

# **Tremont CUSD #702**



## **Certified Employee Handbook**

**Effective Date: August 14, 2023**

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## **Welcome**

Welcome to Tremont School District #702. We are pleased that you have joined our District and welcome you to help continue the successful education of our students.

We are fortunate enough to have outstanding employees who work as a team and provide for a successful District. You have been carefully chosen as a team member because you exhibited those characteristics, which will allow us to continue to provide quality education to our students. Welcome to our team.

Sincerely,

Sean Berry, Superintendent  
Tremont School District #702

*DISTRICT POLICIES*

## District Policies

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### **Equal Employment Opportunity and Minority Recruitment (5:10)**

The School District shall provide equal employment opportunities to all persons regardless of their race; color; creed; religion; national origin; sex; sexual orientation; age; ancestry; marital status; arrest record; military status; order of protection status; unfavorable military discharge; citizenship status provided the individual is authorized to work in the United States; use of lawful products while not at work; being a victim of domestic violence, sexual violence, or gender violence; genetic information; physical or mental handicap or disability, if otherwise able to perform the essential functions of the job with reasonable accommodation; pregnancy, childbirth, or related medical conditions; credit history, unless a satisfactory credit history is an established bona fide occupational requirement of a particular position; or other legally protected categories. No one will be penalized solely for his or her status as a registered qualifying patient or a registered designated caregiver for purposes of the Compassionate Use of Medical Cannabis Program Act, 410 ILCS 130/.

Persons who believe they have not received equal employment opportunities should report their claims to the Nondiscrimination Coordinator and/or a Complaint Manager for the Uniform Grievance Procedure. These individuals are listed below. No employee or applicant will be discriminated or retaliated against because he or she: (1) requested, attempted to request, used, or attempted to use a reasonable accommodation as allowed by the Illinois Human Rights Act, or (2) initiated a complaint, was a witness, supplied information, or otherwise participated in an investigation or proceeding involving an alleged violation of this policy or State or federal laws, rules or regulations, provided the employee or applicant did not make a knowingly false accusation nor provide knowingly false information.

#### **Administrative Implementation**

The Superintendent shall appoint a Nondiscrimination Coordinator for personnel who shall be responsible for coordinating the District's nondiscrimination efforts. The Nondiscrimination Coordinator may be the Superintendent or a Complaint Manager for the Uniform Grievance Procedure. The Nondiscrimination Coordinator also serves as the District's Title IX Coordinator.

The Superintendent shall insert into this policy the names, office addresses, email addresses, and telephone numbers of the District's current Nondiscrimination Coordinator and Complaint Managers.

#### **Nondiscrimination Coordinator:**

Sean Berry, Superintendent

Name

400 W. Pearl St., Tremont, IL 61568

Address

sean.berry@d702.org

Email

309-925-3461

Telephone

**Complaint Managers:**

Sean Berry, Superintendent	Michelle McKune
Name	Name
400 W. Pearl St., Tremont, IL 61568	400 W. Pearl St., Tremont, IL 61568
Address	Address
sean.berry@d702.org	michelle.mckune@d702.org
Email	Email
309-925-3461	309-925-3823 ext. 1015
Telephone	Telephone

The Superintendent shall also use reasonable measures to inform staff members and applicants that the District is an equal opportunity employer, such as, by posting required notices and including this policy in the appropriate handbooks.

**Minority Recruitment**

The District will attempt to recruit and hire minority employees. The implementation of this policy may include advertising openings in minority publications, participating in minority job fairs, and recruiting at colleges and universities with significant minority enrollments. This policy, however, does not require or permit the District to give preferential treatment or special rights based on a protected status without evidence of past discrimination.

**Workplace Harassment Prohibited (5:20)**

The School District expects the workplace environment to be productive, respectful, and free of unlawful discrimination, including harassment. District employees shall not engage in harassment or abusive conduct on the basis of an individual's actual or perceived race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, sex, sexual orientation, age, citizenship status, disability, pregnancy, marital status, order of protection status, military status, or unfavorable discharge from military service, nor shall they engage in harassment or abusive conduct on the basis of an individual's other protected status identified in Board policy 5:10, Equal Employment Opportunity and Minority Recruitment. Harassment of students, including, but not limited to, sexual harassment, is prohibited by Board policies 2:260, Uniform Grievance Procedure; 2:265, Title IX Sexual Harassment Grievance Procedure; 7:20, Harassment of Students Prohibited; 7:180, Prevention of and Response to Bullying, Intimidation, and Harassment; and 7:185, Teen Dating Violence Prohibited.

The District will take remedial and corrective action to address unlawful workplace harassment, including sexual harassment.

**Sexual Harassment Prohibited**

The District shall provide a workplace environment free of verbal, physical, or other conduct or communications constituting harassment on the basis of sex as defined and otherwise prohibited by State and federal law. The District provides annual sexual harassment prevention training in accordance with State law.

District employees shall not make unwelcome sexual advances or request sexual favors or engage in any unwelcome conduct of a sexual nature when: (1) submission to such conduct is made either explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of an individual's employment; (2) submission to or rejection of such conduct by an individual is used as the basis for employment decisions affecting such individual; or (3) such conduct has the purpose or effect of substantially interfering with an individual's work performance or creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive

working environment. Sexual harassment prohibited by this policy includes, but is not limited to, verbal, physical, or other conduct. The terms intimidating, hostile, or offensive include, but are not limited to, conduct that has the effect of humiliation, embarrassment, or discomfort. Sexual harassment will be evaluated in light of all the circumstances.

#### Making a Report or Complaint

Employees and nonemployees (persons who are not otherwise employees and are directly performing services for the District pursuant to a contract with the District, including contractors, and consultants) are encouraged to promptly report information regarding violations of this policy. Individuals may choose to report to a person of the individual's same gender. Every effort should be made to file such reports or complaints as soon as possible, while facts are known and potential witnesses are available.

Aggrieved individuals, if they feel comfortable doing so, should directly inform the person engaging in the harassing conduct or communication that such conduct or communication is offensive and must stop.

#### Whom to Contact with a Report or Complaint

An employee should report claims of harassment, including making a confidential report, to any of the following: his/her immediate supervisor, the Building Principal, an administrator, the Nondiscrimination Coordinator, and/or a Complaint Manager. Employees may also report claims using Board policy 2:260, Uniform Grievance Procedure. If a claim is reported using Board policy 2:260, then the Complaint Manager shall process and review the complaint according to that policy, in addition to any response required by this policy.

The Superintendent shall insert into this policy the names, office addresses, email addresses, and telephone numbers of the District's current Nondiscrimination Coordinator and Complaint Managers. The Nondiscrimination Coordinator also serves as the District's Title IX Coordinator.

#### **Nondiscrimination Coordinator:**

Sean Berry, Superintendent

Name

400 W. Pearl St., Tremont, IL 61568

Address

sean.berry@d702.org

Email

309-925-3461

Telephone



**Complaint Managers:**

Sean Berry, Superintendent	Michelle McKune
Name	Name
400 W. Pearl St., Tremont, IL 61568	400 W. Pearl St., Tremont, IL 61568
Address	Address
sean.berry@d702.org	michelle.mckune@d702.org
Email	Email
309-925-3461	309-925-3823 ext. 1015
Telephone	Telephone

**Investigation Process**

Any District employee who receives a report or complaint of harassment must promptly forward the report or complaint to the Nondiscrimination Coordinator or a Complaint Manager. Any employee who fails to promptly forward a report or complaint may be disciplined, up to and including discharge.

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

For any report or complaint alleging sexual harassment that, if true, would implicate Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (20 U.S.C. §1681 et seq.), the Nondiscrimination Coordinator or designee shall consider whether action under policy 2:265, Title IX Sexual Harassment Grievance Procedure, should be initiated.

For any other alleged workplace harassment that does not require action under policy 2:265, Title IX Sexual Harassment Grievance Procedure, the Nondiscrimination Coordinator or a Complaint Manager or designee shall consider whether an investigation under policy 2:260, Uniform Grievance Procedure, and/or 5:120, Employee Ethics; Conduct, and Conflict of Interest should be initiated, regardless of whether a written report or complaint is filed.

**Reports That Involve Alleged Incidents of Sexual Abuse of a Child by School Personnel**

An alleged incident of sexual abuse is an incident of sexual abuse of a child, as defined in 720 ILCS 5/11-9.1A(b), that is alleged to have been perpetrated by school personnel, including a school vendor or volunteer, that occurred: on school grounds during a school activity; or outside of school grounds or not during a school activity.

Any complaint alleging an incident of sexual abuse shall be processed and reviewed according to policy 5:90, Abused and Neglected Child Reporting. In addition to reporting the suspected abuse, the complaint shall also be processed under policy 2:265, Title IX Sexual Harassment Grievance Procedure, or policy 2:260, Uniform Grievance Procedure.

**Enforcement**

A violation of this policy may result in discipline, up to and including discharge. A violation of this policy by a third party will be addressed in accordance with the authority of the Board in the context of the relationship of the third party to the District, i.e., vendor, parent, invitee, etc. Any person making a knowingly false accusation regarding harassment will likewise be subject to disciplinary action, which for an employee that may be up to and including discharge.

**Retaliation Prohibited**

An employee's employment, compensation, or work assignment shall not be adversely affected by complaining or providing information about harassment. Retaliation against employees for bringing complaints or providing information about harassment is prohibited (see Board policy 2:260, Uniform Grievance Procedure), and depending upon the law governing the complaint, whistleblower protection may be available under the State Officials and Employees Ethics Act (5 ILCS 430/), the Whistleblower Act (740 ILCS 174/), and the Ill. Human Rights Act (775 ILCS 5/).

An employee should report allegations of retaliation to his/her immediate supervisor, the Building Principal, an administrator, the Nondiscrimination Coordinator, and/or a Complaint Manager.

Employees who retaliate against others for reporting or complaining of violations of this policy or for participating in the reporting or complaint process will be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including discharge.

**Recourse to State and Federal Fair Employment Practice Agencies**

The District encourages all employees who have information regarding violations of this policy to report the information pursuant to this policy. The following government agencies are available to assist employees: the Ill. Dept. of Human Rights and the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

The Superintendent shall also use reasonable measures to inform staff members, applicants, and nonemployees of this policy, which shall include posting on the District website and/or making this policy available in the District's administrative office and including this policy in the appropriate handbooks.

**Awareness and Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse and Grooming Behaviors (4:165)**

Child sexual abuse and grooming behaviors harm students, their parents/guardians, the District's environment, its school communities, and the community at large, while diminishing a student's ability to learn. The Board has a responsibility and obligation to increase awareness and knowledge of: (1) issues regarding child sexual abuse, (2) likely warning signs that a child may be a victim of sexual abuse, (3) grooming behaviors related to child sexual abuse and grooming, (4) how to report child sexual abuse, (5) appropriate relationships between District employees and students based upon State law, and (6) how to prevent child sexual abuse.

To address the Board's obligation to increase awareness and knowledge of these issues, prevent sexual abuse of children, and define prohibited grooming behaviors, the Superintendent or designee shall implement an Awareness and Prevention of Sexual Abuse and Grooming Behaviors Program.

The Program will:

1. Educate students with:
  - a. An age-appropriate and evidence-informed health and safety education curriculum that includes methods for how to report child sexual abuse and grooming behaviors to authorities, through policy 6:60, Curriculum Content;
  - b. Information in policy 7:250, Student Support Services, about: (i) District counseling options, assistance, and intervention for students who are victims of or affected by sexual abuse, and (ii) community-based Children's Advocacy Centers and sexual assault crisis centers and how to access those serving the District.
2. Train District employees about child sexual abuse and grooming behaviors by January 31 of each school year with materials that include:

- a. A definition of prohibited grooming behaviors and boundary violations pursuant to policy 5:120, Employee Ethics; Conduct; and Conflict of Interest;
  - b. Evidence-informed content on preventing, recognizing, reporting, and responding to child sexual abuse, grooming behaviors, and boundary violations pursuant to policies 2:260, Uniform Grievance Procedure; 2:265, Title IX Sexual Harassment Grievance Procedure; 5:90, Abused and Neglected Child Reporting; 5:100, Staff Development Program; and 5:120, Employee Ethics; Conduct; and Conflict of Interest; and
  - c. How to report child sexual abuse, grooming behaviors, and/or boundary violations pursuant to policies 2:260, Uniform Grievance Procedure; 2:265, Title IX Sexual Harassment Grievance Procedure; and 5:90, Abused and Neglected Child Reporting.
3. Provide information to parents/guardians in student handbooks about the warning signs of child sexual abuse, grooming behaviors, and boundary violations with evidence-informed educational information that also includes:
    - a. Assistance, referral, or resource information, including how to recognize grooming behaviors, appropriate relationships between District employees and students based upon policy 5:120, Employee Ethics; Conduct; and Conflict of Interest, and how to prevent child sexual abuse from happening;
    - b. Methods for how to report child sexual abuse, grooming behaviors, and/or boundary violations to authorities; and
    - c. Available counseling and resources for children who are affected by sexual abuse, including both emotional and educational support for students affected by sexual abuse, so that the student can continue to succeed in school pursuant to policy 7:250, Student Support Services.
    - d. Provide parents/guardians of students in any of grades K through 8 with not less than five days' written notice before commencing any class or course providing instruction in recognizing and avoiding sexual abuse, as well as the opportunity to object in writing.

### **Abused and Neglected Child Reporting (5:90)**

Any District employee who suspects or receives knowledge that a student may be an abused or neglected child or, for a student aged 18 through 21, an abused or neglected individual with a disability, shall: (1) immediately report or cause a report to be made to the Ill. Dept. of Children and Family Services (DCFS) on its Child Abuse Hotline 1-800-25-ABUSE (1-800-252-2873)(within Illinois); 1-217-524-2606 (outside of Illinois); or 1-800-358-5117 (TTY), and (2) follow directions given by DCFS concerning filing a written report within 48 hours with the nearest DCFS field office. Any District employee who believes a student is in immediate danger of harm, shall first call 911. The employee shall also promptly notify the Superintendent or Building Principal that a report has been made. The Superintendent or Building Principal shall immediately coordinate any necessary notifications to the student's parent(s)/guardian(s) with DCFS, the applicable school resource officer (SRO), and/or local law enforcement.

Negligent failure to report occurs when a District employee personally observes an instance of suspected child abuse or neglect and reasonably believes, in his or her professional or official capacity, that the instance constitutes an act of child abuse or neglect under the Abused and Neglected Child Reporting Act (ANCRA) and he or she, without willful intent, fails to immediately report or cause a report to be made of the suspected abuse or neglect to DCFS.

Any District employee who discovers child pornography on electronic and information technology equipment shall immediately report it to local law enforcement, the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children's CyberTipline 1-800-THE-LOST (1-800-843-5678) or online at [report.cybertip.org/](http://report.cybertip.org/) or [www.missingkids.org](http://www.missingkids.org). The Superintendent or Building Principal shall also be promptly notified of the discovery and that a report has been made.

Any District employee who observes any act of hazing that does bodily harm to a student must report that act to the Building Principal, Superintendent, or designee who will investigate and take appropriate action. If the hazing results in death or great bodily harm, the employee must first make the report to law enforcement and then to the Superintendent or Building Principal. Hazing is defined as any intentional, knowing, or reckless act directed to or required of a student for the purpose of being initiated into, affiliating with, holding office in, or maintaining membership in any group, organization, club, or athletic team whose members are or include other students.

Abused and Neglected Child Reporting Act (ANCRA), School Code, Erin's Law Training

The Superintendent or designee shall provide staff development opportunities for District employees in the detection, reporting, and prevention of child abuse and neglect.

All District employees shall:

1. Before beginning employment, sign the Acknowledgement of Mandated Reporter Status form provided by DCFS. The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that the signed forms are retained.
2. Complete mandated reporter training as required by law within three months of initial employment and at least every three years after that date.

The Superintendent will encourage all District educators to complete continuing professional development that addresses the traits and identifiers that may be evident in students who are victims of child sexual abuse, including recognizing and reporting child sexual abuse and providing appropriate follow-up and care for abused students as they return to the classroom setting.

Alleged Incidents of Sexual Abuse; Investigations

An alleged incident of sexual abuse is an incident of sexual abuse of a child, as defined in 720 ILCS 5/11-9.1A, that is alleged to have been perpetrated by school personnel, including a school vendor or volunteer, that occurred: on school grounds during a school activity; or outside of school grounds or not during a school activity.

If a District employee reports an alleged incident of sexual abuse to DCFS and DCFS accepts the report for investigation, DCFS will refer the matter to the local Children's Advocacy Center (CAC). The Superintendent or designee will implement procedures to coordinate with the CAC.

DCFS and/or the appropriate law enforcement agency will inform the District when its investigation is complete or has been suspended, as well as the outcome of its investigation. The existence of a DCFS and/or law enforcement investigation will not preclude the District from conducting its own parallel investigation into the alleged incident of sexual abuse in accordance with policy 7:20, Harassment of Students Prohibited.

Special Superintendent Responsibilities

The Superintendent shall execute the requirements in Board policy 5:150, Personnel Records, whenever another school district requests a reference concerning an applicant who is or was a District employee and was the subject of a report made by a District employee to DCFS.

The Superintendent shall notify the State Superintendent and the Regional Superintendent in writing when he or she has reasonable cause to believe that a license holder was dismissed or resigned from the District as a result of an act that made a child an abused or neglected child. The Superintendent must make the report within 30 days of the dismissal or resignation and mail a copy of the notification to the license holder.

**Special Board of Education Member Responsibilities**

Each individual Board member must, if an allegation is raised to the member during an open or closed Board meeting that a student is an abused child as defined in ANCRA, direct or cause the Board to direct the Superintendent or other equivalent school administrator to comply with ANCRA's requirements concerning the reporting of child abuse.

If the Board determines that any District employee, other than an employee licensed under 105 ILCS 5/21B, has willfully or negligently failed to report an instance of suspected child abuse or neglect as required by ANCRA, the Board may dismiss that employee immediately.

**Education of Homeless Children (6:140)**

Each child of a homeless individual and each homeless youth has equal access to the same free, appropriate public education as provided to other children and youths, including a public pre-school education. A homeless child is defined as provided in the McKinney Homeless Assistance Act and the Ill. Education for Homeless Children Act. The Superintendent or designee shall act as or appoint a Liaison for Homeless Children to coordinate this policy's implementation.

A homeless child may attend the District school that the child attended when permanently housed or in which the child was last enrolled. A homeless child living in any District school's attendance area may attend that school.

The Superintendent or designee shall review and revise rules or procedures that may act as barriers to the enrollment of homeless children and youths. In reviewing and revising such procedures, consideration shall be given to issues concerning transportation, immunization, residency, birth certificates, school records and other documentation, and guardianship. Transportation shall be provided in accordance with the McKinney Homeless Assistance Act and State law. The Superintendent or designee shall give special attention to ensuring the enrollment and attendance of homeless children and youths who are not currently attending school. If a child is denied enrollment or transportation under this policy, the Liaison for Homeless Children shall immediately refer the child or his or her parent/guardian to the ombudsperson appointed by the Regional Superintendent and provide the child or his or her parent/guardian with a written explanation for the denial. Whenever a child and his or her parent/guardian who initially share the housing of another person due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar hardship continue to share the housing, the Liaison for Homeless Children shall, after the passage of 18 months and annually thereafter, conduct a review as to whether such hardship continues to exist in accordance with State law.

**Release During School Hours (7:90)**

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.

**Student Records (7:340)**

School student records are confidential. Information from them shall not be released other than as provided by law. A school student record is any writing or other recorded information concerning a student and by which a student may be identified individually that is maintained by a school or at its direction by a school employee, regardless of how or where the information is stored, except as provided in State or federal law as summarized below:

1. Records kept in a staff member's sole possession.
2. Records maintained by law enforcement officers working in the school.

3. Video and other electronic recordings (including without limitation, electronic recordings made on school buses) that are created in part for law enforcement, security, or safety reasons or purposes. The content of these recordings may become part of a school student record to the extent school officials create, use, and maintain this content, or it becomes available to them by law enforcement officials, for disciplinary or special education purposes regarding a particular student.
4. Any information, either written or oral, received from law enforcement officials concerning a student less than the age of 17 years who has been arrested or taken into custody.

State and federal law grants students and parents/guardians certain rights, including the right to inspect, copy, and challenge school student records. The information contained in school student records shall be kept current, accurate, clear, and relevant. All information maintained concerning a student receiving special education services shall be directly related to the provision of services to that child. The District may release directory information as permitted by law, but a parent/guardian shall have the right to opt-out of the release of directory information regarding his or her child. However, the District will comply with an ex parte court order requiring it to permit the U.S. Attorney General or designee to have access to a student's school records without notice to, or the consent of, the student's parent/guardian. Upon request, the District discloses school student records without parent consent to the official records custodian of another school in which a student has enrolled or intends to enroll, as well as to any other person as specifically required or permitted by State or federal law. The Superintendent shall implement this policy with administrative procedures. The Superintendent shall also designate a *records custodian* who shall maintain student records. The Superintendent or designee shall inform staff members of this policy and shall inform students and their parents/guardians of it, as well as their rights regarding student school records.

The Superintendent shall fully implement this policy and designate an official records custodian for each school who shall maintain and protect the confidentiality of school student records, inform staff members of this policy, and inform students and their parents/guardians of their rights regarding school student records.

#### Student Biometric Information Collection

The Superintendent or designee may recommend a student biometric information collection system solely for the purposes of identification and fraud prevention. Such recommendation shall be consistent with budget requirements and in compliance with State law. Biometric information means any information that is collected through an identification process for individuals based on their unique behavioral or physiological characteristics, including fingerprint, hand geometry, voice, or facial recognition or iris or retinal scans.

Before collecting student biometric information, the District shall obtain written permission from the person having legal custody/parental responsibility or the student (if over the age of 18). Upon a student's 18th birthday, the District shall obtain written permission from the student to collect student biometric information. Failure to provide written consent to collect biometric information shall not be the basis for refusal of any services otherwise available to a student.

All collected biometric information shall be stored and transmitted in a manner that protects it from disclosure. Sale, lease, or other disclosure of biometric information to another person or entity is strictly prohibited.

The District will discontinue use of a student's biometric information and destroy all collected biometric information within 30 days after: (1) the student graduates or withdraws from the

School District, or (2) the District receives a written request to discontinue use of biometric information from the person having legal custody/parental responsibility of the student or the student (if over the age of 18). Requests to discontinue using a student's biometric information shall be forwarded to the Superintendent or designee.

The Superintendent or designee shall develop procedures to implement this policy consistent with State and federal law.

### **Fingerprinting and Criminal Background Checking Policy**

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that a fingerprint-based criminal history records check and a check of the Statewide SexOffender Database and Violent Offender Against Youth Database is performed on each applicant as required by State law. When the applicant is a successful superintendent candidate who has been offered employment by the Board, the Board President shall ensure that these checks are completed. The Superintendent or designee, or if the applicant is a successful superintendent candidate, then the Board President shall notify an applicant if the applicant is identified in either database. The School Code requires the Board President to keep a conviction record confidential and share it only with the Superintendent, Regional Superintendent, State Superintendent, State Educator Preparation and Licensure Board, any other person necessary to the hiring decision, the Ill. Dept. of State Police and/or Statewide SexOffender Database for purposes of clarifying the information, and/or the Teachers' Retirement System of the State of Illinois when required by law. The Board reserves its right to authorize additional background inquiries beyond a fingerprintbased criminal history records check when it deems it appropriate to do so, in accordance with applicable laws.

Each newly hired employee must complete a U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services Form as required by federal law.

The District retains the right to discharge any employee whose criminal background investigation reveals a conviction for committing or attempting to commit any of the offenses outlined in 105 ILCS 5/21B-80 or who falsifies, or omits facts from, his or her employment application or other employment documents. If an indicated finding of abuse or neglect of a child has been issued by the Ill. Department of Children and Family Services or by a child welfare agency of another jurisdiction for any applicant for student teaching, applicant for employment, or any District employee, then the Board must consider that person's status as a condition of employment.

1. The District uses an applicant's credit history or report from a consumer reporting agency only when a satisfactory credit history is an established bona fide occupational requirement of a particular position.
2. The District does not screen applicants based on their current or prior wages or salary histories, including benefits or other compensation, by requiring that the wage or salary history satisfy minimum or maximum criteria.
3. The District does not request or require a wage or salary history as a condition of being considered for employment, being interviewed, continuing to be considered for an offer of employment, an offer of employment, or an offer of compensation.
4. The District does not request or require an applicant to disclose wage or salary history as a condition of employment.
5. The District does not ask an applicant or applicant's current or previous employers about wage or salary history, including benefits or other compensation.
6. The District does not ask an applicant or applicant's previous employers about claim(s) made or benefit(s) received under the Workers' Compensation Act.

7. The District does not request of an applicant or employee access in any manner to his or her personal online account, such as social networking websites, including a request for passwords to such accounts.
8. The District provides equal employment opportunities to all persons. See policy 5:10, Equal Employment Opportunity and Minority Recruitment.

### **Accident Reporting and Investigation**

Employees must report any accident or injury to their building administrator immediately following the accident or injury. Employees will assist in completing an accident/injury report and update administration regarding recovery from accidents or injuries following doctor visits. The Administration will investigate all accidents and injuries and report to the Superintendent efforts to prevent any further accidents and injuries.

### **Drug and Alcohol-Free Workplace; E-Cigarette; Tobacco, and Cannabis Prohibitor (5:50)**

All District workplaces are drug- and alcohol-free workplaces.

All employees are prohibited from engaging in any of the following activities while on District premises or while performing work or being on call for the District:

1. Unlawful manufacture, dispensing, distribution, possession, or use of an illegal or controlled substance.
2. Distribution, consumption, use, possession, or being impaired by or under the influence of an alcoholic beverage; being present on District premises or while performing work for the District when alcohol consumption is detectable, regardless of when and/or where the use occurred.
3. Distribution, consumption, possession, use, or being impaired by or under the influence of cannabis; being present on District premises or while performing work for the District when impaired by or under the influence of cannabis, regardless of when and/or where the use occurred, unless distribution, possession, and/or use is by a school nurse or school administrator pursuant to Ashley's Law, 105 ILCS 5/22-33. The District considers employees impaired by or under the influence of cannabis when there is a good faith belief that an employee manifests the specific articulable symptoms listed in the Cannabis Regulation and Tax Act (CRTA).

For purposes of this policy a controlled substance is one that is:

1. Not legally obtainable;
2. Being used in a manner different than prescribed;
3. Legally obtainable, but has not been legally obtained; or
4. Referenced in federal or state controlled substance acts.

For purposes of this policy, *District premises* means workplace as defined in the CRTA in addition to District and school buildings, grounds, and parking areas; vehicles used for school purposes; and any location used for a Board of Education meeting, school athletic event, or other school-sponsored or school-sanctioned events or activities. *School grounds* means the real property comprising any school, any conveyance used to transport students to school or a school-related activity, and any public way within 1,000 feet of any school ground, designated school bus stops where students are waiting for the school bus, and school-sponsored or school-sanctioned events or activities. "Vehicles used for school purposes" means school buses or other school vehicles.



As a condition of employment, each employee shall:

1. Abide by the terms of the District policy respecting a drug- and alcohol-free workplace; and
2. Notify his or her supervisor of his or her conviction under any criminal drug statute for a violation occurring on the District premises or while performing work for the District, no later than 5 calendar days after such a conviction.

Unless otherwise prohibited by this policy, prescription and over-the-counter medications are not prohibited when taken in standard dosages and/or according to prescriptions from the employee's licensed health care provider, provided that an employee's work performance is not impaired.

To make employees aware of the dangers of drug and alcohol abuse, the Superintendent or designee shall perform each of the following:

- a. Provide each employee with a copy of this policy.
- b. Post notice of this policy in a place where other information for employees is posted;
- c. Make available materials from local, state, and national anti-drug and alcohol-abuse organizations;
- d. Enlist the aid of community and state agencies with drug and alcohol informational and rehabilitation programs to provide information to District employees;
- e. Establish a drug-free awareness program to inform employees about:
  - a. The dangers of drug abuse in the workplace,
  - b. Available drug and alcohol counseling, rehabilitation, re-entry, and any employee assistance programs, and
  - c. The penalties that the District may impose upon employees for violations of this policy.
- f. Remind employees that policy 6:60, Curriculum Content, requires the District to educate students, depending upon their grade, about drug and substance abuse prevention and relationships between drugs, alcohol, and violence.

#### Drug and Alcohol Testing

To support the policy of a drug and alcohol-free workplace, testing for alcohol, drugs & chemical substances may be required under the following circumstances:

##### (1) Pre-Employment

As part of the application process. No applicant testing positive will be employed. This includes all applicants for employment and re-employment, whether for temporary, part-time or full-time positions.

##### (2) Post-Accident

After a work-related accident where judgment, coordination or physical or mental ability may have been impaired.

##### (3) Reasonable Suspicion

Whenever the District has reasonable suspicion to believe an employee has consumed or used or is under the influence of alcohol, illegal drugs, a controlled substance, or cannabis during the course of the work day. Supervisory personnel shall ascertain whether

reasonable suspicion exists and document the basis for any reasonable suspicion prior to testing. The employee shall be provided a copy of the basis for any reasonable suspicion.

(4) Periodic or Random

On an unannounced and random basis for those working in a safety sensitive position.

E-Cigarette, Tobacco, and Cannabis Prohibition

All employees are covered by the conduct prohibitions contained in policy 8:30, *Visitors to and Conduct on School Property*. The prohibition on the use of e-cigarettes, tobacco, and cannabis products applies both (1) when an employee is on school property, and (2) while an employee is performing work for the District at a school event regardless of the event's location.

*Tobacco* shall have the meaning provided in 105 ILCS 5/10-20.5b.

*Cannabis* shall have the meaning provided in the CRTA, 410 ILCS 705/1-10.

*E-Cigarette* is short for electronic cigarette and includes, but is not limited to, any electronic nicotine delivery system (ENDS), electronic cigar, electronic cigarillo, electronic pipe, electronic hookah, vape pen, or similar product or device, and any components or parts that can be used to build the product or device.

District Action Upon Violation of Policy

An employee who violates this policy may be subject to disciplinary action, including termination. In addition or alternatively, the Board may require an employee to successfully complete an appropriate drug- or alcohol-abuse rehabilitation program.

The Board shall take disciplinary action with respect to an employee convicted of a drug offense in the workplace within 30 days after receiving notice of the conviction.

Should District employees be engaged in the performance of work under a federal contract or grant, or under a state contract or grant of \$5,000 or more, the Superintendent shall notify the appropriate state or federal agency from which the District receives contract or grant monies of the employee's conviction within 10 days after receiving notice of the conviction.

Disclaimer

The Board reserves the right to interpret, revise, or discontinue any provision of this policy pursuant to the **Suspension of Policies** subhead in policy 2:240, Board Policy Development.

**Public Information Process**

The Principal and Superintendent are the public relations officers of the school. Contacts with the media should be routed through the Principal first and then the Superintendent. If a member of the media contacts an employee about a school related issue, the Principal and/or Superintendent should be informed.

**Responsibilities Concerning Internal Information (5:130)**

District employees are responsible for maintaining: (1) the integrity and security of all internal information, and (2) the privacy of confidential records, including but not limited to: student school records, personnel records, and the minutes of, and material disclosed in, a closed Board of Education meeting. Internal information is any information, oral or recorded in electronic or paper format, maintained by the District or used by the District or its employees. The Superintendent or designee shall manage procedures for safeguarding the integrity, security, and, as appropriate, confidentiality of internal information.

**Solicitation and Distribution**

Employees may not solicit or distribute literature concerning outside events or activities during the employee's working time or the working time of any employee. (Working time does not include lunch periods, work breaks, or any periods in which employees are not on duty). In addition, the posting of written solicitations or literature on District bulletin boards is restricted. These bulletin boards display important information and employees should consult them frequently for: Employee Announcements, Internal Memoranda, Job Openings, Organization Announcements, Payday Notice, Worker's Compensation Insurance information, etc. If employees have a message of interest to the workplace, they may submit it to administration for approval.

**Ethics (5:120)****Professional and Appropriate Conduct**

All District employees are expected to maintain high standards in their school relationships, to demonstrate integrity and honesty, to be considerate and cooperative, and to maintain professional and appropriate relationships with students, parents, staff members, and others. In addition, the Code of Ethics for Illinois Educators, adopted by the Illinois State Board of Education, is incorporated by reference into this policy. Any employee who sexually harasses a student, willfully or negligently fails to report an instance of suspected child abuse or neglect as required by the Abused and Neglected Child Reporting Act (325 ILCS 5/), or otherwise violates an employee conduct standard will be subject to discipline up to and including dismissal.

**Statement of Economic Interests**

The following employees must file a "Statement of Economic Interests" as required by the Illinois Governmental Ethics Act:

1. Superintendent;
2. Building Principal;
3. Head of any department;
4. Any employee who, as the District's agent, is responsible for negotiating one or more contracts, including collective bargaining agreement(s), in the amount of \$1,000 or greater;
5. Hearing officer;
6. Any employee having supervisory authority for 20 or more employees; and
7. Any employee in a position that requires an administrative or a chief school business official endorsement.

**Ethics and Gift Ban**

Board of Education policy 2:105, *Ethics and Gift Ban*, applies to all District employees. Students shall not be used in any manner for promoting a political candidate or issue.

**Prohibited Interests; Conflict of Interest; and Limitation of Authority**

In accordance with Section 22-5 of the School Code, "no school officer or teacher shall be interested in the sale, proceeds, or profits of any book, apparatus, or furniture used or to be used in any school with which such officer or teacher may be connected," except when the employee is the author or developer of instructional materials listed with the Illinois State Board of Education and adopted for use by the Board. An employee having an interest in instructional materials must file an annual statement with the Board Secretary.

For the purpose of acquiring profit or personal gain, no employee shall act as an agent of the District nor shall an employee act as an agent of any business in any transaction with the District. This includes participation in the selection, award or administration of a contract

supported by a federal award or State award governed by the Grant Accountability and Transparency Act (GATA) (30 ILCS 708/) when the employee has a real or apparent conflict of interest. A conflict of interest arises when an employee or any of the following individuals has a financial or other interest in the entity selected for the contract:

1. Any person that has a close personal relationship with an employee that may compromise or impair the employee's fairness and impartiality, including a member of the employee's immediate family or household;
2. An employee's business partner; or
3. An entity that employs or is about to employ the employee or one of the individuals listed in one or two above.

Employees shall neither solicit nor accept gratuities, favors, or anything of monetary value from contractors, potential contractors, or parties to agreements or contracts. Situations in which the interest is not substantial or the gift is an unsolicited item of nominal value must comply with State law and Board policy 2:105, Ethics and Gift Ban.

#### Outside Employment

Employees shall not engage in any other employment or in any private business during regular working hours or at such other times as are necessary to fulfill appropriate assigned duties.

#### Tobacco

In keeping with Tremont School District #702's intent to provide a safe and healthful work environment and in compliance with the Illinois School Code and Smoke-Free Illinois Act, smoking is ***prohibited*** in all school buildings, vehicles used for school purposes, and school property. Further, the use of tobacco is prohibited on school property by any employee, student, or other person when such property is being used for any school purposes. "School purposes" include but are not limited to all events or activities or other use of school property that the Board or school officials authorize or permit on school property, including without limitation all interscholastic or extracurricular athletic, academic, or other events sponsored by the Board or in which pupils of the District participate. "Tobacco" shall mean cigarette, e-cigarette, vaping, cigar, or any other electronic nicotine delivery system or tobacco in any other form, including smokeless tobacco which is any loose, cut, shredded, ground, powdered, compressed or leaf tobacco that is intended to be placed in the mouth without being smoked.

*This policy applies equally to all employees and visitors.*

#### Access to Electronic Networks (6:235)

Electronic networks, including the Internet, are a part of the District's instructional program and serve to promote educational excellence by facilitating resource sharing, innovation, and communication. The Superintendent shall develop an implementation plan for this policy and appoint system administrator(s).

The School District is not responsible for any information that may be lost or damaged, or become unavailable when using the network, or for any information that is retrieved or transmitted via the Internet. Furthermore, the District will not be responsible for any unauthorized charges or fees resulting from access to the Internet.

#### Curriculum and Appropriate Online Behavior

The use of the District's electronic networks shall: (1) be consistent with the curriculum adopted by the District as well as the varied instructional needs, learning styles, abilities, and developmental levels of the students, and (2) comply with the selection criteria for instructional

materials and library resource center materials. As required by federal law and Board policy 6:60, Curriculum Content, students will be educated about appropriate online behavior, including but not limited to: (1) interacting with other individuals on social networking websites and in chat rooms, and (2) cyberbullying awareness and response. Staff members may, consistent with the Superintendent's implementation plan, use the Internet throughout the curriculum.

The District's electronic network is part of the curriculum and is not a public forum for general use.

#### Acceptable Use

All use of the District's electronic networks must be: (1) in support of education and/or research, and be in furtherance of the goals stated herein, or (2) for a legitimate school business purpose. Use is a privilege, not a right. Students and staff members have no expectation of privacy in any material that is stored, transmitted, or received via the District's electronic networks or District computers. General rules for behavior and communications apply when using electronic networks. The District's *Authorization for Electronic Network Access* contains the appropriate uses, ethics, and protocol. Electronic communications and downloaded material, including files deleted from a user's account but not erased, may be monitored or read by school officials.

#### Internet Safety

Technology protection measures shall be used on each District computer with Internet access. They shall include a filtering device that protects against Internet access by both adults and minors to visual depictions that are: (1) obscene, (2) pornographic, or (3) harmful or inappropriate for students, as defined by federal law and as determined by the Superintendent or designee. The Superintendent or designee shall enforce the use of such filtering devices. An administrator, supervisor, or other authorized person may disable the filtering device for bona fide research or other lawful purpose, provided the person receives prior permission from the Superintendent or system administrator. The Superintendent or designee shall include measures in this policy's implementation plan to address the following:

1. Ensure staff supervision of student access to online electronic networks,
2. Restrict student access to inappropriate matter as well as restricting access to harmful materials,
3. Ensure student and staff privacy, safety, and security when using electronic communications,
4. Restrict unauthorized access, including "hacking" and other unlawful activities, and
5. Restrict unauthorized disclosure, use, and dissemination of personal identification information, such as, names and addresses.

#### Authorization for Electronic Network Access

Each staff member must sign the *Authorization for Access to the District's Electronic Networks* as a condition for using the District's electronic network. Each student and his or her parent(s)/guardian(s) must sign the *Authorization* before being granted unsupervised use.

All users of the District's computers who access the Internet shall maintain the confidentiality of student records. Reasonable measures to protect against unreasonable access shall be taken before confidential student information is loaded onto the network.

The failure of any student or staff member to follow the terms of the District's administrative procedure, *Acceptable Use of the District's Electronic Networks*, or this policy, will result in the loss of privileges, disciplinary action, and/or appropriate legal action.

**Personal Technology and Social Media; Usage and Conduct (5:125)****Definitions**

**Includes-** Means “includes without limitations” or “includes but is not limited to.”

**Social media** – Media for social interaction, using highly accessible communication techniques through the use of web-based and mobile technologies to turn communication into interactive dialogue. This includes, but is not limited to, services such as Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter, Instagram, Snapchat, and YouTube.

**Personal technology** – Any device that is not owned or leased by the District or otherwise authorized for District use and: (1) transmits sounds, images, text, messages, videos, or electronic information, (2) electronically records, plays, or stores information, or (3) accesses the Internet, or private communication or information networks. This includes laptop computers (e.g., laptops, ultrabooks, and chromebooks), tablets (e.g., iPads®, Kindle®, Microsoft Surface®, and other Android® platform or Windows® devices), smartphones (e.g., iPhone®, BlackBerry®, Android® platform phones, and Windows Phone®), and other devices (e.g., iPod®).

**Usage and Conduct**

All District employees who use personal technology and social media shall:

1. Adhere to the high standards for appropriate school relationships in policy 5:120, *Employee Ethics; Conduct; and Conflict of Interest* at all times, regardless of the ever-changing social media and personal technology platforms available. This includes District employees posting images or private information about themselves or others in a manner readily accessible to students and other employees that is inappropriate as defined by policy 5:20, *Workplace Harassment Prohibited*; 5:100, *Staff Development Program*; 5:120, *Employee Ethics; Conduct; and Conflict of Interest*; 6:235, *Access to Electronic Networks*; 7:20, *Harassment of Students Prohibited*; and the Ill. Code of Educator Ethics, 23 Ill.Admin.Code §22.20.
2. Choose a District-provided or supported method whenever possible to communicate with students and their parents/guardians.
3. Not interfere with or disrupt the educational or working environment, or the delivery of education or educational support services.
4. Comply with policy 5:130, Responsibilities Concerning Internal Information. This means that personal technology and social media may not be used to share, publish, or transmit information about or images of students and/or district employees without proper approval. For District employees, proper approval may include implied consent under the circumstances.
5. Refrain from using the District's logos without permission and follow Board policy 5:170, Copyright, and all district copyright compliance procedures.
6. Use personal technology and social media for personal purposes only during non-work times or hours. Any duty-free use must occur during times and places that the use will not interfere with job duties or otherwise be disruptive to the school environment or its operation.
7. Assume all risks associated with the use of personal technology and social media at school or school-sponsored activities, including students' viewing of inappropriate Internet materials through the District employee's personal technology or social media. The Board expressly disclaims any responsibility for imposing content filters, blocking lists, or monitoring of its employees' personal technology and social media.
8. Be subject to remedial and any other appropriate disciplinary action for violations of this policy ranging from prohibiting the employee from possessing or using any personal

technology or social media at school to dismissal and/or indemnification of the District for any losses, costs, or damages, including reasonable attorney fees, incurred by the District relating to, or arising out of, any violation of this policy.

The Superintendent shall:

1. Inform District employees about this policy during the in-service on educator ethics, teacher-student conduct, and school employee-student conduct required by Board policy 5:120, Employee Ethics; Conduct; and Conflict of Interest.
2. Direct Building Principals to annually:
  - a. Provide their building staff with a copy of this policy
  - b. Inform their building staff about the importance of maintaining high standards in their school relationships.
  - c. Remind their building staff that those who violate this policy will be subject to remedial and any other appropriate disciplinary action up to and including dismissal.
3. Build awareness of this policy with students, parents and the community.
4. Ensure that no one for the District, or on its behalf, requests of an employee or applicant access in any manner to his or her social networking website or requests passwords to such sites.
5. Periodically review this policy and any procedures with District employee representatives and electronic network systems administrator(s) and present proposed changes to the Board.

**Use of Technical Resources**

Tremont School District #702 maintains photocopiers, facsimile machines, and printers. Utilization of these technical resources is not to be conducted in any way that may be disruptive to Tremont School District #702 operations or in violation of Tremont School District #702 policy or law.

Tremont School District #702 technical resources are provided exclusively to assist in the conduct of the District's business; however, occasional use of technical resources for personal purposes is permissible so long as it does not interfere with business or the employee's assigned duties, is not related to outside school business activities, does not conflict the District's policy or law, and is approved by the building principal.

Information sent and stored on facsimile machines is the property of Tremont School District #702. By using the District's technical resources, all individuals knowingly and voluntarily consent to their usage being monitored and acknowledge the District's right to conduct such monitoring. Individuals should not expect that facsimile transmissions are confidential or private and should be aware that all types of business records are subject to inspection, review, or disclosure without prior notice for any business purpose or as required by law. In general, these communications are treated no differently than any other business record or correspondence, and may be used in administrative, judicial, or other proceedings.

**Public Relations and Telephone Calls**

It is important that District phones be kept clear for District business. Personal calls are acceptable; however, proper discretion is advised. First impressions are very important and when answering the phone employees shall greet the caller with "Good Morning or Good Afternoon, **Tremont School District #702**, John/Jane Doe speaking." Employees who answer

the phone should do so promptly and in a businesslike manner. Employees will be held responsible for paying for all non-business-related long distance phone calls.

### **Cellular Phone Policy**

This policy outlines the use of personal cell phones at work, the personal use of District cell phones and the safe use of cell phones by employees. This policy applies to phone calls, text messaging, pictures, etc. Tremont School District #702 does not expect employees to use their personal cell phones for business use.

#### **Personal Cellular Phones**

While at work employees are expected to exercise the same discretion in using personal cellular phones as is expected for the use of District phones. Excessive personal calls during the workday, regardless of the phone used, can interfere with employee productivity and be distracting to others. Employees are therefore encouraged to make personal calls on non-work time where possible and to ensure that friends and family members are aware of the District's policy. Flexibility will be provided in circumstances demanding immediate attention.

The District will not be liable for the loss of personal cellular phones brought into the workplace.

#### **Personal Use of District-Provided Cellular Phones**

Where job responsibilities or District needs demand immediate access to an employee the District may issue a District cell phone to an employee for District-related communications. In order to protect the employee from incurring a tax liability for the personal use of this equipment, employees will be required to reimburse the District for any personal calls on a District issued cell phone. Phone logs will be audited regularly to ensure compliance with this policy.

#### **Safety Issues for Cellular Phone Use**

When using cell phones and other portable devices, employees are expected to observe all relevant state and Federal Laws. This would include laws requiring hand-free devices or prohibiting text messaging while driving. Employees are expected to stop driving before conducting business electronically or are expected to use hands-free devices while driving. District owned electronic devices may be monitored to ensure compliance with the policy.

Employees whose job responsibilities do not specifically include driving as an essential function, but who are issued a cell phone for business use, are also expected to abide by the provisions above. Under no circumstances are employees allowed to place themselves at risk to fulfill business needs.

Employees who are charged with traffic violations resulting from the use of their phone while driving will be solely responsible for all liabilities that result from such actions.  
(Violations of this policy will be subject to discipline up to and including termination.)

### **District Tools and Equipment**

The District may supply all equipment, tools, or other items to assist in the performance of duties. All items shall be collected at the end of the workday and returned to their proper location.

### **District Vehicles**

All employees must get authorization to use District vehicles. When using District vehicles, employees must follow all state and Federal laws. Employees shall pay any tickets in violation



of the law. An employee must agree to pre-employment and regular checks of MVR and are required to maintain a good driving record in order to drive District vehicles.

**Parking**

All employees shall park on District premises in a designated area. Employees will refrain from parking in designated visitor parking and handicap parking spaces.

**Dress Standards**

The District's image is reflected in employees' dress and appearance which must not disrupt the educational process, interfere with the maintenance of a positive teaching/learning climate, or compromise reasonable standards of health, safety, or decency. Good grooming and tasteful attire are essential.

**Please see specific department's uniform and personal appearance guidelines.**

**Communicable and Chronic Infectious Disease (5:40)**

The Superintendent or designee shall develop and implement procedures for managing known or suspected cases of a communicable and chronic infectious disease involving District employees that are consistent with State and federal law, Illinois Department of Public Health rules, and Board of Education policies.

An employee with a communicable or chronic infectious disease is encouraged to inform the Superintendent immediately and grant consent to being monitored by the District's Communicable and Chronic Infectious Disease Review Team. The Review Team, if used, provides information and recommendations to the Superintendent concerning the employee's conditions of employment and necessary accommodations. The Review Team shall hold the employee's medical condition and records in strictest confidence, except to the extent allowed by law.

An employee with a communicable or chronic infectious disease will be permitted to retain his or her position whenever, after reasonable accommodations and without undue hardship, there is no substantial risk of transmission of the disease to others, provided an employee is able to continue to perform the position's essential functions. An employee with a communicable and chronic infectious disease remains subject to the Board's employment policies including sick and/or other leave, physical examinations, temporary and permanent disability, and termination.

**Bloodborne Pathogens**

The District recognizes the potential risk its staff has to accidental occupational exposure to bloodborne pathogens and desires to educate and protect employees to minimize the possibility of exposure. The Bloodborne Pathogens Exposure Control Plan contains specific information regarding the District's policies and procedures.

All employees of the District are instructed as to the correct handling of body fluids and tissue. All positions in the District have been categorized into classifications to determine the likelihood of occupational exposure to blood, body fluids or tissue from other people. Classification I employees hold positions in which required tasks routinely involve a potential for that exposure. These employees and all others who are involved in an exposure incident are entitled to receive vaccinations for Hepatitis B at the District's expense. Classification I employees receive a handbook and appropriate cleanup materials to properly handle incidents.

**Administering Medicines to Students (7:270)**

Students should not take medication during school hours or during school-related activities unless it is necessary for a student's health and well-being. When a student's licensed health care provider and parent/guardian believe that it is necessary for the student to take a medication during school hours or school-related activities, the parent/guardian must request that the school dispense the medication to the child and otherwise follow the District's procedures on dispensing medication.

No School District employee shall administer to any student, or supervise a student's self-administration of, any prescription or non-prescription medication until a completed and signed School Medication Authorization Form (SMA Form) is submitted by the student's parent/guardian. No student shall possess or consume any prescription or non-prescription medication on school grounds or at a school-related function other than as provided for in this policy and its implementing procedures.

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

The Building Principal shall include this policy in the Student Handbook and shall provide a copy to the parents/guardians of students.

**Self- Administration of Medication**

A student may possess and self-administer an epinephrine injector, e.g., EpiPen®, and/or asthma medication prescribed for use at the student's discretion, provided the student's parent/guardian has completed and signed an SMA Form. The Superintendent or designee will ensure an Emergency Action Plan is developed for each self-administering student.

A student may self-administer medication required under a qualifying plan, provided the student's parent/guardian has completed and signed an SMA Form. A qualifying plan means: (1) an asthma action plan, (2) an Individual Health Care Action Plan, (3) an Ill. Food Allergy Emergency Action Plan and Treatment Authorization Form, (4) a plan pursuant to Section 504 of the federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973, or (5) a plan pursuant to the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

The District shall incur no liability, except for willful and wanton conduct, as a result of any injury arising from a student's self-administration of medication, including asthma medication or epinephrine injectors, or medication required under a qualifying plan. A student's parent/guardian must indemnify and hold harmless the District and its employees and agents, against any claims, except a claim based on willful and wanton conduct, arising out of a student's self-administration of an epinephrine injector, asthma medication, and/or a medication required under a qualifying plan.

**School District Supply of Undesignated Epinephrine Injectors**

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

Administration of Medical Cannabis

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

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

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

The product may not be administered in a manner that, in the opinion of the District or school, would create a disruption to the educational environment or cause exposure of the product to other students. A school employee shall not be required to administer the product.

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

Void Policy

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

The **Administration of Medical Cannabis** section of the policy is void and the District reserves the right not to implement it if the District or school is in danger of losing federal funding.

Administration of Undesignated Medication

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

#### Undesignated Medication Disclaimers

Upon implementation of this policy, the protections from liability and hold harmless provisions applicable under State law apply.

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

#### **Visitors to and Conduct on School Property (8:30)**

The following definitions apply to this policy:

**School property** – District and school buildings, grounds, and parking areas; vehicles used for school purposes; and any location used for a Board of Education meeting, school athletic event, or other school-sponsored or school-sanctioned events or activities.

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

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

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

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

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

1. Strike, injure, threaten, harass, or intimidate a staff member, a Board member, sports official or coach, or any other person;
2. Behave in an unsportsmanlike manner, or use vulgar or obscene language;
3. Unless specifically permitted by State law, possess a weapon, any object that can reasonably be considered a weapon or looks like a weapon, or any dangerous device;
4. Damage or threaten to damage another's property;
5. Damage or deface School District property;

6. Violate any Illinois law, or town or county ordinance;
7. Smoke or otherwise use tobacco products;
8. Distribute, consume, use, possess, or be impaired by or under the influence of an alcoholic beverage, cannabis, other lawful product, or illegal drug.
9. Be present when the person's alcoholic beverage, cannabis, other lawful product, or illegal drug consumption is detectible, regardless of when and/or where the use occurred.
10. Use or possess medical cannabis, unless he or she has complied with policy 7:270, Administering Medicines to Students, implementing Ashley's Law.
11. Impede, delay, disrupt, or otherwise interfere with any school activity or function (including using cellular phones in a disruptive manner);
12. Enter upon any portion of school premises at any time for purposes other than those that are lawful and authorized by the Board;
13. Operate a motor vehicle: (a) in a risky manner, (b) in excess of 20 miles per hour, or (c) in violation of an authorized District employee's directive;
14. Engage in any risky behavior, including roller-blading, roller-skating, or skateboarding; or
15. Violate other District policies or regulations, or a directive from an authorized security officer or District employee; or
16. Engage in any conduct that interferes with, disrupts, or adversely affects the District or a School function.

#### Convicted Child Sex Offender

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

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

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

#### Exclusive Bargaining Representative Agent

Upon notifying the Building Principal's office, authorized agents of an exclusive bargaining representative will be provided reasonable access to employees in the bargaining unit they represent in accordance with State law. Such access shall be conducted in a manner that will not impede the normal operations of the District.

#### Enforcement

Any staff member may request identification from any person on school grounds or in any school building; refusal to provide such information is a criminal act. The Building Principal or

designee shall seek the immediate removal of any person who refuses to provide requested identification.

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

Procedures to Deny Future Admission to School Events or Meetings

Before any person may be denied admission to school events or meetings as provided in this policy, the person has a right to a hearing before the Board. The Superintendent may refuse the person admission pending such hearing. The Superintendent or designee must provide the person with a hearing notice, delivered or sent by certified mail with return receipt requested, at least 10 days before the Board hearing date. The hearing notice must contain:

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

*Employment  
Status*

## Employment Status

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### **Teacher Qualifications (5:190)**

A teacher, as the term is used in this policy, refers to a District employee who is required to be certified under state law. The following qualifications apply:

1. Each teacher must:
  - a. Have a valid Illinois Professional Educator License issued by the State Superintendent of Education with the required endorsements as provided in the School Code.
  - b. Provide the District Office with a complete official transcript of credits earned in institutions of higher education.
  - c. On or before September 1 of each year, unless otherwise provided in an applicable collective bargaining agreement, provide the District Office with an official transcript of any credits earned since the date the last transcript was filed.
  - d. Notify the Superintendent of any change in the teacher's transcript.
2. All teachers working in a program supported with federal funds under Title I, Part A must meet applicable State certification and licensure requirements.

The Superintendent or designee shall:

1. Monitor compliance with State and federal law requirements that teachers be appropriately licensed;
2. Through incentives for voluntary transfers, professional development, recruiting programs, or other effective strategies, ensure that minority students and students from low-income families are not taught at higher rates than other students by unqualified, out-of-field, or inexperienced teachers; and
3. Ensure parents/guardians of students in schools receiving Title I funds are notified of their right to request their students' classroom teachers' professional qualifications.

### **Reporting Absences & Attendance**

To maintain a productive work environment, the District expects employees to be reliable and to be punctual in reporting for scheduled work. Absenteeism and tardiness place a burden on other employees and on the District. In the rare instances when employees cannot avoid being late to work or are unable to work as scheduled, they are required to notify their supervisor as soon as possible before they are scheduled to work.

Poor attendance and excessive tardiness are disruptive. Either may lead to disciplinary action, up to and including discharge. Absence of three working days without reporting will be considered a voluntary resignation.

### **Employment Record/Employee Status Changes**

Any changes in name, address, phone numbers, marital status, and persons to be contacted in case of an emergency must be turned into the Unit Office as soon as possible in order to keep employment records current.



## *Benefits*

## BENEFITS

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### **COBRA Insurance**

The Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act (COBRA) gives employees and their dependents (qualified beneficiaries) the opportunity to continue health insurance coverage under the District's health plan when a "qualifying event" would normally result in the loss of eligibility. Some common qualifying events are resignation, termination of employment, or death of an employee; a reduction in an employee's hours or a leave of absence; an employee's divorce or legal separation; or a dependent child who no longer meets eligibility requirements.

Under COBRA, the employee or beneficiary pays the full cost of coverage of the group rates plus administration fee.

The District provides each eligible employee with a written notice describing rights granted under COBRA when the employee becomes eligible for coverage under the health insurance plan. The notice contains important information about the employee's rights and obligations.

It is the employee's responsibility to inform the Plan Administrator of the following events for eligibility purposes:

- The participant becomes entitled to Medicare benefits
- The participant and spouse become divorced
- The participant and spouse become legally separated
- A participant's child ceases to be a dependant under the plan

### **Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA)**

Any employee whose absence from employment is necessitated by reason of service in the uniformed services will be granted an unpaid leave of absence and will have the right to be reemployed if he or she:

- Ensures that the District receives advance written or verbal notice of his or her service;
- Has five years or less of cumulative service in the uniformed services while with the District;
- Returns to work or applies for reemployment in a timely manner after conclusion of service; and
- Has not been separated from service with a disqualifying discharge or under other than honorable conditions.

Upon the expiration of such leave of absence, each employee will be restored to his/her former job classification or to a position of like seniority, status and pay; unless, circumstances of the District have so changed as to make it impossible or unreasonable to do so.

### **Child Bereavement Leave (5:250)**

State law allows a maximum of 10 unpaid work days for eligible employees (Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993, 20 U.S.C. §2601 et seq.) to take child bereavement leave. The purpose, requirements, scheduling, and all other terms of the leave are governed by the Child Bereavement Leave Act. Child bereavement leave allows for: (1) attendance by the bereaved staff member at the funeral or alternative to a funeral of his or her child, (2) making arrangements necessitated by the death of the staff member's child, or (3) grieving the death of the staff member's child, without any adverse employment action.

The leave must be completed within 60 days after the date on which the employee received notice of the death of his or her child. However, in the event of the death of more than one child in

a 12-month period, an employee is entitled to up to a total of six weeks of bereavement leave during the 12-month period, subject to certain restrictions under State and federal law. Other existing forms of leave may be substituted for the leave provided in the Child Bereavement Leave Act. This policy does not create any right for an employee to take child bereavement leave that is inconsistent with the Child Bereavement Leave Act.

### **Family and Medical Leave (5:185)**

#### **Leave Description**

An eligible employee may use unpaid family and medical leave (FMLA leave), guaranteed by the federal Family and Medical Leave Act, for up to a combined total of 12 weeks each year. The U.S. Department of Labor's rules (federal rules) implementing FMLA, as they may be amended from time to time, control FMLA leave.

An eligible employee may take FMLA leave for up to a combined total of 12 weeks each 12-month period, beginning September 1 and ending August 31 of the next year.

During a single 12-month period, an eligible employee's FMLA leave entitlement may be extended to a total of 26 weeks of unpaid leave to care for a covered servicemember (defined in the federal rules) with a serious injury or illness. The "single 12-month period" is measured forward from the date the employee's first FMLA leave to care for the covered servicemember begins.

While FMLA leave is normally unpaid, the District will substitute an employee's accrued compensatory time-off and/or paid leave for unpaid FMLA leave. All policies and rules regarding the use of paid leave apply when paid leave is substituted for unpaid FMLA leave. Any substitution of paid leave for unpaid FMLA leave will count against the employee's FMLA leave entitlement. Use of FMLA leave shall not preclude the use of other applicable unpaid leave that will extend the employee's leave beyond 12 weeks, provided that the use of FMLA leave shall not serve to extend such other unpaid leave. Any full workweek period during which the employee would not have been required to work, including summer break, winter break and spring break, is not counted against the employee's FMLA leave entitlement.

FMLA leave is available in one or more of the following instances:

1. The birth and first-year care of a son or daughter.
2. The adoption or foster placement of a child, including absences from work that are necessary for the adoption or foster care to proceed and expiring at the end of the 12-month period beginning on the placement date.
3. The serious health condition of an employee's spouse, parent, or child.
4. The employee's own serious health condition that makes the employee unable to perform the functions of his or her job.
5. The existence of a qualifying exigency arising out of the fact that the employee's spouse, child, or parent is a covered military member on active duty or has been notified of an impending call or order to active duty, as provided in federal rules
6. To care for the employee's spouse, child, parent, or next of kin who is a covered servicemember with a serious injury or illness, as provided by federal rules.

***"Serious Health Condition"*** – *A serious health condition is an illness, injury, impairment, or physical or mental condition that involves either an overnight stay in a medical care facility, or continuing treatment by a health care provider for a condition that either prevents the employee from performing the functions of the employee's job, or prevents the qualified family member from participating in school or other daily activities.*

*Subject to certain conditions, the continuing treatment requirement may be met by a period of incapacity of more than 3 consecutive calendar days combined with at least two visits to a health*

*care provider or one visit and a regimen of continuing treatment, or incapacity due to pregnancy, or incapacity due to a chronic condition. Other conditions may meet the definition of continuing treatment.*

If spouses are employed by the District, they may together take only 12-weeks for FMLA leaves when the reason for the leave is 1 or 2, above, or to care for a parent with a serious health condition, or a combined total of 26 weeks for item 6 above.

An employee may be permitted to work on an intermittent or reduced-leave schedule in accordance with federal rules.

### Eligibility

To be eligible for FMLA leave, an employee must be employed at a worksite where at least 50 employees are employed within 75 miles. In addition, one of the following provisions must describe the employee:

1. The employee has been employed by the District for at least 12 months and has been employed for at least 1,000 hours of service during the 12-month period immediately before the beginning of the leave. The 12 months an employee must have been employed by the District need not be consecutive. However, the District will not consider any period of previous employment that occurred more than seven years before the date of the most recent hiring, except when the service break is due to fulfillment of a covered service obligation under the employee's Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA), 38 U.S.C. 4301, et seq., or when a written agreement exists concerning the District's intention to rehire the employee.
2. The employee is a full-time classroom teacher.

### Requesting Leave

If the need for the FMLA leave is foreseeable, an employee must provide the Superintendent or designee with at least 30 days' advance notice before the leave is to begin. If 30 days' advance notice is not practicable, the notice must be given as soon as practicable. The employee shall make a reasonable effort to schedule a planned medical treatment so as not to disrupt the District's operations, subject to the approval of the health care provider administering the treatment. The employee shall provide at least verbal notice sufficient to make the Superintendent or designee aware that he or she needs FMLA leave, and the anticipated timing and duration of the leave. Failure to give the required notice for a foreseeable leave may result in a delay in granting the requested leave until at least 30 days after the date the employee provides notice.

### Certification

Within 15 calendar days after the Superintendent or designee makes a request for certification for a FMLA leave, an employee must provide one of the following:

1. When the leave is to care for the employee's covered family member with a serious health condition, the employee must provide a complete and sufficient certificate signed by the family member's health care provider.
2. When the leave is due to the employee's own serious health condition, the employee must provide a complete and sufficient certificate signed by the employee's health care provider.
3. When the leave is to care for a covered servicemember with a serious illness or injury, the employee must provide a complete and sufficient certificate signed by an authorized health care provider for the covered servicemember.
4. When the leave is because of a qualified exigency, the employee must provide: (a) a copy of the covered military member's active duty orders or other documentation issued by the military indicating that the military member is on active duty or call to active duty status, and the dates of the covered military member's active duty service, and (b) a statement or

description, signed by the employee, of appropriate facts regarding the qualifying exigency for which FMLA leave is requested.

The District may require an employee to obtain a second and third opinion at its expense when it has reason to doubt the validity of a medical certification.

The District may require recertification at reasonable intervals, but not more often than once every 30 days. Regardless of the length of time since the last request, the District may request recertification when the, (1) employee requests a leave extension, (2) circumstances described by the original certification change significantly, or (3) District receives information that casts doubt upon the continuing validity of the original certification. Recertification is at the employee's expense and must be provided to the District within 15 calendar days after the request. The District may request recertification every six months in connection with any absence by an employee needing an intermittent or reduced schedule leave for conditions with a duration in excess of six months.

Failure to furnish a complete and sufficient certification on forms provided by the District may result in a denial of the leave request.

#### Continuation of Health Benefits

During FMLA leave, employees are entitled to continuation of health benefits that would have been provided if they were working. Any share of health plan premiums being paid by the employee before taking the leave, must continue to be paid by the employee during the FMLA leave. A District's obligation to maintain health insurance coverage ceases if an employee's premium payment is more than 30 days late and the District notifies the employee at least 15 days before coverage will cease.

#### Changed Circumstances and Intent to Return

An employee must provide the Superintendent or designee reasonable notice of changed circumstances (i.e., within two business days if the changed circumstances are foreseeable) that will alter the duration of the FMLA leave. The Superintendent or designee, taking into consideration all of the relevant facts and circumstances related to an individual's leave situation, may ask an employee who has been on FMLA leave for eight consecutive weeks whether he or she intends to return to work.

#### Conditions of Family and Medical Leave of Absence

The following conditions apply to a leave of absence pursuant to this policy:

1. In its discretion, the district may require an employee taking an approved leave of absence to periodically report on his or her status and intention to return to work.
2. An employee taking leave of absence may not engage in other work or employment during the leave of absence. If an employee engages in other work or employment during the leave of absence, the employee will be considered to have violated the terms of the leave of absence, and to have voluntarily terminated his or her employment with the district.
3. If an employee is granted a leave of absence on an intermittent basis or on a reduced schedule basis, the district may require the employee to temporarily transfer to an alternative position that accommodates the employee's recurring absences or part-time schedule.
4. When applicable, spouses that are both employed by the district are entitled to 12 work weeks of leave in total if the leave is for the birth, adoption, or for the care of or placement of a child, or to care for a parent with a serious health condition.; and
5. If at the time of applying for a leave of absence or during the leave of absence the employee intends not to return to work or decides not to return to work after the completion of the leave of absence, the employee will be liable and required to reimburse the district for the cost of payments made to maintain the employee's benefits during the leave of absence.

### Return to Work

If returning from FMLA leave occasioned by the employee's own serious health condition, the employee is required to obtain and present certification from the employee's health care provider that he or she is able to resume work.

An employee returning from FMLA leave will be given an equivalent position to his or her position before the leave, subject to: (1) permissible limitations the District may impose as provided in the FMLA or implementing regulations, and (2) the District's reassignment policies and practices.

Classroom teachers may be required to wait to return to work until the next semester in certain situations as provided by the FMLA regulations.

Upon returning from an approved leave of absence granted as a result of an employee's own serious health condition, an employee must present written medical certification from his or her medical care provider stating that he or she is able to perform the essential functions of his or her job with or without reasonable accommodation. At that time, the district will place the employee in his or her former position. If the former position is not available, the employee will be placed in an equivalent position with equivalent compensation and benefits.

### Implementation

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that: (1) all required notices and responses to leave requests are provided to employees in accordance with the FMLA; and (2) this policy is implemented in accordance with the FMLA. In the event of a conflict between the policy and the FMLA or its regulations, the latter shall control. The terms used in this policy shall be defined as in the FMLA regulations.

\*\* All sick time and personal time must be used prior to any time off without pay. \*\*

### **Leaves for Victims of Domestic Violence, Sexual Violence, or Gender Violence (5:250)**

An unpaid leave from work is available to any staff member who: (1) is a victim of domestic violence, sexual violence, or gender violence, or (2) has a family or household member who is a victim of such violence whose interests are not adverse to the employee as it relates to the domestic violence, sexual violence, or gender violence. The unpaid leave allows the employee to seek medical help, legal assistance, counseling, safety planning, and other assistance without suffering adverse employment action.

The Victims' Economic Security and Safety Act governs the purpose, requirements, scheduling, and continuity of benefits, and all other terms of the leave. Accordingly, if the District employs at least 50 employees, an employee is entitled to a total of 12 work weeks of unpaid leave during any 12-month period. Neither the law nor this policy creates a right for an employee to take unpaid leave that exceeds the unpaid leave time allowed under, or is in addition to the unpaid leave time permitted by, the federal Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 (29 U.S.C. §2601 et seq.).

**General Rules Of Conduct**

To assure orderly operations and provide the best possible work environment, the District expects employees to follow rules of conduct, performance, and attendance. This will protect the interests of all employees and the District.

For the guidance of all employees, listed below are some rules of conduct, performance and attendance. Violation of any of these rules may result in disciplinary action, including discharge, at the District's discretion. This list is by way of illustration only and should not be deemed to limit the District's right to discipline or discharge for other reasons not specifically listed.

The following acts are prohibited and constitute violations of District Rules of Conduct.

1. Possession of any dangerous weapon or explosive device while on District property.
2. Reporting to work under the influence of, or introducing, possessing, or using on District property, any intoxicating or controlled substance (including drug paraphernalia) not prescribed by a licensed physician. Employees with prescription drugs, which could impair motor function, must advise their administrator when first reporting for work after receiving such a prescription.
3. Fighting with, threatening, intimidating, coercing, physically abusing or interfering with another employee or persons doing business with the District.
4. Taking or receiving, without authorization, goods, materials, equipment or property belonging to the District, employees, or persons doing business with the District.
5. Practicing or promoting discrimination against or harassment of another employee or group of employees on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, age, religion, or disability.
6. Willful destruction of property, including but not limited to falsification of report(s); employment application; tallies; data; time card(s); commission of deliberate error; concealment of such acts committed by employee or others.
7. Insubordination (refusal to carry out administrator's instructions). Using profane or abusive language or displaying the abusive conduct toward an employee or person.
8. Participation or instigation of horseplay, scuffling, pranks, and/or otherwise creating a disturbance in the workplace.
9. Committing any felony or misdemeanor crimes as prohibited by federal, state, or local laws or failure to report unlawful conduct to the appropriate administrator immediately.
10. Transaction of personal business, including telephone calls, during working hours (excluding lunch) without consent of an administrator.
11. Use of seatbelt is required while riding in or operating a District vehicle on public roads.
12. Negligent work performance, concealment or failure to report errors, which may result in economic damage or adverse conditions.
13. Sleeping during working time.
14. Failure to report an accident or injury to the appropriate administrator.
15. Excessive employee absenteeism or tardiness or failure to notify of absence or tardiness within an hour of the scheduled work time.
16. Leaving District premises during working hours without permission. Unauthorized entrance on District property during non-working hours.
17. Working in an unsafe manner or violating District safety policies and procedures.
18. Falsification of employee applications.
19. Improper use of sick leave or unpaid personal leave.
20. Unauthorized use of District equipment.
21. Making modifications in equipment or buildings including heating, cooling, electrical, water or sewer systems unless authorized by job descriptions or supervisors.
22. Unauthorized possession or use of District keys, keycards, or access fobs, including master keys.

23. Bringing personally owned equipment or furniture to school without advance written authorization from the building administration. If permission is granted, the District assumes no liability for lost, damaged, or stolen personal property.
24. Promoting the services, products, ideologies (political, religious, or organizational), or goals of non-school organizations, exclusive of educational goals.
25. Failing to be truthful to the Board of Education or the administration in regard to matters relating to employment or directly related to the employee's work duties.
26. Falsifying documents, or creating documents, which are substantially misleading.
27. Making false claims for insurance or any other benefit.
28. Misrepresenting to any other person the extent of her or his job authority, or purport to act on behalf of the District when not authorized to do so.
29. Incurring expenses or entering into contracts on behalf of the District without the authority to do so.
30. Failure to conduct oneself in a safe manner at all times. Failure to read, understand and apply all safety instructions related to procedures or equipment, or defeating or attempting to defeat any safety device.
31. Working under the influence of any intoxicating liquor or illegal drug; concealing or maintaining any intoxicating liquor or illegal drug in or on any school property or at any school sponsored event; working while bearing the odor of alcohol or illegal drugs.
32. Engaging in acts that are dangerous to property, health, safety, or welfare of the District, students, other employees, or the general public. This rule shall not be deemed violated by accidental acts that are not intended by the employee, but the employee shall act with prudence and ordinary caution at all times.
33. Engaging in activities during non-school hours that intentionally cause injury or harm or attempt to cause injury or harm to other employees, children, their property, or the District or its property. Any employee who has been convicted of any felony offense or who has committed any criminal acts involving substantial risk of harm to other persons or property may be unsuitable for school employment and is subject to discharge, at the discretion of the Board.
34. Bringing onto school property or to any school activity firearms, ammunition, explosives, fireworks, or other substances or devices likely or capable of causing harm to persons or property.
35. Failure to report to the direct supervisor any damaged or broken equipment or other school property in his or her assigned area of responsibility.
36. The loss of driving rights or privileges for any position requiring a current driver's license shall be cause for dismissal. The employee must advise the District of lost driving privileges.
37. Failure to maintain or the loss of any certificate, license, or other document issued by any governmental entity or office necessary or required for the employee's position shall be cause for dismissal.
38. Failure to promptly deposit, report or account for any funds, gate receipts, or other money or property of the District, students, or others coming into the employee's hands as a result of the employee's work, responsibilities, duties, or employment.
39. Unauthorized use, retaining without authorization, or stealing money or property of students, other employees, or others.
40. Release, disclosure, or granting access to information found in any student record except in the exercise of job responsibilities, or when such disclosure would constitute a violation of the Illinois School Student Records Act or the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act. Employees may seek clarification of their responsibilities under this rule from their immediate supervisor.
41. Release, disclosure, or granting access to information found in any employee file or disclosure of confidential information about other employees without advance authorization from a supervisor. Employees may seek clarification of their responsibilities under this rule from their immediate supervisor.



42. Educational support employees shall not discipline students except as authorized by job description.
43. Fighting and physical altercations of all kinds. Employees may take reasonable steps to protect themselves from physical violence and may reasonably restrain a student to protect the employee, another employee, other students, or District property.
44. Engaging in any behavior while at school, at its sponsored events, or during work hours, which constitutes gross disrespect for the property or rights of others including but not limited to insensitive remarks about another person's race, color, religion, creed, national origin, sex, age, ancestry, or marital status. Such remarks will result in employee discipline.
45. Using profanity when speaking to parents or students, or address other employees utilizing profanity.
46. Engaging in any sexual or romantic relationship with any student. Employees shall not make sexually suggestive remarks or engage in sexual conduct or acts on or towards students. Employees shall not illegally discriminate against students on the basis of the student's sex. Employees shall personally report evidence of any such activity to the Superintendent. No employee shall instruct or dissuade another employee from making such a report.
47. Making unwelcome sexual advances toward or request sexual favors from other employees. Engaging in verbal or physical conduct or communication of a sexual nature which constitutes sexual harassment or otherwise creates an intimidating, hostile, or offensive work environment.
48. Aide, solicit or engage any student, or any employee in any activity that is illegal or immoral. Employees shall personally report evidence of illegal or immoral activity to the Superintendent.
49. Conviction of any felony offense involving dishonesty or violence, or that would have precluded an employee's initial employment as a matter of law irrespective of the jurisdiction, shall be cause for dismissal.
50. Willfully refusing to obey written or oral instructions of the immediate supervisor, a member of the administrative staff.
51. Willfully refusing to obey the policies, rules and regulations of the Board of Education or attempt to violate the Board of Education policy, rule or regulation.
52. Willful behavior that interrupts the orderly process of school affairs.
53. Repeated minor incidents of misbehavior may be cause for discharge, if other disciplinary measures have failed to deter misconduct.
54. To knowingly surrender or deliver a child to a person other than the child's parents (or in the case of divorce, the custodial parent) or other guardian, without the approval from the parent, legal guardian, or the building principal. No employee shall intentionally surrender or deliver a child to a person who is prohibited such contact by an Order of Protection, or other Order of Court
55. Failure to personally report evidence of child abuse to the DCFS Hotline. No employee shall instruct or dissuade another employee from making such a report. The employee shall notify the building principal that a report was made.
56. Outside employment that may interfere with the performance of job duties.
57. Accepting unauthorized rebates, gifts, gratuities, premiums or promotional materials from suppliers for personal use or gain.
58. Utilizing District computers, networks or Internet access to view, obtain, or download any pornographic or sexually explicit material.
59. Failing to maintain strict confidentiality of passwords or other security techniques or accessing any computer, network, server, or other information thereon that the employee is not authorized to access.
60. Violation of any copyright, including, but not limited to copyright in software, information, music, data or other material obtained over the Internet.

**Employee Code of Professional Conduct**

All District employees are expected to maintain high standards in their school relationships, to demonstrate integrity and honesty, to be considerate and cooperative, and to maintain professional and appropriate relationships with students, parents, staff members, and others. In addition, the *Code of Ethics for Illinois Educators*, adopted by the Illinois State Board of Education, is incorporated into this Code of Conduct. Any employee who sexually harasses a student, willfully or negligently fails to report an instance of suspected child abuse or neglect as required by the Abused and Neglected Child Reporting Act (325 ILCS 5/), engages in *grooming* as defined in 720 ILCS 5/11-25, engages in grooming behaviors, violates boundaries for appropriate school employee-student conduct, engages in sexual misconduct as defined in 105 ILCS 5/22-85.5, or otherwise violates an employee conduct standard will be subject to discipline up to and including dismissal.

Standards related to school employee-student conduct shall, at a minimum:


1. Comply with the *Code of Ethics for Illinois Educators*, adopted by the Illinois State Board of Education;
2. Prohibited grooming behaviors and sexual misconduct include, but are not limited to (i) any act, including but not limited to, any verbal, nonverbal, written, or electronic communication or physical activity, (ii) by an employee with direct contact with a student, (iii) that is directed toward or with a student to establish a romantic or sexual relationship with the student. Examples include, but are not limited to:
  - a. A sexual or romantic invitation
  - b. Dating or soliciting a date
  - c. Engaging in sexualized or romantic dialog
  - d. Making sexually suggestive comments that are directed toward or with a student
  - e. Self-disclosure or physical exposure of a sexual, romantic, or erotic nature
  - f. A sexual, indecent, romantic, or erotic contact with the student
3. Employees are expected to maintain professional relationships with students.
  - a. Employees are strictly prohibited from using any form of communication with students (e-mails, letters, notes, text messages, phone calls, conversations) that includes any subject matter that would be deemed unprofessional and inappropriate between an employee and student. This District has a "zero tolerance" for any conduct that crosses over that professional line.
  - a. Employees are not permitted to transport District students in the employee's privately owned vehicle, unless the employee has obtained the prior permission of the Building Principal and/or Superintendent to do so.
  - b. Employees are not permitted to take or possess a photo or video of a student on their private devices. Student pictures for school sponsored activities used in furtherance of the District's educational mission are permitted.
  - c. Employees are not permitted to meet with a student or contact a student outside the employee's professional role. Employees are expected to avoid crossing a line that results in an actual or perceived inappropriate relationship
4. District employees are mandated reported and required to comply with all reporting requirements of the Abused and Neglected Child Reporting Act (325 ILCS 5/), Title IX of the

Education Amendments of 1972 (20 U.S.C. §1681 et seq.), and the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (20 U.S.C. § 7926);

5. Employees, students, parents, and any third party can report prohibited behaviors and/or boundary violations pursuant to Board policies 2:260, *Uniform Grievance Procedure*; 2:265, *Title IX Sexual Harassment Grievance Procedure*; and 5:90, *Abused and Neglected Child Reporting*, to a District Complaint Manager, Nondiscrimination Coordinator, Title IX Coordinator, or any other District administrator or staff member the person feels comfortable reporting to; and
6. Employees are required to complete training related to educator ethics, child abuse, grooming behaviors, and boundary violations as required by law and policies 2:265, *Title IX Sexual Harassment Grievance Procedure*; 4:165, *Awareness and Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse and Grooming Behaviors*; 5:90, *Abused and Neglected Child Reporting*; and 5:100, *Staff Development Program*.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT, AGREEMENT AND RECEIPT OF EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK**

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The undersigned hereby acknowledges receipt of a copy of the Tremont School District #702 Employee Handbook. The undersigned hereby acknowledges and agrees that nothing contained in the employee handbook including policies, practices, and benefits stated herein are intended to create any contractual right, express or implied, to employment or to any particular term or condition of employment. The District retains the right to revise, amend this handbook, or terminate any policy unilaterally without notice at any time, and the employee's continued employment will be deemed acceptance of such revisions and modifications. I understand I am required to read and apply all work rules. I understand that if I violate any work rule I may be disciplined. I further acknowledge that discipline, in some circumstances, may include my immediate discharge.

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Employee Printed Name

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Employee Signature

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Witness Signature

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Date

(This acknowledgement and agreement will be retained in the employee's personnel file).