

**SECTION 8 - COMMUNITY RELATIONS**

SPEED - Special Ed

## 8:10 Connection with the Community

### Public Relations

The Board President is the official spokesperson for the Governing Board. The Superintendent is the District's chief spokesperson. The Superintendent or designee shall plan and implement a District public relations program that will:

1. Develop community understanding of SPEED 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 accurately informed.
8. Coordinate with the District Safety Coordinator to provide accurate and timely information to the appropriate individuals during an emergency.

The public relations program should include:

1. Regular news releases concerning District programs, policies, activities, and special event management for distribution by, for example, posting on the District website or sending to the news media.
2. News conferences and interviews, as requested or needed. The Board President and Superintendent will coordinate their respective media relations efforts. 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.

### Community Engagement

Community engagement is a process that the Board uses to actively involve diverse citizens in dialogue, deliberation, and collaborative thinking around common interests for the District's schools.

The Board, in consultation with the Superintendent, determines the purpose(s) and objective(s) of any community engagement initiative. For each community engagement initiative, the Board will commit to the determined purpose(s) and objective(s), and provide information about the expected nature of the public's involvement; the Superintendent or designee will identify the effective tools and tactics that will advance the Board's purpose(s) and objective(s).

The Superintendent will: (1) at least annually, prepare a report of each community

engagement initiative, and/or (2) prepare a final report of each community engagement initiative.

The Board will periodically: (1) review whether its community engagement initiatives are achieving the identified purpose(s) and objective(s), (2) consider what, if any, modifications would improve effectiveness, and (3) determine whether to continue individual initiatives.

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

ADOPTED:October 23, 2015

**SPEED - Special Ed**

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

No material or literature shall be posted on district property 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. All materials for posting must have the approval of the Building Principal.

### Commercial Companies and Political Candidates or Parties

Commercial companies and political candidates or organizations are prohibited from advertising in schools, on the school grounds, or on school or District websites.

#### LEGAL REF.:

Lamb's Chapel v. Center Moriches Union Free Sch. Dist., 508 U.S. 384 (1993).

Berger v. Rensselaer Central Sch. Corp., 982 F.2d 1160 (7th Cir. 1993), *cert. denied*, 113 S.Ct. 2344 (1993).

Sherman v. Community Consolidated Sch. Dist. 21, 8 F.3d 1160 (7th Cir. 1993), *cert. denied*, 8 F.3d 1160 (1994).

Hedges v. Wauconda Community Unit Sch. Dist. No. 118, 9 F.3d 1295 (7th Cir. 1993).

Victory Through Jesus Sports Ministry v. Lee's Summit R-7 Sch. Dist., 640 F.3d 329 (8th Cir. 2011), *cert. denied*, 565 U.S. 1036 (2011).

DiLoreto v. Downey Unified Sch. Dist., 196 F.3d 958 (9th Cir. 1999).

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

Adopted: October 25, 2018

**SPEED - Special Ed**

## 8:30 Visitors to and Conduct on School Property

The following definitions apply to this policy:

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

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

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

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

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

The 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, coach, or any other person.
2. Behave in an unsportsmanlike manner, use vulgar or obscene language.
3. Unless specifically permitted by State law, possess a weapon, any object that can reasonably be considered a weapon, 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 town or county ordinance.
7. Smoke or otherwise use tobacco products.
8. Distribute, consume, use, possess, or be under the influence of an alcoholic beverage or illegal drug; be present when the person's alcohol or illegal drug consumption is detectable, regardless of when and/ or where the use occurred.
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.
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 meets either of the following two exceptions:

5. The offender is 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 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
6. The offender received permission to be present from the Governing 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

**Please refer to the current Collective Bargaining Agreement between SPEED District #802 and SPEED Education Association.**

### **For employees not covered by this agreement:**

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

### Enforcement

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

410 ILCS 130/, Compassionate Use of Medical Cannabis Pilot Program.

430 ILCS 66/, Firearm Concealed Carry Act.

720 ILCS 5/11-9.3.

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

ADOPTED: March 16, 2017

**SPEED - Special Ed**

## 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.

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 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, update it to the extent necessary, 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 or Building Principal 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 12131et seq.; 28 C.F.R. Part 35.

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

105 ILCS 5/10-20.51.

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)

ADOPTED:March 16, 2017

SPEED - Special Ed

## 8:80 Gifts to the District

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

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

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

LEGAL REF.: 20 U.S.C. §1681 et seq., Title IX of the Education Amendments implemented by 34 C.F.R. Part 106.

105 ILCS 5/16-1.

23 Ill.Admin.Code §200.40.

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

ADOPTED: October 23, 2015

## 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 develop administrative procedures to:

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 Governing Board on the implementation of this policy.

### Bring Your Parents to School Day

On the first Monday in October of each year, students' parents/guardians are invited to attend class with their children and meet with teachers and administrators during the school day.

LEGAL REF:

105 ILCS 5/10-20.55.

CROSS REF.:6:250 (Community Resource Persons and Volunteers), 8:10 (Connection with the Community)

Adopted: May 23, 2019

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## 8:110 Public Suggestions and Concerns

The Governing 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 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 may file a grievance under Board policy 2:260, *Uniform Grievance Procedure*. The Board encourages, but does not require, individuals to follow the channels of authority prior to filing a grievance. Neither this policy nor the *Uniform Grievance Procedure* create an independent right to a hearing before the Board.

CROSS REF.:2:140 (Communications To and From the Board), 2:230 (Public Participation at 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)

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