

### **C.O.R.I. Requirements**

It shall be the policy of the Harvard Public Schools to obtain all available Criminal Offender Record Information (C.O.R.I.) from the Criminal History Systems Board of prospective employee(s) or volunteer(s) of the school department including any individual who regularly provides school related transportation to children, who may have direct and unmonitored contact with children, prior to hiring the employee(s) or to accepting any person as a volunteer. State law requires that school districts obtain C.O.R.I. data for employees of taxicab companies that have contracted with the schools to provide transportation to pupils.

The Superintendent, Principal, or their certified designees shall periodically, but not less than every three years, obtain all available Criminal Offender Record Information from the criminal history systems board on all employees, individuals who regularly provide school related transportation to children, including taxicab company employees, and volunteers who may have direct and unmonitored contact with children, during their term of employment or volunteer service.

The Superintendent, Principal or their certified designees may also have access to Criminal Offender Record Information for any subcontractor or laborer who performs work on school grounds, and who may have direct and unmonitored contact with children, and shall notify them of this requirement and comply with the appropriate provisions of this policy.

Pursuant to a Department of Education C.O.R.I. Law Advisory dated February 17, 2003, "Direct and unmonitored contact with children' means contact with a child when no other C.O.R.I. cleared employee of the school or district is present. A person having only the potential for incidental unsupervised contact with children in commonly used areas of the school grounds, such as hallways, shall not be considered to have the potential for direct and unmonitored contact with children. These excluded areas do not include bathrooms and other isolated areas (not commonly utilized and separated by sight or sound from other staff) that are accessible to students."

In accordance with state law, all current and prospective employees, volunteers, and persons regularly providing school related transportation to children of the school district shall sign a request form authorizing receipt by the district of all available C.O.R.I. data from the criminal history systems board. In the event that a current employee has questions concerning the signing of the request form, he/she may meet with the Principal or Superintendent; however, failure to sign the C.O.R.I. request form may result in a referral to local counsel for appropriate action. Completed request forms must be kept in secure files. The School Committee, Superintendent, Principals or their designees certified to obtain information under this policy, shall prohibit the dissemination of school information for any purpose other than to further the protection of school children.

C.O.R.I. is not subject to the public records law, must be kept in a secure location, separate from personnel files, and may be retained for not more than three years. C.O.R.I. may be shared with the individual to whom it pertains, upon his or her request, and in the event of an inaccurate report the individual should contact the criminal history systems board.

#### I. CONDUCTING CORI SCREENING

CORI checks will only be conducted as authorized by the DCJIS and DGL c. 6 & 172, and only after a CORI Acknowledgement Form has been completed.

With the exception of screening for the rental or leasing of housing, if a new CORI check is to be made on a subject within a year of his/her signing of the CORI Acknowledgement Form, the subject shall be given seventy two (72) hours notice that a new CORI check will be conducted.

#### II. ACCESS TO CORI

All CORI obtained from the DCJIS is confidential, and access to the information must be limited to those individuals who have a "need to know". This may include, but not be limited to, hiring managers, staff submitting the CORI requests, and staff charged with processing job applications. Harvard Public Schools must maintain and keep a current list of each individual authorized to have access to, or view, CORI. This list must be updated every six (6) months and is subject to inspection upon request by the DCJIS at any time.

#### III. CORI TRAINING

An informed review of a criminal record requires training. Accordingly, all personnel authorized to review or access CORI at Harvard Public Schools will review, and will be thoroughly familiar with, the educational and relevant training materials regarding CORI laws and regulations made available by the DCJIS.

Additionally, if Harvard Public Schools is an agency required by MGL c. 6, s. 171A, to maintain a CORI policy, all personnel authorized to conduct criminal history background checks and/or to review CORI information will review, and will be thoroughly familiar with, the educational and relevant training materials regarding CORI laws and regulations made available by the DCJIS.

#### IV. USE OF CRIMINAL HISTORY IN BACKGROUND SCREENING

CORI used for employment purposes shall only be accessed for applicants who are otherwise qualified for the position for which they have applied.

Unless otherwise provided by law, a criminal record will not automatically disqualify an applicant. Rather, determinations of suitability based on background checks will be made consistent with this policy and any applicable law or regulations.

#### V. VERIFYING A SUBJECT'S IDENTITY

If a criminal record is received from the DCJIS, the information is to be closely compared with the information on the CORI Acknowledgement Form and any other identifying information provided by the applicant to ensure the record belongs to the applicant.

If the information in the CORI record provided does not exactly match the identification information provided by the applicant, a determination is to be made by an individual authorized to make such determinations based on a comparison of the CORI record and documents provided by the applicant.

#### VI. INQUIRING ABOUT CRIMINAL HISTORY

In connection with any decision regarding employment, volunteer opportunities, housing, or professional licensing, the subject shall be provided with a copy of the criminal history record, whether obtained from the DCJIS or from any other source, prior to questioning the subject about his or her criminal history. The source(s) of the criminal history record is also to be disclosed to the subject.

#### VII. DETERMINING SUITABILITY

If a determination is made, based on the information as provided in section V of this policy, that the criminal record belongs to the subject, and the subject does not dispute the record's accuracy, then the determination of suitability for the position or license will be made. Unless otherwise provided by law, factors considered in determining suitability may include, but not be limited to, the following:

- (a) Relevance of the record to the position sought;
- (b) The nature of the work to be performed;
- (c) Time since the conviction;
- (d) Age of the candidate at the time of the offense;
- (e) Seriousness and specific circumstances of the offense;
- (f) The number of offenses;
- (g) Whether the applicant has pending charges;
- (h) Any relevant evidence of rehabilitation or lack thereof; and
- (i) Any other relevant information, including information submitted by the candidate or requested by the organization.

The applicant is to be notified of the decision and the basis for it in a timely manner.

#### VIII. ADVERSE DECISIONS BASED ON CORI

If an authorized official is inclined to make an adverse decision based on the results of a criminal history background check, the applicant will be notified immediately. The subject shall be provided with a copy of the organization's CORI policy and a copy of the criminal history. The source(s) of the criminal history will also be revealed. The subject will then be provided with an opportunity to dispute the accuracy of the CORI record. Subjects shall also be provided a copy of the DCJIS' ***Information Concerning the Process for Correcting a Criminal Record.***

## IX. SECONDARY DISSEMINATION LOGS

All CORI obtained from the CDJIS is confidential and can only be disseminated as authorized by law and regulation. A central secondary dissemination log shall be used to record any dissemination of CORI outside this organization, including dissemination at the request of the subject.

The Superintendent shall amend employment applications to include questions concerning criminal records (see attachment) which the Massachusetts Commission against Discrimination has determined may be legally asked of prospective employees. Any employment application which seeks information concerning prior arrests or convictions of the applicant shall include the following statement: "An applicant for employment with a sealed record on file with the commissioner of probation may answer 'no record' with respect to an inquiry herein relative to prior arrests, criminal court appearances or convictions. An applicant for employment with a sealed record on file with the commissioner of probation may answer 'no record' to an inquiry herein relative to prior arrests or criminal court appearances. In addition, any applicant for employment may answer 'no record' with respect to any inquiry relative to prior arrests, court appearances and adjudications in all cases of delinquency or as a child in need of service which did not result in a complaint transferred to the superior court for criminal prosecution."

Records sealed pursuant to law shall not operate to disqualify a person in any examination, appointment or application for public service on behalf of the Commonwealth or any political subdivision thereof.

The Superintendent shall revise contracts with special education schools and other providers to require a signed statement that the provider has met all the legal requirements of the state where it is located relative to criminal background checks for employees and others having direct and unmonitored contact with children. As soon as possible after the district obtains the certification from the criminal history systems board to receive C.O.R.I. data, the Superintendent shall obtain such data for any person then providing volunteer service, as a condition of continued service.

ADOPTED: June 11, 2007

AMENDED: May 28, 2013

LEGAL REF: [M.G.L.71:38R, 151B, 276](#), §.100A, St.2002, c.385  
MCAD Regulations and D.O.E. Advisory on C.O.R.I. Law (Feb 17, 803 CMR 3.05 (Chapter 149 of the Acts of 2004))

CROSS REF: File: ADDA-E, C.O.R.I. Requirements

# HARVARD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Joseph J. Connelly, Ed.D.

Interim Superintendent

## CRIMINAL OFFENDER RECORD INFORMATION (CORI) ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FORM

TO BE USED BY ORGANIZATIONS CONDUCTING CORI CHECKS FOR EMPLOYMENT, VOLUNTEER,  
SUBCONTRACTOR, LICENSING, AND HOUSING PURPOSES

Harvard Public Schools is registered under the provisions of M.G.L. c. 6, § 172 to receive CORI for the purpose of screening current and otherwise qualified prospective employees, subcontractors, volunteers, license applicants, current licensees, and applicants for the rental or lease of housing.

As a prospective or current employee, subcontractor, volunteer, license applicant, current licensee, or applicant for the rental or lease of housing, I understand that a CORI check will be submitted for my personal information to the DCJIS. I hereby acknowledge and provide permission to Harvard Public Schools to submit a CORI check for my information to the DCJIS. This authorization is valid for one year from the date of my signature. I may withdraw this authorization at any time by providing Harvard Public Schools with written notice of my intent to withdraw consent to a CORI check.

FOR EMPLOYMENT, VOLUNTEER, AND LICENSING PURPOSES ONLY: The Harvard Public Schools may conduct subsequent CORI checks within one year of the date this Form was signed by me provided, however, that Harvard Public Schools must first provide me with written notice of this check.

By signing below, I provide my consent to a CORI check and acknowledge that the information provided on Page 2 of this Acknowledgement Form is true and accurate.

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SIGNATURE DATE

**\*\*\*PLEASE PROVIDE A COPY OF YOUR DRIVER'S LICENSE WITH THIS FORM\*\*\***

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## SUBJECT INFORMATION:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Last Name First Name Middle Name Suffix

\_\_\_\_\_  
Maiden Name (or other name(s) by which you have been known)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Birth Place of Birth

Last Six Digits of Your Social Security Number: \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Sex: \_\_\_\_ Height: \_\_\_\_ft. \_\_\_\_in. Eye Color: \_\_\_\_\_ Race: \_\_\_\_\_

Driver's License or ID Number: \_\_\_\_\_ State of Issue: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mother's Full Maiden Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Father's Full Name

Current and Former Addresses:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Street Number & Name City/Town State Zip

—

\_\_\_\_\_  
Street Number & Name City/Town State Zip

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The above information was verified by reviewing the following form of government issued identification:

\_\_\_\_\_  
VERIFIED BY:

Name of Verifying Employee (Please Print)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Verifying Employee

**\*\*\*PLEASE PROVIDE A COPY OF YOUR DRIVER'S LICENSE WITH THIS FORM\*\*\***

