

# *Document Status: Review and Monitoring*

## SCHOOL DISTRICT ORGANIZATION

### **1:10 School District Legal Status**

The Illinois Constitution requires the State to provide for an efficient system of high-quality public educational institutions and services in order to achieve the educational development of all persons to the limits of their capabilities. [PRESSPlus1](#)

The General Assembly has implemented this mandate through the creation of school districts. The Geneseo Community Unit School District #228 (hereafter known as the District) is governed by the laws for school districts serving a resident population of not fewer than 1,000 and not more than 500,000.

The Board of Education constitutes a body corporate that possesses all the usual powers of a corporation for public purposes, and in that name may sue and be sued, purchase, hold and sell personal property and real estate, and enter into such obligations as are authorized by law.

LEGAL REF.:

[Ill. Constitution, Art. X](#), Sec. 1.

[105 ILCS 5/10-1](#) *et seq.*

CROSS REF.: 2:10 (School District Governance), 2:20 (Powers and Duties of the Board of Education; Indemnification)

**ADOPTED: August 10, 2023**

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### **PRESSPlus Comments**

PRESSPlus 1. This policy is suggested to be reviewed by the Board. According to policy 2:240, *Board Policy Development*, "[t]he Board will periodically review its policies for relevancy, monitor its policies for effectiveness, and consider whether any modifications are required." IASB suggests that each policy in the Board's policy manual be reviewed at a minimum of every five years. As part of the review, the Board may choose to:

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**Issue 119, June 2025**

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## **SCHOOL DISTRICT ORGANIZATION**

### **1:20 District Organization, Operations, and Cooperative Agreements**

The District is organized and operates as a Unit District serving the educational needs of children in grades pre-K through 12 and others as required by the School Code. [PRESSPlus1](#)

The District enters into and participates in joint programs and intergovernmental agreements with units of local government and other school districts in order to jointly provide services and activities in a manner that will increase flexibility, scope of service opportunities, cost reductions, and/or otherwise benefit the District and the community. The Superintendent shall manage these activities to the extent the program or agreement requires the District's participation, and shall provide periodic implementation or operational data and/or reports to the Board of Education concerning these programs and agreements. The District participates in the following joint programs and intergovernmental agreements:

- Regional Safe School
- Henry-Stark Special Education Cooperative #801
- Bureau, Henry, and Stark Counties Regional Office of Education
- Quad City CTE Consortium
- Iowa-Illinois School Food Cooperative
- Find More Illinois (FML)
- Black Hawk College
- Hammond-Henry Hospital
- Illinois Energy Consortium (IEC)
- Prairie State Insurance Cooperative (PSIC)
- City of Geneseo
- City of Geneseo Police Department (GPD)

LEGAL REF.:

[Ill. Constitution, Art. VII](#), Sec. 10.

[5 ILCS 220/](#), Intergovernmental Cooperation Act

**ADOPTED: August 10, 2023**

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## **SCHOOL DISTRICT ORGANIZATION**

### **1:30 School District Philosophy**

#### School District Mission Statement [PRESSPlus1](#)

To ensure every student has access to the best educational experience he or she can through a safe and caring environment, with high expectations for achievement, while being good stewards of district finances.

#### School District Vision Statement

Teach - Learn - Care

CROSS REF: 2:10 (School District Governance), 3:10 (Goals and Objectives), 6:10 (Educational Philosophy and Objectives)

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## **BOARD OF EDUCATION**

### **2:10 School District Governance**

The District is governed by a Board of Education consisting of seven members. The Board's powers and duties include the authority to adopt, enforce, and monitor all policies for the management and governance of the District's schools. [PRESSPlus1](#)

Official action by the Board may only occur at a duly called and legally conducted meeting. Except as otherwise provided by the Open Meetings Act, a quorum must be physically present at the meeting.

As stated in the Board member oath of office prescribed by the School Code, a Board member has no legal authority as an individual.

LEGAL REF.:

[5 ILCS 120/](#), Open Meetings Act.

[105 ILCS 5/10-1](#), [5/10-10](#), [5/10-12](#), [5/10-16.5](#), [5/10-16.7](#), and [5/10-20.5](#).

CROSS REF.: 1:10 (School District Legal Status), 2:20 (Powers and Duties of the Board of Education; Indemnification), 2:80 (Board Member Oath and Conduct), 2:120 (Board Member Development), 2:200 (Types of Board of Education Meetings), 2:220 (Board of Education Meeting Procedure)

**ADOPTED: August 10, 2023**

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## *Document Status: Draft Update*

### **BOARD OF EDUCATION**

#### **2:80 Board Member Oath and Conduct**

Each Board of Education member, before taking his or her seat on the Board, shall take the following oath of office:

**I, (name), do solemnly swear** (or affirm) that I will faithfully discharge the duties of the office of member of the Board of Education of Geneseo Community Unit School District 228, in accordance with the Constitution of the United States, the Constitution of the State of Illinois, and the laws of the State of Illinois, to the best of my ability.

**I further swear** (or affirm) that:

**I shall respect** taxpayer interests by serving as a faithful protector of the School District's assets;

**I shall encourage** and respect the free expression of opinion by my fellow Board members and others who seek a hearing before the Board, while respecting the privacy of students and employees;

**I shall recognize** that a Board member has no legal authority as an individual and that decisions can be made only by a majority vote at a public Board meeting;

**I shall abide** by majority decisions of the Board, while retaining the right to seek changes in such decisions through ethical and constructive channels;

**As part of the Board of Education**, I shall accept the responsibility for my role in the equitable and quality education of every student in the School District;

**I shall foster** with the Board extensive participation of the community, formulate goals, define outcomes, and set the course for Geneseo Community Unit School District 228;

**I shall assist** in establishing a structure and an environment designed to ensure all students have the opportunity to attain their maximum potential through a sound organizational framework;

**I shall strive** to ensure a continuous assessment of student achievement and all conditions affecting the education of our children, in compliance with State law;

**I shall serve** as education's key advocate on behalf of students and our community's school (or schools) to advance the vision for Geneseo Community Unit School District 228; and

**I shall strive** to work together with the District Superintendent to lead the School District toward fulfilling the vision the Board has created, fostering excellence for every student in the areas of academic skills, knowledge, citizenship, and personal development.

The Board President will administer the oath in an open Board meeting; in the absence of the President, the Vice President will administer the oath. If neither is available, the Board member with the longest service on the Board will administer the oath.

The Board adopts the Illinois Association of School Boards' *Code of Conduct for Members of School Boards (Code)*. [PRESSPlus1](#) A copy of the *Code* shall be displayed in the regular Board meeting room. [Q1](#)

LEGAL REF.:

[105 ILCS 5/10-16.5.](#)

CROSS REF.: 1:30 (School District Philosophy), 2:20 (Powers and Duties of the Board of Education; Indemnification), 2:50 (Board Member Term of Office), [2:60 \(Board Member Removal from Office\)](#), 2:100 (Board Member Conflict of Interest), 2:105 (Ethics and Gift Ban), 2:210 (Organizational Board of Education Meeting)

ADOPTED: August 10, 2023

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## Questions and Answers:

\*\*\*Required Question 1. The School Code does not specifically address what happens when board members violate their oath of office, nor does it create an opportunity to take legal action for such violations. *Collins v. Bd. of Educ. of North Chicago Comm. Unit Sch. Dist. 187*, 792 F.Supp.2d 992 (N.D.Ill. 2011). **Consult the board attorney for guidance when considering any type of disciplinary action or sanction against a board member.**

Depending on the situation, a board self-evaluation or private one-on-one meetings with a board member may be appropriate to address an issue relating to board member behavior (for a list of IASB workshops, see [www.iasb.com/conference-training-and-events/training/workshops/](http://www.iasb.com/conference-training-and-events/training/workshops/)). When a board member's violation of the oath of office also constitutes a willful failure to perform his or her official duties, the board may request the regional superintendent to remove the member from office. See sample policy 2:60, *Board Member Removal from Office*, available at PRESS Online by logging in at [www.iasb.com](http://www.iasb.com), at footnote 2, for further discussion. A board member whose conduct violates conflict of interest laws may also be subject to criminal liability and removal from office. See sample policy 2:100, *Board Member Conflict of Interest*, and its footnotes, for additional information. In consultation with the board attorney, a board may also consider other actions to address a member's violation of the oath of office, such as publicly censuring a member. *Houston Comm. College System v. Wilson*, 595 U.S. 468 (2022) (holding that a college board of trustees did not violate a trustee's First Amendment rights when it adopted a resolution censuring him for "reprehensible" conduct). Other sanctions may be also warranted, depending on the facts. For example, in *Earnest v. Jasper Cty. Comm. Unit Sch. Dist. No. 1*, 371 F.Supp.3d 459 (S.D.Ill 2019), a court held a board member was not deprived of his liberty interest under the 14th Amendment when the board limited his access to confidential board packet information after it found the board member shared confidential personnel and student information with members of the public.

To encourage appropriate conduct, boards may wish to have their policy express potential consequences for violating the oath of office or the *Code of Conduct for Members of School Boards*. Such boards may add the following sentence to the end of this policy:

"A board member who fails to abide by the oath of office or the *Code* may be subject to action by the Board, including, but not limited to, formal censure and/or referral to the Regional Superintendent for removal from office under Board policy 2:60, *Board Member Removal from Office*."

Has the Board adopted this policy to include the optional sentence shown above?

- ☐ No. (Default)
  - ☐ Yes. (For districts in suburban Cook County, IASB will replace "Regional Superintendent" with "appropriate Intermediate Service Center Executive Director.")
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## **PRESSPlus Comments**

PRESSPlus 1. Updated for continuous improvement. **Issue 119, June 2025**



## *Document Status: Draft Update*

### **BOARD OF EDUCATION**

#### **2:130 Board-Superintendent Relationship**

The Board of Education directs, through policy, the Superintendent in his or her charge of the administration of the District by delegating its authority to operate the District and provide leadership to staff. The Board employs and evaluates the Superintendent and holds him or her responsible for the operation of the District in accordance with Board policies and State and federal law.

The Board-Superintendent relationship is based on mutual respect for their complementary roles. The relationship requires clear communication of expectations regarding the duties and responsibilities of both the Board and Superintendent.

The Board considers the recommendations of the Superintendent as the District's Chief Executive Officer. The Board adopts policies necessary to provide ~~general~~ [PRESSPlus1](#) direction for the District and to encourage achievement of District goals. The Superintendent develops plans, programs, and procedures needed to implement the policies and directs the District's operations.

LEGAL REF.:

[105 ILCS 5/10-16.7](#) and [5/10-21.4](#).

CROSS REF.: 3:40 (Superintendent)

~~ADOPTED: August 10, 2023~~

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#### **PRESSPlus Comments**

PRESSPlus 1. Updated in response to a PRESS five-year review. PRESS Editors have a quality assurance goal to ensure that a review of each piece of the 1500+ page IASB PRESS Policy Reference Manual occurs once every five years. **Issue 119, June 2025**

# *Document Status: Review and Monitoring*

## **BOARD OF EDUCATION**

### **2:240 Board Policy Development**

The Board of Education governs using written policies. Written policies ensure legal compliance, establish Board processes, articulate District ends, delegate authority, and define operating limits. Board policies also provide the basis for monitoring progress toward District ends. [PRESSPlus1](#)

#### **Policy Development**

Anyone may propose new policies, changes to existing policies, or deletion of existing policies. Staff suggestions should be processed through the Superintendent. Suggestions from all others should be made to the Board President or the Superintendent.

A Board Policy Committee will consider all policy suggestions and provide information and recommendations to the Board.

The Superintendent is responsible for: (1) providing relevant policy information and data to the Board, (2) notifying those who will implement or be affected by or required to implement a proposed policy and obtaining their advice and suggestions, and (3) having policy recommendations drafted into written form for Board deliberation. The Superintendent shall seek the counsel of the Board Attorney when appropriate.

#### **Policy Adoption and Dissemination**

Policies or policy revisions will not be adopted at the Board meeting at which they are first introduced, except when: (1) appropriate for a consent agenda because no Board discussion is required, or (2) necessary or prudent in order to meet emergency or special conditions or to be legally compliant. Further Board consideration may be given at a subsequent meeting(s) and after opportunity for community input. The adoption of a policy will serve to supersede all previously adopted policies on the same topic.

The Board policies are available for public inspection in the District's main office during regular office hours, and on the district website. Copy requests should be made pursuant to Board policy 2:250, *Access to District Public Records*.

#### **Board Policy Review and Monitoring**

The Board will periodically review its policies for relevancy, monitor its policies for effectiveness, and consider whether any modifications are required. The Board may use an annual policy review and monitoring calendar.

#### **Superintendent Implementation**

The Board will support any reasonable interpretation of Board policy made by the Superintendent. If reasonable minds differ, the Board will review the applicable policy and consider the need for further clarification.

In the absence of Board policy, the Superintendent is authorized to take appropriate action.

### Suspension of Policies

The Board, by a majority vote of members present at any meeting, may temporarily suspend a Board policy except those provisions that are controlled by law or contract. The failure to suspend with a specific motion does not invalidate the Board action.

LEGAL REF.:

[105 ILCS 5/10-20.5.](#)

CROSS REF.: 2:150 (Committees), 2:250 (Access to District Public Records), 3:40 (Superintendent)

**ADOPTED: August 10, 2023**

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## *Document Status: Review and Monitoring*

### **GENERAL SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION**

#### **3:30 Chain of Command**

The Superintendent shall develop an organizational chart indicating the channels of authority and reporting relationships for school personnel. These channels should be followed, and no level should be bypassed except in unusual situations. [PRESSPlus1](#)

All personnel should refer matters requiring administrative action to the responsible administrator, and may appeal a decision to a higher administrative officer. Whenever possible, each employee should be responsible to only one immediate supervisor. When this is not possible, the division of responsibility must be clear.

CROSS REF.: 1:20 (District Organization, Operations, and Cooperative Agreements), 2:140 (Communications To and From the Board), 3:70 (Succession of Authority), 8:110 (Public Suggestions and Concerns)

**ADOPTED: August 10, 2023**

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### OPERATIONAL SERVICES

#### **4:50 Payment Procedures**

The Treasurer and/or designee 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 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 Board may, by resolution, approve payment of all due and payable bills through approval by the Superintendent and Board President in months where there is no regular meeting or special meeting of the Board scheduled. [PRESSPlus1](#)

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.

#### Project Administration

Board approval shall be required for any payments to a contractor for work completed, according to a previously agreed schedule and upon certification by the architect if an architect is involved with the project.

Payment for the final installment, or portions thereof, shall be withheld until all work has been completed to the satisfaction of the architect and the Superintendent and/or the Board of Education.

#### 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: August 10, 2023**

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### OPERATIONAL SERVICES

#### **4:90 Student Activity and Fiduciary Funds**

The Board of Education, upon the Superintendent or designee's recommendation, establishes student activity funds to be managed by student organizations under the guidance and direction of a staff member for educational, recreational, or cultural purposes. The Board, upon the Superintendent or designee's recommendation, also establishes fiduciary funds to be supervised by the Superintendent or designee. The District has custodial responsibilities for fiduciary funds but no direct involvement in the management of such funds. [PRESSPlus1](#)

##### Student Activity Funds

The Superintendent or designee shall be responsible for supervising student activity funds in accordance with Board policy, 4:80, *Accounting and Audits*; State law; and the Ill. State Board of Education (ISBE) rules for student activity funds. The Board will appoint a treasurer for each fund to serve as the fund's sole custodian and be bonded in accordance with the School Code. The treasurer shall have all of the responsibilities specific to the treasurer listed in ISBE rules for school activity funds, including the authority to make loans between activity funds.

Unless otherwise instructed by the Board, a student activity fund's balance will carry over to the next fiscal year. An account containing student activity funds that is inactive for 12 consecutive months shall be closed and its funds transferred to another student activity fund or authorized fund with a similar purpose.

##### Fiduciary Funds

The Superintendent or designee shall be responsible for supervising fiduciary funds in accordance with Board policy 4:80, *Accounting and Audits*; State law; and ISBE rules for fiduciary funds. The Board will appoint a treasurer for each fund to serve as the fund's sole custodian and be bonded in accordance with the School Code. The treasurer shall have all of the responsibilities specific to the treasurer listed in the ISBE rules for fiduciary funds.

LEGAL REF.:

[105 ILCS 5/8-2](#) and [5/10-20.19](#).

[23 Ill.Admin.Code §§100.20](#), [100.80](#), and [100.85](#).

CROSS REF.: 4:80 (Accounting and Audits), 7:325 (Student Fundraising Activities)

**ADOPTED: August 10, 2023**

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### OPERATIONAL SERVICES

#### **4:180 Pandemic Preparedness; Management; and Recovery**

The Board of Education recognizes that the District will play an essential role along with the local health department and emergency management agencies in protecting the public's health and safety during a pandemic. [PRESSPlus1](#)

A pandemic is a global outbreak of disease. Pandemics happen when a new virus emerges to infect individuals and, because there is little to no pre-existing immunity against the new virus, it spreads sustainably.

To prepare the School District community for a pandemic, the Superintendent or designee shall: (1) learn and understand how the roles that the federal, State, and local government function; (2) form a pandemic planning team consisting of appropriate District personnel and community members to identify priorities and oversee the development and implementation of a comprehensive pandemic school action plan; and (3) build awareness of the final plan among staff, students, and community.

#### Emergency School Closing

In the case of a pandemic, the Governor may declare a disaster due to a public health emergency that may affect any decision for an emergency school closing. Decisions for an emergency school closing will be made by the Superintendent in consultation with and, if necessary, at the direction of the Governor, Ill. Dept. of Public Health, District's local health department, emergency management agencies, and/or Regional Office of Education.

During an emergency school closing, the Board President and the Superintendent may, to the extent the emergency situation allows, examine existing Board policies pursuant to Policy 2:240, *Board Policy Development*, and recommend to the Board for consideration any needed amendments or suspensions to address mandates that the District may not be able to accomplish or implement due to a pandemic.

#### Board Meeting Procedure: No Physical Presence of Quorum and Participation by Audio or Video

A disaster declaration related to a public health emergency may affect the Board's ability to meet in person and generate a quorum of members who are physically present at the location of a meeting. Policy 2:220, *Board of Education Meeting Procedure*, governs Board meetings by video or audio conference without the physical presence of a quorum.

#### Payment of Employee Salaries During Emergency School Closures

The Superintendent shall consult with the Board to determine the extent to which continued payment of salaries and benefits will be made to the District's employees, pursuant to Board policies 3:40, *Superintendent*, 3:50, *Administrative Personnel Other Than the Superintendent*, 5:35, *Compliance with the Fair Labor Standards Act*, 5:200, *Terms and Conditions of Employment and Dismissal*, and 5:270, *Employment At-Will, Compensation, and Assignment*, and consistent with: (1) applicable laws, regulations, federal or State or local emergency declarations, executive orders, and agency

directives; (2) collective bargaining agreements and any bargaining obligations; and (3) the terms of any grant under which an employee is being paid.

#### Suspension of In-Person Instruction; Remote and/or Blended Remote Learning Day Plan(s)

When the Governor declares a disaster due to a public health emergency pursuant to [20 ILCS 3305/7](#), and the State Superintendent of Education declares a requirement for the District to use *Remote Learning Days* or *Blended Remote Learning Days*, the Superintendent shall approve and present to the Board for adoption a Remote and/or Blended Remote Learning Day Plan (Plan) that:

1. Recommends to the Board for consideration any suspensions or amendments to curriculum-related policies to reduce any Board-required graduation or other instructional requirements in excess of minimum curricular requirements specified in School Code that the District may not be able to provide due to the pandemic;
2. Implements the requirements of [105 ILCS 5/10-30](#); and
3. Ensures a plan for periodic review of and/or amendments to the Plan when needed and/or required by statute, regulation, or State guidance.

#### LEGAL REF.:

[105 ILCS 5/10-16.7](#), [5/10-20.5](#), [5/10-20.56](#), and [5/10-30](#).

[5 ILCS 120/2.01](#) and [120/7](#)(e), Open Meetings Act.

[20 ILCS 2305/2](#)(b), Ill. Dept. of Public Health Act (Part 1).

[20 ILCS 3305/](#), Ill. Emergency Management Agency Act.

[115 ILCS 5/](#), Ill. Educational Labor Relations Act.

CROSS REF.: 1:20 (District Organization, Operations, and Cooperative Agreements), 2:20 (Powers and Duties of the Board of Education; Indemnification), 2:220 (Board of Education Meeting Procedure), 2:240 (Board Policy Development), 3:40 (Superintendent), 3:50 (Administrative Personnel Other Than the Superintendent), 3:70 (Succession of Authority), 4:170 (Safety), 5:35 (Compliance with the Fair Labor Standards Act), 5:200 (Terms and Conditions of Employment and Dismissal), 5:270 (Employment At-Will, Compensation, and Assignment), 6:20 (School Year Calendar and Day), 6:60 (Curriculum Content), 6:300 (Graduation Requirements), 7:90 (Release During School Hours), 8:100 (Relations with Other Organizations and Agencies)

ADOPTED: August 10, 2023

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## **Educational Support Personnel**

### **5:270 Employment At-Will, Compensation, and Assignment**

#### Employment At-Will [PRESSPlus1](#)

Unless otherwise specifically provided, District employment is at-will, meaning that employment may be terminated by the District or employee at any time for any reason, other than a reason prohibited by law, or no reason at all. Nothing in Board of Education policy is intended or should be construed as altering the employment at-will relationship.

Exceptions to employment at-will may include employees who are employed annually, have an employment contract, or are otherwise granted a legitimate interest in continued employment. The Superintendent is authorized to make exceptions to employing nonlicensed employees at-will but shall maintain a record of positions or employees who are not at-will.

#### Compensation

The Board will determine salary and wages for educational support personnel. Increments are dependent on evidence of continuing satisfactory performance. An employee covered by the overtime provisions in State or federal law shall not work overtime without the prior authorization from the employee's immediate supervisor. Educational support personnel are paid twice a month.

#### Assignment

The Superintendent is authorized to make assignments and transfers of educational support personnel.

LEGAL REF.:

[105 ILCS 5/10-22.34](#) and [5/10-23.5](#).

CROSS REF.: 5:10 (Equal Employment Opportunity and Minority Recruitment), 5:35 (Compliance with the Fair Labor Standards Act), 5:290 (Employment Termination and Suspensions), 5:310 (Compensatory Time-Off)

**ADOPTED: August 10, 2023**

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### **PRESSPlus Comments**

PRESSPlus 1. This policy is suggested to be reviewed by the Board. According to policy 2:240, *Board Policy Development*, "[t]he Board will periodically review its policies for relevancy, monitor its policies for effectiveness, and consider whether any modifications are required." IASB suggests that each policy in the Board's policy manual be reviewed at a minimum of every five years. As part of the review, the Board may choose to:

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**Issue 119, June 2025**

## *Document Status: Review and Monitoring*

### **STUDENTS**

#### **7:40 Nonpublic School Students, Including Parochial and Home-Schooled Students**

##### Part-Time Attendance [PRESSPlus1](#)

The District accepts nonpublic school students, including parochial and home-schooled students, who live within the District for part-time attendance in the District's regular education program on a space-available basis. Requests for part-time attendance must be submitted to the Building Principal of the school in the school attendance area where the student resides. All requests for attendance in the following school year must be submitted before May 1.

A student accepted for partial enrollment must comply with all discipline and attendance requirements established by the school. He or she may participate in any co-curricular activity associated with a District class in which he or she is enrolled. The parent(s)/guardian(s) of a student accepted for partial enrollment must pay all fees, pro-rated on the basis of a percentage of full-time fees. Transportation to and/or from school is provided on regular bus routes to or from a point on the route nearest or most easily accessible to the nonpublic school or student's home. This transportation shall be on the same basis as the District provides transportation for its full-time students. Transportation on other than established bus routes is the responsibility of the parent(s)/guardian(s).

##### Students with a Disability

The District accepts for part-time attendance those children for whom it has been determined that special education services are needed, are enrolled in nonpublic schools, and otherwise qualify for enrollment in the District. Requests must be submitted by the student's parent/guardian. Special educational services shall be provided to such students as soon as possible after identification, evaluation, and placement procedures provided by State law, but no later than the beginning of the next school semester following the completion of such procedures. Transportation for such students shall be provided only if required in the child's Individualized Educational Program on the basis of the child's disabling condition or as the special education program location may require.

##### Extracurricular Activities, Including Interscholastic Competition

A nonpublic school student is eligible to participate in: (1) interscholastic competition, provided his or her participation adheres to the regulations established by any association in which the School District maintains a membership, and (2) non-athletic extracurricular activities, provided the student is enrolled in at least one District course, excluding lunch. A nonpublic student who participates in an extracurricular activity is subject to all policies, regulations, and rules that are applicable to other participants in the activity.

##### Assignment When Enrolling Full-Time in a District School

Grade placement by, and academic credits earned at, a nonpublic school will be accepted if the school has a Certificate of Nonpublic School Recognition from the Illinois State Board of Education, or, if outside Illinois, if the school is accredited by the state agency governing education.

A student who, after receiving instruction in a non-recognized or non-accredited school, enrolls in the District will: (1) be assigned to a grade level according to academic proficiency, and/or (2) have academic credits recognized by the District if the student demonstrates appropriate academic proficiency to the school administration. Any portion of a student's transcript relating to such instruction will not be considered for placement on the honor roll or computation in class rank.

Notwithstanding the above, recognition of grade placement and academic credits awarded by a nonpublic school is at the sole discretion of the District. All school and class assignments will be made according to Board of Education policy 7:30, *Student Assignment and Intra-District Transfer*, as well as administrative procedures implementing this policy.

LEGAL REF.:

[105 ILCS 5/10-20.24](#) and [5/14-6.01](#).

CROSS REF.: 4:110 (Transportation), 6:170 (Title I Programs), 6:190 (Extracurricular and Co-Curricular Activities), 6:320 (High School Credit for Proficiency), 7:30 (Student Assignment and Intra-District Transfer), 7:300 (Extracurricular Athletics)

ADOPTED: August 10, 2023

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## **PRESSPlus Comments**

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**Issue 119, June 2025**

# *Document Status: Review and Monitoring*

## **STUDENTS**

### **7:90 Release During School Hours**

For safety and security reasons, a prior written or oral consent of a student's custodial parent/guardian is required before a student is released during school hours: (1) at any time before the regular dismissal time or at any time before school is otherwise officially closed, and/or (2) to any person other than a custodial parent/guardian. [PRESSPlus1](#)

#### Early Dismissal Announcement

The Superintendent or designee shall make reasonable efforts to issue an announcement whenever it is necessary to close school early due to inclement weather or other reason.

CROSS REF.: 4:170 (Safety)

**ADOPTED: August 10, 2023**

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**Issue 119, June 2025**



# *Document Status: Review and Monitoring*

## **STUDENTS**

### **7:130 Student Rights and Responsibilities**

All students are entitled to enjoy the rights protected by the U.S. and Illinois Constitutions and laws for persons of their age and maturity in a school setting. Students should exercise these rights reasonably and avoid violating the rights of others. Students who violate the rights of others or violate District policies or rules will be subject to disciplinary measures. [PRESSPlus1](#)

Students may, during the school day, during noninstructional time, voluntarily engage in individually or collectively initiated, non-disruptive prayer or religious-based meetings that, consistent with the Free Exercise and Establishment Clauses of the U.S. and Illinois Constitutions, are not sponsored, promoted, or endorsed in any manner by the school or any school employee. *Noninstructional time* means time set aside by a school before actual classroom instruction begins or after actual classroom instruction ends.

LEGAL REF.:

[20 U.S.C. §7904.](#)

[105 ILCS 20/5.](#)

[Tinker v. Des Moines Independent School District](#), 89 S.Ct. 733 (1969).

CROSS REF.: 7:140 (Search and Seizure), 7:150 (Agency and Police Interviews), 7:160 (Student Appearance), 7:190 (Student Behavior), 7:330 (Student Use of Buildings - Equal Access)

**ADOPTED: August 10, 2023**

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**Issue 119, June 2025**



## *Document Status: Draft Update*

### **STUDENTS**

#### **7:140 Search and Seizure**

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

School Property and Equipment as well as Personal Effects Left ~~There~~ On School Property [PRESSPlus1](#) by Students

School authorities may inspect and search school property and equipment owned or controlled by the school (such as, lockers, desks, and parking lots), as well as personal effects left there by a student, without notice to or the consent of the student. Students have no reasonable expectation of privacy in these places or areas or in their personal effects left there.

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

#### Students

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

When feasible, the search should be conducted as follows:

1. Outside the view of others, including students,
2. In the presence of a school administrator or adult witness, and
3. By a ~~certificated~~ [licensed](#) employee or liaison police officer of the same sex as the student.

Immediately following a search, a written report shall be made by the school authority who conducted the search, and given to the Superintendent.

#### Seizure of Property

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

#### Notification Regarding Student Accounts or Profiles on Social Networking Websites

The Superintendent or designee shall notify students and their parents/guardians of each of the following in accordance with the Right to Privacy in the School Setting Act, [105 ILCS 75/](#):

1. School officials may not request or require a student or his or her parent/guardian to provide a password or other related account information to gain access to the student's account or profile on a social networking website.
2. School officials may conduct an investigation or require a student to cooperate in an investigation if there is specific information about activity on the student's account on a social networking website that violates a school disciplinary rule or policy. In the course of an investigation, the student may be required to share the content that is reported in order to allow school officials to make a factual determination.

LEGAL REF.:

[T.L.O. v. New Jersey, 469 U.S. 325 \(1985\).](#)

[Vernonia Sch. Dist. 47J v. Acton, 515 U.S. 646 \(1995\).](#)

[Safford Unified Sch. Dist. No. 1 v. Redding, 557 U.S. 364 \(2009\).](#)

105 ILCS 5/10-20.14, 5/10-22.6, and 5/10-22.10a.

~~Right to Privacy in the School Setting Act, 105 ILCS 75/~~, [Right to Privacy in the School Setting Act.](#)

[Cornfield v. Consolidated High Sch. Dist. No. 230, 991 F.2d 1316 \(7th Cir. 1993\).](#)

[People v. Dilworth, 169 Ill.2d 195 \(1996\), cert. denied, 116 S.Ct. 1692](#) [517 U.S. 1197 \(1996\).](#)

[People v. Pruitt, 278 Ill.App.3d 194 \(1st Dist. 1996\), app. denied, 167 Ill.2d 564](#) ~~667 N.E. 2d 1061 (Ill.App.1, 1996).~~

~~T.L.O. v. New Jersey, 469 U.S. 325 (1985).~~

~~Vernonia School Dist. 47J v. Acton, 515 U.S. 646 (1995).~~

~~Safford Unified School Dist. No. 1 v. Redding, 557 U.S. 364 (2009).~~

CROSS REF.: 7:130 (Student Rights and Responsibilities), 7:150 (Agency and Police Interviews), 7:190 (Student Behavior)

~~ADOPTED: August 10, 2023~~

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## PRESSPlus Comments

PRESSPlus 1. Updated throughout in response to a PRESS five-year review. PRESS Editors have a quality assurance goal to ensure that a review of each piece of the 1500+ page IASB PRESS Policy Reference Manual occurs once every five years. **Issue 119, June 2025**

## Document Status: Draft Update

### STUDENTS

#### 7:300 Extracurricular Athletics

Student participation in school-sponsored extracurricular athletic activities is contingent upon the following:

1. The student must meet the academic criteria set forth in Board policy 6:190, *Extracurricular and Co-Curricular Activities*.
2. A parent/guardian of the student must provide written permission for the student's participation, giving the District full waiver of responsibility of the risks involved.
3. The student must present a current certificate of physical fitness issued by a licensed physician, an advanced practice registered nurse, or a physician assistant. The ***Pre-Participation Physical Examination Form***, offered by the Illinois High School Association and the Illinois Elementary School Association, is the preferred certificate of physical fitness.
4. The student must show proof of accident insurance coverage either by a policy purchased through the District-approved insurance plan or a parent/guardian written statement that the student is covered under a family insurance plan.
5. The student must agree to follow all conduct rules and the coaches' instructions.
6. The student and his or her parents/guardians must provide written consent to random drug and alcohol testing pursuant to the Extracurricular Drug and Alcohol Testing Program.
7. The student and his or her parents/guardians must: (a) comply with the eligibility rules of, and complete any forms required by, any sponsoring association (such as, the Illinois Elementary School Association, the Illinois High School Association, or the Southern Illinois Junior High School Athletic Association), and (b) complete all forms required by the District including, without limitation, signing an acknowledgment of receiving information about the Board's concussion policy 7:305, *Student Athlete Concussions and Head Injuries*.

The Superintendent or designee (1) is authorized to impose additional requirements for a student to participate in extracurricular athletics, provided the requirement(s) comply with Board policy 7:10, *Equal Educational Opportunities*, and (2) shall maintain the necessary records to ensure student compliance with this policy.

#### LEGAL REF.:

105 ILCS 5/10-20.30, ~~5/10-20.54~~, [PRESSPlus1](#) 5/22-80, and 25/2.

[23 Ill.Admin.Code §1.530\(b\)](#).

CROSS REF.: 4:100 (Insurance Management), 4:170 (Safety), 6:190 (Extracurricular and Co-Curricular Activities), 7:10 (Equal Educational Opportunities), 7:20 (Harassment of Students Prohibited), 7:240 (Conduct Code for Participants in Extracurricular Activities), 7:305 (Student Athlete Concussions and Head Injuries), 7:340 (Student Records)

**ADOPTED: August 10, 2023**

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# *Document Status: Review and Monitoring*

## **STUDENTS**

### **7:325 Student Fundraising Activities**

No individual or organization is allowed to ask students to participate in fundraising activities while the students are on school grounds during school hours or during any school activity. Exceptions are:

1. School-sponsored student organizations; and [PRESSPlus1](#)
2. Parent organizations and booster clubs that are recognized pursuant to policy 8:90, *Parent Organizations and Booster Clubs*.

The Superintendent or designee shall manage student fundraising activities in alignment with the following directives:

1. Fundraising efforts shall not conflict with instructional activities or programs.
2. For any school that participates in the School Breakfast Program or the National School Lunch Program, fundraising activities involving the sale of food and beverage items to students during the school day while on the school campus must comply with the Ill. State Board of Education rules concerning the sale of competitive food and beverage items.
3. Participation in fundraising efforts must be voluntary.
4. Student safety must be paramount.
5. For school-sponsored student organizations, a school staff member must supervise the fundraising activities and the student activity funds treasurer must safeguard the financial accounts.
6. The fundraising efforts must be to support the organization's purposes and/or activities, the general welfare, a charitable cause, or the educational experiences of students generally.
7. The funds shall be used to the maximum extent possible for the designated purpose.
8. Any fundraising efforts that solicit donor messages for incorporation into school property, e.g., tiles or bricks, or placement upon school property, e.g., posters or placards, must:
  - a. Develop viewpoint neutral guidelines for the creation of messages;
  - b. Inform potential donors that all messages are subject to review and approval, and that messages that do not meet the established guidelines must be resubmitted or the donation will be returned; and
  - c. Place a disclaimer on all fundraising information and near the completed donor messages that all messages are "solely the expression of the individual donors and not an endorsement by the District of any message's content."

LEGAL REF.:

[105 ILCS 5/10-20.19\(3\)](#).

[23 Ill.Admin.Code Part 305](#), School Food Service.

CROSS REF.: 4:90 (Student Activity and Fiduciary Funds), 4:120 (Food Services), 8:80 (Gifts to the

District), 8:90 (Parent Organizations and Booster Clubs)

ADOPTED: August 10, 2023

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**Issue 119, June 2025**



## Document Status: Draft Update

### COMMUNITY RELATIONS

#### 8:80 Gifts to the District

The Board of Education appreciates gifts from any education foundation, other entities, or individuals. All gifts must adhere to each of the following:

1. Be accepted by the Board or, if less than \$500.00 in value, the Superintendent or designee. Individuals should obtain a pre-acceptance commitment before identifying the District, any school, or school program or activity as a beneficiary in any fundraising attempt, including without limitation, any Internet fundraising attempt.
2. Be given without a stated purpose or with a purpose deemed by the party with authority to accept the gift to be compatible with the Board's educational objectives and policies.
3. Be consistent with the District's mandate to provide equal educational and extracurricular opportunities to all students in the District as provided in Board policy 7:10, *Equal Educational Opportunities*. State and federal laws require the District to provide equal treatment for members of both sexes to educational programming, extracurricular activities, and athletics. This includes the distribution of athletic benefits and opportunities.
4. Permit the District to maintain resource equity among its learning centers.
5. Be viewpoint neutral when the gift involves the incorporation of any messages. [PRESSPlus1](#) The Superintendent or designee shall manage a process for the review and approval of donations involving the incorporation of messages into or placing messages upon school property.
6. Comply with all laws applicable to the District including, without limitation, the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Prevailing Wage Act, the Health/Life Safety Code for Public Schools, and all applicable procurement and bidding requirements.

The District will provide equal treatment to all individuals and entities seeking to donate money or a gift. Upon acceptance, all gifts become the District's property. The acceptance of a gift is not an endorsement by the Board, District, or school of any product, service, activity, or program. The method of recognition is determined by the party accepting the gift.

#### LEGAL REF.:

[20 U.S.C. §1681](#) et seq., Title IX of the Education Amendments; ~~implemented by~~ [34 C.F.R. Part 106.](#)

[105 ILCS 5/16-1.](#)

[23 Ill.Admin.Code §200.40.](#)

CROSS REF.: 4:60 (Purchases and Contracts), 4:150 (Facility Management and Building Programs), 6:10 (Educational Philosophy and Objectives), 6:210 (Instructional Materials), 7:10 (Equal Educational Opportunities)

~~ADOPTED: August 10, 2023~~

## **PRESSPlus Comments**

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# *Document Status: Review and Monitoring*

## COMMUNITY RELATIONS

### **8:110 Public Suggestions and Concerns**

The Board of Education is interested in receiving valid suggestions and complaints from members of the community. Public suggestions and/or complaints shall be referred to the appropriate level staff member or District administrator who is most able to respond in a timely manner. Each complaint or suggestion shall be considered on its merit. [PRESSPlus1](#)

Although no person shall be denied the right to present a complaint about school personnel to the Board of Education, resolution of such complaints will first be referred to the school administration for study and solution.

If the issue is not resolved by involvement of the immediate supervisor, the complainant can refer the issue to the Superintendent for his/her review and decision.

This policy shall not be construed as an override to the negotiated contract between Board of Education and Geneseo Education Association.

An individual, who is not satisfied after following the channels of authority, may file a grievance under the Uniform Grievance Procedure. This policy shall not be construed to create an independent right to a hearing before the Board.

LEGAL REF.:

[115 ILCS 5/14](#)(c-5), Ill. Educational Labor Relations Act.

CROSS REF.: 2:140 (Communications To and From the Board), 2:230 (Public Participation at Board of Education Meetings and Petitions to the Board), 2:260 (Uniform Grievance Procedure), 3:30 (Chain of Command), 6:235 (Access to Electronic Networks), 6:260 (Complaints About Curriculum, Instructional Materials and Programs), 8:10 (Connection with the Community)

**ADOPTED: August 10, 2023**

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