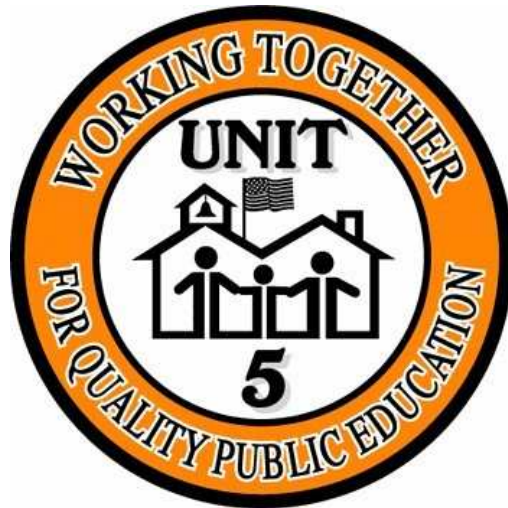


McLEAN COUNTY UNIT DISTRICT No. 5

EARLY LEARNING HANDBOOK



EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION



McLean County Unit School District No. 5

1809 West Hovey Avenue

Normal, IL 61761-4439

Phone: 309.557.4400 • Fax: 309.557.4501

Web: www.unit5.org

General Email: district@unit5.org

Revised April 2017

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Letter from Early Learning Coordinator

McLean County Unit District No. 5

1809 West Hovey Avenue

Normal, IL 61761-4339

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Welcome to the McLean County Unit District No. 5 Schools!

Our district is very pleased to present this comprehensive handbook for your use during the coming school year. A significant effort is put forth to provide student transfers between buildings with a minimal degree of change. Although many daily procedures have been standardized, each school still maintains its own unique history, traditions, and school climate.

All handbook and school rules apply to all school-sponsored events, even those activities occurring off-campus. The handbook does not equate to an irrevocable contractual commitment to the student, but only reflects the current status of the rules and policies. **Changes in State and federal laws may indicate amendments to sources identified in this handbook during the school year. Please see the Board's comprehensive policy manual on the District's website <http://unit5.org/board/policies/> or at the Board office, located at 1809 West Hovey Avenue, Normal, Illinois for current information.**

If you have questions regarding any aspect of our early learning program, please feel free to contact your child's teacher or the building principal.

We pledge to make every effort to assure that your child has a meaningful and enjoyable education in our school district.

Sincerely,

Kris Pennington

Early Learning Program Coordinator

McLean County Unit District No. 5 Contact Information

1809 West Hovey Avenue
 Normal, IL 61761-4339
 Phone: 309.557.4400
 Fax: 309.557.4501
 Web: www.unit5.org
 General E-mail: district@unit5.org

Superintendent Office

Dr. Mark Daniel, Superintendent	557.4400
Dayna Brown, Director of Communications/Community Relations	557.4400
LaNell Greenberg, Assistant to the Superintendent, Clerk of Board	557.4400

Curriculum Department

Carmen Bergmann, Director of Elementary Education	557.4400
Michelle Lamboley, Director of Special Education	557.4400
Laura O'Donnell, Director of Secondary Education	557.4400
Leslie Romagnoli, English Learner Program Coordinator	557.4400

Human Resources

Dr. James Harden, Executive Director of Human Resources and Student Services	557.4400
M. Curt Richardson, Attorney for the District	557.4400

Business/Technology

Martin Hickman, Business Manager/Treasurer/Director of Technology	557.4400
Thomas Hoerr III, Assistant Business Manager	557.4400
David Schumer, Technology Coordinator	557.4400

Operations

Joe Adelman, Director of Operations	557.4437
Doug Johnson, Supervisor – Maintenance/Grounds Services	557.4437
Craig Montgomery, Supervisor – Custodial Services	557.4437
Pat Powers, Director of Food Service	557.4437

Early Learning School Information

Brigham School

Principal: Kris Pennington
201 Brigham School Rd.
Bloomington, IL 61704
E-mail: penningk@unit5.org
Phone: 309.557.4411
Fax: 309.557.4512
Attendance line: 309.557.4460

Sugar Creek Elementary

Principal: Nicole Combs
200 N Towanda Ave
Normal, IL 61761
E-mail: combsnr@unit5.org
Phone: 309.557.4425
Fax: 309.452.5266
Attendance line: 309.557.4474

District and School Web Pages



McLean County Unit District No. 5

<http://www.unit5.org>

Visit our McLean County Unit District No. 5 website. The website is an excellent source for learning more about Unit 5's mission, policies, curriculum, administration information, school calendar, lunch menus, policies, and current district events.

Visit our local websites for more information about each site:

Sugar Creek Elementary School
<http://www.unit5.org/Domain/23>

Brigham School
<http://www.unit5.org/Domain/8>

Section 1 - Introductory Information and General Notices

Overview

This handbook is a summary of the program’s rules and expectations, and is not a comprehensive statement of school procedures. The Board’s comprehensive policy manual is available for public inspection through the District’s website www.unit5.org/board/policies/ or at the Board office, located at **1809 W. Hovey Avenue, Normal, Illinois.**

McLean County Unit District 5 Mission Statement

Unit 5 will educate each student to achieve personal excellence.

McLean County Unit District 5 Early Learning Purpose Statement

The purpose of the Unit 5 Early Learning Program is to provide a stimulating and nurturing environment for young children. Students are given the chance to become successful and build self-confidence. The program is designed to increase student opportunities, help prepare for future achievements, and meet individual needs and goals in eight domains of learning, which are guided by the Illinois Early Learning State Standards: Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, Physical Development and Health, Fine Arts, Foreign/Primary Language, Social/Emotional.

McLean County Unit District 5 Diversity Statement

Dear Unit 5 Community Members,

Unit 5’s commitment to respecting diversity in all of its forms is vital to attaining the District mission of “educating each student to achieve personal excellence.” The district remains dedicated to expanding awareness of diversity issues; engaging in proactive diversity planning; and maintaining a welcoming, effective learning environment. With the assistance of the Unit 5 Diversity and Inclusion Committee, the district will continue to establish and achieve diversity goals that will enrich our educational community. Thank you for your involvement in and contributions to our efforts.

Sincerely,

Dr. Mark Daniel
Superintendent

Dayna Brown
Dir. Of Communications/Community Relations
Diversity Officer

Admission Requirements

Age Requirements

To be eligible for admission, a child must be between the ages of three (3) and five (5) years old, but not five (5) or before September 1 of that school term. Children with developmental delays, which affect normal growth and development, or who are at risk of academic failure may be eligible for services and supports. Special education

eligibility will be based on the presence of noted delays in one or more of the developmental areas. Eligibility is determined by the Individualized Educational Program (IEP) team.

Admission Procedure

Eligible early learning students enrolling in the District for the first time must present:

- **Certified** birth certificate or other reliable proof of identity and age
- Proof of residence, as required by Board Policy 7.60
- Proof of disease immunization or detection and the required physical examination as required by State law and Board Policy 7.100
- Enrollment in general education classrooms is contingent upon state funding, as the program is funded by Illinois grant funds.

Visitors

All visitors, including parents and siblings, are required to enter through the front door of the building and proceed immediately to the main office. Visitors should identify themselves and inform office personnel of their reason for being at school.

Visitors must sign in, identifying their name, the date and time of arrival, and the classroom or location they are visiting. Approved visitors must take a badge identifying themselves as a guest and place the badge to their outer clothing in a clearly visible location. Visitors are required to proceed immediately to their location in a quiet manner. All visitors must return to the main office, return their badge and sign out before leaving the school.

Visitors are expected to abide by all school rules during their time on school property. A visitor who fails to conduct himself or herself in a manner that is appropriate will be asked to leave and may be subject to criminal penalties for trespass and/or disruptive behavior.

Cross Reference:

Board Policy 8.30, *Visitors to and Conduct on School Property*

School Volunteers

All school volunteers must complete the “Volunteer Information Form and Waiver of Liability” and be approved by the school principal prior to assisting at the school. Forms are available in the school office. Some teachers utilize parent volunteers in the classroom. The individual teachers make this decision. Teachers who desire parent volunteers will notify parents. For school-wide volunteer opportunities, please contact the building principal.

Volunteers are required to check in and out at the main office and receive a visitor badge before going to their destination.

Cross Reference:

Board Policy 6.250, *Community Resource Persons and Volunteers*

Administrative Procedure 6.250-AP1 *Securing and Screening Resource Persons and Volunteers*

Exhibit 6.250-E1 *Volunteer Information Form and Waiver of Liability*

Animals on School Property

In order to assure student health and safety, animals are not allowed on school property, except in the case of a service animal accompanying a student or other individual with a documented disability. This rule may be temporarily waived by the building principals in the case of an educational opportunity for students, provided that (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.

Cross Reference:
Administrative Procedure 6.120-AP3, *Service Animal Access Requests*

Invitations & Gifts

Party invitations or gifts for classmates should not be brought to school to be distributed. Items such as these are of a personal nature and should be mailed home using the list in the school directory. The office is unable to release addresses and phone numbers of students who are not listed in the school directory.

Equal Opportunity and Sex Equity

Equal educational and co-curricular opportunities are available to all students without regard to race, color, nationality, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, ancestry, age, religious beliefs, physical or mental disability, status as homeless, or actual or potential marital or parental status, including pregnancy.

No student shall, based on sex or sexual orientation, 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 or parent/guardian with a sex equity or equal opportunity concern should contact the Unit Office, 309.557.4400.

Cross Reference:
Board Policy 7.10, *Equal Educational Opportunities*
Board Policy 2.260, *Uniform Grievance Procedure*

Video & Audio Monitoring Systems

A video and/or audio monitoring system may be in use on school busses and a video monitoring system may be in use in public areas of the school building. These systems have been put in place to protect students, staff, visitors and school property. If a discipline problem is captured on audiotape or videotape, these recordings may be used as the basis for imposing student discipline. If criminal actions are recorded, a copy of the tape may be provided to law enforcement personnel.

Cross Reference:
Board Policy 4.110, *Transportation*

Accommodating Individuals with Disabilities

Individuals with disabilities will be provided an opportunity to participate in all school-sponsored services, programs, or activities. Individuals with disabilities should notify the superintendent or building principal if they have a disability that will require special assistance or services and, if so, what services are required. This notification should occur as far in advance as possible of the school-sponsored function, program, or meeting.

Cross Reference:
Board Policy 8.70, *Accommodating Individuals with Disabilities*

Section 2 - Attendance and Promotion**Attendance & Absences****Arrival and Dismissal**

Morning Session: 7:45-10:15 AM
Afternoon Session: 11:45-2:15 PM
Full Day session: 7:45 AM-2:15 PM

There is no school supervision prior to the start of each session or following the dismissal times.

Leaving While School Is In Session

When a student needs to leave school early, parent(s)/guardian(s) should call the school or send a note indicating what time the child will be leaving. Students must be signed out in the office by a parent/guardian. If the student returns on the same day, he/she must be signed in by a parent/guardian in the office before returning to class.

Student Absences

There are two types of absences: excused and unexcused. Excused absences include: illness, observance of a religious holiday, death in the immediate family, family emergency, situations beyond the control of the student, circumstances that cause reasonable concern to the parent/guardian for the student's safety or health, or other reason as approved by the principal. All other absences are considered unexcused. Pre-arranged excused absences must be approved by the Building Principal.

The school may require documentation explaining the reason for the student's absence.

In the event of any absence, the student's parent or guardian is required to call the school attendance line at 309.557.4460 (Brigham) or 309.557.4474 (Sugar Creek) before 8:30 AM for AM students and 12:30 for PM students to explain the reason for the absence. If a call has not been made to the school by 8:30 AM/12:30 PM on the day of a student's absence, a school official will call the home to inquire why the student is not at school. If the parent or guardian cannot be contacted, the student will be required to submit a signed note from the parent or guardian explaining the reason for the absence. Failure to do so shall result in an unexcused absence. Upon request of the parent or guardian, the reason for an absence will be kept confidential.

Examples of the two types of absences are listed below. The lists may include, but are not limited to:

Excused Absences

- Illness or injury
- Serious illness or death in the family
- Medical or dental appointment
- Unavoidable accident or emergency
- Official school trips
- Religious holiday
- Court Appearance

Unexcused Absences

All other absences are unexcused unless they are specifically excused by the administration. Requests for excused absences for reasons other than those listed above should be made directly to the Associate/Assistant Principal.

Unexcused absences include but are not limited to:

- Lack of a ride to school
- Missing the school bus
- Oversleeping
- Participation in non-school sponsored activities
- Personal business
- Private vehicle breakdown or failure to start
- Truancy
- Vacation

The school may require documentation explaining the reason for the student’s absence.

Tardiness

All students are expected to be in their classroom when school begins. Please do not inconvenience others or waste class time by arriving late. Students who are more than 5 minutes late must sign in at the office.

Cross Reference: Board Policy 7.70, <i>Attendance and Truancy</i>
--

Prearranged Absences

Any time that students know in advance that they will be absent from school due to family vacation, required court appearance, or other unavoidable circumstances not considered as excused, the parent or guardian must contact the Principal to request a Prearranged Absence.

In the event of any absence, the student’s parent or guardian is required to call the school to explain the reason for the absence. If a call has not been made to the school, a school official will call the home to inquire why the student is not at school. This report must be made for each day or partial day of absence. Written notes are not required or accepted.

Students who return from an absence after the start of school must first come to the office to let the office staff know they have returned to school.

Parent/Guardian Role

According to the School Laws of Illinois, it is the parent's responsibility to see that his/her child is in regular school attendance. This includes arriving to school on time. Article 26 of the School Laws recognizes the following reasons as valid cause for missing school: (a) illness; (b) death in the immediate family; (c) other absences determined by the Board of Education; (d) circumstances which cause reasonable concern to the parent for the safety or health of the student. Absences other than those stated above will be considered unexcused. Those include (a) keeping a child home to baby-sit; (b) helping a parent at home (especially the day before a holiday); (c) going shopping; (d) vacation, visiting friends or relatives; and/or (e) participating in a community sponsored activity such as gymnastics, a play, or church related programs. This is not all-inclusive. Any exceptions to the list will be considered by the administration.

Falsification of Attendance Information

Accurate attendance information is required by the State of Illinois and is important to ensuring student safety. Students may not falsify, or contribute to falsification of, attendance information through either written or telephone means. Violators of this provision will be subject to a detention, Saturday Supervised Study assignment, or suspension from school.

Excessive Absenteeism

According to the Illinois State Board of Education, excessive absenteeism is defined as those students who have missed 5% out of the last 180 school days.

The law also states that a school district may, at any time, require a health examination (paid by parent/guardian) if the school deems necessary. Therefore, during the school year, the school may require medical documentation once a student has missed over 5% of the current school year (unless doctor notes have already been received) and a parent will be required to come in during school hours for a conference. The conference will be held with the school nurse and the student's principal. The purpose will be to discuss the reasons for those absences. At this time parents/guardians will be given a physical form and be required to take their child to a physician for a complete physical. This form will need to be completed and signed by a doctor and returned to school within two weeks.

The school will make every effort to inform parents of excessive student absences. However, it is the responsibility of the parent to see that their child is in regular attendance. The law is specific that the parent has the obligation to see that their child is in school.

Regular attendance is essential for successful completion of school. All parents/guardians will be notified on the report card of the number of absences the student has accumulated. Students participating in school-sponsored activities such as field trips, sports events, etc., will be excused from classes and are responsible for completing missed assignments.

Release Time for Religious Instruction/Observance

A student will be released from school, as an excused absence, to observe a religious holiday or for religious instruction. 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).

Students excused for religious reasons will be given an opportunity to make up any examination, study, or work requirement.

Cross Reference:
Board Policy 7.80, *Release Time for Religious Instruction/Observance*

Emergency School Closings

When it is necessary for school to dismiss early or be canceled, verification will be given to the news media, as well as by a school message system, so parents will know when to expect their children home. School may be dismissed early due to weather (such as snow or excessive heat), on Staff Improvement Days or on other special days as determined by the Board of Education.

The decision to dismiss early due to inclement weather is made prior to 11:00 AM and the media will be notified at that time. It is best to tune in one of the following radio stations if you suspect that early dismissal is a possibility – WJBC 1230 AM, WBNQ 101.5 FM. This information will also be available on the District's website, www.unit5.org. Please do not call the school or Unit Office for this information.

Please arrange with your children what they are to do in case of early dismissal. It is difficult for last minute arrangements to be made for students.

All school functions are canceled when school is dismissed early.

Cross Reference:
Board Policy 4.170, *Safety*

Grading & Promotion

Progress Reporting

Early Learning Progress reports are issued to students three times per year (November, February, May). For questions regarding progress monitoring, please contact the classroom teacher.

If the student turns five (5) on or before September 1 of the upcoming school year he/she is age eligible for kindergarten and is not eligible for the early learning program.

Section 3 – Food Program

The early learning program participates in the National School Lunch Program and receives Federal funds to provide healthy meals (breakfast and lunch) to all of the enrolled children. The amount of reimbursement the program receives is based on the information you provide on the Household Eligibility Application which is provided during registration. Part of the USDA requirement is to complete the application. The information will be kept confidential and only available to staff directly connected with administering the NSLP.

Section 4 - Transportation and Parking

Bus Transportation

The district provides bus transportation to and from school for all early learning students living within district boundaries. Early Learning buses also have a bus monitor in addition to the driver.

The early learning program provides free transportation services and vehicle adaptation for a special education student if included in the student's individualized educational program. Non-public school students shall be transported in accordance with State law. Homeless students shall be transported in accordance with the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act.

For questions regarding school transportation issues, contact the transportation call center at 309.557.4287 (557-4BUS).

Bus Service

- The driver's primary responsibility is to the road conditions and traffic for the safety of transporting the students. When the driver's attention is distracted by misconduct, everyone is put in jeopardy.
- The driver is not required to wait at any loading point; therefore, be ready to board the bus five (5) minutes ahead of your designated stop time.
- Bus service will be available if inclement weather causes early dismissal. See information under Section 2 – Attendance and Promotion "Emergency School Closings".

Bus Conduct

While students are on the bus, they are under the supervision of the bus driver. In most cases, bus discipline problems can be handled by the bus driver. In the case of a written disciplinary referral, student bus problems will be investigated and handled by the Building Principal.

Parents will be informed of any and all inappropriate student behavior on a bus. Parents are encouraged to discuss bus safety and appropriate behavior with their children before the beginning of the school year and regularly during the year.

Prohibited Bus Conduct

Gross disobedience or misconduct providing grounds for suspension from riding the school bus include:

1. Prohibited student conduct as defined in Board Policy 7.190, *Student Behavior*.
2. Willful injury or threat of injury to a bus driver or to another rider.
3. Willful and/or repeated defacement of the bus.
4. Repeated use of profanity.
5. Repeated willful disobedience of the bus driver's or other supervisor's directives.
6. Such other behavior as the administration deems to threaten the safe operation of the bus and/or its occupants.

In the interest of the student's safety and in compliance with State law, students are expected to observe the following rules:

- Choose a seat and sit in it immediately upon entering the bus.
- Do not stand in the entrance or in the aisle.
- Do not move from one seat to another while on the bus.
- Keep all parts of the body and all objects inside the bus.
- Loud conversation, singing, boisterous conduct, unnecessary noise or profanity is not allowed.
- Enter and exit the bus only when the bus is fully stopped.
- All school rules apply while on the bus, at a bus stop, or waiting for the bus.
- Use emergency door only in an emergency.
- In the event of emergency, stay on the bus and await instructions from the bus driver.
- Good behavior and behavior that will not distract the bus driver from operating the bus safely is required.
- Crowding, pushing, scuffling, and other needless commotion are grounds for disciplinary action.
- Do not open windows.
- Keep the bus neat and clean.
- Athletic footwear equipped with cleats or spikes are not allowed on the bus.
- Inappropriate behavior will be reported to school authorities and failure to observe safety rules may result in suspension from bus services.
- Be waiting at your bus stop on time.
- Never tamper with, damage, or deface anything in or on the bus, or any of the bus or school equipment.
- Keep book bags, books, packages, coats, and other objects out of the aisles.
- Keep all body parts clear of the aisles when seated.
- Eating is not permitted on the bus.
- Parents will be liable for any defacing or damage students do to the bus.
- Instructions for crossing the road must be followed to the smallest detail at all times.
- Cross at least ten feet in front of the bus and then cross the street when the driver signals.
- While unloading, allow the closest to the front off first.

- Move away from the bus door quickly after unloading. Stay clear of the rear wheels.
- Never walk behind the bus.
- No headphones, food, drink, or candy.
- No talking when the bus comes to a railroad crossing, so the driver can hear any approaching trains.
- Do not talk to the driver unless it is an emergency.

Students may be suspended from riding the school bus for up to 10 consecutive school days for engaging in gross disobedience or misconduct. If a student is suspended from riding the bus for gross disobedience or misconduct on a bus, the student may be suspended from riding the school bus for a period in excess of 10 days for safety reasons. The district's regular suspension procedures shall be used to suspend a student's privilege to ride a school bus.

Bus Discipline

The driver may report students who refuse to follow the bus behavior rules or maintain appropriate behavior to the school office for disciplinary action.

Generally, the following procedures will be used in disciplining a rider:

- **On the first offense**, the teacher will speak with the student to address the reported incident.
- **On the second offense**, the Principal will meet with the student to address the reported incident. A copy of the bus report will be sent home.
- **On the third offense**, the Principal will meet with the student to address the reported incident and the parents will be telephoned. The result of this telephone conference may be suspension from riding the bus for up to 3 days. A copy of the bus report will be sent home.
- **On the fourth offense**, the Principal will meet with the student to address the reported incident and the parents will be telephoned. The parents may be required to come to the school office for a conference. The student may be suspended from the bus for up to 5 days. A copy of the bus report will be given to the parents.
- **On the fifth offense**, the Principal will meet with the student to address the reported incident, and the parents telephoned. The student may be suspended from the bus for up to ten days. A copy of the bus report will be sent to the parents.

Any further reports may result in an immediate bus suspension and referral for possible suspension from the bus for the remainder of the school year. Bus riding is a privilege that may be revoked.

Private Transportation

Students may accept private transportation to or from school only as arranged by their custodial parents. Parents may call the office regarding transportation arrangements with anyone other than an appropriate family member or a Unit 5 school bus.

Use of Video Cameras on School Buses

Video cameras may be used on school buses as necessary in order to monitor conduct and maintain a safe environment for students and employees. The content of the videotapes are student records and are subject to District policy and procedure concerning school student records. Only those people with a legitimate educational or administrative purpose may view the videotapes. In most instances, individuals with a legitimate educational or administrative purpose will be

the superintendent, principal, transportation director, bus driver, and sponsor, coach, or other supervisor. If the content of a videotape becomes the subject of a student disciplinary hearing, it will be treated like other evidence in the proceeding.

Cross Reference:
Administrative Procedure 7.220-AP1, *Electronic Recordings on School Buses*

Bicycles

When accompanied by an adult, riding bicycles to and from school is permitted. Ride safely by observing the following practices:

- Obey all traffic signs and regulations.
- Stay to the right.
- Ride single file.
- Yield to motor vehicles and pedestrians.
- Signal your intentions.
- Do not ride near vehicles parked in the parking lot.

Pedestrians

Students are expected to use sidewalks wherever available and to observe safety precautions when crossing streets.

Field Trips

The children may occasionally take field trips to enrich their language and provide new experiences. All field trips not within walking distance of the school are taken on a bus. Parents will be notified in advance of the trip.

Parking

The school has many locations available for school visitor parking.

Vehicles MAY NOT be parked or located in the bus lanes or fire lanes at ANY TIME. Bus lanes and fire lanes are clearly marked. Vehicles located in these locations may be ticketed and/or towed by the police.

Cross Reference:
Board Policy 4.110, *Transportation*
Administrative Procedure 4.170-AP3, *School Bus Safety Rules*
Board Policy 7.220, *Bus Conduct*
Administrative Procedure 7.220-AP1, *Electronic Recordings on School Buses*

Section 5- Health and Safety

Immunization, Health, Eye and Dental Examinations

School Nurse

The primary function of the school nurse is to promote student health and safety and maintain student records. All elementary Certified School Nurses are assigned to multiple schools. If a student becomes ill or injured at school when the nurse is not present, another school official will provide care. Please contact the school nurse at your child's school any time you have questions or concerns.

This handbook is not intended to be all inclusive. Students will be excluded from school for any health condition that in the professional, clinical judgment of the Certified School Nurse places that student or others in the school community at a health or safety risk. Certified School Nurses utilize Evidence Based Practice and collaboration with health care professionals and organizations to make decisions best for the students and school community.

Health Information

Health information gathered through screening registration forms, physical exams, oral/written communication by a health care provider or parent/guardian may be shared by the certified school nurse with those individuals (i.e. teachers or other school personnel) who have an educational interest in enhancing the health and safety of the student. This information may be shared via written or electronic communication or by direct personal contact. If you do not wish this information to be shared, please send a written request to the school office by the end of the first week of attendance.

Emergency Numbers

Emergency information will be maintained for all students and should be filled out during the registration process. It is important to have the name and phone number of a person other than the parent/guardian to call in case of a school emergency when parents cannot be reached. Please contact your school office if any changes in this emergency information occur during the school year.

Illness or Accidents at School

All accidents and illnesses which occur at school or at a school function are to be reported to the office. If they are considered serious or if the accident or illness remains in question to the school nurse or office staff, parents will be notified.

The Illinois General Assembly does not require school districts to carry student accident insurance. If a student is injured at school or during a school activity, the parent/guardian's health insurance company should be contacted for coverage.

Additionally, the State of Illinois All Kids health insurance program is available to all children in the state regardless of income level. This program provides health insurance for children, which includes accident insurance. Information about the All Kids program can be found at www.illinois.gov/hfs/medicalprograms/allkids

Student Concussions and Head Injuries

If a student sustains a physician-diagnosed concussion, either during school hours or outside of school, parents are requested to notify the school. If a student's parent/guardian is requesting academic accommodations after a concussion, the Unit 5 Concussion Staging Form must be completed by the student's physician (elementary, junior high, high school) or athletic trainer (high school only) and submitted to the school nurse.

A student athlete who exhibits signs, symptoms, or behaviors consistent with a concussion in a practice or game will be removed from participation or competition at that time. A student athlete who has been removed from an interscholastic contest for a possible concussion or head injury may not return to that contest unless cleared to do so by a physician licensed to practice medicine in all its branches in Illinois or a certified athletic trainer. If not cleared to return to that contest, a student athlete may not return to play or practice until the student athlete has provided his or her school with the Unit 5 Concussion Staging Document, signed by the student, the student's parent/guardian, and the student's physician licensed to practice medicine in all its branches in Illinois or a certified athletic trainer working in conjunction with a physician licensed to practice medicine in all its branches in Illinois.

School Insurance

A low cost accident policy is offered to all students. While the schools have no obligation in case of an accident, the District is glad to cooperate with the agency and offer this limited, yet liberal policy for your consideration. Briefly, students may be insured for the school year for the accidents, which occur while engaged in any school-sponsored activity or between home and school. Enrollment information and claim forms for the collection of insurance payments due to accidents may be obtained in the school offices.

Physicals and Immunizations

ILLINOIS LAW REQUIRES that all students entering an early child-hood program, kindergarten, sixth or ninth grades, or transferring from out of state have a physical examination within one calendar year **PRIOR** to the date of entry. The examination must be reported on the Illinois DHS-Certificate of Child Health Examination form & include a complete immunization record and medical history. Students transferring from another Illinois school must present copies of their current Illinois school health records.

Section 27-8.1 of the Illinois School Code states: "If a child does not comply then the **LOCAL SCHOOL AUTHORITY SHALL EXCLUDE THAT CHILD FROM SCHOOL** until such time as the child presents proof of having had either the health examination or those required immunizations which are medically possible to receive immediately."

All students entering ECE, Pre-K, Kindergarten, 6th grade, and 9th grade must submit a current physical exam and complete immunization record by the **FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL**. Children without physicals and immunizations will **NOT** be allowed to start school until the school nurse receives the records. **NO** appointment cards will be accepted.

I understand that if my student will be entering a pre-kindergarten program (for the first time), kindergarten, sixth, or ninth grade, that I must show proof that (s)he has received a new physical exam on the IL-DHS physical exam form **BEFORE THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL**. *Sports physicals are NOT accepted for this requirement.* Immunizations are *also* required **BEFORE THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL** for several grades; click on the link below or check with your healthcare provider for details. http://www.isbe.net/pdf/school_health/immunization-requirements.pdf. It is strongly recommended that you

turn in these requirements by the walk in registration date each year either in person or by mailing it to the school.

Parents or guardians who object to health examination or immunizations on religious grounds must present an Illinois Certificate of Religious Exemption to Required Immunizations and/or Examinations Form found at: <http://www.dph.illinois.gov/sites/default/files/forms/religious-exemption-form-081815-040816.pdf>. The form must be signed by the child's parent or legal guardian, **AND** the child's health care provider responsible for performing the child's health examination. If a child cannot be fully immunized because of health reasons (medical contraindication), the physician must state this fact on the health examination certificate.

In the event of a diagnosed case of a communicable disease the school nurse will consult with the McLean County Health Department to determine the need to exclude students not protected by immunizations, utilizing the most current Illinois Department Public Health Rules and Regulations.

The following immunizations are required by the State of Illinois for children in grades Pre-K through 12. The specific requirements for each are determined in Section 665.240 (Basic Immunization) and Section 665.250 (Proof of Immunity) of Title 77 of the Illinois Administrative Code.

1. DPT/DTap/Tdap
2. OPV/IPV
3. Measles/Mumps/Rubells (MMR)
4. Varicella
5. Hepatitis B (required for early learning programs and 6th grades and up)
6. Hib (required for early learning programs)
7. Pneumococcal (required for early learning programs)
8. Meningococcal (required for 6th-8th grades and 12th grade)

Dental Exams

Public Act 93-946 requires all Illinois children in **kindergarten, second, and sixth grades** to have an oral health exam. Each child shall present proof of exam by a dentist prior to **May 15** of the school year.

Vision Exams

Illinois law requires all children in **kindergarten** or **enrolling for the first time in an Illinois school** to have an eye examination completed by an eye doctor. Each child shall present proof of exam by an eye doctor prior to the **first day of the school year**.

Exemptions

A student will be exempted from the above requirements for:

1. Religious grounds if the student's parent/guardian presents to the building principal an Illinois Certificate of Religious Exemption to Required Immunizations and/or Examinations Form found at: <http://www.dph.illinois.gov/sites/default/files/forms/religious-exemption-form-081815-040816.pdf>. The form must be signed by the child's parent or legal guardian, **AND** the child's health care provider responsible for performing the child's health examination.

2. Health examination or immunization requirements on medical grounds if a physician provides written verification;
3. Eye examination requirement if the student's parent/guardian shows an undue burden or lack of access to a physician licensed to practice medicine in all of its branches who provides eye examinations or a licensed optometrist; or
4. Dental examination requirement if the student's parent/guardian shows an undue burden or a lack of access to a dentist.

Cross Reference:

Board Policy 7.100, *Health, Eye and, Dental Examinations; Immunizations; and Exclusion of Students*

Vision and Hearing Screenings

Vision and hearing screenings will be conducted at state-mandated grade levels. Vision screening is not a substitute for a complete eye and vision evaluation by an eye doctor. Your child is not required to undergo the mandated vision screening IF a report of an eye examination within the last 12 months by an optometrist is on file at the school. The vision examination report must be completed and signed by the optometrist. This section of the student handbook constitutes notice to parents and guardians of students in the grades mandated for vision and hearing screenings. Vision and hearing screenings will be conducted for all students in the mandated grades unless the parent provides a written request that the student not be screened, or, in the case of vision screening, provides a current eye examination report.

Communicable Diseases

For everyone's protection, sick children must be at home, not at school. When reporting the student's absence, please report the reason for the child's absence. The school needs to be informed of any student having a special health problem or communicable disease. Children with the following conditions should not be in school:

- A **fever** within the last 24 hours of 100° F or higher
- **Vomiting or diarrhea within the last 24 hours**
- A frequent or disruptive cough or other signs of an acute **respiratory infection**
- Any **contagious illness** such as "strep throat" that requires antibiotic therapy. Once a student has been **fever free and on antibiotics for at least 24 hours free without the use of fever-reducing medications**, he/she may return to school.
- Any **undiagnosed skin rash**. A student with a rash may attend school upon presenting a **physician's note** stating the rash is not contagious.
- Pronounced **lethargy or fatigue** that interferes with participation in learning activities.

Care of Students with Chronic Health Conditions

State law requires our school district to annually inform parents of students with life-threatening allergies or life-threatening chronic illnesses like Diabetes of the applicable provisions of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and other applicable federal statutes, State statutes, federal regulations and State rules.

Federal law protects students from discrimination due to a disability that substantially limits a major life activity. If your student has a qualifying disability, an individualized Section 504 Plan will be developed and

implemented to provide the needed supports so that your student can access his or her education as effectively as students without disabilities.

Not all students with life-threatening allergies and life-threatening chronic illnesses may be eligible under Section 504. Our school district also may be able to appropriately meet a student's needs through other means. Federal law protects students from discrimination due to a disability that substantially limits a major life activity. If your student has a qualifying disability, an individualized Section 504 Plan will be developed and implemented to provide the needed supports so that your student can access his or her education as effectively as students without disabilities.

Not all students with life-threatening allergies and life-threatening chronic illnesses may be eligible under Section 504. Our school district also may be able to appropriately meet a student's needs through other means.

It is the parent/guardian's responsibility to inform the School Nurse or Principal of their child's health concern. The School Nurse will then work with the family, the student, the student's physician and the classroom teacher to develop a Plan of Action. It is the parent's responsibility to ensure that The Plan and all medication and procedure forms (if needed) are completed and signed by the physician and parent before they will be implemented. Please contact your School Nurse for further information.

Cross Reference:
 Board Policy 7.285, *Food Allergy Management Program*
 Administrative Procedure 7.285-AP1, *Implementing a Food Allergy Management Program*
 Exhibit 7.285-E1, *Food Allergy Awareness*

Treats and Snacks

Due to health concerns, allergies and scheduling, snacks for any occasion must be arranged in advance with the classroom teacher other than students in the full day preschool program. Full day students will be served a snack in the afternoon. All snacks must be store bought. No homemade snacks are allowed at school. Snacks are not to require refrigeration and must have a clearly printed label. We strongly encourage you to select a snack with nutritional value, such as fresh fruits and vegetables.

Birthday recognitions cannot include food items. The decision will be left up to each school as to how they would like to recognize a student's birthday, but it cannot include food items.

Cross Reference:
 Board Policy 7.285, *Food Allergy Management Program*
 Administrative Procedure 7.285-AP1, *Implementing a Food Allergy Management Program*
 Exhibit 7.285-E1, *Food Allergy Awareness*
 Board Policy 6.50, *School Wellness*

Head Lice

The school will observe recommendations of the Illinois Department of Public Health regarding head lice.

1. Parents are required to notify the school nurse if they suspect their child has head lice.
2. Infested students will be sent home following notification of the parent or guardian.

3. The school will provide written instructions to parent or guardian regarding appropriate treatment for the infestation.
4. A student excluded because of head lice will be permitted to return to school only when the student is checked by the school nurse or building principal and the child is determined to be free an active infestation.

Physical Education/Activity Restrictions

Students who have restrictions for participation in physical education must present documentation from the physician, signed and dated, stating the restriction and length of time it is to be in effect.

Medication at School

If a student must receive prescription or non-prescription medication at school, a written request completed by both the licensed prescriber (physician, dentist, podiatrist, physician's assistant, or advanced practice nurse) and the parent/guardian, **must** be on file at their school. The "School Medication Authorization Form" is available in each school office. All medication must be **self-administered** by the student under supervision of the school nurse, other certified staff member, or Principal or designee.

Students are not allowed to carry medication on their person or keep it in their classroom. Exceptions will be allowed only with the approval of the building administrator and the certified nurse. All medications will be kept locked in the nurse's office.

Exceptions will be made to allow a student with asthma to carry their rescue inhaler, or a student with severe allergies to carry their Epi-pen per Illinois law, once the "school medication authorization form" is on file at the school. This form is available upon request at each elementary school.

Prescription medication must be in the original package or appropriately labeled container. **The container shall display:**

- 1) Student's name;
- 2) Prescription number;
- 3) Medication name and dosage;
- 4) Administration route and/or other direction;
- 5) Dates to be taken;
- 6) Licensed prescriber's name; and
- 7) Pharmacy name, address, and phone number

Non-prescription medication must be in the original container with the label indicating the ingredients and the student's name affixed to the container.

No medication will be provided by any school. All requests for self-administration of medication will expire at the end of the school year, unless ordered for a short term. If the parent/guardian does not pick up any unused medication, the certified school nurse shall dispose of the medication in the presence of a witness and both shall document the act.

Nothing in this policy shall prohibit any school employee from providing emergency assistance to students, including performing a medical procedure.

Failure to Follow Medical Procedures

Failure to follow the procedures for self-administration of medication outlined in this section will be considered a disciplinary situation and will be handled according to procedures outlined in the "Controlled Substances" section of this handbook. This includes, but is not limited to, giving other students medications not prescribed for them or taking improper doses of medication. Violators will be subject to consequences ranging from Saturday Supervised Study to suspension or a recommendation for expulsion, and may be reported to appropriate law enforcement agencies (see Over the Counter Chemical Substances).

Procedures at Schools

If a student must have a medical procedure performed at school to protect their health and well-being, an "Authorized School Personnel to Perform a Medical Procedure" form must be on file at the school. The form must be filled out and signed by the health care provider and signed by the parent/guardian. No district employee shall perform a medical procedure for any student or supervise a student performing their own medical procedure until this form is received by the school. Teachers and other non-administrative school employees, except certified school nurses, shall not be required to perform a medical procedure.

Reasonable accommodations will be made by Unit 5 schools to insure a student receives a free and appropriate education in the least restrictive environment. In order to prevent educational interruption, procedures performed at school are limited to those requested by the parent and which the licensed health care prescriber (physician, dentist, podiatrist, physician's assistant, or advanced practice nurse) certifies cannot be scheduled outside school hours without risk to the health and safety of the student.

Nothing in this policy shall prohibit any school employee from providing emergency assistance to students, including performing a medical procedure.

Cross Reference:

Board Policy 7.270, *Administering Medicines to Students*
Administrative Procedure 7.270-AP1, *Dispensing Medication*
Exhibit 7.270-E1, *School Medication Authorization Form*

Disability Assistance

Persons with a disability of either a temporary or permanent nature may receive help by request through the nurse, counselors, or administrators.

Safety Drill Procedures and Conduct

Safety drills will occur at times established by the school board. Students are required to be silent and shall comply with the directives of school officials during emergency drills.

Cross Reference:

Board Policy 4.170, *Safety*
Administrative Procedure 4.170-AP1, *Comprehensive Safety and Crisis Program*

Building Security

For the safety of our students, Unit 5 has adopted a closed-building concept. All exterior doors are locked.

All visitors to the building are required to check into the office to report their purpose for being in the school. Visitors will be given an appropriate ID Badge to wear during their stay. We encourage everyone to cooperate in providing a safe learning environment for the children.

Section 6-Discipline and Conduct

General Building Conduct

Students enrolled in the Unit 5 schools shall conduct themselves in a mature manner, acting with due regard for the supervisory authority vested by the Board of Education in district employees. Good self-discipline is positive and encourages the student to exercise his/her individual rights, within established guidelines, and to respect the rights and welfare of others.

Education proceeds effectively with appropriate and consistent discipline. Teachers and other certified employees shall maintain discipline in the schools. In all matters relating to the conduct and discipline of the students, they stand in the relationship of parents and guardians to the students. They shall exercise such control over students as would be exercised by a kind, firm, and judicious parent. This relationship shall extend to all activities connected with the school program and may be exercised at any time for the safety and supervision of the students.

When a certified employee acts to help a student conduct himself properly, emphasis shall be placed upon the growth of the student toward self-discipline. A progressive form of discipline, tempered by the conditions and circumstances of the offense, shall be followed. Unit 5 does not permit the use of corporal punishment as a means of disciplining students. A teacher is granted the right to remove a student from the classroom for disruptive behavior. Physical contact or restraint may be appropriate when a teacher or other supervisor is required to employ it in self-defense, for the safety of students, or to help maintain control. In all instances necessitating disciplinary action, due process will be afforded the student as outlined in the Illinois School Code, 105 ILCS 5/10-22.6.

Any student who is disobedient or insubordinate or who gives evidence of inappropriate behavior may be suspended, not to exceed ten days, by the Principal. Such suspension will be reported immediately to the Superintendent and the student's parents or guardians, along with a full statement of the reasons for such suspension. The parents or guardians of the suspended student shall be informed of the due process procedures and of their right to have a review of the suspension by the Board of Education. The Principal shall inform the Superintendent if the parents or guardians wish to request or waive the review.

A student may be expelled only by the Board of Education on recommendation of the Superintendent for gross disobedience or misconduct. Expulsion shall take place only after the parents or guardians have been requested to appear with a hearing officer to discuss their child's behavior. Such request shall be made by registered or certified mail and shall state the time, place, and purpose of the meeting. If the Board's decision is to expel the student, the reasons for dismissal and the date on which the expulsion is to become effective will be stated.

School personnel may order the removal of a child with a disability (IEP) from the child's current placement for not more than ten consecutive school days for any violation of school rules, and additional removal, of not more than ten consecutive school days in the same school year for separate incidents of misconduct. The parents or guardians of the special education student are afforded all rights and privileges to have a hearing pertaining to either the decision about the relationship of the behavior to the suspension and expulsion itself.

The discipline policy of Unit 5 has been formulated by the Board with input from teachers, parents, and administrators. The policy is subject to an annual review.

General Expectations

- Students shall not run, talk loudly or yell in the hallways nor shall they push, shove or hit others.
- Students shall not write on walls, desks or deface or destroy school property.
- Chewing of gum is not permitted in the school building.
- Skateboards are not permitted at school.
- Water guns, play guns, and/or real guns are not permitted at school.
- No portable listening devices, electronic devices or cameras are permitted without permission from the principal

Student Behavior

Student Behavior Philosophy

In support of our mission to educate each student to achieve personal excellence, the District will endeavor to

(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 other 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. It is the shared responsibility of schools, families and communities to achieve this by teaching, recognizing and reinforcing appropriate behavior.

To the greatest extent possible the District will use positive behavior management strategies to encourage all students to maintain personal conduct consistent with District expectations, avoiding any cause for disciplinary action.

Students are accountable for conducting themselves within the parameters of District expectations and for complying with reasonable corrective actions imposed for violations. When violations occur, incidents will be investigated thoroughly to determine appropriate disciplinary action, intervention and/or supports. Discipline will be administered in a fair and equitable, but not necessarily equal, manner in consideration of individual circumstances.

Parent/guardian are encouraged to review District expectations with their student(s) at the beginning of each school year. A student handbook, which includes the District's discipline philosophy, and school rules, shall be distributed to students within 15 days of the beginning of the school year or the first day of a student's attendance.

Cross Reference: Board Policy, Student Behavior No. 7.190

Procedures shall be set forth for parent notification and early intervention when a student is found to be at risk for aggressive behavior as demonstrated through the following behaviors and characteristics:

- Past history of aggressive or violent behavior.
- Uncontrolled anger.
- Patterns of hitting, intimidating and bullying.
- History of discipline problems.
- Serious threats of violence.
- Access to or possession of a firearm.
- Expression of violence in writings and drawings.
- Affiliation with gangs.
- Expressed prejudicial attitudes and intolerance for differences.

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, or selling or offering for sale:
 - a. Any illegal drug, controlled substance, or cannabis (including medical cannabis, marijuana, and hashish).
 - 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 medication when not prescribed for the student by a physician, or licensed practitioner when used in a manner inconsistent with the prescription or prescribing physician’s or licensed practitioner’s instructions, or without following the procedures for student medication outlined below including without limitation failing to have a completed and signed “Medication Authorization Form” on file, failing to keep medication in the original container, giving other students medication, or taking improper doses of medication. Violations of this paragraph may be reported to appropriate law enforcement agencies. The use or possession of medical cannabis, even by a student for whom medical cannabis has been prescribed, is prohibited.

Failure to Follow Medical Procedures

Failure to follow the procedures for self-administration of medication outlined in this section will be considered a disciplinary situation and will be handled according to procedures outlined in the "Controlled Substances" section of this handbook. This includes, but is not limited to, giving other students medications not prescribed for them or taking

improper doses of medication. Violators will be subject to administrative consequences, suspension or a recommendation for expulsion, and may be reported to appropriate law enforcement agencies (see Over the Counter Chemical Substances).

- e. Any non-prescription medication without following the procedures for student medication outlined below.
- f. 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.
- g. 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.
- h. "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, or 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.
- i. 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 a look-alike weapon, or violating the *Weapons* section of this policy.
- 5. Using or possessing an electronic mobile device including but not limited to mobile (i.e. cellular/smart) phone, video recording device, personal digital assistant (PDA), iPod, mp3 player, laptop, netbook, iPad, tablet, or other similar 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, eavesdrop (e.g. recording a conversation without the consent of all parties), or otherwise violate student conduct rules. Prohibited conduct specifically includes, without limitation, creating, sending, sharing, viewing, receiving, or possessing an indecent visual depiction of oneself or another person through the use of a computer or electronic mobile device, commonly known as "sexting."

Students are allowed to possess and use electronic mobile devices in school, provided they do not cause a disruption, and are not used, seen or heard during instructional time unless:

- (a) The supervising teacher grants permission;
- (b) Use of the device is provided in a student's IEP; or
- (c) It is needed in an emergency that threatens the safety of students, staff, or other individuals.
- 6. Using or possessing a laser pointer unless under a staff member's direct supervision and in the context of instruction.
- 7. Disobeying rules of student conduct or directives from staff members or school officials. Examples of disobeying staff directives include refusing a District staff member's request to stop, present school identification, or submit to a search.
- 8. Engaging in academic dishonesty, including cheating, intentionally plagiarizing, wrongfully giving or receiving help during an academic examination, altering report cards, and wrongfully obtaining test copies or scores.
- 9. 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.
- 10. Engaging in any sexual activity, including without limitation, offensive touching, sexual harassment, indecent exposure (including mooning), and sexual assault.
- 11. Teen dating violence, as described in Board policy 7:185, *Teen Dating Violence Prohibited*.

12. Taking or relocating school or personal property without permission. Causing or attempting to cause damage to, or stealing or attempting to steal, school property or another person's personal property.
13. Entering school property or a school facility without proper authorization.
14. 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, a school bus, or at any school activity.
15. Being absent without a recognized excuse; State law and Board policy regarding truancy control will be used with chronic and habitual truants.
16. 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.
17. Being involved in gangs or gang-related activities, including the display of gang symbols or paraphernalia.
18. Violating any criminal law, including but not limited to, assault, battery, arson, theft, gambling, eavesdropping, vandalism, and hazing.
19. 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 with 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.
20. Operating an unmanned aircraft system (UAS) or drone for any purpose on school grounds or at any school event unless granted permission by the Superintendent or designee.
21. 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 where 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, supports and progressive discipline, 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 Superintendent 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 a disciplinary consequence.

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.

The grounds for disciplinary action, including those described more thoroughly later in this policy, apply 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 which 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.

Disciplinary Measures

Where practicable and reasonable, school officials will consider forms of non-exclusionary discipline before using out-of-school suspensions or expulsions. Disciplinary measures may include, without limitation, any of the following:

1. Notifying parent/guardian.
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 in accordance with Board policy 7.200, *Suspension Procedures*. The Building Principal or designee shall ensure that the student is properly supervised.
7. Detention 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, education, environmental, or public safety needs. The District will not provide transportation. School administration may use this option 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 handbook 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 is prohibited from being on school grounds and at school activities during the period of the suspension.

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 is prohibited from being on school grounds and at school activities during the period of the expulsion. A student may be immediately transferred to an alternative school program if the student is expelled or otherwise qualified for the transfer under State law. The transfer shall be in the manner provided in Article 13A or 13B of the School Code.

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/or 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 and/or expulsion. In addition to the above list of disciplinary measures, juvenile authorities or other law enforcement may be notified 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 District and local law enforcement agencies.

Cross Reference:
7.190, *Student Behavior*

Corporal punishment is prohibited. Corporal punishment is defined as 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 needed to maintain safety for students, staff, or other persons, or for the purpose of self-defense or defense of property.

Weapons

A student, who uses, possesses, controls, or transfers one of the following weapons at school, on school grounds, on a school bus, at any school-sponsored activity or event, or at any activity or event that bears a reasonable relationship to school, shall be expelled for at least one calendar year but not more than two calendar years:

1. A firearm, meaning any gun, rifle, shotgun, a weapon as defined by Section 921 of Title 18, United States Code (18 U.S.C. § 921), firearm as defined in Section 1.1 of the Firearm Owners Identification Act (430 ILCS 65/), or firearm as defined in Section 24-1 of the Criminal Code of 1961 (720 ILCS 5/24-1);
2. Ammunition;
3. A knife, billy club, brass knuckles, or other knuckle weapon regardless of its composition;
4. A look-alike firearm;
5. Any other object if used or attempted to be used to cause bodily harm.

Students should report suspected possession or use of such items to any counselor, teacher, or administrator. Arrangements to bring such items to school for classroom demonstrations must be made in advance with one of the Assistant Principals.

The expulsion requirement under either paragraph 1 or 2 above may be modified by the Superintendent or designee, and the Superintendent's or designee's determination may be modified by the Board on a case-by-case basis. The Superintendent 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.

Required Notices

A school staff member shall immediately notify the office or the Building Principal in the event that he or she: (1) observes any person in possession of a firearm on or around 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. Upon receiving such a report, the Building Principal or designee shall immediately notify the local law enforcement agency, State Police, and any involved student's parent/guardian. "School grounds" includes modes of transportation to school activities and any public way within 1,000 feet of the school, as well as school property itself.

Re-Engagement of Returning Students

The building principal or designee shall meet with a student returning to school from an out-of-school suspension, expulsion or alternative school setting. The goal of this meeting shall be to support the student's ability to be successful in school following a period of exclusion, and shall include an opportunity for students who have been suspended to complete or make-up missed work for equivalent academic credit.

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 certificated educational employees and other persons providing a related service for or with respect to a student, may use reasonable force as needed to maintain safety for other students, school personnel, or other persons, or for the purpose of self-defense or defense of property. Teachers may temporarily remove students from a classroom for disruptive behavior.

The Superintendent, Building Principal, Associate Principal and Assistant Principal are 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 days for safety reasons.

Student Handbook

The Superintendent or designee, with input from the parent-teacher advisory committee, shall prepare disciplinary rules implementing the District’s disciplinary policies. These disciplinary rules shall be presented annually to the Board for its review and approval.

A student handbook, including the District’s student disciplinary philosophy, disciplinary policies and rules, shall be distributed to the students’ parent/guardian within 15 days of the beginning of the school year or a student’s enrollment.

Cross Reference:
Board Policy 7.190, *Student Behavior*
Administrative Procedure 7.190-AP2, *Gang Activity Prohibited*

Fighting

Fighting presents a substantial threat to both personal safety and reasonable order within the school and will not be tolerated. A fight will be defined as "two or more individuals involved in aggressive physical contact with one another." Students need to avoid a physical confrontation at all costs. If this situation is present, students must walk away and report to an adult immediately. Students involved in a first incident of fighting will be subject to suspension from school. Fights may be reported to appropriate law enforcement agencies. Subsequent incidents will result in a suspension of up to ten days and a possible recommendation for expulsion from school.

Vandalism/Damage to Property

Students will be held responsible for damaging or defacing school property or the property of others in any way. Students will pay appropriate restitution for the repair, clean up, or replacement of affected property and will be subject to other disciplinary action as deemed appropriate by the school administration. The offender may be reported to appropriate law enforcement agencies.

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 District goals.

Bullying on the basis of actual or perceived race, color, national origin, military status, unfavorable discharge status from the 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, or actual or potential marital or parental status, including pregnancy, association with a person or group with one or more of the aforementioned actual or perceived characteristics, or any other distinguishing characteristic **is prohibited** in each of the following situations:

1. During any school sponsored education program or activity.
2. While in school, on school property, on school buses or other school vehicles, at designated school bus stops waiting for the school bus, or at school sponsored or school sanctioned events or activities.

3. Through the transmission of information from a school computer, a school computer network, or other similar electronic school equipment.
4. Through the transmission of information from a computer that is accessed at a nonschool-related location, activity, function, or program or from the use of technology or an electronic device that is not owned, leased, or used by the District or school if the bullying causes a substantial disruption to the education process or orderly operation of a school. This paragraph (item #4) applies only when a school administrator or teacher receives a report that bullying through this means has occurred; it does not require staff members to monitor any nonschool-related activity, function, or program.

Definitions from Section 27-23.7 of the School Code (105 ILCS 5/27-23.7)

Bullying includes *cyber-bullying* and means any severe or pervasive physical or verbal act or conduct, including communications made in writing or electronically, directed toward a student or students that has or can be reasonably predicted to have the effect of one or more of the following:

1. Placing the student or students in reasonable fear of harm to the student's or students' person or property;
2. Causing a substantially detrimental effect on the student's or students' physical or mental health;
3. Substantially interfering with the student's or students' academic performance; or
4. Substantially interfering with the student's or students' ability to participate in or benefit from the services, activities, or privileges provided by a school.

Bullying Prevention and Response Plan

The Superintendent or designee shall develop and maintain a bullying prevention and response plan that advances the district's goal of providing all students with a safe learning environment free of bullying and harassment. This plan must be consistent with the requirements listed below; each numbered requirement, 1-12, corresponds with the same number in the list of required policy components in 105 ILCS 5/27-23.7(b) 1-2.

1. The District uses the definition of *bullying* as provided in this policy.
2. Bullying is contrary to State law and the policy of this District. However, nothing in the District's bullying prevention and response plan is intended to infringe upon any right to exercise free expression or the free exercise of religion or religiously based views protected under the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution or under Section 3 of Article I of the Illinois Constitution.
3. Students are encouraged to immediately report bullying. A report may be made orally or in writing to the District Complaint Manager or any staff member with whom the student is comfortable speaking. Anyone, including staff members and parents/guardians, who has information about actual or threatened

bullying is encouraged to report it to the District Complaint Manager or any staff member. Anonymous reports are also accepted.

Complaint Manager: Name: M. Curt Richardson
 Address: 1809 West Hovey Ave; Normal IL 61761
 Email: richardmc@unit5.org
 Telephone: (309) 557-4082

5. Consistent with federal and State laws and rules governing student privacy rights, the Superintendent or designee shall promptly inform the parents/guardians of every student involved in an alleged incident of bullying and discuss, as appropriate, the availability of social work services, counseling, school psychological services, other interventions, and restorative measures.
5. The Superintendent or designee shall promptly investigate and address reports of bullying, by, among other things:
 - a. Making all reasonable efforts to complete the investigation within 10 school days after the date the report of a bullying incident was received and taking into consideration additional relevant information received during the course of the investigation about the reported bullying incident.
 - b. Involving appropriate school support personnel and other staff persons with knowledge, experience, and training on bullying prevention, as deemed appropriate, in the investigation process.
 - c. Notifying the Building Principal or school administrator or designee of the reported incident of bullying as soon as possible after the report is received.
 - d. Consistent with federal and State laws and rules governing student privacy rights, providing parents/guardians of the students who are parties to the investigation information about the investigation and an opportunity to meet with the Building Principal or school administrator or his or her designee to discuss the investigation, the findings of the investigation, and the actions taken to address the reported incident of bullying.

The Superintendent or designee shall investigate whether a reported incident of bullying is within the permissible scope of the District’s jurisdiction and shall require that the District provide the victim with information regarding services that are available within the District and community, such as counseling, support services, and other programs

7. A reprisal or retaliation against any person who reports an act of bullying **is prohibited**. A student’s act of reprisal or retaliation will be treated as *bullying* for purposes of determining any consequences or other appropriate remedial actions.
8. A student will not be punished for reporting bullying or supplying information, even if the District’s investigation concludes that no bullying occurred. However, knowingly making a false accusation or

providing knowingly false information will be treated as *bullying* for purposes of determining any consequences or other appropriate remedial actions.

9. The District’s bullying prevention and response plan must be based on the engagement of a range of school stakeholders, including students and parents/guardians.
10. The Superintendent or designee shall post this policy on the District’s Internet website, if any, and include it in the student handbook, and, where applicable, post it where other policies, rules, and standards of conduct are currently posted. The policy must also be distributed annually to parents/guardians, students, and school personnel, including new employees when hired.
11. The Superintendent or designee shall assist the Board with its evaluation and assessment of this policy’s outcomes and effectiveness. This process shall include, without limitation:
 - a. The frequency of victimization;
 - b. Student, staff, and family observations of safety at a school;
 - c. Identification or areas of a school where bullying occurs;
 - d. The types of bullying utilized; and
 - e. Bystander intervention or participation.

The evaluation process may use relevant data and information that the District already collects for other purposes. The Superintendent or designee must post the information developed as a result of the policy evaluation on the District’s website, or if a website is not available, the information must be provided to school administrators, Board members, school personnel, parents/guardians, and students.

12. The Superintendent or designee shall fully implement the *Board policies*, including without limitation, the following:
 - a. 2.260 ~ A student may use this policy to complain about bullying.
 - b. 6.60 ~ Bullying prevention and character instruction is provided in all grades in accordance with State law.
 - c. 6.65 ~ Student social and emotional development is incorporated in the District’s educational program as required by State law.
 - d. 6.235 ~ This policy states that the use of the District’s electronic networks is limited to: (1) support of education and/or research, or (2) a legitimate business use.
 - e. 7.20 ~ This policy prohibits *any* person from harassing, intimidating, or bullying a student based on an actual or perceived characteristic (the list of characteristics in 7.20 is the same as the list in this policy).
 - f. 7.185 ~ This policy prohibits teen dating violence on school property, at school sponsored activities, and in vehicles used for school-provided transportation.
 - g. 7.190 ~ This policy prohibits, and provides consequences for, hazing, bullying, or other aggressive behaviors, or urging other students to engage in such conduct.
 - h. 7.310 ~ This policy prohibits students from, and provides consequences for: (i) accessing and/or distributing at school any written, printed, or electronic material, including material from the Internet, that will cause substantial disruption of the proper and orderly operation and discipline of the school

or school activities, and (ii) creating and/or distributing written, printed, or electronic material, including photographs and Internet material and blogs, that causes substantial disruption to school operations or interferes with the rights of other students or staff members.

Cross-References:

Board Policy 2.260, *Uniform Grievance Procedure*

Board Policy 7.20, *Harassment of Students Prohibited*

Board Policy 7.180, *Preventing Bullying, Intimidation, and Harassment*

Board Policy 7.190, *Student Behavior*

Sexual Harassment Prohibited

Sexual harassment of students is prohibited. Any person, including a District employee or agent, or student, engages in sexual harassment whenever he or she makes sexual advances, requests sexual favors, and/or engages in other verbal or physical conduct, including sexual violence, of a sexual or sex-based nature, imposed on the basis of sex, that:

1. Denies or limits the provision of educational aid, benefits, services, or treatment; or that makes such conduct a condition of a student's academic status; or
2. Has the purpose or effect of:
 - a. Substantially interfering with a student's educational environment;
 - b. Creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive educational environment;
 - c. Depriving a student of educational aid, benefits, services, or treatment; or
 - d. Making submission to or rejection of such conduct the basis for academic decisions affecting a student.

The terms *intimidating*, *hostile*, and *offensive* include conduct that has the effect of humiliation, embarrassment, or discomfort. Examples of sexual harassment include touching, crude jokes or pictures, discussions of sexual experiences, teasing related to sexual characteristics, and spreading rumors related to a person's alleged sexual activities. The term *sexual violence* includes a number of different acts. Examples of sexual violence include, but are not limited to, rape, sexual assault, sexual battery, sexual abuse, and sexual coercion.

Making a Complaint, Enforcement

Students are encouraged to report claims or incidences of bullying, harassment, sexual harassment, or any other prohibited conduct to the Nondiscrimination Coordinator, Building Principal, Associate Principal, Assistant Principal, or a Complaint Manager, or anonymously via the District's *Bullying Hotline* (phone number is located on the District's website and in the *Parent/Student Handbook*). A student may choose to report to a person of the student's same sex. Complaints will be kept confidential to the extent possible given the need to investigate. Students who make good faith complaints will not be disciplined.

An allegation that a student was a victim of any prohibited conduct perpetrated by another student shall be referred to the Building Principal, Associate Principal, or Assistant Principal, for appropriate action.

Contact the District Office for the names, addresses, and telephone numbers of the District's current Nondiscrimination Coordinator and Complaint Managers. At least one of these individuals will be female, and at least one will be male.

Complaint Manager: Name: M. Curt Richardson
 and Address: 1809 West Hovey Ave; Normal IL 61761
Nondiscrimination Email: richardmc@unit5.org
Coordinator: Telephone: (309) 557-4082

Complaint Manager: Name: Dayna Brown
 Address: 1809 West Hovey Ave; Normal IL 61761
 Email: brownda@unit5.org
 Telephone: (309) 557-4032

The Superintendent or designee shall use reasonable measures to inform staff members and students of this policy, such as, by including this policy in appropriate handbooks.

Any District 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 District 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 discipline policy. Any person making a knowingly false accusation regarding prohibited conduct will likewise be subject to disciplinary action up to and including discharge, with regard to employees, or suspension and expulsion, with regard to students.

Cross Reference:
 Board Policy 2.260, *Uniform Grievance Procedure*
 Board Policy 7.20, *Harassment of Students Prohibited*
 Board Policy 7.180, *Preventing Bullying, Intimidation, and Harassment*
 Board Policy 7.190, *Student Behavior*

Section 7-Internet, Technology, Publications

Internet Acceptable Use

Introduction

Electronic information resources which include, but are not limited to student email, the Internet, desktop computers, laptops, and other network files or accounts are available to students of the District. It is the goal of the District to provide current technology in communications and electronic services to all students in order to promote education, efficiency, information sharing, and a cooperative and an innovative environment.

Scope

The smooth operation of the network relies upon the proper conduct of the end users who must adhere to strict guidelines, rules and regulations. Such are provided so that users are aware of the responsibilities they are about to accept. In general, users' responsibilities necessitate efficient, ethical, and legal utilization of the network, computer resources, student email, and other technology resources. Internet access is coordinated through a complex association of government agencies as well as regional and State networks. Worldwide access to computers and people may involve the availability of materials considered to be inappropriate, illegal, or of no professional or educational value. On a global network it is virtually impossible to control all materials. However, through a filtering and monitoring system, the District has taken precautions to restrict access to inappropriate materials and protect its users. Users who access, transmit, or store inappropriate material or who take action that violates the Student Acceptable Use of Electronic Networks procedure are subject to disciplinary or legal action.

Terms and Conditions of this Agreement

The reading and acknowledgement of this procedure is legally binding and indicates that the student and parent/ guardian have carefully read, understand, and agree to the terms and conditions given within this procedure.

1. Privileges: The use of electronic information resources is a privilege, not a right. Inappropriate use of these resources may result in disciplinary and/or referral to legal authorities by school administrators. The site teacher/administrator or system administrators as well as District administrators may limit, suspend, or revoke access to electronic resources at any time.

2. Acceptable Use: Inappropriate material or communications defined: Transmission or intentional receipt of any inappropriate material or material in violation of law or district policy is prohibited. Material or information considered to be in violation of the Student Acceptable Use of Electronic Networks procedures includes, but is not limited to the following:

- Copyrighted material
- Criminal activities or terrorist acts
- Illegal solicitation ☒
- Threatening or obscene material
- Sexism or sexual harassment
- Racism
- Material protected by trade secrets

- Pornography
- Inappropriate language
- Disrupting the educational experience of others
- Gambling
- Explosive devices
- Political lobbying

3. Etiquette: Students have the responsibility to assure all shared information meets the standards set forth in this procedure. Each account holder and user is expected to abide by the generally accepted rules of user etiquette. These rules of etiquette prohibit, but are not limited to the following:

- Using obscene language
- Harassing, insulting or attacking others
- Engaging in practices that threaten the network (e.g., loading files that may introduce a virus)
- Violating copyright laws
- Using others' passwords
- Trespassing in others' folders, documents, or files
- Intentionally wasting limited resources
- Employing the network for commercial purposes
- Sharing confidential information on students or employees
- Sending or displaying offensive messages or pictures
- Promoting, supporting or celebrating religion or religious institutions
- Accessing personal computer devices (Peer to Peer) outside the District's electronic network.

4. Vandalism: Vandalism is defined as any malicious attempt to harm or destroy property of the user, another user, or of any other agencies or networks that are connected to the network as well as the Internet system. Vandalism also includes, but is not limited to overloading of data on the server as well as the uploading, downloading or creation of computer viruses in an intentional manner. Vandalism is considered a violation of this procedure and as such is subject to disciplinary or legal action as deemed appropriate by the administration.

5. Service Disclaimer: 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 student may suffer while on this system. These damages may include but are not limited to: loss of data as a result of delays, non-deliveries, mis-deliveries, or service interruptions caused by the system or by employee error or omission. Use of any information obtained via the information system is at the student's own risk. The District specifically denies any responsibility for the accuracy of information obtained through electronic information resources.

6. Filtering, Monitoring, and Review: The District, in order to comply with local, State, and federal laws and standards, filters Internet content on systems to which students may have access. This filtering removes access to websites and Internet servers that have been deemed to have inappropriate content not of an educational value. Report any errors found regarding what sites being, or not being filtered, immediately to an administrator or the Instructional Technology Department. The District retains the right to monitor network, email, computer, and telephone use without warning or notice. Information stored, transmitted, or communicated on District equipment is not to be considered private. Information gained through monitoring may be used as evidence in disciplinary or legal action, at the administration's discretion. The District retains the right to review current and back-up copies of electronic systems, files, data,

communications, and email. Reviews are done without notice, and information gained through review may be used as evidence in disciplinary or legal action should a violation of the Student Acceptable Use of Electronic Networks procedure be discovered.

7. Network: The use of an assigned account must be in support of education, business, research and/or within the educational and learning objectives of the District. Each user is responsible for this provision when using the District electronic information resources. Security on any computer system is a high priority because of multiple users. Do not use another individual's account or log on to the system as the systems administrator. Any security concern must be reported to the teacher/principal or systems administrator at once, as well as changes to user account information. Information stored on the network is not to be considered permanent or private. As such, the District retains the right to review and remove as needed data or files found on the network that violates this procedure or that are not in direct support of education or business. In addition, regular maintenance activities can result in the deletion of information deemed not compliant with this procedure. When suspicion of a violation of this procedure pertaining to inappropriate material or usage exists, the District reserves the right to review data and files found on the network during the course of investigation. Any information gained through this review may be used as evidence in disciplinary or legal action should a violation of this procedure exist.

8. Internet: Illegal or inappropriate publishing activities or uses of any kind that do not conform to the rules, regulations and policies of the District are forbidden. It is advised to not reveal personal information, such as: home address, phone numbers, password, credit card numbers or social security number; this also applies to others' personal information or that of organizations. Additionally, it is understood that students who publish personal web pages outside the district that may be accessed by District computers must also abide the same standards of appropriate content that all District hosted web pages must maintain. Sites found to be in violation of this will be blocked administratively and appropriate action taken to ensure the removal of dangerous or libelous content hosted by outside web resource providers. Further, the administration reserves the right for further and appropriate action in situations where student personal web pages and or/sites exist that violate the spirit of this procedure.

9. Computers Use: The District provides desktop and laptop computers for student use while in the curricular setting. District provided computers are not to be modified in any way, including the addition or removal of hardware or software, without prior permission from the Information Technology Department or an administrator. District provided computers may not be removed from District property without prior approval from the systems administrator. Removal of District owned equipment is in violation of this procedure and disciplinary or legal action may result. District provided computers are not to be used for personal financial gain at any time. Use of District provided computers, or systems, to gain personal income or monies is expressly forbidden, unless it is for fundraising activities associated with school and has prior approval from the systems administrator. This activity is considered a violation of this procedure and is subject to disciplinary or legal action as deemed appropriate by district administrators. Information stored on computers maintained by the District is not to be considered private. When suspicion of a violation of this procedure pertaining to inappropriate material or usage exists, the District reserves the right to review data and files found on District provided computers during the course of investigation. Any information gained through this review may be used as evidence in disciplinary or legal action should a violation of the Student Acceptable Use of Electronic Networks procedure exist.

10. Student Email: Email provided to students of the District is primarily for internal educational communications. Student email addresses should not be available to the public unless deemed appropriate by the administration.

Student personal use of District provided email resources is prohibited. Any use should be in the scope of the educational curriculum and teacher expectations of utilizing the tool for instructional purposes. Student to student, student to teacher, student to administrator email correspondence should follow proper etiquette guidelines listed in section 3 of this procedure. In addition, student email will not violate the Board of Education’s policies and will not:

- Promote, or support political functions or agenda's in any way, both internally and externally.
- Promote, or support private business or industry, especially the originators own private concern or business.
- Promote illegal activities or activities prohibited by District policy, or procedures, as found in this procedure or in the Board of Education Policy Manual.
- Engage in internal or external email activities that are regarded as Spam or mass emailing, unless for information purposes as approved by District administrators.

Spam is defined as email that is sent to multiple individuals in an uninvited manner for purposes of furthering a private and/or political agenda, the transmission of questionable material, or as a means of solicitation. It must be the student’s understanding that District provided email is not private or protected. When suspicion of a violation of this procedure pertaining to inappropriate material or usage exists, either through discovery as part of regular maintenance or by staff, student, or parental complaint, the District reserves the right to review data and files found on email clients and servers during the course of investigation. Any information gained through this review may be used as evidence in disciplinary or legal action should a violation of this procedure exist.

Receipt and Acknowledgement of the Student Acceptable Use of Electronic Networks procedure is required before access to Electronic Networks is granted. Elementary students and their parents/guardians must initial next to the Acceptable Use statement as well as sign the receipt and acknowledgement section of the Early Learning Handbook before students will be granted access.

Cross Reference:
 Board Policy 6.235, *Access to Electronic Networks*
 Administrative Procedures 6.235-AP1 *Student Acceptable Use of Electronic Networks*
 Exhibit 6.235-E2 *Student Authorization of Acceptable Use of Electronic Networks*

Section 8-Search and Seizure

Search and Seizure

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

School Property and Equipment as well as Personal Effects Left There by Students

School authorities may inspect and search school property and equipment owned or controlled by the school (such as, lockers, desks, and parking lots), as well as personal effects left there by a student, without notice to or the consent of

the student. Students have no reasonable expectation of privacy in these places or areas or in their personal effects left there.

The Principal 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 school or district's rules and policies. The search will be conducted in a manner that is reasonably related to its objective of the search and not excessively intrusive in light of the student's age and sex, and the nature of the infraction.

Seizure of Property

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

Cross Reference: Board Policy 7.140, <i>Search and Seizure</i>

Section 9- Special Education

Education of Children with Disabilities

It is the intent of the district to ensure that students who are disabled within the definition of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 or the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act are identified, evaluated and provided with appropriate educational services.

The district provides a free appropriate public education in the least restrictive environment and necessary related services to all children with disabilities enrolled in the district. The term "children with disabilities" means children between ages 3 and the day before their 22nd birthday for whom it is determined that special education services are needed. It is the intent of the district to ensure that students with disabilities are identified, evaluated, and provided with appropriate educational services.

A copy of the publication “Explanation of Procedural Safeguards Available to Parents of Students with Disabilities” may be obtained from the school or district special education office.

Cross Reference:
Board Policy 6.120, *Education of Children with Disabilities*

Discipline of Students with Disabilities

The school will comply with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) when disciplining students. Behavioral interventions will be used with students with disabilities to promote and strengthen desirable behaviors and reduce identified inappropriate behaviors. 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 as determined through a manifestation hearing. Any special education student whose gross disobedience or misconduct is not a manifestation of his or her disability may be expelled pursuant to the expulsion procedures.

Cross Reference:
Board Policy 7.230, *Misconduct by Students with Disabilities*

Request to Access Classroom or Personnel for Special Education Evaluation or Observation

The parent/guardian of a student receiving special education services, or being evaluated for eligibility, is afforded reasonable access to educational facilities, personnel, classrooms, and buildings. This same right of access is afforded to an independent educational evaluator or a qualified professional retained by or on behalf of a parent or child. For further information, please contact the Principal.

Cross Reference:
Board Policy 6.120, *Education of Children with Disabilities*
Exhibit 6.120-AP2,E1 *Request to Access Classroom(s) or Personnel for Special Education Evaluation and/or Observation Purposes*

Section 10 - Student Records, Privacy

Student Privacy Protections

Surveys by Third Parties

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/guardian may inspect the survey or evaluation, upon their request and within a reasonable time of their request. This applies to every survey: (1) that is created by a person or entity other than a district 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.

Parents who object to disclosure of information concerning their child to a third party may do so in writing to the Principal.

Surveys Requesting Personal Information

School officials and staff members will not request, nor disclose, the identity of any student who completes any survey or evaluation (created by any person or entity, including the school or district) 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/guardian may inspect the survey or evaluation upon, and refuse to allow their child to participate in the survey. The school will not penalize any student whose parent/guardian exercised this option.

Cross References:

Board Policy 7.15, *Student and Family Privacy Rights*

Exhibit 7.15-E1, *Notification to Parents of Family Privacy Rights*

Instructional Material

A student's parent/guardian may inspect, upon their request, any instructional material used as part of their child's educational curriculum within a reasonable time of their request.

Cross Reference:

Board Policy 7.15, *Student and Family Privacy Rights*

Exhibit 7.15-E1, *Notification to Parents of Family Privacy Rights*

Student Records-

Definition

A school student record is any writing or other recorded information concerning a student and by which a student may be individually identified, maintained by a school or at its direction or by an employee of a school, regardless of how or where the information is stored.

Categories of School Student Records

The district maintains permanent records and temporary records for each student. Student permanent records are maintained for not less than 60 years and student temporary records are maintained for not less than 5 years after the a student has transferred, graduated or otherwise permanently withdrawn.

A student's permanent record contains the following information:

1. Basic identifying information;
2. Academic transcript;
3. Attendance record;
4. Accident reports and health record;
5. Record of release of permanent record information; and
6. High school State assessment test scores;

And may also consist of:

7. Honors and awards received; and
8. Participation in extracurricular activities or athletics.

A student's temporary record contains the following information:

1. A record of release of temporary record information;
2. Elementary State assessment test scores;
3. Completed home language survey form;
4. Information regarding serious infractions that resulted in discipline; and any biometric information that is collected;
5. Information provided under Section 8.6 of the Abused and Neglected Child Reporting Act; and

And may also consist of:

6. Family background information;
7. Intelligence test scores, group and individual;
8. Aptitude test scores;
9. Reports of psychological evaluations;
10. Elementary and secondary achievement level test results;
11. Participation in extracurricular activities or athletics;
12. Honors and awards received;
13. Teacher anecdotal records;
14. Other disciplinary information;
15. Special education files;
16. Any verified reports or information from non-educational persons, agencies or organizations; and
17. Other verified information of clear relevance to the education of the student.

Inspection and Access

A parent or any person specifically designated as a representative by a parent has the right to inspect and copy all school student permanent and temporary records of that parent's child. A student shall have the right to inspect and copy his or her school student permanent record. Costs for copies of school student records or any portion thereof shall be \$.15 per page, provided, however, no parent or student shall be denied a copy of school student records due to inability to bear the cost of such copying.

No person who is prohibited by an order of protection from inspecting or obtaining school records of a student pursuant to the Illinois Domestic Violence Act of 1986 shall have any right of access to, or inspection of, the school records of that student. The district may prohibit a parent's or student's access to confidential letters and statements of

recommendation furnished in connection with applications for employment to a post-secondary educational institution or the receipt of an honor or honorary recognition.

A parent or student request to inspect and copy records must be granted within a reasonable time, and in no case later than 15 school days after the date of receipt of such request.

Confidentiality

School student records are confidential and information contained therein will not be released other than as provided by law. No school student records or information contained therein may be released, transferred, disclosed or otherwise disseminated, except as follows:

1. To a parent, student, or authorized representative;
2. To an employee of the district with current demonstrable educational or administrative interest in the student, in furtherance of such interest;
3. To the official records custodian of another school in which the student has enrolled, or intends to enroll, upon the request of such official or student;
4. To any person for the purpose of research, statistical reporting, or planning;
5. Pursuant to a court order;
6. To any person as specifically required by State or federal law;
6.5 To juvenile authorities when necessary for the discharge of their official duties;
7. To appropriate persons in connection with an emergency if the knowledge of such information is necessary to protect the health or safety of the student or other persons;
8. To any person, with the prior specific dated written consent of the parent;
9. To a governmental agency in furtherance of an investigation of a student's school attendance;
10. To committee members who fall within the meaning of "state and local officials and authorities" for the purposes of identifying serious habitual juvenile offenders and matching those offenders with community resources; or
11. To the Department of Healthcare and Family Services in furtherance of the requirements of Section 2-3.131, 3-14.29, 10-28, or 34-18.26 of the School Code or Section 10 of the School Breakfast and Lunch Program Act.
12. To the Illinois State Board of Education or another State government agency in order to audit federal and State programs or perform research and planning.

Information may not be released pursuant to subparagraphs (3) or (6) above unless the parent receives prior written notice of the nature and substance of the information proposed to be released, and an opportunity to inspect and copy such records and to challenge their contents.

Challenging Student Records

Parents may challenge any entry in their child's school student records except for academic grades and references to expulsions or out-of-school suspensions if the challenge is made at the time the student's school student records are forwarded to another school to which the student is transferring. Challenges can be made on the basis of:

1. Accuracy;
2. Relevance; or
3. Propriety.

Challenges must be in writing, request a hearing, and contain notice of the specific entry or entries to be challenged and the basis of the challenge. When a challenge is received by the district, an initial informal conference with the parents

will be scheduled within 15 school days. If the challenge is not resolved by the informal conference, a hearing will be held. A hearing officer, who shall not be employed in the attendance center in which the student is enrolled, shall be appointed by the district. The hearing officer will conduct a hearing within a reasonable time, but no later than 15 days after the informal conference, unless an extension of time is agreed upon by the parents and school officials. The hearing officer will notify parents and school officials of the time and place of the hearing.

At the hearing each party shall have the following rights:

1. The right to present evidence and to call witnesses;
2. The right to cross-examine witnesses;
3. The right to counsel;
4. The right to a written statement of any decision and the reasons therefore;

A verbatim record of the hearing will be made. A written decision of the hearing officer will be transmitted to the parents and the school district no later than 10 school days after the hearing and will be based solely on the information presented at the hearing. Any party has the right to appeal the decision of the hearing officer to the Regional Superintendent within 20 school days after such decision is transmitted. If the parent appeals, the parent shall so inform the school and within 10 school days the school will forward a transcript of the hearing, a copy of the record entry in question and any other pertinent materials to the Regional Superintendent. The school may initiate an appeal by the same procedures. The Regional Superintendent will make findings and issue a written decision to the parents and the school within 20 school days of the receipt of the appeal documents. Final decisions of the Regional Superintendent may be appealed to the circuit court of the county in which the school is located.

Directory Information

The district routinely discloses “directory” type information without consent. Directory information is limited to: name, address, gender, grade level, birth date and place, parents’ names and address; academic awards, degrees and honors; information in relation to school-sponsored activities, organizations, and athletics; major field of study; and period of attendance at the school. Any parent/guardian or eligible student (student 18 or older) may prohibit the release of directory information by delivering a written request to the building principal.

Destruction of School Student Records

The district destroys school student records when it is no longer required to maintain them. Before any school student records are destroyed or information deleted, the parent of the child to whom those records pertain will be given reasonable prior notice at his or her last known address and an opportunity to copy the records and information proposed to be destroyed or deleted.

Adverse Action

No person may condition the granting or withholding of any right, privilege or benefits or make as a condition of employment, credit or insurance the securing by any individual of any information from a student's temporary record that the individual may obtain through the exercise of any right secured under the School Student Records Act.

Cross Reference:
Board Policy 7.340, *Student Records*

Administrative Procedures 7.340-AP1, *School Student Records*

Student Records and Privacy

Medical records will only be released to the student’s parent/guardian or their designee (with written consent from the parent). Identification will be required.

Cross Reference:
Board Policy 7.340, *Student Records*

Section 11-Parental Rights and Notifications

Teacher Qualifications

In accordance with ESEA Section 1111(h)(6) *PARENTS RIGHT-TO-KNOW*, McLean County Unit 5 is notifying every parent that you have the right and may request information regarding the professional qualifications of your child’s classroom teacher. Whether the teacher has met State certification requirements;

- Whether the teacher has met State certification requirements;
- Whether the teacher is teaching under an emergency permit or other provisional status by which State licensing criteria have been waived;
- The teacher’s college major;
- Whether the teacher has any advanced degrees and, if so, the subject of the degrees; and
- Whether any instructional aides or paraprofessionals provide services to your child and, if so, their qualifications.

If you would like to receive any of this information, please contact the school office.

Cross Reference:
Board Policy 5.190, *Teacher Qualifications*

Erin’s Law- Child Protection

“Erin’s Law” (Public Act 96-1524) requires that all public schools in the state to implement a prevention-oriented child sexual abuse program. Students in kindergarten through fifth grade will participate in the Second Step Child Protection program. Parents or guardians may see an overview of the program at <http://www.cfchildren.org/child-protection> or examine the instructional materials to be used for the lesson by contacting the school. Lessons are provided annually to all students in kindergarten through fifth grade.

Cross Reference:
Board Policy 6.60-AP1 *Comprehensive Health Education*

Homeless Child’s Right to Education

When a child loses permanent housing and becomes a homeless person as defined at law, or when a homeless child changes his or her temporary living arrangements, the parent or guardian of the homeless child has the option of either:

1. Continuing the child's education in the school of origin for as long as the child remains homeless or, if the child becomes permanently housed, until the end of the academic year during which the housing is acquired; or
2. Enrolling the child in any school that non-homeless students who live in the attendance area in which the child or youth is actually living are eligible to attend.

Cross Reference:
Administrative Procedure, 6.140-AP1, *Education of Homeless Children*

English Learners

The school offers opportunities for English Learners to develop high levels of academic attainment in English and to meet the same academic content and student academic achievement standards that all children are expected to attain.

Parents/guardians of English Learners will be: (1) given an opportunity to provide input to the program, and (2) provided notification regarding their child’s placement in, and information about, the District’s English Learners programs.

For questions related to this program or to express input in the school’s English Learners program, contact the EL Coordinator, Leslie Romagnoli at the unit office, 309.557.4039.

Cross Reference:
Board Policy 6.160, *English Learners*

Pesticide Application Notice

The district maintains a registry of parents/guardians of students who have registered to receive written or telephone notification prior to the application of pesticides to school grounds. To be added to the list, please contact the Director of Operations at the Unit Office 309.557.4400.

Notification will be given before application of the pesticide. Prior notice is not required if there is imminent threat to health or property in which case the Structural Pest Control Act shall control.

Cross Reference:
Administrative Procedure 4.160-AP1, *Environmental Quality of Buildings and Grounds*

School Visitation Rights

The School Visitation Rights Act permits employed parents/guardians, who are unable to meet with educators because of a work conflict, the right to time off from work under certain conditions to attend necessary school functions such as parent-teacher conferences. Letters verifying participation in this program are available from the school office upon request.

Mandated Reporters

All school personnel, including teachers and administrators, are required by law to immediately report any and all suspected cases of child abuse or neglect to the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services.

Cross Reference:
Board Policy 5.90, *Abused and Neglected Child Reporting*

Asbestos Abatement Statement

Unit 5 has submitted its Management Plan prepared pursuant to the requirements of the *Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act* for each Unit 5 elementary school. Copies of the Management Plan are available in the administrative office of the school district and in each elementary school office. These plans are available for you inspection during the normal business hours Monday through Friday, and during other times by special arrangement.

The above statement is required under the rule of the *Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act*. It signifies that asbestos has been identified in the buildings. The asbestos was removed from the buildings. We would like to emphasize that to our knowledge, the above conditions do not pose a health hazard for those using our facilities. The above notice is required due to the law, which makes it necessary to conduct a survey, prepare and plan, notify the public and remove the designated asbestos in a timely fashion.

Transfer to Another School

If a student is a victim of a violent crime that occurred on school grounds during regular school hours or during a school-sponsored event, the parent/guardian may request a transfer to another public school within the district.

Cross References:
Board Policy 4.170, *Safety*

Student Handbook

The Superintendent, with input from the parent-teacher advisory committee, shall prepare disciplinary rules implementing the District's disciplinary policies. These disciplinary rules shall be presented annually to the Board for its review and approval.

A student handbook, including the District 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.

Sex Offender Notification Law

State law prohibits a convicted child sex offender from being present on school property when children under the age of 18 are present, except for in the following circumstances as they relate to the individual's child(ren):

1. To attend a conference at the school with school personnel to discuss the progress of their child.
2. To participate in a conference in which evaluation and placement decisions may be made with respect to their child's special education services.
3. To attend conferences to discuss issues concerning their child such as retention or promotion.

In all other cases, convicted child sex offenders are prohibited from being present on school property unless they obtain written permission from the Superintendent or school board.

Anytime that a convicted child sex offender is present on school property – including the three reasons above - he/she is responsible for notifying the Principal's office upon arrival on school property and upon departure from school property.

It is the responsibility of the convicted child sex offender to remain under the direct supervision of a school official at all times he/she is in the presence or vicinity of children.

A violation of this law is a Class 4 felony.

Cross References:

Administrative Procedure 4.170-AP2, *Criminal Offender Notification Laws*

Sex Offender & Violent Offender Community Notification Laws

State law requires schools to notify parents/guardians during school registration or parent-teacher conferences that information about sex offenders and violent offenders against youth is available to the public on the Illinois State’s Police website. The Illinois State Police website contains the following:

- Illinois Sex Offender Registry on the Illinois State Police’s website, <http://www.isp.state.il.us/sor/>.
- Illinois Statewide Child Murderer and Violent Offender Against Youth Registry on the Illinois State Police’s website, <http://www.isp.state.il.us/cmvo/>
- Frequently Asked Questions Concerning Sex Offenders, www.isp.state.il.us/sor/faq.cfm

Cross Reference:

Exhibit 4.170-AP2,E1, *Informing Parents About Offender Community Notification Laws*

Title IX – Civil Rights

In June 1972, the Congress passed Title IX of the Education Amendments, a law that affects virtually every education institution in the country. The law prohibits discrimination by sex in educational programs that receive federal money. The spirit of the law is reflected in the opening statement: Under Title IX, *“No person in the United States shall on the basis of sex be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving federal financial assistance..”*

Title IX Grievance Procedure

1. A student or an employee shall present his/her complaint in writing to his/her building principal.
2. The building principal shall investigate the complaint within five working days and arrange for a hearing.
3. Failing a resolution at stage 1, the student or employee may present a statement of his/her grievance to the grievance officer.
4. The Title IX Coordinator for McLean County Unit District No. 5 shall serve as the grievance officer and render his/her opinion within five working days from the time of the hearing.
5. Failing a resolution at stage 2, the student or employee may present a statement of his/her grievance to the Superintendent who shall determine the matter within five working days from the time of the hearing.
6. Failing a resolution of stage 3, the student or employee may present a statement of his/her grievance to the Board of Education who shall determine the matter.
7. Failing a resolution at stage 4, the grievant may file a complaint with the Circuit Court.

There shall be no reprisal against any student or employee for filing a grievance or for utilizing the grievance procedure. For maintaining confidentiality, grievances will not be filed in a student’s file or an employee’s personnel file. The

grievance file will be kept in the office of the grievance officer. The grievant has the same access to this file as he/she does to his/her own personnel file.

“McLean County Unit District No. 5 is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action institution in accordance with Civil Rights legislation and does not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, national origin, sex, age, handicap, or other factors prohibited by law in any of its educational programs, admissions, or employment policies.”

Concerns regarding this policy should be referred to:

Board of Education Office
1809 W. Hovey
Normal, IL 61761
309.557.4400

Parent/Guardian Involvement

Parent-Teacher Conferences

Periodically during the school year, scheduled Parent-Teacher Conferences may be held. We believe these conferences are one of the best methods of sharing information about your child. Parent(s)/Guardian(s) will be notified as to the date and time of these scheduled conferences. In addition to these conferences, parents or teachers are encouraged to request additional conference times whenever the need arises. Please call ahead or send a note indicating the desire for a conference. Catching the teacher in the hall or after school without prior notification or during Open House activities does not provide for the best parent-teacher communication.

Parent Groups

Parent groups help build a bridge between home and school. All parents are encouraged to become active members. A good working relationship between parents and school personnel is essential to a child's growth and educational progress. Unit 5 Early Learning Program offers a wide variety of family involvement opportunities throughout the year.

Volunteers and Visitors

In order to ensure the safety of all students, Unit 5 requires a background check for the following volunteer groups: tutors, mentors, classroom assistants, office/clerical assistants, media center/library assistant, chaperones, and extracurricular assistants/workers. Please check with the office staff at your child's school for additional details.

Volunteers help increase the effectiveness of our educational program. They assist in a wide variety of ways including help in the IMC, office, and classrooms.

All parents, guardians, and other visitors are required by law to report to the principal's office upon arrival at any school. They need to sign-in in the office and wear an ID Badge indicating they are visitors. When visitors leave, they should stop in the office to sign-out and return the ID Badge.

Parents and guardians are invited to visit classrooms during the school year, but to avoid testing days, and the weeks prior to and following vacation periods. Small children with parents frequently disturb the classroom process. Students who have school age guests visiting in their homes from out of town must obtain permission from the principal to bring those guests to school.

Cross Reference:

Board Policy 6.250, Community Resource Persons and School Volunteers

Administrative Procedure 6.250-AP1, Securing and Screening Resource Persons and School Volunteers

Exhibit 6.250-E1, *Volunteer Information Form and Waiver of Liability*

Protective Orders and Divorce Decrees

It is the policy of Unit 5 that each school cooperates as much as is reasonably possible with all parents/guardians of students in Unit 5. It is also important that teachers and administrators not become involved or embroiled in custody matters and enforcement of protective orders. If a situation arises in which a parent defies a protective order or custody agreement at school, every effort will be made to contact the other parent and/or the local police. The police agency should have information about the orders of protection and enforcement of those orders.

Enforcement of Visitation Rights

The Unit 5 school district is not to become involved in the enforcement of visitation rights. Administrators and teachers cannot become involved in determining who is to have what week and/or daily custody or visitation rights even when the schools have a copy of a divorce decree that states visitation and custody rights.

Appendix

Exhibit - Online Privacy Statement

Online Privacy Statement ~ The District respects the privacy of all website visitors to the extent permitted by law. This *Online Privacy Statement* is intended to inform you of the ways in which this website collects information, the uses to which that information will be put, and the ways in which we will protect any information you choose to provide us.

There are four types of information that this site may collect during your visit: network traffic logs, website visit logs, cookies, and information voluntarily provided by you.

1) Network Traffic Logs ~ In the course of ensuring network security and consistent service for all users, the District employs software programs to do such things as monitor network traffic, identify unauthorized access or access to nonpublic information, detect computer viruses and other software that might damage District computers or the network, and monitor and tune the performance of the District network. In the course of such monitoring, these programs may detect such information as email headers, addresses from network packets, and other information. Information from these activities is used only for the purpose of maintaining the security and performance of the District’s networks and computer systems. Personally identifiable information from these activities is not released to external parties without your consent unless required by law.

2) Website Visit Logs ~ District websites routinely collect and store information from online visitors to help manage those sites and improve service. This information includes the pages visited on the site, the date and time of the visit, the Internet

address (URL or IP address) of the referring site (often called “referrers”), the domain name and IP address from which the access occurred, the version of browser used, the capabilities of the browser, and search terms used on our search engines. This site makes no attempt to identify individual visitors from this information; any personally identifiable information is not released to external parties without your consent unless required by law.

3) Cookies ~ Cookies are pieces of information stored by your Web browser on behalf of a website and returned to the website on request. This site may use cookies for two purposes: to carry data about your current session at the site from one Web page to the next and to identify you to the site between visits. If you prefer not to receive cookies, you may turn them off in your browser, or may set your browser to ask you before accepting a new cookie. Some pages may not function properly if the cookies are turned off. Unless otherwise notified on this site, we will not store data, other than for these two purposes, in cookies. Cookies remain on your computer, and accordingly we neither store cookies on our computers nor forward them to any external parties. We do not use cookies to track your movement among different websites and do not exchange cookies with other entities.

4) Information Voluntarily Provided by You ~ In the course of using this website, you may choose to provide us with information to help us serve your needs. For example, you may send us an email to request information, an application or other material, and you may sign up for a mailing list. Any personally identifiable information you send us will be used only for the purpose indicated. Requests for information will be directed to the appropriate staff and may be recorded to help us update our site. We will not sell, exchange, or otherwise distribute your personally identifiable information without your consent, except to the extent required by law. We do not retain the information longer than necessary for normal operations.

Each web page requesting information discloses the purpose of that information. If you do not wish to have the information used in that manner, you are not required to provide it. Please contact the person listed on the specific page, or the system administrator, with questions or concerns on the use of personally identifiable information.

While no system can provide guaranteed security, we take reasonable efforts to keep information you provide to us secure, including encryption technology (if any), and physical security at the location of the server where the information is stored.

Web Links to Non-District Websites ~ District websites provide links to other World Wide Web sites or resources. We do not control these sites and resources, do not endorse them, and are not responsible for their availability, content, or delivery of services. In particular, external sites are not bound by this *Online Privacy Statement*; they may have their own policies or none at all. Often you can tell you are leaving a District website by noting the URL of the destination site. These links to external websites open a new browser window as well.

Please email your questions or concerns to the System Administrator.

McLean County Unit District No. 5

Exhibit - Student Authorization of Acceptable Use of Electronic Networks

User Signature of Agreement:

I understand any violations to the *Student Acceptable Use of Electronic Networks* procedure, when using the district electronic information resources, may result in the loss of my user account and in disciplinary and/or legal action. I therefore agree to maintain required standards and to report any misuse of the electronic information resources to a systems administrator.

I also agree to fully disclose to my teacher/administrator all Internet/Intranet publishing activities on school network systems and web servers. I understand that files, documents, projects and information stored on my network storage location will be deleted annually and any attempt to keep or save completed work is the sole responsibility of the student at the time of completing work.

Misuse may include, but is not limited to: any messages, information or graphics sent or intentionally received that include/suggest pornography; unethical or illegal solicitation; racism; sexism; inappropriate language; and other listings as described in the Student Acceptable Use of Electronic Networks procedure.

I have read the Acceptable Use of Electronic Networks section of the Student Handbook and understand that Internet sites are filtered and that my district electronic information resource accounts, files, email, and telephony resources may be monitored or reviewed. I hereby agree to comply with the above described conditions of acceptable use.

User Name (Please Print): _____

User Signature: _____

Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature of Agreement:

I have read and fully understand the Acceptable Use of Electronic Networks section of the Student Handbook. I understand that access is designed for educational purposes and that the District has taken precautions to eliminate controversial material. However, I also recognize it is impossible for the District to restrict access to all controversial and inappropriate materials. I will hold harmless the district, its employees, agents, or Board of Education, for any harm caused by materials or software obtained via district networks. I accept full responsibility for supervision if and when my child's use is not in a school setting. I have discussed the terms of this Student Authorization of Acceptable Use of Electronic Networks Agreement with my child. I hereby request that my child be allowed access to the District's computer hardware, software and networked computer services, such as electronic mail and the Internet, unless otherwise stipulated.

Parent/Guardian Name (Please Print): _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____

Date: _____

Office Use Only:

Date Received for File: _____ By: _____

Exhibit – Acceptable Use Letter to Parents/Guardians

Dear Parents/Guardians:

We have the ability to enhance your child’s education through the use of electronic networks, including the Internet. The Internet offers vast, diverse, and unique resources. The District’s goal in providing this service is to promote educational excellence by facilitating resource sharing, innovation, and communication. Your authorization is needed before your child may use this resource.

The Internet electronically connects thousands of computers throughout the world and millions of individual subscribers. Students and teachers may have access to:

- Limited electronic mail communications with people all over the world,
- Information from government sources, research institutions, and other sources,
- Discussion groups, and
- Many libraries, including the catalog to the Library of Congress, and the Educational Resources Information Clearinghouses (ERIC).

With this educational opportunity also comes responsibility. You and your child should read the enclosed *Student Acceptable Use for Electronic Networks* and discuss it together. The use of inappropriate material or language, or violation of copyright laws, may result in the loss of the privilege to use this resource. Remember that you are legally responsible for your child's actions.

The District takes precautions to prevent access to materials that may be defamatory, inaccurate, offensive, or otherwise inappropriate in the school setting. On an unregulated network, however, it is impossible to control all material and a user may discover inappropriate material. Ultimately, parents/guardians are responsible for setting and conveying the standards that their child or ward should follow. To that end, the District supports and respects each family's right to decide whether or not to authorize Internet access.

Please read and discuss the *Authorization of Acceptable Use of Electronic Networks* with your child. If you agree to allow your child to have an Internet account, sign the *Authorization* form and return it to your school.

Signed _____ **Date** _____

Please Print Name: _____



District 87/Unit 5 Medication Authorization Form

Name: _____ **Date of Birth:** _____
 (Last, First, Middle Initial)

As the parent/guardian, I understand that it is the policy of the district that as a regular and normal practice, medication should not be administered to a student at school or when such student is involved in school activities. However, in order to provide for the critical health and well-being of students, under exceptional circumstances, medication may be administered during school hours by a certified school nurse, a registered nurse, administrative personnel, administrative designee, or self-administered by a student. I further release my child's school district, its Board of Education, and individual members thereof, and its employees shall be indemnified and held harmless from any and all claims arising out of the administration of said medication.

Medication must be brought to the school in a container, labeled appropriately by the pharmacist or licensed prescriber.

I request that my child be assisted in taking the medications(s) described below at school by authorized persons or be permitted to medicate herself/himself as also authorized by me and my physician (see below). I further consent to the sharing of relevant medical information between the school and the physician's office.

Date	Parent/Guardian Signature	Home Phone	Emergency Phone
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For parent(s)/guardian(s) of students who need to carry asthma medication or an EpiPen:

I authorize the School District and its employees and agents, to allow my child or ward to possess and use his or her asthma medication and/or epinephrine auto-injector while in school, at a school-sponsored activity, under the supervision of school personnel, or before or after normal school activities, such as while in before-school or after-school care on school-operated property. Illinois law requires the School District to inform parent(s)/guardian(s) that it, and its employees and agents, incur no liability, except for willful and wanton conduct, as a result of any injury arising from a student's self administration of medication (105 ILCS 5/22-30).
If you agree please initial: _____

PRINTED PHYSICIAN'S NAME:	
PHYSICIAN'S ADDRESS:	PHONE:
Medication:	
Purpose of Medication/Diagnosis:	
Form: (i.e. tab, injection, etc.)	
Dose:	
Time of Administration:	
If medicine to be given "when needed." Describe indications:	
How soon can it be repeated?	
Is child authorized to medicate herself/himself?	
List significant side effects:	
Length of time this treatment is recommended:	
Must this medication be administered during the school day in order to allow the child to attend school or to address the student's medical condition that may arise at school?	Yes No

_____ Physician's Signature Only Physician's Telephone

Nurse's Initials _____