

The following Board Policy has been omitted by IASB Press. It will remain on our website, updated as advised by legal counsel and is attached:

5:139 Off-Campus/Overnight School Activities

Change: Policy as a Whole as Advised by Council

The following Board Policies have been changed by IASB Press. They remain unchanged on our website and are attached:

General School Administration

3:10 Goals and Objectives

Change: Policy as a Whole & Legal Reference

3:60 Administrative Responsibility of the Building Principal

Change: Policy as a Whole & Legal Reference

Operational Services

4:30 Revenue and Investments

Change: Policy as a Whole & Legal Reference

4:50 Payment Procedures

Change: Minimal wording in each paragraph. Legal and Cross Reference

Personnel

5:210 Resignations

Change: None

5:290 Employment Termination and Suspension

Change: Policy as a Whole & Legal and Cross Reference

Instruction

6:70 Teaching About Religions

Change: Portion of Legal Reference and Cross Reference

CURRENT POLICY AS IT APPEARS ON THE WEBSITE**Section 3 - General School Administration**

Edit Page

Policy 3:10**Goals and Objectives**

The administrative staff's primary functions are to manage the School District and to facilitate the implementation of a quality educational program. The administrative staff is responsible for:

1. effectively and efficiently managing the District's programs and buildings;
2. providing educational expertise;
3. developing and maintaining channels for communication between the school and community;
4. developing an administrative procedures manual implementing Board of Education policy;
5. planning, organizing, implementing, and evaluating educational programs; and
6. meeting or exceeding student performance and academic improvement goals established by the Board of Education.

LEGAL REF.:105 ILCS 5/10-21.4 and 5/10-21.4a.

23 Ill. Admin. Code § 1.210.

CROSS REF.:1:30 (School District Philosophy), 6:10 (Educational Philosophy and Objectives)

ADOPTED:May 20, 2002

General School Administration

Goals and Objectives 1

The Superintendent directs the administration in the management of the School District and to facilitate the implementation of a quality educational program in alignment with School Board policy 1:30, *School District Philosophy*. Specific goals and objectives are to:

1. Provide educational expertise.
2. Plan, organize, implement, and evaluate educational programs that will provide for students' mastery of the Illinois Learning Standards. 2
3. Meet or exceed student performance and academic improvement goals established by the Board. 3
4. Develop and maintain channels for communication between the school and community.
5. Develop an administrative procedures manual and handbooks for personnel and students that are in alignment with Board policy. 4
6. Manage the District's fiscal and business activities to ensure financial health, cost-effectiveness, and protection of the District's assets.
7. Provide for the proper use, reasonable care, and appropriate maintenance of the District's real and personal property, including buildings, equipment, and supplies.

The footnotes are not intended to be part of the adopted policy; they should be removed before the policy is adopted.

¹ This policy provides an opportunity for a board to give the superintendent a big picture of its vision for the district by identifying some high-level goals. While sample policy 1:30, *School District Philosophy*, contains the district's mission statement (i.e., why the district exists), this policy contains progress expectations and desired results (i.e., goals). This policy is designed to contain goals for which the administration will be responsible, including goals concerning finances, instruction, property, connecting with the community, etc. The list of goals should be replaced with the board's goals and objectives for school administration, if any.

This policy is in alignment with State law. The superintendent and principal's general duties are listed in 105 ILCS 5/10-21.4 and 5/10-21.4a, respectively. See also 105 ILCS 5/10-16.7.

² See the State Goals for Learning, 23 Ill.Admin.Code §1, Appendix D.

³ School administrators may be employed under a multi-year contract only if it is performance-based and contains goals and indicators of student performance and academic improvement (105 ILCS 5/10-23.8 and 5/20-23.8a). Principal evaluations must use data and indicators on student growth as a significant factor (105 ILCS 5/24A-15). Thus, a policy statement that administrative staff shall "meet or exceed student performance and academic improvement goals" is consistent with legal requirements.

⁴ Staff and student handbooks provide a means to distribute important information and are referenced in many sample policies and procedures. Members of the Ill. Principals Assoc. may subscribe to the IPA's Model Student Handbook Service. While this service is not a handbook *per se*, it provides principals with quick, user-friendly access to model student handbook provisions that are attorney drafted and fully aligned with IASB's policy services. For more information, see:

www.ilprincipals.org/resources/model-student-handbook.

LEGAL REF.: 105 ILCS 5/10-16.7, 5/10-21.4, and 5/10-21.4a.

CROSS REF.: 1:30 (School District Philosophy), 2:20 (Powers and Duties of the School Board; Indemnification), 2:130 (Board Superintendent Relationship), 3:40 (Superintendent), 3:50 (Administrative Personnel Other Than the Superintendent), 3:60 (Administrative Responsibility of the Building Principal), 6:10 (Educational Philosophy and Objectives)

General School Administration

Goals and Objectives

The Superintendent directs the administration in the management of the School District and to facilitate the implementation of a quality educational program in alignment with School Board policy 1:30, *School District Philosophy*. Specific goals and objectives are to:

1. Provide educational expertise.
2. Plan, organize, implement, and evaluate educational programs that will provide for students' mastery of the Illinois Learning Standards.
3. Meet or exceed student performance and academic improvement goals established by the Board.
4. Develop and maintain channels for communication between the school and community.
5. Develop an administrative procedures manual and handbooks for personnel and students that are in alignment with Board policy.
6. Manage the District's fiscal and business activities to ensure financial health, cost-effectiveness, and protection of the District's assets.
7. Provide for the proper use, reasonable care, and appropriate maintenance of the District's real and personal property, including buildings, equipment, and supplies.

LEGAL REF.: 105 ILCS 5/10-16.7, 5/10-21.4, and 5/10-21.4a.

CROSS REF.: 1:30 (School District Philosophy), 2:20 (Powers and Duties of the School Board; Indemnification), 2:130 (Board Superintendent Relationship), 3:40 (Superintendent), 3:50 (Administrative Personnel Other Than the Superintendent), 3:60 (Administrative Responsibility of the Building Principal), 6:10 (Educational Philosophy and Objectives)

Adopted: October 28, 2019

CURRENT POLICY AS IT APPEARS ON THE WEBSITE**Section 3 - General School Administration**

Edit Page

Policy 3:60**Administrative Responsibility of the Building Principal**

The Building Principal is the chief administrator of the school. The primary responsibility of the Building Principal is the development and improvement of instruction. A majority of the Principal's time shall be spent on curriculum and staff development through formal and informal activities, establishing clear lines of communication regarding school goals, accomplishments, practices, and policies with parents and teachers. The Building Principal is responsible for management of the staff, maintenance of the facility and equipment, administration of the educational program, control of the students attending the school, management of the school's budget, and communication between the school and the community. The Principal will be evaluated on instructional leadership ability and his ability to maintain a positive education and learning environment.

The Board of Education and the Principal shall enter into a contract which conforms to Board policy and State Law.

LEGAL REF.:10 ILCS 5/4-6.2.

105 ILCS 5/10-20.14, 5/10-21.4a.

105 ILCS 127/1 et seq.

23 Ill. Admin. Code §§ 1.320x, 1.230b, and 1.320c.

CROSS REF.:3:50 (Administrative Personnel Other than the Superintendent), 5:250 (Leave of Absence)

ADOPTED:May 20, 2002

General School Administration

Administrative Responsibility of the Building Principal 1

Duties and Authority

The School Board, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, employs Building Principals as the chief administrators and instructional leaders of their assigned schools, and may employ Assistant Principals. The primary responsibility of a Building Principal is the improvement of instruction. ² Each Building Principal shall perform all duties as described in State law as well as such other duties as specified in his or her employment agreement or as the Superintendent may assign, that are consistent with the Building Principal's education and training. ³ Each Building Principal and Assistant Principal shall complete State law requirements to be a prequalified evaluator before conducting an evaluation of a teacher or assistant principal. ⁴

Evaluation Plan

The Superintendent or designee shall implement an evaluation plan for Principals and Assistant Principals that complies with Section 24A-15 of the School Code and relevant Illinois State Board of Education rules. ⁵ Using that plan, the Superintendent or designee shall evaluate each Building

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¹ State or federal law controls this policy's content.

² Required by 105 ILCS 5/10-21.4a.

³ An alternative follows: "...or as agreed upon by the Building Principal and Superintendent."

The principal's duties are generally described in 105 ILCS 5/10-21.4a and 5/24A-15(c-5). However, many other statutes impose additional duties, e.g., 105 ILCS 127/ (requires principals to report to the police any violations of the Controlled Substance Act occurring at specified locations); 105 ILCS 5/10-20.14 (requires reciprocal reporting of criminal offenses committed by students); and 730 ILCS 152/ and 154/ (requires notification to parents/guardians that information about sex offenders and violent offenders against youth is available). The county clerk may appoint high school principals or their designees as deputy registrars to accept voter registrations of eligible students (10 ILCS 5/4-6.2). The Firearm Concealed Carry Act requires a principal to notify the State Police whenever he or she determines that a student (or any person) poses a "clear and present danger to himself, herself or to others" (430 ILCS 66/105; 405 ILCS 5/6-103.3, amended by P.A. 98-63). Lawyers disagree whether this requirement violates the federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act. Contact the board attorney for advice.

⁴ This restates 105 ILCS 5/24A-3 and 23 Ill.Admin.Code Part 50, Subpart E. Individuals who evaluate teachers, principals, or assistant principals must: (1) be prequalified, and (2) participate in a regularly scheduled retraining program. The prequalification and retraining programs must be either developed or approved by ISBE.

105 ILCS 5/24A-5 permits a first-year principal to evaluate a teacher; however, a new 2-year evaluation plan must be established for any tenured teacher who is evaluated by a first-year principal (105 ILCS 5/24A-5, amended by P.A. 98-470).

Anyone who has not previously been a principal in Ill. must participate in ISBE's *new principal mentoring program*; however, implementation of a principal mentoring program in any given year is dependent upon an appropriation (105 ILCS 5/2-3.53a; 23 Ill.Admin.Code Part 35). Annually by June 1, each superintendent must report to the State Superintendent the expected number of 1st-year and 2nd-year principals along with information specified in 23 Ill.Admin.Code §35.20.

⁵ Each district must implement a performance evaluation plan for its principals and assistant principals (105 ILCS 5/24A-15, 23 Ill.Admin.Code §50.300). A board may substitute this alternative for the first sentence: "The Superintendent or designee shall implement a principal and assistant principal evaluation plan that complies with State law." The statutory deadline for evaluating principals and assistant principals depends on whether the individual's employment contract is for one year or multiple years: (1) the evaluation of individuals on a single year contract must take place annually by March 1, and (2) the evaluation of individuals on a multi-year contract must take place by March 1 of the contract's final year (105 ILCS 5/24A-15). Individual contracts may require an earlier deadline.

Principal and Assistant Principal. 6 The Superintendent or designee may conduct additional evaluations.

Qualifications and Other Terms and Conditions of Employment

Qualifications and other terms and conditions of employment are found in Board policy 3:50, *Administrative Personnel Other Than the Superintendent*.

LEGAL REF.: 10 ILCS 5/4-6.2.
105 ILCS 5/2-3.53a, 5/10-20.14, 5/10-21.4a, 5/10-23.8a, 5/10-23.8b, and 5/24A-15.
105 ILCS 127/.
23 Ill.Admin.Code Parts 35 and 50, Subpart D.

CROSS REF.: 3:50 (Administrative Personnel Other Than the Superintendent), 5:250 (Leaves of Absence)

The footnotes are not intended to be part of the adopted policy; they should be removed before the policy is adopted.

6 Required by 105 ILCS 5/10-21.4a and 5/24A-15. For a principal who also serves as the district superintendent, the evaluator must be appointed by the school and not be the person whose performance as principal is being evaluated (23 Ill.Admin.Code §50.300). In addition, the evaluator must hold a valid professional educator license endorsed for superintendent issued under Article 21B and have completed the prequalification process and any retraining, as applicable. Add this option if appropriate: "...or, in the absence of the Superintendent or his or her designee, an individual appointed by the School Board who holds a valid professional educator license endorsed for superintendent."

General School Administration

Administrative Responsibility of the Building Principal

Duties and Authority

The School Board, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, employs Building Principals as the chief administrators and instructional leaders of their assigned schools, and may employ Assistant Principals. The primary responsibility of a Building Principal is the improvement of instruction. Each Building Principal shall perform all duties as described in State law as well as such other duties as specified in his or her employment agreement or as the Superintendent may assign, that are consistent with the Building Principal's education and training. Each Building Principal and Assistant Principal shall complete State law requirements to be a prequalified evaluator before conducting an evaluation of a teacher or assistant principal.

Evaluation Plan

The Superintendent or designee shall implement an evaluation plan for Principals and Assistant Principals that complies with Section 24A-15 of the School Code and relevant Illinois State Board of Education rules. Using that plan, the Superintendent or designee shall evaluate each Building Principal and Assistant Principal. The Superintendent or designee may conduct additional evaluations.

Qualifications and Other Terms and Conditions of Employment

Qualifications and other terms and conditions of employment are found in Board policy 3:50, *Administrative Personnel Other Than the Superintendent*.

LEGAL REF.: 10 ILCS 5/4-6.2.
105 ILCS 5/2-3.53a, 5/10-20.14, 5/10-21.4a, 5/10-23.8a, 5/10-23.8b, and 5/24A-15.
105 ILCS 127/.
23 Ill.Admin.Code Parts 35 and 50, Subpart D.

CROSS REF.: 3:50 (Administrative Personnel Other Than the Superintendent), 5:250 (Leaves of Absence)

Adopted: October 28, 2019

CURRENT POLICY AS IT APPEARS ON THE WEBSITE**Section 4 - Operational Services**

Edit Page

Policy 4:30**Revenue and Investments****Revenue**

The Superintendent or designee is responsible for making all claims for property tax revenue, State Aid, special state funds for specific programs, federal funds, and categorical grants.

Investments

The District Treasurer shall serve as the District's Chief Investment Officer. The Chief Investment Officer shall invest money that is not required for current operations, in accordance with this policy and State law.

The Chief Investment Officer and Superintendent shall use the standard of prudence when making investment decisions. They shall use the judgment and care, under circumstances then prevailing, that persons of prudence, discretion, and intelligence exercise in the management of their own affairs, not for speculation, but for investment, considering the safety of their capital as well as its probable income.

Investment Objectives

The objectives for the School District's investment activities are:

1. **Safety of Principal**. Every investment is made with safety as the primary and over-riding concern. Each investment transaction shall ensure that capital loss, whether from credit or market risk, is avoided.
2. **Liquidity**. The investment portfolio shall provide sufficient liquidity to pay District obligations as they become due. In this regard, the maturity and marketability of investments shall be considered.
3. **Rate of Return**. The highest return on investments is sought, consistent with the preservation of principal and prudent investment principles.
4. **Diversification**. The investment portfolio is diversified as to materials and investments, as appropriate to the nature, purpose, and amount of the funds.

Authorized Investments

The Chief Investment Officer may invest any District funds in any investment as authorized in 30 ILCS 235/2, and Acts amendatory thereto.

Investments may be made only in banks, savings banks, savings and loan associations, or credit unions that are insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation.

Selection of Depositories, Investment Managers, Dealers, and Brokers

The Chief Investment Officer shall establish a list of authorized depositories, investment managers, dealers and brokers based upon the creditworthiness, reputation, minimum capital requirements, qualifications under State law, as well as a long history of dealing with public fund entities. The Board will review and approve the list at least annually.

In order to be an authorized depository, each institution must submit copies of the last 2 sworn statements of resources and liabilities or reports of examination, which the institution is required to furnish to the appropriate state or federal agency. Each institution designated as a depository shall, while acting as such depository, furnish the District with a copy of all statements of resources and liabilities or all reports of examination, which it is required to furnish to the appropriate State or federal agency.

Collateral Requirements

All amounts deposited or invested with financial institutions in excess of any insurance limit shall be collateralized by: (1) securities eligible for District investment or any other

high-quality, interestbearing security rated at least AA/Aa by one or more standard rating services to include Standard & Poor's, Moody's, or Fitch, (2) mortgages, (3) letters of credit issued by a Federal Home Loan Bank, or (4) loans covered by a State Guaranty under the Illinois Farm Development Act. The market value of the pledged securities shall equal or exceed the portion of the deposit requiring collateralization. The Chief Investment Officer shall determine other collateral requirements.

Safekeeping and Custody Arrangements

The preferred method for safekeeping is to have securities registered in the District's name and held by a third-party custodian. Safekeeping practices should qualify for the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Statement No. 3 Deposits with Financial Institutions, Investments (including Repurchase Agreements), and Reverse Repurchase Agreements, Category I, the highest recognized safekeeping procedures.

Controls and Report

The Chief Investment Officer shall establish a system of internal controls and written operational procedures to prevent losses arising from fraud, employee error, misrepresentation by third parties, or imprudent employee action.

The Chief Investment Officer shall provide a quarterly investment report to the Board. The report will: (1) assess whether the investment portfolio is meeting the District's investment objectives, (2) identify each security by class or type, book value, income earned, and market value, (3) identify those institutions providing investment services to the District, and (4) include any other relevant information. The investment portfolio's performance shall be measured by appropriate and creditable industry standards for the investment type.

The Board of Education will determine, after receiving the Superintendent's recommendation, which fund is in most need of interest income and the Superintendent shall execute a transfer.

Ethics and Conflicts of Interest

The Board of Education and District officials will avoid any investment transaction or practice that in appearance or fact might impair public confidence. Board members are bound by the Board policy 2:100, Board Member Conflict of Interest. No District employee having influence on the District's investment decisions shall:

1. Have any interest, directly or indirectly, in any investments in which the District is authorized to invest.
2. Have any interest, directly or indirectly, in the sellers, sponsors, or managers of those investments.
3. Receive, in any manner, compensation of any kind from any investments in which the agency is authorized to invest.

*LEGAL REF.:30 ILCS 235/1 et seq.
105 ILCS 5/8-7, 5/17-1, and 5/17-11.*

CROSS REF.:2:100 (Board Member Conflict of Interest)

ADOPTED: May 20, 2002

Operational Services

Revenue and Investments 1

Revenue

The Superintendent or designee is responsible for making all claims for property tax revenue, State Aid, special State funds for specific programs, federal funds, and categorical grants.

Investments

The Superintendent shall either appoint a Chief Investment Officer or serve as one.² The Chief Investment Officer shall invest money that is not required for current operations, in accordance with this policy and State law. ³

The Chief Investment Officer and Superintendent shall use the standard of prudence when making investment decisions. They shall use the judgment and care, under circumstances then prevailing, that persons of prudence, discretion, and intelligence exercise in the management of their own affairs, not for speculation, but for investment, considering the safety of their capital as well as its probable income. ⁴

Investment Objectives 5

The objectives for the School District's investment activities are:

1. Safety of Principal - Every investment is made with safety as the primary and over-riding concern. Each investment transaction shall ensure that capital loss, whether from credit or market risk, is avoided.
2. Liquidity - The investment portfolio shall provide sufficient liquidity to pay District obligations as they become due. In this regard, the maturity and marketability of investments shall be considered.
3. Rate of Return - The highest return on investments is sought, consistent with the preservation of principal and prudent investment principles.
4. Diversification - The investment portfolio is diversified as to materials and investments, as appropriate to the nature, purpose, and amount of the funds.

The footnotes are not intended to be part of the adopted policy; they should be removed before the policy is adopted.

¹ Each district must have an investment policy; its detail and complexity must be appropriate to the nature of the funds, the funds' purpose, and the amount of the public funds within the investment portfolio. 30 ILCS 235/2.5(a).

² 30 ILCS 235/2.5(a)(7). Districts having a chief business official may use this alternative: "The Chief Business Official shall serve as the District's Chief Investment Officer." If a Township Treasurer manages the district funds, substitute this sentence:

The Township Treasurer shall serve as the Chief Investment Officer.

³ Township and school treasurers are authorized by 105 ILCS 5/8-7 to enter into agreements regarding the deposit, investment, and withdrawal of district funds.

⁴ The policy must include a standard of care. 30 ILCS 235/2.5(a)(2).

⁵ The policy must address safety, liquidity, return (30 ILCS 235/2.5(a)), as well as diversification (30 ILCS 235/2.5(a)(4)). These objectives also serve as investment guidelines. 30 ILCS 235/2.5(a)(3). How these are addressed is at the board's discretion.

Authorized Investments ⁶

The Chief Investment Officer may invest District funds in one or more of the following:

1. Bonds, notes, certificates of indebtedness, treasury bills, or other securities now or hereafter issued, that are guaranteed by the full faith and credit of the United States of America as to principal and interest.
2. Bonds, notes, debentures, or other similar obligations of the United States of America, its agencies, and its instrumentalities.

The term “agencies of the United States of America” includes: (a) the federal land banks, federal intermediate credit banks, banks for cooperative, federal farm credit banks, or any other entity authorized to issue debt obligations under the Farm Credit Act of 1971 and Acts amendatory thereto, (b) the federal home loan banks and the federal home loan mortgage corporation, and (c) any other agency created by Act of Congress.

3. Interest-bearing savings accounts, interest-bearing certificates of deposit or interest-bearing time deposits or any other investments constituting direct obligations of any bank as defined by the Illinois Banking Act.
4. Obligations of corporations organized in the United States with assets exceeding \$500,000,000 if: (a) such obligations are rated at the time of purchase at one of the three highest classifications established by at least two standard rating services and that mature not later than three years from the date of purchase, (b) such purchases do not exceed 10% of the corporation’s outstanding obligations, and (c) no more than one-third of the District’s funds may be invested in short term obligations of corporations.
5. Money market mutual funds registered under the Investment Company Act of 1940, provided that the portfolio of any such money market mutual fund is limited to obligations described in paragraph (1) or (2) and to agreements to repurchase such obligations.
6. Interest-bearing bonds of any county, township, city, village, incorporated town, municipal corporation, school district, the State of Illinois, any other state, or any political subdivision or agency of the State of Illinois or any other state, whether the interest earned is taxable or tax-exempt under federal law. The bonds shall be (a) registered in the name of the municipality, county, or other governmental unit, or held under a custodial agreement at a bank, and (b) rated at the time of purchase within the four highest general classifications

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⁶ The policy must contain a “listing of authorized investments.” 30 ILCS 235/2.5(a)(1). 30 ILCS 235/2(a-1) allows school districts to invest public funds in interest-bearing bonds of any local government (see paragraph 6). Investments from which a board may choose are listed in this policy. See 30 ILCS 235/2, amended by P.A. 100-752. Alternatively, a board may refer to that law by stating:

The Chief Investment Officer may invest any District funds in any investment as authorized in 30 ILCS 235/2, and Acts amendatory thereto.

Some attorneys are of the opinion that the Investment of Municipal Funds Act (IMFA) (50 ILCS 340/) authorizes school districts to invest funds in certain tax anticipation warrants. The IMFA applies to counties, park districts, sanitary districts, and other *municipal corporations*. *Id.* at 340/1. *Municipal corporation* is not specifically defined in the IMFA. Consult with the board attorney and/or bond counsel regarding the authority for such investments and the inclusion of the IMFA in this policy.

As part of its mission to protect public entities, the Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board (MSRB) has resources available that school officials may find helpful at: www.msrb.org/EducationCenter/Issuers/Issuing.aspx. It provides information about bond issuance, required disclosures, and working with municipal advisors.

established by a rating service of nationally recognized expertise in rating bonds of states and their political subdivisions.

7. Short term discount obligations of the Federal National Mortgage Association or in shares or other forms of securities legally issuable by savings banks or savings and loan associations incorporated under the laws of this State or any other state or under the laws of the United States. Investments may be made only in those savings banks or savings and loan associations, the shares, or investment certificates that are insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation. Any such securities may be purchased at the offering or market price thereof at the time of such purchase. All such securities so purchased shall mature or be redeemable on a date or dates prior to the time when, in the judgment of the Chief Investment Officer, the public funds so invested will be required for expenditure by the District or its governing authority.
8. Dividend-bearing share accounts, share certificate accounts, or class of share accounts of a credit union chartered under the laws of this State or the laws of the United States; provided, however, the principle office of any such credit union must be located within the State of Illinois. Investments may be made only in those credit unions the accounts of which are insured by applicable law.
9. A Public Treasurers' Investment Pool created under Section 17 of the State Treasurer Act. The District may also invest any public funds in a fund managed, operated, and administered by a bank, subsidiary of a bank, or subsidiary of a bank holding company or use the services of such an entity to hold and invest or advise regarding the investment of any public funds.
10. The Illinois School District Liquid Asset Fund Plus. ⁷
11. Repurchase agreements of government securities having the meaning set out in the Government Securities Act of 1986, as now or hereafter amended or succeeded, subject to the provisions of said Act and the regulations issued there under. The government securities, unless registered or inscribed in the name of the District, shall be purchased through banks or trust companies authorized to do business in the State of Illinois.

Except for repurchase agreements of government securities that are subject to the Government Securities Act of 1986, as now or hereafter amended or succeeded, the District may not purchase or invest in instruments that constitute repurchase agreements, and no financial institution may enter into such an agreement with or on behalf of the District unless the instrument and the transaction meet all of the following requirements:

- a. The securities, unless registered or inscribed in the name of the District, are purchased through banks or trust companies authorized to do business in the State of Illinois.
- b. The Chief Investment Officer, after ascertaining which firm will give the most favorable rate of interest, directs the custodial bank to "purchase" specified securities from a designated institution. The "custodial bank" is the bank or trust company, or agency of government, that acts for the District in connection with repurchase agreements involving

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⁷ The Illinois School District Liquid Asset Fund Plus is an Illinois trust organized to permit Illinois school districts, community colleges, and educational service regions to pool their investment funds to obtain the highest possible investment yield consistent with maintaining liquidity and preserving capital, and to engage in cooperative cash management activities resulting in more efficient financial resource utilization. The program was developed in cooperation with the Ill. Association of School Boards, the Ill. Association of School Business Officials, and the Ill. Association of School Administrators. To receive marketing information and the name of the marketing representative, contact: PMA Financial Network, Inc., Illinois School District Liquid Asset Fund Plus, www.isdlafplus.com, 2135 City Gate Lane, 7th Floor, Naperville, Illinois 60563; or call 1-866-747-4477.

the investment of funds by the District. The State Treasurer may act as custodial bank for public agencies executing repurchase agreements.

- c. A custodial bank must be a member bank of the Federal Reserve System or maintain accounts with member banks. All transfers of book-entry securities must be accomplished on a Reserve Bank's computer records through a member bank of the Federal Reserve System. These securities must be credited to the District on the records of the custodial bank and the transaction must be confirmed in writing to the District by the custodial bank.
- d. Trading partners shall be limited to banks or trust companies authorized to do business in the State of Illinois or to registered primary reporting dealers.
- e. The security interest must be perfected.
- f. The District enters into a written master repurchase agreement that outlines the basic responsibilities and liabilities of both buyer and seller.
- g. Agreements shall be for periods of 330 days or less.
- h. The Chief Investment Officer informs the custodial bank in writing of the maturity details of the repurchase agreement.
- i. The custodial bank must take delivery of and maintain the securities in its custody for the account of the District and confirm the transaction in writing to the District. The custodial undertaking shall provide that the custodian takes possession of the securities exclusively for the District; that the securities are free of any claims against the trading partner; and that any claims by the custodian are subordinate to the District's claims to rights to those securities.
- j. The obligations purchased by the District may only be sold or presented for redemption or payment by the fiscal agent bank or trust company holding the obligations upon the written instruction of the Chief Investment Officer.
- k. The custodial bank shall be liable to the District for any monetary loss suffered by the District due to the failure of the custodial bank to take and maintain possession of such securities.

- 12. Any investment as authorized by the Public Funds Investment Act, and Acts amendatory thereto. Paragraph 11 supersedes paragraphs 1-10 and controls in the event of conflict.

Except as provided herein, investments may be made only in banks, savings banks, savings and loan associations, or credit unions that are insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or other approved share insurer. ⁸

Selection of Depositories, Investment Managers, Dealers, and Brokers ⁹

The Chief Investment Officer shall establish a list of authorized depositories, investment managers, dealers and brokers based upon the creditworthiness, reputation, minimum capital requirements, qualifications under State law, as well as a long history of dealing with public fund entities. The Board will review and approve the list at least annually.

In order to be an authorized depository, each institution must submit copies of the last two sworn statements of resources and liabilities or reports of examination that the institution is required to furnish to the appropriate State or federal agency.¹⁰ Each institution designated as a depository shall, while acting as such depository, furnish the District with a copy of all statements of resources and

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⁸ 30 ILCS 235/2, amended by P.A. 100-752.

⁹ The policy must address these topics. 30 ILCS 235/2.5(a)(11).

¹⁰ 30 ILCS 235/6.

liabilities or all reports of examination that it is required to furnish to the appropriate State or federal agency. ¹¹

The above eligibility requirements of a bank to receive or hold public deposits do not apply to investments in an interest-bearing savings account, interest-bearing certificate of deposit, or interest-bearing time deposit if: (1) the District initiates the investment at or through a bank located in Illinois, and (2) the invested public funds are at all times fully insured by an agency or instrumentality of the federal government. ¹²

The District may consider a financial institution's record and current level of financial commitment to its local community when deciding whether to deposit funds in that financial institution. The District may consider factors including: ¹³

1. For financial institutions subject to the federal Community Reinvestment Act of 1977, the current and historical ratings that the financial institution has received, to the extent that those ratings are publicly available, under the federal Community Reinvestment Act of 1977;
2. Any changes in ownership, management, policies, or practices of the financial institution that may affect the level of the financial institution's commitment to its community;
3. The financial impact that the withdrawal or denial of District deposits might have on the financial institution;
4. The financial impact to the District as a result of withdrawing public funds or refusing to deposit additional public funds in the financial institution; and
5. Any additional burden on the District's resources that might result from ceasing to maintain deposits of public funds at the financial institution under consideration.

Collateral Requirements ¹⁴

All amounts deposited or invested with financial institutions in excess of any insurance limit shall be collateralized in accordance with the Public Funds Investment Act, 30 ILCS 235/. The Superintendent or designee shall keep the Board informed of collateral agreements.

Safekeeping and Custody Arrangements ¹⁵

The preferred method for safekeeping is to have securities registered in the District's name and held by a third-party custodian. Safekeeping practices should qualify for the Governmental Accounting Standards Board Statement No. 3, Deposits with Financial Institutions, Investments (including Repurchase Agreements), and Reverse Repurchase Agreements, Category I, the highest recognized safekeeping procedures.

The footnotes are not intended to be part of the adopted policy; they should be removed before the policy is adopted.

¹¹ Id.

¹² 30 ILCS 235/6.5.

¹³ This paragraph is optional, but is authorized by 30 ILCS 235/8.

¹⁴ Collateral requirements are permissive; if used, guidelines regarding their use must be included in the policy. 30 ILCS 235/2.5(a)(5). The requirements for collateral agreements are in 30 ILCS 235/6(d). The sample policy contains one guideline, that is, that the board be kept informed of collateral agreements. An optional guideline follows:

In addition, the financial institution must provide the Board with a copy of its board of directors' meeting minutes evidencing that the board of directors approved the collateral agreement.

¹⁵ The policy must address safekeeping and custody arrangements. 30 ILCS 235/2.5(a)(5). Registration requirements are in 30 ILCS 235/3.

Controls and Report 16

The Chief Investment Officer shall establish a system of internal controls and written operational procedures to prevent losses arising from fraud, employee error, misrepresentation by third parties, or imprudent employee action.

The Chief Investment Officer shall provide a quarterly investment report to the Board. The report will: (1) assess whether the investment portfolio is meeting the District's investment objectives, (2) identify each security by class or type, book value, income earned, and market value, (3) identify those institutions providing investment services to the District, and (4) include any other relevant information. The investment portfolio's performance shall be measured by appropriate and creditable industry standards for the investment type. ¹⁷

The Board will determine, after receiving the Superintendent's recommendation, which fund is in most need of interest income and the Superintendent shall execute a transfer. This provision does not apply when the use of interest earned on a particular fund is restricted. ¹⁸

Ethics and Conflicts of Interest 19

The Board and District officials will avoid any investment transaction or practice that in appearance or fact might impair public confidence. Board members are bound by the Board policy 2:100, *Board Member Conflict of Interest*. No District employee having influence on the District's investment decisions shall:

1. Have any interest, directly or indirectly, in any investments in which the District is authorized to invest,
2. Have any interest, directly or indirectly, in the sellers, sponsors, or managers of those investments, or
3. Receive, in any manner, compensation of any kind from any investments in that the agency is authorized to invest.

LEGAL REF.: 30 ILCS 235/
105 ILCS 5/8-7, 5/10-22.44, 5/17-1, and 5/17-11.

CROSS REF.: 2:100 (Board Member Conflict of Interest), 4:10 (Fiscal and Business Management), 4:80 (Accounting and Audits)

The footnotes are not intended to be part of the adopted policy; they should be removed before the policy is adopted.

¹⁶ The policy must provide for internal controls, periodic review, and at least quarterly written investment reports. 30 ILCS 235/2.5(a)(6), (9), and (10). The operational procedures to prevent losses are best addressed by each district in consultation with its auditor and legal counsel. See policy 4:80, *Accounting and Audits*; 4:80-AP1, *Checklist for Internal Controls*; and 4:80-AP2, *Fraud, Waste, and Abuse Awareness Program*.

¹⁷ The policy must include performance measures. 30 ILCS 235/2.5(8).

¹⁸ 105 ILCS 5/10-22.44. "Chief Business Official" may replace "Superintendent." Interest income earned on any funds for IMRF, Tort Immunity Act, Fire Prevention, Safety and Environmental Energy, and Capital Improvement Act are restricted to the respective fund. *Id.*

¹⁹ The policy must address these topics. 30 ILCS 235/2.5(a)(12). The conflict of interest prohibition is in 30 ILCS 235/2.

Operational Services

Revenue and Investments

Revenue

The Superintendent or designee is responsible for making all claims for property tax revenue, State Aid, special State funds for specific programs, federal funds, and categorical grants.

Investments

The Superintendent shall either appoint a Chief Investment Officer or serve as one. The Chief Investment Officer shall invest money that is not required for current operations, in accordance with this policy and State law.

The Chief Investment Officer and Superintendent shall use the standard of prudence when making investment decisions. They shall use the judgment and care, under circumstances then prevailing, that persons of prudence, discretion, and intelligence exercise in the management of their own affairs, not for speculation, but for investment, considering the safety of their capital as well as its probable income.

Investment Objectives

The objectives for the School District's investment activities are:

1. Safety of Principal - Every investment is made with safety as the primary and over-riding concern. Each investment transaction shall ensure that capital loss, whether from credit or market risk, is avoided.
2. Liquidity - The investment portfolio shall provide sufficient liquidity to pay District obligations as they become due. In this regard, the maturity and marketability of investments shall be considered.
3. Rate of Return - The highest return on investments is sought, consistent with the preservation of principal and prudent investment principles.
4. Diversification - The investment portfolio is diversified as to materials and investments, as appropriate to the nature, purpose, and amount of the funds.

Authorized Investments

The Chief Investment Officer may invest District funds in one or more of the following:

1. Bonds, notes, certificates of indebtedness, treasury bills, or other securities now or hereafter issued, that are guaranteed by the full faith and credit of the United States of America as to principal and interest.
2. Bonds, notes, debentures, or other similar obligations of the United States of America, its agencies, and its instrumentalities.

The term "agencies of the United States of America" includes: (a) the federal land banks, federal intermediate credit banks, banks for cooperative, federal farm credit banks, or any other entity authorized to issue debt obligations under the Farm Credit Act of 1971 and Acts amendatory thereto, (b) the federal home loan banks and the federal home loan mortgage corporation, and (c) any other agency created by Act of Congress.

3. Interest-bearing savings accounts, interest-bearing certificates of deposit or interest-bearing time deposits or any other investments constituting direct obligations of any bank as defined by the Illinois Banking Act.
4. Obligations of corporations organized in the United States with assets exceeding \$500,000,000 if: (a) such obligations are rated at the time of purchase at one of the three highest classifications established by at least two standard rating services and that mature not later than three years from the date of purchase, (b) such purchases do not exceed 10% of the corporation's outstanding obligations, and (c) no more than one-third of the District's funds may be invested in short term obligations of corporations.
5. Money market mutual funds registered under the Investment Company Act of 1940, provided that the portfolio of any such money market mutual fund is limited to obligations described in paragraph (1) or (2) and to agreements to repurchase such obligations.
6. Interest-bearing bonds of any county, township, city, village, incorporated town, municipal corporation, school district, the State of Illinois, any other state, or any political subdivision or agency of the State of Illinois or any other state, whether the interest earned is taxable or tax-exempt under federal law. The bonds shall be (a) registered in the name of the municipality, county, or other governmental unit, or held under a custodial agreement at a bank, and (b) rated at the time of purchase within the four highest general classifications established by a rating service of nationally recognized expertise in rating bonds of states and their political subdivisions.
7. Short term discount obligations of the Federal National Mortgage Association or in shares or other forms of securities legally issuable by savings banks or savings and loan associations incorporated under the laws of this State or any other state or under the laws of the United States. Investments may be made only in those savings banks or savings and loan associations, the shares, or investment certificates that are insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation. Any such securities may be purchased at the offering or market price thereof at the time of such purchase. All such securities so purchased shall mature or be redeemable on a date or dates prior to the time when, in the judgment of the Chief Investment Officer, the public funds so invested will be required for expenditure by the District or its governing authority.
8. Dividend-bearing share accounts, share certificate accounts, or class of share accounts of a credit union chartered under the laws of this State or the laws of the United States; provided, however, the principle office of any such credit union must be located within the State of Illinois. Investments may be made only in those credit unions the accounts of which are insured by applicable law.
9. A Public Treasurers' Investment Pool created under Section 17 of the State Treasurer Act. The District may also invest any public funds in a fund managed, operated, and administered by a bank, subsidiary of a bank, or subsidiary of a bank holding company or use the services of such an entity to hold and invest or advise regarding the investment of any public funds.
10. The Illinois School District Liquid Asset Fund Plus.
11. Repurchase agreements of government securities having the meaning set out in the Government Securities Act of 1986, as now or hereafter amended or succeeded, subject to the provisions of said Act and the regulations issued there under. The government securities, unless registered or inscribed in the name of the District, shall be purchased through banks or trust companies authorized to do business in the State of Illinois.

Except for repurchase agreements of government securities that are subject to the Government Securities Act of 1986, as now or hereafter amended or succeeded, the District may not purchase or invest in instruments that constitute repurchase agreements, and no financial institution may enter into such an agreement with or on behalf of the District unless the instrument and the transaction meet all of the following requirements:

- a. The securities, unless registered or inscribed in the name of the District, are purchased through banks or trust companies authorized to do business in the State of Illinois.
 - b. The Chief Investment Officer, after ascertaining which firm will give the most favorable rate of interest, directs the custodial bank to “purchase” specified securities from a designated institution. The “custodial bank” is the bank or trust company, or agency of government, that acts for the District in connection with repurchase agreements involving the investment of funds by the District. The State Treasurer may act as custodial bank for public agencies executing repurchase agreements.
 - c. A custodial bank must be a member bank of the Federal Reserve System or maintain accounts with member banks. All transfers of book-entry securities must be accomplished on a Reserve Bank’s computer records through a member bank of the Federal Reserve System. These securities must be credited to the District on the records of the custodial bank and the transaction must be confirmed in writing to the District by the custodial bank.
 - d. Trading partners shall be limited to banks or trust companies authorized to do business in the State of Illinois or to registered primary reporting dealers.
 - e. The security interest must be perfected.
 - f. The District enters into a written master repurchase agreement that outlines the basic responsibilities and liabilities of both buyer and seller.
 - g. Agreements shall be for periods of 330 days or less.
 - h. The Chief Investment Officer informs the custodial bank in writing of the maturity details of the repurchase agreement.
 - i. The custodial bank must take delivery of and maintain the securities in its custody for the account of the District and confirm the transaction in writing to the District. The custodial undertaking shall provide that the custodian takes possession of the securities exclusively for the District; that the securities are free of any claims against the trading partner; and that any claims by the custodian are subordinate to the District’s claims to rights to those securities.
 - j. The obligations purchased by the District may only be sold or presented for redemption or payment by the fiscal agent bank or trust company holding the obligations upon the written instruction of the Chief Investment Officer.
 - k. The custodial bank shall be liable to the District for any monetary loss suffered by the District due to the failure of the custodial bank to take and maintain possession of such securities.
12. Any investment as authorized by the Public Funds Investment Act, and Acts amendatory thereto. Paragraph 11 supersedes paragraphs 1-10 and controls in the event of conflict.

Except as provided herein, investments may be made only in banks, savings banks, savings and loan associations, or credit unions that are insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or other approved share insurer.

Selection of Depositories, Investment Managers, Dealers, and Brokers

The Chief Investment Officer shall establish a list of authorized depositories, investment managers, dealers and brokers based upon the creditworthiness, reputation, minimum capital requirements, qualifications under State law, as well as a long history of dealing with public fund entities. The Board will review and approve the list at least annually.

In order to be an authorized depository, each institution must submit copies of the last two sworn statements of resources and liabilities or reports of examination that the institution is required to furnish to the appropriate State or federal agency. Each institution designated as a depository shall, while acting as such depository, furnish the District with a copy of all statements of resources and liabilities or all reports of examination that it is required to furnish to the appropriate State or federal agency.

The above eligibility requirements of a bank to receive or hold public deposits do not apply to investments in an interest-bearing savings account, interest-bearing certificate of deposit, or interest-bearing time deposit if: (1) the District initiates the investment at or through a bank located in Illinois, and (2) the invested public funds are at all times fully insured by an agency or instrumentality of the federal government.

The District may consider a financial institution's record and current level of financial commitment to its local community when deciding whether to deposit funds in that financial institution. The District may consider factors including:

1. For financial institutions subject to the federal Community Reinvestment Act of 1977, the current and historical ratings that the financial institution has received, to the extent that those ratings are publicly available, under the federal Community Reinvestment Act of 1977;
2. Any changes in ownership, management, policies, or practices of the financial institution that may affect the level of the financial institution's commitment to its community;
3. The financial impact that the withdrawal or denial of District deposits might have on the financial institution;
4. The financial impact to the District as a result of withdrawing public funds or refusing to deposit additional public funds in the financial institution; and
5. Any additional burden on the District's resources that might result from ceasing to maintain deposits of public funds at the financial institution under consideration.

Collateral Requirements

All amounts deposited or invested with financial institutions in excess of any insurance limit shall be collateralized in accordance with the Public Funds Investment Act, 30 ILCS 235/. The Superintendent or designee shall keep the Board informed of collateral agreements.

Safekeeping and Custody Arrangements

The preferred method for safekeeping is to have securities registered in the District's name and held by a third-party custodian. Safekeeping practices should qualify for the Governmental Accounting Standards Board Statement No. 3, Deposits with Financial Institutions, Investments (including Repurchase Agreements), and Reverse Repurchase Agreements, Category I, the highest recognized safekeeping procedures.

Controls and Report

The Chief Investment Officer shall establish a system of internal controls and written operational procedures to prevent losses arising from fraud, employee error, misrepresentation by third parties, or imprudent employee action.

The Chief Investment Officer shall provide a quarterly investment report to the Board. The report will: (1) assess whether the investment portfolio is meeting the District's investment objectives, (2) identify each security by class or type, book value, income earned, and market value, (3) identify those institutions providing investment services to the District, and (4) include any other relevant

information. The investment portfolio's performance shall be measured by appropriate and creditable industry standards for the investment type.

The Board will determine, after receiving the Superintendent's recommendation, which fund is in most need of interest income and the Superintendent shall execute a transfer. This provision does not apply when the use of interest earned on a particular fund is restricted.

Ethics and Conflicts of Interest

The Board and District officials will avoid any investment transaction or practice that in appearance or fact might impair public confidence. Board members are bound by the Board policy 2:100, *Board Member Conflict of Interest*. No District employee having influence on the District's investment decisions shall:

1. Have any interest, directly or indirectly, in any investments in which the District is authorized to invest,
2. Have any interest, directly or indirectly, in the sellers, sponsors, or managers of those investments, or
3. Receive, in any manner, compensation of any kind from any investments in that the agency is authorized to invest.

LEGAL REF.: 30 ILCS 235/
105 ILCS 5/8-7, 5/10-22.44, 5/17-1, and 5/17-11.

CROSS REF.: 2:100 (Board Member Conflict of Interest), 4:10 (Fiscal and Business Management), 4:80 (Accounting and Audits)

Adopted: October 28, 2019

CURRENT POLICY AS IT APPEARS ON THE WEBSITE[Edit Page](#)**Section 4 - Operational Services****Policy 4:50****Payment Procedures**

The Treasurer shall prepare a list of all due and payable bills, indicating vendor name and amount, and shall present it to the Board of Education in advance of the Board's first regular monthly meeting. These bills shall be reviewed by the Board of Education, after which they may be approved for payment by Board of Education order. Approval of all bills shall be given by a roll call vote and the votes shall be recorded in the minutes. The Treasurer shall pay the bills after receiving a Board of Education order or pertinent portions of the Board minutes, even if the minutes are unapproved, provided the order or minutes are signed by the Board President and Secretary, or a majority of the Board.

The Treasurer is authorized to pay Social Security taxes and wages without further Board of Education approval. These disbursements shall be included in the listing of bills presented to the Board of Education.

Revolving funds for school cafeterias, athletics, petty cash, or similar purposes may be used, provided such funds are in the custody of an employee who is properly bonded according to State law and who is responsible to the Superintendent and the Board. Payments from these funds shall be included in the listing of bills presented to the Board of Education.

LEGAL REF.: 105 ILCS 5/8-16, 5/10-7, and 5/10-20.19.

ADOPTED: May 20, 2002

Operational Services

Payment Procedures ¹

The Treasurer shall prepare a list of all due and payable bills, indicating vendor name and amount, and shall present it to the School Board in advance of the Board's first regular monthly meeting or, if necessary, a special meeting. These bills are reviewed by the Board, after which they may be approved for payment by Board order. ² Approval of all bills shall be given by a roll call vote, and the votes shall be recorded in the minutes. ³ The Treasurer shall pay the bills after receiving a Board order or pertinent portions of the Board minutes, even if the minutes are unapproved, provided the order or minutes are signed by the Board President and Secretary, or a majority of the Board. ⁴

The Treasurer is authorized, without further Board approval, to pay Social Security taxes, wages, pension contributions, utility bills, and other recurring bills. ⁵ These disbursements shall be included in the listing of bills presented to the Board.

The Board authorizes the Superintendent or designee to establish revolving funds and a petty cash fund system for school cafeterias, lunchrooms, athletics, or similar purposes, provided such funds are maintained in accordance with Board policy 4:80, *Accounting and Audits*, and remain in the custody of an employee who is properly bonded according to State law. ⁶

LEGAL REF.: 105 ILCS 5/8-16, 5/10-7, and 5/10-20.19.
23 Ill.Admin.Code §100.70.

CROSS REF.: 4:55 (Use of Credit and Procurement Cards), 4:60 (Purchases and Contracts),
4:80 (Accounting and Audits)

The footnotes are not intended to be part of the adopted policy; they should be removed before the policy is adopted.

¹ State or federal law controls this policy's content.

² 105 ILCS 5/8-16 and 5/10-20.19.

³ 105 ILCS 5/10-7.

⁴ Except for the payment of social security taxes and recurring bills, 105 ILCS 5/8-16 permits the treasurer to "pay out funds of the school district only upon an order of the board signed by the president and clerk or secretary or by a majority of the board." 5/10-20.19 grants the treasurer authority to pay bills after receipt of "a certified copy of those portions of the board minutes, properly signed by the secretary and president, or a majority of the board." As minutes are not approved until the following meeting, a literal reading of this statute would result in late payments. The policy uses a pragmatic solution: the treasurer may pay bills upon receiving a board order or minutes, even if the minutes are unapproved, provided the order or minutes are signed by the president and secretary, or a majority of the board.

⁵ 105 ILCS 5/8-16 and 5/10-20.19.

⁶ 105 ILCS 5/10-20.19(2); 23 Ill.Admin.Code §100.70.

Operational Services

Payment Procedures

The Treasurer shall prepare a list of all due and payable bills, indicating vendor name and amount, and shall present it to the School Board in advance of the Board's first regular monthly meeting or, if necessary, a special meeting. These bills are reviewed by the Board, after which they may be approved for payment by Board order. Approval of all bills shall be given by a roll call vote, and the votes shall be recorded in the minutes. The Treasurer shall pay the bills after receiving a Board order or pertinent portions of the Board minutes, even if the minutes are unapproved, provided the order or minutes are signed by the Board President and Secretary, or a majority of the Board.

The Treasurer is authorized, without further Board approval, to pay Social Security taxes, wages, pension contributions, utility bills, and other recurring bills. These disbursements shall be included in the listing of bills presented to the Board.

The Board authorizes the Superintendent or designee to establish revolving funds and a petty cash fund system for school cafeterias, lunchrooms, athletics, or similar purposes, provided such funds are maintained in accordance with Board policy 4:80, *Accounting and Audits*, and remain in the custody of an employee who is properly bonded according to State law.

LEGAL REF.: 105 ILCS 5/8-16, 5/10-7, and 5/10-20.19.
23 Ill.Admin.Code §100.70.

CROSS REF.: 4:55 (Use of Credit and Procurement Cards), 4:60 (Purchases and Contracts),
4:80 (Accounting and Audits)

Adopted: October 28, 2019

CURRENT POLICY AS IT APPEARS ON THE WEBSITE**Section 5 - Personnel****General Personnel**

Policy 5:139

Off-Campus/Overnight School Activities

It is the policy of the Board of Education of Millburn Community Consolidated School District 24 ("the Board") that its employees and volunteers maintain a high level of professionalism and decorum at all times, including while overseeing or supervising students at school activities taking place off-campus. It is also the policy of the Board that all overnight field trips and events are subject to prior Board approval. Such activities include, but are not limited to, field trips, sporting events, and fundraising events.

Employees and volunteers who serve as supervisors, chaperones, sponsors, or perform other work at such activities serve as role models for the students involved in the activities, and their actions reflect upon the Board. At all times, such individuals are to maintain student safety as their top priority.

District employees and volunteers are subject to all Board policies, including but not limited to, Board Policy 5:50, which prohibits District employees from distribution, consumption, use, possession, or being under the influence of alcohol or a controlled substance (as defined in that policy) while performing work for the District. Volunteers are likewise prohibited from distribution, consumption, use, possession, or being under the influence of alcohol or a controlled substance (as defined in Policy 5:50) while volunteering at any function for the District. The Board expressly prohibits such behavior at any school activity taking place off-campus, including overnight field trips, for the duration of the trip or activity. Such behavior is regarded by the Board as outside the scope of an individual's employment or volunteerism. Employees may be subject to discipline for such behavior; volunteers may be refused further opportunity to serve the District. In the event that any employee or volunteer causes damage to person or property as a result of a violation of this policy, such person may be liable for such damages.

CROSS REF.:

- CROSS REF.: 1:30 (School District Philosophy)*
- 5:20 (Sexual Harassment)*
- 5:50 (Drug and Alcohol-Free Workplace)*
- 5: 90 (Abused and Neglected Child Reporting)*
- 5:120 (Ethics)*
- 5:200 (Terms and Conditions of Employment and Dismissal)*
- 5:230 (Maintaining Student Discipline)*
- 5:240 (Suspension)*
- 5:280 (Duties and Qualifications)*
- 5:290 (Employment and Termination and Suspensions)*
- 6:70 (Teaching About Religion)*
- 6:80 (Teaching About Controversial Issues)*
- 6:240 (Field Trips)*
- 6:250 (Community Resource Persons and Volunteers)*
- 7:10 (Equal Educational Opportunities)*
- 7:15 (Student and Family Privacy Rights)*

7:20 (Harassment of Students Prohibited)
7:130 (Student Rights and Responsibilities)

ADOPTED: November 21, 2005

HLERK'S REVISIONS

Revised 9/19/19

Board Policy Manual / 5:139 Off-Campus/Overnight School Activities

Section 5 - Personnel

General Personnel

Policy 5:139

Off-Campus/Overnight School Activities

All Millburn Community Consolidated School District 24 ("District") employees, shall maintain a high level of professionalism and decorum at all times, while overseeing, supervising, or participating in any manner in any off-campus or overnight school activities. All off-campus and overnight school activities are subject to prior approval as required by Board Policy 6:240. Off-campus and overnight activities include, but are not limited to, field trips, athletic events, and fundraising events. Additionally, District employees are prohibited from distributing any materials announcing or advertising overnight trips, camps, etc. that are sponsored by any organization, individual or entity other than the school district unless such announcement or advertisement has been pre-approved by the Superintendent.

District employees who serve as supervisors, chaperones, sponsors, or who participate in any manner in any off-campus or overnight school activities serve as role models for the students involved in such activities, and their behavior reflects upon the Board. All off-campus and overnight school activities must be conducted in a manner that maintains the safety and security of all individuals involved in such activities, this includes monitoring and being readily accessible to students at all times. District employees are expected to prioritize student health and safety at all times, including, but not limited to, consideration of student allergies or medical needs. District employees may not be accompanied or joined by a family member (unless the District employee's family member is also a student who is an actual participant in the off-campus or overnight activity) or a friend on an off campus or overnight trip unless they have pre-approval from the Superintendent.

District employees remain subject to all Board policies during any off-campus or overnight school activities, including but not limited to, Board Policy 5:50, which prohibits District employees from distribution, consumption, use, possession, or being under the influence of alcohol or a controlled substance (as defined in that policy), and the state prohibition against smoking/vaping.

Any District Employee engaging in inappropriate behavior, including behavior prohibited by law or Board policy, during any off-campus or overnight school activity, may be subject to discipline up to, and including, termination. In the event that any District employee's action or inaction in violation of any Board policy causes or results in any personal injury or damage property, such person may be individually liable.

CROSS REF.:
1:30 (School District Philosophy)
5:20 (Sexual Harassment)
5:50 (Drug and Alcohol-Free Workplace)
5: 90 (Abused and Neglected Child Reporting)
5:120 (Ethics)
5:200 (Terms and Conditions of Employment and Dismissal)
5:230 (Maintaining Student Discipline)

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| [Revised 9/19/19](#)

Board Policy Manual / 5:139 Off-Campus/Overnight School Activities

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5:240 (Suspension)
5:280 (Duties and Qualifications)
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| ADOPTED: [, 2019](#)

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General Personnel

Off-Campus/Overnight School Activities

All Millburn Community Consolidated School District 24 (“District”) employees shall maintain a high level of professionalism and decorum at all times while overseeing, supervising, or participating in any manner in any off-campus or overnight school activities. All off-campus and overnight school activities are subject to prior approval as required by Board Policy 6:240. Off-campus and overnight activities include, but are not limited to, field trips, athletic events, and fundraising events. Additionally, District employees are prohibited from distributing any materials announcing or advertising overnight trips, camps, etc. that are sponsored by any organization, individual or entity other than the school district unless such announcement or advertisement has been pre-approved by the Superintendent.

District employees who serve as supervisors, chaperones, sponsors, or who participate in any manner in any off-campus or overnight school activities serve as role models for the students involved in such activities, and their behavior reflects upon the Board. All off-campus and overnight school activities must be conducted in a manner that maintains the safety and security of all individuals involved in such activities, this includes monitoring and being readily accessible to students at all times. District employees are expected to prioritize student health and safety at all times, including, but not limited to, consideration of student allergies or medical needs. District employees may not be accompanied or joined by a family member (unless the District employee’s family member is also a student who is an actual participant in the off-campus or overnight activity) or a friend on an off campus or overnight trip unless they have pre-approval from the Superintendent.

District employees remain subject to all Board policies during any off-campus or overnight school activities, including but not limited to, Board Policy 5:50, which prohibits District employees from distribution, consumption, use, possession, or being under the influence of alcohol or a controlled substance (as defined in that policy), and the state prohibition against smoking/vaping.

Any District Employee engaging in inappropriate behavior, including behavior prohibited by law or Board policy, during any off-campus or overnight school activity may be subject to discipline up to, and including, termination. In the event that any District employee’s action or inaction in violation of any Board policy

causes or results in any personal injury or damage property, such person may be individually liable.

*CROSS REF.: 1:30 (School District Philosophy)
5:20 (Sexual Harassment)
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5: 90 (Abused and Neglected Child Reporting) 5:120 (Ethics)
5:200 (Terms and Conditions of Employment and Dismissal) 5:230
(Maintaining Student Discipline)
5:240 (Suspension)
5:280 (Duties and Qualifications)
5:290 (Employment and Termination and Suspensions) 6:70 (Teaching About
Religion)
6:80 (Teaching About Controversial Issues)
6:240 (Field Trips)
6:250 (Community Resource Persons and Volunteers)
7:10 (Equal Educational Opportunities)
7:15 (Student and Family Privacy Rights)
7:20 (Harassment of Students Prohibited)
7:130 (Student Rights and Responsibilities)*

ADOPTED: October 28, 2019

CURRENT POLICY AS IT APPEARS ON THE WEBSITE**Section 5 - Personnel**
Professional Personnel[Edit Page](#)

Policy 5:210

Resignations

Tenured teachers may resign at any time with consent of the School Board or by written notice sent to the Board Secretary at least 30 days before the intended date of resignation. However, no teacher may resign during the school term in order to accept another teaching position without the consent of the Board.

LEGAL REF.: 105 ILCS 5/24-14.

Park Forest Heights School Dist. v. State Teacher Certification Bd., 842 N.E.2d 1230 (Ill.App.1st 2006).

Professional Personnel

Resignations ¹

Tenured teachers may resign at any time with consent of the School Board or by written notice sent to the Board Secretary at least 30 days before the intended date of resignation. However, no teacher may resign during the school term in order to accept another teaching position without the consent of the Board.²

LEGAL REF.: 105 ILCS 5/24-14.

Park Forest Heights School Dist. v. State Teacher Certification Bd., 842 N.E.2d 1230 (Ill.App.1st 2006).

The footnotes are not intended to be part of the adopted policy; they should be removed before the policy is adopted.

¹ State or federal law controls this policy's content.

² Districts may want to add a liquidated damages clause to individual teacher contracts in order to discourage teacher resignations in violation of this policy and law.

A teacher who resigns during the school term, without the board's permission, in order to accept another teaching assignment, is guilty of unprofessional conduct and liable to suspension of his or her license for up to one year. 105 ILCS 5/24-14. Park Forest Heights School Dist. v. State Teacher Certification Bd., 842 N.E.2d 1230 (Ill.App.1st 2006)(regional superintendent may suspend for one year the teaching certificate of a tenured or nontenured teacher who resigns to accept another position).

NEW POLICY AS IT WOULD APPEAR ON THE WEBSITE

March 2017 5:210

Professional Personnel

Resignations

Tenured teachers may resign at any time with consent of the School Board or by written notice sent to the Board Secretary at least 30 days before the intended date of resignation. However, no teacher may resign during the school term in order to accept another teaching position without the consent of the Board.

LEGAL REF.: 105 ILCS 5/24-14.

Park Forest Heights School Dist. v. State Teacher Certification Bd., 842 N.E.2d 1230 (Ill.App.1st 2006).

Adopted: October 28, 2019

CURRENT POLICY AS IT APPEARS ON THE WEBSITE

Edit Page

Section 5 - Personnel**Educational Support Personnel**

Policy 5:290

Employment Termination and SuspensionResignation and Retirement

An employee is requested to provide 2 weeks' notice of a resignation. In most cases, resigning employees are permitted to work to their effective resignation date. A resignation notice cannot be revoked once given. An employee planning to retire should notify his or her supervisor at least 2 months before the retirement date.

Non-RIF Dismissal

The District may terminate an at-will employee at any time. The Superintendent or supervisor may recommend an employee's discharge subject to the Board of Education's approval.

Reduction in Force and Recall

The Board of Education shall use a seniority list to determine the order of dismissal if it reduces educational support personnel or discontinues some type of educational support service. The seniority list, categorized by positions, shall show the length of continuing service of each full-time educational support employee. The employee with the shorter length of continuing service within the respective category of position shall be dismissed first.

Written notice will be given the employee by certified mail, return receipt requested, at least 30 days before the employee is removed or dismissed, together with a statement of honorable dismissal and the reason therefor.

Any vacancies for the following school term or within one calendar year from the beginning of the following school term, shall be offered to the employees so removed or dismissed from that category of position provided they are qualified to hold such positions.

Final Paycheck

A terminating employee's final paycheck will be adjusted for any unused, earned vacation credit. Employees are paid for all earned vacation. Terminating employees will receive their final pay on the next regular payday following the date of termination, except that an employee dismissed due to a reduction in force shall receive his or her final paycheck on or before the third business day following the last day of employment.

Suspension

Except as provided below, the Superintendent is authorized to suspend an employee without pay as a disciplinary measure, during an investigation into allegations of misconduct, or pending a dismissal hearing whenever, in the Superintendent's judgment, the employee's presence is detrimental to the District. A disciplinary suspension shall be with pay (1) when the employee is exempt from the overtime provisions of the federal wage and hour laws, or (2) until an employee with an employment contract for a definite term is provided a notice and hearing according to the suspension policy for professional employees.

LEGAL REF.:

105 ILCS 5/10-23.5 and 5/10-22.34.

CROSS REF.: 5:240 (Suspension)

ADOPTED: May 20, 2002

Educational Support Personnel

Employment Termination and Suspensions ¹

Resignation and Retirement

An employee is requested to provide two weeks' notice of a resignation.² A resignation notice cannot be revoked once given. An employee planning to retire should notify his or her supervisor at least two months before the retirement date.

Non-RIF Dismissal ³

The District may terminate an at-will employee at any time for any or no reason, but not for a reason prohibited by State or federal law.

Employees who are employed annually or have a contract, or who otherwise have a legitimate expectation of continued employment, may be dismissed: (1) at the end of the school year or at the end of their respective contract after being provided appropriate notice and after compliance with any

The footnotes are not intended to be part of the adopted policy; they should be removed before the policy is adopted.

¹ State or federal law controls this policy's content. This policy contains an item on which collective bargaining may be required. Any policy that impacts upon wages, hours, and 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. School officials should consult with their attorneys before adopting this policy or taking any action under it.

If a local collective bargaining agreement contains provisions that exceed these requirements, it will supersede this policy for those covered employees. In such cases, the board policy should be amended to state, "Please refer to the applicable collective bargaining agreement." For employees not covered, the policy should reflect the board's current practice.

Administrative procedures implementing this policy should include guidelines for exit interviews. These guidelines should include a list of items to discuss with the employee, e.g., the reasons for the termination; how the district could improve its policies, procedures, and working conditions; how to reduce employee turnover; and information about the employee's benefits, including continued health insurance coverage.

² Optional provision:

In most cases, resigning employees are permitted to work until their effective resignation date.

³ If employed at-will, the employee may be dismissed at any time for a non-discriminatory reason unless the dismissal is for a reduction in force. See 5:270, *Employment At-Will, Compensation, and Assignment*. **Important:** whether a specific employee is actually employed at-will depends on the specific facts. Griggsville-Perry Community Unit Sch. Dist. v. Ill. Educ. Labor Relations Bd., 368 Ill. Dec. 494 (Ill. 2013) (upheld an arbitrator's finding that the requirement to provide a pre-discharge written notice was drawn from the essence of the agreement); Cleveland Bd. of Educ. v. Loudermill, 470 U.S. 532 (1985). See also Baird v. Warren Comm. Unit Sch. Dist., 389 F.3d 685 (7th Cir. 2004) (because board members denied a dismissed superintendent procedural due process rights, they were denied qualified immunity).

It is safest to presume that all non-licensed employees are employed for the school year because districts routinely assure next-year employment so that the employee will not qualify for summer unemployment. In addition, annual employment may be created through a collective bargaining agreement, past practice, an employees' handbook, personnel policy manual, an oral promise, or any type of specific annual allocation per year, e.g., vacation or sick day allotments. Thus, the sample policy addresses those employees "with an annual or longer contract or who otherwise have a legitimate expectation of continued employment." A dismissal at the end of the school year or end of a contract generally requires only minimal due process. A mid-year or mid-contract dismissal will require significantly greater due process.

Even if an employee is at-will, a district should consider giving a dismissal reason. The failure to give a reason may provoke an employee into challenging the dismissal, e.g., by alleging illegal discrimination or retaliation for exercising a protected right or whistleblowing.

Consult the board attorney to determine: (1) which employees are at-will, have annual employment, or have a different expectation for their length of employment, and (2) the level of due process to provide specific employees in the event of a dismissal.

applicable contractual provisions, or (2) mid-year or mid-contract provided appropriate due process procedures are provided.

The Superintendent is responsible for making dismissal recommendations to the School Board consistent with the Board's goal of having a highly qualified, high performing staff.

Reduction in Force and Recall ⁴

The Board may, as necessary or prudent, decide to decrease the number of educational support personnel or to discontinue some particular type of educational support service and, as a result of that action, dismiss or reduce the hours of one or more educational support employees. When making decisions concerning reduction in force and recall, the Board will follow Sections 10-22.34c (outsourcing non-instructional services) and 10-23.5 (procedures) of the School Code, to the extent they are applicable and not superseded by legislation or an applicable collective bargaining agreement.

Final Paycheck

A terminating employee's final paycheck will be adjusted for any unused, earned vacation credit.⁵ Employees are paid for all earned vacation. Terminating employees will receive their final pay on the next regular payday following the date of termination, except that an employee dismissed due to a reduction in force shall receive his or her final paycheck on or before the next regular pay date following the last day of employment. ⁶

Suspension

Except as provided below, the Superintendent is authorized to suspend an employee without pay as a disciplinary measure, during an investigation into allegations of misconduct or pending a dismissal hearing whenever, in the Superintendent's judgment, the employee's presence is detrimental to the District. A disciplinary suspension shall be with pay: (1) when the employee is exempt from the overtime provisions,⁷ or (2) until an employee with an employment contract for a definite term is provided a notice and hearing according to the suspension policy for professional employees.⁸ Upon receipt of a recommendation from the Ill. Dept. Children and Family Services (DCFS) that the District remove an employee from his or her position when he or she is the subject of a pending

The footnotes are not intended to be part of the adopted policy; they should be removed before the policy is adopted.

⁴ 105 ILCS 5/10-23.5 grants educational support personnel significant protection during a RIF. Unless otherwise defined by a collective bargaining agreement, the board can define the position categories for a seniority list. Cook v. Eldorado Community Unit Sch. Dist., 354 Ill.App. 3d 256 (5th Dist. 2004). While the statute gives boards the discretion to define *categories of positions*, boards may not define *categories* differently for lay-off/recall purposes than for other purposes.

105 ILCS 5/10-22.34c governs layoffs as a result of a third party non-instructional services contract. See Community Unit Sch. Dist. No. 5 v. Ill. Educ. Labor Relations Bd., 382 Ill.Dec. 120 (4th Dist. 2014)(no unfair labor practice occurred when a school employer outsourced its transportation services and dismissed bus drivers as a result of bona fide and legitimate reasons, not anti-union animus, and the district had bargained in good faith with the union.

⁵ A district may also adjust an employee's final paycheck for advanced vacation leave, *provided* that the employee agreed to deduct a specified amount of pay equaling the advanced vacation. 56 Ill.Admin.Code §300.760. If employees are required to execute such an agreement before taking unearned vacation leave, add the following phrase to this sentence: "or, if the employee agreed in writing, vacation time taken that was not earned."

⁶ These final paycheck requirements are in 105 ILCS 5/10-23.5.

⁷ Employees who are exempt from overtime requirements become eligible for overtime if they are subject to disciplinary suspensions without pay. Auer v. Robbins, 519 U.S. 452 (1997). Although the U.S. Dept. of Labor modified this rule in 2004, the Illinois legislature rejected these rule changes. 820 ILCS 105/4a. Illinois employers must use the federal rules as they existed on March 30, 2003.

⁸ A suspension of an employee having a protected property right in continued employment requires a notice and hearing. See f/n 3 for additional discussion.

DCFS investigation that relates to his or her employment with the District, the Board or Superintendent or designee, in consultation with the Board Attorney, will determine whether to: ⁹

1. Let the employee remain in his or her position pending the outcome of the investigation; or
2. Remove the employee as recommended, proceeding with:
 - a. A suspension with pay; or
 - b. A suspension without pay.

Any criminal conviction resulting from the investigation or allegations shall require the employee to repay to the District all compensation and the value of all benefits received by the employee during the suspension. The Superintendent will notify the employee of this requirement when the employee is suspended. ¹⁰

LEGAL REF.: 5 ILCS 430 *et seq.*
105 ILCS 5/10-22.34c and 5/10-23.5.
325 ILCS 5/7.4(c-10).
820 ILCS 105/4a.

CROSS REF.: 5:240 (Professional Personnel - Suspension), 5:270 (Educational Support Personnel - Employment At-Will, Compensation, and Assignment)

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⁹ This sentence is optional. 325 ILCS 5/7.4(c-5), amended by P.A. 100-176, eff. 1-1-18. Consult the board attorney about suspending an employee without pay pursuant to a *DCFS 325 ILCS 5/7.4(c-5)-recommendation*. This sample language balances the interests of student safety and employee due process when the district receives a recommendation to a remove an employee who is the subject of a DCFS investigation from employment.

Note: Liability may exist when a district receives a *325 ILCS 5/7.4(c-5)-recommendation* and does not remove the employee as a result. Consider In re Estate of Stewart v. Oswego Comm. Unit. Sch. Dist. No. 308, 406 Ill.Dec. 345 (2nd Dist. 2016)(finding district's response to a student health emergency was willful and wanton as it had prior information regarding appropriate response protocols and denying tort immunity to district); In re Estate of Stewart, 412 Ill.Dec. 914 (Ill. 2017) (school district's appeal denied).

¹⁰ The repayment requirements in the first sentence of this paragraph are in 5 ILCS 430/5-60(b). The second sentence is optional.

Educational Support Personnel

Employment Termination and Suspensions

Resignation and Retirement

An employee is requested to provide two weeks' notice of a resignation. A resignation notice cannot be revoked once given. An employee planning to retire should notify his or her supervisor at least two months before the retirement date.

Non-RIF Dismissal

The District may terminate an at-will employee at any time for any or no reason, but not for a reason prohibited by State or federal law.

Employees who are employed annually or have a contract, or who otherwise have a legitimate expectation of continued employment, may be dismissed: (1) at the end of the school year or at the end of their respective contract after being provided appropriate notice and after compliance with any applicable contractual provisions, or (2) mid-year or mid-contract provided appropriate due process procedures are provided.

The Superintendent is responsible for making dismissal recommendations to the School Board consistent with the Board's goal of having a highly qualified, high performing staff.

Reduction in Force and Recall

The Board may, as necessary or prudent, decide to decrease the number of educational support personnel or to discontinue some particular type of educational support service and, as a result of that action, dismiss or reduce the hours of one or more educational support employees. When making decisions concerning reduction in force and recall, the Board will follow Sections 10-22.34c (outsourcing non-instructional services) and 10-23.5 (procedures) of the School Code, to the extent they are applicable and not superseded by legislation or an applicable collective bargaining agreement.

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Suspension

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DCFS investigation that relates to his or her employment with the District, the Board or Superintendent or designee, in consultation with the Board Attorney, will determine whether to:

1. Let the employee remain in his or her position pending the outcome of the investigation; or
2. Remove the employee as recommended, proceeding with:
 - a. A suspension with pay; or
 - b. A suspension without pay.

Any criminal conviction resulting from the investigation or allegations shall require the employee to repay to the District all compensation and the value of all benefits received by the employee during the suspension. The Superintendent will notify the employee of this requirement when the employee is suspended.

LEGAL REF.: 5 ILCS 430 et seq.
 105 ILCS 5/10-22.34c and 5/10-23.5.
 325 ILCS 5/7.4(c-10).
 820 ILCS 105/4a.

CROSS REF.: 5:240 (Professional Personnel - Suspension), 5:270 (Educational Support
 Personnel - Employment At-Will, Compensation, and Assignment)

Adopted: October 28, 2019

CURRENT POLICY AS IT APPEARS ON THE WEBSITE[Edit Page](#)**Section 6 - Instruction****Curriculum****Policy 6:70****Teaching about Religions**

The School District's curriculum may include the study of religions as they relate to geography, history, culture, and the development of various ethnic groups. The study of religions shall give neither preferential nor derogatory treatment to any single religious belief or to religion in general. The study of religions shall be treated as an academic subject with no emphasis on the advancement or practice of religion.

LEGAL REF.:

School District of Abington Twp v. Schempp, 374 U.S. 203 (1963).
Allegheny County v. ACLU Pittsburgh Chapter, 492 U.S. 573, 109 S.Ct. 3086, 106 L.Ed.2d 472 (1989).

CROSS REF.: 6:40 (*Curriculum Development*), 6:255 (*Assemblies and Ceremonies*)

ADOPTED: May 20, 2002

Instruction

Teaching About Religions 1

The School District's curriculum may include the study of religions as they relate to geography, history, culture, and the development of various ethnic groups. The study of religions shall give neither preferential nor derogatory treatment to any single religion, religious belief, or to religion in general. The study of religions shall be treated as an academic subject with no emphasis on the advancement or practice of religion.²

The footnotes are not intended to be part of the adopted policy; they should be removed before the policy is adopted.

¹ State or federal law controls this policy's content.

² Conducting or sponsoring religious practices in public schools violates the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. A school district may not provide for religious instruction on public school property. McCullum v. Board of Educ., 333 U.S. 203 (1948); Engel v. Vitale, 370 U.S. 421 (1962) (reciting a prayer); School Dist. of Abington Twp v. Schempp, 374 U.S. 203 (1963) and Chamberlin v. Dade Co. Board of Public Instruction, 377 U.S. 402 (1964) (bible reading and prayer); Stone v. Graham, 449 U.S. 39 (1980) (posting of the Ten Commandments); and Wallace v. Jaffree, 472 U.S. 38 (1985) (a moment of silence for "meditation and prayer").

See also Kitzmiller v. Dover Area School Dist., 400 F.Supp.2d 707 (M.D.Pa. 2005). This decision struck a policy on the teaching of intelligent design in high school biology class. The policy required students to hear a statement mentioning intelligent design as an alternative to Darwin's theory of evolution. The court held that it amounted to an endorsement of religion in violation of the Establishment Clause.

The Establishment clause, however, permits teaching about religion as part of a balanced, secular education. Thus, the study of the Bible or religion is permissible when presented objectively as part of a secular education. School Dist. of Abington v. Schempp, 374 U.S. 203 (1963).

Generally, holiday observations will survive constitutional scrutiny if they advance society's cultural and religious heritage or provide an opportunity for students to perform a full range of music, poetry, and drama that is likely to interest the students and their audience. Florey v. Sioux Falls School Dist., 619 F.2d 1311 (8th Cir. 1980), approved a school board policy concerning holiday observations. That policy acknowledged that the school district would not promote a religious belief or non-belief. The policy allowed the historical and contemporary values and origins of religious holidays to be explained in an unbiased and objective manner. Furthermore, it permitted the use of religious music, art, literature, and symbols if presented in an objective manner and as part of the cultural and religious heritage of the particular holiday. The Court believed that Christmas programs, including Christmas carols, allowed students to learn about this country's customs and cultural heritage. Of course, a student who objects to participating in such programs must be accommodated.

Public schools are prohibited from appearing to endorse or promote religion through religious holiday displays. Whether a particular display endorses or promotes religion will depend upon the particular context in which it appears. A display that is purely religious and located prominently may send the message that the school is endorsing religion. Mixing secular symbols with the religious symbols and injecting cultural and historical messages into the holiday display will more likely make it acceptable. Allegheny County v. Pittsburgh ACLU, 492 U.S. 573 (1989). See also Freedom From Religion Foundation v. Concord Comm. Schs., --- F.Supp.3d ---, 2016 WL 4798964 (N.D. In. 2016) (finding that school's annual holiday show was not impermissibly coercive in violation of the establishment clause and that show's nativity scene did not endorse religion).

See also Skoros v. City of New York, 437 F.3d 1 (2nd Cir. 2006). This decision upheld a holiday display policy restricting displays to "secular" symbols, including Christmas trees, menorahs, and the star and crescent, but not allowing displays of a crèche or nativity scene. The ruling was not on the question of whether a public school ever could include a crèche in a display. Instead, the case upheld the board's decision to classify Christmas trees, menorahs, and the star and crescent as either secular or as being both religious and secular, whereas a crèche "is solely a religious symbol."

LEGAL REF.: School Dist. of Abington Twp v. Schempp, 374 U.S. 203 (1963).
Allegheny County v. ACLU Pittsburgh Chapter, 492 U.S. 573 (1989).

CROSS REF.: 6:20 (School Year Calendar and Day), 6:40 (Curriculum Development), 6:60 (Curriculum Content), 6:255 (Assemblies and Ceremonies)

Instruction

Teaching About Religions

The School District's curriculum may include the study of religions as they relate to geography, history, culture, and the development of various ethnic groups. The study of religions shall give neither preferential nor derogatory treatment to any single religion, religious belief, or to religion in general. The study of religions shall be treated as an academic subject with no emphasis on the advancement or practice of religion.

LEGAL REF.: School Dist. of Abington Twp v. Schempp, 374 U.S. 203 (1963).
 Allegheny County v. ACLU Pittsburgh Chapter, 492 U.S. 573 (1989).

CROSS REF.: 6:20 (School Year Calendar and Day), 6:40 (Curriculum Development), 6:60
 (Curriculum Content), 6:255 (Assemblies and Ceremonies)

Adopted: October 28, 2019