# FOUR RIVERS SPECIAL EDUCATION DISTRICT

# GOVERNING BOARD POLICY MANUAL

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# Community Relations

## Connection with the Community

## Public Relations

The Board President is the official spokesperson for the Operating Board. The Director is the District’s chief spokesperson. The Director or designee shall plan, implement, and evaluate a District public relations program which will:

1. Develop public understanding of school operations
2. Gather community attitudes and desires for the District
3. Secure adequate financial support for a sound educational program
4. Help the community feel a more direct responsibility for the quality of education provided by their schools
5. Earn the community’s good will, respect, and confidence
6. Promote a genuine spirit of cooperation between the school and the community
7. Keep the news media accurately informed
8. Coordinate with the District Safety Coordinator to provide accurate and timely information to the appropriate individuals during an emergency

The public relations program should include:

1. Regular news releases concerning District programs, policies, activities, and special event management for distribution by, for example, posting on the District website, using social media platforms, e.g., Facebook, Twitter, etc., or sending to the news media.
2. News conferences and interviews, as requested or needed. The Board President and Director will coordinate their respective media relations efforts. Individuals may speak for the District only with prior approval from the Director.
3. Publications having a high quality of editorial content and effective format. All publications shall identify the District, school, department, or classroom and shall include the name of the Director, the Supervisor, and/or the author and the publication date, and
4. Other efforts that highlight the District’s programs and activities.

**Community Engagement**

Community engagement is a process that the Board uses to actively involve diverse citizens in dialogue, deliberation, and collaborative thinking around common interests for the District’s schools.

# Four Rivers Special Education District 8:10

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The Board, in consultation with the Director, determines the purpose(s) and objective(s) of any community engagement initiative.

For each community engagement initiative:

1. The Board will:

1. Commit to the determined purpose(s) and objective(s), and
2. Provide information about the expected nature of the public’s involvement.

2. The Director will:

a. Identify the effective tools and tactics that will advance the Board’s purpose(s) and objective(s),

b. At least annually, prepare a report for the community engagement initiative, and or

c. Prepare a final report of the community engagement initiative.

The Board will periodically: (1) review whether its community engagement initiatives are achieving the identified purpose(s) and objective(s), (2) consider what, if any, modifications would improve effectiveness; and (3) determine whether to continue individual initiatives.

CROSS REF.: 2:110 (Qualifications, Term, and Duties of Board Officers)

ADOPTED: June 23, 2020

# Four Rivers Special Education District 8:20

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# Community Relations

## Community Use of District Facilities

The use of school facilities requires the prior approval of the Director or designee and is subject to applicable procedures.

Persons on school premises must abide by the District’s conduct rules at all times.

Student groups, school-related organizations, government agencies, and non-profit organizations are granted the use of school facilities at no costs during regularly staffed hours. Fees and costs shall apply during non-regularly staffed hours and to other organizations granted use of facilities at any time. A fee schedule and other terms of use shall be prepared by the Director and be subject to annual approval by the Operating Board.

LEGAL REF.: Good News Club v. Milford Central Schools, Sup. Ct., 6-11-01.

Lamb’s Chapel v. Center Moriches Union Free Special Education District, 113 Ct. 2141. (1993)

Rosenberger v. Rector and Visitors of Univ. of Va., 515 U.S. 819 (1995)

105 ILCS 5/10-22.10 and 5/29-3.5

10 ILCS 5/19-2.2.

20 U.S.C. §-7905

CROSS REF.: 7:330 (Student Use of Buildings – Equal Access), 8:25 (Distribution and Display of Community Flyers and Posters, 8:30 (Conduct On School Property)

ADOPTED: January 28, 2015

# Four Rivers Special Education District 8:25

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# Community Relations

## Advertising and Distributing Materials in Schools Provided by Non-School Related Entities

No material or literature shall be posted or distributed that would: (1) disrupt the educational process, (2) violate the rights or invade the privacy of others, (3) infringe on a trademark or copyright, or (4) be defamatory, obscene, vulgar, or indecent. No material, literature, or advertisement shall be posted or distributed without advance approval as described in this policy.

Community, Educational, Charitable, or Recreational Organizations

Community, educational, charitable, recreational, or similar groups may, under procedures established by the Director, advertise events pertinent to students’ interests or involvement. All advertisements must (1) be student-oriented, (2) prominently display the sponsoring organization’s name, and (3) be approved in advance by the Director or designee. The District reserves the right to decide where and when any advertisement or flyer is distributed, displayed, or posted.

Commercial Companies and Political Candidates or Parties

No individual or entity may advertise or promote its interests by using the names or pictures of the School District, District school or facility, staff, or students except as authorized by and consistent with administrative procedures and approved by the Board.

Material from candidates and political parties will not be accepted for posting or distribution, except when used as part of the curriculum.

LEGAL REF.: Berger v. Rensselaer Central School Corp., 982 F.2d 1160 (7th Cir. 1993).

DiLoreto v. Downey Unified School Dist., 196 F.3d 958 (9th Cir. 1999)

Hedges v. Wauconda Community Unit School Dist. No. 18, 9 F.3d 5 (7th Cir. 1993).

Lamb’s Chapel v. Center Moriches Union Free School Dist., 113 S.Ct. 2141 (1993).

Sherman v. Community Consolidated School Dist. 21, 8 F.3d 1160 (7th Cir. 1993).

CROSS REF.: 7:325 (Student Fund-Raising Activities), 7:330 (Student Use of Buildings – Equal Access)

ADOPTED: July 25, 2018

# Four Rivers Special Education District 8:30

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# Community Relations

## Visitors to and Conduct On District Property

The following definitions apply to this policy:

**School property** – District and school building grounds, and parking areas; vehicles used for school purposes; and any location used for a school board meeting, school athletic event, or other school-sponsored event or school-sanctioned events or activities.

**Visitor** – Any person other than an enrolled student or employee.

All visitors to school property are required to report to the Director and receive permission to remain on school property. All visitors must sign a visitors’ log, show identification, and wear a visitor’s badge. When leaving the school, visitors must return their badge. On those occasions when large groups of parents/guardians, friends, and/or community members are invited onto school property or when community members are attending Board meetings, visitors are not required to sign in but must follow school officials’ instructions. Persons on school property without permission will be directed to leave and may be subject to criminal prosecution.

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

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

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

1. Strike, injure, threaten, harass, or intimidate a staff member, a Board member, or any other person.
2. Behave in an unsportsmanlike manner, or use vulgar or obscene language.
3. Unless specifically permitted by State law, possess a weapon, any object that can reasonably be considered a weapon or looks like a weapon, or any dangerous device.
4. Damage or threaten to damage another’s property.
5. Damage or deface school property.
6. Violate any Illinois law, or town or county ordinance.
7. Smoke or otherwise use tobacco products.

# Four Rivers Special Education District 8:30

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1. Distribute, consume, use, possess, distribute, or be impaired by or under the influence of an alcoholic beverage, cannabis, other lawful product, or illegal drug.
2. Be present when the person’s alcoholic beverage, cannabis, other lawful product, or illegal drug consumption is detectible, regardless of when and/or where the use occurred.
3. Use or possess medical cannabis, unless he or she has complied with policy 7:270, *Administering Medicines to Students,* implementing *Ashley’s Law.*
4. Impede, delay, disrupt, or otherwise interface with any school activity or function (including using cellular phones in a disruptive manner).
5. Enter upon any portion of school premises at any time for purposes other than those that are lawful and authorized by the Board.
6. Operate a motor vehicle: (a) in a risky manner, (b) in excess of 20 miles per hour, or (c) in violation of an authorized District employee’s directive.
7. Engage in any risky behavior, including roller-blading, roller-skating, or skateboarding.
8. Violate other District policies or regulations, or a directive from an authorized security officer or District employee.
9. Engage in any conduct that interferes with, disrupts, or adversely affects the District or a school function.

Convicted Child Sex Offender

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

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

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

# Four Rivers Special Education District 8:30

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Exclusive Bargaining Representative Agent

Upon notifying the Building Principal’s office authorized agents of an exclusive bargaining representative will be provided reasonable access to employees in the bargaining unit they represent in accordance with State law. Such access shall be conducted in a manner that will not impede the normal operations of the District.

Enforcement

Any staff member may request identification from any person on school property; refusal to provide such information is a criminal act. The Building Principal or designee shall seek the immediate removal of any person who refused to provide requested identification. Any person who engages in conduct prohibited by this policy may be ejected from school property. The person is also subject to being denied admission to school events or meetings for up to one calendar year.

Procedures to Deny Future Admission to School Events or Meeting

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

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

LEGAL REF.: Nuding v. Cerro Gordo Community Unit School Dist., 730 N.E.2d 96 (Ill. App. 4, 2000)

20 U.S.C. § 7181 et seq., Pro-Children Act of 1994.

105 ILCS 5/10-20.5b, 5/22-33, 5/24-25, and 5/27-23.7(a).

115 ILCS 5/3©, Ill. Educational Labor Relations Act.

410 ILCS 130/, Compassionate Use of Medical Cannabis Program Act

430 ILCS 66/, Firearm Concealed Carry Act.

410 ILCS 705/, Cannabis Tax and Regulation Act.

720 ILCS 5/11, 9.3.

CROSS REF.: 4:170 (Safety), 5:50 (Drug- and Alcohol-Free Workplace; E-Cigarette, Tobacco, and Cannabis Prohibition), 6:120 (Education of Children with Disabilities), 6:250 (Community Resource Persons and Volunteers), 7:190 (Student Behavior), 7:270 (Administering Medicines to Students), 8:20 (Community Use of School Facilities).

ADOPTED: June 23, 2020

# Four Rivers Special Education District 8:60

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# Community Relations

## Exclusive Bargaining Representative Agent

**Please refer to the “Collective Bargaining Agreement Between Four Rivers Education Association Local 3927 and Four Rivers Special Education District.”**

LEGAL REF.: 105 ILCS 5/24-25.

ADOPTED: February 23, 2000

# Four Rivers Special Education District 8:70

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# Community Relations

## Accommodating Individuals With Disabilities

Individuals with disabilities shall be provided an opportunity to participate in all school-sponsored services, programs, or activities and will not be subject to illegal discrimination. Where necessary, the District may provide to persons with disabilities separate or different aids, benefits, or services from, but as effective as, those provided to others.

The District will provide auxiliary aids and services where necessary to afford individuals with disabilities equal opportunity to participate in or enjoy the benefits of a service, program, or activity.

Each service, program, website or activity operated in existing facilities shall be readily accessible to, and useable by, individuals with disabilities. New construction and alternations to facilities existing before January 26, 1992, will be accessible when viewed in their entirety.

The Director or designee is designated the Americans With Disabilities Act, Title II Coordinator and, in that capacity, is directed to:

1. Oversee the District’s compliance efforts, recommend necessary modifications to the Board, and maintain the District’s final Title II self-evaluation document, update it to the extent necessary, and keep it available for public inspection, for at least three years after its completion date.
2. Institute plans to make information regarding Title II’s protection available to any interested party.

Individuals with disabilities should notify the Director or Supervisor if they have a disability which will require special assistance or services and, if so, what services are required. This notification should occur as far as possible before the school-sponsored function, program, or meeting.

Individuals with disabilities may allege a violation of this policy or federal law by reporting it to the Director, as the Title II Coordinator, or by filing a grievance under the Uniform Grievance Procedure. The Director shall insert into this policy the names, addresses, and telephone numbers of the District’s current Complaint Managers for the Uniform Grievance Procedure.

*Complaint Managers:*

Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Address\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone No.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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LEGAL REF.: Americans with Disabilities Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 12111 et seq. and 12131 et seq.: 28 C.F.R. Part 35.

Rehabilitation Act of 1973 § 104, 29 U.S.C. § 794 (2006).

105 ILCS 5/10-20.51.

410 ILCS 25/, Environmental Barriers Act.

71 III. Admin. Code Part 400, Illinois Accessibility Code.

CROSS REF.: 2:260 (Uniform Grievance Procedure), 4:150 (Facility Management and Expansion Programs)

ADOPTED: October 25, 2017

# Four Rivers Special Education District 8:80

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# Community Relations

## Gifts to the District

The Operating Board appreciates gifts from any education foundation, other entities, or individuals. All gifts must adhere to each of the following:

1. Be accepted by the Board or, if less than $500.00 in value, the Director or designee. Individuals should obtain a pre-acceptance commitment before identifying the District, any school, or school program or activity as a beneficiary in any fundraising attempt, including without limitation, any Internet fundraising attempt.
2. Be given without a stated purpose or with a purpose deemed by the party with authority to accept the gift to be compatible with the Board’s educational objectives and policies.
3. Be consistent with the District’s mandate to provide equal educational and extracurricular opportunities to all students in the District as provided in Board policy 7:10, *Equal Educational Opportunities.* State and federal laws require the District to provide equal treatment for members of both sexes to educational programming, extracurricular activities, and athletics. This includes the distribution of athletic benefits and opportunities.
4. Permit the District to maintain resource equity among its learning centers.
5. Be viewpoint neutral. The Director or designee shall manage a process for the review and approval of donations involving the incorporation of messages into or placing messages upon school property.
6. Comply with all laws applicable to the District including, without limitation, the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Prevailing Wage Act, the Health/Life Safety Code for Public Schools, and all applicable procurement and bidding requirements.

The District will provide equal treatment to all individuals and entities seeking to donate money or a gift. Upon acceptance, all gifts become the District’s property. The acceptance of a gift is not an endorsement by the Board, District, or school of any product, service, activity, or program. The method of recognition is determined by the party accepting the gift.

# Four Rivers Special Education District 8:80

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LEGAL REF.: 20 U.S.C. §1681 et seq. Title IX of the Education Amendments implemented by 34 C.F.R. Part 106.

105 ILCS 5/16-1

23 Ill.Admin.Code §200.40

CROSS REF.: 4:60 (Purchases and Contracts), 4:150 (Facility Management and Building Programs), 6:10 (Educational Philosophy and Objectives), 6:210 (Instructional Materials), 7:10 (Equal Educational Opportunities)

ADOPTED: June 23, 2020

# Four Rivers Special Education District 8:95

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# Community Relations

## Parental Involvement

In order to assure collaborative relationships between students’ families and the Governing Boards and District personnel, and to enable parent(s)/guardian(s) to become active partners in education, the Director shall:

1. Keep parent(s)/guardian(s) thoroughly informed about their child’s school and education.
2. Encourage involvement in their child’s school and education.
3. Establish effective two-way communication between all families and the Governing Boards and District personnel.
4. Seek input from parent(s)/guardian(s) on significant school-related issues.
5. Inform parents/guardians on how they can assist their child’s learning.

The Director shall periodically report to the Board on the implementation of this policy.

CROSS REF.: 6:170 (Title I Programs), 6:250 (Community Resource Persons and Volunteers), 8:10 (Connection with the Community), 8:90 (Parent Organizations and Booster Clubs).

ADOPTED: June 21, 2011

# Four Rivers Special Education District 8:100

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# Community Relations

## Relating With Other Organizations and Agencies

The District shall cooperate with other organizations and agencies, including the:

* County Health Department;
* Law enforcement agencies
* Fire authorities;
* Planning authorities;
* Zoning authorities;
* School districts;
* Local Interagency Councils;
* Child and Family Connections;
* Illinois Emergency Management Agency (IEMA), local organizations for civil defense, and other appropriate disaster relief organizations concerned with civil defense.

CROSS REF.: 4:170 (*includes* notification of child sex offenders); 5:90 (Abused and Neglected Child Reporting); 7:150 (Agency and Police Interviews)

ADOPTED: February 22, 2017

# Four Rivers Special Education District 8:110

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# Community Relations

## Public Suggestions and Concerns

The Governing Boards are interested in receiving suggestions and concerns from members of the community. Any individual may make a suggestion or express a concern by contacting any District or School office. Community members who e-mail the District or any District employee or board member are expected to abide by the standards in Board policy 6:235, *Access to Electronic Networks,* and should, to the extent possible, limit their communications to relevant individuals. All suggestions and/or concerns will be referred to the appropriate level staff member or District administrator who is most able to respond in a timely manner. Each concern or suggestion shall be considered on its merit.

An individual who is not satisfied may file a grievance under Board policy 2:260 *Uniform Grievance Procedure*. Neither this policy nor the *Uniform Grievance Procedure*. The Board encourages, but does not require, individuals to follow the channels of authority prior to filing a grievance. Neither this policy nor the *Uniform Grievance Procedure* creates an independent right to a hearing before the Board.

LEGAL REF.: 115 ILCS 5/14(c-5), Ill. Educational Labor Relations Act.

CROSS REF.: 2:140 (Communications to and from the Board), 2:230 (Public Participation at Operating Board Meetings and Petitions to the Board), 2:260 (Uniform Grievance Procedure), 3:30 (Chain of Command), 6:235 (Access to Electronic Networks), 6:260 (Complaints About Curriculum, Instructional Materials and Programs, 8:10 (Connection with the Community).

ADOPTED: June 23, 2020