

RURAL CHAMPAIGN CO. SP. ED. - PRESS PLUS

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SECTION 1 - COOPERATIVE ORGANIZATION

Rural Champaign Co. Sp. Ed.

1:10 Cooperative Legal Status

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

The General Assembly has implemented this constitutional mandate through the creation of joint agreements of various types for the purpose of providing special education services to children with disabilities. Rural Champaign County Special Education Cooperative, hereinafter referred to as the Cooperative, is governed by such mandates.

Special education programs and/or services shall be developed in accordance with the requirements of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, Article 14 of the School Code, and their respective implementing procedures.

Consistent with 105 ILCS 5/10-22.31, the Rural Champaign County Special Education Cooperative Governing Board shall serve as the administrative and legal entity for the Cooperative.

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

LEGAL REF.:

Ill. Constitution, Art. X, Sec. 1.

105 ILCS 5/10-1 et seq.

23 Ill.Admin.Code Part 226.

CROSS REF.: 2:10 (Cooperative/Joint Agreement Governance)

ADOPTED: October 9, 2025

Rural Champaign Co. Sp. Ed.

1:15 Membership

Membership in this Rural Champaign County Special Education Cooperative shall be extended to all public school districts within Champaign County.

The terms and conditions of membership are contained in the Constitution of the Rural Champaign County Special Education Cooperative.

The Member Districts participating in the Rural Champaign County Special Education Cooperative are:

- *Community Unit School District #1, Fisher, Illinois*
- *Community Unit School District #7, Tolono, Illinois*
- *Heritage Community Unit School District #8, Homer, Illinois*
- *Community Consolidated School District #130, Thomasboro, Illinois*
- *Community Consolidated School District #142, Ludlow, Illinois*
- *Community Consolidated School District #169, St. Joseph, Illinois*
- *Community Consolidated School District #188, Gifford, Illinois*
- *Rantoul Township High School District #193, Rantoul, Illinois*
- *Prairieview-Ogden Elementary School District #197, Royal, Illinois*
- *St. Joseph-Ogden Community High School District #305, St. Joseph, Illinois*

ADOPTED: October 9, 2025

Rural Champaign Co. Sp. Ed.

1:20 Cooperative Organization, Operations, and Joint Agreement

The Cooperative is organized under a joint agreement titled "the Rural Champaign County Special Education Cooperative."

The Rural Champaign County Special Education Cooperative may enter into a joint agreement with other special education Cooperatives, programs, or cooperatives, on a two-thirds vote of the Board of Directors and with the approval of the Champaign-Ford County Educational Service Region Office and the State Advisory Council on Education of Handicapped Children. Other cooperative arrangements may be made as outlined in Article 10-22.31a of The School Code.

LEGAL REF.:

23 Ill Admin Code § 1.210

ADOPTED: October 9, 2025

Rural Champaign Co. Sp. Ed.

SECTION 2 - COOPERATIVE BOARDS

Rural Champaign Co. Sp. Ed.

2:10 Cooperative Governance

The Cooperative is governed by a Governing Board whose membership, responsibilities and authority shall be as described in the Constitution of Rural Champaign County Special Education Cooperative.

In addition, there is an Executive Board whose membership, responsibilities, and authority shall be as described in the Constitution of Rural Champaign County Special Education Cooperative.

The Executive Board's powers and duties include the authority to adopt, enforce, and monitor all policies for the management and governance of the Cooperative programs and services.

The ultimate responsibility for fiscal and personnel matters rests with the Governing Board based on recommendations from the Executive Board.

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

Board members, as individuals, have no authority over Cooperative affairs, except as provided by law or as authorized by the Board.

LEGAL REF.:

5 ILCS 120/, Open Meetings Act.

105 ILCS 5/10-20, 5/10-20.5, and 5/10-22.31.

CROSS REF.: 1:10 (Cooperative Legal Status)

ADOPTED: October 9, 2025

Rural Champaign Co. Sp. Ed.

2:20 Powers and Duties of the Boards

The Governing Board and Executive Board shall have those powers and duties assigned to them in the Constitution of the Rural Champaign County Special Education Cooperative.

ADOPTED: January 12, 2024

Rural Champaign Co. Sp. Ed.

2:100 Board Member Conflict of Interest

No Board member shall: (1) have a beneficial interest directly or indirectly in any contract, work, or business of the Cooperative unless permitted by State or federal law; or (2) solicit or accept gratuities, favors, or anything of monetary value from contractors, potential contractors, or parties to agreements or contracts with the Cooperative. 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*.

Board members must annually file a *Statement of Economic Interests* as required by the Illinois Governmental Ethics Act. Each Board member is responsible for filing the statement with the county clerk of the county in which the Cooperative's main office is located by May 1.

Federal and State Grant Awards

No Board member shall participate 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/) if he or she has a real or apparent conflict of interest. A conflict of interest arises when a Board member or any of the following individuals has a financial or other interest in or a tangible benefit from the entity selected for the contract:

1. A member of the Board member's immediate family;
2. The Board member's partner; or
3. An entity that employs or is about to employ the Board member or one of the individuals listed in one or two above.

LEGAL REF.:

105 ILCS 5/10-9.

5 ILCS 420/, III. Governmental Ethics Act.

30 ILCS 708/, Grant Accountability and Transparency Act.

50 ILCS 105/3, Public Officer Prohibited Activities Act.

2 C.F.R. §200.318(c)(1).

CROSS REF.: 2:105 (Ethics and Gift Ban), 4:60 (Purchases and Contracts), 5:120 (Employee Ethics; Code of Professional Conduct; and Conflict of Interest)

ADOPTED: March 9, 2023

Rural Champaign Co. Sp. Ed.

2:105 Ethics and Gift Ban

Prohibited Political Activity

The following precepts govern political activities being conducted by Cooperative employees and Board members:

1. No employee shall intentionally perform any *political activity* during any *compensated time*, as those terms are defined herein.
2. No Board member or employee shall intentionally use any Cooperative property or resources in connection with any political activity.
3. At no time shall any Board member or employee intentionally require any other Board member or employee to perform any political activity: (a) as part of that Board member's or employee's duties, (b) as a condition of employment, or (c) during any compensated time off, such as, holidays, vacation, or personal time off.
4. No Board member or employee shall be required at any time to participate in any political activity in consideration for that Board member or employee being awarded additional compensation or any benefit, whether in the form of a salary adjustment, bonus, compensatory time off, continued employment or otherwise; nor shall any Board member or employee be awarded additional compensation or any benefit in consideration for his or her participation in any political activity.

A Board member or employee may engage in any activity that: (1) is otherwise appropriate as part of his or her official duties, or (2) is undertaken by the individual on a voluntary basis that is not prohibited by this policy.

Limitations on Receiving Gifts

Except as permitted by this policy, no Board member or employee, and no spouse of or immediate family member living with a Board member or employee, shall intentionally solicit or accept any *gift* from any *prohibited source*, as those terms are defined herein, or that is otherwise prohibited by law or policy. No prohibited source shall intentionally offer or make a gift that violates this policy.

The following are exceptions to the ban on accepting gifts from a prohibited source:

1. Opportunities, benefits, and services that are available on the same conditions as for the general public.
2. Anything for which the Board member or employee, or his or her spouse or immediate family member, pays the fair market value.
3. Any: (a) contribution that is lawfully made under the Election Code, or (b) activities

associated with a fund-raising event in support of a political organization or candidate.

4. Educational materials and missions.
5. Travel expenses for a meeting to discuss Cooperative business.
6. A gift from a relative, meaning those people related to the individual as father, mother, son, daughter, brother, sister, uncle, aunt, great aunt, great uncle, first cousin, nephew, niece, husband, wife, grandfather, grandmother, grandson, granddaughter, father-in-law, mother-in-law, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, brother-in-law, sister-in-law, stepfather, stepmother, stepson, stepdaughter, stepbrother, stepsister, half brother, half sister, and including the father, mother, grandfather, or grandmother of the individual's spouse and the individual's fiancé or fiancée.
7. Anything provided by an individual on the basis of a personal friendship unless the recipient has reason to believe that, under the circumstances, the gift was provided because of the official position or employment of the recipient or his or her spouse or immediate family member and not because of the personal friendship. In determining whether a gift is provided on the basis of personal friendship, the recipient shall consider the circumstances under which the gift was offered, such as: (a) the history of the relationship between the individual giving the gift and the recipient of the gift, including any previous exchange of gifts between those individuals; (b) whether to the actual knowledge of the recipient the individual who gave the gift personally paid for the gift or sought a tax deduction or business reimbursement for the gift; and (c) whether to the actual knowledge of the recipient the individual who gave the gift also at the same time gave the same or similar gifts to other Board members or employees, or their spouses or immediate family members.
8. Food or refreshments not exceeding \$75 per person in value on a single calendar day; provided that the food or refreshments are: (a) consumed on the premises from which they were purchased or prepared; or (b) catered. Catered means food or refreshments that are purchased ready to consume, which are delivered by any means.
9. Food, refreshments, lodging, transportation, and other benefits resulting from outside business or employment activities (or outside activities that are not connected to the official duties of a Board member or employee), if the benefits have not been offered or enhanced because of the official position or employment of the Board member or employee, and are customarily provided to others in similar circumstances.
10. Intra-governmental and inter-governmental gifts. Intra-governmental gift means any gift given to a Board member or employee from another Board member or employee, and inter-governmental gift means any gift given to a Board member or employee from an officer or employee of another governmental entity.
11. Bequests, inheritances, and other transfers at death.

12. Any item or items from any one prohibited source during any calendar year having a cumulative total value of less than \$100.

Each of the listed exceptions is mutually exclusive and independent of every other.

A Board member or employee, his or her spouse or an immediate family member living with the Board member or employee, does not violate this policy if the recipient promptly takes reasonable action to return a gift from a prohibited source to its source or gives the gift or an amount equal to its value to an appropriate charity that is exempt from income taxation under 26 U.S.C. §501(c)(3).

Enforcement

The Board Chairperson and Executive Director shall seek guidance from the Board attorney concerning compliance with and enforcement of this policy and State ethics laws. The Board may, as necessary or prudent, appoint an Ethics Advisor for this task.

Written complaints alleging a violation of this policy shall be filed with the Executive Director or Board Chairperson. If attempts to correct any misunderstanding or problem do not resolve the matter, the Executive Director or Board Chairperson shall, after consulting with the Board attorney, either place the alleged violation on a Board meeting agenda for the Board's disposition or refer the complainant to Board policy 2:260, *Uniform Grievance Procedure*. A Board member who is related, either by blood or by marriage, up to the degree of first cousin, to the person who is the subject of the complaint, shall not participate in any decision-making capacity for the Board. If the Board finds it more likely than not that the allegations in a complaint are true, it shall notify the State's Attorney and/or consider disciplinary action for the employee.

Definitions

Unless otherwise stated, all terms used in this policy have the definitions given in the State Officials and Employees Ethics Act, 5 ILCS 430/1-5.

Political activity means:

1. Preparing for, organizing, or participating in any political meeting, political rally, political demonstration, or other political event.
2. Soliciting contributions, including but not limited to the purchase of, selling, distributing, or receiving payment for tickets for any political fundraiser, political meeting, or other political event.
3. Soliciting, planning the solicitation of, or preparing any document or report regarding anything of value intended as a campaign contribution.

4. Planning, conducting, or participating in a public opinion poll in connection with a campaign for elective office or on behalf of a political organization for political purposes or for or against any referendum question.
5. Surveying or gathering information from potential or actual voters in an election to determine probable vote outcome in connection with a campaign for elective office or on behalf of a political organization for political purposes or for or against any referendum question.
6. Assisting at the polls on Election Day on behalf of any political organization or candidate for elective office or for or against any referendum question.
7. Soliciting votes on behalf of a candidate for elective office or a political organization or for or against any referendum question or helping in an effort to get voters to the polls.
8. Initiating for circulation, preparing, circulating, reviewing, or filing any petition on behalf of a candidate for elective office or for or against any referendum question.
9. Making contributions on behalf of any candidate for elective office in that capacity or in connection with a campaign for elective office.
10. Preparing or reviewing responses to candidate questionnaires.
11. Distributing, preparing for distribution, or mailing campaign literature, campaign signs, or other campaign material on behalf of any candidate for elective office or for or against any referendum question.
12. Campaigning for any elective office or for or against any referendum question.
13. Managing or working on a campaign for elective office or for or against any referendum question.
14. Serving as a delegate, alternate, or proxy to a political party convention.
15. Participating in any recount or challenge to the outcome of any election.

With respect to an employee whose hours are not fixed, *compensated time* includes any period of time when the employee is on premises under the control of the Cooperative and any other time when the employee is executing his or her official duties, regardless of location.

Prohibited source means any person or entity who:

1. Is seeking official action by: (a) a Board member, or (b) an employee, or by the Board member or another employee directing that employee;
2. Does business or seeks to do business with: (a) a Board member, or (b) an employee, or with the Board member or another employee directing that employee;
3. Conducts activities regulated by: (a) a Board member, or (b) an employee or by the Board member or another employee directing that employee;

4. Has an interest that may be substantially affected by the performance or non-performance of the official duties of the Board member or employee;
5. Is registered or required to be registered with the Secretary of State under the Lobbyist Registration Act, except that an entity does not become a prohibited source merely because a registered lobbyist is one of its members or serves on its board of directors; or
6. Is an agent of, a spouse of, or an immediate family member living with a prohibited source.

Gift means any gratuity, discount, entertainment, hospitality, loan, forbearance, or other tangible or intangible item having monetary value including but not limited to, cash, food and drink, and honoraria for speaking engagements related to or attributable to government employment or the official position of a Board member or employee.

Complaints of Sexual Harassment Made Against Board Members by Elected Officials

Pursuant to the State Officials and Employees Ethics Act (5 ILCS 430/70-5), members of the Board and other elected officials are encouraged to promptly report claims of sexual harassment by a Board member. Every effort should be made to file such complaints as soon as possible, while facts are known and potential witnesses are available. If the official feels comfortable doing so, he or she should directly inform the individual that the individual's conduct or communication is offensive and must stop.

Board members and elected officials should report claims of sexual harassment against a member of the Board to the Board Chairman or Executive Director. If the report is made to the Executive Director, the Executive Director shall promptly notify the Chairman, or if the Chairman is the subject of the complaint, the Vice Chairman. Reports of sexual harassment will be confidential to the greatest extent practicable.

When a complaint of sexual harassment is made against a member of the Board by another Board member or other elected official, the Board Chairman shall appoint a qualified outside investigator who is not a Cooperative employee or Board member to conduct an independent review of the allegations. If the allegations concern the Chairman, or the Chairman is a witness or otherwise conflicted, the Vice Chairman shall make the appointment. If the allegations concern both the Chairman and Vice Chairman, and/or they are witnesses or otherwise conflicted, the Board Secretary shall make the appointment. The investigator shall prepare a written report and submit it to the Board.

If a Board member has engaged in sexual harassment, the matter will be addressed in accordance with the authority of the Board.

The Executive Director will post this policy on the Cooperative website and/or make this policy available in the Cooperative's administrative office.

LEGAL REF.:

105 ILCS 5/22-93.

5 ILCS 430/, State Officials and Employees Ethics Act.

10 ILCS 5/9-25.1, Election Interference Prohibition Act.

CROSS REF.: 2:100 (Board Member Conflict of Interest), 2:110 (Qualifications, Term, and Duties of Board Officers), 2:260 (Uniform Grievance Procedure), 4:60 (Purchases and Contracts), 5:120 (Employee Ethics; Code of Professional Conduct; and Conflict of Interest)

ADOPTED: January 9, 2025

Rural Champaign Co. Sp. Ed.

2:110 Qualifications, Term, and Duties of Board Officers

Board officers are: Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, and Secretary. Officers are elected by the Governing Board at a regular meeting or whenever a position is vacated. Officers are elected by the Executive Board at its August meeting or whenever a position is vacated. All terms of office shall be limited to two consecutive years.

Chairperson

The Chairperson shall perform all of the functions customarily inherent in a presiding officer.

Vice Chairperson

The Vice Chairperson shall perform all of the functions customarily inherent in the office of vice chair.

Secretary

The secretary shall perform all of the functions customarily inherent in the office of the secretary.

ADOPTED: June 20, 2023

Rural Champaign Co. Sp. Ed.

2:125 Board Member Compensation; Expenses

Board Member Compensation Prohibited

Board members provide volunteer service to the community and may not receive compensation for services, except that a Board member serving as the Board Secretary may be paid an amount up to the statutory limit if the Board so provides.

Roll Call Vote

All Board member expense requests for travel, meals, and/or lodging must be approved by roll call vote at an open meeting of the Board.

Regulation of Cooperative Expenses

The Board regulates the reimbursement of all travel, meal, and lodging expenses in the Cooperative by resolution. No later than approval of the annual budget and when necessary, the Director will recommend a maximum allowable reimbursement amount for expenses to be included in the resolution. The recommended amount should be based upon the Cooperative's budget and other financial considerations.

Money shall not be advanced or reimbursed, or purchase orders issued for: (1) the expenses of any person except the Board member, (2) anyone's personal expenses, or (3) entertainment expenses. Entertainment includes, but is not limited to, shows, amusements, theaters, circuses, sporting events, or any other place of public or private entertainment or amusement, unless the entertainment is ancillary to the purpose of the program or event.

Exceeding the Maximum Allowable Reimbursement Amount(s)

All requests for expense advancements, reimbursements, and/or purchase orders that exceed the maximum allowable reimbursement amount set by the Board may only be approved by it when:

1. The Board's resolution to regulate expenses allows for such approval;
2. An emergency or other extraordinary circumstance exists; and
3. The request is approved by a roll call vote at an open Board meeting.

Advancements

The Board may advance to its members actual and necessary expenses to be incurred while attending:

1. Meetings sponsored by the Illinois State Board of Education or by the Regional Superintendent of Schools;
2. County or regional meetings and the annual meeting sponsored by any school board association complying with Article 23 of the School Code; and
3. Meetings sponsored by a national organization in the field of public school education.

Expense advancement requests must be submitted to the Director or designee on the Board's standardized estimated expense approval form. After spending expense advancements, Board members must use the Board's standardized expense reimbursement form and submit to the Director: (a) the itemized, signed advancement voucher that was issued, and (b) the amount of actual expenses by attaching receipts. A Board member must return to the Cooperative any portion of an expense advancement not used. If an expense advancement is not requested, expense reimbursements may be issued by the Board to its members for the activities listed in numbers one through three, above, along with registration fees or tuition for a course(s) that allowed compliance with the mandatory trainings described in policy 2:120, *Board Member Development* and other professional development opportunities that are encouraged by the School Code (see the **Reimbursements and Purchase Orders** subhead, below). Expense advancements and vouchers shall be presented to the Board in its regular bill process.

Reimbursements and Purchase Orders

Expense reimbursement is not guaranteed and, when possible, Board members should seek pre-approval of expenses by providing an estimation of expenses on the Board's standardized estimated expense approval form, except in situations when the expense is diminutive. When pre-approval is not sought, Board members must seek reimbursement on the Board's standardized expense reimbursement form. Expense reimbursements and purchase orders shall be presented to the Board in its regular bill process.

Standardized Expense Form(s) Required

All requests for expense advancement, reimbursement, and/or purchase orders in the Cooperative must be submitted on the appropriate itemized, signed standardized form(s). The form(s) must show the following information:

1. The amount of the estimated or actual expense, with attached receipts for actual incurred expenses.
2. The name and office of the Board member who is requesting the expense advancement or reimbursement. Receipts from group functions must include the names, offices, and job titles of all participants.
3. The date(s) of the official business on which the expense advancement or

reimbursement will be or was expended.

4. The nature of the official business conducted when the expense advancement or reimbursement will be or was expended.

Types of Official Business for Expense Advancements, Reimbursements, and Purchase Orders

1. Registration. When possible, registration fees will be paid by the Cooperative in advance.
2. Travel. The least expensive method of travel will be used, providing that no hardship will be caused to the Board member. Board members will be reimbursed for:
 - a. Air travel at the coach or economy class commercial airline rate. First class or business class air travel will be reimbursed only if emergency circumstances warrant. The emergency circumstances must be explained on the expense form and Board approval of the additional expense is required. Fees for the first checked bag will be reimbursed. Copies of airline tickets and baggage receipts must be attached to the expense form.
 - b. Rail or bus travel at actual cost. Rail or bus travel costs may not exceed the cost of coach airfare. Copies of tickets must be attached to the expense form to substantiate amounts.
 - c. Use of personal automobiles at the standard mileage rate approved by the Internal Revenue Service for income tax purposes. The reimbursement may not exceed the cost of coach airfare. Mileage for use of personal automobiles in trips to and from transportation terminals will also be reimbursed. Toll charges and parking costs will be reimbursed.
 - d. Automobile rental costs when the vehicle's use is warranted. The circumstances for such use must be explained on the expense form.
 - e. Taxis, airport limousines, ride sharing or other local transportation costs.
3. Meals. Board members will be reimbursed for meal costs up to \$30.00 per day, consistent with the maximum allowable reimbursement amount set by the Board. Tips are included with meal charges. Expense forms must explain the meal charges incurred. Alcoholic beverages will not be reimbursed.
4. Lodging. Board members should request conference rate or mid-fare room accommodations. A single room rate will be reimbursed. Board members should pay personal expenses at checkout. If that is impossible, deductions for the charges should be made on the expense form.
5. Miscellaneous Expenses. Board members may seek reimbursement for other expenses incurred while attending a meeting sponsored by organizations described

herein by fully describing the expenses on the expense form, attaching receipts.

Additional Requirements for Travel Expenses Charged to Federal and State Grants

All Board member expenses for travel charged to a federal grant or State grant governed by the Grant Accountability and Transparency Act (30 ILCS 708/) must comply with Board policy 5:60, *Expenses*, and its implementing procedures. Travel expenses include costs for transportation, lodging, meals, and related items.

LEGAL REF.:

105 ILCS 5/10-20 and 5/10-22.32.

30 ILCS 708/, Government Accountability and Transparency Act.

50 ILCS 150/, Local Government Travel Expense Control Act.

CROSS REF.: 2:100 (Board Member Conflict of Interest), 2:120 (Board Member Development), 2:240 (Board Policy Development), 4:50 (Payment Procedures), 4:55 (Use of Credit and Procurement Cards), 5:60 (Expenses)

ADOPTED: October 10, 2024

Rural Champaign Co. Sp. Ed.

2:130 Board-Executive Director Relationship

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

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

The Board considers the recommendations of the Executive Director as the Cooperative's Chief Executive Officer. The Board adopts policies necessary to provide direction for the Cooperative and to encourage achievement of Cooperative goals. The Executive Director develops plans, programs, and procedures needed to implement the policies and directs the Cooperative's operations.

LEGAL REF.:

105 ILCS 5/10-16.7 and 5/10-21.4.

CROSS REF.: 3:40 (Executive Director)

ADOPTED: October 9, 2025

Rural Champaign Co. Sp. Ed.

2:140 Communications To and From the Board

The Board welcomes communications from staff members, parents/guardians, students, and community members. Individuals may submit questions or communications for the Board's consideration to the Executive Director or may use the electronic link to the Board's email address(es) posted on the Cooperative's website.

The Executive Director or designee shall:

1. Ensure that the home page for the Cooperative's website contains an active electronic link to the email address(es) for the Board, and
2. During the Board's regular meetings, report for the Board's consideration all questions or communications submitted through the active electronic link along with the status of the Cooperative's response in the Board meeting packet.

If contacted individually, Board members will refer the person to the appropriate level of authority, except in unusual situations. Board members' questions or communications to staff or about programs will be channeled through the Executive Director's office. Board members will not take individual action that might compromise the Board or Cooperative. There is no expectation of privacy for any communication sent to the Board or its members, whether sent by letter, email, or other means.

Board Member Use of Electronic Communications

For purposes of this section, *electronic communications* includes, without limitation, electronic mail, electronic chat, instant messaging, texting, and any form of social networking. Electronic communications among a majority or more of a Board-quorum shall not be used for the purpose of discussing Cooperative business. Electronic communications among Board members shall be limited to: (1) disseminating information, and (2) messages not involving deliberation, debate, or decision-making. The following list contains examples of permissible electronic communications:

- Agenda item suggestions
- Reminders regarding meeting times, dates, and places
- Board meeting agendas or information concerning agenda items
- Individual emails to community members, subject to the other limitations in this policy

In accordance with the Open Meetings Act, individual Board members will not (a) reply to an email on behalf of the entire Board, or (b) engage in the discussion of District business through electronic communications with a majority of a Board-quorum.

LEGAL REF.:

5 ILCS 120/, Open Meetings Act.

50 ILCS 205/20, Local Records Act.

CROSS REF.:2:220 (Board Meeting Procedure), 3:30 (Chain of Command), 8:110 (Public Suggestions and Concerns)

ADOPTED: July 11, 2024

Rural Champaign Co. Sp. Ed.

2:140-E Exhibit - Guidance for Board Member Communications, Including Email Use

The Open Meetings Act (OMA) requires the Board to discuss District business only at a properly noticed Board meeting. 5 ILCS 120/. Other than during a Board meeting, a majority or more of a Board quorum may not engage in contemporaneous interactive communication, whether in person or electronically, to discuss District business. This guidance assumes a Board has seven members and covers issues arising from Board policy 2:140, *Communications To and From the Board*.

Note: *Public records* stored by board members on personal devices (i.e., texts) or personal email accounts pose significant logistical and administrative challenges for public record preservation and certain FOIA requests. It is therefore a best practice for board members to utilize District-issued devices or District-issued email addresses for electronic communications that qualify as public records under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) or the Local Records Act (LRA). For that reason, the examples in this guidance focus primarily on board member email use and District-issued devices.

Communications Between or Among Board Members and/or the Superintendent Outside of a Properly Noticed Board Meeting

1. The Superintendent or designee is permitted to email information to Board members. For example, the Superintendent may email Board meeting agendas and supporting information to Board members. When responding to a single Board member's request, the Superintendent should copy all other Board members and include a do not reply all/forward alert to the group, such as: **"BOARD MEMBER ALERT: This email is in response to a request. Do not reply or forward to the group but only to the sender."** Alternatively, the Superintendent may blind carbon copy (bcc) all other board members (preventing them from replying to all) and include a similar alert to the group, such as: **"BOARD MEMBER ALERT: This email is in response to a request. To prevent replies or forwards to the group, all board members are blind carbon copied on this email. Only reply to the sender."**
2. Board members are permitted to discuss any topic other than District business with each other, whether in person or by telephone, email, text, or other electronic means, regardless of the number of members participating in the discussion. For example, they may discuss sports, work, or current events.
3. Board members are permitted to provide information to each other, whether in person or by telephone, email, text, or other electronic means, that relates to District business but is non-deliberative and non-substantive. Examples of this type of communication include scheduling meetings and confirming receipt of information.

4. A Board member is not permitted to discuss District business with more than one other Board member at a time, whether in person or by telephone, email, text, or other electronic means. Stated another way, a Board member may discuss District business in person or by telephone, email, text, or other electronic means with only one other Board member at a time.
5. A Board member should not facilitate interactive communication by discussing District business in a series of visits with, or telephone calls, emails, texts, or other electronic communications to, Board members individually.
6. A Board member should include a do not reply all/forward alert when emailing a message concerning District business to more than one other Board member. The following is an example of such an alert: **“BOARD MEMBER ALERT: This email is not for interactive discussion purposes. The recipient should not reply to it or forward it to any other individual.”** Alternatively, the board member may bcc the other board members and include a similar alert to the other board members, such as **“BOARD MEMBER ALERT: This email is not for interactive discussion purposes. To prevent replies or forwards to the group, all board members are blind carbon copied on this email. The recipient should not reply to it or forward it to another individual.”**
7. Board members should not forward email received from another Board member.

When Must the Electronic Communications Sent or Received by Individual Board Members Be Disclosed Pursuant to a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Request?

An electronic communication must be disclosed if it is a public record as defined by FOIA, unless a specific exemption applies. A *public record* is any recorded information “pertaining to the transaction of public business, regardless of physical form or characteristics, having been prepared by or for, or having been or being used by, received by, in the possession of, or under the control of any public body.” 5 ILCS 140/2, amended by P.A. 104-438. Public records do not include *junk mail*. Junk mail includes unsolicited commercial electronic communications sent to the District that it does not respond to. *Id.* Email or other electronic communications sent or received by an individual Board member may be, depending on the content and circumstances, subject to disclosure as a public record (unless a FOIA exemption is applicable).

If a Board member uses a District-provided device or email address to discuss public business, the electronic communication is subject to disclosure under FOIA, barring an applicable exemption. If a Board member uses a private device and email address, the communication is subject to FOIA if it satisfies this test:

First, the communication pertains to the transaction of public business, and

Second, the communication was: (1) prepared by a public body, (2) prepared for a public body, (3) used by a public body, (4) received by a public body, (5) possessed by a public body, and/or (6) controlled by a public body.

This test is from the appellate court decision in City of Champaign v. Madigan, 992 N.E.2d 629 (Ill. App. Ct. 2013).

The following examples describe FOIA's treatment of electronic communications:

1. If an electronic communication does not pertain to public business, it is not a public record and is not subject to a FOIA request.
2. An electronic communication pertaining to public business that is:
 - a. Sent and/or received by an individual Board member using a personal electronic device and personal email address while he or she is at home or work would not be a public record. Individual Board members, alone, cannot conduct school District business. As stated earlier, emails among a majority or more of a Board-quorum violate OMA and, thus, are subject to disclosure during proceedings to enforce OMA.
 - b. Sent and/or received by an individual Board member on a District-issued device or District-issued email address **will be a public record** and subject to FOIA. The electronic communication is under the control of the District.
 - c. Received by an individual Board member on a personal electronic device and then forwarded by the Board member to a District-owned device or server **will be a public record** and subject to FOIA. The electronic communication is under the control of the District.
 - d. Received by an individual Board member using a personal electronic device and personal email address, and then forwarded by the Board member to enough members to constitute a majority or more of a Board-quorum **will be a public record** and subject to FOIA. The electronic communication is in the District's possession.
 - e. Either sent to or from a Board member's personal electronic device during a Board meeting **will be a public record** and subject to FOIA. The electronic communication is in the District's possession because Board members were functioning collectively as a public body.

The District's Freedom of Information Officer and/or Board Attorney will help determine whether a specific communication must be disclosed pursuant to a FOIA request.

When Must Electronic Communications Be Retained?

Electronic communications that qualify under FOIA as *public records* will need to be stored pursuant to the Local Records Act (LRA), only if it is evidence of the District's organization, function, policies, procedures, or activities or contains informational data appropriate for preservation. 50 ILCS 205/. An example is any email from a Board officer concerning a decision made in his or her capacity as an officer. If a Board member uses his or her personal email, he or she must copy this type of email to the appropriate District office where it will be stored. If made available, Board members should use their email accounts provided by the District, and the District will automatically store the official record messages. The District will delete these official record messages as provided in an applicable, approved **retention schedule**. Of course, email pertaining to public business that is sent or received by a Board Member using a District-issued device or email address will be subject to FOIA, even if the email does not need to be retained under the LRA.

Important: Do not destroy any electronic communication concerning a topic that is being litigated without obtaining the Board Attorney's direction. In federal lawsuits, there is an automatic discovery of virtually all types of electronically created or stored data that might be relevant. Attorneys will generally advise their clients at the beginning of a legal proceeding that they must not destroy any electronic records that might be relevant. This is referred to as a *litigation hold*. For more discussion of a litigation hold, see administrative procedure 2:250-AP2, *Protocols for Record Preservation and Development of Retention Schedules*. In addition, any person who knowingly with the intent to defraud any party destroys, removes, or conceals any public record commits a Class 4 felony. 50 ILCS 205/4.

DATED: June 22, 2026

Rural Champaign Co. Sp. Ed.

2:150 Committees

The Board may establish committees to assist with the Board's governance function and, in some situations, to comply with State law requirements. These committees are known as Board committees and report directly to the Board. Committee members may include both Board members and non-Board members depending on the committee's purpose. The Board Chairperson makes all Board committee appointments unless specifically stated otherwise. Board committee meetings shall comply with the Open Meetings Act. A Board committee may not take final action on behalf of the Board - it may only make recommendations to the Board.

Standing Board Committees

A standing committee is created for an indefinite term although its members will fluctuate. Standing committees are:

1. Parent-Teacher Advisory Committee. This committee assists in the development of student behavior policy and procedure, and provides information and recommendations to the Board. Its members are parents/guardians and teachers, and may include persons whose expertise or experience is needed. The committee reviews such issues as administering medication in the schools, reciprocal reporting between the Cooperative and local law enforcement agencies regarding criminal and civil offenses committed by students, student discipline, disruptive classroom behavior, school bus safety procedures, and the dissemination of student conduct information.
2. Behavioral Interventions Committee. This committee develops and monitors procedures for using behavioral interventions in accordance with Board policy 7:230, *Misconduct by Students with Disabilities*, and provides information and recommendations to the Board. At the Board President's discretion, the Parent-Teacher Advisory Committee shall perform the duties assigned to the Behavioral Interventions Committee.

Nothing in this policy limits the authority of the Executive Director or designee to create and use committees that report to him or her or to other staff members.

LEGAL REF.:

5 ILCS 120/, Open Meetings Act.

105 ILCS 5/10-20.14 and 5/14-8.05.

CROSS REF.: 2:110 (Qualifications, Term, and Duties of Board Officers), 2:200 (Types of Board Meetings), 2:240 (Board Policy Development), 7:230 (Misconduct by Students with Disabilities)

ADOPTED: February 12, 2026

Rural Champaign Co. Sp. Ed.

2:160 Board Attorney

The Board may retain legal services with one or more attorneys or law firms to be the Board Attorney(s). The Board Attorney represents the Board in its capacity as the governing body for the Cooperative. The Board Attorney serves on a retainer or other fee arrangement as determined in advance. The Board Attorney will provide services as described in the agreement for legal services or as memorialized by an engagement letter. The Cooperative will only pay for legal services that are provided in accordance with the agreement for legal services, as memorialized by an engagement letter, or that are otherwise authorized by this policy or a majority of the Board.

The Executive Director, his or her designee, and Executive Board Chairperson, are each authorized to confer with and/or seek the legal advice of the Board Attorney. The Board may also authorize a specific Board member to confer with the Board Attorney on its behalf.

The Executive Director may authorize the Board Attorney to represent the Cooperative in any legal matter until the Board has an opportunity to be informed of and/or consider the matter. The Board retains the right to consult with or employ other attorneys and to terminate the service of any attorney.

CROSS REF.: 4:60 (Purchases and Contracts)

ADOPTED: October 10, 2024

Rural Champaign Co. Sp. Ed.

2:170 Procurement of Architectural, Engineering, and Land Surveying Services

The Board selects architects, engineers, and land surveyors to provide professional services to the Cooperative on the basis of demonstrated competence and qualifications, and in accordance with State law.

LEGAL REF.:

40 U.S.C. §1101 et seq.

50 ILCS 510/, Local Government Professional Services Selection Act.

105 ILCS 5/10-20.21.

Shively v. Belleville Twp. High Sch. Dist. 201, 329 Ill.App.3d 1156 (5th Dist. 2002), *appeal denied*.

ADOPTED: September 14, 2023

Rural Champaign Co. Sp. Ed.

2:200 Types of Board Meetings

General

For all meetings of the Board and its committees, the Executive Director or designee shall satisfy all notice and posting requirements contained herein as well as in the Open Meetings Act (OMA). This shall include mailing meeting notifications to news media that have officially requested them and to others as approved by the Board. Unless otherwise specified, all meetings are held in the Cooperative's main office. Board policy 2:220, *Board Meeting Procedure*, governs meeting quorum requirements.

The Executive Director is designated on behalf of the Board and each Board committee to receive the training on compliance with OMA that is required by Section 1.05(a) of that Act. The Executive Director may identify other employees to receive the training. In addition, each Board member must complete a course of training on OMA as required by Section 1.05(b) or (c) of that Act.

Regular Meetings

The Board announces the time and place for its regular meetings at the beginning of each fiscal year. The Executive Director shall prepare and make available the calendar of regular Board meetings. The regular meeting calendar may be changed with 10 days' notice in accordance with State law.

A meeting agenda shall be posted at the Cooperative's main office and the Board's meeting room, or other location where the meeting is to be held, at least 48 hours before the meeting.

Closed Meetings

The Board and Board committees may meet in a closed meeting to consider the following subjects:

1. The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees, specific individuals who serve as independent contractors in a park, recreational, or educational setting, or specific volunteers of the public body or legal counsel for the public body, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee, a specific individual who serves as an independent contractor in a park, recreational, or educational setting, or a volunteer of the public body or against legal counsel for the public body to determine its validity. However, a meeting to consider an increase in compensation to a specific employee of a public body that is subject to the Local Government Wage Increase Transparency Act may not be

closed and shall be open to the public and posted and held in accordance with [OMA]. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1).

2. Collective negotiating matters between the public body and its employees or their representatives, or deliberations concerning salary schedules for one or more classes of employees. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(2).
3. The selection of a person to fill a public office, as defined in OMA, including a vacancy in a public office, when the public body is given power to appoint under law or ordinance, or the discipline, performance or removal of the occupant of a public office, when the public body is given power to remove the occupant under law or ordinance. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(3).
4. Evidence or testimony presented in open hearing, or in closed hearing where specifically authorized by law, to a quasi-adjudicative body, as defined in OMA, provided that the body prepares and makes available for public inspection a written decision setting forth its determinative reasoning. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(4).
5. Evidence or testimony presented to the Board regarding denial of admission to school events or property pursuant to 105 ILCS 5/24-24, provided that the Board prepares and makes available for public inspection a written decision setting forth its determinative reasoning. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(4.5).
6. The purchase or lease of real property for the use of the public body, including meetings held for the purpose of discussing whether a particular parcel should be acquired. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(5).
7. The setting of a price for sale or lease of property owned by the public body. 5ILCS 120/2(c)(6).
8. The sale or purchase of securities, investments, or investment contracts. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(7).
9. Security procedures, school building safety and security, and the use of personnel and equipment to respond to an actual, a threatened, or a reasonably potential danger to the safety of employees, students, staff, the public, or public property. 5ILCS 120/2(c)(8).
10. Student disciplinary cases. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(9).
11. The placement of individual students in special education programs and other matters relating to individual students. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(10).
12. Litigation, when an action against, affecting or on behalf of the particular public body has been filed and is pending before a court or administrative tribunal, or when the public body finds that an action is probable or imminent, in which case the basis for the finding shall be recorded and entered into the minutes of the closed meeting. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(11).
13. The establishment of reserves or settlement of claims as provided in the Local Governmental and Governmental Employees Tort Immunity Act, if otherwise the

disposition of a claim or potential claim might be prejudiced, or the review or discussion of claims, loss or risk management information, records, data, advice or communications from or with respect to any insurer of the public body or any intergovernmental risk management association or self insurance pool of which the public body is a member. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(12).

14. Self evaluation, practices and procedures or professional ethics, when meeting with a representative of a statewide association of which the public body is a member. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(16).
15. Discussion of minutes of meetings lawfully closed under OMA, whether for purposes of approval by the body of the minutes or semi-annual review of the minutes as mandated by Section 2.06. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(21).
16. Meetings between internal or external auditors and governmental audit committees, finance committees, and their equivalents, when the discussion involves internal control weaknesses, identification of potential fraud risk areas, known or suspected frauds, and fraud interviews conducted in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards of the United States of America. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(29).

The Board may hold a closed meeting, or close a portion of a meeting, by a majority vote of a quorum, taken at an open meeting. The vote of each Board member present, and the reason for the closed meeting, will be publicly disclosed at the time of the meeting and clearly stated in the motion and the meeting minutes.

A single motion calling for a series of closed meetings may be adopted when such meetings will involve the same particular matters and are scheduled to be held within 3 months of the vote.

No final Board action will be taken at a closed meeting.

Reconvened or Rescheduled Meetings

A meeting may be rescheduled or reconvened. Public notice of a rescheduled or reconvened meeting shall be given in the same manner as that for a special meeting, except that no public notice is required when the original meeting is open to the public and: (1) is to be reconvened within 24 hours, or (2) an announcement of the time and place of the reconvened meeting was made at the original meeting and there is no change in the agenda.

Special Meetings

Special meetings may be called by the Chairman or by any three members of the Board by giving notice thereof, in writing, stating the time, place, and purpose of the meeting to remaining Board members by mail at least 48 hours before the meeting, or by personal

service at least 24 hours before the meeting.

Public notice of a special meeting is given by posting a notice at the Cooperative's main office at least 48 hours before the meeting and by notifying the news media that have filed a written request for notice. A meeting agenda shall accompany the notice.

All matters discussed by the Board at any special meeting must be related to a subject on the meeting agenda.

Emergency Meetings

Public notice of emergency meetings shall be given as soon as practical, but in any event, before the meeting to news media that have filed a written request for notice.

Posting on the Cooperative Website

In addition to the other notices specified in this policy, the Executive Director or designee shall post the following on the Cooperative website: (1) the annual schedule of regular meetings, which shall remain posted until the Board approves a new schedule of regular meetings; (2) a public notice of all Board meetings; and (3) the agenda for each meeting which shall remain posted until the meeting is concluded.

LEGAL REF.:

5 ILCS 120/, Open Meetings Act.

5 ILCS 140/, Freedom of Information Act.

105 ILCS 5/10-6 and 5/10-16.

CROSS REF.: 2:110 (Qualifications, Term, and Duties of Board Officers), 2:120 (Board Member Development), 2:210 (Organizational Board Meeting), 2:220 (Board Meeting Procedure), 2:230 (Public Participation at Board Meetings and Petitions to the Board), 6:235 (Access to Electronic Networks), 8:30 (Visitors to and Conduct on School Property)

ADOPTED: June 22, 2026

Rural Champaign Co. Sp. Ed.

2:220 Board Meeting Procedure

Agenda

The Board Chairperson is responsible for focusing the Board meeting agendas on appropriate content. The Executive Director shall prepare agendas in consultation with the Board Chairperson. The Chairperson shall designate a portion of the agenda as a consent agenda for those items that usually do not require extensive discussion before Board action. Upon the request of any Board member, an item will be withdrawn from the consent agenda and placed on the regular agenda for independent consideration.

Each Board meeting agenda shall contain the general subject matter of any item that will be the subject of final action at the meeting. Any Board member may submit suggested agenda items to the Board Chairperson for his or her consideration for an upcoming meeting. Residents of the area served by the Cooperative may suggest inclusions for the agenda. Discussion items suggested by residents of the area served by the Cooperative may be added to the agenda at the beginning of a regular meeting. The Board will take final action only on items contained in the posted agenda; items not on the agenda may still be discussed.

The Executive Director shall provide a copy of the agenda, with adequate data and background information, to each Board member at least 48 hours before each meeting, except a meeting held in the event of an emergency. The meeting agenda shall be posted in accordance with Board policy 2:200, *Types of Board Meetings*.

The Board Chairperson shall determine the order of business at regular Board meetings. Upon consent of a majority of members present, the order of business at any meeting may be changed.

Voting Method

Unless otherwise provided by law, when a vote is taken upon any measure before the Board, with a quorum being present, a majority of the votes cast shall determine its outcome. A vote of *abstain* or *present*, or a vote other than *yea* or *nay*, or a failure to vote, is counted for the purposes of determining whether a quorum is present. A vote of abstain or present, or a vote other than *yea* or *nay*, or a failure to vote, however, is not counted in determining whether a measure has been passed by the Board, unless otherwise stated in law. The sequence for casting votes is rotated.

On all questions involving the expenditure of money and on all questions involving the closing of a meeting to the public, a roll call vote shall be taken and entered in the Board's minutes. An individual Board member may request that a roll call vote be taken on any other

matter; the Chairperson or other presiding officer may approve or deny the request but a denial is subject to being overturned by a majority vote of the members present.

Minutes

The Board Secretary shall keep written minutes of all Board meetings (whether open or closed), which shall be signed by the Chairperson and the Secretary. The minutes include:

1. The meeting's date, time, and place;
2. Board members recorded as either present or absent;
3. A summary of the discussion on all matters proposed, deliberated, or decided, and a record of any votes taken;
4. On all matters requiring a roll call vote, a record of who voted *yea* and *nay*;
5. If the meeting is adjourned to another date, the time and place of the adjourned meeting;
6. The vote of each member present when a vote is taken to hold a closed meeting or portion of a meeting, and the reason for the closed meeting with a citation to the specific exception contained in the Open Meetings Act (OMA) authorizing the closed meeting;
7. A record of all motions, including individuals making and seconding motions;
8. Upon request by a Board member, a record of how he or she voted on a particular motion; and
9. The type of meeting, including any notices and, if a reconvened meeting, the original meeting's date.

The minutes shall be submitted to the Board for approval or modification at its next regularly scheduled open meeting. Minutes for open meetings must be approved within 30 days after the meeting or at the second subsequent regular meeting, whichever is later.

Every six months, or as soon after as is practicable, in an open meeting, the Board: (1) reviews minutes from all closed meetings that are currently unavailable for public release, and (2) determines which, if any, no longer require confidential treatment and are available for public inspection. This is also referred to as a *semi-annual review*. The Board may meet in a prior closed session to review the minutes from closed meetings that are currently unavailable for public release, but it reports its determination in open session.

The Board's meeting minutes must be submitted to the Board Treasurer at such times as the Treasurer may require.

The official minutes are in the custody of the Board Secretary. Open meeting minutes are available for inspection during regular office hours within 10 days after the Board's approval;

they may be inspected in the Cooperative's main office, in the presence of the Secretary, the Executive Director or designee, or any Board member.

Minutes from closed meetings are likewise available, but only if the Board has released them for public inspection, except that Board members may access closed session minutes not yet released for public inspection (1) in the Cooperative's administrative offices or their official storage location, and (2) in the presence of the Recording Secretary, the Executive Director or designated administrator, or any elected Board member. The minutes, whether reviewed by members of the public or the Board, shall not be removed from the Cooperative's administrative offices or their official storage location except by vote of the Board or by court order.

The Board's open meeting minutes shall be posted on the Cooperative website within 10 days after the Board approves them; the minutes will remain posted for at least 60 days.

Verbatim Record of Closed Meetings

The Executive Director, or the Board Secretary when the Executive Director is absent, shall audio record all closed meetings. If neither is present, the Board Chairperson or presiding officer shall assume this responsibility. After the closed meeting, the person making the audio recording shall label the recording with the date and store it in a secure location. The Executive Director shall ensure that: (1) an audio recording device and all necessary accompanying items are available to the Board for every closed meeting, and (2) a secure location for storing closed meeting audio recordings is maintained within the Cooperative's main office.

After 18 months have passed since being made, the audio recording of a closed meeting is destroyed provided the Board approved: (1) its destruction, and (2) minutes of the particular closed meeting.

Individual Board members may access verbatim recordings in the presence of the Recording Secretary, the Executive Director or designated administrator, or any elected Board member. Access to the verbatim recordings is available at the Cooperative's administrative offices or the verbatim recording's official storage location. Requests shall be made to the Executive Director or Board Chairperson. While a Board member is listening to a verbatim recording, it shall not be re-recorded or removed from the Cooperative's main office or official storage location, except by vote of the Board or by court order.

Before making such requests, Board members should consider whether such requests are germane to their responsibilities or service to Cooperative. In the interest of encouraging free and open expression by Board members during closed meetings, the recordings of closed meetings should not be used by Board members to confirm or dispute the accuracy

of recollections.

Quorum and Participation by Audio or Video Means

A quorum of the Board must be physically present at all Board meetings. A majority of the full membership of the Board constitutes a quorum.

Provided a quorum is physically present, a Board member may attend a meeting by video or audio conference if he or she is prevented from physically attending because of: (1) personal illness or disability, (2) employment or Cooperative business, (3) a family or other emergency, (4) unexpected childcare obligations, or (5) performance of *active military duty* as a *service member*. If a member wishes to attend a meeting by video or audio means, he or she must notify the Recording Secretary or Executive Director at least 24 hours before the meeting unless advance notice is impractical. The recording secretary or Executive Director will inform the Board Chairperson and make appropriate arrangements. A Board member who attends a meeting by audio or video means, as provided in this policy, may participate in all aspects of the Board meeting including voting on any item.

No Physical Presence of Quorum and Participation by Audio or Video; Disaster Declaration

The ability of the Board to meet in person with a quorum physically present at its meeting location may be affected by the Governor or the Director of the Ill. Dept. of Public Health issuing a disaster declaration related to a public health emergency. The Board Chairperson or, if the office is vacant or the Chairperson is absent or unable to perform the office's duties, the Vice Chairperson determines that an in-person meeting or a meeting conducted under the **Quorum and Participation by Audio or Video Means** subhead above, is not practical or prudent because of the disaster declaration; if neither the Chairperson nor Vice Chairperson is present or able to perform this determination, the Executive Director shall serve as the duly authorized designee for purposes of making this determination.

The individual who makes this determination for the Board shall put it in writing, include it on the Board's published notice and agenda for the audio or video meeting and in the meeting minutes, and ensure that the Board meets every OMA requirement for the Board to meet by video or audio conference without the physical presence of a quorum.

Rules of Order

Unless State law or Board-adopted rules apply, the Board Chairperson, as the presiding officer, will use the most recent edition of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised, as a guide when a question arises concerning procedure.

Broadcasting and Recording Board Meetings

Any person may record or broadcast an open Board meeting. Special requests to facilitate recording or broadcasting an open Board meeting, such as seating, writing surfaces, lighting, and access to electrical power, should be directed to the Executive Director at least 24 hours before the meeting.

Recording meetings shall not distract or disturb Board members, other meeting participants, or members of the public. The Board Chairperson may designate a location for recording equipment, may restrict the movements of individuals who are using recording equipment, or may take such other steps as are deemed necessary to preserve decorum and facilitate the meeting.

LEGAL REF.:

5 ILCS 120/2a, 120/2.02, 120/2.05, 120/2.06, and 120/7, Open Meetings Act.

105 ILCS 5/10-6, 5/10-7, 5/10-12, and 5/10-16.

CROSS REF.: 2:110 (Qualifications, Term, and Duties of Board Officers), 2:150 (Committees), 2:200 (Types of Board Meetings), 2:230 (Public Participation at Board Meetings and Petitions to the Board)

ADOPTED: June 22, 2026

Rural Champaign Co. Sp. Ed.

2:220-E1 Exhibit - Board Treatment of Closed Meeting Verbatim Recordings and Minutes

The following procedures govern the verbatim audio recordings and minutes of Board meetings that are closed to the public.

Actor	Action
<i>Before any Board meeting:</i> Executive Director or designee	Arranges to have an audio recording device with adequate storage capacity and a back-up audio recording device in the Board meeting room during every Board meeting regardless of whether a closed meeting is scheduled. The Board may close a portion of a public meeting without prior notice; it cannot, however, have a closed meeting unless it can record the session.
<i>Before a closed meeting:</i> Board Chairperson or presiding officer (#3 and #4 may be delegated to the Board Secretary or Recording Secretary)	On the closed meeting date: (1) convenes an open meeting, (2) requests a motion to adjourn into closed meeting making sure the reason for the meeting is identified in the motion, (3) takes a roll call vote, (4) ensures that the minutes record the vote of each member present and the reason for the closed meeting with a citation to the specific exception contained in the Open Meetings Act authorizing the closed meeting (5 ILCS 120/2a), and (5) adjourns the open meeting.
<i>Before a closed meeting:</i> Executive Director or Board Secretary	Immediately before a closed meeting, tests and activates the audio recording device.
	Convenes the closed meeting stating:

<i>During a closed meeting:</i> Board Chairperson or presiding officer	Seeing a quorum of the Board of Education gathered today, ____ date, at ____ o'clock, at ____ location, for the purpose of holding a closed meeting in order to confidentially discuss ____, I call the meeting to order. In order to record who is present, I request that each individual state his or her name and position with the Cooperative. Limits discussion to the topics that were included in the motion to go into a closed meeting. The failure to immediately call a person out-of-order who strays from the purposes included in the motion may result in an appearance of acquiescence. This responsibility to call a person out-of-order falls on each Board member in the event of the President's failure. Once the closed meeting is finished, announces a return to an open meeting or adjournment, and states the time.
<i>After a closed meeting:</i> Executive Director, Recording Secretary, or Board Secretary	For Verbatim Recordings: Takes possession of the audio recording of the closed meeting and labels it with identification information, specifically the date and items discussed. Adds the identification information contained on the audio recording's label to a cumulative list of closed meeting recordings. As soon as possible, puts the recording of the closed meeting in the previously identified secure location for storing recordings of closed meetings. Upon request of a Board member: 1. Provides access to the verbatim recordings minutes at a reasonable time and place without disrupting Cooperative operations; 2. Supervises the access to the closed session minutes or delegates it to one of the following individuals in the Cooperative: a. The Recording Secretary, b. The Executive Director or designated administrator, or

	c. Any elected Board member; and 3. Logs the access to the recordings in 2:220-E7, <i>Access to Closed Meeting Minutes and Verbatim Recordings</i>. For Closed Meeting Minutes: Prepares written closed meeting minutes that include: • The date, time, and place of the closed meeting • The Board members present and absent • A summary of discussion on all matters proposed or discussed • The time the closed meeting was adjourned Upon request of a Board member: 1. Provides access to the closed session minutes at a reasonable time and place without disrupting Cooperative operations; 2. Supervises the access to the closed session minutes or delegates it to one of the following individuals in the Cooperative: a. The Recording Secretary, b. The Executive Director or designated administrator, or c. Any elected Board member; and 3. Logs the access in 2:220-E7, <i>Access to Closed Meeting Minutes and Verbatim Recordings</i>.
<i>After a closed meeting:</i> Board	Approves the previous closed meeting minutes at the next open meeting.
<i>In preparation for the semi-annual review:</i> Executive Director or	Every six months, prepares a recommendation concerning the continued need for confidential treatment of all of the Board's closed meeting minutes; includes this recommendation in the packet for the meeting in which the Board will conduct its semi-annual review.

designee	This step is in preparation of the Board's meeting to decide whether the need for confidential treatment of specific closed meeting minutes continues to exist. If the Board wants to discuss closed meeting minutes in closed session, places "review of unreleased closed meeting minutes" on a closed meeting agenda. Places "result of Board's review of unreleased closed meeting minutes" as an item on a subsequent open meeting agenda.
<i>In preparation for the semi-annual review:</i> Individual Board members	Before the meeting in which the Board will conduct its semi-annual review, examines the material supplied by the Executive Director. Individual Board members should consider: (1) the Executive Director's recommendation, (2) the recommendation of the Board Attorney, (3) other Board members' opinions, (4) the minutes themselves, and/or (5) whether the minutes would be exempted from public disclosure under the Illinois Freedom of Information Act.
<i>During the semi-annual review:</i> Board	The Board decides in open session whether: (1) the need for confidentiality still exists as to all or part of closed meeting minutes, or (2) the minutes or portions thereof no longer require confidential treatment and are available for public inspection. The Board may have an earlier meeting in closed session to discuss the continued need for confidential treatment.
<i>After the semi-annual review:</i> Executive Director or designee	Re-labels and re-files closed meeting minutes as appropriate.
<i>Monthly:</i>	Adds "destruction of closed meeting audio recording" as an agenda item to an upcoming open meeting.

Board Chairperson	
<i>Monthly:</i> Board	Approves the destruction of particular closed meeting recording(s) that are at least 18 months old and for which approved minutes of the closed meeting already exist.

LEGAL REF.:

5 ILCS 120/, Open Meetings Act.

DATED: March 10, 2022

Rural Champaign Co. Sp. Ed.

2:220-E2 Exhibit - Motion to Adjourn to Closed Meeting

Motion to Adjourn to Closed Meeting

Date:	Time:
Location:	

A motion was made by _____, and seconded by _____, to adjourn to closed meeting to discuss:

- ☐ The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees, specific individuals who serve as independent contractors, or specific volunteers of the District or legal counsel for the District, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee, a specific individual who serves as an independent contractor, or a volunteer of the District or against legal counsel for the District to determine its validity. However, a meeting to consider an increase in compensation to a specific employee of a public body that is subject to the Local Government Wage Increase Transparency Act may not be closed and shall be open to the public and posted and held in accordance with this Act. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1).
- ☐ Collective negotiating matters between the Cooperative and its employees or their representatives, or deliberations concerning salary schedules for one or more classes of employees. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(2).
- ☐ The selection of a person to fill a public office, including a vacancy in a public office, when the Cooperative is given power to appoint under law or ordinance, or the discipline, performance or removal of the occupant of a public office, when the Cooperative is given power to remove the occupant under law or ordinance. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(3).
- ☐ Evidence or testimony presented in open hearing, or in closed hearing where authorized by law, to a quasi-adjudicative body, as defined in the Open Meetings Act, provided that the body prepares and makes available for public inspection a written decision with its determinative reasoning. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(4).
- ☐ Evidence or testimony presented to the Board regarding denial of admission to school events or property pursuant to 105 ILCS 5/24-24, provided that the Board prepares and makes available for public inspection a written decision setting forth its determinative

reasoning. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(4.5), added by P.A. 103-311.

- ☐ The purchase or lease of real property for the use of the Cooperative, including meetings held for the purpose of discussing whether a particular parcel should be acquired. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(5).
- ☐ The setting of a price for sale or lease of property owned by the Cooperative. 5ILCS 120/2(c)(6).
- ☐ The sale or purchase of securities, investments, or investment contracts. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(7).
- ☐ Security procedures, school building safety and security, and the use of personnel and equipment to respond to an actual, a threatened, or a reasonably potential danger to the safety of employees, students, staff, the public, or public property. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(8).
- ☐ Student disciplinary cases. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(9).
- ☐ The placement of individual students in special education programs and other matters relating to individual students. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(10).
- ☐ Litigation, when an action against, affecting or on behalf of the particular Cooperative has been filed and is pending before a court or administrative tribunal, or when the Cooperative finds that an action is probable or imminent, in which case the basis for the finding shall be recorded and entered into the closed meeting minutes. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(11).
- ☐ The establishment of reserves or settlement of claims as provided in the Local Government and Governmental Employees Tort Immunity Act, if otherwise the disposition of a claim or potential claim might be prejudiced, or the review or discussion of claims, loss or risk management information, records, data, advice or communications from or with respect to any insurer of the Cooperative or any intergovernmental risk management association or self insurance pool of which the Cooperative is a member. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(12).
- ☐ Self-evaluation, practices and procedures or professional ethics, when meeting with a representative of a statewide association of which the Cooperative is a member. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(16).
- ☐ Discussion of minutes of meetings lawfully closed, whether for purposes of approval by the body of the minutes or semi-annual review of the minutes as mandated by Section 2.06. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(21).
- ☐ Meetings between internal or external auditors and governmental audit committees, finance committees, and their equivalents, when the discussion involves internal control

weaknesses, identification of potential fraud risk areas, known or suspected frauds, and fraud interviews conducted in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards of the United States of America. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(29).

Closed Meeting Roll Call:

"Yeas"	"Nays"
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Motion: ☐ Carried ☐ Failed

DATED: January 12, 2024

Rural Champaign Co. Sp. Ed.

2:220-E3 Exhibit - Closed Meeting Minutes

Closed Meeting Minutes

Items in bold are required by 5 ILCS 120/2.06(a)(1)-(3). Non-bolded items align with best practices.

Date:	Time:
Location:	
Name of person(s) taking and recording the minutes:	
Name of person presiding:	
Members in attendance: 1. 2. 3. 4. 5. 6. 7.	Members absent: 1. 2. 3.
Summary of the discussion on all matters (as specified in the vote to close the meeting):	
Basis for the finding that litigation is probable or imminent, if applicable (5 ILCS 120/2(c)(11)):	
Time of adjournment or return to open meeting:	
<i>The Board, during its semi-annual review of closed session minutes, has decided these minutes no longer need confidential treatment. Semi-annual means every six months, or as soon after as is practicable, taking into account the nature and meeting schedule of the</i>	

board. 5 ILCS 120/2.06(d), amended by P.A. 102-653.

☐ **These minutes are available for public inspection as of:_____ .**

(Date)

DATED: March 10, 2022

Rural Champaign Co. Sp. Ed.

2:220-E4 Exhibit - Open Meeting Minutes

Meeting Minutes Protocol

1. Meeting minutes are the permanent record of the proceedings during a Board meeting. All Board action must be recorded in the minutes; thus, the minutes focus on Board action.
2. The minutes only include information provided at the meeting. Information may not be corrected or updated in the minutes unless it was discussed at the meeting.
3. Minutes include a summary of the Board's discussion on an agenda topic; the minutes do not state what is said verbatim. The minutes do not repeat the same point made by different individuals. If appropriate, the minutes include a brief background and an explanation of the circumstances surrounding an issue discussed. The minutes do not include the names of Board members making specific points during discussion. Requests from individual Board members to include their vote or an opinion in the minutes are handled according to Board policy 2:220, *Board Meeting Procedure*.
4. The minutes include the topic of reports that are made to the Board including reports from the Executive Director or a Board committee. Written reports are filed with the minutes but do not become part of the minutes.
5. The minutes note when a member is not present for the entire meeting due to late arrival and/or early departure.
6. Although items may be considered by the Board in a different order than appeared on the agenda, items in the minutes are generally recorded in the same order as they appeared on the agenda. When a meeting is reconvened on a different date, the minutes must describe what happened on each meeting date.
7. The minutes should be recorded in an objective tone. Answers and explanations, rather than questions, are recorded. Writing style, including choice of words and sentence structure, is at the discretion of the individual recording the minutes.
8. The minutes include individuals' names who speak during the meeting's public participation segment as well as the topics they address. All written documents presented at a Board meeting are filed with the minutes but do not become part of the minutes.
9. The following template generally governs meeting minutes.

Open Meeting Minutes

Date:	Time:

Location:

Type of meeting: ☐ Regular ☐ Special ☐ Reconvened or rescheduled ☐ Emergency

Name of person taking the minutes:

Name of person presiding:

Members in attendance:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.

Members absent:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Members in attendance remotely (by audio or video conference):

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Approval of Agenda

List any items removed from the consent agenda:

Motion made by:

Motion: ☐ To approve

☐ To add items as follows: *(No action may be taken on new agenda items.)*

Motion seconded by: _____

Action: ☐ Passed ☐ Failed

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes *(Needed only if this item is not on the consent agenda.)*

Minutes from the Board meeting held on:

Motion made by:

Motion: ☐ To approve

☐ To approve subject to incorporation of the following amendment(s):

Motion seconded by: _____

Action: ☐ Passed ☐ Failed

Approval of Items on Consent Agenda *(This may include expense advancements, reimbursements, and/or purchase orders regulated by the Local Government Travel Expense Control Act (see Board policies 2:125, Board Member Compensation; Expenses, and 5:60, Expenses)*

Summary of discussion:	
Motion to approve the consent agenda made by:	
Motion seconded by: _____	
Roll Call: <i>(Needed when consent agenda contains an item involving the expenditure of money.)</i>	
"Yeas"	"Nays"
Action: ☐ Passed ☐ Failed	

Public Comments *(Reproduce this section for each individual making a comment.)*

The following individual appeared and commented on the topic noted below: *(Include the title of any documents presented to the Board.)*

Name:
Topic:

Remaining Agenda Items *(Reproduce this section for each agenda item.)*

Agenda item:
Summary of discussion:
Motion made by:

Motion to:	
Motion seconded by: _____	
Action: ☐ Passed ☐ Failed	
<i>(If a roll call vote occurred, record the vote of individual Board members.)</i>	
"Yeas"	"Nays"

If Applicable, Approval of Motion to Adjourn to Closed Meeting *(Insert exhibit 2:220-E2, Motion to Adjourn to Closed Meeting.)*

Approval of Motion to Adjourn

Motion to adjourn made by:
Motion seconded by: _____
Action: ☐ Passed ☐ Failed
Time of adjournment:

Post-Meeting Action

Date minutes approved:

Date minutes were available for public inspection:

Date minutes were posted on Cooperative website:

DATED: October 9, 2025

Rural Champaign Co. Sp. Ed.

2:220-E5 Exhibit - Semi-Annual Review of Closed Meeting Minutes

Logging and Review Process

Step 1. The Board Secretary or Recording Secretary maintains a log of the closed meeting minutes that are unavailable for public inspection. The meeting minutes are logged according to the reason the Board held the closed meeting. 2:220-E6, *Log of Closed Meeting Minutes*.

Step 2. The Board meets in closed session to review the log of unreleased closed meeting minutes. The Board or Recording Secretary brings a copy of all unreleased closed meeting minutes and, if requested, allows Board members to review the actual minutes. The Board identifies which closed meeting minutes or portions thereof no longer need confidential treatment. Use *Report Following the Board's Semi-Annual Review of Closed Meeting Minutes*, below.

Step 3. At least semi-annually (every six months, or as soon after as is practicable, taking into account the nature and meeting schedule of the Board), in an open meeting, the Board takes action to release for public inspection those minutes, or portions thereof, no longer needing confidential treatment. Use *Action to Accept*, below. Closed meeting minutes will not be released for public inspection if confidential treatment is needed to protect the public interest or the privacy of an individual, including: (1) student disciplinary cases or other matters relating to an individual student, and (2) personnel files and employees' and Board members' personal information. 5 ILCS 120/2.06(d), amended by P.A. 102-653.

Step 4. The Board or Recording Secretary: (1) updates the log of unreleased closed meeting minutes to remove any minutes that the Board made available for public inspection; (2) makes a notation on any applicable closed meeting minutes of the Board's action to release it or a portion of it for public inspection; (3) continues to log new closed meeting minutes that the Board has not released for public inspection (2:220-E6, *Log of Closed Meeting Minutes*), and (4) maintains logs for access to closed session minutes pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2.06(e).

Report Following the Board's Semi-Annual Review of Closed Meeting Minutes

The Board met on _____ in closed session to conduct its semi-annual review of closed meeting minutes that have not been released for public inspection.

The closed meeting minutes, or portions thereof, from the following dates no longer require confidential treatment: *(insert closed meeting dates)*

--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--

The need for confidentiality still exists as to all remaining closed meeting minutes to protect an individual's privacy or the Cooperative's interests.

Action to Accept the Board's Semi-Annual Review of Closed Meeting Minutes

Open meeting date:
Motion to approve the Board's semi-annual review of unreleased closed meeting minutes and to release for public inspection those minutes, or portions thereof, that the Board identified as no longer needing confidential treatment made by:
Motion seconded by:
Action: ☐ Passed ☐ Failed

DATED: March 10, 2022

Rural Champaign Co. Sp. Ed.

2:220-E6 Exhibit - Log of Closed Meeting Minutes

The purpose of this log is to facilitate the Board's semi-annual review of closed meeting minutes. *Semi-annual* means every six months, or as soon after as is practicable, taking into account the nature and meeting schedule of the board. 5 ILCS 120/2.06(d), amended by P.A. 102-653. See 2:220-E5, *Semi-Annual Review of Closed Meeting Minutes*.

The Board Secretary or Recording Secretary shall maintain a list of closed meeting minutes, arranged according to the reason for the closed meeting, that have not been released for public inspection.

Closed Session Held to Discuss:	Dates of Closed Sessions		
Specific employee(s), specific independent contractors, specific volunteers, or District legal counsel; however, a meeting to consider an increase in compensation to a specific employee of a public body that is subject to the Local Government Wage Increase Transparency Act may not be closed and shall be open to the public and posted and held in accordance with [the Open Meetings Act]. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1).			
Collective negotiating matters or deliberations concerning salary schedules for one or more classes of employees. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(2).			
Selection of a person to fill a vacancy on the Board. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(3).			
Evidence or testimony presented in a hearing where authorized by law. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(4).			
Evidence or testimony presented to the Board regarding denial of admission to school events or property pursuant to 105 ILCS 5/24-24, provided that the Board prepares and makes available for public inspection a written decision setting forth its determinative reasoning. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(4.5), added by P.A. 103-311.			

Purchase or lease of real property. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(5).			
Setting of a price for sale or lease of Cooperative property. 5ILCS 120/2(c)(6).			
Sale or purchase of securities, investments, or investment contracts. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(7).			
Security procedures and the use of personnel and equipment to respond to an actual, a threatened, or a reasonably potential danger. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(8).			
Student disciplinary cases. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(9). <i>Minutes of meetings held for this reason shall never be released to protect the individual student's privacy.</i>			
Any matter involving an individual student. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(10). <i>Minutes of meetings held for this reason shall never be released to protect the individual student's privacy.</i>			
Litigation, when an action against, affecting, or on behalf of the Cooperative has been filed and is pending before a court or administrative tribunal, or when the Board finds that an action is probable or imminent. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(11).			
Establishment of reserves or settlement of claims as provided in the Local Government and Governmental Employees Tort Immunity Act or discussion of claims, loss or risk management information, records, data, advice or communications from or with respect to any insurer of the Cooperative or any intergovernmental risk management association or self insurance pool. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(12).			
Self-evaluation, practices and procedures or professional ethics, when meeting with an IASB representative. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(16).			

Minutes of meetings lawfully closed, whether for purposes of approval or semi-annual review. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(21).			
Meetings between internal or external auditors and governmental audit committees, finance committees, and their equivalents, when the discussion involves internal control weaknesses, identification of potential fraud risk areas, known or suspected frauds, and fraud interviews conducted in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards of the United States of America. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(29).			

DATED: January 12, 2024

Rural Champaign Co. Sp. Ed.

2:220-E7 Exhibit - Access to Closed Meeting Minutes and Verbatim Recordings

The Board must allow its duly elected officials or appointed officials filling a vacancy of an elected office access to closed session minutes and verbatim recordings. 5 ILCS 120/2.06(e). The following subheads implement the logistics of granting this access.

Access to Closed Meeting Minutes

Duplicate this section for each grant of access to closed meeting minutes.

Date:		Time:		Storage Location:
Name of person(s) responsible for storing the closed meeting minutes:				
☐ Access granted				
Date access occurred:		Start time:		
Requesting Board member's name <i>(Please print)</i>				
In the presence of: <i>(Check appropriate box and insert name.)</i>				
☐ Recording Secretary				
☐ Director or designated administrator				
☐ Elected Board member				

For requesting Board member: *(Read the following and sign below.)*

While the Open Meetings Act does not provide a cause of action against me or the Board for disclosing closed session discussions (Swanson v. Bd. of Police Commissioners, 197

Ill.App.3d 592 (2nd Dist. 1990)), I acknowledge and understand that any disclosures by me of information in the closed session minutes not yet released to the public could subject me to a possible civil action alleging that I created harm to another, i.e., an intentional tort(s).

Requesting Board Member Signature _____ Date _____

Verbatim Recording Access

Duplicate this section for each grant of access to verbatim recordings.

Date:		Time:		Storage Location:	
Name of person(s) responsible for storing the verbatim recording:					
☐ Access granted					
Date access occurred:		Start time:		End time:	
Requesting Board member's name <i>(Please print)</i>					
In the presence of: <i>(Check appropriate box and insert name.)</i>					
☐ Recording Secretary					
☐ Executive Director or designated administrator					
☐ Elected Board member					
☐ Access denied ☐ Access unavailable. Verbatim recording requested is older than 18 months and was destroyed pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2.06(c).					

For requesting Board member: *(Read the following and sign below.)*

While the Open Meetings Act does not provide a cause of action against me or the Board for disclosing closed session discussions (Swanson v. Bd. of Police Commissioners, 197 Ill.App.3d 592 (2nd Dist. 1990)), I acknowledge and understand that any disclosures by me of information in the closed session verbatim recordings could subject me to a possible civil

action alleging that I created harm to another, i.e., an intentional tort(s).

Requesting Board Member Signature _____ Date

DATED: October 9, 2025

Rural Champaign Co. Sp. Ed.

2:220-E8 Exhibit - School Board Records Maintenance Requirements and FAQs

Open Meetings Act

The Open Meetings Act (OMA) requires public bodies to “keep written minutes of all their meetings, whether open or closed, and a verbatim record of all their closed meetings in the form of an audio or video recording.” 5 ILCS 120/2.06(a). Minutes must include, but are not limited to: (1) the date, time, and place of the meeting; (2) the members of the public body recorded as either present or absent and whether the members were physically present or present by means of video or audio conference; and (3) a summary of discussion on all matters proposed, deliberated, or decided, and record of any votes taken. Id.

The remainder of Section 2.06 addresses the approval of open meeting minutes, the treatment of verbatim recordings of closed meetings, the semi-annual review of closed meeting minutes, the confidential nature of closed meeting minutes, and the right of persons to address public officials under rules established and recorded by the public body. The requirements of Section 2.06, as well as OMA requirements pertaining to Board agendas, are included in policy 2:220, *School Board Meeting Procedure*.

Exhibit 2:220-E3, *Closed Meeting Minutes*, provides a sample template for keeping closed meeting minutes that incorporates the requirements of Section 2.06 of OMA. It also includes an area to designate if the Board has determined, pursuant to Section 2.06(d), that the closed meeting minutes no longer need confidential treatment.

Exhibit 2:220-E4, *Open Meeting Minutes*, contains a protocol for open meeting minutes that incorporates the requirements of Section 2.06 of OMA. It also provides a sample template for keeping open meeting minutes.

Exhibit 2:220-E5, *Semi-Annual Review of Closed Meeting Minutes*, contains a process for implementing the semi-annual review of closed meeting minutes, and exhibit 2:220-E6, *Log of Closed Meeting Minutes*, is designed to facilitate this semi-annual review (every six months, or as soon after as is practicable, taking into account the nature and meeting schedule of the Board). 5 ILCS 120/2.06(d), amended by P.A. 102-653.

Exhibit 2:220-E9, *Requirements for No Physical Presence of Quorum and Participation by Audio or Video During Disaster Declaration*, contains a process for compliance with 105 ILCS 120/7(e), added by P.A. 101-640, when a board is meeting without a physical quorum present at the meeting location during a disaster declaration related to public health concerns.

Local Records Act

The Local Records Act (LRA) provides that public records, including “any book, paper, map, photograph, digitized electronic material, or other official documentary material, regardless of physical form or characteristics, made, produced, executed or received by any agency or officer pursuant to law or in connections with the transaction of public business and preserved or appropriate for preservation by such agency or officer” must be preserved unless the State Local Records Commission has given permission to destroy those records. 50 ILCS 205/3 and 7. Board records, including agendas, meeting packets and meeting minutes, fall into this definition.

Public bodies located in Cook County must work with the Local Records Commission of Cook County to determine how long they must retain public records. Public bodies located outside of Cook County must work with the Downstate Local Records Commission to determine how long they must retain public records.

Policy 2:250, *Access to District Public Records*, contains a subhead entitled **Preserving Public Records** which provides as follows:

Public records, including email messages, shall be preserved and cataloged if: (1) they are evidence of the District’s organization, function, policies, procedures, or activities, (2) they contain informational data appropriate for preservation, (3) their retention is required by State or federal law, or (4) they are subject to a retention request by the Board Attorney (e.g., a litigation hold), District auditor, or other individual authorized by the School Board or State or federal law to make such a request. Unless its retention is required as described in items numbered 3 or 4 above, a public record, as defined by the Illinois Local Records Act, may be destroyed when authorized by the Local Records Commission.

See the sample policy, 2:220, *School Board Meeting Procedure*, for all relevant footnotes. Also see administrative procedure 2:250-AP2, *Protocols for Record Preservation and Development of Retention Schedules*, for recommendations regarding school district records retention protocols and links to web-based record management resources.

Open Meeting Minutes

Are we required to approve them?	Must they be semi-annually reviewed?	May we release them to the public?	May we destroy them?
Yes, within 30 days or at the next subsequent meeting, whichever is	No.	Yes, must within 10 days after minutes are approved.	No.

later. <i>A public body shall approve the minutes of its open meeting within 30 days after that meeting or at the public body's second subsequent regular meeting, whichever is later. 5 ILCS 120/2.06(b).</i>	Unlike the closed meeting requirement, OMA does not contain semi-annual review requirements for open meeting minutes.	<i>The minutes of meetings open to the public shall be available for public inspection within 10 days after the approval of such minutes by the public body. Beginning July 1, 2006, at the time it complies with other requirements of this subsection, a public body that has a website that the full-time staff of the public body maintains shall post the minutes of a regular meeting of its governing body open to the public on the public body's website within 10 days after the approval of the minutes by the public body. Beginning July 1, 2006, any minutes of meetings open to the public posted on the public body's website shall remain posted on the website for at least 60 days after their initial posting. 5 ILCS 120/2.06(b).</i>	There is no OMA provision permitting the destruction of open meeting minutes, and they must be preserved unless the State Local Records Commission has given permission to destroy them. If a public body would like to destroy open meeting minutes, then it must comply with the LRA and work with its Local Records Commission. It is highly unlikely, however, that the Local Records Commission would approve of their destruction.
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Open Meeting Verbatim Recordings

Are we required to approve them?	Must they be semi-annually reviewed?	May we release them to the public?	May we destroy them?
No. OMA does not require public bodies to approve verbatim recordings of open meetings.	No. Unlike the closed meeting requirement, OMA does not require public bodies to keep verbatim recordings of open meetings, <i>unless</i> the public body is meeting without the physical presence of a quorum during a disaster declaration related to public health concerns. 5 ILCS 120/7(e). OMA does not contain semi-annual review requirements for open meeting verbatim recordings.	Yes. Unlike the closed meeting requirement, OMA does not require public bodies to keep verbatim recordings of open meetings, <i>unless</i> the public body is meeting without the physical presence of a quorum during a disaster declaration related to public health concerns. 5 ILCS 120/7(e). If a public body makes verbatim recordings of open meetings, then such recordings are subject to public disclosure pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act. 5 ILCS 140/.	Open meeting verbatim recordings made of meetings held without the physical presence of a quorum of a public body during a disaster declaration related to public health concerns may be destroyed after 18 months if prerequisites are met. (See <u>Closed Meeting Verbatim Recordings</u> subhead, below). <i>[P]ublic bodies holding open meetings under this subsection (e) must also keep a verbatim record of all their meetings in the form of an audio or video recording. Verbatim records made under this paragraph (9) shall be made available to the public under, and are otherwise subject to, the provisions of Section 2.06. 5 ILCS 120/7(e)(9).</i>

			In all other cases, if a public body would like to destroy open meeting verbatim recordings, then it must comply with the LRA and work with its Local Records Commission.
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Closed Meeting Minutes

Are we required to approve them?	Must they be semi-annually reviewed?	May we release them to the public?	May we destroy them?
Yes. OMA does not directly state public bodies are required to approve closed meeting minutes, nor does it set a time frame for such approval. However, OMA Section 2.06(d) requires public bodies to meet at least semi-annually to “review minutes of all closed meetings.” 5 ILCS 120/2.06(d). Moreover, OMA Section 2.06(c) specifically allows the destruction of closed	Yes. <i>Each public body shall periodically meet to review all existing minutes of all prior closed meetings (this includes records from all time that the board has been in existence). Meetings to review minutes shall occur every 6 months, or as soon thereafter as is practicable, taking into account the nature and meeting schedule of the public body. At such meetings a</i>	Yes, if prerequisites are met. <i>Minutes of meetings closed to the public shall be available only after the public body determines that it is no longer necessary to protect the public interest or the privacy of an individual by keeping them confidential.</i> 5 ILCS 120/2.06(f).	No. There is no OMA provision permitting the destruction of closed meeting minutes, and they must be preserved unless the State Local Records Commission has given permission to destroy them. In addition: <i>No minutes of meetings closed to the public shall be removed from the public body’s main office or official storage location,</i>

meeting verbatim recordings only if certain conditions are met, one of which is that “the public body approves minutes of the closed meeting that meet the written minutes requirements of subsection (a) of this Section.” 5 ILCS 120/2.06(c)(2). Both of these tasks would be difficult to achieve if closed meeting minutes were not first approved. One practice is to approve closed meeting minutes within the same time frame that open meeting minutes are approved – within 30 days of the meeting or at the next subsequent meeting, whichever is later.	<i>determination shall be made, and reported in an open session that (1) the need for confidentiality still exists as to all or part of those minutes or (2) that the minutes or portions thereof no longer require confidential treatment and are available for public inspection.</i> 5 ILCS 120/2.06(d), amended by P.A. 102-653.		<i>except by vote of the public body or by court order.</i> 5 ILCS 120/2.06(f). If a public body would like to destroy closed meeting minutes, then it must comply with the LRA and work with its Local Records Commission. It is highly unlikely, however, that the Local Records Commission would approve of their destruction.
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Closed Meeting Verbatim Recordings

Are we required to approve them?	Must they be semi-annually reviewed?	May we release them to the public?	May we destroy them?
No.	No.	Possibly but unlikely.	Yes, after 18 months if prerequisites are met.

OMA does not require approval of closed meeting verbatim recordings.	OMA does not require semi-annual review of closed meeting verbatim recordings.	<i>Unless the public body has made a determination that the verbatim recording no longer requires confidential treatment or otherwise consents to disclosure, the verbatim record of a meeting closed to the public shall not be open for public inspection or subject to discovery in any administrative or judicial proceeding other than one brought to enforce this Act. 5 ILCS 120/2.06(e).</i> But see <u>Kodish v. Oakbrook Terrace Fire Protection Dist.</u> (235 F.R.D. 447 (N.D. Ill. 2006), where a federal district court ordered that closed meeting verbatim recordings be disclosed to the Plaintiff in discovery because his primary claim was brought under federal law.	<i>The verbatim record may be destroyed without notification to or the approval of a records commission or the State Archivist under the Local Records Act or the State Records Act no less than 18 months after the completion of the meeting recorded but only after: 1.) the public body approves the destruction of a particular recording; and 2.) the public body approves minutes of the closed meeting that meet the written minutes requirements of subsection (a) of this Section. 5 ILCS 120/2.06(c).</i> In addition: <i>No verbatim recordings shall be recorded or removed from the public body's main office or official storage location, except by vote of the public body or by court order. 5 ILCS 120/2.06(e).</i>
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DATED: March 10, 2022

Rural Champaign Co. Sp. Ed.

2:220-E9 Exhibit - Requirements for No Physical Presence of Quorum and Participation by Audio or Video During Disaster Declaration

Use this exhibit to document the Board's and/or its committee(s)'s (5 ILCS 120/1.02) processes to comply with the requirements of the Open Meetings Act (OMA) when a board and/or its committee(s) must meet during a disaster declaration related to a public health emergency/concern, and the meeting will have no physical presence of a quorum and participation by audio or video.

Note: *If a Board committee uses this exhibit, replace Board President, Vice President, and Superintendent with the appropriate committee leaders.*

Consult the Board Attorney for guidance.

Documentation of OMA Requirements for Board Members to Participate in a Meeting with No Physical Presence of Quorum

☐ The Governor or the Director of the Ill. Dept. of Public Health has issued a disaster declaration related to a public health emergency because of a disaster as defined in 20 ILCS 3305/4, and all or part of the jurisdiction of the Board is covered by the disaster area. 5 ILCS 120/7(e)(1). **Note:** OMA uses “public health concerns,” but the Ill. Emergency Management Agency Act (IEMA) uses “public health emergency;” this exhibit matches the IEMA term because it governs disaster declarations.

Insert Disaster Declaration or Executive Order number [_____] or attach to this document.

☐ The Board President or, if the office is vacant or the President is absent or unable to perform the office's duties, the Vice President, or if neither the President nor Vice President are present or able to perform this determination, the Superintendent (5 ILCS 120/7(e)(2) and 140/2(e)) signs below that the following three **Steps** were executed by:

Step 1. Determining whether the meeting is a bona fide emergency (5 ILCS 120/7(e)(7))
(check Yes or No, below):

☐ Yes; it is an emergency meeting, and I:

- a. Notified the Board members and the public, including any news medium which has filed an annual request for notice of meetings as soon as practicable, but in any event prior to the holding of such meeting pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2.02(a) and 120/

7(e)(7)(A);

- b. Stated the nature of the emergency at the beginning of the meeting; and
- c. Provided the Superintendent or Board Secretary the resources necessary during the meeting to keep a verbatim record of the meeting, **for both open and closed**, and managed it the same way that the Board complies with the verbatim recording requirements for closed meetings (see exhibit 2:220-E1, *Board Treatment of Closed Meeting Verbatim Recordings and Minutes*). **Note:** In this situation, a verbatim recording is not limited to closed meetings only.
- d. Move to Step 2, below.

☐ No; it is a regular or special meeting, and I:

- a. Ensured that the Board provided 48 hours' notice of the meeting to all Board members, to any news medium on file in the District that have requested notice of meetings pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2.02(a), and to members of the public by posting it on the District's website. 5 ILCS 120/7(e)(7). **Note:** 5 ILCS 120/7(e) does not have the "if any" exception for school boards that do not have websites. Consult the Board Attorney regarding alternate ways to communicate notice of a meeting when the District does not have a website and a Disaster Declaration or Executive Order has been issued.

Insert meeting date and time, and a link to the meeting notice or attach a copy of the notice to this document.

- b. Move to Step 2, below.

Step 2. Determining whether it is practical, prudent, or feasible for any in-person attendance at the regular meeting location (5 ILCS 120/7(e)(2)). (*check Yes or No, below*):

☐ Yes; in-person attendance is practical, prudent, or feasible, and I:

- a. Ensured that at least one Board member, the Board Attorney, or the Superintendent was physically present at the regular meeting location (5 ILCS 120/7(e)(5)), and
- b. Verified that members of the public who were present could hear all discussion and testimony and all votes of the members of the Board. 5 ILCS 120/7(e)(4).
- c. Move to Step 3, below.

☐ No; in-person attendance is not practical, prudent, or feasible, and I:

- a. Made a written determination referring to the specific Executive Order or Disaster

Declaration citing the public health concern/emergency that applies to the Board and the meeting. 5 ILCS 120/7(e)(1) and (2).

- b. Included the written determination made in letter a., above, on the Board's published notice and agenda for the alternative arrangements for the meeting. 5 ILCS 120/7(e)(7)(A).
- c. Offered the alternative arrangements to the public by offering a telephone number or a web-based link. 5 ILCS 120/7(e)(4).

Insert a link to the meeting notice or attach a copy of the notice or refer to above if already attached to this document (see above).

Include this written determination on the Board/committee's published notice and agenda for the audio or video meeting, and in the meeting minutes.

- d. Move to Step 3, below.

Step 3. During the meeting, I:

☐ Directed the Recording Secretary to, in addition to the requirements for open meetings under OMA, also keep verbatim record of the open meeting by recording it and making it open and available to the public under all provisions of OMA. 5 ILCS 120/7(e)(9). *Sample text follows below in the subhead **Report to the Public Following the Board's Meeting with No Physical Presence of Quorum.***

☐ Read my written determination referring to the specific Executive Order or Disaster Declaration citing the public health concern/emergency that applies to the Board and the meeting and directed the Recording Secretary to include it in the meeting minutes.

☐ Ensured that any interested member of the public has access to contemporaneously hear all discussion, testimony, and roll call votes. 5 ILCS 120/7(e)(4).

☐ Requested the Recording Secretary to enter into the appropriate minutes of the Board that each Board member participating in the meeting, wherever their physical locations:

1. Announced themselves present (5 ILCS 120/7(e)(3)), and
2. Verified that they could hear one another and all discussion and testimony. Id.

See exhibits 2:220-E3, *Closed Meeting Minutes* and/or 2:220-E4, *Open Meeting Minutes*.

Attach to this document copies or information about where these minutes may be found.

☐ Announced and considered each Board member participating in the meeting present at the meeting for purposes of determining a quorum and participating in all proceedings (5 ILCS 120/7(e)(8)) and directed the Recording Secretary to reflect it in the minutes (best practice for transparency).

☐ Conducted all votes by roll call, so each Board member's vote on each issue could be identified and recorded (5 ILCS 120/7(e)(6)), and ensured that the Recording Secretary entered all votes as **Roll Call Votes** (*Use exhibit 2:220-E4, Open Meeting Minutes, but ensure all votes are recorded as roll call votes pursuant to the example below.*):

"Yeas"	"Nays"
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Motion: ☐ Carried ☐ Failed

☐ Executed or directed execution of the subhead below **Report to the Public Following the Board's Meeting with No Physical Presence of Quorum.**

Report to the Public Following the Board's Meeting with No Physical Presence of Quorum

The text below may be used for the actual report.

The Board met on *[insert date]* with no physical presence of quorum to conduct its business.

The verbatim *[circle one]* audio | video recording of this meeting is available to the public under all provisions of OMA and will be destroyed pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2.06(c)(no less than 18 months after the completion of the meeting recorded but only after: (1) the Board approves the destruction of the particular recording; and (2) the Board approves minutes of the meeting that meet the written minutes requirements of OMA). 5 ILCS 120/7(e)(9).

Insert links to the verbatim recording of meeting here or attach to this document.

Note: Consult the Board Attorney for guidance on the destruction of a verbatim recording of an open meeting without the physical presence of a quorum. While 5 ILCS 120/2.06(c) refers to the process for destroying closed session verbatim recordings, 5 ILCS 120/7(e)(9), applies that process for destroying closed session verbatim recordings to the destruction of the verbatim open session recordings that are required when a board determines it is necessary for it to meet without the physical presence of a quorum due to a public health emergency.

Completed By: _____

Title: _____

DATED: October 9, 2025

Rural Champaign Co. Sp. Ed.

2:230 Public Participation at Board Meetings and Petitions to the Board

During each regular and special open meeting of the Board, any person may comment to or ask questions of the Board (*public participation*), subject to the reasonable constraints established and recorded in this policy's guidelines below. The Board listens to comments or questions during public participation; responses to comments to or questions of the Board are most often managed through policy 3:30, *Chain of Command*.

To preserve sufficient time for the Board to conduct its business, any person appearing before the Board is expected to follow these guidelines:

1. Address the Board only at the appropriate time as indicated on the agenda and when recognized by the Board Chairperson. This includes following the directives of the Board Chairperson to maintain order and decorum for all.
2. Use a sign-in sheet, if requested.
3. Identify oneself and be brief. Ordinarily, the time for any one person to address the Board during public participation shall be limited to five minutes. In unusual circumstances, and when an individual has made a request to speak for a longer period of time, the Board Chairperson may allow a person to speak for more than five minutes. If multiple individuals wish to address the Board on the same subject, the group is encouraged to appoint a spokesperson.
4. Observe, when necessary and appropriate, the Board Chairperson's authority to:
 - a. Shorten the time for each person to address the Board during public participation to conserve time and give the maximum number of people an opportunity to speak; and/or
 - b. Determine procedural matters regarding public participation not otherwise covered in Board policy.
5. Conduct oneself with respect and civility toward others and otherwise abide by Board policy 8:30, *Visitors to and Conduct on School Property*.

Petitions or written correspondence to the Board shall be presented to the Board in the next regular Board packet.

LEGAL REF.:

105 ILCS 5/10-6 and 5/10-16.

5 ILCS 120/2.06, Open Meetings Act.

CROSS REF.: 2:220 (Board Meeting Procedure), 8:10 (Connection with the Community),
8:30 (Visitors to and Conduct on School Property)

ADOPTED: August 11, 2022

Rural Champaign Co. Sp. Ed.

2:240 Board Policy Development

The Board governs using written policies. Written policies ensure legal compliance, establish Board processes, articulate Cooperative ends, delegate authority, and define operating limits. Board policies also provide the basis for monitoring progress toward Cooperative ends.

Policy Development

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

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

Policy Adoption and Dissemination

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

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

Board Policy Review and Monitoring

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

Words Importing Gender

Throughout this policy manual, words importing the masculine and/or feminine gender include all gender neutral/inclusive pronouns.

Executive Director Implementation

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

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

Suspension of Policies

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

LEGAL REF.:

105 ILCS 5/10-20.5.

CROSS REF.: 2:150 (Committees), 2:250 (Access to Cooperative Public Records), 3:40 (Executive Director)

ADOPTED: October 9, 2025

Rural Champaign Co. Sp. Ed.

2:240-E1 Exhibit - PRESS Issue Updates

This exhibit is for **PRESS** subscribers. For subscribers to **PRESS Plus**, IASB's full-maintenance policy update service, the **PRESS Plus** Online User Guide and video tutorials, available at www.iasb.com/policy-services-and-school-law/policy-services/press-plus/, provide further guidance.

Actor	Action
Superintendent	Manages the process for the Board to receive PRESS updates to policies. Requests review of recommended revisions by the Board Attorney, as appropriate. Manages the Board's compliance with the Open Meetings Act. Ensures that, as appropriate, the agendas for the Board Policy Committee and full Board include discussion and list action to consider, adopt, implement, or revise Board policies and Board exhibits. Manages the process for approving new or revised administrative procedures, administrative procedure exhibits, and changes to employee and student handbooks. Communicates all policy and administrative procedure revisions or adoptions, as appropriate, to staff members, parents, students, and community members.
Superintendent or Superintendent's Secretary	Updates the District's <i>Roster</i> as follows: 1. Go to www.iasb.com and click on the Member Login button. 2. Log in using your email address and password. If you do not know your password, use the "forgot your password?" link. 3. At the bottom of your Profile page, click on Districts You Manage and then the District name. 4. Review and verify or change the District's existing records. Ensure that all current board members, administrators, and anyone else on staff who needs access to PRESS Online are listed with their current email addresses. For detailed roster management instructions, see www.iasb.com/IASB/media/

	Documents/rostermanagementinstructions.pdf.
Designated support staff	Logs in to PRESS Online as follows: 1. Go to www.iasb.com and click on the Member Login button. 2. Log in using your email address and password. If you do not know your password, use the "forgot your password?" link. 3. Under "Quick Links," click "PRESS Login." To each member of the Policy Committee, full Board, and/or other interested school official, emails or otherwise distributes the following: 1. PRESS Update Memo; 2. PRESS video tutorial link at: www.iasb.com/policy-services-and-school-law/policy-services/press-policy-reference-education-subscription-serv/; 3. Committee worksheets (showing tracked changes in redline); and 4. Current District policy in relevant areas. As appropriate, includes new and revised policies in the Board meeting packets. After a policy is adopted or revised, updates the District's policy manual master electronic file and adds or updates adoption dates. Archives previous version of revised policy. Follows District process for updating paper and online manuals. Considers distributing the PRESS Update Memo to Building Principals.
Policy Committee (or Full Board)	Considers each PRESS update. Reviews all footnote changes. Decides which changes require Board discussion and which are appropriate as consent agenda items. Policies or policy revisions may be appropriate for a consent agenda when providing for legal compliance; updating legal references; correcting substantive grammar, spelling, or punctuation; or clarifying pre-existing policy language.

	Presents recommendations regarding PRESS updates to the Board at a regularly scheduled meeting.
Full Board	Conducts a first reading of the policies that are recommended for adoption or revision. Policies may be adopted after a first reading when: (1) appropriate for a consent agenda because no Board discussion is required, or (2) necessary or prudent in order to meet emergency or special conditions or to be legally compliant. During the next regular meeting, conducts a second reading. A second reading allows the Board to hear feedback from interested parties, including staff, parents, students, and community members; however, State law does not require two readings. After the second reading, consider and take action to approve the policies at a duly convened open meeting.
Assistant Superintendents, Directors, Building Principals, and supervisory employees	Reads the PRESS Update Memo (if applicable) and adopted policies, follows the Superintendent's process for updating administrative procedures, and makes necessary changes to employee and student handbooks within their assigned building(s).
Anyone	For further clarification, view the online tutorial for PRESS , available at www.iasb.com/policy-services-and-school-law/policy-services/press-policy-reference-education-subscription-serv/ .

DATED: October 9, 2025

Rural Champaign Co. Sp. Ed.

2:240-E2 Exhibit - Developing Local Policy

Actor	Action
Anyone (Superintendent, Board member, staff, parent, student, community member, or Board Attorney)	Brings a concern that may necessitate a new policy or a current policy's revision to the attention of the Board.
Superintendent	Confers with the Board Attorney as appropriate. Manages the Board's compliance with the Open Meetings Act. Ensures that, as appropriate, the agendas for the Board Policy Committee and full Board include discussion and list actions to consider, adopt, implement, or revise Board policies and Board exhibits. Manages the process for approving new or revised administrative procedures, administrative procedure exhibits, and changes to employee and student handbooks. Communicates all policy and administrative procedure revisions or adoptions as appropriate to staff members, parents, students, and community members.
Policy Committee (or Full Board)	First, answers these questions to decide whether new policy language is needed: 1. Does the IASB Policy Reference Manual provide guidance? 2. Is the request something that should be covered in policy (i.e., Board work), or is it something that should be covered in an administrative procedure (i.e., staff work)? 3. Is it already covered in Board policy? Checks for policies that cover similar or connected topics. Tools such as search engines, Tables of Contents, cross references, and indexes at PRESS Online can be used to identify relevant policy numbers to check for in the Board's policy manual.

	Second, uses a 3-step process to draft new policy language: 1. Frames the question and discusses the topic. 2. Requests the Superintendent to provide research, including appropriate data, and input from others, such as those who may be affected by the policy and those who will implement the policy. 3. Drafts or requests the Superintendent or Board Attorney to draft language addressing the concern that aligns with the Board's mission, vision, goals, and objectives. Third, decides whether the new language should be included in an existing policy or added as a new policy. Assigns any new policy an appropriate location and number. The PRESS coding system reserves policy numbers ending in a '0' and '5' for PRESS material. Locally developed Board policies should use policy numbers ending in 2, 4, 6, or 8.
Full Board	Conducts a first reading of the policy that is recommended for adoption or revision. Policies may be adopted after a first reading when: (1) appropriate for a consent agenda because no Board discussion is required, or (2) necessary or prudent in order to meet emergency or special conditions or to be legally compliant. During the next regular meeting, conducts a second reading. A second reading allows the Board to hear feedback from interested parties, including staff, parents, students, and community members; however, State law does not require two readings. After the second reading, consider and take action to approve the policy at a duly convened open meeting.
Designated support staff	After a policy is adopted or revised, updates the District's policy manual master electronic file and adds or updates adoption dates. Archives previous version of revised policy.

	Follows District process for updating paper and online manuals.
Assistant Superintendents, Directors, Building Principals, and supervisory employees	Reads adopted policies, follows the Superintendent's process for updating administrative procedures, and makes necessary changes to employee and student handbooks within their assigned building(s).

DATED: October 9, 2025

Rural Champaign Co. Sp. Ed.

2:250 Access to Cooperative Public Records

Full access to the Cooperative's *public records* is available to any person as provided in the Illinois Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), this policy, and implementing procedures.

Freedom of Information Officer

The Executive Director and Executive Assistant shall serve as the Cooperative's Freedom of Information Officers and assume all the duties and powers of that office as provided in FOIA and this policy. The Executive Director may delegate these duties and powers to one or more designees, but the delegation shall not relieve the Executive Director of responsibility for the delegated action. The Executive Director or designee(s) shall report any FOIA requests and the status of the Cooperative's response to the Board at each regular Board meeting.

Definition

The Cooperative's *public records* are defined as records, reports, forms, writings, letters, memoranda, books, papers, maps, photographs, microfilms, cards, tapes, recordings, electronic data processing records, electronic communications, recorded information and all other documentary materials pertaining to the transaction of public business, regardless of physical form or characteristics, having been prepared by or for, or having been or being used by, received by, in the possession of, or under the control of the Cooperative. The Cooperative's public records do not include *junk mail*.

Requesting Records

A request for inspection and/or copies of public records must be made in writing and may be submitted by personal delivery, mail, telefax, or email directed to the Cooperative's Freedom of Information Officer. Individuals making a request are not required to state a reason for the request other than to identify when the request is for a commercial purpose or when requesting a fee waiver. Email requests must include the entirety of the request within the body of the email and not as an attachment or hyperlink. All requests for inspection and copying shall immediately be forwarded to the Cooperative's Freedom of Information Officer or designee.

Responding to Requests

The Freedom of Information Officer shall approve all requests for public records unless:

1. The requested material does not exist;
2. The requested material is exempt from inspection and copying by the Freedom of

Information Act;

3. Complying with the request would be unduly burdensome;
4. The request would require the Cooperative to open electronically attached files or hyperlinks to view or access details of a request. In that case, the requester shall be notified within five business days that the entirety of the electronic request must appear within the body of the electronic submission; or
5. The Cooperative has a reasonable belief that the request was not submitted by a person, and the requester fails to verify orally or in writing that they are a person within 30 days of the Cooperative's request for such verification.

Within five business days after receipt of a request for access to a public record, the Freedom of Information Officer shall comply with or deny the request, unless the time for response is extended as specified in Section 3 of FOIA. The Freedom of Information Officer may extend the time for a response for up to five business days from the original due date. If an extension is needed, the Freedom of Information Officer shall: (1) notify the person making the request of the reason for the extension, and (2) either inform the person of the date on which a response will be made, or agree with the person in writing on a compliance period.

Notwithstanding the above, the Freedom of Information Officer shall respond to requests for *commercial purposes* and to *recurrent requesters* (as those terms are defined in Section 2 of FOIA) according to Sections 3.1 and 3.2 of FOIA.

When responding to a request for a record containing both exempt and non-exempt material, the Freedom of Information Officer shall redact exempt material from the record before complying with the request.

Copying Fees

Persons making a request for copies of public records must pay any applicable copying fee. The Freedom of Information Officer shall, as needed, recommend a copying fee schedule for the Board's approval. Copying fees, except when fixed by statute, are reasonably calculated to reimburse the Cooperative's actual cost for reproducing and certifying public records and for the use, by any person, of its equipment to copy records. No copying fee shall be charged for the first 50 pages of black and white, letter or legal sized copies. No copying fee shall be charged for electronic copies other than the actual cost of the recording medium.

Fees for Responding to a Request for a Commercial Purpose

In addition to copying fees, persons making a request for a *commercial purpose*, as defined in FOIA, must pay a fee of \$10 for each hour spent by personnel in searching for and retrieving the record. However, no fees shall be charged for the first 8 hours spent by

personnel in searching for or retrieving a requested record. The Cooperative also charges the actual cost of retrieving and transporting public records from an off-site storage facility when the public records are maintained by a third-party storage facility under contract with the Cooperative. Whenever the Cooperative charges any fees to a requester making a commercial request, the Freedom of Information Officer shall provide the requester with an accounting of all fees, costs, and personnel hours in connection with the request for public records.

Access

The inspection and copying of a public record that is the subject of an approved access request is permitted at the Cooperative's administrative office during regular business hours, unless other arrangements are made by the Freedom of Information Officer.

Many public records are immediately available from the Cooperative's website including, but not limited to, a description of the Cooperative and the methods for requesting a public record.

Preserving Public Records

Public records, including email messages, shall be preserved and cataloged if: (1) they are evidence of the Cooperative's organization, function, policies, procedures, or activities, (2) they contain informational data appropriate for preservation, (3) their retention is required by State or federal law, or (4) they are subject to a retention request by the Board Attorney (e.g. a litigation hold), Cooperative auditor, or other individual authorized by the Board or State or federal law to make such a request. Unless its retention is required as described in items numbered 3 or 4 above, a public record, as defined by the Illinois Local Records Act, may be destroyed when authorized by the Local Records Commission.

LEGAL REF.:

5 ILCS 140/, Illinois Freedom of Information Act.

50 ILCS 205/, Local Records Act.

105 ILCS 5/10-16 and 5/24A-7.1.

820 ILCS 40/11, Personnel Record Review Act.

820 ILCS 130/5, Prevailing Wage Act.

CROSS REF.: 2:140 (Communications To and From the Board), 5:150 (Personnel Records), 7:340 (Student Records)

ADOPTED: June 22, 2026

Rural Champaign Co. Sp. Ed.

2250-AP2 Administrative Procedure - Administrative Procedure - Protocols for Record Preservation and Development of Retention Schedules

Legal Citations

Each legal requirement in this procedure is followed by a citation to the controlling rule and/or statute. Citations in parenthesis indicate the location of a named law. For additional clarification regarding a requirement, the cited law should be reviewed.

Actor	Action
All Staff Members and School Board Members	Maintain all records, as defined and required in the Illinois Local Records Act (LRA). No public record shall be destroyed except as allowed by the LRA. <i>"Public record</i> means any book, paper, map, photograph, born-digital electronic material, digitized electronic material, electronic material with a combination of digitized and born-digital material, or other official documentary material, regardless of physical form or characteristics, made, produced, executed or received by any agency or officer pursuant to law or in connection with the transaction of public business and preserved or appropriate for preservation by such agency or officer, or any successor thereof, as evidence of the organization, function, policies, decisions, procedures, or other activities thereof, or because of the

informational data contained therein.” 50 ILCS 205/3.

Do not destroy any District record, no matter its form, if it is subject to a litigation hold. F.R.C.P. 37(e).

In federal lawsuits there is an automatic discovery of virtually all types of electronically created or stored data that might be relevant. Attorneys will generally notify their clients at the beginning of a legal proceeding to not destroy any electronic records that might be relevant. The receipt of a *litigation hold* or preservation letter from the Board’s attorney requires all potentially relevant electronic information to be identified, located, and preserved. This includes all email, e-documents, the tapes and servers of discarded systems, and backup data stored elsewhere.

Whenever disposing of materials containing *personal information*, render the *personal information* unreadable, unusable, and undecipherable. 815 ILCS 530/40 and 44 Ill.Admin.Code §4000.40(b).

The Personal Information Protection Act (815 ILCS 530/) contains mandates for disposing of materials containing personal information (defined as an individual’s name combined with social security number; driver’s

	license number or State identification card number; financial account information, including without limitation, credit or debit card numbers; medical information; health information; or unique biometric data, including without limitation fingerprints). The Attorney General is authorized to impose a fine and bring court action for noncompliance. 815 ILCS 530/40, amended by P.A. 99-503, eff. 1-1-17.
Superintendent	Assign the following activities to the Records Custodian and Head of Information Technology (IT): 1. Develop and maintain a protocol for preserving and categorizing District records; 2. Develop and maintain a record retention and destruction schedule; and 3. Develop protocols to implement a litigation hold.
Records Custodian and Head of IT	1. Develop and maintain a protocol for preserving and categorizing District records. Develop and maintain a list of all District records organized in categories and sub-categories, e.g.,

records relating to business, students, personnel, board meetings, etc. Align this list with the list of District records required by the Freedom of Information Act. 5 ILCS 140/5.

Paper records may be easier to locate than electronic records. Electronic records will potentially exist in all of the available clouds, servers, tapes, hard drives, computers, and similar types of electronic devices (e.g., laptops, tablets, smart phones, voicemail, etc.).

Prepare a description of how District records stored by means of electronic data processing may be obtained in a form understandable to persons lacking computer knowledge. 5 ILCS 140/5 and *Digital Reproduction*, 44 Ill.Admin.Code 4000.70 and *Management of Electronic Records*, 44 Ill.Admin.Code §4000.80.

Such a description may include contact information for a person who can aid in obtaining records stored electronically.

Provide for keeping only *records* and destroying non-records. Avoid filing non-record material with records. Determine what is a non-record, e.g., identical copies of documents maintained in the same file; extra copies of printed or processed materials (official copies

of which are retained by the office); blank forms; and personal communications.

The goal is to control excessive accumulation of material. Non-record material may be destroyed at any time. 50 ILCS 205/9.

Absent a litigation hold, email must be retained only when it contains: (1) evidence of the District's organization, function, policies, procedures, or activities, or (2) informational data appropriate for preservation. 50 ILCS 205/3. Email that is conversational, personal, or contains brainstorming may generally be deleted.

A consistent email retention policy for use across the District ensures that the necessary emails are being retained and emails that are not required to be preserved are purged on a regular basis.

Determine whether each sub-category of documents should be reproduced by photography (44 Ill.Admin.Code §4000.60), microphotographic and electronic microimaging processes (44 Ill.Admin.Code §4000.50), or digitized electronic format (44 Ill.Admin.Code §4000.70).

Any public record may be reproduced in a microfilm or digitized electronic format and the analog/paper version destroyed, provided: (a) the records are reproduced on “a durable medium that accurately and legibly reproduces the original record in all details,” and “that does not permit additions, deletions, or changes to the original document images;” and (b) the Local Records Commission is notified when the original record is disposed of and also when the reproduced record is disposed of. Local Records Act, 50 ILCS 205/7.

Use this web link to the Illinois Secretary State’s publication, 22TU Guidelines for Using Electronic RecordsU22T and 44 Ill.Admin.Code §§4000.APPENDIX A *Sustainable File Formats for Electronic Records - A Guide for Government Agencies* (22TUwww.ilga.gov/commission/jcar/admincode/044/04404000ZZ9996aR.htmlU22T) and 4000.APPENDIX B *Reliable Storage Media for Electronic Records - A Guide for Government Agencies* (22TUwww.ilga.gov/commission/jcar/admincode/044/04404000ZZ9996BR.htmlU22T).

Identify and index the location of each category and sub-category of District records. Organize electronic

record and data storage.

The goal is to ensure that all documents, including electronically created ones, are retained for the required timeframes and are easy to retrieve and produce if necessary.

2. Develop and maintain a record retention and destruction schedule for submission to the Superintendent and eventually to the Local Records Commission.

Prepare a list of public records that: (1) are not needed for current business, and (2) do not have sufficient administrative, legal, or fiscal value to warrant their further preservation. Stated differently, identify records that have no administrative, legal, or fiscal value, as this is the criteria the Commission uses to determine whether or not to authorize the records' destruction.

Records that have no administrative, legal, or fiscal value may be destroyed according to provisions in the Local Records Act. 50 ILCS 205/10.

Prepare a schedule for record destruction by identifying the length of time a record category or series warrants retention after it has been

received or produced by the District.

The ultimate goal is to obtain permission to destroy unnecessary public records. The Local Records Commission must approve the destruction of any public record. 50 ILCS 205/7, 44 Ill.Admin.Code Part 4000 (Local Records Commission for agencies comprising counties of less than 3,000,000 inhabitants); 44 Ill.Admin.Code Part 4500 (Local Records Commission of Cook County). See the Archives Department on the Secretary of State's website:
22TUwww.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/archives/databases/home.htmlU22T

44 Ill.Admin.Code Part 4000.30 details the procedures for compiling and submitting lists and schedules of records for disposal.

The School Code and other statutes (e.g., statutes of limitations) contain mandatory retention timelines. The Board's attorney should be consulted.

The e-discovery rules provide a safe harbor for parties during a lawsuit that cannot provide information because it was destroyed as a result of routine practices. F.R.C.P. 37(e).

3. Develop protocols to

implement a litigation hold.

Understand what a *litigation hold* is.

A litigation hold refers to the notification made by the Board's attorney telling the District to preserve all information that may be relevant to current or anticipated litigation. While it may occur anytime in the legal process, it will usually occur during discovery, the pretrial phase of a lawsuit designed to compel the exchange of information between parties. A litigation hold triggers the need to immediately suspend destruction of electronic and other records relevant to the current or potential claim. F.R.C.P 37(e).

Specify how to implement a litigation hold, i.e.:

- Who can trigger a litigation hold?
- How is a litigation hold communicated?
- Who should gather the records?
- What records are subject to a litigation hold and who determines this?
- In what format should records be gathered?
- Where should records be gathered?

	Identify how to implement a litigation hold for all IT systems, including backup tapes, to ensure they are not deleted or overwritten as part of the normal tape rotation process. Prepare a map of potentially relevant data and otherwise assist the Board's attorneys in locating all potentially relevant information.
Superintendent	Submit new or revised record retention and destruction lists and schedules to the Local Records Commission for approval. Disseminate the record retention schedule, along with instructions, to all affected staff members and Board members. Immediately inform the Records Custodian and Head of IT whenever a record must be preserved because: (1) it may be relevant to present or future litigation, or (2) the Board Attorney has notified the District to preserve a record, including electronic information (<i>litigation hold</i>). Authorize and/or order the destruction of District records after ensuring that the following steps have been performed: 1. The Local Records Commission approved a

schedule for continuing authority to destroy District records after the expiration of the applicable period.

2. Any record is retained and removed from the disposal list if it is or may be evidence in litigation, or is otherwise subject to a *litigation hold*.
3. Thirty days prior to disposal or destruction of any records, regardless of physical format or characteristics, submit a Local Records Disposal Certificate to the Commission and dispose only after a copy of that certificate has been reviewed and approved by the Chairman and returned to the District. The original copy of that Local Records Disposal Certificate is kept in the files of the Commission, and the duplicate copy approved and returned by the Chairman must be retained by the District. Section 4000.40(c) of the rules of the Downstate Local Records Commission and Section 4500.40(c) of the rules of the Cook County Local Records Commission.
4. In the case of records with scheduled retention of less than one year, a single

Local Records Disposal Certificate for more than one disposal event within a given year may be used. Local Records Disposal Certificates submitted with this intent must include a schedule of proposed records disposal in addition to the normally required information. The District must wait to dispose of records until receipt of approval from the Commission, as required in number 3, above. Section 4000.40(d) of the rules of the Downstate Local Records Commission and Section 4500.40(d) of the rules of the Cook County Local Records Commission.

5. For records that have been damaged by water, fire, smoke, insects or vermin, mold or some other natural disaster that poses a health or safety risk to employees, the District may apply to the Commission for permission to dispose of those records ahead of their scheduled disposal date. The request must include a Local Records Disposal Certificate accompanied by the District's explanation of why the records need early disposal. The Commission may grant the request only

		after physically reviewing the damaged records. Section 4000.40(e) of the rules of the Downstate Local Records Commission and Section 4500.40(e) of the rules of the Cook County Local Records Commission.
Links to Web-based Record Management Resources: 22TUCook County Local Records Commission MeetingsU22T 22TUCook County Local Records Commission Rules (44 Ill Admin Code Title PART 4500)U22T 22TUDownstate Local Records Commission MeetingsU22T 22TURules of the Downstate Local Records Commission (44 Ill Admin Code Title PART 4000)U22T 22TUIllinois School Student Records Act (105 ILCS 10)U22T 22TULocal Records Act (50 ILCS 205)U22T 22TULocal Records Disposal CertificateU22T		

LEGAL REF.: Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, Rules 16, 26 and 37.

5 ILCS 140/, Freedom of Information Act.

50 ILCS 205/, Local Records Act.

105 ILCS 10/, Ill. School Student Records Act.

815 ILCS 530/, Personal Information Protection Act.

820 ILCS 40/, Ill. Personnel Record Review Act.

44 Ill.Admin.Code Part 4000, Local Records Commission.

44 Ill.Admin.Code Part 4500, Cook County Local Records Commission.

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2:260 Uniform Grievance Procedure

A student, parent/guardian, employee, or community member should notify any Cooperative Complaint Manager if he or she believes that the Board, its employees, or its agents have violated his or her rights guaranteed by the State or federal Constitution, State or federal statute, or Board policy, or has a complaint regarding any one of the following:

1. Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act, 42 U.S.C. §12101 et seq.
2. Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, 20 U.S.C. §1681 et seq., excluding Title IX complaints governed by Board policy 2:265, *Title IX Grievance Procedure*
3. Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 29 U.S.C. §791 et seq.
4. Discrimination and/or harassment on the basis of race, color, or national origin prohibited by the Illinois Human Rights Act, 775 ILCS 5/; Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 42 U.S.C. §2000d et seq.; and/or Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 42 U.S.C. §2000e et seq. (see Board policy 2:270, *Discrimination and Harassment on the Basis of Race, Color, and National Origin Prohibited*)
5. Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 42 U.S.C. §2000e et seq. (see also number 4, above, for discrimination and/or harassment on the basis of race, color, or national origin)
6. Sexual harassment prohibited by the State Officials and Employees Ethics Act, 5 ILCS 430/70-5(a); Illinois Human Rights Act, 775 ILCS 5/; and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 42 U.S.C. §2000e et seq. (Title IX sexual harassment complaints are addressed under policy 2:265, *Title IX Grievance Procedure*)
7. Breastfeeding accommodations for students, 105 ILCS 5/10-20.60
8. Bullying, 105 ILCS 5/27-23.7
9. Misuse of funds received for services to improve educational opportunities for educationally disadvantaged or deprived children
10. Curriculum, instructional materials, and/or programs
11. Victims' Economic Security and Safety Act, 820 ILCS 180/
12. Illinois Equal Pay Act of 2003, 820 ILCS 112/
13. Provision of services to homeless students
14. Illinois Whistleblower Act, 740 ILCS 174/
15. Misuse of genetic information prohibited by the Illinois Genetic Information Privacy Act, 410 ILCS 513/; and Titles I and II of the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act, 42 U.S.C. §2000ff et seq.
16. Employee Credit Privacy Act, 820 ILCS 70/.

The Complaint Manager will attempt to resolve complaints without resorting to this grievance procedure and, if a complaint is filed, to address the complaint promptly and equitably. The

right of a person to prompt and equitable resolution of a complaint filed under this policy shall not be impaired by the person's pursuit of other remedies. Use of this grievance procedure is not a prerequisite to the pursuit of other remedies and use of this grievance procedure does not extend any filing deadline related to the pursuit of other remedies. All deadlines under this policy may be extended by the Complaint Manager as he or she deems appropriate. As used in this policy, "school business days" means days on which the Cooperative's main office is open.

Filing a Complaint

A person (hereinafter Complainant) who wishes to avail him or herself of this grievance procedure may do so by filing a complaint with any Cooperative Complaint Manager. The Complainant shall not be required to file a complaint with a particular Complaint Manager and may request a Complaint Manager of the same gender. The Complaint Manager may request the Complainant to provide a written statement regarding the nature of the complaint or require a meeting with a student's parent(s)/guardian(s). The Complaint Manager shall assist the Complainant as needed.

For any complaint alleging bullying and/or cyberbullying of students, the Complaint Manager or designee shall process and review the complaint under Board policy 7:180, *Prevention of and Response to Bullying, Intimidation, and Harassment*, in addition to any response required by this policy.

For any complaint alleging sex discrimination that, if true, would implicate Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (20 U.S.C. §1681 *et seq.*), the Title IX Coordinator or designee shall process and review the complaint under Board policy 2:265, *Title IX Grievance Procedure*.

For any complaint alleging harassment on the basis of race, color, or national origin, the Nondiscrimination Coordinator or a Complaint Manager or designee shall process and review the complaint under Board policy 2:270, *Discrimination and Harassment on the Basis of Race, Color, and National Origin Prohibited*, in addition to any response required by this policy.

For any complaint alleging sexual harassment or other violation of Board policy 5:20, *Workplace Harassment Prohibited*, the Nondiscrimination Coordinator or a Complaint Manager or designee shall process and review the complaint according to that policy, in addition to any response required by this policy, and shall consider whether an investigation under Board policy 5:120, *Employee Ethics; Code of Professional Conduct; and Conflict of Interest*, should be initiated.

Investigation Process

The Complaint Manager will investigate the complaint or appoint a qualified person to undertake the investigation on his or her behalf. The complaint and identity of the Complainant will not be disclosed except: (1) as required by law, this policy, or any collective bargaining agreement, (2) as necessary to fully investigate the complaint, or (3) as authorized by the Complainant.

The identity of any student witnesses will not be disclosed except: (1) as required by law, this policy, or any collective bargaining agreement, (2) as necessary to fully investigate the complaint, or (3) as authorized by the parent/guardian of the student witness, or by the student if the student is 18 years of age or older.

Within 30 school business days after the date the complaint was filed, the Complaint Manager shall file a written report of his or her findings with the Executive Director. The Complaint Manager may request an extension of time from the Executive Director.

The Executive Director will keep the Board informed of all complaints.

If a complaint contains allegations involving the Executive Director or Board member(s), the written report shall be filed directly with the Board, which will make a decision in accordance with paragraph four of the following section of this policy.

Decision and Appeal

Within five school business days after receiving the Complaint Manager's report, the Executive Director shall provide his or her written decision to the Complainant and the accused as well as to the Complaint Manager.

Within 10 school business days after receiving the Executive Director's decision, the Complainant may appeal the decision to the Board by making a written request to the Complaint Manager. The Complaint Manager shall promptly forward all materials relative to the complaint and appeal to the Board.

Within 30 school business days after an appeal of the Executive Director's decision, the Board shall affirm, reverse, or amend the Executive Director's decision or direct the Executive Director to gather additional information. Within five school business days after the Board's decision, the Executive Director shall inform the Complainant and the accused of the Board's action.

For complaints containing allegations involving the Executive Director or Board member(s), within 30 school business days after receiving the Complaint Manager's or outside investigator's report, the Board shall provide its written decision to the Complainant and the accused, as well as to the Complaint Manager. This policy shall not be construed to create an independent right to a hearing before the Executive Director or Board. The failure to

strictly follow the timelines in this grievance procedure shall not prejudice any party.

Appointing a Nondiscrimination Coordinator, Title IX Coordinator, and Complaint Managers

The Executive Director shall appoint a Nondiscrimination Coordinator to manage the Cooperative's efforts to provide equal opportunity employment and educational opportunities and prohibit the harassment of employees, students, and others.

The Executive Director shall appoint a Title IX Coordinator to coordinate the Cooperative's efforts to comply with Title IX.

The Executive Director shall appoint at least one Complaint Manager to administer this policy. If possible, the Executive Director will appoint two Complaint Managers, each of a different gender. The Cooperative's Nondiscrimination Coordinator may be appointed as one of the Complaint Managers.

The Executive Director shall insert into this policy and keep current the names, office addresses, email addresses, and telephone numbers of the Nondiscrimination Coordinator, Title IX Coordinator, and the Complaint Managers.

The Executive Director or designee shall ensure that students, parents/guardians, employees and members of the community are informed of the contact information for the Cooperative's Nondiscrimination Coordinator, Title IX Coordinator, and Complaint Manager on an annual basis.

Nondiscrimination Coordinator:

Jennifer Armstrong, Exec. Director

807 N. Mattis Ave., Champaign, IL 61821

armstrongj@rccsec.org

217-892-8877, ext. 113

Title IX Coordinator:

Jennifer Armstrong, Exec. Director

807 N. Mattis Ave., Champaign, IL 61821

armstrongj@rccsec.org

217-892-8877, ext. 113

Complaint Managers:

Jennifer Armstrong, Exec. Director

807 N. Mattis Ave., Champaign, IL 61821

Bonnie McArthur, Supt. Thomasboro CCSD 130

201 N. Phillips, Thomasboro, IL 61878

armstrongj@rccsec.org

bmcarthur@tgs130.org

217-892-8877, ext. 113

217-643-3275

LEGAL REF.:

8 U.S.C. §1324a et seq., Immigration Reform and Control Act.

20 U.S.C. §1232g, Family Education Rights Privacy Act.

20 U.S.C. §1400, The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

20 U.S.C. §1681 et seq., Title IX of the Education Amendments; 34 C.F.R. Part 106.

29 U.S.C. §206(d), Equal Pay Act.

29 U.S.C. §621 et seq., Age Discrimination in Employment Act.

29 U.S.C. §791 et seq., Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

29 U.S.C. §2612, Family and Medical Leave Act.

42 U.S.C. §2000d et seq., Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

42 U.S.C. §2000e et seq., Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

42 U.S.C. §2000ff et seq., Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act.

42 U.S.C. §11431 et seq., McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act.

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

105 ILCS 5/2-3.8, 5/3-10, 5/10-20, 5/10-20.5, 5/10-20.7a, 5/10-20.60, 5/10-20.69, 5/10-20.75, 5/10-22.5, 5/22-19, 5/22-95, 5/22-110, 5/24-4, and 5/27-1.

105 ILCS 45/, Education for Homeless Children Act.

5 ILCS 415/10(a)(2), Government Severance Pay Act.

5 ILCS 430/70-5(a), State Officials and Employees Ethics Act.

410 ILCS 513/, Ill. Genetic Information Privacy Act.

740 ILCS 174/, Whistleblower Act.

740 ILCS 175/, Ill. False Claims Act.

775 ILCS 5/, Ill. Human Rights Act.

820 ILCS 70/, Employee Credit Privacy Act.

820 ILCS 112/, Equal Pay Act of 2003.

820 ILCS 180/, Victims' Economic Security and Safety Act; 56 Ill.Admin.Code Part 280.

23 Ill.Admin.Code §§1.240, 200.40, 226.50, and 226.570.

CROSS REF.: 2:105 (Ethics and Gift Ban), 2:265 (Title IX Grievance Procedure), 2:270 (Discrimination and Harassment on the Basis of Race, Color, and National Origin Prohibited), 5:10 (Equal Employment Opportunity and Minority Recruitment), 5:20 (Workplace Harassment Prohibited), 5:30 (Hiring Process and Criteria), 5:90 (Abused and Neglected Child Reporting), 6:120 (Education of Children with Disabilities), 6:140 (Education of Homeless Children), 6:260 (Complaints About Curriculum, Instructional Materials, and Programs), 7:10 (Equal Educational Opportunities), 7:15 (Student and Family Privacy Rights), 7:20 (Harassment of Students Prohibited), 7:180 (Prevention of and Response to Bullying, Intimidation, and Harassment), 7:185 (Teen Dating Violence Prohibited), 7:310 (Restrictions on Publications; Elementary Schools), 8:70 (Accommodating Individuals with Disabilities), 8:95 (Parental Involvement), 8:110 (Public Suggestions and Concerns)

ADOPTED: June 22, 2026

Rural Champaign Co. Sp. Ed.

2:265 Title IX Grievance Procedure

Sexual harassment affects a student's ability to learn and an employee's ability to work. Providing an educational and workplace environment free from sexual harassment is an important District goal. The District does not discriminate on the basis of sex in any of its education programs or activities, and it complies with Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (Title IX) and its implementing regulations (34 C.F.R. Part 106) concerning everyone in the District's education programs and activities, including applicants for employment, students, parents/guardians, employees, and third parties.

Title IX Sexual Harassment Prohibited

Sexual harassment as defined in Title IX (Title IX Sexual Harassment) is prohibited. Any person, including a District employee or agent, or student, engages in Title IX Sexual Harassment when that person engages in conduct on the basis of an individual's sex that satisfies one or more of the following:

1. A District employee conditions the provision of an aid, benefit, or service on an individual's participation in unwelcome sexual conduct; or
2. Unwelcome conduct determined by a reasonable person to be so severe, pervasive, and objectively offensive that it effectively denies a person equal access to the District's educational program or activity; or
3. *Sexual assault* as defined in 20 U.S.C. §1092(f)(6)(A)(v), *dating violence* as defined in 34 U.S.C. §12291(a)(11), *domestic violence* as defined in 34 U.S.C. §12291(a)(12), or *stalking* as defined in 34 U.S.C. §12291(a)(36).

Examples of sexual harassment include, but are not limited to, touching, rape, sexual battery, sexual abuse, sexual coercion, crude jokes or pictures, discussions of sexual experiences, teasing related to sexual characteristics, and spreading rumors related to a person's alleged sexual activities.

Definitions from 34 C.F.R. §106.30

Complainant means an individual who is alleged to be the victim of conduct that could constitute sexual harassment.

Education program or activity includes locations, events, or circumstances where the District has substantial control over both the *Respondent* and the context in which alleged sexual harassment occurs.

Formal Title IX Sexual Harassment Complaint means a document filed by a *Complainant* or signed by the Title IX Coordinator alleging sexual harassment against a *Respondent* and

requesting that the District investigate the allegation.

Respondent means an individual who has been reported to be the perpetrator of the conduct that could constitute sexual harassment.

Supportive measures mean non-disciplinary, non-punitive individualized services offered as appropriate, as reasonably available, and without fee or charge to the *Complainant* or the *Respondent* before or after the filing of a Formal Title IX Sexual Harassment Complaint or where no Formal Title IX Sexual Harassment Complaint has been filed.

Title IX Sexual Harassment Prevention and Response

The Superintendent or designee will ensure that the District prevents and responds to allegations of Title IX Sexual Harassment as follows:

1. Ensures that the District's comprehensive health education program in Board policy 6:60, *Curriculum Content*, incorporates (a) age-appropriate sexual abuse and assault awareness and prevention programs in grades pre-K through 12, and (b) age-appropriate education about the warning signs, recognition, dangers, and prevention of teen dating violence in grades 7-12. This includes incorporating student social and emotional development into the District's educational program as required by State law and in alignment with Board policy 6:65, *Student Social and Emotional Development*.
2. Incorporates education and training for school staff as recommended by the Superintendent, Title IX Coordinator, Nondiscrimination Coordinator, Building Principal, Assistant Building Principal, Dean of Students, or a Complaint Manager.
3. Notifies applicants for employment, students, parents/guardians, employees, and collective bargaining units of this policy and contact information for the Title IX Coordinator by, at a minimum, prominently displaying them on the District's website, if any, and in each handbook made available to such persons.

Making a Report

A person who wishes to make a report under this Title IX grievance procedure may make a report to the Title IX Coordinator, Nondiscrimination Coordinator, Building Principal, Assistant Building Principal, Dean of Students, a Complaint Manager, or any employee with whom the person is comfortable speaking.

School employees shall respond to incidents of sexual harassment by promptly making or forwarding the report to the Title IX Coordinator. An employee who fails to promptly make or forward a report may be disciplined, up to and including discharge.

The Superintendent shall insert into this policy and keep current the name, office address, email address, and telephone number of the Title IX Coordinator.

Title IX Coordinator:

Jennifer Armstrong, Exec. Director
807 N. Mattis Ave., Champaign, IL 61821
armstrongj@rccsec.org
217-892-8877, ext. 113

Processing and Reviewing a Report

Upon receipt of a report made under this Title IX grievance procedure, the Title IX Coordinator and/or designee will promptly contact the Complainant to: (1) discuss the availability of supportive measures, (2) consider the *Complainant's* wishes with respect to *supportive measures*, (3) inform the Complainant of the availability of supportive measures with or without the filing of a Formal Title IX Sexual Harassment Complaint, and (4) explain to the Complainant the process for filing a Formal Title IX Sexual Harassment Complaint.

Further, the Title IX Coordinator will analyze the report to identify and determine whether there is another or an additional appropriate method(s) for processing and reviewing it. For any report received, the Title IX Coordinator shall review Board policies 2:260, *Uniform Grievance Procedure*; 5:20, *Workplace Harassment Prohibited*; 5:90, *Abused and Neglected Child Reporting*; 5:120, *Employee Ethics; Code of Professional Conduct; and Conflict of Interest*; 7:20, *Harassment of Students Prohibited*; 7:180, *Prevention of and Response to Bullying, Intimidation, and Harassment*; 7:185, *Teen Dating Violence Prohibited*; and 7:190, *Student Behavior*, to determine if the allegations in the report require further action.

Reports of alleged sexual harassment will be confidential to the greatest extent practicable, subject to the District's duty to investigate and maintain an educational program or activity that is productive, respectful, and free of sexual harassment.

Formal Title IX Sexual Harassment Complaint Grievance Process

When a Formal Title IX Sexual Harassment Complaint is filed, the Title IX Coordinator will investigate it or appoint a qualified person to undertake the investigation.

The Superintendent or designee shall implement procedures to ensure that all Formal Title IX Sexual Harassment Complaints are processed and reviewed according to a Title IX grievance process that fully complies with 34 C.F.R. §106.45. The District's grievance process shall, at a minimum:

1. Treat *Complainants* and *Respondents* equitably by providing remedies to a *Complainant* where the *Respondent* is determined to be responsible for sexual harassment, and by following a grievance process that complies with 34 C.F.R. §106.45 before the imposition of any disciplinary sanctions or other actions against a *Respondent*.
2. Require an objective evaluation of all relevant evidence – including both inculpatory and exculpatory evidence – and provide that credibility determinations may not be based on a person's status as a *Complainant*, *Respondent*, or witness.
3. Require that any individual designated by the District as a Title IX Coordinator, investigator, decision-maker, or any person designated by the District to facilitate an informal resolution process:
 - a. Not have a conflict of interest or bias for or against complainants or respondents generally or an individual *Complainant* or *Respondent*.
 - b. Receive training on the definition of sexual harassment, the scope of the District's education program or activity, how to conduct an investigation and grievance process (including hearings, appeals, and informal resolution processes, as applicable), and how to serve impartially.
4. Require that any individual designated by the District as an investigator receiving training on issues of relevance to create an investigative report that fairly summarizes relevant evidence.
5. Require that any individual designated by the District as a decision-maker receive training on issues of relevance of questions and evidence, including when questions and evidence about the *Complainant's* sexual predisposition or prior sexual behavior are not relevant.
6. Include a presumption that the *Respondent* is not responsible for the alleged conduct until a determination regarding responsibility is made at the conclusion of the grievance process.
7. Include reasonably prompt timeframes for conclusion of the grievance process.
8. Describe the range of possible disciplinary sanctions and remedies the District may implement following any determination of responsibility.
9. Base all decisions upon the *preponderance of evidence* standard.
10. Include the procedures and permissible bases for the *Complainant* and *Respondent* to appeal.

11. Describe the range of *supportive measures* available to *Complainants* and *Respondents*.
12. Not require, allow, rely upon, or otherwise use questions or evidence that constitute, or seek disclosure of, information protected under a legally recognized privilege, unless the person holding such privilege has waived the privilege.

Enforcement

Any District employee who is determined, at the conclusion of the grievance process, to have engaged in sexual harassment will be subject to disciplinary action up to and including discharge. Any third party who is determined, at the conclusion of the grievance process, to have engaged in sexual harassment will be addressed in accordance with the authority of the Board in the context of the relationship of the third party to the District, e.g., vendor, parent, invitee, etc. Any District student who is determined, at the conclusion of the grievance process, to have engaged in sexual harassment will be subject to disciplinary action, including, but not limited to, suspension and expulsion consistent with student behavior policies. Any person making a knowingly false accusation regarding sexual harassment will likewise be subject to disciplinary action.

This policy does not increase or diminish the ability of the District or the parties to exercise any other rights under existing law.

Retaliation Prohibited

The District prohibits any form of retaliation against anyone who, in good faith, has made a report or complaint, assisted, or participated or refused to participate in any manner in a proceeding under this policy. Any person should report claims of retaliation using Board policy 2:260, *Uniform Grievance Procedure*.

Any person who retaliates against others for reporting or complaining of violations of this policy or for participating in any manner under this policy will be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including discharge, with regard to employees, or suspension and expulsion, with regard to students.

LEGAL REF.:

20 U.S.C. §1681 et seq., Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972; 34 C.F.R. Part 106.

Davis v. Monroe County Bd. of Educ., 526 U.S. 629 (1999).

Gebser v. Lago Vista Independent Sch. Dist., 524 U.S. 274 (1998).

CROSS REF.: 2:260 (Uniform Grievance Procedure), 5:10 (Equal Employment Opportunity and Minority Recruitment), 5:20 (Workplace Harassment Prohibited), 5:90 (Abused and Neglected Child Reporting), 5:100 (Staff Development Program), 5:120 (Employee Ethics; Code of Professional Conduct; and Conflict of Interest), 6:60 (Curriculum Content), 6:65 (Student Social and Emotional Development), 7:10 (Equal Educational Opportunities), 7:20 (Harassment of Students Prohibited), 7:180 (Prevention of and Response to Bullying, Intimidation, and Harassment), 7:185 (Teen Dating Violence Prohibited), 7:190 (Student Behavior), 7:255 (Students Who are Parents, Expectant Parents, or Victims of Domestic or Sexual Violence)

ADOPTED: June 12, 2025

Rural Champaign Co. Sp. Ed.

2:270 Discrimination and Harassment on the Basis of Race, Color, and National Origin Prohibited

Discrimination and harassment on the basis of race, color, or national origin negatively affect a student's ability to learn and an employee's ability to work. Providing an educational and workplace environment free from such discrimination and harassment is an important District goal. The District does not discriminate on the basis of actual or perceived race, color, or national origin in any of its education programs or activities, and it complies with federal and State non-discrimination laws.

Examples of Prohibited Conduct

Examples of conduct that may constitute discrimination on the basis of race, color, or national origin include: disciplining students more harshly and frequently because of their race, color, or national origin; denying students access to high-rigor academic courses, extracurricular activities, or other educational opportunities based on their race, color, or national origin; denying language services or other educational opportunities to English learners; and assigning students special education services based on a student's race, color, or national origin.

Harassment is a form of prohibited discrimination. Examples of conduct that may constitute harassment on the basis of race, color, or national origin include: the use of racial, ethnic or ancestral slurs or stereotypes; taunts; name-calling; offensive or derogatory remarks about a person's actual or perceived race, color, or national origin; the display of racially-offensive symbols; racially-motivated physical threats and attacks; or other hateful conduct.

Making a Report or Complaint; Investigation Process

Individuals are encouraged to promptly report claims or incidents of discrimination or harassment based on race, color, or national origin to the Nondiscrimination Coordinator, a Complaint Manager, or any employee with whom the student is comfortable speaking. Reports under this policy will be processed under Board policy 2:260, *Uniform Grievance Procedure*.

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

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

harassment.

This policy does not impair or otherwise diminish the existing rights of unionized employees to request an exclusive bargaining representative to be present during any investigatory interviews, nor does this policy diminish any rights available under an applicable collective bargaining agreement, including, but not limited to, a grievance procedure.

Federal and State Agencies

If the District fails to take necessary corrective action to stop harassment based on race, color, or national origin, further relief may be available through the Ill. Dept. of Human Rights (IDHR) or the U.S. Dept. of Education's Office for Civil Rights. To contact IDHR, go to: <https://dhr.illinois.gov/about-us/contact-idhr.html> or call (312) 814-6200 (Chicago) or (217) 785-5100 (Springfield).

Prevention and Response Program

The Superintendent or designee shall establish a prevention and response program to respond to complaints of discrimination based on race, color, and national origin, including harassment, and retaliation. The program shall include procedures for responding to complaints which:

1. Reduce or remove, to the extent practicable, barriers to reporting discrimination, harassment, and retaliation;
2. Permit any person who reports or is the victim of an incident of alleged discrimination, harassment, or retaliation to be accompanied when making a report by a support individual of the person's choice who complies with the District's policies and rules;
3. Permit anonymous reporting, except that an anonymous report may not be the sole basis of any disciplinary action;
4. Offer remedial interventions or take such disciplinary action as may be appropriate on a case-by-case basis;
5. Offer, but do not require or unduly influence, a person who reports or is the victim of an incident of harassment or retaliation the option to resolve allegations directly with the accused; and
6. Protects a person who reports or is the victim of an incident of harassment or retaliation from suffering adverse consequences as a result of a report of, investigation of, or a response to the incident.

Policy Posting and Distribution

This policy shall be posted on the District's website. The Superintendent shall annually inform staff members of this policy by posting it in a prominent and accessible location such as the District website, employee handbook, staff intranet site, and/or in other areas where policies and rules of conduct are made available to staff. The Superintendent shall annually inform students and their parents/guardians of this policy by posting it on the District's website and including an age-appropriate summary of the policy in the student handbook(s).

Enforcement

Any District employee who is determined, after an investigation, to have engaged in conduct prohibited by this policy will be subject to remedial action and/or disciplinary action, up to and including discharge.

Any District student who is determined, after an investigation, to have engaged in conduct prohibited by this policy will be subject to remedial action and/or disciplinary action, including but not limited to, suspension and expulsion consistent with Board policy 7:190, *Student Behavior*.

Any third party who is determined, after an investigation, to have engaged in conduct prohibited by this policy will be addressed in accordance with the authority of the Board in the context of the relationship of the third party to the District, e.g., vendor, parent, invitee, etc. Any person making a knowingly false accusation regarding prohibited conduct will likewise be subject to remedial and/or disciplinary action.

Retaliation Prohibited

Retaliation against any person for bringing complaints, participating in the complaint process, or otherwise providing information about discrimination or harassment based on race, color, or national origin is prohibited (see Board policy 2:260, *Uniform Grievance Procedure*).

Individuals should report allegations of retaliation to the Building Principal, an administrator, the Nondiscrimination Coordinator, and/or a Complaint Manager.

LEGAL REF.:

42 U.S.C. §2000d, Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964; 34 C.F.R. Part 100.

42 U.S.C. §2000e et seq., Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964; 29 C.F.R. Part 1601.

105 ILCS 5/22-95.

775 ILCS 5/1-101 et seq., Illinois Human Rights Act.

CROSS REF.: 2:260 (Uniform Grievance Procedure), 5:10 (Equal Employment Opportunity and Minority Recruitment), 5:20 (Workplace Harassment Prohibited), 5:90 (Abused and Neglected Child Reporting), 5:120 (Employee Ethics; Code of Professional Conduct; and Conflict of Interest), 7:10 (Equal Educational Opportunities), 7:20 (Harassment of Students Prohibited), 7:180 (Prevention of and Response to Bullying, Intimidation, and Harassment), 7:190 (Student Behavior), 7:240 (Conduct Code for Participants in Extracurricular Activities)

ADOPTED: February 12, 2026

Rural Champaign Co. Sp. Ed.

SECTION 3 - GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

Rural Champaign Co. Sp. Ed.

3:30 Chain of Command

The Executive Director shall develop an organizational chart indicating the channels of authority and reporting relationships for school personnel. These channels should be followed, and no level should be bypassed except in unusual situations.

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

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

ADOPTED: October 9, 2025

Rural Champaign Co. Sp. Ed.

3:40 Executive Director

Duties and Authority

The Executive Director is the Cooperative's executive officer and is responsible for the administration and management of the Cooperative in accordance with Board policies and directives, and State and federal law. Cooperative management duties include, without limitation, preparing, submitting, publishing, and posting reports and notifications as required by State and federal law, including the special reporting responsibilities in policy 5:90, *Abused and Neglected Child Reporting*. The Executive Director is authorized to develop administrative procedures and take other action as needed to implement Board policy and otherwise fulfill his or her responsibilities. The Executive Director may delegate to other Cooperative staff members the exercise of any powers and the discharge of any duties imposed upon the Executive Director by Board policies or by Board vote. The delegation of power or duty, however, shall not relieve the Executive Director of responsibility for the action that was delegated.

Qualifications

The Executive Director must be of good character and of unquestionable morals and integrity. The Executive Director shall have the experience and the skills necessary to work effectively with the Board, Cooperative employees, students, and the community. The Executive Director shall have a valid administrative certificate with the Executive Director endorsement issued by the State Educator Preparation and Licensure Board.

Evaluation

The Executive Board will evaluate, at least annually, the Executive Director's performance and effectiveness, using standards and objectives developed by the Executive Director and Board that are consistent with State law, the Board's policies, and the Executive Director's contract. A specific time should be designated for a formal evaluation session with all Board members present. The evaluation should include a discussion of professional strengths as well as performance areas needing improvement.

The Executive Director shall annually present evidence of professional growth through attendance at educational conferences, in-service training, or similar continuing education pursuits.

Compensation and Benefits

The Board and the Executive Director shall enter into an employment agreement that conforms to Board policy and State law. This contract shall govern the employment

relationship between the Board and the Executive Director. The terms of the Executive Director's employment agreement, when in conflict with this policy, will control.

LEGAL REF.:

105 ILCS 5/10-16.7, 5/10-20.47, 5/10-21.4, 5/10-21.9, 5/10-23.8, 5/21B-20, 5/21B-25, 5/24-11, and 5/24A-3.

5 ILCS 120/7.3, Open Meetings Act.

23 Ill.Admin.Code §§1.310, 1.705, and 25.355.

CROSS REF: 2:20 (Powers and Duties of the Boards), 2:130 (Board-Executive Director Relationship), 2:240 (Board Policy Development), 4:165 (Awareness and Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse and Grooming Behaviors), 4:175 (Convicted Child Sex Offender; Screening; Notifications), 5:30 (Hiring Process and Criteria), 5:90 (Abused and Neglected Child Reporting), 5:120 (Employee Ethics; Code of Professional Conduct; and Conflict of Interest), 5:150 (Personnel Records), 5:210 (Resignations), 5:290 (Employment Termination and Suspensions)

ADOPTED: March 10, 2022

Rural Champaign Co. Sp. Ed.

3:40-E Exhibit - Checklist for the Superintendent Employment Contract Negotiation Process

The School Board hires and employs the Superintendent. The Superintendent shall be in charge of the administration of the schools under the direction of the Board, through its policies. See 105 ILCS 5/10-21.4 and 105 ILCS 5/10-16.7. As an effective employer, the Board must develop and maintain a productive relationship with the Superintendent. See IASB's *Foundational Principles of Effective Governance*, **Principle 3. The board employs a superintendent**, at: www.iasb.com/conference-training-and-events/training/training-resources/foundational-principles-of-effective-governance/.

The foundation for a productive employment relationship begins when the Board identifies the most qualified superintendent candidate (*successful superintendent candidate*) after an established interview process. The Board then extends an offer of employment to the successful superintendent candidate. The employment search process and resulting relationship should consist of mutual respect and a clear understanding of respective roles, responsibilities, and expectations. This relationship should begin with the Board's policy, a thoughtfully crafted employment contract and job description, and procedures for communications and ongoing assessment. See *Principles* at the link above.

Below, the *Checklist for the Superintendent Employment Contract Negotiation Process* (*Checklist*) provides a column entitled **Superintendent Contract Term Considerations for the Board**. It lists common superintendent employment contract terms and points of consideration for boards to prepare for during the contract formation process. Another column entitled **Explanation, Special Considerations, and Resources** provides extra information about these common superintendent employment contract terms.

The *Checklist* is intended to serve as a resource to educate and guide the Board through the employment contract negotiation process with its successful superintendent candidate. Board members who are educated about the content within the *Checklist* are crucial to successful negotiation processes. An educated contract formation and negotiation process, along with a well-written contract and job description for the Superintendent, all set the foundation for mutual respect and a clear understanding of the Board and Superintendent's respective roles, responsibilities, and expectations. **Important:** This *Checklist* is a resource for contract formation; it is not a list of must have items for a superintendent's employment contract or a basis for a board to re-open contracts currently in effect.

Prior to providing the successful superintendent candidate an offer for employment and contract for review, consideration, and negotiation, consult the Board Attorney about the *Checklist* and the scope of the terms the Board wishes to offer the successful superintendent candidate. The Board and the successful superintendent candidate should expect and encourage the other to seek the advice of their respective attorneys during the

employment contract formation process.

Many attorneys agree and best practices suggest that boards and successful superintendent candidates work with their own separate attorneys in an amicable and cooperative manner to complete the employment contract negotiation process.

☐ **Board Attorney.** Prior to providing any successful superintendent candidate with an offer for employment and a contract for review, consideration, and negotiation, best practices suggest consulting the Board Attorney about the *Checklist*. Note: Boards should view a successful superintendent candidate retaining his or her own attorney as a best practice (as opposed to a warning sign). Each party is beginning the employment relationship in a cooperative manner to set an appropriate foundation to the future working relationship.

☐ **Power and Duties of the Superintendent**

Superintendent Contract Term Considerations for the Board	Explanation, Special Considerations, and Resources
Duties	Does the Board enumerate the duties of the Superintendent in the employment contract? 1. Are the statutory duties of the Superintendent listed? 2. Has the Board incorporated policy references to the other duties related to the Superintendent's employment? See 105 ILCS 5/10-21.4 and 105 ILCS 5/10-16.7.
Full-time, Attention and Energy Clause	How will the Board address outside activities of the Superintendent? 1. How will the Board define <i>outside activities</i>? 2. Will the Board restrict the Superintendent from engaging in outside activities during the term of the employment contract?

	3. Will the Board require approval/ notification before the Superintendent engages in outside activities?
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☐ **Employment and Compensation**

Superintendent Contract Term Considerations for the Board	Explanation, Special Considerations, and Resources
Duration of Contract	A superintendent's employment contract may not exceed five years. If its duration is two to five years, the contract must reference goals and suspension of tenure. No performance-based contract shall be extended or rolled over prior to its scheduled expiration unless all the performance and improvement goals contained in the contract have been met. See 105 ILCS 5/10-23.8. If the duration is one year or less, then the contract need not reference goals or suspension of tenure.
Salary	Special Considerations for the Board may include: 1. What is the estimated Board contribution to the Teachers' Retirement System (TRS) for any raises above six percent (40 ILCS 5/15-155(g)) prior to retirement? 2. What is the <i>cost shift</i> implication for the District if the Board offers or later agrees to a salary that is equal to or

	greater than the governor's statutory salary? School districts are responsible for paying the actuarial cost of the pension benefits earned on the portion of a TRS member's salary that exceeds the governor's statutory salary. The governor's annual salary is published by TRS at: www.trsil.org/employers/payments/contribution-rates_earnings-limitations. 3. Do any administrative cost cap triggers exist (105 ILCS 5/17-1.5)? Items the Board may see the successful superintendent candidate request of it: 1. A fixed salary for each year of the contract. 2. A guaranteed minimum salary. 3. Compensation increases.
Severance Agreements	Any contract that contains a condition of severance pay must include the following provisions required by the Government Severance Pay Act (GSPA), 5 ILCS 415/10: 1. A restriction to an amount not exceeding 20 weeks of compensation; and 2. A prohibition for any severance if the Superintendent is fired for <i>misconduct</i> by the Board. See the <i>Severance Pay</i> row under the Changes to the Superintendent's Employment Contract subhead below for a definition of what misconduct means in the context of this law.

Teachers Retirement System (TRS) & Teacher Health Insurance (THIS)	How does the Board want to address: 1. Pension contributions (TRS-THIS)? 2. Inclusion of salary and other compensation in the payment of TRS and THIS? Or, will TRS and THIS be in addition to salary and other compensation? 3. Unforeseen pension reform issues?
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☐ **Conditions of Employment**

Superintendent Contract Term Considerations for the Board	Explanation, Special Considerations, and Resources
Administrative License	Does the Board want to require the successful superintendent candidate to guarantee that as the future Superintendent of the District, he or she has and will maintain the appropriate licensure throughout the employment contract?
Criminal Background Check Law	105 ILCS 5/10-21.9. See also PRESS sample

	policy 5:30, <i>Hiring Process and Criteria</i>, and the subhead entitled Fingerprint-based Criminal History Records Information Check in administrative procedure 5:30-AP2, <i>Investigations</i>.
Sexual Misconduct Related Employment History Review Law	105 ILCS 5/22-94, added by P.A. 102-702, eff. 7-1-23. See also PRESS sample policy 5:30, <i>Hiring Process and Criteria</i> and PRESS sample administrative procedure 5:30-AP3, <i>Sexual Misconduct Related Employment History Review (EHR)</i>.
Other Background Check Laws	Does the Board want to require additional background inquiries beyond the fingerprint-based criminal history records

information check
required by 105
ILCS 5/10-21.9 and
sexual misconduct
related
employment history
review required by
105 ILCS 5/22-94,
added by P.A.
102-702, eff. 7-1-23
and discussed
above? If yes,
consult the Board
Attorney and
consider the
following laws:

15 U.S.C. § 1681
et seq., Federal
Fair Credit
Reporting Act
(FCRA), is a
federal law that
regulates the
gathering and use
of information
about consumers
by third party
*consumer reporting
agencies*, including
credit information,
criminal
background, driving
record, personal
characteristics/
reputation, etc. The
law requires
consumer reporting
agencies to comply
with certain
procedural notice

requirements when gathering information from a consumer.

820 ILCS 75/, III. Job Opportunities for Qualified Applicants Act, prohibits employers from inquiring about an applicant's criminal history until the application has been determined qualified and notified that he/she has been selected for an interview (a/ k/a *ban the box* law).

820 ILCS 55/, III. Right to Privacy in the Workplace Act (RPWA), prohibits employers from:

1. Requesting, coercing, or requiring any employee or prospective employee to provide a user name and password

for any
personal
online
account;

2. Requesting,
coercing, or
requiring an
employee
or applicant
to invite the
employer to
have
access to
that
individual's
personal
online
account;
and

3. Taking an
adverse
employment
action
against an
individual
(including
refusal to
hire) based
on that
individual's
use of a
lawful
product off
District
property
during
nonworking
hours, i.e.,
tobacco,
cannabis,

or alcohol.
(Note:
RPWA
allows
employers
to regulate
employees'
use of
those lawful
products
that impair
an
employee's
ability to
perform the
employee's
assigned
duties. See
policy 5:50,
*Drug- and
Alcohol-
Free
Workplace;
E-Cigarette,
Tobacco,
and
Cannabis
Prohibition,*
and its f/ns).

820 ILCS 70/, III.
Employee Credit
Privacy Act,
prohibits employers
from inquiring into
an individual's
credit history or
taking action
against an
employee based
such history unless

	a satisfactory credit history is a <i>bona fide occupational requirement</i>, which is further defined in the statute. The job descriptions of superintendents generally meet this standard because they: (1) describe a managerial position that involves direction of school districts; (2) include signatory power over more than \$100; and (3) involve having access to confidential and financial information. Note: Any one of these grounds alone is sufficient.
Medical Examination	105 ILCS 5/24-5 requires new employees to submit evidence of physical fitness to perform assigned duties and freedom from communicable diseases. The Americans with Disabilities Act allows medical

	inquiries of current employees only when they are job-related and consistent with business necessity or part of a voluntary employee wellness program. 42 U.S.C. §12112(d)(4). Districts may deny jobs to individuals with disabilities who pose a direct threat to the health or safety of others in the workplace, provided that a reasonable accommodation would not either eliminate the risk or reduce it to an acceptable level. 42 U.S.C. §12113; 29 C.F.R. §1630.2(r). See also PRESS sample policy 5:30, <i>Hiring Process and Criteria</i>, specifically f/ns 25 and 26.
Tenure	<u>Suspension of Tenure</u> With multi-year contracts and multi-

	year extensions, superintendents waive their rights to tenure in a school district, but no previously acquired tenure may be lost. <u>Continued Tenure</u> Superintendents serving multiple one year contracts may still accrue service toward and acquire tenure. See 105 ILCS 5/10-23.8 and the <i>Duration of Contract</i> row in the Employment and Compensation checkbox, above.
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☐ **Evaluations and Goals**

Superintendent Contract Term Considerations for the Board	Explanation, Special Considerations, and Resources
Board Goals and Indicators of Student Performance and Academic Achievement for the Superintendent	105 ILCS 5/10-23.8 requires each performance-based contract to include the goals and indicators of student performance and academic improvement determined and used by the Board to measure the performance and effectiveness of the Superintendent and other information as the Board may determine.

Regarding its goals and indicators, has the Board:

1. At minimum, addressed student performance and academic achievement (105 ILCS 5/10-23.8 states “and other information as the Board may determine”)?
2. Included them in the body of the employment contract? Or as an exhibit to it?
3. Set them to be:
 - a. Measurable and achievable, i.e., are they within the Superintendent’s control?
 - b. Objective, subjective or a combination of both?
4. Set a timeline for achievement, and if so is it on an:
 - a. Annual basis?
 - b. Prior to completion of the employment contract?
5. Set them as procedural, substantive, or a combination of both?

For more information about setting goals and indicators for superintendents regarding student performance and academic achievement, see:

www.iasb.com/conference-training-and-events/training/workshops/

Contact a Field Services Director regarding the following IASB workshops and/or offerings that may set the stage for school boards to hold their superintendents accountable for district performance, including academic achievement:

	<i>Setting District Goals and Direction</i> (leads a board and superintendent to develop their own district language for specific measurable, and attainable goals and indicators) <i>The Superintendent Evaluation Process</i> (describes an effective method of holding the superintendent accountable)
Superintendent Evaluation	Once the Board has developed its goals and indicators (as discussed immediately above), 105 ILCS 5/10-20, 5/10-23, and 5/10-23.8 require the Board to: 1. “Direct, through policy, its superintendent in his or her charge of the administration of the school district;” and 2. Evaluate the superintendent in his or her “administration of school board policies and his or her stewardship of the assets of the district.” How will the Board evaluate the successful superintendent candidate upon its outlined goals and indicators? Does the Board state when it will evaluate the successful superintendent candidate upon the goals and indicators that it set? Note: Some districts do not consider the superintendent evaluation to be a <i>one-time event</i> and put an on-going process into place. Contrast other districts, which depending upon their preferences, generally find the best time of year to evaluate is in the winter or early springtime.

	Is the Board or the successful superintendent candidate responsible to trigger the components of the Superintendent's evaluation process? What evaluation instrument will be used? How will the evaluation be documented? Will an evaluation instrument be outlined by the Board in its employment contract with the successful superintendent candidate? Is the evaluation instrument the Board will use tied to its goals and indicators of student performance and academic improvement and other information as the Board may determine? For more information about best practices when planning for and evaluating the Superintendent, see: <i>The Superintendent Evaluation Process</i> at: www.iasb.com/iasb/media/documents/superintendent-evaluation-process.pdf; IASB's <i>Foundational Principles of Effective Governance</i>, Principle 3. The board employs a superintendent, at: www.iasb.com/conference-training-and-events/training/training-resources/foundational-principles-of-effective-governance/; stating "the board employs and evaluates one person — the superintendent — and holds that person accountable for district performance and compliance with written board policy."
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☐ **Expenses and Benefits**

Superintendent Contract Term Considerations for the Board	Explanation, Special Considerations, and Resources
Expenses and Allowances	How will the Board address expenses and allowances in its employment contract negotiations with the successful superintendent candidate? <u>Business</u> 1. What standard will the Board use, e.g., reasonable, itemized, etc.? 2. Will the Board designate the Board President or another individual to review and/or approve the Superintendent's expenses? <u>Transportation</u> Will the Board reimburse travel? If yes, what types of travel will the board reimburse? Some transportation topics that successful superintendent candidates request discussion about include: 1. Vehicle insurance reimbursement(s) 2. Vehicle repair reimbursement(s) 3. A travel allowance only at either a set amount or the District's per mile rate 4. A vehicle 5. Out-of-district travel
Insurance	Will the Board address insurance in its employment contract negotiations with the successful superintendent candidate? Some items successful superintendent candidates request include:

	1. Insurance contributions as part of a Cafeteria Plan, or in the alternative, the Board paying the premiums. 2. Specific insurance coverages from the Board, such as health, dental, vision, life, disability, etc.
Vacation	Will the Board address vacation days in its employment contract negotiations with the successful superintendent candidate? If yes, then: 1. How many days? 2. Will vacation days accumulate? And, if so, how? 3. Will the Board designate itself, the Board President, or a Board officer to approve or receive notification from the Superintendent prior to taking a vacation? If yes, describe the process. 4. Will the Board address reimbursement for unused days? 5. Will vacation days need to be used for days off during winter or spring breaks?
Sick Leave/Days	Will the Board address sick days in its employment contract negotiations with the successful superintendent candidate? If yes, then: 1. Will sick leave be limited to annual sick leave days in the District's teachers' contract or will a different amount be provided? 2. How will sick day accumulation be

	addressed? 3. Will the Board designate itself, the Board President, or a Board officer to approve or receive notification from the Superintendent prior to taking or upon returning from a sick day? If yes, describe the process.
Professional Activities and Organizations Memberships in Community Organizations	Will the Board address memberships in professional activities/organizations and/or community organizations its employment contract negotiations with the successful superintendent candidate? If yes, then: 1. How many organizations will the Board allow the Superintendent to join? 2. Which organizations will be allowed? 3. What is the Board's limit for the cost of dues to professional organizations?
Retirement	Will the Board address any type of payment(s) upon the Superintendent's retirement? If yes, then: 1. Has the Board thoroughly examined and addressed: a. Any consequences or other penalties to it? b. The impact of any prior salary increases? c. Potential pension reform issues? 2. Often, a successful superintendent candidate's attorney has interest in the following issues:

	a. Available post-retirement options available, e.g., payments for sick/vacation days, post-retirement insurance, longevity annuity payment, etc. b. Whether a potential retirement payment will be properly creditable for TRS purposes. Note: Ultimately, only TRS has the authority to determine creditability.
Annuities and Other Deferred Compensation	Will the Board address any type of annuities and other deferred compensation issues? If yes, then: 1. Will it offer such compensation in addition to the Superintendent's agreed-upon salary? 2. Will it contribute creditable earnings for TRS purposes?

☐ **Changes to the Superintendent's Employment Contract**

Superintendent Contract Term Considerations for the Board	Explanation, Special Considerations, and Resources
Non-Renewal at End of Contract	How will the Board and successful superintendent candidate agree to address orderly end to the employment contract when the Board chooses not to renew it? 1. Will there be a non-renewal notification date? Do both parties' attorneys find it reasonable? 2. Will the Board require the

	Superintendent to remind it of the non-renewal date? 3. Will there be any agreement to a clause for an automatic one-year renewal if the Board fails to provide end-of-contract non-renewal notification? 4. Will the Board agree to language in the employment contract that would provide the Superintendent with a hearing upon non-renewal?
Renewal at End of Contract	Will the Board agree to a procedure for renewing the employment contract at its end? If yes, then: 1. What date would be the earliest that the Board could renew its employment contract with the Superintendent? 2. What criteria will the Board base its renewal upon? For example, some boards base renewal upon superintendents achieving their stated goals and indicators of student performance and academic improvement and other information they required.
Contract Extensions	Will the Board agree to allow for an extension of its employment contract during its term? If yes, then: 1. Will the Board agree to extend it during its term if the Board determines that the Superintendent successfully met all of the Board's stated goals and indicators of student

	performance and academic improvement and other information it required? 2. Will the Board agree to extend a one-year contract when the Superintendent is not required to meet any goals? See 105 ILCS 5/10-23.8.
Terminations	If the successful superintendent candidate accepts employment with the Board and becomes the Superintendent, how will the Board outline the grounds and procedures for terminating the Superintendent's employment during the contract's term? 1. Will the Board and the successful superintendent candidate agree to terminate it upon mutual agreement? 2. Will the Board allow retirement to be an appropriate reason for terminating its employment contract with the Superintendent? And if so, will the Board require reasonable notice from its Superintendent? 3. Could either the Board or Superintendent terminate the employment contract without cause by providing notice to the other? 4. Will the Board terminate the employment contract for permanent disability of the Superintendent? a. How will the Board define permanent disability in the contract? b. Will the Board require the Superintendent to obtain a permanent disability

determination through
physician certification, and/or

- c. Will the Board consider duration of absence; e.g., 90-days after exhaustion of available leave, whichever is greater?

See PRESS sample policy 5:180,
Temporary Illness or Temporary Incapacity.

- 5. What standard will the Board use to terminate the employment contract for cause? Items to consider include:
 - a. Any conduct detrimental/ prejudicial to the District;*
 - b. Just cause;
 - c. Sufficient to dismiss a tenured teacher;
 - d. Material breach of contract; or
 - e. Not arbitrary and capricious.

*50 ILCS 205/3c, requires a school district to post on its website and make available to news media specific information about severance agreements that it enters into because an employee or contractor was found to have engaged in sexual harassment or sexual discrimination, as defined by the Ill. Human Rights Act or Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. See Severance Pay row directly below.

- 6. Will the Board agree to provisions for hearing and due process for the Superintendent?
- 7. How will the Board address death of

	its Superintendent during the duration of the employment contract?
Severance Pay	Any renewal or renegotiation that adds a condition of severance pay must include the following provisions of GSPA, 5 ILCS 415/10(a)(1): 1. A restriction to an amount not exceeding 20 weeks of compensation; and 2. A prohibition for any severance if the Superintendent is fired for <i>misconduct</i> by the Board. This law defines misconduct to include sexual harassment and/or discrimination. But 50 ILCS 205/3c limits sexual harassment or discrimination to instances when an employee is “found to have engaged in sexual harassment or sexual discrimination, as defined by the Ill. Human Rights Act or Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.” For more discussion about these laws, see f/n 6 in policy 2:260, <i>Uniform Grievance Procedure</i>.
Liquidated Damages	Will the Board agree to liquidate damages with its Superintendent if one or the other terminates the employment contract? 1. Have both the Board and the successful superintendent candidate discussed the practical consequences of a liquidated damages clause with their respective attorneys? 2. If the Board terminates the contract,

	has it discussed with the Board Attorney how it can avoid litigation with its former Superintendent?
Amendments	How will the Board and Superintendent agree to allow for amendments to the employment contract?

☐ **What technical clauses need to be in the Superintendent's employment contract?**

Superintendent Contract Term Considerations for the Board	Explanation, Special Considerations, and Resources
Technical clauses (common in contracts)	If the employment contract contains any of the following technical provisions, have the Board Attorney and Superintendent's attorney reviewed them? 1. Notice 2. Applicable law 3. Headings and numbers 4. Complete understanding, i.e., do the Board members and Superintendent share the same understanding of the various provisions written in the employment contract? 5. Counterparts 6. Effect of Policy Amendments 7. Severability 8. Advice of Counsel

☐ **Miscellaneous Issues**

Superintendent Contract Term Considerations for the Board	Explanation, Special Considerations, and Resources

Board Obligations Under the Employment Contract	Do all members of the Board understand the District's obligations under the employment contract and what not complying with them will mean to the District? Specifically, are Board members aware of the Board's specific obligations regarding: 1. The Superintendent Evaluation 2. Goal setting 3. Required notifications/actions by each party prior to termination of the employment contract
Ongoing Monitoring of Each Party's Compliance with the Contract	Are the Board and Superintendent actually complying with the terms of the employment contract? Has the Board Attorney explained how the Board should monitor compliance with the employment contract?
Legislative Issues	How might pending pension reform legislation or other trending legislation affect the employment contract?

DATED: June 20, 2023

Rural Champaign Co. Sp. Ed.

3:50 Administrative Personnel Other Than the Executive Director

Duties and Authority

The Board establishes Cooperative administrative and supervisory positions in accordance with the Cooperative's needs and State law. The general duties and authority of each administrative or supervisory position are approved by the Board, upon the Executive Director's recommendation, and contained in the respective position's job description. In the event of a conflict, State law and/or the administrator's employment agreement shall control.

Qualifications

All administrative personnel shall be appropriately certificated and shall meet all applicable requirements contained in State law and Illinois State Board of Education rule.

Evaluation

The Executive Director or designee shall evaluate all administrative personnel and make employment and salary recommendations to the Board.

Administrators shall annually present evidence to the Executive Director of professional growth through attendance at educational conferences, additional schooling, in-service training, and Illinois Administrators' Academy courses, or through other means as approved by the Executive Director.

Administrative Work Year

The work year for administrators shall be the same as the Cooperative's fiscal year, July 1 through June 30, unless otherwise stated in the employment agreement. In addition to legal holidays, administrators shall have vacation periods as approved by the Executive Director. All administrators shall be available for work when their services are necessary.

Compensation and Benefits

The Board will consider the Executive Director's recommendations when setting compensation for individual administrators. These recommendations should be presented to the Board no later than the March Board meeting or at such earlier time that will allow the Board to consider contract renewal and nonrenewal issues.

Unless stated otherwise in individual employment contracts, all benefits and leaves of absence available to teaching personnel are available to administrative personnel.

LEGAL REF:

105 ILCS 5/10-21.4a, 5/21-7.1, 5/24A-1, 5/24A-3, 5/24A-4, and 5/24A-20.

23 Ill.Admin.Code §§1.310 and 1.705.

CROSS REF: 4:165 (Awareness and Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse and Grooming Behaviors), 4:175 (Convicted Child Sex Offender; Screening; Notifications), 5:30 (Hiring Process and Criteria), 5:90 (Abused and Neglected Child Reporting), 5:120 (Employee Ethics; Code of Professional Conduct; and Conflict of Interest), 5:150 (Personnel Records), 5:210 (Resignations), 5:250 (Leaves of Absence), 5:290 (Employment Termination and Suspensions)

ADOPTED: March 10, 2022

Rural Champaign Co. Sp. Ed.

3:65 Staff Supervision

Cooperative personnel are supervised by the Executive Director, Assistant Directors, or Program Coordinators, or their respective designees. The Cooperative and its administrative staff are responsible for the supervision of the special education program housed in its educational facilities. The Member Districts and their administrative staff are responsible for the day-to-day operation and supervision of those programs housed in their facilities. Member Districts directly supervise their own employees.

The Cooperative is responsible for providing technical assistance and consultation to Member Districts, their administrators, and teachers regarding special education programs and services, including, without limitation, planning and conducting appropriate in-service activities and classroom visitations.

ADOPTED: October 9, 2025

Rural Champaign Co. Sp. Ed.

3:70 Succession of Authority

If the Executive Director, Building Principal, or other administrator is temporarily unavailable, the succession of authority and responsibility of the respective office shall follow a succession plan, developed by the Executive Director and approved by the Board.

CROSS REF.: 1:20 (Cooperative Organization, Operations, and Cooperative Agreements),
3:30 (Chain of Command)

ADOPTED: July 14, 2022

Rural Champaign Co. Sp. Ed.

SECTION 4 - OPERATIONAL SERVICES

Rural Champaign Co. Sp. Ed.

4:10 Fiscal and Business Management

The Executive Director is responsible for the Cooperative's fiscal and business management. This responsibility includes annually preparing and presenting the Cooperative's statement of affairs to the Board and publishing it by December 1 as required by State law.

The Executive Director shall ensure the efficient and cost-effective operation of the Cooperative's business management using computers, computer software, data management, communication systems, and electronic networks, including electronic mail, the Internet, and security systems. Each person using the Cooperative's electronic network shall complete an *Authorization for Access to the District's Electronic Network*.

Budget Planning

The Cooperative's fiscal year is from July 1 until June 30. The Executive Director shall present to the Board, no later than the first regular meeting in August, a tentative budget with appropriate explanation. This budget shall represent the culmination of an ongoing process of planning for the fiscal support needed for the Cooperative's educational program. To the extent possible, the tentative budget shall be balanced as defined by Ill. State Board of Education (ISBE) guidelines.

Preliminary Adoption Procedures

After receiving the Executive Director's proposed budget, the Board sets the date, place, and time for:

1. A public hearing on the proposed budget, and
2. The proposed budget to be available to the public for inspection.

The Board Secretary shall arrange to publish a notice in a local newspaper stating the date, place, and time of the proposed budget's availability for public inspection and the public hearing. The proposed budget shall be available for public inspection at least 30 days before the time of the budget hearing.

At the public hearing, the proposed budget shall be reviewed, including the cash reserve balance of all funds held by the Cooperative related to its operational levy and, if applicable, any obligations secured by those funds, and the public shall be invited to comment, question, or advise the Board.

Final Adoption Procedures

The Board adopts a budget before the end of the first quarter of each fiscal year, September 30, or by such alternative procedure as State law may define. To the extent possible, the budget shall be balanced as defined by ISBE.

The Board adopts the budget by roll call vote. The budget resolution shall be incorporated into the meeting's official minutes. Board members' names voting *yea* and *nay* shall be recorded in the minutes.

The Executive Director or designee shall perform each of the following:

1. Post the Cooperative's final annual budget, itemized by receipts and expenditures, on the Cooperative's Internet website; notify parents/guardians that it is posted and provide the website's address.
2. File a certified copy of the budget resolution and an estimate of revenues by source anticipated to be received in the following fiscal year, certified by the Cooperative's Chief Fiscal Officer, with the County Clerk within 30 days of the budget's adoption.
3. Submit the annual budget, a deficit reduction plan if one is required by ISBE guidelines, and other financial information to ISBE according to its requirements.

Any amendments to the budget shall be made as provided in the School Code and Truth in Taxation Act.

Budget Amendments

The Board may amend the budget by the same procedure as provided for in the original adoption.

Implementation

The Executive Director or designee shall implement the Cooperative's budget and provide the Executive Board with a monthly financial report that includes all deficit fund balances. The amount budgeted as the expenditure in each fund is the maximum amount that may be expended for that category, except when a transfer of funds is authorized by the Board.

The Board shall act on all interfund loans, interfund transfers, transfers within funds, and transfers from the working cash fund or abatements of it, if one exists.

LEGAL REF.:

105 ILCS 5/10-17, 5/10-22.33, 5/17-1, 5/17-1.2, 5/17-1.3, 5/17-2A, 5/17-3.2, 5/17-11, 5/20-5, 5/20-8, and 5/20-10.

35 ILCS 200/18-55 et seq., Truth in Taxation Law.

23 Ill.Admin.Code Part 100.

CROSS REF.: 4:40 (Incurring Debt), 4:60 (Purchases and Contracts), 6:235 (Access to Electronic Networks)

ADOPTED: February 12, 2026

Rural Champaign Co. Sp. Ed.

4:15 Identity Protection

The collection, storage, use, and disclosure of social security numbers by the Cooperative shall be consistent with State and federal laws. The goals for managing the Cooperative's collection, storage, use, and disclosure of social security numbers are to:

1. Limit all activities involving social security numbers to those circumstances that are authorized by State or federal law.
2. Protect each social security number collected or maintained by the Cooperative from unauthorized disclosure.

The Executive Director is responsible for ensuring that the Cooperative complies with the Identity Protection Act, 5 ILCS 179/. Compliance measures shall include each of the following:

1. All employees having access to social security numbers in the course of performing their duties shall be trained to protect the confidentiality of social security numbers. Training should include instructions on the proper handling of information containing social security numbers from the time of collection through the destruction of the information.
2. Only employees who are required to use or handle information or documents that contain social security numbers shall have access to such information or documents.
3. Social security numbers requested from an individual shall be provided in a manner that makes the social security number easily redacted if the record is required to be released as part of a public records request.
4. When collecting a social security number or upon request by an individual, a statement of the purpose(s) for which the Cooperative is collecting and using the social security number shall be provided. The stated reason for collection of the social security number must be relevant to the documented purpose.
5. All employees must be advised of this policy's existence, and a copy of the policy must be made available to each employee. The policy must also be made available to any member of the public, upon request.
6. If this policy is amended, employees will be advised of the existence of the amended policy, and a copy of the amended policy will be made available to each employee.

No Cooperative employee shall collect, store, use, or disclose an individual's social security number unless specifically authorized by the Executive Director. This policy shall not be interpreted as a guarantee of the confidentiality of social security numbers and/or other personal information. The Cooperative will use best efforts to comply with this policy, but this policy should not be construed to convey any rights to protection of information not otherwise afforded by law.

Treatment of Personally Identifiable Information Under Grant Awards

The Executive Director ensures that the Cooperative takes reasonable cybersecurity and other measures to safeguard information including: (1) *protected personally identifiable information*, (2) other types of information that a federal agency, pass-through entity, or State awarding agency designates as sensitive, such as *personally identifiable information* (PII) and (3) information that the Cooperative considers to be sensitive consistent with applicable laws regarding privacy and confidentiality (collectively, *sensitive information*), when administering federal grant awards and State grant awards governed by the Grant Accountability and Transparency Act (30 ILCS 708/).

The Executive Director shall establish procedures for the identification, handling, storage, access, disposal and overall confidentiality of sensitive information. The Executive Director shall ensure that employees and contractors responsible for the administration of a federal or State award for the Cooperative receive regular training in the safeguarding of sensitive information. Employees mishandling sensitive information are subject to discipline, up to and including dismissal.

LEGAL REF.:

2 C.F.R. §200.303(e).

5 ILCS 179/, Identity Protection Act.

30 ILCS 708/, Grant Accountability and Transparency Act.

50 ILCS 205/3, Local Records Act.

105 ILCS 10/, Illinois School Student Records Act.

CROSS REF: 2:250 (Access to Cooperative Public Records), 5:150 (Personnel Records), 7:340 (Student Records), 7:345 (Use of Educational Technologies; Student Data Privacy and Security)

ADOPTED: June 12, 2025

Rural Champaign Co. Sp. Ed.

4:30 Revenue and Investments

Revenue

The Executive Director or designee is responsible for making all claims for State Aid, special State funds for specific programs, federal funds, and categorical grants.

Investments

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

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

Investment Objectives

The objectives for the Cooperative's investment activities are:

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

Authorized Investments

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

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

The Chief Investment Officer and Executive Director shall regularly consider material, relevant, and decision-useful sustainability factors in evaluating investment decisions, within the bounds of financial and fiduciary prudence. Such factors include, but are not limited to: (1) corporate governance and leadership factors, (2) environmental factors, (3) social capital factors, (4) human capital factors, and (5) business model and innovation factors, as provided under the Ill. Sustainable Investing Act, 30 ILCS 238/.

Selection of Depositories, Investment Managers, Dealers, and Brokers

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

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

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

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

1. For financial institutions subject to the federal Community Reinvestment Act of 1977 (CRA), the current and historical ratings that the financial institution has received, to the extent that those ratings are publicly available, under the CRA;
2. For financial institutions subject to the Ill. Community Reinvestment Act (ICRA), the current and historical ratings that the financial institution has received, to the extent that those ratings are publicly available, under the ICRA;
3. Any changes in ownership, management, policies, or practices of the financial institution that may affect the level of the financial institution's commitment to its community;
4. The financial impact that the withdrawal or denial of Cooperative deposits might have

on the financial institution;

5. The financial impact to the Cooperative as a result of withdrawing public funds or refusing to deposit additional public funds in the financial institution; and
6. Any additional burden on the Cooperative's resources that might result from ceasing to maintain deposits of public funds at the financial institution under consideration.

The Cooperative may not deposit public funds in a financial institution subject to the CRA unless the institution has a current rating of satisfactory or outstanding under the CRA. The Cooperative may not deposit public funds in a financial institution subject to the ICRA unless either: (1) the institution has a current rating of satisfactory under the ICRA at the time of deposit; or (2) the Ill. Dept. of Financial and Professional Regulation has not yet completed its initial examination of the institution under the ICRA. The Cooperative may not withdraw public funds from a financial institution prior to the date of maturity solely on the basis of a less than satisfactory rating under the ICRA. When investing or depositing public funds, the Cooperative may give preference to financial institutions that have a current rating of outstanding under the CRA and the ICRA.

Collateral Requirements

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

Safekeeping and Custody Arrangements

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

Controls and Report

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

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

performance shall be measured by appropriate and creditable industry standards for the investment type.

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

Ethics and Conflicts of Interest

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

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

LEGAL REF.:

30 ILCS 235/, Public Funds Investment Act.

30 ILCS 238/, Ill. Sustainable Investing Act.

105 ILCS 5/8-7, 5/10-22.44, 5/17-1, and 5/17-11.

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

ADOPTED: February 12, 2026

Rural Champaign Co. Sp. Ed.

4:40 Incurring Debt

The Executive Director shall provide early notice to the Governing Board of the Rural Champaign County Special Education Cooperative need to borrow money. The Director should accompany any recommendation to borrow money with a statement describing the need for a loan and a plan for accomplishing the loan which includes the preparation of all necessary documents.

Bond Issue Obligations

In connection with the Cooperative's issuance of bonds, the Executive Director shall be responsible for ensuring the Cooperative's compliance with federal securities laws, including the anti-fraud provisions of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended and, if applicable, the continuing disclosure obligations under Rule 15c2-12 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended.

Additionally, in connection with the Cooperative's issuance of bonds, the interest on which is excludable from *gross income* for federal income tax purposes, or which enable the Cooperative or bond holder to receive other federal tax benefits, the Board authorizes the Executive Director to establish written procedures for post-issuance compliance monitoring for such bonds to protect their tax-exempt (or tax-advantaged) status.

The Board may contract with outside professionals, such as bond counsel and/or a qualified financial consulting firm, to assist it in meeting the requirements of this subsection.

LEGAL REF.:

15 U.S.C. §77a et seq., Securities Act of 1933.

15 U.S.C. §78a et seq., Securities Exchange Act of 1934.

17 C.F.R. §240.15c2-12.

30 ILCS 305/2, Bond Authorization Act.

30 ILCS 350/, Local Government Debt Reform Act.

30 ILCS 352/, Bond Issue Notification Act.

50 ILCS 420/, Tax Anticipation Note Act.

105 ILCS 5/10-22.31, 5/17-16, 5/17-17, 5/18-18, 5/18-20, and 5/19-1 et seq.

CROSS REF: 4:10 (Fiscal and Business Management)

ADOPTED: February 12, 2026

Rural Champaign Co. Sp. Ed.

4:45 Insufficient Fund Checks and Debt Recovery

Insufficient Fund Checks

The Executive Director or designee is responsible for collecting up to the maximum fee authorized by State law for returned checks written to the Cooperative that are not honored upon presentation to the respective bank or other depository institution for any reason. The Executive Director is authorized to contact the Cooperative's attorney whenever necessary to collect the returned check amount, fee, collection costs and expenses, and interest.

Delinquent Debt Recovery

The Executive Director is authorized to seek collection of delinquent debt owed the Cooperative to the fullest extent of the law.)

To participate in the Local Debt Recovery Program through the Illinois Office of the Comptroller (IOC), an intergovernmental agreement (IGA) between the Cooperative and the IOC must be in existence. The IGA establishes the terms under which the Cooperative may refer delinquent debt owed it over to the IOC for an offset (deduction). The IOC may execute an offset of the amount of the delinquent debt owed to the Cooperative from a future payment that the State makes to an individual or entity responsible for paying the delinquent debt.

The Executive Director or designee shall execute the requirements of the IGA. While executing the requirements of the IGA, the Executive Director or designee is responsible, without limitation, for each of the following:

1. Providing a District-wide, uniform, method of notice and due process to the individual or entity against whom a claim for delinquent debt payment (*claim*) is made. Written notice and an opportunity to be heard must be given to the individual or entity responsible for paying a delinquent debt before the claim is certified to the IOC for offset. The notice must state the claim's amount, the reason for the amount due, the claim's date or time period, and a description of the process to challenge the claim. If reimbursable meals or snacks provided under the Hunger-Free Students' Bill of Rights Act are the basis of the District's delinquent debt claim of no less than \$500, the notice must be sent to a student's parents/guardians only after: (a) the student owes the District more than five meals and/or snacks; (b) the Superintendent or designee made: (i) repeated contacts to collect the amounts owed, and (ii) reasonable efforts to collect the amount due for at least one year; and (c) the District requested the student's parents/guardians to apply for meal benefits pursuant to policy 4:130, *Free and Reduced-Price Food Services*, and they either: (i) did not qualify, or (ii) refused to apply.

2. An individual or entity challenging a claim shall be provided an informal proceeding to refute the claim's existence, amount, or current collectability; the decision following this proceeding shall be reviewable.
 - a. If a waiver of student fees is requested as a challenge to paying the claim, and the waiver of student fees is denied, an appeal of the denial of a fee waiver request shall be handled according to 4:140, Waiver of Student Fees. If no waiver of student fees is requested, reviews regarding payment of the claim shall be handled according to this policy before certification to the IOC for offset.
 - b. If application for meal benefits pursuant to policy 4:130, Free and Reduced-Price Food Services, is requested as a challenge to paying the claim, and the request is denied, an appeal of the denial of the request shall be handled according to 4:130, Free and Reduced-Price Food Services. If no request for meal benefits is received, review of the claim's payment shall be handled according to this policy before certification to the IOC for offset.
3. Certifying to the IOC that the debt is past due and legally enforceable, and notifying the IOC of any change in the status of an offset claim for delinquent debt.
4. Responding to requests for information from the IOC to facilitate the prompt resolution of any administrative review requests received by the IOC.

LEGAL REF.:

15 ILCS 405/10.05 and 10.05d, State Comptroller Act.

105 ILCS 123/, Hunger-Free Students' Bill of Rights Act.

810 ILCS 5/3-806, Uniform Commercial Code.

ADOPTED: September 14, 2023

Rural Champaign Co. Sp. Ed.

4:50 Payment Procedures

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

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

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

LEGAL REF.:

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

23 Ill.Admin.Code §100.70.

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

ADOPTED: October 9, 2025

Rural Champaign Co. Sp. Ed.

4:55 Use of Credit and Procurement Cards

The Executive Director and employees designated by the Executive Director are authorized to use Cooperative credit and procurement cards to simplify the acquisition, receipt, and payment of purchases and travel expenses incurred on the Cooperative's behalf. Credit and procurement cards shall only be used for those expenses that are for the Cooperative's benefit and serve a valid and proper public purpose; they shall not be used for personal purchases. Cardholders are responsible for exercising due care and judgment and for acting in the Cooperative's best interests.

The Executive Director or designee shall manage the use of Cooperative credit and procurement cards by employees. It is the Board's responsibility, through the audit and approval process, to determine whether Cooperative credit and procurement card use by the Executive Director is appropriate.

In addition to the other limitations contained in this and other Board policies, Cooperative credit and procurement cards are governed by the following restrictions:

1. Credit and/or procurement cards may only be used to pay certain job-related expenses or to make purchases on behalf of the Board or Cooperative or any student activity fund, or for purposes that would otherwise be addressed through a conventional revolving fund.
2. The Executive Director or designee shall instruct the issuing bank to block the cards' use at unapproved merchants.
3. Each cardholder, other than the Executive Director, may charge no more than \$500 in a single purchase and no more than \$1000 within a given month without prior authorization from the Executive Director.
4. The Executive Director or designee must approve the use of a Cooperative credit or procurement card whenever such use is by telephone, fax, and the Internet. Permission shall be withheld when the use violates any Board policy, is from a vendor whose reputation has not been verified, or would be more expensive than if another available payment method were used.
5. The consequences for unauthorized purchases include, but are not limited to, reimbursing the Cooperative for the purchase amount, loss of cardholding privileges, and, if made by an employee, discipline up to and including discharge.
6. All cardholders must sign a statement affirming that they are familiar with this policy.
7. The Executive Director shall implement a process whereby all purchases using a Cooperative credit or procurement card are reviewed and approved by someone other than the cardholder or someone under the cardholder's supervision.
8. Cardholders must submit the original, itemized receipt to document all purchases.

9. No individual may use a Cooperative credit or procurement card to make purchases in a manner contrary to State law, including, but not limited to, the bidding and other purchasing requirements in 105 ILCS 5/10-20.21, or any Board policy.
10. The Executive Director or designee shall account for any financial or material reward or rebate offered by the company or institution issuing the Cooperative credit or procurement card and shall ensure that it is used for the Cooperative's benefit.

LEGAL REF.:

105 ILCS 5/10-20.21.

23 Ill.Admin.Code §100.70(d).

CROSS REF.: 4:50 (Payment Procedures), 4:60 (Purchases and Contracts), 4:80 (Accounting and Audits), 4:90 (Student Activity and Fiduciary Funds), 5:60 (Expenses)

ADOPTED: February 9, 2023

Rural Champaign Co. Sp. Ed.

4:60 Purchases and Contracts

The Executive Director shall manage the Cooperative's purchases and contracts in accordance with State law, the standards set forth in this policy, and other applicable Board policies.

Standards for Purchasing and Contracting

All purchases and contracts shall be entered into in accordance with applicable federal and State law. The Board Attorney shall be consulted as needed regarding the legal requirements for purchases or contracts. All contracts shall be approved or authorized by the Board.

All purchases and contracts should support a recognized Cooperative function or purpose as well as provide for good quality products and services at the lowest cost, with consideration for service, reliability, and delivery promptness, and in compliance with State law. No purchase or contract shall be made or entered into as a result of favoritism, extravagance, fraud, or corruption.

Adoption of the annual budget authorizes the Executive Director or designee to purchase budgeted supplies, equipment, and services, provided that State law is followed. Purchases of items outside budget parameters require prior Board approval, except in an emergency.

When presenting a contract or purchase for Board approval, the Executive Director or designee shall ensure that it complies with applicable federal and State law, including but not limited to, those specified below:

1. Supplies, materials, or work involving an expenditure in excess of \$35,000 must comply with the State law bidding procedure, 105 ILCS 5/10-20.21, unless specifically exempted.
2. Construction, lease, or purchase of school buildings must comply with State law and Board policy 4:150, *Facility Management and Building Programs*.
3. Guaranteed energy savings must comply with 105 ILCS 5/19b-1 et seq.
4. Third party non-instructional services must comply with 105 ILCS 5/10-22.34c.
5. Goods and services that are intended to generate revenue and other remunerations for the Cooperative in excess of \$1,000, including without limitation vending machine contracts, sports and other attire, class rings, and photographic services, must comply with 105 ILCS 5/10-20.21(b-5). The Executive Director or designee shall keep a record of: (1) each vendor, product, or service provided, (2) the actual net revenue and non-monetary remuneration from each contract or agreement, and (3) how the revenue was used and to whom the non-monetary remuneration was

distributed. The Executive Director or designee shall report this information to the Board by completing the necessary forms that must be attached to the Cooperative's annual budget.

6. Any contract to purchase food with a bidder or offeror must comply with 105 ILCS 5/10-20.21(b-10).
7. The purchase of paper and paper products must comply with 105 ILCS 5/10-20.19c and Board policy 4:70, *Resource Conservation*.
8. Each contractor with the Cooperative is bound by each of the following:
 - a. In accordance with 105 ILCS 5/10-21.9(f): (1) prohibit any of its employees who is or was found guilty of a criminal offense listed in 105 ILCS 5/10-21.9(c) and 5/21B-80(c) to have direct, daily contact at a Cooperative school or school-related activity with one or more student(s); (2) prohibit any of the contractor's employees from having direct, daily contact with one or more students if the employee was found guilty of any offense in 5/21B-80(b) (certain drug offenses) until seven years following the end of the employee's sentence for the criminal offense; and (3) require each of its employees who will have direct, daily contact with student(s) to cooperate during the Cooperative's fingerprint-based criminal history records check on him or her.
 - b. In accordance with 105 ILCS 5/22-94: (1) prohibit any of its employees from having *direct contact with children or students* if the contractor has not performed a sexual misconduct related employment history review (EHR) of the employee or if the Cooperative objects to the employee's assignment based on the employee's involvement in an instance of sexual misconduct as provided in 105 ILCS 5/22-94(j)(3), which the contractor is required to disclose; (2) discipline, up to and including termination or denial of employment, any employee who provides false information or willfully fails to disclose information required by the EHR; (3) maintain all records of EHRs and provide the Cooperative access to such records upon request; and (4) refrain from entering into any agreements prohibited by 105 ILCS 5/22-94(g).
 - c. In accordance with 105 ILCS 5/24-5: (1) concerning each new employee of a contractor that provides services to students or in schools, provide the Cooperative with evidence of physical fitness to perform the duties assigned and freedom from communicable disease; and (2) require any new or existing employee who provides services to students or in schools to complete additional health examinations as required by the Cooperative and be subject to additional health examinations, including tuberculosis screening, as required by the Ill. Dept. of Public Health rules or order of a local health official.
9. Any pavement engineering project using a coal tar-based sealant product or high

polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbon sealant product for pavement engineering-related use must comply with the Coal Tar Sealant Disclosure Act.

10. Design-build contracts must comply with 105 ILCS 5/15A-1 et seq.
11. Any new contract for a district-administered assessment must comply with 105 ILCS 5/10-20.86.
12. Purchases made with federal or State awards must comply with 2 C.F.R. Part 200 and 30 ILCS 708/, as applicable, and any terms of the award.

The Executive Director or designee shall: (1) execute the reporting and website posting mandates in State law concerning Cooperative contracts, and (2) monitor the discharge of contracts, contractors' performances, and the quality and value of services or products being provided.

LEGAL REF.:

2 C.F.R. Part 200.

105 ILCS 5/10-20.19c, 5/10-20.21, 5/10-20.86, 5/10-21.9, 5/10-22.34c, 5/15A-1 et seq., 5/19b-1 et seq., 5/22-94, and 5/24-5.

30 ILCS 708/, Grant Accountability and Transparency Act.

410 ILCS 170/, Coal Tar Sealant Disclosure Act.

820 ILCS 130/, Prevailing Wage Act.

CROSS REF.: 2:100 (Board Member Conflict of Interest), 4:70 (Resource Conservation), 4:150 (Facility Management and Building Programs), 4:175 (Convicted Child Sex Offender; Screening; Notifications), 5:90 (Abused and Neglected Child Reporting)

ADOPTED: January 9, 2025

Rural Champaign Co. Sp. Ed.

4:60-AP1 Administrative Procedure - Purchases

The Board Attorney should be consulted, as needed, regarding the legal requirements presented by this administrative procedure as well as before a contract is presented to the Board.

Requirements for Purchases and Contracts

- A. Each of the following requirements describes the type of purchase and/or contract to which it applies; requirements in Sections B and C may also apply to a specific purchase or contract.
 - 1. All purchases of goods or services must be made through the use of contracts or purchase orders, except for those purchases made from petty cash funds or the Imprest Fund, or as otherwise specifically authorized by the Superintendent.
 - 2. Illinois Use Tax Act compliance (105 ILCS 5/10-20.21(b) and 35 ILCS 105):
 - a. Persons bidding for and awarded a contract, and all affiliates of the person, must collect and remit Illinois Use Tax on all sales of tangible personal property into the State of Illinois in accordance with the provision of the Illinois Use Tax Act.
 - b. All bids and contracts must include: (1) a certification that the bidder or contractor is not barred from bidding for or entering into a contract, and (2) an acknowledgment that the Board may declare the contract void if the certification is false.
 - 3. All entities seeking to enter into a contract with the District must provide written certification to the District that it will provide a drug free workplace by complying with the Illinois Drug Free Workplace Act, 30 ILCS 580. All contractors must comply with the notification mandates and other requirements in the Illinois Drug Free Workplace Act, 30 ILCS 580. "Contractor" is defined in the Drug Free Workplace Act as "a corporation, partnership, or other entity with 25 or more employees at the time of letting the contract, or a department, division, or unit thereof, directly responsible for the specific performance under a contract of \$5,000 or more."
 - 4. Before soliciting bids or awarding a contract for supplies, materials, equipment, or services, a certified education purchasing contract that is already available through a State education purchasing entity (as defined in the Education Purchasing Program, Article 28A of the School Code), may be considered as a bid. 105 ILCS 5/10-20.21(d).
 - 5. All contracts must include provisions required by State or federal law, as applicable. Topics commonly requiring a provision include equal opportunity employment, prevailing wage, minimum wage, and performance bond.
 - 6. The procurement of architectural, engineering, and land surveying services is

governed by the Local Government Professional Services Selection Act, 50 ILCS 510/, implemented by 2:170-AP, *Administrative Procedure - Qualified Based Selection*.

7. A list must be posted on the District's website, if any, of all contracts in excess of \$25,000 and any contract with an exclusive bargaining representative. 105 ILCS 5/10-20.44.
 8. Each contractor with the District must comply with 105 ILCS 5/10-21.9(f) and agree to: (a) not allow any of its employees to have direct, daily contact with one or more students if the employee was found guilty of any offense in that law; (b) require each of its employees who will have direct, daily contact with one or more student(s) to cooperate during the District's fingerprint-based criminal history records check on him or her; and (c) reimburse the District for the cost of the fingerprint-based criminal history records check that the District obtains on each employee of a contractor who will have direct, daily contact with a student(s). See 4:60-AP3, *Criminal History Records Check of Contractor Employees*.
 9. Each contractor with the District must comply with 105 ILCS 5/24-5, amended by P.A. 98-716 (eff. 7-16-2014) and agree: (a) concerning each employee who begins providing services in the District after June 16, 2014 who will have direct, daily contact with one or more student(s), to provide the District with evidence of physical fitness to perform the duties assigned and freedom from communicable disease; and (b) to require any new or existing employee who has and will have direct, daily contact with one or more student(s) to complete additional health examinations as required by the District and be subject to additional health examinations, including tuberculosis screening, as required by the Illinois Department of Public Health rules or order of a local health official.
- B. To the extent feasible, the following govern all purchases and/or the award of contracts for supplies, materials, or work, and/or contracts with private carriers for transporting students, involving: (a) an expenditure of \$25,000 or less, or (b) in an emergency, an expenditure in excess of \$25,000, provided such expenditure is approved by three-quarters of the Board. See 105 ILCS 5/10-20.21 (3/4s of the Board must approve an emergency expenditure in excess of \$25,000 when the bidding process is not used) and 5/29-6.1 (time limitations for transportation contracts).
1. Telephone quotations, verbal quotations, or catalog prices are used to purchase materials that are needed urgently, or small quantity orders.
 2. Written quotations are used to purchase materials or services when time requirements allow. Whenever possible, quotations should be received from at least 2 competitors. The Superintendent or designee may negotiate with vendors at any

time, including after receiving quotations.

- C. The following govern all purchases and/or the award of contracts involving an expenditure in excess of \$25,000 for supplies and materials or work. 105 ILCS 5/10-20.21(a).
1. Contracts are awarded to the lowest responsible bidder, considering conformity with specifications, terms of delivery, quality and serviceability, except contracts or purchases for:
 - a. Services of individuals possessing a high degree of professional skill where the ability or fitness of the individual plays an important part;
 - b. Printing of finance committee reports and departmental reports;
 - c. Printing or engraving of bonds, tax warrants, and other evidences of indebtedness;
 - d. Purchase of perishable foods and perishable beverages;
 - e. Materials and work that have been awarded to the lowest responsible bidder after due advertisement, but due to unforeseen revisions, not the fault of the contractor for materials and work, must be revised causing expenditures not in excess of 10% of the contract price;
 - f. Maintenance or servicing of, or provision of repair parts for, equipment which are made with the manufacturer or authorized service agent of that equipment where the provision of parts, maintenance, or servicing can best be performed by the manufacturer or authorized service agent;
 - g. Use, purchase, delivery, movement, or installation of data processing equipment, software, or services and telecommunications and interconnect equipment, software, and services;
 - h. Duplicating machines and supplies;
 - i. Natural gas when the cost is less than that offered by a public utility;
 - j. Equipment previously owned by some entity other than the District itself;
 - k. Repair, maintenance, remodeling, renovation, or construction, or a single project involving an expenditure not to exceed \$50,000 and not involving a change or increase in the size, type, or extent of an existing facility;
 - l. Goods or services procured from another governmental agency;
 - m. Goods or services that are economically procurable from only one source, such as for the purchase of magazines, books, periodicals, pamphlets and reports, and for utility services such as water, light, heat, telephone, or telegraph;
 - n. Emergency expenditures when such an emergency expenditure is approved by three-quarters of the members of the Board;
 - o. Goods procured through an education master contract, as defined in the Education

Purchasing Program, Article 28A of the School Code; and

- p. Providing for the transportation of students, which contracts must be advertised in the same manner as competitive bids and awarded by first considering the bidder(s) most able to provide safety and comfort for the students, stability of service, and any other factors set forth in the request for proposal regarding quality of service, and then price.

2. Competitive bidding process:

- a. An invitation for bids is advertised, where possible, by public notice at least 10 days before the bid date in a newspaper published in the District, or if no newspaper is published in the District, in a newspaper of general circulation in the area of the District. 105 ILCS 5/10-20.21(a).
- b. The following information should be included in the advertisement for bids:

- 1) A description of the materials, supplies, or work involved;
- 2) Completion or delivery date requirements;
- 3) Requirements for bids, bonds, and/or deposits;
- 4) Requirements for performance, labor, and material payment bonds;
- 5) Date, time, and place of the bid opening;
- 6) The approximate time period between the opening of bids and the award of the contract; and
- 7) Any other useful information.

- c. If specifications are available, the advertisement for bids describes where they may be obtained and/or inspected.
- d. All bids must be sealed by the bidder. 105 ILCS 5/10-20.21(a).
- e. A Board member or District employee opens the bids at a public bid opening at which time the contents are announced. 105 ILCS 5/10-20.21(a). With the exception of bids for construction purposes, bids may be communicated, accepted, and opened electronically. The following safeguards apply to an electronic bid opening (105 ILCS 5/10-20.21):

- 1) On the date and time of a bid opening, the primary person conducting the electronic bid process shall log onto a specified database using a unique username and password previously assigned to the bidder to allow access to the bidder's specific bid project number.

2) The specified electronic database must be on a network that: (i) is in a secure environment behind a firewall; (ii) has specific encryption tools; (iii) maintains specific intrusion detection systems; (iv) has redundant systems architecture with data storage back-up, whether by compact disc or tape; and (v) maintains a disaster recovery plan.

- f. Each bidder is given at least 3 days' notice of the time and place of the bid opening. 105 ILCS 5/10-20.21(a).
 - g. Conduct that promotes deception and collusion during the bidding process is prohibited and may violate the Ill. Criminal Code, 720 ILCS 5/33E-1 et seq. Examples include interference with public contracting, bid-rigging, and acquisition or disclosure of bidding information by a public official.
3. Following the opening of bids, the Superintendent (and Board Attorney, if needed) determines the lowest responsible bidder and verifies the bidders' qualifications. Contracts are awarded at a properly called open meeting of the Board. If the Superintendent recommends a bidder other than the lowest bidder, the Superintendent must provide the Board with the factual basis for the recommendation in writing. The Board, if it accepts a bid from a bidder other than the lowest, records the factual basis for its decision in its minutes. A contract arises only when the Board votes to accept a bid, although written notice of the award will later be given to the successful bidder.
4. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the District is relieved from bidding when making joint purchases with other public entities in compliance with the Governmental Joint Purchasing Act (30 ILCS 525/0.01).

LEGAL REF.:30 ILCS 580/, Ill. Drug Free Workplace Act.

50 ILCS 510/, Local Government Professional Services Selection Act.

105 ILCS 5/10-20.21 and 5/10-20.44.

DATED:August 11, 2016

Rural Champaign Co. Sp. Ed.

4:70 Resource Conservation

The Executive Director or designee shall manage a program of energy and resource conservation for the Cooperative that includes:

1. Periodic review of procurement procedures and specifications to ensure that purchased products and supplies are reusable, durable, or made from recycled materials, if economically and practically feasible.
2. Purchasing recycled paper and paper products in amounts that will, at a minimum, meet the specifications in the School Code, if economically and practically feasible.
3. Periodic review of procedures on the reduction of solid waste generated by academic, administrative, and other institutional functions. These procedures shall:
(a) require recycling the Cooperative's waste stream, including landscape waste, computer paper, and white office paper, if economically and practically feasible; (b) include investigation of the feasibility of potential markets for other recyclable materials that are present in the Cooperative's waste stream; and (c) establish a goal for the reduction in the amount of solid waste generated by the Cooperative, when it is economically and practically feasible to do so.
4. Energy conservation measures.

LEGAL REF.:

105 ILCS 5/10-20.19c and 5/19b.

CROSS REF.: 4:60 (Purchases and Contracts), 4:150 (Facility Management and Building Programs)

ADOPTED: October 10, 2024

Rural Champaign Co. Sp. Ed.

4:80 Accounting and Audits

The Cooperative's accounting and audit services shall comply with the *Requirements for Accounting, Budgeting, Financial Reporting, and Auditing*, as adopted by the Ill. State Board of Education (ISBE), State and federal laws and regulations, and generally accepted accounting principles. Determination of liabilities and assets, prioritization of expenditures of governmental funds, and provisions for accounting disclosures shall be made in accordance with government accounting standards as directed by the auditor designated by the Board. The Executive Director, in addition to other assigned financial responsibilities, shall report monthly on the Cooperative's financial performance, both income and expense, in relation to the financial plan represented in the budget.

Annual Audit

At the close of each fiscal year, the Executive Director shall arrange an audit of the Cooperative funds, accounts, statements, and other financial matters. The audit shall be performed by an independent certified public accountant designated by the Board and be conducted in conformance with prescribed standards and legal requirements. A complete and detailed written audit report shall be provided to each Board member and to the Executive Director. The Executive Director shall annually, on or before October 15, submit one copy of the audit to the Regional Superintendent of Schools. The Executive Director shall also ensure the Cooperative's auditing firm files the Cooperative's audit with ISBE annually on or before October 15.

Annual Financial Report

The Executive Director or designee shall annually prepare and submit the Annual Financial Report (AFR) on a timely basis using the form adopted by ISBE. The Executive Director shall review and discuss the AFR with the Board before it is submitted and submit one copy of the AFR to the Regional Superintendent of Schools annually on or before October 15. The Executive Director shall also ensure the Cooperative's auditing firm files the Cooperative's AFR with ISBE annually on or before October 15.

Inventories

The Executive Director or designee is responsible for establishing and maintaining accurate inventory records. The inventory record of supplies and equipment shall include a description of each item, quantity, location, purchase date, and cost or estimated replacement cost, unless the supplies and equipment are acquired by the Cooperative pursuant to a federal or State grant award, in which case the inventory record shall also include the information required by 2 C.F.R. §200.313, if applicable. The Executive Director shall establish procedures for the management of property acquired by the Cooperative

under grant awards that comply with federal and State law.

Capitalization Threshold

To be considered a capital asset for financial reporting purposes, a capital item must be at or above a capitalization threshold of \$10,000 and have an estimated useful life greater than one year.

Disposition of Cooperative Property

The Executive Director or designee shall notify the Board, as necessary, of the following so that the Board may consider its disposition: (1) Cooperative personal property (property other than buildings and land) that is no longer needed for school purposes, and (2) school site, building, or other real estate that is unnecessary, unsuitable, or inconvenient.

Notwithstanding the above, the Executive Director or designee may unilaterally dispose of personal property of a diminutive value. The Executive Director shall establish procedures for the disposition and, when permitted by the terms and conditions of the award, the retention of property acquired by the Cooperative under grant awards that comply with federal and State law.

Taxable Fringe Benefits

The Executive Director or designee shall: (1) require that all use of Cooperative property or equipment by employees is for the Cooperative's convenience and best interests unless it is a Board-approved fringe benefit, and (2) ensure compliance with the Internal Revenue Service regulations regarding when to report an employee's personal use of Cooperative property or equipment as taxable compensation.

Controls for Revolving Funds and Petty Cash

Revolving funds and the petty cash system are established in Board policy 4:50, *Payment Procedures*. The Executive Director shall: (1) designate a custodian for each revolving fund and petty cash fund, (2) obtain a bond for each fund custodian, and (3) maintain the funds in compliance with this policy, State law, and ISBE rules. A check for the petty cash fund may be drawn payable to the designated petty cash custodian. Each revolving fund shall be maintained in a bank that has been approved by the Board and established in an amount approved by the Executive Director consistent with the annual budget. All expenditures from these bank accounts must be directly related to the purpose for which the account was established and supported with documentation, including signed invoices or receipts. All deposits into these bank accounts must be accompanied with a clear description of their intended purpose. The Executive Director or designee shall include checks written to reimburse revolving funds on the Board's monthly listing of bills indicating the recipient and

including an explanation.

Control Requirements for Checks

The Board must approve all bank accounts opened or established in the Cooperative's or a Cooperative school's name or with the Cooperative's Federal Employer Identification Number. All checks issued by the Cooperative must be signed by the Executive Director and Treasurer, except that checks from accounts containing student activity funds or fiduciary funds and checks from revolving accounts may be signed by their respective account custodians.

Internal Controls

The Executive Director is primarily responsible for establishing and implementing a system of internal controls for safeguarding the Cooperative's financial condition; the Board, however, will oversee these safeguards. The control objectives are to ensure efficient business and financial practices, reliable financial reporting, and compliance with State law and Board policies, and to prevent losses from fraud, waste, and abuse, as well as employee error, misrepresentation by third parties, or other imprudent employee action.

The Executive Director or designee shall annually audit the Cooperative's financial and business operations for compliance with established internal controls and provide the results to the Board. The Board may from time-to-time engage a third-party to audit internal controls in addition to the annual audit.

LEGAL REF.:

2 C.F.R. §200 et seq.

30 ILCS 708/, Grant Accountability and Transparency Act; 44 Ill.Admin.Code 7000 et seq.

105 ILCS 5/2-3.27, 5/2-3.28, 5/3-7, 5/3-15.1, 5/5-22, 5/10-21.4, 5/10-20.19, 5/10-22.8, and 5/17-1 et seq.

23 Ill.Admin.Code Part 100.

CROSS REF.: 4:10 (Fiscal and Business Management), 4:50 (Payment Procedures), 4:55 (Use of Credit and Procurement Cards)

ADOPTED: February 12, 2026

Rural Champaign Co. Sp. Ed.

4:80-AP Administrative Procedure - Checklist for Internal Controls

The District's system of internal controls shall include the following:

1. All financial transactions must be properly authorized and documented. This includes:

- No check is issued without pre-approved documentation for the expenditure, e.g., a signed voucher, a completed and approved travel request, an approved purchase requisition, an order, or an invoice.
- No bank account is opened or established in the District's or a District school's name or with the District's Federal Employer Identification Number without pre-approved documentation.
- No credit or procurement card is assigned to an individual without pre-approved documentation. All use of a credit or procurement card must be in compliance with Board policy 4:55, *Use of Credit and Procurement Cards* and administrative procedure 4:55-AP, *Controls for the Use of District Credit and Procurement Cards*.
- Every receipt to and expenditure from a revolving fund and a petty cash fund are supported with clear documentation and otherwise comply with Board policies 4:50, *Payment Procedures* and 4:80, *Accounting and Audits*.
- A record is made of all checks issued and all payments made by credit or procurement cards that includes descriptive information sufficient to allow assignment of the appropriate code.

2. Financial records and data must be accurate and complete. This includes:

- Data entries are timely made.
- Cash handling is properly recorded.
- Checks are sequentially numbered and missing checks are accounted for.
- Financial reporting deadlines are followed.

3. Accounts payable must be accurate and punctual. This includes:

- Payments are made on a timely basis.
- A thorough explanation is provided for any over/underpayments.

- Payroll and benefits are reviewed and continually updated.

4. District property must be protected from loss or misuse. This includes:

- Valuable technology assets are safeguarded from theft or loss.
- A backup and recovery system is developed for electronic systems.
- Only authorized individuals have access to various systems.
- Passwords are kept secure and frequently changed.
- Keys are kept secure and accounted for.
- District property is not *borrowed* or otherwise used for private purposes.
- District personal property having a monetary value (excluding, for example, trash, out-dated equipment, consumed consumables, and spoilage) is discarded only with the Board's prior approval.

5. Incompatible duties should be segregated, if possible. This includes:

- Transaction approval is separated from disbursement approval duties so that no single individual controls all phases of the claim payment process.
- Other controls are used if segregation of duties is impossible.

6. Accounting records are periodically reconciled. This includes:

- All accounts are balanced monthly.
- All statements from checking accounts and credit cards are reconciled monthly.
- Expenses are verified against receipts.
- Out-of-balance conditions are investigated.

7. Equipment and supplies must be safeguarded. This includes:

- Inventories are periodically taken and inspections are frequently made.
- A reliable record is kept identifying what technology assets have been provided to specific employees.

- Access to supplies is limited and controlled.

8. Staff members with financial or business responsibilities must be properly trained and supervised, and must perform their responsibilities with utmost care and competence.

- Responsibilities match job descriptions.
- If required by State law, staff members are appropriately bonded.
- Staff members are held accountable for complying with Board policies and administrative processes or procedures that have been established to safeguard the District's financial condition.
- Staff members are appropriately trained and evaluated.
- Staff members are encouraged to notify their supervisors or the Superintendent of risks, losses, and/or concerns.

9. Any unnecessary weaknesses or financial risks must be promptly corrected. This includes:

- Internal control concerns raised by the District's independent auditor in connection with the annual financial audit are properly addressed.
- Internal or external auditors are annually engaged to assess risk and/or test existing internal controls for those areas not included within the scope of the annual financial audit; concerns are promptly addressed.

DATED: August 11, 2016

Rural Champaign Co. Sp. Ed.

4:100 Insurance Management

The Executive Director shall recommend and maintain all insurance programs that provide the broadest and most complete coverage available at the most economical cost, consistent with sound insurance principles.

The insurance program shall include each of the following:

1. Liability coverage to insure against any loss or liability of the Cooperative and the listed individuals against civil rights damage claims and suits, constitutional rights damage claims and suits, and death and bodily injury and property damage claims and suits, including defense costs, when damages are sought for negligent or wrongful acts allegedly committed in the scope of employment or under the Board's direction or related to any mentoring services provided to the Cooperative's licensed staff members; Board members; employees; volunteer personnel authorized by 105 ILCS 5/10-22.34, 5/10-22.34a, and 5/10-22.34b; mentors of licensed staff members authorized in 105 ILCS 5/21A-5 et seq. (new teacher), 105 ILCS 5/2-3.53a (new principal), and 2-3.53b (new Executive Directors); and student teachers.
2. Comprehensive property insurance covering a broad range of causes of loss involving building and personal property. The coverage amount shall normally be for the replacement cost or the insurable value.
3. Workers' Compensation to protect individual employees against financial loss in case of a work-related injury, certain types of disease, or death incurred in an employee-related situation.

LEGAL REF.:

Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act, Pub. L. 99-272, §10001, 26 U.S.C. §4980B(f), 42 U.S.C. §300bb-1 et seq.

105 ILCS 5/2-3.53a, 5/2-3.53b, 5/10-20.20, 5/10-22.3, 5/10-22.3a, 5/10-22.3b, 5/10-22.3f, 5/10-22.34, 5/10-22.34a, 5/10-22.34b, and 5/21A-5 et seq.

215 ILCS 5/, III. Insurance Code.

750 ILCS 75/, III. Religious Freedom Protection and Civil Union Act.

820 ILCS 305/, Workers' Compensation Act.

ADOPTED: September 14, 2023

Rural Champaign Co. Sp. Ed.

4:110 Transportation

Transportation to and from Cooperative programs and schools shall be the responsibility of the District of residence.

No school employee may transport students in school or private vehicles unless authorized by the administration.

LEGAL REF.:

20 U.S.C. §6312(c)(5)(B), Elementary and Secondary Education Act.

42 U.S.C. §11431 et seq., McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act.

105 ILCS 5/10-22.22 and 5/29-1 et seq.

105 ILCS 45/1-15 and /1-17.

625 ILCS 5/1-148.3a-5, 5/1-182, 5/11-1414.1, 5/12-813.1, 5/12-815, 5/12-816, 5/12-821, and 5/13-109.

23 Ill.Admin.Code §§1.510 and 226.750; Part 120.

92 Ill.Admin.Code Part 440.

CROSS REF.: 4:170 (Safety), 5:100 (Staff Development Program), 5:120 (Employee Ethics; Code of Professional Conduct; and Conflict of Interest), 5:280 (Duties and Qualifications), 6:140 (Education of Homeless Children),

ADOPTED: July 11, 2024

Rural Champaign Co. Sp. Ed.

4:150 Facility Management and Building Programs

The Executive Director shall manage the Cooperative's facilities and grounds as well as facility construction and building programs in accordance with the law, the standards set forth in this policy, and other applicable Board policies. The Executive Director or designee shall facilitate: (1) inspections of schools by the Regional Executive Director and State Fire Marshal or designee, (2) review of plans and specifications for future construction or alterations of a school if requested by the relevant municipality, county (if applicable), or fire protection district, and (3) compliance with the 10-year safety survey process required by the School Code.

Standards for Managing Buildings and Grounds

All Cooperative buildings and grounds shall be adequately maintained in order to provide an appropriate, safe, and energy efficient physical environment for learning and teaching. The Executive Director or designee shall provide the Board with periodic reports on maintenance data and projected maintenance needs that include cost analysis. This policy is not intended to discourage efforts to improve the appearance of buildings or grounds that are consistent with the designated use of those buildings and grounds.

Standards for Green Cleaning

For each Cooperative school with 50 or more students, the Executive Director or designee shall establish and supervise a green cleaning program that complies with the guidelines established by the Illinois Green Government Coordinating Council.

Standards for Facility Construction and Building Programs

As appropriate, the Board will authorize a comprehensive study to determine the need for facility construction and expansion. On an annual basis, the Executive Director or designee shall provide the Board with projected facility needs, enrollment trends, and other data impacting facility use. Board approval is needed for all new facility construction and expansion.

When making decisions pertaining to design and construction of school facilities, the Board will confer with members of the staff and community, the Ill.State Board of Education, and educational and architectural consultants, as it deems appropriate. The Board's facility goals are to:

1. Integrate facilities planning with other aspects of planning and goal-setting.
2. Base educational specifications for school buildings on identifiable student needs.
3. Design buildings for sufficient flexibility to permit new or modified programs.

4. Design buildings for maximum potential for community use.
5. Meet or exceed all safety requirements.
6. Meet requirements on the accessibility of school facilities to disabled persons as specified in State and federal law.
7. Provide for low maintenance costs, energy efficiency, and minimal environmental impact.

LEGAL REF.:

42 U.S.C. §12101 et seq., Americans with Disabilities Act; 28 C.F.R. Parts 35 and 36.

20 ILCS 3130/, Green Buildings Act.

105 ILCS 5/2-3.12, 5/10-20.49, 5/10-22.36, 5/10-20.63 and 5/17-2.11.

105 ILCS 140/, Green Cleaning Schools Act.

105 ILCS 230/, School Construction Law.

410 ILCS 25/, Environmental Barriers Act.

410 ILCS 35/25, Equitable Restrooms Act.

820 ILCS 130/, Prevailing Wage Act.

23 Ill.Admin.Code Part 151, School Construction Program; Part 180, Health/Life Safety Code for Public Schools; and Part 2800, Green Cleaning for Elementary and Secondary Schools.

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

CROSS REF.: 2:150 (Committees), 2:170 (Procurement of Architectural, Engineering, and Land Surveying Services), 4:60 (Purchases and Contracts), 8:70 (Accommodating Individuals with Disabilities)

ADOPTED: February 13, 2020

Rural Champaign Co. Sp. Ed.

4:160 Environmental Quality of Buildings and Grounds

The Executive Director shall take all reasonable measures to protect: (1) the safety of Cooperative personnel, students, and visitors on Cooperative premises from risks associated with hazardous materials and (2) the environmental quality of the Cooperative's buildings and grounds.

Pesticides

Pesticides will not be applied on the paved surfaces, playgrounds, or playing fields of any school serving grades K-8 during a school day or partial school day when students are in attendance for instructional purposes. Additionally, the application of any restricted use pesticides is prohibited on or within 500 feet of school property during normal school hours. The Executive Director or designee shall maintain a registry of employees and parents/guardians of students requesting notification before the application of pesticide(s) and notify these people as required by the Structural Pest Control Act, 225 ILCD 235/, and the Lawn Care Products Application and Notice Act, 415 ILCS 65/.

Coal Tar Sealant

Before coal tar-based sealant products or high polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbon sealant products are used on Cooperative premises, the Executive Director or designee shall notify employees and parents/guardians of students in writing or by telephone as required by the Coal Tar Sealant Disclosure Act.

LEGAL REF.:

105 ILCS 5/10-20.17a; 5/10-20.48.

29 C.F.R. §1910.1030, Occupational Exposure to Bloodborne Pathogens, as adopted by the Illinois Department of Labor, 56 Ill.Admin.Code §350.700(b).

29 C.F.R. §1910.1200, Occupational Safety and Health Administration Hazard Communication Standards, as adopted by 820 ILCS 255/1.5, Toxic Substances Disclosure to Employees Act.

20 ILCS 3130/, Green Buildings Act.

105 ILCS 135/, Toxic Art Supplies in Schools Act.

105 ILCS 140/, Green Cleaning School Act.

105 ILCS 160/, Pesticide Application at Schools Act.

225 ILCS 235/, Structural Pest Control Act.

415 ILCS 60/14, Illinois Pesticide Act.

415 ILCS 65/, Lawn Care Products Application and Notice Act.

410 ILCS 170/, Coal Tar Sealant Disclosure Act.

820 ILCS 255/, Toxic Substances Disclosure to Employees Act. (*inoperative*)

23 Ill.Admin.Code §1.330.

CROSS REF.: 4:150 (Facility Management and Building Programs), 4:170 (Safety)

ADOPTED: January 12, 2024

Rural Champaign Co. Sp. Ed.

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

Child sexual abuse and grooming behaviors harm students, their parents/guardians, the Cooperatives 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) behaviors related to child sexual abuse and grooming, (4) how to report child sexual abuse, (5) appropriate relationships between Cooperative 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 Executive Director 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;
 - b. Information in Board policy 7:250, *Student Support Services*, about: (i) Cooperative 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 Cooperative.
2. Train Cooperative 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 employee-student boundary violations pursuant to Board policy 5:120, *Employee Ethics; Code of Professional Conduct; and Conflict of Interest*;
 - b. Evidence-informed content on preventing, recognizing, reporting, and responding to child sexual abuse, grooming behaviors, and employee-student boundary violations pursuant to Board policies 2:260, *Uniform Grievance Procedure*; 2:265, *Title IX Grievance Procedure*; 5:90, *Abused and Neglected Child Reporting*; 5:100, *Staff Development Program*; and 5:120, *Employee Ethics; Code of Professional Conduct; and Conflict of Interest*; and
 - c. How to report child sexual abuse, grooming behaviors, and/or employee-student boundary violations pursuant to Board policies 2:260, *Uniform Grievance Procedure*; 2:265, *Title IX 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 employee-student 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 Cooperative employees and students based upon Board policy 5:120, *Employee Ethics; Code of Professional 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 employee-student 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 Board policy 7:250, *Student Support Services*.

LEGAL REF.:

105 ILCS 5/10-23.13, 5/22-85.5, and 5/27-1015.

105 ILCS 5/27-215, Critical Health Problems and Comprehensive Health Education Act.

325 ILCS 5/, Abused and Neglected Child Reporting Act.

720 ILCS 5/11-25, Criminal Code of 2012.

CROSS REF.: 2:260 (Uniform Grievance Procedure), 2:265 (Title IX Grievance Procedure), 4:175 (Convicted Child Sex Offender; Screening; Notifications), 5:90 (Abused and Neglected Child Reporting), 5:100 (Staff Development Program), 5:120 (Employee Ethics; Code of Professional Conduct; and Conflict of Interest), 7:20 (Harassment of Students Prohibited), 7:250 (Student Support Services)

ADOPTED: June 22, 2026

Rural Champaign Co. Sp. Ed.

4:170 Safety

Safety and Security

All Cooperative operations, including the education program, shall be conducted in a manner that will promote the safety and security of everyone on Cooperative property or at a Cooperative event. The Executive Director or designee shall develop, implement, and maintain a comprehensive safety and security plan that includes, without limitation:

1. An emergency operations and crisis response plan(s) addressing prevention, preparation, response, and recovery for each school;
2. Provisions for a coordinated effort with local law enforcement and fire officials, emergency medical services personnel, and the Board Attorney;
3. A school safety drill plan;
4. Instruction in safe bus riding practices; and
5. A clear, rapid, factual, and coordinated system of internal and external communication.

In the event of an emergency that threatens the safety of any person or property, students and staff are encouraged to follow the best practices discussed for their building regarding the use of any available cellular telephones.

School Safety Drill Plan

During every academic year, each school building that houses school children shall conduct, at a minimum, each of the following in accordance with the School Safety Drill Act (105 ILCS 128/):

1. Three school evacuation drills to address and prepare students and school personnel for fire incidents. One of these three drills shall require the participation of the local fire department or district.
2. One bus evacuation drill.
3. One severe weather and shelter-in-place drill to address and prepare students and school personnel for possible tornado incidents.
4. One law enforcement lockdown drill to address a school shooting incident and to evaluate the preparedness of school personnel and students. This drill shall occur no later than 90 days after the first day of school of each year, and shall require the participation of all school personnel and students present at school at the time of the drill, except for those exempted by administrators, school support personnel, or a parent/guardian.

Annual Review

The Board or its designee will annually review each school building's emergency operations and crisis response plan(s), protocols, and procedures, as well as each building's compliance with the school safety drill plan. This annual review shall be in accordance with the School Safety Drill Act (105 ILCS 128/) and the Joint Rules of the Office of the State Fire Marshal and the Ill. State Board of Education (ISBE).

Automated External Defibrillator (AED)

At least one automated external defibrillator (AED) shall be present in each Cooperative attendance center during the school day and during any Cooperative-sponsored extracurricular activity on school grounds. In addition, the Director or designee shall implement a written plan for responding to medical emergencies at the Cooperative's physical fitness facilities in accordance with the Fitness Facility Medical Emergency Preparedness Act and shall file a copy of the plan with the Ill. Dept. of Public Health (IDPH). The plan shall provide for at least one AED to be available at every physical fitness facility on the premises according to State law requirements.

The Cooperative shall have an AED on site as well as a trained AED user: (1) on staff during staffed business hours; and (2) available during activities or events sponsored and conducted or supervised by the Cooperative. The Director or designee shall ensure that every AED on the Cooperative's premises is properly tested and maintained in accordance with rules developed by the IDPH. This policy does not create an obligation to use an AED.

Carbon Monoxide Alarms

The Executive Director or designee shall implement a plan with the Cooperative's local fire officials to:

1. Determine which school buildings to equip with approved *carbon monoxide alarms* or *carbon monoxide detectors*,
2. Locate the required carbon monoxide alarms or carbon monoxide detectors within 20 feet of a carbon monoxide emitting device, and
3. Incorporate carbon monoxide alarm or detector activation procedures into each school building that requires a carbon monoxide alarm or detector. The Executive Director or designee shall ensure each school building annually reviews these procedures.

Lead Testing in Water

The Executive Director or designee shall implement testing for lead in each source of drinking water in school buildings in accordance with the Ill. Plumbing License Law and guidance published by the IDPH. The Executive Director or designee shall notify parent(s)/guardian(s) about the sampling results from their children's respective school buildings.

Emergency Closing

The Executive Director is authorized to close school(s) in the event of hazardous weather or other emergency that threatens the safety of students, staff members, or school property.

LEGAL REF.:

105 ILCS 5/10-20.2, 5/10-20.57, 5/18-12, and 5/18-12.5.

105 ILCS 128/, School Safety Drill Act; 29 Ill.Admin.Code Part 1500.

210 ILCS 74/, Physical Fitness Facility Medical Emergency Preparedness Act.

225 ILCS 320/35.5, Ill. Plumbing License Law.

CROSS REF.: 4:110 (Transportation), 4:175 (Convicted Child Sex Offender; Screening; Notifications), 4:180 (Pandemic Preparedness; Management; and Recovery), 5:30 (Hiring Process and Criteria), 8:30 (Visitors to and Conduct on School Property), 8:100 (Relations with Other Organizations and Agencies)

ADOPTED: January 9, 2025

Rural Champaign Co. Sp. Ed.

4:175 Convicted Child Sex Offender; Screening; Notifications

Persons Prohibited on School Property without Prior Permission

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:

1. 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
2. The offender received permission to be present from the Board, Executive Director, or Executive Director's designee. If permission is granted, the Executive Director or Board Chairperson shall provide the details of the offender's upcoming visit to the Building Principal.

In all cases, the Executive Director or designee shall supervise a child sex offender whenever the offender is in a child's vicinity. If a student is a sex offender, the Executive Director or designee shall develop guidelines for managing his or her presence in school.

Screening

The Executive Director or designee shall perform fingerprint-based criminal history records information checks and/or screenings required by State law or Board policy for employees; student teachers; students doing field or clinical experience other than student teaching; contractors' employees who have direct, daily contact with one or more children; and resource persons and volunteers. The Board Chairperson shall ensure that these checks are completed for the Executive Director. He or she shall take appropriate action based on the result of any criminal background check and/or screen.

Notification to Parents/Guardians

The Executive Director shall develop procedures for the distribution and use of information from law enforcement officials under the Sex Offender Community Notification Law and the Murderer and Violent Offender Against Youth Community Notification Law. The Executive Director or designee shall serve as the Cooperative contact person for purposes of these laws. The Executive Director and Building Principal shall manage a process for schools to notify the parents/guardians during school registration that information about sex offenders

is available to the public as provided in the Sex Offender Community Notification Law. This notification must occur during school registration and at other times as the Executive Director or Building Principal determines advisable.

LEGAL REF.:

20 U.S.C. §7926, Elementary and Secondary Education Act.

20 ILCS 2635/, Uniform Conviction Information Act.

720 ILCS 5/11-9.3, Criminal Code of 2012.

730 ILCS 152/, Sex Offender Community Notification Law.

730 ILCS 154/75-105, Murderer and Violent Offender Against Youth Community Notification Law.

CROSS REF.: 2:110 (Qualifications, Term, and Duties of Board Officers), 3:40 (Executive Director), 3:50 (Administrative Personnel Other Than the Executive Director), 4:165 (Awareness and Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse and Grooming Behaviors), 5:30 (Hiring Process and Criteria), 5:260 (Student Teachers), 6:250 (Community Resource Persons and Volunteers), 8:30 (Visitors to and Conduct on School Property), 8:100 (Relations with Other Organizations and Agencies)

ADOPTED: March 10, 2022

Rural Champaign Co. Sp. Ed.

4:180 Pandemic Preparedness; Management; and Recovery

The Board recognizes that the Cooperative will play an essential role along with the local health department and emergency management agencies in protecting the public's health and safety during a pandemic.

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

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

Emergency School Closing

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

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

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

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

Payment of Employee Salaries During Emergency School Closures

The Director shall consult with the Board to determine the extent to which continued payment of salaries and benefits will be made to the Cooperative's employees, pursuant to Board policies 3:40, *Director*, 3:50, *Administrative Personnel Other Than the Executive Director*, 5:35, *Compliance with the Fair Labor Standards Act*, 5:200, *Terms and Conditions of Employment and Dismissal*, and 5:270, *Employment At-Will, Compensation, and Assignment*, and consistent with: (1) applicable laws, regulations, federal or State or local emergency declarations, executive orders, and agency directives; (2) collective bargaining agreements and any bargaining obligations; and (3) the terms of any grant under which an employee is being paid.

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

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

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

LEGAL REF.:

105 ILCS 5/10-16.7, 5/10-20.5, 5/10-20.56, and 5/10-30.

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

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

20 ILCS 3305/, Ill. Emergency Management Agency Act.

115 ILCS 5/, Ill. Educational Labor Relations Act.

CROSS REF.: 1:20 (Cooperative Organization, Operations, and Cooperative Agreements), 2:20 (Powers and Duties of the Boards), 2:220 (Board Meeting Procedure), 2:240 (Board Policy Development), 3:40 (Executive Director), 3:50 (Administrative Personnel Other Than the Executive Director), 3:70 (Succession of Authority), 4:170 (Safety), 5:35

(Compliance with the Fair Labor Standards Act), 5:200 (Terms and Conditions of Employment and Dismissal), 5:270 (Employment At-Will, Compensation, and Assignment), 6:20 (Calendar and Day), 7:90 (Release During School Hours), 8:100 (Relations with Other Organizations and Agencies)

ADOPTED: October 9, 2025

Rural Champaign Co. Sp. Ed.

4:190 Targeted School Violence Prevention Program

Threats and acts of targeted school violence harm the Cooperative's environment and school community, diminishing students' ability to learn and a school's ability to educate. Providing students and staff with access to a safe and secure environment is an important Board goal. While it is not possible for the District to completely eliminate threats in its environment, a Targeted School Violence Prevention Program (Program) using the collective efforts of local school officials, staff, students, families, and the community helps the Cooperative reduce these risks to its environment.

The Director or designee shall develop and implement the Program in collaboration with Member Districts. The Program oversees the maintenance of an environment that is conducive to learning and working by identifying, assessing, classifying, responding to, and managing threats and acts of targeted school violence. Because the Cooperative programs are housed with Member Districts' buildings, cooperative programs and classrooms shall adhere to the Program of the Member District where it is located, and shall:

1. Utilize the Member District-level School Violence Prevention Team to: (a) assist in developing a District-level Targeted School Violence Prevention Plan, and (b) have access to the District's Building-level Threat Assessment Team(s).
2. Utilize the Building-level Threat Assessment Team(s) to assess and intervene with individuals whose behavior may pose a threat to safety. This team may serve one or more schools.
3. Comply with State and federal law and align with Board policies.

The Local Governmental and Governmental Employees Tort Immunity Act protects the District from liability. The Program does not: (1) replace the care of a physician licensed to practice medicine in all of its branches or a licensed medical practitioner or professional trained in violence prevention, assessments and counseling services, (2) extend beyond available resources within the District, (3) extend beyond the school day and/or school-sponsored events, or (4) guarantee or ensure the safety of students, District staff, or visitors.

LEGAL REF.:

105 ILCS 5/10-20.14, 5/10-21.7, 5/10-27.1A, 5/10-27.1B, 5/24-24, and 5/22-110.

105 ILCS 128/, School Safety Drill Act.

745 ILCS 10/, Local Governmental and Governmental Employees Tort Immunity Act.

29 Ill.Admin.Code Part 1500.

CROSS REF.: 2:240 (Board Policy Development), 4:170 (Safety), 5:90 (Abused and Neglected Child Reporting), 5:100 (Staff Development Program), 5:230 (Maintaining Student Discipline), 6:65 (Student Social and Emotional Development), 6:270 (Guidance and Counseling Program), 7:140 (Search and Seizure), 7:150 (Agency and Law Enforcement Requests), 7:180 (Prevention of and Response to Bullying, Intimidation, and Harassment), 7:185 (Teen Dating Violence Prohibited), 7:190 (Student Behavior), 7:250 (Student Support Services), 7:290 (Suicide and Depression Awareness and Prevention), 7:340 (Student Records), 8:30 (Visitors to and Conduct on School Property), 8:100 (Relations with Other Organizations and Agencies)

ADOPTED: February 12, 2026

Rural Champaign Co. Sp. Ed.

SECTION 5 - PERSONNEL

Rural Champaign Co. Sp. Ed.

General Personnel

Rural Champaign Co. Sp. Ed.

5:10 Equal Employment Opportunity and Minority Recruitment

The Cooperative 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; work authorization status; use of lawful products while not at work; being a victim of domestic violence, sexual violence, gender violence, or any other crime of violence or use of Cooperative-issued equipment to record such types of 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; reproductive health decisions; credit history, unless a satisfactory credit history is an established bona fide occupational requirement of a particular position; conviction record, unless authorized by law; family responsibilities; 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 under policy 2:260, *Uniform Grievance Procedure*, or in the case of denial of equal employment opportunities on the basis of race, color, or national origin, Board policy 2:270, *Discrimination and Harassment on the Basis of Race, Color, and National Origin Prohibited*. 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 Executive Director shall appoint a Nondiscrimination Coordinator for personnel who shall be responsible for coordinating the Cooperative's nondiscrimination efforts. The Nondiscrimination Coordinator may be the Executive Director or a Complaint Manager under policy 2:260, *Uniform Grievance Procedure*.

The Executive Director shall appoint a Title IX Coordinator to coordinate the Cooperative's efforts to comply with Title IX.

The Executive Director shall insert into this policy the names, office addresses, email addresses, and telephone numbers of the Cooperative's current Nondiscrimination Coordinator, Title IX Coordinator, and Complaint Managers.

Nondiscrimination Coordinator:

Jennifer Armstrong, Exec. Director

807 N. Mattis Ave., Champaign, IL 61821

armstrongj@rccsec.org

217-892-8877, ext. 113

Title IX Coordinator:

Jennifer Armstrong, Exec. Director

807 N. Mattis Ave., Champaign, IL 61821

armstrongj@rccsec.org

217-892-8877, ext. 113

Complaint Managers:

Jennifer Armstrong, Exec. Director

807 N. Mattis Ave., Champaign, IL 61821

armstrongj@rccsec.org

217-892-8877, ext. 113

Bonnie McArthur, Supt. Thomasboro CCSD 130

201 N. Phillips, Thomasboro, IL 61878

bmcArthur@tgs130.org

217-643-3275

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

Minority Recruitment

The Cooperative 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 Cooperative to give preferential treatment or special rights based on a protected status without evidence of past discrimination.

LEGAL REF.:

8 U.S.C. §1324a et seq., Immigration Reform and Control Act.

20 U.S.C. §1681 et seq., Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972; 34 C.F.R. Part 106.

29 U.S.C. §206(d), Equal Pay Act.

29 U.S.C. §218d, Fair Labor Standards Act.

29 U.S.C. §621 et seq., Age Discrimination in Employment Act.

29 U.S.C. §701 et seq., Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

38 U.S.C. §4301 et seq., Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (1994).

42 U.S.C. §1981 et seq., Civil Rights Act of 1991.

42 U.S.C. §2000d et seq., Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964; 34 C.F.R. Part 100.

42 U.S.C. §2000e et seq., Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964; 29 C.F.R. Part 1601.

42 U.S.C. §2000ff et seq., Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2008.

42 U.S.C. §2000gg et seq., Pregnant Workers Fairness Act; 29 C.F.R. Part 1636.

42 U.S.C. §2000e(k), Pregnancy Discrimination Act.

42 U.S.C. §12111 et seq., Americans with Disabilities Act, Title I.

Ill. Constitution, Art. I, §§17, 18, and 19.

105 ILCS 5/10-20.7, 5/10-20.7a, 5/10-21.1, 5/10-22.4, 5/10-23.5, 5/22-19, 5/24-4, 5/24-4.1, and 5/24-7.

410 ILCS 130/40, Compassionate Use of Medical Cannabis Program Act.

410 ILCS 513/25, Genetic Information Privacy Act.

740 ILCS 174/, Ill. Whistleblower Act.

775 ILCS 5/1-103, 5/2-101, 5/2-102, 5/2-103, 5/2-103.1, 5/2-104(D) and 5/6-101, Ill. Human Rights Act.

775 ILCS 35/, Religious Freedom Restoration Act.

820 ILCS 55/10, Right to Privacy in the Workplace Act.

820 ILCS 70/, Employee Credit Privacy Act.

820 ILCS 75/, Job Opportunities for Qualified Applicants Act.

820 ILCS 112/, Ill. Equal Pay Act of 2003.

820 ILCS 180/30 and 180/33, Victims' Economic Security and Safety Act.

820 ILCS 260/, Nursing Mothers in the Workplace Act.

CROSS REF.: 2:260 (Uniform Grievance Procedure), 2:265 (Title IX Grievance Procedure), 2:270 (Discrimination and Harassment on the Basis of Race, Color, and National Origin Prohibited), 5:20 (Workplace Harassment Prohibited), 5:30 (Hiring Process and Criteria), 5:40 (Communicable and Chronic Infectious Disease), 5:50 (Drug- and Alcohol-Free Workplace; E-Cigarette, Tobacco, and Cannabis Prohibition), 5:70 (Religious Holidays), 5:180 (Temporary Illness or Temporary Incapacity), 5:200 (Terms and Conditions of Employment and Dismissal), 5:250 (Leaves of Absence), 5:270 (Employment At-Will, Compensation, and Assignment), 5:300 (Schedules and Employment Year), 5:330 (Sick Days, Vacation, Holidays, and Leaves), 7:10 (Equal Educational Opportunities), 7:180 (Prevention of and Response to Bullying, Intimidation, and Harassment), 8:70 (Accommodating Individuals with Disabilities)

ADOPTED: February 12, 2026

Rural Champaign Co. Sp. Ed.

5:20 Workplace Harassment Prohibited

The Cooperative expects the workplace environment to be productive, respectful, and free of unlawful discrimination, including harassment. Cooperative 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, work authorization status, disability, pregnancy, marital status, family responsibilities, reproductive health decisions, 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 Grievance Procedure*; 2:270, *Discrimination and Harassment on the Basis of Race, Color, and National Origin Prohibited*; 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 Cooperative will take remedial and corrective action to address unlawful workplace harassment, including sexual harassment.

Sexual Harassment Prohibited

The Cooperative 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 Cooperative provides annual sexual harassment prevention training in accordance with State law.

Cooperative 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 Cooperative pursuant to a contract with the Cooperative , 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, Title IX Coordinator, and/or a Complaint Manager.

An employee 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 claim according to that policy, in addition to any response required by this policy.

The Executive Director shall insert into this policy the names, office addresses, email addresses, and telephone numbers of the Cooperative's current Nondiscrimination Coordinator, Title IX Coordinator, and Complaint Managers.

Nondiscrimination Coordinator:

Jennifer Armstrong, Exec. Director

807 N. Mattis Ave., Champaign, IL 61821

armstrongj@rccsec.org

217-892-8877, ext. 113

Title IX Coordinator:

Jennifer Armstrong, Exec. Director

807 N. Mattis Ave., Champaign, IL 61821

armstrongj@rccsec.org

217-892-8877, ext. 113

Complaint Managers:

Jennifer Armstrong, Exec. Director

Bonnie McArthur, Supt. Thomasboro CCSD 130

807 N. Mattis Ave., Champaign, IL 61821

201 N. Phillips, Thomasboro, IL 61878

armstrongj@rccsec.org

bmcarthur@tgs130.org

217-892-8877, ext. 113

217-643-3275

Investigation Process

Any Cooperative employee who receives a report or complaint of harassment must promptly forward the report or complaint to the Nondiscrimination Coordinator, Title IX 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 Cooperative'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 Title IX Coordinator or designee shall consider whether action under policy 2:265, *Title IX Grievance Procedure*, should be initiated.

For any report or complaint alleging harassment on the basis of race, color, or national origin, the Nondiscrimination Coordinator or a Complaint Manager or designee shall investigate under Board policy 2:270, *Discrimination and Harassment on the Basis of Race, Color, and National Origin Prohibited*.

For any other alleged workplace harassment that does not require action under policy 2:265, *Title IX Grievance Procedure*, or 2:270, *Discrimination and Harassment on the Basis of Race, Color, and National Origin Prohibited*, 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; Code of Professional 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 Grievance Procedure*, or policy 2:260, *Uniform Grievance Procedure*.

Enforcement

A violation of this policy by an employee 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 Cooperative, e.g., vendor, parent/guardian, invitee, etc. Any person making a knowingly false accusation regarding harassment will likewise be subject to disciplinary action, which for an employee 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 policies 2:260, *Uniform Grievance Procedure*, 2:265, *Title IX Grievance Procedure*, and 2:270, *Discrimination and Harassment on the Basis of Race, Color, and National Origin Prohibited*), 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/or 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 Cooperative 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 Executive Director shall also use reasonable measures to inform staff members, applicants, and nonemployees of this policy, which shall include posting on the Cooperative website and/or making this policy available in the Cooperative's administrative office, and including this policy in the appropriate handbooks.

LEGAL REF.:

42 U.S.C. §2000e et seq., Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964; 29 C.F.R. §1604.11.

20 U.S.C. §1681 et seq., Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972; 34 C.F.R. Part 106.

5 ILCS 430/70-5(a), State Officials and Employees Ethics Act.

775 ILCS 5/2-101(E) and (E-1), 5/2-102(A), (A-10), (D-5), 5/2-102(E-5), 5/2-109, 5/5-102, and 5/5-102.2, Ill. Human Rights Act.

56 Ill. Admin.Code Parts 2500, 2510, 5210, and 5220.

Vance v. Ball State Univ., 570 U.S. 421 (2013).

Crawford v. Metro. Gov't of Nashville & Davidson Cnty., 555 U.S. 271 (2009).

Jackson v. Birmingham Bd. of Educ., 544 U.S. 167 (2005).

Oncale v. Sundowner Offshore Servs., 523 U.S. 75 (1998).

Burlington Indus. v. Ellerth, 524 U.S. 742 (1998).

Faragher v. City of Boca Raton, 524 U.S. 775 (1998).

Harris v. Forklift Systems, 510 U.S. 17 (1993).

Franklin v. Gwinnett Co. Public Schools, 503 U.S. 60 (1992).

Meritor Savings Bank v. Vinson, 477 U.S. 57 (1986).

Porter v. Erie Foods Int, Inc., 576 F.3d 629 (7th Cir. 2009).

Williams v. Waste Mgmt., 361 F.3d 1021 (7th Cir. 2004).

Berry v. Delta Airlines, 260 F.3d 803 (7th Cir. 2001).

Sangamon Cnty. Sheriff's Dept. v. Ill. Human Rights Com'n, 233 Ill.2d 125 (Ill. 2009).

CROSS REF.: 2:260 (Uniform Grievance Procedure), 2:265 (Title IX Grievance Procedure), 2:270 (Discrimination and Harassment on the Basis of Race, Color, and National Origin Prohibited), 4:60 (Purchases and Contracts), 5:10 (Equal Employment Opportunity and Minority Recruitment), 5:90 (Abused and Neglected Child Reporting), 5:120 (Employee Ethics; Code of Professional Conduct; and Conflict of Interest), 7:20 (Harassment of Students Prohibited), 8:30 (Visitors to and Conduct on School Property)

ADOPTED: June 12, 2025

Rural Champaign Co. Sp. Ed.

5:20-E Resolution to Prohibit Sexual Harassment

WHEREAS, Section 10-20 of the School Code (105 ILCS 5/10-20) grants school boards other powers that are not inconsistent with their duties;

WHEREAS, Section 1-5 of the State Officials and Employees Ethics Act (5 ILCS 430/1-5) includes school districts within the definition of a *governmental entity*;

WHEREAS, Section 5-65 of the State Officials and Employees Ethics Act (5 ILCS 430/5-65) provides that all persons have a right to work in an environment free from sexual harassment;

WHEREAS, Section 70-5 of the State Officials and Employees Ethics Act (5 ILCS 430/70-5) requires governmental entities to adopt an ordinance or resolution establishing a policy to prohibit sexual harassment which, at a minimum, includes: (1) a prohibition on sexual harassment; (2) details on how an individual can report an allegation of sexual harassment, including options for making a confidential report to a supervisor, ethics officer, Inspector General, or the Ill. Dept. of Human Rights; (3) a prohibition on retaliation for reporting sexual harassment allegations, including availability of whistleblower protections under the Act, the Whistleblower Act (740 ILCS 174/), and the Ill. Human Rights Act (775 ILCS 5/); (4) the consequences: (a) of a violation of the prohibition on sexual harassment; and (b) for knowingly making a false report; and (5) a mechanism for reporting and independent review of allegations of sexual harassment made against a Board member by a fellow Board member or other elected official;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Education of Rural Champaign County Special Education, Champaign County, Illinois, as follows:

Section 1: The Board adopts Board policies 2:105, *Ethics and Gift Ban*, and 5:20, *Workplace Harassment Prohibited*, attached as Exhibit A, which collectively contain the following: (1) a prohibition on sexual harassment; (2) detail regarding how an individual can report an allegation of sexual harassment, including options for making a confidential report to an immediate supervisor, the Building Principal, an administrator, the Nondiscrimination Coordinator, a Complaint Manager, or the Ill. Dept. of Human Rights; (3) a prohibition on retaliation for reporting sexual harassment allegations and a statement regarding the availability of whistleblower protections under the State Officials and Employees Ethics Act, the Whistleblower Act, and the Ill. Human Rights Act; and (4) the consequences: (a) of a violation of the prohibition on sexual harassment; and (b) for knowingly making a false report, and (5) a mechanism for reporting and independent review of allegations of sexual harassment made against a Board member by a fellow Board member or other elected official.

Section 2: Any prior versions of Board policies 2:105, *Ethics and Gift Ban*, and 5:20, *Workplace Harassment Prohibited*, adopted by the Board are superseded by this Resolution.

Adopted this 9th day of October, 2025.

Attested by: Board President

Attested by: Board Secretary

Rural Champaign Co. Sp. Ed.

5:30 Hiring Process and Criteria

The Cooperative hires the most qualified personnel consistent with budget and staffing requirements and in compliance with Board policy on equal employment opportunity and minority recruitment. The Executive Director is responsible for recruiting personnel and making hiring recommendations to the Board. If the Executive Director's recommendation is rejected, the Executive Director must submit another. The Executive Director may select personnel on a short-term basis for a specific project or emergency condition before the Board's approval.

No individual will be employed who has been convicted of a criminal offense listed in 105 ILCS 5/21B-80(c).

All applicants must complete a Cooperative application in order to be considered for employment.

Job Descriptions

The Board maintains the Executive Director's job description and directs, through policy, the Executive Director, in his or her charge of the Cooperative's administration.

The Executive Director shall develop and maintain a current comprehensive job description for each position or job category; however, a provision in a collective bargaining agreement or individual contract will control in the event of a conflict.

Investigations

The Executive Director or designee shall ensure that a fingerprint-based criminal history records check and a check of the Statewide Sex Offender Database and Violent Offender Against Youth Database is performed on each applicant as required by State law. When the applicant is a successful executive director candidate who has been offered employment by the Board, the Board Chairperson shall ensure that these checks are completed. The Executive Director or designee, or if the applicant is a successful executive director candidate, then the Board Chairperson shall notify an applicant if the applicant is identified in either database. The School Code requires the Board Chairperson to keep a conviction record confidential and share it only with the Executive Director, Regional Executive Director, State Executive Director, State Educator Preparation and Licensure Board, any other person necessary to the hiring decision, the Ill. State Police and/or Statewide Sex Offender 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 fingerprint-based 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 Cooperative 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 Cooperative employee, then the Board must consider that person's status as a condition of employment.

The Executive Director shall ensure that the Cooperative does not engage in any investigation or inquiry prohibited by law and complies with each of the following:

1. The Cooperative 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 Cooperative 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 Cooperative 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 Cooperative does not request or require an applicant to disclose wage or salary history as a condition of employment.
5. The Cooperative does not ask an applicant or applicant's current or previous employers about wage or salary history, including benefits or other compensation.
6. The Cooperative 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 Cooperative 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 Cooperative provides equal employment opportunities to all persons. See Board policy 5:10, *Equal Employment Opportunity and Minority Recruitment*.

Sexual Misconduct Related Employment History Review (EHR)

Prior to hiring an applicant for a position involving *direct contact with children or students*, the Executive Director shall ensure that an EHR is performed as required by State law. When the applicant is a director candidate, the Board Chairperson shall ensure that the EHR

is initiated before a successful director candidate is offered employment by the Board.

Physical Examinations

Each new employee must furnish evidence of physical fitness to perform assigned duties and freedom from communicable disease. The physical fitness examination must be performed by a physician licensed in Illinois, or any other state, to practice medicine and surgery in any of its branches, a licensed advanced practice registered nurse, or a licensed physician assistant who has been delegated the authority by his or her supervising physician to perform health examinations. The employee must have the physical examination performed no more than 90 days before submitting evidence of it to the Cooperative.

Any employee may be required to have an additional examination by a physician who is licensed in Illinois to practice medicine and surgery in all its branches, a licensed advanced practice registered nurse, or a licensed physician assistant who has been delegated the authority by his or her supervising physician to perform health examinations, if the examination is job-related and consistent with business necessity. The Board will pay the expenses of such examination.

Orientation Program

The Cooperative's staff will provide an orientation program for new employees to acquaint them with the Cooperative's policies and procedures, the school's rules and regulations, and the responsibilities of their position. Before beginning employment, each employee must sign the *Acknowledgement of Mandated Reporter Status* form as provided in Board policy 5:90, *Abused and Neglected Child Reporting*.

LEGAL REF.:

8 U.S.C. §1324a et seq., Immigration Reform and Control Act.

15 U.S.C. §1681 et seq., Fair Credit Reporting Act.

42 U.S.C. §12112, Americans with Disabilities Act; 29 C.F.R. Part 1630.

105 ILCS 5/10-16.7, 5/10-20.7, 5/10-21.4, 5/10-21.9, 5/10-22.34, 5/10-22.34b, 5/21B-10, 5/21B-80, 5/21B-85, 5/22-6.5, 5/22-94, and 5/24-5.

20 ILCS 2630/3.3, Criminal Identification Act.

820 ILCS 55/, Right to Privacy in the Workplace Act.

820 ILCS 70/, Employee Credit Privacy Act.

820 ILCS 112/, Equal Pay Act of 2003.

Duldulao v. St. Mary of Nazareth Hospital, 136 Ill. App. 3d 763 (1st Dist. 1985), *aff'd in part and remanded* 115 Ill.2d 482 (Ill. 1987).

Kaiser v. Dixon, 127 Ill. App. 3d 251 (2nd Dist. 1984).

Molitor v. Chicago Title & Trust Co., 325 Ill. App. 124 (1st Dist. 1945).

CROSS REF.: 2:260 (Uniform Grievance Procedure), 3:50 (Administrative Personnel Other Than the Executive Director), 4:60 (Purchases and Contracts), 4:175 (Convicted Child Sex Offender; Screening; Notifications), 5:10 (Equal Employment Opportunity and Minority Recruitment), 5:40 (Communicable and Chronic Infectious Disease), 5:90 (Abused and Neglected Child Reporting), 5:120 (Employee Ethics; Code of Professional Conduct; and Conflict of Interest), 5:125 (Personal Technology and Social Media; Usage and Conduct), 5:220 (Substitute Teachers), 5:280 (Duties and Qualifications)

ADOPTED: June 22, 2026

Rural Champaign Co. Sp. Ed.

5:35 Compliance with the Fair Labor Standards Act

Job Classifications

The Executive Director will ensure that all job positions are identified as either "exempt" or "non-exempt" according to State law and the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) and that employees are informed whether they are "exempt" or "non-exempt." "Exempt" and "non-exempt" employee categories may include certificated and non-certificated job positions. All non-exempt employees, whether paid on a salary or hourly basis, are covered by minimum wage and overtime provisions.

Workweek and Compensation

The workweek for Cooperative employees will be 12:00 a.m. Sunday until 11:59 p.m. Saturday. Non-exempt employees will be compensated for all hours worked in a workweek including overtime. For non-exempt employees paid a salary, the salary is paid for a 40-hour workweek even if an employee is scheduled for less than 40 hours. "Overtime" is time worked in excess of 40 hours in a single workweek.

Overtime

Please refer to the applicable collective bargaining agreement.

For employees not covered by a current applicable bargaining agreement:

A non-exempt employee shall not work overtime without his or her supervisor's express approval. All supervisors of non-exempt employees shall: (1) monitor overtime use on a weekly basis and report such use to the business office, (2) seek the Executive Director or designee's written pre-approval for any long term or repeated use of overtime that can be reasonably anticipated, (3) ensure that overtime provisions of this policy and the FLSA are followed, and (4) ensure that employees are compensated for any overtime worked.

Accurate and complete time sheets of actual hours worked during the workweek shall be signed by each employee and submitted to the business office. The business office will review work records of employees on a regular basis, make an assessment of overtime use, and provide the assessment to the Executive Director.

Suspension Without Pay

No exempt employee shall have his or her salary docked, such as by an unpaid suspension, if the deduction would cause a loss of the exempt status. Licensed employees may be suspended without pay in accordance with Board policy 5:240, *Suspension*. Non-licensed employees may be suspended without pay in accordance with Board policy 5:290,

Employment Termination and Suspensions.

Implementation

The Executive Director or designee shall implement the policy in accordance with the FLSA, including its required notices to employees. In the event of a conflict between the policy and State or federal law, the latter shall control.

LEGAL REF.:

820 ILCS 105/4a.

29 U.S.C. §201 et seq., Fair Labor Standards Act; 29 C.F.R. Parts 516, 541, 548, 553, 778, and 785.

CROSS REF.: 5:240 (Suspension), 5:290 (Employment Termination and Suspensions)

ADOPTED: July 11, 2024

Rural Champaign Co. Sp. Ed.

5:40 Communicable and Chronic Infectious Disease

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

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.

LEGAL REF.:

42 U.S.C. §12101 et seq., Americans With Disabilities Act, amended by the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act (ADAAA), Pub. L. 110-325; 29 C.F.R. §1630.1 et seq.

29 U.S.C. §791, Rehabilitation Act of 1973; 34 C.F.R. §104.1 et seq.

105 ILCS 5/24-5.

20 ILCS 2305/6, Department of Public Health Act.

820 ILCS 40/, Personnel Record Review Act.

77 Ill.Admin.Code Part 690, Control of Communicable Diseases.

CROSS REF.: 2:150 (Committees), 4:180 (Pandemic Preparedness; Management; and Recovery), 5:30 (Hiring Process and Criteria), 5:180 (Temporary Illness or Temporary Incapacity)

ADOPTED: July 11, 2024

Rural Champaign Co. Sp. Ed.

5:50 Drug- and Alcohol-Free Workplace; E-Cigarette, Tobacco, and Cannabis Prohibition

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

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

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.
3. Distribution, consumption, possession, use, or being impaired by or under the influence of cannabis; being present on Cooperative premises or while performing work for the Cooperative 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 Cooperative considers employees impaired by or under the influence of cannabis when there is a good faith belief that an employee manifests specific articulable symptoms while working that decrease or lessen the employee's performance of the duties or tasks of the employee's job position.

Upon the Executive Director or designee's reasonable suspicion of an employee's violation of any of the prohibited activities stated above, the Executive Director or designee may direct the employee to undergo a drug and/or alcohol test to corroborate or refute the alleged violation. State law protects the Cooperative from liability when it takes actions pursuant to a reasonable workplace drug policy, including but not limited to subjecting an employee or applicant to reasonable drug and alcohol testing, reasonable and nondiscriminatory random drug testing, discipline, termination of employment, or withdrawal of a job offer due to a failure of a drug test.

For purposes of this policy a controlled substance means a substance 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, *Cooperative premises* means workplace as defined in the Cannabis Regulation and Tax Act (CRTA) in addition to Cooperative 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 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 this Board 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 Cooperative premises or while performing work for the Cooperative, no later than five 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 Executive Director or designee shall perform each of the following:

1. Provide each employee with a copy of this policy.
2. Post notice of this policy in a place where other information for employees is posted.
3. Make available materials from local, State, and national anti-drug and alcohol-abuse organizations.
4. Enlist the aid of community and State agencies with drug and alcohol informational and rehabilitation programs to provide information to Cooperative employees.
5. 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 Cooperative may impose upon employees for violations of this policy.
6. Remind employees that Board policy 6:60, *Curriculum Content*, requires the Cooperative to educate students, depending upon their grade, about drug and substance abuse prevention and relationships between drugs, alcohol, and violence.

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 Cooperative at a school event regardless of the event's location.

Tobacco has the meaning provided in 105 ILCS 5/10-20.5b.

Cannabis has 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.

Cooperative 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 Cooperative 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 Executive Director shall notify the appropriate State or federal agency from which the Cooperative 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 Board policy 2:240, *Board Policy Development*.

LEGAL REF.:

20 U.S.C. §7101 et seq., Safe and Drug-Free School and Communities Act of 1994.

21 U.S.C. §812; 21 C.F.R. §1308.11-1308.15, Controlled Substances Act.

41 U.S.C. §8101 et seq., Drug-Free Workplace Act of 1988.

42 U.S.C. §12114, Americans With Disabilities Act.

21 C.F.R. Parts 1100, 1140, and 1143.

30 ILCS 580/, Drug-Free Workplace Act.

105 ILCS 5/10-20.5b.

410 ILCS 82/, Smoke Free Illinois Act.

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

410 ILCS 705/1-1 et seq., Cannabis Regulation and Tax Act.

720 ILCS 675, Prevention of Tobacco Use by Persons under 21 Years of Age and Sale and Distribution of Tobacco Products Act.

820 ILCS 55/, Right to Privacy in the Workplace Act.

23 Ill.Admin.Code §22.20.

CROSS REF.: 5:10 (Equal Employment Opportunity and Minority Recruitment), 5:120 (Employee Ethics; Code of Professional Conduct; and Conflict of Interest), 6:60 (Curriculum Content), 8:30 (Visitors to and Conduct on School Property)

ADOPTED: March 10, 2022

Rural Champaign Co. Sp. Ed.

5:60 Expenses

The Board regulates the reimbursement of all travel, meal, and lodging expenses by resolution. Money shall not be advanced or reimbursed, or purchase orders issued for: (1) the expenses of any person except the employee, (2) anyone's personal expenses, or (3) entertainment expenses. Entertainment includes, but is not limited to, shows, amusements, theaters, circuses, sporting events, or any other place of public or private entertainment or amusement, unless the entertainment is ancillary to the purpose of the program or event. The Cooperative is not responsible for losses due to an employee's own negligence, losses due to normal wear, or losses due to theft, unless the theft was a result of the Cooperative's negligence. Employees must submit the appropriate itemized, signed, standardized form(s) to support any requests for expense advancements, reimbursements, or purchase orders that show the following:

1. The amount of the estimated or actual expense, with attached receipts for actual incurred expenses.
2. The name and title of the employee who is requesting the expense advancement or reimbursement. Receipts from group functions must include the names, offices, and job titles of all participants.
3. The date(s) of the official business on which the expense advancement, reimbursement, or purchase order will be or was expended.
4. The nature of the official business conducted when the expense advancement, reimbursement, or purchase order will be or was expended.

Advancements

The Director may advance expenses to teachers and other licensed employees for the anticipated actual and necessary expenses to be incurred while attending meetings that are related to their duties and will contribute to their professional development, provided they fall below the maximum allowed in the Board's expense regulations.

Expense advancement requests must be submitted to the Director or designee on the Cooperative's standardized estimated expense approval form for employees. After spending expense advancements, employees must use the Cooperative's standardized expense reimbursement form and submit to the Director: (a) the itemized, signed advancement voucher that was issued, and (b) the amount of actual expenses by attaching receipts. Any portion of an expense advancement not used must be returned to the Cooperative. Expense advancements and vouchers shall be presented to the Board in its regular bill process.

Reimbursements and Purchase Orders

Expense reimbursements and purchase orders may be issued by the Director or designee to employees, along with other expenses necessary for the performance of their duties, provided the expenses fall below the maximum allowed in the Board's expense regulations.

Expense reimbursements and purchase order approvals are not guaranteed and, when possible, employees should seek pre-approval of expenses by providing an estimation of expenses on the Cooperative's standardized estimated expense approval form for employees, except in situations when the expense is diminutive. When pre-approval is not sought, employees must seek reimbursement on the Cooperative's standardized expense reimbursement form for employees. Expense reimbursements and purchase orders shall be presented to the Board in its regular bill process.

Exceeding the Maximum Allowable Expense Amount(s)

All requests for expense advancements, reimbursements, and purchase orders exceeding the maximum allowed in the Board's expense regulations may only be approved when:

1. The Board's resolution to regulate expenses allows for such approval;
2. An emergency or other extraordinary circumstance exists; and
3. The request is approved by a roll call vote at an open Board meeting.

Registration

When possible, registration fees will be paid by the Cooperative in advance.

Travel

Please refer to the applicable collective bargaining agreement(s).

For employees not covered by a current applicable bargaining agreement:

The least expensive method of travel will be used, provided that no hardship will be caused to the employee. Employees will be reimbursed for:

1. Air travel at the coach or economy class commercial airline rate. First class or business class air travel will be reimbursed only if emergency circumstances warrant. The emergency circumstances must be explained on the expense form and Board approval of the additional expense is required. Fees for the first checked bag will be reimbursed. Copies of airline tickets and baggage receipts must be attached to the expense form.
2. Rail or bus travel at actual cost. Rail or bus travel costs may not exceed the cost of coach airfare. Copies of tickets must be attached to the expense form to substantiate

amounts.

3. Use of personal automobiles at the standard mileage rate approved by the Internal Revenue Service for income tax purposes. The reimbursement may not exceed the cost of coach airfare. Mileage for use of personal automobiles in trips to and from transportation terminals will also be reimbursed. Toll charges and parking costs will be reimbursed.
4. Automobile rental costs when the vehicle's use is warranted. The circumstances for such use must be explained on the expense form.
5. Taxis, airport limousines, ride sharing services, or other local transportation costs.

Meals

Employees will be reimbursed for meal costs and tips up to \$30.00 per day, consistent with the maximum allowable reimbursement amount set by the Board. Tips are included with meal charges. Expense forms must explain the meal charges incurred. Alcoholic beverages will not be reimbursed.

Lodging

Employees should request conference rate or mid-fare room accommodations. A single room rate will be reimbursed. Employees should pay personal expenses at checkout. If that is impossible, deductions for the charges should be made on the expense form.

Miscellaneous Expenses

Employees may seek reimbursement for other expenses incurred while attending a meeting sponsored by organizations described herein by fully describing the expenses on the expense form, attaching receipts.

Additional Requirements for Travel Expenses Charged to Federal and State Grants

All grant-related travel expenses must be pre-approved by the Executive Director or designee.

Expenses for travel, including expenses for transportation, lodging, meals, and related items incurred by employees and charged to a federal grant or State grant governed by the Grant Accountability and Transparency Act (30 ILCS 708/) must also meet the following requirements:

1. The participation of the employee is necessary to the award, and the costs are specifically related to the award.
2. Expenses must be permissible under the terms and conditions of the award.

3. Expenses must be reasonable and consistent with this policy.
4. The Board does not reimburse actual expenses or pay a per diem allowance unless the employee is on official *travel status* for more than 12 hours. However, employees remain eligible for mileage reimbursement (minus regular commuting mileage/costs) and other transportation expenses if on travel status less than 12 hours.
5. Expenses may be charged based on an actual cost basis or on a per diem basis in lieu of actual costs incurred; however, only one method may be applied per trip.
6. Commercial airfare costs in excess of the least expensive coach or economy class are prohibited except when such accommodations would: (1) require circuitous routing; (2) require travel during unreasonable hours; (3) excessively prolong travel; (4) result in additional costs that would offset transportation savings; or (5) offer accommodations not reasonably adequate for the traveler's medical needs. Qualifying circumstances must be explained on the expense form, and Board approval of the additional expense is required.
7. Per diem rates and actual reimbursement amounts for mileage, meals, and lodging may not exceed the rates established by the Governor's Travel Control Board or federal travel regulations, whichever is less. These limits do not apply when: (1) an employee stays in the lowest-priced room available at or near a hotel where a conference or seminar is located or in accommodations arranged by the conference/seminar organization, or (2) lodging at or below the established rate is unavailable. In those cases, the employee will be reimbursed for actual lodging expenses with prior approval, but in no case will the reimbursement exceed 300% of the applicable maximum per diem rate. If a conference fee includes a meal, the meal or per diem allowance will be reduced by the actual value of the meal or the applicable meal allowance, whichever is less.
8. Employees must use the least expensive compact car available when using a rental car for travel, unless an exception is approved. The Board does not reimburse employees for collision damage waiver or theft insurance.
9. The Board will reimburse travel expenses not chargeable to an award from other Cooperative funds consistent with this policy.

LEGAL REF.:

2 C.F.R. §200.475.

30 ILCS 708/130, Grant Accountability and Transparency Act.

50 ILCS 150/, Local Government Travel Expense Control Act.

105 ILCS 5/10-22.32.

820 ILCS 115/9.5, Ill. Wage Payment and Collection Act.

CROSS REF.: 2:125 (Board Member Compensation; Expenses), 2:240 (Board Policy Development), 4:50 (Payment Procedures), 4:55 (Use of Credit and Procurement Cards)

ADOPTED: June 12, 2025

Rural Champaign Co. Sp. Ed.

5:70 Religious Holidays

The Executive Director shall grant an employee's request for time off to observe a religious holiday if the employee gives at least five days' prior notice and the absence does not cause an undue hardship.

Employees may use earned vacation time or personal leave to make up the absence, provided such time is consistent with the Cooperative's operational needs. A per diem deduction may also be requested by the employee.

LEGAL REF.:

775 ILCS 5/2-101 and 5/2-102, Ill. Human Rights Act.

775 ILCS 35/155, Religious Freedom Restoration Act.

ADOPTED: July 14, 2022

Rural Champaign Co. Sp. Ed.

5:80 Court Duty

Please refer to the applicable collective bargaining agreement.

For employees not covered by a current applicable bargaining agreement:

The Cooperative will deduct any fees that an employee receives for court duty, less mileage and meal expenses, from the employee's compensation, or make arrangements for the employee to endorse the fee check to the Cooperative.

An employee should give at least five days' prior notice of pending court duty to the Cooperative.

Witness Duty

The Cooperative will pay full salary during the time an employee is absent due to a subpoena to serve as a witness in a trial or have a deposition taken in any school-related matter pending in court.

Jury Duty

The Cooperative will pay full salary during the time an employee is absent due to jury duty.

LEGAL REF.:

105 ILCS 5/10-20.7.

705 ILCS 305/4.1, Jury Act.

ADOPTED: August 11, 2022

Rural Champaign Co. Sp. Ed.

5:90 Abused and Neglected Child Reporting

Any Cooperative employee who suspects or receives knowledge that a student may be an abused or neglected child or, for a student aged 18 through 22, an abused or neglected individual with a disability, shall 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). Any Cooperative employee who believes a student is in immediate danger of harm, shall first call 911. The employee shall also promptly notify the Executive Director or Building Principal that a report has been made. The Executive Director or other administrator 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 Cooperative 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 Cooperative employee who discovers child sexual abuse material on *electronic and information technology equipment*, as defined in 325 ILCS 5/4.5(a), 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/ or www.missingkids.org. The Executive Director or Building Principal shall also be promptly notified of the discovery and that a report has been made.

Any Cooperative employee who observes any act of hazing that does bodily harm to a student must report that act to the Building Principal, Executive Director, 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 Executive Director 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, and *Erin's Law* Training

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

All Cooperative employees shall:

1. Before beginning employment, sign the *Acknowledgement of Mandated Reporter Status* form provided by DCFS. The Executive Director 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.
3. Complete an annual evidence-informed training related to child sexual abuse, grooming behaviors (including *sexual misconduct* as defined in *Faith's Law*), and boundary violations as required by law and policy 5:100, *Staff Development Program*.

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 Cooperative 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 Executive Director or designee will implement procedures to coordinate with the CAC.

DCFS and/or the appropriate law enforcement agency will inform the Cooperative 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 Cooperative from conducting its own parallel investigation into the alleged incident of sexual abuse in accordance with Board policy 7:20, *Harassment of Students Prohibited*.

Special Executive Director Responsibilities

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

When the Executive Director has reasonable cause to believe that a license holder (1) committed an intentional act of abuse or neglect with the result of making a child an abused child or a neglected child under ANCRA or an act of sexual misconduct under *Faith's Law*, and (2) that act resulted in the license holder's dismissal or resignation from the District, the Executive

Director shall notify the State Superintendent and the Regional Superintendent in writing, providing the Ill. Educator Identification Number as well as a brief description of the misconduct alleged. The Executive Director must make the report within 30 days of the dismissal or resignation and mail a copy of the notification to the license holder.

The Superintendent shall develop procedures for notifying a student's parents/guardians when a District employee, contractor, or agent is alleged to have engaged in sexual misconduct with the student as defined in *Faith's Law*. The Superintendent shall also develop procedures for notifying the student's parents/guardians when the Board takes action relating to the employment of the employee, contractor, or agent following the investigation of sexual misconduct. Notification shall not occur when the employee, contractor, or agent alleged to have engaged in sexual misconduct is the student's parent/guardian, and/or when the student is at least 18 years of age or emancipated.

The Superintendent shall execute the recordkeeping requirements of *Faith's Law*.

Special Board 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 Executive Director or other equivalent school administrator to comply with ANCRA's requirements concerning the reporting of child abuse.

If the Board determines that any Cooperative 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.

When the Board learns that a licensed teacher was convicted of any felony, it must promptly report it to the State agencies listed in Board policy 2:20, *Powers and Duties of the Boards*.

LEGAL REF.:

20 U.S.C. §7926, Elementary and Secondary Education Act.

105 ILCS 5/10-21.9, 5/10-23.13, 5/21B-85, 5/22-85.5, and 5/22-85.10.

20 ILCS 1305/1-1 et seq., Department of Human Services Act.

325 ILCS 5/, Abused and Neglected Child Reporting Act.

720 ILCS 5/12C-50.1, Criminal Code of 2012.

CROSS REF.: 2:20 (Powers and Duties of the Boards), 3:40 (Executive Director), 3:50 (Administrative Personnel Other Than the Executive Director), 4:60 (Purchases and Contracts), 4:165 (Awareness and Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse and Grooming Behaviors), 5:20 (Workplace Harassment Prohibited), 5:30 (Hiring Process and Criteria), 5:100 (Staff Development Program), 5:120 (Employee Ethics; Code of Professional Conduct; and Conflict of Interest), 5:150 (Personnel Records), 5:200 (Terms and Conditions of Employment and Dismissal), 5:290 (Employment Termination and Suspensions), 6:120 (Education of Children with Disabilities), 6:250 (Community Resource Persons and Volunteers), 7:20 (Harassment of Students Prohibited), 7:150 (Agency and Law Enforcement Requests)

ADOPTED: February 12, 2026

Rural Champaign Co. Sp. Ed.

5:100 Staff Development Program

The Executive Director or designee shall implement a staff development program. The goal of the program shall be to update and improve the skills and knowledge of staff members in order to achieve and maintain a high level of job performance and satisfaction.

Abused and Neglected Child Reporting Act (ANCRA) and *Erin's Law* Training

The staff development program shall include the Abused and Neglected Child Reporting Act (ANCRA) mandated reporter training and training on the awareness and prevention of child sexual abuse and grooming behaviors (*Erin's Law*) as follows (see Board policies 4:165, *Awareness and Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse and Grooming Behaviors*, and 5:90, *Abused and Neglected Child Reporting*):

1. Within three months of employment, each staff member must complete mandated reporter training from a provider or agency with expertise in recognizing and reporting child abuse. Mandated reporter training must be completed again at least every three years.
2. By January 31 of every year, all school personnel must complete evidence-informed training on preventing, reporting, and responding to child sexual abuse, grooming behaviors (including *sexual misconduct* as defined in *Faith's Law*), and boundary violations.

In-Service Training Requirements

The staff development program shall provide, at a minimum, within six months of employment and renewed at least once every five years thereafter (unless required more frequently by other State or federal law), the in-service training of all Cooperative staff who work with pupils on:

1. Health conditions of students, including but not limited to training on:
 - a. Anaphylactic reactions and management, conducted by a person with expertise on anaphylactic reactions and management;
 - b. Management of asthma, prevention of asthma symptoms, and emergency response in the school setting;
 - c. The basics of seizure recognition and first aid and emergency protocols, consistent with best practice guidelines issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention;
 - d. The basics of diabetes care, how to identify when a diabetic student needs immediate or emergency medical attention, and whom to contact in case of emergency;

- e. Current best practices regarding identification and treatment of attention deficit hyperactivity disorder; and
 - f. How to respond to an incident involving life-threatening bleeding, including use of a school's trauma bleeding control kit, if applicable.
- 2. Social-emotional learning. Training may include providing education to all school personnel about the content of the Illinois Social and Emotional Learning Standards, how they apply to everyday school interactions, and examples of how social emotional learning can be integrated into instructional practices across all grades and subjects.
- 3. Developing cultural competency, including but not limited to understanding and reducing implicit bias, including *implicit racial bias* as defined in 105 ILCS 5/10-20.61 (implicit bias training).
- 4. Identifying warning signs of mental illness, trauma, and suicidal behavior in youth, along with appropriate intervention and referral techniques, including resources and guidelines as outlined in 105 ILCS 5/2-3.166 (*Ann Marie's Law*) and the definitions of *trauma*, *trauma-responsive learning environments*, and *whole child* as set forth in 105 ILCS 5/3-11.
- 5. Domestic and sexual violence and the needs of expectant and parenting youth, conducted by persons with expertise in domestic and sexual violence and the needs of expectant and parenting youth. Training shall include, but is not limited to:
 - a. Communicating with and listening to youth victims of domestic or sexual violence and expectant and parenting youth;
 - b. Connecting youth victims of domestic or sexual violence and expectant and parenting youth to appropriate in-school services and other agencies, programs, and services as needed;
 - c. Implementing the Cooperative's policies and procedures regarding such youth, including confidentiality; and
 - d. Procedures for responding to incidents of teen dating violence that take place at school, on school grounds, at school-sponsored activities, or in vehicles used for school-provided transportation as outlined in 105 ILCS 5/27-240 (see Board policy 7:185, *Teen Dating Violence Prohibited*).
- 6. Protections and accommodations for students, including but not limited to training on:
 - a. The federal Americans with Disabilities Act as it pertains to the school environment; and
 - b. Homelessness.
- 7. Educator ethics and responding to child sexual abuse and grooming behavior (see Board policy 5:120, *Employee Ethics; Code of Professional Conduct; and Conflict of Interest*); including but not limited to training on:

- a. Teacher-student conduct;
 - b. School employee-student conduct; and
 - c. Evidence-informed training on preventing, recognizing, reporting, and responding to child sexual abuse and grooming as outlined in 105 ILCS 5/10-23.13 (*Erin's Law*).
8. Effective instruction in violence prevention and conflict resolution, conducted in accordance with the requirements of 105 ILCS 5/27-115 (violence prevention and conflict resolution education).

Additional Training Requirements

In addition, the staff development program shall include each of the following:

1. Ongoing professional development for all school personnel and school resource officers on the requirements of 105 ILCS 5/10-22.6 and 5/10-20.14, the adverse consequences of school exclusion and justice-system involvement, effective classroom management strategies, culturally responsive discipline, trauma-responsive learning environments as defined in 105 ILCS 5/3-11(b), the appropriate and available supportive services for the promotion of student attendance and engagement, and developmentally appropriate disciplinary methods that promote positive and healthy school climates.
2. Annual continuing education and/or training opportunities (professional standards) for school nutrition program directors, managers, and staff. Each school food authority's director shall document compliance with this requirement by the end of each school year and maintain documentation for a three-year period.
3. All high school coaching personnel, including the head and assistant coaches, and athletic directors must obtain online concussion certification by completing online concussion awareness training in accordance with 105 ILCS 25/1.15. Coaching personnel and athletic directors hired on or after 8-19-14 must be certified before their position's start date.
4. The following individuals must complete concussion training as specified in the Youth Sports Concussion Safety Act: coaches and assistant coaches (whether volunteer or employee) of an interscholastic athletic activity; nurses, licensed and/or non-licensed healthcare professionals serving on the Concussion Oversight Team; athletic trainers; game officials of an interscholastic athletic activity; and physicians serving on the Concussion Oversight Team.
5. For school personnel who work with hazardous or toxic materials on a regular basis, training on the safe handling and use of such materials.
6. For delegated care aides performing services in connection with a student's seizure action plan, training in accordance with 105 ILCS 150/, the Seizure Smart School

Act.

7. For delegated care aides performing services in connection with a student's diabetes care plan, training in accordance with 105 ILCS 145/, the Care of Students with Diabetes Act.
8. For all Cooperative staff, annual sexual harassment prevention training.
9. Title IX requirements for training in accordance with 34 C.F.R. Part 106 (see Board policy 2:265, *Title IX Grievance Procedure*).
10. Training for all Cooperative employees on the prevention of discrimination and harassment based on race, color, and national origin in school as part of new employee training and at least once every two years.
11. Training for at least one designated employee at each school about the Prioritization of Urgency of Need for Services (PUNS) database and steps required to register students for it.
12. Training in accordance with 105 ILCS 5/26A for at least one staff member in each school designated as a resource for students who are parents, expectant parents, or victims of domestic or sexual violence, and for any employees whose duties include the resolution of complaints of violations of 105 ILCS 5/26A (see Board policy 7:255, *Students who are Parents, Expectant Parents, or Victims of Domestic or Sexual Violence*).

The Executive Director shall develop protocols for administering youth suicide awareness and prevention education to staff consistent with Board policy 7:290, *Suicide and Depression Awareness and Prevention*.

LEGAL REF.:

20 U.S.C. §1681 et seq., Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972; 34 C.F.R. Part 106.

42 U.S.C. §1758b, Pub. L. 111-296, Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010; 7 C.F.R. Parts 210 and 235.

105 ILCS 5/2-3.62, 5/2-3.166, 5/3-11, 5/10-20.17a, 5/10-20.61, 5/10-22.6(c-5), 5/10-22.39, 5/10-23.12, 5/10-23.13, 5/22-80(h), 5/22-95, 5/22-115, 5/24-5, and 5/26A.

105 ILCS 25/1.15, Interscholastic Athletic Organization Act.

105 ILCS 145/25, Care of Students with Diabetes Act.

105 ILCS 150/25, Seizure Smart School Act.

105 ILCS 110/3, Critical Health Problems and Comprehensive Health Education Act.

325 ILCS 5/4, Abused and Neglected Child Reporting Act.

745 ILCS 49/, Good Samaritan Act.

775 ILCS 5/2-109 and 5/5A-103, Ill. Human Rights Act.

23 Ill.Admin.Code §§ 22.20, 226.800, and Part 525.

77 Ill.Admin.Code §527.800.

CROSS REF.: 2:265 (Title IX Grievance Procedure), 2:270 (Discrimination and Harassment on the Basis of Race, Color, and National Origin Prohibited), 3:40 (Executive Director), 3:50 (Administrative Personnel Other Than the Executive Director), 4:160 (Environmental Quality of Buildings and Grounds), 4:165 (Awareness and Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse and Grooming Behaviors), 5:20 (Workplace Harassment Prohibited), 5:90 (Abused and Neglected Child Reporting), 5:120 (Employee Ethics; Code of Professional Conduct; and Conflict of Interest), 5:250 (Leaves of Absence), 6:15 (School Accountability), 6:20 (School Year Calendar and Day), 6:50 (School Wellness), 6:160 (English Learners), 7:10 (Equal Educational Opportunities), 7:20 (Harassment of Students Prohibited), 7:180 (Prevention of and Response to Bullying, Intimidation, and Harassment), 7:185 (Teen Dating Violence Prohibited), 7:250 (Student Support Services), 7:255 (Students Who are Parents, Expectant Parents, or Victims of Domestic or Sexual Violence), 7:270 (Administering Medicines to Students), 7:285 (Anaphylaxis Prevention, Response, and Management Program), 7:290 (Suicide and Depression Awareness and Prevention), 7:305 (Student Athlete Concussions and Head Injuries)

ADOPTED: February 12, 2026

Rural Champaign Co. Sp. Ed.

5:110 Recognition for Service

The Board will periodically recognize those Cooperative employees who contribute significantly to the educational programs and welfare of the students.

ADOPTED: July 14, 2022

Rural Champaign Co. Sp. Ed.

5:120 Employee Ethics; Code of Professional Conduct; and Conflict of Interest

All Cooperative employees are expected to maintain high standards in their job performance, demonstrate integrity and honesty, be considerate and cooperative, and maintain professional and appropriate relationships with students, parents/guardians, staff members, and others.

The Executive Director or designee shall provide this policy to all Cooperative employees and students and/or parents/guardians in their respective handbooks, and ensure its posting on the Cooperative's website, if any.

Professional and Appropriate Conduct

Professional and appropriate employee conduct are important Board goals that impact the quality of a safe learning environment and the school community, increasing students' ability to learn and the Cooperative's ability to educate. To protect students from sexual misconduct by employees, and employees from the appearance of impropriety, State law also recognizes the importance for Cooperative employees to constantly maintain professional and appropriate relationships with students by following established expectations and guidelines for employee-student boundaries. Many breaches of employee-student boundaries do not rise to the level of criminal behavior but do pose a potential risk to student safety and impact the quality of a safe learning environment. Repeated violations of employee-student boundaries may indicate the grooming of a student for sexual abuse. As bystanders, employees may know of concerning behaviors that no one else is aware of, so their training on: (1) preventing, recognizing, reporting, and responding to child sexual abuse and grooming behavior; (2) this policy; and (3) federal and state reporting requirements is essential to maintaining the Board's goal of professional and appropriate conduct.

The Executive Director or designee shall identify employee conduct standards that define appropriate employee-student boundaries, provide training about them, and monitor the Cooperative's employees for violations of employee-student boundaries. The employee conduct standards will require that, at a minimum:

1. Employees who are governed by the *Code of Ethics for Illinois Educators*, adopted by the Ill. State Board of Education (ISBE), will comply with its incorporation by reference into this policy.
2. Employees are trained on educator ethics, child abuse, grooming behaviors, and employee-student boundary violations as required by law and Board policies 2:265, *Title IX 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*.

3. Employees maintain professional relationships with students, including maintaining employee-student boundaries based upon students' ages, grade levels, and developmental levels and following Cooperative-established guidelines for specific situations, including but not limited to:
 - a. Transporting a student;
 - b. Taking or possessing a photo or video of a student; and
 - c. Meeting with a student or contacting a student outside the employee's professional role.
4. Employees report prohibited behaviors and/or boundary violations pursuant to Board policies 2:260, *Uniform Grievance Procedure*; 2:265, *Title IX Grievance Procedure*; and 5:90, *Abused and Neglected Child Reporting*.
5. Discipline up to and including dismissal will occur for any employee who violates an employee conduct standard or engages in any of the following:
 - a. Violates expectations and guidelines for employee-student boundaries.
 - b. Sexually harasses a student.
 - c. Willfully or negligently fails to follow 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.*), or the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (20 U.S.C. § 7926).
 - d. Engages in *grooming* as defined in 720 ILCS 5/11-25.
 - e. Engages in grooming behaviors. Prohibited grooming behaviors include, at a minimum, *sexual misconduct*. *Sexual misconduct* is any act, including but not limited to, any verbal, nonverbal, written, or electronic communication or physical activity, by an employee with direct contact with a student, 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:
 - i. A sexual or romantic invitation.
 - ii. Dating or soliciting a date.
 - iii. Engaging in sexualized or romantic dialog.
 - iv. Making sexually suggestive comments that are directed toward or with a student.
 - v. Self-disclosure or physical exposure of a sexual, romantic, or erotic nature.
 - vi. A sexual, indecent, romantic, or erotic contact with the student.

Statement of Economic Interests

The following employees must file a *Statement of Economic Interests* as required by the Ill. Governmental Ethics Act:

1. Executive Director;
2. Building Principal;
3. Head of any department;
4. Any employee who, as the Cooperative'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 policy 2:105, *Ethics and Gift Ban*, applies to all Cooperative 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 105 ILCS 5/22-5, "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 ISBE 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 Cooperative nor shall an employee act as an agent of any business in any transaction with the Cooperative. 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 or a tangible benefit from the entity selected for the contract:

1. A member of the employee's immediate family;
2. An employee's 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 subcontracts. 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*.

School Counselor Gift Ban

School counselors are prohibited from intentionally soliciting or accepting any gift from a *prohibited source* or any gift that would be in violation of any federal or State statute or rule. For school counselors, a *prohibited source* is any person who is (1) employed by an institution of higher education, or (2) an agent or spouse of or an immediate family member living with a person employed by an institution of higher education. This prohibition does not apply to:

1. Opportunities, benefits, and services available on the same conditions as for the general public.
2. Anything for which the school counselor pays market value.
3. A gift from a relative.
4. Anything provided by an individual on the basis of a personal friendship, unless the school counselor believes that it was provided due to the official position or employment of the school counselor and not due to the personal friendship. In determining whether a gift is provided on the basis of personal friendship, the school counselor must consider the circumstances in which the gift was offered, including any of the following:
 - a. The history of the relationship between the individual giving the gift and the school counselor, including any previous exchange of gifts between those individuals.
 - b. Whether, to the actual knowledge of the school counselor, the individual who gave the gift personally paid for the gift or sought a tax deduction or business reimbursement for the gift.
 - c. Whether, to the actual knowledge of the school counselor, the individual who gave the gift also, at the same time, gave the same or a similar gift to other Cooperative employees.
5. Bequests, inheritances, or other transfers at death.
6. Any item(s) during any calendar year having a cumulative total value of less than \$100.
7. Promotional materials, including, but not limited to, pens, pencils, banners, posters, and pennants.

8. Travel, lodging, food, and beverage costs incurred by the school counselor and paid by an institution of higher education for attendance by the school counselor of an educational or military program at the institution of higher education.

A school counselor does not violate this prohibition if he or she promptly returns the gift to the prohibited source or donates the gift or an amount equal to its value to a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt charity.

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.

Incorporated

by reference: 5:120-E (Code of Ethics for Ill. Educators)

LEGAL REF.:

U.S. Constitution, First Amendment.

2 C.F.R. §200.318(c)(1).

5 ILCS 420/4A-101, Ill. Governmental Ethics Act.

5 ILCS 430/, State Officials and Employee Ethics Act.

30 ILCS 708/, Grant Accountability and Transparency Act.

50 ILCS 135/, Local Governmental Employees Political Rights Act.

105 ILCS 5/10-22.39, 5/10-23.13, 5/22-5, 5/22-85.5, and 5/22-93.

325 ILCS 5/, Abused and Neglected Child Reporting Act.

720 ILCS 5/11-25, Criminal Code of 2012.

775 ILCS 5/5A-102, Ill. Human Rights Act.

23 Ill.Admin.Code Part 22, Code of Ethics for Ill. Educators.

Pickering v. Board of Township H.S. Dist. 205, 391 U.S. 563 (1968).

Garcetti v. Ceballos, 547 U.S. 410 (2006).

CROSS REF.: 2:105 (Ethics and Gift Ban), 2:265 (Title IX Grievance Procedure), 4:60 (Purchases and Contracts), 4:165 (Awareness and Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse and Grooming Behaviors), 5:90 (Abused and Neglected Child Reporting), 5:100 (Staff Development Program), 5:125 (Personal Technology and Social Media; Usage and Conduct), 5:200 (Terms and Conditions of Employment and Dismissal), 5:290 (Employment Termination and Suspensions), 7:20 (Harassment of Students Prohibited)

ADOPTED: January 9, 2025

Rural Champaign Co. Sp. Ed.

5:125 Personal Technology and Social Media; Usage and Conduct

Definitions

Includes - Means "includes without limitation" or "includes, but is not limited to."

Social media - Media for social interaction, using highly accessible web-based and/or mobile technologies that allow users to share content and/or engage in interactive communication through online communities. This includes, but is not limited to, services such as *Facebook, LinkedIn, X (formerly Twitter), Threads, Instagram, TikTok, Snapchat, Discord, and YouTube*.

Personal technology - Any device that is not owned or leased by the Cooperative or otherwise authorized for Cooperative 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 computers, tablets, smartphones, smartwatches, and other devices.

Usage and Conduct

All Cooperative employees who use personal technology and/or social media shall:

1. Adhere to the high standards for **Professional and Appropriate Conduct** required by Board policy 5:120, *Employee Ethics; Code of Professional Conduct; and Conflict of Interest* at all times, regardless of the ever-changing social media and personal technology platforms available. This includes Cooperative 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 Board policies 5:20, *Workplace Harassment Prohibited*; 5:100, *Staff Development Program*; 5:120, *Employee Ethics; Code of Professional Conduct; and Conflict of Interest*; 6:235, *Access to Electronic Networks*; and 7:20, *Harassment of Students Prohibited*; and the Ill. Code of Educator Ethics, 23 Ill.Admin.Code §22.20.
2. Choose a Cooperative-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. Inform their immediate supervisor if a student initiates inappropriate contact with them via any form of personal technology or social media.
5. Report instances of suspected abuse or neglect discovered through the use of social media or personal technology pursuant to a school employee's obligations under Board policy 5:90, *Abused and Neglected Child Reporting*.

6. Not disclose confidential information, including but not limited to school student records (e.g., student work, photographs of students, names of students, or any other personally identifiable information about students) or personnel records, in compliance with Board policy 5:130, *Responsibilities Concerning Internal Information*. For Cooperative employees, proper approval may include implied consent under the circumstances.
7. Refrain from using the Cooperative's logos without permission and follow policy 5:170, *Copyright*, and all Cooperative copyright compliance procedures.
8. 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.
9. 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 Cooperative 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.
10. 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 Cooperative for any losses, costs, or damages, including reasonable attorney fees, incurred by the Cooperative relating to, or arising out of, any violation of this policy.

Executive Director Responsibilities

The Executive Director shall:

1. Inform Cooperative 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; Code of Professional Conduct; and Conflict of Interest*.
2. Build awareness of this policy with students, parents, and the community.
3. Ensure that neither the Cooperative, nor anyone on its behalf, commits an act prohibited by the Right to Privacy in the Workplace Act, 820 ILCS 55/10; i.e., the *Facebook Password Law*.
4. Periodically review this policy and any implementing procedures with Cooperative employee representatives and electronic network system administrator(s) and present proposed changes to the Board.

LEGAL REF.:

105 ILCS 5/21B-75 and 5/21B-80.

775 ILCS 5/5A-102, Ill. Human Rights Act.

820 ILCS 55/10, Right to Privacy in the Workplace Act.

23 Ill.Admin.Code §22.20, Code of Ethics for Ill. Educators.

Garcetti v. Ceballos, 547 U.S. 410 (2006).

Pickering v. High School Dist. 205, 391 U.S. 563 (1968).

Mayer v. Monroe County Community School Corp., 474 F.3d 477 (7th Cir. 2007).

CROSS REF.: 4:165 (Awareness and Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse and Grooming Behaviors), 5:20 (Workplace Harassment Prohibited), 5:30 (Hiring Process and Criteria), 5:100 (Staff Development Program), 5:120 (Employee Ethics; Code of Professional Conduct; and Conflict of Interest), 5:130 (Responsibilities Concerning Internal Information), 5:150 (Personnel Records), 5:170 (Copyright), 5:200 (Terms and Conditions of Employment and Dismissal), 6:235 (Access to Electronic Networks), 7:20 (Harassment of Students Prohibited), 7:340 (Student Records)

ADOPTED: January 9, 2025

Rural Champaign Co. Sp. Ed.

5:130 Responsibilities Concerning Internal Information

Cooperative 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 meeting. Internal information is any information, oral or recorded in electronic or paper format, maintained by the Cooperative or used by the Cooperative or its employees. The Executive Director or designee shall manage procedures for safeguarding the integrity, security, and, as appropriate, confidentiality of internal information.

LEGAL REF.:

20 U.S.C. §1232g, Family Educational and Privacy Rights Act.

45 C.F.R. §164.502, Uses and Disclosures of Protected Health Information; General Rules.

5 ILCS 140/, Ill. Freedom of Information Act.

50 ILCS 205/, Local Records Act.

105 ILCS 10/, Ill. School Student Records Act.

105 ILCS 85, Student Online Personal Protection Act.

820 ILCS 40/, Personnel Record Review Act.

CROSS REF.: 2:140 (Communications To and From the Board), 2:250 (Access to Cooperative Public Records), 5:150 (Personnel Records), 7:340 (Student Records), 7:345 (Use of Educational Technologies; Student Data Privacy and Security)

ADOPTED: October 10, 2024

Rural Champaign Co. Sp. Ed.

5:130-AP Administrative Procedure - Administrative Procedure - Email Retention

Emails, including attachments, sent or received by the District or District employees may be, depending on their content, subject to disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act and/or discovery in litigation as evidence in support of a claim. Employees must use the same standards of judgment, propriety, and ethics with email as they do with other forms of school business related communications.

Accordingly, employees have the same responsibilities for email messages as they do for any other communication and must distinguish between record and non-record messages. This allows for the proper storage or disposal of email. However, no District record, no matter its form, may be destroyed if it is subject to a litigation hold. See administrative procedure 2:250-AP2, *Protocols for Record Preservation and Development of Retention Schedules*. For guidance on School Board member use and retention of email, see 2:140-E, *Guidance for Board Member Communications, Including Email Use*. For help with these responsibilities, please contact the District's FOIA Officer.

Non-Record Messages

Email messages are *non-record messages* if they do not evidence the District's organization, function, policies, procedures, or activities; or contain informational data appropriate for preservation. These are generally informal or preliminary drafts, notes, recommendations, or memoranda that do not contain official action. Examples include:

1. Personal correspondence not received or created in the course of District or school business, such as, "What's for dinner?" or "I'll be glad to drive to the meeting."
2. Notices concerning meetings or workshops, dates, discussion topics, or material to prepare for or to be discussed during a meeting.
3. Publications or promotional materials from vendors and similar materials that are available to anyone.
4. Correspondence containing recommendations or opinions that are preliminary to a decision.
5. Informal correspondence to parents/guardians concerning school activities or an individual student's progress or assignments provided the messages do not contain notice of final or official action.
6. Draft material.

If the email is a *non-record message*, the employee should delete it as soon as its purpose is fulfilled unless the email is subject to a litigation hold. The goal is to control excessive accumulation of material.

Official Record Messages

Email messages are *official record messages* if they are evidence of the District's organization, function, policies, procedures, or activities or contain informational data appropriate for preservation. Examples include:

1. Policy documents or contract-related documents.
2. Correspondence, e.g., letters, memos, or emails from individuals, companies, or organizations requesting information about the District or school policies or practices and the responses to these requests.
3. Project reports.
4. Correspondence dealing with significant aspects of District administration or a school executive office, including messages containing information concerning policies, programs, fiscal and personnel matters, and contracts.

Official record messages should routinely be transferred to the records maintenance location identified by the Records Custodian or Head of Information Technology (IT). Before transferring the message, the employee should identify it as belonging in one of the categories of records established by the Records Custodian or Head of IT. Once transferred, it becomes the official copy and the original electronic version may be deleted according to the District's approved record preservation and retention schedule. See administrative procedure 2:250-AP2, *Protocols for Record Preservation and Development of Retention Schedules*.

Rural Champaign Co. Sp. Ed.

5:140 Solicitations By or From Staff

Cooperative employees shall not solicit donations or sales, nor shall they be solicited for donations or sales, on school grounds without prior approval from the Executive Director.

CROSS REF.: 8:90 (Parent Organizations and Booster Clubs)

ADOPTED: July 14, 2022

Rural Champaign Co. Sp. Ed.

5:150 Personnel Records

Prospective Employer Inquiries Concerning a Current or Former Employee's Job Performance

The Executive Director or designee shall manage a process for responding to inquiries by a prospective employer concerning a current or former employee's job performance. The Executive Director shall:

1. Execute the requirements in the Abused and Neglected Child Reporting Act whenever another school district asks for a reference concerning an applicant who is or was a Cooperative employee and was the subject of a report made by a Cooperative employee to Ill. Dept. of Children and Family Services (DCFS); and
2. Comply with the federal law prohibiting the Cooperative from providing a recommendation of employment for an employee, contractor, or agent that the Cooperative knows, or has probable cause to believe, has engaged in sexual misconduct with a student or minor in violation of the law, but the Executive Director or designee may follow routine procedures regarding the transmission of administrative or personnel files for that employee.
3. Manage the Cooperative's responses to employer requests for sexual misconduct related employment history review (EHR) information in accordance with *Faith's Law*.

When requested for information about an employee by an entity other than a prospective employer, the Cooperative will only confirm position and employment dates unless the employee has submitted a written request to the Executive Director or designee.

Maintenance and Access to Records

Please refer to the applicable collective bargaining agreement.

For employees not covered by a current applicable bargaining agreement:

The Executive Director or designee shall manage the maintenance of personnel records in accordance with State and federal law and Board policy. Records, as determined by the Executive Director, are retained for all employment applicants, employees, and former employees given the need for the Cooperative to document employment-related decisions, evaluate program and staff effectiveness, and comply with government recordkeeping and reporting requirements. Personnel records shall be maintained in the Cooperative's administrative office, under the Executive Director's direct supervision.

Access to personnel records is available as follows:

1. An employee will be given access to his or her personnel records according to State law and guidelines developed by the Executive Director.
2. An employee's supervisor or other management employee who has an employment or business-related reason to inspect the record is authorized to have access.
3. Anyone having the respective employee's written consent may have access.
4. Access will be granted to anyone authorized by State or federal law to have access.
5. All other requests for access to personnel information are governed by Board policy 2:250, *Access to Cooperative Public Records*.

LEGAL REF.:

20 U.S.C. §7926.

105 ILCS 5/22-94.

325 ILCS 5/4, Abused and Neglected Child Reporting Act.

745 ILCS 46/10, Employment Record Disclosure Act.

820 ILCS 40/, Personnel Record Review Act.

23 Ill.Admin.Code §1.660.

CROSS REF.: 2:250 (Access to Cooperative Public Records), 5:90 (Abused and Neglected Child Reporting), 7:340 (Student Records)

ADOPTED: June 20, 2023

Rural Champaign Co. Sp. Ed.

5:170 Copyright

Works Made for Hire

The Executive Director shall manage the development of instructional materials and computer programs by employees during the scope of their employment in accordance with State and federal laws and Board policies. Whenever an employee is assigned to develop instructional materials and/or computer programs, or otherwise performs such work within the scope of his or her employment, it is assured the Cooperative shall be the owner of the copyright.

Copyright Compliance

While staff members may use appropriate supplementary materials, it is each staff member's responsibility to abide by the Cooperative's copyright compliance procedures and to obey the copyright laws. The Cooperative is not responsible for any violations of the copyright laws by its staff or students. A staff member should contact the Executive Director or designee whenever the staff member is uncertain about whether using or copying material complies with the Cooperative's procedures or is permissible under the law, or wants assistance on when and how to obtain proper authorization. No staff member shall, without first obtaining the permission of the Executive Director or designee, install or download any program on a Cooperative-owned computer. At no time shall it be necessary for a Cooperative staff member to violate copyright laws in order to properly perform his or her duties.

LEGAL REF.:

17 U.S.C. §101 et seq., Federal Copyright Law of 1976.

105 ILCS 5/10-23.10.

CROSS REF.: 6:235 (Access to Electronic Networks)

ADOPTED: February 9, 2023

Rural Champaign Co. Sp. Ed.

5:180 Temporary Illness or Temporary Incapacity

A temporary illness or temporary incapacity is an illness or other capacity of ill-being that renders an employee physically or mentally unable to perform assigned duties. During such a period, the employee can use accumulated sick leave benefits. However, income received from other sources (worker's compensation, Cooperative-paid insurance programs, etc.) will be deducted from the Cooperative's compensation liability to the employee. The Board's intent is that in no case will the employee, who is temporarily disabled, receive more than 100 percent of his or her gross salary.

Those insurance plans privately purchased by the employee and to which the Cooperative does not contribute, are not applicable to this policy.

If illness, incapacity, or any other condition causes a teacher or other licensed employee to be absent in one school year, after exhaustion of all available leave, for more than 90 consecutive work days, such absence may be considered a permanent disability and the Board may begin dismissal proceedings subject to State and federal law, including the Americans with Disabilities Act. The Executive Director may recommend this paragraph's use when circumstances strongly suggest that the teacher or other licensed employee returned to work intermittently in order to avoid this paragraph's application. This paragraph shall not be considered a limitation on the Board's authority to take any action concerning an employee that is authorized by State and federal law.

Any employee may be required to have an examination, at the Cooperative's expense, by a physician who is licensed in Illinois to practice medicine and surgery in all its branches, a licensed advanced practice registered nurse, or a licensed physician assistant if the examination is job-related and consistent with business necessity.

LEGAL REF.:

42 U.S.C. §12101 et seq., Americans with Disabilities Act.

105 ILCS 5/10-22.4, 5/24-12, and 5/24-13.

Elder v. School Dist. No.127 1/2, 60 Ill.App.2d 56 (1st Dist. 1965).

School District No. 151 v. ISBE, 154 Ill.App.3d 375 (1st Dist. 1987).

CROSS REF.:5:30 (Hiring Process and Criteria), 5:40 (Communicable and Chronic Infectious Disease), 5:185 (Family and Medical Leave), 5:250 (Leaves of Absence), 5:330 (Sick Days, Vacation, Holidays, and Leaves)

ADOPTED: October 10, 2024

Rural Champaign Co. Sp. Ed.

5:185 Family and Medical Leave

Please refer to the applicable collective bargaining agreement(s).

For employees not covered by a current applicable bargaining agreement:

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 on a rolling 12-month period.

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 Cooperative will substitute an employee's accrued paid leave for unpaid FMLA leave, provided such leave is available for use in accordance with Board policies and rules. In addition, 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 son or daughter, 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, child, or parent.
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 military member on covered 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.

If spouses are employed by the Cooperative, 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 Executive Director 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 Cooperative'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 Executive Director 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 Executive Director 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 Cooperative 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 Cooperative 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 Cooperative may request recertification when the, (1) employee requests a leave extension, (2) circumstances described by the original certification change significantly, or (3) Cooperative 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 Cooperative within 15 calendar days after the request. The Cooperative 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 Cooperative 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 Cooperative's obligation to maintain health insurance coverage ceases if an employee's premium payment is more than 30 days late and the Cooperative notifies the employee at least 15 days before coverage will cease.

Changed Circumstances and Intent to Return

An employee must provide the Executive Director 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 Executive Director 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.

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 Cooperative may impose as provided in the FMLA or implementing regulations, and (2) the Cooperative'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.

Implementation

The Executive Director 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.

LEGAL REF.:

29 U.S.C. §2601 et seq., Family and Medical Leave Act; 29 C.F.R. Part 825.

105 ILCS 5/24-6.4.

CROSS REF.: 5:180 (Temporary Illness or Temporary Incapacity), 5:250 (Leaves of Absence), 5:330 (Sick Days, Vacation, Holidays, and Leaves)

ADOPTED: March 10, 2022

Rural Champaign Co. Sp. Ed.

Professional Personnel

Rural Champaign Co. Sp. Ed.

5:190 Teacher Qualifications

A teacher, as the term is used in this policy, refers to a Cooperative employee who is required to be licensed under State law.

Each teacher must:

- a. Have a valid Illinois Professional Educator License issued by the State Executive Director of Education with the required endorsements as provided in the School Code.
- b. Provide the Cooperative 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 Cooperative Office with an official transcript of any credits earned since the date the last transcript was filed.
- d. Notify the Executive Director of any change in the teacher's transcript.

The Executive Director or designee shall:

1. Monitor compliance with State and federal law requirements that teachers be appropriately licensed; and
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.

LEGAL REF.:

20 U.S.C. §6312(e)(1)(A).

105 ILCS 5/10-20.15, 5/21B-15, 5/21B-20, 5/21B-25, 5/21B-120, and 5/24-23.

23 Ill.Admin.Code §1.610 et seq., §1.705 et seq., and Part 25.

ADOPTED: February 12, 2026

Rural Champaign Co. Sp. Ed.

5:200 Terms and Conditions of Employment and Dismissal

The Board delegates authority and responsibility to the Executive Director to manage the terms and conditions for the employment of professional personnel. The Executive Director shall act reasonably and comply with State and federal law as well as any applicable individual employment contract or collective bargaining agreement in effect. The Executive Director is responsible for making dismissal recommendations to the Board consistent with the Board's goal of having a highly qualified, high performing staff.

School Year and Day, Duty-Free Lunch, Salary, Assignments and Transfers, Dismissal, Evaluation

Please refer to the applicable collective bargaining agreement.

Nursing Mothers

The Cooperative accommodates employees who are nursing mothers and compensates them for reasonable time needed to express breast milk according to provisions in State and federal law.

School Social Worker Services Outside of Cooperative Employment

School social workers may not provide services outside of their Cooperative employment to any student(s) attending school in the Cooperative. *School social worker* has the meaning stated in 105 ILCS 5/14-1.09a.

LEGAL REF.:

29 U.S.C. §218(d), Pub. L. 117-328, Pump for Nursing Mothers Act.

42 U.S.C. §2000gg et seq., Pub. L. 117-328, Pregnant Workers Fairness Act.

105 ILCS 5/10-19, 5/10-19.05, 5/10-20.65, 5/14-1.09a, 5/22-96, 5/22.4, 5/24-16.5, 5/24-2, 5/24-8, 5/24-9, 5/24-11, 5/24-12, 5/24-21, 5/24A-1 through 24A-20.

820 ILCS 260/, Nursing Mothers in the Workplace Act.

23 Ill.Admin.Code Parts 50 (Evaluation of Educator Licensed Employees) and 51 (Dismissal of Tenured Teachers).

Cleveland Bd. of Educ. v. Loudermill, 470 U.S. 532(1985).

CROSS REF.: 5:120 (Employee Ethics; Code of Professional Conduct; and Conflict of Interest), 5:290 (Employment Termination and Suspensions), 6:20 (Calendar and Day)

ADOPTED: February 12, 2026

Rural Champaign Co. Sp. Ed.

5:210 Resignations

Teachers may resign at any time with consent of the Board. No teacher may resign during the school term in order to accept another teaching position without the consent of the Board. A teacher may resign outside of a school term if the teacher provides written notice to the secretary of the Board, at least 30 calendar days prior to the first student attendance day of the following school year. Teachers who resign with less than 30 days' notice prior to the first student attendance day of the following school term will be deemed to have resigned during the school term.

LEGAL REF.:

105 ILCS 5/24-14.

Park Forest Heights School Dist. v. State Teacher Certification Bd., 363 Ill.App.3d 433 (1st Dist. 2006).

ADOPTED: January 12, 2024

Rural Champaign Co. Sp. Ed.

5:220 Substitute Teachers

The Executive Director may employ substitute teachers as necessary to replace teachers who are temporarily absent.

A substitute teacher must hold either a valid teaching or substitute license and may teach in the place of a licensed teacher who is under contract with the Board. There is no limit on the number of days that a substitute teacher may teach in the Cooperative during the school year, except as follows:

1. A substitute teacher holding a substitute license may teach for any one licensed teacher under contract with the Cooperative only for a period not to exceed 90 paid school days in any one school term.
2. A teacher holding a Professional Educator License or Educator License with Stipulations may teach for any one licensed teacher under contract with the Cooperative only for a period not to exceed 120 paid school days.

The III. Teachers' Retirement System (TRS) limits a substitute teacher who is a TRS annuitant to substitute teaching for a period not to exceed 120 paid days or 600 paid hours in each school year through June 30, 2026, but not more than 100 paid days in the same classroom. Beginning July 1, 2026, a substitute teacher who is a TRS annuitant may substitute teach for a period not to exceed 100 paid days or 500 paid hours in any school year, unless the subject area is one where the Regional Superintendent has certified that a personnel shortage exists.

The Board establishes a daily rate of pay for substitute teachers. Substitute teachers receive only monetary compensation for time worked and no other benefits.

Short-Term Substitute Teachers

A short-term substitute teacher must hold a valid short-term substitute teaching license and have completed the Cooperative's short-term substitute teacher training program. Unless otherwise permitted by law, short-term substitutes may teach no more than five consecutive school days for each licensed teacher who is under contract with the Board.

Emergency Situations

A substitute teacher may teach when no licensed teacher is under contract with the Board if the Cooperative has an emergency situation as defined in State law. During an emergency situation, a substitute teacher is limited to 30 calendar days of employment per each vacant position. The Executive Director shall notify the appropriate Regional Office of Education (ROE) within five business days after the employment of a substitute teacher in an

emergency situation. The Board may continue to employ the same substitute teacher in a vacant position for 90 calendar days or until the end of the semester, whichever is greater, if, prior to the end of the then current 30-calendar-day period, the Cooperative makes a written request to the ROE for a 30-calendar-day extension and the extension is granted by the ROE.

LEGAL REF.:

105 ILCS 5/10-20.68, 5/21B-20(2), 5/21B-20(3), and 5/21B-20(4).

105 ILCS 128/22, School Safety Drill Act.

40 ILCS 5/16-118, Ill. Pension Code.

23 Ill.Admin.Code §1.790 (Substitute Teacher) and §25.520 (Substitute Teaching License).

CROSS REF.: 5:30 (Hiring Process and Criteria)

ADOPTED: February 12, 2026

Rural Champaign Co. Sp. Ed.

5:230 Maintaining Student Discipline

Please refer to the applicable collective bargaining agreement(s).

LEGAL REF.:

105 ILCS 5/22-100 and 5/24-24.

23 Ill.Admin.Code §1.280.

CROSS REF.: 2:150 (Committees), 7:190 (Student Behavior), 7:230 (Misconduct by Students with Disabilities)

ADOPTED: January 9, 2025

Rural Champaign Co. Sp. Ed.

5:240 Suspension

Suspension Without Pay

The Board may suspend without pay: (1) a professional employee pending a dismissal hearing, or (2) a teacher as a disciplinary measure for misconduct that is detrimental to the Cooperative. Administrative staff members may not be suspended without pay as a disciplinary measure.

Misconduct that is detrimental to the Cooperative includes:

- Insubordination, including any failure to follow an oral or written directive from a supervisor;
- Violation of Board policy or Administrative Procedure;
- Conduct that disrupts or may disrupt the educational program or process;
- Conduct that violates any State or federal law that relates to the employee's duties; and
- Other sufficient causes.

The Executive Director or designee is authorized to issue a pre-suspension notification to a professional employee. This notification shall include the length and reason for the suspension as well as the deadline for the employee to exercise his or her right to appeal the suspension to the Board or Board-appointed hearing examiner before it is imposed. At the request of the professional employee made within five calendar days of receipt of a pre-suspension notification, the Board or Board-appointed hearing examiner will conduct a pre-suspension hearing. The Board or its designee shall notify the professional employee of the date and time of the hearing. At the pre-suspension hearing, the professional employee or his/her representative may present evidence. If the employee does not appeal the pre-suspension notification, the Executive Director or designee shall report the action to the Board at its next regularly scheduled meeting.

Suspension With Pay

The Board or Executive Director or designee may suspend a professional employee with pay: (1) during an investigation into allegations of disobedience or misconduct whenever the employee's continued presence in his or her position would not be in the Cooperative's best interests, (2) as a disciplinary measure for misconduct that is detrimental to the Cooperative as defined above, or (3) pending a Board hearing to suspend a teacher without pay.

The Executive Director shall meet with the employee to present the allegations and give the employee an opportunity to refute the charges. The employee will be told the dates and

times the suspension will begin and end.

Employees Under Investigation by Illinois Dept. of Children and Family Services (DCFS)

Upon receipt of a DCFS recommendation that the Cooperative remove an employee from his or her position when he or she is the subject of a pending DCFS investigation that relates to his or her employment with the Cooperative, the Board or Executive Director or designee, in consultation with the Board Attorney, will determine whether to:

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

Repayment of Compensation and Benefits

If a professional employee is suspended with pay, either voluntarily or involuntarily, pending the outcome of a criminal investigation or prosecution, and the employee is later dismissed as a result of his or her criminal conviction, the employee must repay to the Cooperative all compensation and the value of all benefits received by him or her during the suspension. The Executive Director will notify the employee of this requirement when the employee is suspended.

LEGAL REF.:

105 ILCS 5/24-12.

5 ILCS 430/5-60(b), State Officials and Employee Ethics Act.

325 ILCS 5/7.4(c-10), Abused and Neglected Child Reporting Act.

Cleveland Bd. of Educ. v. Loudermill, 470 U.S. 532 (1985).

Barszcz v. Cmty College Dist. No. 504, 400 F.Supp. 675 (N.D. Ill. 1975).

Massie v. East St. Louis Sch. Dist. No.189, 203 Ill.App.3d 965 (5th Dist. 1990).

CROSS REF.: 5:290 (Employment Termination and Suspensions)

ADOPTED: July 14, 2022

Rural Champaign Co. Sp. Ed.

5:250 Leaves of Absence

Each of the provisions in this policy applies to all professional personnel to the extent that it does not conflict with an applicable collective bargaining agreement or individual employment contract or benefit plan; in the event of a conflict, such provision is severable and the applicable bargaining agreement or individual agreement will control.

Sick and Bereavement Leave, Personal Leave, Child-Rearing Leave, Leave for Service in the Military

Please refer to the applicable collective bargaining agreement.

Staff members are entitled to use up to 30 days of paid sick leave because of the birth of a child that is not dependent on the need to recover from childbirth. Such days may be used at any time within the 12-month period following the birth of the child. Intervening periods of nonworking days or school not being in session, such as breaks and holidays, do not count towards the 30 working school days. As a condition of paying sick leave beyond the 30 working school days, the Board or Executive Director may require medical certification.

For purposes of adoption, placement for adoption, or acceptance of a child in need of foster care, paid sick leave may be used for reasons related to the formal adoption or the formal foster care process prior to taking custody of the child or accepting the child in need of foster care, and for taking custody of the child or accepting the child in need of foster care. Such leave is limited to 30 days, unless a longer leave is provided in an applicable collective bargaining agreement, and need not be used consecutively once the formal adoption or foster care process is underway. The Board or Executive Director may require that the employee provide evidence that the formal adoption or foster care process is underway.

Family Bereavement Leave

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 family bereavement leave. The purpose, requirements, scheduling, and all other terms of the leave are governed by the Family Bereavement Leave Act. Eligible employees may use family bereavement leave, without any adverse employment action, for: (1) attendance by the bereaved staff member at the funeral or alternative to a funeral of a covered family member, which includes an employee's child, stepchild, spouse, domestic partner, sibling, parent, mother-in-law, father-in-law, grandchild, grandparent, or stepparent (2) making arrangements necessitated by the death of the covered family member, (3) grieving the death of the covered family member, or (4) absence from work due to a Significant Event, which includes: (i) miscarriage, (ii) an unsuccessful round of intrauterine insemination or of an assisted reproductive technology procedure, (iii) a failed adoption match or an adoption that is not finalized because it is

contested by another party, (iv) a failed surrogacy agreement, (v) a diagnosis that negatively impacts pregnancy or fertility, or (vi) a still birth. An employee qualifying for leave due to a Significant Event will not be required to identify which specific reason applies to the employee's request.

The leave must be completed within 60 days after the date on which the employee received notice of the death of the covered family member or the date on which an event under item (4) above occurs. However, in the event of the death of more than one covered family member 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 Family Bereavement Leave Act. This policy does not create any right for an employee to take family bereavement leave that is inconsistent with the Family Bereavement Leave Act.

General Assembly Leave

Leaves for service in the General Assembly, as well as re-employment rights, will be granted in accordance with State and federal law. A professional staff member hired to replace one in the General Assembly does not acquire tenure.

School Visitation Leave

An eligible professional staff member is entitled to eight hours during any school year, no more than four hours of which may be taken on any given day, to attend school conferences, behavioral meetings, or academic meetings related to the teacher's child, if the conference or meeting cannot be scheduled during non-work hours. Professional staff members must first use all accrued vacation leave, personal leave, compensatory leave, and any other leave that may be granted to the professional staff member, except sick, and disability leave.

The Executive Director shall develop administrative procedures implementing this policy consistent with the School Visitation Rights Act.

Leaves for Victims of Domestic Violence, Sexual Violence, Gender Violence, or Other Crime of Violence

An unpaid leave from work is available to any staff member who: (1) is a victim of domestic violence, sexual violence, gender violence, or any other crime of 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, gender violence, or any other crime of violence. The unpaid leave allows the employee to seek medical help, legal assistance, counseling, safety planning, and other assistance, and to grieve and attend to matters necessitated by the death of a family or household member who is killed in a crime

of violence, without suffering adverse employment action.

The Victims' Economic Security and Safety Act (VESSA) governs the purpose, requirements, scheduling, and continuity of benefits, and all other terms of the leave. Accordingly, if the Cooperative employs at least 50 employees, and subject to any exceptions in VESSA, 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.).

Leaves to Serve as an Officer, Trustee, or Representative of a Specific Organization

Upon request, the Board will grant: (1) an unpaid leave of absence to an elected officer of a State or national teacher organization that represents teachers in collective bargaining negotiations, (2) up to 20 days of paid leave of absence per year to a trustee of the Teachers' Retirement System in accordance with 105 ILCS 5/24-6.3, (3) a paid leave of absence for the local association president of a State teacher association that is an exclusive bargaining agent in the Cooperative, or his or her designee, to attend meetings, workshops, or seminars as described in 105 ILCS 5/24-6.2, and (4) up to 10 days of paid leave per school term for teachers elected to represent a statewide teacher association in federal advocacy work in accordance with 105 ILCS 5/24-3.5.

COVID-19 Paid Administrative Leave

When applicable, paid administrative leave related to COVID-19 will be granted to eligible employees in accordance with State law.

Family Neonatal Intensive Care Leave

An unpaid leave from work is available to any staff member whose child is a patient in a neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) in accordance with the requirements of the Family Neonatal Intensive Care Leave Act. If the District employs at least 16 but not more than 50 employees, an employee is entitled to a total 10 days of unpaid leave while a child of the employee is a patient in a NICU. The Cooperative may require reasonable verification of the employee's child's length of stay in a NICU.

LEGAL REF.:

105 ILCS 5/10-20.83, 5/24-6, 5/24-6.1, 5/24-6.2, 5/24-6.3, 5/24-13, and 5/24-13.1.

10 ILCS 5/13-2.5, Election Code.

330 ILCS 61/, Service Member Employment and Reemployment Rights Act.

820 ILCS 147/, School Visitation Rights Act.

820 ILCS 154/, Family Bereavement Leave Act.

820 ILCS 157/, Family Neonatal Intensive Care Leave Act.

820 ILCS 180/, Victims' Economic Security and Safety Act.

CROSS REF.: 5:180 (Temporary Illness or Temporary Incapacity), 5:185 (Family and Medical Leave), 5:330 (Sick Days, Vacation, Holidays, and Leaves)

ADOPTED: June 22, 2026

Rural Champaign Co. Sp. Ed.

5:260 Student Teachers

The Executive Director is authorized to accept students from university-approved teacher-training programs to do student teaching in the Cooperative. No individual who has been convicted of a criminal offense that would subject him or her to license suspension or revocation pursuant to Section 5/21B-80 of the School Code or who has been found to be the perpetrator of sexual or physical abuse of a minor under 18 years of age pursuant to proceedings under Article II of the Juvenile Court Act of 1987 is permitted to student teach.

Before permitting an individual to student teach, begin a required internship, or participate in any field experience in the Cooperative, the Executive Director or designee shall ensure that:

1. The Cooperative performed a *105 ILCS 5/10-21.9(g) Check* as described below; and
2. The individual furnished evidence of physical fitness to perform assigned duties and freedom from communicable disease pursuant to 105 ILCS 5/24-5.

A *105 ILCS 5/10-21.9(g) Check* shall include:

1. Fingerprint-based checks through (a) the Illinois State Police (ISP) for criminal history records information (CHRI) pursuant to the Uniform Conviction Information Act (20 ILCS 2635/1), and (b) the FBI national crime information databases pursuant to the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act (P.L. 109-248);
2. A check of the Illinois Sex Offender Registry (see the Sex Offender Community Notification Law (730 ILCS 152/101 et seq.); and
3. A check of the Illinois Murderer and Violent Offender Against Youth Registry (Murderer and Violent Offender Against Youth Registration Act (730 ILCS 154/75-105).

The School Code requires each individual student teaching or beginning a required internship to provide the Cooperative with written authorization for, and pay the costs of, his or her *05 ILCS 5/10-21.9(g)* check (including any applicable vendor's fees). Upon receipt of this authorization and payment, the Executive Director or designee will submit the student teacher's name, sex, race, date of birth, social security number, fingerprint images, and other identifiers, as prescribed by the Ill. State Police (ISP), to the ISP. The Executive Director or designee will provide each student teacher with a copy of his or her report.

Assignment

The Executive Director or designee shall be responsible for coordinating placements of all student teachers within the Cooperative. Student teachers should be assigned to supervising teachers whose qualifications are acceptable to the Cooperative and the

students' respective colleges or universities.

LEGAL REF.:

34 U.S.C. §20901 et seq., Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act, P.L. 109-248.

20 ILCS 2635/1, Uniform Conviction Information Act.

105 ILCS 5/10-21.9, 5/10-22.34, and 5/24-5.

CROSS REF.: 4:175 (Convicted Child Sex Offender; Screening; Notifications), 5:190 (Teacher Qualifications),

ADOPTED: June 20, 2023

Rural Champaign Co. Sp. Ed.

Educational Support Personnel

Rural Champaign Co. Sp. Ed.

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

Employment At-Will

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

Exceptions to employment at-will may include employees who are employed annually, have an employment contract, or are otherwise granted a legitimate interest in continued employment. The Executive Director is authorized to make exceptions to employing non-certificated employees at-will but shall maintain a record of positions or employees who are not at-will and the reason for the exception.

Compensation

Please refer to the applicable collective bargaining agreement.

For employees not covered by a current applicable bargaining agreement:

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

Assignment

Please refer to the applicable collective bargaining agreement.

For employees not covered by a current applicable bargaining agreement:

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

LEGAL REF.:

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

Cook v. Eldorado Community Unit Cooperative, No. 03-MR-32 (Ill.App.5, 2004).

Duldulao v. St. Mary of Nazareth Hospital, 483 N.E. 2d 956 (Ill.App.1, 1985), *aff'd in part and remanded*, 505 N.E.2d 314 (Ill. 1987).

Kaiser v. Dixon, 468 N.E. 2d 822 (Ill.App.2, 1984).

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

ADOPTED: October 9, 2025

Rural Champaign Co. Sp. Ed.

5:280 Duties and Qualifications

All support staff: (1) must meet qualifications specified in job descriptions, (2) must be able to perform the essential tasks listed and/or assigned, and (3) are subject to Board policies as they may be changed from time to time at the Board's sole discretion.

Paraprofessionals

Paraprofessionals provide supervised instructional support. Service as a paraprofessional requires an educator license with stipulations endorsed for a paraprofessional educator unless a specific exemption is authorized by the Ill. State Board of Education (ISBE).

Individuals with only non-instructional duties (e.g., providing technical support for computers, providing personal care services, or performing clerical duties) are not paraprofessionals, and the requirements in this section do not apply. In addition, individuals completing their clinical experiences and/or student teaching do not need to comply with this section, provided their service otherwise complies with ISBE rules.

Nonlicensed Personnel Working with Students and Performing Non-Instructional Duties

Nonlicensed personnel performing non-instructional duties may be used:

1. For supervising study halls, long distance teaching reception areas used incident to instructional programs transmitted by electronic media (e.g., computers, video, and audio), detention and discipline areas, and school-sponsored extracurricular activities;
2. As supervisors, chaperones, or sponsors for non-academic school activities or for school activities connected to the academic program during any time in which the Governor has declared a disaster due to a public health emergency, in accordance with ISBE rule; or
3. For non-teaching duties not requiring instructional judgment or student evaluation.

Nothing in this policy prevents a nonlicensed person from serving as a guest lecturer or resource person under a licensed teacher's direction and with the administration's approval.

LEGAL REF.:

34 C.F.R. §200.58.

105 ILCS 5/10-22.34, 5/10-22.34a, and 5/10-22.34b.

625 ILCS 5/6-104 and 5/6-106.1, Ill. Vehicle Code.

23 Ill.Admin.Code §§1.280, 1.630, and 25.510.

CROSS REF.: 4:110 (Transportation), 4:170 (Safety), 5:30 (Hiring Process and Criteria), 5:35 (Compliance with the Fair Labor Standards Act), 5:285 (Drug and Alcohol Testing for School Bus and Commercial Vehicle Drivers), 6:250 (Community Resource Persons and Volunteers)

ADOPTED: February 12, 2026

Rural Champaign Co. Sp. Ed.

5:290 Employment Termination and Suspensions

Resignation

An employee is requested to provide two weeks' notice of a resignation. A resignation notice cannot be revoked once given.

Retirement

Please refer to the applicable collective bargaining agreement(s).

For employees not covered by a current applicable bargaining agreement:

An employee planning to retire should notify his or her supervisor at least two months before the retirement date.

Non-RIF Dismissal

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

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

The Executive Director is responsible for making dismissal recommendations to the Governing Board consistent with the Board's goal of having a highly qualified, high performing staff. This includes recommending a non-licensed employee for immediate dismissal for willful or negligent failure to report an instance of suspected child abuse or neglect as required by 325 ILCS 5/.

Reduction in Force and Recall

Please refer to the applicable collective bargaining agreement.

For employees not covered by a current applicable bargaining agreement:

This section is applicable whenever the Board decides to decrease the number of educational support personnel or to discontinue some particular type of educational support service and, as a result of that action, an educational support employee is removed, dismissed, or his or her hours are reduced.

The Board shall use a seniority list to determine the order of dismissal or removal. The seniority list, categorized by positions, shows the length of continuing service of each full-time educational support employee. The employee with the shorter length of continuing service within the respective category of position shall be dismissed first.

Except as provided below, written notice will be given the employee by certified mail, return receipt requested, at least 30 days before the employee is removed or dismissed, or his or her hours are reduced, together with a statement of honorable dismissal and the reason therefore if applicable. The prior written notice will be extended to at least 90 days if the lay-off is due to the Cooperative entering into a contract with a third party for non-instructional services. The prior written notice will be shortened to at least five days before an employee's hours are reduced as a result of an unforeseen reduction in the student population.

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

Final Paycheck

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

Suspension

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

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

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

LEGAL REF.:

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

5 ILCS 430 et seq., State Officials and Employees Ethics Act.

325 ILCS 5/7.4(c-10), Abused and Neglected Child Reporting Act.

820 ILCS 105/4a, Minimum Wage Law.

CROSS REF.: 5:90 (Abused and Neglected Child Reporting), 5:120 (Employee Ethics; Code of Professional Conduct; and Conflict of Interest), 5:240 (Suspension), 5:270 (Employment At-Will, Compensation, and Assignment)

ADOPTED: October 10, 2024

Rural Champaign Co. Sp. Ed.

5:300 Schedules and Employment Year

The Executive Director shall supervise a process for setting work schedules and an employment year for educational support employees in accordance with State and federal law, Board policy, and applicable agreements and shall:

1. Assign each employee one supervisor who will establish a work schedule, including breaks, as required by building or Cooperative needs, workload, and the efficient management of human resources;
2. Allow for the ability to respond to changing circumstances by altering work schedules as needed; and
3. Consider the well-being of the employee. The Executive Director's approval is required to establish a flexible work schedule or job-sharing.

Breaks

Please refer to the applicable collective bargaining agreement.

For employees not covered by a current applicable bargaining agreement:

An employee who works at least 7.5 continuous hours shall receive a 30-minute duty-free meal break that begins within the first five hours of the employee's workday.

Nursing Mothers

The Cooperative accommodates employees who are nursing mothers and compensates them for reasonable time needed to express breast milk according to State and federal law.

LEGAL REF.:

29 U.S.C. §§207 and 218d, Fair Labor Standards Act.

105 ILCS 5/10-20.14a, 5/10-22.34, and 5/10-23.5.

740 ILCS 137/, Right to Breastfeed Act.

820 ILCS 105/, Minimum Wage Law.

820 ILCS 260/, Nursing Mothers in the Workplace Act.

CROSS REF.: 5:10 (Equal Employment Opportunity and Minority Recruitment), 5:35 (Compliance with the Fair Labor Standards Act)

ADOPTED: February 12, 2026

Rural Champaign Co. Sp. Ed.

5:320 Evaluation

The Executive Director is responsible for designing and implementing a program for evaluating the job performance of each educational support staff member according to standards contained in Board policies as well as in compliance with State law and any applicable employee handbook.

Please refer to the applicable collective bargaining agreement.

For employees not covered by a current applicable bargaining agreement:

The standards for the evaluation program shall include, but not be limited to:

1. Each employee shall be evaluated annually, preferably before the annual salary review.
2. The direct supervisor shall provide input.
3. The employee's work quality, promptness, attendance, reliability, conduct, judgment, and cooperation shall be considered.
4. The employee shall receive a copy of the annual evaluation.
5. All evaluations shall comply with State and federal law and any applicable employee handbook.

CROSS REF.: 5:10 (Equal Employment Opportunity and Minority Recruitment), 5:150 (Personnel Records)

ADOPTED: March 9, 2023

Rural Champaign Co. Sp. Ed.

5:330 Sick Days, Vacation, Holidays, and Leaves

Each of the provisions in this policy applies to all educational support personnel to the extent that it does not conflict with an applicable collective bargaining agreement or individual employment contract or benefit plan; in the event of a conflict, such provision is severable and the applicable bargaining agreement or individual agreement will control.

Sick and Bereavement Leave, Personal Leave, IMRF Service Credit Plan

Please refer to the applicable collective bargaining agreement(s).

Staff members are entitled to use up to 30 days of paid sick leave because of the birth of a child that is not dependent on the need to recover from childbirth. Such days may be used at any time within the 12-month period following the birth of the child. Intervening periods of nonworking days or school not being in session, such as breaks and holidays, do not count towards the 30 working school days. As a condition of paying sick leave beyond the 30 working school days, the Board or Executive Director may require medical certification.

For purposes of adoption, placement for adoption, or acceptance of a child in need of foster care, paid sick leave may be used for reasons related to the formal adoption or the formal foster care process prior to taking custody of the child or accepting the child in need of foster care, and for taking custody of the child or accepting the child in need of foster care. Such leave is limited to 30 days, unless a longer leave is provided in an applicable collective bargaining agreement, and need not be used consecutively once the formal adoption or foster care process is underway. The Board or Executive Director may require that the employee provide evidence that the formal adoption or foster care process is underway.

Vacation

Twelve-month employees hired after the Board policy adoption date shall be eligible for paid vacation days according to the following schedule:

<u>Length of Employment</u>		<u>Maximum Vacation Leave Granted Per Year</u>
<u>From:</u>	<u>To:</u>	
Beginning of year 2	End of year 5	10 Days per year
Beginning of year 6	End of year 15	15 Days per year
Beginning of year 16	End of year	20 Days per year

Part-time employees who work at least half-time are entitled to vacation days on the same basis as full-time employees, but the pay will be based on the employee's average number of part-time hours per week during the last vacation accrual year. The Executive Director will determine the procedure for requesting vacation.

Vacation days granted in one fiscal year must be used by the end of that fiscal year; they do not accumulate. Employees resigning or whose employment is terminated are entitled to the monetary equivalent of all earned vacation.

Holidays

The Cooperative office will follow a member district calendar as determined by the Executive Board. The holiday schedule will be as listed on the member district calendar. The Executive Director reserves the right to close the office due to inclement weather.

Leave to Serve as a Trustee of the Ill. Municipal Retirement Fund

Upon request, the Board will grant 20 days of paid leave of absence per year to a trustee of the Ill. Municipal Retirement Fund in accordance with State law.

Leave for Service in the Military

Please refer to the applicable collective bargaining agreement(s).

For employees not covered by a current applicable bargaining agreement:

Educational support personnel receive the leaves for Service in the Military on the same terms and conditions granted professional personnel in Board policy 5:250, *Leaves of Absence*.

Other Leaves

Educational support personnel receive the following leaves on the same terms and conditions granted professional personnel in Board policy 5:250, *Leaves of Absence*:

1. Family Bereavement Leave.
2. COVID-19 Paid Administrative Leave.
3. Leave for Service in the General Assembly.
4. Leaves for Victims of Domestic Violence, Sexual Violence, Gender Violence, or Other Crime of Violence.
5. Family Neonatal Intensive Care Leave.

LEGAL REF.:

40 ILCS 5/7-139

105 ILCS 5/10-20.7b, 5/10-20.83, 5/24-2, 5/24-6, and 5/24-6.3.

10 ILCS 5/13-2.5, Election Code.

330 ILCS 61/, Service Member Employment and Reemployment Rights Act.

820 ILCS 147/, School Visitation Rights Act.

820 ILCS 154/, Family Bereavement Leave Act.

820 ILCS 157/, Family Neonatal Intensive Care Leave Act.

820 ILCS 180/, Victims' Economic Security and Safety Act.

School Dist. 151 v. ISBE, 154 Ill.App.3d 375 (1st Dist. 1987); Elder v. Sch. Dist. No.127 1/2, 60 Ill.App.2d 56 (1st Dist. 1965).

CROSS REF.: 5:180 (Temporary Illness or Temporary Incapacity), 5:185 (Family and Medical Leave), 5:250 (Leaves of Absence)

ADOPTED: June 22, 2026

Rural Champaign Co. Sp. Ed.

SECTION 6 - INSTRUCTION

Rural Champaign Co. Sp. Ed.

6:20 Calendar and Day

The Cooperative follows, as closely as possible, the calendars established by Member Districts. Staff working in classrooms housed in Member Districts shall follow that District's established calendar.

LEGAL REF.:

105 ILCS 5/10-19, 5/10-19.05, 5/10-20.46, 5/10-20.56, 5/10-30, 5/18-12, 5/18-12.5, 5/24-2, 5/27-510, and 5/27-1025.

10 ILCS 5/11-4.1, Election Code.

5 ILCS 490/, State Commemorative Dates Act.

23 Ill.Admin.Code §1.420(f).

Metzl v. Leininger, 850 F.Supp. 740 (N.D. Ill. 1994), *aff'd by* 57 F.3d 618 (7th Cir. 1995).

CROSS REF.: 4:180 (Pandemic Preparedness; Management; and Recovery), 5:200 (Terms and Conditions of Employment and Dismissal), 5:330 (Sick Days, Vacation, Holidays, and Leaves)

ADOPTED: February 12, 2026

Rural Champaign Co. Sp. Ed.

6:30 Organization of Instruction and Curriculum Development

Organization of Instruction

The housing of programs in Member District facilities shall be according to plans developed by the Executive Director in cooperation with the Member Districts.

For schools operated by the Cooperative, the Executive Director shall annually develop a plan for organizing instructional levels.

Programs and Curriculum

The Executive Director shall develop and implement a plan of services for special education students that is educationally sound and is otherwise in compliance with State and federal law.

The Executive Director shall develop a curriculum review program to monitor the current curriculum and promptly suggest changes to make the curriculum more effective, to take advantage of improved teaching methods and materials, and to be responsive to social change, technological developments, student needs, and community expectations.

LEGAL REF.:

23 Ill.Admin.Code §1.420.

105 ILCS 5/10-20.8.

CROSS REF.:6:120 (Education of Children with Disabilities), 6:62 (Physical Education)

ADOPTED: January 12, 2024

Rural Champaign Co. Sp. Ed.

6:62 Physical Education

In all grades, physical education must be taught including a developmentally planned and sequential curriculum that fosters the development of movement skills, enhances health-related fitness, increases students' knowledge, offers direct opportunities to learn how to work cooperatively in a group setting, and encourages healthy habits and attitudes for a healthy lifestyle. Unless otherwise exempted, all students are required to engage in a physical education course with such frequency as determined by the Board after recommendation from the Executive Director, but at a minimum of three days per five-day week.

Exemption from Physical Education

In order to be excused from participation in physical education, a student must present an appropriate excuse from his or her parent/guardian or from a person licensed under the Medical Practice Act. The excuse may be based on medical or religious prohibitions. An excuse because of medical reasons must include a signed statement from a person licensed under the Medical Practice Act that corroborates the medical reason for the request. An excuse based on religious reasons must include a signed statement from a member of the clergy that corroborates the religious reason for the request. Upon written notice from a student's parent/guardian, a student will be excused from engaging in the physical activity components of physical education during a period of religious fasting.

Special activities in physical education will be provided for a student whose physical or emotional condition, as determined by a person licensed under the Medical Practices Act, prevents his or her participation in the physical education course.

State law prohibits the Board from honoring parental excuses based upon a student's participation in athletic training, activities, or competitions conducted outside the auspices of the Cooperative.

A student who is eligible for special education may be excused from physical education courses in either of the following situations:

1. He or she (a) is in grades 3-12, (b) his or her Individualized Educational Program (IEP) requires that special education support and services be provided during physical education time, and (c) the parent/guardian agrees or the IEP team makes the determination; or
2. He or she (a) has an IEP, (b) is participating in an adaptive athletic program outside of the school setting, and (c) the parent/guardian documents the student's participation as required by the Executive Director or designee.

A student requiring adapted physical education must receive that service in accordance with the student's IEP.

The Executive Director or designee shall maintain records showing that the criteria set forth in this policy were applied to the student's individual circumstances, as appropriate.

LEGAL REF.:

105 ILCS 5/27-705, 5/27-710, and 5/27-725.

225 ILCS 60/, Medical Practice Act.

23 Ill.Admin.Code §1.420(p).

CROSS REF.:6:20 (School Year Calendar and Day), 6:30 (Organization of Instruction and Programs)

ADOPTED: February 12, 2026

Rural Champaign Co. Sp. Ed.

6:65 Student Social and Emotional Development

Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) is defined as the process through which students enhance their ability to integrate thinking, feeling, and behaving to achieve important life tasks. Students competent in SEL are able to recognize and manage their emotions, establish healthy relationships, set positive goals, meet personal and social needs, and make responsible and ethical decisions.

The Executive Director shall incorporate SEL into the Cooperative's curriculum and other educational programs consistent with the Cooperative's mission and the goals and benchmarks of the Ill. Learning Standards. The Ill. Learning Standards include three goals for students:

1. Develop self-awareness and self-management skills to achieve school and life success.
2. Use social awareness and interpersonal skills to establish and maintain positive relationships.
3. Demonstrate decision-making skills and responsible behaviors in personal, school, and community contexts.

The incorporation of SEL objectives into the Cooperative's curriculum and other educational programs may include but is not limited to:

1. Classroom and school-wide programming to foster a safe, supportive learning environment where students feel respected and valued. This may include incorporating scientifically based, age- and culturally appropriate classroom instruction, and Cooperative-wide and school-wide strategies that teach SEL skills, promote optimal mental health, and prevent risk behaviors for all students.
2. Ongoing staff professional development and support to promote students' SEL development.
3. Parent/Guardian and family involvement to promote students' SEL development. This may include providing parents/guardians and families with learning opportunities related to the importance of their children's optimal SEL development and ways to enhance it.
4. Community partnerships to promote students' SEL development. This may include establishing partnerships with diverse community agencies and organizations to assure a coordinated approach to addressing children's mental health and SEL development.
5. Early identification and intervention to enhance students' school readiness, academic success, and use of good citizenship skills. This may include development of a

system and procedures for periodic and universal screening, assessment, and early intervention for students who have significant risk factors for social, emotional, or mental health conditions that impact learning.

6. Treatment to prevent or minimize mental health conditions in students. This may include building and strengthening referral and follow-up procedures for providing effective clinical services for students with social, emotional, and mental health conditions that impact learning. This may include student and family support services, school-based behavioral health services, and school-community linked services and supports.
7. Assessment and accountability for teaching SEL skills to all students. This may include implementation of a process to assess and report baseline information and ongoing progress about school climate, students' social and emotional development, and academic performance.

LEGAL REF.:

405 ILCS 49/, Children's Mental Health Act.

CROSS REF.: 6:270 (Guidance and Counseling Program), 7:100 (Health, Eye, and Dental Examinations; Immunizations; and Exclusion of Students), 7:180 (Prevention of and Response to Bullying, Intimidation, and Harassment), 7:250 (Student Support Services)

ADOPTED: June 22, 2026

Rural Champaign Co. Sp. Ed.

6:100 Using Animals in the Educational Program

Animals may be brought into school facilities for educational purposes according to procedures developed by the Executive Director assuring: (a) the animal is appropriately housed, humanely cared for, and properly handled, and (b) students will not be exposed to a dangerous animal or an unhealthy environment.

LEGAL REF.:

105 ILCS 5/2-3.122 and 5/27-265.

105 ILCS 5/112, Dissection Alternatives Act.

CROSS REF.: 6:40 (Curriculum Development)

ADOPTED: June 22, 2026

Rural Champaign Co. Sp. Ed.

6:110 Programs for Students At Risk of Academic Failure and/or Dropping Out of School and Graduation Incentives Program

The Executive Director or designee shall develop, maintain, and supervise a program for students at risk of academic failure or dropping out of school. The program shall include education and support services addressing individual learning styles, career development, and social needs, and may include without limitation one or more of the following:

- Parent-teacher conferences
- Counseling services by social workers and/or guidance counselors
- Counseling services by psychologists
- Psychological testing
- Truants' alternative and optional education program
- Community agency services
- Alternative learning opportunities program, in conformity with the Alternative Learning Opportunities Law, as it may be amended from time to time
- Graduation incentives program
- Remediation program

Any student who is below the age of 20 years is eligible to enroll in a graduation incentives program if he or she:

1. Is considered a dropout according to State law;
2. Has been suspended or expelled;
3. Is pregnant or is a parent;
4. Has been assessed as chemically dependent; or
5. Is enrolled in a bilingual education or English Language Learners program.

LEGAL REF.:

105 ILCS 5/2-3.41, 5/2-3.66, 5/10-20.9a, 5/13B, 5/26-2a, 5/26-13, 5/26-14, and 5/26-16.

CROSS REF.: 6:280 (Grading and Promotion), 7:70 (Attendance and Truancy)

ADOPTED: October 10, 2024

Rural Champaign Co. Sp. Ed.

6:120 Education of Children with Disabilities

The Cooperative shall provide a free appropriate public education in the least restrictive environment and necessary related services to all children with disabilities enrolled in the Cooperative, as required by the Individuals With Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and implementing provisions of the School Code, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the Americans With Disabilities Act. The term "children with disabilities," as used in this policy, means children between ages 3 and 21 (inclusive) for whom it is determined, through definitions and procedures described in the Ill. State Board of Education (ISBE) *Special Education* rules, that special education services are needed. Children with disabilities who turn 22 years old during the school year are eligible for such services through the end of the school year.

It is the intent of the Cooperative to ensure that students who are disabled within the definition of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 are identified, evaluated, and provided with appropriate educational services. Students may be disabled within the meaning of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act even though they do not require services pursuant to IDEA.

For students eligible for services under IDEA, the Cooperative shall follow procedures for identification, evaluation, placement, and delivery of services to children with disabilities provided in the ISBE *Special Education* rules. For those students who are not eligible for services under IDEA, but, because of disability as defined by Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, need or are believed to need special instruction or related services, the Cooperative shall establish and implement a system of procedural safeguards. The safeguards shall cover students' identification, evaluation, and educational placement. This system shall include notice, an opportunity for the student's parent(s)/guardian(s) to examine relevant records, an impartial hearing with opportunity for participation by the student's parent(s)/guardian(s), representation by counsel, and a review procedure.

If necessary, students may also be placed in nonpublic special education programs or education facilities.

LEGAL REF.:

20 U.S.C. §1400 et seq., Individuals With Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004.

29 U.S.C. §794, Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Section 504.

42 U.S.C. §12101 et seq., Americans With Disabilities Act.

34 C.F.R. Part 106.

34 C.F.R. Part 300.

105 ILCS 5/14-1.01 et seq., 5/14-7.02, and 5/14-7.02b.

23 Ill.Admin.Code Part 226.

CROSS REF.: 2:150 (Committees), 7:230 (Misconduct by Students with Disabilities), 8:30 (Visitors to and Conduct on School Property)

ADOPTED: March 10, 2022

Rural Champaign Co. Sp. Ed.

6:140 Education of Homeless Children

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-Vento Homeless Assistance Act and the 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-Vento 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.

LEGAL REF.:

42 U.S.C. §11431 et seq., McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act.

105 ILCS 45/, Education for Homeless Children Act.

23 Ill.Admin.Code §1.241.

CROSS REF.: 2:260 (Uniform Grievance Procedure), 4:110 (Transportation), 4:140 (Waiver of Student Fees), 7:10 (Equal Educational Opportunities), 7:30 (Student Assignment and Intra-District Transfer), 7:50 (School Admissions and Student Transfers To and From Non-District Schools), 7:60 (Residence), 7:100 (Health, Eye, and Dental Examinations; Immunizations; and Exclusion of Students)

ADMIN. PROC.: 6:140-AP (Education of Homeless Children)

ADOPTED: January 9, 2025

Rural Champaign Co. Sp. Ed.

6:150 Home and Hospital Instruction

A student who is absent from school, or whose physician, physician assistant, or advanced practice registered nurse anticipates that the student will be absent from school, because of a medical condition may be eligible for instruction in the student's home or hospital. Eligibility shall be determined by State law and the Ill. State Board of Education rules governing (1) the continuum of placement options for students who have been identified for special education services or (2) the home and hospital instruction provisions for students who have not been identified for special education services. Appropriate educational services from qualified staff will begin no later than five school days after receiving a written statement from: (1) a physician licensed to practice medicine in all of its branches, (2) a licensed physician assistant, or (3) a licensed advanced practice registered nurse. Instructional or related services for a student receiving special education services will be determined by the student's individualized education program.

A student who is unable to attend school because of pregnancy or pregnancy-related conditions, the fulfillment of parenting obligations related to the health of the child, or health and safety concerns arising from domestic or sexual violence as defined in 105 ILCS 5/26A, will be provided home instruction, correspondence courses, or other courses of instruction under the following circumstances:

1. Before the birth of the child when the student's physician, physician assistant, or advanced practice registered nurse indicates, in writing, that she is medically unable to attend regular classroom instruction.
2. For up to three months after the child's birth or a miscarriage.
3. When a student must care for his or her ill child if:
 - a. The child's physician, physician assistant, or advanced practice registered nurse informs the Cooperative, in writing, that the child has a serious health condition that would require the student to be absent from school for two or more consecutive weeks; and
 - b. The student or the student's parent/guardian informs the Cooperative, in writing, that the student needs to care for the child during this period.
4. The student must treat physical or mental health complications or address safety concerns arising from domestic or sexual violence when a health care provider or an employee of the student's domestic or sexual violence organization, as defined in 105 ILCS 5/26A, informs the Cooperative, in writing, that the care is needed by the student and will cause the student's absence from school for two or more consecutive weeks.

The Cooperative may reassess home instruction provided to a student under No. 3 or No. 4 every two months to determine the student's continuing need for home instruction.

Periodic conferences will be held between appropriate school personnel, parent(s)/guardian(s), and hospital staff to coordinate course work and facilitate a student's return to school.

LEGAL REF.:

105 ILCS 5/10-19.05(e), 5/10-22.6a, 5/14-13.01, and 5/18-4.5.

23 Ill.Admin.Code §§1.520, 1.610, and 226.300.

CROSS REF.: 6:120 (Education of Children with Disabilities), 7:10 (Equal Educational Opportunities), 7:250 (Student Support Services), 7:255 (Students Who are Parents, Expectant Parents, or Victims of Domestic or Sexual Violence), 7:280 (Communicable and Chronic Infectious Disease)

ADOPTED: June 12, 2025

Rural Champaign Co. Sp. Ed.

6:235 Access to Electronic Networks

Electronic networks are a part of the Cooperative's instructional program and serve to promote educational excellence by facilitating resource sharing, innovation, and communication.

The term *electronic networks* includes all of the Cooperative's technology resources, including, but not limited to:

1. The Cooperative's local-area and wide-area networks, including wireless networks (Wi-Fi), Cooperative-issued Wi-Fi hotspots, and any Cooperative servers or other networking infrastructure;
2. Access to the Internet or other online resources via the Cooperative's networks or to any Cooperative-issued online account from any computer or device, regardless of location;
3. Cooperative-owned or Cooperative-issued computers, laptops, tablets, phones, or similar devices.

The Executive Director shall develop an implementation plan for this policy and appoint system administrator(s).

The Cooperative 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 Cooperative 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 Cooperative's electronic networks shall: (1) be consistent with the curriculum adopted by the Cooperative 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) cyber-bullying awareness and response. Staff members may, consistent with the Executive Director's implementation plan, use the Internet throughout the curriculum.

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

Acceptable Use

All use of the Cooperative'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. Users of the Cooperative's electronic networks have no expectation of privacy in any material that is stored on, transmitted, or received via the Cooperative's electronic networks. General rules for behavior and communications apply when using electronic networks. The Cooperative's administrative procedure, *Acceptable Use of the Cooperative's Electronic Networks*, 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 Cooperative 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 Executive Director or designee. The Executive Director 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 Executive Director or system administrator. The Executive Director 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.

Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI)-Enabled Tools

The Board recognizes that AI-enabled tools are important to enhance student learning, educator effectiveness, and school operations. The use of AI-enabled tools in the Cooperative shall be implemented in a safe, ethical, and equitable manner and in accordance with Board policy 7:345, *Use of Educational Technologies; Student Data Privacy and Security*.

To implement the use of AI-enabled tools in the Cooperative, the Executive Director or designee shall:

1. Develop a Cooperative-wide AI Plan that addresses the Cooperative's approach to the integration of AI;
2. Based on the Cooperative-wide AI Plan, establish AI Responsible Use Guidelines to address the responsible use of AI in the Cooperative by students and staff;
3. Ensure that AI-enabled tools comply with State and federal law;
4. Ensure that staff receive training and students receive instruction on the use of AI, as appropriate; and
5. Review the Cooperative's AI Plan and AI Responsible Use Guidelines on an annual basis and update them as needed.

Authorization for Electronic Network Access

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

Confidentiality

All users of the Cooperative's computers to 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.

Violations

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

LEGAL REF.:

20 U.S.C. §7131, Elementary and Secondary Education Act.

47 U.S.C. §254(h) and (l), Children's Internet Protection Act.

47 C.F.R. Part 54, Subpart F, Universal Service Support for Schools and Libraries.

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

720 ILCS 5/26.5.

CROSS REF.: 5:100 (Staff Development Program), 5:170 (Copyright), 6:40 (Curriculum Development), 6:60 (Curriculum Content), 6:210 (Instructional Materials), 6:230 (Library Media Program), 6:260 (Complaints About Curriculum, Instructional Materials, and Programs), 7:130 (Student Rights and Responsibilities), 7:190 (Student Behavior), 7:310 (Restrictions on Publications; Elementary Schools), 7:345 (Use of Educational Technologies; Student Data Privacy and Security)

ADOPTED: June 12, 2025

Rural Champaign Co. Sp. Ed.

6:235-AP1 Administrative Procedure - Acceptable Use of Electronic Networks

All use of electronic networks shall be consistent with the District's goal of promoting educational excellence by facilitating resource sharing, innovation, and communication. These procedures do not attempt to state all required or proscribed behavior by users. However, some specific examples are provided. **The failure of any user to follow these procedures will result in the loss of privileges, disciplinary action, and/or legal action.**

Terms and Conditions

Acceptable Use - Access to the District's electronic network must be: (a) for the purpose of education or research, and be consistent with the District's educational objectives, or (b) for legitimate business use.

Privileges - The use of the District's electronic network is a privilege, not a right, and inappropriate use will result in a cancellation of those privileges. The system administrator or Building Principal will make all decisions regarding whether or not a user has violated these procedures and may deny, revoke, or suspend access at any time. His or her decision is final.

Unacceptable Use - The user is responsible for his or her actions and activities involving the network. Some examples of unacceptable uses are:

- a. Using the network for any illegal activity, including violation of copyright or other contracts, or transmitting any material in violation of any State or federal law;
- b. Unauthorized downloading of software, regardless of whether it is copyrighted or de-virused;
- c. Downloading of copyrighted material for other than personal use;
- d. Using the network for private financial or commercial gain;
- e. Wastefully using resources, such as file space;
- f. Hacking or gaining unauthorized access to files, resources, or entities;
- g. Invading the privacy of individuals, that includes the unauthorized disclosure, dissemination, and use of information about anyone that is of a personal nature including a photograph;
- h. Using another user's account or password;
 - i. Posting material authored or created by another without his/her consent;
 - j. Posting anonymous messages;
- k. Using the network for commercial or private advertising;

- l. Accessing, submitting, posting, publishing, or displaying any defamatory, inaccurate, abusive, obscene, profane, sexually oriented, threatening, racially offensive, harassing, or illegal material; and
- m. Using the network while access privileges are suspended or revoked.

Network Etiquette - The user is expected to abide by the generally accepted rules of network etiquette. These include, but are not limited to, the following:

- a. Be polite. Do not become abusive in messages to others.
- b. Use appropriate language. Do not swear, or use vulgarities or any other inappropriate language.
- c. Do not reveal personal information, including the addresses or telephone numbers, of students or colleagues.
- d. Recognize that email is not private. People who operate the system have access to all email. Messages relating to or in support of illegal activities may be reported to the authorities.
- e. Do not use the network in any way that would disrupt its use by other users.
- f. Consider all communications and information accessible via the network to be private property.

No Warranties - The District makes no warranties of any kind, whether expressed or implied, for the service it is providing. The District will not be responsible for any damages the user suffers. This includes loss of data resulting from delays, non-deliveries, missed-deliveries, or service interruptions caused by its negligence or the user's errors or omissions. Use of any information obtained via the Internet is at the user's own risk. The District specifically denies any responsibility for the accuracy or quality of information obtained through its services.

Indemnification - The user agrees to indemnify the School District for any losses, costs, or damages, including reasonable attorney fees, incurred by the District relating to, or arising out of, any violation of these procedures.

Security - Network security is a high priority. If the user can identify a security problem on the Internet, the user must notify the system administrator or Building Principal. Do not demonstrate the problem to other users. Keep your account and password confidential. Do not use another individual's account without written permission from that individual. Attempts to log-on to the Internet as a system administrator will result in cancellation of user privileges. Any user identified as a security risk may be denied access to the network.

Vandalism - Vandalism will result in cancellation of privileges and other disciplinary action. Vandalism is defined as any malicious attempt to harm or destroy data of another user, the

Internet, or any other network. This includes, but is not limited to, the uploading or creation of computer viruses.

Telephone Charges - The District assumes no responsibility for any unauthorized charges or fees, including telephone charges, long-distance charges, per-minute surcharges, and/or equipment or line costs.

Copyright Web Publishing Rules - Copyright law and District policy prohibit the re-publishing of text or graphics found on the web or on District websites or file servers without explicit written permission.

- a. For each re-publication (on a website or file server) of a graphic or a text file that was produced externally, there must be a notice at the bottom of the page crediting the original producer and noting how and when permission was granted. If possible, the notice should also include the web address of the original source.
- b. Students and staff engaged in producing web pages must provide library media specialists with email or hard copy permissions before the web pages are published. Printed evidence of the status of "public domain" documents must be provided.
- c. The absence of a copyright notice may not be interpreted as permission to copy the materials. Only the copyright owner may provide the permission. The manager of the website displaying the material may not be considered a source of permission.
- d. The *fair use* rules governing student reports in classrooms are less stringent and permit limited use of graphics and text.
- e. Student work may only be published if there is written permission from both the parent/guardian and student.

Use of Email - The District's email system, and its constituent software, hardware, and data files, are owned and controlled by the School District. The School District provides email to aid students and staff members in fulfilling their duties and responsibilities, and as an education tool.

- a. The District reserves the right to access and disclose the contents of any account on its system, without prior notice or permission from the account's user. Unauthorized access by any student or staff member to an email account is strictly prohibited.
- b. Each person should use the same degree of care in drafting an email message as would be put into a written memorandum or document. Nothing should be transmitted in an email message that would be inappropriate in a letter or memorandum.
- c. Electronic messages transmitted via the School District's Internet gateway carry with them an identification of the user's Internet *domain*. This domain is a registered

name and identifies the author as being with the School District. Great care should be taken, therefore, in the composition of such messages and how such messages might reflect on the name and reputation of the School District. Users will be held personally responsible for the content of any and all email messages transmitted to external recipients.

- d. Any message received from an unknown sender via the Internet should either be immediately deleted or forwarded to the system administrator. Downloading any file attached to any Internet-based message is prohibited unless the user is certain of that message's authenticity and the nature of the file so transmitted.
- e. Use of the School District's email system constitutes consent to these regulations.

Internet Safety

Internet access is limited to only those *acceptable uses* as detailed in these procedures. Internet safety is almost assured if users will not engage in *unacceptable uses*, as detailed in these procedures, and otherwise follow these procedures.

Staff members shall supervise students while students are using District Internet access to ensure that the students abide by the *Terms and Conditions* for Internet access contained in these procedures.

Each District computer with Internet access has a filtering device that blocks entry to visual depictions that are: (1) obscene, (2) pornographic, or (3) harmful or inappropriate for students, as defined by the Children's Internet Protection Act and as determined by the Superintendent or designee.

The system administrator and Building Principals shall monitor student Internet access.

LEGAL REF.:No Child Left Behind Act, 20 U.S.C. §6777.

Children's Internet Protection Act, 47 U.S.C. §254(h) and (l).

Enhances Education Through Technology Act of 2001, 20 U.S.C §6751 et seq.

Harassing and Obscene Communications Act, 720 ILCS 135/0.01.

DATED:November 10, 2016

Rural Champaign Co. Sp. Ed.

6:240 Field Trips and Recreational Class Trips

Field trips are permissible when the experiences are a part of the school curriculum and/or contribute to the Cooperative's educational objectives.

All field trips must have the Executive Director or designee's prior approval, except that field trips beyond a 200-mile radius of the school or extending overnight must have the prior approval of the Board. The Executive Director or designee shall analyze the following factors to determine whether to approve a field trip: educational value, student safety, parent concerns, heightened security alerts, and liability concerns. On all field trips, a bus fee set by the Executive Director or designee may be charged to help defray the transportation costs.

Parents/guardians of students: (1) shall be given the opportunity to consent to their child's participation in any field trip; and (2) are responsible for all entrance fees, food, lodging, or other costs, except that the Cooperative will pay such costs for students who qualify for a fee waiver under Board policy 4:140, *Waiver of Student Fees*. All non-participating students shall be provided an alternative experience. Any field trip may be cancelled without notice due to an unforeseen event or condition.

Privately arranged trips, including those led by Cooperative staff members, shall not be represented as or construed to be sponsored by the Cooperative or school. The Cooperative does not provide liability protection for privately arranged trips and is not responsible for any damages arising from them.

Recreational Class Trips

Recreational class trips are permissible provided they do not interfere with the Cooperative's educational goals. The provisions in this policy concerning field trips are also applicable to recreational class trips, except those regarding educational value.

LEGAL REF.:

105 ILCS 5/29-3.1.

CROSS REF.:4:140 (Waiver of Student Fees), 6:10 (Educational Philosophy and Objectives), 7:10 (Equal Educational Opportunities), 7:270 (Administering Medicines to Students)

ADOPTED: January 12, 2024

Rural Champaign Co. Sp. Ed.

6:250 Community Resource Persons and Volunteers

The Board encourages the use of resource persons and volunteers to: (1) increase students' educational attainment; (2) provide enrichment experiences for students; (3) increase the effective utilization of staff time and skills; (4) give more individual attention to students; and (5) promote greater community involvement.

Resource persons and volunteers may be used:

1. For non-teaching duties not requiring instructional judgment or evaluation of students;
2. For supervising study halls, long distance teaching reception areas used incident to instructional programs transmitted by electronic media (such as computers, video, and audio), detention and discipline areas, and school-sponsored extracurricular activities;
3. To assist with academic programs under a licensed teacher's immediate supervision;
4. To assist in times of violence or other traumatic incidents within the Cooperative by providing crisis intervention services to lessen the effects of emotional trauma on staff, students, and the community, provided the volunteer meets the qualifications established by the Ill. School Crisis Assistance Team Steering Committee;
5. As a guest lecturer or resource person under a licensed teacher's direction and with the administration's approval; or
6. As supervisors, chaperones, or sponsors for non-academic school activities.

The Executive Director shall follow Board policy 4:175, *Convicted Child Sex Offender; Screening; Notifications*, to establish procedures for securing and screening resource persons and volunteers. A person who is a *sex offender*, as defined by the Sex Offender Registration Act, or a *violent offender against youth*, as defined in the Murderer and Violent Offender Against Youth Registration Act, is prohibited from being a resource person or volunteer. All volunteer coaches must comply with the requirement to report hazing in policy 5:90, *Abused and Neglected Child Reporting*.

LEGAL REF.:

105 ILCS 5/10-22.34, 5/10-22.34a, and 5/10-22.34b.

720 ILCS 5/12C-50.1, Failure to Report Hazing.

730 ILCS 150/1 et seq., Sex Offender Registration Act.

730 ILCS 152/101 et seq., Sex Offender Community Notification Law.

730 ILCS 154/75 et seq., Murderer and Violent Offender Against Youth Community Notification Law.

730 ILCS 154/101 et seq., Murderer and Violent Offender Against Youth Registration Act.

CROSS REF.: 4:170 (Safety), 4:175 (Convicted Child Sex Offender; Screening; Notifications), 5:90 (Abused and Neglected Child Reporting), 5:280 (Duties and Qualifications), 8:30 (Visitors to and Conduct on School Property), 8:95 (Parental Involvement)

ADOPTED: March 9, 2023

Rural Champaign Co. Sp. Ed.

6:255 Assemblies and Ceremonies

Assemblies must be approved by the Executive Director or designee and be consistent with the Cooperative's educational objectives.

While the Cooperative respects an individual's brief, quiet, personal religious observance(s), it shall not endorse or otherwise promote invocations, benedictions, and group prayers at any school assembly, ceremony, or other school-sponsored activity.

LEGAL REF.:

Lee v. Weisman, 505 U.S. 577 (1992).

Santa Fe Independent Sch. Dist. v. Doe, 530 U.S. 290 (2000).

Kennedy v. Bremerton Sch. Dist., 142 S.Ct. 2407 (2022).

Jones v. Clear Creek Independent Sch. Dist., 930 F.2d 416 (5th Cir. 1991), *cert. granted, judgement vacated*, 505 U.S. 1215 (1992), *remand*, 977 F.2d 963, *reh'g denied*, 983 F.2d 234 (5th Cir. 1992), and *cert. denied*, 508 U.S. 967 (1993).

ADOPTED: March 9, 2023

Rural Champaign Co. Sp. Ed.

6:260 Complaints About Curriculum, Instructional Materials, and Programs

Parents/guardians have the right to inspect any instructional material used as part of their child's educational curriculum pursuant to Board policy 7:15, *Student and Family Privacy Rights*.

Parents/guardians, employees, and community members who believe that curriculum, instructional materials, or programs violate rights guaranteed by any law or Board policy may file a complaint using Board policy 2:260, *Uniform Grievance Procedure*.

Parents/guardians, employees, and community members with other suggestions or complaints about curriculum, instructional materials, or programs should complete a *Curriculum Objection Form*. A parent/guardian may request that his/her child be exempt from using a particular instructional material or program by completing a *Curriculum Objection Form*. The Executive Director or designee shall establish criteria for the review of objections and inform the parent/guardian, employee, or community member, as applicable, of the Cooperative's decision.

LEGAL REF.:

20 U.S.C. §1232h, Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment.

Mahmoud v. Taylor, 145 S.Ct. 2332 (2025).

CROSS REF.: 2:260 (Uniform Grievance Procedure), 7:15 (Student and Family Privacy Rights), 8:110 (Public Suggestions and Concerns)

ADOPTED: February 12, 2026

Rural Champaign Co. Sp. Ed.

6:270 Guidance and Counseling Program

The Cooperative provides a guidance and counseling program for students. The Executive Director or designee shall direct the Cooperative's guidance and counseling program. School counseling services, as described by State law, may be performed by school counselors or licensed educators with a school support personnel endorsement in the area of school counseling.

Each staff member is responsible for effectively guiding students under his/her supervision in order to provide early identification of intellectual, emotional, social, or physical needs, diagnosis of any learning disabilities, and development of educational potential. The Cooperative's counselors shall offer counseling to those students who require additional assistance.

The guidance program will assist students to identify career options consistent with their abilities, interests, and personal values. Students shall be encouraged to seek the help of counselors to develop specific curriculum goals that conform to the student's career objectives. High school juniors and seniors will have the opportunity to receive career-oriented information. Representatives from colleges and universities, occupational training institutions and career-oriented recruiters, including the military, may be given access to the school campus in order to provide students and parents/guardians with information.

LEGAL REF.:

105 ILCS 5/10-22.24a and 5/10-22.24b.

23 Ill.Admin.Code §1.420(q).

CROSS REF.: 6:50 (School Wellness), 6:65 (Student Social and Emotional Development), 6:110 (Programs for Students At Risk of Academic Failure and/or Dropping Out of School and Graduation Incentives Program), 6:120 (Education of Children with Disabilities), 6:130 (Program for the Gifted), 7:100 (Health, Eye, and Dental Examinations; Immunizations; and Exclusion of Students), 7:250 (Student Support Services), 7:290 (Suicide and Depression Awareness and Prevention)

ADOPTED: January 9, 2025

Rural Champaign Co. Sp. Ed.

6:280 Grading and Promotion

The Executive Director shall establish a system of grading and reporting academic achievement to students and their parents/guardians, which system of reporting may be modified to meet an individual student's needs as specified in his or her individualized education program. A student shall not be promoted solely based upon age or any other social reason, except as provided in the student's individualized education program. Every teacher shall maintain an evaluation record for each student in the teacher's classroom. A Cooperative administrator cannot change the final grade assigned by the teacher without notifying the teacher. Reasons for changing a student's final grade include:

- A miscalculation of test scores,
- A technical error in assigning a particular grade or score,
- The teacher agrees to allow the student to do extra work that may impact the grade,
- An inappropriate grading system used to determine the grade, or
- An inappropriate grade based on an appropriate grading system.

Should a grade change be made, the administrator making the change must sign the changed record.

LEGAL REF.: 105 ILCS 5/10-20.9a, 5/10-21.8, and 5/27-27.

CROSS REF.: 7:50 (School Admissions and Eligibility for Services)

ADOPTED: February 12, 2026

Rural Champaign Co. Sp. Ed.

6:340 Student Testing and Assessment Program

The Cooperative student assessment program provides information for determining individual student achievement and instructional needs, curriculum and instruction effectiveness, and school performance measured against Cooperative student learning objectives and statewide norms.

The Executive Director or designee shall manage the student assessment program that, at a minimum:

1. Administers to students all standardized assessments required by the Ill. State Board of Education (ISBE) and/or any other appropriate assessment methods and instruments, including norm and criterion-referenced achievement tests, aptitude tests, proficiency tests, and teacher-developed tests.
2. Informs students of the timelines and procedures applicable to their participation in every State assessment.
3. Provides each student's parents/guardians with the results or scores of each State assessment and an evaluation of the student's progress. See policy 6:280, *Grading and Promotion*.
4. Utilizes professional testing practices.

Overall student assessment data on tests required by State law will be aggregated by the Cooperative and reported, along with other information, on the Cooperative's annual report card. All reliable assessments administered by the Cooperative and scored by entities outside of the Cooperative must be (1) reported to ISBE on its form by the 30th day of each school year, and (2) made publicly available to parents/guardians of students. Board policy 7:340, *Student Records*, and its implementing procedures govern recordkeeping and access issues.

LEGAL REF.:

20 U.S.C. §1232g, Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act.

105 ILCS 10/, Illinois School Student Records Act.

105 ILCS 5/2-3.63, 5/2-3.64a-5, 5/2-3.64a-10, 5/2-3.64a-15, 5/2-3.107, 5/2-3.153, 5/10-17a, 5/22-82, and 5/27-1.

23 Ill. Admin. Code §§1.30(b) and 375.10.

CROSS REF.: 6:280 (Grading and Promotion), 7:340 (Student Records)

ADOPTED: March 9, 2023

Rural Champaign Co. Sp. Ed.

SECTION 7 - STUDENTS

Rural Champaign Co. Sp. Ed.

7:10 Equal Educational Opportunities

Equal educational and extracurricular opportunities shall be available for all students without regard to color, race, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, ancestry, age, physical or mental disability, gender identity, status of being homeless, order of protection status, military status, unfavorable military discharge, reproductive health decisions, or actual or potential marital or parental status, including pregnancy. Further, the Cooperative will not knowingly enter into agreements with any entity or any individual that discriminates against students on the basis of sex or any other protected status. Any student may file a discrimination complaint by using Board policy 2:260, *Uniform Grievance Procedure*, or in the case of discrimination on the basis of race, color, or national origin, Board policy 2:270, *Discrimination and Harassment on the Basis of Race, Color, and National Origin Prohibited*.

Sex Equity

No student shall, based on sex, sexual orientation, or gender identity be denied equal access to programs, activities, services, or benefits or be limited in the exercise of any right, privilege, advantage, or denied equal access to educational and extracurricular programs and activities.

Any student may file a sex equity complaint by using Board policy 2:260, *Uniform Grievance Procedure*. A student may appeal the Board's resolution of the complaint to the Regional Superintendent (pursuant to 105 ILCS 5/3-10) and, thereafter, to the State Superintendent of Education (pursuant to 105 ILCS 5/2-3.8).

Any student may file a sexual harassment complaint by using Board policy 2:265, *Title IX Grievance Procedure*.

Administrative Implementation

The Executive Director shall appoint a Nondiscrimination Coordinator and a Title IX Coordinator. The Executive Director and Building Principal shall use reasonable measures to inform staff members and students of this policy and related grievance procedures.

LEGAL REF.:

20 U.S.C. §1681 et seq., Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972; 34 C.F.R. Part 106.

29 U.S.C. §791 et seq., Rehabilitation Act of 1973; 34 C.F.R. Part 104.

42 U.S.C. §2000d, Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964; 34 C.F.R. Part 100.

42 U.S.C. §11431 et seq., McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act.

Plyler v. Doe, 457 U.S. 202 (1982).

Good News Club v. Milford Central Sch., 533 U.S. 98 (2001).

Ill. Constitution, Art. I, §18.

105 ILCS 5/3.25b, 5/3.25d(b), 5/10-20.12, 5/10-20.60, 5/10-20.63, 5/10-22.5, 5/22-105, 5/26A, and 5/27-1.

775 ILCS 5/1-101 et seq., Illinois Human Rights Act.

775 ILCS 35/5, Religious Freedom Restoration Act.

23 Ill.Admin.Code §1.240 and Part 200.

CROSS REF.: 2:260 (Uniform Grievance Procedure), 2:265 (Title IX Grievance Procedure), 2:270 (Discrimination and Harassment on the Basis of Race, Color, and National Origin Prohibited), 6:65 (Student Social and Emotional Development), 7:20 (Harassment of Students Prohibited), 7:130 (Student Rights and Responsibilities), 7:150 (Agency and Law Enforcement Requests), 7:160 (Student Appearance), 7:185 (Teen Dating Violence Prohibited), 7:250 (Student Support Services), 7:255 (Students Who are Parents, Expectant Parents, or Victims of Domestic or Sexual Violence), 7:340 (Student Records)

ADOPTED: February 12, 2026

Rural Champaign Co. Sp. Ed.

7:10-E Exhibit - Equal Educational Opportunities Within the School Community

The Cooperative welcomes diversity in its schools. Policy 7:10, *Equal Educational Opportunities* cites the many civil rights laws that guarantee equal education opportunities to all students. In addition, the policies below address the equal educational opportunities, health, safety, and general welfare of students within the Cooperative. These policies are not a complete list, and depending on the factual context, another policy not specifically listed may apply:

1. 2:260, *Uniform Grievance Procedure*, contains the process for an individual to seek resolution of a complaint. A student may use this policy to complain about bullying. The Cooperative Complaint Manager shall address the complaint promptly and equitably.
2. 2:265, *Title IX Grievance Procedure*, contains the process that must be followed for complaints of Title IX harassment.
3. 2:270, *Discrimination and Harassment on the Basis of Race, Color, and National Origin Prohibited*, prohibits any person from discriminating against or harassing a student based on race, color, or national origin.
4. 6:65, *Student Social and Emotional Development*, requires that social and emotional learning be incorporated into the Cooperative's curriculum and other educational programs.
5. 7:10, *Equal Educational Opportunities*, requires that equal educational and extracurricular opportunities be available to all students without regard to, among other protected statuses, sex, sexual orientation, and gender identity.
6. 7:20, *Harassment of Students Prohibited*, prohibits any person from harassing, intimidating, or bullying a student based on an actual or perceived characteristic that is identified in the policy including, among other protected statuses, sex, sexual orientation, and gender identity.
7. 7:130, *Student Rights and Responsibilities*, recognizes that all students are entitled to rights protected by the U.S. and Illinois Constitutions and laws for persons of their age and maturity in a school setting.
8. 7:160, *Student Appearance*, prohibits students from dressing or grooming in such a way as to disrupt the educational process, interfere with a positive teaching/learning climate, or compromise reasonable standards of health, safety, and decency.
9. 7:180, *Prevention of and Response to Bullying, Intimidation, and Harassment*, contains the comprehensive structure for the Cooperative's bullying prevention program.
10. 7:250, *Student Support Services*, directs the Superintendent to develop protocols for

responding to students' social, emotional, or mental health needs that impact learning.

11. 7:340, *Student Records*, contains the comprehensive structure for managing school student records, keeping them confidential, and providing access as allowed or required.

DATED: June 12, 2025

Rural Champaign Co. Sp. Ed.

7:15 Student and Family Privacy Rights

Surveys

All surveys requesting personal information from students, as well as any other instrument used to collect personal information from students, must advance or relate to the Cooperative's educational objectives or assist students' career choices. This applies to all surveys, regardless of whether the student answering the questions can be identified or who created the survey.

Surveys Created by a Third Party

Before a school official or staff member administers or distributes a survey or evaluation created by a third party to a student, the student's parent(s)/guardian(s) may inspect the survey or evaluation, upon their request and within a reasonable time of their request.

This section applies to every survey: (1) that is created by a person or entity other than a Cooperative official, staff member, or student, (2) regardless of whether the student answering the questions can be identified, and (3) regardless of the subject matter of the questions.

Surveys Requesting Personal Information

School officials and staff members shall not request, nor disclose, the identity of any student who completes any survey or evaluation (created by any person or entity, including the Cooperative) containing one or more of the following items:

1. Political affiliations or beliefs of the student or the student's parent/guardian.
2. Mental or psychological problems of the student or the student's family.
3. Behavior or attitudes about sex.
4. Illegal, anti-social, self-incriminating, or demeaning behavior.
5. Critical appraisals of other individuals with whom students have close family relationships.
6. Legally recognized privileged or analogous relationships, such as those with lawyers, physicians, and ministers.
7. Religious practices, affiliations, or beliefs of the student or the student's parent/guardian.
8. Income other than that required by law to determine eligibility for participation in a program or for receiving financial assistance under such program.

The student's parent(s)/guardian(s) may:

1. Inspect the survey or evaluation upon, and within a reasonable time of, their request, and/or
2. Refuse to allow their child to participate in the activity described above. The school shall not penalize any student whose parent(s)/guardian(s) exercised this option.

Instructional Material

A student's parent(s)/guardian(s) may inspect, upon their request, any instructional material used as part of their child's educational curriculum within a reasonable time of their request.

The term "instructional material" means instructional content that is provided to a student, regardless of its format, printed or representational materials, audio-visual materials, and materials in electronic or digital formats (such as materials accessible through the Internet). The term does not include academic tests or academic assessments.

Physical Exams or Screenings

No school official or staff member shall subject a student to a non-emergency, invasive physical examination or screening as a condition of school attendance. The term *invasive physical examination* means any medical examination that involves the exposure of private body parts, or any act during such examination that includes incision, insertion, or injection into the body, but does not include a hearing, vision, or scoliosis screening.

The above paragraph does not apply to any physical examination or screening that:

1. Is permitted or required by an applicable State law, including physical examinations or screenings that are permitted without parental notification.
2. Is administered to a student in accordance with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. §1400 et seq.).
3. Is otherwise authorized by Board policy.

Prohibition on Selling or Marketing Students' Personal Information

No school official or staff member shall market or sell personal information concerning students (or otherwise provide that information to others for that purpose). The term *personal information* means individually identifiable information including: (1) a student or parent's first and last name, (2) a home or other physical address (including street name and the name of the city or town), (3) a telephone number, (4) a Social Security identification number or (5) driver's license number or State identification card.

Unless otherwise prohibited by law, the above paragraph does not apply: (1) if the student's parent(s)/guardian(s) have consented; or (2) to the collection, disclosure or, use of personal

information collected from students for the exclusive purpose of developing, evaluating or providing educational products or services for, or to, students or educational institutions, such as the following:

1. College or other postsecondary education recruitment, or military recruitment.
2. Book clubs, magazines, and programs providing access to low-cost literary products.
3. Curriculum and instructional materials used by elementary schools and secondary schools.
4. Tests and assessments to provide cognitive, evaluative, diagnostic, clinical, aptitude, or achievement information about students (or to generate other statistically useful data for the purpose of securing such tests and assessments) and the subsequent analysis and public release of the aggregate data from such tests and assessments.
5. The sale by students of products or services to raise funds for school-related or education-related activities.
6. Student recognition programs.

Under no circumstances may a school official or staff member provide a student's *personal information* to a business organization or financial institution that issues credit or debit cards.

Notification of Rights and Procedures

The Executive Director or designee shall notify students' parents/guardians of:

1. This policy as well as its availability upon request from the general administration office.
2. How to opt their child out of participation in activities as provided in this policy.
3. The approximate dates during the school year when a survey requesting personal information, as described above, is scheduled or expected to be scheduled.
4. How to request access to any survey or other material described in this policy.

This notification shall be given to parents/guardians at least annually, at the beginning of the school year, and within a reasonable period after any substantive change in this policy.

Transfer of Rights

The rights provided to parents/guardians in this policy transfer to the student when the student turns 18 years old, or is an emancipated minor.

LEGAL REF.:

20 U.S.C. §1232h, Protection of Pupil Rights Act.

105 ILCS 5/10-20.38.

325 ILCS 17/, Children's Privacy Protection and Parental Empowerment Act.

CROSS REF.: 2:260 (Uniform Grievance Procedure), 6:210 (Instructional Materials), 6:260 (Complaints About Curriculum, Instructional Materials, and Programs), 7:130 (Student Rights and Responsibilities)

ADOPTED: August 11, 2022

Rural Champaign Co. Sp. Ed.

7:20 Harassment of Students Prohibited

No person, including a Cooperative employee, agent, or student, shall harass, intimidate, or bully a student on the basis of actual or perceived: race; color; national origin; military status; unfavorable discharge status from military service; sex; sexual orientation; gender identity; gender-related identity or expression; ancestry; age; religion; physical or mental disability; order of protection status; status of being homeless; actual or potential marital or parental status, including pregnancy; physical appearance; socioeconomic status; academic status; association with a person or group with one or more of the aforementioned actual or perceived characteristics; or any other distinguishing characteristic. The Cooperative will not tolerate harassing, intimidating conduct, or bullying whether verbal, physical, sexual, or visual, that affects the tangible benefits of education, that unreasonably interferes with a student's educational performance, or that creates an intimidating, hostile, or offensive educational environment. Examples of prohibited conduct include name-calling, using derogatory slurs, stalking, sexual violence, causing psychological harm, threatening or causing physical harm, threatened or actual destruction of property, or wearing or possessing items depicting or implying hatred or prejudice of one of the characteristics stated above.

Sexual Harassment Prohibited

The Cooperative shall provide an educational 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. See policies 2:265, *Title IX Grievance Procedure*, and 2:260, *Uniform Grievance Procedure*.

Making a Report or Complaint

Students are encouraged to promptly report claims or incidents of bullying, intimidation, harassment, sexual harassment, or any other prohibited conduct to the Nondiscrimination Coordinator, Building Principal, a Complaint Manager, or any employee with whom the student is comfortable speaking.

Reports under this policy will be considered a report under Board policy 2:260, *Uniform Grievance Procedure*, and/or Board policy 2:265, *Title IX Grievance Procedure*. The Nondiscrimination Coordinator, Title IX Coordinator, and/or Complaint Manager or designee shall process and review the report according to the appropriate grievance procedure.

The Executive Director shall insert into this policy the names, office addresses, email addresses, and telephone numbers of the Cooperative's current Nondiscrimination Coordinator, Title IX Coordinator, and Complaint Managers.

Nondiscrimination Coordinator:

Jennifer Armstrong, Exec. Director

807 N. Mattis Ave., Champaign, IL 61821

armstrongj@rccsec.org

217-892-8877, ext. 113

Title IX Coordinator:

Jennifer Armstrong, Exec. Director

807 N. Mattis Ave., Champaign, IL 61821

armstrongj@rccsec.org

217-892-8877, ext. 113

Complaint Managers:

Jennifer
Armstrong, Exec.
Director

Bonnie McArthur,
Supt. Thomasboro
CCSD 130

807 N. Mattis
Ave., Champaign,
IL 61821

201 N. Phillips,
Thomasboro, IL
61878

armstrongj@rccsec.org bmcArthur@tgs130.org

217-892-8877, ext. 113 217-643-3275

The Executive Director shall use reasonable measures to inform staff members and students of this policy by including:

1. For students, age-appropriate information about the contents of this policy in the Cooperative's student handbook(s), on the Cooperative's website, and, if applicable, in any other areas where policies, rules, and standards of conduct are otherwise posted in each school.
2. For staff members, this policy in the appropriate employee handbook(s), if applicable, and/or in any other areas where policies, rules, and standards of conduct are otherwise made available to staff.

Investigation Process

Any Cooperative employee who receives a report or complaint of harassment must promptly forward the report or complaint to the Nondiscrimination Coordinator, Title IX Coordinator, or

a Complaint Manager. Any employee who fails to promptly comply may be disciplined, up to and including discharge.

Reports and complaints of harassment will be confidential to the greatest extent practicable, subject to the Cooperative's duty to investigate and maintain an educational 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 Title IX Coordinator or designee shall consider whether action under policy 2:265, *Title IX Grievance Procedure*, should be initiated.

For any report or complaint alleging harassment on the basis of race, color, or national origin, the Nondiscrimination Coordinator or a Complaint Manager or designee shall investigate under Board policy 2:270, *Discrimination and Harassment on the Basis of Race, Color, and National Origin Prohibited*.

For any other alleged student harassment that does not require action under policy 2:265, *Title IX Grievance Procedure*, or 2:270, *Discrimination and Harassment on the Basis of Race, Color, and National Origin Prohibited*, the Nondiscrimination Coordinator or a Complaint Manager or designee shall consider whether an investigation under policies 2:260, *Uniform Grievance Procedure*, and/or 7:190, *Student Behavior*, 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 Grievance Procedure*, or policy 2:260, *Uniform Grievance Procedure*.

Enforcement

Any Cooperative employee who is determined, after an investigation, to have engaged in conduct prohibited by this policy will be subject to disciplinary action up to and including discharge. Any third party who is determined, after an investigation, to have engaged in conduct prohibited by this policy will be addressed in accordance with the authority of the Board in the context of the relationship of the third party to the Cooperative, e.g., vendor,

parent/guardian, invitee, etc. Any Cooperative student who is determined, after an investigation, to have engaged in conduct prohibited by this policy will be subject to disciplinary action, including but not limited to, suspension and expulsion consistent with the behavior policy. Any person making a knowingly false accusation regarding prohibited conduct will likewise be subject to disciplinary action.

Retaliation Prohibited

Retaliation against any person for bringing complaints or providing information about harassment is prohibited (see policies 2:260, *Uniform Grievance Procedure*, and 2:265, *Title IX Grievance Procedure*, and 2:270, *Discrimination and Harassment on the Basis of Race, Color, and National Origin Prohibited*).

Students should report allegations of retaliation to the Building Principal, an administrator, the Nondiscrimination Coordinator, and/or a Complaint Manager.

LEGAL REF.:

20 U.S.C. §1681 et seq., Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972.; 34 C.F.R. Part 106.

29 U.S.C. §791 et seq., Rehabilitation Act of 1973; 34 C.F.R. Part 104.

42 U.S.C. §2000d, Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964; 34 C.F.R. Part 100.

105 ILCS 5/10-20.12, 5/10-22.5, 5/10-23.13, 5/22-110, 5/26A, and 5/27-1.

775 ILCS 5/1-101 et seq., Illinois Human Rights Act.

23 Ill.Admin.Code §1.240 and Part 200.

Davis v. Monroe County Bd. of Educ., 526 U.S. 629 (1999).

Franklin v. Gwinnett Co. Public Schs., 503 U.S. 60 (1992).

Gebser v. Lago Vista Independent Sch. Dist., 524 U.S. 274 (1998).

West v. Derby Unified Sch. Dist. No. 260, 206 F.3d 1358 (10th Cir. 2000).

CROSS REF.: 2:260 (Uniform Grievance Procedure), 2:265 (Title IX Grievance Procedure), 2:270 (Discrimination and Harassment on the Basis of Race, Color, and National Origin Prohibited), 4:165 (Awareness and Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse and Grooming Behaviors), 5:20 (Workplace Harassment Prohibited), 5:90 (Abused and Neglected Child

Reporting), 5:120 (Employee Ethics; Code of Professional Conduct; and Conflict of Interest), 7:10 (Equal Educational Opportunities), 7:180 (Prevention of and Response to Bullying, Intimidation, and Harassment), 7:185 (Teen Dating Violence Prohibited), 7:190 (Student Behavior), 7:240 (Conduct Code for Participants in Extracurricular Activities), 7:255 (Students Who are Parents, Expectant Parents, or Victims of Domestic or Sexual Violence)

ADOPTED: June 22, 2026

Rural Champaign Co. Sp. Ed.

7:50 Cooperative Admissions and Eligibility for Services

Special education services shall be available to eligible children with disabilities from the age of three (3) through the age of twenty-one (21) who are enrolled in the Member Districts.

Unless otherwise determined by a student's individualized education program team, the student who has successfully completed a secondary program shall be granted a diploma by the student's resident school district and all eligibility for public school education is terminated, including special education and related services. The parent and the student shall participate in the decision to terminate public school responsibility prior to age twenty-two (22).

LEGAL REF:

8 U.S.C. §1101 et seq., Illegal Immigrant and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996.

20 U.S.C. §1232g, Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act.

20 U.S.C. §1400 et seq., Individuals With Disabilities Education Improvement Act.

29 U.S.C. §794, Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Section 504.

42 U.S.C. §11431 et seq., McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act.

105 ILCS 5/2-3.13a, 5/10-20.12, 5/10-20.59, 5/10-22.5a, 5/14-1.02, 5/14-1.03a, 5/22-105, 5/26-1, and 5/26-2.

105 ILCS 10/8.1, Ill. School Student Records Act.

105 ILCS 45/, Education for Homeless Children Act.

105 ILCS 70/, Educational Opportunity for Military Children Act.

325 ILCS 50/, Missing Children Records Act.

325 ILCS 55/, Missing Children Registration Law.

410 ILCS 315/2, Communicable Disease Prevention Act.

20 Ill.Admin.Code Part 1290, Missing Person Birth Records and School Registration.

23 Ill.Admin.Code Part 226, Special Education.

23 Ill.Admin.Code Part 375, Student Records.

CROSS REF.: 4:110 (Transportation), 6:30 (Organization of Instruction and Instruction), 6:110 (Programs for Students At Risk of Academic Failure and/or Dropping Out of School and Graduation Incentives Program), 6:140 (Education of Homeless Children), 7:60 (Residency), 7:70 (Attendance and Truancy), 7:100 (Health, Eye, and Dental Examinations; Immunizations; and Exclusion of Students), 7:150 (Agency and Law Enforcement Requests), 7:340 (Student Records)

ADOPTED: June 22, 2026

Rural Champaign Co. Sp. Ed.

7:60 Residency

Member Districts

Students who are eligible for special education services and are residents of a Member District may participate in the programs available through the Cooperative according to provisions in their individualized education programs.

Residence of Students with Disabilities

The residence of a child with a disability is determined in accordance with 105 ILCS 5/14-1.11, 5.14-1.11a, and 5/14-1.11b.

Non-Member Districts

Eligible students who are not residents of a Member District may participate in the special education programs available through the Cooperative, providing the sending (resident) district comes to a financial agreement approved by the receiving district, and providing that space is available. All enrolled students must comply with the Cooperative's policies on student discipline.

LEGAL REF.:

42 U.S.C. §11431 et seq., McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act.

105 ILCS 5/10-20.12a, 5/10-20.12b, 5/10-22.5, 5/10-22.5a, 5/14-1.11, 5/14-1.11a, 5/14-1.11b, and 5/26A.

105 ILCS 45/, Education for Homeless Children Act.

105 ILCS 70/, Educational Opportunity for Military Children Act.

23 Ill.Admin.Code §1.240.

Israel S. by Owens v. Bd. of Educ. of Oak Park and River Forest High Sch. Dist. 200, 235 Ill.App.3d 652 (5th Dist. 1992).

Joel R. v. Board of Education of Manheim School District 83, 292 Ill.App.3d 607 (1st Dist. 1997).

Kraut v. Rachford, 51 Ill.App.3d 206 (1st Dist. 1977).

CROSS REF.: 6:140 (Education of Homeless Children), 7:190 (Student Behavior), 7:255 (Students Who are Parents, Expectant Parents, or Victims of Domestic or Sexual Violence)

ADOPTED: June 12, 2025

Rural Champaign Co. Sp. Ed.

7:70 Attendance and Truancy

Compulsory School Attendance

This policy applies to individuals who have custody or control of a child: (a) between the ages of six (on or before September 1) and 17 years (unless the child has graduated from high school), or (b) who is enrolled in any of grades kindergarten through 12 in the public school regardless of age. Subject to specific requirements in State law, the following children are not required to attend public school: (1) any child attending a private school (including a home school) or parochial school, (2) any child who is physically or mentally unable to attend school (including a pregnant student suffering medical complications as certified by her physician), (3) any child lawfully and necessarily employed, (4) any child over 12 and under 14 years of age while in confirmation classes, (5) any child absent because of religious reasons, including to observe a religious holiday, for religious instruction, or because his or her religion forbids secular activity on a particular day(s) or time of day, and (6) any child 16 years of age or older who is employed and is enrolled in a graduation incentives program.

The parent/guardian of a student who is enrolled must authorize all absences from school and notify the school in advance or at the time of the student's absence. A valid cause for absence includes illness (including mental or behavioral health of the student), attendance at a verified medical or therapeutic appointment (including a victim services provider), observance of a religious holiday, death in the immediate family, attendance at a civic event, family emergency, other situations beyond the control of the student as determined by the Board, voting pursuant to Board policy 7:90, *Release During School Hours* (10 ILCS 5/7-42 and 5/17-15), other circumstances that cause reasonable concern to the parent/guardian for the student's mental, emotional, or physical health or safety, or other reason as approved by the Executive Director or designee. For students who are parents, expectant parents, or victims of domestic or sexual violence, valid cause for absence also includes the fulfillment of a parenting responsibility and addressing circumstances resulting from domestic or sexual violence. Students absent for a valid cause may make up missed homework and classwork assignments in a reasonable timeframe.

Absenteeism and Truancy Program

The Executive Director or designee shall manage an absenteeism and truancy program in accordance with the School Code and Board policy. The program shall include but not be limited to:

1. A protocol for excusing a student from attendance who is necessarily and lawfully employed. The Executive Director or designee is authorized to determine when the student's absence is justified.

2. A protocol for excusing a student in grades 6 through 12 from attendance to sound *Taps* at a military honors funeral held in Illinois for a deceased veteran.
3. A protocol for excusing a student from attendance on a particular day(s) or at a particular time of day when his/her parent/guardian is an active duty member of the uniformed services and has been called to duty for, is on leave from, or has immediately returned from deployment to a combat zone or combat-support postings.
4. A process to telephone, within two hours after the first class, the parents/guardians of students in grade 8 or below who are absent without prior parent/guardian notification.
5. A process to identify and track students who are truants, chronic or habitual truants, or truant minors as defined in 105 ILCS 5/26-2a.
6. A description of diagnostic procedures for identifying the cause(s) of a student's unexcused absenteeism, including interviews with the student, his or her parent(s)/guardian(s), and staff members or other people who may have information about the reasons for the student's attendance problem.
7. The identification of supportive services that may be offered to truant, chronically truant, or chronically absent students, including parent-teacher conferences, student and/or family counseling, and information about available community services relevant to such students' needs. See Board policy 6:110, *Programs for Students At Risk of Academic Failure and/or Dropping Out of School and Graduation Incentives Program*.
8. A process for the collection and review of chronic absence data and to:
 - a. Determine what systems of support and resources are needed to engage chronically absent students and their families, and
 - b. Encourage the habit of daily attendance and promote success.
9. Reasonable efforts to provide ongoing professional development to all school personnel, Board members, and school resource officers on the appropriate and available supportive services for the promotion of student attendance and engagement.
10. A process to request the assistance and resources of outside agencies, such as, the juvenile officer of the local police department or the truant office of the appropriate Regional Office of Education, if truancy continues after supportive services have been offered.
11. A protocol for cooperating with non-Cooperative agencies including County or municipal authorities, the Regional Executive Director, truant officers, the Community Truancy Review Board, and a comprehensive community based youth service agency. Any disclosure of school student records must be consistent with Board policy 7:340, *Student Records*, as well as State and federal law concerning school

student records.

12. An acknowledgement that no punitive action, including out-of-school suspensions, expulsions, or court action, shall be taken against a truant minor for his or her truancy unless available supportive services and other school resources have been provided to the student.
13. The criteria to determine whether a student's non-attendance is due to extraordinary circumstances shall include economic or medical necessity or family hardship and such other criteria that the Executive Director believes qualifies.
14. An approval process for students to attend activities allowed under 105 ILCS 5/10-19.05(k), including provisions for making up missed coursework that do not penalize students.
15. A process for a 17-year-old resident to participate in the Cooperative's various programs and resources for truants. The student must provide documentation of his/her dropout status for the previous 6 months. A request from an individual 19 years of age or older to re-enroll after having dropped out of school is handled according to provisions in Board policy 7:50, *School Admissions and Student Transfers To and From Non-Cooperative Schools*.
16. A process for the temporary exclusion of a student 17 years of age or older for failing to meet minimum attendance standards according to provisions in State law. A parent/guardian has the right to appeal a decision to exclude a student.

Updating

Pursuant to State law and Board policy 2:240, *Board Policy Development*, the Board updates this policy at least once every two years. The Executive Director or designee shall assist the Board with its update.

LEGAL REF.:

105 ILCS 5/10-19.05(k), 5/22-92, 5/26-1 through 5/26-3, 5/26-5 through 5/26-16, 5/26-18, and 5/26A.

705 ILCS 405/3-33.5, Juvenile Court Act of 1987.

23 Ill.Admin.Code §§1.242 and 1.290.

CROSS REF.: 5:100 (Staff Development Program), 6:150 (Home and Hospital Instruction), 7:10 (Equal Educational Opportunities), 7:50 (Cooperative Admissions and Eligibility for Services), 7:60 (Residence), 7:80 (Release Time for Religious Instruction/Observance), 7:90 (Release During School Hours), 7:190 (Student Behavior), 7:255 (Students Who are Parents, Expectant Parents, or Victims of Domestic or Sexual Violence), 7:340 (Student

Records)

ADOPTED: February 12, 2026

Rural Champaign Co. Sp. Ed.

7:80 Release Time for Religious Instruction/Observance

A student shall be released from school, as an excused absence, because of religious reasons, including to observe a religious holiday, for religious instruction, or because the student's religion forbids secular activity on a particular day(s) or time of day. The student's parent/guardian must give written notice to the Building Principal at least 5 calendar days before the student's anticipated absence(s).

The Executive Director or designee shall develop and distribute to teachers appropriate procedures regarding student absences for religious reasons, including how teachers are notified of a student's impending absence, and the State law requirement that teachers provide the student with an equivalent opportunity to make up any examination, study, or work requirement.

LEGAL REF.:

105 ILCS 5/26-1 and 5/26-2b.

775 ILCS 35/, Religious Freedom Restoration Act.

CROSS REF.: 7:70 (Attendance and Truancy)

ADOPTED: March 10, 2022

Rural Champaign Co. Sp. Ed.

7:90 Release During School Hours

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

Early Dismissal Announcement

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

Voting

The Executive Director or designee shall specify the hours during which students who are entitled to vote at a primary, general, or special election, or any election at which propositions are submitted to a popular vote in Illinois, may be absent from school for a period of two hours to vote. Students are entitled to be absent from school to vote beginning the 15th day before the primary, general, or special election, or any election at which propositions are submitted to a popular vote in Illinois, or on the day of such election.

LEGAL REF.:

10 ILCS 5/7-42(b) and 5/17-15(b), Election Code.

CROSS REF.: 4:170 (Safety)

ADOPTED: October 9, 2025

Rural Champaign Co. Sp. Ed.

7:100 Health, Eye, and Dental Examinations; Immunizations; and Exclusion of Students

The students' resident/home district is responsible for ensuring that its students who are enrolled in the Cooperative's programs are in compliance with State law regarding health examinations and immunizations.

LEGAL REF.:

42 U.S.C. §11431 et seq., McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act.

105 ILCS 5/22-105.

105 ILCS 45/1-20, Education for Homeless Children Act.

410 ILCS 45/7.1, Lead Poisoning Prevention Act.

410 ILCS 315/2e, Communicable Disease Prevention Act.

23 Ill.Admin.Code §1.530.

77 Ill. Admin.Code Part 664, Socio-Emotional and Developmental Screening.

77 Ill.Admin.Code Part 665, Child and Student Health Examination and Immunization.

77 Ill.Admin.Code Part 690, Control of Notifiable Diseases and Conditions Code.

CROSS REF.: 6:30 (Organization of Instruction), 6:140 (Education of Homeless Children), 7:50 (Cooperative Admissions and Eligibility for Services), 7:130 (Student Rights and Responsibilities), 7:190 (Student Behavior), 7:230 (Misconduct by Students with Disabilities), 7:280 (Communicable and Chronic Infectious Disease)

ADOPTED: June 22, 2026

Rural Champaign Co. Sp. Ed.

7:130 Student Rights and Responsibilities

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

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

LEGAL REF.:

20 U.S.C. §7904.

Tinker v. Des Moines Indep. Cmty. Sch. Dist., 393 U.S. 503 (1969).

105 ILCS 20/5, Silent Reflection and Student Prayer Act.

CROSS REF.: 7:140 (Search and Seizure), 7:150 (Agency and Law Enforcement Requests), 7:160 (Student Appearance), 7:190 (Student Behavior)

ADOPTED: October 9, 2025

Rural Champaign Co. Sp. Ed.

7:140 Search and Seizure

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

School Property and Equipment as well as Personal Effects Left on School Property by Students

School authorities may inspect and search school property and equipment owned or controlled by the school (such as, lockers, desks, and parking lots), as well as personal effects left there by a student, without notice to or the consent of the student. Students have no reasonable expectation of privacy in these places or areas or in their personal effects left there. In addition, Building Principals shall require each high school student, in return for the privilege of parking on school property, to consent in writing to school searches of his or her vehicle, and personal effects therein, without notice and without suspicion of wrongdoing.

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

Students

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

When feasible, the search should be conducted as follows:

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

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

Seizure of Property

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

Notification Regarding Student Accounts or Profiles on Social Networking Websites

The Executive Director or designee shall notify students and their parents/guardians of each of the following in accordance with the Right to Privacy in the School Setting Act, 105 ILCS 75/:

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

LEGAL REF.:

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

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

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

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

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

105 ILCS 75/, Right to Privacy in the School Setting Act.

People v. Dilworth, 169 Ill.2d 195 (1996), cert. denied, 517 U.S. 1197 (1996).

People v. Pruitt, 278 Ill.App.3d 194 (1st Dist. 1996), *app. denied*, 167 Ill.2d 564 (1996).

CROSS REF.: 7:130 (Student Rights and Responsibilities), 7:150 (Agency and Law Enforcement Requests), 7:190 (Student Behavior)

ADOPTED: October 9, 2025

Rural Champaign Co. Sp. Ed.

7:150 Agency and Law Enforcement Requests

The District recognizes the right of every student to equal access to a free public education under State and federal law, consistent with Board policy 7:10, *Equal Educational Opportunities*. District administrators and staff stand *in loco parentis* when government agency and law enforcement authority requests occur at school.

Federal and State Law Requirements Regarding Citizenship and Immigration Status in Schools

No student shall be denied an education based on the student's, or their parent's/guardian's, actual or perceived citizenship or immigration status. Based on such status, the District will not:

1. Exclude a student from participating in, or deny them the benefits of, any District program or activity.
2. Use policies or procedures or engage in practices that have the effect of excluding a student from participating in or denying the benefits of any District program or activity.
3. Use policies or procedures or engage in practices that have the effect of excluding participation of a student's parent(s)/guardian(s) from District parental engagement activities or programs.
4. Threaten to disclose information related to the actual or perceived citizenship or immigration status of a student or a person associated with the student to any other person, entity, or immigration or law enforcement agency.
5. Disclose information related to the perceived citizenship or immigration status of a student or a person associated with the student to any other person, entity, or immigration or law enforcement agency if the District does not have direct knowledge of the student's or associated person's actual citizenship or immigration status, subject to the requirements in 105 ILCS 5/22-105(c)(3).
6. Disclose information related to the actual citizenship or immigration status of a student or a person associated with the student to any other person or nongovernmental entity if the District has direct knowledge of the student's or associated person's actual citizenship status, subject to the requirements in 105 ILCS 5/22-105(c)(3).

State law does not prohibit or restrict the District from sending or receiving information about the citizenship or immigration status of an individual to or from the U.S. Dept. of Homeland Security or any other governmental entity under 8 U.S.C. §§1373 and 1644.

Responding to Agency and Law Enforcement Requests

The Director shall develop procedures to manage requests by government agencies or law enforcement authorities regarding students at school. Procedures will:

1. Recognize individual student rights and privacy.
2. Recognize the potential impact the release of information or an interview may have on an individual student.
3. Minimize potential disruption.
4. Foster a cooperative relationship with government agencies and law enforcement authorities.
5. Maintain discipline and recognize that school employees stand in the relationship of the parents/guardians to the students during the school day.
6. Comply with State law including, but not limited to, ensuring that before a law enforcement agent, school resource officer, or other school security person detains and questions on school grounds a student under 18 years of age who is suspected of committing a criminal act, the Director or designee will:
 - a. Notify or attempt to notify the student's parent(s)/guardian(s) and document the time and manner in writing;
 - b. Make reasonable efforts to ensure the student's parent/guardian is present during questioning or, if they are not present, ensure that school employees (including, but not limited to, a school social worker, psychologist, nurse, counselor, or any other mental health professional) are present during the questioning; and
 - c. If practicable, make reasonable efforts to ensure a trained law enforcement officer to promote safe interactions and communications with the student is present during questioning.
7. Manage reviewing and authorizing requests from law enforcement agents attempting to enter a school or school facility, in accordance with the requirements of 105 ILCS 5/22-105(c)(4).

LEGAL REF.:

U.S. Constitution, Amend. IV.

8 U.S.C. §1373 and §1644.

Plyler v. Doe, 457 U.S. 202 (1982).

Ill. Constitution, Art. I, §6.

105 ILCS 5/10-20.64, 5/10-20.68, 5/22-88, 5/22-105, and 5/24-24.

55 ILCS 80/, Children's Advocacy Center Act.

325 ILCS 5/, Abused and Neglected Child Reporting Act.

720 ILCS 5/31-1 et seq., Interference with Public Officers Act.

725 ILCS 120/, Rights of Crime Victims and Witnesses Act.

CROSS REF.: 2:160 (Board Attorney), 2:260 (Uniform Grievance Procedure), and 2:270 (Discrimination and Harassment on the Basis of Race, Color, and National Origin Prohibited), 5:90 (Abused and Neglected Child Reporting), 7:10 (Equal Educational Opportunities), 7:130 (Student Rights and Responsibilities), 7:140 (Search and Seizure), 7:190 (Student Behavior)

ADOPTED: February 12, 2026

Rural Champaign Co. Sp. Ed.

7:160 Student Appearance

A student's appearance, including dress and hygiene, must not disrupt the educational process or compromise standards of health and safety. The Cooperative does not prohibit hairstyles historically associated with race, ethnicity, or hair texture, including, but not limited to, protective hairstyles such as braids, locks, and twists, nor does it prohibit hairstyles historically associated with any other protected status under Board policy 7:10, *Equal Educational Opportunities*. The Cooperative also does not prohibit the right of a student to wear or accessorize the student's graduation attire with items associated with the student's cultural, ethnic, or religious identity or other characteristic or category protected under the Ill. Human Rights Act, 775 ILCS 5/1-103(Q). Students who disrupt the educational process or compromise standards of health and safety must modify their appearance. Procedures for guiding student appearance will be developed by the Executive Director or designee and included in the *Student Handbook(s)*.

LEGAL REF.:

105 ILCS 5/2-3.25 and 5/10-22.25b.

Tinker v. Des Moines Indep. Sch. Dist., 393 U.S. 503 (1969).

CROSS REF.: 7:10 (Equal Educational Opportunities), 7:130 (Student Rights and Responsibilities), 7:190 (Student Behavior)

ADOPTED: January 9, 2025

Rural Champaign Co. Sp. Ed.

7:170 Vandalism

The Board will seek restitution from students and their parents/guardians for vandalism or other student acts that cause damage to school property.

LEGAL REF.:

740 ILCS 115/, Parental Responsibility Law.

CROSS REF.: 7:130 (Student Rights and Responsibilities), 7:190 (Student Behavior)

ADOPTED: October 10, 2024

Rural Champaign Co. Sp. Ed.

7:180 Prevention of and Response to Bullying, Intimidation, and Harassment

Bullying, intimidation, and harassment diminish a student's ability to learn and a school's ability to educate. Preventing students from engaging in these disruptive behaviors and providing all students equal access to a safe, non-hostile learning environment are important Cooperative goals.

Bullying on the basis of actual or perceived race, color, religion, sex, national origin, ancestry, physical appearance, socioeconomic status, academic status, pregnancy, parenting status, homelessness, age, marital status, physical or mental disability, military status, sexual orientation, gender-related identity or expression, unfavorable discharge from military service, order of protection status, association with a person or group with one or more of the aforementioned actual or perceived characteristics, or any other distinguishing characteristic **is prohibited**, and the bullying prevention and response policies of member districts will be observed in all Cooperative's Programs.

Nondiscrimination Coordinator:

Jennifer Armstrong, Exec. Director

807 N. Mattis Ave., Champaign, IL 61821

armstrongj@rccsec.org

217-892-8877, ext. 113

Title IX Coordinator:

Jennifer Armstrong, Exec. Director

807 N. Mattis Ave., Champaign, IL 61821

armstrongj@rccsec.org

217-892-8877, ext. 113

Complaint Managers:

Jennifer Armstrong, Exec. Director

807 N. Mattis Ave., Champaign, IL 61821

armstrongj@rccsec.org

217-892-8877, ext. 113

Bonnie McArthur, Supt. Thomasboro CCSD 130

201 N. Phillips, Thomasboro, IL 61878

bmcarthur@tgs130.org

217-643-3275

LEGAL REF.:

105 ILCS 5/10-20.14, 5/10-22.6(b-20), 5/22-110, and 5/24-24.

405 ILCS 49/, Children's Mental Health Act.

775 ILCS 5/1-103, Ill. Human Rights Act.

23 Ill.Admin.Code §§1.240, 1.280, and 1.295.

CROSS REF.: 2:240 (Board Policy Development), 2:260 (Uniform Grievance Procedure), 2:265 (Title IX Grievance Procedure), 2:270 (Discrimination and Harassment on the Basis of Race, Color, and National Origin Prohibited), 4:170 (Safety), 5:230 (Maintaining Student Discipline), 6:65 (Student Social and Emotional Development), 6:235 (Access to Electronic Networks), 7:20 (Harassment of Students Prohibited), 7:185 (Teen Dating Violence Prohibited), 7:190 (Student Behavior), 7:230 (Misconduct by Students with Disabilities), 7:285 (Anaphylaxis Prevention, Response, and Management Program), 7:310 (Restrictions on Publications; Elementary Schools)

ADOPTED: February 12, 2026

Rural Champaign Co. Sp. Ed.

7:185 Teen Dating Violence Prohibited

Engaging in teen dating violence that takes place at school, on school property, at school-sponsored activities, or in vehicles used for school-provided transportation is prohibited. For purposes of this policy, *teen dating violence* occurs whenever a student who is 13 to 19 years of age uses or threatens to use physical, mental, or emotional abuse to control an individual in the dating relationship; or uses or threatens to use sexual violence in the dating relationship.

The teen dating violence policies of each member district will be observed in all Cooperative Programs.

Incorporated

by Reference: 7:180-AP1, (Prevention, Identification, Investigation, and Response to Bullying)

LEGAL REF.:

105 ILCS 5/27-240.

CROSS REF.: 2:240 (Committee Policy Development), 2:260 (Uniform Grievance Procedure), 2:265 (Title IX Grievance Procedure), 5:100 (Staff Development Program), 5:230 (Maintaining Student Discipline), 6:60 (Curriculum Content), 6:65 (Student Social and Emotional Development), 7:20 (Harassment of Students Prohibited), 7:180 (Prevention of and Response to Bullying, Intimidation, and Harassment), 7:190 (Student Behavior), 7:220 (Bus Conduct), 7:230 (Misconduct by Students with Disabilities), 7:240 (Conduct Code for Participants in Extracurricular Activities)

ADOPTED: June 22, 2026

Rural Champaign Co. Sp. Ed.

7:190 Student Behavior

The goals and objectives of this policy are to provide effective discipline practices that: (1) ensure the safety and dignity of students and staff; (2) maintain a positive, weapons-free, and drug-free learning environment; (3) keep school property and the property of others secure; (4) address the causes of a student's misbehavior and provide opportunities for all individuals involved in an incident to participate in its resolution; and (5) teach students positive behavioral skills to become independent, self-disciplined citizens in the school community and society.

When and Where Conduct Rules Apply

A student is subject to disciplinary action for engaging in *prohibited student conduct*, as described in the section with that name below, whenever the student's conduct is reasonably related to school or school activities, including, but not limited to:

1. On, or within sight of, school grounds before, during, or after school hours or at any time;
2. Off school grounds at a school-sponsored activity or event, or any activity or event that bears a reasonable relationship to school;
3. Traveling to or from school or a school activity, function, or event; or
4. Anywhere, if the conduct interferes with, disrupts, or adversely affects the school environment, school operations, or an educational function, including, but not limited to, conduct that may reasonably be considered to: (a) be a threat or an attempted intimidation of a staff member; or (b) endanger the health or safety of students, staff, or school property.

Prohibited Student Conduct

The school administration is authorized to discipline students for gross disobedience or misconduct, including but not limited to:

1. Using, possessing, distributing, purchasing, or selling tobacco or nicotine materials, including without limitation, electronic cigarettes.
2. Using, possessing, distributing, purchasing, or selling alcoholic beverages. Students who are under the influence of an alcoholic beverage are not permitted to attend school or school functions and are treated as though they had alcohol in their possession.
3. Using, possessing, distributing, purchasing, selling, or offering for sale:
 - a. Any illegal drug or controlled substance, or cannabis (including marijuana,

- hashish, and medical cannabis unless the student is authorized to be administered a medical cannabis infused product under *Ashley's Law*).
- b. Any anabolic steroid unless it is being administered in accordance with a physician's or licensed practitioner's prescription.
 - c. Any performance-enhancing substance on the Illinois High School Association's most current banned substance list unless administered in accordance with a physician's or licensed practitioner's prescription.
 - d. Any prescription drug when not prescribed for the student by a physician or licensed practitioner, or when used in a manner inconsistent with the prescription or prescribing physician's or licensed practitioner's instructions. The use or possession of medical cannabis, even by a student for whom medical cannabis has been prescribed, is prohibited unless the student is authorized to be administered a medical cannabis infused product under *Ashley's Law*.
 - e. Any inhalant, regardless of whether it contains an illegal drug or controlled substance: (a) that a student believes is, or represents to be capable of, causing intoxication, hallucination, excitement, or dulling of the brain or nervous system; or (b) about which the student engaged in behavior that would lead a reasonable person to believe that the student intended the inhalant to cause intoxication, hallucination, excitement, or dulling of the brain or nervous system. The prohibition in this section does not apply to a student's use of asthma or other legally prescribed inhalant medications.
 - f. Any substance inhaled, injected, smoked, consumed, or otherwise ingested or absorbed with the intention of causing a physiological or psychological change in the body, including without limitation, pure caffeine in tablet or powdered form.
 - g. *Look-alike* or counterfeit drugs, including a substance that is not prohibited by this policy, but one: (a) that a student believes to be, or represents to be, an illegal drug, controlled substance, or other substance that is prohibited by this policy; or (b) about which a student engaged in behavior that would lead a reasonable person to believe that the student expressly or impliedly represented to be an illegal drug, controlled substance, or other substance that is prohibited by this policy.
 - h. Drug paraphernalia, including devices that are or can be used to: (a) ingest, inhale, or inject cannabis or controlled substances into the body; and (b) grow, process, store, or conceal cannabis or controlled substances.

Students who are under the influence of any prohibited substance are not permitted to attend school or school functions and are treated as though they had the prohibited substance, as applicable, in their possession.

4. Using, possessing, controlling, or transferring a *weapon* as that term is defined in the **Weapons** section of this policy, or violating the **Weapons** section of this policy.
5. Using or possessing an electronic paging device.
6. Using a cellular telephone, video recording device, personal digital assistant (PDA), or other electronic device in any manner that disrupts the educational environment or violates the rights of others, including using the device to take photographs in locker rooms or bathrooms, cheat, or otherwise violate student conduct rules. Unless otherwise banned under this policy or by the Building Principal, all electronic devices must be kept powered off or silenced and out-of-sight during the regular school day unless: (a) the supervising teacher grants permission; (b) use of the device is provided in a student's individualized education program (IEP) or Section 504 plan; (c) it is used during the student's lunch period, or (d) it is needed in an emergency that threatens the safety of students, staff, or other individuals.
7. *Sexting*, which, for purposes of this policy, is the act of creating, sending, sharing, viewing, receiving, or possessing sexually explicit messages, images, or videos electronically, regardless of whether they are authentic or computer-generated, through the use of a computer, electronic communication device, or cellular phone. Sexting also includes creating, sending, sharing, viewing, receiving, or possessing *indecent visual depictions, non-consensual dissemination of private sexual images, and non-consensual dissemination of sexually explicit digitized depictions*, as defined in State law.
8. Using or possessing a laser pointer unless under a staff member's direct supervision and in the context of instruction.
9. Disobeying rules of student conduct or directives from staff members or school officials. Examples of disobeying staff directives include refusing a Cooperative staff member's request to stop, present school identification, or submit to a search.
10. Engaging in academic dishonesty, including cheating, intentionally plagiarizing, using a writing service and/or generative artificial intelligence technology in place of original work unless specifically authorized by staff, wrongfully giving or receiving help during an academic examination, altering report cards, and wrongfully obtaining test copies or scores.
11. Engaging in hazing or any kind of bullying or aggressive behavior that does physical or psychological harm to a staff person or another student, or urging other students to engage in such conduct. Prohibited conduct specifically includes, without limitation, any use of violence, intimidation, force, noise, coercion, threats, stalking, harassment, sexual harassment, public humiliation, theft or destruction of property, retaliation, hazing, bullying, bullying using a school computer or a school computer network, or other comparable conduct.
12. Engaging in any sexual activity, including without limitation, offensive touching,

sexual harassment, indecent exposure (including mooning), and sexual assault. This does not include the non-disruptive: (a) expression of gender or sexual orientation or preference, or (b) display of affection during non-instructional time.

13. Teen dating violence, as described in Board policy 7:185, *Teen Dating Violence Prohibited*.
14. Causing or attempting to cause damage to, or stealing or attempting to steal, school property or another person's personal property.
15. Entering school property or a school facility without proper authorization.
16. In the absence of a reasonable belief that an emergency exists, calling emergency responders (such as calling 911); signaling or setting off alarms or signals indicating the presence of an emergency; or indicating the presence of a bomb or explosive device on school grounds, school bus, or at any school activity.
17. Being absent without a recognized excuse; State law and School Board policy regarding truancy control will be used with chronic and habitual truants.
18. Being involved with any public school fraternity, sorority, or secret society, by: (a) being a member; (b) promising to join; (c) pledging to become a member; or (d) soliciting any other person to join, promise to join, or be pledged to become a member.
19. Being involved in gangs or gang-related activities, including displaying gang symbols or paraphernalia.
20. Violating any criminal law, including but not limited to, assault, battery, arson, theft, gambling, eavesdropping, vandalism, and hazing.
21. Making an explicit threat on an Internet website against a school employee, a student, or any school-related personnel if the Internet website through which the threat was made is a site that was accessible within the school at the time the threat was made or was available to third parties who worked or studied within the school grounds at the time the threat was made, and the threat could be reasonably interpreted as threatening to the safety and security of the threatened individual because of his or her duties or employment status or status as a student inside the school.
22. Operating an unmanned aircraft system (UAS) or drone for any purpose on school grounds or at any school event unless granted permission by the Executive Director or designee.
23. Engaging in any activity, on or off campus, that interferes with, disrupts, or adversely affects the school environment, school operations, or an educational function, including but not limited to, conduct that may reasonably be considered to: (a) be a threat or an attempted intimidation of a staff member; or (b) endanger the health or safety of students, staff, or school property.

For purposes of this policy, the term *possession* includes having control, custody, or care, currently or in the past, of an object or substance, including situations in which the item is: (a) on the student's person; (b) contained in another item belonging to, or under the control of, the student, such as in the student's clothing, backpack, or automobile; (c) in a school's student locker, desk, or other school property; or (d) at any location on school property or at a school-sponsored event.

Efforts, including the use of positive interventions and supports, shall be made to deter students, while at school or a school-related event, from engaging in aggressive behavior that may reasonably produce physical or psychological harm to someone else. The Executive Director or designee shall ensure that the parent/guardian of a student who engages in aggressive behavior is notified of the incident. The failure to provide such notification does not limit the Board's authority to impose discipline, including suspension or expulsion, for such behavior.

No disciplinary action shall be taken against any student that is based totally or in part on the refusal of the student's parent/guardian to administer or consent to the administration of psychotropic or psychostimulant medication to the student.

Disciplinary Measures

School officials shall limit the number and duration of expulsions and out-of-school suspensions to the greatest extent practicable, and, where practicable and reasonable, shall consider forms of non-exclusionary discipline before using out-of-school suspensions or expulsions. School personnel shall not advise or encourage students to drop out voluntarily due to behavioral or academic difficulties. Potential disciplinary measures include, without limitation, any of the following:

1. Notifying parent(s)/guardian(s).
2. Disciplinary conference.
3. Withholding of privileges.
4. Temporary removal from the classroom.
5. Return of property or restitution for lost, stolen, or damaged property.
6. In-school suspension. The Building Principal or designee shall ensure that the student is properly supervised.
7. After-school study or Saturday study provided the student's parent/guardian has been notified. If transportation arrangements cannot be agreed upon, an alternative disciplinary measure must be used. The student must be supervised by the detaining teacher or the Building Principal or designee.
8. Community service with local public and nonprofit agencies that enhances

community efforts to meet human, educational, environmental, or public safety needs. The Cooperative will not provide transportation. School administration shall use this option only as an alternative to another disciplinary measure, giving the student and/or parent/guardian the choice.

9. Seizure of contraband; confiscation and temporary retention of personal property that was used to violate this policy or school disciplinary rules.
10. Suspension of bus riding privileges in accordance with Board policy 7:220, *Bus Conduct*.
11. Out-of-school suspension from school and all school activities in accordance with Board policy 7:200, *Suspension Procedures*. A student who has been suspended may also be restricted from being on school grounds and at school activities.
12. Expulsion from school and all school activities for a definite time period not to exceed two calendar years in accordance with Board policy 7:210, *Expulsion Procedures*. A student who has been expelled may also be restricted from being on school grounds and at school activities.
13. Transfer to an alternative program if the student is expelled or otherwise qualifies for the transfer under State law. The transfer shall be in the manner provided in Article 13A or 13B of the School Code.
14. Notifying juvenile authorities or other law enforcement whenever the conduct involves criminal activity, including but not limited to, illegal drugs (controlled substances), *look-alikes*, alcohol, or weapons or in other circumstances as authorized by the reciprocal reporting agreement between the Cooperative and local law enforcement agencies.

The above list of disciplinary measures is a range of options that will not always be applicable in every case. In some circumstances, it may not be possible to avoid suspending or expelling a student because behavioral interventions, other than a suspension and expulsion, will not be appropriate and available, and the only reasonable and practical way to resolve the threat and/or address the disruption is a suspension or expulsion. Students enrolled in the Cooperative's State-funded preschool program(s) may be temporarily removed or transitioned to a new program in accordance with federal and State law. State law prohibits the expulsion of students from the program(s).

Corporal punishment is prohibited in all circumstances. *Corporal punishment* is defined as a discipline method in which a person deliberately inflicts pain upon a student in response to the student's unacceptable behavior or inappropriate language, with an aim to halt an offense, prevent its recurrence, or set an example for others. It includes slapping, paddling, or prolonged maintenance of students in physically painful positions, or intentional infliction of bodily harm. Corporal punishment does not include reasonable force as permitted by 105 ILCS 5/10-20.33.

Isolated Time Out, Time Out, and Physical Restraint

Neither isolated time out, time out, nor physical restraint shall be used to discipline or punish a student. These methods are only authorized for use as permitted in 105 ILCS 5/10-20.33, Ill. State Board of Education (ISBE) rules (23 Ill.Admin.Code §§ 1.280, 1.285), and the Cooperative's procedure(s).

Weapons

A student who is determined to have brought one of the following objects to school, any school-sponsored activity or event, or any activity or event that bears a reasonable relationship to school shall be expelled for a period of at least one calendar year but not more than two calendar years:

1. A firearm, meaning any gun, rifle, shotgun, or weapon as defined by Section 921 of Title 18 of the United States Code (18 U.S.C. § 921), firearm as defined in Section 1.1 of the Firearm Owners Identification Card Act (430 ILCS 65/), or firearm as defined in Section 24-1 of the Criminal Code of 2012 (720 ILCS 5/24-1).
2. A knife, brass knuckles, or other knuckle weapon regardless of its composition, a billy club, or any other object if used or attempted to be used to cause bodily harm, including *look-alikes* of any *firearm* as defined above.

The expulsion requirement under either paragraph one or two above may be modified by the Executive Director, and the Executive Director's determination may be modified by the Board on a case-by-case basis. The Executive Director or designee may grant an exception to this policy, upon the prior request of an adult supervisor, for students in theatre, cooking, ROTC, martial arts, and similar programs, whether or not school-sponsored, provided the item is not equipped, nor intended, to do bodily harm.

This policy's prohibitions concerning weapons apply regardless of whether: (1) a student is licensed to carry a concealed firearm, or (2) the Board permits visitors, who are licensed to carry a concealed firearm, to store a firearm in a locked vehicle in a school parking area.

Re-Engagement of Returning Students

The Executive Director or designee shall maintain a process to facilitate the re-engagement of students who are returning from an out-of-school suspension, expulsion, or an alternative school setting. The goal of re-engagement shall be to support the student's ability to be successful in school following a period of exclusionary discipline and shall include the opportunity for students who have been suspended to complete or make up work for equivalent academic credit.

Required Notices

A school staff member shall immediately notify the office of the Building Principal in the event that he or she: (1) observes any person in possession of a firearm on school grounds, becomes aware of any person in possession of a firearm on school grounds, or becomes aware of any threat of gun violence on school grounds; however, such action may be delayed if immediate notice would endanger students under his or her supervision, (2) observes or has reason to suspect that any person on school grounds is or was involved in a drug-related incident, or (3) observes a battery committed against any staff member or is subject to a battery. *School grounds* includes modes of transportation to school activities and any public way within 1000 feet of the school, as well as school property itself.

Upon receiving a report of (1), above, the Building Principal or designee shall immediately notify local law enforcement. If the report of (1), above, pertains to a threat of firearm violence made by a student, the Building Principal or designee shall attempt to notify the student's parent/guardian as soon as possible and shall further attempt to contact the parent/guardian to ensure that the student does not have access to a firearm. In addition, upon receiving a report on any of the above (1)-(3), the Building Principal or designee shall notify the Executive Director or designee and, if a student is reportedly in possession of a firearm or threatens firearm violence, also any involved student's parent/guardian.

Upon receiving a report on any of the above (1)-(3), the Executive Director or designee shall immediately notify local law enforcement. The Executive Director or designee shall also report these incidents to ISBE through its web-based School Incident Reporting System as they occur during the year and no later than July 31 for the preceding school year.

Delegation of Authority

Each teacher, and any other school personnel when students are under his or her charge, is authorized to impose any disciplinary measure, other than suspension, expulsion, corporal punishment, or in-school suspension, that is appropriate and in accordance with the policies and rules on student discipline. Teachers, other licensed educational employees, and any other persons (whether or not a licensed employee) providing a related service for or with respect to a student, may only use reasonable force as permitted by 105 ILCS 5/10-20.33. Teachers may temporarily remove students from a classroom for disruptive behavior.

The Executive Director, Building Principal, Assistant Building Principal, or Dean of Students is authorized to impose the same disciplinary measures as teachers and may suspend students guilty of gross disobedience or misconduct from school (including all school functions) and from riding the school bus, up to 10 consecutive school days, provided the appropriate procedures are followed. The Board may suspend a student from riding the bus in excess of 10 school days for safety reasons.

Student Handbook

The Executive Director, with input from the parent-teacher advisory committee, shall prepare disciplinary rules implementing the Cooperative's disciplinary policies. These disciplinary rules shall be presented annually to the Board for its review and approval.

A student handbook, including the Cooperative disciplinary policies and rules, shall be distributed to the students' parents/guardians within 15 days of the beginning of the school year or a student's enrollment.

Incorporated

by Reference: 7:190-AP4, (Use of Isolated Time Out, Time Out, and Physical Restraint)

LEGAL REF.:

20 U.S.C. §7971 et seq., Pro-Children Act of 2004.

20 U.S.C. §7961 et seq., Gun Free Schools Act.

105 ILCS 5/10-20.5b, 5/10-20.14, 5/10-20.28, 5/10-20.36, 5/10-21.7, 5/10-21.10, 5/10-22.6, 5/10-27.1A, 5/10-27.1B, 5/22-33, 5/22-100, 5/22-110, 5/24-24, 5/26-12, 5/27-240, and 5/31-3.

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

410 ILCS 647/, Powdered Caffeine Control and Education Act.

430 ILCS 66/, Firearm Concealed Carry Act.

23 Ill.Admin.Code §§ 1.280, 1.285.

CROSS REF.: 2:150 (Committees), 2:240 (Board Policy Development), 5:230 (Maintaining Student Discipline), 7:70 (Attendance and Truancy), 7:130 (Student Rights and Responsibilities), 7:140 (Search and Seizure), 7:150 (Agency and Law Enforcement Requests), 7:160 (Student Appearance), 7:170 (Vandalism), 7:180 (Prevention of and Response to Bullying, Intimidation, and Harassment), 7:185 (Teen Dating Violence Prohibited), 7:200 (Suspension Procedures), 7:210 (Expulsion Procedures), 7:230 (Misconduct by Students with Disabilities), 7:270 (Administering Medicines to Students), 7:310 (Restrictions on Publications; Elementary Schools), 7:315 (Restrictions on Publications; High Schools), 8:30 (Visitors to and Conduct on School Property)

ADOPTED: February 12, 2026

Rural Champaign Co. Sp. Ed.

7:200 Suspension Procedures

In-School Suspension

The Director or designee is authorized to maintain an in-school suspension program. The program shall include, at a minimum, each of the following:

1. Before assigning a student to in-school suspension, the charges will be explained and the student will be given an opportunity to respond to the charges.
2. Students are supervised by licensed school personnel.
3. Students are given the opportunity to complete classroom work during the in-school suspension for equivalent academic credit.

Out-of-School Suspension

The Director or designee, in collaboration with an administrator from the student's district of residence, is authorized to suspend a student and shall implement suspension procedures that provide, at a minimum, for each of the following:

1. A conference during which the charges will be explained and the student will be given an opportunity to respond to the charges before he or she may be suspended.
2. A pre-suspension conference is not required, and the student can be immediately suspended when the student's presence poses a continuing danger to persons or property or an ongoing threat of disruption to the educational process. In such cases, the notice and conference shall follow as soon as practicable.
3. An attempted phone call to the student's parent(s)/guardian(s).
4. A written notice of the suspension to the parent(s)/guardian(s) and the student, which shall:
 - a. Provide notice to the parent(s)/guardian(s) of their child's right to a review of the suspension;
 - b. Include information about an opportunity to make up work missed during the suspension for equivalent academic credit;
 - c. Detail the specific act of gross disobedience or misconduct resulting in the decision to suspend;
 - d. Provide rationale or an explanation of how the chosen number of suspension days will address the threat or disruption posed by the student or his or her act of gross disobedience or misconduct; and
 - e. Depending upon the length of the out-of-school suspension, include the following applicable information:

- i. For a suspension of 3 school days or less, an explanation that the student's continuing presence in school would either pose:
 - a) A threat to school safety, or
 - b) A disruption to other students' learning opportunities.
- ii. For a suspension of 4 or more school days, an explanation:
 - a) That other appropriate and available behavioral and disciplinary interventions have been exhausted,
 - b) As to whether school officials attempted other interventions or determined that no other interventions were available for the student, and
 - c) That the student's continuing presence in school would either:
 - i) Pose a threat to the safety of other students, staff, or members of the school community, or
 - ii) Substantially disrupt, impede, or interfere with the operation of the school.
 - d) Of what, if any, appropriate and available support services will be provided to the student during the length of his or her suspension, as determined by the Executive Director or designee.
- 5. A summary of the notice, including the reason for the suspension and the suspension length, must be given to the Board of Education of the student's district of residence by the Director or designee.
- 6. Upon request of the parent(s)/guardian(s), a review of the suspension shall be conducted by the student's district of residence, whose relevant policies and procedures will govern.

LEGAL REF.:

Goss v. Lopez, 419 U.S. 565 (1975).

105 ILCS 5/10-20.14, 5/10-22.6.

23 Ill.Admin.Code §1.280.

CROSS REF.: 5:100 (Staff Development), 7:130 (Student Rights and Responsibilities),
7:190 (Student Behavior)

ADOPTED: June 12, 2025

Rural Champaign Co. Sp. Ed.

7:210 Expulsion Procedures

The final authority for expulsion of a student receiving services from the Cooperative lies with the Board of Education of the student's district of residence. The district of residence's policy for expulsion of students will be followed, including the due process procedure.

No special education student shall be expelled if the student's particular act of gross disobedience or misconduct is a manifestation of his or her disability. A special education student whose gross disobedience or misconduct is not a manifestation of his/her disability may be expelled pursuant to the expulsion procedures, in accordance with the district of residence, provided that the student shall continue to receive educational services as provided in the individualized education program during the period of expulsion.

LEGAL REF.:

34 CFR §300.530-300.536.

Goss v. Lopez, 419 U.S. 565 (1975).

105 ILCS 5/10-20.14, 5/10-22.6.

23 Ill.Admin.Code §226.400.

CROSS REF.: 7:130 (Student Rights and Responsibilities), 7:190 (Student Behavior), 7:230 (Misconduct by Students with Disabilities)

ADOPTED: June 12, 2025

Rural Champaign Co. Sp. Ed.

7:230 Misconduct by Students with Disabilities

Behavioral Interventions

Behavioral interventions shall be used with students with disabilities to promote and strengthen desirable behaviors and reduce identified inappropriate behaviors. The Board will establish and maintain a committee to develop, implement, and monitor procedures on the use of behavioral interventions for children with disabilities.

Discipline of Special Education Students

The Cooperative shall comply with the Individuals With Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004 and the Ill. State Board of Education's *Special Education* rules when disciplining special education students. No special education student shall be expelled if the student's particular act of gross disobedience or misconduct is a manifestation of his or her disability.

LEGAL REF.:

Individuals With Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004, 20 U.S.C. §§1412, 1413, and 1415.

Gun-Free Schools Act, 20 U.S.C. §7151 et seq.

34 C.F.R. §§300.101, 300.530 - 300.536.

105 ILCS 5/10-22.6 and 5/14-8.05.

23 Ill.Admin.Code §226.400.

Honig v. Doe, 484 U.S. 305 (1988).

CROSS REF.: 2:150 (Committees), 6:120 (Education of Children with Disabilities), 7:130 (Student Rights and Responsibilities), 7:190 (Student Behavior), 7:200 (Suspension Procedures), 7:210 (Expulsion Procedures), 7:220 (Bus Conduct)

ADOPTED: June 22, 2026

Rural Champaign Co. Sp. Ed.

7:250 Student Support Services

The Cooperative provides a liaison to facilitate the enrollment and transfer of records of students in the legal custody of the Ill. Dept. of Children and Family Services when enrolling in or changing schools.

The following student support services may be provided by the Cooperative:

1. Educational and psychological testing services and the services of a school psychologist as needed. In all cases, written permission to administer a psychological examination must be obtained from a student's parent(s)/guardian(s). The results will be given to the parent(s)/guardian(s), with interpretation, as well as to the appropriate professional staff.
2. The services of a school social worker. A student's parent/guardian must consent to regular or continuing services from a social worker.
3. School counseling services. The Executive Director or designee shall annually inform all school personnel and students 12 years of age and older, in writing, of the availability of counseling without parent/guardian consent under 405 ILCS 5/3-550.

The Executive Director or designee shall develop protocols for responding to students with social, emotional, or mental health needs that impact learning ability. The Cooperative, however, assumes no liability for preventing, identifying, or treating such needs.

Erin's Law Counseling Options, Assistance, and Intervention

The Executive Director or designee will ensure that each school building's Student Support Committee identifies counseling options for students who are affected by sexual abuse and grooming behaviors, along with Cooperative and community-based options for victims of sexual abuse and grooming behaviors to obtain assistance and intervention. Community-based options must include a Children's Advocacy Center and sexual assault crisis center(s) that serve the Cooperative, if any.

Article 26A Domestic or Sexual Violence and Parenting Resource Personnel

The Executive Director or designee will ensure that at least one staff member in each school building is designated as a resource person (Article 26A Resource Person) for students who are parents, expectant parents, or victims of domestic or sexual violence and offers those services required by 105 ILCS 5/26A. See Board policy 7:255, *Students Who are Parents, Expectant Parents, or Victims of Domestic or Sexual Violence*. The Article 26A Resource Person may be a member of the building's Student Support Committee.

The Executive Director shall ensure that this policy is implemented in a manner consistent with State and federal laws, including the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, 42 U.S.C. §12101 et seq., and that it is respectful of student privacy, including that student records are maintained and their confidentiality protected in accordance with Board policy and Cooperative procedures.

LEGAL REF.:

105 ILCS 5/10-23.13(b), 5/10-20.59, 5/21B-25(G), and 5/26A.

405 ILCS 5/, Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities Code.

405 ILCS 49/, Children's Mental Health Act.

740 ILCS 110/, Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities Confidentiality Act.

CROSS REF.: 6:65 (Student Social and Emotional Development), 6:270 (Guidance and Counseling Program), 7:100 (Health, Eye, and Dental Examinations; Immunizations; and Exclusion of Students), 7:255 (Students Who are Parents, Expectant Parents, or Victims of Domestic or Sexual Violence), 7:280 (Communicable and Chronic Infectious Disease), 7:340 (Student Records)

ADOPTED: June 12, 2025

Rural Champaign Co. Sp. Ed.

7:255 Students Who are Parents, Expectant Parents, or Victims of Domestic or Sexual Violence

Domestic and sexual violence affect a student's ability to learn. Students who are parents or expectant parents have unique needs. Providing support services that enable students who are parents, expectant parents, or victims of domestic or sexual violence (Article 26A Students) to succeed in school are important District goals and required by 105 ILCS 5/26A (Article 26A).

The Superintendent or designee shall develop and implement a program for supporting Article 26A Students that:

1. Distributes this policy and procedures for requesting supportive services or filing a complaint to all students at the beginning of each school year.
2. Ensures at least one staff member in each school building is designated as a resource person for Article 26A Students (Article 26A Resource Person) and receives training in accordance with 105 ILCS 5/26A-35.
3. Notifies all District employees and agents that, upon learning or suspecting that a student is a parent, expectant parent, or victim of domestic or sexual violence, they must refer the student to a designated Article 26A Resource Person.
4. Ensures any employees whose duties include the resolution of Article 26A complaints receive training in accordance with 105 ILCS 5/26A-25(b)(1).
5. Requires verification of a student's claim of Article 26A status relating to domestic or sexual violence in accordance with 105 ILCS 5/26A-45.
6. Provides Article 26A Students with in-school support services, information about non-school-based support services, and the ability to make up work missed due to circumstances related to the student's Article 26A status in accordance with 105 ILCS 5/26A-40.
7. Ensures the prompt and equitable resolution of all Article 26A complaints through a complaint resolution procedure that fully complies with 105 ILCS 5/26A-25.
8. Ensures that all information concerning an Article 26A Student's status and related experiences, or information concerning a student who is a named perpetrator of domestic or sexual violence, provided to or otherwise obtained by the District or its employees or agents pursuant to 105 ILCS 5/26A is retained in a confidential temporary file in accordance with 105 ILCS 10/2(f). Confidentiality procedures will:
 - a. Provide that such information may not be disclosed to any other individual outside of the District, including any other employee, except if such disclosure is: (1) permitted by the Ill. School Student Records Act (105 ILCS 10/), the federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (20 U.S.C. §1232g), or other applicable State or federal laws; or (2) requested or

consented to, in writing, by the Article 26A Student or their parent/guardian if it is safe to obtain written consent from the parent/guardian; and

- b. Comply with the requirements of 105 ILCS 5/26A-30.
9. Ensures that in the event an Article 26A Student or their parent/guardian reports an incident of alleged domestic or sexual violence, the District's procedures comply with 105 ILCS 5/26A-20(c).
10. Complies with State and federal law and aligns with Board policies.

Requesting Support Services

An Article 26A Student and/or their parent/guardian may request support services under this policy by contacting the building-level Article 26A Resource Person, whose name and contact information will be annually distributed to employees, students, and parents/guardians by each Building Principal.

Filing a Complaint

An Article 26A Student and/or their parent/guardian may file a complaint under this policy with the Nondiscrimination Coordinator, Title IX Coordinator, Building Principal, Assistant Building Principal, Dean of Students, a Complaint Manager, or any employee with whom the person is comfortable speaking.

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

Nondiscrimination Coordinator:

Jennifer Armstrong, Exec. Director

807 N. Mattis Ave., Champaign, IL 61821

armstrongj@rccsec.org

217-892-8877, ext. 113

Title IX Coordinator:

Jennifer Armstrong, Exec. Director

807 N. Mattis Ave., Champaign, IL 61821

armstrongj@rccsec.org

217-892-8877, ext. 113

Complaint Managers:

Jennifer Armstrong, Exec. Director

Bonnie McArthur, Supt. Thomasboro CCSD 130

807 N. Mattis Ave., Champaign, IL 61821

201 N. Phillips, Thomasboro, IL 61878

armstrongj@rccsec.org

bmcarthur@tgs130.org

217-892-8877, ext. 113

217-643-3275

Complaint Resolution Procedure

When a complaint is filed, the Nondiscrimination Coordinator and/or Complaint Manager or designee shall process and review it according to administrative procedure 7:255-AP2, *Complaint Resolution Procedure for Students Who are Parents, Expectant Parents, or Victims of Domestic or Sexual Violence*.

Enforcement

Any District employee who is determined, at the conclusion of the complaint resolution procedure, to have violated Article 26A will be subject to disciplinary action up to and including discharge. Any third party who is determined, at the conclusion of the complaint resolution procedure, to have violated Article 26A will be addressed in accordance with the authority of the Board in the context of the relationship of the third party to the District, e.g., vendor, parent/guardian, invitee, etc.

This policy does not increase or diminish the ability of the District or the parties to exercise any other rights under existing law.

Policy Review

At least once every two years, pursuant to 105 ILCS 5/26A-20 and Board policy 2:240, *Board Policy Development*, the Board reviews and makes any necessary updates to this policy and to any other policies that may act as a barrier to their immediate enrollment and re-enrollment, attendance, graduation, and success in school of any student who is a parent, expectant parent, or victim of domestic or sexual violence. The Superintendent or designee shall assist the Board with its review and any updates.

Retaliation Prohibited

Retaliation against an Article 26A Student or their parent/guardian for exercising or attempting to exercise their rights under Article 26A is prohibited. Individuals should report

allegations of retaliation to the Building Principal, an administrator, the Nondiscrimination Coordinator, and/or a Complaint Manager.

A student, employee, or other person authorized by the District to provide aid, benefit, or service under the District's education program or activity who retaliates against others for reporting or complaining of violations of this policy or for participating in any manner under this policy will be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including discharge, with regard to employees, or suspension or expulsion, with regard to students.

LEGAL REF.:

105 ILCS 5/26A.

105 ILCS 10/, Ill. School Student Records Act.

405 ILCS 5/, Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities Code.

405 ILCS 49/, Children's Mental Health Act.

740 ILCS 110/, Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities Confidentiality Act.

23 Ill.Admin.Code §1.240 and Part 200.

CROSS REF.: 5:100 (Staff Development Program), 6:110 (Programs for Students At Risk of Academic Failure and/or Dropping Out of School and Graduation Incentives Program), 6:120 (Education of Children with Disabilities), 6:150 (Home and Hospital Instruction), 7:10 (Equal Educational Opportunities), 7:60 (Residence), 7:70 (Attendance and Truancy), 7:250 (Student Support Services), 7:340 (Student Records)

ADOPTED: June 12, 2025

Rural Champaign Co. Sp. Ed.

7:270 Administering Medicines to Students

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 Cooperative's procedures on dispensing medication.

No Cooperative 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 Executive Director 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 allergy emergency action plan, (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. A student may also possess the supplies and equipment necessary to monitor and treat diabetes in accordance with the student's diabetes care plan and/or the supplies, equipment, and medication necessary to treat epilepsy in accordance with the student's seizure action plan.

The Cooperative 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 Cooperative 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.

Cooperative Supply of Undesignated Opioid Antagonists

The Executive Director or designee shall implement 105 ILCS 5/22-30(f) and maintain a supply of undesignated opioid antagonists and provide or administer them as necessary according to State law. *Opioid antagonist* means a drug that binds to opioid receptors and blocks or inhibits the effect of opioids acting on those receptors, including, but not limited to, naloxone hydrochloride or any other similarly acting drug approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. *Undesignated opioid antagonist* is not defined by the School Code; for purposes of this policy it means an opioid antagonist prescribed in the name of the Cooperative or one of its schools or obtained by the Cooperative without a prescription. A school nurse or trained personnel, as defined in State law, may administer an undesignated opioid antagonist to a person when they, in good faith, believe a person is having an opioid overdose. 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. See the website for the Ill. Dept. of Human Services for information about opioid prevention, abuse, public awareness, and a toll-free number to provide information and referral services for persons with questions concerning substance abuse treatment.

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 Cooperative;
 - 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 Cooperative 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 Cooperative 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 **Cooperative Supply of Undesignated Opioid Antagonists** section of the policy is void whenever the Executive Director or designee is unable to obtain a supply of opioid antagonists due to a shortage, in which case the Cooperative shall make reasonable efforts to maintain a supply.

The **Administration of Medical Cannabis** section of the policy is void and the Cooperative reserves the right not to implement it if the Cooperative 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 Executive Director 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 Cooperative 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).

LEGAL REF.:

105 ILCS 5/10-20.14b, 5/10-22.21b, 5/22-30, and 5/22-33.

105 ILCS 145/, Care of Students with Diabetes Act.

105 ILCS 150/, Seizure Smart School Act.

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

720 ILCS 550/, Cannabis Control Act.

23 Ill.Admin.Code §1.540.

CROSS REF.: 7:285 (Anaphylaxis Prevention, Response, and Management Program)

ADOPTED: June 12, 2025

Rural Champaign Co. Sp. Ed.

7:275 Orders to Forgo Life-Sustaining Treatment

Written orders from parents/guardians to forgo life-sustaining treatment for their child must be signed by the student's physician and given to the Executive Director. This policy shall be interpreted in accordance with the Illinois Health Care Surrogate Act. 755 ILCS 40/.

Whenever an order to forgo life-sustaining treatment is received, the Executive Director shall convene a multi-disciplinary team that includes:

1. The student, when appropriate;
2. The student's parents/guardians;
3. Other medical professionals, e.g., licensed physician, physician's assistant, or nurse practitioner;
4. Local first responders for the building in which the student is assigned to attend school;
5. The school nurse;
6. Clergy, if requested by the student or his or her parents/guardians;
7. Other individuals to provide support to the student or his or her parents/guardians;
and
8. School personnel designated by the Executive Director.

The team shall determine guidelines to be used by school staff members in the event the child suffers a life-threatening episode at school or a school event.

Cooperative personnel shall convey orders to forgo life-sustaining treatment to the appropriate emergency or healthcare provider.

LEGAL REF.:

Health Care Surrogate Act, 755 ILCS 40/.

Cruzan v. Director, Missouri Dept. of Health, 497 U.S. 261 (1990).

In re C.A., a minor, 236 Ill.App.3d 594 (1st Dist. 1992).

ADOPTED: January 12, 2024

Rural Champaign Co. Sp. Ed.

7:280 Communicable and Chronic Infectious Disease

A student with or carrying a communicable and/or chronic infectious disease has all rights, privileges, and services provided by law and the Board's policies. The Executive Director will develop procedures to safeguard these rights while managing health and safety concerns.

LEGAL REF.:

105 ILCS 5/10-21.11.

23 Ill.Admin.Code §§ 1.610 and 226.300.

77 Ill.Admin.Code Part 690, Control of Notifiable Diseases and Conditions Code.

20 U.S.C. §1400 et seq., Individuals With Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004.

29 U.S.C. §794(a), Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Section 504.

ADOPTED: June 22, 2026

Rural Champaign Co. Sp. Ed.

7:285 Anaphylaxis Prevention, Response, and Management Program

School attendance may increase a student's risk of exposure to allergens that could trigger anaphylaxis. Students at risk for anaphylaxis benefit from a Board policy that coordinates a planned response in the event of an anaphylactic emergency. Anaphylaxis is a severe systemic allergic reaction from exposure to allergens that is rapid in onset and can cause death. Common allergens include animal dander, fish, latex, milk, shellfish, tree nuts, eggs, insect venom, medications, peanuts, soy, and wheat. A severe allergic reaction usually occurs quickly; death has been reported to occur within minutes. An anaphylactic reaction can also occur up to one to two hours after exposure to the allergen.

While it is not possible for the District to completely eliminate the risks of an anaphylactic emergency when a student is at school, an Anaphylaxis Prevention, Response, and Management Program using a cooperative effort among students' families, staff members, students, health care providers, emergency medical services, and the community helps the District reduce these risks and provide accommodations and proper treatment for anaphylactic reactions.

The Superintendent or designee shall develop and implement an Anaphylaxis Prevention, Response, and Management Program for the prevention and treatment of anaphylaxis that:

1. Fully implements the Ill. State Board of Education (ISBE)'s model policy required by the School Code that: (a) relates to the care and response to a person having an anaphylaxis reaction, (b) addresses the use of epinephrine in a school setting, (c) provides a full food allergy and prevention of allergen exposure plan, and (d) aligns with 105 ILCS 5/22-30 and 23 Ill.Admin.Code §1.540.
2. Ensures staff members receive appropriate training, including: (a) an in-service training program for staff who work with students that is conducted by a person with expertise in anaphylactic reactions and management, and (b) training required by law for those staff members acting as *trained personnel*, as provided in 105 ILCS 5/22-30 and 23 Ill.Admin.Code §1.540.
3. Follows and references the applicable best practices specific to the District's needs in the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's *Voluntary Guidelines for Managing Food Allergies in Schools and Early Care and Education Programs* and the *National Association of School Nurses Allergies and Anaphylaxis Resources/Checklists*.
4. Provides annual notice to the parents/guardians of all students to make them aware of this policy.
5. Complies with State and federal law and is in alignment with Board policies.

Monitoring

Pursuant to State law and policy 2:240, *Board Policy Development*, the Board reviews and makes any necessary updates to this policy at least once every three years. The Executive Director or designee shall assist the Board with its review and any necessary updates.

LEGAL REF.:

105 ILCS 5/2-3.190, 5/10-22.39, and 5/22-30.

23 Ill.Admin.Code §1.540.

Anaphylaxis Response Policy for Illinois Schools, published by ISBE.

CROSS REF.: 4:110 (Transportation), 4:120 (Food Services), 4:170 (Safety), 5:100 (Staff Development Program), 6:120 (Education of Children with Disabilities), 6:240 (Field Trips and Recreational Class Trips), 7:180 (Prevention of and Response to Bullying, Intimidation and Harassment), 7:250 (Student Support Services), 7:270 (Administering Medicines to Students), 8:100 (Relations with Other Organizations and Agencies)

ADOPTED: January 12, 2024

Rural Champaign Co. Sp. Ed.

7:290 Suicide and Depression Awareness and Prevention

Youth suicide impacts the safety of the school environment. It also affects the school community, diminishing the ability of surviving students to learn and the school's ability to educate. Suicide and depression awareness and prevention are important Board goals.

Suicide and Depression Awareness and Prevention Program

The Executive Director or designee shall develop, implement, and maintain a suicide and depression awareness and prevention program (Program) that advances the Board's goals of increasing awareness and prevention of depression and suicide. This program must be consistent with the requirements of *Ann Marie's Law* listed below; each listed requirement, 1-6, corresponds with the list of required policy components in the School Code Section 5/2-3.166(c)(2)-(7). The Program shall include:

1. Protocols for administering youth suicide awareness and prevention education to students and staff.
 - a. For students, implementation will incorporate 105 ILCS 5/27-215 (requiring education for students on mental health and illness).
 - b. For staff, implementation will incorporate Board policy 5:100, *Staff Development Program*, and teacher's institutes under 105 ILCS 5/3-14.8 (requiring coverage of the warning signs of suicidal behavior).
2. Procedures for methods of suicide prevention with the goal of early identification and referral of students possibly at risk of suicide. Implementation will incorporate:
 - a. The training required by 105 ILCS 5/10-22.39 for all Cooperative staff who work with students to identify the warning signs of suicidal behavior in youth along with appropriate intervention and referral techniques, including methods of prevention, procedures for early identification, and referral of students at risk of suicide; and
 - b. Ill. State Board of Education (ISBE)-recommended guidelines and educational materials for staff training and professional development, along with ISBE-recommended resources for students containing age-appropriate educational materials on youth suicide and awareness, if available pursuant to *Ann Marie's Law* on ISBE's website.
3. Methods of intervention, including procedures that address an emotional or mental health safety plan for use during the school day and at school-sponsored events for a student identified as being at increased risk of suicide including those students who: (A) suffer from a mental health disorder; (B) suffer from a substance abuse

disorder; (C) engage in self-harm or have previously attempted suicide; (D) reside in an out-of-home placement; (E) are experiencing homelessness; (F) are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or questioning (LGBTQ); (G) are bereaved by suicide; or (H) have a medical condition or certain types of disabilities. Implementation will incorporate paragraph number 2, above, along with Board policies:

- a. 6:65, *Student Social and Emotional Development*, implementing the goals and benchmarks of the Ill. Learning Standards and 405 ILCS 49/15(b) (requiring student social and emotional development in the Cooperative's educational program);
 - b. 6:120, *Education of Children with Disabilities*, implementing special education requirements for the Cooperative;
 - c. 6:140, *Education of Homeless Children*, implementing provision of District services to students who are homeless
 - d. 6:270, *Guidance and Counseling Program*, implementing guidance and counseling program(s) for students, and 105 ILCS 5/10-22.24a and 22.24b, which allow a qualified guidance specialist or any licensed staff member to provide school counseling services;
 - e. 7:10, *Equal Educational Opportunities*, and its implementing administrative procedure and exhibit, implementing supports for equal educational opportunities for students who are LGBTQ;
 - f. 7:50, *Cooperative Admissions and Eligibility for Services*, implementing State law requirements related to students who are in foster care;
 - g. 7:250, *Student Support Services*, implementing the Children's Mental Health Act, 405 ILCS 49/ (requiring protocols for responding to students with social, emotional, or mental health issues that impact learning ability); and
 - h. State and/or federal resources that address emotional or mental health safety plans for students who are possibly at an increased risk for suicide, if available on the ISBE's website pursuant to *Ann Marie's Law*.
4. Methods of responding to a student or staff suicide or suicide attempt. Implementation of this requirement shall incorporate building-level Student Support Committee(s) established through Board policy 7:250, *Student Support Services*.
 5. Reporting procedures. Implementation of this requirement shall incorporate Board policy 6:270, *Guidance and Counseling Program*, and Board policy 7:250, *Student Support Services*, in addition to other State and/or federal resources that address reporting procedures.
 6. A process to incorporate ISBE-recommended resources on youth suicide awareness and prevention programs, including current contact information for such programs in the Cooperative's Suicide and Depression Awareness and Prevention Program.

Illinois Suicide Prevention Strategic Planning Committee

The Executive Director or designee shall attempt to develop a relationship between the Cooperative and the Illinois Suicide Prevention Strategic Planning Committee, the Illinois Suicide Prevention Coalition Alliance, and/or a community mental health agency. The purpose of the relationship is to discuss how to incorporate the goals and objectives of the Illinois Suicide Prevention Strategic Plan into the Cooperative's Suicide Prevention and Depression Awareness Program.

Monitoring

The Board will review and update this policy pursuant to *Ann Marie's Law* and Board policy 2:240, *Board Policy Development*.

Information to Staff, Parents/Guardians, and Students

The Executive Director shall inform each school Cooperative employee about this policy and ensure its posting on the Cooperative's website. The Executive Director or designee shall provide a copy of this policy to the parent or legal guardian of each student enrolled in the Cooperative. Student and staff identification (ID) cards, the Cooperative's website, and student handbooks and planners will contain the support information as required by State law.

Implementation

This policy shall be implemented in a manner consistent with State and federal laws, including the Student Confidential Reporting Act, 5 ILCS 860/, Children's Mental Health Act, 405 ILCS 49/, Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities Confidentiality Act, 740 ILCS 110/, and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, 42 U.S.C. §12101 et seq.

The Cooperative, Board, and its staff are protected from liability by the Local Governmental and Governmental Employees Tort Immunity Act. Services provided pursuant to this policy: (1) do not replace the care of a physician licensed to practice medicine in all of its branches or a licensed medical practitioner or professional trained in suicide prevention, assessments and counseling services, (2) are strictly limited to the available resources within the Cooperative, (3) do not extend beyond the school day and/or school-sponsored events, and (4) cannot guarantee or ensure the safety of a student or the student body.

LEGAL REF.:

42 U.S.C. §1201 et seq., Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

105 ILCS 5/2-3.166, 5/3-14.8, 5/10-20.81, 5/10-22.24a, 5/10-22.24b, 5/10-22.39, 5/14-1.01 et seq., 5/14-7.02, 5/14-7.02b, and 5/27-215.

5 ILCS 860/, Student Confidential Reporting Act.

405 ILCS 49/, Children's Mental Health Act.

740 ILCS 110/, Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities Confidentiality Act.

745 ILCS 10/, Local Governmental and Governmental Tort Immunity Act.

CROSS REF.: 2:240 (Board Policy Development), 5:100 (Staff Development Program), 6:65 (Student Social and Emotional Development), 6:120 (Education of Children with Disabilities), 6:270 (Guidance and Counseling Program), 7:180 (Prevention of and Response to Bullying, Intimidation, and Harassment), 7:250 (Student Support Services)

ADOPTED: February 12, 2026

Rural Champaign Co. Sp. Ed.

7:310 Restrictions on Publications; Elementary Schools

School-Sponsored Publications and Websites

School-sponsored publications, productions, and websites are part of the curriculum and are not a public forum for general student use. School authorities may edit or delete material that is inconsistent with the Cooperative's educational mission.

All school-sponsored communications shall comply with the ethics and rules of responsible journalism. Text that is libelous, obscene, vulgar, lewd, invades the privacy of others, conflicts with the basic educational mission of the school, is socially inappropriate, is inappropriate due to the maturity of the students, or is materially disruptive to the educational process will not be tolerated.

The author's name will accompany personal opinions and editorial statements. An opportunity for the expression of differing opinions from those published/produced will be provided within the same media.

Non-School Sponsored Publications Accessed or Distributed On-Campus

For purposes of this section and the following section, a *publication* includes, without limitation: (1) written or electronic print material, and (2) audio-visual material, on any medium including electromagnetic media (e.g., images, digital files, flash memory, etc.), or combinations of these whether off-line (e.g., a printed book, digital files, etc.) or online (e.g., any website, social networking site, database for information retrieval, etc.), or (3) information or material on electronic devices (e.g., text or voice messages delivered by cell phones, tablets, and other hand-held devices).

Creating, distributing, and/or accessing non-school sponsored publications shall occur at a time and place and in a manner that will not cause disruption, be coercive, or result in the perception that the distribution or the publication is endorsed by the Cooperative.

Students are prohibited from creating, distributing, and/or accessing at school any publication that:

1. Will cause substantial disruption of the proper and orderly operation and discipline of the school or school activities;
2. Violates the rights of others, including but not limited to material that is libelous, invades the privacy of others, or infringes on a copyright;
3. Is socially inappropriate or inappropriate due to maturity level of the students, including but not limited to material that is obscene, pornographic, or pervasively lewd and vulgar, contains indecent and vulgar language, or *sexting* as defined by

Board policy 7:190, *Student Behavior*, and/or Student Handbooks;

4. Is reasonably viewed as promoting illegal drug use; or
5. Is distributed in kindergarten through eighth grade and is primarily prepared by non-students, unless it is being used for school purposes. Nothing herein shall be interpreted to prevent the inclusion of material from outside sources or the citation to such sources as long as the material to be distributed or accessed is primarily prepared by students.

Accessing or distributing "on-campus" includes accessing or distributing on school property or at school-related activities. A student engages in gross disobedience and misconduct and may be disciplined for: (1) accessing or distributing forbidden material, or (2) for writing, creating, or publishing such material intending for it to be accessed or distributed at school.

Non-School Sponsored Publications Accessed or Distributed Off-Campus

A student engages in gross disobedience and misconduct and may be disciplined for creating and/or distributing a publication that: (1) causes a substantial disruption or a foreseeable risk of a substantial disruption to school operations, or (2) interferes with the rights of other students or staff members.

LEGAL REF.:

105 ILCS 5/22-110.

Hazelwood v. Kuhlmeier, 484 U.S. 260 (1988).

Tinker v. Des Moines Indep. Cmty. Sch. Dist., 393 U.S. 503 (1969).

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

CROSS REF.: 6:235 (Access to Electronic Networks), 7:180 (Prevention of and Response to Bullying, Intimidation, and Harassment), 7:190 (Student Behavior), 8:25 (Advertising and Distributing Materials in Schools Provided by Non-School Related Entities)

ADOPTED: February 12, 2026

Rural Champaign Co. Sp. Ed.

7:340 Student Records

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 professionals 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 professionals, 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 18 years who has been arrested or taken into custody.

State and federal law grants students, parents/guardians, and when applicable, the Ill. Dept. of Children and Family Services' Office of Education and Transition Services, certain rights, including the right to inspect, copy, and/or 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 Cooperative 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. The Cooperative will comply with State or federal law with regard to release of a student's school records, including, where applicable, without notice to, or the consent of, the student's parent/guardian or eligible student. Upon request, the Cooperative 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 Executive Director 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 Executive Director 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 Cooperative 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 Cooperative 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 Cooperative 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 Cooperative, or (2) the Cooperative 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 Executive Director or designee.

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

LEGAL REF.:

20 U.S.C. §1232g, Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act; 34 C.F.R. Part 99.

50 ILCS 205/7, Local Records Act.

105 ILCS 5/10-20.12b, 5/10-20.40, 5/14-1.01 et seq., and 5/26A-30.

105 ILCS 10/, Ill. School Student Records Act.

105 ILCS 85/, Student Online Personal Protection Act.

325 ILCS 17/, Children's Privacy Protection and Parental Empowerment Act.

750 ILCS 5/602.11, Ill. Marriage and Dissolution of Marriage Act.

23 Ill.Admin.Code Parts 226 and 375.

Owasso I.S.D. No. I-011 v. Falvo, 534 U.S. 426 (2002).

Chicago Tribune Co. v. Chicago Bd. of Ed., 332 Ill.App.3d 60 (1st Dist. 2002).

CROSS REF.: 5:100 (Staff Development Program), 5:130 (Responsibilities Concerning Internal Information), 7:15 (Student and Family Privacy Rights), 7:255 (Students Who are Parents, Expectant Parents, or Victims of Domestic or Sexual Violence), 7:345 (Use of Educational Technologies; Student Data Privacy and Security)

ADOPTED: February 12, 2026

Rural Champaign Co. Sp. Ed.

7:345 Use of Educational Technologies; Student Data Privacy and Security

Educational technologies used in the Cooperative shall further the objectives of the Cooperative's educational program, as set forth in Board policy 6:10, *Educational Philosophy and Objectives*, align with the curriculum criteria in policy 6:40, *Curriculum Development*, and/or support efficient Cooperative operations. The Executive Director shall ensure that the use of educational technologies in the Cooperative meets the above criteria.

The Cooperative and/or vendors under its control may need to collect and maintain data that personally identifies students in order to use certain educational technologies for the benefit of student learning or Cooperative operations.

Federal and State law govern the protection of student data, including school student records and/or *covered information*. The sale, rental, lease, or trading of any school student records or covered information by the Cooperative is prohibited. Protecting such information is important for legal compliance, Cooperative operations, and maintaining the trust of Cooperative stakeholders, including parents, students and staff. The Board designates the Executive Director to serve as the Privacy Officer, who shall ensure the District complies with the duties and responsibilities required of it under the Student Online Personal Protection Act, 105 ILCS 85/, amended by P.A. 101-516, eff. 7-1-21.

Definitions

Covered information means personally identifiable information (PII) or information linked to PII in any media or format that is not publicly available and is any of the following: (1) created by or provided to an operator by a student or the student's parent/guardian in the course of the student's or parent/guardian's use of the operator's site, service or application; (2) created by or provided to an operator by an employee or agent of the Cooperative; or (3) gathered by an operator through the operation of its site, service, or application.

Operators are entities (such as educational technology vendors) that operate Internet websites, online services, online applications, or mobile applications that are designed, marketed, and primarily used for K-12 school purposes.

Breach means the unauthorized acquisition of computerized data that compromises the security, confidentiality or integrity of covered information maintained by an operator or the Cooperative.

Operator Contracts

The Executive Director or designee designates which Cooperative employees are authorized to enter into written agreements with operators for those contracts that do not require separate Board approval. Contracts between the Board and operators shall be entered into in accordance with State law and Board policy 4:60, *Purchases and Contracts*, and shall include any specific provisions required by State law.

Security Standards

The Executive Director or designee shall ensure the Cooperative implements and maintains reasonable security procedures and practices that otherwise meet or exceed industry standards designed to protect covered information from unauthorized access, destruction, use, modification, or disclosure. In the event the Cooperative receives notice from an operator of a breach or has determined a breach has occurred, the Executive Director or designee shall also ensure that the Cooperative provides any breach notifications required by State law.

LEGAL REF.:

20 U.S.C. §1232g, Family and Educational Rights and Privacy Act; 34 C.F.R. Part 99.

105 ILCS 10/, Ill. School Student Records Act.

105 ILCS 85/, Student Online Personal Protection Act.

23 Ill. Admin. Code Part 380.

CROSS REF.: 4:15 (Identity Protection), 4:60 (Purchases and Contracts), 6:235 (Access to Electronic Networks), 7:340 (Student Records)

ADOPTED: March 10, 2022

Rural Champaign Co. Sp. Ed.

SECTION 8 - COMMUNITY RELATIONS

Rural Champaign Co. Sp. Ed.

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. No material, literature, or advertisement shall be posted or distributed without advance approval as described in this policy.

Community, Educational, Charitable, or Recreational Organizations

Community, educational, charitable, recreational, or similar groups may, under procedures established by the Executive Director, advertise events pertinent to students' interests or involvement. All advertisements must (1) be student-oriented, (2) prominently display the sponsoring organization's name, and (3) be approved in advance by the Executive Director or designee. The Cooperative reserves the right to decide where and when any advertisement or flyer is distributed, displayed, or posted.

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 Cooperative websites.

LEGAL REF.:

40 U.S.C. §541.

50 ILCS 510/, Local Government Professional Services Selection Act.

105 ILCS 5/10-20.21.

Shively v. Belleville Twp. High Sch. Dist. 201, 329 Ill.App.3d 1156 (5th Dist. 2002), *appeal denied*.

ADOPTED: January 12, 2024

Rural Champaign Co. Sp. Ed.

8:30 Visitors to and Conduct on School Property

The following definitions apply to this policy:

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

Visitor - Any person other than an enrolled student or Cooperative 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 Executive Director or designee.

The Cooperative 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, 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 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 Cooperative employee's directive.
14. Engage in any risky behavior, including roller-blading, roller-skating, or skateboarding.
15. Violate other Cooperative policies or regulations, or a directive from an authorized security officer or Cooperative employee.
16. Engage in any conduct that interferes with, disrupts, or adversely affects the Cooperative 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, Executive Director, or Executive Director's designee. If permission is granted, the Executive Director or Board Chairperson shall provide the details of the offender's upcoming visit to the Building

Principal.

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

Exclusive Bargaining Representative Agent

Please refer to the applicable collective bargaining agreement(s).

For employees whose collective bargaining agreement does not address this subject:

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 Cooperative.

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 or denied admission to school property in accordance with State law. The person also may be subject to being denied admission to school athletic or extracurricular events for up to one calendar year in accordance with the procedures below.

Procedures to Deny Future Admission to Athletic or Extracurricular School Events

Before any person may be denied admission to athletic or extracurricular school events, the person has a right to a hearing before the Board. The Executive Director may refuse the person admission pending such hearing. The Executive Director 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.:

20 U.S.C. §7971 et seq., Pro-Children Act of 2001.

Nuding v. Cerro Gordo Community Unit School Dist., 313 Ill. App.3d 344 (4th Dist. 2000).

105 ILCS 5/10-20.5, 10-20.5b, 5/10-22.10, 5/22-33, 5/22-110, and 5/24-25.

115 ILCS 5/3(c), Ill. Educational Labor Relations Act.

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

410 ILCS 705/, Cannabis Tax and Regulation Act.

430 ILCS 66/, Firearm Concealed Carry Act.

720 ILCS 5/11-9.3, 5/21-1, 5/21-1.2, 5/21-3, 5/21-5, 5/21-5.5, 5/21-9, and 5/21-11.

CROSS REF.: 2:200 (Types of Board Meetings), 2:230 (Public Participation at Board Meetings and Petitions to the Board), 4:170 (Safety), 5:50 (Drug- and Alcohol-Free Workplace; E-Cigarette, Tobacco, and Cannabis Prohibition), 6:120 (Education of Children with Disabilities), 6:250 (Community Resource Persons and Volunteers), 7:190 (Student Behavior)

ADOPTED: February 12, 2026

Rural Champaign Co. Sp. 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 Cooperative 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 Cooperative 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, website, 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 Executive Director or designee is designated the Title II Coordinator and shall:

1. Oversee the Cooperative's compliance efforts, recommend necessary modifications to the Cooperative Board, and maintain the Cooperative's final Title II self-evaluation document, update it to the extent necessary, and keep it available for public inspection for at least three 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 Executive Director 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 Executive Director 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 5/10-20.51.

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 Building Programs)

ADOPTED: June 20, 2023

Rural Champaign Co. Sp. Ed.

8:80 Gifts to the Cooperative

The 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. The Executive Director shall develop procedures for review and approval of donations that involve incorporating messages into or placing messages upon school property. All gifts received become the Cooperative's property.

LEGAL REF.:

105 ILCS 5/16-1.

ADOPTED: October 9, 2025

Rural Champaign Co. Sp. Ed.

8:95 Parental Involvement

In order to assure collaborative relationships between students' families and the Cooperative, and to enable parents/guardians to become active partners in their children's education, the Executive Director 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 Cooperative.
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 Executive Director shall periodically report to the Board on the implementation of this policy.

CROSS REF.: 6:250 (Community Resource Persons and Volunteers)

ADOPTED: January 12, 2024

Rural Champaign Co. Sp. Ed.

8:100 Relations with Other Organizations and Agencies

The Cooperative 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 Cooperatives

CROSS REF.: 1:20 (Cooperative Organization, Operations, and Cooperative Agreements), 4:170 (Safety), 4:180 (Pandemic Preparedness; Management; and Recovery), 5:90 (Abused and Neglected Child Reporting), 7:150 (Agency and Law Enforcement Requests)

ADOPTED: March 10, 2022

Rural Champaign Co. Sp. Ed.

8:110 Public Suggestions and Concerns

Please refer to the applicable collective bargaining agreement.

LEGAL REF.:

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

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

ADOPTED: October 9, 2025

Rural Champaign Co. Sp. Ed.