

Community Relations

8:10 Connection with the Community

The Superintendent is the District's chief spokesperson and shall plan and implement a District public relations program that will:

1. Develop community understanding of school operation.
2. Gather community attitudes and desires for the District.
3. Secure adequate financial support for a sound educational program.
4. Help the community feel a more direct responsibility for the quality of education provided by their schools.
5. Earn the community's good will, respect, and confidence.
6. Promote a genuine spirit of cooperation between the school and the community.
7. Keep the news media provided with accurate information.

The public relations program should include:

1. Regular news releases concerning District programs, policies, and activities that will be sent to the news media.
2. News conferences and interviews, as requested or needed. Individuals may speak for the District only with prior approval from the Superintendent.
3. Publications having a high quality of editorial content and effective format. All publications shall identify the District, school, department, or classroom and shall include the name of the Superintendent, the Building Principal, and/or the author and the publication date.
4. Other efforts that highlight the District's programs and activities.

CROSS REF.: 2:110 (Qualifications, Term, and Duties of Board Officers)

REVISED: 3.09.15

8:20 Community Use of School Facilities

While local taxing bodies share facilities and create partnerships with District 88 that benefit the communities, the separation of facilities and programs between District 88 and other agencies is desirable. The use of school property is available as stated in the rental agreement and may become available through approved inter-governmental agreements.

Playgrounds, athletic fields, buildings or parts thereof owned by School District 88 are designed, maintained and operated for regular school service. When not in use for such service, it shall be the policy of the Board to make the physical facilities of the schools available for community service insofar as such service shall not interfere with the school program or be detrimental to the school properties.

Community service, as used in this article, shall mean meetings and entertainment open to the public; meetings of outside groups that are not under the control of school officers. The

8:20 Community Use of School Facilities- continued

purpose and conduct of such meetings must not be inconsistent with the purposes of public education nor be detrimental to school properties.

The use of school buildings and other facilities by any organization operated for private gain or any purpose involving private gain shall be permitted if:

1. Such use is sponsored by some local community organization which is not operated for private gain; and/or
2. An educational, civic or charitable purpose will be served.

Privately sponsored instructional programs or schools shall not use District facilities.

A fee shall be charged for the use of school facilities pursuant to published regulations.

The Superintendent may grant the use of appropriate facilities, without rental charge, to organizations closely related to school activities. Organizations presently included in this category are the District 88 parent-teacher organizations, Booster Clubs, etc.

The Superintendent may approve limited modification of the adopted rental charges for high school facilities when requested by cooperating elementary school districts that are a part of the District 88 attendance area. Such modification would be considered primarily for those elementary school programs or activities that stem from the basic curricular work of the school. Elementary schools that propose use of high school facilities for activities which have fund raising as a primary objective would be expected to pay the regular rental charges as stipulated in the rental schedule.

School buildings and other facilities shall be made available for use of community groups on Sundays only when such use is in the interest of District residents.

The Principal of each school has the responsibility for complete supervision of the building and facilities requested and used by any non-school group/organization.

LEGAL REF.: 20 U.S.C. §7905.
10 ILCS 5/19-2.2.
105 ILCS 5/10-20.40, 5/10-22.10, and 5/29-3.5.
Good News Club v. Milford Central School, 121 S.Ct. 2093 (2001).
Lamb's Chapel v. Center Moriches Union Free School District,
113 S.Ct. 2141 (1993).
Rosenberger v. Rector and Visitors of Univ. of Va., 515 U.S. 819
(1995).

CROSS REF.: 7:330 (Student Use of Building - Equal Access), 8:25 (Advertising and Distributing Materials in Schools Provided by Non-School Related Entities), 8:30 (Visitors to and Conduct on School Property)

ADMIN. PROC.: 8:20-AP (Community Use of School Facilities)

8:25 Advertising and Distributing Materials in Schools Provided by Non-School Related Entities

No material or literature shall be posted or distributed that would: (1) disrupt the educational process, (2) violate the rights or invade the privacy of others, (3) infringe on a trademark or copyright, or (4) be defamatory, obscene, vulgar, or indecent.

Community, Educational, Charitable, or Recreational Organizations

Community, educational, charitable, recreational, or similar groups may, under procedures established by the Superintendent or designee, advertise events pertinent to students' interests or involvement. This may include displaying posters in areas reserved for community posters, or having flyers distributed to students. All material and literature must be student-oriented and have the sponsoring organization's name prominently displayed.

LEGAL REF.: Berger v. Rensselaer Central School Corp., 982 F.2d 1160 (7th Cir. 1993), *cert. denied*, 113 S.Ct. 2344 (1993).
DiLoreto v. Downey Unified School Dist., 196 F.3d 958 (9th Cir. 1999).
Hedges v. Wauconda Community Unit School Dist., No. 18, 9 F.3d 5 (7th Cir. 1993).
Lamb's Chapel v. Center Moriches Union Free School Dist., 113 S.Ct. 2141 (1993).
Sherman v. Community Consolidated School Dist. 21, 8 F.3d 1160 (7th Cir. 1993), *cert. denied*, 114 S.Ct. 2109 (1994).

CROSS REF.: 7:325 (Student Fund-Raising Activities), 7:330 (Student Use of Buildings - Equal Access)

8:30 Visitors to and Conduct on School Property

The following definitions apply to this policy:

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

Visitor: Any person other than an enrolled student or employee.

The safe operation of the school is paramount. In order to create a safe climate and reduce disruption to the school operation, 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 state a purpose for the visit, sign a visitors' log; show identification; and wear a visitor's badge. Visitors who cannot be observed going to their destination will be escorted as much as practical. When leaving the school, visitors must return their badge. On those occasions when large groups of parents and friends are invited onto school property, visitors are not required to sign in but must follow school officials' instructions. Persons on school property without permission will be directed to leave and may be subject to criminal prosecution.

Any person wishing to confer with a staff member should contact that staff member by telephone or email to make an appointment.

8:30 Visitors to and Conduct on School Property - continued

Conferences with teachers are held, to the extent possible, outside school hours or during the teacher's conference/preparation period.

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:

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. Possess a weapon, any object that can reasonably be considered a weapon or looks like a weapon, or any dangerous device;
4. Damage or threaten to damage another's property;
5. Damage or deface school property;
6. Violate any Illinois law, or municipality or county ordinance;
7. Smoke or otherwise use tobacco products;
8. Consume, possess, distribute, or be under the influence of alcoholic beverages or illegal drugs;
9. Impede, delay, disrupt, or otherwise interfere with any school activity or function (including using cellular phones in a disruptive manner);
10. Enter upon any portion of school premises at any time for purposes other than those that are lawful and authorized by the Board;
11. 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;
12. Engage in any risky behavior, including roller-blading, roller-skating, or skateboarding;
13. Violate other District policies or regulations, or a directive from an authorized security officer or District employee; or
14. 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 the parent/guardian is:
(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 and notifies the Building Principal of his or her presence at the school; or

8:30 Visitors to and Conduct on School Property - continued

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

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

Enforcement

Any staff member may request identification from any person on school property; refusal to provide such information is a criminal act. 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.

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

CROSS REF.: 4:170 (Safety), 6:250 (Community Resource Persons and Volunteers),
7:190 (Student Discipline), 8:20 (Community Use of School Facilities)

8:40 Spectator Conduct at School Events

Any individual, including an adult, who behaves in an unsportsmanlike or disruptive manner during any school event or meeting, including School Board meetings, may be ejected from the event or meeting. The individual is also subject to being denied admission to school events or meetings for up to one calendar year, provided the procedures contained in this policy are followed. Examples of unsportsmanlike or disruptive conduct includes, but are not limited to:

- Using vulgar or obscene language
- Possessing or being under the influence of any alcoholic beverage or illegal substance
- Possessing a weapon, or any object that can reasonably be considered, or looks like, a weapon
- Fighting or otherwise striking or threatening another person
- Failing to obey the instructions of a security officer or School District employee
- Engaging in any activity that is illegal or disruptive

Procedures to Deny Future Admission to School Events or Meetings

Before any individual may be denied admission to school events or meetings as provided in this policy, the individual has a right to a hearing before the Board. The Superintendent or designee must provide the individual 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:

5. The date, time, and place of the Board hearing,
6. A description of the unsportsmanlike or disruptive conduct,
7. The proposed time period that admission to school events will be denied, and
8. Instructions on how to waive a hearing.

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

Nuding v. Cerro Gordo Community Unit School Dist., 730 N.E.2d 96 (Ill.App. 4, 2000).

CROSS REF.: 8:30 (Visitors to and Conduct on School Property)

8:70 Accommodating Individuals with Disabilities

Individuals with disabilities shall be provided an opportunity to participate in all school-sponsored services, programs, or activities and will not be subject to illegal discrimination. When appropriate, the District may provide to persons with disabilities aids, benefits, or services that are separate or different from, but as effective as, those provided to others.

The District will provide auxiliary aids and services when necessary to afford individuals with disabilities equal opportunity to participate in or enjoy the benefits of a service, program, or activity.

8:70 Accommodating Individuals with Disabilities - continued

Each service, program, or activity operated in existing facilities shall be readily accessible to, and useable by, individuals with disabilities. New construction and alterations to facilities existing before January 26, 1992, will be accessible when viewed in their entirety.

The Superintendent or designee is designated the Title II Coordinator and shall:

1. Oversee the District's compliance efforts, recommend necessary modifications to the School Board, and maintain the District's final Title II self-evaluation document and keep it available for public inspection for at least 3 years after its completion date.
2. Institute plans to make information regarding Title II's protection available to any interested party.

Individuals with disabilities should notify the Superintendent, Building Principal or designee if they have a disability that will require special assistance or services and, if so, what services are required. This notification should occur as far in advance as possible of the school-sponsored function, program, or meeting.

Individuals with disabilities may allege a violation of this policy or federal law by reporting it to the Superintendent or designated Title II Coordinator, or by filing a grievance under the Uniform Grievance Procedure.

LEGAL REF.: Americans with Disabilities Act, 42 U.S.C. §§12101 et seq. and 12131 et seq.; 28 C.F.R. Part 35.

Rehabilitation Act of 1973 §104, 29 U.S.C. §794 (2006).

105 ILCS 5/10-20.46.

410 ILCS 25/, Environmental Barriers Act.

71 Ill.Admin.Code Part 400, Illinois Accessibility Code.

CROSS REF.: 2:260 (Uniform Grievance Procedure), 4:150 (Facility Management and Expansion Programs)

REVISED: 3.09.15

8:80 Gifts to the District

The School Board accepts gifts from any education foundation or other entity or individual, provided the gift can be used in a manner compatible with the Board's educational objectives and policies. While the Board encourages unrestricted gifts, donations to fund specific projects are acceptable if the project is approved by the Board. All gifts received become the School District's property.

LEGAL REF.: 105 ILCS 5/16-1.

8:90 Parent Organizations and Booster Clubs

Parent organizations and booster clubs are invaluable resources to the District's schools. While parent organizations and booster clubs have no administrative authority and cannot determine District policy, the School Board welcomes their suggestions and assistance.

Parent organizations and booster clubs are recognized by the Board and permitted to use the District's name, a District school's name, or a District school's team name, or any logo attributable to the District provided they first receive the Superintendent or designee's express written consent. Consent to use one of the above-mentioned names or logos will generally be granted if the organization or club has by-laws containing the following:

1. The organization's or club's name and purpose, such as, to enhance students' educational experiences, to help meet educational needs of students, to provide extra athletic benefits to students, to assist specific sports teams or academic clubs through financial support, or to enrich extracurricular activities.
2. The rules and procedures under which it operates.
3. An agreement to adhere to all Board policies and administrative procedures.
4. A statement that membership is open and unrestricted, meaning that membership is open to parents/guardians of students enrolled in the school, District staff, and community members.
5. A statement that the District is not, and will not be, responsible for the organization's or club's business or the conduct of its members.
6. An agreement to maintain and protect its own finances.
7. A recognition that money given to a school cannot be earmarked for any particular expense. Booster clubs may make recommendations, but cash or other valuable consideration must be given to the District to use at its discretion. The Board's legal obligation to comply with Title IX by providing equal athletic opportunity for members of both genders will supersede an organization or club's recommendation.

Permission to use one of the above-mentioned names or logos may be rescinded at any time and does not constitute permission to act as the District's representative. At no time does the District accept responsibility for the actions of any parent organization or booster club regardless of whether it was recognized and/or permitted to use any of the above-mentioned names or logos. The Superintendent shall designate an administrative staff member to serve as the liaison to parent organizations or booster clubs. The liaison will serve as a resource person and provide information about school programs, resources, policies, problems, concerns, and emerging issues. Building staff will be encouraged to participate in the organizations.

CROSS REF.: 8:80 (Gifts to the District)

8:95 Parental Involvement

In order to assure collaborative relationships between students' families and the District, and to enable parents/guardians to become active partners in their children's education, the Superintendent shall:

1. Keep parents/guardians thoroughly informed about their child's school and education.
2. Encourage parents/guardians to be involved in their child's school and education.
3. Establish effective two-way communication between parents/guardians and the District.
4. Seek input from parents/guardians on significant school-related issues.
5. Inform parents/guardians on how they can assist their children's learning.

The Superintendent shall periodically report to the School Board on the implementation of this policy.

CROSS REF.: 6:170 (Title I Programs), 6:250 (Community Resource Persons and Volunteers), 8:10 (Connection with the Community), 8:90 (Parent Organizations and Booster Clubs)

ADMIN. PROC.: 6:170-E1 (District Level Parental Involvement Compact in Title I Programs), 6:170-E2 (School Level Parental Involvement Compact in Title I Programs)

REVISED: 3.09.15

8:100 Relations with Other Organizations and Agencies

The District shall cooperate with other organizations and agencies, including but not limited to:

- County Health Department
- Law enforcement agencies
- Fire authorities
- Planning authorities
- Zoning authorities
- Illinois Emergency Management Agency (IEMA), local organizations for civil defense, and other appropriate disaster relief organizations concerned with civil defense
- Other school districts

CROSS REF.: 1:20 (District Organization, Operations, and Cooperative Agreements), 4:170 (Safety), 5:90 (Abused and Neglected Child Reporting), 7:150 (Agency and Police Interviews)

REVISED: 3.09.15

8:110 Public Suggestions and Concerns

The School Board is interested in receiving suggestions and concerns from members of the community. Any individual may make a suggestion or express a concern at any District or School office. All suggestions and/or concerns will be referred to the appropriate level staff member or District administrator who is most able to respond in a timely manner. Each concern or suggestion shall be considered on its merit.

An individual who is not satisfied after following the channels of authority, may file a grievance under the Board policy 2:260, Uniform Grievance Procedure. Neither this policy nor the *Uniform Grievance Procedure* creates an independent right to a hearing before the Board.

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

REVISED: 3.09.15