

Operational Services

Insurance Management ¹

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: ²

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. ³
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. ⁴

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

1 State law controls this policy's content. The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) guarantees the continuity of health insurance benefits for individuals changing employment. It also contains provisions promoting the: (1) standardization and efficiency for the electronic submission, processing, and payment of health care claims, and (2) security and privacy requirements for health information. See 45 C.F.R. §§160 and 164. **School officials are urged to consult with their insurance providers and legal counsel to devise a compliance plan.**

2 Other types of district-purchased insurance should also be listed here, such as, insurance programs for employees and their dependents (authorized by 105 ILCS 5/10-22.3a). Note that: (1) any employee or retired employee insurance program is a mandatory subject of bargaining, and (2) State law provides persons entering into a civil union with the obligations, responsibilities, protections, and benefits afforded or recognized by Ill. law to spouses (750 ILCS 75/).

3 A board's duty to indemnify and protect specific individuals is found in 105 ILCS 5/10-20.20. A board's duty to insure against loss or liability is found in 105 ILCS 5/10-22.3. The lists of individuals to be protected are identical in both statutes except that *mentors* was added in 2009 to only the indemnification statute. As the best method for providing indemnification is through insurance, this policy includes mentors in its list of individuals covered by the district's liability insurance.

4 105 ILCS 5/22-15 requires each school district having grades 9 through 12 to maintain catastrophic insurance coverage for student athletes participating in interscholastic athletic events sanctioned by the Ill. High School Association (IHSA). The minimum level of coverage must provide aggregate benefit levels of \$3 million or 5 years, whichever comes first, for injuries with total medical expenses exceeding \$50,000. The law authorizes IHSA to promulgate a plan of coverage under a group policy that provides the necessary coverage. If a district opts out of IHSA's group policy, it must offer alternative coverage and submit to IHSA a certificate from the provider stating that the insurance complies with the plan of coverage approved by IHSA.

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 **5**

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.

LEGAL REF.: Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act, Pub. L. 99-272, §10001, 100 Stat. 222, 4980B(f) of the I.R.S. Code, 42 U.S.C. §300bb-1 *et seq.*
 105 ILCS 5/10-20.20, 5/10-22.3, 5/10-22.3a, 5/10-22.3b, 5/10-22.3f, 5/10-22.34, 5/10-22.34a, 5/10-22.34b, and 5/22-15.
 215 ILCS 5/, Ill. Insurance Code.
 750 ILCS 75/, Ill. Religious Freedom Protection and Civil Union Act.
 820 ILCS 305/, Workers' Compensation Act.

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Delete item #2 if the district: (1) does not maintain grades 9-12, or (2) qualifies for an exemption from the mandatory coverage (contact IHSA or the board attorney for information about claiming an exemption). A district maintaining grades K-8 may, but is not required to, provide accident and/or health insurance on a group or individual basis for students injured while participating in any school-sponsored athletic activity. If so, the following may be *added to* item #2 (for unit districts) or may *replace* item #2 (for elementary districts): "Accident and/or health insurance on a group or individual basis for students in grades kindergarten through 8 participating in any school-sponsored athletic activity." If item #2 is deleted and the option is not used, the board should omit the citation to catastrophic accident insurance (105 ILCS 5/22-15) in the legal references.

5 Optional. Until May 2014, this paragraph was included in sample policy 4:170, *Safety*.