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BACKGROUND CHECK

Criminal Background Checks Procedures

1. Each person over eighteen years of age hired by the district, who is a volunteer two or more times during the school year, or is employed by an entity which provides the District direct or indirect student services shall be required to submit to a criminal background investigation.
2. The school district shall submit completed fingerprint cards to the Division of Criminal Investigation before the prospective new employee or volunteer enters into service.
3. If no disqualifying record is identified at the state level, the fingerprints shall be forwarded by the Division of Criminal Investigation to the Federal Bureau of Investigation for a national criminal history record check.
4. The District shall pay any fees charged for the cost of fingerprinting or the criminal background investigation for any person whose employment with the District or status as a volunteer is subject to the requirements of this section.
5. Any person hired to officiate, judge, adjudicate, or referee a public event sponsored by a school district is not required to submit to a criminal background investigation.
6. Any person whose employment or status as a volunteer is subject to the requirements of this section may enter into service on a temporary basis pending receipt of results of the criminal background investigation. The District may, without liability, withdraw its offer of employment or terminate the temporary employment or status as a volunteer without notice if the report reveals a disqualifying record.
7. The criminal investigation required by this section with respect to a student teacher completing requirements for teacher certification shall be conducted by the District, and the District may rely upon the results of that investigation for employment of that person as an employee of the district. Results of a criminal background investigation conducted by another South Dakota public school district of a student teacher, hired by the District, may be relied upon by the District.
8. A District employee who is employed simultaneously with another school district is only required to obtain one criminal background investigation, if the background investigation was conducted less than five years before the person was first employed by the District.
9. The District shall run a background check on employees of or applicants for employment with a contractor that does business with the district if the person will be working on school property. The contractor shall be responsible for the cost of the criminal background check.
10. No person may be employed by the District, either directly or by contract, and no person employed by a contract provider and who would have direct student responsibilities may provide direct student services, if the person has been convicted of a crime of violence (murder, manslaughter, rape, aggravated assault, riot, robbery, burglary in the first degree, arson, kidnapping, felony sexual contact, felony child abuse, or any other felony in the commission of which the perpetrator used force, or was armed with a dangerous weapon, or used any explosive or destructive device), sex crimes (including but are not limited to, rape, felony sexual contact with a minor under

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sixteen, sexual contact with a person incapable of consenting, possessing, manufacturing, or distributing child pornography, and sexual exploitation of a minor), or distribution or trafficking in controlled substances or distribution of marijuana.

- a. The District may also refuse to employ a person who has been convicted of a crime involving moral turpitude. "Moral turpitude" is defined "an act done contrary to justice, honesty, principle, or good morals, as well as an act of baseness, vileness, or depravity in the private and social duties which a person owes to his fellow man or to society in general.
 - b. The District may consider any criminal conviction in making a hiring decision. The District has the sole and absolute discretion to determine whether the results of a criminal background investigation disqualify a person from employment within the District.
 - c. For purposes of this policy, the term conviction means a plea or verdict of guilty or a conviction following a plea of nolo contendere (no contest) in this state or any other state.
11. The District's employment application form shall inform applicants that if no SD statutorily disqualifying conviction is identified at the state level the fingerprints will be forwarded by the S.D. Division of Criminal Investigation to the Federal Bureau of Investigation for a national criminal history record check.
 12. The application form shall also inform applicants that if the applicant believes the criminal background result is incorrect or incomplete in any respect and the applicant wishes changes, corrections or updating of the alleged deficiency, the applicant should make application directly to the agency which contributed the questioned information or direct the applicant's challenge as to the accuracy or completeness of any entry on the applicant's record to the FBI, Criminal Justice Information Services (CJIS) Division, ATTN: SCU, Mod. D-2, 1000 Custer Hollow Road, Clarksburg, WV 26306.
 13. Should an applicant be disqualified from employment due to the results of a criminal background check, the District shall inform the applicant that the criminal background check results prohibit the District from employing the person. The District will not delay the employment hiring decision solely because the applicant seeks to correct his or her FBI criminal history record information (CHRI).
 14. Before a person's conditional employment is terminated as a result of the person's CHRI, the District shall inform the person whose conditional employment is subject to termination that the criminal background report reveals a conviction which prohibits the District from employing the person, and inform the person of his or her right to appeal the accuracy or completeness of the CHRI to the SDDCI or FBI. Employees shall be afforded procedural due process consistent with their employment status (i.e., whether the person is an employee-at-will, a school-year employee, or a ten month or twelve month employee) should termination of conditional employment be a possibility following the District's receipt of the CHRI.
 15. All employees and other persons required to submit to a criminal background check pursuant to this policy must notify the district in writing if they are convicted of any offense of domestic violence, child abuse, sex offense, drug (including marijuana) or any felony offense. This notification must be made as soon as possible, but no later than five business days after the event.

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- 16. The District reserves the right to require any employee or volunteer to submit to additional criminal background checks at the district's expense. The district reserves the right to require any employee of an entity which provides the District direct or indirect student services to submit to additional criminal background checks which shall be at the entity's or person's expense.
- 17. As required by state law, SDCL 13-10-15, if, as the result of a criminal conviction the school board suspends an employee without pay, or an employee resigns, or an employee is terminated, the superintendent shall within ten days of the date of the suspension or the date the employment is severed report the circumstances and the name of the employee to the S.D. Department of Education.

Confidentiality

- 1. Before requesting CHRI on any individual, the district will give the individual written notification that his or her fingerprints will be used to obtain the CHRI of the individual, and the district will provide the individual a copy of the statement "Noncriminal Justice Applicant's Privacy Rights." Regulations GCDB-R(2).
- 2. Information received by the district pursuant to a criminal background check is confidential. Only authorized persons within the district may access, view or use CHRI. Authorized persons may not share or otherwise disclose information contained in CHRI to unauthorized persons unless explicitly allowed for in this procedure.
- 3. Unless otherwise allowed by law, the District will only use this information for the district's internal purposes in determining the suitability of an applicant, employee, or other worker on district property. The district will note in an employee's or applicant's personnel file that the background check was completed and if the person was disqualified by the CHRI for employment or assignment. The District will keep the CHRI in a separate file in a location that is only accessible to persons who need to know the information to carry out their responsibilities with the District.
- 4. Individuals that have access to CHRI will receive CJIS security training provided by SD DCI. Once the individual has completed the CJIS online training and has taken the test each individual will receive and acknowledge in writing the receipt of the following: (1) User Rules of Behavior Acknowledgement form, (2) CHRI Disciplinary Policy, and (3) Acknowledgment Statement of Misuse. The District will keep a copy of the signed documents in each individual's personnel file.

Policy References: Legal references indicate the basis or authority for the board to enact this policy, and policy cross-references identify additional policies related to the subject matter of the above policy.

State Reference	Description
SDCL 13-10-12	<u>Criminal background investigation</u>
SDCL 13-10-13	<u>Criminal conviction as factor in hiring decision</u>
SDCL 13-10-14	<u>Persons continuously employed exempt</u>
SDCL 13-10-15	<u>Suspension or resignation for criminal conviction</u>
SDCL 13-10-16	<u>Conviction defined</u>

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- SDCL 22-1-2 (19) Definition of "Immediate family"
- SDCL 22-1-2 (25) Definition of "Moral turpitude"
- SDCL 22-24B-1 Sex crimes defined

Legal References:

Adopted: August 14, 2017

Revised: