

## **Students**

### **Students Who are Parents, Expectant Parents, or Victims of Domestic or Sexual Violence**

Domestic and sexual violence affect a student's ability to learn. Students who are parents or expectant parents have unique needs. Providing support services that enable students who are parents, expectant parents, or victims of domestic or sexual violence (Article 26A Students) to succeed in school are important goals and required by 105 ILCS 5/26A (Article 26A).

The Director or designee shall develop and implement a program for supporting Article 26A Students that:

1. Distributes this policy and procedures for requesting supportive services or filing a complaint to all students at the beginning of each school year.
2. Ensures at least one staff member in each school building is designated as a resource person for Article 26A Students (Article 26A Resource Person) and receives training in accordance with 105 ILCS 5/26A-35.
3. Notifies SELA employees and agents that, upon learning or suspecting that a student is a parent, expectant parent, or victim of domestic or sexual violence, they must refer the student to a designated Article 26A Resource Person.
4. Ensures any employee whose duties include the resolution of Article 26A complaints receive training in accordance with 105 ILCS 5/26A-25(b)(1).
5. Requires verification of a student's claim of Article 26A status relating to domestic or sexual violence in accordance with 105 ILCS 5/26A-45.
6. Provides Article 26A Students with in-school support services, information about non-school-based support services, and the ability to make up work missed due to circumstances related to the student's Article 26A status in accordance with 105 ILCS 5/26A-40.
7. Ensures the prompt and equitable resolution of all Article 26A complaints through a complaint resolution procedure that fully complies with 105 ILCS 5/26A-25.
8. Ensures that all information concerning an Article 26A Student's status and related experiences, or information concerning a student who is a named perpetrator of domestic or sexual violence, provided to or otherwise obtained by the Joint Agreement or its employees or agents pursuant to 105 ILCS 5/26A is retained in a confidential temporary file in accordance with 105 ILCS 10/2(f). Confidentiality procedures will:
  - a. Provide that such information may not be disclosed to any other individual outside of the Joint Agreement, including any other employee, except if such disclosure is: (1) permitted by the Ill. School Student Records Act (105 ILCS 10/), the federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (20 U.S.C. §1232g), or other applicable State or federal laws; or (2) requested or consented to, in writing, by the Article 26A Student or their parent/guardian if it is safe to obtain written consent from the parent/guardian; and
  - b. Comply with the requirements of 105 ILCS 5/26A-30.
9. Ensures that in the event an Article 26A Student or their parent/guardian reports an incident of alleged domestic or sexual violence, the Joint Agreement's procedures comply with 105 ILCS 5/26A-20(c).

10. Complies with State and federal law and aligns with Board policies.

Requesting Support Services

An Article 26A Student and/or their parent/guardian may request support services under this policy by contacting the building-level Article 26A Resource Person, whose name and contact information will be annually distributed to employees, students, and parents/guardians by each Building Principal.

Filing a Complaint

An Article 26A Student and/or their parent/guardian may file a complaint under this policy with the Nondiscrimination Coordinator, Title IX Coordinator, Building Principal, a Complaint Manager, or any employee with whom the person is comfortable speaking.

The Director shall insert into this policy and keep current the names, office addresses, email addresses, and telephone numbers of the Joint Agreement’s current Nondiscrimination Coordinator, Title IX Coordinator, and Complaint Managers.

**Nondiscrimination Coordinator:**

Travis Friedrich  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Name  
620 Garfield Ave; Decatur, IL 62526  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Address  
TFriedrich@dps61.org  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Email  
217-362-3054  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone

**Title IX Coordinator:**

Travis Friedrich  
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**Complaint Managers:**

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Complaint Resolution Procedure

When a complaint is filed, the Nondiscrimination Coordinator and/or Complaint Manager or designee shall process and review it.

Enforcement

Any Joint Agreement employee who is determined, at the conclusion of the complaint resolution procedure, to have violated Article 26A will be subject to disciplinary action up to and including

recommendation for discharge. Any third party who is determined, at the conclusion of the complaint resolution procedure, to have violated Article 26A will be addressed in accordance with the authority of the Executive Board in the context of the relationship of the third party to the Joint Agreement, e.g., vendor, parent/guardian, invitee, etc.

This policy does not increase or diminish the ability of the Joint Agreement or the parties to exercise any other rights under existing law.

#### Policy Review

At least once every two years, pursuant to 105 ILCS 5/26A-20, the Executive Board shall review and make any necessary updates to this policy and to any other policies that may act as a barrier to their immediate enrollment and re-enrollment, attendance, graduation, and success in school of any student who is a parent, expectant parent, or victim of domestic or sexual violence. The Director or designee shall assist the Executive Board with its review and any updates.

#### Retaliation Prohibited

Retaliation against an Article 26A Student or their parent/guardian for exercising or attempting to exercise their rights under Article 26A is prohibited. Individuals should report allegations of retaliation to the Building Principal, an administrator, the Nondiscrimination Coordinator, and/or a Complaint Manager.

A student, employee, or other person authorized by the Joint Agreement to provide aid, benefit, or service under the Joint Agreement's education program or activity who retaliates against others for reporting or complaining of violations of this policy or for participating in any manner under this policy will be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including a recommendation for discharge, with regard to employees, or a recommendation for suspension or expulsion, with regard to students.

LEGAL REF.:           105 ILCS 5/26A.  
                              105 ILCS 10/, Ill. School Student Records Act.  
                              405 ILCS 5/, Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities Code.  
                              405 ILCS 49/, Children's Mental Health Act.  
                              740 ILCS 110/, Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities Confidentiality Act.  
                              23 Ill.Admin.Code §1.240 and Part 200.

CROSS REF.:           6:110 (Programs for Students At Risk of Academic Failure and/or Dropping Out of School and Graduation Incentives Program), 6:120 (Education of Children with Disabilities), 7:10 (Equal Educational Opportunities), 7:250 (Student Support Services), 7:340 (Student Records)

ADOPTED:             September 18, 2025