

Community Relations

Visitors to and Conduct on School Property ¹

The following definitions apply to this policy:

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

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

All visitors to school property are required to report to the Building Principal's office and receive permission to remain on school property. All visitors must sign a visitors' log, show identification, and wear a visitor's badge. When leaving the school, visitors must return their badge. On those occasions when large groups of parents and friends are invited onto school property, visitors are not required to sign in but must follow school officials' instructions. Persons on school property without permission will be directed to leave and may be subject to criminal prosecution. ²

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

Requests to access a school building, facility, and/or educational program, or to interview personnel or a student for purposes of assessing the student's special education needs, should be made at the appropriate building. Access shall be facilitated according to guidelines from the Superintendent or designee. ³

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

1. Strike, injure, threaten, harass, or intimidate a staff member, a Board member, sports official or coach, or any other person. ⁴

¹ This paragraph is up to the local board's discretion. Many public school buildings were built before school security was the concern it is now. A first step in creating a secure environment is to manage access to school buildings. Along with limiting the entrances that may be used, school officials should post signs with instructions for visitors and a warning to trespassers. Signs may be as simple as "Visitors Must Report to Office" and "No Trespassing – Violators will be Prosecuted." Applicable criminal trespass laws include: 720 ILCS 5/21-1 (criminal damage to property); 5/21-1.2 (institutional vandalism); 5/21-3 (criminal trespass to real property); 5/21-5 (criminal trespass to State supported land); 5/21-5.5 (criminal trespass to a safe school zone); 5/21-9 (criminal trespass to a place of public amusement); 5/21-11 (distributing or delivering written or printed solicitation on school property). This sample policy identifies board members as visitors.

The following optional provisions must be modified according to local conditions:

- Option 1: The Superintendent or designee may post certain school facilities for the community's use on non-school days when they are not being used for school purposes.
- Option 2: The Superintendent or designee shall manage a program to allow community use of the following facilities on non-school days, during the daylight, provided they are not being used for school purposes: tennis courts, playground, and track.

² 105 ILCS 5/14-8.02(g-5). See administrative procedure 6:120-AP2, *Access to Classrooms and Personnel*, and exhibit 6:120-AP2, E1, *Request to Access Classroom(s) or Personnel for Special Education Evaluation and/or Observation Purposes*.

³ See e.g., 720 ILCS 5/12-2 (aggravated assault); 5/12-3.05(c) and (d)(3) (crimes on school property; aggravated battery (a sports official or coach or school employee)); 5/12-9 (threats to public officials); 5/24-1.2 (discharge of a firearm).

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.⁵
4. Damage or threaten to damage another's property.⁶
5. Damage or deface school property.⁷
6. Violate any Illinois law,⁸ or town or county ordinance.
7. Smoke or otherwise use tobacco products.⁹
8. Distribute, consume, use, possess, or be under the influence of an alcoholic beverage or illegal drug; be present when the person's alcohol or illegal drug consumption is detectible, regardless of when and/or where the use occurred.¹⁰
9. Use or possess medical cannabis.¹¹
10. Impede, delay, disrupt, or otherwise interfere with any school activity or function (including using cellular phones in a disruptive manner).¹²
11. Enter upon any portion of school premises at any time for purposes other than those that are lawful and authorized by the Board.
12. 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.¹³

⁴ With one exception, a license to carry a firearm does not permit an individual to carry a concealed firearm on or into any building, real property, and or parking area under the control of an elementary or secondary school, or any bus paid for in whole or part with public funds (430 ILCS 66/65(a), added by P.A. 98-630 and amended by P.A. 99-29). The following optional provision adds that exception, which is a restatement of 430 ILCS 66/65(b), added by P.A. 98-630 and amended by P.A. 99-29, to the text in number 3:

An individual licensed to carry a concealed firearm under the Illinois Firearm Concealed Carry Act is permitted to: (a) carry a concealed firearm within a vehicle into a parking area controlled by a school or the District and may store a firearm or ammunition concealed in a case within a locked vehicle or locked container out of plain view within the vehicle in the parking area, and/or (b) carry a concealed firearm in the immediate area surrounding his or her vehicle in a parking area controlled by a school or the District for the limited purpose of storing or retrieving a firearm within the vehicle's trunk.

Other relevant weapons laws include 705 ILCS 405/5-407, 720 ILCS 5/24-9; 725 ILCS 5/110-4, 5/110-10 (firearms in schools); 720 ILCS 5/24-1.2, 5/24-3 (discharge of firearm near school); 705 ILCS 405/5-130, 405/5-805 (minor 15 years or older who commits aggravated battery with a firearm at school is tried as an adult).

⁵ See e.g., 720 ILCS 5/2-19.5, 5/16-1, 5/18-1, 5/19-1, 21-1, and 5/21-1.3 (property damage penalties).

⁶ See e.g., 720 ILCS 5/21-1.01, 21-1.3.

⁷ See e.g., 720 ILCS 5/11-9.3 (presence within school zone by child sex offenders prohibited), 5/11-14(prostitution), 5/11-15(repealed), and 5/11-18(patronizing a prostitute); 720 ILCS 5/21-11 (soliciting students to commit illegal act).

⁸ Required by 105 ILCS 5/10-20.5b and 410 ILCS 82/1 *et seq.* Federal law prohibits smoking inside schools (20 U.S.C. §6081); districts failing to comply with the federal no-smoking ban risk a civil penalty of up to \$1000 per violation per day.

⁹ See e.g., 720 ILCS 570/407 (delivery of controlled substance on or within 1000 feet of a school). See also the discussion in f/n 2 of policy 5:50, *Drug- and Alcohol-Free Workplace; Tobacco Prohibition*; this statement must be consistent with employee working conditions.

¹⁰ To legally use medical cannabis, an individual must first become a *registered qualifying patient*. The use of cannabis by a *registered qualifying patient* is permitted only in accordance with the Compassionate Use of Medical Cannabis Pilot Program (Medical Cannabis Act) (410 ILCS 130/, added by P.A. 98-122 (eff. 1-1-14). There are many situations in which no one, even a *registered qualifying patient*, may possess or use cannabis, including (a) in a school bus, (b) on the grounds of any preschool or primary or secondary school, or (c) in close physical proximity to anyone under the age of 18 years of age (410 ILCS 130/30(a)(2), (3), & (4), added by P.A. 98-122 (eff. 1-1-14).

¹¹ See e.g., 720 ILCS 5/21.2-1 *et seq.* (interference with a public institution of education).

¹² See e.g., 625 ILCS 5/11-605, amended by P.A. 99-212, eff. 1/1/16, special speed limit zones. 625 ILCS 5/12-610.1(e), prohibits wireless telephone use while operating a motor vehicle on a roadway in a school speed zone except for emergency purposes.

¹³ The pivotal question in a negligence case is whether the defendant acted reasonably. A ban on roller-blading demonstrates that the district took reasonable steps to reduce the risk of injury.

13. Engage in any risky behavior, including roller-blading, roller-skating, or skateboarding.¹⁴
14. Violate other District policies or regulations, or a directive from an authorized security officer or District employee.
15. Engage in any conduct that interferes with, disrupts, or adversely affects the District or a School function.

Convicted Child Sex Offender¹⁵

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

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

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

Exclusive Bargaining Representative Agent¹⁶

Authorized agents of an exclusive bargaining representative, upon notifying the Building Principal's office, may meet with a school employee (or group of employees) in the school building during duty-free times of such employees.

Enforcement

Any staff member may request identification from any person on school property; refusal to provide such information is a criminal act.¹⁷ The Building Principal or designee shall seek the immediate removal of any person who refuses to provide requested identification.

Any person who engages in conduct prohibited by this policy may be ejected from school property. The person is also subject to being denied admission to school events or meetings for up to one calendar year.¹⁸

¹⁴ 720 ILCS 5/11-9.3. The statute assigns the child sex offender the "duty to remain under the direct supervision of a school official." In order to ensure this happens and to protect students, the sample policy requires the superintendent, or designee who is a certified employee, to supervise a child sex offender whenever the offender is in a child's vicinity. See also the Sex Offender Community Notification Law (730 ILCS 152/101 *et seq.*); Child Murderer and Violent Offender Against Youth Community Notification Law (730 ILCS 154/75-105); policy 4:170, *Safety*; and administrative procedure 4:175-AP1, *Criminal Offender Notification Laws; Screening*.

¹⁵ 105 ILCS 5/24-25. Omit this section if it is covered in a collective bargaining agreement. *Duty-free time* is used to provide a district with discretion about whether preparation time, etc. may be used.

Consult the board attorney about this subhead. It is an item on which collective bargaining may be required. Any policy that impacts wages, hours, or terms and conditions of employment, is subject to collective bargaining upon request by the employee representative, even if the policy involves an inherent managerial right. Amend the language to reflect what is recommended by the board attorney.

¹⁶ 105 ILCS 5/24-24 and 5/24-25.

¹⁷ See *Nuding v. Cerro Gordo Community Unit School Dist.*, 730 N.E.2d 96 (Ill.App.4, 2000)(board was authorized to ban parent from attending all school events and extracurricular activities by 105 ILCS 5/24-24; the ban was based on the parent's exposing a toy gun and a pocketknife at a board meeting); *Jordan ex rel. Edwards v. O'Fallon Tp. High School Dist.*, 706 N.E.2d 137 (Ill.App.5, 1999)(105 ILCS 5/24-24 did not give a high school athlete the right, under the due process clause, to a notice and hearing before he could be suspended from participating in interscholastic athletics; the statute expands the schools' authority to ban people from attending school events for breaching conduct and sportsmanship code).

Procedures to Deny Future Admission to School Events or Meetings

Before any person may be denied admission to school events or meetings as provided in this policy, the person has a right to a hearing before the Board. The Superintendent may refuse the person admission pending such hearing. The Superintendent or designee must provide the person with a hearing notice, delivered or sent by certified mail with return receipt requested, at least ten days before the Board hearing date. The hearing notice must contain: ¹⁹

1. The date, time, and place of the Board hearing;
2. A description of the prohibited conduct;
3. The proposed time period that admission to school events will be denied; and
4. Instructions on how to waive a hearing. ²⁰

LEGAL REF.: Nuding v. Cerro Gordo Community Unit School Dist., 730 N.E.2d 96 (Ill.App.4, 2000).
Pro-Children Act of 1994, 20 U.S.C. §7181 et seq.
105 ILCS 5/10-20.5b, 5/24-24, and 5/24-25.
410 ILCS 130/, Compassionate Use of Medical Cannabis Pilot Program.
430 ILCS 66/, Firearm Concealed Carry Act.
720 ILCS 5/11-9.3.

CROSS REF.: 4:170 (Safety), 5:50 (Drug- and Alcohol-Free Workplace; Tobacco Prohibition), 6:120 (Education of Children with Disabilities), 6:250 (Community Resource Persons and Volunteers), 7:190 (Student Behavior), 8:20 (Community Use of School Facilities)

¹⁸ Id. If a violator is a student, the hearing should be held in a closed meeting (5 ILCS 120/2). If, however, the violator is not a student, the hearing must be held in an open session.

¹⁹ The hearing requirement is for the violator's benefit and, consequently, the violator should be able to waive it.
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