

Dell Rapids School District #49-3



Policies and Regulations Code: GCDB – Personnel

CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECKS

Policy Statement

Dell Rapids Public School is committed to the selection of quality staff and to providing a safe environment for students and staff. As part of that commitment, the district will obtain background checks on all employees of the school district over 18 years of age. Background checks will also be conducted on contracted employees who have direct contact with students (excluding temporary contract workers), and unsupervised volunteers. The Superintendent will serve as the district's point of contact and will fulfill all responsibilities pertaining to background security procedures as required by SD Division of Criminal Investigation.

Criminal Background Checks

1. Each person over eighteen years of age hired by the district, who is an unsupervised volunteer, or is employed by an entity which provides the District direct 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, excluding substitutes, is subject to the requirements of this section. Background check fees paid by substitutes will be processed for reimbursement after the substitute works two days in the District.
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, at the student teacher's expense, 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. No person may be employed by the District, either directly or by contract, and no person employed by a contract provider who would have direct student contact, 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 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.
9. 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.
10. 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.
11. 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).
12. 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 should termination of conditional employment be a possibility following the District's receipt of the CHRI.
13. 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.
14. 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.
15. 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.

Training

The District will ensure that all employees who have access to CHRI shall be trained by SDDCI on the rules and responsibilities for the confidentiality, receipt, use and dissemination of the CHRI.

Confidentiality

1. Before requesting CHRI on any individual, the district will notify the individual that his or her fingerprints will be used to obtain the CHRI of the individual.
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 application, employee, or other worker on district property.

Access and Retention

1. The District may print copies of records when necessary to determine whether the person is authorized to work for the district. In those situations, the physical copy will be destroyed immediately after the decision is made.
2. The District will not disseminate CHRI across state lines.
3. Upon request the district will provide a copy of the SDDCI CHRI (not FBI CHRI) to the person who is the subject of the background check. The SDDCI CHRI will only be released to the individual and documented appropriately in the log.
4. The results of the background investigation done by the District shall be transferred to another South Dakota public school district if the other public school district, or current District employee, submits a written request to the District that the results be transferred to the other public school district. The District employee who was the subject of the criminal background investigation must sign a written release authorizing the transfer. The information will be sent by U.S. Mail.

Security and Recordkeeping

A Secondary Dissemination Log shall be maintained in which all authorized disseminations of FBI and State DCI criminal background check results are recorded. The district will provide for the security of any CHRI received, including the appropriate administrative, technical and physical safeguards to provide for the security and confidentiality of the information. DRPS will not maintain electronic copies of CHRI documents.

All District employees will immediately report to the LASO information security incidents such as the theft or loss of physical records or suspicions that an incident has or will take place. The LASO will document receipt of all reports, investigate incidents and report incidents to SDDCI. LASO documentation will include (1) date of security incident, (2) location of security incident, (3) systems affected, (4) method of detection, (5) nature of security incident, (6) description of security incident, (7) actions taken/resolution, (8) current date, and (9) contact information for LASO.

Consequences

Employees who intentionally fail to keep background check results confidential or fail to follow this policy or any laws or rules regarding the access, receipt, use or dissemination of CHRI as required by law, will be subject to disciplinary action.

Adopted: October 9, 2017

Reviewed:

