerns regarding this policy should be referred to:**

Board of Education Office  
1809 W. Hovey  
Normal, IL 61761  
309.557.4400

## **Parent/Guardian Involvement**

### **Parent-Teacher Conferences**

Periodically during the school year, scheduled Parent-Teacher Conferences may be held. We believe these conferences are one of the best methods of sharing information about your child. Parent(s)/Guardian(s) will be notified as to the date and time of these scheduled conferences. In addition to these conferences, parents or teachers are encouraged to request additional conference times whenever the need arises. Please call ahead or send a note indicating the desire for a conference. Catching the teacher in the hall or after school without prior notification or during Open House activities does not provide for the best parent-teacher communication.

### **Parent Groups**

Parent groups help build a bridge between home and school. All parents are encouraged to become active members. A good working relationship between parents and school personnel is essential to a child's growth and educational progress. Unit 5 Early Learning Program offers a wide variety of family involvement opportunities throughout the year.

### **Volunteers and Visitors**

In order to ensure the safety of all students, Unit 5 requires a background check for the following volunteer

groups: tutors, mentors, classroom assistants, office/clerical assistants, media center/library assistant, chaperones, and extracurricular assistants/workers. Please check with the office staff at your child's school for additional details.

Volunteers help increase the effectiveness of our educational program. They assist in a wide variety of ways including help in the IMC, office, and classrooms.

All parents, guardians, and other visitors are required by law to report to the principal's office upon arrival at any school. They need to sign-in in the office and wear an ID Badge indicating they are visitors. When visitors leave, they should stop in the office to sign-out and return the ID Badge.

Parents and guardians are invited to visit classrooms during the school year, but to avoid testing days, and the weeks prior to and following vacation periods. Small children with parents frequently disturb the classroom process. Students who have school age guests visiting in their homes from out of town must obtain permission from the principal to bring those guests to school.

## Cross Reference:

### Board Policy 6.250, Community Resource Persons and School Volunteers

*Administrative Procedure 6.250-AP1, Securing and Screening Resource Persons and School Volunteers*

*Exhibit 6.250-E1, Volunteer Information Form and Waiver of Liability*

## Protective Orders and Divorce Decrees

It is the policy of Unit 5 that each school cooperates as much as is reasonably possible with all parents/guardians of students in Unit 5. It is also important that teachers and administrators not become involved or embroiled in custody matters and enforcement of protective orders. If a situation arises in which a parent defies a protective order or custody agreement at school, every effort will be made to contact the other parent and/or the local police. The police agency should have information about the orders of protection and enforcement of those orders.

## Enforcement of Visitation Rights

The Unit 5 school district is not to become involved in the enforcement of visitation rights. Administrators and teachers cannot become involved in determining who is to have what week and/or daily custody or visitation rights even when the schools have a copy of a divorce decree that states visitation and custody rights.

## Appendix

Exhibit - Online Privacy Statement

**Online Privacy Statement** ~ The District respects the privacy of all website visitors to the extent permitted by law. This *Online Privacy Statement* is intended to inform you of the ways in which this website collects information, the uses to which that information will be put, and the ways in which we will protect any information you choose to provide us. There are four types of information that this site may collect during your visit: network traffic logs, website visit logs, cookies, and information voluntarily provided by you.

**1) Network Traffic Logs** ~ In the course of ensuring network security and consistent service for all users, the District employs software programs to do such things as monitor network traffic, identify unauthorized access or access to nonpublic information, detect computer viruses and other software that might damage District computers or the network, and monitor and tune the performance of the District network. In the course of such monitoring, these programs may detect such information as email headers, addresses from network packets, and other information. Information from these activities is used only for the purpose of maintaining the security and performance of the District's networks and computer systems. Personally identifiable information from these activities is not released to

external parties without your consent unless required by law.

- 2) **Website Visit Logs** ~ District websites routinely collect and store information from online visitors to help manage those sites and improve service. This information includes the pages visited on the site, the date and time of the visit, the Internet address (URL or IP address) of the referring site (often called “referrers”), the domain name and IP address from which the access occurred, the version of browser used, the capabilities of the browser, and search terms used on our search engines. This site makes no attempt to identify individual visitors from this information; any personally identifiable information is not released to external parties without your consent unless required by law.
- 3) **Cookies** ~ Cookies are pieces of information stored by your Web browser on behalf of a website and returned to the website on request. This site may use cookies for two purposes: to carry data about your current session at the site from one Web page to the next and to identify you to the site between visits. If you prefer not to receive cookies, you may turn them off in your browser, or may set your browser to ask you before accepting a new cookie. Some pages may not function properly if the cookies are turned off. Unless otherwise notified on this site, we will not store data, other than for these two purposes, in cookies. Cookies remain on your computer, and accordingly we neither store cookies on our computers nor forward them to any external parties. We do not use cookies to track your movement among different websites and do not exchange cookies with other entities.
- 4) **Information Voluntarily Provided by You** ~ In the course of using this website, you may choose to provide us with information to help us serve your needs. For example, you may send us an email to request information, an application or other material, and you may sign up for a mailing list. Any personally identifiable information you send us will be used only for the purpose indicated. Requests for information will be directed to the appropriate staff and may be recorded to help us update our site. We will not sell, exchange, or otherwise distribute your personally identifiable information without your consent, except to the extent required by law. We do not retain the information longer than necessary for normal operations.

Each web page requesting information discloses the purpose of that information. If you do not wish to have the information used in that manner, you are not required to provide it. Please contact the person listed on the specific page, or the system administrator, with questions or concerns on the use of personally identifiable information.

While no system can provide guaranteed security, we take reasonable efforts to keep information you provide to us secure, including encryption technology (if any), and physical security at the location of the server where the information is stored.

**Web Links to Non-District Websites** ~ District websites provide links to other World Wide Web sites or resources. We do not control these sites and resources, do not endorse them, and are not responsible for their availability, content, or delivery of services. In particular, external sites are not bound by this *Online Privacy Statement*; they may have their own policies or none at all. Often you can tell you are leaving a District website by noting the URL of the destination site. These links to external websites open a new browser window as well.

Please email your questions or concerns to the System Administrator.

