

NEW

MATERIAL RELOCATED FROM 4:170

May 2014

4:175

Operational Services

Convicted Child Sex Offender; Criminal Background Check and/or Screen; Notifications ¹

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: ²

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. ³ If a student is a sex offender, the Superintendent or designee shall develop guidelines for managing his or her presence in school. ⁴

The footnotes are not intended to be part of the adopted policy; they should be removed before the policy is adopted.

¹ The topic covered by this policy was previously a part of 4:170, *Safety*.

² The Criminal Code, 720 ILCS 5/11-9.3, contains these requirements concerning a child sex offender's presence on school property. An Illinois federal court denied a father's request to enjoin a school's policy that prohibited him, as a child sex offender, from attending his children's school activities in Doe v. Paris Union School Dist., No. 05-2249, 2006 WL 44304 (C.D.Ill., 2006). See also 8:30, *Visitors to and Conduct on School Property*.

³ 720 ILCS 5/11-9.3. The statute assigns the child sex offender the "duty to remain under the direct supervision of a school official." In order to ensure this happens and to protect students, the sample policy requires the superintendent or designee to supervise a child sex offender whenever the offender is in a child's vicinity. See also 8:30, *Visitors to and Conduct on School Property*.

⁴ Aside from rumor and notoriety, there are three ways that school officials may learn that an enrolled student is a sex offender or a violent offender against youth:

1. By being informed by the student or the student's parent/guardian.
2. Through the Illinois State Police Sex Offender Registry, www.isp.state.il.us/sor. A juvenile sex offender is listed there after the juvenile becomes 17 years old and will be listed for the remaining registration period (730 ILCS 150/2). The database is updated daily and allows searching by name, city, county, zip code, compliance status, or any combination thereof.
3. By receiving notification from a law enforcement agency that a juvenile sex offender or juvenile violent offender against youth is enrolled in a school. The law enforcement agency having jurisdiction to register the juvenile must provide a copy of the offender registration form to the building principal and guidance counselor designated by the

Criminal Background Check and/or Screen 5

The Superintendent or designee shall perform the criminal background check and/or screen 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. ⁶ 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. ⁷ 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), 6:250 (Community Resource Persons and Volunteers), 8:30 (Visitors to and Conduct on School Property), 8:100 (Relations with Other Organizations and Agencies)

principal; the school must keep the registration form separately from the student's school records (730 ILCS 152/121(b)).

If a sex offender is enrolled in a school, guidelines for managing the sex offender's presence in school should be prepared. The components will depend on the situation but generally should include asking the parent/guardian of a sex offender below the age of 17 years for permission to share the information with certain staff for the protection of both the student and other students. In addition, the guidelines should include a supervision plan providing supervision for the student during all aspects of his or her school day. Finally, the guidelines must respect the privacy of juvenile records and comply with the Ill. School Student Records Act, 105 ILCS 10/. The board attorney should be consulted.

⁵ See procedure 4:175-AP1, *Criminal Offender Notification Laws*; policy 5:30, *Hiring Process and Criteria*; procedure 5:30-AP2, *Investigations*; policy 6:250, *Community Resource Person and Volunteers*; and procedure 6:250-AP, *Securing and Screening Resource Persons and Volunteers*.

⁶ Sex Offender Community Notification Law, 730 ILCS 152/, and Murderer and Violent Offender Against Youth Community Notification Law, 730 ILCS 154/75-105. Law enforcement officials must notify school districts of the names, addresses, and offenses of registered offenders residing in their respective jurisdictions who have committed sex offenses and violent offenses against youth (730 ILCS 152/120 and 154/95). These laws are silent with regard to what, if anything, districts do with the information. The Sex Offender Community Notification Law, however, provides immunity for "any person who provides, or fails to provide, information relevant to the procedures set forth in this Law," (730 ILCS 152/130).

Naming a contact person will facilitate communication and cooperation with local law enforcement agencies. Any school official may be used as the contact person, and boards may wish to have a contact person from each building. See administrative procedure 4:175-AP1, *Criminal Offender Notification Laws*; *Screening*, for implementing procedures.

⁷ State law requires a principal or teacher to notify the parents/guardians during school registration or parent-teacher conferences that information about sex offenders is available to the public as provided in the Sex Offender Community Notification Law, 730 ILCS 152/. In an effort to keep this policy aligned with good governance practices, the responsibility is given to the superintendent and building principal to manage. While State law allows the notification to be made during registration or parent-teacher conferences, the sample policy makes a notification mandatory just during registration to be sure that all parents/guardians are informed.