

General Personnel

Administrative Procedure - Personnel Records

Applicant Records

Records for a successful employment applicant are maintained with the individual's employment records. Records for an unsuccessful employment applicant are maintained for no less than 5 years from the application date. Applicant records include the following if received by the District:

- Employment application forms
- Transcripts
- Previous work experience
- References
- Such other relevant information as the District desires of applicants for screening purposes

Personnel Records

Personnel records for all employees include:

- Pre-employment records, including verification of past employment
- Dates of employment
- Valid certificate and/or evidence of required credentials for services being performed
- Records maintained pursuant to Internal Revenue Service regulations
- Criminal background investigation history and report
- Form I-9 required by the Immigration and Naturalization Service under the Immigration Reform and Control Act
- Payroll information and deductions, including all records required to be kept by 5:35-AP2, *Employee Records Required by the Fair Labor Standards Act* (29 C.F.R. §§516.2 and 516.3)
- Records maintained for the Illinois Teachers' Retirement System or the Illinois Municipal Retirement System
- Credit release information
- Sick leave, leaves of absence, personal leave, and vacation data (where appropriate)
- Salary schedule data
- Relevant health and medical records, including the verification of freedom from tuberculosis required by The School Code (105 ILCS 5/24-5)
- Personnel documents that have been or are intended to be used in determining an employee's qualification for promotion, transfer, discharge, or disciplinary action except as provided in 820 ILCS 40/10
- Supervisory evaluations
- Promotions
- Awards received
- Disciplinary actions
- Letter of resignation or retirement
- Notice of discharge
- Any additional information the District deems to be relevant

In addition to the above, personnel records for all professional personnel include:

- Valid certificate for services being performed
- Copies of official transcripts required by The School Code (105 ILCS 5/24-23)
- Transcripts of graduate work completed
- Verification of past teaching experience, if any
- Record of in-service work completed

Employment records shall be maintained permanently for all District employees and former employees unless the Local Records Commission's approval is obtained to dispose of them.

Restrictions on Information that May Be Kept

The District will not gather or keep a record of an employee's associations, political activities, publications, communications, or nonemployment activities, unless the employee submits the information in writing or authorizes the District in writing to keep or gather such records. However, the District may gather or keep records in an employee's personnel file concerning activities occurring on the District's premises or during the employee's working hours that: (1) interfere with the performance of the employee's duties or activities, or those of other employees, regardless of when and where occurring, (2) constitute criminal conduct or may reasonably be expected to harm the District's property, operations or educational process, or programs, or (3) could, by the employee's actions, cause the District financial liability.

Records identifying an employee as the subject of an investigation by the Department of Children and Family Services shall not be kept if such investigation resulted in an unfounded report as specified in the Abused and Neglected Child Reporting Act.

Access to Employee Records and Correction Requests

An employee is granted access to his or her personnel records according to provisions in the Personnel Record Review Act, 820 ILCS 40/0.01 et seq., and any relevant provisions in an applicable collective bargaining agreement. According to the Review Act, an employee is granted access to his or her personnel records at least 2 times in a calendar year at reasonable intervals. Unless otherwise indicated in an applicable bargaining agreement, access to the employee's personnel records shall be according to the following guidelines:

1. The employee must submit a written inspection request to the Superintendent or the Superintendent's designee.
2. The Superintendent or designee will provide the employee the opportunity for inspection within 7 working days after the request. If such deadline cannot reasonably be met, the District will have an additional 7 days to comply.
3. The employee will inspect the personnel record at the District's administrative office during normal working hours or at another time mutually convenient to the employee and the Superintendent or designee.
4. Inspection of personnel records will be conducted under the supervision of an administrative staff member.
5. Neither an employee nor his or her designated representative will have access to records which are treated as exceptions in the Illinois Personnel Record Review Act discussed below.
6. The employee may copy material maintained in his or her personnel record. Payment for record copying shall be based on the District's actual costs of duplication.
7. The employee may not remove any part of his or her personnel records from his or her file or may not remove any part of his or her personnel records from the District's administrative office.
8. Should the employee demonstrate his or her inability to inspect his or her personnel records in person, the District will mail a copy of (a) specific record(s) upon written request.
9. Should the employee be involved in a current grievance against the District or involved in any other contemplated proceedings against the District, the employee may designate in writing a representative who has the authority to inspect the personnel records under the same rights as the employee.
10. If the employee disagrees with any information contained in the personnel record, a removal or correction of that information may be mutually agreed upon by the employer and

employee. If agreement cannot be reached, the employee may submit a written statement explaining his or her position. The District will attach the employee's statement to the disputed portion of the personnel record and the statement shall be included whenever that disputed record is released to a third party as long as the disputed record is part of the employee's personnel file. Inclusion of any written statement attached to the disputed record in an employee's personnel file without any further comment or action by the District will not imply or create any presumption that the District agrees with the statement's contents.

Requests by Third Parties

Before the District divulges disciplinary reports, letters of reprimand, or records of other disciplinary action to a third party, to a party who is a part of the employer's organization, or to a party who is a part of a labor organization representing the employee, the District will provide the employee with a written notice. The written notice to the employee will be mailed to the employee's last known address and will be mailed on or before the day the information is divulged to any of the aforementioned parties.

No such written notice will be required if the employee has specifically waived written notice as part of a written, signed employment application with another employer; the disclosure is ordered to a party in a legal action or arbitration; or information is requested by a government agency as a result of a claim or complaint by an employee, or as a result of a criminal investigation by such agency.

When the District receives a written request for personnel records from a third party, the District shall review the requested records and, before releasing the records to the third party to inspect and copy such records, the District shall delete disciplinary reports, letters of reprimand or other records of disciplinary action which are more than 4 years old, unless the release is ordered to a party in a legal action or arbitration.

Restriction on Employee Access

Section 10 of the Illinois Personnel Record Review Act provides that the right of the employee or the employee's designated representative to inspect his or her personnel records does not extend to:

1. Letters of reference for that employee.
2. Any portion of a test document, except that the employee may see a cumulative total test score for either a section of or the entire test document.
3. Materials relating to the employer's staff planning, such as matters relating to the District's development, expansion, closing or operational goals, where the materials relate to or affect more than one employee, provided, however, that this exception does not apply if such materials are, have been or are intended to be used by the employer in determining an individual employee's qualifications for employment, promotion, transfer, or additional compensation, or in determining an individual employee's discharge or discipline.
4. Information of a personal nature about a person other than the employee if disclosure of the information would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of the other person's privacy.
5. Records relevant to any other pending claim between the District and employee which may be discovered in a judicial proceeding.
6. Investigatory or security records maintained by the District to investigate criminal conduct by an employee or other activity by the employee which could reasonably be expected to harm the District's property, operations, or education process or programs, or could by the employee's activity cause the District financial liability, unless and until the District takes adverse personnel action based on information in such records.

LEGAL REF.: 820 ILCS 40/1 et seq.
23 Ill.Admin.Code §1.660.

DATED: October 10, 2007