

Operational Services

Fiscal and Business Management

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

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

Budget Planning

The District's fiscal year is from July 1 until June 30. The Superintendent shall present to the Board, no later than the first regular meeting in August, a tentative budget with appropriate explanation. This budget shall represent the culmination of an ongoing process of planning for the fiscal support needed for the District's educational program. The District's budget shall be entered upon the Illinois State Board of Education's *School District Budget Form*. To the extent possible, the tentative budget shall be balanced as defined by the State Board of Education guidelines. The Superintendent shall complete a tentative deficit reduction plan if one is required by the State Board of Education guidelines.

Preliminary Adoption Procedures

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

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

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

At the public hearing, the proposed budget shall be reviewed, and the public shall be invited to comment, question, or advise the Board.

Final Adoption Procedures

The Board adopts a budget before the end of the first quarter of each fiscal year, September 30, or by such alternative procedure as State law may define. To the extent possible, the budget shall be balanced as defined by the State Board of Education; if not balanced, the Board will adopt a deficit reduction plan to balance the District's budget within three years according to State Board of Education requirements.

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

The Superintendent or designee shall perform each of the following:

1. Post the District's final annual budget, itemized by receipts and expenditures, on the District's Internet website; notify parents/guardians that it is posted and provide the website's address.
2. File a certified copy of the budget resolution and an estimate of revenues by source anticipated to be received in the following fiscal year, certified by the District's Chief Fiscal Officer, with the County Clerk within 30 days of the budget's adoption.
3. Make all preparations necessary for the Board to timely file its Certificate of Tax Levy, including preparations to comply with the Truth in Taxation Act; file the Certificate of Tax Levy with the County Clerk on or before the last Tuesday in December. The Certificate lists the amount of property tax money to be provided for the various funds in the budget.
4. Submit the annual budget, a deficit reduction plan if one is required by State Board of Education guidelines, and other financial information to the State Board of Education according to its requirements.

Any amendments to the budget or Certificate of Tax Levy shall be made as provided in the School Code and Truth in Taxation Act.

Budget Amendments

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

Implementation

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

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

LEGAL REF.: 35 ILCS 200/18-55 et seq.
 105 ILCS 5/10-17, 5/10-22.33, 5/17-1, 5/17-1.2, 5/17-2A, 5/17-3.2, 5/17-11, 5/20-5, 5/20-8, and 5/20-10.
 23 Ill.Admin.Code Part 100.

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

ADMIN. PROC.: 6:235-AP1, E1 (Student Authorization for Access to the District's Electronic Networks), 6:235-AP1, E2 (Staff Authorization for Access to the District's Electronic Network Access)

Adopted by Mercer County School District Board of Education on December 20, 2017.

Operational Services

Identity Protection

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

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

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

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

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

LEGAL REF.: 5 ILCS 179/, Identity Protection Act.
50 ILCS 205/3, Local Records Act.
105 ILCS 10/, Illinois School Student Records Act.

CROSS REF: 2:250 (Access to District Public Records), 5:150 (Personnel Records), 7:340
(Student Records)

Adopted by Mercer County School District #404 Board of Education on February 20, 2019.

Operational Services

Exhibit - Letter to Employees Regarding Protecting the Privacy of Social Security Numbers

On District Letterhead

Date

Re: Protecting the Privacy of Social Security Numbers (SSNs)

The Illinois Identity Protection Act, 5 ILCS 179/, contains requirements applicable to school districts and their employees. This letter's purpose is to help you understand the protections and requirements of this law.

In implementing this law and the Board's policy, I am seeking to:

1. Increase the awareness of the confidential nature of the SSN and the risk of identity theft related to unauthorized disclosure;
2. Have every employee understand that he or she is prohibited from collecting, displaying, or using another individual's SSN unless authorized by a member of the District administrative staff; and
3. Ensure the use of consistent protocol regarding SSNs throughout the District.

I have copied below sections of the Identity Protection Act that must be followed by every school employee. I have also attached the School Board's policy 4:15, *Identity Protection*. Please carefully read these documents. You will be contacted if you are scheduled to receive training on the protocol for collecting, using, maintaining, and disclosing SSNs.

An employee who has substantially breached the confidentiality of social security numbers may be subject to disciplinary action or sanctions up to and including dismissal, in accordance with District policy and procedures.

Sincerely,

Superintendent

Attachment #1: Relevant Sections from the Identity Protection Act, 5 ILCS 179/

Section 10. Prohibited Activities.

- (a) Beginning July 1, 2010, no person or State or local government agency may do any of the following:
 - (1) Publicly post or publicly display in any manner an individual's social security number.
 - (2) Print an individual's social security number on any card required for the individual to access products or services provided by the person or entity.
 - (3) Require an individual to transmit his or her social security number over the Internet, unless the connection is secure or the social security number is encrypted.
 - (4) Print an individual's social security number on any materials that are mailed to the individual, through the U.S. Postal Service, any private mail service, electronic mail, or any similar method of delivery, unless State or federal law requires the social security number

to be on the document to be mailed. Notwithstanding any provision in this Section to the contrary, social security numbers may be included in applications and forms sent by mail, including, but not limited to, any material mailed in connection with the administration of the Unemployment Insurance Act, any material mailed in connection with any tax administered by the Department of Revenue, and documents sent as part of an application or enrollment process or to establish, amend, or terminate an account, contract, or policy or to confirm the accuracy of the social security number. A social security number that may permissibly be mailed under this Section may not be printed, in whole or in part, on a postcard or other mailer that does not require an envelope or be visible on an envelope without the envelope having been opened.

- (b) Except as otherwise provided in this Act, beginning July 1, 2010, no person or State or local government agency may do any of the following:
 - (1) Collect, use, or disclose a social security number from an individual, unless (i) required to do so under State or federal law, rules, or regulations, or the collection, use, or disclosure of the social security number is otherwise necessary for the performance of that agency's duties and responsibilities; (ii) the need and purpose for the social security number is documented before collection of the social security number; and (iii) the social security number collected is relevant to the documented need and purpose.
 - (2) Require an individual to use his or her social security number to access an Internet website.
 - (3) Use the social security number for any purpose other than the purpose for which it was collected.
- (c) The prohibitions in subsection (b) do not apply in the following circumstances:
 - (1) The disclosure of social security numbers to agents, employees, contractors, or subcontractors of a governmental entity or disclosure by a governmental entity to another governmental entity or its agents, employees, contractors, or subcontractors if disclosure is necessary in order for the entity to perform its duties and responsibilities; and, if disclosing to a contractor or subcontractor, prior to such disclosure, the governmental entity must first receive from the contractor or subcontractor a copy of the contractor's or subcontractor's policy that sets forth how the requirements imposed under this Act on a governmental entity to protect an individual's social security number will be achieved.
 - (2) The disclosure of social security numbers pursuant to a court order, warrant, or subpoena.
 - (3) The collection, use, or disclosure of social security numbers in order to ensure the safety of: State and local government employees; persons committed to correctional facilities, local jails, and other law-enforcement facilities or retention centers; wards of the State; and all persons working in or visiting a State or local government agency facility.
 - (4) The collection, use, or disclosure of social security numbers for internal verification or administrative purposes.
 - (5) The disclosure of social security numbers by a State agency to any entity for the collection of delinquent child support or of any State debt or to a governmental agency to assist with an investigation or the prevention of fraud.
 - (6) The collection or use of social security numbers to investigate or prevent fraud, to conduct background checks, to collect a debt, to obtain a credit report from a consumer reporting agency under the federal Fair Credit Reporting Act, to undertake any permissible purpose that is enumerated under the federal Gramm Leach Bliley Act, or to locate a missing person, a lost relative, or a person who is due a benefit, such as a pension benefit or an unclaimed property benefit.

- (d) If any State or local government agency has adopted standards for the collection, use, or disclosure of social security numbers that are stricter than the standards under this Act with respect to the protection of those social security numbers, then, in the event of any conflict with the provisions of this Act, the stricter standards adopted by the State or local government agency shall control.

Section 15. Public inspection and copying of documents.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act to the contrary, a person or State or local government agency must comply with the provisions of any other State law with respect to allowing the public inspection and copying of information or documents containing all or any portion of an individual's social security number. A person or State or local government agency must redact social security numbers from the information or documents before allowing the public inspection or copying of the information or documents.

Section 20. Applicability.

- (a) This Act does not apply to the collection, use, or disclosure of a social security number as required by State or federal law, rule, or regulation.
- (b) This Act does not apply to documents that are recorded with a county recorder or required to be open to the public under any State or federal law, rule, or regulation, applicable case law, Supreme Court Rule, or the Constitution of the State of Illinois. Notwithstanding this Section, county recorders must comply with Section 35 of this Act.

Section 25. Compliance with federal law.

If a federal law takes effect requiring any federal agency to establish a national unique patient health identifier program, any State or local government agency that complies with the federal law shall be deemed to be in compliance with this Act.

Section 30. Embedded social security numbers.

Beginning December 31, 2009, no person or State or local government agency may encode or embed a social security number in or on a card or document, including, but not limited to, using a bar code, chip, magnetic strip, RFID technology, or other technology, in place of removing the social security number as required by this Act.

Section 45. Violation.

Any person who intentionally violates the prohibitions in Section 10 of this Act is guilty of a Class B misdemeanor.

Operational Services

Exhibit - Statement of Purpose for Collecting Social Security Numbers

This Statement of Purpose is being given to you because you have been asked by the School District to provide your social security number (SSN) or because you requested a copy of this Statement.

You are being asked for your SSN for one or more of the following reasons:

- Employment matters, e.g., income reporting to IRS and the IL Department of Revenue, tax withholding, FICA, or Medicare.
- Verifying enrollment in various benefit programs, e.g., medical benefits, health insurance claims, or veterans' programs.
- Filing insurance claims.
- Internal verification or administrative purposes.
- Other: _____

In addition, State law authorizes and/or requires the District to use or disclose your SSN in specified circumstances including, without limitation, in the following circumstances:

1. Disclosing SSNs to another governmental entity if the disclosure is necessary for the entity to perform its duties and responsibilities;
2. Disclosing SSNs pursuant to a court order, warrant, or subpoena; and
3. Collecting or using SSNs to investigate or prevent fraud, to conduct background checks, to collect a debt, or to obtain a credit report from a consumer reporting agency under the federal Fair Credit Reporting Act.

If you have questions or concerns, please contact *[insert contact information]*.

Adopted by the Mercer County School District Board of Education on December 14, 2016.

Operational Services

Exhibit - Statement for Employee Manual or District Website Describing the District's Purpose for Collecting Social Security Numbers

The School District treats social security numbers (SSNs) confidentially. It uses SSNs for one or more of the following reasons:

1. Employment matters, e.g., income reporting to IRS and the IL Department of Revenue, tax withholding, FICA, or Medicare.
2. Verifying enrollment in various benefit programs, e.g., medical benefits, health insurance claims, or veterans' programs.
3. Filing insurance claims.
4. Internal verification or administrative purposes.

In addition, State law authorizes and/or requires the District to use or disclose SSNs in specified circumstances including, without limitation, in the following circumstances:

1. Disclosing SSNs to another governmental entity if the disclosure is necessary for the entity to perform its duties and responsibilities;
2. Disclosing SSNs pursuant to a court order, warrant, or subpoena; and
3. Collecting or using SSNs to investigate or prevent fraud, to conduct background checks, to collect a debt, or to obtain a credit report from a consumer reporting agency under the federal Fair Credit Reporting Act.

If you have questions or concerns, please contact *[insert contact information]*.

Adopted by the Mercer County School District Board of Education on December 14, 2016.

Operational Services

Fund Balances

The Superintendent or designee shall maintain fund balances adequate to ensure the District's ability to maintain levels of service and pay its obligations in a prompt manner in spite of unforeseen events or unexpected expenses. The Superintendent or designee shall inform the Board whenever it should discuss drawing upon its reserves or borrowing money.

The School District seeks to maintain a year-end fund balance to revenue ratio of no less than 15-20 percent, as calculated under the Ill. State Board of Education's *School District Financial Profile*.

CROSS REF.: 4:10 (Fiscal and Business Management), 4:80 (Accounting and Audits)

Adopted by Mercer County School District Board of Education – August 21, 2019

Operational Services

Revenue and Investments

Revenue

The Superintendent or designee is responsible for making all claims for property tax revenue, State Aid, special State funds for specific programs, federal funds, and categorical grants.

Investments

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

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

Investment Objectives

The objectives for the School District's investment activities are:

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

Authorized Investments

The Chief Investment Officer may invest District funds in one or more of the following:

1. Bonds, notes, certificates of indebtedness, treasury bills, or other securities now or hereafter issued, that are guaranteed by the full faith and credit of the United States of America as to principal and interest.
2. Bonds, notes, debentures, or other similar obligations of the United States of America, its agencies, and its instrumentalities.

The term "agencies of the United States of America" includes: (a) the federal land banks, federal intermediate credit banks, banks for cooperative, federal farm credit banks, or any other entity authorized to issue debt obligations under the Farm Credit Act of 1971 and Acts

amendatory thereto, (b) the federal home loan banks and the federal home loan mortgage corporation, and (c) any other agency created by Act of Congress.

3. Interest-bearing savings accounts, interest-bearing certificates of deposit or interest-bearing time deposits or any other investments constituting direct obligations of any bank as defined by the Illinois Banking Act.
4. Obligations of corporations organized in the United States with assets exceeding \$500,000,000 if: (a) such obligations are rated at the time of purchase at one of the three highest classifications established by at least two standard rating services and that mature not later than three years from the date of purchase, (b) such purchases do not exceed 10% of the corporation's outstanding obligations, and (c) no more than one-third of the District's funds may be invested in short term obligations of corporations.
5. Money market mutual funds registered under the Investment Company Act of 1940, provided that the portfolio of any such money market mutual fund is limited to obligations described in paragraph (1) or (2) and to agreements to repurchase such obligations.
6. Interest-bearing bonds of any county, township, city, village, incorporated town, municipal corporation, school district, the State of Illinois, any other state, or any political subdivision or agency of the State of Illinois or any other state, whether the interest earned is taxable or tax-exempt under federal law. The bonds shall be (a) registered in the name of the municipality, county, or other governmental unit, or held under a custodial agreement at a bank, and (b) rated at the time of purchase within the four highest general classifications established by a rating service of nationally recognized expertise in rating bonds of states and their political subdivisions.
7. Short term discount obligations of the Federal National Mortgage Association or in shares or other forms of securities legally issuable by savings banks or savings and loan associations incorporated under the laws of this State or any other state or under the laws of the United States. Investments may be made only in those savings banks or savings and loan associations, the shares, or investment certificates that are insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation. Any such securities may be purchased at the offering or market price thereof at the time of such purchase. All such securities so purchased shall mature or be redeemable on a date or dates prior to the time when, in the judgment of the Chief Investment Officer, the public funds so invested will be required for expenditure by the District or its governing authority.
8. Dividend-bearing share accounts, share certificate accounts, or class of share accounts of a credit union chartered under the laws of this State or the laws of the United States; provided, however, the principle office of any such credit union must be located within the State of Illinois. Investments may be made only in those credit unions the accounts of which are insured by applicable law.
9. A Public Treasurers' Investment Pool created under Section 17 of the State Treasurer Act. The District may also invest any public funds in a fund managed, operated, and administered by a bank, subsidiary of a bank, or subsidiary of a bank holding company or use the services of such an entity to hold and invest or advise regarding the investment of any public funds.
10. The Illinois School District Liquid Asset Fund Plus.
11. Repurchase agreements of government securities having the meaning set out in the Government Securities Act of 1986, as now or hereafter amended or succeeded, subject to the provisions of said Act and the regulations issued there under. The government securities,

unless registered or inscribed in the name of the District, shall be purchased through banks or trust companies authorized to do business in the State of Illinois.

Except for repurchase agreements of government securities that are subject to the Government Securities Act of 1986, as now or hereafter amended or succeeded, the District may not purchase or invest in instruments that constitute repurchase agreements, and no financial institution may enter into such an agreement with or on behalf of the District unless the instrument and the transaction meet all of the following requirements:

- a. The securities, unless registered or inscribed in the name of the District, are purchased through banks or trust companies authorized to do business in the State of Illinois.
- b. The Chief Investment Officer, after ascertaining which firm will give the most favorable rate of interest, directs the custodial bank to “purchase” specified securities from a designated institution. The “custodial bank” is the bank or trust company, or agency of government, that acts for the District in connection with repurchase agreements involving the investment of funds by the District. The State Treasurer may act as custodial bank for public agencies executing repurchase agreements.
- c. A custodial bank must be a member bank of the Federal Reserve System or maintain accounts with member banks. All transfers of book-entry securities must be accomplished on a Reserve Bank’s computer records through a member bank of the Federal Reserve System. These securities must be credited to the District on the records of the custodial bank and the transaction must be confirmed in writing to the District by the custodial bank.
- d. Trading partners shall be limited to banks or trust companies authorized to do business in the State of Illinois or to registered primary reporting dealers.
- e. The security interest must be perfected.
- f. The District enters into a written master repurchase agreement that outlines the basic responsibilities and liabilities of both buyer and seller.
- g. Agreements shall be for periods of 330 days or less.
- h. The Chief Investment Officer informs the custodial bank in writing of the maturity details of the repurchase agreement.
- i. The custodial bank must take delivery of and maintain the securities in its custody for the account of the District and confirm the transaction in writing to the District. The custodial undertaking shall provide that the custodian takes possession of the securities exclusively for the District; that the securities are free of any claims against the trading partner; and that any claims by the custodian are subordinate to the District’s claims to rights to those securities.
- j. The obligations purchased by the District may only be sold or presented for redemption or payment by the fiscal agent bank or trust company holding the obligations upon the written instruction of the Chief Investment Officer.
- k. The custodial bank shall be liable to the District for any monetary loss suffered by the District due to the failure of the custodial bank to take and maintain possession of such securities.

12. Any investment as authorized by the Public Funds Investment Act, and Acts amendatory thereto. Paragraph 11 supersedes paragraphs 1-10 and controls in the event of conflict.

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

Selection of Depositories, Investment Managers, Dealers, and Brokers

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

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

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

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

1. For financial institutions subject to the federal Community Reinvestment Act of 1977, the current and historical ratings that the financial institution has received, to the extent that those ratings are publicly available, under the federal Community Reinvestment Act of 1977;
2. Any changes in ownership, management, policies, or practices of the financial institution that may affect the level of the financial institution's commitment to its community;
3. The financial impact that the withdrawal or denial of District deposits might have on the financial institution;
4. The financial impact to the District as a result of withdrawing public funds or refusing to deposit additional public funds in the financial institution; and
5. Any additional burden on the District's resources that might result from ceasing to maintain deposits of public funds at the financial institution under consideration.

Collateral Requirements

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

Safekeeping and Custody Arrangements

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

Controls and Report

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

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

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

Ethics and Conflicts of Interest

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

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

LEGAL REF.: 30 ILCS 235/
105 ILCS 5/8-7, 5/10-22.44, 5/17-1, and 5/17-11.

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

Adopted by Mercer County School District #404 Board of Education on May 15, 2019

Operational Services

Incurring Debt

The Superintendent shall provide early notice to the School Board of the District's need to borrow money. The Superintendent or designee shall prepare all documents and notices necessary for the Board, at its discretion, to: (1) issue State Aid Anticipation Certificates, tax anticipation warrants, working cash fund bonds, bonds, notes, and other evidence of indebtedness, or (2) establish a line of credit with a bank or other financial institution. The Superintendent shall notify the State Board of Education before the District issues any form of long-term or short-term debt that will result in outstanding debt that exceeds 75% of the debt limit specified in State law.

LEGAL REF.: 30 ILCS 305/2 and 352/1 et seq.
50 ILCS 420/
105 ILCS 5/17-16, 5/17-17, 5/18-18, and 5/19-1 et seq.

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

Adopted by Mercer County School District Board of Education – May 26, 2010

Operational Services

Insufficient Fund Checks and Debt Recovery

Insufficient Fund Checks

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

Delinquent Debt Recovery

The Superintendent is authorized to seek collection of delinquent debt owed the District to the fullest extent of the law.

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

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

1. Providing a District-wide, uniform, method of notice and due process to the individual or entity against whom a claim for delinquent debt payment (*claim*) is made. Written notice and an opportunity to be heard must be given to the individual or entity responsible for paying a delinquent debt before the claim is certified to the IOC for offset. The notice must state the claim's amount, the reason for the amount due, the claim's date or time period, and a description of the process to challenge the claim. If reimbursable meals or snacks provided under the Hunger-Free Students' Bill of Rights Act are the basis of the District's delinquent debt claim of no less than \$500, the notice must be sent to a student's parent(s)/guardian(s) only after: (a) the student owes the District more than five meals and/or snacks; (b) the Superintendent or designee made: (i) repeated contacts to collect the amounts owed, and (ii) reasonable efforts to collect the amount due for at least one year; and (c) the District requested the student's parent(s)/guardian(s) to apply for meal benefits pursuant to policy 4:130, *Free and Reduced-Price Food Services*, and they either: (i) did not qualify, or (ii) refused to apply.
2. An individual or entity challenging a claim shall be provided an informal proceeding to refute the claim's existence, amount, or current collectability; the decision following this proceeding shall be reviewable.
 - a. If a waiver of student fees is requested as a challenge to paying the claim, and the waiver of student fees is denied, an appeal of the denial of a fee waiver request shall be handled according to 4:140, *Waiver of Student Fees*. If no waiver of student fees is requested, reviews regarding payment of the claim shall be handled according to this policy before certification to the IOC for offset.

- b. If application for meal benefits pursuant to policy 4:130, *Free and Reduced-Price Food Services*, is requested as a challenge to paying the claim, and the request is denied, an appeal of the denial of the request shall be handled according to 4:130, *Free and Reduced-Price Food Services*. If no request for meal benefits is received, review of the claim's payment shall be handled according to this policy before certification to the IOC for offset.
3. Certifying to the IOC that the debt is past due and legally enforceable, and notifying the IOC of any change in the status of an offset claim for delinquent debt.
4. Responding to requests for information from the IOC to facilitate the prompt resolution of any administrative review requests received by the IOC.

LEGAL REF.: 15 ILCS 405/10.05 and 10.05d.
105 ILCS 123/, Hunger-Free Students' Bill of Rights Act.
810 ILCS 5/3-806.

Adopted by Mercer County School District #404 Board of Education on February 20, 2019.

Operational Services

Exhibit - Cover Page Documenting the Process to Seek Offset from the Illinois Office of the Comptroller (IOC)

This cover page documents the steps the District must take before recovering a delinquent debt through an offset (deduction) of a future payment the State makes to an individual responsible for the delinquent debt. An Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) between the IOC and the District must be in place before the District may seek an offset to satisfy a delinquent debt. Consult the Board Attorney for assistance in implementing a District-wide delinquent debt recovery program that will satisfy the requirements necessary to enter into an IGA with the IOC, e.g., the Superintendent should ensure that the District uses a uniform process to seek offset from the IOC. After completing a step, the responsible staff person must record the date, initial the step, and put all material into the claim folder.

Confidential Inter-Office Information

Definitions

Business Office means the District department that provides the District's fiscal and business management.

Change in status means, without limitation, payments received other than through a successful offset, the filing of a bankruptcy petition, the death of the debtor, or the expiration of the ability for the debt to remain subject to an offset, as provided for in the Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA).

Claim means the demand for payment of a delinquent debt.

Claim folder means the folder containing material for an individual claim; it includes this cover page, the documentation of the Building Principal or designee's notifications of debt and request(s) for payment, the Notice of Claim, relevant supporting information, and any material or explanation received from the Debtor.

Debtor means the person or entity responsible for satisfying a delinquent debt.

IOC means Illinois Office of the Comptroller.

Notice of Claim means Exhibit 4:45-E2, *Notice of Claim and Intent to Seek Debt Recovery; Challenge; and Response to Challenge*.

Offset means a deduction of the amount of a debt owed to the District from a future payment that the State makes to an individual or entity that is responsible to satisfy the debt.

 Debtor

 Contact information

When the District enters the IOC Program through an IGA, and the District decides a Claim will be referred to the IOC, the following steps will be documented:

Step	Date	Initials
Building Principal sent written documentation referring a claim for further recovery proceedings. This documentation is placed in the claim folder.		
Superintendent or designee has inspected the Building Principal's written documentation above (including 105 ILCS 123/, added by P.A. 100-1092, requirements if the debt involves school lunch accounts) and agrees that the claim should be referred for recovery through the IOC. Note: Consult the Board Attorney. Treating claims differently, i.e., referring some and not others, may		

Step	Date	Initials
trigger the Constitution's Equal Protection Clause.		
District sent the Notice of Claim; certified mail, return receipt requested. For unpaid meal charges, District staff have followed procedures to prevent meal charges from accumulating and made reasonable efforts to collect all funds due to the District on a regular basis before the end of the school year (105 ILCS 123/, added by P.A. 100-1092). Note: While certified mail is not required, it is a best practice to send regular and certified, first-class mail.		
Receipt showing certified delivery of the Notice of Claim on _____.		
Receipt of the Debtor's challenge to the claim. <i>If no challenge is received by the deadline in the Notice of Claim, send the claim folder to the Superintendent's office for review and continued processing.</i>		
Receipt of Debtor's written explanation and/or any documentation.		
Arrangements made for informal proceeding with Debtor; scheduled for _____. <input type="checkbox"/> Telephone or <input type="checkbox"/> In-person		
Informal proceeding held with Debtor. <input type="checkbox"/> Telephone or <input type="checkbox"/> In-person Attendees: _____ _____		
<p>Decision of the Business Office</p> <p>Business office [name] _____, found that the claim should be considered: <input type="checkbox"/> Satisfied or <input type="checkbox"/> Enforceable for the following reason(s) (<i>check boxes below that apply</i>):</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Debtor asserted waiver of student fees as a challenge to paying the claim.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 4:140-E1, <i>Application for Fee Waiver</i> was provided to Debtor and documented in the claim folder.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 4:140-E2, <i>Response to Application for Fee Waiver, Appeal, and Response to Appeal</i> is placed in folder.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Debtor asserted application for meal benefits as a challenge to paying the claim.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 4:130-E, <i>Free and Reduced-Price Food Services; Meal Charge Notifications</i> was provided to Debtor and is documented and placed in the claim folder.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Documentation of the student's eligibility for free and reduced-price food services is documented and placed in the claim folder.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Debtor fee waiver request or application for meal benefits request was:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Granted or <input type="checkbox"/> Denied.</p> <p>If denied, did Debtor appeal the denial? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes or <input type="checkbox"/> No. Note: Fee waivers and/or eligibility for free and reduced-price food services satisfy a claim.</p>		
Business office [name] _____, forwarded the claim folder to the Superintendent's office.		

Step	Date	Initials
<p>If the Business office found that the claim is satisfied, the Superintendent or designee notified the Debtor that the claim is considered satisfied. He or she closed this claim folder and checked the “claim is satisfied” box above.</p>		
<p>Review by Superintendent or designee If the Business office found the debt to be enforceable, the Superintendent or designee independently reviewed the claim and made the following finding: <input type="checkbox"/> Satisfied. Debtor sent a notification on _____. <input type="checkbox"/> Enforceable. Debtor notified on _____ that the claim must be paid by _____ to void further collection efforts.</p>		
<p>Certification of Past Due Debt to the IOC The Superintendent or designee certifies the debt as required in the terms of the IGA between District and the IOC.</p>		
<p>Offset Processing with the IOC The Superintendent or designee updates a Debtor’s records as required by the terms of the IGA between the District and the IOC and/or 105 ILCS 123/, added by P.A. 100-1092.</p>		

Adopted by Mercer County School District Board of Education – August 21, 2019

Operational Services

Exhibit - Notice of Claim and Intent to Seek Debt Recovery; Challenge; and Response to Challenge

Print on district letterhead or on form with district name and address.

The information in this Notice of Claim is confidential; disclosure is limited to staff members who have a business need to be informed.

Section 1 - Notice of Claim and Intent to Seek Payment of a Delinquent Debt. *The District completes this section and sends the entire Notice of Claim to the person or entity that is the subject of the claim.*

To: _____
Name Address

Our records show that you owe the School District \$_____for: [Describe the reason for the debt and date(s) incurred] _____

After attempts at the school-building level to notify you of this debt and obtain payment and/or after reasonable efforts to notify you of your unpaid school lunch fees, your debt has been referred to the District’s Business Office. This debt is past due and legally enforceable. Unless this debt is paid on or before _____, the District will seek collection to the fullest extent of the law. That means that you may see a decrease in a future payment(s) that the State makes to you by the amount of the debt that you owe the District, plus a recovery fee until your debt is paid.

You may challenge this claim any time before _____ by completing Section 2 below and returning this *Notice of Claim* to the Superintendent’s office. If you challenge the debt, you will be invited to an informal proceeding in which the District Business Office will describe the claim and you can explain why you believe the claim is invalid and/or the amount is wrong. A decision finding the debt enforceable will be automatically reviewed by me or my designee (who is not a subordinate of the individual making the enforceability finding).

Superintendent Date

Section 2 - Challenge. *The individual or entity who wants to challenge the claim must complete this section and return the entire Notice of Claim to the Superintendent’s office.*

I am challenging the claim. *Please check all that apply.*

- I am submitting with this Notice of Claim a written explanation of why I believe the claim is invalid or the amount is wrong.
- I would like to explain why I believe the claim is invalid or the amount is wrong during an informal proceeding by telephone or at a meeting in the District office.
- I am requesting a copy of this Challenge to my Notice of Claim.

Individual or entity challenging the claim Date

Contact Number

Section 3 - Findings. *The Business Office completes this section and forwards the entire Notice of Claim to the Superintendent's office along with relevant supporting information and any material or explanation received from the individual or entity challenging the claim.*

The Business Office finds that this debt should be considered: **Satisfied.**
 Enforceable.

Business Office

Date

Section 4 - Review of Findings and Response to Challenge. *The Superintendent or designee who reviewed the findings completes this section and sends a copy of the Notice of Claim to the person or entity who challenged the claim.*

This debt is satisfied.

Your challenge is denied. You must pay the debt by _____ to avoid further collection efforts.

Superintendent

Date

Section 5 - Certification of Past Due Debt to the Ill. Office of the Comptroller (IOC). *The Superintendent or designee who reviewed the findings completes the process of certifying to the IOC Local Debt Recovery Program that the District has provided the Debtor with the due process necessary to begin the IOC Offset process pursuant to an existing Intergovernmental Agreement with the IOC and/or the requirements of 105 ILCS 123/, added by P.A. 100-1092.*

Adopted by Mercer County School District Board of Education – August 21, 2019

Operational Services

Payment Procedures

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

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

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

LEGAL REF.: 105 ILCS 5/8-16, 5/10-7, and 5/10-20.19.
23 Ill.Admin.Code §100.70.

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

Approved by the Mercer County School Board on December 9th, 2015.

Operational Services

Exhibit - School District Payment Order

This statutory order authorizes the Treasurer to pay a School Board-approved bill or obligation before the meeting minutes are officially approved. Several items may be attached to this form.

Order Date:

The Treasurer, , of School District in County, shall pay to the order of the sum of \$_, for .

By order of the School Board.

Board President Date

Secretary Date

Adopted by Mercer County School District #404 Board of Education on July 18, 2018.

Operational Services

Use of Credit and Procurement Cards

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

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

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

1. Credit and/or procurement cards may only be used to pay certain job-related expenses or to make purchases on behalf of the Board or District or any student activity fund, or for purposes that would otherwise be addressed through a conventional revolving fund.
2. The Superintendent or designee shall instruct the issuing bank to block the cards' use at unapproved merchants.
3. Each cardholder, other than the Superintendent, may charge no more than \$500 in a single purchase and no more than \$1000 within a given month without prior authorization from the Superintendent.
4. The Superintendent or designee must approve the use of a District credit or procurement card whenever such use is by telephone, fax, and the Internet. Permission shall be withheld when the use violates any Board policy, is from a vendor whose reputation has not been verified, or would be more expensive than if another available payment method were used.
5. The consequences for unauthorized purchases include, but are not limited to, reimbursing the District for the purchase amount, loss of cardholding privileges, and, if made by an employee, discipline up to and including discharge.

6. All cardholders must sign a statement affirming that they are familiar with this policy.
7. The Superintendent shall implement a process whereby all purchases using a District credit or procurement card are reviewed and approved by someone other than the cardholder or someone under the cardholder's supervision.
8. Cardholders must submit the original, itemized receipt to document all purchases.
9. No individual may use a District credit or procurement card to make purchases in a manner contrary to State law, including, but not limited to, the bidding and other purchasing requirements in 105 ILCS 5/10-20.21, or any Board policy.
10. The Superintendent or designee shall account for any financial or material reward or rebate offered by the company or institution issuing the District credit or procurement card and shall ensure that it is used for the District's benefit.

LEGAL REF.: 105 ILCS 5/10-20.21.

23 Ill.Admin.Code §100.70(d).

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

Adopted by the Mercer County School Board of Education on December 14, 2016.

Operational Services

Exhibit - Cardholder's Statement Affirming Familiarity with Requirements for Using District Credit and/or Procurement Cards

Cardholder's name

Cardholder's address

Position

Name of individual who authorized issuance of card.

I affirm that I am familiar with the Board's policy on using credit and procurement cards, that I understand my responsibilities regarding use of such cards, and that I agree to adhere to all requirements regarding such cards.

Cardholder's signature

Date

.....

I provided a copy of this Statement along with a copy of the Board policy 4:55, *Use of Credit and Procurement Cards*, to the cardholder who signed this statement.

Office personnel

Date

Adopted by Mercer County School District #404 Board of Education on July 18, 2018.

Operational Services

Purchases and Contracts

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

Standards for Purchasing and Contracting

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

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

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

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

1. Supplies, materials, or work involving an expenditure in excess of \$25,000 must comply with the State law bidding procedure, 105 ILCS 5/10-20.21, unless specifically exempted.
2. Construction, lease, or purchase of school buildings must comply with State law and Board policy 4:150, *Facility Management and Building Programs*.
3. Guaranteed energy savings must comply with 105 ILCS 5/19b-1 et seq.
4. Third party non-instructional services must comply with 105 ILCS 5/10-22.34c.
5. Goods and services that are intended to generate revenue and other remunerations for the District in excess of \$1,000, including without limitation vending machine contracts, sports and other attire, class rings, and photographic services, must comply with 105 ILCS 5/10-20.21. The Superintendent or designee shall keep a record of: (1) each vendor, product, or service provided, (2) the actual net revenue and non-monetary remuneration from each contract or agreement, and (3) how the revenue was used and to whom the non-monetary remuneration was distributed. The Superintendent or designee shall report this information

to the Board by completing the necessary forms that must be attached to the District's annual budget.

6. Any contract to purchase food with a bidder or offeror must comply with 105 ILCS 5/10-20.21(b-10).
7. The purchase of paper and paper products must comply with 105 ILCS 5/10-20.19c and Board policy 4:70, *Resource Conservation*.
8. Each contractor with the District is bound by each of the following:
 - a. In accordance with 105 ILCS 5/10-21.9(f): (1) prohibit any of its employees who is or was found guilty of a criminal offense listed in 105 ILCS 5/10-21.9(c) and 5/21B-80(c) to have direct, daily contact at a District school or school-related activity with one or more student(s); (2) prohibits any of the contractor's employees from having direct, daily contact with one or more students if the employee was found guilty of any offense in 5/21B-80(b) (certain drug offenses) until seven years following the end of the employee's sentence for the criminal offense; and (3) require each of its employees who will have direct, daily contact with student(s) to cooperate during the District's fingerprint-based criminal history records check on him or her.
 - b. In accordance with 105 ILCS 5/24-5: (1) concerning each employee who begins providing services in the District after June 16, 2014, provide the District with evidence of physical fitness to perform the duties assigned and freedom from communicable disease if the employee will have direct, daily contact with one or more student(s); and (2) require any new or existing employee who has and will have direct, daily contact with one or more student(s) to complete additional health examinations as required by the District and be subject to additional health examinations, including tuberculosis screening, as required by the Illinois Department of Public Health rules or order of a local health official.

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

LEGAL REF.: 105 ILCS 5/10-20.19c, 5/10-20.21, 5/10-21.9, 5/10-22.34c, 5/19b-1 et seq., and 5/24-5.

820 ILCS 130/.

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

Adopted by the Mercer County School Board of Education on December 14, 2016.

within three months prior to submission of the bid, provided that the results of such background checks need not be provided with the submission of the bid, but must be made available upon request of the Board.

The following is attached or otherwise available: a cost comparison, using generally accepted accounting principles, of each and every expenditure category and account that the District projects it would incur over the term of the contract if it continued to perform the non-instructional services using its own employees with each and every expenditure category and account that is projected the proposed contractor would incur if it performed the non-instructional services.

The Board reviewed and considered all bids by third parties to perform the non-instructional services in open session of a regularly scheduled Board meeting, unless the exclusive bargaining representative of the employees who perform the non-instructional services, if any such exclusive bargaining representative exists, agreed in writing that such review and consideration could take place in open session at a specially scheduled Board meeting.

Date of Board meeting:

Each of the following occurred:

1. A minimum of one public hearing, conducted by the Board prior to a regularly scheduled Board meeting, to discuss the proposed contract was held before the Board entered such contract.

Date of hearing:

2. The Board provided notice to the public of the date, time, and location of the first public hearing on or before the initial date that bids to provide the non-instructional services are solicited or a minimum of 30 days prior to entering into such a contract, whichever provides a greater period of notice.

Date and manner of notice:

The proposed contract contains provisions requiring the proposed contractor to offer available employee positions pursuant to the contract to qualified School District employees whose employment is terminated because of the contract.

The proposed contract contains provisions requiring the proposed contractor to comply with a policy of nondiscrimination and equal employment opportunity for all persons and to take affirmative steps to provide equal opportunity for all persons.

Adopted by Mercer County School District #404 Board of Education on July 18, 2018.

Operational Services

Exhibit - Notice to Contractors

On District letterhead.

Date

Notice to contractor:

You are receiving this notice because you may or will be performing *public works* for the School District as that term is defined in the Illinois Prevailing Wage Act (IPWA). 820 ILCS 130/2.

This notice applies to the public works described as:_____.

The IPWA requires contractors and subcontractors to pay laborers, workers, and mechanics performing services on public works projects no less than the *prevailing rate of wages* (hourly cash wages plus fringe benefits) in the county where the work is performed. Any prevailing rate of wages as they are revised by the Ill. Dept. of Labor (IDOL) shall apply to this contract. You are notified that any rate changes to the prevailing wage rate are available on IDOL's official website. For information regarding current prevailing wage rates, please see the IDOL's website at: <https://www2.illinois.gov/idol/Laws-Rules/CONMED/Pages/prevailing-wage-rates.aspx>.

All contractors and subcontractors rendering services for the public works must comply with all requirements of the IPWA, including but not limited to, all wage, notice, and recordkeeping duties.

The above paragraph was or will be included in the project specifications and the contract. 820 ILCS 130/4(e). If the work is awarded without a public bid, contract, or project specification, the notice was or will be included in the purchase order related to the work or in a separate document, such as this notification. 820 ILCS 130/4(f).

Adopted by Mercer County School District #404 Board of Education on May 15, 2019.

Operational Services

Resource Conservation

The Superintendent or designee shall manage a program of energy and resource conservation for the District that includes:

1. Periodic review of procurement procedures and specifications to ensure that purchased products and supplies are reusable, durable, or made from recycled materials, if economically and practically feasible.
2. Purchasing recycled paper and paper products in amounts that will, at a minimum, meet the specifications in the School Code, if economically and practically feasible.
3. Periodic review of procedures on the reduction of solid waste generated by academic, administrative, and other institutional functions. These procedures shall: (a) require recycling the District's waste stream, including landscape waste, computer paper, and white office paper, if economically and practically feasible; (b) include investigation of the feasibility of potential markets for other recyclable materials that are present in the District's waste stream; and (c) be designed to achieve, before July 1, 2020, at least a 50% reduction in the amount of solid waste that is generated by the District.
4. Adherence to energy conservation measures.

LEGAL REF.: 105 ILCS 5/10-20.19c.

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

Adopted by Mercer County School Board of Education on October 18, 2017.

Operational Services

Accounting and Audits

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

Annual Audit

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

Annual Financial Report

The Superintendent or designee shall annually prepare and submit the Annual Financial Report on a timely basis using the form adopted by the ISBE. The Superintendent shall review and discuss the Annual Financial Report with the Board before it is submitted.

Inventories

The Superintendent or designee is responsible for establishing and maintaining accurate inventory records. The inventory record of supplies and equipment shall include a description of each item, quantity, location, purchase date, and cost or estimated replacement cost.

Disposition of District Property

The Superintendent or designee shall notify the Board, as necessary, of the following so that the Board may consider its disposition: (1) District personal property (property other than buildings and land) that is no longer needed for school purposes, and (2) school site, building, or other real estate that is unnecessary, unsuitable, or inconvenient. Notwithstanding the above, the Superintendent or designee may unilaterally dispose of personal property of a diminutive value.

Taxable Fringe Benefits

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

Controls for Revolving Funds and Petty Cash

Revolving funds and the petty cash system are established in Board policy 4:50, *Payment Procedures*. The Superintendent shall: (1) designate a custodian for each revolving fund and petty cash fund, (2) obtain a bond for each fund custodian, and (3) maintain the funds in compliance with this policy, State law, and ISBE rules. A check for the petty cash fund may be drawn payable to the designated

petty cash custodian. Bank accounts for revolving funds are limited to a maximum balance of \$500.00. All expenditures from these bank accounts must be directly related to the purpose for which the account was established and supported with documentation, including signed invoices or receipts. All deposits into these bank accounts must be accompanied with a clear description of their intended purpose. The Superintendent or designee shall include checks written to reimburse revolving funds on the Board's monthly listing of bills indicating the recipient and including an explanation.

Control Requirements for Checks

The Board must approve all bank accounts opened or established in the District's or a District school's name or with the District's Federal Employer Identification Number. All checks issued by the School District must be signed by either the Treasurer or Board President, except that checks from an account containing student activity funds and revolving accounts may be signed by the respective account custodian.

Internal Controls

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

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

LEGAL REF.: 2 C.F.R. §200 *et seq.*

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

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

23 Ill.Admin.Code Part 100.

CROSS REF.: 4:10 (Fiscal and Business Management), 4:50 (Payment Procedures), 4:55 (Use of Credit and Procurement Cards), 4:90 (Activity Funds)

Adopted by Mercer County School District #404 Board of Education on July 18, 2018.

Operational Services

Activity Funds

The School Board, upon the Superintendent or designee's recommendation, establishes student activity funds to be managed by student organizations under the guidance and direction of a staff member for educational, recreational, or cultural purposes.

The Superintendent or designee shall be responsible for supervising student activity funds in accordance with Board policy, 4:80, *Accounting and Audits*; State law; and the Illinois State Board of Education rules for student activity funds. The Board will appoint a treasurer for each fund to serve as the fund's sole custodian and be bonded in accordance with the School Code. The treasurer shall have all of the responsibilities specific to the treasurer listed in the Illinois State Board of Education rules for school activity funds, including the authority to make loans between activity funds.

Unless otherwise instructed by the Board, a student activity fund's balance will carry over to the next fiscal year. An account containing student activity funds that is inactive for 12 consecutive months shall be closed and its funds transferred to another student activity fund or authorized fund with a similar purpose.

LEGAL REF.: 105 ILCS 5/8-2 and 5/10-20.19.
23 Ill.Admin.Code §§100.20 and 100.80.

CROSS REF.: 4:80 (*Accounting and Audits*), 7:325 (*Student Fundraising Activities*)

Adopted by Mercer County School District Board of Education – August 21, 2019

Operational Services

Insurance Management

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

The insurance program shall include each of the following:

1. Liability coverage to insure against any loss or liability of the School District and the listed individuals against civil rights damage claims and suits, constitutional rights damage claims and suits, and death and bodily injury and property damage claims and suits, including defense costs, when damages are sought for negligent or wrongful acts allegedly committed in the scope of employment or under the Board's direction or related to any mentoring services provided to the District's certified staff members; School Board members; employees; volunteer personnel authorized by 105 ILCS 5/10-22.34, 5/10-22.34a, and 5/10-22.34b; mentors of certified staff members authorized in 105 ILCS 5/21A-5 *et seq.* (new teacher), 105 ILCS 5/2-3.53a (new principal), and 2-3.53b (new superintendents); and student teachers.
2. Catastrophic accident insurance at the mandated benefit level for student athletes in grades 9 through 12 who sustain an accidental injury while participating in school-sponsored or school-supervised interscholastic athletic events sanctioned by the Ill. High School Association that results in medical expenses in excess of \$50,000.
3. Comprehensive property insurance covering a broad range of causes of loss involving building and personal property. The coverage amount shall normally be for the replacement cost or the insurable value.
4. Workers' Compensation to protect individual employees against financial loss in case of a work-related injury, certain types of disease, or death incurred in an employee-related situation.

Student Insurance

The Board shall annually designate a company to offer student accident insurance coverage. The Board does not endorse the plan nor recommend that parents/guardians secure the coverage, and any contract is between the parent(s)/guardian(s) and the company.

Operational Services

Transportation

The District shall provide free transportation for any student in the District who resides: (1) at a distance of one and one-half miles or more from his or her assigned school, unless the School Board has certified to the Illinois State Board of Education that adequate public transportation is available, or (2) if adequate public transportation is not available, within one and one-half miles from his or her assigned school where walking to or from school or to or from a pick-up point or bus stop would constitute a *serious safety hazard* due to either (a) vehicular traffic or rail crossing or (b) *a course or pattern of criminal activity*, as defined in the Ill. Streetgang Terrorism Omnibus Prevention Act, 740 ILCS 147/. A student's parent(s)/guardian(s) may file a petition with the Board requesting transportation due to the existence of a serious safety hazard. Free transportation service and vehicle adaptation is provided 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 Section 45/1-15 of the Education for Homeless Children Act. Foster care students shall be transported in accordance with Section 6312(c)(5)(B) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act.

If a student is at a location within the District, other than his or her residence, for child care purposes at the time for transportation to and/or from school, that location may be considered for purposes of determining the one and one-half miles from the school attended. Unless the Superintendent or designee establishes new routes, pick-up and drop-off locations for students in day care must be along the District's regular routes. The District will not discriminate among types of locations where day care is provided, which may include the premises of licensed providers, relatives' homes, or neighbors' homes.

Bus schedules and routes shall be determined by the Superintendent or designee and shall be altered only with the Superintendent or designee's approval and direction. In setting the routes, the pick-up and discharge points should be as safe for students as possible.

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

Every vehicle regularly used for the transportation of students must pass safety inspections in accordance with State law and Illinois Department of Transportation regulations. The strobe light on a school bus may be illuminated only when the bus is actually being used as a school bus and (1) is stopping or stopped for loading or discharging students on a highway outside an urban area, or (2) is bearing one or more students. The Superintendent shall implement procedures in accordance with State law for accepting comment calls about school bus driving.

All contracts for charter bus services must contain the clause prescribed by State law regarding criminal background checks for bus drivers.

Pre-Trip and Post-Trip Vehicle Inspection

The Superintendent or designee shall develop and implement a pre-trip and post-trip inspection procedure to ensure that the school bus driver: (1) tests the two-way radio or cellular radio telecommunication device and ensures that it is functioning properly before the bus is operated, and (2) walks to the rear of the bus before leaving the bus at the end of each route, work shift, or work day, to check the bus for children or other passengers in the bus.

- LEGAL REF.: 20 U.S.C. §6312(c)(5)(B), Elementary and Secondary Education Act.
42 U.S.C. §11431 et seq., McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act.
105 ILCS 5/10-22.22 and 5/29-1 et seq.
105 ILCS 45/1-15 and /1-17.
625 ILCS 5/1-148.3a-5, 5/1-182, 5/11-1414.1, 5/12-813.1, 5/12-815, 5/12-816,
5/12-821, and 5/13-109.
23 Ill.Admin.Code §§1.510 and 226.750; Part 120.
92 Ill.Admin.Code Part 440.
- CROSS REF.: 4:170 (Safety), 5:100 (Staff Development Program), 5:120 (Employee Ethics;
Conduct; and Conflict of Interest), 5:280 (Educational Support Personnel -
Duties and Qualifications), 6:140 (Education of Homeless Children), 6:170 (Title
I Programs), 7:220 (Bus Conduct)
- ADMIN. PROC.: 4:110-AP2 (Bus Driver Communication Devices; Pre-Trip and Post-Trip
Inspection; Bus Driving Comments), 4:110-AP3 (School Bus Safety Rules),
4:110-E (Emergency Medical Information for Students Having Special Needs or
Medical Conditions Who Ride School Buses), 6:140-AP (Education of Homeless
Children)

Adopted by Mercer County School District #404 Board of Education on May 15, 2019

Operational Services

Exhibit - Emergency Medical Information for Students Having Special Needs or Medical Conditions Who Ride School Buses

The purpose of this form is to give school bus drivers and/or emergency medical technicians information about students who have special needs or medical conditions. One copy of this form is kept in the nurse's office, and another copy is kept on the student's school bus in a secure location for bus drivers and emergency medical technicians. If the emergency care of the student requires medication, the parent/guardian must file a *School Medical Authorization Form* with the school nurse.

To be completed by the student's parent/guardian:

Student's Name <i>(Please print)</i>	Birth Date	
Parent/Guardian's Name	Home Phone	Cell Phone
School	Grade	Teacher
Physician's Name	Physician's Phone	School Nurse's Phone

My child's special needs are: *(list behavioral or communication challenges and required responses)*

My child requires medication for: *(describe conditions and circumstances)*

Medication and Where Kept	Dosage	Directions

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Adopted by Mercer County School District #404 Board of Education on May 15, 2019

Operational Services

Food Services

Good nutrition shall be promoted in the District's meal programs and in other food and beverages that are sold to students during the school day. The Superintendent shall manage a food service program that complies with this policy and is in alignment with School Board policy 6:50, *School Wellness*. The type and amounts of food and beverages sold to students before school and during the regular school day in any school that participates in the School Breakfast Program or the National School Lunch Program shall comply with any applicable mandates in the Illinois State Board of Education's School Food Service rule and the federal rules implementing the National School Lunch Act and Child Nutrition Act.

The food service program shall restrict the sale of foods of minimal nutritional value as defined by the U.S. Department of Agriculture in the food service areas during meal periods. All revenue from the sale of any food or beverages sold in competition with the School Breakfast Program or National School Lunch Program to students in food service areas during the meal period shall accrue to the nonprofit school lunch program account.

LEGAL REF.: B. Russell National School Lunch Act, 42 U.S.C. §1751 et seq.
 Child Nutrition Act of 1966, 42 U.S.C. §1771 et seq.
 42 U.S.C. §1779, as implemented by 7 C.F.R. §210.11.
 105 ILCS 125/
 23 Ill.Admin.Code Part 305, School Food Service.

CROSS REF.: 4:130 (Free and Reduced-Price Food Services), 6:50 (School Wellness)

Adopted by Mercer County School District Board of Education – May 26, 2010

Operational Services

Free and Reduced-Price Food Services

Notice

The Superintendent shall be responsible for implementing the District's free and reduced-price food services policy and all applicable programs.

Eligibility Criteria and Selection of Children

A student's eligibility for free and reduced-price food services shall be determined by the income eligibility guidelines, family-size income standards, set annually by the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture and distributed by the Ill. State Board of Education.

Notification

At the beginning of each school year, by letter, the District shall notify students and their parents/guardians of: (1) eligibility requirements for free and reduced-price food service; (2) the application process; (3) the name and telephone number of a contact person for the program; and (4) other information required by federal law. The Superintendent shall provide the same information to: (1) informational media, the local unemployment office, and any major area employers contemplating layoffs; and (2) the District's website (if applicable), all school newsletters, or students' registration materials. Parents/guardians enrolling a child in the District for the first time, any time during the school year, shall receive the eligibility information.

Nondiscrimination Assurance

The District shall avoid publicly identifying students receiving free or reduced-price meals and shall use methods for collecting meal payments that prevent identification of children receiving assistance.

Appeal

A family may appeal the District's decision to deny an application for free and reduced-price food services or to terminate such services as outlined by the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture in 7 C.F.R. §245.7, Determining Eligibility for Free and Reduced-Price Meals and Free Milk in Schools. The Superintendent shall establish a hearing procedure for adverse eligibility decisions and provide by mail a copy of them to the family. The District may also use these procedures to challenge a child's continued eligibility for free or reduced-price meals or milk.

During an appeal, students previously receiving food service benefits shall not have their benefits terminated. Students who were denied benefits shall not receive benefits during the appeal.

The Superintendent shall keep on file for a period of three years a record of any appeals made and the hearing record. The District shall also maintain accurate and complete records showing the data and method used to determine the number of eligible students served free and reduced-price food services. These records shall be maintained for three years.

LEGAL REF.: U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service, National School Lunch Program, 7 C.F.R. Part 210.
U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service, Determining Eligibility for Free and Reduced-Price Meals and Free Milk in Schools, 7 C.F.R. Part 245.
105 ILCS 125/ and 126/.
23 Ill.Admin.Code §305.10 et seq.

Adopted by Mercer County School District #404 Board of Education on February 20, 2019.

Operational Services

Exhibit - Free and Reduced-Price Food Services; Meal Charge Notifications

On District letterhead, website, in student handbook, newsletters, bulletins, and/or calendars

Date:

To: Parents/Guardians, Students, and Staff

Re: Eligibility and Meal Charge Notifications

The following notification is provided at the beginning of each school year as federally required notification regarding eligibility requirements and the application process for the free and reduced-price food services that are listed in Board policy 4:130, *Free and Reduced-Price Food Services* and 4:140, *Waiver of Student Fees*. For more information, see www.fns.usda.gov/school-meals/unpaid-meal-charges, and/or contact the Building Principal or designee.

Free and Reduced-Price Food Services Eligibility

When the parents/guardians of students are unable to pay for their child(ren)'s meal services, meal charges will apply per a student's eligibility category and will be processed by the District accordingly.

A student's eligibility for free and reduced-price food services shall be determined by the income eligibility guidelines, family-size income standards, set annually by the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, and distributed by the Ill. State Board of Education.

Meal Charges for Meals Provided by the District

The Building Principal and District staff will work jointly to prevent meal charges from accumulating. Every effort to collect all funds due to the District will be made on a regular basis and before the end of the school year. Contact your Building Principal or designee about whether your child(ren)'s charges may be carried over at the end of the school year, i.e., beyond June 30th.

Unpaid meal charges are considered delinquent debt when payment is overdue as defined by Board policy 4:45, *Insufficient Fund Checks and Debt Recovery* and the Hunger-Free Students' Bill of Rights Act (105 ILCS 123/, added by P.A. 100-1092). The District will make reasonable efforts to collect charges classified as delinquent debt.

When a student's funds are low or there is a negative balance, reminders will be provided to the staff, students, and their parent(s)/guardian(s) at regular intervals during the school year. State law allows the Building Principal to contact parents(s)/guardian(s) to attempt collection of the owed money when the amount owed is more than the amount of five lunches [*or insert lower amount*]. If a parent/guardian regularly fails to provide meal money for the child(ren) that he/she is responsible for in the District and does not qualify for free meal benefits, the Building Principal or designee will direct the next course of action. Continual failure to provide meal money may require the District to notify the Ill. Dept. of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and/or take legal steps to recover the unpaid meal charges, up to and including seeking an offset under the State Comptroller Act, if applicable.

LEGAL REF.: Healthy Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010 (P.L. 111-296).
 7 C.F.R. §245.5.
 105 ILCS 123/, Hunger-Free Students' Bill of Rights Act.
 23 Ill.Admin.Code Part 305, School Food Service.

Adopted by Mercer County School District #404 Board of Education on February 20, 2019.

Operational Services

Waiver of Student Fees

The Superintendent will recommend to the School Board a schedule of fees, if any, to be charged students for the use of textbooks, consumable materials, extracurricular activities, and other school student fees. Students must also pay for the loss of or damage to school books or other school-owned materials.

Fees for textbooks, other instructional materials, and driver education are waived for students who meet the eligibility criteria for a fee waiver as described in this policy. In order that no student is denied educational services or academic credit due to the inability of parents/guardians to pay student fees, the Superintendent will recommend to the Board which additional fees, if any, the District will waive for students who meet the eligibility criteria for fee waiver. Students receiving a fee waiver are not exempt from charges for lost and damaged books, locks, materials, supplies, and equipment.

Notification

The Superintendent shall ensure that applications for fee waivers are widely available and distributed according to State law and Ill. State Board of Education (ISBE) rule and that provisions for assisting parents/guardians in completing the application are available.

Eligibility Criteria

A student shall be eligible for a fee waiver when the student currently lives in a household that meets the same income guidelines, with the same limits based on household size, that are used for the federal free meals program.

The Superintendent or designee will give additional consideration where one or more of the following factors are present:

- Illness in the family;
- Unusual expenses such as fire, flood, storm damage, etc.;
- Unemployment;
- Emergency situations;
- When one or more of the parents/guardians are involved in a work stoppage.

Verification

The Superintendent or designee shall establish a process for determining a student's eligibility for a waiver of fees in accordance with State law requirements. The Superintendent or designee may require family income verification at the time an individual applies for a fee waiver and anytime thereafter, but not more often than once every 60 calendar days. The Superintendent or designee shall not use any information from this or any independent verification process to determine free or reduced-price meal eligibility.

If a student receiving a fee waiver is found to be no longer eligible during the school year, the Superintendent or designee shall notify the student's parent/guardian and charge the student a prorated amount based upon the number of school days remaining in the school year.

Determination and Appeal

Within 30 calendar days after the receipt of a waiver request, the Superintendent or designee shall mail a notice to the parent/guardian whenever a waiver request is denied. The denial notice shall include: (1) the reason for the denial, (2) the process and timelines for making an appeal, and (3) a

statement that the parent/guardian may reapply for a waiver any time during the school year if circumstances change. If the denial is appealed, the District shall follow the procedures for the resolution of appeals as provided in the ISBE rule on waiver of fees.

LEGAL REF.: 105 ILCS 5/10-20.13, 5/10-22.25, 5/27-24.2, and 5/28-19.2.
23 Ill.Admin.Code §1.245 [may contain unenforceable provisions].

CROSS REF.: 4:130 (Free and Reduced-Price Food Services), 6:220 (Bring Your Own Technology (BYOT) Program; Responsible Use and Conduct)

Adopted by Mercer County School District #404 Board of Education on July 18, 2018.

Operational Services

Exhibit - Application for Fee Waiver

This application for a school fee waiver is completely independent from the District process for determining eligibility for free meals. The information must be provided for your application to be considered. Submit completed application and income verification documents to the Building Principal.

Student's Name (please print)

School

Parent/Guardian Name (please print)

Address (please print)

1. The student named above lives in my household? Yes No

2. Total number of people living in my home _____

Number of adults: _____

Number of minors: _____

3. Total gross annual household income (before deductions) from all people living in my home

\$ _____

The above number must include all:

Compensation for services, wages, salary, commissions or fees;

Net income from self-employment;

Social Security;

Dividends or interest on savings or bonds or income from estates or trusts;

Net rental income;

Public assistance or welfare payments;

Unemployment compensation;

Government civilian employee or military retirement, or pensions or veterans payments;

Private pensions or annuities;

Alimony or child support payments;

Regular contributions from persons not living in the household;

Net royalties; and

Other cash income (including cash amounts received or withdrawn from any source including savings, investments, trust accounts and other resources).

4. My household meets the federal income guidelines for free meals (attached)?

Yes No N/A

See www.isbe.net/nutrition/htmls/data.htm#income.

If you answered "No" to any of the previous questions, please indicate the reason(s) you are applying for a waiver of school fees.

Income Verification for Fee Waiver

You must present documents to verify income. Such documents may include, but are not limited to:

- | | |
|--|------------------------------|
| Two pay stubs for each working member of household | Disability benefit statement |
| Unemployment statement showing benefits | Current tax returns |
| Medicaid Card showing case number | Foster placement papers |
| Direct Certification letter from the State of Illinois | Food Stamp Evidence |

Temporary Food assistance for needy families

You may be requested to provide updated income verification at any time, but no more often than once every 60 calendar days.

Supplying false information to obtain a fee waiver is a Class 4 felony (720 ILCS 5/17-6).

I attest that the statements made herein are true and correct.

Parent/Guardian (*signature*)

Date

Adopted by the Mercer County School District Board of Education on December 14, 2016.

Operational Services

Exhibit - Response to Application for Fee Waiver, Appeal, and Response to Appeal

Response to Application for Fee Waiver *(To parents/guardians)*

Student's Name *(please print)*

School

Request granted Request denied for the following reason(s):

If your request was denied, you may appeal in writing by completing the following portion of this form and submitting it to the Superintendent. If you appeal this decision, you have the right to meet with the Superintendent or designee to explain why the fee waiver should be granted. You may reapply at any time if circumstances change.

Building Principal or Office Staff Member

Date

Appeal of the Denial of a Fee Waiver *(To be submitted to the Superintendent)*

- I am exercising my right to appeal the Building Principal's denial of my request to waive the school student fee described above.
- I would like to explain why the fee waiver should be granted during a telephone conversation or during a meeting with the person who will decide my appeal. *(If you check this box, someone from the Superintendent's office will contact you to make arrangements.)*

Parent/Guardian *(please print)*

Telephone Number

Signature

Date

The Superintendent's office will notify you in writing of the results of your appeal within 30 calendar days of receipt of your appeal.

Response to Appeal of the Denial of a Fee Waiver (To parent(s)/guardian(s))

Appeal received on: _____ (insert date) _____.

I have reviewed your appeal.

Request granted **Request denied for the following reason(s):**

Superintendent

Date

Adopted by the Mercer County School District Board of Education on December 14, 2016.

Operational Services

Exhibit - Resolution to Increase Driver Education Fees

WHEREAS, Section 27-24.2 of the School Code provides that the School District may charge a reasonable fee, not to exceed \$50, to students who participate in a driver education course;

WHEREAS, the Illinois General Assembly amended that same section of the School Code in P.A. 97-145 to allow a school board to increase the fee to an amount not to exceed \$250 by school board resolution following a public hearing on the increase, provided that the fee is waived for students who are unable to pay for the course;

WHEREAS, the School Board held a public hearing to increase the driver education course fee to an amount not to exceed \$250 on _____ *[date]* _____;

WHEREAS, the Board already waives the driver education course fees for students who are unable to pay (Board policy 4:140, *Waiver of Student Fees*);

WHEREAS, the Administration provided evidence at the hearing that a fee of \$250 for each student taking the driver education course when added to the reimbursement from the State for driver education will not exceed the total cost of the driver education program in any year;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the School Board hereby increases the driver education fee to an amount not to exceed \$250.00, effective on _____ *[date]* _____, and waives the increased fee for any student who is unable to pay for the course according to the provisions in Board policy 4:140, *Waiver of Student Fees*.

Attested by: _____
Board President

Attested by: _____
Board Secretary

Operational Services

Facility Management and Building Programs

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

Standards for Managing Buildings and Grounds

All District buildings and grounds shall be adequately maintained in order to provide an appropriate, safe, and energy efficient physical environment for learning and teaching. The Superintendent or designee shall provide the Board with periodic reports on maintenance data and projected maintenance needs that include cost analysis. Prior Board approval is needed for all renovations or permanent alterations to buildings or grounds when the total cost will exceed \$12,500, including the cost equivalent of staff time. This policy is not intended to discourage efforts to improve the appearance of buildings or grounds that are consistent with the designated use of those buildings and grounds.

Standards for Green Cleaning

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

Standards for Facility Construction and Building Programs

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

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

1. Integrate facilities planning with other aspects of planning and goal-setting.
2. Base educational specifications for school buildings on identifiable student needs.
3. Design buildings for sufficient flexibility to permit new or modified programs.
4. Design buildings for maximum potential for community use.
5. Meet or exceed all safety requirements.
6. Meet requirements on the accessibility of school facilities to disabled persons as specified in State and federal law.
7. Provide for low maintenance costs, energy efficiency, and minimal environmental impact.

Naming Buildings and Facilities

Recognizing that the name for a school building, facility, or ground or field reflects on its public image, the Board's primary consideration will be to select a name that enhances the credibility and

stature of the school or facility. Any request to name or rename an existing facility should be submitted to the Board. When a facility is to be named or renamed, the Board President will appoint a special committee to consider nominations and make a recommendation, along with supporting rationale, to the Board. The Board will make the final selection. The Superintendent or designee may name a room or designate some area on a school's property in honor of an individual or group that has performed outstanding service to the school without using the process in this policy.

LEGAL REF.: 42 U.S.C. §12101 et seq., Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, implemented by 28 C.F.R. Parts 35 and 36.
20 ILCS 3130/, Green Buildings Act.
105 ILCS 5/2-3.12, 5/10-20.49, 5/10-22.36, 5/10-20.63, and 5/17-2.11.
105 ILCS 140/, Green Cleaning Schools Act.
105 ILCS 230/, School Construction Law.
410 ILCS 25/, Environmental Barriers Act.
820 ILCS 130/, Prevailing Wage Act.
23 Ill.Admin.Code Part 151, School Construction Program; Part 180, Health/Life Safety Code for Public Schools; and Part 2800, Green Cleaning for Elementary and Secondary Schools.
71 Ill.Admin.Code Part 400, Ill. Accessibility Code.

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

Adopted by Mercer County School District #404 Board of Education on May 15, 2019

Operational Services

Environmental Quality of Buildings and Grounds

The Superintendent shall take all reasonable measures to protect: (1) the safety of District personnel, students, and visitors on District premises from risks associated with hazardous materials, and (2) the environmental quality of the District's buildings and grounds. Before pesticides are used on District premises, the Superintendent or designee shall notify employees and parents/guardians of students as required by the Structural Pest Control Act, 225 ILCS 235/, and the Lawn Care Products Application and Notice Act, 415 ILCS 65/.

LEGAL REF.: 29 C.F.R. §1910.1030, Occupational Exposure to Bloodborne Pathogens, as adopted by the Illinois Department of Labor, 56 Ill.Admin.Code §350.700(b).
29 C.F.R. §1910.1200, Occupational Safety and Health Administration Hazard Communication Standards, as adopted by 820 ILCS 255/1.5, Toxic Substances Disclosure to Employees Act.
20 ILCS 3130/, Green Buildings Act.
105 ILCS 5/10-20.17a; 5/10-20.48.
105 ILCS 135/, Toxic Art Supplies in Schools Act.
105 ILCS 140/, Green Cleaning School Act.
225 ILCS 235/, Structural Pest Control Act.
415 ILCS 65/, Lawn Care Products Application and Notice Act.
820 ILCS 255/, Toxic Substances Disclosure to Employees Act. (*inoperative*)
23 Ill.Admin.Code §1.330.

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

Adopted by Mercer County School District #404 Board of Education on May 15, 2019

Operational Services

Safety

Safety and Security

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

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

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

School Safety Drill Plan

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

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

Annual Review

The Board or its designee will annually review each school building's emergency operations and crisis response plan(s), protocols, and procedures, as well as each building's compliance with the school safety drill plan. This annual review shall be in accordance with the School Safety Drill Act (105 ILCS 128/) and the Joint Rules of the Office of the State Fire Marshal and the Ill. State Board of Education (ISBE). 29 Ill.Admin.Code Part 1500.

Automated External Defibrillator (AED)

The Superintendent or designee shall implement a written plan for responding to medical emergencies at the District's physical fitness facilities in accordance with the Fitness Facility Medical Emergency Preparedness Act and shall file a copy of the plan with the Ill. Dept. of Public Health (IDPH). The plan shall provide for at least one automated external defibrillator (AED) to be available at every physical fitness facility on the premises according to State law requirements.

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

Carbon Monoxide Alarms

The Superintendent or designee shall implement a plan with the District's local fire officials to:

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

Soccer Goal Safety

The Superintendent or designee shall implement the Movable Soccer Goal Safety Act in accordance with the guidance published by the IDPH. Implementation of the Act shall be directed toward improving the safety of movable soccer goals by requiring that they be properly anchored.

Unsafe School Choice Option

The unsafe school choice option allows students to transfer to another District school or to a public charter school within the District. The unsafe school choice option is available to:

1. All students attending a persistently dangerous school, as defined by State law and identified by the ISBE.
2. Any student who is a victim of a violent criminal offense, as defined by 725 ILCS 120/3, that occurred on school grounds during regular school hours or during a school-sponsored event.

The Superintendent or designee shall develop procedures to implement the unsafe school choice option.

Lead Testing in Water

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

Emergency Closing

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

LEGAL REF.: 105 ILCS 5/10-20.2, 5/10-20.57, 5/18-12, and 5/18-12.5.
105 ILCS 128/, School Safety Drill Act, implemented by 29 Ill.Admin.Code Part 1500.
210 ILCS 74/, Physical Fitness Facility Medical Emergency Preparedness Act.
225 ILCS 320/35.5, Ill. Plumbing License Law.

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

Adopted by Mercer County School District #404 Board of Education on February 20, 2019.

Operational Services

Convicted Child Sex Offender; Screening; Notifications

Persons Prohibited on School Property without Prior Permission

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

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

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

Screening

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

Notification to Parents/Guardians

The Superintendent shall develop procedures for the distribution and use of information from law enforcement officials under the Sex Offender Community Notification Law and the Murderer and Violent Offender Against Youth Community Notification Law. The Superintendent or designee shall serve as the District contact person for purposes of these laws. The Superintendent and Building Principal shall manage a process for schools to notify the parents/guardians during school registration that information about sex offenders is available to the public as provided in the Sex Offender Community Notification Law. This notification must occur during school registration and at other times as the Superintendent or Building Principal determines advisable.

LEGAL REF.: 20 ILCS 2635/, Uniform Conviction Information Act.

720 ILCS 5/11-9.3.

730 ILCS 152/, Sex Offender Community Notification Law.

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

CROSS REF.: 5:30 (Hiring Process and Criteria), 5:260 (Student Teachers), 6:250 (Community Resource Persons and Volunteers), 8:30 (Visitors to and Conduct on School Property), 8:100 (Relations with Other Organizations and Agencies)

Adopted by the Mercer County School Board of Education on December 14, 2016.

Operational Services

Pandemic Preparedness

The School Board recognizes that the District will play an essential role along with the local health department and emergency management agencies in protecting the public's health and safety if an influenza pandemic occurs. Pandemic influenza is a worldwide outbreak of a virus for which there is little or no natural immunity and no vaccine; it spreads quickly to people who have not been previously exposed to the new virus.

To prepare the School District community for a pandemic, the Superintendent or designee shall: (1) learn and understand the roles that the federal, State, and local government would play in an epidemic; (2) form a pandemic planning team consisting of appropriate District personnel and community members to identify priorities and oversee the development and implementation of a comprehensive pandemic influenza school action plan; and (3) build awareness of the final plan among staff, students, and community.

Emergency School Closing

In the case of a pandemic, any decision for an emergency school closing will be made by the Superintendent in consultation with and, if necessary, at the direction of the District's local health department, emergency management agencies, and Regional Office of Education.

LEGAL REF.: 105 ILCS 5/10-16.7 and 5/10-20.5.

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

Ill. Emergency Management Agency Act, 20 ILCS 3305.

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

CROSS REF.: 1:20 (District Organization, Operations, and Cooperative Agreements), 2:20 (Powers and Duties of the School Board; Indemnification), 4:170 (Safety), 7:90 (Release During School Hours), 8:100 (Relations with Other Organizations and Agencies)

Adopted by the Mercer County School Board of Education on July 19, 2017.

Operational Services

Targeted School Violence Prevention Program

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

The Superintendent or designee shall develop and implement the Program. The Program oversees the maintenance of a District environment that is conducive to learning and working by identifying, assessing, classifying, responding to, and managing threats and acts of targeted school violence. The Program shall be part of the District's Comprehensive Safety and Security Plan, required by Board policy 4:170, *Safety*, and shall:

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

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

LEGAL REF.: 105 ILCS 5/10-20.14, 5/10-21.7, 5/10-27.1A, 5/10-27.1B, 5/24-24, and 5/27-23.7.
105 ILCS 128/, School Safety Drill Act.
745 ILCS 10/, Local Governmental and Governmental Employees Tort Immunity Act.
29 Ill.Admin.Code Part 1500.

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

Adopted by Mercer County School District #404 Board of Education on May 15, 2019.