

Student Ticketing

P.A. 104-0430

Non-Regulatory Guidance

Effective August 20, 2025, [Public Act 104-0430](#) banned school-based ticketing and strengthens reporting requirements on student referrals to law enforcement. Under the new law, student disciplinary responses must remain within the school system. Specifically, this law does the following: ends the use of municipal ticketing as school discipline, strengthens protections for truant students, requires statewide reporting of law enforcement referrals beginning with the 2027-28 school year, and expands reciprocal reporting requirements. It also establishes new requirements for the relationship between schools and school resource officers. The Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) strongly encourages schools to shift toward non-punitive, restorative, and health-based interventions rather than financial punishment.

This statute creates two separate but related prohibitions: (1) it prohibits school personnel from issuing fines, fees, tickets, or other citations as a school-based disciplinary consequence; and (2) it prohibits *anyone* from issuing students fines, fees, tickets, or other citations for municipal code violations while they are in specified school settings.

All school personnel – including teachers, administrators, deans, school resource officers (SROs), security staff, and contracted staff – are prohibited from issuing a student a fine, fee, ticket, or other citation as a school-based disciplinary consequence, regardless of when or where the conduct occurs. This means that schools may not treat a ticket as part of their disciplinary response to student behavior, and this prohibition is not limited by time of day or location.

In addition, the statute prohibits *anyone*, including SROs and other law enforcement personnel, from issuing a student a fine, fee, ticket, or other citation for a municipal code violation when the violation occurs on school property during school hours or while the student is taking school transportation. Based on this new legislation, school personnel cannot:

- ask an SRO or local law enforcement officer to issue a ticket as a disciplinary response to student behavior,
- refer a student to a city department for the purpose of issuing a fine, or
- use municipal code violations as a discipline pathway.

This means behaviors that previously resulted in tickets (e.g., vaping, disorderly conduct, minor fights, truancy) must now generally be handled through school-based discipline systems. School personnel must be intentional about law enforcement referrals. Police involvement is not banned under this statute, but it must be based on legitimate safety or legal concerns rather than in service of school discipline. Police cannot be involved by a school solely to impose a fine, fee, ticket, or other citation even if the conduct could also constitute a municipal code violation.

Code Citation	What is prohibited?	Where it applies?	Practical Effect
Section 10-22.6(i)	Issuing tickets as a school-based disciplinary consequence.	Everywhere	School staff may never use fines, fees, or tickets to address student discipline matters.*
Section 10-22.6(i)	Issuing municipal tickets to students.	School grounds during school hours and school transportation	No one, including an SRO or law enforcement officer, may issue a student a fine, fee, or ticket for a municipal code violation if the conduct occurred on school grounds during the school day or on school transportation.

**This does not preclude a district from requiring a student to provide restitution for lost, stolen, or damaged property.*

Schools discipline options are now limited to educational interventions, restorative practices, and code of conduct consequences. In June 2025, ISBE published guidance in accordance with [Public Act 103-0896](#) (otherwise known as Senate Bill 1400) to help promote more supportive, equitable learning environments for all students. The non-regulatory guidance documents published by ISBE include: [Reciprocal Reporting Systems](#), [School Bus Safety Procedures](#), [Evidenced-Based Intervention Procedures](#), and [Re-Engagement of Students](#).

Beginning July 1, 2026, Public Act 104-0430 also requires any school district that uses a school resource officer to enter into a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the local law enforcement agency that assigns the SRO. Under Section 10-20.68(a-5)(3) of the School Code, the MOU must make clear that SROs are prohibited from issuing students tickets or citations for incidents occurring on school property during school hours or during school-related transportation.

The statute requires several other provisions for the MOU between the local law enforcement agency and the school district. In addition to the prohibition on ticketing, the MOU must include provisions that:

- define the role, duties, and responsibilities of a school resource officer;
- specify procedures to ensure that a school resource officer has been trained or has received a waiver for training, as provided in Section 10.22 of the Illinois Police Training Act, including specific training on working with students with disabilities to ensure appropriate and effective interactions that support their educational and behavioral needs;
- outline a process for data collection and reporting in accordance with Section 2-3.206; and
- provide for regular review and evaluation of the school resource officer program, including community and stakeholder input.

The U.S. Department of Justice: Office of Community Oriented Policing Services released the [School Resource Officer Memorandum of Understanding Fact Sheet](#) as a reference tool. ISBE recommends that schools consult with their legal counsel before finalizing the legally-binding MOU with their local law enforcement agency.

Requirement Area Section 10-20.68 (a-5)	What must be addressed in the MOU	Key Compliance Focus
SRO Definition (a-5)(1)	Clearly define the role, duties, and day-to-day responsibilities of the SRO.	Avoid role confusion with discipline or school administration
Training Requirements (a-5)(2)	Outline process to ensure SRO has required training or waiver under Illinois Police Training Act	Must include training on working with students with disabilities
Student Ticketing Prohibition (a-5)(3)	Explicitly state that fines, fees, tickets, or other citations for municipal code violations may not be issued to students on school property, during school hours, or during student transportation	This must be clearly stated—not implied
Data Collection and Reporting (a-5)(4)	Establish how data related to SRO activity and other law enforcement involvement at schools will be collected and reported	Ensure that the reporting is aligned with the requirements outlined in Public Act 104-0430
Program Oversight and Review (a-5)(5)	Include process for regular evaluation of the SRO program	Evaluation must include stakeholder and community input

Beginning in the 2027–28 school year, school districts and state-authorized charter schools will be required to report every referral a school makes to a local law enforcement agency. This data will be aggregated and included in a statewide public report. Districts must annually report to ISBE, in a manner and method determined by ISBE:

- the number of students in kindergarten through grade 12 who were referred to a law enforcement agency or official,
- the number of instances of referrals to law enforcement that students in grades kindergarten through 12 received, and
- any additional reporting elements required by ISBE.

In the spring/summer of the 2026-2027 school year, ISBE will provide guidance to districts and schools on this new data collection.

These legal changes signal a clear shift in Illinois toward prevention, education, and restorative approaches. Administrators should review and update disciplinary policies to ensure compliance with this statute, eliminate municipal violation referral practices, and identify appropriate educational intervention programs for implementation. Investigations, legal reviews, and statewide data have shown that the practice of student ticketing is harmful, inequitable, and educationally counterproductive. Ticketing does not improve behavior, but it does push students toward financial hardship and the justice system. The end of student ticketing will ensure that all Illinois schools have discipline systems that will support student learning and well-being.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Q1: Police are hired to work at a football game after school hours, and they catch students under the bleachers vaping. Can municipal tickets be issued to these students?

Yes. The police can issue municipal tickets to students who were observed vaping because it is after school hours. However, a staff member cannot fine the students or direct law enforcement to issue a ticket. Even though it is after school hours, school staff are never allowed to use ticketing as a form of school discipline.

Q2: Police are hired to work at a football game after school hours and issue municipal tickets to students that the police find vaping under the school bleachers. Is the school required to report this instance to ISBE?

No. School staff did not refer these students to the police.

Q3: A student is continually truant, and school staff want to refer this student to the SRO for court proceedings. Is this allowed?

No. P.A. 104-0430 prohibits school staff from referring students to law enforcement, including SROs, for disciplinary matters including truancy. Truancy should be addressed through school-based interventions, supports, and established attendance protocols, not through referral to law enforcement.

Q4: Can students be ticketed or fined for minor fighting on school grounds or on school transportation?

No. Students may not be issued fines, fees, tickets, or other municipal citations as a school-based disciplinary response to minor fighting or other routine misconduct occurring on school grounds during school hours or while using school transportation.

Q5: There is a major fight within a school that staff cannot control. Can the school call upon local law enforcement for assistance?

Yes, local law enforcement may be contacted when a situation presents a significant safety risk that school staff cannot safely control, such as a large or escalating physical fight. Although Illinois law limits student ticketing and emphasizes that most student misconduct should be addressed through school-based discipline, those limits apply to minor or routine behaviors where school interventions are appropriate.

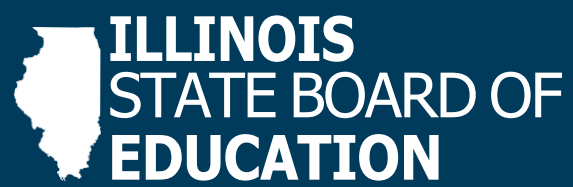
When conduct threatens the safety of students or staff, it is appropriate to involve law enforcement to restore order and protect individuals. However, minor incidents—such as student arguments, verbal conflicts, or other non-violent behaviors—should be handled internally and should not rise to the level of police involvement.

Q6: Students are taken on a field trip, and some students are caught vaping in a bathroom by local law enforcement. Can these students receive tickets from local law enforcement?

Yes. These students were found by local law enforcement, and school personnel did not refer these students to local law enforcement to receive fines, fees, tickets, or other citations for municipal code violations. Further, the infraction did not occur on school grounds during school hours or while taking the bus.

Q7: A student damages school property during the school day. Can the student be referred to local law enforcement?

No. School personnel cannot refer a student to local law enforcement for a student to receive a fine, fee, ticket, or other citation as a disciplinary measure. However, if a student damages school property, the school may seek restitution under its own policies or through insurance. This type of restitution is allowed and is not considered a prohibited fine under state law.



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