

Community Relations

Visitors to and Conduct on Cooperative Property

The following definitions apply to this policy:

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

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

All visitors to Cooperative property are required to report to the school office or main reception area and receive permission to remain on Cooperative property. All visitors must sign a visitors' log. On those occasions when large groups of parents and friends are invited onto school property, visitors are not required to sign in but must follow school officials' instructions. Persons on Cooperative property without permission will be directed to leave and may be subject to criminal prosecution.

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

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

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

1. Strike, injure, threaten, harass, or intimidate a staff member, a Board member, or any other person.
2. Behave in an unsportsmanlike manner, or use vulgar or obscene language.
3. Unless specifically permitted by State law, possess a weapon, any object that can reasonably be considered a weapon or looks like a weapon, or any dangerous device.
4. Damage or threaten to damage another's property.
5. Damage or deface Cooperative property.
6. Violate any Illinois law, or town or county ordinance.
7. Smoke or otherwise use tobacco products.
8. Distribute, consume, use, possess, distribute, or be under the influence of an alcoholic beverage or illegal drug; be present when the person's alcohol or illegal drug consumption is detectable, regardless of when and/or where the use occurred..

9. Use or possess medical cannabis.
10. Impede, delay, disrupt or otherwise interfere with any school activity or function (including using cellular phones in a disruptive manner).
11. Enter upon any portion of Cooperative premises at any time for purposes other than those that are lawful and authorized by the Operational and/or Governing Boards.
12. Operate a motor vehicle: (a) in a risky manner, (b) in excess of 20 miles per hour, or (c) in violation of an authorized Cooperative employee's directive.
13. Engage in any risky behavior, including roller-blading, roller-skating or skateboarding.
14. Violate other Cooperative policies or regulations, or a directive from an authorized Cooperative employee.
15. Engage in any conduct that interferes with, disrupts, or adversely affects the Cooperative or a school function.

Convicted Child Sex Offender

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

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

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

Exclusive Bargaining Representative Agent

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

Enforcement

Any staff member may request identification from any person on school property; refusal to provide such information is a criminal act. The Building Administrator or designee shall seek the immediate removal of any person who refuses to provide requested identification.

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

Procedures to Deny Future Admission to School Events or Meetings

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

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

LEGAL REF.: Nuding v. Cerro Gordo Community Unit School Dist., 730 N.E.2d 96 (Ill.App.4, 2000).
Pro-Children Act of 1994, 20 U.S.C. §7181 et seq.
105 ILCS 5/10-20.5b, 5/24-24, and 5/24-25.
410 ILCS 130/, Compassionate Use of Medical Cannabis Pilot Program.
430 ILCS 66/, Firearm Concealed Carry Act.
720 ILCS 5/11-9.3

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

Adopted: 3/13/2000
Revised: 3/13/2006
Revised: 11/16/2009
Revised: 11/15/2010
Revised: 4/14/2014
Revised: 5/9/2016
Revised: 5/8/2017