

CRIMINAL JUSTICE INFORMATION SECURITY
(NON-CRIMINAL JUSTICE AGENCY)

The District is required by State law to have the Michigan State Police (MSP) obtain both a State and a Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) criminal history record information (CHRI) background check report for all employees of the District and contractors, vendors and their employees who work on a regular and continuous basis in the District. To assure the security, confidentiality, and integrity of the CHRI background check information received from the MSP/FBI, the following standards are established:

A. Sanctions for Non-Compliance

Employees who fail to comply with this policy and any guidelines issued to implement this policy will be subject to discipline for such violations. Discipline will range from counseling and retraining to discharge, based on the nature and severity of the violation. All violations will be recorded in writing, with the corrective action taken. The Superintendent shall review, approve, sign and date all such corrective actions.

B. Local Agency Security Officer (LASO)

The Deputy Superintendent shall be designated as the District's Security Officer and shall be responsible for overall implementation of this policy and for data and system security. This shall include:

1. ensuring that personnel security screening procedures are being followed as set forth in this policy;
2. ensuring that approved and appropriate security measures are in place and working as expected;
3. supporting policy compliance and instituting the incident response reporting procedures;
4. ensuring that the Michigan State Police are promptly informed of any security incidents involving the abuse or breach of the system and/or access to criminal justice information;

5. to the extent applicable, identifying and documenting how District equipment is connected to the Michigan State Police system;
6. to the extent applicable, identify who is using the Michigan State Police approved hardware, software and firmware, and ensuring that no unauthorized individuals have access to these items.

The District's LASO shall be designated on the appropriate form as prescribed and maintained by the Michigan State Police.

C. Agency User Agreements

The District shall enter into any User Agreement required, and future amendments, by the Michigan State Police necessary to access the required CHRI on applicants, volunteers, and all other statutorily required individuals, such as contractors and vendors and their employees assigned to the District. The LASO shall be responsible for the District's compliance with the terms of any such User Agreement.

D. Personnel Security

All individuals that have access to any criminal justice information shall be subject to the following standards:

1. Background Checks - A Michigan (or state of residency if other than Michigan) and a national fingerprint-based criminal history record check shall be conducted within thirty (30) days of assignment to a position with direct access to criminal justice information or with direct responsibility to configure and maintain computer systems and networks with direct access to criminal justice information.
 - a. A felony conviction of any kind will disqualify an individual for access to criminal justice information.

- b. If any other results/records are returned, the individual shall not be granted access until the LASO reviews and determines access is appropriate. This includes, but is not limited to, any record which indicates the individual may be a fugitive or shows arrests without convictions. Such approval shall be recorded in writing, signed, dated and maintained with the individual's file.
 - c. Support personnel, contractors, vendors and custodial workers with access to physically secure locations or controlled areas (during criminal justice information processing) are subject to the same clearance standards as other individuals with access, unless they are escorted by authorized personnel at all times when in these locations or areas.
2. Subsequent Arrest/Conviction - If an individual granted access to criminal justice information is subsequently arrested and/or convicted, access shall be suspended immediately until the matter is reviewed by the LASO to determine if continued access is appropriate. Such determination shall be recorded in writing, signed, dated and maintained with the individual's file. In the event that the LASO has the arrest/conviction, the Superintendent (if not the designated LASO) shall make the determination.
 3. Public Interest Denial - If the LASO determines that access to criminal justice information by any individual would not be in the public interest, access shall be denied whether that person is seeking access or has previously been granted access. Such decision and reasons shall be in writing, signed, dated and maintained in the individual's file.
 4. Approval for Access - All requests for access to criminal justice information shall be as specified and approved by the LASO. Any such designee must be an employee of the District.

5. Termination of Employment/Access - Upon termination of employment, all access to criminal justice information shall be terminated for that individual, and steps taken to assure security of such information and any systems at the District to access such information.
6. Transfer/Re-assignment - When an individual who has been granted access to criminal justice information has been transferred or re-assigned to other duties, the LASO shall determine whether continued access is necessary and appropriate. If not, s/he shall take such steps as necessary to block further access to such information.
7. Contractors and Vendors¹ - Prior to granting access to criminal justice information to a contractor or vendor, identification must be verified via a Michigan (or state of residency if other than Michigan) or national fingerprint-based criminal history record check. A felony conviction of any kind, as well as any outstanding arrest warrant, will disqualify a contractor or vendor for access to criminal justice information. A contractor or vendor with misdemeanor offense(s) may be granted access if the LASO determines the nature or severity of the misdemeanor offense(s) does not warrant disqualification. If any other results/records are returned, the individual shall not be granted access until the LASO reviews and determines access is appropriate.

¹ For purposes of Section D.(7.), contractors and vendors are individuals who act on behalf of the District, work on a regular or continuous basis in the District, and are involved in the hiring process of District employees. For example, this might be a third-party provided manager or support staff person working in the personnel department. It does not authorize third party contractors or vendors to directly perform the criminal background checks in lieu of the District, or to access criminal justice information for the contractor's or vendor's own review.

E. Media Protection

Access to electronic and physical media in all forms, which contains criminal history background information provided by the Michigan State Police through the statutory record check process, is restricted to authorized individuals only. Only individuals involved in the hiring process of District employees, including contractors and vendors who act on behalf of, and work on a regular and continuous basis in, the District, shall be authorized to access electronic and physical media containing CHRI.

1. Media Storage and Access – All electronic and physical media shall be stored in a physically secure location or controlled area, such as locked office, locked cabinet or other similarly secure area(s) which can only be accessed by authorized individuals. If such security cannot be reasonably provided, then all electronic CHRI background data shall be encrypted.
2. Media Transport –Electronic and physical media shall be protected when being transported outside of a controlled area. Only authorized individuals shall transport the media. It shall be directly delivered to the intended person or destination and shall remain in the physical control and custody of the authorized individual at all times during transport. Access shall only be allowed to an authorized individual. To the extent possible, electronic media (e.g., hard drives and removable storage devices such as disks, tapes, flash drives and memory cards) shall be either encrypted and/or be password protected during the transport process.

3. Media Disposal/Sanitization – When the CHRI background check is no longer needed, the media upon which it is stored shall either be destroyed or sanitized. The LASO and the Superintendent, or his/her designee shall approve in writing the media to be affected. This record shall be maintained by the LASO for a period of at least five (5) years.
 - a. Physical Media – Disposal of documents, images or other type of physical record of the criminal history information shall be cross-cut shredded or incinerated. Physical security of the documents and their information shall be maintained during the process by authorized individuals. Documents may not be placed in a waste basket or burn bag for unauthorized individuals to later collect and dispose of.

All disposal/sanitization shall be either conducted or witnessed by authorized personnel to assure that there is no misappropriation of, or unauthorized access to, the data to be deleted. Written documentation of the steps taken to sanitize or destroy the media shall be maintained for ten (10) years, and must include the date as well as the signatures of the person(s) performing and/or witnessing the process.

F. CHRI Background Check Consent and Documentation

All individuals requested to complete a fingerprint-based CHRI background check must have given written consent—properly signed and dated—at time of application and be notified fingerprints will be used to check the criminal history records of the FBI, prior to completing a fingerprint-based CHRI background check. The Livescan form will satisfy this requirement and must be retained. Individuals subject to a fingerprint-based CHRI background check shall be provided the opportunity to complete or challenge the accuracy of the individual's criminal history record.

Some type of documentation identifying the position for which a fingerprint-based CHRI background check has been obtained must be retained for every CHRI background check conducted, such as an offer letter, job posting indicating successful candidate, Board minutes of approved hiring for particular position, etc.

G. Controlled Area

All CHRI obtained from the Michigan State Police pursuant to the statutorily required background checks shall be maintained in a controlled area, which shall be a designated office, room, area or lockable storage container. The following security precautions will apply to the controlled area:

1. Limited unauthorized personnel access to the area during times that criminal justice information is being processed or viewed.
2. The controlled area shall be locked at all times when not in use or attended by an authorized individual.
3. Information systems devices (e.g., computer screens) and physical documents, when in use, shall be positioned to prevent unauthorized individuals from being able to access or view them.
4. Encryption shall be used for electronic storage of criminal justice information. (See AG 3121.5)

I. Security Awareness Training

All individuals who are authorized by the District to have access to criminal justice information or to systems which store criminal justice information shall have basic security awareness training within six (6) months of initial assignment/authorization and every two (2) years thereafter. The training shall, to the extent possible, be received through the Michigan State Police or a program approved by the Michigan State Police. At a minimum, the training shall comply with the standards established by the U.S. Department of Justice and Federal Bureau of Investigation for Criminal Justice Information Services. (See AG 3121.5)

J. Secondary Dissemination of Information

If criminal history background information received from the Michigan State Police is released to another authorized agency under the sharing provision designated by The Revised School Code, a log of such releases shall be maintained and kept current indicating:

1. the date of release;
2. record disseminated;
3. method of sharing;
4. agency personnel that shared the CHRI;
5. the agency to which the information was released;
6. whether an authorization was obtained.

A log entry need not be kept if the receiving agency/entity is part of the primary information exchange agreements between the District and the Michigan State Police.

If CHRI is received from another District or outside agency, an Internet Criminal History Access Tool (ICHAT) background check shall be performed to ensure the CHRI is based on personal identifying information, including the individual's name, sex, and date of birth, at a minimum.

K. Audit Retention

The District shall retain audit records (position description, consent, and CHRI for both applicants that are hired and those that are not) for at least 365 days. Audit records must continue to be maintained until it is determined they are no longer needed for administrative, legal, audit, or other operational purposes. This includes, for example, retention and availability of audit records subject to Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests, subpoena, litigation hold and law enforcement actions.

Ref: Criminal Justice Information Services - Security Policy (Version 5.2, 2013),
U.S. Dept. of Justice and Federal Bureau of Investigation
Noncriminal Justice Agency Compliance Audit Review, Michigan State
Police, Criminal Justice Information Center, Audit and Training Section
Conducting Criminal Background Checks, Michigan State Police, Criminal
Justice Information Center

Adopted August 18, 2014