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Orig. 1995

Rev. 2023

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404 EMPLOYMENT BACKGROUND CHECKS

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to maintain a safe and healthful environment in the school district in order to promote the physical, social, and psychological well-being of its students. To that end, the school district will seek a criminal history background check for applicants who receive an offer of employment with the school district and on all individuals, except enrolled student volunteers, who are offered the opportunity to provide athletic coaching services or other extracurricular academic coaching services to the school district, regardless of whether any compensation is paid, or such other background checks as provided by this policy. The school district may also elect to do background checks of other volunteers, independent contractors, and student employees in the school district.

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

- A. The school district shall require that applicants for school district positions who receive an offer of employment and all individuals, except enrolled student volunteers, who are offered the opportunity to provide athletic coaching services or other extracurricular academic coaching services to the school district, regardless of whether any compensation is paid, submit to a criminal history background check. The offer of employment or the opportunity to provide services shall be conditioned upon a determination by the school district that an individual's criminal history does not preclude the individual from employment with, or provision of services to, the school district.
- B. The school district specifically reserves any and all rights it may have to conduct background checks regarding current employees, applicants, or service providers without the consent of such individuals.
- C. Adherence to this policy by the school district shall in no way limit the school district's right to require additional information, or to use procedures currently in place or other procedures to gain additional background information concerning employees, applicants, volunteers, service providers, independent contractors, and student employees.

III. PROCEDURES

- A. Normally an individual will not commence employment or provide services until the school district receives the results of the criminal history background check. The school district may conditionally hire an applicant or allow an individual to provide services pending completion of the background check, but shall notify the individual that the individual's employment or opportunity to provide services may be terminated based on the result of the background check. Background checks will be performed by the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension (BCA). The BCA shall conduct the background check by retrieving criminal history data as defined in Minnesota Statutes section 13.87. The school district reserves the right to also have criminal history background checks conducted by other organizations or agencies.
- B. In order for an individual to be eligible for employment or to provide athletic coaching services or

other extracurricular academic coaching services to the school district, except for an enrolled student volunteer, the individual must sign a criminal history consent form, which provides permission for the school district to conduct a criminal history background check, and provide a money order or check payable to either the BCA or to the school district, at the election of the school district, in an amount equal to the actual cost to the BCA and the school district of conducting the criminal history background check. The cost of the criminal history background check is the responsibility of the individual, unless the school district decides to pay the costs for a volunteer, an independent contractor, or a student employee. If the individual fails to provide the school district with a signed Informed Consent Form and fee at the time the individual receives a job offer, or permission to provide services, the individual will be considered to have voluntarily withdrawn the application for employment or request to provide services.

- C. The school district, in its discretion, may elect not to request a criminal history background check on an individual who holds an initial entrance license issued by the Minnesota Professional Educator Licensing and Standards Board or the Minnesota Commissioner of Education within the 12 months preceding an offer of employment or permission to provide services.
- D. The school district may use the results of a criminal background check conducted at the request of another school hiring authority if:
 - 1. the results of the criminal background check are on file with the other school hiring authority or otherwise accessible;
 - 2. the other school hiring authority conducted a criminal background check within the previous 12 months;
 - 3. the individual executes a written consent form giving the school district access to the results of the check; and
 - 4. there is no reason to believe that the individual has committed an act subsequent to the check that would disqualify the individual for employment or provision of services.
- E. For all nonstate residents who are offered employment with or the opportunity to provide athletic coaching services or other extracurricular academic coaching services to the school district, the school district shall request a criminal history background check on such individuals from the superintendent of the BCA and from the government agency performing the same function in the resident state or, if no government entity performs the same function in the resident state, from the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The offer of employment or the opportunity to provide services shall be conditioned upon a determination by the school district that an individual's criminal history does not preclude the individual from employment with, or provision of services to, the school district. Such individuals must provide an executed criminal history consent form.
- F. When required, individuals must provide fingerprints to assist in a criminal history background check. If the fingerprints provided by the individual are unusable, the individual will be required to submit another set of prints.
- G. Copies of this policy shall be available in the school district's employment office and will be distributed to applicants for employment and individuals who are offered the opportunity to provide athletic coaching services or other extracurricular academic coaching services upon request. The need to submit to a criminal history background check may be included with the basic criteria for employment or provision of services in the position posting and position advertisements.

- H. The individual will be informed of the results of the criminal background check(s) to the extent required by law.
- I. If the criminal history background check precludes employment with, or provision of services to, the school district, the individual will be so advised.
- J. The school district may apply these procedures to other volunteers, independent contractors, or student employees.
- K. At the beginning of each school year or when a student enrolls, the school district will notify parents and guardians about this policy and identify those positions subject to a background check and the extent of the school district's discretion in requiring a background check. The school district may include this notice in its student handbook, a school policy guide, or other similar communication. A form notice for this purpose is included with this policy.

IV. CRIMINAL HISTORY CONSENT FORM

A form to obtain consent for a criminal history background check is included with this policy.

Legal References: Minn. Stat. § 13.04, Subd. 4 (Rights of Subjects of Data)
Minn. Stat. § 13.87, Subd. 1 (Criminal Justice Data)
Minn. Stat. § 123B.03 (Background Check)
Minn. Stat. §§ 299C.60-299C.64 (Minnesota Child, Elder, and Individuals with Disabilities Protection Background Check Act)
Minn. Stat. § 364.09(b) (Exception for School Districts)

Cross References: none

Sample 123B.03 Informed Consent
School District Name and Number
Street Address
City, State and Zip Code
Contact Person
Phone

We are requesting a federal check pursuant to Minnesota Statutes 299C.62 on this individual as well.

(Contributor, please check this box if requesting a federal check and attach fingerprint card, the Child Protection Background Check Consent form, and appropriate fee. Please note that the federal check will take one to two weeks to complete.)

The following named individual has made application with this agency for employment:

Last Name of Applicant (please print): _____

First Name (please print): _____

Middle (full) (please print): _____

Maiden, Alias or Former (please print): _____

Date of Birth (Month/Day/Year): _____ **Sex** (M or F): _____

I authorize the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension to disclose criminal history record information to (School or District) pursuant to Minnesota Statutes 123B.03, subdivision 1 for the purpose of employment as a (teacher, bus driver, etc.) with this School District.

Signature of Applicant or Potential Service Provider: _____ **Date:** _____

This release is valid for one year from the date of my signature

Subscribed and sworn to before me
this _____ day of _____, 20____.

Notary Public

1. Records obtained under the Minnesota State Statute 123B.03, subdivision 1, may be used solely for the purpose requested and cannot be disseminated outside the receiving departments, related agencies, or other authorized entities.
2. Your fingerprints may be used to check the criminal history records of the FBI.
3. You may challenge the accuracy and completeness of any information contained in the report provided (procedures are set forth in Minnesota Statutes §13.04 and Title 28 CFR Section 16.34).
4. You have the right to request and obtain from the school hiring authority a copy of the background check report. A school hiring authority may charge the individual for the actual cost of providing a copy of the report.

The School District should forward this executed form, along with a check or money order in the amount of \$15.00 payable to the "MN BCA" and a self-addressed, stamped envelope, to:

*Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension
CHA Unit
1430 Maryland Avenue E.
St. Paul, MN 55106*

The School District should forward this executed form, along with a check or money order in the amount of \$15.00 payable to the "MN BCA" and a self-addressed, stamped envelope, to:

*Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension
Criminal Justice Information Section
Attn: Record Checks
1430 Maryland Avenue E.
St. Paul, MN 55106*