1000 Series Policies

Policy Overview and Mission Statement

1001 General Policy Statement

1002 Creation and Amendment of Board of Education Policies

1003 Mission Statement

1004 Distribution of Policies

1001
General Policy Statement

The organization, management, and control of this school district is vested in its board of education ("board"). To guide the board and school district operations, and to assist it and its designees in carrying out duties, the board will establish, maintain, and amend a set of policies.

Written board policies serve the following purposes:

1. Formally articulating the board's goals and long-term objectives.
2. Providing district administrators and staff with guidance in making decisions that affect students, employees and patrons of the district.
3. Informing the public of the manner that the board and district will conduct its business and its relationships with staff, pupils, parents and patrons.

To avoid unnecessary rigidity, these policies are stated in general terms. With the exception of statutory requirements or instances when the specific application of a policy is essential to the long-term welfare of the district, these policies are intended to provide administrators with the flexibility to apply them to a wide range of situations.

The policies are not the only guidelines for district operations. Specific regulations, procedures, and practices also help guide and govern actions and decisions. They must be consistent with policies, but serve a different purpose.

Exceptional Circumstances

The board cannot foresee every situation that may arise, and circumstances will occur when these policies provide inadequate guidance. In such circumstances, the superintendent should use his or her best judgment, and communicate with the board about the situation as soon as is convenient.

Validity of Policies

Each policy and its provision should be interpreted so that it is valid under applicable law. If a court determines that a provision of a policy is invalid, such invalidity shall not affect the remaining provisions of that policy.

Adopted on: 7-14-14
Revised on: _____
Reviewed on: _____

1002
Creation, Amendment and Distribution of Policies

Each of these policies shall become the official policy of the school district when the board has approved it by majority vote of the members present at any lawfully convened meeting of the board.

It shall generally be the practice of the board to adopt or amend any policy after a single reading at any regular or special board meeting. However, the board may, in its discretion, review policies at multiple meetings prior to taking action.

The superintendent shall maintain an official copy of the board's policies, which may be in paper copy in the central office or on the district's website or electronic board meeting site. For any policies with specific review, hearing, or posting requirements, the superintendent will ensure those obligations are completed. The superintendent will also ensure all board members have access to a copy of the district's policies.

Adopted on: 7-14-14
Revised on: 7-14-25
Reviewed on: _____

1003
Mission Statement

Diller-Odell Public Schools Educational Mission and Goals
Striving for successful 21st Century learners.

Diller-Odell Beliefs:

- Students will show responsibility, self-control, good citizenship, while recognizing and respecting diversity among people and ideas.

- Students will become lifelong learners, positive contributors to society, and problem solvers in an ever-changing world.

- Students will believe in their abilities, recognize their accomplishments, learn from their experiences and continue to set new goals.

- Students will effectively exhibit cooperation and competitiveness in group settings.

Adopted on: 7-14-14
Revised on: _____
Reviewed on: _____

1004
Distribution of Policies

The superintendent shall see to the posting of a current copy of these policies on the district's website and to the maintenance of a master copy of the policy manual in the main administrative office. Other copies will be made available as needed throughout the district.

The board and the district's officers and employees shall make other information about the school district and its schools, programs, policies and procedures available to all interested persons, as appropriate.

Adopted on: 7-14-14
Revised on: _____
Reviewed on: _____

2000 Series

Policies Regarding Role and Conduct of the Board of Education

2001 Role of the Board of Education

2002 Organization of Board

2003 Development and Education of Board Members

2004 Oath of Office

2005 Conflict of Interest

2006 Complaint Procedure

2007 Reimbursement and Miscellaneous Expenditures

2008 Meetings

2009 Public Participation at Board Meetings

2010 Preparation for Regularly Scheduled Board Meetings

2011 Membership in Organizations

2012 Board Code of Ethics

2013 Violation of Board Ethics

2014 Relationship with District Legal Counsel

2016 Participation in Insurance Program by Board Members

2017 Indemnification and Liability Insurance

2001
Role of the Board of Education

The board of education (board) is charged by the Legislature with the duty of providing public elementary and secondary education to the citizens of the district. The Legislature has also created the State Board of Education and the State Department of Education, and has delegated certain regulatory and advisory functions to them. The board is responsible to these agencies as specified by law.

The board's primary duties are: (1) to establish a mission, goals, and policies; (2) to establish and maintain school facilities; (3) to select a superintendent; (4) to adopt a fiscally responsible budget; and (5) to evaluate programs.

1. Establishment of Mission, Goals and Policies

The board shall concern itself with broad questions of mission, goals and policy, rather than administrative details. The application of policies is an administrative task to be performed by the superintendent of schools and his or her administrative staff, who shall be held responsible for the effective administration and supervision of the entire school district.

2. Establishment and Maintenance of School Facilities and Other Resources

The board is the legal agency through which the community works to provide the physical facilities, curriculum, instructional supplies and staff to enable the district's mission and objectives to be carried out. The board will establish and maintain school facilities necessary to educate the students of the district.

3. Selection of the Superintendent of Schools

The board will employ a superintendent of schools as the chief executive to whom it will delegate, through policy statements and procedures for accountability, the administration of the school program. As the chief administrator for the board, the superintendent will implement board policies and supervise the day-to-day operation of the school system. The superintendent will keep the board informed of the implementation of the plans and policies, and will recommend changes to policies as necessary. The superintendent will furnish educational leadership to the board, the school staff, and the community.

4. Fiscally Responsible Budget

The board will annually adopt a fiscally responsible budget that will permit the district to accomplish its goals and objectives. The management of the financial

program and the development of the proposed budget for the district is delegated to the superintendent.

The board will work for adequate and dependable financial support of the public schools, promotion of effective and efficient organization, and administration of the district.

5. Evaluation of Program

The board will evaluate, or cause to be evaluated, the progress and results of the educational program on a continuous basis. In making these evaluations, the board will seek and give appropriate weight to the superintendent's analysis and recommendations.

Adopted on: 7-14-14
Revised on: _____
Reviewed on: _____

2002
Organization of the Board

1. Membership, Term and Election

    a. The Board of Education shall be comprised of six members who will be elected at large.

    b. Those who wish to serve on the board shall file, be elected, and serve terms of office on the board according to law.

2. Internal Organization and Officers

    a. President

        i. At the regular January meeting, the board shall elect from among its members a president who shall serve in that capacity for one year.

        ii. The president shall preside at all board meetings, and shall perform such other duties as may be prescribed by law or by action of the board.

    b. Vice President

        i. At the regular January meeting, the board shall elect from among its members a vice president who shall serve in that capacity for one year.

        ii. The vice president shall preside in the absence of the president, and shall perform such other duties as are assigned by the board.

    c. Secretary

        i. At the regular January meeting, the board shall elect a secretary who need not be a member of the board. The secretary shall serve in that capacity for one year. If the secretary is a member of the board, an assistant secretary may be named and his or her duties and compensation set by the board.

        ii. The secretary shall see that an accurate record of the proceedings of the board is kept, that a copy of the proceedings is provided to each board member and to the superintendent, and that a concise summary of each

month's meeting is published along with a list of all approved claims. The secretary shall perform such other duties as are prescribed by law and assigned by the board.

d. Treasurer

i. A treasurer from the board will be designated on a year-to-year basis.

ii. The treasurer will sign checks and certain other documents. The treasurer is the custodian of the monies of the district.

iii. The treasurer shall give bond or equivalent insurance coverage payable to the district as prescribed by law with the cost of the bond being paid by the district.

iv. The treasurer shall issue no warrant of payment of claim against the district until such claim has been duly authorized by the board and has been duly countersigned by the president.

v. The vice president or secretary may sign any warrant in the absence of either the president or the treasurer.

3. Board Officer Voting and Tie Breakers

a. The vote to elect board officers may be taken by secret ballot, but the total number of votes for each candidate shall be recorded in the minutes.

b. In the event any officer cannot be elected by a majority after 10 votes; no votes occur after ten motions fail for lack of a "second,"; or no member volunteers to serve as an officer for a particular position, the tie will be broken by the applicable method:

If the board is split between two members, the officer will be determined by coin flip. The winning member will be the officer for the upcoming year unless the position changes by action of the board.

i. If the board is split between more than two members who wish to serve as the officer, any member wanting to serve as the officer will put his or her name into a drawing. The name drawn out will be the officer for the upcoming year unless the position changes by action of the board.

ii. If no member is willing to serve as an officer for a position which is required to be a member of the board, all non-officers' names will be put into a drawing. The name drawn out will be the officer for the upcoming year unless the position changes by action of the board.

4. Committees

a. The board shall authorize such special committees as it deems necessary. The board president shall appoint members to the committee, and designate its function, tasks it is to perform, and a completion date for its work.

b. On or before the beginning of each calendar year, the board shall appoint three members to form a Committee on American Civics. The committee's duties shall be those prescribed by Nebraska statutes, which include:
   i. Hold no fewer than two public meetings annually, at least one when public testimony is accepted;
   ii. Keep minutes of each meeting showing the time and place of the meeting, which members were present or absent, and the substance and details of all matters discussed;
   iii. Examine and ensure that the social studies curriculum used in the district is aligned with the social studies standards adopted pursuant to section 79-760.01 and teaches foundational knowledge in civics, history, economics, financial literacy, and geography;
   iv. Review and approve the social studies curriculum to ensure that it stresses the services of the men and women who played a crucial role in the achievement of national independence, establishment of our constitutional government, and preservation of the union and includes the incorporation of multicultural education as set forth in sections 79-719 to 79-723 in order to instill a pride and respect for the nation's institutions and not be merely a recital of events and dates;
   v. Ensure that any curriculum recommended or approved by the committee on American civics is made readily accessible to the public and contains a reference to this section;
   vi. Ensure that the district develops and utilizes formative, interim, and summative assessments to measure student mastery of the social studies standards adopted pursuant to section 79-760.01;
   vii. Ensure that the social studies curriculum in the district incorporates one or more of the following for each student:

1. Administration of a written test that is identical to the entire civics portion of the naturalization test used by United States Citizenship and Immigration Services prior to the completion of eighth grade and again prior to the completion of twelfth grade with the individual score from each test for each student made available to a parent or guardian of such student; or
2. Attendance or participation between the commencement of eighth grade and completion of twelfth grade in a meeting of a public body as defined by section 84-1409 followed by the completion of a project or paper in which each student demonstrates or discusses the personal learning experience of such student related to such attendance or participation; or
3. Completion of a project or paper and a class presentation between the commencement of eighth grade and the completion of twelfth grade on a person or persons or an event commemorated by a holiday listed in section 79-724(6) or on a topic related to such person or persons or event; and

viii. Take all such other steps as will assure the carrying out of the provisions of this section and provide a report to the school board regarding the committee's findings and recommendations.

5. Vacancies

a. A vacancy on the board of education shall exist when any one of the following occurs:

i. A member submits his or her formal resignation from the board.

ii. A member removes himself or herself from the district or is absent from the district for a continuous period of sixty days.

iii. A member misses more than two consecutive regular board meetings unless excused by a majority of the remaining members.

iv. Such other reasons as are set forth in Nebraska statutes.

b. The board shall make note the vacancy in its minutes and shall give notice of the date the vacancy occurred, the office vacated, and the length of the unexpired term to (1) the election commissioner or

county clerk, and (2) the public by published notice in a newspaper of general circulation in the district.

c. Vacancies shall be filled in the manner set forth in Nebraska statutes.

Adopted on: 7-14-14
Revised on: 7-8-19
Reviewed on: 7-8-19

2003
Development and Education of Board Members

1. New Board Member Orientation

    a. All new board members are strongly encouraged to attend the Nebraska Association of School Boards (NASB) workshop for board members unless excused by the remaining members of the board.

    b. Sitting board members and the superintendent will assist each new member-elect to understand the board's functions, policies and procedures before he or she takes office.

2. Ongoing Development and Education

    a. Board members provide the most effective service to the district when they are continuously updated on educational and legal issues. Attendance at meetings directly or indirectly related to education or school matters is encouraged for the value they have to the school system and the professional growth of board members.

    b. Board members are encouraged to engage in continuing education such as:

        i. Participation in local, regional and state conferences and workshops such as meetings of the NASB, the Nebraska Rural Community Schools Association (NRCSA), and the Nebraska Council of School Administrators (NCSA).

        ii. Participation in legislative sessions and related activities.

        iii. Participation in national conventions such as the National School Boards Association (NSBA) and/or the American Association of School Administrators (AASA) on a rotating basis among the members.

        iv. Examination of other school facilities and their programs.

The superintendent shall notify board members of all relevant conferences and workshops, other local and regional meetings, and/or in-service activities.

3. Reimbursement for Education and Development

Board member expenses for attendance at any of the above activities shall be paid by the school district. These expenses include registration, travel, lodging and meals directly connecting with the activity. The district will reimburse board

members for their actual and necessary expenses incurred carrying out their duties while attending local, regional and national conferences and workshops.

Adopted on: 7-14-14
Revised on: _____
Reviewed on: _____

2004
Oath of Office

No board member is required to take an oath of office pursuant to Nebraska law. However, new board members may voluntarily take the following oath before entering into their official duties:

I, ..., do solemnly swear that I will support the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of Nebraska, against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I take this obligation freely and without mental reservation or for purpose of evasion; and that I will faithfully and impartially perform the duties of the office of member of the board of education, according to law, and to the best of my ability. And I do further swear that I do not advocate, nor am I a member of any political party or organization that advocates the overthrow of the government of the United States or of this state by force or violence; and that during such time as I am in this position I will not advocate nor become a member of any political party or organization that advocates the overthrow of the government of the United States or of this state by force or violence. So help me God.

Board members may affirm the oath orally or in writing. Copies of written oaths will be retained as official records of the school district in the main administrative office and such other places as may be required by law. Board members who give the oath orally will be noted in the minutes.

Adopted on: 7-14-14
Revised on: 7-10-17
Reviewed on: _____

2005
Conflict of Interest

Any member of the board of education who meets the conditions set forth in this policy shall be deemed to have a business or financial conflict of interest.

1. Definitions. For purposes of this policy:

    a. Business with which a board member is associated shall include the following:

        (1) A business in which the board member or a member of his or her immediate family is a partner, a limited liability company, or serves as a director or an officer.

        (2) A business in which the board member or a member of his or her immediate family is a stockholder in a closed corporation with stock worth one thousand dollars or more, or the board member or his or her immediate family owns more than a five percent equity interest or is a stockholder of publicly traded stock worth more than ten thousand dollars or more at fair market value, or which represents more than ten percent equity interest. This shall not apply to publicly traded stock under a trading account if the board member reports the name and address of the company and stockbroker.

    b. A business association shall be defined to include an individual as a partner, limited liability company member, director or officer, or a business in which the individual or member of the immediate family is a stockholder.

    c. Immediate family member or member of the immediate family shall mean a child residing in an individual's household, a spouse of an individual, or an individual claimed by that individual or that individual's spouse as a dependent for federal income tax purposes.

2. Contracts with the School District.

    a. No board member or member of his or her immediate family shall enter into a contract valued at two thousand dollars or more, in any one year, with this school district unless the contract is awarded through an open and public process that (1) includes prior public notice and (2) allows the public to inspect during the school district’s regular office hours the proposals considered and the contract awarded. Board members who enter into employment contracts with the school district must also comply with the board’s policy on the employment of board members.

b. The existence of any conflict of interest in any contract in which the board member has an interest and in which the school district is a party, or the failure to make public the board member's interest known, may render a contract null and void.

c. The prohibition of a conflict of interest or requirement for the board member to make public notice shall apply when the board member, or his or her parent, spouse, or child has a business association with the business involved in the contract or will receive a payment, fee, or commission as a result of the contract.

d. The prohibition in this section does not apply if the contract is an agenda item approved at a board meeting and the board member:

(1) Makes a declaration on the record to the school board regarding the nature and extent of his or her interest prior to official consideration of the contract;

(2) Does not vote on the matters of granting the contract, making payments pursuant to the contract, or accepting performance of work under the contract, or similar matters relating to the contract, except that if the number of members of the school board declaring an interest in the contract would prevent the board with all members present from securing a quorum on the issue, then all members may vote on the matters; and

(3) Does not act for the school board as to inspection or performance under the contract in which he or she has an interest.

3. Contracts with Board Member’s Immediate Family.

a. If a person in a board member's immediate family is an employee of this school district, the board member may vote on all issues of a contract which are generally applicable to:

(1) All district employees.

(2) All employees within a specific classification but which does not single out the member of his or her immediate family.

4. Employing Members of the Immediate Family.

a. A board member may recommend for employment or supervise the employment of an immediate family member if:

(1) The board member does not abuse his or her position.

(2) Abuse of official position shall include, but not be limited to, employing an immediate family member:

(i) who is not qualified for and able to perform the duties of the position;

(ii) for any unreasonably high salary;

(iii) who is not required to perform the duties of the position.

(3) The board makes a reasonable solicitation and consideration of applications for employment.

(4) The board member makes a full disclosure on the record to the governing body of the school district and to the secretary of the board. If the secretary of the board of education would be the individual filing the disclosure statement, the statement shall be filed with the president of the board of education.

(5) The board approves the employment or supervisory position.

b. The board has not terminated the employment of another employee so as to make funds or a position available for the purpose of hiring an immediate family member.

5. Gifts, Loans, Contributions, Rewards, or Promises of Future Employment

a. No board member shall offer or give to the following persons anything of value, including a gift, loan, contribution, reward, or promise of future employment, based upon an agreement that a vote, official action, or judgment would be influenced thereby:

(1) a public official, public employee, or candidate.

(2) a member of the immediate family of an individual listed in Subparagraph 'a' above.

(3) a business with which an individual listed in Subparagraph (1) or (2) above is associated.

b. No board member shall solicit or accept anything of value, including a gift,

loan, contribution, reward, or promise of future employment based on an agreement that the vote, official action, or judgment of the board member would thereby be influenced.

c. A board member shall not use or authorize the use of his or her public office or any confidential information received through the holding of a public office to obtain financial gain, other than compensation provided by law, for himself or herself, a member of his or her immediate family, or a business with which he or she is associated.

d. A board member shall not use personnel, resources, property, or funds under his or her official care and control other than in accordance with prescribed constitutional, statutory, and regulatory procedures or use such items, other than compensation provided by law, for personal financial gain.

6. Conflict of Interest Relating to Campaigning or Political Issues

a. Except as provided below, the board shall not authorize the use of personnel, property, resources, or funds under its jurisdiction for the purpose of campaigning for or against the nomination or election of a candidate or the qualification, passage, or defeat of a ballot question.

b. This does not prohibit the board from making school district facilities available to a person for campaign purposes if the identity of the candidate or the support for or opposition to the ballot question is not a factor in making the facilities available or a factor in determining the cost or conditions for use.

c. This does not prohibit the board from discussing and voting upon a resolution supporting or opposing a ballot question.

d. This does not prohibit the board, while legally seated as a body, from responding to specific inquiries by the press or the public as to the board's opinion regarding a ballot question or from providing information in response to a request for information.

(1) The board may designate one or more members of its body, or one or more of its school administrators, to speak on behalf of the board on specific occasions such as public meetings or legislative hearings.

(2) Any member of the board may present his or her personal opinion regarding a ballot question or respond to a request for information related to a ballot question; but in so doing, the person should

clearly state that the information being presented is his or her personal opinion and is not to be considered as the official position or opinion of the board. However, this shall not be done during a time that the individual is engaged in his or her official duties.

7. Conflict of Interest Statement

   a. Any board member who would be required to take any action or make any decision in the discharge of his or her official duties that may cause financial benefit or detriment to him or her, a member of his or her immediate family, or a business with which he or she is associated, which is distinguishable from the effects of such action on the public generally or a broad segment of the public, shall take the following actions as soon as he or she is aware of such potential conflict or should reasonably be aware of such potential conflict, whichever is sooner:

      (1) Prepare a written statement describing the matter requiring action or decision and the nature of the potential conflict;

      (2) Deliver a copy of the statement to the school board secretary who shall enter the statement onto the school district's public records; and

      (3) Abstain from participating or voting on the matter in which he or she has a conflict of interest.

   b. If the board member would like a formal opinion from the NADC as to whether there is an actual conflict of interest, he/she shall deliver a copy of the statement to the NADC.

8. Recordkeeping

   a. The board secretary shall maintain a separate record of the following information for every contract entered into by the school board in which a board member has an interest and for which disclosure was made pursuant to section 2d of this policy:

      (1) The names of the contracting parties.

      (2) The nature of the interest of the board member in question.

      (3) The date that the contract was approved.

      (4) The amount of the contract.

(5) The basic terms of the contract.

b. The information supplied relative to the contract shall be provided no later than ten (10) days after the contract has been signed by both parties. The ledger kept by the board secretary shall be available for public inspection during normal working hours of the office in which it is kept.

9. Conflict. To the extent that there is a conflict between this policy and the Nebraska Political Accountability and Disclosure Act ("Act"), the Act shall control.

Adopted on: 7-14-14
Revised on: 7-12-21
Reviewed on: _____

2006
Complaint Procedure

Good communication helps to resolve many misunderstandings and disagreements. This complaint procedure applies to complaints unless the complaint is subject to a different procedure required by law, policy or contract. Individuals who have a complaint should discuss their concerns with appropriate school personnel in an effort to resolve problems at the lowest level of the chain of command. When those efforts do not resolve matters satisfactorily, including matters involving discrimination or harassment on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, marital status, disability, or age, a complainant should follow the procedures set forth in any specific policy addressing those areas or the procedures set forth below. Allegations of sex discrimination covered by Title IX will be addressed through the board's Title IX policy.

References to "coordinator" in this policy refer to the board-designated coordinator for the applicable area, such as the Section 504 Coordinator for allegations of disability-based discrimination.

Under this policy, factual conclusions will be based on a preponderance of the evidence.

Complaint and Appeal Process.

1. The first step is for the complainant to speak directly to the person(s) with whom the complainant has a concern. For example, a parent who is unhappy with a classroom teacher should initially discuss the matter with the teacher. However, the complainant should skip the first step if complainant reasonably believes speaking directly to the person would subject complainant or complainant's student to discrimination or harassment.

2. The second step is for the complainant to speak to the building principal, coordinator, superintendent, or president of the board of education, as set forth below. Anyone with questions about the appropriate person to speak with may request clarification from the superintendent.

    a) Complaints about the operation, decisions, or personnel within a building should be submitted to the principal of the building.

    b) Complaints about the operations of the school district or a building principal should be submitted in writing to the superintendent of schools.

    c) Complaints about the superintendent of schools should be submitted in writing to the president of the board of education.

d) Complaints involving discrimination or harassment on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, marital status, disability, or age may be submitted to the applicable coordinator. Complaints involving discrimination or harassment may also be submitted at any time to the Office for Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Education: by email at OCR.KansasCity@ed.gov; by telephone at (816) 268-0550; or by fax at (816) 268-0599.

3. When a complainant submits a complaint to an administrator or coordinator, the administrator or coordinator shall first determine whether another applicable procedure is required by policy or law and if so, direct the complaint to the appropriate person to follow that procedure. If not, the administrator or coordinator will promptly and thoroughly investigate the complaint, and shall:

a) Determine whether the complainant has discussed the matter with the respondent.

1) If the complainant has not, urge the complainant to discuss the matter directly with the respondent, if appropriate.

2) If the complainant refuses to discuss the matter with the respondent, the administrator or coordinator shall, in his or her sole discretion, determine whether the complaint should or must be pursued further.

b) Strongly encourage the complainant to reduce his or her concerns to writing.

c) Interview the complainant and, if necessary, the respondent against whom the complaint is filed, to determine:

1) All relevant details of the complaint;

2) All witnesses and documents which the complainant believes support the complaint;

3) The action or solution which the complainant seeks.

d) Respond to the complainant. If the complaint involves discrimination or harassment, the response shall be in writing and shall be submitted within 180 calendar days after the administrator or coordinator receives the complaint.

4. If either the complainant or the respondent is not satisfied with the decision, he or she may appeal the decision to the superintendent. The superintendent may assign a qualified designee to hear any appeal.

   a) The appeal must be in writing.

   b) This appeal must be received by the superintendent no later than three (3) calendar days from the date of the decision.

   c) For complaints addressed through other applicable procedures that do not include a separate investigatory process, the superintendent will investigate as he or she deems appropriate.

   d) The superintendent will prepare a written decision and provide it to the complainant and any other person entitled by law to receive the appeal decision. For complaints involving discrimination or harassment, the superintendent shall submit the decision within 180 calendar days after the superintendent received complainant's written appeal. Appeals to the superintendent from complaints involving discrimination or harassment are final once the superintendent delivers the written decision, as are all other appeals/complaints to the superintendent unless the complaint can be appealed on the limited grounds to appeal to the board below.

5. The board's role is to set policy, establish and implement a budget, and evaluate the superintendent. The board does not manage the daily operations of the school district entrusted to its administration unless required by law or policy. Because of the board's statutory roles, it does not hear complaints or appeals that may involve oversight or discipline of students, staff, or others, unless those involve allegations against the superintendent as discussed below. The board does not hear complaints or appeals based on allegations of discrimination or harassment unless otherwise required by law. The board will hear appeals only in the following circumstances:

   a) When the complaint is about a board policy, not implementation of the policy;
   b) When the complaint involves the budget or school expenditures that have been or must be approved by the board; or
   c) When the board is required by law, policy, or contract to hear a complaint or appeal.

   If a complaint involves those limited grounds and a party is not satisfied with the superintendent's decision regarding the complaint or appeal, he or she may appeal the decision to the board.

d) This appeal must be in writing.

e) This appeal must be received by the board president no later than ten (10) calendar days from the date the superintendent communicated the decision to the complainant.

f) This policy allows, but does not require the board to receive statements from interested parties and witnesses relevant to the complaint or appeal. However, all matters involving discrimination or harassment allegations against the superintendent shall be promptly and thoroughly investigated by the board president or a designee.

g) The board president will notify the complainant and any other person legally required to receive the decision in writing of the decision. If the complaint involves discrimination or harassment allegations against the Superintendent, the board president shall submit the decision within 180 calendar days after receiving the written appeal.

h) There is no appeal from any decision of the board unless authorized by law.

6. Formal complaints about the superintendent shall be filed with the president of the board. However, complaints about the superintendent do not include disagreement with the superintendent's decision on appeal based on a complaint of discrimination, harassment, or action of any other employee who is not the superintendent. Upon receipt of a complaint, the board president or his or her designee shall promptly and thoroughly investigate the complaint, and shall:

a) Coordinate with school district staff, other than the superintendent, to determine if another procedure in policy or law requires the complaint against the superintendent to follow another procedure. If so, the board president will coordinate handling the complaint through that procedure. If another procedure applies, such as in the case of allegations of sex discrimination against the superintendent, the board president or, at his or her discretion, the full board will serve only to hear any appeal by a party to the complaint.

b) Determine whether the complainant has discussed the matter with the superintendent.

1) If the complainant has not, the board president or designee will urge or require the complainant to discuss the matter directly with the superintendent, if appropriate or required.

2) If the complainant refuses to discuss the matter with the superintendent, the board president shall, in his or her sole discretion, determine whether the complaint should or must be pursued further.

c) Determine, in his or her sole discretion, whether to place the matter on the board agenda for consideration at a regular or special meeting by the full board.

d) Respond to the complainant or appeal. If the complaint or appeal involves discrimination or harassment, the response shall be in writing and shall be submitted within 180 calendar days after the president received the complaint.

e) Appoint or contract with other individuals qualified to assist the board through this process or any other applicable procedure used to address allegations against the superintendent.

No Retaliation. The school district prohibits retaliation against any person for filing a complaint or for participating in the complaint procedure in good faith.

Special Rules Regarding Educational Services and Related Services to Students with Disabilities. Students with disabilities and their families have specific rights outlined in state and federal law, including administrative processes by which they may challenge the educational services being provided by the school district. Therefore, the appeal process contained in this policy may not be used to challenge decisions made by a student's individualized education plan (IEP) team or 504 team.

Complaints about the educational services provided a student with a disability, including but not limited to services provided to a student with an IEP, access to curricular and extracurricular activities, and educational placement must be submitted to the school district's Director of Special Education. The Director of Special Education will address the complaint in a manner that he/she deems appropriate and will provide the complainant with a copy of the Notice of IDEA Parental Rights promulgated by the Nebraska Department of Education.

Complaints about the educational services provided a student with a disability pursuant to a Section 504 plan must be submitted to the school district's 504 Coordinator. The 504 Coordinator will address the complaint in a manner that he/she deems appropriate and will provide the complainant with a copy of the Notice of Section 504 Parental Rights adopted by the board of education.

Complaints about the educational services provided to a student who is suspected of having a disability must be submitted in writing to the school district's Director of Special Education or to the district's 504 Coordinator. The Director of Special Education or 504 Coordinator will either refer the student for possible verification as a student with a disability or will provide prior written notice of the district's refusal to do so.

Bad Faith or Serial Filings. The purpose of the complaint procedure is to resolve complaints at the lowest level possible within the chain of command. Individuals who file complaints (a) without a good faith intention to attempt to resolve the issues raised; (b) for the purpose of adding administrative burden; (c) at a volume unreasonable to expect satisfactory resolution; or (d) for purposes inconsistent with the efficient operations of the district may be dismissed by the superintendent or board president without providing final resolution other than noting the dismissal. There is no appeal from dismissals made pursuant to this section.

Adopted on:8-26-20
Revised on: 7-14-25
Reviewed on: _____

2007
Reimbursement and Miscellaneous Expenditures

1. Board members, employees, and volunteers of the school district are expected to maintain and enhance their effectiveness by being well-informed on issues affecting education. They are encouraged to attend education workshops, conferences, training programs, official functions, hearings, and meetings sponsored by the school district or state and national educational organizations which are helpful to them in performing their duties or which are in the best interests of the school district.

2. This board hereby gives prior approval for board members to attend meetings described in paragraph no. 1. Upon approval by the board president or the superintendent or designee when the board president is unavailable, such board members may attend authorized meetings without further action or approval by the board, and shall be paid or reimbursed for registration costs, tuition costs, fees or charges, travel expenses, and costs of meals and lodging.

    a. The superintendent or the superintendent's designee may authorize employees and volunteers to attend meetings described in paragraph no. 1, and may authorize the payment of such registration costs, tuition costs, fees or charges, travel expenses, costs of meals, and/or costs of lodging as he or she deems appropriate.

    b. The decision to authorize attendance at such functions shall be made after consideration of the value to the school district of attending the function, the cost of attendance, the availability of funds in the budget, and such other criteria as the decision-maker deems relevant.

    c. The school district may pay the registration costs, tuition costs, fees or charges for such functions along with actual travel expenses, if travel is by commercial or charter means. If the use of a personal automobile is authorized, mileage shall be reimbursed at the rate provided by board policy. The cost of meals and lodging, if authorized, shall be reimbursed based upon documented expenditures actually and necessarily incurred.

d. Upon proper authorization, the board shall allow the payment or reimbursement for expenses incurred by board members, employees or volunteers as otherwise specifically permitted by law.

e. The board authorizes the expenditure of funds for non-alcoholic beverages for individuals attending public meetings of the board and non-alcoholic beverages and meals for individuals while performing or immediately after performing relief, assistance, or support activities in emergency situations, and for any volunteers during or immediately following their participation in any activity approved by the board.

f. It is in the best interest of this school district to recognize service by board members, employees, and volunteers. The board authorizes the president, superintendent or the superintendent's designee to determine when and to whom plaques, certificates of achievement, flowers or other items of value should be granted, provided that no such plaque, certificate, flowers or other item of value shall cost more than $50.00.

g. Funds may be spent for one recognition dinner each year for elected and appointed officials, employees or volunteers of the school district. The maximum cost per person for such a dinner shall not exceed $25.00.

Adopted on: 7-14-14
Revised on: _____
Reviewed on: _____

2008
Meetings

The formation of policy is public business and will be conducted openly in accordance with the Nebraska Open Meetings Act.

1. Types of Meetings

    a. The board shall hold its regular meetings on or before the third Monday of each month.

    b. Special and emergency meetings may be called as provided by law.

    c. The board may schedule work sessions and retreats in order to provide board members and administrators with the opportunity to plan, research, and engage in discussion.

2. Notice

Method of Publishing Notice of Meetings. The board will publish reasonable advanced notice of all meetings on its website. The notice will contain a statement that the current agenda is available for inspection at the Superintendent's office during normal business hours. The Superintendent or designee may but is not required to provide information about meetings in other ways, such as social media or posting notices in physical locations in the district.

Publication of Notice Method and Regular Meeting Schedule. Four times per year, in a newspaper of general circulation, the board will publish its regular meeting schedule, location of regular meetings, and the designated method of publishing meeting notices.

When it is necessary to hold an emergency meeting without reasonable advance public notice, the nature of the emergency shall be stated in the minutes of the meeting, and any formal action taken in such meeting shall pertain only to the emergency. Complete minutes of such emergency meetings specifying the nature of the emergency and any formal action taken at the meeting shall be made available to the public no later than the end of the next regular business day.

3. Minutes

    a. The board shall keep minutes of all meetings showing the time,

place, members present and absent, the method(s) and date(s) of the meeting notice, and the substance of all matters discussed.

b. Any action taken on any question or motion duly moved and seconded shall be by roll call vote of the board in open session, and the record shall state how each member voted, or if the member was absent or not voting.

c. The meeting minutes shall be published on the school district's website within ten working days of the last meeting or prior to the next convened meeting, whichever occurs earlier. The minutes shall be available on the website for at least six months.

The Superintendent will make a copy of the Open Meetings Act available at all meetings.

Adopted on:7-14-17
Revised on: 7-13-26
Reviewed on: _____

2009
Public Participation at Board Meetings

The board of education shall conduct its meetings in accordance with the Nebraska Open Meetings Act.

The board shall make reasonable efforts to accommodate the public's right to hear the discussions and testimony presented at its meetings. The board shall make available at the meeting, for examination and copying by members of the public, at least one copy of all reproducible written material to be discussed in open session of the meeting.

Except for closed sessions, the board will allow members of the public an opportunity to speak at each meeting. The board may make and enforce reasonable rules and regulations regarding the conduct of persons attending, speaking at, videotaping, photographing, or recording its meetings.

The board shall not require members of the public to identify themselves as a condition for admission to the meeting, nor shall such body require that the name of any member of the public be placed on the agenda prior to such meeting in order to speak about items on the agenda. However, the board shall require members of the public desiring to address the board to identify themselves, including an address and the name of any organization represented by such person unless the address requirement is waived to protect the security of the individual.

Adopted on: 7-14-14
Revised on: 6-11-24
Reviewed on: _____

2010
Preparation for Board Meetings

The superintendent will create the agenda and board packet in consultation with the board president. The materials will be sent or delivered to each board member in advance of the meeting. Members of the public have no entitlement to place an item on the board's agenda, but may address the board during the next meeting at which the board receives public comment. The agenda shall be placed on the district's website at least 24 hours before the school board meeting and shall remain available on the website for at least six months.

Adopted on:7-14-14
Revised on:7-13-22
Reviewed on: _____

2011
Membership in Organizations

The board may hold membership in the Nebraska Association of School Boards, the National School Board Association, and other organizations specifically approved by the board.

Adopted on: 7-14-14
Revised on: _____
Reviewed on: _____

2012
Board Code of Ethics

The board recognizes that collectively and individually, all members of the board must adhere to an accepted code of ethics in order to improve public education. Board members must conduct themselves professionally and in a manner fitting of their position.

Each board member shall:

1. Attend all regularly scheduled board meetings insofar as possible, and become informed concerning the issues to be considered at those meetings;

2. Endeavor to make policy decisions only after full discussion at publicly held board meetings;

3. Render all decisions based on the available facts and his or her independent judgment, and refuse to surrender that judgment to individuals or special interest groups;

4. Encourage the free expression of opinion by all board members, and seek systematic communication between the board and students, staff and all elements of the community;

5. Work with other board members to establish effective board policies and to delegate authority to the superintendent to administer the school district;

6. Communicate expressions of public reaction to the board policies and school program to other board members and the superintendent;

7. Learn about current educational issues by individual study and through participation in seminars and programs, such as those sponsored by the state and national school board associations;

8. Support the employment of those persons best qualified to serve as school staff, and insist on a regular and impartial evaluation of all staff;

9. Avoid being placed in a position of conflict of interest, and refrain from using the board member's position on the board for personal or political gain;

10. Refrain from discussing the confidential business of the board in any setting except a board meeting;

11. Refrain from micro-managing the affairs of the school district;

12. Recognize the superintendent as the executive officer of the board;

13. Work constructively and collegially with the other members of the board, students, staff and patrons.

14. Refer complaints to the superintendent or building principal, as appropriate;

15. Remember that a board member's first and greatest concern must be the educational welfare of the students attending this district's schools.

Adopted on: 7-14-14
Revised on: _____
Reviewed on: _____

2013
Violation of Board Ethics

The board of education is responsible for enforcing the code of ethics of its members. If any member of the board commits a serious or repeated violation of the code, the board may take any of the following steps:

1. The board president may confer with the board member who has violated the code of ethics in order to:

    a. Identify the provision of the code that the member has violated;

    b. Propose how the member can remedy the violation;

    c. If the board member who violated the code is the board president, the vice president is empowered to confer with the president about the violation.

2. The board may discuss the violation as an agenda item at a meeting to confront the offending board member. However, the board will not enter closed session to hold the discussion of the ethics violation unless the Open Meetings Act authorizes a closed session.

3. The board may vote to publicly censure any board member who commits a serious or repeated violation of the code. The board will pass a censure motion to inform the community that an individual member of the board is not fulfilling the responsibilities for which he or she was elected.

Adopted on: 7-14-14
Revised on: 7-9-18
Reviewed on: _____

2014
Relationship with District Legal Counsel

The board will engage legal counsel to assist it and the administration in dealing with legal issues. When the district faces circumstances in which legal counsel may be needed between board meetings, the board president or superintendent may engage legal counsel on the board's behalf.

The superintendent and the board president shall have the authority to contact the school's legal counsel on behalf of the district. The superintendent may give other members of the administration permission to contact the district's legal counsel on an as-needed basis. Individual board members other than the president may not contact the district's legal counsel on behalf of the board without the approval of the board president or a majority of the board.

Any board member who contacts the district's legal counsel without board approval may be personally responsible for any legal fees incurred as a result of the unapproved contact.

The superintendent will, to the extent permitted by law, keep the board informed of matters in which the district's legal counsel is involved.

Adopted on: 7-14-19
Revised on: 7-8-19
Reviewed on: 7-8-19

2016
Participation in Insurance Program by Board Members

Members of board of education may participate in the school district's health and life insurance plans which are provided to school district employees. A board member electing to participate in the insurance program of the school district shall pay both the employee and the employer portions of the premiums to the district in advance of any payments being due from the district to the insurance carrier.

Every three months, the board will place on its agenda a report identifying the board members who have elected to purchase insurance coverage through the district. This report will shall be made available in the school district office for review by the public upon request.

Adopted on: 7-10-17
Revised on: _____
Reviewed on: _____

2017
Indemnification and Liability Insurance

In addition to circumstances where it is obligated to provide indemnity or procure insurance, the school board has broad authority to purchase insurance or otherwise indemnify school board members, officers, employees, or agents of the school district. The school board will purchase liability insurance and provide indemnification at its discretion and review its current coverages and indemnification obligations when it deems appropriate.

In the event the school district's current insurance, indemnification agreements, contract obligations, or other promises to indemnify do not cover a situation which the school board can agree to cover, the school board may authorize indemnification. The school board may elect to indemnify any board member, officer, agent, or employee if he or she is a party or is threatened to be made a party in any pending or completed suit, proceeding, or any other action, whether criminal, civil, administrative, or investigative, if the individual is involved because of current or past service on the board, employment, or agency relationship with the school district. However, the indemnification and defense will only be considered if such person acted in good faith and in a manner he or she reasonably believed to be in the best interests or not opposed to the best interests of the school district, including in a criminal proceeding if he or she had no reasonable cause to believe the conduct was unlawful.

In circumstances involving employees, the board delegates to the Superintendent the authority to provide the indemnification to the extent the Superintendent is authorized to procure legal services, as long as the indemnification is otherwise consistent with the authority granted under the law.

Adopted on: 7-8-19
Revised on: _____
Reviewed on: _____

3000 Series

Business Operations

3001	Budget and Property Tax Request
3002	Deposits
3003	Bid Letting and Contracts
3003.1	Bidding for Construction, Remodeling, Repair, or Related Projects Financed with Federal Funds
3004	Purchasing
3004.1	Fiscal Management for Purchasing and Procurement Using Federal Funds
3005	School Activities Fund
3006	Controlling Receipts
3007	Review of Bills
3008	Gifts, Grants and Bequests
3009	Audit
3010	Insurance
3012	School Meal Program and Meal Charges
3013	Emergency Closings
3014	Use of School Property
3015	Time Away From School Activities
3016	Smoking
3017	Communicable Disease

3017 A	Public Comment
3018	Denying Access to School Premises or Activities
3019	Sale or Disposal of School Property
3020	Copyright Compliance
3021	Operation of School Business Office
3022	Volunteers
3023	Electronic Records Management
3025	Returned Checks
3026	Handbooks
3027	Resolution of Conflicts Between Parent Over School Issues
3028	Sex Offenders
3029	Distribution of Flyers Advertising Non-School Organization Activities
3030	Automatic External Defibrillator Program
3032	Fees for School District Records
3035	Chain of Command
3036	Purchasing (Credit) Card Program
3037	Safety
3038	Emergency Response Policy
3039	Petty Cash Policy
3039 A	Threat Assessment and Response
3040	Procurement, Suspension, and Debarment Governed by Federal Procurement Regulations

3040 A	School Safety and Security
3041	Crisis Teams Duties
3042	Construction Management at Rick Contracts
3043	Design-Build Contracts
3044	Incidental or De Minimis Use of Public Resources
3045	Use of Sniffer Dogs
3046	Animals at School
3047	Data Breach Response
3048	Communicable Disease
3049	Drones and Unmanned Aircraft
3050	Technology in the Classroom
3053	Nondiscrimination
3055	Resource Officer
3057	Title IX
3059	Audio and Video Recording
3060	Firearms
3061	ACH Oringinator

3001
Budget and Property Tax Request

The board of education shall adopt a budget each year to support the school district's programs and services for the ensuing fiscal year. The superintendent of schools shall be responsible for developing the budget subject to the direction and decisions of the board. The budget document shall be under continuous development, based upon the requirements of the adopted educational program.

BUDGET PROCEDURES

Proposed Budget. The superintendent shall prepare the proposed budget in accordance with board policies and goals, state statutes, and regulations. As the district's spending plan, the budget will be based on up-to-date revenue estimates, and will reflect the assessed needs and programs approved by the board.

Budget Hearing Notice. Notice of place and time of the hearing, together with a summary of the proposed budget statement, must be published at least four calendar days prior to the date set for hearing in a newspaper of general circulation within the school district. The four calendar days shall include the day of publication but not the day of hearing. The notice shall include the following statement:

> For more information on statewide receipts and expenditures, and to compare cost per pupil and performance to other school districts, go to: https://nep.education.ne.gov/

In addition, the district must electronically publish this statement on the school district web site. Such electronic publication must be prominently displayed with an active link to the Internet address for the web site established by the Nebraska Budget Act to allow the public access to the information.

Budget Hearing. The board must conduct a hearing prior to adopting the budget. The hearing must be held separately from any regularly scheduled meeting and may not be limited by time. The board must make a presentation outlining key provisions of the proposed budget statement, including, but not limited to, a comparison with the prior year's budget. Any member of the public desiring to speak on the proposed budget statement shall be allowed to address the board at the hearing and must be given a reasonable amount of time to do so. Five minutes shall generally be considered a reasonable amount of time.

Budget Hearing Documents. The board must make at least three copies of the proposed budget statement and at least one copy of all other reproducible written material to be discussed at the hearing available to the public at the hearing.

Budget Adoption. After the budget hearing, the proposed budget statement shall be adopted or amended and adopted as amended. If the adopted budget statement reflects a change from that shown in the published proposed budget statement, a

summary of the changes (including the items changed and the reasons for such changes) must be published in a newspaper of general circulation within the school district within twenty calendar days after its adoption without further hearing.

Certification and Filing. The amount to be received from personal and real property taxation shall be certified to the appropriate levying board as provided by law. The budget shall also be filed with the state auditor.

Purchase Authorization. Except for bids required under the section "Bid Letting and Contracts," the board's adoption of the budget shall authorize the purchases without further board action.

Monthly Report. At each monthly board meeting, the superintendent will provide a report on the current status of the major sections of the budget.

PROPERTY TAX REQUEST PROCEDURES – PROPERTY TAX REQUEST IS EQUAL TO OR LOWER THAN THE ALLOWABLE GROWTH PERCENTAGE

Property Tax Request Hearing. The board must hold a special public hearing called for the purpose of passing a property tax request resolution.

Property Tax Request Hearing Notice. The district must publish a hearing notice in a newspaper of general circulation in the school district at least four calendar days prior to the hearing. The four calendar days shall include the day of publication but not the day of hearing. The hearing notice must contain the following information: The certified taxable valuation under section 13-509 for the prior year, the certified taxable valuation under section 13-509 for the current year, and the percentage increase or decrease in such valuations from the prior year to the current year; the dollar amount of the prior year's tax request and the property tax rate that was necessary to fund that tax request; the property tax rate that would be necessary to fund last year's tax request if applied to the current year's valuation; the proposed dollar amount of the tax request for the current year and the property tax rate that will be necessary to fund that tax request; the percentage increase or decrease in the property tax rate from the prior year to the current year; and the percentage increase or decrease in the total operating budget from the prior year to the current year.

Increase in Total Property Taxes Levied. If the annual assessment of property would result in an increase in the total property taxes levied as determined using the previous year's rate of levy, the district's property tax request for the current year shall be no more than its property tax request in the prior year, and the district's rate of levy for the current year shall be decreased accordingly when such rate is set by the county board of equalization.

Decrease or No Change in Total Property Taxes Levied. If the annual assessment of property would result in no change or a decrease in the total property taxes levied as determined using the previous year's rate of levy, the district's property tax request for

the current year shall be no more than its property tax request in the prior year, and the district's rate of levy for the current year shall be adjusted accordingly when such rate is set by the county board of equalization.

Resolution. The board shall pass a resolution to set the amount of its property tax request only after holding the public hearing. The resolution setting the district's property tax request at an amount that exceeds the prior year's property tax request shall include, but not be limited to, the information required by section 77-1632(4).

Certification. The resolution setting the property tax request shall be certified and forwarded to the county clerk on or before October 15th of the year for which the tax request is to apply.

PROPERTY TAX REQUEST PROCEDURES – PROPERTY TAX REQUEST IS GREATER THAN THE ALLOWABLE GROWTH PERCENTAGE

Property Tax Request Hearing. The board must hold a public hearing called for the purpose of passing a property tax request resolution. If another political subdivision within the county also seeks to exceed the allowable growth percentage, the hearing will be a joint hearing. In the event of a joint hearing, each political subdivision must designate one representative to attend the joint public hearing on behalf of the political subdivision. If a political subdivision includes area in more than one county, the political subdivision shall be deemed to be within the county in which the political subdivision's principal headquarters are located. The hearing agenda will only include discussion on each political subdivision's intent to increase its property tax request by more than the allowable growth percentage to the extent allowed by law.

The hearing must be held after 6 p.m. on or after September 17th and before September 28th and before the district files its adopted budget statement. Any member of the public must be allowed a reasonable amount of time to speak at the hearing.

At the joint public hearing, the representative of each political subdivision must give a brief presentation on the political subdivision's intent to increase its property tax request by more than the allowable growth percentage to the extent allowed by law and the effect of such request on the political subdivision's budget. The presentation must include, at a minimum, all information and statements required by law.

Property Tax Request Hearing Notice. Notice of the joint public hearing must be provided by:

- The County Assessor sending a postcard with all required information to all affected property taxpayers. The postcard shall be sent to the name and address to which the property tax statement is mailed;
- Posting notice of the hearing with all required information on the home page of the relevant county's web site, except that this requirement shall only apply if the county has a population of more than twenty-five thousand inhabitants; ***and***
- Publishing notice of the hearing with all required information in a legal newspaper

in or of general circulation in the relevant county.

Provide Information to County Clerk. Each political subdivision that participates in the joint public hearing shall provide the following information to the county clerk by September 5th: the date, time, and location for the joint public hearing; a listing of and telephone number for each political subdivision that will be participating in the joint public hearing; and the amount of each participating political subdivision's property tax request.

Resolution. The board shall pass a resolution to set the amount of its property tax request only after holding the public hearing. The resolution setting the district's property tax request at an amount that exceeds the prior year's property tax request, including any increase in excess of the allowable growth percentage shall include, but not be limited to, the information required by law.

Certification. The resolution setting the property tax request shall be certified and forwarded to the county clerk on or before October 15th of the year for which the tax request is to apply.

Adopted on: 8-11-14
Revised on: 7-17-23
Reviewed on: _____

3002
Deposits

The board of education shall designate the depository or depositories for all school funds. All funds received by the district shall be deposited promptly in the proper account of each such depository. All funds shall be insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or a surety bond approved by the board on securities of the United States government pledged by joint custody receipt.

Funds collected by district employees and by student treasurers shall be handled with prudent business procedures. All funds collected shall be receipted and accounted for and directed without delay to the proper depository.

Adopted on: 8-11-14
Revised on: _____
Reviewed on: _____

3003
Bidding for Construction, Remodeling, Repair, or Site Improvement

1. **Applicability of this policy.**

   Construction and contracts undertaken with federal funds, whether those funds are derived directly from the federal government (e.g. award of a federal grant) or are derived by pass-through awards from the Nebraska Department of Education (e.g. special education funds, school lunch funds, Title I funds) are subject to the policy on Construction with Federal Funds, which is found elsewhere in this section.

   This policy applies to all other purchases and contracts made by the school district for construction, remodeling, repair and other site improvements.

2. **Projects with an Estimated Cost of Less than $136,000**

   a) The school district will solicit quotes and/or estimates for all projects with an estimated cost of less than $136,000.
   b) Prior to solicitation of the quotes and/or estimates, the superintendent will determine whether the district will accept oral submissions.
   c) Quotes and/or estimates may be solicited by the superintendent or his/her designee without board action.
   d) The terms of any construction project undertaken pursuant to this policy will be memorialized in a written contract which has been reviewed by the district's legal counsel and approved by the board.
   e) The district may use a Nebraska state-wide cooperative purchasing program in lieu of obtaining quotes or bids under this policy to the extent such a bid or quote is not otherwise independently required by law.
   f) Nothing in this subsection prohibits or requires the use of the formal bidding procedures. If the district is going to solicit formal bids for projects of less than $136,000 they must follow the formal procedures outlined in this policy.

3. **Formal Bidding for Major Purchases and Construction**

   a) Pursuant to section 73-106 of the Nebraska statutes, the board will advertise for bids when the contemplated expenditure of the project exceeds $136,000 for the construction, remodeling or repair of a school-owned building or for site improvement.

   b) In projects that involve professional engineering or architecture, the board will have a registered professional engineer or architect prepare the plans, specifications, and estimates when the anticipated cost of the project exceeds $144,000.

   c) Advertising for Bids

1) The superintendent or designee will arrange to advertise for bids under this section by publishing notice in any newspaper of general circulation within the school district at least 7 calendar days prior to the date on which bids are due.

2) Nothing in this policy shall prevent the superintendent or designee from advertising in additional media outlets or for a longer period of time.

d) Bid Documents

(1) The bid documents shall identify the day upon which the bids shall be returned, received or opened and shall identify the hour at which the bids will close or be received or opened.

(2) The invitation for bids will be sufficiently certain and specific, will include any specifications and pertinent attachments, and will define the items or services in order to allow the bidder to properly respond.

(3) The bid documents shall also provide that such bids shall be opened simultaneously in the presence of the bidders or their representatives.

(4) Bids received after the date and time specified in the bid documents shall be returned to the bidder unopened.

(5) If bids are being opened on more than one contract, the board, in its discretion, may award each contract as the bids are opened.

(6) Sealed bids will be opened in a place and at the specific time stated in the bid form. Bidders shall be notified of the opening and invited to be present.

(7) The board shall have discretion in determining which bidders are responsible and responsive and shall award the contract to the lowest, responsible, and responsive bidder whose bid meets the bid specifications.

e) Any or all bids may be rejected if there is a sound documented reason

f) The terms of any construction project undertaken pursuant to this policy will be memorialized in a written contract which has been reviewed by the district's legal counsel and approved by the board.

Adopted on: 7-10-17
Revised on: 7-13-26
Reviewed on: _____

3003.1
Bidding for Construction, Remodeling, Repair, or Related Projects Financed with Federal Funds

Applicability of the Policy

This policy applies only to construction and contracts undertaken with federal funds which are subject to the federal Uniform Grant Guidance (UGG) and other applicable federal law, including but not limited to the Education Department and General Administration Regulations (EDGAR) and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) regulations governing school food service programs. In the event this policy conflicts or is otherwise inconsistent with mandatory provisions of the UGG, EDGAR or other applicable federal law, the mandatory provisions of the laws shall control.

The District will also comply with the requirements of the public lettings laws (NEB. REV. STAT. §§ 73-101 through 73-106) when the contemplated expenditure for the complete project exceeds $136,000, the Political Subdivisions Construction Alternatives Act (NEB. REV. STAT. §§ 13-2901 through 13-2914), energy financing contracts (NEB. REV. STAT. §§ 66-1062 through 66-1066), other applicable state laws, and the board's general policy on Bidding for Construction and Related Projects. In addition, all procurement and construction shall comply with the rules and requirements of 2 CFR part 200.317 through 200.327 and 34 CFR sections 75.601 through 75.615. In the event of a conflict between state and federal law, the more stringent requirement shall apply.

All projects undertaken pursuant to this policy will be subject to the following bond requirements

A bid guarantee from each bidder equivalent to five percent of the bid price. The "bid guarantee" must consist of a firm commitment such as a bid bond, certified check, or other negotiable instrument accompanying a bid as assurance that the bidder will, upon acceptance of the bid, execute such contractual documents as may be required within the time specified.

A performance bond on the part of the contractor for 100 percent of the contract price. A "performance bond" is one executed in connection with a contract to secure fulfillment of all the contractor's obligations under such contract.

A payment bond on the part of the contractor for 100 percent of the contract price. A "payment bond" is one executed in connection with a contract to assure payment as required by law of all persons supplying labor and material in the execution of the work provided for in the contract.

Construction Projects with an Anticipated Cost of Under $350,000

Methods of Bidding/Soliciting Quotations or Estimates

The type of procedures required depends on the anticipated cost of the project.

1. Construction with an Anticipated Cost of up to $15,000 (Micro-Purchases)

Micro-purchase means an individual procurement transaction for supplies or services using simplified acquisition procedures, the annual aggregate amount of which does not exceed $15,000. Micro-purchases may be made or awarded without soliciting competitive quotations, to the extent district staff determine that the cost of the purchase is reasonable. For purposes of this policy "reasonable" means the purchase is comparable to market prices for the geographic area.

To the extent practicable, the District distributes micro-purchases equitably among qualified suppliers. The District will follow its standard policy on purchasing.

2. Construction with an Anticipated Cost of between $15,000 and $350,000 (Simplified Acquisition Procedures)

For construction projects subject to this policy, simplified acquisitions are purchases that, in the aggregate amount, is more than $15,000 and less than $350,000 annually. For simplified acquisitions, price or rate quotes shall be obtained in advance from a reasonable number of qualified sources as detailed in the district's standard policies on purchasing and on bid letting and contracts.

Construction Projects with an estimated cost of between $136,000 and $349,999 will be made pursuant to the District's Policy on Bid Letting and Contracts.

Pursuant to Nebraska law, construction projects which have an anticipated aggregate cost of $136,000 or more are subject to state public lettings laws (NEB. REV. STAT. §§ 73-101 through 73-106). The board will follow its standard policy on bid letting and contracts for construction projects financed with federal funds which have an anticipated aggregate cost of between $136,000 and $350,000.

Construction Projects with an Anticipated Cost Over $350,000

Sealed Bids: All constructions projects subject to this policy with an anticipated cost of $350,000 or more will be publicly solicited using the sealed bid method

Bids must be solicited from an adequate number of known suppliers, providing them sufficient response time prior to the date set for opening the bids, for state, local, and tribal governments, the invitation for bids must be publicly advertised;

The invitation for bids, which will include any specifications and pertinent attachments, must define the items or services in order for the bidder to properly respond;

Sealed bids will be publicly opened in a place and at the specific time stated in the bid solicitation. Bidders shall be notified of the opening and invited to be present.

The contract will be awarded to the lowest responsive and responsible bidder.

Where specified in bidding documents, factors such as discounts, transportation cost, and life cycle costs must be considered in determining which bid is lowest.

Payment discounts will only be used to determine the low bid when prior experience indicates that such discounts are usually taken advantage of.

Any or all bids may be rejected if there is a sound documented reason.

The board shall have discretion in determining which bidders are responsible and responsive and shall award the contract to the lowest, responsible, and responsive bidder whose bid meets the bid specifications. This means that the board will select the bid that offers the best value and award a contract based upon the amount of the bid and the bidder's ability and capacity to carry on the work, its equipment and facilities, honesty, integrity, skills, business judgment, experience, equipment, facilities, financial stability, past performance, and other relevant factors.

The board will generally complete its review of bids and select a vendor within 30 days of bid submission.

Advertising for Bids.

The superintendent or designee will arrange to advertise for bids by publishing notice in any newspaper of general circulation within the school district at least 7 calendar days prior to the date on which bids are due.

Nothing shall prevent the superintendent or designee from advertising in additional media outlets or for a longer period of time.

Bid Documents

The bid documents shall identify the day upon which the bids shall be returned, received, or opened and shall identify the hour at which the bids will close or be received or opened.

The bid documents shall also provide that such bids shall be opened simultaneously in the presence of the bidders or their representatives.

Bids received after the date and time specified in the bid documents shall be returned to the bidder unopened.

If bids are being opened on more than one contract, the board, in its discretion, may award each contract as the bids are opened.

Sealed bids will be opened in a place and at the specific time stated in the bid solicitation. Bidders shall be notified of the opening and invited to be present.

Bids will be reviewed by the Superintendent and/or designee and submitted to the board for approval.

The board shall have discretion in determining which bidders are responsible and responsive and shall award the contract to the lowest, responsible, and responsive bidder whose bid meets the bid specifications. This means that the board will select the bid that offers the best value and award a contract based upon the amount of the bid and the bidder's ability and capacity to carry on the work, its equipment and facilities, honesty, integrity, skills, business judgment, experience, equipment, facilities, financial stability, past performance, and other relevant factors.

The board will generally complete its review of bids and select a vendor within 30 days of bid submission.

The terms of any construction project undertaken pursuant to this policy will be memorialized in a written contract which has been reviewed by the district's legal counsel and approved by the board.

Other Contract Matters.

Required Terms

The non-Federal entity's contracts must contain the applicable provisions required by section 200.327 and described in Appendix II to Part 200—Contract Provisions for non-

Federal Entity Contracts Under Federal Awards. This includes a “Buy American” provision that provides that as appropriate and to the extent consistent with law, the District and contractor should, to the greatest extent practicable under a Federal award, provide a preference for the purchase, acquisition, or use of goods, products, or materials produced in the United States (including but not limited to iron, aluminum, steel, cement, and other manufactured products). The requirements of the Buy American provision must be included in all subawards including all contracts and purchase orders for work or products under this award.

Contracting with Certain Vendors

Pursuant to the standards contained in 2 C.F.R. § 200.321, the District will take all necessary affirmative steps to assure that minority businesses, women's business enterprises, veteran-owned businesses, and labor surplus area firms are used when possible and consistent with state law.

To the maximum extent practicable, the school food program shall purchase domestic commodities or products produced in the U.S. or processed in the U.S. substantially using agricultural commodities produced in the U.S.

Full and Open Competition

The district’s procurement transactions will be conducted in a manner providing full and open competition consistent with 2 C.F.R §200.319.

Debarment and Suspension

The District awards contracts only to responsible contractors possessing the ability to perform successfully under the terms and conditions of a proposed procurement. Consideration will be given to such matters as contractor integrity, public policy compliance, proper classification of employees (see the Fair Labor Standards Act, 29 U.S.C. 201, chapter 8), record of past performance, and financial and technical resources when conducting a procurement transaction.

The District may not subcontract with or award subgrants to any person or company who is debarred or suspended. For all contracts over $25,000 the District verifies that the vendor with whom the District intends to do business with is not excluded or disqualified. 2 C.F.R. Part 200, Appendix II(1) and 2 C.F.R. §§ 180.220 and 180.300.

The District will verify debarment or suspension by reviewing the excluded parties list on SAM.gov, collecting a certification through the bidding process, and/or by including a debarment and suspension provision in the bid and contract documents. The Superintendent or his/her designee shall be responsible for such verification.

Settlements of Issues Arising Out of Contract

The District alone is responsible, in accordance with good administrative practice and

sound business judgment, for the settlement of all contractual and administrative issues arising out of procurements. These issues include, but are not limited to, source evaluation, protests, disputes, and claims. These standards do not relieve the District of any contractual responsibilities under its contracts. Violations of law will be referred to the local, state, or federal authority having proper jurisdiction.

Record Keeping

Record Retention

The District maintains all records that fully show (1) the amount of funds under the grant or subgrant; (2) how the subgrantee uses those funds; (3) the total cost of each project; (4) the share of the total cost of each project provided from other sources; (5) other records to facilitate an effective audit; and (6) other records to show compliance with federal program requirements. 34 C.F.R. §§ 76.730-.731 and §§ 75.730-.731. The District also maintains records of significant project experiences and results. 34 C.F.R. § 75.732. These records and accounts must be retained and made available for programmatic or financial audit.

The U.S. Department of Education is authorized to recover any federal funds misspent within 5 years before the receipt of a program determination letter. 34 C.F.R. § 81.31(c). Schedule 10 (Local School Districts) and Schedule 24 (Local Agencies General Records) of the Nebraska Records Management Division as approved by the Nebraska Secretary of State/State Records Administrator requires the District to maintain records regarding construction projects for a minimum of five (5) years after the sale or demolition of the building. However, if any litigation, claim, or audit is started before the expiration of the record retention period, the records will be retained until all litigation, claims, or audit findings involving the records have been resolved and final action taken. 2 C.F.R. § 200.334.

Records will be destroyed in compliance with Schedule 10, Schedule 24, and State law. This includes the completion of a Records Disposition Report.

Maintenance of Construction Records for Projects Financed with Federal Funds

The District must maintain records sufficient to detail the history of all construction projects financed with federal funds. These records will include, but are not necessarily limited to the following: rationale for the method of construction, selection of contract type, contractor selection or rejection, the basis for the contract price (including a

cost or price analysis), and verification that the contractor is not suspended or debarred.

Retention of construction records shall be in accordance with applicable law and Board policy.

Conflict of Interest and Code of Conduct

Board and staff member conflicts of interest are governed by the district's conflict of interest policies.

Contracts covered by this policy are subject to the following additional provisions.

Employees, officers, and agents engaged in the selection, award, and/or administration of district contracts which are prohibited from engaging in such actions if a real or apparent conflict of interest is present.

Such a conflict of interest would arise when the employee, officer, or agent, any member of his or her immediate family, his or her partner, or an organization which employs or is about to employ any of the parties indicated herein, has a financial or other interest in or a tangible personal benefit from a firm considered for a contract.

The board may determine at its discretion that a financial interest is not substantial enough to give rise to a conflict of interest.

Favors and Gifts

An employee, officer, agent, and board member of the District may neither solicit nor accept gratuities, favors, or anything of monetary value from contractors or parties to subcontracts, with the limited exception of unsolicited items of nominal value.

Enforcement

Disciplinary Actions will be applied for violations of such standards by officers, employees, board members, or agents of the District at the board's discretion.

Financial Management

Identification.

The District will identify, in its accounts, all federal awards received and expended and the federal programs under which they were received. Federal program and award identification include, as applicable, the CFDA title and number, federal award identification number and year, name of the federal agency, and, if applicable, name of the pass-through entity.

Financial Reporting

The District will make an accurate, current, and complete disclosure of the financial results of each federal award or program in accordance with the financial reporting requirements set forth in the Education Department General Administrative Regulations (EDGAR).

Accounting Records

The District maintains records which adequately identify the source and application of funds provided for federally-assisted activities. These records must contain information pertaining to grant or subgrant awards, authorizations, obligations, unobligated balances, assets, expenditures, income and interest and be supported by source documentation.

Internal Controls

The Superintendent or his/her designee must maintain effective control and accountability for all funds, real and personal property, and other assets through board review and approval of claims, an annual audit of the district's finances pursuant to the applicable Nebraska Department of Education and federal rules and regulations, and comparison of expenditures and outlays to budgeted amounts. The District adequately safeguards all such property and assures that it is used solely for authorized purposes.

Budget Control

Actual expenditures or outlays will be compared with budgeted amounts for each federal award at least annually and more often as required by law or deemed prudent by the board or administrative staff.

Payment Methods

The District will comply with applicable methods and procedures for payment that minimize the time elapsing between the transfer of funds and disbursement by the District, in accordance with the Cash Management Improvement Act at 31 CFR Part 205. Generally, the District receives payment from the Nebraska Department of Education on a reimbursement basis. 2 CFR § 200.305. However, if the District receives an advance in federal grant funds, the District will remit interest earned on the

advanced payment quarterly to the federal agency. The District may retain interest amounts up to $500 per year for administrative expenses. 2 CFR § 200.305(b)(9).

Consistent with state and federal requirements, the District will maintain source documentation supporting the federal expenditures (invoices, time sheets, payroll stubs, etc.) and will make such documentation available for the Nebraska Department of Education to review upon request.

Allowability of Costs

Expenditures must be aligned with approved budgeted items. Any changes or variations from the state-approved budget and grant application need prior approval.

When determining how the District will spend its grant funds, the Superintendent or his/her designee will review the proposed cost to determine whether it is an allowable use of federal grant funds before obligating and spending those funds on the proposed good or service. All costs supported by federal education funds must meet the standards outlined in EDGAR, 2 CFR Part 3474 and 2 CFR Part 200, Subpart E. The Superintendent or his/her designee must consider these factors when making an allowability determination.

The Superintendent or his/her designee will consider Part 200's cost guidelines when federal grant funds are expended. The Superintendent or his/her designee will also consider whether all state - and District-level requirements and policies regarding expenditures have been followed.

Use of Program Income – Deduction, Addition, or Cost Sharing or Matching

The default method for the use of program income for the District is the deduction method. 2 C.F.R. § 200.307(e). Under the deduction method, program income is deducted from total allowable costs to determine the net allowable costs. Program income will only be used for current costs unless the District is otherwise directed by the federal awarding agency or pass-through entity. 2 C.F.R. § 200.307(e)(1). The District may also request prior approval from the federal awarding agency to use the addition method. Under the addition method, program income may be added to the Federal award by the Federal agency and the non-Federal entity. The program income must then be used for the purposes and under the conditions of the Federal award. 2 C.F.R. § 200.307(e)(2). The District may also request prior approval from the federal awarding agency to use the cost sharing or matching method.

While the deduction method is the default method, the District always refers to the grant award notice prior to determining the appropriate use of program income.

Cost Sharing or Matching

For all Federal awards, any shared costs or matching funds and all contributions, including cash and third-party in-kind contributions, must be accepted as part of the non-Federal entity's cost sharing or matching when such contributions meet all of the

following criteria:

(1) Are verifiable from the non-Federal entity's records;
(2) Are not included as contributions for any other Federal award;
(3) Are necessary and reasonable for accomplishment of project or program objectives;
(4) Are allowable under subpart E (Cost Principles) of this part;
(5) Are not paid by the Federal Government under another Federal award, except where the Federal statute authorizing a program specifically provides that Federal funds made available for such program can be applied to matching or cost sharing requirements of other Federal programs;
(6) Are provided for in the approved budget when required by the Federal awarding agency; and
(7) Conform to other provisions of this part, as applicable.

Documentation of Personnel Expenses

Records that reflect charges to federal awards for salaries and wages will comply with the rules and requirements of 2 CFR 200.430.

Other Contract Matters.

Required Terms

The non-Federal entity's contracts must contain the applicable provisions required by section 200.327 and described in Appendix II to Part 200—Contract Provisions for non-Federal Entity Contracts Under Federal Awards.

Contracting with Certain Vendors

Pursuant to the standards contained in 2 C.F.R. § 200.321, the District will take all necessary affirmative steps to assure that minority businesses, women's business enterprises, veteran-owned businesses, and labor surplus area firms are used when possible consistent with state law.

To the maximum extent practicable, the school food program shall purchase domestic commodities or products produced in US or processed in US substantially using agricultural commodities produced in US.

Record Keeping

Record Retention

The District maintains all records that fully show (1) the amount of

funds under the grant or subgrant; (2) how the subgrantee uses those funds; (3) the total cost of each project; (4) the share of the total cost of each project provided from other sources; (5) other records to facilitate an effective audit; and (6) other records to show compliance with federal program requirements. 34 C.F.R. §§ 76.730-.731 and §§ 75.730-.731. The District also maintains records of significant project experiences and results. 34 C.F.R. § 75.732. These records and accounts must be retained and made available for programmatic or financial audit.

The U.S. Department of Education is authorized to recover any federal funds misspent within 5 years before the receipt of a program determination letter. 34 C.F.R. § 81.31(c). Schedule 10 (Local School Districts) and Schedule 24 (Local Agencies General Records) of the Nebraska Records Management Division as approved by the Nebraska Secretary of State/State Records Administrator requires the District to maintain records regarding federal awards for a minimum of six (6) years. Consequently, the District shall retain records for a minimum of six (6) years from the date on which the final Financial Status Report is submitted, unless otherwise notified in writing to extend the retention period by the awarding agency, cognizant agency for audit, oversight agency for audit, or cognizant agency for indirect costs. However, if any litigation, claim, or audit is started before the expiration of the record retention period, the records will be retained until all litigation, claims, or audit findings involving the records have been resolved and final action taken. 2 C.F.R. § 200.333.

Records will be destroyed in compliance with Schedule 10, Schedule 24, and State law. This includes the completion of a Records Disposition Report.

Maintenance of Procurement Records

The District must maintain records sufficient to detail the history of all procurements. These records will include, but are not necessarily limited to the following: rationale for the method of procurement, selection of contract type, contractor selection or rejection, the basis for the contract price (including a cost or price analysis), and verification that the contractor is not suspended or debarred.

Retention of procurement records shall be in accordance with applicable law and Board policy.

Privacy

The District has protections in place to ensure that the personal information of both students and employees is protected. These include the use of passwords that are changed on a regular basis; staff training on the requirements of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and State confidentiality requirements; and training on identifying whether an individual requesting access to records has the right to the documentation.

Adopted on: 7-10-17
Revised on: 7-13-26
Reviewed on: _____

3004
General Purchasing and Procurement

Applicability of this policy.

Purchases made with federal funds, whether those funds are derived directly from the federal government (e.g. award of a federal grant) or are derived by pass-through awards from the Nebraska Department of Education (e.g. special education funds, school lunch funds, Title I funds) are subject to the policy on Purchasing and Procurement with Federal Funds, which is found elsewhere in this section.

This policy applies to all other purchases made by the school district other than construction, remodeling, repair and site improvements.

General Purchasing Policy

The school district's budget shall be the guide for all purchases. No employee of the district may make a purchase that is not provided for in the budget without board or administrative approval.

The board intends to purchase competitively, whenever possible, without prejudice and to seek maximum educational value for every dollar expended.

The acquisition of services, equipment and supplies shall be centralized in the administration office under the supervision of the superintendent of schools, who shall be responsible for developing and administering the purchasing program of the school district.

Purchases or commitments of district funds that are not authorized by this policy will be the responsibility of the person making the commitment.

Building-Specific Purchasing

School buildings are operationally under the control of building principals. Principals have control and responsibility for the building and grounds, for all supplies and equipment housed at the building, for all school-related activities in the building, and for all pupils, teachers, and other employees assigned to the building.

Principals, in consultation with their staff, are responsible for requisitioning, managing, distributing, and utilizing supplies within the building.

The superintendent of schools or his designee is responsible for the requisitioning, managing, distributing, and utilizing of supplies for maintenance and transportation.

The administration is responsible for purchasing of goods, services and supplies and for providing the necessary forms for establishing efficient procedures to facilitate the process.

Purchasing Procedures

School personnel must secure the approval of an authorized administrator before making any purchases.

Employees seeking reimbursement for a purchase made with their personal funds must attach an itemized receipt or invoice to all requests for reimbursement; must sign all purchase receipts or charge slips; and must submit itemized receipts and any purchasing card or credit card receipts to the office of the superintendent no later than one week prior to the next regular board meeting. A non-itemized credit card receipt is not sufficient.

Employees making purchases with a school district credit card or purchasing program must comply with the steps set forth in the district's Purchasing (Credit) Card Program.

All purchases of goods and services made with district funds must be made on a properly executed purchase order.

All purchases shall be initiated with a purchase order. Purchase orders are signed by the person responsible for that particular budget and finally by the superintendent.

For purchases of more than $5,000 authorized staff members must secure written quotes and/or estimates from a reasonable number of vendors. Staff will purchase from a responsible vendor with the lowest price unless the board approves the purchase from the more expensive vendor.

Relations with Vendors

The board wishes to maintain good working relations with vendors who supply materials, supplies and services to the school system. The school shall not extend favoritism to any vendors. Each order shall be placed on the basis of quality, price and delivery, with past services being a factor if all other considerations are equal. The administrative team may, in its discretion, use a Nebraska a state-wide cooperative purchasing program in lieu of obtaining quotes or bids under this policy to the extent such a bid or quote is not otherwise independently required by law.

No purchase shall be made that violates any conflict of interest policy or law.

No employee shall endorse any product of any type or kind in such a manner as will identify him/her in any way as an employee of the school district.

The board believes in patronizing local businesses. Consequently, when proposals are judged to be equal in terms of quality, price, and/or service, the contract or purchase will be awarded to the firm that is located within the district. However, the board will not sacrifice either quality or economy to patronize local businesses.

Adopted on: 8-11-14
Revised on: 7-10-17
Reviewed on: _____

3004.1
Fiscal Management for Purchasing and Procurement Using Federal Funds

Applicability of Policy

This policy applies only to non-construction related purchases undertaken with federal funds which are subject to the federal Uniform Grant Guidance (UGG) and other applicable federal law, including but not limited to the Education Department and General Administration Regulations (EDGAR) and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) regulations governing school food service programs. In the event this policy conflicts or is otherwise inconsistent with mandatory provisions of the UGG, EDGAR or other applicable federal law, the mandatory provisions of the laws shall control.

All other non-construction purchases will be governed by the Board's general purchasing policy, which can be found earlier in this subsection. In the event of a conflict between state and federal law, the more stringent requirement shall apply.

This procurement policy shall govern all purchasing activities that relate to any aspect of the National School Lunch and Breakfast Programs. The district's goal is to fully implement all required procurement rules, regulations and policies set forth in 2 CFR 200, 7 CFR parts 210, 3016 and 3019, and by the Nebraska Department of Education.

Procurement System

The District maintains the following purchasing procedures.

Responsibility for Purchasing

The authority to make purchases shall be governed by the District's purchasing policy, which can be found elsewhere in this section. Except as otherwise provided in the District's purchasing policy, the acquisition of services, equipment, and supplies shall be centralized in the administration office under the supervision of the superintendent of schools, who shall be responsible for developing and administering the purchasing program of the school district. Purchases or commitments of district funds that are not authorized by this policy will be the responsibility of the person making the commitment.

Methods of Purchasing

The type of purchase procedures required depends on the cost of the item(s) being purchased.

Purchases up to $15,000 (Micro-Purchases)

Micro-purchase means an individual procurement transaction for supplies or services using simplified acquisition procedures, the annual aggregate amount of which does not exceed $15,000. Micro-purchases may be made or awarded without soliciting competitive quotations, to the extent district staff determine that the cost of the purchase is reasonable. For purposes of this policy "reasonable" means the purchase is comparable to market prices for the geographic area.

To the extent practicable, the District distributes micro-purchases equitably among qualified suppliers. The District will follow its standard policy on purchasing, which can be found earlier in this subsection.

Purchases between $15,000 and $350,000 (Simplified Acquisition Procedures)

Simplified acquisitions are purchases that, in the aggregate amount, are more than $15,000 and less than $350,000 annually. For simplified acquisitions, price or rate quotes shall be obtained in advance from a reasonable number of qualified sources as detailed in the district's standard policies on purchasing and on bid letting and contracts, which can be found earlier in this subsection.

Purchases Over $350,000

Sealed Bids (Formal Advertising)

For purchases over $350,000, the district will generally follow the bidding process outlined in the board's policy on Bidding for Construction, Remodeling, Repair or Site Improvement. If sealed bids are not accepted for a purchase of over $350,000, the district will retain an explanation for that decision.

Contract/Price Analysis

The District performs a cost or price analysis in connection with every procurement action in excess of $350,000, including contract modifications. The district will make an independent estimate of costs prior to receiving bids or proposals.

Noncompetitive Proposals (Sole Sourcing)

Procurement by noncompetitive proposals is procurement through solicitation of a proposal from only one source and may be used only when one or more of the following circumstances apply:

The procurement transaction can only be fulfilled by a single source;

The public exigency or emergency for the requirement will not permit a delay resulting from providing public notice of a competitive solicitation;

The federal awarding agency or pass-through entity expressly authorizes written approval of noncompetitive proposals in response to a written request from the District; or

After solicitation of a number of sources, competition is determined inadequate.

Noncompetitive proposals may only be solicited with the approval of the superintendent or the board. Sufficient and appropriate documentation that justifies the sole sourcing decision must be maintained by the superintendent or designee.

A cost or price analysis will be performed for noncompetitive proposals when the price exceeds $350,000.

Competitive Proposals.

The technique of competitive proposals is normally conducted with more than one source submitting an offer, and either a fixed price or cost-reimbursement type contract is awarded. It is generally used when conditions are not appropriate for the use of sealed bids. If this method is used, the following requirements apply:

Requests for proposals must be publicized and identify all evaluation factors and their relative importance. Any response to publicized requests for proposals must be considered;

Proposals must be solicited from an adequate number of qualified sources; and

Contracts must be awarded to the responsible firm whose proposal is most advantageous to the program, with price and other factors considered.

The District may use competitive proposal procedures for qualifications-based procurement of architectural/engineering (A/E) professional services whereby competitors' qualifications are evaluated and the most qualified competitor is selected, subject to negotiation of fair and reasonable compensation. The method, where price is not used as a selection factor, can only be used to procure A/E professional services. The method may not be used to purchase other services provided by A/E firms are a potential source to perform the proposed effort.

The District may select a proposal that offers the best value and that is based upon the proposer's responsiveness to the proposal, experience, reputation, staff qualifications, ability and capacity to carry on the work, price, honesty, integrity, skills, business judgment, financial stability, past performance, and other relevant factors. The evaluation may be conducted by the school board, a designated committee, or another designee of the school board.

Use of Purchase (Debit & Credit) Cards

District use of purchase cards is subject to the policy on purchase cards which can be found elsewhere in this subsection.

Federal Procurement System Standards

The district's procurement transactions will be conducted in a manner providing full and open competition consistent with 2 C.F.R §200.319.

The District will maintain and follow general procurement standards consistent with 2 C.F.R. §200.318.

Debarment and Suspension

The District awards contracts only to responsible contractors possessing the ability to perform successfully under the terms and conditions of a proposed procurement. Consideration will be given to such matters as contractor integrity, public policy compliance, proper classification of employees (see the Fair Labor Standards Act, 29 U.S.C. 201, chapter 8), record of past performance, and financial and technical resources when conducting a procurement transaction.

The District may not subcontract with or award subgrants to any person or company who is debarred or suspended. For all contracts over $25,000 the District verifies that the vendor with whom the District intends to do business with is not excluded or disqualified. 2 C.F.R. Part 200, Appendix II(1) and 2 C.F.R. §§ 180.220 and 180.300.

The District will verify debarment or suspension by revising the excluded parties list on SAM.gov, collecting a certification through the bidding process, and/or by including a debarment and suspension provision in the bid and contract documents. The Superintendent or his/her designee shall be responsible for such verification.

Settlements of Issues Arising Out of Procurements

The District alone is responsible, in accordance with good administrative practice and sound business judgment, for the settlement of all contractual and administrative issues arising out of procurements. These issues include, but are not limited to, source evaluation, protests, disputes, and claims. These standards do not relieve the District of any contractual responsibilities under its contracts. Violations of law will be referred to the local, state, or federal authority having proper jurisdiction.

Conflict of Interest and Code of Conduct

Board and staff member conflicts of interest are governed by the district's conflict of interest policies.

Purchases covered by this policy are subject to the following additional provisions.

Employees, officers, and agents engaged in the selection, award, and/or administration of district contracts which are prohibited from engaging in such actions if a real or apparent conflict of interest is present.

Such a conflict of interest would arise when the employee, officer, or agent, any member of his or her immediate family, his or her partner, or an organization which employs or is about to employ any of the parties indicated herein, has a financial or other interest in or a tangible personal benefit from a firm considered for a contract.

The board may determine at its discretion that a financial interest is not substantial enough to give rise to a conflict of interest.

Favors and Gifts

An employee, officer, agent, and board member of the District may neither solicit nor accept gratuities, favors, or anything of monetary value from contractors or parties to subcontracts, except that this provision does not prohibit the receipt of unsolicited items of nominal value. For purposes of this policy, "nominal value" means a fair market value of $25 or less.

Enforcement

Disciplinary Actions including, but not limited to, counseling, oral reprimand, written reprimand, suspensions without pay, or termination of employment, will be applied for

violations of such standards by officers, employees, board members, or agents of the District.

Property Management Systems

Property Classifications

Equipment means tangible personal property (including information technology systems) having a useful life of more than one year and a per-unit acquisition cost that equals or exceeds the lesser of the capitalization level established by the District for financial statement purposes, or $10,000.

Supplies means all tangible personal property other than those described in §200.33 Equipment. A computing device is a supply if the acquisition cost is less than the lesser of the capitalization level established by the District for financial statement purposes or $10,000, regardless of the length of its useful life. 2 C.F.R. §200.94.

Computing Devices means machines that acquire, store, analyze, process, and publish data and other information electronically, including accessories (or "peripherals") for printing, transmitting and receiving, or storing electronic information. 2 C.F.R. §200.20.

Capital Assets means tangible or intangible assets used in operations having a useful life of more than one year which are capitalized in accordance with GAAP. Capital assets include:

Land, buildings (facilities), equipment, and intellectual property (including software) whether acquired by purchase, construction, manufacture, lease-purchase, exchange, or through capital leases; and

Additions, improvements, modifications, replacements, rearrangements, reinstallations, renovations or alterations to capital assets that materially increase their value or useful life (not ordinary repairs and maintenance). 2 C.F.R. §200.12.

Inventory Procedure

Newly purchased property shall be received and inspected by the staff member who ordered it to ensure that that it matches the purchase order, invoice, or contract and that it is in acceptable condition.

Equipment, Computing Devices, and Capital Assets must be tagged with an identification number, manufacturer, model, name of individual who tagged the item, and date tagged).

Inventory Records

For equipment, computing devices, and capital assets purchased with federal funds, the following information is maintained in the property management system:

Serial number;
District identification number;
Manufacturer;
Model;
Date tagged and individual who tagged it;
Source of funding for the property;
Who holds title;
Acquisition date and cost of the property;
Percentage of federal participation in the project costs for the federal award under which the property was acquired;
Location, use and condition of the property; and
Any ultimate disposition data including the date of disposal and sale price of the property.

The inventory list shall be adjusted by the superintendent of schools or his/her designee for property that is sold, lost, stolen, cannot be repaired, or that cannot be located.

Physical Inventory

A physical inventory of the property must be taken and the results reconciled with the property records at least once every two years.

The Superintendent or his/her designee will ensure that the physical inventory is performed. The physical inventory will generally occur during the months of June or July, but may be conducted during other time periods with the approval of the superintendent.

Maintenance

In accordance with 2 C.F.R. 313(d)(4), the District maintains adequate maintenance procedures to ensure that property is kept in good condition.

Lost or Stolen Items

The District maintains a control system that ensures adequate safeguards are in place to prevent loss, damage, or theft of the property. The District will notify the Federal agency or pass-through entity of any loss, damage, or theft of equipment that will have an impact on the program.

Use of Equipment

Equipment must be used in the program or project for which it was acquired as long as needed, whether or not the project or program continues to be supported by the federal award, and the District will not encumber the property for any non-federal program use without prior approval of the federal awarding agency and the pass-through entity.

Disposal of Equipment

When it is determined that equipment acquired under a federal award is no longer needed for the original project or program or for other activities currently or previously supported by a federal awarding agency, the Superintendent or his/her designee will contact the awarding agency (or pass-through for a state-administered grant) for disposition instructions.

If the item has a current fair market value of $10,000 or less, it may be retained, sold, or otherwise disposed of with no further obligation to the federal awarding agency or pass-through entity. The Superintendent or his/her designee will utilize sales procedures which ensure the highest possible return on the disposal of the equipment.

Equipment Retention

When included in the terms and conditions of the Federal award, the Federal agency may permit the recipient to retain equipment, or authorize a pass-through entity to permit the recipient to retain equipment, with no further obligation to the Federal Government unless prohibited by Federal statute or regulation.

Equipment and Capital Expenditures

All equipment and capital expenditures shall comply with the rules and requirements of 2 CFR 200.439.

Depreciation

All depreciation shall comply with the rules and requirements of 2 CFR 200.436.

Reporting and Recording Federal Property Interest

The district will comply with federal interest reporting and submit annual reports, if required, regarding a real property interest due to a renovation, major remodeling, construction, or real property project funded by federal grant funds.

Financial Management

Identification

The District will identify, in its accounts, all federal awards received and expended and the federal programs under which they were received. Federal program and award

identification include, as applicable, the CFDA title and number, federal award identification number and year, name of the federal agency, and, if applicable, name of the pass-through entity.

Financial Reporting

The District will make an accurate, current, and complete disclosure of the financial results of each federal award or program in accordance with the financial reporting requirements set forth in the Education Department General Administrative Regulations (EDGAR).

Accounting Records

The District maintains records which adequately identify the source and application of funds provided for federally-assisted activities. These records must contain information pertaining to grant or subgrant awards, authorizations, obligations, unobligated balances, assets, expenditures, income and interest and be supported by source documentation.

Internal Controls

The Superintendent or his/her designee must maintain effective control and accountability for all funds, real and personal property, and other assets through board review and approval of claims, an annual audit of the district's finances pursuant to the applicable Nebraska Department of Education and federal rules and regulations, and comparison of expenditures and outlays to budgeted amounts. The District adequately safeguards all such property and assures that it is used solely for authorized purposes. The District takes reasonable cybersecurity and other measures to safeguard information including protected personally identifiable information.

Budget Control

Actual expenditures or outlays will be compared with budgeted amounts for each federal award at least annually and more often as required by law or deemed prudent by the board or administrative staff.

Payment Methods

The District will comply with applicable methods and procedures for payment that minimize the time elapsing between the transfer of funds and disbursement by the District, in accordance with the Cash Management Improvement Act at 31 CFR Part 205. Generally, the District receives payment from the Nebraska Department of Education on a reimbursement basis. 2 CFR § 200.305. However, if the District receives an advance in federal grant funds, the District will remit interest earned on the advanced payment quarterly to the federal agency. The District may retain interest amounts up to $500 per year for administrative expenses. 2 CFR § 200.305(b)(9).

Consistent with state and federal requirements, the District will maintain source documentation supporting the federal expenditures (invoices, time sheets, payroll stubs, etc.) and will make such documentation available for the Nebraska Department of Education to review upon request.

Allowability of Costs

Expenditures must be aligned with approved budgeted items. Any changes or variations from the state-approved budget and grant application need prior approval.

When determining how the District will spend its grant funds, the Superintendent or his/her designee will review the proposed cost to determine whether it is an allowable use of federal grant funds before obligating and spending those funds on the proposed good or service. All costs supported by federal education funds must meet the standards outlined in EDGAR, 2 CFR Part 3474 and 2 CFR Part 200, Subpart E. The Superintendent or his/her designee must consider these factors when making an allowability determination.

The Superintendent or his/her designee will consider Part 200's cost guidelines when federal grant funds are expended. The Superintendent or his/her designee will also consider whether all state - and District-level requirements and policies regarding expenditures have been followed.

Use of Program Income – Deduction, Addition, or Cost Sharing or Matching

The default method for the use of program income for the District is the deduction method. 2 C.F.R. § 200.307(e). Under the deduction method, program income is deducted from total allowable costs to determine the net allowable costs. Program income will only be used for current costs unless the District is otherwise directed by the federal awarding agency or pass-through entity. 2 C.F.R. § 200.307(e)(1). The District may also request prior approval from the federal awarding agency to use the addition method. Under the addition method, program income may be added to the Federal award by the Federal agency and the non-Federal entity. The program income must then be used for the purposes and under the conditions of the Federal award. 2 C.F.R. § 200.307(e)(2). The District may also request prior approval from the federal awarding agency to use the cost sharing or matching method.

While the deduction method is the default method, the District always refers to the grant award notice prior to determining the appropriate use of program income.

Cost Sharing or Matching

For all Federal awards, any shared costs or matching funds and all contributions, including cash and third-party in-kind contributions, must be accepted as part of the non-Federal entity's cost sharing or matching when such contributions meet all of the following criteria:

(1) Are verifiable from the non-Federal entity's records;
(2) Are not included as contributions for any other Federal award;
(3) Are necessary and reasonable for accomplishment of project or program objectives;
(4) Are allowable under subpart E (Cost Principles) of this part;
(5) Are not paid by the Federal Government under another Federal award, except where the Federal statute authorizing a program specifically provides that Federal funds made available for such program can be applied to matching or cost sharing requirements of other Federal programs;
(6) Are provided for in the approved budget when required by the Federal awarding agency; and
(7) Conform to other provisions of this part, as applicable.

Documentation of Personnel Expenses

Records that reflect charges to federal awards for salaries and wages will comply with the rules and requirements of 2 CFR 200.430.

Written Compensation Policies

Time and Effort Standards

All employees who are paid in full or in part with federal funds must keep specific documents to demonstrate the amount of time they spent on grant activities. This includes an employee whose salary is paid with state or local funds but is used to meet a required “match” in a federal program. These documents, known as time and effort records, are maintained in order to charge the costs of personnel compensation to federal grants. Charges to federal awards for salaries and wages must be based on records that accurately reflect the work performed. These records must:

(1) Be supported by a system of internal controls which provides reasonable assurance that the charges are accurate, allowable, and properly allocated;
(2) Be incorporated into official records;
(3) Reasonably reflect total activity for which the employee is compensated, not exceeding 100% of compensated activities;
(4) Encompass both federally assisted and all other activities compensated by the District on an integrated basis;
(5) Comply with the established accounting policies and practices of the District and
(6) Support the distribution of the employee’s salary or wages among specific activities or costs objectives.

Time and Effort Procedures

Time and effort procedures will follow and comply with 2 CFR 200.430(i).

Fringe Benefits

Except as provided otherwise by federal law, the costs of fringe benefits will be allowable provided that the benefits are reasonable and required by law, a district-employee agreement, or another policy of the District.

Leave

The cost of fringe benefits in the form of regular compensation paid to employees during periods of authorized absences from the job, such as for annual leave, family-related leave, sick leave, holidays, court leave, military leave, administrative leave, and other similar benefits, are allowable if they are provided under established written District leave policies.

Unexpected or Extraordinary Circumstances

In the event of a pandemic or other unexpected or extraordinary circumstance, the District may close school or individual buildings. In such case, the District may compensate federally funded or other employees during such closure to ensure the return of staff to employment after the closure as allowed by state or federal law.

Documentation for Personnel Expenses

Records that reflect charges to federal awards for salaries and wages will comply with the rules and requirements of 2 CFR 200.430.

Other Contract Matters.

Required Terms

The non-Federal entity's contracts must contain the applicable provisions required by section 200.326 and described in Appendix II to Part 200—Contract Provisions for non-Federal Entity Contracts Under Federal Awards.

Contracting with Certain Vendors

Pursuant to the standards contained in 2 C.F.R. § 200.321, the District will take all necessary affirmative steps to assure that minority businesses, women's business enterprises, veteran-owned businesses, and labor surplus area firms are used when possible consistent with state law.

Buy American. The District participates in the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program and is required to use the nonprofit food service funds, to the maximum extent practicable, to buy domestic commodities or products for Program meals. A “domestic commodity or product” is defined as one that is either produced in the U.S. or is processed in the U.S. substantially using agricultural commodities that are

produced in the U.S. as provided in 7 CFR 210.21(d). The District may deviate from this general requirement only if:

- The product is not produced or manufactured in the U.S. in sufficient and reasonably available quantities of a satisfactory quality; or
- Competitive bids reveal the costs of a U.S. product are significantly higher than the non-domestic product.

Record Keeping

Record Retention

The District maintains all records that fully show (1) the amount of funds under the grant or subgrant; (2) how the subgrantee uses those funds; (3) the total cost of each project; (4) the share of the total cost of each project provided from other sources; (5) other records to facilitate an effective audit; and (6) other records to show compliance with federal program requirements. 34 C.F.R. §§ 76.730-.731 and §§ 75.730-.731. The District also maintains records of significant project experiences and results. 34 C.F.R. § 75.732. These records and accounts must be retained and made available for programmatic or financial audit.

The U.S. Department of Education is authorized to recover any federal funds misspent within 5 years before the receipt of a program determination letter. 34 C.F.R. § 81.31(c). Schedule 10 (Local School Districts) and Schedule 24 (Local Agencies General Records) of the Nebraska Records Management Division as approved by the Nebraska Secretary of State/State Records Administrator requires the District to maintain records regarding federal awards for a minimum of six (6) years. Consequently, the District shall retain records for a minimum of six (6) years from the date on which the final Financial Status Report is submitted, unless otherwise notified in writing to extend the retention period by the awarding agency, cognizant agency for audit, oversight agency for audit, or cognizant agency for indirect costs. However, if any litigation, claim, or audit is started before the expiration of the record retention period, the records will be retained until all litigation, claims, or audit findings involving the records have been resolved and final action taken. 2 C.F.R. § 200.333.

Records will be destroyed in compliance with Schedule 10, Schedule 24, and State law. This includes the completion of a Records Disposition Report.

Maintenance of Procurement Records

The District must maintain records sufficient to detail the history of all procurements. These records will include, but are not necessarily limited to the following: rationale for the method of procurement, selection of contract type, contractor selection or rejection, the basis for the contract price (including a cost or price analysis), and verification that the contractor is not suspended or debarred.

Retention of procurement records shall be in accordance with applicable law and Board policy.

Privacy

The District has protections in place to ensure that the personal information of both students and employees is protected. These include the use of passwords that are changed on a regular basis; staff training on the requirements of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and State confidentiality requirements; and training on identifying whether an individual requesting access to records has the right to the documentation.

Travel Costs

All travel expenses paid with federal grant funds shall meet the federal requirements such as:

(1) All travel costs must be reasonable and necessary;
(2) All travel costs must be consistent with District policy; and
(3) All travel costs must be directly related to the grant award.

In addition, all travel expenses funded with federal grant funds must be preapproved by the Superintendent or designee. The state per diem rates for lodging shall be used to determine that maximum amount charged to a federal grant. For reimbursement of meals, the per diem rate and rules set by the State of Nebraska through the Nebraska Department of Administrative Service's Expense Reimbursement Document "ERD" Guidelines will apply. There will be no reimbursement for breakfast if the staff member's lodging provides continental breakfast at no cost. For reimbursement for mileage or fuel, the State of Nebraska mileage rate will apply. If a District-owned vehicle is available for travel, the District-owned vehicle must be utilized unless preapproved by the Superintendent or designee. All expenditures claimed by staff must include receipts and a completed voucher.

Adopted on: 7-10-17
Revised on: 7-13-26
Reviewed on: _____

3005
School Activities Fund

The superintendent of schools shall establish an activities fund account to be used to finance the operations of student organizations, inter-school athletics, and other school activities that are not a part of any other fund. All transactions related to the activities fund shall be conducted through an account at a board-approved depository.

The superintendent shall manage the activities fund and serve as its treasurer. The superintendent may divide the activities fund into more than one account to allocate portions of the fund for different purposes.

Funds in an activity's account after the activity ceases to exist shall be transferred to the general fund or such other fund as the board may choose. Funds left in a graduating class's account will be maintained for a period of six months for a class memorial. If they are not used within that time, they may be transferred upon board approval.

As school activities are a responsibility of the school district, any deficit in the activity fund shall be paid from the general fund.

Adopted on: 8-11-14
Revised on: _____
Reviewed on: _____

3006
Controlling Receipts

1. All receipt books and deposit books will be pre-numbered.

2. When checks are received, they will be marked on the back "For Deposit Only." They will be listed on deposit slips and deposited weekly, at a minimum.

3. The Hot Lunch Fund shall have deposit ticket numbers and dates put in the corresponding receipt books.

4. Receipt of Monies

    a. All receipts shall be counted on the date they are received.
    b. The monies will then be sealed in an envelope or locked in a money bag and deposited directly at the district's depository institution. If the district's bank is not open or inaccessible, the envelope/money bag may be locked in the district's safe until it can be delivered to the bank.

Adopted on: 8-11-14
Revised on: _____
Reviewed on: _____

3007
Review of Bills

The president of the board of education shall appoint a board member or committee of the board to meet with the superintendent of schools each month to review all bills that are to be presented to the board for payment. The board member or committee shall report its recommendations to the board.

Adopted on: 8-11-14
Revised on: _____
Reviewed on: _____

3008
Gifts, Grants and Bequests

In its sole discretion, the board of education may accept donations when they are consistent with the district's mission and objectives. When the board accepts a donation, it shall become the sole property of the district. The donation will be under the complete control of the board which will not have any obligation to replace it if it is destroyed or becomes obsolete.

The Board of Education reserves the right to reject *any or all gifts*, including memorials donated or purchased in memory of a student or staff member. The Board of Education may reject gifts that:

a. contain the name and/or pictures of the deceased

b. may alter the conducting of a regular school instructional day

c. require the retirement or discontinued use of school property

d. require the altering of school property or school publications

e. require the altering of school activities or the school activities schedule

f. infringe on the separation of church and state

g. require the use of public funds to purchase, develop or be maintained

Adopted on: 8-11-14
Revised on: _____
Reviewed on: _____

3009
Audit

The board of education shall appoint a certified public accountant or public accounting firm to audit all school accounts annually and report to the board of education. The audit shall include all areas required by law and the rules of the Nebraska Department of Education. The auditor shall conduct the audit according to the generally accepted standards of the auditing profession.

Adopted on: 8-11-14
Revised on: _____
Reviewed on: _____

3010
Insurance

The board of education shall purchase such insurance as it deems appropriate to protect the district, the board as a corporate body, individual board members, appointed officers, employees, and volunteers from financial loss arising from any claim, demand, suit or judgment. The district may, but is not required to, solicit bids for insurance coverage.

The board shall review its insurance coverage before its expiration date, or as need dictates.

Adopted on: 8-11-14
Revised on: _____
Reviewed on: _____

3011
Transportation

The school district will provide free transportation, partially provide free transportation, or pay an allowance for transportation in lieu of free transportation on each day school is in session to the students who reside in the district and qualify for transportation according to the district's transportation plan. The families of students who will not be provided transportation pursuant to the district's plan or who must drive students to a pick-up point will be reimbursed according to statute if they qualify for such reimbursement. Parents seeking mileage reimbursement must submit requests to the district on forms which may be obtained from the office of the Superintendent of Schools.

When a student who has been attending the district is placed into foster care, school district staff will collaborate with state and local child welfare agencies to determine whether transportation is required under state law when it is in the child's best interest that their school of origin be maintained. The district will only provide transportation to students placed in foster care when the responsible child welfare agency agrees to reimburse the school district for the cost of transportation or when transportation is otherwise required by law. The board designates the Superintendent of Schools as the initial point of contact for child welfare agency representatives to discuss transportation issues related to children in foster care.

Students who are homeless will be provided with transportation pursuant to Board Policy 5014.

The district will provide transportation to tuition students in accordance with the contract provisions, if any, for services from the contracting districts.

The use of buses for class parties, field trips, and similar purposes shall require the prior approval of the superintendent or appropriate principal.

Adopted on: 8-11-14
Revised on: 7-10-17
Reviewed on: _____

3012
School Meal Program and Meal Charges

Meal Program. The school district will make a school meal program available to students. The cost of the program will be determined by the board of education so as to make the program as nearly self-supporting as possible. With board approval, the district may contract with a private company or corporation for the management and/or provision of the program.

The district will notify the families with children attending school of the current guidelines for free or reduced-price school meals. A copy of the complete regulations and procedures regarding reduced-price and free meals shall be available in the office of the superintendent. Families may apply for free or reduced-price school meals at any time during the school year.

Payment Options. Families may pay for school lunches using cash, check, credit card, or ACH payment. Electronic or e-fund payments are also available through a link on the school district's website.

Meal Charge Policy. The district will notify students and their families of the policy for charged meals, meaning meals received by a student when the student does not have money in hand or in his or her food account. This policy applies to students who receive meals at the free, reduced, or full rates.

Notice of this policy must be provided in writing to all households at the start of each school year and to households that transfer to the school during the school year. Notice may be provided through the student handbook, student registration materials, online portal used to access student accounts, direct mailing or e-mail, newsletter, the district website, and/or any other appropriate means. Notice of this policy will also be provided all school staff responsible for the enforcement of it, including food service professionals responsible for collecting payment for meals at the point of service, staff involved in notifying families of low or negative balances, and other staff involved in enforcing any aspect of this policy.

If a student has no funds available to pay for a meal, the student will be provided and charged for a limited "courtesy meal" option, such as a plain sandwich.

Students who qualify for free meals will not be denied a reimbursable meal, even if they have accrued a negative balance from other food purchases. School staff may prohibit any students from charging a la carte or extra items if they do not have cash in hand or their account has a negative balance.

If a student repeatedly lacks funds to purchase a meal, has not brought a meal from home, and is not enrolled in a free meal program, the district will use its resources and contacts to protect the health and safety of the student. Failure or refusal of parents or guardians to provide meals for students may require mandatory reporting to child protection agencies as required by law.

Collection of Delinquent Meal Charge Debt

The school district is required to make reasonable efforts to collect unpaid meal charges. The building principal or his or her designee will contact households about unpaid meal charges and notify them again of the availability of the free and reduced meal program and/or establish payment plans and due dates by telephone, e-mail, or other written or oral communication. If these collection efforts are unsuccessful, the school district may pursue any other methods to collect delinquent debt as allowed by law.
Collection efforts may continue into a new school year.

In the event that the Nebraska Department of Education develops a state-level meal charge policy, it shall supersede that portion of this policy.

Adopted on: 3-3-17
Revised on: 7-13-22
Reviewed on: _____

3013
Emergency Closings

School shall be held on the dates set forth on the official calendar, and shall not be closed or dismissed except by action of the board of education or the superintendent when he or she determines that it unwise to hold school. When school is closed because conditions make it unwise to have the buses run their routes, school will be closed for all students of the district.

Adopted on: 8-11-14
Revised on: _____
Reviewed on: _____

3014
Use of School Property

1. Use of Specific Facilities by Application and Agreement

   a. The district permits non-commercial use of the following facilities by individual patrons for their personal health and wellness: all-weather track, gyms and fitness centers. The district understands that it would not be feasible to require a patron to apply to use facilities like the track on every occurrence. The facility uses defined in this paragraph are an exception to the general facility use requirements contained in this policy for ease of administration and efficiency. All other facility uses must comply with the other provisions of this policy.

   b. These particular facilities may be used upon only one application and upon signing the district's written waiver and agreement.

   c. Use of these facilities is governed by this and other district policy and the agreement signed by the user. A copy of each agreement will be maintained in the district's central office.

2. General Facilities Use Guidelines

   a. School facilities may be used by various education and community organizations and individuals when it is in the interest of the general public.

   b. School facilities may not be used for personal profit and other commercial purposes. The district opens its facilities to district patrons for the benefit of the public, not commercial uses. Due to the complications created by groups or individuals using district facilities for commercial purposes, these uses are prohibited. Booster clubs and other organizations raising money purely for the support of student groups, as defined below, and not for personal profit are not considered commercial uses but must comply with the district's policies which apply to these groups.

   c. Any person or group using school facilities must assure that it will be responsible for maintaining order, protecting property, and providing security and safety.

   d. Only those organizations and persons who are known to school officials, who have financial resources sufficient to cover all rentals and possible damages, and who are willing to discharge such obligations shall be permitted to use the school facilities and equipment.

   e. The rental fees for school facilities shall be set by the board.

f. Non-curricular student groups or non-student groups (as those terms are defined below) that wish to use the facility must submit a facility use application which may be obtained from the district's central office. The application must be received by the superintendent prior to the approval of any facility use.

g. The shop and weight room may not be used by students when school is not in session, unless supervised by a district staff member or a responsible adult upon approval of the superintendent. Use of the shop and weight room in violation of this provision may lead to the students being denied access to these facilities or other consequences permitted by board policy and Nebraska law.

h. Any person or group using the school facilities, for any purpose, must comply with all of the district's policies, rules, and regulations.

3. Definitions

a. "Curriculum-related student groups" shall mean students participating in school-sponsored activities, supervised by district staff, related to the curriculum, and recognized by the board.

b. "Extracurricular student groups" shall mean students participating in an extracurricular activity, sponsored by the district, supervised by district staff, and recognized by the board, such as athletic teams and academic teams which are not otherwise categorized as "curriculum-related student groups."

c. "Non-curriculum related student groups" shall mean all other groups comprised primarily of students who attend the district participating in activities such as Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, 4-H, political groups, religious groups, and other similar youth groups.

d. "Non-student group" shall mean all other groups or individuals who apply to use district facilities.

e. "Superintendent" shall mean the superintendent of schools or his/her designee.

4. Use of School Property by Student Groups

a. Curriculum-related and Extracurricular student groups

i.) Curriculum-related and Extracurricular student groups may use school facilities at no cost to the group, if they restore the facilities to their prior state after using them.

ii.) The district shall bear any costs associated with use by these groups (*e.g.*, the fee paid to a cook or a custodian required to be in attendance).

iii.) Curriculum-related and Extracurricular student groups have priority over non-curriculum related student groups and non-student groups.

b. Non-curriculum related student groups

i. Non-curriculum related student groups may use the school building during non-instructional time. Such use shall be without charge.

(1) Such uses shall occur while the building is normally open and there is a minimum of interference with custodians or other student and staff facility use.

(2) These groups may use the school buildings in the evening for meetings if the group is sponsored by an adult and the adult (1) files the application to use the facilities on behalf of the group and (2) assumes responsibility for cleanup and placing the area back in the condition it was in prior to use.

ii. Non-curriculum related student groups must apply for use of the facilities and secure the superintendent's permission before using school facilities.

iii. Non-curriculum related student groups may meet only on school premises at times and places determined by the superintendent.

iv. Non-curriculum related student groups must meet each of the following conditions to secure the superintendent's permission to use school facilities:

(1) The facility use will occur during non-instructional time.

(2) The district has facilities available to accommodate the group.

(3) The use is voluntary and for the general benefit of the student participants.

(4) The use will not substantially interfere with the orderly conduct of educational activities and other programs within the school.

Use of facilities by non-student groups

c. The superintendent may authorize the use of any school facilities for non-school activities by non-student groups.

d. In addition to the guidelines listed elsewhere in this policy and other board policies or administrative protocol, the superintendent will consider the following when making determinations regarding use of district facilities by non-student groups:

i. The local education association may hold meetings when classes are not in session and staff members are not on duty.

ii. Non-student groups which provide education-related programming and services for students and staff may be given priority of use over other outside groups. The superintendent has sole discretion in determining whether proposed uses relate sufficiently to the district's educational standards and programs.

iii. Non-student groups which provide programming and services for community members and others living within the district may be given priority of use over other outside groups.

e. Denial of access

The superintendent may limit or deny access to school buildings, grounds, and activities to any person whom the superintendent deems to be using the facilities inappropriately and contrary to the district's mission.

Upon determining that a person or group has engaged in, or is engaging in conduct that constitutes grounds for exclusion under this policy, the superintendent shall take such action as he or she determines appropriate, including directing the person to cease engaging in the conduct or to leave the school premises or activity immediately. The superintendent may request assistance from law enforcement authorities to remove an offending person from the school grounds. A person who enters school premises in violation of these conditions shall be deemed to be trespassing.

The superintendent shall have the authority to fix the time when, and the conditions under which, the offending person may return to school premises.

f. Students, staff, and community members may use or lease school equipment for non-school use only if they have received the prior permission of the superintendent.

5. Proof of Insurance

a. When any non-curriculum related or non-student group utilizes school district facilities, the group submitting the facility use application may be asked to provide proof of insurance up to the current tort claims limits applicable to political subdivision in the State of Nebraska. Currently, those limits are $1,000,000 per person for any number of claims arising out of a single occurrence and $5,000,000 for all claims arising out of a single occurrence.

b. The district may require the non-curriculum related or non-student group to include the district as an additional insured on any such policies and may refuse access to its facilities until proof of satisfaction of this requirement is submitted to the superintendent.

6. No Fees for Admission

a. Non-curriculum related and non-student groups may not charge a fee to participate in or be a spectator at any recreational activity, event, or other such gathering occurring on district grounds unless approved in advance by the superintendent.

b. If the district retains control over the area of the premises in which the non-curricular and non-student group desires to use, meaning the district provides supervision, staffing, custodial services, or otherwise maintains its control during the group's use of the facilities, the group may not charge a fee for admission under any circumstances.

c. Non-curricular and non-student groups may charge for parking or vehicle entry onto the premises unless otherwise prohibited by the superintendent.

Adopted on: 6-13-16
Revised on: _____
Reviewed on: _____

3015
Time Away From School Activities

As it is important for students to have some nights free from school activities, school activities will not be scheduled on Wednesday nights after 7:00 pm, (unless there is no school the following day) or on Sundays without the approval of the superintendent.

Adopted on: 8-11-14
Revised on: _____
Reviewed on: _____

3016
Use of Tobacco Products

The use or possession of any tobacco product, including cigarettes, cigars, or other tobacco or tobacco derivative products; vapor products or electronic nicotine delivery systems; alternative nicotine products; or any other such look-alike or imitation product, is not permitted on school property at any time.

Adopted on: 8-11-14
Revised on: 7-8-19
Reviewed on: 7-8-19

3017
Communicable Disease

It is important to provide a safe environment for everyone at school while safeguarding the rights of all students, including those with high risk communicable diseases. Students are entitled to an appropriate, free public education; and students, staff and visitors are entitled to a safe, healthy environment. The first consideration in making any decision regarding a student or staff member with a high risk communicable disease must be the well-being of others in the school.

The district will monitor the information available through the Federal Centers for Disease Control and the Nebraska State Department of Health. These regulations and the procedures to implement them will be modified, if appropriate, based upon the best new medical information provided by the above sources.

A student who has been diagnosed as having a high risk communicable disease shall be provided a program of services in accordance with state law and board policy. The decision regarding the student's education program and placement shall be made on an individual basis in light of current medical and educational information and recommendations, and the superintendent's judgment.

Individuals with high-risk communicable disease shall be restricted only to the extent necessary to prevent the transmission of the disease, and to protect their health and rights of privacy.

Adopted on: 8-11-14
Revised on: _____
Reviewed on: _____

3017 A
Official Communication with the Public

Only individuals who have prior administrative approval may issue press releases or other official communication regarding school-related activities and events in furtherance of the individual's official responsibilities. The superintendent may delegate responsibility for communicating with the media to building principals, the activities director, event sponsors, and other staff on an ad hoc basis.

Adopted on: 6-11-24
Revised on: _____
Reviewed on: _____

3018
Denying Access to School Premises or Activities

The school district shall provide access to the district's buildings, grounds and activities to students, parents or guardians of students, and other persons who have legitimate reasons for being on school grounds. The superintendent of schools or his or her designee (referred to herein as the "administrator") may limit or deny access to school buildings, grounds, and activities to any person who:

1. Disrupts the educational environment;
2. Repeatedly fails or refuses to comply with the visitor protocol adopted by each building;
2. Is unreasonably boisterous;
3. Engages in violence, force, coercion, threats, intimidation, or similar conduct;
4. Causes or attempts to cause damage to school property or to the property of any student or school employee;
5. Causes or attempts to cause personal injury to any student, school employee or other person on school grounds or at a school activity on or off school grounds;
6. Uses vulgar, profane, or demeaning language; or
7. Uses fighting words;
8. Poses a danger to the safety and well being of students.

Upon determining that a person has engaged in, or is engaging in conduct that constitutes grounds for exclusion under this policy, the administrator shall take such action as he or she determines appropriate, including directing the person to cease engaging in the conduct or to leave the school premises or activity immediately. The administrator may request assistance from law enforcement authorities to remove an offending person from the school grounds.

The administrator shall have the authority to fix the time when, and the conditions under which, the offending person may return to school premises. A person who enters school premises in violation of these conditions shall be deemed to be trespassing. The

administrator may summon law enforcement authorities to remove the person and request that criminal proceedings be initiated.

Adopted on: 8-11-14
Revised on: 10-11-16
Reviewed on: _____

3019
Sale or Disposal of School Property

In selling school property, whether real or personal, the board of education shall be mindful of its financial obligation to the taxpayers of the school district, and shall endeavor to obtain the best price for the property. The board may sell school property in the manner it deems most appropriate for the particular property (e.g., by taking bids, by auction, or by selling the property for a specified price). The board shall take action to approve the sale or disposal of property by the statutorily required two-thirds vote of the members before selling or disposing of it.

Adopted on: 9-10-14
Revised on: _____
Reviewed on: _____

3020
Copyright Compliance

Restrictions on Use and Permission. Copyrighted works such as print, audio, video, software, applications, and other documents or media ("works") may be reproduced or used for educational purposes only when the use of the reproduction is a fair use in compliance with state and federal copyright law or when the written permission or license for such use has been obtained from the copyright holder. A staff member who wishes to use any non-original work must obtain the prior written permission of the building principal. Unless the district has obtained a license for use of a work for its intended educational purpose, no principal shall grant permission for a requested use of a copyrighted work unless the principal has reasonable grounds to believe that it is a fair use under applicable copyright law. Only works requested to be used in the course and scope of employment with the district will be permitted.

Distribution of Copyright Compliance Materials. The district will make information available to staff and students which describes and promotes compliance with copyright laws.

Course Materials Subject to Copyright Protection. The purpose of this provision is to provide notice to all staff, students, and parents that course materials may be subject to copyright protection. No class materials may be used or copied for use outside of the class session or sessions in which the materials are used for educational purposes unless authorized or required by law. No student or staff member may take audio or video recording of any class in which copyrighted materials are used unless authorized or required by law or an applicable educational plan provided under state and federal disability laws. Any such recordings will be kept only long as required to fulfill the purpose of the recording, such as for evaluative purposes, or the applicable retention period required by law.

Copies for Individuals with Disabilities. This policy does not restrict district staff members from reproducing or distributing copies of copyrighted works in a specialized format for use by individuals with disabilities to gain access to the work.

Removal of Unauthorized Copyrighted Works. Upon obtaining knowledge or awareness of an unauthorized use of copyrighted works, the district will take reasonable steps to remove, deny access to, and stop use of any unauthorized copyrighted work stored in the district's paper or digital files or programs. This includes but is not limited to administrators accessing staff files and equipment for the purpose of physically removing curricular materials or directing staff members to cease using the materials immediately when there has been no license granted or fair use determination made. The superintendent or superintendent's designee may limit or deny access to district materials and programs to students or staff members who engage in violations of this policy or copyright law. The district may require the student or staff member to obtain

training on copyright protections and limitations in order to regain access to any such materials or programs.

Violations by Students and Staff. Any staff member who violates this policy will face disciplinary action up to and including the cancellation, nonrenewal, or termination of the employee's employment. Any student who violates this policy may face disciplinary action up to and including expulsion. Individuals who subject the school district to financial penalty for copyright violations may be required to reimburse the district for its costs for such violation.

Adopted on: 9-10-14
Revised on: 7-9-18
Reviewed on: _____

3021
Operation of School Business Office

The central office of the school district shall generally be open for business from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. every weekday during the school year except for holidays and when school is not in session. The office will be closed on Fridays during the summer in June and July. The Superintendent shall be responsible for ensuring that the central office is appropriately staffed when the district is open for business and shall be responsible for supervising all staff employed in the central office.

Adopted on: 9-10-14
Revised on: _____
Reviewed on: _____

3022
Volunteers

Volunteers provide valuable assistance to school district staff and enrich the education program. Community members are encouraged to volunteer their services to the district under the conditions set forth below.

1.Volunteers must provide the district with directory information including their name, address, and telephone number.

2.Upon request by the district, volunteers must promptly execute a Volunteer Services Agreement.

3.The district may, but is not required to, conduct a criminal background check on any volunteer. A potential volunteer who refuses to undergo a background check will not be permitted to volunteer for the district.

4.Volunteers shall not perform the duties of a teacher as that term is defined in Nebraska statutes or regulations.

5.Volunteers do not have any property right in or to a volunteer assignment. The school district may deny or terminate a volunteer assignment for any reason that is not unconstitutional or unlawful. The superintendent's decision shall be final.

6.Volunteer Coaches will be assigned with the Head Coach making a request to the Activities Director and assigned with the approval of the Superintendent. No person shall be approved as a volunteer coach if the volunteer has children playing on the respective sports team that the coach would volunteer for.

Adopted on: 9-10-14
Revised on: 4-8-19
Reviewed on: _____

3023
Record Management and Retention

The school district will comply with all federal record retention requirements, the Nebraska Records Management Act, and with Schedules 10 and 24 of the Nebraska Secretary of State's Records Management Division. These requirements apply to both physical and digital records. When permitted by Schedule 10 and Schedule 24 of the Nebraska Secretary of State's Office, records will be transferred to durable electronic media for long-term storage.

Special Rules Related to Electronic Forms of Communication. Electronically stored information such as e-mail, instant messaging, and other electronic communication are important to the district's overall operation. E-mail and other forms of electronic communication which is subject to retention under the Nebraska Records Management Act may be moved to a storage method other that their original format. Each individual who creates or receives electronic communications that belong to or pertains to the operation of the district is responsible for determining whether and in what format those records must be maintained. Duplicate records may be destroyed at any time prior to the approved retention period. Staff members who are uncertain about whether a record should be retained should consult with their supervising administrator.

Option 2 – use if the district has a Subscription to Google Apps with Vault activated: The district will archive all Google Apps data with metadata intact, except for instant messaging which users determine to be transitory. Only the domain administrator or other designated individual will be able to retrieve electronic communication and other electronically stored information which has been vaulted.

School-affiliated Social Media Posts. Communication on school-affiliated social media accounts are considered short-term communications pursuant to the Records Management Act. As such, they will be retained in their original form on the vendor's system and will not be deleted by the user for at least 6 months. Individuals who are uncertain as to whether a specific social media account is "school-affiliated" should refer to the Board's policy on Staff and District Social Media Use contained elsewhere in these policies.

Special Rules Related to Security Camera Footage. Video footage from security cameras is generally considered working papers under the Records Management Act, and will be overwritten consistent with the district's audio and video recording policy. Video footage which captures an event of educational or behavioral significance and contains personally-identifiable information will be maintained by the school district pursuant to its policy on student records.

Student Records. The retention of student records is also governed by the board's policy on student records.

Records Regarding Pending or Threatened Litigation. When litigation against the district or its employees is filed or threatened, the district will take all reasonable action to preserve all documents and records that pertain to the issue. When the district is made aware of pending or threatened litigation, a litigation hold directive will be issued by the superintendent or his/her designee. The directive will be given to all persons suspected of having records that may pertain to the potential issues in the litigation. The litigation hold directive overrides any records retention schedule that may otherwise call for the disposition or destruction of the records until the litigation hold has been lifted.

Federal Award Records. The district will retain federal award records as required by 2 C.F.R. § 200.334. This includes retaining all federal award records for three years from the date of submission of their final financial report. For awards that are renewed quarterly or annually, the district will retain records for three years from the date of submission of their quarterly or annual financial report, respectively. Records to be retained include but are not limited to, financial records, supporting documentation, and statistical records.

Adopted on: 9-10-14
Revised on: 7-14-25
Reviewed on: _____

3025
Returned Checks

Any individual or entity that writes a check to the school district which is returned due to insufficient funds must reimburse the school district in cash for the amount of the check plus any fees. Individuals or entities whose checks are repeatedly returned due to insufficient funds may be prohibited from paying amounts due to the school district via check.

Adopted on: 9-10-14
Revised on: _____
Reviewed on: _____

3026
Handbooks

The school district's handbooks for students and staff are intended to convey information and explain school regulations and procedures that are necessary for the school to run smoothly and efficiently. The district's handbooks are an extension of these policies and have the force and effect of board policy when approved by the board of education. Although the board may approve the handbooks annually, the administration has the authority to change the contents of any handbook without board approval so long as the changes are consistent with board policy.

The administration may provide only the amendment to the individuals affected by the change without providing them with the full handbook unless required by law.

None of the district's handbooks creates a "contract" between the school district, staff members, parents or students.

If any information contained in any handbook conflicts with board policy or state statute, the policy or statute will govern.

Adopted on: 9-10-14
Revised on: 7-10-25
Reviewed on: _____

3027
Resolution of Conflicts Between Parents Over School Issues

It is in students' best educational interests to have parents work cooperatively with each other and with school personnel regarding their children's education. In certain circumstances, parents disagree with each other regarding their children's education or other issues involved with the school district. Though such disagreements typically occur with separated or divorced parents, this regulation is not limited to those circumstances.

1. Court Orders.

School personnel will neither review nor enforce court orders governing the relations between separated or divorced parents unless the court order terminates the parental rights of a parent or limits a parent to supervised visitation with minor children.

2. Obtaining Records and Conferring with Teachers.

All parents can obtain their children's records and meet with their children's teachers regardless of custody or visitation rights unless a court enters an order otherwise or their parental rights have been terminated. The district will not schedule separate parent-teacher conferences absent extraordinary circumstances.

3. Accessing a Child at School/Picking Up a Child.

Any parent whose parental rights have not been terminated or limited to supervised visitation may contact his or her child while at school or pick a child up from school at any time. School staff will neither review nor enforce visitation schedules contained in any court order to which the school district is not a party.

Adopted on: 9-10-14
Revised on: _____
Reviewed on: _____

3028
Sex Offenders

The safety of the students attending school is very important to the board of education. School employees, parents, and students should be aware of dangers posed by sex offenders living within the school district, and should be vigilant in providing protection against these dangers.

The board does not generally permit registered sex offenders on school grounds, at any school sponsored activity, or on any property under the control of the school district. The superintendent or his/her designee is hereby empowered to notify sex offenders of this policy and to grant limited permission to attend certain activities on a case-by-case basis.

Students who are registered sex offenders shall not be precluded from receiving a free education from the school district on that basis. The school district will consider a student's status as a registered sex offender in determining the student's educational placement and program.

Adopted on: 9-10-14
Revised on: 7-8-19
Reviewed on: 7-8-19

3029
Distribution of Flyers Advertising Non-School Organization Activities

As students can derive social and educational benefits from activities sponsored by non-school organizations, groups or individuals, the district will distribute flyers advertising activities of non-school organizations that meet the requirements set forth below:

1. The flyer may not contain statements that are libelous, defamatory, obscene, lewd, vulgar, profane; violate federal, state or local laws or regulations; violate board policy; advocate the use or advertise the availability of any substance or material that may reasonably be believed to constitute a direct and substantial danger to the health or welfare of students such as tobacco, alcohol or illegal drugs; incite violence; advocate use of force or urge violation of federal, state or municipal law, district policy or regulations; interfere with or advocate interference with the rights of any individual or the orderly operation of the schools and their programs.

2. The non-school organization must contact the district office to (a) inform the district that it wishes to have flyers distributed to students and (b) obtain a date from the office on which the flyers will be delivered.

3. The flyer may not advertise any activity which will take place during instructional time or during school-sponsored activities.

Adopted on: 9-10-14
Revised on: _____
Reviewed on: _____

3030
Automatic External Defibrillator (AED) Program

An automatic external defibrillator (AED) is a portable device used to induce electrical stimulation to the heart muscle in the event of a potential cardiac arrest. The school district has a limited number of AEDs in its facilities. The location of the AEDs will be determined by the AED Program Coordinator in consultation with members of the school district administration and the local fire/EMS department. The presence of AEDs in certain locations in selected district buildings does not imply that AEDs will generally be available in all locations or in all district buildings. Likewise, the district does not make any promise, express or implied, that a trained staff member will be available to operate the AED in the event of a potential cardiac arrest.

Equipment

Equipment shall be an automated external defibrillator in working condition that meets standards established by the Federal Food and Drug Administration and is in compliance with the manufacturer's maintenance schedule. Gifts, grants and donations, including in-kind donations, designated for obtaining an automated external defibrillator, or for inspection, maintenance or training in the use of an automated external defibrillator will be accepted and placed into a special district account to assist in obtaining and maintaining AEDs.

Program Coordinator

1. The School District's AED Program Coordinator is the school nurse.

2. The Program Coordinator shall:

    a. Consult with the school's administration and the medical advisor to develop a written protocol for the use of AEDs, and post such protocol near each AED

    b. Select employees for AED training

    c. Arrange for appropriate training of anticipated users at least annually

    d. Maintain a training schedule that includes the names of those trained and dates both of current training and dates for recertification.

e. Check equipment according to the manufacturer's guidelines and take appropriate action in the event of any variance or need

f. Maintain on file a specification sheet on each approved AED model

g. Monitor the effectiveness of this system

h. Communicate with medical director on issues related to medical emergency response program including post-event reviews

i. Coordinate with the local fire department and police department

j. Take appropriate steps after an AED event, including sharing of data with appropriate medical and EMS personnel, cleaning, replacing or recharging components of the AED as appropriate.

Medical Oversight

1. The medical advisor of the AED program is Dusty Duis.

2. The medical advisor has ongoing responsibility for:

    a. Providing medical direction for use of AEDs

    b. Writing a prescription for AEDs

    c. Reviewing and approving guidelines for emergency procedures related to use of AEDs and cardio pulmonary resuscitation

    d. Evaluation of post-event review forms and digital files downloaded from the AED

Volunteer Responders

Anyone may, at their discretion, provide voluntary assistance to victims of medical emergencies. The extent to which these individuals respond shall be appropriate to their training and experience, and may include CPR, AED or medical first aid.

Adopted on: 9-10-14
Revised on: _____
Reviewed on: _____

3032
Fees for School District Records

Requests for school district records shall be subject to applicable fees. No fee shall be charged for providing a copy of a student or public record if a specific law or regulation requires the copy to be provided without charge.

Student Records. Students and their parents or guardians shall not be charged any fee to inspect and review the student's files or records. Students and their parents or guardians who desire a copy of the student's files or records shall pay the reasonable cost of reproduction as follows:

- Black and white letter or legal-sized photocopies: No charge for the first 2 copies; 10 cents for each copied page thereafter.
- Computer data printouts: No charge for the first 2 pages; 10 cents for each page thereafter.
- Other medium: Actual cost of reproduction.
- Postage fees: Actual cost

Students and their parents or guardians **shall not be charged any fee**:

- To search for or retrieve any student's files or records.
- For a copy of a student's Individualized Education Plan (IEP).
- For copy of the special education evaluation report and the documentation of determination of eligibility for special education services upon completion of the administration of assessments and other evaluation measures.
- If the fee effectively prevents the parents from exercising their right to inspect and review student records.

Student Records – Transfer School. A copy of the student's files or records, including academic material and any disciplinary material relating to any suspension or expulsion shall be provided at no charge, upon request, to any public or private school to which the student transfers.

Public Records. Individuals requesting copies of public records shall pay the actual added cost of making the copies available.

- For photocopies, actual added costs may include a reasonably apportioned cost of the supplies, such as paper, toner, other equipment used in preparing the copies, and any additional payment obligation for the time of contractors necessarily incurred to comply with the copy request.
- For printouts of computerized data on paper, actual added cost may include computer run time and the cost of materials for making the copy.
- For electronic data, the actual added cost may include the reasonably calculated actual added cost of the computer run time, any necessary

analysis and programming, and production of a report in the form furnished to the requester.

- For residents of Nebraska, the actual added cost shall not include any charge for the existing salary or pay obligation to public officer or employees for the first eight hours of searching, identifying, physically redacting, or copying records, but fees may be charged after the first eight hours. The fee for records shall not include any charge for the services of an attorney or any other person to review the requested public records seeking a legal basis to withhold the public records from the public. No special service charge or fee shall be charged for copies of blank forms or pages that have all meaningful information redacted.
- For nonresidents of Nebraska, the actual added cost used as the basis for the calculation of a fee for records may include a charge for the proportion of the existing salary or pay obligation to the public officers or employees, including a proportional charge for the services of an attorney to review the requested public records, for the time spent searching, identifying, physically redacting, copying, or reviewing such records.
- The district shall not charge any fee for copies of public records that is prohibited by law but reserves the right to charge any other fee allowed by law.

The fee schedule for public records copies is as follows:

- Black and white letter or legal-sized photocopies: No charge for the first 2 copies; 10 cents for each copied page thereafter.
- Computer data printouts: No charge for the first 2 pages; 10 cents for each page thereafter.
- Other medium: Actual cost of reproduction.
- Postage fees: Actual cost

Deposit. The school district may require a deposit before providing copies of student or public records if the estimated cost to fulfill the request exceeds fifty dollars.

Waiver. Documents may be furnished without charge or at a reduced charge where the district determines that waiver or reduction is in the public interest.

Adopted on: 9-10-14
Revised on: 6-11-24
Reviewed on: _____

3033
Lending Textbooks to Children Enrolled in Private Schools

Through June 30, 2024, the school district shall make textbooks available to private school children who reside within the district or are otherwise entitled to borrow them pursuant to statute and 92 Nebraska Administrative Code, section 4. The district is obligated to purchase and lend textbooks only to the extent that the Legislature appropriates funds to the Nebraska Department of Education to be distributed for this purpose. As used in this policy, "textbooks" shall have the definition adopted by the Nebraska State Board of Education in Rule 4.

The district shall make a request for funds by filing an application on the form prescribed by the Department of Education no later than February 15th prior to the school year for which the application is made. The application shall include: the number of applications received; the number of textbooks requested; the number of textbooks needed to be purchased to fill the requests; the purchase price of the textbooks needed to be purchased which may include up to 5% of the cost to defray administrative expense; the title, purchase price, and number requested of each textbook including any shipping or handling charges; and if applicable the amount of carryover funds remaining from the previous year, amount of funds on hand from sale of unused textbooks, and amount of funds on hand from reimbursements for damaged textbook.

Textbooks which have not been requested for three consecutive years may be classified as unused and disposed of by sale or otherwise.

On or before November 15th, the district shall prepare a list of textbooks that are designated for use in the district during the current year and a list of new textbooks designated for use the following school year. The lists shall be kept current and in a place where they may be viewed during regular business hours. The district shall maintain a separate inventory of textbooks purchased for the use of private school children residing in the district.

Any parent or legal guardian who wishes to borrow textbooks shall submit an application on the form prescribed by the Department of Education to the district's administration offices on or before January 15th prior to the school year for which the application is made. The district shall maintain a supply of blank application forms and receipt forms. It shall keep the forms that have been signed by parents and guardians in a separate file for at least 5 years. It shall notify the parents and guardians at least 10 days prior to the start of school when and where the textbooks will be available. It shall make textbooks available to parents or guardians on or before August 15th. If the number of textbooks for a particular subject or grade level is insufficient to fill all of the requests, the textbooks shall be distributed to parents and guardians based on a random drawing.

Parents and guardians shall sign a receipt on the form prescribed by the Department of Education when they pick up the textbooks and shall return the textbooks that can be

returned no later than 15 days after the district's last day of class. The district shall assess the returned textbooks for damage beyond normal wear and tear. The parent or guardian who signed the receipt is responsible for paying the reasonable cost of the repair or replacement of any book that is damaged, lost, stolen, or not returned.

The school district shall limit the loan each year to ten textbooks per student for students in grades K-6 and to eight textbooks per student for students in grades 7-12.

This policy shall terminate July 1, 2024.

Adopted on: 9-10-14
Revised on:7-17-23
Reviewed on: _____

3035
CHAIN OF COMMAND – DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION

The superintendent shall be in control of all school district operations except as provided by another policy or as otherwise provided by law. Following is the administrative chain of command working from the lowest level on the chain upward.

Student Discipline:	1. Classroom Teacher 2. Principal/Assistant Principal 3. Superintendent
Instruction or Curriculum:	1. Teacher 2. Principal/Curriculum Director 3. Superintendent
Transportation:	1. Bus Driver 2. Principal/Assistant Principal 3. Superintendent
Facilities, Grounds, or Maintenance:	1. Custodial staff 2. Head custodian 3. Principal 4. Superintendent
Policy or Handbook:	1. Principal 2. Superintendent
Athletics:	1. Coach 2. Athletic/Activities Director 3. Principal 4. Superintendent
Personnel:	1. Employee in question 2. Principal 3. Superintendent

If any matter that is not covered by this policy or if other questions arise, the matter should be referred to the principal in the absence of the superintendent. The principal will either address the matter or assign it to another individual for resolution as he or she deems appropriate.

Absent extraordinary circumstances, each matter must be addressed at whatever level the initial action occurred. If the matter is not resolved, the individual may

raise it with the next person on the chain of command. This policy does not supersede any individual's right to contact Board members directly. However, whenever a matter is brought directly to the Board as a whole or to a Board member as an individual, it will be referred to the appropriate individual in the chain of command for study and resolution. The most effective means of initial communication is a personal conference, e-mail, or telephone conversation. E-mail addresses and phone numbers can be found on the school district's website at www.dillerodell.org.

Adopted on: 9-10-14
Revised on: _____
Reviewed on: _____

3036
Purchasing (Credit) Card Program

The board approves the use of a purchasing card (credit card) program for the purchase of goods and services for and on behalf of the school district. The board will determine the type of purchasing card or cards to be used in the program and may contract with a third-party provider as provided by law.

Authorized Purchases. Authorized users have standing authority to use the purchasing card to charge actual, necessary, and reasonable travel expenses. Otherwise, the purchasing card may only be used to purchase goods and services approved by the board or the superintendent or designee. The maximum amount that may be charged in a single day is $3000.

Unauthorized Purchases. In no event shall the purchasing card be used for personal purchases, purchases that are not school related, alcohol purchases, or purchases that are not allowed by law. Such unauthorized use shall result in discipline, up to and including the end of employment. Individuals who make unauthorized purchases shall reimburse the district for the expense within ten days of the purchase or the discovery of the unauthorized purchase, whichever occurs first.

Authorized Users. Individuals holding the following titles may be assigned an individual purchasing card: (Those approved by administration). The board may take action at any meeting to authorize additional users or to revoke or suspend user privileges. Such action shall be recorded in the minutes. The school may also maintain a purchasing card in the name of the school district. School district employees may purchase school related goods and services with the school district credit card only with authorization from the superintendent.

Documentation. Employees making a purchasing card purchase must submit an itemized receipt ***and*** a purchasing card receipt to the school district. The itemized receipt must include the name of the business, contact information, the date, a description of each item sufficient to give the board reasonable notice of the item purchased, and the price. ***A non-itemized credit card receipt alone is not sufficient.*** Designated school personnel shall maintain the documentation for at least 7 years or as otherwise required by Schedule 10 – Local School Districts or Schedule 24 – Local Agencies (General Records) maintained by the Nebraska Records Management Division. Employees must maintain copies of any documentation submitted to the school district.

Suspension or Termination of Privileges. The board or the superintendent (or his or her designee) (1) ***shall*** temporarily or permanently suspend the purchasing card privileges of any individual that does not submit an itemized receipt for each purchasing card purchase, and (2) ***may*** temporarily or permanently suspend the purchasing card privileges of any individual for any other reason. The individual's purchasing card account must be immediately closed and he or she must return the purchasing card to

the superintendent or board. Purchases that are not accompanied by the required documentation shall be considered unauthorized, and the individual making the purchase must reimburse the district within 10 days of the purchase or the discovery of the non-itemized purchase, whichever occurs first.

Reward Points or Rebates. Any reward points, rebates, or other benefits received from the third-party purchasing card company are and shall remain the property of the school district.

Purchase Review Procedures. The superintendent, or his or her designee, and our book keeper will conduct independent reviews of credit card expenses, or a sample thereof, on a monthly basis. Any unlawful or unauthorized expenditure or other discrepancy will be brought to the attention of the offending employee, if any, and the board. The superintendent or his or her designee will provide the board at each regular meeting with the documentation submitted pursuant to this policy or a summary of that documentation with a description of each item sufficient to give the board reasonable notice of the items purchased. Any unlawful or unauthorized purchase must be addressed as provided in this policy or as otherwise allowed by law.

Adopted on: 9-10-14
Revised on: 7-14-25
Reviewed on: _____

Red Evacuate is initiated in the event of an emergency that may be a danger to all staff and/or students but is not determined to be coming from any point in the building, i.e. bomb threat. "Red Evacuate" will be announced over the intercom. Students and staff are to exit the building quickly and take nothing but coats if weather dictates. After students are evacuated, the authorities will be notified. Students are to proceed in an orderly fashion with staff supervision to a site designated by the administration for bus pick up and delivery home. Class teachers/sponsors should note that students are present. No staff and/or students will be allowed back on school grounds until the building has been cleared by the appropriate law enforcement agency and clearance given to return. All book-bags, automobiles, P.E. equipment etc. are to be left at school until clearance is given. Time missed because of Code Red will be made up prior to senior dismissal in the spring. Any person placing a prank call will be punished to the full extent of the law.

Code Red No Response is initiated in the event of an emergency that may be a danger to all staff and/or students but is determined to be coming from some point in the building, i.e. person with a weapon. "**Code Red No Response**" will be announced over the intercom. Students and staff are to stay in their classrooms, lock the doors and windows, pull shades, and move away from the windows. Please stay in your room until an all clear with the verification word included is announced over the intercom or a building administrator comes directly to your room and announces that all is clear.

Code Red Team Respond: The Building Crisis team responds to the Command Center, All other staff members report to their work stations/classrooms. Substitutes are assigned to cover crisis team member's positions. Lock classroom doors.

Tornado Warning indicates a need for all staff and students to proceed to a designated area of safety. The designated areas and route will be posted in each classroom. A designated signal will initiate the procedure and likewise indicate that all is clear. In the event of a power failure, the administration will come directly to the safety areas and give clearance.

Fire Alarm indicates a need to evacuate all students, staff, and visitors from the building in an orderly and supervised fashion. The evacuation routes will be posted in each classroom. Students, staff, and visitors should proceed to

a safe area away from the building and emergency response equipment. No one is to reenter the building until school administrators announce clearance.

Threats to harm individuals, destroy property, or impede the process of education will be immediately reported to the law enforcement.

Adopted on: 9-10-14
Revised on: _____
Reviewed on: _____

3038
Emergency Response Policy

Diller-Odell Public School has and will use an emergency response protocol in the event of a life-threatening **asthma** or systemic **allergic reaction**.

Adopted on: 9-10-14
Revised on: _____
Reviewed on: _____

3039
Petty Cash

The elementary school, middle school, high school, and school district office each shall have a petty cash fund for the purchase of materials, supplies, services, or other school related goods and services in circumstances requiring immediate payment.

Fund Custodians. The amount of each fund will not exceed $5000. The individuals holding the following employment positions shall be the custodians of each petty cash fund and shall administer and be responsible for them:

Elementary School:	Dawn Ebeling
Middle School:	Andrea Humphreys
High School:	Andrea Humphreys
District Office:	Andrea Humphreys

Petty fund disbursements may only be made with the authorization of the petty cash fund custodian or the superintendent.

Documentation. All petty cash fund disbursements are to be supported by an itemized receipt or other sufficient evidence that documents the expenditure. The itemized receipt or supporting documentation shall include the name of the business, contact information, the date, a description of each item sufficient to give the board reasonable notice of the item purchased, and the price. Designated school personnel shall maintain the documentation for at least 10 years or as otherwise required by Schedule 24 – Local Agencies (General Records) maintained by the Nebraska Records Management Division. Employees shall maintain copies of any documentation submitted to the school district. Expenses will be assigned to the proper budget account.

Unauthorized Purchases. In no event shall the petty cash fund be used for personal purchases, purchases that are not school related, alcohol purchases, or purchases that are not allowed by law. Such unauthorized use shall result in discipline, up to and including the end of employment. Individuals who make unauthorized purchases shall reimburse the district for the expense within ten days of the purchase or the discovery of the unauthorized purchase, whichever occurs first.

Purchase Review Procedures. The superintendent, or his or her designee, and the school district treasurer shall conduct independent reviews of petty

cash fund expenditures on a monthly basis. Any unlawful or unauthorized expenditure or other discrepancy shall be brought to the attention of the offending employee, if any, and the board. The superintendent or his or her designee shall provide the board at each regular meeting with petty cash fund documentation that includes a description of each item sufficient to give the board reasonable notice of the items purchased. Any unlawful or unauthorized purchase shall be addressed as provided by board policy or as otherwise allowed by law.

Reconciliation and Closeout. Each petty cash fund will be reconciled by the school district treasurer and closed out at the end of the fiscal year (June 30th). The petty cash fund will be reestablished by the board of education at its July meeting or at such other meeting as determined by the board.

Adopted on: 6-8-15
Revised on: _____
Reviewed on: _____

3039 A
Threat Assessment and Response

The board of education is committed to providing a safe environment for members of the school community. Students, staff and patrons are urged to immediately report any statements or behavior that makes the observer fearful or uncomfortable about the safety of the school environment.

1. Obligation to Report threatening Statements or Behaviors.

All staff and students must report any threatening statements or behavior to a member of the administration. Staff and students must make such report regardless of the nature of the relationship between the individual who initiated the threat or threatening behavior and the person(s) who were threatened or who were the focus of the threatening behavior. Staff and students must also make such reports regardless of where or when the threat was made or the threatening behavior occurred.

THREATS OR ASSAULTS WHICH REQUIRE IMMEDIATE INTERVENTION SHOULD BE REPORTED TO THE POLICE AT 911.

2. Threat Assessment Team

The threat assessment team (team) shall consist of _____. [this team should include at least the superintendent of schools, building principal(s), guidance counselor and local law enforcement. It also could include the school nurse, members of the mental health profession who would be willing to work with the school. It should not include parents or board members. Members of the school crisis team may also serve on the threat assessment team.] The team is responsible for investigating all reported threats to school safety, evaluating the significance of each threat, and devising an appropriate response. The threat assessment team shall work closely with the crisis team in planning for crisis situations. The threat assessment team shall be familiar with mental health resources available to students, staff and patrons and shall collaborate with local mental health service providers as appropriate.

3. Threat Assessment Investigation and Response

All reports of violent, threatening, stalking or other behavior or statements which could be interpreted as posing a threat to school safety will immediately be forwarded to a member of the team. Upon receipt of an initial report of any threat, the team will take steps to verify the information, make an initial assessment, and document any decision involving further action. This investigation may include interviews with the person who made the statement(s) or engaged in the behavior of concern, interviews with teachers and other staff members who may have information about the individual of concern,

interviews with the target(s) of the threatening statements or behavior, interviews of family members, physical searches of the individual of concern's person, possessions, and home (as allowed by law and in cooperation with law enforcement), and any other investigatory methods that the team determines to be reasonable and useful.

At the conclusion of the investigation, the team will determine what, if any, response to the threat is appropriate. The team is authorized to disclose the results of its investigation to law enforcement and to the target(s) of any threatened acts. The team may refer the individual of concern to the appropriate school administrator for consequences under the school's student discipline policy or, if appropriate, report the results of its investigation to the student's individualized education plan team.

4. Communication with the Public about Reported Threats

To the extent possible, the team will keep members of the school community informed about possible threats and about the team's response to those threats. This communication may include oral announcements, written communication sent home with students, and communication through print or broadcast media. However, the team will not reveal the identity of the individual of concern or of any target(s) of threatened violence if that individual is a minor.

5. Coordination with the Crisis Team After Resolution of Threat

The threat assessment team will confer with the district's crisis team after a threat has been investigated to provide the crisis team with information that the crisis team may use in assessing or revising the district's All-Hazard School Safety Plan.

Adopted on: 10-11-16
Revised on: _____
Reviewed on: _____

3040
Procurement, Suspension, and Debarment
Governed by Federal Procurement Regulations

For purposes of federal procurement and contracts utilizing federal funds, the District awards contracts only to responsible vendors possessing the ability to perform successfully under the terms and conditions of a proposed procurement. Consideration will be given to such matters as contractor integrity, compliance with public policy, record of past performance, and financial and technical resources. The District may not subcontract with or award subgrants to any person or company who is debarred or suspended. For all contracts over $25,000 the District verifies that the vendor with whom the District intends to do business with is not excluded or disqualified.

Adopted on: 6-13-16
Revised on: _____
Reviewed on: _____

3040 A
School Safety and Security

In order to fulfill its obligation to provide a safe and secure learning environment, the Board of Education has adopted this School Safety and Security Policy. Although the district will take reasonable steps to protect students and staff, no entity can provide complete safety and security at all times. This policy does not make the district a guarantor of the safety of students, staff or patrons.

I. General Safety and Security

a. NDE Rubric

The District will meet at least the minimum requirement for each school safety and security standard indicator adopted by the Nebraska Department of Education.

b. School Hours

i. During a crisis situation, the administration will maintain established school hours and proceed with all co-curricular activities as scheduled whenever possible.

ii. If, during a crisis situation, the parent(s) or guardian of a student decide that the student needs to be absent, this absence will be excused.

c. Access to School Facilities

i. The school's facilities may not be used for funeral or memorial services during the school day.

ii. This policy does not discourage the presentation of traditional American Legion memorial services which promote patriotism.

d. Memorials

i. Memorials often create a visual reminder of a particular crisis that may reintroduce feelings of grief for students. Therefore, memorials may not be displayed anywhere on the school premises without board approval.

ii. This policy is not intended to discourage the acceptance of memorial funds or specific items.

II. Superintendent's Duties Related to Safety and Security

a. Appointment of Crisis Team

The Superintendent shall appoint members to serve on the school district's crisis team. The superintendent may, but is not required, to include representatives from the following groups on the crisis team:

- Administrators
- Teachers
- Health/mental health
- Facilities staff
- Transportation staff
- Food service staff member
- Students
- Parents
- Staff member with expertise on the needs of students with disabilities
- Organizations that serve the disabled
- Organizations that serve the needs of minority populations (ELL, race, etc.)
- Representatives from local early responders (law enforcement, fire and rescue personnel, railroad, factories, etc.)

b. Compliance with Fire and Safety Codes

The Superintendent will ensure that the school district meets all current fire and life safety codes or is in the process of coming into compliance.

c. Annual Safety Audits

The Superintendent will arrange for the performance of an annual safety audits using an external consultants utilizing the standardized audit protocol adopted by the Nebraska Department of Education.

d. Mutual Aid Agreements

The Superintendent will enter into mutual aid agreements to address the academic, physical, operational, psychological, and emotional recovery areas when possible with appropriate local entities.

III. Building Principals' Duties Related to Safety and Security

a. Positive and Safe Learning Environment

Each building principal shall implement a school-wide behavior process to create a positive and safe learning environment.

Each building principal shall conduct training on and require enforcement of the district's anti-bullying and dating violence policies.

Each building principal shall ensure that staff complete the required suicide prevention training as required by board policy.

Each building principal shall require staff to engage in active supervision of students at all times

b. Visitor Protocol.

Each building principal shall adopt a protocol for visitors to his/her school building to sign in upon arrival and departure and to be identified as a visitor while they are in the building during the school day. The protocol must also address visitors in specialized areas of the school such as playgrounds, gyms, cafeterias and the like.

This protocol may be written or unwritten but must be clearly communicated to and enforced by all staff.

The building principal will report individuals who repeatedly violate the visitor protocol to the superintendent for possible exclusion from school facilities pursuant to board policy.

c. Emergency Drills

Each building principal must ensure that the following drills are conducted in his/her building:

i. Fire drills (evacuation): One fire drill conducted monthly with one additional drill being conducted during the first 30 days of school.

ii. Tornado drills (shelter): One drill during the first two weeks of school and the second drill during the month of March.

iii. Bus evacuation drills: Two drills during the school year involving all students and appropriate staff. Recommended that one drill occur during the first month of school.

Each building principal must also conduct any non-required drills recommended by crisis team.

Each building principal shall conduct a performance review of each of the drills conducted pursuant to this policy. This review does not have to be in writing.

Adopted on: 10-11-16
Revised on: _____
Reviewed on: _____

3041
Crisis Team Duties

The crisis team is responsible for planning for the safety and security of the school, staff, and students. The teams will respond to and manage any safety or security incident that occurs in the school setting or which has the potential to disrupt the orderly operation of the school system.

Membership on and Chair of Team

The superintendent will appoint members to serve on the crisis team.

If the superintendent does not serve on the crisis team personally, he/she shall appoint an individual to serve as the chair of the crisis team. The chair of the crisis team shall have the responsibility of scheduling crisis team meetings, documenting crisis team actions and reporting to the board at least annually on the district's All-Hazard School Safety Plan and other activities of the crisis team.

Meetings of the Crisis Team

The crisis team will meet at least twice annually with representatives from local law enforcement and local fire and rescue personnel. At these meetings, the team will coordinate with local agencies to prepare for and communicate about a variety or real world scenarios.

The crisis team will meet at such additional times as necessary to fulfill the duties given to it pursuant to this policy.

School Self-Assessment

The crisis steam shall conduct the self-assessment created by the Nebraska Department of Education as part of its School Safety and Security Standards. This assessment shall be conducted for each school building. The team shall report the results of this self-assessment to the superintendent and to the board of education.

Either the superintendent or the chair of the safety committee will also report the results of the self-assessment to the Nebraska Department of Education.

All-Hazard School Safety Plan

The crisis team will create an All-Hazard School Safety Plan. The plan must be customized to the needs of each of the school district's buildings. The plan must include all of the components required by the School Safety and Security Standards adopted by the Nebraska Department of Education, and shall meet at least the minimum indicators set by those Standards.

The crisis team shall share a copy of the district's All-Hazard School Safety Plan with local authorities and first responders.

The chair of the crisis team shall provide a copy of the district's All-Hazard School Safety Plan to the NDE Security Assessor at least one-week prior to the assessor's scheduled visit to the district.

Standard Response Protocol (SRP)

Crisis team shall be knowledgeable about the Standard Response Protocol promoted by the "I love u guys" Foundation.

The crisis team will coordinate with members of the administrative team to arrange for all students, employees and other individuals who routinely use the district's facilities to receive SRP training and guidance.

The crisis team will assess the need for SRP to be implemented at off campus locations where students may be present for school activities.

The crisis team will confer with individuals knowledgeable about students, staff or patrons who may have special needs in order for those individuals to be able to understand and implement the SRP.

Consultation With Building Principals

The crisis team shall confer with the principal of each building within the district to ensure that visible signage is present in each building which meets the needs of local emergency responders

The crisis team will review the utility of non-required drills in light of the needs and unique circumstances present within each building within the district. Non-required drills recommended by NDE include lock-down, lock out, evacuation, shelter and reunification process. The crisis team will consult with building principals to review both required and non-required drills.

Consultation with Threat Assessment Team

The crisis team will consult with members of the threat assessment team to determine if the district's All-Hazard School Safety Plan has been appropriately implemented and if it should be modified or updated.

Review of Training

The crisis team shall review the training which the school system provides for specified employees in required areas to comply with local, state, and federal regulations.

The crisis team shall also review any non-required training which could be provided to appropriate staff to increase the safety and security of the school district and its

students, staff and patrons. If the team believes such non-required training would be beneficial, it shall recommend to the superintendent that the training be provided to the identified staff member at district expense.

Communication with School Community and Stakeholders

The crisis team will work continuously to improve communication with the school community and relevant stakeholders. This communication shall include, but not be limited to, the communication strategies and protocols identified in the district's All-Hazard School Safety Plan.

Communication with the Board of Education

The crisis team will report to the board at least annually on its activities. This report may be included as part of the superintendent's report at a regular board meeting.

Adopted on: 10-11-16
Revised on: _____
Reviewed on: _____

3042
Construction Management at Risk Contracts

This policy is adopted pursuant to the Political Subdivisions Construction Alternatives Act (NEB. REV. STAT. § 13-2901 through § 13-2914).

The board shall adopt a resolution by a two-thirds affirmative vote selecting the construction management at risk contract delivery system prior to proceeding with any of the steps involved with solicitation or execution of any construction contract. For a project authorized under subsection (3) of section 13-2914, the resolution shall include a statement that the political subdivision has made a determination that the construction management at risk contract delivery system is in the public interest based, at a minimum, on one of the following criteria: (a) Savings in cost or time or (b) requirement of specialized or complex construction methods suitable for the construction management at risk contract delivery system.

Definitions. For purposes of this policy:

1. Construction management at risk contract means a contract by which a construction manager (a) assumes the legal responsibility to deliver a construction project within a contracted price to the school district, (b) acts as a construction consultant to the school district during the design development phase of the project when the school district's architect or engineer designs the project, and (c) is the builder during the construction phase of the project;

2. Construction manager means the legal entity which proposes to enter into a construction management at risk contract pursuant to the Act;

3. Proposal means an offer in response to a request for proposals by a construction manager to enter into a construction management at risk contract for a project pursuant to the act;

4. Request for proposals means the documentation by which a school district solicits proposals; and

5. School district means _____ Public Schools.

Procedures.

1. Procedures for the preparation and content of requests for proposals shall include the following:

A. At least thirty days prior to the deadline for receiving and opening proposals, notice of the request for proposals shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation within the school district and filed with the State Department of Education. The request for proposals shall contain, at a minimum, the following elements:

1. The identity of the school district for which the project will be built and the school district that will execute the contract;

2. Policies adopted by the school district pursuant to the Act;

3. The proposed terms and conditions of the contract, including any terms and conditions which are subject to further negotiation. The proposed general terms and conditions shall be consistent with nationally recognized model general terms and conditions which are standard in the design and construction industry in Nebraska. The proposed terms and conditions may set forth an initial determination of the manner by which the construction manager selects any subcontractor and may require that any work subcontracted be awarded by competitive bidding;

4. Any bonds and insurance required by law or as may be additionally required by the school district;

5. General information about the project which will assist the school district in its selection of the construction manager, including a project statement which contains information about the scope and nature of the project, the project site, the schedule, and the estimated budget;

6. The criteria for evaluation of proposals and the relative weight of each criterion; and

7. A description of any other information which the school district chooses to require.

2. Procedures for the preparation and submission of proposals by the construction manager shall be determined on a project-by-project basis and included within the requests for proposals.

3. Procedures for evaluating requests for proposals submitted to the school district by a construction manager shall include the following:

A. The school district shall refer the proposals for recommendation to

a selection committee. The selection committee shall be a group of at least five persons designated by the school district. Members of the selection committee shall include (1) members of the school board, (2) members of the school administration or staff, (3) the school's architect or engineer (4) any person having special expertise relevant to selection of a construction manager under the Act, and (5) a resident of the school district other than an individual included in subdivisions (1) through (4) of this subsection. A member of the selection committee designated under subdivision (4) or (5) of this subsection shall not be employed by or have a financial or other interest in a construction manager who has a proposal being evaluated and shall not be employed by the school district or the school's architect or engineer.

B. The selection committee and the school district shall evaluate proposals taking into consideration the criteria enumerated in subdivisions (1) through (7) of this subsection with the maximum percentage of total points for evaluation which may be assigned to each criterion set forth following the criterion. The following criteria shall be evaluated, when applicable:

(1) The financial resources of the construction manager to complete the project **(up to ten percent)**;

(2) The ability of the proposed personnel of the construction manager to perform **(up to thirty percent)**;

(3) The character, integrity, reputation, judgment, experience, and efficiency of the construction manager **(up to thirty percent)**;

(4) The quality of performance on previous projects **(up to thirty percent)**;

(5) The ability of the construction manager to perform within the time specified **(up to thirty percent)**;

(6) The previous and existing compliance of the construction manager with laws relating to the contract **(up to ten percent)**; and

(7) Such other information as may be secured having a bearing on the selection **(up to twenty percent)**.

The records of the selection committee in evaluating proposals and making recommendations shall be considered public records for

purposes of NEB. REV. STAT. § 84-712.01.

C. The school district shall then evaluate and rank each proposal on the basis of best meeting the criteria in the request for proposals and taking into consideration the recommendation of the selection committee.

4. Procedures for negotiations between the school district and the construction managers submitting proposals prior to the acceptance of a proposal if any such negotiations are contemplated shall include the following:

A. The school district may attempt to negotiate a construction management at risk contract with the highest ranked construction manager and may enter into a construction management at risk contract after negotiations.
B. The negotiations shall include a final determination of the manner by which the construction manager selects a subcontractor.
C. If the school district is unable to negotiate a satisfactory contract with the highest ranked construction manager, the school district may terminate negotiations with that construction manager. The school district may then undertake negotiations with the second highest ranked construction manager and may enter into a construction management at risk contract after negotiations.
D. If the school district is unable to negotiate a satisfactory contract with the second highest ranked construction manager, the school district may undertake negotiations with the third highest ranked construction manager, if any, and may enter into a construction management at risk contract after negotiations.
E. If the school district is unable to negotiate a satisfactory contract with any of the ranked construction managers, the school district may either revise the request for proposals and solicit new proposals or cancel the construction management at risk process under the act.
F. If the school district is able to negotiate a satisfactory contract with a construction manager, the school district shall file a copy of all construction management at risk contract documents with the State Department of Education within thirty days after their full execution. Within thirty days after completion of the project, the construction manager shall file a copy of all contract modifications and change orders with the State Department of Education.

5. Procedures for filing and acting on formal protests relating to the solicitation or execution of construction management at risk contracts shall include the following:

A. Definitions.

(1) Interested party shall mean an actual or prospective bidder whose direct economic interest would be affected by the award of a contract by the school district to another party or by the failure of the school district to award a contract to such actual or prospective bidder.

(2) Protest shall mean a written objection by an interested party on any phase of the bidding process, including specification, preparation, bid solicitation, and intent to award.

B. Right to Protest. An interested party may protest to the Superintendent. The protest shall be submitted in writing on company letterhead within five working days after public notice of the bid. Protests based on alleged apparent improprieties in a solicitation or other request for proposals must be filed before bid opening or the closing date for receipt of proposals. In all other cases, the protest must be filed within five working days following the selection of the construction manager. To expedite handling of protests, the envelope containing the protest should be clearly labeled "Protest". The written protest shall include as a minimum the following:

(1) The name and address of the interested party;

(2) Appropriate identification of the relevant solicitation, and if a bid has been opened, its number, and date of opening;

(3) A detailed statement of reasons for the protest;

(4) Supporting, exhibits, evidence, or documents to substantiate any claims unless not available within the filing time, in which case the expected availability date shall be indicated; and a list of all persons who have knowledge of facts relevant to the protest; and

(5) The action(s) the protestor desires the school district to take to resolve the protest.

The Superintendent will immediately decide upon receipt of the protest whether or not the award of a contract shall be delayed, or if the protest is timely received after the award, whether the performance of the contract should be suspended. The school district shall not proceed further with the solicitation or with the award of the contract and shall suspend performance under the

contract, if awarded, unless the Superintendent makes a written determination that the protest is clearly without merit or that award of the contract without delay is necessary to protect the substantial interests of the school district.

C. Authority to Resolve Protests. Prior to the commencement of an administrative review by the Board concerning any protest, the Superintendent shall attempt to resolve any protest filed by an interested party concerning any solicitation. If the protest is not resolved by mutual agreement, the Superintendent shall create and deliver a Decision to the protestor within a reasonable time after the written protest was received. The Decision shall include a written summary of the Superintendent's investigation and a recommendation regarding the outcome of the protest. The Decision shall (1) state the reasons for the action taken, and (2) inform the interested party of their right to the administrative review by the Board. A copy of the Decision shall be mailed or otherwise furnished immediately to the interested party and any other party intervening protester and all other bidders. If not satisfied with the decision of the Superintendent, any interested party protester may appeal to the Board, but the decision shall be final unless the interested party protester files a timely appeal with the Board.

D. Board Appeal Procedures. Any interested party protester, within five working days of receipt of a decision of the Superintendent, may file with the Superintendent a written notice of appeal for an administrative review before the Board. The Notice of Appeal must clearly state the action protested and the basis of appeal. The Board will conduct an administrative review at its next regularly scheduled meeting or at a special meeting. The school district board of education shall consider the Decision of the Superintendent and shall make the final decision on the protest. The school district board of education's decision shall be final.

6. A construction management at risk contract may be conditioned upon later refinements in scope and price and may permit the school district in agreement with the construction manager to make changes in the project without invalidating the contract. Later refinements shall not exceed the scope of the project statement contained in the request for proposals.

Prohibitions. The school district shall not use a construction management at risk contract for any construction project excluded by NEB. REV. STAT. § 13-2914 or any other applicable law.

Adopted on: 7-10-17
Revised on: 7-12-21
Reviewed on: _____

3043
Design-Build Contracts

This policy is adopted pursuant to the Political Subdivisions Construction Alternatives Act (NEB. REV. STAT. § 13-2901 through § 13-2914).

I. **Definitions.** For purposes of this policy:

A. **Act** means the Nebraska Political Subdivisions Construction Alternatives Act.

B. **Board** means the District's Board of Education.

C. **Department** means the Nebraska Department of Education.

D. **Design-Build Contract** (D-B Contract) means a contract which is subject to qualification-based selection between the District and a Design-Builder to furnish (a) architectural, engineering, and related design services for a project pursuant to the Act and (b) labor, materials, supplies, equipment, and construction services for a project pursuant to the Act.

E. **Design-Builder** means the legal entity which proposes to enter into a D-B Contract which is subject to qualification-based selection pursuant to the Act.

F. **District** means Diller-Odell Public Schools.

G. **Letter of Interest** means a statement indicating interest to enter into a D-B Contract for a project pursuant to the Act.

H. **NEARA** means the Nebraska Engineers and Architects Regulation Act.

I. **Performance-Criteria Developer** (PCD) means any person licensed or any organization issued a certificate of authorization to practice architecture or engineering pursuant to the NEARA who is selected by the District to assist the District in the development of Project Performance Criteria, Requests for Proposals, evaluation of Proposals, evaluation of the construction under a D-B Contract to determine adherence to the Project Performance Criteria, and any additional services requested by the District to represent its interests in relation to a project.

J. **Project Performance Criteria** means the performance requirements of the project suitable to allow the Design-Builder to make a proposal. Performance requirements include the following, if required by the project: capacity, durability, standards, ingress and egress requirements, description of the site, surveys, soil and environmental information concerning the site, interior space requirements, material quality standards, design and construction schedules, site development requirements, provisions for utilities, storm water retention and disposal, parking requirements, applicable governmental code requirements, and other criteria for the intended use of the project.

K. **Proposal** means an offer in response to a Request for Proposals (RFP) by a Design-Builder to enter into a D-B Contract for a project pursuant to the Act.

L. **Qualification-based selection process** means a process of selecting a design-builder based first on the qualifications of the design-builder and then on the design-builder's proposed approach to the design and construction of the project;

M. **Request for letters of interest** means the documentation or publication by which the District solicits letters of interest;

N. **Superintendent** means the District's Superintendent of Schools, or his or her designee.

II. **Resolution to Select Design-Build.** The Board shall adopt a resolution by a two-thirds affirmative vote selecting the design-build contract delivery system prior to proceeding with any of the steps described below.

A. For a project, in whole or in part, for water, wastewater, utility, or sewer construction, the resolution shall include a statement that the District has made a determination that the design-build contract delivery system is in the public interest based, at a minimum, on one of the following criteria: (a) Savings in cost or time or (b) requirement of specialized or complex construction methods suitable for the design-build contract delivery system.

III. **Selecting and Hiring a Performance-Criteria Developer (PCD)**

A. **Selecting the Most Qualified PCD for Contract Negotiations.** The required procedures for selecting the most qualified PCD for contract negotiations differ depending on the magnitude of the District's estimate of the project's basic construction cost, as described in this section A.

1. **Project Cost $896,000 and Below.** For a project whose basic construction cost is estimated by the District to be $896,000 or less, the District will use the following procedures for identifying the most qualified PCD:

   a. The Superintendent will solicit statements of qualification from potential PCDs. Such solicitation shall include a general description of the project and shall indicate how interested individuals or firms can apply for consideration by the District. The Superintendent may, but is not required to, give public notice of such solicitation.

   b. Based on the statements of qualifications and any other relevant information that the Superintendent receives, the Superintendent shall make a finding identifying the applicant most qualified to serve as the PCD for the project based on the applicant's capabilities to perform, adequacy of personnel, past record and performance, experience, and such other factors as may be determined by the Superintendent to be applicable to the District's particular requirements for the project.

c. Following such finding, the Superintendent shall recommend to the Board that it negotiate a contract with the applicant so identified.

2. **Project Cost in Excess of $896,000.** For a project whose basic construction cost is estimated by the District to exceed $896,000, the District will use the following procedures for identifying the most qualified PCD:

a. The District will encourage individuals or firms who desire to provide professional services to the District as its PCD for the project to submit a statement of qualifications. At least fifteen (15) days prior to the deadline to respond, the District will publish notice in a newspaper of general circulation in the District that it is seeking a PCD for a design-build project. The notice shall include the following:

i. A general description of the project;

ii. How interested firms can apply for consideration by the District; and

iii. The date by which individuals or firms must submit their statements of qualifications; and

iv. A statement that any individual or firm applying for consideration by the District must obtain a copy of the District's Design-Build Contract Policy from the Superintendent.

b. To apply to be the District's PCD, applicants must submit a current statement of qualifications to the District. The statement of qualifications must include evidence that the applicant is licensed or certified to practice architecture or engineering pursuant to the NEARA. Applicants must update any information provided to the District to reflect any changed conditions of the applicant.

c. Applicants shall first be certified by the Superintendent as qualified to act as a PCD for the District. In order to certify an applicant, the Superintendent shall make a finding that a PCD is fully qualified to render the required service. Factors to be considered in making this finding shall include capabilities to perform, adequacy of personnel, past record and performance, and experience; and may also include consideration of recent, current, and projected workloads; equipment and facilities; promptness; the quality of work previously done by applicant; suitability to the particular task; willingness to meet time and budget requirements; and such other qualities as are found necessary to consider in order to determine whether or not, if awarded the contract, the applicant could perform it in accordance with its terms.

d. The Board will evaluate each qualified applicant's statement of qualifications and any other relevant the District has received. The Board

will conduct discussions with, and may require public presentations by, at least three applicants regarding their qualifications, approach to the project, and ability to furnish the required service.

e. The Board will select, in order of preference, at least three applicants deemed to be most highly qualified to perform the required services after considering the factors identified above.

B. **Negotiating a Contract with the PCD.** The Board shall negotiate a contract with the most qualified applicant (identified via the procedures above) for professional services at compensation that the Board determines is fair and reasonable. In making such determination, the Board shall conduct a detailed analysis of the cost of the professional services required in addition to considering their scope and complexity. For all lump-sum or cost-plus-a-fixed-fee professional service contracts, the Board shall require the applicant receiving the award to execute a certificate stating that wage rates and other factual unit costs supporting the compensation are accurate, complete, and current at the time of contracting. Any professional service contract under which such a certificate is required shall contain a provision that the original contract price and any additions thereto shall be adjusted to exclude any significant sums by which Board determines the contract price had been increased due to inaccurate, incomplete, or noncurrent wage rates and other factual unit costs. All such contract adjustments shall be made within one year following the end of the contract.

1. **Prohibition Against Contingent Fees.** The contract between the District and the PCD must contain a prohibition against contingent fees as follows: "The PCD warrants that it has not employed or retained any company or person, other than a bona fide employee working solely for the PCD, to solicit or secure this agreement and that the PCD has not paid or agreed to pay any person, company, corporation, individual, or firm, other than a bona fide employee working solely for the PCD, any fee, commission, percentage, gift, or any other consideration contingent upon or resulting from the award or the making of this agreement." Upon violation of such provision, the District shall have the right to terminate the agreement without liability and, at its discretion, to deduct from the contract price, or otherwise recover, the full amount of such fee, commission, percentage, or consideration.

C. **Effect of Unsuccessful Negotiations**

1. If the Board is unable to negotiate a satisfactory contract with the applicant to be the most qualified at a price the Board determines to be fair and reasonable, negotiations with that applicant shall be formally terminated. The Board shall then undertake negotiations with the second most qualified applicant. If the Board fails to reach an agreement with the second most qualified firm, the Board shall terminate negotiations with such applicant. The

Board shall then undertake negotiations with the third most qualified applicant.

2. If the Board is unable to negotiate a satisfactory contract with any of the selected applicants, the Board shall either select additional applicants in order of their competence and qualification and continue negotiations in accordance with this policy until an agreement is reached or review the agreement under negotiation to determine the possible cause for failure to achieve a negotiated agreement.

D. **Board-Designated Committee.** The Board may may designate a committee to carry out any or all of the Board's duties under this PCD selection and hiring section of this policy, provided that the Board must approve any agreement with an applicant prior to its execution. Any such committee must have among its membership at least one person who is licensed to practice architecture or engineering pursuant to the NEARA.

E. **Open Meetings Act.** The public shall not be excluded from the meetings or proceedings under this section in accordance with the Open Meetings Act.

F. The PCD is ineligible to be included as a provider of any services in a Proposal for the project on which it has acted as PCD.

G. The PCD is prohibited from being employed by or having any financial or other interest in a Design-Builder that will submit a proposal.

IV. **Pre-Qualifying Design-Builders**

A. **Letters of Interest.** The District shall prepare a request for Letters of Interest, which request shall:

1. Describe the project in sufficient detail to permit a Design-Builder to submit a letter of interest.

2. Be published in a newspaper of general circulation within the District at least thirty (30) days prior to the deadline for receiving letters of interest; and

3. Be sent by first-class mail to any Design-Builder upon request.

B. Letters of interest shall be reviewed by the District in consultation with the PCD. The District and the PCD will evaluate prospective Design-Builders based on the information submitted to the District in response to the request for letters of interest.

C. The District shall select at least three prospective Design-Builders, except that if only two Design-Builders have submitted letters of interest, the District shall select at least two prospective Design-Builders. Such selected Design-Builders shall be considered prequalified and eligible to receive and respond to the RFP.

D. The District and PCD shall use the following standards when selecting which prospective Design-Builders to prequalify: capabilities to perform, adequacy of personnel, past record and performance, and experience; and may also include consideration of recent, current, and projected workloads; equipment and facilities; promptness; the quality of work previously done; suitability to the particular task; willingness to meet time and budget requirements; and such other qualities as are found necessary to consider in order to determine whether or not, if awarded the contract, the Design-Builder could perform it in accordance with its terms.

V. **Preparing Requests for Proposals (RFP).** The District, with the assistance of the PCD, will prepare the RFP, which shall contain:

A. The identity of the District for which the project will be built and the District that will execute the design-build contract;

B. A copy of this Design-Build Contact Policy and all other policies related to the D-B Contract;

C. The proposed terms and conditions of the D-B Contract, including any terms and conditions which are subject to further negotiation. The proposed general terms and conditions shall be consistent with nationally recognized model general terms and conditions which are standard in the design and construction industry in Nebraska. The proposed terms and conditions may set forth an initial determination of the manner by which the Design-Builder selects any subcontractor and may require that any work subcontracted be awarded by competitive bidding;

D. A project statement which contains information about the scope and nature of the project;

E. Project Performance Criteria;

F. Budget parameters for the project;

G. Any bonds and insurance required by law or as may be additionally required by the District;

H. The criteria for evaluation of Proposals and the relative weight of each criterion;

I. A requirement that the Design-Builder provide a written statement of the Design-Builder's proposed approach to the design and construction of the project, which may include graphic materials illustrating the proposed approach to design and construction but shall not include price proposals;

J. A requirement that the Design-Builder agree to the following conditions:

1. An architect or engineer licensed to practice in Nebraska will participate substantially in those aspects of the offering which involve architectural or engineering services;

2. At the time of the design-build offering, the Design-Builder will furnish to the Board a written statement identifying the architect or engineer who will perform the architectural or engineering work for the design-build project;

3. The architect or engineer engaged by the Design-Builder to perform the architectural or engineering work with respect to the design-build project will have direct supervision of such work and may not be removed by the Design-Builder prior to the completion of the project without the written consent of the Board;

4. A Design-Builder offering design-build services with its own employees who are design professionals licensed to practice in Nebraska will (a) comply with the NEARA by procuring a certificate of authorization to practice architecture or engineering and (b) submit proof of sufficient professional liability insurance; and

5. The rendering of architectural or engineering services by a licensed architect or engineer employed by the Design-Builder will conform to the NEARA and rules and regulations adopted under the NEARA; and

K. Other information which the District chooses to require.

VI. **Notice of RFP.** At least thirty (30) days prior to the deadline for receiving and opening proposals, the District shall cause a Notice of RFP to be:

A. Published in a newspaper of general circulation within the District;

B. Filed with the Department; and

C. Sent directly to the prequalified Design-Builders only.

VII. **Preparing and Submitting Proposals**

A. Prequalified Design-Builders shall prepare and submit Proposals as required by the RFP.

B. All Proposals shall be sealed. Proposals shall not be opened until expiration of the time established for making Proposals as set forth in the RFP.

C. Proposals may be withdrawn at any time prior to acceptance.

D. The District has the right to reject any and all Proposals except for the purpose of evading the law. The District may thereafter solicit new Proposals using the same or a different Project Performance Criteria.

VIII. **Evaluating Proposals**

A. The District may only proceed to negotiate and enter into a D-B Contract if there are at least two proposals from prequalified Design-Builders.e

B. The Board shall designate members of a selection committee, which shall include at least five persons. Members of the selection committee must include:

1. One or more members of the Board;
2. One or more members of the District's administration or staff;
3. The PCD;
4. Any person having special expertise relevant to selection of a Design-Builder or construction manager under the Act; and
5. A resident of the District other than an individual included in subdivisions (1) through (4) of this subsection.

A member of the selection committee designated under subdivision (4) or (5) of this subsection shall not be employed by or have a financial or other interest in a Design-Builder who has a Proposal being evaluated and shall not be employed by the District or the PCD.

C. The District shall refer the Proposals for recommendation to the selection committee.

D. The selection committee and the District shall evaluate Proposals taking into consideration the criteria enumerated in subsections (1) through (7) of this subsection with the maximum percentage of total points for evaluation which may be assigned to each criterion set forth following the criterion. The following criteria shall be evaluated, when applicable:

1. The financial resources of the design-builder to complete the project **(up to ten percent)**;
2. The ability of the proposed personnel of the design-builder to perform **(up to ten percent)**;
3. The character, integrity, reputation, judgment, experience, and efficiency of the design-builder **(up to twenty percent)**;
4. The quality of performance on previous projects **(up to twenty percent)**;
5. The ability of the design-builder to perform within the time specified **(up to twenty percent)**;
6. The previous and existing compliance of the design-builder with laws relating to the contract **(up to ten percent)**; and
7. Such other information as may be secured having a bearing on the selection **(up to ten percent)**.

E. The records of the selection committee in evaluating proposals and making recommendations shall be considered public records for purposes of NEB. REV. STAT. § 84-712.01.

F. The District shall then evaluate and rank each Proposal on the basis of best meeting the criteria in the RFP and taking into consideration the recommendation of the selection committee.

IX. Negotiating a Design-Build Contract

A. The District may attempt to negotiate a D-B Contract with the highest ranked Design-Builder selected by the District and may enter into a Design-Build contract after negotiations.

B. The negotiations shall include a final determination of the manner by which the Design-Builder selects a subcontractor

C. If the District is unable to negotiate a satisfactory D-B Contract with the highest ranked Design-Builder, the District may terminate negotiations with that Design-Builder. The District may then undertake negotiations with the second highest ranked Design-Builder and may enter into a D-B Contract after negotiations.

D. If the District is unable to negotiate a satisfactory contract with the second highest ranked Design-Builder, the District may undertake negotiations with the third highest ranked Design-Builder, if any, and may enter into a D-B Contract after negotiations.

E. If the District is unable to negotiate a satisfactory contract with any of the ranked Design-Builders, the District may either revise the RFP and solicit new proposals or cancel the Design-Build process under the Act.

F. If the District is able to negotiate a satisfactory D-B Contract with a Design-Builder, the District shall file a copy of all D-B Contract documents with the Department within thirty (30) days after their full execution. Within thirty (30) days after completion of the project, the Design-Builder shall file a copy of all contract modifications and change orders with the Department.

X. Formal Protests Relating to the Solicitation or Execution of D-B Contracts

A. **Definitions**. For this section on “Formal Protests Related to the Solicitation of Execution of D-B Contracts” the following definitions apply:

1. **Interested party** shall mean an actual or prospective Design-Builder whose direct economic interest would be affected by the award of a contract by the District to another party or by the failure of the District to award a contract to such actual or prospective Design-Builder.

2. **Protest** shall mean a written objection by an interested party on any phase of the bidding procurement process, including specification, preparation, performance criteria development, RFP, pre-qualification, ranking, contract negotiations, and award.

B. **Right to Protest**. An interested party may protest to the Superintendent. The protest shall be submitted in writing on company letterhead within five working

days after the event giving rise to the protest. Protests based on alleged apparent improprieties in a solicitation or other request for Proposals must be filed before Proposal opening or the deadline for receipt of proposals. In all other cases, the protest must be filed within five working days following the selection of the Design-Builder. To expedite handling of protests, the envelope containing the protest should be clearly labeled "Protest". The written protest shall include as a minimum the following:

1. The name and address of the interested party;
2. Appropriate identification of the relevant solicitation, and if a Proposal has been opened, its number, and date of opening;
3. A detailed statement of reasons for the protest;
4. Supporting, exhibits, evidence, or documents to substantiate any claims unless not available within the filing time, in which case the expected availability date shall be indicated; and a list of all persons who have knowledge of facts relevant to the protest; and
5. The action(s) the protestor desires the District to take to resolve the protest.

- The Superintendent will immediately decide upon receipt of the protest whether or not the award of a contract shall be delayed, or if the protest is timely received after the award, whether the performance of the contract should be suspended. The District shall not proceed further with the solicitation or with the award of the contract and shall suspend performance under the contract, if awarded, unless the Superintendent makes a written determination that the protest is clearly without merit or that award of the contract without delay is necessary to protect the substantial interests of the District.

C. **Authority to Resolve Protests**. Prior to the commencement of an administrative review by the Board concerning any protest, the Superintendent shall attempt to resolve any protest filed by an interested party concerning any solicitation. If the protest is not resolved by mutual agreement, the Superintendent shall create and deliver a Decision to the protestor within a reasonable time after the written protest was received. The Decision shall include a written summary of the Superintendent's investigation and a recommendation regarding the outcome of the protest. The Decision shall (1) state the reasons for the action taken, and (2) inform the interested party of their right to the administrative review by the Board. A copy of the Decision shall be mailed or otherwise furnished immediately to the interested party and any other party intervening protester and all other Design-Builders. If not satisfied with the decision of the Superintendent, any interested party protester may appeal to the Board, but the decision shall be final unless the interested party protester files a timely appeal with the Board.

D. **Board Appeal Procedures**. Any interested party protester, within five working days of receipt of a decision of the Superintendent, may file with the Superintendent a written notice of appeal for an administrative review before the Board. The Notice of Appeal must clearly state the action protested and the basis of appeal. The Board will conduct an administrative review at its next regularly scheduled meeting or at a special meeting. The Board shall consider the Decision of the Superintendent and shall make the final decision on the protest. The Board's decision shall be final.

XI. **Refinements and Changes**. A D-B Contract may be conditioned upon later refinements in scope and price and may permit the District in agreement with the Design-Builder to make changes in the project without invalidating the D-B Contract. Later refinements shall not, however, exceed the scope of the project statement contained in the RFP.

XII. **Adherence to Performance Criteria**. Throughout the project, the PCD shall remain engaged on the project and shall be responsible for monitoring the Design-Builder's adherence to the Performance Criteria in the Design-Builder's performance of the D-B Contract. Upon PCD's observation that the Design-Builder's performance of the D-B Contract has or is reasonably likely to materially diverge from the Performance Criteria, the PCD shall promptly notify the District of such observation and the basis for the same.

XIII. **Projects Excluded**. The District shall not use a Design-Build Contract for any construction project excluded by NEB. REV. STAT. § 13-2914 or any other applicable law.

Adopted on: 7-10-17
Revised on: 7-14-25
Reviewed on: _____

3044
Incidental or De Minimis Use of Public Resources

The board prohibits its members and employees from using public resources for personal or political purposes as prohibited in the Nebraska Political Accountability and Disclosure Act ("Act"). However, the board recognizes that incidental or de minimis uses of public resources are sometimes necessary and within reason. The purpose of this policy is to comply with the Act and to authorize certain uses of public resources as permitted by the Act.

The following uses of public resources are permitted as incidental or de minimis:

- Limited communications with family members or other non-district employees for personal purposes, such as e-mails or text messages with a spouse using district hardware, software, internet, accounts, or other public resources so long as this communication does not distract from or interfere with employees performing their official duties, with interference determined in the sole and unfettered discretion of an employee's supervising administrator;
- Traveling to or from the person's home when the primary purpose serves the interests of the district. If an employee is unsure whether the primary purpose serves the interests of the district, the employee should obtain the approval of his or her supervising administrator, who is authorized to make that determination under this policy;
- Making a limited number of copies of personal documents when the person cannot make alternative arrangements;
- Using personal social media accounts or accessing appropriate websites which are consistent with the district's digital citizenship curriculum while off duty;
- Using district-owned computer programs, such as Word, Excel, Adobe, and others for personal purposes while off duty;
- Any other uses contained in the collective bargaining agreement or individual contract of the employee;
- Other uses by employees authorized by the superintendent or superintendent's designee. The board intends to allow the superintendent to authorize such uses on a case-by-case basis to the maximum extent permitted by the Act; and
- Other uses by the superintendent or board members authorized by the board president. The board intends to allow the board president to authorize such uses on a case-by-case basis to the maximum extent permitted by the Act

All uses pursuant to this policy must be (1) consistent with other district policies, (2) consistent with the provisions of Title 92, Nebraska Administrative Code, Chapter 27 (Nebraska Department of Education "Rule 27"), and (3) reported as compensation in accordance with the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, and taxes, if any, are

paid. It is the responsibility of each board member or employee to account for their own tax liability, and the district will not indemnify or account for any personal use of public resources by the board member or employee.

All of the provisions of Rule 27 will apply to non-certificated staff for the purposes of this policy. In addition, employees may not use the school's internet, computers, or other technology to access obscene or pornographic material, sext, or engage in any illegal activities.

Adopted on: 7-10-17
Revised on: _____
Reviewed on: _____

3045
Use of Sniffer Dogs

The board of education finds that the possession of illegal drugs and other contraband on school grounds is unlawful, is disruptive of the educational process, is harmful to students and staff, and is contrary to the interests of the school district. Accordingly, to minimize the presence of these items on school grounds, the administration is authorized to use sniffer dogs according to the protocol set forth in this policy.

Protocol for Use of Sniffer Dogs

1. The superintendent, or the building principal with the superintendent's permission, may initiate the use of specially trained sniffer dogs to conduct an inspection.

2. The administration will contact the canine provider and/or the appropriate law enforcement agency to schedule the use of a sniffer dog or dogs. The administration shall require an assurance from the provider that any sniffer dogs to be used in the school have been properly trained, and may request evidence of the training and/or certification of the dogs. In no event will the school district authorize a sniffer dog to sniff any person.

3. The superintendent or if designated by the superintendent, the building principal, and law enforcement representatives or canine provider will confer regarding the specific plan of areas to be inspected. The plan may involve any or all school building facilities, vehicles in the school parking lot, or other areas where student and staff vehicles are parked on school property during or after school hours.

4. If the inspection is scheduled for a day when school is in session, students and staff will be informed over the public address system, and will be directed to remain in their rooms until given further directions.

5. During the inspection, administrators may assign personnel to designated areas as deemed appropriate to assist in the smooth handling of the inspection.

6. After the inspection is finished, students and staff will be notified over the

public address system, and will be thanked for their cooperation.

7. If the sniffer dog alerts, the alert will constitute reasonable cause for the administration to conduct a search of the property. If the sniffer dog alerts on a vehicle on school grounds, the owner will be required to unlock the vehicle doors and trunk for further inspection of the interior of the vehicle. If the owner refuses to unlock the vehicle, the matter will be turned over to law enforcement authorities. The owner will be subject to disciplinary action as specified in board policy and/or the student or staff handbook or as otherwise allowed by law. This may include discipline for the refusal to obey an administrative directive.

8. Any illegal drugs or contraband found on school grounds, whether in a desk, locker, vehicle, or any other place on school grounds, will be confiscated and turned over to law enforcement authorities. A student's parents will be contacted. The individual will be subject to disciplinary action as specified in board policy and/or the student or staff handbook or as otherwise allowed by law.

9. At the conclusion of the inspection, school officials will confer with the canine provider and/or any law enforcement authorities who were involved in the inspection to review the results of the inspection. The administration may authorize any follow-up inspections or other action deemed appropriate.

NOTICE TO STUDENTS AND STAFF

Students and staff shall be informed of the District's policy regarding the use of sniffer dogs as soon as practicable after the adoption of this policy. Thereafter, students and staff shall be informed of the policy at the beginning of the school year. By this policy and/or via the provision in the student or staff handbook, students and staff are specifically notified that:

1. Lockers may be sniffed by sniffer dogs at any time.

2. Vehicles parked on school property may be sniffed by sniffer dogs at any time.

3. Classrooms and other common areas may be sniffed by sniffer dogs at any time students and staff are not present.

4. If contraband of any kind is found, the student or staff member shall be subject to appropriate disciplinary action.

Adopted on:7-10-17
Revised on:_____
Reviewed on:_____

3046
Animals at Schools

Animals are not allowed in school district buildings or on school district property without the written permission of the superintendent or his or her designee except as provided in this policy or as otherwise required by law.

I. Use of Animals for Instructional Purposes

Animals that support a district program or curriculum or that are used for instructional purposes are allowed in school district buildings or on school district property with the written permission of the superintendent or building principal.

II. Service Animals

The school district does not permit discrimination against individuals with disabilities, including those who require the assistance of a service animal. An individual with a disability is permitted to be accompanied by his/her service animal on school property when required by law, subject to the conditions of this policy.

Service Animal. A "service animal" is a dog that has been individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability, including a physical, sensory, psychiatric, intellectual, or other mental disability. Work or tasks ***do not*** include the crime deterrent effects of an animal´s presence and the provision of emotional support, well-being, comfort, or companionship. The work or tasks performed by a service animal must be directly related to the handler's disability or necessary to mitigate a disability. Other species of animals, whether wild or domestic, trained or untrained, are not service animals for the purposes of this definition. ***See also***, Miniature Horses below.

School District Inquiries. School officials ***may*** ask the owner or handler of an animal whether the animal is required because of a disability and what work or task the animal has been trained to do ***unless*** the answers to these inquiries are readily apparent. School officials ***may not*** ask about the nature or extent of a person's disability and may not require documentary proof of certification or licensing as a service animal.

Procedural Requirements. The following requirements must be satisfied ***before*** a service animal will be allowed in school buildings or on school grounds:

> **Request.** A person who wants to be accompanied by his/her service animal must submit a written request form to a principal or superintendent. The

request form is attached to this policy. These requests must be renewed each school year or whenever a different service animal will be used.

Health and Vaccination. The owner or handler must have proof of current licensure from the local licensing authority including proof of the service animal's current vaccinations and immunizations required by law.

Service animals will not be allowed in school buildings or other school property until the school has approved the request.

Control. A service animal must be under the control of its handler at all times. The service animal must have a harness, backpack, vest identifying the dog as a trained service dog, leash, or other tether. If the handler is unable to use a harness, backpack, vest, leash, or other tether, because of a disability or the use of a harness, backpack, vest, leash, or other tether would interfere with the service animal's safe, effective performance of work or tasks, the use of these items is not required. However, the service animal must be otherwise under the handler's control.

Exclusion or Removal from School. A service animal may be excluded from school property and buildings if a school administrator determines that:

(1) A handler does not have control of the service animal;
(2) The service animal is not housebroken;
(3) The service animal presents a direct and immediate threat to others in the school; or
(4) The animal's presence fundamentally alters the nature of the service, program, or activity.

The handler or the student's parent or guardian shall be required to remove the service animal from school premises immediately upon such a determination. If the service animal is removed, the individual with a disability shall be provided with the opportunity to participate in the service, program, or activity without the service animal.

Allergic Reactions. If any student or school employee assigned to a classroom or mode of transportation in which a service animal is permitted suffers an allergic reaction to the service animal, the person having custody and control of the animal will be required to remove the animal to a different location designated by an administrator. The school will arrange a meeting between school personnel, the individual with the disability, and the parents or guardian(s) of the person with the disability if that person is a student to develop an alternate plan.

Supervision and Care of Service Animals. The owner or handler of a service animal is solely responsible for the supervision and care of the animal, including any feeding,

exercising, and clean up while the animal is in a school building or on school property. The student's parent or guardian is responsible for providing for the supervision and the care of the animal in the event that his or her student is not able to do so. The school district is not responsible for providing any care, supervision, or assistance for a service animal.

Extra Charges. The owner or handler of a service animal will not be required to pay an admission fee or a charge for the animal to attend events for which a fee is charged.

Damage to School Property and Injuries. The owner or handler of a service animal is solely responsible and liable for any damage to school property or injury to personnel, students, or others caused by the animal.

Miniature Horses. Requests to permit the use of a miniature horse by an individual with a disability will be addressed on a case-by-case basis by considering the following factors:

(1) The type, size, and weight of the miniature horse and whether the facility can accommodate these features;
(2) Whether the handler has sufficient control of the miniature horse;
(3) Whether the miniature horse is housebroken; and
(4) Whether the miniature horse's presence in a specific facility compromises legitimate safety requirements that are necessary for safe operation.

All additional requirements outlined in this policy, which apply to service animals, shall apply to miniature horses.

Service Animal in Training. This policy shall also be applicable to service animals in training that are accompanied by a bona fide trainer.

Denial of Access and Grievance. If a school official denies a request for access of a service animal, the disabled individual or parent or guardian can file a written grievance with the school's Section 504 Coordinator.

III. THERAPY ANIMALS

The school district supports the use of therapy animals by teachers or other qualified school personnel ("Owner") for the benefit of its students subject to the conditions of this policy.

Therapy Animal. A "therapy animal" is an animal that has been individually trained and certified to work with its Owner to provide emotional support, well-being, comfort, or

companionship to school district students. Therapy animals are not "service animals" as that term is used in the American with Disabilities Act. The animal must be well behaved and have a temperament that is suitable for interaction with students and others in a public school. Therapy animals are personal property of the Owner and are not owned by the school district.

Therapy Animal Standards and Procedures. The following requirements must be satisfied ***before*** a therapy animal will be allowed in school buildings or on school grounds:

Request. An Owner who wants to bring a therapy animal to school must submit a written request form to a principal or superintendent. The request form is attached to this policy. The request must be renewed each school year or whenever a different therapy animal will be used.

Training and Certification. The Owner must submit training and certification information requested by the Superintendent or his or her designee. Any certification required by the school district must remain current at all times.

Health and Vaccination. The therapy animal must be clean, well groomed, in good health, house broken, and immunized against diseases common to such animals. The Owner must submit proof of current required licensure from the local licensing authority and proof of the therapy animal's current vaccinations and immunizations from a licensed veterinarian, if applicable.

Control. A therapy animal must be under the control of the Owner at all times.

Identification. The therapy animal must have appropriate identification identifying it as a therapy animal.

No Disruption. The therapy animal must not disrupt the educational process by any of its behaviors.

Health and Safety. The therapy animal must not pose a health and safety risk to any student, employee, or other person at school.

Supervision and Care of Therapy Animals. The Owner is solely responsible for the supervision and care of the therapy animal, including any feeding, exercising, and clean up while the animal is in a school building or on school property. The school district is not responsible for providing any care, supervision, or assistance for a therapy animal.

Authorized Area(s). The Owner shall only allow the therapy animal to be in areas in school buildings or on school property that are authorized by school district administrators.

Insurance. The Owner must submit a copy of an insurance policy that provides liability coverage for the therapy animal while on school property.

Exclusion or Removal from School. A therapy animal may be excluded from school property and buildings if a school administrator determines that:

(1) A handler does not have control of the therapy animal;
(2) The therapy animal is not housebroken;
(3) The therapy animal presents a direct and immediate threat to others in the school; or
(4) The animal's presence otherwise interferes with the educational process.

The Owner shall be required to remove the therapy animal from school premises immediately upon such a determination.

Allergic Reactions. If any student or school employee assigned to a classroom in which a therapy animal is permitted suffers an allergic reaction to the therapy animal, the Owner of the animal will be required to remove the animal to a different location designated by an administrator.

Damages to School Property and Injuries. The Owner of a therapy animal is solely responsible and liable for any damage to school property or injury to personnel, students, or others caused by the therapy animal.

Other Therapy Animals. Therapy animals (1) owned by students, patrons, or other non-school employees or (2) owned by school employees for their own benefit will not be allowed on school grounds or school property except as otherwise required by law.

Adopted: 7-10-17
Revised: 7-8-19
Reviewed: 7-8-19

3047
Data Breach Response

I. Preparation

A data breach is an instance in which personal information as defined by state law or personally identifiable information as defined by federal law is released or accessed in an unauthorized manner. The district will implement and maintain reasonable security procedures and practices that are appropriate to the nature and sensitivity of the personal information handled by the district. In order to ensure compliance with state and federal law; in the event of a breach the following preparatory steps shall be taken.

A. Data Governance

The superintendent, or their designee, will create an annually updated data directory that will include:

1. Computing devices purchased by the district,

2. Software that is installed on district devices,

3. Approved vendors/contractors that have access to personal information or personally identifiable information,

4. Staff members with access to district devices,

5. Staff members with active usernames and passwords for any district software.

B. New Devices and Software

Any new software or device that is used in a district building for district purposes will be submitted to the superintendent or their designee for inclusion in the directory.

II. Incident Response Plan

A. Assessment and Investigation

1. If the District becomes aware of a data breach it will make every reasonable effort to remedy the cause of the breach as soon as possible.

2. The District will contact its cyber or relevant data breach insurance provider in the event of a suspected breach.

3. The District will conduct a good faith, reasonable, and prompt investigation to determine the likelihood that personal information has been or will be used for an unauthorized purpose.

4. This investigation will include, but not be limited to, an assessment of what software, hardware, and physical documents were accessed; which District personnel had access to the compromised data; and what specific data was compromised.

B. Notification of Effected Individuals

1. If the investigation determines that the use of information about a Nebraska resident for an unauthorized purpose has occurred or is reasonably likely to occur, the district shall give notice to the affected Nebraska resident.

2. Notice shall be made as soon as possible and without unreasonable delay, consistent with the legitimate needs of law enforcement and consistent with any measures necessary to determine the scope of the breach and to restore the reasonable integrity of the computerized data system.

C. Notification of Law Enforcement and Outside Organizations

1. Should notice of the breach be required to any individual, notice of the breach will be simultaneously sent to the Nebraska Attorney General's office.

2. The Superintendent will determine if the Family Policy Compliance Office will be notified of the breach.

3. The Superintendent will determine if the Privacy Technical Assistance Center will be notified of the breach.

Adopted on: 7-10-17
Revised on: 7-14-25
Reviewed on: _____

3048
Communicable Disease

The district strives to provide a safe environment for both students and staff while safeguarding the rights of all students and employees, including those with communicable diseases. The district complies with Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 79-217 to 79-223 and Title 173 Nebraska Administrative Code, Chapter 3.

Definitions. Terms used in this policy have the meanings given in 173 NAC 3-002. A "reportable communicable disease" means a disease that must be reported under 173 NAC, Chapter 1.

Signs and Symptoms; Sending Students Home. Staff will watch for signs and symptoms of contagious or infectious disease. These signs and symptoms include fever, flushed face, headache, body aches, unexplained tiredness, loss of appetite, stomachache, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, convulsions, sore throat, nasal congestion or discharge, unexplained skin eruption, and sore or inflamed eyes. The district will notify the parent or guardian of the student's signs or symptoms. Upon notice, the parent or guardian must immediately cooperate with the district to arrange safe transportation home or another appropriate caregiver for the student. The district will report any failure to reasonably cooperate with the district to the Department of Health and Human Services or local law enforcement as appropriate.

Notice to School Authority. When the district sends a student home for a suspected contagious or infectious disease, the principal or school nurse will notify the superintendent or designee without delay.

Reports to Public Health. The school nurse, or a person acting in the capacity of a school nurse, will report each case or suspected case of a reportable communicable disease. The report must go to the local public health department or the Nebraska DHHS Division of Public Health as provided in 173 NAC 1-007.04.

Exclusion From School. The district will exclude a student with a confirmed communicable disease for at least the minimum isolation period in Attachment 1 to 173 NAC, Chapter 3. The student must be free of acute signs and symptoms. The student must be fever-free for 24 hours without fever-reducing medication before returning to school.

School Attendance and Participation in School Sponsored Activities. The district will provide educational services to a student diagnosed with a communicable disease as required by law. The district will restrict the student as needed to prevent the spread of disease, to protect the student's health and privacy, and to protect others.

Participation in Nebraska School Activities Association (NSAA) events is subject to NSAA rules and the provisions of the district activity handbook.

Infection and Exposure Control Procedures/Universal Precautions. The district will monitor the information available through the Federal Centers for Disease Control, the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services, and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration. This policy and any procedures, universal precautions, or exposure control plans will be modified, if appropriate, based upon the best new medical information provided by the above sources.

Outbreaks. In an outbreak or epidemic of a communicable disease, the superintendent may exclude students, reassign students, or close one or more schools. The superintendent will coordinate with the local health department and the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services as needed.

Confidentiality. The district will keep information about a person's communicable disease confidential. The district will share information only with staff on a need-to-know basis. When the district must inform a person about another person's condition, the district will inform that person of the duty to keep the information confidential. The district will communicate about a student's communicable disease consistent with the student's IEP or Section 504 Plan, if any.

Staff Training. Staff will receive training regarding communicable diseases and the requirements of this policy and any adopted procedures as part of the training received under the Workplace Injury Prevention and Safety Committee policy.

Adopted on: 7-9-18
Revised on: 7-13-26
Reviewed on: _____

3049
Drones and Unmanned Aircraft

Drones, Unmanned Aircraft Systems, and any other such vehicles ("drones"), which are not operated for purposes of district programs or activities, may not be operated on or above district property without the prior written permission of the superintendent or designee. Any authorized use of drones must comply with all state and federal regulations governing the operation of drones, including FAA regulations.

Drones owned by the district or operated on or above district property with permission must be operated:

1. In compliance with this policy and all other district policies;
2. Only outside the school building(s) in the area authorized or designated by the superintendent or designee;
3. Under the direct supervision of an individual fully trained and skilled in the system's operation;
4. By an individual with the requisite skill and training to safely operate the drone; and
5. Consistent with any other limitations imposed by the superintendent or designee.

Any monitoring or recording of picture, video, or audio by a drone must have the prior written permission of the superintendent or designee and comply with all board policies governing recordings, data, and records.

Any unauthorized use of a drone is strictly prohibited. Devices used in a manner that does not comply with this policy or applicable state and federal law may be confiscated and the operator may be subject to discipline, civil liability, or criminal liability.

Adopted on: 7-9-18
Revised on: _____
Reviewed on: _____

3050
Technology in the Classroom

I. In General

The district desires to use technology in a way that aides in the education of students. New devices and applications offer a number of helpful tools that can improve the student experience and increase learning. Many of these devices and applications also create concerns about student privacy. It is the goal of the district to embrace the helpful elements of technological advancement while remaining mindful of potential student privacy issues.

II. Devices

A. Non-district issued electronic devices may be used in the classroom, under supervision of a staff member. Teachers who wish to bring a device into the classroom on a regular or permanent basis, should inform the principal before deploying the device.

1. Smart speakers such as Google Home, Amazon Echo, Apple HomePod, and similar devices may be used in the classroom. The device must be registered to an account linked to the classroom teacher's school email address. The district will not maintain any records created by use of the smart speaker device. Any record of use will be considered non-record communications pursuant to Nebraska's Records Management Act, and not be maintained by the district.

2. Assistive technology may be used in district classrooms. Any assistive technology, such as an AngelSense device, that uses "listen-in" functionality must have that function disabled while the student using the device is in a district classroom. No assistive technology devices will be permitted to record or transmit the classroom activity of other students unless required by law.

3. All other electronic devices that connect to the internet that a staff member wishes to use for the education of students should be disclosed to the administration prior to use. The district may at any time direct that a teacher discontinue use of a given device.

B. Any classroom recordings made by a staff member will be made pursuant to district policy.

III. Applications

A. School as Agent. The school will serve as an agent for parents/guardians in the collection of information within the school context. The school's use of student information is solely for education purposes.

B. District Applications. The district uses various software applications to record, track, and store student data. Each application selected by the district is in compliance with federal and state law, to the best of the administration's knowledge. Should the district become aware that an application used by the district has suffered a data breach, or been found to be out of compliance with federal or state law, the district will investigate the scope of the violations and notify students, parents, and staff in accordance with district policy.

C. Staff-Selected Applications.

1. Staff are permitted to select applications for use in the classroom.

2. Staff must perform basic due diligence to ensure that the application is safe for students and serves a pedagogical purpose. Staff must notify their supervising administrator of the application they plan to use as part of their lesson plan prior to their use in the classroom. The district may at any time direct that a teacher discontinue use of a given application. The district will provide training on the relevant student privacy laws to staff members who are selecting and deploying applications in the classroom.

Adopted on: 7-9-18
Revised on: _____
Reviewed on: _____

3053
Nondiscrimination

The School District does not discriminate on the basis of prohibited factors in employment and educational programs/activities. The School District affirmatively strives to provide equal opportunity for all as required by:

Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 - prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, or national origin

Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 as amended - prohibits discrimination in employment on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, or national origin

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 - prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex

Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967 (ADEA) as amended - prohibits discrimination on the basis of age with respect to individuals who are at least 40

The Equal Pay Act of 1963 as amended - prohibits sex discrimination in payment of wages to women and men performing substantially equal work in the same establishment

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 - prohibits discrimination against the disabled

Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) - prohibits discrimination against individuals with disabilities in employment, public service, public accommodations and telecommunications

The Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 (FMLA) - requires covered employers to provide up to 12 weeks of unpaid, job-protected leave to "eligible" employees for certain family and medical reasons

The Pregnancy Discrimination Act of 1978 - prohibits discrimination in employment on the basis of pregnancy, childbirth, or related medical conditions

The Pregnant Workers Fairness Act (PWFA) – requires covered employers to provide reasonable accommodations to qualified employee’s or applicant’s known limitations related to, affected by, or arising out of pregnancy, childbirth, or related medical conditions.

The Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA) – provides job protections and reemployment rights to military reservists and National Guard members called to active duty

The Boy Scouts of America Equal Access Act which prohibits discrimination against groups that wish to access district facilities

The Nebraska Fair Employment Practice Act (FEPA) – prohibits employment discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex (including pregnancy), disability, marital status, and retaliation

Nebraska Age Discrimination in Employment Act (Age Act) – prohibits employment discrimination on the basis of age for those individuals who are over 40 years of age

The Equal Pay Act of Nebraska – prohibits discriminatory wage practices based on sex

The Nebraska Equal Opportunity in Education Act – prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex (including pregnancy) by any educational institution

Veterans Preference Law (NEB. REV. STAT §§ 48-225 to 48-231) - stipulates categorical preferences for employment for military veterans and for the spouses of disabled veterans

Additional School Board policies prohibit harassment and/or discrimination against students, employees, or patrons on the basis of sex, race, color, ethnic or national origin, religion, marital status, disability, age, pregnancy, and any other legally prohibited basis. Retaliation for engaging in a protected activity is also prohibited.

Any person who believes she or he has been discriminated against, denied a benefit, or excluded from participation in any district education program or activity may file a complaint using the district's complaint procedures.

Inquiries regarding compliance with any of the laws referred to in this policy may be directed to the superintendent or to the district's Title IX and/or Section 504/ADA Coordinator.

Adopted on: 7-8-19
Revised on: 6-11-24
Reviewed on: _____

3055
School Resource Officers

The school district must have in effect a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with any law enforcement agency or any security agency prior to using the services of a school resource officer (SRO) or security guard. The MOU shall comply with all state law requirements.

Employer. The SRO or security guard are employees of the law enforcement agency or security agency.

Required Training. Each SRO and security guard and at least one administrator in each elementary or secondary school where an SRO or security guard is assigned must attend a minimum of twenty hours of training focused on school-based law enforcement, including, but not limited to, coursework focused on school law, student rights, understanding special needs students and students with disabilities, conflict de-escalation techniques, ethics for school resource officers and security guards, teenage brain development, adolescent behavior, implicit bias training, diversity and cultural awareness, trauma-informed responses, and preventing violence in school settings.

Prosecution Referral Records. The district must create and maintain records on each student referral for prosecution from an SRO in response to an incident occurring at school, on school grounds, or at a school-sponsored event. The records must allow for analysis of related data and must include the reason for the referral and the federally identified demographic characteristics of each student.

Parent or Guardian Notification. School officials are not required to notify a parent or guardian or give them an opportunity to be present if the student is subjected to questioning or interrogation by a school official. School officials will notify a parent or guardian or give them an opportunity to be present if the student is subjected to questioning or interrogation by an SRO or security guard operating in conjunction with a school official as provided in the school's separate policy regarding investigations, arrests, and other student contact by law enforcement, Health and Human Services, or other child welfare agencies.

Rights Advisement. School officials will not advise students of any constitutional rights before student questioning or interrogation. The advisement, if any, shall be made by the SRO or security guard as provided by their agencies' policies and procedures.

Referral to Law Enforcement for Prosecution. The school district's student discipline policy is the school policy required by state law that addresses the student conduct or actions that will be referred to law enforcement for prosecution and the type of student

conduct or actions that will be resolved as a disciplinary matter by a school official and not referred to law enforcement.

Restraint and Seclusion. The school district's restraint and seclusion policy applies to the use of restraint and seclusion on students by school district employees. SROs and security guards that are not employees of the school district are not governed by the school district's restraint and seclusion policy. Instead, they will be governed by the restraint and seclusion policies, practices, and procedures implemented by their employers.

Filing and Posting the MOU. The superintendent shall provide a copy of any initial MOU entered into under this policy to the Nebraska Department of Education (Department) or post a copy on the school district's website within three months of its adoption. The superintendent shall thereafter file any changes to the MOU with the Department or post it on the school district's website no later than January 1st of each year.

Complaint Process. Any student or parent who wishes to express a concern or file a complaint about an SRO or security guard and the practices of the SRO or security guard must follow the school district's complaint procedure.

Adopted on: 6-11-24
Revised on: _____
Reviewed on: _____

3057
Title IX Policy

As required by Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, it is the policy of the district that no person shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subject to discrimination under any of the district's programs or activities, or in regards to admission or employment. Any person may report sex discrimination, including sexual harassment. This report must be made by any means to the district's Title IX Coordinator whose contact information can be found on the district's website and in the district's student and staff handbooks. Any other inquiries regarding the application of this policy should be referred to the Title IX Coordinator.

Adopted on: 8-26-20
Revised on: 7-14-25
Reviewed on: _____

3059
Audio and Video Recording

Students, staff, parents/guardians, and patrons should assume that any class or activity in the school may be recorded by the school district for legitimate educational purposes. There is no reasonable expectation of privacy within classrooms, common areas of the school building or on school grounds outside of the building. Recordings permitted pursuant to this policy may only be used for authorized purposes and may not be republished without additional, written consent from a school administrator. For purposes of this policy "recording" includes still photographs, video, audio, and other similar data captured in any medium.

Secret Recordings. No person is permitted to make surreptitious recordings on school grounds unless authorized by the superintendent.

Recordings Made by The District. The district may use cameras or other devices for purposes of making security, safety, or other recordings when such recordings are deemed necessary or appropriate by an authorized representative of the district. The district will not maintain recordings unless the recording is purposefully copied and saved. Any recording not copied and maintained separately may only be accessible by the authorized representative for a limited time. Recordings made by the district may be destroyed by an authorized representative at any time unless retention is required by law.

Recordings Made by Parents/Guardians and Patrons. Parents/guardians and patrons may make recordings of school activities in a non-disruptive manner including things like athletic contests and school board meetings to the extent permitted by law unless otherwise lawfully restricted by the administration. Parents/guardians or patrons may not make recordings if they are volunteering or visiting school during the school day without permission of the administration or supervising staff member and subject to this policy, such as recording their child's classroom activities or recess. Parents may not record meetings with administrators or staff, including meetings related to a student's IEP or 504 plan. Violation of this policy will result in immediate termination of any meeting that is being recorded and may be grounds for exclusion from school property, loss of volunteer privileges, or other restrictions deemed appropriate by the administration.

Recordings Made by Staff. Staff members may make recordings of classroom instruction, student behavior or performance, and school activities without prior administrative approval only for legitimate educational purposes. Staff members may not make secret recordings while on duty, even if those recordings do not violate state or federal criminal or privacy laws. Staff members who violate this provision may be subject to consequences up to termination for classified staff and cancellation of

contract for certificated staff.

Recordings Made by Students. This policy applies to students during the school day on school grounds; when being transported to and from school activities or programs in a vehicle owned, leased, or contracted by a school being used for a school purpose by a school employee or by his or her designee; or at a school-sponsored activity or athletic event. Students may make recordings of school activities in a non-disruptive manner including things like athletic contests and other extracurricular performances to the extent permitted by law. Students generally are not permitted to record classroom instruction or members of the school community during the school day without the express consent of a staff member or as required by the student's education plan. Student use of assistive technology that has the capacity to record and/or transmit recordings (*e.g.*, AngelSense) must be approved by the student's education team or administration. Students remain subject to all other district policies and rules. In no event shall recordings be taken or made in restrooms, locker rooms, or other areas where there is a reasonable expectation of privacy.

Adopted on: 6-11-24
Revised on: _____
Reviewed on: _____

3060
Firearms and Weapons for Non-Students

Weapons. No person may possess, handle, or transmit any weapon while on school grounds or at any school activity or event off school grounds except as permitted by this policy. ***Definition of Weapon.*** The term "weapon" means any object, device, instrument, material, or substance which is capable of causing injury in the manner it is used or intended to be used.

Firearms. No person may bring, possess, handle or transmit a firearm on school grounds, in a school owned vehicle, or at a school activity or event off school grounds, except as permitted by this policy. ***Definition of Firearm.*** The term "firearm, as defined in 18 U.S.C. 921, means any weapon (including a starter gun) which will or is designed to or may readily be converted to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive, the frame or receiver of any such weapon, any firearm muffler or firearm silencer, or any destructive device (excluding an antique firearm).

Exceptions Regarding Firearms. The prohibition against firearms does not apply to:

1. The issuance of firearms to or possession by members of the armed forces of the United States, active or reserve, National Guard of this State, or Reserve Officers' Training Corps or peace officers or other duly authorized law enforcement officers when on duty or training;

2. The possession of firearms by peace officers or other duly authorized law enforcement officers

The carrying of firearms by qualified law enforcement officers or qualified retired law enforcement officers carrying pursuant to 18 U.S.C. 926B or 926C, respectively, as such sections existed on January 1, 2023

3. Firearms that may lawfully be possessed by a person who is receiving instruction at the school under the immediate supervision of an adult instructor;

4. Firearms which may lawfully be possessed by a person for the purpose of using them, with the approval of the school, in a historical reenactment, in a hunter education program, or as part of an honor guard;

5. Firearms contained within a private vehicle ***operated by a nonstudent adult*** that are not loaded ***and*** are enclosed in a case or are in a locked firearm rack that is on a motor vehicle; or

6. A handgun carried as a concealed handgun by a nonstudent other than a minor or prohibited person in a vehicle or on his or her person while riding in or on a vehicle into or onto any parking area, which is open to the public and used by the school if, prior to exiting the vehicle, the handgun is locked inside the glove box, trunk, or other compartment of the vehicle, a storage box securely attached to the vehicle, or, if the vehicle is a motorcycle, a hardened compartment securely attached to the motorcycle while the vehicle is in or on such parking area.

Consequences. In the event a person violates this policy, the school may:

- Make a report to law enforcement;
- Ban any violator from school grounds, school vehicles, or school events for any time period it deems appropriate; and/or
- Take any other action allowed by law.

Adopted on:6-11-24

Revised on: _____
Reviewed on: _____

3061
ACH Originator

The District sends electronic payments through the ACH (Automated Clearing House) Network such as payroll direct deposits and/or vendor payments. Because of these payments, the District is classified as an ACH Originator. As an ACH Originator, the District complies with the National Automated Clearing House Association (NACHA) Operating Rules which govern the ACH Network. The District's bank requires compliance with the Rules as a condition of the District's ability to send ACH Payments.

Responsibilities. The District follows all terms of its Originating Depository Financial Institution/Originator Agreement with its bank. The District obtains a written authorization before sending any ACH payment. The District meets all processing deadlines set by the bank and NACHA. The District gives authorization records to the bank upon request within NACHA's required timeframes. The District keeps all sensitive banking information secure. When the District receives a Notification of Change, it updates the payment record before the next ACH transaction. When the District receives a return due to an error or unauthorized activity, it stops all related subsequent payments until instructions are received from the Bank. The District keeps its computer systems and network secure in line with its bank agreement. The District uses procedures to spot unauthorized payments. All employees with ACH duties will complete training, if required by the Bank or NACHA, and respond to audit requests. The District will implement internal controls and procedures to mitigate errors and risk of unauthorized ACH entries.

Fraud Monitoring. The District reviews ACH transactions for unusual patterns or amounts before submitting each file. If the District suspects an error or unauthorized ACH transaction, the District will: determine whether the problem is fraud, a scam, or an internal error; notify the bank right away; contact law enforcement if needed; and stop all related future ACH transactions.

Employee Training. All employees with ACH duties will complete any ACH origination training required by the District's designated bank(s).

Adopted on: 7-13-26
Revised on: _____
Reviewed on: _____

4000 Series

Policies Regarding Employment and Staff

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4003	Drug Policy Regarding Drivers
4004	Employment of Relatives, Domestic Partners and Significant Others
4005	Communication Between the Board and District Employees
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4064 Transporting Student in Employee Vehicles

4065 Staff Use of AI Tools

4001
Nondiscrimination

The School District does not discriminate on the basis of prohibited factors in employment and educational programs/activities. The School District affirmatively strives to provide equal opportunity for all as required by:

Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 - prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, or national origin

Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 as amended - prohibits discrimination in employment on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, or national origin

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 - prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex

Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967 (ADEA) as amended - prohibits discrimination on the basis of age with respect to individuals who are at least 40

The Equal Pay Act of 1963 as amended - prohibits sex discrimination in payment of wages to women and men performing substantially equal work in the same establishment

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 - prohibits discrimination against the disabled

Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) - prohibits discrimination against individuals with disabilities in employment, public service, public accommodations and telecommunications

The Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 (FMLA) - requires covered employers to provide up to 12 weeks of unpaid, job-protected leave to "eligible" employees for certain family and medical reasons

The Pregnancy Discrimination Act of 1978 - prohibits discrimination in employment on the basis of pregnancy, childbirth, or related medical conditions

The Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA) – provides job protections and reemployment rights to military reservists and National Guard members called to active duty

The Boy Scouts of America Equal Access Act which prohibits discrimination against groups that wish to access district facilities

The Nebraska Fair Employment Practice Act (FEPA) – prohibits employment discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex (including pregnancy), disability, marital status, and retaliation

Nebraska Age Discrimination in Employment Act (Age Act) – prohibits employment discrimination on the basis of age for those individuals who are over 40 years of age

The Equal Pay Act of Nebraska – prohibits discriminatory wage practices based on sex

The Nebraska Equal Opportunity in Education Act – prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex (including pregnancy) by any educational institution

Veterans Preference Law (NEB. REV. STAT §§ 48-225 to 48-231) - stipulates categorical preferences for employment for military veterans and for the spouses of disabled veterans

Additional School Board policies prohibit harassment and/or discrimination against students, employees, or patrons on the basis of sex, race, color, ethnic or national origin, religion, marital status, disability, age, pregnancy, and any other legally prohibited basis. Retaliation for engaging in a protected activity is also prohibited.

Any person who believes she or he has been discriminated against, denied a benefit, or excluded from participation in any district education program or activity may file a complaint using the district's complaint procedures.

Inquiries regarding compliance with any of the laws referred to in this policy may be directed to the superintendent or to the district's Title IX and/or Section 504/ADA Coordinator.

Adopted on: 11-10-14
Revised on: 07-10-17
Reviewed on: _____

4002
Drug Free Workplace

It is vitally important to have a healthy workforce that is free from the effects of illegal drugs. The use or possession of unlawful drugs in the workplace has a very detrimental effect upon safety and morale of the affected employee, coworkers, and the public at large; and on productivity and the quality of work.

Federal law requires this school district, as a recipient of federal funds, to maintain a drug-free workplace. The unlawful manufacture, distribution, dispensing, possession, or use of a controlled substance in the district's workplace is prohibited. The term "workplace" includes every location where district employees may be found during their working hours or while they are on duty, regardless of whether the location is within the geographic boundaries of the district. Any employee who violates this policy will be disciplined with measures up to and including discharge. The district may, in its sole discretion, require or allow an employee who violates this policy to participate in and satisfactorily complete a drug abuse assistance or rehabilitation program.

The district shall provide every current employee with a copy of this policy, and shall provide each newly hired employee with a copy upon hiring. All district employees must abide by this policy, including those who are not directly engaged in the performance of work pursuant to a federal grant.

Within five days after a conviction, an employee must notify the head of the department in which he or she is assigned of any conviction of a criminal drug statute for a violation occurring in the workplace. The failure to report such a conviction will result in dismissal. If the employee convicted of such an offense is engaged in the performance of work pursuant to the provisions of a federal grant, the district shall notify the grant agency within 10 days of receiving notice of a conviction from the affected employee or of receiving actual notice of such a conviction.

An employee who is convicted of violating any criminal drug statute for conduct that occurred in the workplace will be subject to disciplinary action, including but not limited to suspension or discharge. The district may, in its sole discretion, require the employee to participate in and satisfactorily complete a drug abuse assistance or rehabilitation program.

Adopted on: 11-10-14
Revised on: _____
Reviewed on: _____

4003
Drug Policy Regarding Drivers

Policy Statement. Drivers for the school district must be free from drug and alcohol abuse, and the use of illegal drugs or improper use of alcohol is prohibited. The overall goal of drug and alcohol testing is to insure a drug-free and alcohol-free transportation environment, and to reduce accidents, injuries and fatalities.

Designated Contact. The school district has designated the Superintendent as the individual any driver may contact with questions about this policy or the school district's drug testing program and procedures for drivers. This individual further maintains and will provide drivers informational materials concerning the effects of alcohol and controlled substances use on an individual's health, work, and personal life; signs and symptoms of an alcohol or a controlled substances problem (the driver's or a co-worker's); and available methods of intervening when an alcohol or controlled substances problem is suspected, including confrontation, referral to any employee assistance program and/or referral to management.

Our Superintendent may be contacted at 402-766-4171

Covered Drivers. Any person who operates a commercial motor vehicle on behalf of the school district is covered by this policy and the school district's drug testing program and procedures for drivers. All covered drivers must provide the school district a signed statement certifying that he or she has received a copy of this policy and related materials.

Covered Workday. A driver is required to comply with this policy and the terms of the school district's drug testing program and procedures for drivers at all times they are assigned, or may be assigned, to perform safety-sensitive functions. This includes all time from the time a driver begins to work or is required to be in readiness to work until the time he/she is relieved from work and all responsibility for performing work. Safety-sensitive functions include: (1) all time at a school district facility or property, contractor facility or property, or on any public property, waiting to be dispatched, unless the driver has been relieved from duty by the school district; (2) all time inspecting equipment as required by state or federal law or regulation and any and all other time inspecting, servicing, or conditioning any commercial motor vehicle; (3) all time spent at the driving controls of a commercial motor vehicle in operation; (4) all time, other than driving time, in or upon any commercial motor vehicle; (5) all time loading or unloading a vehicle, supervising, or assisting in the loading or unloading, attending a vehicle being loaded or unloaded, remaining in readiness to operate the vehicle, or in giving or receiving receipts for shipments loaded or unloaded; and (6) all time repairing, obtaining assistance, or remaining in attendance upon a disabled vehicle.

Prohibited Conduct. No driver shall: (1) report for duty or remain on duty requiring the performance of safety-sensitive functions while having an alcohol concentration of 0.04 or greater; (2) use alcohol while performing safety-sensitive functions; (3) perform safety-sensitive functions within four hours after using alcohol; or (4) refuse to submit to a pre-employment controlled substance, a post-accident alcohol or controlled substance test, a random alcohol or controlled substances test, a reasonable suspicion alcohol or controlled substance test, a return-to-duty alcohol or controlled substances test, or a follow-up alcohol or controlled substance test required under state or federal law or this policy. No driver required to take a post-accident alcohol test shall use alcohol for eight hours following the accident, or until he/she undergoes a post-accident alcohol test, whichever occurs first.

No driver shall: (1) report for duty or remain on duty requiring the performance of safety sensitive functions when the driver uses any drug or substance identified in 31 CFR 1308.11 Schedule 1; (2) report for duty or remain on duty requiring the performance of safety-sensitive functions when the driver uses any non-Schedule I drug or substance that is identified in the other Schedules in 21 CFR part 1308 except when the use is pursuant to the instructions of a licensed medical practitioner who is familiar with the driver's medical history and has advised the driver that the substance will not adversely affect the driver's ability to safely operate a commercial motor vehicle; or (3) report for duty, remain on duty or perform a safety-sensitive function, if the driver tests positive or has adulterated or substituted a test specimen for controlled substances.

Types of Testing. Pursuant to regulations promulgated by the Department of Transportation (DOT), the district has implemented four types of testing: (1) pre-employment testing, (2) reasonable cause testing, (3) post-accident testing and (4) random testing.

Refusal to Submit to Testing. A driver shall not refuse to submit to testing. A driver will be considered to have refused to submit to testing if the driver fails to provide a sample or specimen necessary for testing upon a lawful request, consistent with the required testing protocols. The refusal to submit to the testing used by the district will be grounds for refusal to hire driver applicants and to terminate the employment of existing drivers.

Consequences for Violations. Any driver who becomes unqualified on the basis of violation of the terms of this policy will be subject to disciplinary action which may include termination of the driver’s employment, and shall include the immediate removal from safety-sensitive functions in compliance with federal law. No driver tested pursuant to this policy and the school district’s drug testing program and procedures who is found to have an alcohol concentration of 0.02 or greater but less than 0.04 shall perform or continue to perform safety-sensitive functions until the start of the driver’s next regularly scheduled duty period, but not less than 24 hours following administration of the test.

Return to Duty Process. A driver who has violated this policy or the school district drug testing program and procedures cannot again perform any safety-sensitive functions until and unless the employee completes the return-to-duty process, including the substance-abuse professional's (SAP) evaluation, referral, and recommended education or treatment. The school district will provide employees the relevant contact information for available and acceptable SAPs as necessary, but the school district is not required under the law to provide a SAP evaluation or any subsequent recommended education or treatment for a driver. Any driver completing the return-to-duty process must complete a return-to-duty test and test negatively.

Disqualification. Any applicant who tests positive for the presence of the following drugs is medically unqualified to drive and will not be considered for the position of driver: (1) marijuana, (2) cocaine, (3) opiates, (4) amphetamines, or (5) phencyclidine (PCP). Any district driver who tests positive shall be medically unqualified and removed from service immediately.

Pre-employment Testing. All applicants for employment must submit to drug and alcohol tests as a condition of being considered for employment.

Reasonable Cause Testing. The district shall have reasonable cause to require a driver to submit to drug testing when a driver manifests physical or physiological symptoms or reactions commonly attributed to the use of controlled substances or alcohol.

Post-Accident Testing. A driver who has been involved in a reportable accident must submit to drug and alcohol testing as soon as possible. A reportable accident includes any accident in which there is a fatality, a person is injured and must be treated away from the accident site, the driver receives a citation for a moving violation, or a vehicle is towed from the scene. The driver must notify the district immediately regarding any reportable accident.

Serious Injury to the Driver. If a driver is so seriously injured that he or she cannot submit to testing at or immediately after the time of the accident, the driver must provide the necessary authorization for the district to obtain hospital reports or other documents that would indicate whether there were controlled substances or alcohol in the driver's system.

Random Testing. All drivers will be subject to unannounced random testing for drugs and alcohol. The district or its agents will periodically select drivers at random for testing. A district official will notify a driver when his or her name has been selected and will instruct the driver to report immediately for testing. By its very nature, random selection may result in one driver being tested more than once in a 12-month period, while another driver may not be selected at all during the same 12 months.

Frequency of Random Testing. Under DOT regulations, the district must test at least 50 percent of its average number of driver positions for drugs and 25 percent of its

average number of driver positions for alcohol each year. The tests must be unannounced and spread evenly throughout the year. DOT regulations also require that every driver selected at random must have his or her name placed back in the random pool for the next selection period.

Testing Procedure. All urine and blood specimens collected under the policy will be submitted to an approved laboratory for testing. Specimens that initially test positive for drugs will be subjected to a subsequent confirmation test before being reported by the laboratory as positive. All such specimens collected and submitted will be maintained securely to safeguard the validity of the test results and maintain the integrity of the testing process while ensuring the results are attributed to the correct driver.

Medical Review Officer. All laboratory test results will be reported by the laboratory to a medical review officer (MRO) designated by the district. Negative test results will be reported as such by the MRO to the district. Before reporting a positive test result to the district, the MRO will attempt to contact the driver to discuss the test result. If the MRO is unable to contact the driver directly, the MRO will contact a district official designated in advance by the district, who shall in turn contact the driver and direct the driver to contact the MRO. Upon being so directed, the driver shall contact the MRO immediately or, if after the MRO's business hours and the MRO is unavailable, at the start of the MRO's next business day. If required by DOT regulations, personal information collected and maintained pursuant to this policy shall be reported to the Clearinghouse by the MRO in the event of: (1) a verified positive, adulterated, or substituted drug test result; (2) an alcohol confirmation test with a concentration of 0.04 or higher; (3) a refusal to submit to any test required by this policy and the school district's drug testing program and procedures; (4) an employer's report of actual knowledge that a driver has used alcohol or controlled substances based on the employer's direct observation of the employee, information provided by the driver's previous employer(s), a traffic citation for driving a CMV while under the influence of alcohol or controlled substances or an employee's admission of alcohol or controlled substance use; (5) on duty alcohol use as prohibited above; (6) pre-duty alcohol use as prohibited above; (7) alcohol use following an accident as prohibited above; (8) controlled substance use as prohibited above; (9) a substance abuse professional report of the successful completion of the return-to-duty process; (10) a negative return-to-duty test; and (11) an employer's report of completion of follow-up testing.

Confidentiality. Pursuant to DOT regulations, individual test results for applicants and drivers will be released to the district and will be kept confidential unless the tested individual consents to their release or release is required by law (such as the release of information to the Clearinghouse.) Any person who has submitted to drug testing in compliance with this policy is entitled to receive the results of such testing upon timely written request.

Retesting. An individual who tested positive for the presence of drugs may request that the original sample be retested. The request for a retest must be submitted in writing on a form provided by the district within 3 working days of the district's notification to the

individual that he or she has a positive test result. The individual making the request must pay all costs associated with the retest and transfer of the sample to another laboratory before the retest will be performed.

Adopted on: 11-10-14
Revised on: 7-17-23
Reviewed on: _____

4004

Employment of Relatives, Domestic Partners and Significant Others

It is in the school district's best interest to hire the best qualified candidate for employment. However, the district must use sound judgment in hiring and placing employees who are closely related, reside together as domestic partners, or are involved in close relationships for the following reasons: avoiding conflict of interest and the appearance of a conflict of interest; avoiding favoritism and the appearance of favoritism; promoting collegiality among employees; minimizing lost productivity; easing the task of managing employees; avoiding friction and conflict when marriages or relationships break down; and avoiding claims of sexual harassment.

For the purposes of this policy, the term "relative" refers to a spouse, child, parent, sibling, grandparent, grandchild, aunt, uncle, first cousin, or corresponding in-law or "step" relation. "Domestic partner" refers to individuals who reside in the same household and are involved in a relationship, who may hold themselves out to the public as marital partners, but who are not legally married. "Significant others" refers to individuals who are dating or engaged to be married but may or may not reside together. This policy applies to all categories of employment including regular, temporary, and part-time classifications.

Generally, an employee's relative, domestic partner, or significant other should not be hired to work in the same department as the employee or in any other position in which the district believes a conflict or the appearance of a conflict may exist. Relatives, domestic partners, and significant others are permitted to work at the district provided one does not report directly to, supervise, or manage the other. The superintendent may make exceptions to this general rule.

Employees in a supervisory-subordinate relationship or employed in the same department who marry, become domestic partners, or become significant others while employed will be treated in accordance with these guidelines, and one of the employees will be transferred at the earliest practicable time. The transfer will be voluntary when possible. When a voluntary transfer is not possible, the superintendent will make the decision based upon the importance of each job, the needs of the district, and the availability of candidates to fill either position. The district shall endeavor to place the transferred employee in a position which is similar in terms of pay and benefits. The superintendent may make exceptions to this general rule.

Adopted on: 11-10-14
Revised on: _____
Reviewed on: _____

4005
Communication Between the Board and District Employees

Employees should submit communications or reports regarding the district to their immediate supervisor, then the superintendent, and only then to the board. They have the same right to communicate with the board about matters of public concern as other patrons of the district, but must follow the chain of command before communicating about employment-related issues.

When appropriate, the superintendent shall inform employees of official board policies, directives, actions and concerns.

Adopted on: 11-10-14
Revised on: _____
Reviewed on: _____

4006
Insurance

The school district shall provide workers' compensation insurance for the protection of the district and its employees, and such other insurance as the board deems appropriate or has agreed to provide pursuant to a collective bargaining agreement.

Adopted on: 11-10-14
Revised on: _____
Reviewed on: _____

4007
Personnel Records

The district shall maintain a personnel file regarding each employee. All materials in a personnel file, except for employment references and information that was gathered in the process of assessing an applicant for hiring, shall be available to the employee for review within a reasonable period of time of the employee's request. Employees may inspect the contents of their personnel files only in the presence of an administrator or a person designated by the administration.

An employee may respond to any document(s) in his or her personnel file by submitting a written response to the person responsible for keeping the file, who shall attach the response to file copies of the disputed document.

No person other than school officials engaged in their professional duties shall be granted access to employees' personnel files, and the contents of such files shall not be divulged in any manner to any unauthorized person. An attorney acting on behalf of the board of education or administration is deemed to be a school official.

Adopted on: 11-10-14
Revised on: _____
Reviewed on: _____

4008
Outside Employment

1. An employee's responsibilities to the district take precedence over personal responsibilities during school hours. Employees may not engage in other employment business activity during assigned duty hours.

2. Tutoring

    a. Teachers are expected to assist students who are having learning problems as part of the teachers' employment. Such assistance is expected both in the classroom and at other times during the school day.

    b. A teacher shall not solicit a student or parent to retain the teacher as a tutor and shall not act as a tutor for pay or other remuneration for any student who is then enrolled in any class taught by that teacher.

    c. In all other cases during the school year, a teacher may act as a tutor for pay or other remuneration upon prior approval of the building principal and superintendent or designee.

3. Employees shall attend to personal matters outside their assigned duty hours with the district whenever possible.

4. Employees may conduct business on behalf of the district during assigned duty hours, but at times that do not disrupt or interfere with teaching responsibilities or student activities.

5. Employees shall not misrepresent, either expressly or by implication, that any activity, solicitation, or other endeavor is sponsored, sanctioned, or endorsed by the district.

6. In any written or verbal presentation by an employee that might be perceived as being sanctioned, sponsored, or endorsed by the district, other than district-related instruction or presentation to district students or personnel, the employee shall communicate to the audience or recipients that the views expressed are those of the employee and not necessarily those of the district or board.

7. Sale of goods or services by employees.

   a. Employees shall not sell, solicit or promote the sale of goods or services to students.

   b. Employees shall not sell, solicit or promote the sale of goods or services to parents of students when the employee's relationship with the district is used to influence any sale or may be reasonably perceived by parents as attempting to influence any sale.

   c. Employees with supervisory or managerial responsibilities shall not sell, solicit or promote the sale of goods or services to employees over whom they have such responsibilities in any manner that could reasonably be perceived as coercive by the subordinate employee(s).

   d. Employees shall not use employee, student, or parent directories in connection with the solicitation, sale, or promotion of goods or services and shall not provide any such directory to any person or entity for any purpose without the prior knowledge or approval of the building principal.

8. No school board member, administrator, teacher, or other employee shall use the personnel, facilities, resources, equipment, property, or funds of the district for personal financial gain or business activities.

9. All written or artistic works, instructional materials, inventions, procedures, ideas, innovations, systems, programs, or other work product created or developed by any employee in the course and scope of performance of his or her employment duties on behalf of the district, whether published or not, shall be the exclusive property of the district; and the district has the sole right to sell, license, assign, or transfer any and all right, title, or interest in and to such property.

Adopted on: 11-10-14
Revised on: _____
Reviewed on: _____

4009
Restrictions on Employees Receiving Gratuities

An employee who, because of his or her employment by the school district, receives any bonus merchandise or gift with a value over $25.00 must disclose the receipt of such gift to the superintendent. The superintendent, at his or her discretion, may require that the gift become the property of the district.

Employees are directed to discourage merchants from offering bonus paraphernalia in exchange for the school's patronage.

Adopted on: 11-10-14
Revised on: _____
Reviewed on: _____

4010
Inclement Weather

Unless the superintendent directs otherwise, staff shall not be required to report when school is canceled due to inclement weather.

If school is canceled during the day because of inclement weather, classified and certified personnel may be released after students have been excused. Classified and certified personnel who miss work due to inclement weather when school is in session will not be paid for time missed or will be charged an applicable leave day.

Adopted on: 11-10-14
Revised on: 7-10-17
Reviewed on: _____

4011
Employee Leave Under the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA)

The school district shall provide leave to its employees in accordance with the Family and Medical Leave Act ("FMLA"). The terms used herein shall have the meaning ascribed to them under the FMLA. Employees may also qualify for leave under the Nebraska Family Military Leave Act, which is covered under the district's policy for that law. If an employee qualifies for leave under both the Family and Medical Leave Act and the Nebraska Military Leave Act, any leave taken by the employee will count concurrently toward the leave limits of both acts.

I. Qualifying for Leave

A. Qualified Employees

1. To be eligible for ***unpaid*** leave under this policy, an employee must:

    a. Make the request for leave at a time when the school district employs 50 or more workers;

    b. Have been working for the school district for at least 12 months prior to the request; and

    c. Have worked a minimum of 1,250 hours during the 12-month period immediately preceding the commencement of the leave.

2. The applicable 12-month period for computing an employee's entitlement to FMLA leave shall be "rolling" 12-month period measured backward from the date an employee uses any FMLA leave.

3. Employees ineligible for FMLA leave for any reason may be eligible for leave under the Nebraska Family Military Leave Act and should consult policy 4011.1.

B. Qualified Circumstances Necessitating Leave

1. The school district will grant an eligible employee up to a total of 12 workweeks of ***unpaid*** leave under the following conditions:

a. For birth of a son or daughter, and to care for the newborn child;

b. For placement of a son or daughter with the employee for adoption or foster care;

c. To care for the employee's spouse, son, daughter, or parent with a serious health condition;

d. Because of a serious health condition that makes the employee unable to perform the functions of his or her job; or

e. Because of any qualifying exigency arising out of the fact that the employee's spouse, son, daughter, or parent is a Military Member on Covered Active Duty (or has been notified of an impending call or order to Covered Active Duty) in National Guard, Reserves, and/or Regular Armed Forces in support of a contingency operation

2. The school district will grant an eligible employee who is the spouse, son, daughter, parent or next of kin of a Covered Servicemember a total of 26 workweeks of ***unpaid*** leave during a 12-month period to care for the service member as permitted under the FMLA. The leave described in this paragraph shall only be available during a single 12-month period.

   For purposes of this provision and this policy, "Covered Servicemember" includes both Military Members and covered Veterans, so long as the covered Veteran was discharged or released under conditions other than dishonorable at any time during the five-year period prior to the first date the eligible employee takes FMLA leave to care for the covered Veteran.

3. During the single 12-month period described in paragraph I(B)(2), an eligible employee shall be entitled to a combined total of 26 workweeks of leave under paragraphs I(B)(1) and I(B)(2). Nothing in this paragraph shall limit the availability of leave under paragraph I(B)(1) during any other 12-month period.

C. Limitations on Leave

1. Leave for birth or placement for adoption or foster care must conclude within 12 months of the birth or placement.

2. In any case in which a husband and wife both employed by the school district are entitled to FMLA leave:

   a. The aggregate number of workweeks of FMLA leave to which both are entitled is limited to 12 during any 12-month period if such leave is taken (i) because of the birth of a son or daughter of the employee and in order to care for such son or daughter; (ii) because of the placement of a son or daughter with the employee for adoption or foster care; or (iii) to care for a sick parent who has a serious health condition; and

   b. The aggregate number of workweeks of FMLA leave to which both that husband and wife are entitled is limited to 26 during the single 12-month period in which leave is taken to care for a Covered Servicemember and the husband and wife employees are both either the son, daughter, parent, or next of kin of such Covered Servicemember, if the leave is taken for this reason or a combination of this reason and one of the three reasons described in paragraph I(C)(2)(a). If the leave taken by the husband and wife includes leave described in paragraph I(C)(2)(a), the limitation in paragraph I(C)(2)(a) shall apply to the leave described in I(C)(2)(a).

D. Qualifying Notice and Certification

Employees seeking to use FMLA leave will be required to provide:

1. 30-day advance notice when the need to take the leave is foreseeable; provided, if (a) the leave is for needed treatment which is required to begin in less than thirty days or (b) the leave is for the reason set forth in paragraph I(B)(1)(e), the employee shall provide such notice to the school district as is reasonable and practical;

2. Medical certification supporting the need for leave due to a Serious Health Condition affecting the employee or family member or to care for a Military Member, and/or due to a Serious Injury or Illness to care for a Veteran;

3. Second or third medical opinions and periodic re-certifications (at the school district's expense);

4. Certification supporting the need for leave because of a qualifying exigency arising out of the fact that the employee's spouse, son, daughter or parent is a Military Member on Covered Active Duty (or has been notified of an impending call or order to Covered Active Duty) in the National Guard, Reserves, and/or Regular Armed Forces in support of a contingency operation;

5. Certification supporting the need for leave to care for a Veteran who was discharged or released under conditions other than dishonorable at any time during the five-year period prior to the first date the eligible employee takes FMLA leave to care for the covered Veteran, and who is undergoing medical treatment, recuperation, or therapy for a Serious Injury or Illness; and

6. Periodic reports during leave, at a frequency reasonably requested by the superintendent, regarding the employee's status and intent to return to work.

E. Scheduling Leave

When leave is needed to care for a family member, for the employee's own illness, or to care for a Covered Servicemember, and such leave is foreseeable based on planned medical treatment, the employee must attempt to schedule treatment so as not to unduly disrupt the school district's operations.

II. Relationship with District During Leave

A. Leave to Be Unpaid

All leave provided to employees under the provisions of the FMLA and this policy shall be unpaid leave.

B. Substitution of Paid Leave

1. The school district requires employees to substitute any accrued paid vacation leave, paid personal leave, paid family leave, paid medical leave or paid sick leave for FMLA leave. However, nothing in this policy shall require the school district to provide paid sick or medical leave in any situation

in which the school district would not normally provide such paid leave.

2. If an employee uses paid leave under circumstances which do not qualify as FMLA leave, the leave will not count against the number of workweeks of FMLA leave to which the employee is entitled.

3. Any paid leave which is substituted for FMLA leave will be subtracted from the number of workweeks of unpaid leave provided by the FMLA and this policy.

C. Group Health Plan Benefits

1. The school district will continue group health plan benefits on the same basis as coverage would have been provided if the employee had been continuously employed during the FMLA leave period.

2. Any share of health plan premiums which have been paid by the employee prior to FMLA leave must continue to be paid by the employee during the FMLA leave period.

D. Intermittent or Reduced-Schedule Leave

1. Leave may be taken under this policy intermittently or on a reduced-leave schedule under certain circumstances.

   a. When leave is taken because of a birth or because of a placement of a child for adoption or foster care, an eligible employee may take leave intermittently or on a reduced-leave schedule only with the agreement of the school district. In such a case, the superintendent shall have the authority to approve or disapprove such intermittent or reduced leave schedule, in the superintendent's sole discretion.

   b. When leave is taken to care for a sick family member, for an employee's own serious health condition, or to care for a covered Veteran or Military Member, an eligible employee may take leave intermittently or on a reduced-leave schedule when medically necessary.

   c. When leave is taken by an eligible employee because of any qualifying exigency arising out of the fact that the employee's spouse, son, daughter, or parent is a

Military Member on Covered Active Duty (or has been notified of an impending call or order to Covered Active Duty) in National Guard, Reserves, and/or Regular Armed Forces in support of a contingency operation, the employee may take leave intermittently or on a reduced-leave schedule.

d. When leave is taken by an eligible employee to care for a Covered Servicemember, including a Veteran who was discharged or released under conditions other than dishonorable at any time during the five-year period prior to the first date the eligible employee takes FMLA leave to care for the covered Veteran, and who is undergoing medical treatment, recuperation, or therapy for a Serious Injury or Illness

e. Intermittent or reduced leave shall not result in a reduction in the employee's total amount of leave beyond the amount of leave actually taken.

f. When an instructional employee seeks to take intermittent leave in connection with a family or personal illness (e.g. physical therapy or periodic care for a sick relative) or to care for a covered Veteran or Military Member, and when such leave would constitute at least 20 percent of the total number of working days in the period during which the leave would extend, the school district may require the employee to elect to take leave in a block, instead of intermittently, for the entire period or to transfer to an available alternative position within the school system that is equivalent in pay, for which the employee is qualified, and which better accommodates the intermittent leave.

2. If an eligible employee requests intermittent leave or leave on a reduced-leave schedule that is foreseeable based on planned medical treatment, including during a period of recovery from a serious health condition, the school district may require the employee to transfer temporarily to an available alternative position for which the employee is qualified and which better accommodates recurring periods of leave than does the employee's regular position. Such alternative position must have equivalent pay and benefits as the employee’s permanent position.

3. Leave taken on an intermittent or reduced-schedule basis will be tracked hourly.

III. Return from Leave

A. Restoration to Position

1. On return from FMLA leave, an employee is entitled to be returned to the same position the employee held when leave commenced, or to an equivalent position with equivalent benefits, pay, and other terms and conditions of employment.

2. Any leave taken under this policy will not result in the loss of any employment benefits accrued prior to the date on which the leave commenced.

3. An eligible employee is not entitled to accrual of any seniority or employment benefits during any period of leave, or any right, benefit, or position of employment other than to which the employee would have been entitled had the employee not taken leave.

B. Denial of Restoration

1. The school district reserves the right to deny restoration to any eligible employee who is a "key employee" (that is an employee who is salaried and among the highest paid 10% of the employees of the school district) if such denial is necessary to prevent substantial and grievous economic injury to the operations of the school district.

2. If the school district intends to deny restoration to such an employee, it will:

   a. notify the employee of his/her status as a "key employee" in response to the employee's notice of intent to take FMLA leave;

b. notify the employee as soon as the school district decides it will deny job restoration and explain the reasons for this decision;

c. offer the employee a reasonable opportunity to return to work from FMLA leave after giving this notice; and

d. make a final determination as to whether reinstatement will be denied at the end of the leave period if the employee then requests restoration.

C. Failure to Return from Leave

If an employee fails to return from FMLA leave after the period of leave to which the employee is entitled has expired, the employee shall reimburse the district for any premiums the employer paid for maintaining health insurance coverage for the employee during the employee's FMLA leave unless the reason the employee does not return is due to: (1) the continuation, recurrence, or onset of the serious health condition which entitled the employee to FMLA leave and the employee provides the district with sufficient certification from the proper health care provider of such continuation, recurrence, or onset of the serious health condition or (2) other circumstances beyond the employee's control.

IV. Notice to Employees

A. The school district will post in conspicuous places where employees are employed notices explaining the FMLA and providing information concerning the procedures for filing complaints of FMLA violations with the U.S. Wage and Hour Division.

B. To the extent that any provision in this policy is in any manner inconsistent with the provisions of the Act or the regulations promulgated thereunder, the Act and regulations shall prevail over the provisions of this policy. The school district reserves the right to modify this policy from time to time in its sole discretion.

C. Employees may direct any questions or concerns regarding FMLA leave to the superintendent.

Adopted on: 11-10-14
Revised on: 6-11-24
Reviewed on: _____

4011.1
Nebraska Family Military Leave Act

The school district shall provide leave to its employees in accordance with the Nebraska Family Military Leave Act (NFMLA). The terms used herein shall have the meaning ascribed to them under the NFMLA. Employees may also qualify for leave under the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA), which is detailed in the district's FMLA policy. If an employee qualifies for leave under both the FMLA and NFMLA, any leave taken by the employee will count concurrently toward the leave limits of both.

I. Qualifying for Leave

A. Qualified Employees

To be eligible for unpaid leave under the NFMLA, an employee must:

1. Have been working for the school district for at least 12 months prior to the request; and

2. Have worked a minimum of 1,250 hours during the 12-month period immediately preceding the commencement of the leave.

B. Qualified Circumstances for Requesting Leave

The school district will grant a qualified employee up to a total of 30 days of unpaid leave if:

1. The employee is the spouse or parent of a person called to military service lasting 179 days or longer with the state or United States pursuant to orders of the Governor or the President of the United States and;

2. The leave is scheduled to be taken during the time federal or state deployment orders are in effect.

C. Qualifying Notice and Certification

Employees seeking to use the NFMLA will be required to provide:

a. A consultation with the District to schedule leave so as not to unduly disrupt the operations of the school.

b. Certification from the proper military authority to verify the employee's eligibility for the family military leave requested.

c. 14-day advance notice of the intended date upon which the leave will begin, if leave will consist of five or more work days.

d. As much advance notice as possible of the intended date upon which the leave will commence, if leave will consist of less than five work days.

II. Relationship with District During Leave

A. Leave to Be Unpaid

All leave provided to employees under the provisions of the NFMLA and this policy shall be unpaid leave.

B. Benefits

1. Taking leave under the NFMLA shall not result in the loss of any employee benefit accrued before the date on which the leave commenced.

2. Any employee who takes leave under the NFMLA will be permitted to continue their benefits at their own expense.

3. Payment for benefits must be made to the district in advance of the date on which they are due. For example, if health insurance premiums are paid to the carrier by the district on the 1st of the month, the employee taking leave under the NFMLA must provide the full cost of the premium to the district prior to that date. Failure to provide the full costs for all benefits the employee wishes to continue in advance of their due date may result in cancellation of benefits as permitted by law.

III. Return from Leave

A. Restoration to Position

1. Any employee who exercises the right to leave under the NFMLA shall be restored by the district to the position held by the employee when the leave commenced or to a position with equivalent seniority status, employee benefits, pay, and other terms and conditions of employment.

2. This section does not apply if the district proves that the employee was not restored because of conditions unrelated to the employee's exercise of rights under the NFMLA.

B. Failure to Return

If an employee fails to return after the period of leave to which the employee is entitled has expired, and no additional qualifications for leave exist, the employee will be subject to the district's policies governing unexcused absences up to and including termination of employment.

Adopted on: 7-10-17
Revised on: _____
Reviewed on: _____

4012
Staff Internet and Computer Use

Internet access is an important tool for communicating, keeping up-to-date with current developments in education, and for conducting research to enhance management, teaching and learning skills. The following procedures and guidelines are intended to ensure appropriate use of the Internet at the school by the district's faculty and staff. Staff should also refer to the district's policy on Staff and District Social Media Use.

I. Staff Expectations in Use of the Internet

A. Acceptable Use While on Duty or on School Property

1. Staff shall be restricted to use the Internet to conduct research for instructional purposes.

2. Staff may use the Internet for school-related e-mail communication with fellow educators, students, parents, and patrons.

3. Staff may use the Internet in any other way which serves a legitimate educational purpose and that is consistent with district policy and good professional judgment.

4. Teachers should integrate the use of electronic resources into the classroom. As the quality and integrity of content on the Internet is not guaranteed, teachers must examine the source of the information and provide guidance to students on evaluating the quality of information they may encounter on the Internet.

B. Unacceptable Use While on Duty or on School Property

1. Staff shall not access obscene or pornographic material.

2. Staff shall not engage in any illegal activities on school computers, including the downloading and reproduction of copyrighted materials.

3. Staff shall not use school computers or district internet access to use peer-to-peer sharing systems such as BitTorrent, or participate in any activity which interferes with the staff member's ability to perform their assigned duties.

4. The only political advocacy allowed by staff on school computers or district internet access is that which is permitted by the Political Accountability and Disclosure Act and complies with district policy.

5. Staff shall not share their passwords with anyone, including students, volunteers or fellow employees.

II. School Affiliated Websites

Staff must obtain the permission of the administration prior to creating or publishing any school-affiliated web page which represents itself to be school-related, or which could be reasonably understood to be school-related. This includes any website which identifies the school district by name or which uses the school's mascot name or image.

Staff must provide administrators with the username and password for all school-affiliated web pages and must only publish content appropriate for the school setting. Staff must also comply with all board policies in their school-affiliated websites and must comply with the board's policy on professional boundaries between staff and students at all times and in all contexts.

Publication of student work or personality-identifiable student information on the Internet may violate the Federal Education Records Privacy Act. Staff must obtain the consent of their building principal or the superintendent prior to posting any student-related information on the Internet.

III. Enforcement

A. Methods of Enforcement

The district owns the computer system and monitors e-mail and Internet communications, Internet usage, and patterns of Internet usage. Staff members have no right of privacy in any electronic communications or files, which are stored or accessed on or using school property and these are subject to search and inspection at any time.

1. The district uses a technology protection measure that blocks access to some sites that are not in accordance with the district's policy. Standard use of the Internet utilizes a proxy server-based filter that screens for non-curriculum related pages.

2. Due to the nature of technology, the filter may sometimes block pages that are appropriate for staff research. The system administrator may override the technology protection measures that blocks or filters Internet access for staff access to a site with legitimate educational value that is wrongly blocked.

3. The district will monitor staff use of the Internet by monitoring Internet use history to ensure enforcement of this policy.

B. **Any violation of school policy and rules may result in that staff member facing:**

1. Discharge from employment or such other discipline as the administration and/or the board deem appropriate;

2. The filing of a complaint with the Commissioner of Education alleging unprofessional conduct by a certified staff member;

3. When appropriate, the involvement of law enforcement agencies in investigating and prosecuting wrongdoing.

IV. Off-Duty Personal Use

School employees may use the internet, school computers, and other school technology while not on duty for personal use as long as such use is (1) consistent with other district policies, (2) consistent with the provisions of Title 92, Nebraska Administrative Code, Chapter 27 (Nebraska Department of Education "Rule 27"), and (3) is reported as compensation in accordance with the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, and taxes, if any, are paid. All of the provisions of Rule 27 will apply to non-certificated staff for the purposes of this policy. In addition, employees may not use the school's internet, computers, or other technology to access obscene or pornographic material, sext, or engage in any illegal activities.

Adopted on: 11-10-14
Revised on: 7-9-18
Reviewed on: _____

4013
Grievance Procedure

Any employee who has a grievance because of alleged policy or contract violation shall use the following procedure;

a. Discussion with their immediate superior concerning the complaint plus written notification to the Superintendent of the grievance. If the grievance is not satisfied within five working days step “b” is followed.

b. Written notification on non-settlement shall be given to the Superintendent. He shall act upon and given written notification within ten(10) working days. If the grievance is not resolved step “c” is followed.

c. The Board of Education will place the grievance on the agenda for its next scheduled regular meeting. The Board of Education shall render a decision within five days after the meeting and their decision shall be the final step in the grievance process.

Adopted on: 11-10-14
Revised on: _____
Reviewed on: _____

4014
Employment-Related Sexual Harassment

It is the policy of the school district to provide an environment free of unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors and other verbal or physical conduct or communication constituting sexual harassment. Sexual harassment by any employees and students is unequivocally prohibited. Sexual harassment is misconduct that interferes with work productivity and wrongfully deprives employees of the opportunity to work and students of the opportunity to study and be in an environment free from unsolicited and unwelcome sexual overtones. Sexual harassment includes all unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors and other such verbal or physical misconduct. Sexual harassment is a prohibited practice and is a violation of the law.

The U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission has issued guidelines interpreting Section 703 of Title VII as prohibiting sexual harassment. Sexual harassment is defined in those guidelines as follows:

> Unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical misconduct of a sexual nature constitutes sexual harassment when:
>
> (1) Submission to such conduct is made either explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of an individual's employment,
>
> (2) Submission to or rejection of such conduct by an individual is used as the basis for employment decisions affecting such individual, or
>
> (3) Such conduct has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual's work performance or creating an intimidating, hostile or offensive working environment.

A person who feels harassed is encouraged to inform the person engaging in sexually harassing conduct or communication directly that the conduct or communication is offensive and must stop. If the person who feels harassed does not wish to communicate directly with the person whose conduct or communication is offensive, or if direct communication with the offending person has been ineffective, the person who feels harassed should report the conduct or communication to a supervisor, principal, the superintendent of schools, or a

board of education member with whom he or she feels comfortable in reporting the issue.

Regardless of the means selected for resolving the problem, the good faith initiation of a complaint of sexual harassment will not affect the complainant's employment, compensation or work assignments as an employee, or status as a student.

Sexual harassment of one student by another student or students is addressed in a separate policy.

Adopted on: 11-10-14
Revised on: _____
Reviewed on: _____

4015
Prohibition Against Employment of Board Members

Nebraska statutes recognize the inherent conflict of interest that is created when a member of the board of education serves as a certificated employee of the district. Consequently, section 79-544 of the statutes prohibits a board member from being employed as a teacher in a school district where he or she also serves on the board.

A conflict of interest is also created when a board member serves simultaneously as both a board member and an employee in any capacity, whether certified or non-certified. Therefore, a board member shall not be employed by the school district when serving on the board. If an employee is elected or appointed to the board, his or her employment shall be terminated upon being seated on the board. Because of the conflict that is created by a board member applying for employment while sitting on the board, a board member who wishes to apply for employment shall be required to resign from the board before applying.

This policy does not prohibit the board from contracting with members of the board for services or products when the relationship is not one of employer/employee and such contracts are in compliance with the requirements of statute and board policy regarding conflicts of interest.

Adopted on: 11-10-14
Revised on: 6-13-16
Reviewed on: _____

4016
Jury Duty/Service as Witness in Court

An employee who has been called to serve as a juror will be granted paid leave. Employees must sign over to the district the compensation they receive for jury duty, but not compensation for expenses.

An employee who has been subpoenaed to testify as a witness in a court proceeding shall be entitled to one day of paid leave. To receive paid leave, the employee must sign over to the district his or her witness fee.

Adopted on: 11-10-14
Revised on: _____
Reviewed on: _____

4017
Relations with Employee Collective Bargaining Associations

The board of education recognizes the right of staff members to belong to professional employee organizations. The board will negotiate with organizations that have been certified or recognized in accordance with public employee bargaining statutes. The board or administration will coordinate with certified or recognized organizations for purposes of collective bargaining.

The district will allow professional employee organizations to make reasonable use of district facilities for meetings outside the district's and the employees' work hours. With administrative approval, organizations may use district resources, post notices of meetings, and provide other information on bulletin boards designated for this purpose, and use district email and mailboxes for delivery of information specific to the organization. Organizations must pay for all supplies used, damage caused, or the loss or theft of borrowed property.

For purposes of recruiting new members, organizations may host or attend certain meetings of certificated staff outside the district's and the employees' work hours. Attendance at any staff meetings does not include all-staff, building-level, committee, or other meetings called by the district, unless those meetings are open to other organizations or if required by law.

Unless otherwise specified in this policy or permitted law, organizations will be treated equally, and the district will not designate any day or break by reference to any specific organization.

Adopted on: 11-10-14
Revised on: 7-13-26
Reviewed on: _____

4018
Corporal Punishment

Corporal punishment, defined as the infliction of bodily pain as a penalty for disapproved behavior, is prohibited. Some physical contact is inevitable, and most of it is appropriate. Therefore, physical contact, short of corporal punishment, is acceptable to promote personal interaction with students, to maintain order and control, and to protect persons and property.

Adopted on: 11-10-14
Revised on: _____
Reviewed on: _____

4019
Workplace Injury Prevention and Safety Committee

The school district is committed to providing and maintaining a safe work environment, and to taking reasonable precautions for the safety of the students, employees, visitors, and all others having business with this school district. Every employee should show concern for the safety of fellow employees, students, and members of the public. The district shall have a safety committee as required by Nebraska law. Members of the safety committee may be established through the collective bargaining process.

The committee will adopt and maintain a written injury prevention program. The committee will participate in the development of safety education, training, and the establishment of safety rules, policies and procedures pursuant to this policy, the district's written injury prevention program, or as otherwise provided by law. Training for employees will be conducted annually.

The workplace injury prevention and safety committee will maintain minutes of all meetings and file them in the district office. The committee will implement accident investigation, record keeping procedures, safety rules, safety and health training, and policies. The district will maintain records for at least three years, or longer if directed by the Department of Labor.

The committee will meet at least once every three months or more frequently in the event of an employee complaint or of a job-related injury or death. The workplace injury prevention and safety committee will keep written minutes of all meetings and provide a copy to the superintendent or designee who will maintain the minutes in the district's administrative offices for a period of at least three years, unless otherwise instructed by the Department of Labor.

The workplace injury prevention and safety committee will develop an injury prevention plan and present it to the board. The plan should be developed and presented in the spirit of employees working together in a cooperative, non-adversarial effort to promote safety at the work sites within the district.

The superintendent or designee will assure that the safety training for employees is reviewed annually or more frequently, if needed. He or she will provide the following, as set forth in the initial written Employer's Injury Prevention Plan:

1. Initial safety orientation on rules, policies, and job specific procedures for new employees or employees who are assuming new and different duties within the school district, if appropriate.
2. Job specific training for employees before they perform potential hazardous work.

3. Periodic refresher training and dissemination of information on an annual basis, or more frequently if so designated by the administrator, for employees regarding the injury prevention plan of the unit and safety rules, policies, and procedures pertaining to safety within the school district.

In the event of a death in the workplace, the workplace injury prevention and safety committee will forward to the Department of Labor within 15 working days a copy of any review of the matter made by the workplace injury prevention and safety committee.

The superintendent or designee will establish or cause to be established record-keeping procedures to control and maintain all accident and injury records pertaining to accidents and injuries within the district or activities under the control of the district. Such records will be kept for at least three years, or longer if so advised by the Department of Labor.

The workplace injury prevention and safety committee will confer with the district's crisis team and will review the district's All-Hazard School Safety Plan upon its adoption by the crisis team.

Adopted on: 10-11-16
Revised on: 7-13-26
Reviewed on: _____

4020
Copyright Policy

It is the policy of this school to encourage teachers to be creative and innovative. Therefore, a school administrator may enter into a written agreement with a teacher allowing the teacher to own a copyright in a written work created by the teacher in his or her scope of employment. The administrator and teacher shall only enter into such an agreement if the written work was created apart from, and in addition to, what the district requires and if the district will not incur an expense to replace the work.

Adopted on: 12-8-14
Revised on: _____
Reviewed on: _____

4022

Certification and Endorsements

All educators must be duly certified by the Nebraska Department of Education in accordance with the Department's rules and the laws of Nebraska. They must file copies of their teaching certificates, including endorsements, with the superintendent of schools, and must promptly file any changes in certification or endorsements. Certified employees are required to maintain all their endorsements, and may not permit any endorsement to lapse or remove it from their certificates. The board or superintendent may require a certified employee to obtain a new endorsement when it is deemed necessary for the benefit of the school district and/or to comply with federal or state requirements.

Adopted on: 12-8-14
Revised on: _____
Reviewed on: _____

4023
Professional Ethics

The Regulations and Standards for Professional Practices Criteria, commonly known as Rule 27 of the Nebraska Department of Education, are the minimum standards for all certificated staff members of the school district. All certified employees are responsible for reading, understanding, and complying with these standards.

Adopted on: 12-8-14
Revised on: _____
Reviewed on: _____

4024
Teachers' Rights, Responsibilities and Duties

All certificated employees shall assume the duties and responsibilities assigned by the superintendent or designee. Teachers' professional responsibilities involve considerably more than merely classroom instruction. They include, but are not limited to, study and research to keep abreast of new knowledge and instructional techniques; assessment of students' work; record-keeping; lesson planning and preparation; conferences with students, parents and administrators; in-service meetings; and supervision of pupils outside the classroom.

Teachers must be in their classrooms or assigned areas as instructed by the building principal. All duty time is necessary for educational planning, preparation, and conferences with students, parents and faculty members.

All teachers must maintain a standard of dress, personal appearance, general decorum, moral standards and behavior that reflects their professional status in the community.

Adopted on: 12-8-14
Revised on: _____
Reviewed on: _____

4025
Superintendent

The superintendent is hired by and shall report directly to the board of education. All school employees shall be under the direct and/or delegated supervision of the superintendent. All of the grounds and buildings are supervised by the superintendent. He or she shall, at his or her discretion, make the board aware of any needed repairs and improvements. The board of education delegates to the superintendent the power and authority to make necessary corrections and decisions on all matters concerning the running of the school. The board will review all such rulings, corrections, decisions and such at regular or special board meetings.

The superintendent is charged with presenting an annual school budget to meet necessary statutory deadlines, and this budget shall be subject to the approval of the board of education and voters at the annual budget hearing and annual meeting. In conjunction with this budget preparation, the superintendent is charged with implementing the budget and shall be authorized to make all purchases he deems necessary after the board of education and voters approve the budget at the budget hearing. The superintendent shall present all of the bills to the board of education and handle all monies in the activity accounts, as well as the lunch account. He or she shall supervise the bookkeeping of the accounts and shall sign all the checks and will have the final approval of how the money is spent. He or she shall be bonded or insured for $5,000, and this bond or insurance will be provided by the school district. The superintendent shall, monthly, provide a balance sheet showing each activity account.

The superintendent shall be in a position of approving all school activities, and he/she may delegate this authority to the principals, teachers, sponsors, etc. Such activities shall include, but not be limited to, the schedule, the closing of school, non-school activities (with board approval), calendars, and media releases.

The superintendent will be the chief administrative officer of the board of education and shall keep the board informed on important issues. He or she shall review all certified and non-certified employees applying for vacancies and shall make recommendations regarding these employees.

The superintendents other duties include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Maintain high standards of student conduct and enforce discipline as necessary, according due process to the rights of students.
2. Develop and implement in-service training of teachers, with special responsibility for staff administrative procedures and instruction.
3. Prepare a school calendar for board adoption.
4. Recommend changes in board policy.
5. Be responsible for implementation of board policy.
6. Serve a vocational director.
7. Serve as transportation director.

8. Enforce the negotiated agreement.
9. Supervise the lunch program.
10. Supervise the teaching staff and evaluation.
11. Supervise the guidance program.
12. Supervise extra-curricular activities.

Adopted on: 12-8-14
Revised on: 6-8-15
Reviewed on: _____

4026
Administrative Employees

A staff member who holds an administrative and supervisory certificate and performs administrative duties shall be paid a salary and provided fringe benefits based upon board policy and the decisions of the board.

Adopted on: 12-8-14
Revised on: _____
Reviewed on: _____

4027
Part-Time Certified Employees

Percentage of Time. The percentage of time that a teacher works will be determined by calculating the amount of time that the teacher is required to be at school to teach or supervise classes, plus any assigned preparation time, as a percentage of the entire school day. Extracurricular assignments shall not be considered in determining a teacher's percentage of time. Part-time and temporary teachers may or may not be assigned preparation time, at the sole discretion of the board of education, upon the recommendation of the superintendent of schools.

Acquiring Permanent Status. A part-time teacher may become a permanent certificated employee pursuant to the provisions of state statutes.

Salary. The salary, benefits and leave entitlement of a part-time teacher shall be determined by reference to the negotiated agreement between the district and the teacher's association.[1] The percentage of time a part-time teacher is required to be on duty shall be determined by the board of education upon the recommendation of the superintendent of schools.

Horizontal Movement on the Salary Schedule. A part-time teacher may qualify for movement horizontally on the salary schedule by earning graduate hours of college credit as set forth in the guidelines of the school district's salary schedule, and according to the applicable district policies.

Attendance at In-service Meetings, Faculty Meetings, and School Activities.
A part-time teacher is responsible for attending in-service meetings, faculty meetings, and school activities that take place outside the teacher's assigned duty hours without additional compensation. A part-time teacher is responsible for performing such tasks as selling or taking tickets, and will be compensated for such tasks pursuant to the policy, practice or negotiated agreement of the school district.

Continuation of Employment.
The salary, benefits and leave entitlement of a part-time teacher shall be determined by multiplying the percentage of time the individual works by his or her placement on the full-time salary schedule contained in each academic years' negotiated agreement.

Adopted on: 12-8-14
Revised on: _____
Reviewed on: _____

4028
Substitute Teachers

A substitute teacher is an educator who possesses the required certification from the Nebraska Department of Education and is employed to fill a teaching position on a temporary basis. The board shall establish the pay and benefits for substitute teachers.

Adopted on: 12-8-14
Revised on: _____
Reviewed on: _____

4029
Salary Schedule for Certificated Employees

The board of education recognizes the "salary schedule" and related provisions for compensation currently in effect resulting from negotiations between the board and the education association.

Horizontal Advancement. Teachers who wish to advance horizontally on the salary schedule must notify the superintendent in writing prior to June 1 of the preceding school year. The teacher must furnish the superintendent with college transcripts by August 15 for the teacher to qualify to move horizontally on the salary schedule. If an institution will not issue an official transcript by August 15, the teacher must provide the superintendent with written confirmation by August 15 from a college official attesting that the teacher has satisfactorily completed the courses.

Movement Past the BA Column. Teachers who wish to advance beyond the BA column must be enrolled in course work that relates to their teaching field, as determined by the superintendent. Teachers must inform the superintendent of their enrollment prior to the beginning of their class to discuss its work-related objectives.

Movement Past the MA Column. Teachers who wish to advance beyond the MA column must be enrolled in course work that relates to their teaching field, as determined by the superintendent. Teachers must inform the superintendent of their enrollment prior to the beginning of their class to discuss its work-related objectives.

Superintendent's Review. The superintendent shall review all requests for advancement on the salary schedule resulting from a teacher's acquiring additional teaching experience or for completion of college courses, and shall report all changes to the board of education annually.

Vertical Advancement. A teacher may advance only one step vertically on the schedule in any year.

Adopted on: 12-8-14
Revised on: _____
Reviewed on: _____

4030
Evaluation of Certificated Employees

All certificated employees to be evaluated shall be notified annually in writing. A certified administrator, with the exception of the local board of education when it is evaluating the superintendent, will observe and evaluate each probationary certified employee for a full instructional period once each semester and each permanent certificated employee for a full instructional period once each school year. If the probationary certificated employee is a superintendent, he or she shall be evaluated twice during the first year of employment and at least once annually thereafter. The evaluation will include, but not be limited to evaluating the employee's instructional performance, classroom organization and management, personal conduct, and professional conduct. Evaluation of instructional performance and classroom organization and management is applicable to teachers only. The administrator will provide the employee with a written list of deficiencies, suggestions and a timeline for correcting the deficiencies and improving performance, and sufficient time to improve. The evaluation form will include notice that the employee may respond to the evaluation in writing.

The school district will train administrators in evaluation annually through meetings with the superintendent or other administrator, attendance at regional, state or national workshops, or any other method approved by the superintendent.

For the purposes of this policy, the terms "actual classroom observation" and "entire instructional period" are defined as follows:

Entire Instructional Period. For certificated employees whose classes are held during defined periods of time (e.g., senior high classes), an entire instructional period consists of one such time period. For those whose time periods are not so defined (e.g., elementary classroom teachers), an entire instructional period consists of 40 minutes. The instructional period for those whose work does not necessarily involve continuous instruction for 40-minute periods (e.g., librarians or speech therapists) consists of no less than 40 minutes total during the semester. The entire instructional period for administrators cannot be defined in terms of an instructional period and shall be satisfied by the actual observation of an administrator's work during the semester for no

less than 40 minutes.

Actual Classroom Observation. Actual classroom observation consists of observing the certificated employee in any activities in a classroom setting. When a certificated employee does not have classroom responsibility (e.g., administrators or librarians), the requirement of "actual classroom observation" will be satisfied by observing the certificated employee performing activities that are typical of his or her position.

This policy and the evaluation instrument shall be included in the teacher handbook which will be distributed to staff members upon their employment and annually thereafter.

Adopted on: 12-8-14
Revised on: _____
Reviewed on: _____

4031
Evaluation of Probationary Certified Employees

A certified administrator will observe and evaluate each probationary certified employee for a full instructional period once each semester. The administrator will provide each employee with a written list of deficiencies, suggestions for improvement, and sufficient time to improve.

For the purposes of this policy, the terms "actual classroom observation" and "entire instructional period" are defined as follows:

Entire Instructional Period. For certified employees whose classes are held during defined periods of time (e.g., senior high classes), an entire instructional period consists of one such time period. For those whose time periods are not so defined (e.g., elementary classroom teachers), an entire instructional period consists of 40 minutes. The instructional period for those whose work does not necessarily involve continuous instruction for 40-minute periods (e.g., librarians or speech therapists) consists of no less than 40 minutes total during the semester. The entire instructional period for administrators cannot be defined in terms of an instructional period and shall be satisfied by the actual observation of an administrator's work during the semester for no less than 40 minutes.

Actual Classroom Observation. Actual classroom observation consists of observing the certified employee in any activities in a classroom setting. When a certified employee does not have classroom responsibility (e.g., administrators or librarians), the requirement of "actual classroom observation" will be satisfied by observing the certified employee performing activities that are typical of his or her position.

Adopted on: 12-8-14
Revised on: _____
Reviewed on: _____

4032
Professional Growth

Every six years, permanent certificated employees shall give evidence of professional growth. Six credit hours of college credit shall be accepted as evidence of professional growth.

The board of education believes the goal of professional self-improvement to be inherent in the responsibilities of each certificated district employee.

Other professional growth activities which may count toward the six-year requirement include non-credit courses, lecture series, workshops, conferences, study groups, local in-service courses, committee service, supervising a student teacher, serving with professional groups, travel of significant educational value, and membership in professional organizations. The employee must receive prior approval from the building principal for any of these activities to count toward professional growth.

No professional growth units will be awarded if the applicant has been paid for a non-college activity either by released time or by an additional amount paid by the school district.

One unit of professional growth credit will generally be equivalent to ten hours of personal time spent on an educational activity.

Tenure and Teacher Advancement:

To conform to state statues, within six years of September 1, l995 and every six years after that date, all permanent certificated employees must earn 18 professional growth points. Fulfilling this requirement will allow the staff member to continue employment with Diller-Odell Public Schools.
The following guidelines govern the awarding of professional growth points:
1. Each full time permanent certificated employee must earn 18 points every six years.
2. Each part-time permanent certificated employee must earn growth points commensurate with their contract.
3. Employees are expected to keep their own records and report annually to their principal.
4. Professional growth points may be granted, upon prior administrative approval,

during a regular contractual day, exclusive of activity supervision, faculty meetings, etc.
5. The following is a list of possible activities and their allowable growth points.
3 points - for each college credit hour
1 point - for each full day of curricular workshop or convention
2 points - for each semester of student teacher supervision
Points may be granted for travel, publication, or other options with prior administration approval.

Adopted on: 12-8-14
Revised on: _____
Reviewed on: _____

4033
Rights of Probationary Certificated Employees

Procedural Entitlement. The superintendent of schools may, at his or her discretion, notify a probationary certificated employee that his or her employment contract may not be renewed or may be amended. In the event of consideration of nonrenewal or amendment of a probationary certificated employee's employment contract at the close of the school year, the affected employee shall be provided with written notice of the proposed nonrenewal on or before April 15, including notice that he or she is entitled to a hearing before the board prior to any final decision on the proposed contract action. To secure such a hearing, the employee must send a written request to the secretary of the board, the superintendent or the superintendent's designee within seven (7) calendar days of receipt of notice of possible nonrenewal or amendment. An employee who requests a hearing shall be given written notice of the employment-related reasons for the proposed action at least five (5) calendar days prior to the hearing. The hearing shall be an informal hearing at which the employee or the employee's representative shall be given an opportunity to discuss and explain the employee's position regarding continued employment, to present information, and to ask questions of those appearing on behalf of the school district. At the conclusion of the hearing, the board may elect to amend or not renew the contract of a probationary certificated employee for any reason it deems sufficient if the nonrenewal is in accordance with the provisions of Nebraska statutes and is not for constitutionally impermissible reasons.

Hearing by Board Committee. At its discretion, the board may conduct the hearing regarding the nonrenewal or amendment of a probationary employee's employment by a committee of the board that consists of not fewer than three board members. If the board proceeds with a hearing by committee, notice of the hearing must be sent to all board members five (5) days prior to the date of the hearing, the majority opinion of such a committee will constitute a recommendation to the board as a whole, and the final decision must be made by a majority vote of the members of the board without additional hearing. The meeting to make a final determination must be held in open session.

Public Notice of Meeting. The board shall give proper notice of any board meeting in accordance with the Nebraska Public Meetings Law.

Adopted on: 12-8-14
Revised on: _____
Reviewed on: _____

4034
Teacher Handbook

The superintendent or designee shall annually formulate, review and revise a teacher handbook that will contain information about the policies, rules, and duties that apply to teachers.

Adopted on: 12-8-14
Revised on: _____
Reviewed on: _____

4035
Rights of Permanent Certificated Employees

School district administrators and the board of education shall comply with the requirements of due process in considering the cancellation, amendment or termination of a permanent certificated employee's contract of employment. After compliance with such requirements, the board may cancel, amend or terminate such a contract of employment for just cause as provided in statute, contract or board policy.

The superintendent of schools may, at his or her discretion, notify a permanent certificated employee that the employee's employment contract may be canceled, amended or terminated.

Mid-Term Cancellation or Amendment. If a certificated employee's employment contract is considered for mid-term amendment or cancellation, the affected employee shall be provided:

> A written statement of the alleged grounds for cancellation or amendment of the contract and that such certificated employee's contract may be canceled or amended mid-term as well as the information set out in the section entitled "Procedural Entitlement" below.

Termination or Amendment of a Permanent Employee's Contract. If a permanent certificated employee's employment contract is considered for amendment or termination at the close of the school year, the affected employee shall be provided:

> Written notice of the proposed action on or before April 15. If the employee requests a hearing, he or she shall be given written notice of the alleged grounds for the proposed action at least five (5) days prior to the hearing.

Procedural Entitlement. In the event of the proposed cancellation, amendment or termination of a permanent certificated employee's employment contract, whether mid-term or at the close of the contract year, the affected employee shall be provided with written notice that he or she is entitled to a hearing before the board prior to any final decision on the proposed contract action. To secure such a hearing, the employee must submit a written request to

the secretary of the board, the superintendent or the superintendent's designee within seven (7) calendar days of receipt of notice of possible cancellation, amendment or termination. Upon request, the certificated employee will be provided with notice, at least five (5) days prior to the hearing, of the names of any witnesses who will be called to testify against the certificated employee as well as the general areas of their testimony, and will be given an opportunity to examine any documents that will be presented at the hearing.

Public Notice of Meeting. The board shall give proper notice of any board meeting in accordance with the Nebraska Public Meetings Law.

Employee's Right to Be Represented. A permanent employee shall have the right to be represented at the hearing and shall be given an opportunity to cross-examine all witnesses, examine all documents, and present evidence material to the issues.

Basis of the Board's Decision. A decision to cancel, amend or terminate a permanent certificated employee's contract shall be based solely upon the evidence produced at the hearing and must be agreed to by a majority of the members of the board. If the board cancels, amends or terminates a certificated employee's contract, it shall reduce its findings and determinations to writing and shall deliver a written copy thereof to the certificated employee.

Adopted on: 12-8-14
Revised on: _____
Reviewed on: _____

4037

Reduction In Force

The board of education may determine that a reduction in force of certificated staff members is appropriate due to declining enrollment in a grade or grades, changes in financial support, changes in curricular programs, a decline in the taxable value of property located within the school district, increased costs of operating the school district, or another change or changes in circumstances. If the board, in its sole discretion, determines that a reduction of certificated staff is necessary, the superintendent shall notify those employees whose contracts may be reduced. However, the employment of a permanent employee may not be terminated through a reduction in force while a probationary employee is retained to render a service that the permanent employee is qualified to perform by reason of certification and endorsement, or when certification is not applicable, by reason of college credits in the teaching area.

1. **Definition of Reduction in Force.** A reduction in force shall consist of a reduction of one or more positions or a reduction in the percentage of employment of one or more certificated staff members, even if the number of percentage of employment of the certificated staff overall may be increased by other hirings or increases in the percentage of employment of other employees. Reduction in force may result in the termination of employment or an amendment to an employee's contract reducing the extent of the employee's employment.

2. **Restriction of Right to Administrative Position.** Due to the confidential and unique personal working relationship necessary between the administration and the board of education, a certificated employee who is not currently serving in a predominantly administrative capacity shall have no rights under this policy to any administrative position within the school system.

3. **Criteria for Reduction in Force.** The criteria set forth below shall be considered in selecting the personnel to be reduced. The criteria are not listed in any order of priority, and shall be given the weight that the board considers appropriate.

Areas of endorsement that are of present or future value to the district. This criterion shall be based upon the endorsement(s) shown on each teacher's Nebraska Teaching Certificate;

a. Programs to be offered;

b. State and federal laws or regulations that may mandate certain employment practices;
c. Involvement in the programs and activities sponsored by the school district;
d. Special or advanced training consisting of college credit or other training that would be of present or future value to the district;
e. The organizational and educational effect caused by multiple part-time certificated employees; and
f. Any other reasons that are rationally related to the instruction in or administration of the school district.

4. **Consideration of Uninterrupted Service.** If, after consideration of the criteria listed above, it is the opinion of the superintendent that there is no significant difference between or among certificated employees being considered for reduction, the employee(s) with the longest uninterrupted service to the district shall be retained.

a. Uninterrupted length of service is defined as the number of continuous full-time equivalent years of employment in the district as a teacher.
b. A full-time equivalent year is defined as employment on a full-time basis for an entire school year.
c. Less than full-time employment reduces the teacher's full-time equivalent employment for a school year. For example, a teacher employed on a half-time basis would be credited with half a year full-time equivalent employment.
d. A break in service will terminate a teacher's seniority and length of service under this provision. That period of time when a teacher is on a leave of absence shall not constitute a break in service; however, any years of absences or fractions of years of leave of absence will not count as years of employment for the purposes of determining the length of a teacher's uninterrupted service.

5. **Rights of Recall.**

a. Any certificated employee whose contract has been terminated shall be considered to have been dismissed with honor and shall, upon request, be provided a letter to that effect.
b. Such employee shall have preferred rights to re-employment for a period of 24 months commencing at the end of the contract year, and the employee shall be recalled on the basis of length of service to the district to any position that he or she is qualified to teach by endorsement or college preparation.
c. Upon re-employment, a recalled employee shall be placed on the salary schedule and provided fringe benefits based on existing district policies and the current negotiated agreement. Any year of years of absence from employment shall not be considered as a year or years of employment by the district.
d. An employee under contract to another education institution may waive recall, but such waiver shall not deprive the employee of his or her right to subsequent recall.

6. **Current Teaching Certificate.**
   a. Upon initial employment with the district, each certificated employee shall file a copy of his or her teaching certificate, including endorsements with the superintendent of schools.
   b. The employee shall be responsible for filing any changes in certification or endorsements with the superintendent.

7. **Address Records.**
   a. A certificated employee whose employment contract has been terminated because of a reduction in force shall, during the period which he or she is eligible for recall, be responsible for reporting any change of address to the superintendent of schools.
   b. If there is a vacancy to which a former employee has a right of recall, the district may communicate an offer of re-employment by telephone, by e-mail, or by United States mail sent to the former employee's last known address. If the school district does not receive written acceptance of the offer within seven days, the former employee shall be deemed to have waived his or her rights to be recalled to the employment position.

Adopted on: 12-8-14
Revised on: _____
Reviewed on: _____

4038
Classified Staff Defined

The term “classified staff” means all employees other than certificated teachers and administrators. Classified staff employees are employed at will, and their employment may be amended or terminated at any time and without any cause.

Adopted on: 12-8-14
Revised on: _____
Reviewed on: _____

4039
Employment of Classified Staff

The superintendent or designee shall hire classified staff to meet personnel needs consistent with the district's budget, instructional needs, and non-instructional operations. The superintendent or designee may, but is not required to, conduct a criminal background check on any classified staff applicant, provided that such check shall occur only after the school district has determined that the applicant meets the minimum employment qualifications. This policy shall not prevent the school district from requiring an applicant to disclose his or her criminal record or history relating to sexual or physical abuse prior to any minimum employment qualification determination.

The superintendent or designee shall discipline and discharge classified staff as appropriate.

Adopted on: 2-9-15
Revised on: _____
Reviewed on: _____

4040
Employment Terms for Classified Staff

Classified employees are employees with regular work assignments whose job classifications do not require a certificate issued by the Commissioner of Education. Classified employees are at-will employees unless otherwise stated.

Full time employees are employees that generally work 35 or more hours a week. Part time employees are employees that generally work less than 35 hours per week.

Vacation Time:

Vacation time will be granted to full time (12 month employees) as per contract agreement on the following basis:

a. The employee must have been employed for 12 month prior to using any vacation time.
b. Time will be granted in increments of 1/2 day.
c. The administration must approve all vacation time by prior to use.
d. Classified employees not qualifying for vacation time as defined above may be granted two (2) personal leave days to be used per contract period.

Holiday Pay:

The following holidays will be paid at regular time for an eight-hour day for all full time employees who submitted a time card, which covered the period before and after the holiday.
Labor Day
Thanksgiving
Christmas
New Years
Good Friday
Memorial Day
Independence Day

Sick Leave:

Employees shall be allowed sick leave at full pay, for the employees illness or illness or death in the immediate family as follows:
a. 9-month Classified Personnel: 7 days per year, cumulative to 60 days, but no more than 30 days used in one contract year. Leave will be granted in increments of 1/4 day.
b. 12-month Classified Personnel: 10 days per year, cumulative to 60 days, but no more than 30 days used in one contract year. Leave will be granted in increments of 1/4 day.
c. Part time personnel: 5 day per year, cumulative to 20 days.
d. Sick leave will be granted for maternity leave. If all sick leave is used, the Board may grant maternity leave without pay to any employee.

Time Cards:

Hours for all classified full and part-time employees must be kept on a school furnished time card with the days and hours recorded in ink. Time cards are to be turned into the school office on Friday of the first full week of the Month.

Overtime:

Diller-Odell Public Schools complies with the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) to determine eligibility for overtime. Employees as either exempt or non-exempt based upon the job description.
Non-exempt employees must receive prior approval from their supervisor to work additional hours beyond their regular work schedule. Non-exempt employees must be paid for each hour worked in excess of 40 hours in a workweek. The regular workweek is from 12:00 a.m. on Monday through 11:59 p.m. on Sunday. Overtime pay for non-exempt employees will be paid at the rate of not less than 11/2 times the employee's regular rate of pay for all hours worked in excess of the maximum workweek. Employees with two or more non-exempt positions may be eligible for overtime pay based upon the total number of hours worked in one workweek. District Administration will determine if overtime pay is applicable. If applicable, the employee and a District Administrator will agree upon the overtime rate, in compliance with FLSA regulations.
The employee may request compensatory time in lieu of overtime pay, with approval of the Administration, with the rate figured as 11/2 times the number of hours worked in excess of 40 hours in any work week. Compensatory time may

be accumulated up to 40 hours. The District Administration must approve any accumulation of compensatory time over 40 hours. Compensatory time may not be carried over to a new contract period. FLSA limits the accumulation of compensatory time to 240 hours.
Exempt employees are not eligible for overtime or compensatory time according to the FLSA.

Other Provisions Applicable to All Classified Staff Rate of Pay
All classified staff shall be paid an hourly rate.
Classified employees who work more than 40 hours in a workweek shall receive 1½ times their regular hourly rate for each hour over 40 worked.

Disciplinary Suspension:

The District's policy is to authorize unpaid disciplinary suspensions of a full day or more for infractions of workplace conduct rules and to apply such policy uniformly to all similarly situated employees, including all exempt employees. Unpaid disciplinary suspensions of a partial day or of a full day or more may be implemented for infractions of safety rules of major significance.

Classified Employee Benefits:

Upon hire and then on an annual basis, the district will provide employees with information regarding insurance and other benefit programs available for that school year. All questions regarding insurance and other benefit programs should be directed to the Administrative offices.
DOPS employees have the opportunity to choose from the following insurance options:
1. Health
2. Dental
3. Life
4. Disability
5. Flexible Benefit Plan

Other benefits available to employees as a payroll deduction:
1. Flexible Benefit Plan
2. Tax-Sheltered Annuity - 403(b)
3. Cancer Insurance

Adopted on: 2-9-15
Revised on: _____
Reviewed on: _____

4041
Staff Dress and Appearance

The attire worn by staff members conveys an important image to students and the general public.

Certified staff, paraeducators and office staff should generally dress in business casual attire.

Attention to personal grooming and appropriate clothing for the position must be considered by the faculty member. Teachers in particular should keep in mind that they are models for students and, as such, clothing, appearance and behavior are important.

The building principal may temporarily suspend all or a portion of the dress code when other factors support a lower dress expectation for school employees (e.g., special “casual days”).

Adopted on 2-9-15
Reviewed on _____
Revised on _____

4042
Employee Social Security Numbers

Nebraska law prohibits employers from using or publishing an employee's social security number except under certain specified circumstances. This district shall comply with this law and take reasonable steps to protect the confidentiality of employees' social security numbers. However, neither state law nor this policy prohibits the district from using the last four digits of an employee's social security number as an employee identification number or in any other reasonable manner.

Adopted on: 2-9-15
Revised on: _____
Reviewed on: _____

4043
Professional Boundaries and Appropriate Relationships Between Employees and Students

School district employees and student teachers or interns ("employees") are responsible for conducting themselves professionally and for teaching and modeling high standards of behavior and civic values, both at and away from school. Employees are required to establish and maintain professional boundaries with students and must have appropriate relationships with students. They may be friendly with students, but they are the students' teachers, not their friends, and they must take care to see that this line does not become blurred. This applies to employees' conduct and interactions with students and to material they post on personal web sites and other social networking sites including, but not limited to, Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter. The posting or publication of messages or pictures or other images that diminish an employee's professionalism or ability to maintain the respect of students and parents may impair his or her ability to be an effective employee. Employees are expected to behave at all times in a manner supportive of the best interests of students.

Sexual Relationships Prohibited. Employees are prohibited from engaging in any relationship that involves sexual contact or sexual penetration with a student while the student is a current student and for a minimum of one year after the date of the student's graduation or the date the student otherwise ceases enrollment. Sexual contact has the same meaning as in section 28-318, and sexual penetration has the same meaning as in section 28-318.

Grooming Prohibited. Employees are prohibited from engaging in grooming with students. Grooming means building trust with a student and individuals close to the student in an effort to gain access to and time alone with the student, with the ultimate goal of engaging in sexual contact or sexual penetration with the student, regardless of when in the student's life the sexual contact or sexual penetration would take place.

Unless an employee can clearly and convincingly demonstrate a legitimate educational purpose, grooming behaviors and related conduct that are a violation of this policy include, but are not limited to:

- Communicating about sex when the discussion is not required by a specific aspect of the curriculum.
- Joking about matters involving sex, using double entendre or making suggestive remarks of a sexual nature.
- Displaying sexually inappropriate material or objects.
- Making any sexual advance, whether written, verbal, or physical or engaging in any activity of a sexual or romantic nature.

- Kissing of any kind.
- Dating a student or a former student within one year of the student graduating or otherwise leaving the district.
- Intruding on a student's personal space (e.g. by touching unnecessarily, moving too close, staring at a portion of the student's body, or engaging in other behavior that makes the student uncomfortable).
- Initiating unwanted physical contact with a student.
- Communicating electronically (e.g. by e-mail, text messaging, or through social media) on a matter that does not pertain to school.
- Playing favorites or permitting a specific student to engage in conduct that is not tolerated from other students.
- Discussing the employee's personal issues or problems that should normally be discussed with adults.
- Giving a student a gift of a personal nature.
- Giving a student a ride in the employee's vehicle without first obtaining the express permission of the student's parents or a school administrator.
- Taking a student on an outing without first obtaining the express permission of the student's parents or a school administrator.
- Inviting a student to the employee's residence without first obtaining the express permission of the student's parents and a school administrator.
- Going to a student's home when the student's parent or a proper chaperone is not present.
- Repeatedly seeking to be alone with a student.
- Being alone in a room with an individual student at school with the door closed.
- Any after-school hours activity with only one student.
- Any other behavior which exploits the special position of trust and authority between an employee and student.

This list is not exhaustive. Any behavior which exploits a student is unacceptable. If in doubt, ask yourself, "Would I be doing this if my family or colleagues were standing next to me?"

Communication Between Employees and Students. The preferred methods for employees to communicate with students are phone calls, in person, and email. Employees may use the following personal communication systems to communicate with students: phones, email, Zoom, Google classroom, Seesaw etc. A personal communication system is a device or software that provides for communication between two or more parties and is capable of receiving, displaying, or transmitting

communication. Personal communication system includes, but is not limited to, a mobile or cellular telephone, an email service, or a social media platform.

Employee communications with students through a communication system generally are to be sent simultaneously to multiple recipients and not just to one student. The burden to demonstrate the appropriateness of a communication with a student only shall rest with the employee.

Reporting a Policy Violation. Anyone may report suspected grooming, other unacceptable employee conduct, or any violation of this policy as follows:

School District. Reports may be made to a principal, the superintendent, or the Title IX Coordinator in person, by mail, by telephone, or email.

Nebraska Department of Education. Reports may be made at: Nebraska Department of Education, Attn: Certification Investigations' Office, P.O. Box 94933, Lincoln NE 68509 or Nde.investigations@nebraska.gov.

Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services. Reports may be made by calling the Child Abuse and Neglect Hotline at (800) 652-1999.

Law Enforcement. Reports may be made by calling, the county sheriff at (402) 223-5221, or the Nebraska State Patrol at (402) 471-4545.

An employee is required to make a report to a principal or the superintendent if the employee reasonably believes that another employee has violated or may have violated this policy. Minor concerns or violations shall be reported within 24 hours. Major concerns or violations shall be reported immediately. Violations committed by or concerns about the superintendent shall be reported to the school board president.

A student who feels his or her boundaries have been violated should directly inform the offender that the conduct or communication is offensive and must stop. If the student does not wish to communicate directly with the offender or if direct communication has been ineffective, the student should report the conduct or communication to a teacher, administrator, counselor, the Title IX coordinator, or other school employee with whom she or he feels comfortable.

Retaliation Prohibited. Retaliation for good faith reports or complaints made as a result of this policy is prohibited. Individuals who knowingly and intentionally make a false report shall be subject to discipline as provided by district policy and state law.

Policy Violations. Any violation of this policy by an employee may result in disciplinary action up to and including dismissal from employment and/or referral to the Nebraska Department of Education, which may result in the suspension or revocation of the employee's certificate. Any violation involving sexual or other abuse will result in

referral to the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services, law enforcement, or both.

Policy Verification. Employees shall verify that they have received, reviewed, and understood this policy by signing an acknowledgment document indicating the same.

No Limits on Reports to NDE. Nothing in this policy shall be construed to limit any certificated employee's duty to report any known violation of the standards of professional practices (Title 92, Nebraska Administrative Code, Chapter 27, commonly known as Rule 27) adopted by the Nebraska Board of Education.

Adopted on: 2-9-15
Revised on: 11-9-20
Reviewed on: _____

4044
Staff Election Conduct

The Board recognizes its individual employees' rights of citizenship, including, but not limited to, engaging in political activities. An employee of the District may seek an elective office, provided that the staff member does not campaign on school property during working hours, and provided all other legal requirements are met. The District assumes no obligation beyond making such opportunities available.

The following activities are prohibited during an employee's work time (including duty-free lunch and planning periods):

1. Soliciting votes or contributions for or against a particular candidate or ballot proposition.

2. Discussing with students opinions regarding a political candidate or ballot proposition unless the topic is part of the approved curriculum.

3. Preparing, displaying, wearing or distributing campaign literature, materials, or signs for or against a candidate or ballot proposition (this prohibition does not apply to bumper stickers on personal vehicles).

4. Soliciting volunteers to assist with a campaign for or against a political candidate or ballot proposition.

5. Preparing for, organizing, or participating in any political meeting, petition, rally, or event.

6. Other prohibited political activity as defined by state law.

The following activities are prohibited at all times:

1. Using any school district resources including, but not limited to, facsimile machines, copy machines, computers or e-mail accounts, for political campaign activities.

2. Using school district property or facilities for any political campaign activities, unless such use is approved pursuant to school board rules or policy.

3. Spending district funds to urge votes to vote for or against a candidate or ballot proposition

4. Requiring employees to engage in political campaign activities as part of their job duties.

5. Providing employees with additional compensation or benefits for engaging in political activities.

6. Representing an employee's personal political position as the position of the school district or the board of education.

Adopted on: 2-9-15
Revised on: _____
Reviewed on: _____

4045
Milk Expression

Except as otherwise provided by law, the district will provide reasonable break time for an employee who wishes to breastfeed or express breast milk for her nursing child each time such employee has the need to do so. The district will provide a place, other than a bathroom, which is shielded from view and free from intrusion from co-workers and the public. These accommodations will be provided for one year after the child's birth, unless otherwise required by law.

Adopted on: 2-9-15
Revised on: 7-17-23
Reviewed on: _____

4046
Internet Searches Regarding Potential Employees

Members of the administrative team or of a hiring committee (hereinafter "the committee") may conduct internet research about job applicants by using the following protocol, except that no criminal history record information check shall be made until the school district has determined that the applicant meets the minimum employment qualifications:

1. The committee may Google candidates' full names and any aliases. Other search engines such as Yahoo or Bing may also be used. The committee may also search candidates' full names and any aliases on Facebook, MySpace, LinkedIn, Twitter, YouTube, SocialMention and other social networking websites.

2. All applicants or all finalists must have the same research conducted about them. For example, if the committee conducts a search on Google using the name of one applicant in order to determine whether to include that applicant in the list of finalists, the committee must also conduct an identical search of all applicants' names.

3. The committee may not use deception to gain access to applicants' social networking pages, blogs or other on-line media.

4. The committee must take reasonable steps to verify the reliability of the information obtained in the search, including consulting with the applicant for confirmation of accuracy, if appropriate.

5. The committee will consider the following information to be relevant in making hiring decisions about an applicant based on information obtained through internet research:

    a. Disparaging remarks made about current or former co-workers, supervisors or employers,

    b. Discriminatory, harassing or demeaning behavior or comments,

    c. Unprofessional, lewd or obscene behavior or remarks,

    d. Criminal activity

e. Information which indicates the applicant will or will not be able to perform the essential functions of the position sought,

f. Information which indicates that the applicant is particularly suited or unsuited to the position sought.

6. The committee will retain documents to demonstrate its compliance with this policy with other documentation relevant to the job search.

Adopted on: 2-9-15
Revised on: _____
Reviewed on: _____

4048
Assessment Administration and Security

The purpose of all testing and assessments is to measure students' knowledge, skills or abilities in the area tested. All staff members are prohibited from engaging in any behavior that adversely affects the validity of test scores as a measure of student achievement. This policy applies to all national, state, and local assessments, including both standardized and general classroom assessments.

1. Assessment Responsibilities

a. Each building principal, in consultation with the Superintendent and classroom teachers, will be responsible for:

- overseeing the scheduling of state administered assessments, training all staff who administer assessments, and ensuring that all assessments, including make-up testing, is completed within required testing windows;
- obtaining Standards, Assessment and Accountability Updates from the Department of Education and circulating the relevant portions of those updates to other staff members;
- informing the board of education of changes to the Nebraska Student-Centered Assessment System Security Procedures; and
- signing and enforcing the Nebraska Student-Centered Assessment System Security Agreement.

b. Every classroom teacher or other staff member who administers assessments is responsible for:

- complying with the Nebraska Student-Centered Assessment System Security Procedures;
- taking all reasonable and prudent steps to ensure the accuracy and integrity of all academic testing, including statewide assessments; and
- ensuring the security of all test materials.

2. Security Violations and Cheating

a. **Classroom assessments**

Staff members who suspect students of having cheated on a classroom assessment should conduct a reasonable inquiry and impose consequences on the student consistent with classroom rules and the student handbook.

b. **State Accountability Tests**

Staff members who suspect a breach of security on State Accountability Tests, must promptly report their suspicions to the building principal or superintendent. The superintendent must notify the Department of Education's Statewide Assessment Office and follow the Department's protocol for Reporting and Investigating Test Security Violations.

Staff members who engage in or enable students to engage in academic dishonesty in any testing or assessment will be subject to discipline up to and including the immediate cancellation of their employment contract.

Adopted on: 2-9-15
Revised on: 7-8-19
Reviewed on: 7-8-19

4049
Professional Ethics

The Regulations and Standards for Professional Practices Criteria, commonly known as Rule 27 of the Nebraska Department of Education, are the minimum standards for all certificated staff members of the school district. All certified employees are responsible for reading, understanding and complying with these standards.

Adopted on: 2-9-15
Revised on: _____
Reviewed on: _____

4050
Overtime and Compensatory Time

Employees who are "non-exempt" under the Fair Labor Standards Act and who work more than 40 hours in a workweek will be paid at the rate of time-and-one-half (1½) times their regular rate of pay for all overtime hours or will be provided compensatory time. All overtime must be approved in advance by the employee's supervisor. Scheduled holidays, vacation days, time off for jury duty, and time off for sickness, emergencies or other personal reasons will not be considered hours worked for overtime purposes.

The district may grant compensatory time in lieu of overtime pay at a rate of one and one-half (1½) hours off for each hour of overtime the employee worked. Employees may accrue a maximum of 240 hours of compensatory time, which represents 160 hours of actual overtime worked. When an employee has accrued 240 hours of compensatory time, the district shall pay him/her at the rate of one and one-half (1½) times his/her regular rate of pay for each additional hour of overtime. An employee who asks to use compensatory time shall be permitted to use it within a reasonable period after the request if its use does not unduly disrupt the district's operations.

Upon termination of employment, an employee shall be paid for unused compensatory time at a rate of compensation not less than: (1) the average regular hourly rate paid to the employee during the last three years of his/her employment, or (2) the final regular hourly rate paid to the employee, whichever is higher.

Payment for unused compensatory time shall be at the employee's regular rate of pay for each hour of compensatory time, not one and one-half (1½) times the regular rate of pay.

Adopted on: 2-9-15
Revised on: _____
Reviewed on: _____

4051
Staff and District Social Media Use

Social media is an important tool for communicating, keeping up-to-date with current developments in education, and for conducting research to enhance management, teaching, and learning skills. The district also uses social media accounts to provide information to district stakeholders. This policy is intended to ensure (1) appropriate use of social media by staff and (2) appropriate control of social media accounts belonging to or affiliated with the district. Staff should also refer to the district's policy on Staff Computer and Internet Usage.

IV. Personal Versus School-Affiliated Social Media Use

A. Personal Social Media Use

1. The school district will not require staff members or applicants for employment to provide the district with their username and password to personal social media accounts.

2. The district will not require staff to add anyone to the list of contacts associated with the staff member's personal social media accounts or require a staff member to change the settings on his or her personal social media accounts so that others can or cannot view their accounts.

3. Staff members whose personal social media use interferes with the orderly operation of the school or who use social media in ways that are not protected by the First Amendment may be subject to discipline by the district.

4. Staff members who wish to begin using or to continue using the school district name, programs, mascot, image or likeness as part of any social media profile must notify their supervising administrator of the use, and must secure the administrator's permission to do so.

B. School-Affiliated Social Media Use

1. Any social media account which purports to be "the official" account of the school district (e.g., "Griffin Football"), or any of its programs, classes or entities will be considered to be an account that is used exclusively for the school district's business purpose. Staff members may not use "official" accounts for personal use.

2. Staff are required to provide their supervising administrator with the username and password to school-affiliated social media accounts.

3. Staff may be required to interact with specified individuals on school-affiliated social media accounts.

4. When staff use school-affiliated social media accounts to comment on school-related matters, they do not do so as private citizens and are therefore not entitled to First Amendment protections. They are also not allowed to make any press releases or other official communications on behalf of the district without prior administrative approval. In other words, staff do not speak "for the district" directly or indirectly unless specifically authorized and directed to do so.

V. Staff Expectations in Use of Social Media – Applicable to Both Personal and School-Affiliated Use

A. General Use and Conditions

Staff must comply with all board policies, contract provisions, and applicable rules of professional conduct in their social media usage. They must comply with the board's policy on professional boundaries between staff and students at all times and in both physical and digital environments.

Staff must obtain the consent of their building principal or the superintendent prior to posting any student-related information in order to make sure that the publication does not violate the Federal Education Records Privacy Act or any other laws. Staff must also comply with all applicable state and federal record retention requirements, even with regard to personal social media usage.

Staff must comply with all applicable laws prohibiting the use or disclosure of impermissible content, such as copyright laws, accountability and disclosure laws, and any other law governing the use of resources of a political subdivision. Questions about appropriate content should be referred to the staff member's supervising administrator.

B. Acceptable Use

1. Staff may use social media for school-related communication with fellow educators, parents, and patrons. Student communication must be consistent with the district's professional boundaries policies and expectations.

2. Teachers should integrate the use of electronic resources, which may include social media, into the classroom. As the quality and integrity of content on social media is not guaranteed, teachers must examine the source of the information and provide guidance to students on evaluating the quality of information they may encounter. This includes spotting AI-generated content, fakes, spoofs, and discerning the quality and reliability of content.

C. Unacceptable Use

1. Staff shall never access obscene or pornographic material while at school, on school-owned device or on school-affiliated social media accounts.

2. Staff shall not engage in any illegal activities, including the downloading and reproduction of copyrighted materials.

3. Staff shall not access social media networking sites such as Facebook, X, Instagram, Snapchat, and TikTok on school-owned devices or during school time unless permitted by district policy or preapproved by the staff member's immediate supervisor. This prohibition extends to using chat rooms, message boards, or instant messaging in social media applications and includes posting on social networking sites using personal electronic devices.

VI. School-Affiliated Digital Content

A. General Use and Conditions for School-Affiliated Accounts

Staff must obtain the permission of their supervising administration prior to creating, publishing, or using any school-affiliated web pages, blogs, microblogs, social media pages or handles, or any other digital content which represents itself to be school-related, or which could be reasonably understood to be school-related. This includes any content which identifies the school district by name in the account name or which uses the school's mascot name or image.

Staff must provide administrators with the username and password for all school-affiliated accounts and must only publish content appropriate for the school setting. Staff may not provide the username and password to school-affiliated accounts to any unauthorized individual, including students and volunteers.

B. Moderation of Third Party Content

The purpose of school-related social media accounts is to disseminate information. No school-related or school-affiliated social media account covered by this policy shall permit comments by the public unless otherwise approved by the superintendent. All comment functions for applications such as Facebook and Instagram must be turned to "off" without this approval.

In the event the superintendent permits content created by anyone other than the administrator of the account to appear on the account's pages, such as comments made by students, parents, and patrons, the account administrator must monitor the content to ensure it complies with this policy. Posts, comments, or any other content made on the account's pages or tags or links to official school accounts on another account may be removed when the content meets any of the following conditions:

1. Is obscene, lewd, lascivious, true threat, or appeals to prurient interests;

2. Contains information relating to a student matter or personnel matter which is protected under or prohibited by state or federal law;

3. Contains fighting words or content that is threatening, harassing, or discriminatory;

4. Advocates, promotes, or encourages the use of drugs, alcohol, or other prohibited substances;

5. Incites or is reasonably anticipated to incite violence, illegal activity, or a material and substantial disruption to school operations or activities; or

6. Contains any other threat to the safety of students and staff.

The district may restrict access to its official accounts for violations of these rules, such as deleting comments or prohibiting comments. Accounts that are not official school accounts are those owned and operated by board members and employees for their personal use, even if they discuss school matters.

Every official school account administrator must keep a copy of any removed content or banned/blocked individual account and must provide a copy to the superintendent along with written notification for the reason the post has been removed. All questions about the appropriateness of removal must be directed to the superintendent.

Adopted on: 2-9-15
Revised on: 7-14-25
Reviewed on: _____

4052
Job References to Prospective Employers

All requests for employment-related references or employment history by prospective employers of current or former employees must be referred to a member of the administrative team. The administrator will either provide a reference in compliance with this policy or will forward the request to the superintendent.

If the school district is subject to a written separation agreement regarding a particular employee, the terms of that agreement will govern the district's response to requests for information, regardless of any written consent provided to the school district.
If the school district is not bound by a separation agreement and receives a legally enforceable written consent to release information, the district may provide the information authorized by that document. The school district may provide additional truthful information to prospective employers of current and former employees in accordance with this policy.

Employees Suspected of Sexual Misconduct Against a Minor or Student

Apart from the routine transmission of administrative and personnel files or unless otherwise permitted by law, the district and any employee, contractor, or agent of the school district is prohibited from providing any employee any assistance in obtaining a new job if the school district or the individual acting for the school district has probable cause to believe said employee has engaged in sexual misconduct with a student or minor in violation of the law.

Adopted on: 2-9-15
Revised on: 7-8-19
Reviewed on: 7-8-19

4053
Conflict of Interest

Any school district employee who meets the conditions set forth in this policy shall be deemed to have a business or financial conflict of interest.

1. Definitions. For the purposes of this policy:

    a. Business with which an employee is associated shall include the following:

        (1) A business in which the employee or a member of his or her immediate family is a partner, a limited liability company, or serves as a director or an officer.

        (2) A business in which the employee or a member of his or her immediate family is a stockholder in a closed corporation with stock worth one thousand dollars or more, or the employee or his or her immediate family owns more than a five percent equity interest or is a stockholder of publicly traded stock worth more than ten thousand dollars or more at fair market value, or which represents more than ten percent equity interest. This shall not apply to publicly traded stock under a trading account if the employee reports the name and address of the company and stockbroker.

    b. A business association shall be defined to include an individual as a partner, limited liability company member, director or officer, or a business in which the individual or member of the immediate family is a stockholder.

    c. Immediate family member or member of the immediate family shall mean a child residing in an individual's household, a spouse of an individual, or an individual claimed by that individual or that individual's spouse as a dependent for federal income tax purposes

2. Contracts with the School District.

a. No employee or member of his or her immediate family shall enter into a contract valued at two thousand dollars or more, in any one year, with this school district unless the contract is awarded through an open and public process that (1) includes prior public notice and (2) allows the public to inspect during the school district’s regular business hours the proposals considered and the contract awarded.

b. The existence of any conflict of interest in any contract in which the employee has an interest and in which the school district is a party, or the failure to make public the employee's interest known, may render a contract null and void.

c. The prohibition of a conflict of interest or requirement for public notice shall apply when the employee, or his or her immediate family has a business association with the business involved in the contract or will receive a direct pecuniary fee or commission as a result of the contract.

3. Employing Members of the Immediate Family.

a. An employee may employ or recommend or supervise the employment of an immediate family member if:

(1) The employee does not abuse his or her position.

(a) Abuse of official position shall include, but not be limited to, employing an immediate family member:

(i) who is not qualified for and able to perform the duties of the position;

(ii) for any unreasonably high salary;

(iii) who is not required to perform the duties of the position.

(2) The employee makes a reasonable solicitation and consideration of applications for employment.

(3) The employee makes a full disclosure on the record to the governing body of the school district and to the secretary of the board.

(4) The board approves the employment or supervisory position.

b. The employee shall not terminate the employment of another employee so as to make funds or a position available for the purpose of hiring an immediate family member.

4. Gifts, Loans, Contributions, Rewards, or Promises of Future Employment

a. No employee shall offer or give to the following persons anything of value, including a gift, loan, contribution, reward, or promise of future employment, based upon an agreement that a vote, official action, or judgment would be influenced thereby:

(1) a public official, public employee, or candidate.

(2) a member of the immediate family of an individual listed in Subparagraph 'a' above.

(3) a business with which an individual listed in Subparagraph (1) or (2) above is associated.

b. No employee shall solicit or accept anything of value, including a gift, loan, contribution, reward, or promise of future employment based on an agreement that the vote, official action, or judgment of the employee would thereby be influenced.

c. An employee shall not use or authorize the use of his or her public employment or any confidential information received through the public employment to obtain financial gain, other than compensation provided by law, for himself or herself or a member of his or her immediate family, or a business with which he or she is associated.

d. An employee shall not use or authorize the use of personnel, resources, property, or funds under that person's official care and control other than in accordance with prescribed constitutional, statutory, and regulatory procedures or use such items for personal financial gain, other than compensation provided by law.

5. Conflict of Interest Relating to Campaigning or Political Issues

   a. Except as provided below, an employee shall not authorize the use of school district personnel, property, resources, or funds for the purpose of campaigning for or against the nomination or election of a candidate or the qualification, passage, or defeat of a ballot question.

   b. This does not prohibit an employee from making school district facilities available to a person for campaign purposes if the identity of the candidate or the support for or opposition to the ballot question is not a factor in making the facilities available or a factor in determining the cost or conditions for use.

   c. This does not prohibit an employee from discussing and voting upon a resolution supporting or opposing a ballot question.

   d. This does not prohibit an employee under the direct supervision of a public official from responding to specific inquiries by the press or the public as to the board's opinion regarding a ballot question or from providing information in response to a request for information.

   e. An employee may present his or her personal opinion regarding a ballot question or respond to a request for information related to a ballot question; but in so doing, the person should clearly state that the information being presented is his or her personal opinion and is not to be considered as the

official position or opinion of the school district. However, this shall not be done during a time that the individual is engaged in his or her official duties.

6. Additional Procedures Applicable to Employees With An Annual Salary and Benefits of More than $150,000 Per Year

   a. Staff whose annual salary and benefits exceed one hundred fifty thousand dollars should assess whether they have a conflict of interest before taking any action or making any decision.

   b. Employees have a conflict of interest pursuant to this subdivision of the policy when their actions or decisions may cause financial benefit or detriment to themselves, a business with which they are associated or a member of their immediate family.

      i. When assessing whether a conflict of interest exists, qualifying staff members should access whether the benefit or detriment identified is distinguishable from the effects of such action on the public generally or a broad segment of the public.

      ii. If qualifying employees are unsure as to whether a conflict of interest exists, they may apply to the Nebraska Political Accountability and Disclosure Commission for an opinion as to whether they have a conflict of interest.

   c. Qualifying employees who determine that a conflict of interest does exist under this policy shall:

      i. Prepare a written statement describing the matter requiring action or decision and the nature of the potential conflict;

      ii. Deliver a copy of the statement to the secretary of the board of education, who shall enter the statement onto the public records of the school district; and

      iii. Abstain from participating in the matter in which the employee has a conflict of interest.

   d. This subsection does not prevent a qualifying employee from making or participating in the making of a decision to the extent that the employee's participation is legally required for the action or decision to be made.

7. Conflict. To the extent that there is a conflict between this policy and the Nebraska Political Accountability and Disclosure Act (“Act”), the Act shall control.

Adopted on: 2-9-15
Revised on: 6-11-24
Reviewed on: _____

4054
Reporting Child Abuse or Neglect

Because of their daily contact with school-age children, educators and other school employees are in a unique position to identify abused and/or neglected children. Nebraska law defines child abuse or neglect as knowingly, intentionally, or negligently causing or permitting a minor child to be (1) placed in a situation that endangers his or her life or physical or mental health; (2) cruelly confined or cruelly punished; (3) deprived of necessary food, clothing, shelter or care; (4) left unattended in a motor vehicle, if such child is six years of age or younger; (5) sexually abused; or (6) sexually exploited by allowing, encouraging, or forcing such person to solicit for or engage in prostitution, debauchery, public indecency, or obscene or pornographic photography, films, or depictions.

Reporting Procedure. School employees who have reasonable cause to believe that a child has been subjected to child abuse or neglect or observe a child being subjected to conditions or circumstances which reasonably would result in child abuse or neglect will report the suspected abuse or neglect according to the following procedure.

1. Any school employee who has reasonable cause to believe that a child has been abused or neglected shall report the suspicion to the building principal immediately.

2. The principal and the school nurse and/or the school guidance counselor shall, whenever possible, investigate the concern within 24 hours of receiving the initial report. The school staff shall endeavor to conduct this investigation in a manner that does not interfere with any current or future investigation by law enforcement. When the principal determines that a report should be made through the district, he or she shall make a report to the office of social services or law enforcement. The principal shall inform the employee(s) who made the initial report whether he or she has made a report to the office of social services or law enforcement. If no such report has been made, the employee(s) shall file such a report if he, she or they have reasonable cause to believe that a child has been abused or neglected.

3. Any doubt or question in reporting such cases shall be resolved in

the favor of reporting the suspected abuse or neglect. Consultation between the administrator and school employee is encouraged, keeping in mind that prompt reporting is essential.

Contents of the Report. The report to authorities shall contain the following information to the extent it is available: (1) name and position of reporting person; (2) name, address, and age of abused or neglected person; (3) address of the person or persons having custody of the abused or neglected person; (4) the nature and extent of the abuse or neglect, or the conditions and circumstances which would reasonably result in such abuse or neglect; and (5) any other information that may be useful in establishing the identity of the persons involved and cause of the abuse or neglect.

Legal Immunity. Nebraska statutes give legal immunity from any civil or criminal liability to any person who makes a good faith report of child abuse or neglect or participates in a judicial proceeding resulting from such a report.

Adopted on: 2-9-15
Revised on: _____
Reviewed on: _____

4056
Resignation of Certificated Staff

Certificated staff members who know they will not be returning to employment at the school district for the following school year are encouraged to submit their resignations as early as possible, to enable the board to find suitable replacements. Unless otherwise required by law or contract, the following resignation requirements apply.

Staff members who submit their resignations to the board of education by the earlier of (a) April 15th or (b) the date designated in a written request of the school board or the administrators to accept employment for the next school year pursuant to section 79-829 (provided that such acceptance date may not be earlier than March 15th of each year) will be released from the next school year's contract. Staff members who refuse to fulfill their contractual obligations will be reported to the Commissioner of Education.

Adopted on: 2-9-15
Revised on: 7-13-26
Reviewed on: _____

4057
Confidentiality in Counseling and Guidance

The school district provides students with a certificated school guidance counselor. Information that students provide to counselors is confidential but not legally privileged. The counselor will attempt to respect the privacy of student disclosures, but will share all relevant information with other education professionals as appropriate or as directed. The counselor will also contact parents and law enforcement officials as appropriate.

Records of the counseling relationship, including interview notes, test data, correspondence, tape recordings and other documents, are to be considered professional information for use in counseling, not part of the student's education record.

When a counselor is in doubt about what information to release, he or she should discuss the matter with the building principal or with the superintendent.

Adopted on: 2-9-15
Revised on: _____
Reviewed on: _____

4057 A
Superintendent Evaluation

The board shall observe and evaluate the superintendent based upon actual classroom observations for an entire instructional period at least twice during his first year of employment and at least once each year thereafter. Additional evaluations may be conducted at the discretion of the board. For the purposes of this policy, "actual classroom observation" shall mean observing the superintendent performing activities that are typical of his or her position. An "entire instructional period" for administrators cannot be defined in terms of an instructional period and shall be satisfied by the actual observation of some aspect of the superintendent's work during the semester for no less than 40 minutes.

Purpose. The purposes of the formal job evaluation are:

1. To provide a means of rational, structured communication between the board and superintendent to create a more constructive and effective working relationship.
2. To provide a basis for commending, rewarding, and reinforcing good work, as well as identifying areas where the superintendent needs to improve.
3. To clarify the superintendent's role and inform the superintendent of the board's expectations.

Dates. Unless otherwise provided for in the superintendent's employment contract, the first year evaluations should take place (1) at or prior to the October board meeting, and (2) at or prior to the January board meeting. Annual evaluations shall generally take place during the month before the date in the superintendent's employment contract by which the board must notify the superintendent of its intention to consider the nonrenewal or amendment of the contract. In the absence of such a contract provision, the annual evaluation should take place at or prior to the March board meeting. The Superintendent shall remind the Board members in writing at least 45 days before the date of each upcoming evaluation and shall make his evaluation an agenda item for the board meeting.

Evaluation Document. The superintendent shall submit a recommended evaluation document to the board. The board shall meet and discuss the proposed document with the superintendent. The board may amend and adopt the proposed evaluation document. The board may amend the document or adopt a new document without amending this policy. The superintendent shall submit the evaluation document to the Nebraska Department of Education.

Evaluation Procedures. Each board member shall have the opportunity to complete a draft evaluation document. The board president shall compile the individual draft evaluations into a single and final evaluation, provide a copy to the superintendent, and discuss it with him or her. If the superintendent's evaluation is conducted at a board meeting, the superintendent's evaluation may be conducted in closed session if it is

necessary to prevent needless injury to the superintendent's reputation and if he or she has not requested it be done in open session.

Deficiencies. If deficiencies are noted in the superintendent's work performance, the board shall provide the superintendent at the time of the observation with a list of deficiencies and a list of suggestions for improvement and assistance in overcoming the deficiencies. The board shall also provide the superintendent with follow-up evaluations and assistance when deficiencies remain, a timeline for improvement, and sufficient time to improve. In the alternative, the board may rely upon the superintendent's education, training, and expertise and require him or her to submit a "list of suggestions for improvement" or plan of improvement for the board's consideration.

Personnel File. The evaluation shall be signed by the board president (or other member of the board) and the superintendent. The superintendent shall place a copy of the evaluation in his or her personnel file. The superintendent may provide a written response to the evaluation to the board. A copy of the response shall also be placed in the superintendent's personnel file. The board may meet with the superintendent to discuss the written response.

Policy Limitation. The evaluation procedures are included in this policy as a result of the board's statutory obligation to evaluate the superintendent and do not give the superintendent any rights not provided by statute. The board's failure to comply with any procedures provided in this policy but not required by law shall not prohibit the board from taking any action regarding the superintendent's employment, up to and including the nonrenewal, amendment, or cancellation of the employment contract.

Adopted on: 7-14-25
Revised on: _____
Reviewed on: _____

4058
Potentially Infectious Blood and Body Fluids:

All employees are to follow the Diller-Odell School Exposure Control Plan for proper treatment of a potential contaminated blood or body fluids from a student or employee of the Diller-Odell Public School.

Universal precautions shall be observed to prevent contact with blood or other potentially infectious materials. Under circumstances in which differentiation between body fluids types is difficult or impossible to determine, all body fluids shall be considered potentially infectious materials.

Employees are to use appropriate personal protective equipment except where in the employee's professional judgment that in that specific instance, its use would have prevented the delivery of health care of public safety services, or would have posed an increased hazard to the safety of the worker or coworker. Such appropriate personal protective equipment shall be furnished to the employee and be readily accessible at work

Disposal of gloves, bandages, or other possible infectious waste shall be deposited in a receptacle intended for potentially infectious materials. Contaminated surfaces shall be decontaminated with an appropriate disinfectant after completion of procedures dealing with potentially infectious blood or body fluids.

Administrative guidelines and procedures are developed and distributed to all employees.

Adopted on: 2-9-15
Revised on: _____
Reviewed on: _____

4059
Confidentiality in Counseling and Guidance

The school district provides students with a certificated school guidance counselor. Information that students provide to counselors is confidential but not legally privileged. The counselor will attempt to respect the privacy of student disclosures, but will share all relevant information with other education professionals as appropriate or as directed. The counselor will also contact parents and law enforcement officials as appropriate, provided that a counselor who has reasonable cause to believe that a child has been subjected to child abuse or neglect shall review and follow the district's policy on reporting child abuse and neglect.

Records of the counseling relationship, including interview notes, test data, correspondence, tape recordings and other documents, are to be considered professional information for use in counseling, not part of the student's education record.

When a counselor is in doubt about what information to release, he or she should discuss the matter with the building principal or with the superintendent.

Adopted on: 2-9-15
Revised on: 6-8-15
Reviewed on: _____

4059 A
Behavioral and Mental Health Training

All public school employees who interact with students and any other appropriate personnel are required to complete behavioral and mental health training with a focus on suicide awareness and prevention training every year. The training may include, but need not be limited to, topics such as identification of early warning signs and symptoms of behavioral and mental health issues in students, appropriate and effective responses for educators to student behavioral and mental health issues, trauma-informed care, and procedures for making students and parents and guardians aware of services and supports for behavioral and mental health issues.

The superintendent will determine the appropriate personnel required to receive the training. The training materials for this training must be included in the Nebraska Department of Education's list of approved training materials. The length of the training shall be a reasonable amount as determined by the school board.

These employees must complete the training designated by the school district or superintendent no later than October 31 of each school year or within 30 days of their initial employment, whichever is later. Failure to complete this training may subject the employee to employment-related discipline.

Adopted on: 6-8-15
Revised on: 7-14-25
Reviewed on: _____

4060
School Vehicle Use

Pupil Transportation Vehicles. The transportation of students in a pupil transportation vehicle is governed by the rules of the Nebraska Department of Education and the district's safe pupil transportation plan or safety and security plan. See Title 92, Nebraska Administrative Code, Chapter 91 – Regulations Governing Driver Qualifications and Operational Procedures for Pupil Transportation Vehicles ("Rule 91") Title 92, Nebraska Administrative Code, Chapter 92 – Regulations Governing the Minimum Equipment Standards and Safety Inspection Criteria for Pupil Transportation Vehicles ("Rule 92"), available on NDE's website (www.education.ne.gov). A pupil transportation vehicle is any vehicle utilized to carry school children as sponsored and approved by the school board and that conforms to the Nebraska Department of Education definitions of pupil transportation vehicles listed as School Bus, Activity Bus, Small Vehicle, or Coach Bus.

School Vehicles Other Than Those Transporting Students. School district employees, board members, and other elected or appointed school district officials (collectively "school personnel") who are not transporting children are authorized to use a school district vehicle to travel to a designated location or to their home when the primary purpose of the travel serves a school district purpose. School district vehicles may not be used for personal purposes unless the vehicle, or the use of it, is provided to an employee as a condition of an employment contract or it is leased to school personnel as allowed by law. School personnel must operate school vehicles in accordance with all applicable federal, state, and local laws.

Driver Qualifications. School personnel who wish to use a vehicle owned or leased by the school district and who are not transporting students must:

- Possess and provide a copy of a valid Motor Vehicle operator's license.
- Be able to read and comprehend driving regulations and written test questions.
- Obtain and provide a copy of his or her current driving record from the department of motor vehicles at least one time per school year to the superintendent or his or her designee.
- Be at least 19 years of age.

School personnel must notify the superintendent or his or her designee about any change in their driving status or eligibility.

School personnel who have been convicted of any of the following or who meet any of the following conditions will not be allowed to drive a school district vehicle:

- If the citation or conviction occurred at any time—Motor vehicle homicide or driving under the influence – 3rd or subsequent offense;
- If the citation or conviction occurred within the last 1 years - Driving under the influence of drugs or alcohol, failure to render aid in accident you are involved in, speeding 15 miles per hour or more above the posted speed limit, reckless

driving (willful or otherwise), careless driving, leaving the scene of an accident, failure to yield to a pedestrian with bodily injury to the pedestrian, or negligent driving;

The superintendent or his or her designee has the discretion to prohibit school personnel from driving a school vehicle for a citation or arrest for the above offenses or any other offense or reason. The superintendent or his or her designee will make the final determination about the use of school district vehicles.

Electronic Communication While Driving. Unless the superintendent or a principal grants an exception to allow verbal communication on an as needed basis for specific district-related work based upon an employee's duties and responsibilities, school personnel shall not use any electronic communication device to read a written communication, manually type a written communication, send a written communication, verbally communicate with others, or otherwise communicate with others while operating a school vehicle. This prohibition includes but is not limited to answering or making telephone calls, engaging in telephone conversations, and reading or responding to e-mails, instant messages, text messages or other visual media.

Tobacco, Alcohol, and Controlled Substances. The use of any tobacco product, including the use of vapor products, alternative nicotine products, or any other such look-alike product, is not permitted in a school vehicle at any time. The use or possession of any alcohol or controlled substance (unless legally prescribed to school personnel by a physician) is not permitted in a school vehicle at any time. All drivers shall follow and be subject to Drug Free Workplace Policy and Drug Policy Regarding Drivers Policy.

Traffic Accidents, Infractions, Violations, or Citations. School personnel who receive a citation or warning citation from a law enforcement officer or are involved in an accident while operating a school vehicle must report the citation to the superintendent or his or her designee as soon as practicable, but no later than 24 hours of receipt. The superintendent must report his or her accidents, infractions, violations, or citations to the board president.

Adopted on: 7-10-17
Revised on: _____
Reviewed on: _____

4061
Workplace or Non-Workplace Injuries or Illness and Return to Work

Reporting Workplace Injuries. Staff members who are injured while performing duties or who witness workplace injuries must report them to the superintendent or superintendent's designee as soon as possible after being injured or witnessing an injury. Staff members must prepare written statements regarding the injuries they sustained or witnessed when they are asked to do so by the school district. Failure to report a workplace injury as a witness will constitute insubordination and neglect of duty and may result in adverse employment action up to and including termination or cancellation of employment. Failure to report workplace injuries may also result in delayed or forfeited benefits to which an employee may otherwise be entitled.

Returning to Work after Workplace Injuries or Non-Workplace Injuries or Illness. Staff members whose injuries or illness prevent them from completing any or all of their duties, whether or not incurred at work, may be permitted to continue working or may be offered modified duty positions as required by law or as determined appropriate by the superintendent. This policy does not guarantee a limited or modified assignment during the recovery period unless it is otherwise required by law. The employee may be required to provide a return to work certification or report from their treating physician which delineates any restrictions, modifications, or accommodations needed to allow the employee to perform the essential functions of their position.

Termination After Workplace Injuries or Illness. Unless otherwise covered in an individual employment contract, employees may be terminated after suffering a workplace injury or illness when the district has a legitimate, nondiscriminatory reason for doing so. Such reasons include but are not limited to:

- Necessity to fill the position to maintain continuous services as required by law or district policy or standards;
- Performance deficiencies of the employee unrelated to the injury or illness;
- Unavailability of substitute or replacement employees;
- When the absence will negatively impact students' educational experience or opportunities; or
- Any other reason not otherwise prohibited by law.

The district may make such employment determinations regardless of whether the employee has returned to work and regardless of whether a medical professional has certified that the employee has reached maximum medical improvement. In the event the injury or illness lasts beyond the amount of leave time provided by the district and by the Family Medical Leave Act, which is generally no greater than 12 weeks, the employee may be terminated even if the employee remains eligible for Workers' Compensation under state law or short or long-term disability under a policy available

through the district. In no event will an employee be terminated as retaliation for filing a Workers' Compensation claim.

Termination After Non-Workplace Injuries. Unless otherwise covered in an individual employment contract or prohibited by law, employees who are unable to perform any of the essential functions of their positions with reasonable accommodation(s) due to injury or illness occurring outside of the workplace may be terminated. The employee's position or a similar position will be held open only as required by law, such as the Family Medical Leave Act.

Adopted on: 7-10-17
Revised on: _____
Reviewed on: _____

4064
Transporting Students in Employee Vehicles

With the permission of the superintendent, school employees may transport students in the employee's personal vehicle even if those students do not live within the employee's household. School employees who transport students in their personal vehicles and those children do not live within the employee's household must comply with the board's policies on pupil transportation and school vehicle use, including Pupil Transportation Driver Qualification Criteria.

Adopted on : 7-13-22
Revised on: _____
Reviewed on: _____

4065
Staff Use of AI Tools

As used in this policy, artificial intelligence tools ("AI Tools") means machine-based resources that use computer science, algorithms, large language models, and/or machine learning to perform tasks, answer questions, collect information, and respond to human-directed tasks, queries, and objectives. AI Tools include, but are not necessarily limited to, commercially-available resources like ChatGPT, Gemini, Claude, and similar technologies. The board wants to encourage staff to use AI tools to support student learning in safe and lawful ways.

This policy works together with the district's policies on Student Use of AI Tools, Staff Internet and Computer Use, and Staff and District Social Media Use.

Tool Approval. Staff may not use an AI Tool with students or with student information unless a member of the district's administration has approved it. To use a new tool, staff must request approval from his/her supervising administrator first. Before approving a tool, the district will review the vendor's privacy and security practices, the kind of student information the tool would use, and whether a written data-sharing agreement with the vendor is required. The district will keep a list of approved AI Tools and the allowed uses for each.

VII. Staff Expectations for Use of AI Tools in Education

A. Acceptable Use of AI Tools. Staff members must use their own professional oversight for any task they use AI Tools to complete and must carefully review the outputs of all AI Tools. Staff may use approved AI Tools to help with things like:

1. Drafting lesson plans, learning goals, and activities;
2. Assisting in initial review and feedback of student work;
3. Making reading passages or practice problems at different levels;
4. Drafting general messages like newsletters or announcements;
5. Finding resources or summarizing public information;
6. Drafting routine communications.

B. Protecting Student Information. Staff may upload student information into an AI Tool only when (a) the tool is district-approved, and (b) the vendor is bound by a written data-sharing agreement with terms that meet FERPA, COPPA, PPRA, and applicable state student data privacy laws. For this purpose, student information includes student names, ID numbers, education records, IEPs, Section 504 plans, evaluations, health records, and discipline records. This rule applies whether the staff member uses a district account, a personal account, a free version, or a paid version.

C. Recording and Transcription Tools. Staff may use AI recording or transcription tools only if:

1. The transcription tool has been approved by an administrator for use in the school context; and
2. All participants to the meeting are informed that the staff member is recording or transcribing the meeting.

The resulting recording or transcript may be subject to the district's retention and confidentiality policies.

D. Unacceptable Use of AI Tools in Education. Staff may never use AI tools to:

1. Upload FERPA-protected information about students without the express, written authorization from administrators who have assured themselves that such disclosure is lawful;
2. Relying solely on an AI Tool to grade student work that counts toward a grade or transcript or otherwise evaluate student academic progress;
3. Make or share deepfakes or fake images, audio, or video of any real person.
4. Make or share sexual or intimate images of any real person—even if the image is AI-generated;
5. Use AI to harass, bully, threaten, or impersonate any student, staff member, parent, board member, or community member;
6. Use AI to watch, track, or scan faces of students or staff outside of systems the board has approved;
7. Upload materials to AI if the copyright or license does not allow it;
8. Share district AI accounts or passwords with students or others;
9. Use district AI accounts for personal or business reasons; or
10. Use AI to bypass district network security, content filters, or device controls.

If any staff member is uncertain about the application of this policy to any AI Tool use, the staff member will check with a supervising administrator before use.

Adopted on: 7-13-26
Revised on: _____
Reviewed on: _____

5000 Series

Policies Regarding Students

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5002	Admission of Students
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5001
Compulsory Attendance and Excessive Absenteeism

Required Attendance

Every person residing in the school district who has legal or actual charge or control of any child who is of mandatory attendance age shall cause that child to attend a public or private school regularly unless the child has graduated from high school or has been allowed to disenroll pursuant to this policy.

Mandatory Attendance Age

All children who are or will turn six years old before January 1 of the current school year are of mandatory attendance age. Children who have not turned eighteen years of age are of mandatory attendance age.

Exceptions

This policy does not apply when attendance is made impossible or impracticable by severe weather conditions or by the mental or physical illness of the student or a child whom the student is parenting.

A child who will not reach age 7 before January 1 of the current school year may be excused from mandatory attendance if the child's parent or guardian completes an affidavit affirming that alternative educational arrangements have been made for the child. A copy of the required affidavit is attached to this policy.

Discontinuing Enrollment – 5 Year Old Students

The person seeking to discontinue the enrollment of a student who will not reach six years of age prior to January 1 of the current school year shall submit a signed, written request to the superintendent using the form which is attached to this policy. The school district may request written verification or documentation that the person signing the form has legal or actual charge or control of the student. The school district shall discontinue the enrollment of any student who satisfies these requirements. Any student whose enrollment is discontinued under this subsection shall not be eligible to reenroll in this school district until the beginning of the following school year unless otherwise required by law.

Discontinuing Enrollment – 16 and 17 Year Old Students

Only children who are at least 16 years of age may be disenrolled from the district. The person seeking to discontinue the child's enrollment shall submit a signed, written request and submit it to the superintendent using the form which is attached to this policy. The district will follow the procedures outlined on the attached form in considering requests to disenroll.

Only children disenrolling to attend an exempt school may be exempt from this policy. The person with legal or actual charge or control of the child must provide the superintendent with a copy of the signed request submitted to the State Department of Education for attending exempt schools. The superintendent may confirm the validity of the submission with the State Department of Education.

Prohibition on Discontinuing Enrollment – Abuse or Neglect Investigation

Upon notice from the Department of Health and Human Services, the District shall not facilitate the transfer or disenrollment of a student whose parent, guardian, or educational decisionmaker is subject to an active investigation by the Department for fourteen days or until further notice from the Department, whichever occurs first.

Attendance Officer

Each building principal is designated as an attendance officer for the district. Each building principal, at his or her discretion, may delegate these responsibilities to any other qualified individual. The attendance officer is responsible for enforcing the provisions of state law relating to compulsory attendance. This responsibility includes but is not limited to filing a report with the county attorney of the county in which a student resides. Compensation for the duties of attendance officer is included in the salary for the superintendent or designee.

Excused Absences – Physical or Mental Illness

Absences shall be excused by a parent, guardian, or educational decision maker, as defined in section 79-530, of the child for physical or mental illness and as documented by a credentialed health professional, provided the documentation supports such absence. In the instance of chronic illness, documentation shall be reviewed each semester.

Excused Absences – Others

The following additional absences will be considered excused if they are confirmed by communication to the school from the student's parent/guardian:

1. Severe weather

2. Medical appointments for the student

3. Death or serious illness of the student's family member

4. Attending a funeral, wedding or graduation

5. Appearance at court or for other legal matters

6. Observance of religious holidays of the student's own faith

7. College planning visits

8. Personal or family vacations

Excessive Absenteeism

When a student receives 5 unexcused absences or the hourly equivalent in any semester, the Attendance Officer may send written notification of the student's total absences to the student's parent or guardian. When a student receives 10 unexcused absences or the hourly equivalent in any school year, the Attendance Officer will send written notification of the student's total absences to the student's parent or guardian and offer to meet with the student's parents or guardians to discuss any barriers to the student's attendance. When a student receives 15 unexcused absences or the hourly equivalent in any school year, the Attendance Officer will send written notification of the student's total absences to the student's parent or guardian and shall schedule a meeting with relevant stakeholders to discuss and address any barriers to the student's attendance, unless the Attendance Officer determines that such a meeting would not be productive in facilitating the student's regular attendance.

When a student has accrued 20 days of unexcused absences, or the hourly equivalent, the district may report the matter to the county attorney in the county where the student resides.

Adopted on: 3-9-15
Revised on: 7-13-26
Reviewed on: _____

5002
Admission of Students

Students shall be admitted to the school district who are required by law to be enrolled or are permitted to enroll by law or board policy.

Students who have been placed in a foster home within the school district are not residents of the district and will not be permitted to enroll unless the district has received a written determination from the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services that it is in the best interest s of the student not to attend his or her district of residence.

Prior to enrolling any student who is a ward of the state of Nebraska or a ward of any court, the district will ask to review a completed copy of the "Education Court Report Form" promulgated by the Nebraska Supreme Court's Commission on Children and Famil ies in the Courts – Education Sub-Committee. If there is no such completed form, district staff will offer assistance to the appropriate responsible individual in securing the information necessary to complete the form as part of the district's enrollment process.

Except in adult education classes or when otherwise required by law, no student who is of 21 years of age or older, or who has earned a high school diploma or its equivalent will be allowed to be enrolled in or continue to attend school in the district.

Students who seek to enroll in the district must comply with each board policy, state statute and regulation that applies to their situation. Grade level placement will be determined in accordance with district policy.

Adopted on: 3-9-15
Revised on: 7-14-25
Reviewed on: _____

5002.1

Admission of Students Who Reside Out of the State of Nebraska

Students who reside in a state other than Nebraska must submit an application to enroll in the district at least three weeks prior to the beginning of the semester in which they wish to begin attending the district. Out of state students may not enroll mid-semester.

The administration will review each application and will admit out-of-state students whose academic history, disciplinary records and prior school community involvement indicate that they will be successful in this school district. Those who have verified disabilities pursuant to the Individuals with Disabilities in Education Act or section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act will not be excluded from admission based solely on their disability. However, those who need specialized programming or whose enrollment would require the hiring of additional staff or specific training of existing staff will not be admitted. The administration's approval or disapproval of an out-of-state student's application is final.

Out-of-state students who are admitted pursuant to this policy must meet the requirements of board policy 5002 and must comply with each board policy, state statute and regulation that applies to their situation. Once admitted, they will be subject to the same disciplinary rules and procedures as resident students. Students must reapply for admission prior to each semester. Re-admission may be denied for students who are not academically and/or behaviorally successful. Once admitted, out-of-state students' grade level placement will be determined in accordance with district policy.

Out-of-state students are not entitled to transportation or reimbursement for transportation. However, the Superintendent may allow for transportation if the home is located where it is reasonable to have a pick-up and drop-off.

Out-of-state students will be charged tuition of $250 per semester by the district for the first student, $150 for a second student in the family, and $100 for a third student. There will be a maximum charge of $500 per family per semester. Payment in full is due to the central office of the district on or before the first day of classes each semester. The tuition fee may be changed by the board of education prior to any semester with or without notice to the out-of-state student's family or resident school district.
Adopted on: 3-9-15
Revised on: 7-17-23
Reviewed on: _____

5003
Admission of Part-Time Students

A student may be permitted to enroll on a part-time basis pursuant to this policy and applicable curricular practices when enrollment is appropriate for reasons that include but are not limited to the following: the student attends another education institution on a primary basis; is enrolled for a limited number of credit hours needed to graduate; has a modified schedule because of a disability or as part of an individualized education plan; or is a student who attends a private, denominational, or parochial school or a school that elects not to meet accreditation or approval requirements (referred to herein as an exempt school student or an exempt school, respectively).

Eligibility and Application for Enrollment. A student may be eligible for part-time enrollment if the student:

1. is of appropriate age to attend school;
2. is a resident of this school district;
3. is a resident of another school district attending a private, denominational, parochial, or exempt school, but only if
    a. this school district is the closest to the student's residence that offers the extracurricular sport or activity they desire to participate in, and their resident school district does not offer that sport or activity; or
    b. the school building the student would attend if accepted for part-time enrollment is closer than the school building the student attends or would attend at the resident district;
4. has not graduated from high school; and
5. has not received a graduate equivalency diploma.

The parent or guardian must meet all of the district's admission requirements and file an application for enrollment on forms provided by the school district by August 1 prior to the year of enrollment. For second semester high school courses, the application must be filed by December 1. For students who move into the district mid-semester, the application must be filed within 20 days of moving into the district. The administration shall review the application, determine whether to approve or deny it, notify the parent or guardian, and schedule enrollment at an educationally appropriate time in the building or attendance center of the administration's choice. Enrollment does not carry over from one school year to the next, and the parent or guardian must apply for enrollment each school year.

Limitations Based on Resources. The part-time enrollment of students is subject to limitations for grades, classes, courses, and programs based on the limited resources available to the school district. Full-time students shall be given priority for enrollment in grades, classes, courses, and programs.

Placement of Students. Students accepted for part-time enrollment shall be placed in courses for which they have adequate preparation and which are determined to be educationally appropriate based on criteria that include, but are not limited to the student's age, achievement test scores, academic record, evaluation by school personnel and any other standards used by the district for the placement of students.

Grades and Academic Honors. Students accepted for part-time enrollment shall receive grades, report cards, and transcripts, but shall not be eligible to graduate, receive a diploma or qualify for class ranking unless they meet all district requirements including earning a sufficient number of credit hours and semesters of attendance.

Applicability of School Rules. Students accepted for part-time enrollment are subject to all rules and standards of the board of education and administration as set forth in policy, handbooks or other communications, as well as the rules and directives of the building administration and staff. They must remain on the school campus during scheduled classes but must leave the school campus when not engaged in a course, course-related activity, or an extracurricular activity or sport, unless the building principal approves their presence. Students who violate school policies, rules, or directives shall be subject to disciplinary procedures up to and including suspension and expulsion.

Extracurricular Sports and Activities. Students who are enrolled in a private, denominational, or parochial school may not participate in extracurricular sports and activities sponsored by the school district.

1. For extracurricular sports and activities regulated by an athletics or activities association in which this school district is a member: 5 credit hours.
2. For extracurricular sports and activities governed by a national or state organization other than an athletics or activities association, such as FFA: the minimum number of credit hours offered by the school district as required by that national or state organization.
3. For extracurricular sports and activities not regulated or governed by any such entity: 5 credit hours.

Exempt school students may only participate in extracurricular sports and activities if they are enrolled in at least 20 total credit hours per semester, when combining the exempt school credit hours and credit hours taken on a part-time basis at the school district. Exempt school students are not eligible to participate in extracurricular sports and activities sponsored by the school district if they participate in any sport or activity sponsored by any other public, private, denominational, or parochial school. Any such students who desire to participate in extracurricular sports and activities at the school district must enroll in the following number of credit hours from the school district:

1. For extracurricular sports and activities regulated by an athletics or activities association in which this school district is a member: 5 credit hours.

2. For extracurricular sports and activities governed by a national or state organization other than an athletics or activities association, such as FFA: the minimum number of credit hours offered by the school district as required by that national or state organization.
3. For extracurricular sports and activities not regulated or governed by any such entity: 5 credit hours.

All students permitted to participate in extracurricular sports and activities under this policy must also meet all other eligibility requirements set by the board, administration, and coach/sponsor prior to participating and for continued participation in the sport or activity. This includes but is not limited to rules for completing courses; up/down lists for deficient grades and/or incompletes; and all eligibility and other requirements of the Nebraska School Activities Association and any other governing bodies for the activity or sport.

Transportation. Part-time school students are not entitled to transportation or reimbursement for transportation to and from the school for class attendance purposes, unless required by law. Eligible part-time students are entitled to transportation to and from practices and extracurricular events to the same extent as the school district's full-time students, but part-time students must arrange their own transportation and arrive timely to the designated pick-up point for such transportation.

Option Enrollment. Students may not enroll on a part-time basis pursuant to the school's option enrollment program.

Adopted on: 3-9-15
Revised on: 7-13-26
Reviewed on: _____

5004
Option Enrollment

The board of education supports the concept embodied in the Enrollment Option Program that parents and legal guardians have the primary responsibility for ensuring that their children receive the best education possible. Accordingly, the school district will participate in the option enrollment program and receive option students as provided herein.

1. Definitions

a. **Option Student Defined**. Option student means a nonresident student who has chosen to attend the school district under the provisions of the option enrollment program.

b. **Resident School District Defined.** Resident school district means the school district in which a student resides or in which the student is admitted as a resident of the school district pursuant to state law.

c. **Option School District Defined.** Option school district means the school district that a student chooses to attend other than his or her resident school district.

d. **Elementary School Defined.** Elementary school means grades K - 6.

e. **Middle School Defined.** Middle school means grades 7 - 8.

f. **High School Defined.** High school means grades 9 through 12.

g. **Individual Student Defined.** Individual Student means the individual person seeking to begin attendance as an option student in the school district and who such person's parent or legal guardian has identified in a written application for option enrollment submitted to the school board.

h. **Applicants Defined.** Applicants means the Individual Student together with all siblings of the Individual Student.

i. **Siblings Defined.** Siblings means all children residing in the same household on a permanent basis who have the same mother or father or who are stepbrother or stepsister to each other who have not received a high school diploma or its equivalent.

2. Persons Entitled to Apply for Option Enrollment of Students. Only parents and legal guardians may apply for option enrollment of students. Applications filed by foster parents and adults acting *in loco parentis* are not authorized and will be automatically denied.

3. **Duties, Entitlements and Rights of Option Students.** Except as otherwise provided herein, once an option student's option enrollment application has been accepted he/she shall be treated as a resident student of the school district.

4. **Automatic Acceptance.** The option school district must automatically accept applications of Individual Students under the following circumstances:

   a. The Individual Student relocates in a different school district but wants to continue attending his or her original resident school district and the Individual Student has been enrolled in his or her original resident school district for the immediately preceding two years (in which case the time deadlines are waived);

   b. The Individual Student relocates in a different school district but wants to continue attending the option school district (in which case the time deadlines are waived); or

   c. The Individual Student is a sibling of an option student enrolled in the option school district.

5. **Standards for Acceptance or Rejection of All Other Option Students.** For Individual Students not entitled to automatic acceptance as described in the preceding section, no application for option enrollment may be accepted if enrollment in the school district if any of the Applicants would exceed the school district's capacity as described in this section.

   a. Special Education Capacity. Capacity for special education services will be determined on a case-by-case basis. If an application for option enrollment received by the school district indicates that any of the Applicants has an individualized education program under the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, 20 U.S.C. 1400 et seq., or has been identified as a student with a disability as defined in section 79-1118.01, the application will be evaluated by the director of special education services or the director's designee who must determine if the school district and the appropriate class, grade level, or school building has the capacity to provide all of the Applicants the appropriate services and accommodations. The Federal Educational Rights and Privacy Rights Act (FERPA) (20 U.S.C. § 1232g) permits the release of education records when a student seeks or intends to enroll in a different school district.

   b. Numeric Capacity. The board of education may set the numeric capacity of programs, classes, grade levels, or school buildings by operation of this policy or through freestanding action by the board. Numeric Capacity will

be determined based upon available staff, facilities, projected enrollment of resident students, and projected number of students with which the option school district will contract based on existing contractual arrangements. Individuals seeking information about the numeric capacity set by the board may contact the superintendent for a copy of that resolution.

c. **Programmatic Capacity.** In addition to the numeric capacity standards referred to above, the board may, by resolution, prior to October 15 of each school year, declare a program, a class, or a school unavailable for the next school year to option students due to lack of capacity. Individuals seeking information about the programs that have been declared to be unavailable due to lack of capacity may contact the superintendent for a copy of the board's resolution.

d. **Other Standards for Acceptance or Rejection of Option Enrollment Applications.** In addition to the numeric and programmatic capacity standards outlined above, the school district shall not accept any application for option enrollment when enrollment of any of the Applicants:

i. Would increase the operating costs of the school district, such as by requiring the hiring of new staff or contracting with outside entities to provide services to any of the Applicants;
ii. Would require the procurement of new equipment, technology, or furnishings;
iii. Would cause or require the rearrangement of caseloads for staff and contracted professionals;
iv. Is reasonably deemed by appropriate school staff to pose a potential risk to the health or safety of students or staff;
v. May pose a risk of adversely affecting the quality of educational services being provided to resident students, as determined by appropriate school staff.

e. **Prohibited Standards.** The school district shall not base the decision to accept or reject the application of the Individual Student on any of the Applicants' previous academic achievement, athletic or other extracurricular ability, disabling condition(s), proficiency in the English language, or previous disciplinary proceedings.

f. **Order of Acceptance.** If there are more option student applicants for any program, class, grade level or school building than can be accepted into such program, class, grade level or school building, applicants shall be accepted

i. in the order in which written applications were received by the school district.

g. Maximum Capacity Report. The school district will annually establish, publish, and report the capacity for each school building under the district's control pursuant to procedures, criteria, and deadlines established by the Nebraska Department of Education.

6. False or Misleading Option Applications. If, prior to the Individual Student's attendance as an option student, the school district discovers that a previously accepted option application contained false or substantively misleading information about any of the Applicants, the option application will be rejected.

7. Academic Credits and Graduation. The school district shall accept credits toward graduation that were awarded by another school district, and shall award a diploma to an option student if the student meets the graduation requirements of the school district.

8. Information Regarding Schools, Programs, Policies and Procedures. The school district, its officers and employees, shall make information about the school district and its schools, programs, policies and procedures available to all interested people.

9. Procedure for Students Optioning Into or Out of the School District.

a. The parent or legal guardian of any student desiring to option into or out of the school district shall submit a proper and timely application to the board of education and the other affected school district for enrollment during the following and subsequent school years. Any application requiring the approval of the school district shall be deemed submitted when the application is actually received in the school district's business office.

b. On or before April 1st, the school district shall notify the parent or legal guardian of any Individual Student who has submitted an application to option into the school district and the resident school district, in writing, whether the application is accepted or rejected. If an application is rejected, the reason for such rejection shall be stated in the notification. This written notice shall be sent via certified mail to the address listed on the option application.

10. Late Applications and Requests for Release

a. The board of education may refuse a request of a student seeking to option out of the school district when the option application is submitted after March 15th under the following conditions:

i. When the district has already entered into contracts with teaching staff for the following school year;

ii. When the district has already contracted for the performance of specific services for the student;

iii. When the release of the student would have a negative financial impact or loss of revenue for the district.

b. The board of education will deny all applications to option into the district that are received by the district after March 15 of the school year prior to the student's requested enrollment.

c. The superintendent will notify parents or guardians who have submitted properly completed option applications after March 15th no later than 60 days following submission of the application of the board's acceptance or rejection of the application.

11. Students Who Do Not Need a Release from the Resident District

a. A student does not need to be released from his/her resident district or the option school district the student is attending at the time of application under the following circumstances:

i. When the student has relocated to a different resident school district after February 1

ii. When a student's option school district merges with another district effective after February 1

b. The school district shall accept or reject an application from a student under this paragraph using the criteria set forth in this policy and will accept or reject the application within forty-five days.

11. Cancellation of Option.

Students who option either into or out of the school district shall:

a. Attend the option school district until graduation or relocation/re-option in a different resident school district unless the student chooses to return to the resident school district, in which case the student's parent or legal guardian shall timely submit a cancellation form to the school board or board of education of the option school district and the resident school district for approval for the following year.

b. Attend an option school district for not less than one school year unless the student relocates to a different resident school district, completes requirements for graduation prior to the end the school year, transfers to a parochial or private school, or upon mutual agreement of the resident and option school districts cancels the enrollment option and returns to the resident school district.

12. Authority of Superintendent.

The board of education authorizes the superintendent of schools to make decisions on its behalf pursuant to and to apply the criteria articulated by this policy in determining whether to grant or deny option enrollment applications.

Adopted on: 3-9-15
Revised on: 7-13-26
Reviewed on: _____

5005
Transportation

The school district will provide free transportation, partially provide free transportation, or pay an allowance for transportation in lieu of free transportation on each day school is in session to the students who reside in the district and qualify for transportation according to the district's transportation plan. The families of students who will not be provided transportation pursuant to the district's plan or who must drive students to a pick-up point will be reimbursed according to statute if they qualify for such reimbursement. Parents seeking mileage reimbursement must submit requests to the district on forms which may be obtained from the office of the Superintendent of Schools.

When a student who has been attending the district is placed into foster care, school district staff will collaborate with state and local child welfare agencies to determine whether transportation is required under state law when it is in the child's best interest that their school of origin be maintained. The district will only provide transportation to students placed in foster care when the responsible child welfare agency agrees to reimburse the school district for the cost of transportation or when transportation is otherwise required by law. The board designates the Superintendent of Schools as the initial point of contact for child welfare agency representatives to discuss transportation issues related to children in foster care.

Students who are homeless will be provided with transportation pursuant to Board Policy 5014.

The district will provide transportation to tuition students in accordance with the contract provisions, if any, for services from the contracting districts.

The use of buses for class parties, field trips, and similar purposes shall require the prior approval of the superintendent or appropriate principal.

Option Transportation. The board of education provides transportation to option students only if (a) the option student lives on an existing bus route or (b) the option student makes arrangements to be picked up and dropped off at preexisting stops along an existing bus route. The district does not provide mileage reimbursement for option-enrolled students unless otherwise required by law.

Students who qualify for free lunch may be entitled to transportation or mileage reimbursement pursuant to state law.

Adopted on: 3-9-15
Revised on: 6-11-24
Reviewed on: _____

5006
Foreign Exchange Students

The school district may accept a foreign exchange student on a non-tuition basis if the student is sponsored by an organized exchange program that is acceptable to the board of education, approved for enrollment, and resides with a host family that lives within district boundaries, or resides with a family that currently options their child(ren) into the school district as long as the host family's child(ren) continues attending as an option student.

A foreign student is not entitled to tuition-free schooling in the school district merely because he or she resides with a family within the district. The host family and/or sponsoring exchange program must file an application with the administration to enroll the student. In reviewing the application, the administration will consider the following factors:

whether the student possesses a sufficient command of the English language;

whether an appropriate program is available;

whether the student meets the general admission requirements for the school; and

such other factors as are relevant to the admission of the student.

Foreign exchange students who are accepted and enrolled will be subject to all policies and regulations governing the conduct and behavior of resident students.

Adopted on: 3-9-15
Revised on: _____
Reviewed on: _____

5007
Enrollment of Expelled Students

The administration shall not enroll any student during the term of any known expulsion of the student from any public school in any state unless the board of education has approved the enrollment by a vote of a majority of the members of the board. The district shall not enroll any student during the known term of any expulsion of the student from a private school for an offense for which expulsion is authorized for a public school student unless the board has approved the enrollment by a vote of a majority of the members of the board. This policy does not require the board to take a vote on the enrollment application of any such student.

Adopted on: 3-9-15
Revised on: _____
Reviewed on: _____

5008
Pregnant or Parenting Students

The District will not discriminate in its education program or activity against any student based on the student's current, potential, or past pregnancy. Students who are pregnant or parenting are encouraged to continue participating in the district's educational and extracurricular programs.

I. Accommodations Regarding Attendance and Participation

A. Generally

Students who anticipate deviations from their regular school experience or accrue absences due to pregnancy or parenting should notify their building principal as early as possible to discuss their educational programming. The building principal will work with the student to develop a plan to assist the student in participating in district curriculum and extra-curricular activities. Such a plan may include:

1. If the student cannot regularly attend classes, the provision of online courses;
2. The arrangement of meeting times with teachers;
3. If the student has not identified appropriate childcare, the identification of child care providers that meet statutory requirements for quality and care; and
4. All other curricular adjustments, modifications, and means of supplementing classroom attendance deemed appropriate by the school administrators including, but not limited to, modification of attendance policies.

B. Students with Disabilities

For students with disabilities who have an IEP or Section 504 plan, the administrators, student's parents or guardians, and student if appropriate will collaborate with the student's educational team to coordinate accommodations consistent with state and federal law. As permitted by law, students may be entitled to accommodations as a result of pregnancy.

C. Title IX

When a student, or a person with a legal right to act on a student's behalf, informs a District employee of the student's pregnancy or related conditions, the

District will inform the student of the Title IX Coordinator's contact information. The employee will also inform the student that the Title IX Coordinator can coordinate actions to prevent sex discrimination and ensure the student's equal access to the District's education program or activity.

The District will make reasonable accommodations to the District's policies, practices, and procedures as necessary to prevent sex discrimination and ensure equal access to the District's education program or activity. The District will coordinate reasonable modifications based on the student's individualized need. The District will consult with the student when determining what reasonable modifications may be appropriate, and the student has the discretion to accept or decline the reasonable modifications offered by the District.

The District will allow the student to voluntarily access any separate and comparable portion of the District's education program or activity. The District will allow the student to voluntarily take a leave of absence from the District's education program or activity to cover, at a minimum, the period of time deemed medically necessary by the student's licensed healthcare provider. Upon the student's return, the student will be reinstated to the student's academic status, and as practicable, to the extracurricular status that the student held when the voluntary leave began.

II. Accommodations Regarding Lactation and Breastfeeding

A. Accommodations

1. In order to accommodate lactating and breastfeeding students, the district will provide reasonable opportunities to express breast milk or breastfeed in a place, other than a bathroom, which is shielded from view and free from intrusion from district students, employees, and the public.
2. Students who wish or need to express breast milk on a regular schedule will work with school administrators to create a schedule which accommodates the student's needs while facilitating education to the maximum extent possible.
3. The district will provide a location for students to store expressed breast milk in or near the location designated for students to express milk to create the least amount of disruption to the student's participation in class or activities.

B. Educational Process

In order to prevent interference with the educational process, no student shall express breast milk within school classrooms or buses. Nothing in this policy

limits the authority of the administration to impose consequences consistent with the Student Discipline Act and other state and federal law.

Adopted on: 3-9-15
Revised on: 6-11-24
Reviewed on: _____

5009
Adult Education

The school district may offer adult education programs.

Adopted on: 3-9-15
Revised on: _____
Reviewed on: _____

5010
Immunizations

1. **General Rule**

a. Each student wishing to enroll in the school district must be immunized as required by state law and the rules and regulations promulgated by the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services in effect at the time of the student's enrollment.

b. The district is not responsible for the cost of such immunizations.

c. Any student who does not comply with this policy shall not be permitted to continue attending school.

d. The building principal shall be responsible for maintaining immunization records for the students enrolled in his/her building and shall share that information with the school's threat assessment and crisis teams as appropriate.

2. Exceptions

a. Provisional Enrollment

Students who meet the statutory requirements for provisional enrollment may be allowed to attend school for sixty days without the necessary immunizations.

b. Immunization shall not be required if the student's parent or guardian submits one of the following to the superintendent of schools:

i. A statement signed by a medical professional stating that the required immunization would be injurious to the health and well-being of the student or any member of the student's household; or

ii. An affidavit signed by the student or a legally authorized representative of the student, stating that the immunization conflicts with the student's sincerely held religious beliefs.

c. Students who are excepted from the immunization requirement may be excluded from school in the event of an outbreak of any contagious disease in the school population.

Adopted on: 3-9-15_____
Revised on: 10-11-16_____
Reviewed on: _____

5011
Physical Examination of Students

The following students shall provide evidence of a physical examination by a qualified health care provider:

- all incoming students in the beginner grade;
- students in seventh grade; and
- all out-of-state transfer students.

Evidence of a physical examination must be dated no more than six months prior to entrance or within sixty days after enrollment. If the student's parent(s) or guardian(s) object to a physical examination, they must submit a signed and dated refusal form to the school.

Adopted on: 3-9-15
Revised on: _____
Reviewed on: _____

5012
Testing and Assessment Program

I. Basic Testing and Assessment Program

The school district will use a basic testing and assessment program to evaluate the outcome of the educational program and to provide information needed in working with individuals. The program will be supplemented by such individual and supplementary tests as the needs of the educational program and the district indicate. The superintendent and designees will coordinate the program from Kindergarten through twelfth grade to provide continuity. Teachers are prohibited from engaging in any behavior that adversely affects the validity of test scores as a measure of student achievement. Teachers should consult with relevant board policies and district protocols assessment administration and security.

II. Accountability Reporting

At the board of education's regular July meeting, or as soon after as a report can be completed, the superintendent of schools shall provide an annual written report as required by NDE Rule 10. The report shall be presented to the board and made available to the public. The report must contain the elements required by Rule 10, including but not limited to: student academic performance as reported to NDE (demographics, achievement, educational input characteristics, as defined in section 005.02 of Rule 10); school system demographics; school improvement goals and progress; and financial information about the school district. Building level results will be reported only to appropriate staff for review, goal setting, and intervention as needed.

This report shall not include any individual test scores or assessment, but individual student test scores or assessment results will be reported to the student's parents or legal guardian(s). If the school has fewer than ten students in the grades being reported, or if reporting would allow for the identification of students because they all had comparable scores, no public reports of student performance are provided for those grades.

A comprehensive evaluation of the district shall be conducted at least once every five years using instruments and guides approved by NDE.

Adopted on: 3-9-15
Revised on: 7-13-22
Reviewed on: _____

5013
Use and Dissemination of Test Results

The administration shall provide an annual written report consisting of the results of the district's performance program including but not limited to: standardized norm-referenced assessments, criterion-referenced assessments, student performance, school system demographics, financial information, a follow-up study of graduates, and a learning climate survey. This report shall be made available to all patrons of the district. Building level results will be reported only to appropriate staff for review and goal setting.

This report shall not include any individual test scores or assessment, but individual student test scores or assessment results will be reported to the student's parents or legal guardian(s).

Adopted on: 3-9-15
Revised on: _____
Reviewed on: _____

5014
Homeless Students

1. **General Policy.** The District will provide tuition free education for homeless children and youth who are in the district and accord them the educational rights and legal protections provided by state and federal law. Homeless children and youth shall not be stigmatized or segregated on the basis of their status as homeless and shall have access to the same services offered to other students. It is the intent of this policy to remove barriers to the enrollment and retention of homeless children and youth in the District.

2. **Homeless Liaison.** The District's homeless liaison is John Denner. Students in homeless situations who require assistance should contact the liaison at 402-793-5164 (phone number) or in person at 318 Kelley St. Diller NE 68342 (address). The liaison's responsibilities include:

    a. Ensuring homeless children and youth are identified through coordination with the Nebraska Department of Education, community groups, and other school personnel;
    b. Receiving training regarding state and federal law governing homeless children and youth;
    c. Ensuring homeless children and youth and their families are referred to appropriate health care, housing, and other relevant service providers and programs available in the community;
    d. Assisting other District personnel to work with homeless children and youth and their families on regular attendance, participation in programs and activities of the District, and completing academic work to meet academic standards of the District;
    e. Assisting homeless children and youth and working with other District employees to prepare for and improve college readiness, including assistance with applications, selection, financial aid, and status verification for purposes of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid; and
    f. Carrying out other aspects of this policy.

3. **Definitions**

a. "Homeless children and youth" means individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence and includes:

i. Children and youths who are sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason; are living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to the lack of alternative accommodations; are living in emergency or transitional shelters; or are abandoned in hospitals;

ii. Children and youths who have a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings;

iii. Children and youths who are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings; and

iv. Migratory children who qualify as homeless for the purposes of this subtitle because the children are living in circumstances described in clauses (i) through (iii).

b. The term “homeless” or “homeless individual” does not include any individual imprisoned or otherwise detained by an act of Congress or by state law.

c. “Child” and “youth” refers to persons who, if they were children of residents of the District, would be entitled to a free education.

d. The term "unaccompanied youth" shall mean a homeless child or youth not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian.

e. “School of origin” means the school that the child or youth attended when permanently housed, or the school in which the child or youth was last enrolled.

4. **School Stability and Enrollment.** Generally, the District presumes that keeping a homeless child or youth in their school of origin is in the child’s best interest unless it is contrary to a request of the child’s parent, guardian, or in the case of an unaccompanied youth, the youth. The District will also consider factors including, but not limited to: the impact of mobility on achievement, education, health, and safety of the child.

5. **Strategies to Address Enrollment Delays.** In order to address enrollment delays resulting from homelessness, the school district shall immediately enroll homeless students even if they are unable to produce records normally required for enrollment such as immunization and medical records, residency documents, birth certificates, school records, or other documentation, or guardianship documents. The school district shall immediately contact the school last attended by the student to obtain academic and other records. The school district’s homeless liaison shall assist in obtaining necessary immunizations, or immunization or medical records.

6. **Transportation.** Transportation shall be provided to homeless students to the extent required by law and comparable to that provided to students who are not homeless. At the request of the parent or guardian (or in the case of an unaccompanied youth, the liaison), transportation shall be provided to and from the school of origin as follows:

a. If the homeless child or youth continues to live in the area served by the school district, the child's or youth's transportation to and from the school of origin shall be provided or arranged by the school district.

b. If the homeless child's or youth's living arrangements in the area served by the school district terminate and the child or youth, though continuing his or her education in the school district, begins living in an area served by another school district, the school district and the new school district in which the homeless child or youth is living shall negotiate to agree upon a method to apportion the responsibility and costs for providing the child with transportation to and from the school district. If the districts are unable to agree, the responsibility and cost for transportation shall be shared equally.

7. **Records**. The District will maintain and respond to requests for enrollment records for homeless children or youth consistent with its record policies and state and federal record laws. Any information about a homeless child's or youth's living situation shall be treated as a confidential education record and shall not be deemed directory information.

8. **Dispute Process.** If a dispute arises over school selection or enrollment in a school:

a. The child or youth shall be admitted immediately to the school in which enrollment is sought, pending resolution of the dispute;

b. The child, youth, parent, or guardian shall be referred to the district's homeless liaison who shall carry out the dispute resolution process within (30) thirty calendar days after receiving notice of the dispute;

c. The parent or guardian of the child or youth or, in the case of an unaccompanied youth, the youth, shall be provided with a written explanation of the school's decision regarding school selection or enrollment, including the rights of the parent, guardian, or unaccompanied youth to appeal the decision within (30) thirty calendar days of the time such complaint or dispute is brought.

d. In the case of an unaccompanied youth, the homeless liaison shall ensure that the youth is immediately enrolled in the school in which enrollment is sought pending resolution of the dispute.

9. Appeal Process

a. **Nebraska Department of Education.** If the Complainant is not satisfied with the written decision of the District after the dispute resolution process, the Complainant may appeal the decision of the District to the Commissioner of the Nebraska Department of Education within (30) thirty calendar days of receipt of the decision from the District, pursuant to Nebraska Department of Education Rule 19.

b. **State Board of Education**. If the Complainant is not satisfied with the decision of the

Commissioner, the Complainant may file a Petition with the State Board of Education within (30) thirty calendar days of the receipt of the decision of the Commissioner pursuant to Nebraska Department of Education Rule 19.

Adopted on: _____
Reviewed on: _____
Revised on: _____

5015
Protection of Pupil Rights

The Board of Education respects the rights of parents and their children, and has adopted this policy in consultation with parents to comply with the federal Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA).

10. Surveys

a. Surveys Created by a Third Party

i. This section applies to every survey:

(1) that is created by a person or entity other than a district staff member or student;

(2) regardless of whether the student answering the questions can be identified; and

(3) regardless of the subject matter of the questions

ii. Parents have the right to inspect any survey created by a third party before that survey is distributed to their student.

b. Surveys Requesting Particular Sensitive Information

i. Sensitive information shall include:

(1) Political affiliations or beliefs of the student or the student's parent(s);

(2) Mental or psychological problems of the student or the student's family;

(3) Sexual behavior or attitudes;

(4) Illegal, anti-social, self-incriminating, or demeaning behavior;

(5) Critical appraisals of other individuals with whom respondents have close family relationships;

(6) Legally recognized privileged or analogous relationships, such as those of lawyers; physicians, and ministers;

(7) Religious practices, affiliations, or beliefs of the student or student's parent(s); or

(8) Income (other than that required by law to determine eligibility for participation in a program or for receiving financial assistance under such program), without prior written consent of the parent or eligible student.

ii. No student shall be required to submit to a survey, analysis, or evaluation that requests sensitive information.

iii. If a survey requesting sensitive information is funded, in whole or in part, by a program administered by the U.S. Department of Education, the school district must obtain the written consent of a student's parent(s) before the student participates in the survey.

iv. School officials and staff members shall not request, nor disclose, the identity of any student who completes any survey (created by any person or entity, including the district) containing any sensitive information.

v. Parents have the right to inspect any survey which requests sensitive information before that survey is distributed to their student.

c. Survey Inspection Requests

i. School officials shall inform parents of their right to inspect surveys requesting sensitive information before the surveys are distributed to any student.

ii. All survey inspection requests must be in writing to the building principal and delivered to the building principal prior to the date on which the survey is scheduled to be administered to the students.
iii. The principal shall respond to survey inspection requests without delay.

d. The district will also comply with any survey requirements found in the district's policy on Parent Involvement in Education Practices.

11. Invasive Physical Examinations

a. The term "invasive physical examination" means:

i. any medical examination that involves the exposure of private body parts; or
ii. any act during such examination that includes incision, insertion, or injection into the body; and
iii. does not include a hearing, vision, or scoliosis screening.

b. Parents may refuse to allow their student to participate in any non-emergency, invasive physical examination or screening that is:

i. required as a condition of attendance;
ii. administered by the school and scheduled by the school in advance; and
iii. not necessary to protect the immediate health and safety of the student, or of other students.

c. This policy does not apply to any physical examination or screening that:

i. is permitted or required by an applicable state law, including physical examinations or screenings that are permitted without parental notification;
ii. is administered to a student in accordance with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. §1400 *et seq*.)
iii. is otherwise authorized by Board policy.

12. Collection of Personal Information from Students for Marketing

a. The term "personal information" means individually identifiable information including:

i. student's and parent(s)' first and last name;
ii. home or other physical address;
iii. telephone number; and/or
iv. social security number.

b. No school official or staff member shall administer or distribute to students a survey or other instrument for the purpose of collecting personal information for marketing or for selling that information.

c. This policy does not apply to the collection, disclosure or use of personal information for the exclusive purpose of providing educational services to students, such as the following:

i. post-secondary education recruitment;
ii. military recruitment;
iii. tests and assessments to provide cognitive, evaluative, diagnostic or achievement information about students; and/or
iv. student recognition programs.

13. Inspection of Instructional Material

a. Definition

i. The term “instructional materials” means instructional content that is provided to a student regardless of its format, printed or representational materials, audio-visual materials, and materials in electronic or digital formats (such as materials accessible through the Internet).

ii. The term does not include academic tests or academic assessments.

b. Parents may inspect, upon their request, any instructional material used as part of their child’s education curriculum.

c. Curriculum inspection requests must be made to the building principal in writing.

d. Building principals shall respond to inspection requests within a reasonable amount of time.

14. Notification of Rights and Procedures

a. The superintendent shall notify parents of:

i. this policy and its availability upon request from the office of the district;

ii. how to opt their child out of participation in activities as provided for in this policy;

iii. the approximate dates during the school year when a survey requesting personal information is scheduled or expected to be scheduled; and

iv. how to request access to any survey or other material described in this policy.

b. This notification shall be given to parents as least annually, at the beginning of the school year and within a reasonable period after any substantive change in this policy.

Adopted on: 3-9-15
Revised on: 6-10-25
Reviewed on: _____

5016
Student Records

The school district shall manage student records and reports as is necessary for effective administration and in compliance with law. In general "student records" shall not include transitory communications such as email, text messages, handwritten communication between school and home, and the like, and these items will not generally be maintained by the district. “Student records” also shall not include any records created and maintained by the district’s law enforcement unit for a law enforcement purpose.

For purposes of the district’s compliance with state and federal law, and subject to the limitations in the paragraph above, the district “maintains” student records which are printed and kept in the student’s physical file or which school district staff have intentionally saved within the official school district digital student information system that specifically identifies the student for whom those records are maintained. The school district may also use learning management systems, which deliver and manage instructional content. The school district maintains student records within its student information system but not in its learning management system. The official school district student information system is Powerschool.

Each building principal will assign responsibilities for the preparation and maintenance of records and will ensure compliance with the applicable federal and state laws, regulations, and record retention schedules regarding their storage and use in the building. No “student record” or record required to be retained by the Nebraska Secretary of State’s Record Retention Schedules applicable to the district will be destroyed unless it is first saved in a retrievable, digital format. This includes only records required to be kept by the applicable Retention Schedules and “student records” as defined by state and federal law, and this policy does not prohibit the district from following its record expungement procedures for all other records.

Students or their parents, guardians, teachers, counselors, or school administrators shall have access to the school's files or records maintained concerning themselves or their students. For purposes of this policy, “teachers” include paraeducators and volunteers who are providing educational services to a student on behalf of the School District. A school official may access, maintain, and use education records containing personally identifiable information (PII) when he or she has a legitimate educational interest in such. “School official” includes any agent, volunteer, or contractor performing an institutional service or function for which the school would otherwise use its own employees and who is under the school district’s direct control with respect to their access to, maintenance of, and use of PII from student records. For example, a school official may include, but would not be limited to, a teacher or other educator, administrator, supervisor, instructor, or support staff member (including health or

medical staff and law enforcement unit personnel); school board member; volunteer; contractor or consultant who, while not employed by the school, performs an institutional service or function for which the school would otherwise use its own employees and who is under the direct control of the school with respect to the use and maintenance of PII from education records, such as an attorney, representative of the district's insurance providers, auditor, medical consultant, therapist, or a third-party website operator who has contracted with the school district or its agent to offer online programs for the benefit of students and/or the district; members of law enforcement acting on behalf of the school district; a parent or student volunteering to serve on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee; or a parent, student, or other volunteer assisting another school official in performing his or her tasks. A school official typically has a "legitimate educational interest" if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill a school-related professional, contractual, statutory, or regulatory responsibility.

All disciplinary material shall be removed and destroyed upon the pupil's graduation or after the pupil's continuous absence from the school for a period of three years, and after authorization is given by the State Records Board pursuant to state law. Upon request, the school district will disclose education records without consent to officials of another school district in which a student seeks or intends to enroll.

Outside agencies such as physicians, probation officers, psychologists, child guidance clinics, and other agencies concerned with child welfare who are working directly with a child may have access to information pertaining to that child with written parental consent or upon issuance of a valid court order.

The school district shall share student data, records, and information with school districts, educational service units, learning communities, and the State Department of Education to the fullest extent practicable unless otherwise prohibited by law. This includes sharing information with the Department of Education necessary to comply with the requirement of state law that all third-year high school students take a college entrance exam. Any redisclosure of information related to the administration of this exam shall be governed by the agreement between the Nebraska Department of Education and the third-party testing company.

Each year, the school district will notify parents and guardians of their rights under this policy and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act.

Adopted on: 3-9-15
Revised on: 7-14-25
Reviewed on: _____

5017
Routine Directory Information

The school district shall disclose the following as routine directory information pertaining to any past, present or future student who is, has been, or will be regularly enrolled in the district.

- Name and grade
- Name of parent and/or guardian
- Address
- Telephone number, including the student's cell phone number
- E-mail address
- Date and place of birth
- Dates of attendance
- The image or likeness of students in pictures, videotape, film or other medium
- Major field of study
- Participation in activities and sports
- Degrees and awards received
- Social media usernames or handles
- Weight and height of members of athletic teams
- Most recent previous school attended
- Certain class work which may be published onto the Internet
- Classroom assignment and/or home room teacher
- Student ID number, user ID, or other unique personal identifier used by the student for purposes of accessing or communicating in electronic systems, but only if the identifier cannot be used to gain access to education records except when used in conjunction with one or more factors that authenticate the user's identity, such as a personal identification number (PIN), password, or other factor known or possessed only the authorized user.

Directory information does not include a student's social security number.

Upon request, the district will provide military recruiters and institutions of higher education with the names, addresses, and telephone numbers of high school students unless a student's parents have notified the district in writing that they do not want this information disclosed without their prior written consent. Military recruiters will be granted the same access to a student in a high school grade as is provided to postsecondary educational institutions or to prospective employers of such students.

Within 30 days prior to or following the commencement of each school year and, for a new student who enrolls after the commencement of a school year, within 30 days following such enrollment, the district will notify parents and guardians each year of their rights under this policy and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act. Parents will

be given an opportunity to prevent the release of this directory information by filing a written objection with the district.

When a student reaches 18 years of age, the permission or consent required of and the rights accorded to the parents or guardians of such student under this policy shall only be required of and accorded to such student. Within 30 days prior to or following the commencement of each school year and, for a new student who enrolls after the commencement of a school year, within 30 days following such enrollment, each school district shall notify each student who is at least 18 years of age or who will reach 18 years of age during such school year of (1) the option to make a written request to the school district that routine directory information for such student not be released in response to a request made by a military recruiter without such student's written consent and (2) that any such request made previously by a parent or guardian for such student expires upon the student reaching 18 years of age.

Adopted on: 3-9-15
Revised on: 7-8-19
Reviewed on: 7-8-19

5018
Parent and Guardian Involvement In Education Practices

The school district recognizes the importance of parental and guardian involvement in the education of their children. The school district will take the following steps to ensure that the rights of parents and guardians to participate in the education of their children are preserved.

1. Parents/Guardians will be provided access, as described in district procedures, to district-approved textbooks and other curricular materials and tests used in the district upon request.

a. A parental request to review specific approved textbooks and other district- or building-approved curricular materials (written, visual, and audio) should be made to the principal of the building where the textbooks and curriculum materials are used.
b. Parents may check out textbooks and may review curricular materials such as video and audio recordings within a time frame determined by the building principal to prevent disruption of the instructional process.
c. A parental request to review specific standardized and criterion- referenced tests used in the district should be made in writing to the building principal. Copies of the most recent tests used in the district will be available for parent review. Parents wishing to review statewide assessments will be provided with sample questions and a copy of a practice test, but will not be provided with copies of the actual assessment due to testing security. In the case of other secure tests such as the ACT, parents must contact the publisher to obtain copies of the test.

2. Parents/Guardians will be permitted, within district procedures, to attend and observe courses, assemblies, counseling sessions, and other instructional activities.

a. Parents/guardians are invited to make appointments with the building principal to visit classes, assemblies and other instructional activities. The principal shall give permission after determining that parental/guardian observation would not disrupt the activity. Observations that last more than 60 minutes or occur on consecutive days are typically disruptive and will not be permitted absent unusual circumstances, in the sole discretion of the building principal.

b. Parents/guardians may contact the building principal to request permission to attend counseling sessions in which their child is involved.

3. Parents/guardians will be permitted, within district procedures, to ask that their children be excused from school experiences that parents find objectionable.

a. Building principals may excuse a student from any single school experience at the parent's written request.

b. When appropriate, alternative experiences will be provided for the student by the school.

4. Parents/guardians will be informed through the student handbook and district policies of the manner that the district will provide access to records of students.

5. Parents/guardians will be informed of the standardized and criterion-referenced district testing program. Parents may request additional information from the building principal.

6. Parents/guardians will be informed of the circumstances under which they may opt-out of state and federal assessments.

a. In accordance with federal law, at the beginning of the school year, the District shall provide notice of the right to request a copy of this policy to parents/guardians of students attending schools receiving Title I funds. The District will provide a copy of this policy to a requesting parent in a timely manner.

b. State Assessments

State and federal law simultaneously require students to take state assessments, with few exceptions, but also permit parents or guardians to request to opt their students out of these assessments. Approval of opt out requests is contrary to the mandatory testing laws, so the District cannot “approve” the request. Parents who do not present their child for testing will result in the child receiving the lowest score possible on the assessment.

c. National Assessment of Educational Progress

As a condition of receiving federal funds, the District participates in the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP). To help ensure that the District has a representative sample of students taking the NAEP, which will allow the District to assess the quality and effectiveness of its programming on a national level, the District strongly encourages all eligible students to participate. However, student participation in NAEP is voluntary.

The District shall provide parents/guardians of eligible students with reasonable notice prior to the exam being administered. Parents/guardians wishing to opt their students out of the NAEP assessment must notify the district in writing at least three days prior to the exam date to ensure that the District can coordinate supervision and alternative activities for students who have opted out.

7. Parents/guardians will be notified of their right to remove their children from surveys prior to district participation in surveys.

a. The principal must approve all surveys intended to gather information from students before they are administered to students.

b. Students' participation in surveys is voluntary. Parents/guardians may restrict their child from participating in any survey.

Adopted on: 3-9-15
Revised on: 11-9-20
Reviewed on: 7-14-25

5019

Communicating with Parents

Parents shall be kept informed of student progress, grades, and attendance through report cards, progress reports, Powerschool and parent/teacher conferences. The school district will endeavor to notify parents of failing students prior to entry of the failing grade on the student's report card. Parents will also be notified of their student's possible failure to meet graduation requirements. Other pertinent information will be communicated to parents by mail or by personal contact. Official transcripts of student progress, grades, and attendance will be sent to other school systems upon the student's transfer when the district receives a written request signed by the student's parent or guardian or upon being notified that the student has enrolled in another school.

Adopted on: 3-9-15
Revised on: _____
Reviewed on: _____

5020
Rights of Custodial and Non-Custodial Parents

The school district will honor the parental rights of natural and adoptive parents unless those rights have been altered by a court.

The term “custodial parent” refers to a biological or adoptive parent to whom a court has given primary physical and legal custody of a child, and a person such as a caseworker or foster parent to whom a court has given legal custody of a child.

The district will not restrict the access of custodial and non-custodial parents to their students and their students’ records, unless the district has been provided a copy of a court order that limits those rights. If the district is provided such a court order, school officials will follow the directives set forth in the order.

The district will provide the custodial parent with routine information about his or her child, including notification of conferences. The district will not provide the non-custodial parent with such information on a routine basis, but will provide it upon the non-custodial parent’s request unless it has been denied by the courts.

A non-custodial parent who wishes to attend conferences regarding his or her child will be provided information about conference times so both parents may attend a single conference. The district is not required to schedule separate conferences if both parents have been previously informed of scheduled conference times.

If either or both parents’ behavior is disruptive, staff members may terminate a conference and reschedule it with appropriate modifications or expectations.

Adopted on: 3-9-15
Revised on: _____
Reviewed on: _____

5022
Investigations, Arrests, and Other Student Contact by Law Enforcement and Health and Human Services

The school district and its administrators and staff desire to maintain a positive working relationship with law enforcement officers and other representatives of governmental bodies in the discharge of their duties. However, this desire must be balanced against other equally important factors such as a student's legal rights, ensuring that a student's time spent in school is for education, and acknowledging that the school stands *in loco parentis* to the students.

"Law enforcement officer" means police officers, county sheriffs, state patrolmen, Health and Human Service workers, Child Protective Services workers, Office of Juvenile Services workers, probation officers, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents, Federal Bureau of Investigations agents, or any other government investigatory workers.

"Parent" means the biological or adoptive mother or father, guardian, responsible relative, or any other person who has claimed legal or actual charge or control of the student pursuant to Nebraska law or Title 92 Nebraska Administrative Code Chapter 19.

Law enforcement officers are encouraged whenever possible to talk to a student away from the school before or after school hours so as to cause as little disruption as possible to the student's education.

Law enforcement officers may be called to the school at the request of school administration, or they may initiate contact with the school for their own purposes. Contact between the school and law enforcement officers on matters involving students shall be made through the office of the superintendent or building principal and the law enforcement officer. All reasonable attempts should be made to avoid embarrassing the student before his or her teachers and peers, and to avoid disrupting the student's and school's education program. Any questioning by law enforcement officers that is permitted should be conducted in a private room or area where confidentiality can be maintained. This should be an area removed from observation by or contact with other pupils and school personnel.

School staff shall promptly notify the superintendent when a student is questioned, arrested, or removed from school grounds by law enforcement officers.

School Related Criminal Activity

This section applies to alleged or suspected criminal activity that occurs on school grounds; in a vehicle owned, leased, or contracted by a school being used for a school purpose or in a vehicle being driven for a school purpose by a school employee or by his or her designee; or at a school-sponsored activity or athletic event.

Law enforcement officers will be allowed to contact and question students at school regarding school related criminal activity as provided below.

The building principal must be notified before a student may be questioned in school or taken from a classroom by law enforcement. The building principal should request identification of the officers, their affiliation with the identified law enforcement agency, and whether their purpose is to interview, interrogate, or take custody of the student.

The building principal will make reasonable attempts to contact a student's parent for their consent and/or presence before the student is interviewed. In the event that a parent cannot be contacted after reasonable attempts, the student will be questioned only if the law enforcement officer identifies emergency circumstances requiring immediate questioning. A building principal or designee shall be present for such questioning solely to further school purposes or avoid duplication of the investigative process. The student will be brought to a private room and the contact will be made out of sight of others as much as practicable.

If the student is suspected of criminal activity, it is the responsibility of the law enforcement officer to advise a student of his or her rights against self-incrimination.

The building principal shall document steps taken to notify parents, summarize the law enforcement activities, identify the actions taken by the District on behalf of the student, and any further contacts with law enforcement officer.

Non-School Related Criminal Activity

Law enforcement officials may not question students at school unless parental consent is obtained or the law enforcement authorities have a warrant or court order.

Taking a Student into Custody

Law enforcement officers seeking custody of a student must contact the superintendent or building principal. The principal will request the arresting law enforcement officer to provide a copy of the arrest warrant, written parental consent, court order, or other document giving authority to take the student into legal custody. If there is no document presented, the principal should obtain the officer's name, badge number identifying the law enforcement agency, date, time, the reason for the arrest, and the place to which the student is reportedly being taken. Whenever practicable, the arrest or release of the student should be conducted in a location and in a manner that minimizes observation by others.

When a law enforcement officer removes a student from the school, the building principal will take immediate steps to notify the parent about the student's removal and the place to which the minor is reportedly being taken, except when a minor has been taken into custody as a victim of suspected child abuse.

Child Abuse and Neglect

When law enforcement officers seek to investigate reports of alleged child neglect or abuse regarding a student, the building principal shall obtain a proper identification from the authorities or officials. If a student interview is conducted on school grounds, the building principal or designee and such other school personnel as appropriate shall observe the interview.

If the law enforcement officer decides to remove the student from school, school officials shall provide the law enforcement authorities with the address and telephone number of the student's parent or guardian. The principal or other school official shall, as a condition of releasing the student to the law enforcement officer, require the officer to sign a statement certifying that the child is being removed from school premises because he or she is believed to be the victim of child abuse and that the officer understands and will comply with the legal requirements of NEB. REV. STAT. § 79-294.

Student Records

Student records will be shared with law enforcement officers only as allowed by state and federal law.

Adopted on: 3-9-15
Revised on: 7-8-19
Reviewed on: 7-8-19

5023

Student Illness

Students who suffer from a significant illness which has an actual or expected duration of six months or more may be eligible for accommodations and supports under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act or under the Individuals with Disabilities in Education Act. The school will provide accommodations to students who are returning to school after a prolonged absence due to illness, including pediatric cancer, through a 504 plan or an IEP, as appropriate. The student's plan will include informal or formal accommodations, modifications of curriculum and monitoring by medical or academic staff as determined by the student's IEP team or 504 committee. Parents and staff will engage in ongoing communication about the needs of a student who is facing these circumstances.

Students who become ill at school will be sent to the building office where the school nurse or other school employee will determine the appropriate response. When a child is too ill to remain at school, a school employee will contact the child's parent(s) and make arrangements for the child to be picked up or sent home. If an illness or injury requires immediate medical attention, school officials shall attempt to contact the child's parent(s) regarding treatment for the child. If the parents cannot be contacted, school officials may have the child treated by an available physician. Students who show symptoms of a contagious disease may be sent home, and the district may require a physician's statement before allowing such students to return to school.

Parents must complete an emergency information card for each child enrolled in the district. The card should list the family physician's name, where parents or a responsible adult can be located, and any necessary emergency instructions.

Adopted on: 3-9-15
Revised on: 6-8-15
Reviewed on: _____

5024
Medication of Students

Whenever possible, parents should arrange medication schedules to eliminate the need for giving medication during school hours. When it is necessary for school personnel to administer medication to students, the school district will comply with the Nebraska Medication Aide Act, the requirements of Title 92, Nebraska Administrative Code, Chapter 59, (promulgated by the Nebraska Department of Education and entitled *Methods of Competency Assessment of School Staff Who Administer Medication*), and all state and federal regulations. Parents and guardians who wish to have their child receive medication from school personnel must comply with the following procedures:

1. **Prescription medication**

    a. Parents/guardians must provide a physician's written authorization for the administration of the medication.

    b. Parents/guardians must provide their own written permission for the administration of the medication.

    c. The medication must be brought to school in the prescription container and must be properly labeled with the student's name, the physician's name, and directions for administering the medication.

2. **Non-prescription medication**

    a. Parents/guardians must provide written permission for the administration of the medication

    b. The medication must be brought to the school in the manufacturer’s container.

    c. The container must be labeled with the child’s name and with directions for provision or administration of the medication

The district reserves the right to review and decline requests to administer or provide medications that are not consistent with standard pharmacological references, are prescribed in doses that exceed those recommended in standard

pharmacological references, or that could be taken in a manner that would eliminate the need for giving them during school hours. The district may request parental authorization to consult with the student's physician regarding any medication prescribed by such physician.

Adopted on: 3-9-15
Revised on: _____
Reviewed on: _____

5025
Insurance Program

The school district is not an insurer of student safety, and parents are encouraged to secure insurance covering their students' healthcare needs, including catastrophic coverage for injuries which may be sustained while participating in athletics or other extracurricular activities.

Adopted on: 3-9-15
Revised on: _____
Reviewed on: _____

5026
Sex Discrimination and Sexual Harassment of Students

I. Sex Discrimination

A. The district prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in any educational program or activity except when it is necessary to accomplish a specific purpose that does not impinge upon essential equality or fairness in the treatment of students or employees. Employees are required to comply with this policy as well as with Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 and the regulations of the U.S. Department of Education as applicable to this district.

B. Any individual who believes he or she is being discriminated against on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, marital status, disability, or age may seek relief by filing a complaint pursuant to the board's complaint policy or contacting the district's Title IX coordinator.

II. Sexual Harassment

A. Students should be provided with an environment that is free from unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors and other verbal or physical conduct constituting sexual harassment. The board of education unequivocally prohibits sexual harassment of its students, even when the affected student does not complain to the faculty or the administration.

B. Sexual harassment is a form of misconduct that wrongfully deprives students of their dignity and the opportunity to study and be in an environment free from unwelcome sexual overtones. Sexual harassment includes all unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors and other such verbal or physical misconduct. Sexual harassment means:

C. Unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical misconduct of a sexual nature constitutes sexual harassment when such conduct has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual's educational opportunities or creates an intimidating, hostile or offensive learning environment.

D. A student who feels he or she has been sexually harassed should directly inform the offending student that the conduct or communication is offensive and must stop. If the student does not wish to communicate directly with the offending student, or if direct communication has been ineffective, the student should report the conduct or communication to the

Title IX coordinator or to a teacher, principal or counselor with whom she or he feels comfortable.

E. Retaliation against students who make good faith reports of sexual harassment is prohibited.

III. Disciplinary Decisions

A. A decision to take disciplinary action under this policy may be based on the statements of a complaining student, statements, observations of educators, or any other credible evidence.

B. All complaints against staff members will follow the investigation, decision, and appeal process established in the district's complaint policy.

C. Any student who sexually harasses another student will be subject to discipline up to and including expulsion, depending on the severity of the misconduct, as established in the district's student discipline policy.

Adopted on: 4-13-15
Revised on: 7-9-18
Reviewed on: _____

5028

Initiations and Hazing

Initiations and hazing by members of classes, clubs, athletic teams, or any other organization affiliated with the district are prohibited except as otherwise permitted by this policy. Any student engaging in hazing or non-approved initiations is subject to discipline as permitted by policy and law.

Initiations are defined as any ritualistic expectations, requirements, or activities placed upon new members of a school organization for the purpose of admission into the organization, even if those activities do not rise to the level of "hazing" as defined below. Initiations are prohibited except by permission of the superintendent.

Hazing is defined as any activity by which a person intentionally or recklessly endangers the physical or mental health or safety of an individual for the purpose of initiation into, admission into, affiliation with, or continued membership in any school organization. Hazing activities include, but are not limited to, whipping, beating, branding, an act of sexual penetration, an exposure of the genitals of the body done with the intent to affront or alarm any person, a lewd fondling or caressing of the body of another person, forced and prolonged calisthenics, prolonged exposure to the elements, forced consumption of any food, liquor, beverage, drug, or harmful substance not generally intended for human consumption, prolonged sleep deprivation, or any brutal treatment or the performance of any unlawful act that endangers the physical or mental health or safety of any person.

Adopted on: 4-13-15
Revised on: 6-13-16
Reviewed on: _____

5029
Crisis Response Policy

I. **The following objectives apply to dealing with a crisis situation:**

A. Ensuring the safety and emotional security of students.

B. Formulating a plan of action immediately that provides uniformity in the treatment of each crisis.

C. Identifying those students and staff who will likely be most strongly affected by grief.

D. Preserving, to the extent possible, the daily school routine and pre-scheduled activities so as not to draw others into deeper levels of grief than they would normally experience.

E. Monitoring students' progress through the stages of the grief process.

F. Making the school's resources available to parents and guardians who become concerned about their child's reaction to a crisis.

II. **Policy**

A. School Hours

1. During a crisis situation, the administration will maintain established school hours and proceed with all co-curricular activities as scheduled whenever possible.

2. If, during a crisis situation, the parent(s) or guardian of a student decide that the student needs to be absent, this absence will be excused.

B. Access to School Facilities

1. The school's facilities may not be used for funeral or memorial services during the school day unless given Administrative approval.

2. This policy does not discourage the presentation of traditional American Legion memorial services which promote patriotism.

C. Memorials

1. Memorials often create a visual reminder of a particular crisis that may reintroduce feelings of grief for students. Therefore, memorials may not be displayed anywhere on the school premises without board approval.

This policy is not intended to discourage the acceptance of memorial funds or specific items.

Adopted on: 4-13-15
Revised on: _____
Reviewed on: _____

5030
Dating Violence

Dating violence, as that term is defined by Nebraska law, will not be tolerated by the school district. Students who engage in dating violence on school grounds, in a school vehicle or at a school activity or that otherwise violates the Nebraska Student Discipline Act will receive consequences consistent with the Act and the district's student discipline policies.

The school district shall provide dating violence training to staff deemed appropriate by the administration and in accordance with Nebraska law.

A copy of this policy shall be included in the student handbook.

Adopted on: 4-13-15
Revised on: _____
Reviewed on: _____

5031
Student Appearance

General Regulations. The District prohibits student attire or appearance that:

- Causes or is likely to cause a material and substantial disruption to the District's programs and activities.
- Promotes, depicts, or refers to violence, drugs, alcohol, vulgarity, obscenity, illegal activity, hate speech, bullying speech, or harassing speech.
- Includes words, gestures, or images that contain or imply sexual content or innuendo.
- Otherwise undermines the District's mission to inculcate the habits, manners, and values fundamental to civility, community, and the educational environment.

The District reserves the right to request immediate attire changes from students. The District will require students to adhere to uniform standards and/or wear district approved or issued uniforms in order to participate in activities.

Altering a student's appearance or removing or altering a student's attire without consent from their parent/guardian/caregiver is not allowed. Additionally, students' hair should not be permanently or temporarily altered by school personnel.

Cultural and Religious Attire. Students are allowed to wear religious attire, adornments, and other attire associated with race, national origin or religion, or tribal regalia. Additionally, students are permitted to wear natural and protective hairstyles including but are not limited to braids, locks, twists, tight coils or curls, cornrows, Bantu knots, afros, weaves, wigs, or head wraps.

Any person who is a member of an indigenous tribe of the United States or another country may wear tribal regalia in any public or private location where the person is otherwise authorized to be on school grounds or at any school function.

Health and Safety Considerations. Students may be required to wear protective clothing or equipment or otherwise modify their attire or secure their hair to ensure the safety of themselves and others. In such cases, a good faith effort to reasonably accommodate students will be made to ensure safety without compromising religious beliefs, grooming practices, or requiring students to permanently alter their appearance. The least restrictive means appropriate to address the identified health or safety concern shall be used.

Health and Safety Accommodation Process. If a health and safety standard accommodation is necessary, the District will:

1. Engage in a good-faith effort to reasonably accommodate the student and
2. Notify the student's parent or guardian of such an attempt to accommodate the student's appearance or any attire, tribal regalia, hairstyles, adornment, or other characteristic associated with race, national origin, or religion
3. Attempt to obtain consent from a student's parent or guardian prior to altering a student's appearance or removing or altering a student's attire, tribal regalia, hairstyle, adornment, or other characteristic associated with race, national origin, or religion.

Recordkeeping. The District will record efforts made to accommodate a student's appearance, attire, hairstyle, adornment, or other characteristics associated with race, religion, sex, disability, or national origin. Each record must include: the student's name; federally identified demographic characteristics; date of the occurrence; the health and safety standard relating to the accommodation; the nature of the accommodation requested; staff involved; communication with parents/guardians/caregivers, and; the outcome of the effort.

Enforcement. Violations of this policy shall be addressed in a manner consistent with the board's policies regarding student discipline.

Adopted on: 4-13-15
Revised on: 6-10-25
Reviewed on: _____

5032
Closed Campus

The school campus is a closed campus. All students shall remain on the school campus during the hours that school is in session unless released by the building principal or building principal's designee. The building principal or designee will release a student only upon confirming that the student has permission from a parent or an authorized adult. Nothing in this policy shall prevent the school from sending a student home when the student is ill.

Adopted on: 4-13-15
Revised on: _____
Reviewed on: _____

5033
Student Driving and Parking

Students who drive to school are required to park their vehicles and leave them unoccupied until it is time to drive home. The speed limit on school property is 5 miles per hour. Students may not drive or have access to their vehicles during the school day without the express permission of their building principal or the superintendent of schools.

Students are to park appropriately and in the assigned areas on school property. Student parking shall not be permitted in bus loading zones. When the buses are loading or unloading, all vehicles must stop and wait for the loading or unloading process to be completed.

By driving a vehicle to school and parking on school grounds, students consent to having that vehicle searched by school officials if school officials have reasonable suspicion that such a search will reveal a violation of school rules.

Adopted on: 4-13-15
Revised on: 6-13-16
Reviewed on: _____

5034

5035
Student Discipline

Administrative and teaching personnel may take actions regarding student behavior, other than those specifically provided in this policy and the Student Discipline Act, which are reasonably necessary to aid the student, further school purposes, or prevent interference with the educational process. Such actions may include, but need not be limited to, counseling of students, parent conferences, referral to restorative justice practices or services, rearrangement of schedules, requirements that a student remain in school after regular hours to do additional work, restriction of extracurricular activity, or requirements that a student receive counseling, psychological evaluation, or psychiatric evaluation upon the written consent of a Parent to such counseling or evaluation. Disciplinary consequences may also include in-school suspension, Saturday School, and any other consequence authorized by law. District administrators may develop building-specific protocols for the imposition of student discipline.

Any disciplinary action taken by staff must be consistent with the requirements of other applicable laws, including but not limited to the IDEA, Section 504, and Title IX.

In this policy, references to "Principal" shall include building principals, the principal's designee, or other appropriate school district administrators.

“Parent” means parent, guardian, or educational decisionmaker of the student. “Educational decisionmaker” means a person designated or ordered by a court to make educational decisions on behalf of a child.

Any statement, notice, recommendation, determination, or similar action specified in this policy shall be effectively given at the time written evidence thereof is delivered personally to or upon receipt of certified or registered mail or upon actual knowledge by a student or his or her Parent.

Any student who is suspended or expelled from school pursuant to this policy may not participate in any school activity during the duration of that exclusion including adjacent school holidays and weekends. The student activity eligibility of a student who is mandatorily reassigned shall be determined on a case-by-case basis by the principal of the building to which the student is reassigned.

Pre-Kindergarten through Second Grade Students

Notwithstanding any other provision of this policy, an elementary school shall not suspend a student in pre-kindergarten through second grade unless the student:

1._____ Brings a deadly weapon as defined in section 28-109 onto school grounds, into a vehicle owned, leased, or contracted by a school being used for a school purpose or into a vehicle being driven for a school purpose by a school employee or his or her designee, or at a school-sponsored activity or athletic event; or
2. Engages in violent behavior capable of causing physical harm to another student or school employee.

As an alternative to suspension, the school district may take any action authorized by law, including those provided in section 79-258.

Makeup Work for Suspended Students

Any student who is suspended must be given an opportunity to complete any classwork and homework missed during the period of suspension, including, but not limited to, examinations ("makeup work"). Any makeup work must be completed and turned in within 2 school days after completion of the suspension. This makeup guideline shall be provided to the student and a Parent at the time of suspension. Suspended students may not be required to attend the school's alternative program for expelled students in order to complete classwork or homework.

Short-Term Suspension

The Principal may exclude students from school or any school function for a period of up to five school days (short-term suspension) on the following grounds:

1. Conduct constituting grounds for expulsion as hereinafter set forth; or,
2. Other violations of rules and standards of behavior adopted by the Board of Education or the administrative or teaching staff of the school, that occur on or off school grounds, if such conduct interferes with school purposes or there is a connection between such conduct and school.

The following process applies to short-term suspension:

1. The Principal shall make a reasonable investigation of the facts and circumstances. Short-term suspension shall be imposed only after a determination that the suspension is necessary to help any student, to further school purposes, or to prevent an interference with school purposes.
2. After the principal has determined that a short-term suspension is necessary, but prior to commencement of the short-term suspension, the student and the Parent will be given oral and written notice of the charges against the student. They will be advised of what the student is accused of having done, be given an explanation of the evidence the authorities have, and be given an opportunity to present evidence of the student's version of the facts.

3. Within 24 hours or such additional time as is reasonably necessary, not to exceed an additional 48 hours, following the suspension, the Principal will send a written statement to the student, and the student's Parent, describing:
    a. The student's conduct, misconduct or violation of the rule or standard;
    b. The reasons for the action taken;
    c. The actions made by the school to try to discontinue or alleviate the behavior of the student prior to considering suspension;
    d. Resources the school is able to provide or recommend to assist the student; and
    e. How the school plans to handle such behavior in the future, including an actionable plan aimed at maximizing strategies to keep the student in school.
4. An opportunity will be given to the student, and the student's Parent, to have a conference with the Principal ordering the short-term suspension before or at the time the student returns to school and shall document such effort in writing. The Principal shall determine who, in addition to the Parent, is to attend the conference. If no conference has been held, a Parent may submit a written request to the suspending principal before the student returns to school.
5. Students who are short-term suspended must be given the opportunity to complete classwork and homework missed during the period of suspension, including but not limited to examinations, as provided herein.

Emergency Exclusion

Students may be emergency excluded from school pursuant to the board's separate policy on emergency exclusion or state law.

Weapons and/or Firearms

Weapons. No student may possess, handle, or transmit any weapon while on school grounds, in a school vehicle, or at any school activity or event off school grounds except as permitted by this policy. ***Definition of Weapon.*** The term “weapon” means any object, device, instrument, material, or substance which is capable of causing injury in the manner it is used or intended to be used.

Firearms. No student may bring, possess, handle or transmit a firearm on school grounds, in a school owned vehicle, or at a school activity or event off school grounds, except as permitted by this policy. ***Definition of Firearm.*** The term “firearm, as defined in 18 U.S.C. 921, means any weapon (including a starter gun) which will or is designed to or may readily be converted to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive, the frame or receiver of any such weapon, any firearm muffler or firearm silencer, or any destructive device (excluding an antique firearm).

Exceptions Regarding Firearms and Weapons. The only exceptions for a student to bring or possess a weapon, including a firearm, are as follows:

1. The issuance of firearms to or possession of firearms by members of the Reserve Officers Training Corps when training or
2. Firearms which may lawfully be possessed by the person receiving instruction under the immediate supervision of an adult instructor who may lawfully possess firearms.

Consequences - Firearm. Any student who brings a firearm, as that term is defined in 18 United States Code 921, to school will be expelled from school for one calendar year. The superintendent of schools and the board of education shall have the authority to modify the expulsion requirement on a case-by-case basis.

Consequences – Weapon. State law and this policy provide that any student who violates this policy by knowingly bringing, possessing, handling or transmitting a weapon, other than a firearm, on school grounds, in a school owned vehicle, or at a school activity or event off school grounds may be suspended on a long-term basis, mandatorily reassigned, or expelled for the remainder of the school year in which the expulsion takes effect (if the misconduct occurs during the first semester) or the remainder of the second semester, summer school, and the first semester of the following school year (if the misconduct occurs during the second semester).

Confiscation of Firearms and Weapons. Administrative and teaching personnel are statutorily authorized, without a warrant, to confiscate any firearm or weapon possessed in violation of this policy. Any firearm that is confiscated by school personnel shall be delivered to a peace officer as soon as practicable. Such firearms are subject to being destroyed by law enforcement authorities.

Report to Law Enforcement Authorities. All school personnel are required to report any violation of this policy to a principal or the superintendent of schools. Pursuant to state and federal law, school personnel are required to report to law enforcement authorities when a student brings a firearm to school.

Long-Term Suspension

Students may be excluded by the Principal from school or any school function for a period of more than five school days but less than twenty school days (long-term suspension) for any conduct constituting grounds for expulsion as hereinafter set forth. The process for long-term suspension is set forth below.

Expulsion

1. **Meaning of Expulsion.** Expulsion means exclusion from attendance in all schools, grounds and activities of or within the system for a period not to exceed the remainder of the semester in which it took effect unless the misconduct occurred (a) within ten school days prior to the end of the first semester, in which case the expulsion shall remain in effect through the second semester, or (b) within ten school days prior to the end of the second semester, in which case the expulsion shall remain in effect for summer school and the first semester of the following school year, or (c) unless the expulsion is for conduct specified in these rules or in law as permitting or requiring a longer removal, in which case the expulsion shall remain in effect for the period specified therein. Such action may be modified or terminated by the school district at any time during the expulsion period.
2. **Summer Review**. Any expulsion that will remain in effect during the first semester of the following school year will be automatically scheduled for review before the beginning of the school year. The review will be conducted by the hearing officer who conducted the initial expulsion hearing, or a hearing officer appointed by the Superintendent in the event no hearing was previously held or the initial hearing officer is no longer available or willing to serve, after the hearing officer has given notice of the review to the student and the student's Parent. This review shall be limited to newly discovered evidence or evidence of changes in the student's circumstances occurring since the original hearing. This review may lead to a recommendation by the hearing officer that the student be readmitted for the upcoming school year. If the school board or board of education or a committee of such board took the final action to expel the student, the student may be readmitted only by action of the board. Otherwise the student may be readmitted by action of the Superintendent.
3. **Suspension of Enforcement of an Expulsion**: Enforcement of an expulsion action may be suspended (i.e., "stayed") for a period of not more than one full semester in addition to the balance of the semester in which the expulsion takes effect, and as a condition of such suspended action, the student may be assigned to a school, class, or program/plan and to such other consequences which the school district deems appropriate.
4. **Alternative School or Pre-expulsion Procedures.** The school shall either provide an alternative school, class or educational program for expelled students, or shall follow the pre-expulsion procedures outlined in NEB. REV. STAT. 79-266.
5. **Conclusion of Expulsion.** At the conclusion of an expulsion, the school district will reinstate the student and accept nonduplicative, grade-appropriate credits earned by the student during the term of expulsion from any Nebraska accredited institution or institution accredited by one of the six regional accrediting bodies in the United States.

Grounds for Long-Term Suspension, Expulsion or Mandatory Reassignment:

The following conduct constitutes grounds for long-term suspension, expulsion, or mandatory reassignment, subject to the procedural provisions of the Student Discipline

Act, NEB. REV. STAT. § 79-254 through 79-296, when such activity occurs on school grounds, in a vehicle owned, leased, or contracted by a school being used for a school purpose or in a vehicle being driven for a school purpose by a school employee or by his or her designee, or at a school-sponsored activity or athletic event:

1. Use of violence, force, coercion, threat, intimidation, or similar conduct in a manner that constitutes a substantial interference with school purposes. The board has determined that the use of synthetic media such as deepfakes may constitute "similar conduct";
2. Willfully causing or attempting to cause substantial damage to property, stealing or attempting to steal property of substantial value, or repeated damage or theft involving property;
3. Causing or attempting to cause personal injury to a school employee, to a school volunteer, or to any student. Personal injury caused by accident, self-defense, or other action undertaken on the reasonable belief that it was necessary to protect some other person shall not constitute a violation of this subdivision;
4. Threatening or intimidating any student for the purpose of or with the intent of obtaining money or anything of value from such student;
5. Knowingly possessing, handling, or transmitting any object or material that is ordinarily or generally considered a weapon (*see also board policy on weapons and firearms*);
6. Engaging in the unlawful possession, selling, dispensing, or use of a controlled substance or an imitation controlled substance, as defined in section 28-401, a substance represented to be a controlled substance, or alcoholic liquor as defined in section 53-103.02 or being under the influence of a controlled substance or alcoholic liquor (*note: the term "under the influence" for school purposes has a less strict meaning than it does under criminal law; for school purposes, the term means any level of impairment and includes even the odor of alcohol on the breath or person of a student; also, it includes being impaired by reason of the abuse of any material used as a stimulant*);
7. Public indecency as defined in section 28-806, except that this prohibition shall apply only to students at least twelve years of age but less than nineteen years of age;
8. Engaging in bullying as defined in section 79-2,137 and in these policies;
9. Sexually assaulting or attempting to sexually assault any person if a complaint has been filed by a prosecutor in a court of competent jurisdiction alleging that the student has sexually assaulted or attempted to sexually assault any person, including sexual assaults or attempted sexual assaults which occur off school grounds not at a school function, activity, or event. For purposes of this subdivision, sexual assault means sexual assault in the first degree as defined in section 28-319, sexual assault in the second degree as defined in section 28-320, sexual assault of a child in the second or third degree as defined in section 28-320.01, or sexual assault of a child in the first degree as defined in section 28-319.01, as such sections now provide or may hereafter from time to time be amended;

10. Engaging in any other activity forbidden by the laws of the State of Nebraska which activity constitutes a danger to other students or interferes with school purposes; or
11. A repeated violation of any of the following rules if such violations constitute a substantial interference with school purposes:
    a. The use of language, written or oral, or conduct, including gestures, which is profane or abusive to students or staff members. Profane or abusive language or conduct includes, but is not limited to, that which is commonly understood and intended to be derogatory toward a group or individual based upon race, gender, national origin, or religion;
    b. Dressing or grooming in a manner which violates the school district's dress code and/or is dangerous to the student's health and safety, a danger to the health and safety of others, or which is disruptive, distracting or indecent to the extent that it interferes with the learning and educational process;
    c. Violating school bus rules as set by the school district or district staff;
    d. Possessing, using, selling, or dispensing tobacco, drug paraphernalia, an electronic nicotine delivery system, or a tobacco imitation substance or packaging, regardless of form, including cigars, cigarettes, chewing tobacco, and any other form of tobacco, tobacco derivative product or imitation or electronic cigarettes, vapor pens, etc.;
    e. Possessing, using, selling, or dispensing any drug paraphernalia or imitation of a controlled substance regardless of whether the actual substance possessed is a controlled substance by Nebraska law;
    f. Possession of pornography, including creation, possession, dissemination, accessing, sale, or any other use of synthetic media, such as deepfakes;
    g. Sexting or the possession of sexting images (a combination of sex and texting - the act of sending sexually explicit messages or photos electronically), including creation, possession, dissemination, accessing, sale, or any other use of synthetic media, such as deepfakes;
    h. Engaging in hazing, defined as any activity expected of someone joining a group, team, or activity that humiliates, degrades or risks emotional and/or physical harm, regardless of the person's willingness to participate. Hazing activities are generally considered to be: physically abusive, hazardous, and/or sexually violating and include but are not limited to the following: personal servitude; sleep deprivation and restrictions on personal hygiene; yelling, swearing and insulting new members/rookies; being forced to wear embarrassing or humiliating attire in public; consumption of vile substances or smearing of such on one's skin; branding; physical beatings; binge drinking and drinking games; sexual simulation and sexual assault;
    i. Bullying which shall include cyberbullying, defined as the use of the internet, including but not limited to social networking sites such as Facebook, cell phones or other devices to send, post or text message images and material intended to hurt or embarrass another person. This

may include, but is not limited to; continuing to send e-mail to someone who has said they want no further contact with the sender; sending or posting threats, sexual remarks or pejorative labels (i.e., hate speech); ganging up on victims by making them the subject of ridicule in forums, and posting false statements as fact intended to humiliate the victim; disclosure of personal data, such as the victim's real name, address, or school at websites or forums; posing as the identity of the victim for the purpose of publishing material in their name that defames or ridicules them; sending threatening and harassing text, instant messages or emails to the victims; and posting or sending rumors or gossip to instigate others to dislike and gang up on the target;

j. Violations of the district's acceptable computer use policy;
k. Knowingly possessing, handling, or transmitting any object or material that is ordinarily or generally considered a simulated or "look-a-like" weapon;
l. Using any object to simulate possession of a weapon;
m. Knowingly making a false statement or knowingly submitting false information during the Title IX grievance process or any other school investigation or making a materially false statement in bad faith in the course of a Title IX grievance proceeding or any other school investigation;
n. Violation of the school's audio and video recording policy; and
o. Any other violation of any board policy, handbook provision, or rule or regulation established by a school district staff member pursuant to authority delegated by the board.

Due Process Afforded to Students Facing Long-term Suspension or Expulsion

The following procedures shall be followed regarding any long-term suspension, expulsion, or mandatory reassignment:

1. The decision to recommend discipline shall be made within two school days after learning of the alleged student misconduct. On the date of the decision to discipline, the Principal shall file with the Superintendent a written charge and a summary of the evidence supporting such charge.
2. The Principal shall serve the student and the student's Parent with a written notice by registered or certified mail or personal service within two school days of the date of the decision to recommend long-term suspension or expulsion. The notice shall include the following:

    a. The rule or standard of conduct allegedly violated and the acts of the student alleged to constitute a cause for long-term suspension, expulsion, or mandatory reassignment, including a summary of the evidence to be presented against the student;
    b. The penalty, if any, which the principal has recommended in the charge and any other penalty to which the student may be subject;

c. Resources the school is able to provide or recommend to assist the student;
d. How the school plans to handle such behavior in the future, including an actionable plan aimed at maximizing strategies to keep the student in school;
e. A statement that, before long-term suspension, expulsion, or mandatory reassignment can be invoked, the student has a right to a hearing, upon request, and that if the student is suspended pending the outcome of the hearing, the student may complete classwork and homework, including, but not limited to, examinations, missed during the period of suspension pursuant to district guidelines which shall not require the student to attend the school district's alternative programs for expelled students in order to complete classwork or;
f. A description of the hearing procedures provided by the act, along with procedures for appealing any decision rendered at the hearing;
g. A statement that the principal, legal counsel for the school, the student, the student's Parent, or the student's representative has the right (i) to examine the student's academic and disciplinary records and any affidavits to be used at the hearing concerning the alleged misconduct and (ii) to know the identity of the witnesses to appear at the hearing and the substance of their testimony; and
h. A form on which the student, the student's Parent may request a hearing, to be signed by such parties and delivered to the principal or superintendent in person or by registered or certified mail to the address provided on the form.

3. When a notice of intent to discipline a student by long-term suspension, expulsion, or mandatory reassignment is filed with the superintendent, the student may be suspended by the principal until the date the long-term suspension, expulsion, or mandatory reassignment takes effect, if the principal determines that the student must be suspended immediately to prevent or substantially reduce the risk of (a) interference with an educational function or school purpose or (b) a personal injury to the student himself or herself, other students, school employees, or school volunteers.
4. Nothing in this policy shall preclude the student, the student's Parent, or representative from discussing and settling the matter with appropriate school personnel prior to the time the long-term suspension, expulsion, or mandatory reassignment takes effect.
5. If a hearing is requested within five days after receipt of the notice, the Superintendent shall recommend appointment of a hearing examiner within two school days after receipt of the hearing request. The student or the student’s Parent may request designation of a hearing examiner other than the hearing examiner recommended by the superintendent if notice of the request is given to the superintendent within two school days after receipt of the superintendent’s recommended appointment. Upon receiving such request, the superintendent

must provide one alternative hearing examiner who is not an employee of the school district or otherwise currently under contract with the school district and whose impartiality may not otherwise be reasonably questioned. The student or the student's Parent must, within five school days, select a hearing examiner to conduct the hearing who was recommended or provided as an alternative hearing examiner, and shall notify the superintendent in writing of the selection. The superintendent must appoint the selected hearing examiner upon receipt of such notice.

6. The hearing examiner must, within two school days after being appointed, give written notice to the principal, the student, and the student's Parent of the time and place for the hearing.
7. The hearing shall be held within a period of five school days after appointment of the hearing examiner, but such time may be changed by the hearing examiner for good cause with consent of the parties. No hearing shall be held upon less than two school days' actual notice to the principal, the student, and the student's Parent, except with the consent of all the parties.
8. The principal or legal counsel for the school, the student, the student's Parent, or representative have the right to receive a copy of all records and written statements referred to in the Student Discipline Act as well as the statement of any witness in the possession of the school board or board of education no later than forty-eight hours prior to the hearing.
9. If a hearing is requested more than five school days following the receipt of the written notice, but not more than thirty calendar days after receipt, the Superintendent shall appoint a hearing examiner. The hearing will be held according to the requirements of section 79-269. The student shall be entitled to a hearing but the consequence imposed may continue in effect pending final determination.
10. If a request for hearing is not received within thirty calendar days following the mailing or delivery of the written notice, the student shall not be entitled to a hearing.

In the event a hearing is requested, the hearing, hearing procedures, the student's rights and any appeals or judicial review permitted by law shall be governed by the applicable provisions of the Nebraska Student Discipline Act (NEB. REV. STAT. § 79-254 to 79-294).

Reporting Requirement to Law Enforcement

Violations of this section will result in a report to law enforcement if:

1. The violation includes possession of a firearm;
2. The violation results in child abuse;
3. It is a violation of the Nebraska Criminal Code that the administration believes cannot be adequately addressed solely by discipline from the school district;

4. It is a violation of the Nebraska Criminal Code that endangers the health and welfare of staff or students;
5. It is a violation of the Nebraska Criminal Code that interferes with school purposes;
6. The report is required or requested by law enforcement or the county attorney.

Adopted on: 4-13-15
Revised on: 7-13-26
Reviewed on: _____

5036
Lockers

Lockers are the property of the school district and students are permitted to use them without charge. The assignment of a locker is on a temporary basis and may be revoked at any time. School officials may inspect student lockers without any particularized suspicion or reasonable cause.

Adopted on: 4-13-15
Revised on: _____
Reviewed on: _____

5037

Student Internet and Computer Access

Students are expected to use computers and the Internet as an educational resource. The following procedures and guidelines govern the use of computers and the Internet at school.

I. Student Expectations in the Use of the Internet

A. Acceptable Use

1. Students may use the Internet to conduct research assigned by teachers.
2. Students may use the Internet to conduct research for classroom projects.
3. Students may use the Internet to gain access to information about current events.
4. Students may use the Internet to conduct research for school-related activities.
5. Students may use the Internet for appropriate educational purposes.

B. Unacceptable Use

1. Students shall not use school computers to gain access to material that is obscene, pornographic, harmful to minors, or otherwise inappropriate for educational uses.
2. Students shall not engage in any illegal or inappropriate activities on school computers, including the downloading and copying of copyrighted material.
3. Students shall not use e-mail, chat rooms, instant messaging, or other forms of direct electronic communications on school computers for any unauthorized or unlawful purpose or in violation of any school policy or directive.
4. Students shall not use school computers to participate in on-line auctions, on-line gaming or mp3/mp4 sharing systems.
5. Students shall not disclose personal information, such as their names, school, addresses, or telephone numbers outside the school network.
6. Students shall not use school computers for commercial advertising or political advocacy of any kind without the express written permission of the system administrator.
7. Students shall not publish web pages that purport to represent the school district or the work of students at the school district without the express written permission of the system administrator.
8. Students shall not erase, rename or make unusable anyone else's computer files, programs or disks.
9. Students shall not share their passwords with fellow students, school volunteers or any

other individuals, and shall not use, or try to discover, another user's password.

10. Students shall not copy, change or transfer any software or documentation provided by the school district, teachers or another student without permission from the system administrator.

11. Students shall not write, produce, generate, copy, propagate or attempt to introduce any computer code designed to self-replicate, damage, or otherwise hinder the performance of any computer's memory, file system, or software. Such software is often called, but is not limited to, a bug, virus, worm, or Trojan Horse.

12. Students shall not configure or troubleshoot computers, networks, printers or other associated equipment, except as directed by a teacher or the system administrator.

13. Students shall not take home technology equipment (hardware or software) without permission of the system administrator.

14. Students shall not forge electronic mail messages or web pages.

II. **Enforcement**

A. Methods of Enforcement

1. The district monitors all Internet communications, Internet usage and patterns of Internet usage. Students have no right of privacy to any Internet communications or other electronic files. The computer system is owned by the school district. As with any school property, any electronic files on the system are subject to search and inspection at any time.

2. The school district uses a technology protection measure that blocks access to some Internet sites that are not in accordance with the policy of the school district. Standard use of the Internet utilizes a proxy server-based filter that screens for non-curriculum related pages.

3. Due to the nature of filtering technology, the filter may at times filter pages that are appropriate for student research. The system administrator may override the technology protection measure for the student to access a site with legitimate educational value that is wrongly blocked.

4. The school district staff will monitor students' use of the Internet through direct supervision and by monitoring Internet use history to ensure enforcement of the policy.

B. Consequences for Violation of this Policy

1. Access to the school's computer system and to the Internet is a privilege, not a right. Any violation of school policy and rules may result in:

a. Loss of computer privileges;

b. Short-term suspension;

c. Long-term suspension or expulsion in accordance with the Nebraska Student Discipline Act; and

d. Other discipline as school administration and the school board deem appropriate.

2. Students who use school computer systems without permission and for non-school purposes may be guilty of a criminal violation and will be prosecuted.

III. Children's Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA)

A. The school will not allow companies to collect personal information from children under 13 for commercial purposes. The school will make reasonable efforts to disable advertising in educational computer applications.

B. This policy allows the school to act as an agent for parents in the collection of information within the school context. The school's use of student information is solely for education purposes.

Adopted on: 4-13-15
Revised on: 7-9-18
Reviewed on: _____

5038
Lunch Program

The superintendent shall be the administrator of school lunch program which shall be run in accordance with state and federal guidelines. All students shall eat in school facilities, unless they make special arrangements with the building principal or other school administrator.

Adopted on: 4-13-15
Revised on: _____
Reviewed on: _____

5039
Money-Raising Activities

All money-raising activities shall require authorization by a member of the school district administration.

Adopted on: 4-13-15
Revised on: _____
Reviewed on: _____

5040
Work Permits

The building principal or other authorized school official shall be responsible for the issuance of work permits for children in accordance with state law.

Adopted on: 4-13-15
Revised on: _____
Reviewed on: _____

5041
Student Government

Students are encouraged to formulate and participate in elective and representative student government activities. The organization, operation and scope of the student government shall be administered by the superintendent or designee.

Adopted on: 4-13-15
Revised on: _____
Reviewed on: _____

5042
Bulletin Boards

Bulletin board or electronic publishing space may be provided for the use of students and student organizations for notices relating to matters of general interest to students. The following general limitations apply to all posting or publishing:

1. All postings must be approved by the appropriate building principal or designee. Students may not post any material containing any statement or expression that is libelous, obscene, or vulgar; that would violate board of education policies, including the student code of conduct; or that is otherwise inappropriate for the school environment.

2. All postings must identify the student or the student organization posting or publishing the notice.

3. Material shall be removed after a reasonable time to assure full access to the bulletin boards or electronic publishing media.

Adopted on: 4-13-15
Revised on: _____
Reviewed on: _____

5043
School-Sponsored Publications

School-sponsored student publications and electronic media productions are part of the school district's instructional program. The board of education supports the development of student communication skills through school-sponsored newspapers, annuals, magazines, and electronic media including computer, video and digital productions.

Student publications and productions must conform to all good scholastic and professional journalistic standards. The board delegates to the superintendent of schools the right to prohibit dissemination of any school-sponsored publication or media production that does not conform to these standards, or which the superintendent or designee deems inappropriate for the school environment.

Adopted on: 4-13-15
Revised on: _____
Reviewed on: _____

5044
Safe Pupil Transportation Plan

It is the goal of the school district to provide safe, comfortable and reliable transportation for bus-riding school children.

1. **Emergency Procedures**

a) **Mechanical breakdown**

In the event of a mechanical breakdown, the driver will:

1) Stop the vehicle in a safe location

2) Keep passengers in the vehicle, if it is safe to do so

3) Take steps to warn motorists, by activating hazard lights and placing emergency triangles

4) Radio or call for assistance

b) **Injuries/Medical Emergencies**

If a student is seriously injured or suffers from a medical emergency, the driver will stop the vehicle at the first safe opportunity. The driver will provide emergency medical assistance in accordance with the driver's first aid training. The driver will notify the school district of the emergency using the radio or other communication equipment. The district will then summon emergency medical services by immediately calling 911 and notify administrative personnel.

c) **Severe Weather**

1) **Tornadoes**.

If the driver determines that there is likelihood that a tornado will hit the vehicle, and there is not an escape route available or time to drive to a safe location, the driver will evacuate the vehicle, taking only the first aid kit. The driver will take the students to the basement of a nearby building or to the nearest depression or ditch upwind (toward the storm) of the vehicle far enough away from the vehicle so that it will not roll over on the students. The driver should instruct students to cover their heads with their arms. If the students are wearing coats or jackets, they can be used to provide additional protection for their heads and bodies. If there is no time to evacuate the students after stopping the vehicle, the driver should have the

students remain in their seats and assume a protective position with their heads below window level.

2) **Winter Weather**

If the school district or driver determines that a trip is too dangerous to drive due to winter weather conditions, the district will cancel the trip.

Parents should ensure that students are appropriately dressed for winter conditions.

d) **Weapons, Hazardous Substances and Dangerous Contraband**

If a driver discovers that a passenger may have a weapon, hazardous substance or other dangerous contraband on the vehicle, he or she should remain calm and call for assistance. The driver should not inform passengers of the presence of the weapon or other contraband.

e) **Terroristic Threat**

If a driver receives a terroristic threat that he or she deems credible, he or she will notify the school district of the threat using the radio or other communication equipment. After consulting with school officials, the driver will determine whether the threat requires evacuation of the bus. The school will promptly notify the authorities of the threat.

For purposes of this policy, a terroristic threat is a threat to commit any crime of violence or to burn or damage property with the purpose of terrorizing another or of causing the evacuation of the bus or in reckless disregard of causing such terror or inconvenience

f) **Emergency Incident Reports**

Drivers will provide written documentation of any of the emergency events specified in this policy by completing the incident form attached hereto. This documentation must be submitted to the school administration within 24 hours of the event.

2. **Drop-off**

Drivers will drop students off at a location pre-determined through communication between the school district and parents/guardians. In the event the drop-off location is uncertain or appears to be unsafe, the driver

will communicate with school staff in the building to seek additional guidance.

In no event will a driver drop a student off in a location which in the reasonable judgment of the driver appears to be unsafe. Drivers who believe the drop-off location to be unsafe shall release students directly into the custody of a parent/guardian or shall return students to their school building.

3. **Evacuation of Students With Disabilities**

The Transportation supervisor, in consultation with bus drivers and members of the administrative team, shall develop a written emergency evacuation plan for each bus route. The plan shall include an assessment of each student's ability to evacuate himself or herself as well as his or her ability to assist others. Disabled students should practice their evacuation skills as required of their non-disabled peers if possible during evacuation drills. Students or other individuals who will be assisting disabled students evacuate during emergencies should practice this skill during evacuation drills. Drivers or students who will be assisting with the evacuation process should be familiar with any equipment on the bus that would aid in the actual evacuation.

4. **Student Behavior on School Vehicles**

Riding school vehicles is a privilege, not a right. Students must comply with the following rules and all school conduct rules and directives while riding in school vehicles. In addition, students must also comply with the student code of conduct while riding in school vehicles.

a) **Rules of Conduct on School Vehicles:**

1) Students must obey the driver promptly.

2) Students must wait in a safe place for the bus to arrive, clear of traffic and away from where the vehicle stops.

3) Students are prohibited from fighting, engaging in bullying, harassment or horseplay.

4) Students must enter the bus without crowding or disturbing others and go directly to their assigned seats.

5) Students must remain seated and keep aisles and exits clear while the vehicle is moving.

6) Students are prohibited from throwing or passing objects on, from, or into vehicles.

7) Students may not use profane language, obscene gestures, tobacco, alcohol, drugs or any other controlled substance on the vehicles.

8) Students may not carry weapons, look-a-like weapons, hazardous materials, nuisance items or animals onto the vehicle.

9) Students may carry on conversations in ordinary tones, but may not be loud or boisterous and should avoid talking to the driver while the vehicle is in motion. Students must be absolutely quiet when the vehicle approaches a railroad crossing and any time the driver calls for quiet.

10) Students may not open windows without permission from the driver. Students may not dangle any item (e.g. legs, arms, backpacks) out of the windows.

11) Student must secure any item or items that could break or produce injury if tossed about the inside of the vehicle if the vehicle were involved in an accident

12) Student must respect the rights and safety of others at all times.

13) Students must help keep the vehicle clean, sanitary and orderly. Students must remove all personal items and trash upon exiting.

14) Students may not leave or board the vehicle at locations other than the assigned stops at home or school unless approved prior to departure by the superintendent or designee.

15) Video cameras may be placed on buses, at random, to monitor student behavior on the bus.

b) **Consequences**

Drivers must promptly report all student misconduct to the administration. These reports may be oral or written. Students who violate the Rules for Conduct will be referred to their building principal for discipline. Disciplinary consequences may include:

1) Note home to parents

2) Suspension of bus riding privileges

3) Exclusion from extracurricular activities

4) In-school suspension

5) Short term or long term suspension from school

6) Expulsion

These consequences are not progressive, and school officials have discretion to impose any listed punishment they deem appropriate, in accordance with state and federal law and board policy.

c) **Records**

Records of vehicle misconduct will be forwarded to the appropriate building principal and will be maintained in the same manner as other student discipline records. Reports of serious misconduct may be forwarded to law enforcement.

Adopted on: 4-13-15
Revised on: _____
Reviewed on: _____

5045
Student Fees

The school district shall provide free instruction in accordance with the Nebraska State Constitution and the Nebraska statutes. The district also provides activities, programs, and services that extend beyond the minimum level of constitutionally required free instruction. Under the Public Elementary and Secondary Student Fee Authorization Act, the district is permitted to charge students fees for these activities or to require students to provide specialized equipment and attire for certain purposes. This policy is subject to further interpretation or guidance by administrative or board regulations. Students are encouraged to contact their building administration, their teachers or their coaches, and sponsors for further specifics.

A. Definitions.

1. "Students" means students, their parents, guardians or other legal representatives.

2. "Extracurricular activities" means student activities or organizations that (1) are supervised or administered by the district; (2) do not count toward graduation or advancement between grades; and (3) are not otherwise required by the district.

3. "Post-secondary education costs" means tuition and other fees associated with obtaining credit from a post-secondary educational institution.

B. Listing of Fees Charged by this District.

1. Guidelines for Clothing Required for Specified Courses and Activities.

Students are responsible for complying with the district's grooming and attire guidelines and for furnishing all clothing required for any special programs, courses or activities in which they participate. The teacher, coach, or sponsor of the activity will provide students with written guidelines that detail any special clothing requirements and explain why the special clothing is required for the specific program, course or activity.

2. Safety Equipment and Attire.

The district will provide students with all safety equipment and attire that is required by law. Building administrators will assure that (a) such equipment is available in the appropriate classes and areas of the school buildings, (b) teachers are directed to instruct students in the use of such devices, and (c) students use the devices as required. Students are responsible for using the devices safely and as instructed.

3. Personal or Consumable Items.

The district does not provide students with personal or consumable items for participation in courses and activities including, but not limited to, pencils, paper, pens, erasers and notebooks. Students who wish to supply their own personal or consumable items may do so, as long as those items comply with the requirements of the district. The district will provide students with facilities, equipment, materials and supplies, including books. Students are responsible for the careful and appropriate use of such property. Students will be charged for damage to school property caused by the student and will be held responsible for the reasonable replacement cost of any school property that they lose.

4. Materials Required for Course Projects.

The district will provide students with the materials necessary to complete all basic curricular projects. In courses where students choose to produce a project that requires materials beyond the basic materials provided by the district, the students will furnish the materials, purchase the materials from the school, or purchase the materials from an outside vendor with an order form provided by the school.

5. Technological Devices

The district will provide students with the technological devices necessary to complete all basic curricular projects. To the extent that a student is not required by the district's curriculum to utilize a device off district property, the district may charge students a convenience fee to take the device off district property. The maximum dollar amount of this convenience fee charged by the district will be $40.

As with all school property, students may be charged replacement cost for damage to such devices. The district may also charge a damage deposit which will be returned or may be rolled to cover the damage deposit for the next year if it is not needed to cover the costs of any damage to the device. The maximum dollar amount of this damage deposit will be $0.

Additionally, the district may allow students to purchase technological devices by arranging for the students to purchase these devices through a single, or series of, payments.

6. Extracurricular Activities.

The district may charge students a fee to participate in extracurricular activities to cover the district's reasonable costs in offering such activities. The district may require students to furnish specialized equipment and clothing that is required for participation in extracurricular activities, or may charge a reasonable fee for the use of district-owned equipment or attire. Attached to this policy is a list of the fees charged for particular activities. The coach or sponsor will provide students with additional written guidelines detailing the fees charged, the equipment and/or clothing required, or the usage fee charged. The guidelines will explain the reasons that fees, equipment and/or clothing are required for the activity.

The following list details the maximum dollar amount of all extracurricular activities fees and the specifications for any equipment or attire required for participation in extracurricular activities:

- Student Activity Card: $35
    - Covers admission to all extracurricular events
- Student Participation Fee: $35
    - Required of all students who participate in athletics and/or other extracurricular activities
- Future Business Leaders of America: $0
- DECA: $0
- National Honor Society: $0
- Cheerleading, Drill Team, Flag Corps: $300
    - Students must purchase uniforms and shoes selected by the sponsor and/or student group. The maximum dollar amount charged by the school district for these items will be: $300
- Football: $ 0
    - Students must provide their own football shoes, undergarments, and mouthguards
- Golf: $0
    - Students must provide their own golf shoes, undergarments, and clubs
- Softball and Baseball: $0
    - Students must provide their own shoes, gloves, and undergarments
- Track, Volleyball, and Wrestling: $0
    - Students must provide their own shoes and undergarments
- Future Farmers of America: $Cost of a jacket
    - Students must purchase their own jackets and pay dues
- Rifle and Trap Teams: $0

    - Students must provide their own weapons and ammunition
- Science Club: $0
- FCCLA: $0
- Spanish Club: $0

7. Post-Secondary Education Costs.

Some students enroll in postsecondary courses while still enrolled in the district's high school. As a general rule, students must pay all costs associated with such post-secondary courses. However, for a course in which students receive high school credit or a course being taken as part of an approved accelerated or differentiated curriculum program, the district shall offer the course without charge for tuition, transportation, books, or other fees. Students who choose to apply for post-secondary education credit for these courses must pay tuition and all other fees associated with obtaining credits from a post-secondary educational institution. The costs of these items will naturally vary, but the maximum dollar amount of the fee is anticipated to be $200 per course.

8. Transportation Costs.

The district will charge students reasonable fees for transportation services provided by the district to the extent permitted by federal and state statutes and regulations.

The maximum dollar amount of the transportation fee charged by this district shall be $0.

9. Copies of Student Files or Records.

The district will charge a fee for making copies of a student's files or records for the parents or guardians of such student. The Superintendent or the Superintendent's designee shall establish a schedule of student record fees. Parents of students have the right to inspect and review the students' files or records without the payment of a fee, and the district shall not charge a fee to search for or retrieve any student's files or records.

The district will charge a fee of $.10 per page for reproduction of student records.

10. Participation in Before-and-After-School or Pre-Kindergarten Services.

The district will charge reasonable fees for participation in before-and-after school or pre-kindergarten services offered by the district pursuant to statute.

The maximum dollar amount charged by the district for these services shall be $40 per month.

11. Participation in Summer School or Night School.

The district will charge reasonable fees for participation in summer school or night school and may charge reasonable fees for correspondence courses.

The maximum dollar amount charged by the district for summer and night school shall be $0.

12. Charges for Food Consumed by Students.

The district will charge for items that students purchase from the district's breakfast and lunch programs. The fees charged for these items will be set according to applicable federal and state statutes and regulations. The district will charge students for the cost of food, beverages, and the like that students purchase from a school store, vending machine, booster club or from similar sources. Students may be required to bring money or food for field trip lunches and similar activities.

The maximum dollar amount charged by the district for the breakfast and lunch programs is as follows:

- Breakfast Program – Grades PK-6
  - Regular Price $2.00
  - Reduced Price $TBA
- Breakfast Program – Grades 7-12
  - Regular Price $2.50
  - Reduced Price $TBA
- Lunch Program – Grades PK-6
  - Regular Price $3.25
  - Reduced Price $TBA
- Lunch Program – Grades 7-12
  - Regular Price $3.75
  - Reduced Price $TBA

13. Charges for Musical Extracurricular Activities.

Students who qualify for fee waivers under this policy will be provided, at no charge, the use of a musical instrument in optional music courses that are not extracurricular activities. The following list details the maximum dollar amount of all musical extracurricular activities fees and the equipment or attire required for participation in musical extracurricular activities:

- Band: $0

- Students must provide their own instruments and marching band shoes, which must be white, rubber-soled sneakers

- Swing Choir: $0
  - Students must purchase outfits and shoes selected by the sponsor and/or student group. The maximum dollar amount charged by the district for these materials will be $0

14. Contributions for Junior and Senior Class Extracurricular Activities.

Students are eligible to participate in a number of unique extracurricular activities during their last two years in high school, including prom, various senior recognitions, and graduation. In order to fund these extracurricular activities, the school district will ask each student to make a contribution to their class's fund. This contribution is completely voluntary. Students who chose not to contribute to the class fund are still eligible to participate in the extra activities. The suggested donation to the class fund will be $0.

C. Waiver Policy.

Students who qualify for free or reduced-price lunches under United States Department of Agriculture child nutrition programs shall be provided a fee waiver or be provided the necessary materials or equipment without charge for (1) participation in extracurricular activities, (2) materials for course projects, and (3) the use of a musical instrument in optional music courses that are not extracurricular activities. Actual participation in the free or reduced-price lunch program is not required to qualify for the waivers provided in this section. The district is not obligated to provide any particular type or quality of equipment or other material to eligible students. Students who wish to be considered for waiver of a particular fee must submit a completed fee waiver application to their building principal.

D. Distribution of Policy.

This policy will be published in the Student Handbook or its equivalent that will be provided to students at no cost.

E. Voluntary Contributions to Defray Costs.

The district will, when appropriate, request donations of money, materials, equipment or attire from parents, guardians and other members of the community to defray the costs of providing certain services and activities to students. These requests are not requirements and staff members of the district are directed to clearly communicate that fact to students, parents and patrons.

F. Fund-Raising Activities

Students may be permitted or required to engage in fund-raising activities to support various curricular and extracurricular activities in which they participate. Students who decline to participate in fund-raising activities are not eligible under this policy for waiver of the costs or fees which the fund-raising activity was meant to defray.

G. Student Fee Fund.

The school board hereby establishes a Student Fee Fund. The Student Fee Fund shall be a separate school district fund that will not be funded by tax revenue, and that will serve a depository for all monies collected from students for (1) participation in extracurricular activities, (2) post-secondary education costs, and (3) summer school or night school courses. Monies in the Student Fee Fund shall be expended only for the purposes for which they were collected from students.

Adopted on: 4-13-15
Revised on: 7-13-26
Reviewed on: _____

CERTIFICATION

On the 13th day of July, 2026, the Board of Education of Diller-Odell Public Schools held a public hearing on a proposed student fee policy. The hearing followed a review of the amount of money collected from students pursuant to, and the use of waivers provided in, the student fee policy for the 2026-27 school year. This student fee policy was then adopted by a majority vote of the school board at an open public meeting conducted in compliance with the Open Meetings Act.

Superintendent of Schools or Other
Authorized School Representative

5046
Secret Organizations

Secret organizations are prohibited. School officials shall not allow any person or representative of any such organization to enter upon school grounds or school buildings for the purpose of rushing or soliciting students to participate in any secret fraternity, society or association.

Adopted on: 4-13-15
Revised on: _____
Reviewed on: _____

5047
Press Releases

All press releases regarding school-related activities and events must have administrative approval prior to being given to the media. The superintendent may delegate responsibility for communicating with the media to building principals, the activities director, event sponsors, and other staff on an ad hoc basis.

Adopted on: 4-13-15
Revised on: _____
Reviewed on: _____

5048
Emergency Response to Life Threatening Asthma or Systemic Allergic Reactions (Anaphylaxis)

School employees will comply with the requirements of the NDE Rule 59 protocol entitled, “Emergency Response to Life Threatening Asthma or Systemic Allergic Reactions (Anaphylaxis)” (Protocol) to address incidents of anaphylaxis involving students at school when those students do not have existing response plans. For students with individual self-management plans, Section 504 plans, or Individualized Education Programs (IEP) addressing asthma or anaphylaxis responses, school employees will comply with those plans. The district shall procure and maintain the equipment and medication necessary to implement the Protocol.

The superintendent shall obtain the required signature(s) of one or more Prescribing Health Care Practitioners on the Protocol form. The superintendent shall publish this policy and Protocol in each student and employee handbook.

The superintendent shall arrange to have a qualified medical professional train employees, and for training updates as necessary. This may be a medical doctor, qualified school nurse, or other person qualified to train staff on the medication of students.

Adopted on: 4-13-15
Revised on: 7-13-26
Reviewed on: _____

5049
Firearms and Weapons

Weapons. No student may possess, handle, or transmit any weapon while on school grounds or at any school activity or event off school grounds except as permitted by this policy. No visitor under the age of 18 may possess, handle, or transmit any weapon while on school grounds or at any school activity or event off school grounds except as permitted by this policy. ***Definition of Weapon.*** The term "weapon" means any object, device, instrument, material, or substance which is capable of causing injury in the manner it is used or intended to be used.

Firearms. No person may bring, possess, handle or transmit a firearm on school grounds, in a school owned vehicle, or at a school activity or event off school grounds, except as permitted by this policy. ***Definition of Firearm.*** The term "firearm, as defined in 18 U.S.C. 921, means any weapon (including a starter gun) which will or is designed to or may readily be converted to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive, the frame or receiver of any such weapon, any firearm muffler or firearm silencer, or any destructive device (excluding an antique firearm).

Exceptions Regarding Firearms. The prohibition against firearms does not apply to:

1. The issuance of firearms to or possession by members of the armed forces of the United States, active or reserve, National Guard of this State, or Reserve Officers Training Corps or peace officers or other duly authorized law enforcement officers when on duty or training; or

2. Firearms that may lawfully be possessed by a person who is receiving instruction at the school under the immediate supervision of an adult instructor;

3. Firearms which may lawfully be possessed by a person for the purpose of using them, with the approval of the school, in a historical reenactment, in a hunter education program, or as part of an honor guard;

4. Firearms contained within a private vehicle ***operated by a nonstudent adult*** that are not loaded ***and*** are encased or are in a locked firearm rack that is on a motor vehicle; or

5. A handgun carried as a concealed handgun by a nonstudent adult in a vehicle or on his or her person while riding in or on a vehicle into or onto any parking area, which is open to the public and used by the school if, prior to exiting the vehicle, the handgun is locked inside the glove box, trunk, or other compartment of the

vehicle, a storage box securely attached to the vehicle, or, if the vehicle is a motorcycle, a hardened compartment securely attached to the motorcycle while the vehicle is in or on such parking area, except as prohibited by federal law.

Definition of Encased. The term "encased" means enclosed in a case that is expressly made for the purpose of containing a firearm and that is completely zipped, snapped, buckled, tied, or otherwise fastened with no part of the firearm exposed.

Exceptions for Students. The only exceptions for a student to bring or possess a weapon, including a firearm, are as follows:

1. The firearm or weapon has been brought to school grounds or to an activity or event off school grounds for some educational purpose;

2. The person bringing the firearm or weapon has requested and received the prior approval of both the instructor and the building principal to do so; and

3. All arrangements to use and store the firearm or weapon safely while it is on school premises have been agreed to and carried out.

Consequences - Firearm. Any student who brings a firearm, as that term is defined in 18 United States Code 921, to school will be expelled from school for one calendar year. The superintendent of schools and the board of education shall have the authority to modify the expulsion requirement on a case-by-case basis.

Consequences – Weapon. State law and this policy provide that any student who violates this policy by knowingly bringing, possessing, handling or transmitting a weapon, other than a firearm, on school grounds, in a school owned vehicle, or at a school activity or event off school grounds may be suspended on a long-term basis, mandatorily reassigned, or expelled for the remainder of the school year in which the expulsion takes effect (if the misconduct occurs during the first semester) or the remainder of the second semester, summer school, and the first semester of the following school year (if the misconduct occurs during the second semester).

Confiscation of Firearms. Administrative and teaching personnel are statutorily authorized, without a warrant, to confiscate any firearm possessed in violation of this policy. By statute, any firearm that is confiscated by school personnel shall be delivered to a peace officer as soon as practicable. Such firearms are subject to being destroyed by law enforcement authorities.

Report to Law Enforcement Authorities. All school personnel are required to report any violation of this policy to a principal or the superintendent of schools. Pursuant to state and federal law, school personnel are required to report to law enforcement authorities when a student brings a firearm or weapon to school.

Adopted on: 4-13-15
Revised on: 7-17-23
Reviewed on: _____

5050

Home Schools and/or Schools Not Meeting Approval and Accreditation Regulations

Students in Nebraska may choose to be educated at a home school that meets the requirements of statute and the Nebraska Department of Education. The board of education encourages the parents and guardians of all school-age children who reside within the school district to enroll them in the public school or an approved or accredited private school so they may benefit from a well-planned education program and the socialization of a group environment.

The school district's administration will inform the appropriate agency of the names of all students who are school age and known not to be in attendance at a public, private, or parochial school that has met the requirements for legal operation prescribed in statute and the rules of the Nebraska Department of Education.

Adopted on: 4-13-15
Revised on: _____
Reviewed on: _____

5051
Eye Examinations for Students

The parent(s) or guardian(s) of (1) all incoming students in the beginner grade and (2) all out-of-state transfer students must provide evidence of a vision examination by a qualified vision health care provider.

They must provide evidence of the vision examination within six months prior to entrance. The health care provider must test the student for amblyopia, strabismus and internal and external eye health, with testing sufficient to determine visual acuity.

Any parent(s) or guardian(s) who object to a vision examination must submit a signed and dated refusal form to the school. Parents or guardians who wish to receive information regarding free or reduced-cost visual evaluations may contact Kids Connection at (877)-NEB-KIDS or the Nebraska Optometric Association at (800) 766-4466.

Adopted on: 5-11-15
Revised on: _____
Reviewed on: _____

5052
School Wellness

The school district is committed to providing a school environment that enhances learning and the development of lifelong wellness. The goals outlined in this policy were determined and selected after reviewing and considering evidence-based strategies.*

1. **Goals for Nutrition Promotion and Education**

   a. The district will promote healthy food and beverage choices for all students, as well as encourage participation in school meal programs by such methods as implementing evidence-based healthy food promotion techniques through the school meal programs and promoting foods and beverages that meet or exceed the USDA Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards.

   b. The health curriculum will include information on good nutrition and healthy living habits.

   c. Teachers will incorporate information on nutrition and wellness into the classroom curriculum as appropriate.

   d. The district will collaborate with public and private entities to promote student wellness.

   e. Water will be made available to students throughout the school day.

2. **Goals for Physical Activity**

   a. The school district's curriculums shall include instruction on physical activity and habits for healthy living.

   b. Students will be encouraged to engage in physical activities throughout the school day and will be provided with opportunities to do so.

   c. The district encourages parents and guardians to support their children's participation in physical activity, to be physically active role models, and to include physical activity in family events.

3. **Goals for Other School-Based Activities Designed to Promote Student Wellness**

a. The district will participate in state and federal child nutrition programs as appropriate.

b. The district will provide professional development, support, and resources for staff about student wellness.

c. Students will be provided sufficient time in which to eat school-provided meals.

d. The district's lunchrooms will be attractive and well-lighted.

e. The district will allow other health-related entities to use school facilities for activities such as health clinics and screenings so long as the activities meet the district's requirements and criteria for the use of facilities.

f. The district may partner with other individuals or entities in the community to support the implementation of this policy.

g. The district will strive to provide physical activity breaks for all students, recess for elementary students, and before and after school activities, as well as encourage students to use active transport (walking, biking, etc.)

h. The district will use evidence-based strategies to develop, structure, and support student wellness.

4. **Standards and Nutrition Guidelines for All Foods and Beverages Sold to Students on the School Campus and During the School Day**

a. The district will ensure that student access to foods and beverages meet federal, state and local laws and guidelines including, but not limited to:

i. USDA National School Lunch and School Breakfast nutrition standards

ii. USDA Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards.

b. The district will offer students a variety of age-appropriate, healthy food and beverage selections with plenty of fruits, vegetables, and whole grains aimed at meeting the nutrition needs of students within their calorie requirements in order to promote student health and reduce childhood obesity.

5. Standards for All Foods and Beverages Provided, But Not Sold to Students During the School Day

The district may provide a list of healthy party ideas or food and beverage alternatives to parents, teachers, and students for classroom parties, rewards and incentives, or classroom snacks. The district discourages the use of food and beverages as a reward or incentive for performance or behavior.

6. Food and Beverage Marketing

Marketing and advertising is only allowed on school grounds or at school activities for foods and beverages that meet or exceed the USDA Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards, except as follows:

a. This requirement does not apply to marketing that occurs at events outside of school hours such as after school sporting or any other events, including school fundraising events.

b. The district will not immediately replace menu boards, coolers, tray liners, beverage cups, and other food service equipment with depictions of noncompliant products or logos to comply with the new USDA Smart Snacks in Schools nutrition requirements. All previously purchased products will be used, and all existing contracts honored.

c. All equipment that currently displays noncompliant marketing materials will not be removed or replaced (e.g., a score board with a Coca-Cola logo). However, as the district reviews and considers new contracts, and as scoreboards or other such durable equipment are replaced or updated over time, any products that are marketed and advertised will meet or exceed the USDA Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards

7. Public Participation

Parents, students, representatives of the school food authority, teachers, school health professionals, board members, school administrators, and members of the general public shall be allowed to provide their input to the school district during the wellness policy adoption and review process.

8. Competitive Foods (Includes Food and Beverages Sold in Vending Machines, School Stores, and Fundraisers)

a. Definitions. “Competitive food” means all food and beverages other than meals reimbursed under programs authorized by the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act and the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 available for sale to students on the school campus during the school day. For the purpose of competitive food standards implementation, “school day” means the period from the midnight before to 30 minutes after the end of the official school day.

b. Applicability. Except as otherwise allowed by the Nebraska Department of Education (NDE) or applicable law, all competitive food sold during the school day must meet the USDA Smart Snacks Standards and the nutrition standards found in 7 CFR § 210.11. The competitive food restrictions do not apply to food sold during non-school day hours, weekends, and off-campus fundraising events such as concessions during after-school sporting events, school plays or concerts; or to bulk food items that are sold for consumption at home. (Ex: frozen pizzas, cookie dough tubs, etc.)
c. Fundraiser Exemptions. A special exemption is allowed for the sale of food and/or beverages that do not meet the competitive food standards as required in this section for the purpose of conducting an infrequent school-sponsored fundraiser. The specially exempted fundraisers must not take place more than the frequency specified by NDE during such periods that schools are in session. No specially exempted fundraiser foods or beverages may be sold in competition with school meals in the food service area during the meal service.
d. Other Exemptions. The only other nutrition exemptions from the competitive food requirements are those found in 7 CFR § 210.11.
e. Other Limitations. No competitive food can be sold to children anywhere on school premises beginning one half hour before breakfast and/or lunch service until one half hour after meal service unless all proceeds earned during these time periods go to the school nutrition program.

9. Triennial Assessment

The school board shall assess and review this policy at least every three years to determine:

a. Compliance with this policy;

b. How this policy compares to NDE model wellness policies;

c. Progress made in attaining the goals of this policy.

The school board will update or modify this policy as appropriate.

10. Public Notice

In addition to identifying the topic on its meeting agenda as required by the Open Meetings Act, the school district will provide notice of this policy at least annually to the public and other stakeholders identified in this policy by one or more of the following methods: on its webpage, in its newsletter, in the student and employee handbooks, newspaper advertisements, direct mailings, electronic mail, and public postings.

In addition to identifying the topic on its meeting agenda as required by the Open Meetings Act, the school district will provide notice of the Triennial Assessment and progress reports towards meeting the goals in this policy using one or more of those same methods.

11. Recordkeeping

The District will retain records to document compliance with the requirements of the wellness policy at its central office.

12. Operational Responsibility

The superintendent is responsible for coordinating the implementation of this policy and for monitoring the district's progress in meeting the goals established by this policy. The superintendent will periodically report to the board on the district's progress in implementing this policy.

* These strategies include, but are not necessarily limited to, those cited in the Alliance for a Healthier Generation's Model Wellness Policy (Updated June 2020 to Reflect the USDA Final Rule) found at https://api.healthiergeneration.org/resource/2.

Adopted on:3-13-17
Revised on: 6-11-24
Reviewed on: _____

5053
Self-Management of Diabetes or Asthma/Anaphylaxis

Upon receiving the written request of a student's parent or guardian and the written medical authorization described in the applicable provisions below, , the school district will work with the parent or guardian in consultation with appropriate medical professionals to develop a medical management plan for a student with diabetes, asthma, or anaphylaxis (referred to herein as "medical condition").

A student with diabetes must obtain written authorization to self-manage from the student's physician. The plan for a student with diabetes will (a) identify the health care services the student may receive at school, (b) evaluate the student's understanding of and ability to self-manage his or her medical condition, (c) permit regular monitoring of the student's self-management by an appropriately credentialed health care professional, and (d) be signed by the student's parent or guardian and the physician responsible for the student's medical condition.

A student with asthma or anaphylaxis must obtain written authorization to self-manage from the student's physician or from the health care professional who prescribed the medication for treatment of the student's condition. The plan for a student with asthma or anaphylaxis will (a) identify the health care services the student may receive at school, (b) evaluate the student's understanding of and ability to self-manage his or her medical condition, (c) permit regular monitoring of the student's self-management by an appropriately credentialed health care professional, (d) include the name, purpose, and dosage of the prescription asthma or anaphylaxis medication prescribed for such student, (e) include procedures for storage and access to backup supplies of such prescription asthma or anaphylaxis medication, and (f) be signed by the student's parent or guardian and the physician or other health care professional responsible for the student's medical condition.

The plan will permit the students to self-manage his or her medical condition in any part of the school or on school grounds during any school-related activity, or in a private location. The parent or guardian of a student for whom such a medical management plan has been developed shall sign a statement acknowledging that (a) the school and its employees and agents are not liable for any injury or death arising from a student's self-management of his or her medical condition and (b) the parent or guardian will indemnify and hold harmless the school district and its employees and agents against any claim arising from a student's self-management of his or her medical condition. The student's parent or guardian will be personally responsible for any and all costs associated with any injury to school personnel or another student resulting from the a student's misuse of necessary medical supplies.

The district may prohibit a student who is self-managing his or her diabetic condition

from possessing medical supplies for self-management and may establish other necessary and appropriate restrictions or conditions when the district determines that the student has endangered himself, herself, or others through misuse or threatened misuse of such medical supplies. The district will promptly notify the parent or guardian of any such prohibition, restriction, or condition.

The district may impose disciplinary consequences on a student with asthma or anaphylaxis who uses his or her prescription asthma or anaphylaxis medication other than prescribed. These disciplinary consequences shall not include limitations on the student's access to necessary medication. The district will promptly notify the parent or guardian of any disciplinary action imposed.

Adopted on: 5-11-15
Revised on: 6-13-16
Reviewed on: _____

5054
Student Bullying

Definition of Bullying. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention defines bullying as "any unwanted aggressive behavior(s) by another youth or group of youths who are not siblings or current dating partners that involves an observed or perceived power imbalance and is repeated multiple times or is highly likely to be repeated." Nebraska statute defines bullying as "an ongoing pattern of physical, verbal or electronic abuse." The District's administrators are authorized to use both of these definitions to determine whether any specific situation constitutes bullying. Both of these definitions include both in-person and cyberbullying behaviors.

Bullying Prohibited. Students are prohibited from engaging in any form of bullying behavior.

Disciplinary Consequences. The disciplinary consequences for bullying behavior will depend on the frequency, duration, severity and effect of the behavior.

A student who engages in bullying behavior on school grounds, in a vehicle owned, leased, or contracted by a school being used for a school purpose by a school employee or his or her designee, or at school-sponsored activities or school-sponsored athletic events may be subject to disciplinary consequences including but not limited to long-term suspension, expulsion, or mandatory reassignment.

Without limiting the foregoing, a student who engages in bullying behavior that materially and substantially interferes with or disrupts the educational environment, the district's day-to-day operations, or the education process, regardless of where the student is at the time of engaging in the bullying behavior, may be subject to discipline to the extent permitted by law.

Bullying Based on Protected Class Status. Bullying based on protected class status is unique and may require additional investigation. The appropriate district staff member or coordinator will promptly investigate bullying complaints that violate the district's antidiscrimination policies.

Support for Students Who Have Experienced Bullying. Regardless of where the bullying occurred, the district will consider whether victims of bullying are suffering an adverse educational impact and, if appropriate, will refer those students to the district's student assistance team.

Bullying Prevention and Education. Students and parents are encouraged to inform teachers or administrators orally or in writing about bullying behavior or suspected bullying behavior. School employees are required to inform the administrator of all such reports. The appropriate administrator shall promptly investigate all such reports. Each

building shall engage in activities which educate students about bullying, bullying prevention and digital citizenship.

Policy Review. The school district shall review this policy annually.

Adopted on: 5-11-15
Revised on: 7-9-18
Reviewed on: 6-10-25

5055
Enrollment in Kindergarten

Beginning with the 2013-14 school year, a child must reach the age of five on or before July 31st of the calendar year to be enrolled in kindergarten. The school district will enroll a child who will reach the age of five between August 1st and October 15th of the year of enrollment if the parent or guardian requests such enrollment and provides an affidavit stating:

(a) the child attended kindergarten in another jurisdiction in the current school year; or
(b) the family anticipates relocating to another jurisdiction that would allow admission within the current year; or
(c) the child has demonstrated through recognized assessment procedures approved by the board that he or she is capable of performing the work of kindergarten.

The recognized assessment procedure approved by the board is the Kindergarten Readiness Test (KRT) by Scholastics.

The board delegates to the elementary principal responsibility for determining whether the conditions of this policy have been met. In order to enroll in kindergarten early, students must achieve a score of at least 26.

Each year, the district will have a Kindergarten Enrollment and Assessment Period ("Assessment Period") from March 1-May 31. Parents or guardians whose child is a legal resident of the district wishing to enroll pursuant to this policy must complete all requirements for enrollment no later than the end of the Assessment Period. The date, time, and location of the Assessment Period will be made available annually.

Parents or guardians of students who become legal residents of the district after the Assessment Period, and thus were unable to participate in the Assessment Period, must contact the elementary principal about registering and/or scheduling a time for assessment.

Adopted on: May 11, 2015
Revised on: April 11, 2016
Reviewed on: _____

5056
Free Expression by Students

The board of education is responsible for providing a program of education for students in this district and is authorized to preserve order so that the system may function properly. Under the United States Constitution, students are entitled to assemble peaceably and to express ideas and opinions, privately or publicly, provided that their activities do not infringe on the rights of others and do not interfere with the operation of the education program.

Students are prohibited from engaging in any willful activity that interferes with the orderly operation of the educational program or offends the rights of others. The board specifically prohibits any assembly or public expression that materially disrupts instruction; is obscene, slanderous, or grossly prejudicial to an ethnic, national, religious, or racial group or to either gender; advocates the use of substances that are illegal to minors; incites violence or urges the violation of law or school rules. Violators will be disciplined in accordance with law and board policy; staff members who assist students in improper conduct are subject to disciplinary measures.

The building principal is responsible for identifying and resolving disruptions in any school building and may summon law enforcement officers as deemed necessary.

Adopted on: 5-11-15
Revised on: _____
Reviewed on: _____

5057
District Title I Parent and Family Engagement Policy

The school district will jointly develop with parents a School-Parent-Student Compact that outlines how the parents, school staff, and students will share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement and the means by which the school and parents will build and develop a partnership to help children achieve the State's high standards.

The written District Parent and Family Engagement Policy will be jointly developed and distributed to parents and family members of participating children and the local community in an understandable format and to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand. An annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of the Parent and Family Engagement Policy will be used to design evidence-based strategies for more effective parental involvement, to revise the Parent and Family Engagement Policy and to remove barriers to participation.

The school district recognizes the unique needs of students who are being served in its Title I program, and the importance of parent and family engagement in the Title I program. Parent and family engagement in the Title I Program shall include, but is not limited to:

1. An annual meeting to which all parents of participating children will be invited to inform parents of their school's participation under this part, to explain the requirements of this part, and the right of the parents to be involved. Invitations may take the form of notes sent with students or announcements in the school newsletter. Additional meetings may be scheduled, based upon need and interest for such meetings.

2. An explanation of the details for the child's and parents' participation, including but not limited to: curriculum objectives, the forms of academic assessment used to measure student progress and the achievement levels of the challenging State academic standards, type and extent of participation, parental input in educational decisions, coordination and integration with other Federal, State, and district programs, and evaluations of progress.

3. Opportunities for participation in parent involvement activities such as training to help parents work with their children to improve achievement. A goal of ~~these~~ parent activities is to provide parents with opportunities to participate in decisions relating to the education of their students, where appropriate.

4. The district will, to the extent practicable, provide parents of limited English proficiency, parents with disabilities, parents with limited literacy,

are economically disadvantaged, are of a racial or minority background or parents of migratory children with opportunities for involvement in the Title I Program. Communication to parents about student progress and the district's other Title I Program communications will be provided in the language used in the home to the extent practicable. Responses to parent concerns will be provided in a timely manner.

5. Opportunities for parent-teacher conferences, in addition to those regularly scheduled by the school district, if requested by the parents or as deemed necessary by school district staff.

6. The district will coordinate and integrate parental involvement programs and activities with other programs in the community. These may include cooperation with other community programs such as Head Start and preschools and other community services such as the public library.

7. Educate teachers, specialized instructional support personnel, principals, and other school leaders, with the assistance of parents in the value and utility of contributions of parents, how to reach out to, communicate with and work with parents as equal partners.

This policy shall be reviewed annually at the annual meeting where concerned parties can have a conversation about possible changes to the Parent and Family Engagement Policy.

Adopted on: 5-11-15
Revised on: 7-9-18
Reviewed on: 7-14-25

5059

Emergency Medical Treatment

If a child becomes ill or is injured while at school or while being supervised by a member of the school district's staff, the staff member shall promptly render first aid and, when appropriate, summon rescue squad assistance. Staff will promptly notify a student's parent or guardian when a student needs medical attention.

The school district is not qualified under law to comply with directives to physicians limiting medical treatment and will not accept such directives. School district staff members will not honor "do not resuscitate/do not intubate" (DNR/DNI) orders, requests for transport to particular medical facilities and the like. Parents/Guardians must arrange for all such requests with rescue squad and medical providers directly.

Adopted on: 5-11-15
Revised on: _____
Reviewed on: _____

5062
Lice and Nits

Upon discovering the presence of live lice or louse eggs, the school will notify the student's parent(s) or guardian(s). The student will be isolated from contact with other students and their belongings, and a parent or guardian must pick the child up from school immediately.

By Nebraska DHHS regulation, students are not permitted to return to school until the student is treated such that no live lice or louse eggs can be detected. The parent(s) or guardian(s) will be required to treat the student and accompany the student to school to be examined. The student cannot ride the school bus until the district has cleared the student to return to school.

Adopted on: 5-11-15
Revised on: 7-17-23
Reviewed on: _____

5064
Title I Supplement, Not Supplant Policy

The district will use Title I funds to Supplement, Not Supplant, state and local funds that would, in the absence of Title I funds, be spent on Title I programs. The district will ensure that Title I funds will not be used to provide services which otherwise take the place of public education services that are to be provided to all students.

The district maintains records of the professional development provided at the district level that is funded with Title I funds. The Superintendent will ensure that professional development is aligned with the needs of the district's Title I programs. Title I professional development will not duplicate that which the district provides for non-Title I purposes which, in the absence of Title I funds, would be provided to all staff.

Adopted on: 5-11-15
Revised on: _____
Reviewed on: _____

5065
Attendance Prior to Activity Participation:

Students must attend the immediate one-half day preceding an activity to be eligible for participation in that activity. If a weekend or vacation falls between last attendance and the scheduled activity, the student may participate. This rule is to insure that ill students do not participate in activities and does not apply to dental and doctor appointment or other non-health related absences such as attendance of weddings, funerals, etc.

Adopted on: 5-11-15
Revised on: _____
Reviewed on: _____

5066
College Visitation

Junior and Senior students who wish to visit colleges, technical school, etc., will be given one educational day and shall notify the counselor of their intentions. All appointments for college visitations during school hours must go through the guidance counselor or to be defined a school activity absence. One additional day may be taken by a Senior student, with prior guidance counselor, and administrative approval. Teachers are to be notified by the counselor at least two full days prior to a students visit.

Adopted on: 5-11-15
Revised on: _____
Reviewed on: _____

5067
Class Attendance

Prompt student class attendance is expected. Class absences and tardies are to be documented and reported quarterly on the student grade card

A class absence is defined as a student who misses twenty (20) minutes of class is considered absent.

Adopted on: 5-11-15
Revised on: _____
Reviewed on: _____

5067 A
Student Assistance Team or Comparable Problem Solving Team

Pursuant to the Rules of the Nebraska Department of Education, the school district uses a general education student assistance team ("SAT") or a comparable problem solving team ("Team"). The SAT or Team will use and document problem-solving and intervention strategies to assist teachers in the provision of general education and to meet the needs of students who may be struggling in the general curriculum or who are struggling to comply with the student code of conduct or to meet acceptable behavioral and social norms.

If the SAT or Team feels that all viable alternatives have been explored, a referral for multidisciplinary evaluation shall be completed. The referral shall comply with the requirements of the Rules of the Nebraska Department of Education.

All teaching staff must:

1) Support the SAT or Team process by appropriately referring students who may benefit from the SAT or Team process; and

2) Faithfully and consistently implementing the intervention strategies recommended by the SAT or Team.

The failure to support the SAT or Team process is a serious matter and may constitute just cause for terminating or canceling a teacher's employment.

Adopted on: 10-11-16
Revised on: 11-9-20
Reviewed on: _____

5068
Procedures for Make-up of Excessive Absences:

Time missed will be made up fifty minutes for each class period missed.

Time and assignments must be made up within five days of the student's return to school. The principal (or his designee) may allow additional make-up time for students with extenuating circumstances.

It is the responsibility of the student to arrange to make-up time and work.

Upon successful completion of make-up time/assignments, the student shall receive the grade earned.

The work assigned for make-up time will be supervised by a certified teacher or approved substitute or an alternate plan approved by the principal.
Assignments given for/during make-up time shall be appropriate for the class(es) missed.

If the student in question continues to be or becomes habitually truant, the Superintendent shall serve written notice to the student violating Section 79-201 that he/she must comply with the policy. If within five school days after notification by the school the student is in violation, the Superintendent shall notify the County Attorney of the non compliance. Such notification shall be in writing or by telephone.

Adopted on: 5-11-15
Revised on: _____
Reviewed on: _____

5069
Alternative School:

It shall be the policy of the Diller-Odell Public Schools to provide an alternative school, class or educational program for expelled students as provided by applicable law. It shall be the policy of the District to review this policy and make amendments as the Board of Education may deem appropriate in the event any rule not in existence at the time of the adoption of this policy is promulgated by the appropriate authorities or when any existing rule is amended.

Adopted on: 5-11-15
Revised on: _____
Reviewed on: _____

5070
Classroom Regulation

Each teacher will establish and communicate classroom rules and consequences of violation of these rules to the students. This will provide students with a uniform guideline of teacher expectations and make for a more orderly learning environment. A uniform code of conduct will be presented at the fall in service meeting of all certified staff.

Adopted on: 5-11-15
Revised on: _____
Reviewed on: _____

5071
Detentions

Student detentions may be used as a disciplinary methodology.

Adopted on: 5-11-15
Revised on: _____
Reviewed on: _____

5072
Student Drug Policy:

Compliance with this drug policy is mandatory for all students year round, even if they are not involved in extracurricular activities. The policy will be enforced from the beginning of the school year on June 1st through the end of the school year on May 31st. The use, purchase, possession, transportation or distribution of illegal drugs, alcohol, tobacco products, vaping products, and prescription drugs with no prescription is prohibited. A student has the right at their expense to have a drug/alcohol test administered.

Students who are involved in extra curricular activities sponsored by the school will be covered by the student policy above and in addition:

First Offense from the start of fall practice to the end of spring sports: Twenty-one (21) calendar day activity suspension from participation for violating the above policy. The twenty-one (21) calendar day activity suspension can be reduced to a ten (10) day calendar day suspension if the conduct is self reported.*****
Suspension to commence upon notification of the offense to an administrator.
*****This is the only option for a self reporting reduction in punishment

First offense during the summer (last day of school until the start of fall practice)**:** One (1) game or activity suspension from first contest participation for violating the above policy.

Second Offense from the start of fall practice to the end of spring sports: Sixty-three (63) calendar day activity suspension. This suspension is in addition to any suspensions received for first offense. The student shall have the option of receiving a 28 days activity suspension in lieu of the 63 days activity suspension by entering a school approved alcohol/drug/tobacco treatment program at their own expense. The student must show successful completion of an approved treatment program prior to reinstatement to activities. If at the end of the 28 day activity suspension period the student has not completed the approved program, the student will be reinstated as long as he/she continues and completes the approved treatment program. Students using the option of a treatment program will be required to continue practicing. **Suspension to commence upon notification of the offense to an administrator.**

Second offense during the summer (last day of school until the start of fall practice): Five (5) games or activity days suspension from first contest participation for violating the above policy.

Third Offense and all subsequent offenses: Removal from all activities with no options available for remainder of the school year. Family counseling will be recommended. All students will be afforded due process and the student will be given the opportunity to

provide information relating to the charges. **Suspension to commence upon notification of the offense to an administrator.**

Third offense during the summer (last day of school until the start of fall practice): One year suspension from all activities during the next school year for violating the above policy.

Adopted on: 5-11-15
Revised on: 4-10-17
Reviewed on: _____

5072 A
Extracurricular Drug Testing Program

The school district supports and values student participation in extracurricular activities, but such participation in school district extracurricular activities is a privilege and not a right. Students in all extracurricular activities in grades 7-12 shall be subject to mandatory and random testing for the presence of alcohol or illegal drugs.

15. Purpose of Random Drug Testing

a. The school district has recognized that observed and suspected drug and alcohol use and abuse has increased among the student population, including students participating in extracurricular activities.

b. The school district seeks to provide safe, drug-free schools.

c. The school district seeks to deter the use of illegal and prohibited drugs and alcohol among students.

d. The school district recognizes that students who use illegal and prohibited drugs pose a threat to the health and safety of themselves, other students, teachers, administrators, and other persons.

e. The school district finds that the drug and alcohol problem among the student body will be effectively addressed by making sure that the large number of students participating in extracurricular activities do not use drugs and alcohol.

16. Notice. Each student who participates or seeks to participate in extracurricular activities shall be given a copy of this policy. This policy may also be included in the student handbook.

17. Drug Testing Coordinator. The Drug Testing Coordinator shall be the Principal or his or her designee unless otherwise indicated.

Football	Volleyball	Softball
Basketball	Track	Golf
Music	Quiz Bowl	Speech
FFA	One Act	Cheer
FBLA	Student Council	Art Club
Spanish Club		

18. Students Who Are Required to Submit to Drug Testing

a. Grades. All students in grades 7-12 who participate in any extracurricular activity or competition are part of the pool subject to random drug testing.

b. Consent. A student and his or her parent(s)/guardian(s) must sign a consent form before the student shall be eligible to try out for, practice with, or participate in the extracurricular activity. The consent form is attached to this policy.

c. **Selection Pool Eligibility.** Students shall remain in the selection pool for an entire calendar year (365 days) from the date the consent form is received by the school district except that students who quit during the season or activity (prior to being selected for testing) or students who are cut from an activity will be removed from the testing pool.

d. Withdrawal. Students who have a consent form on file remain eligible for drug tests from the date the consent form is received by the school district and throughout the remainder of the school year or until the student files a Withdrawal of Student from Activity form signed by the student and his or her parent(s)/guardian(s). Upon withdrawal, the student shall not be eligible to participate in any activity that is subject to drug testing for the remainder of the school year. A student who files a Withdrawal of Student from Activity form after selected for a random drug test but before submitting to the test or after testing positive shall be ineligible to participate in any extracurricular activities for one calendar year from the date the Withdrawal of Student from Activity form is received by the Drug Testing Coordinator.

19. **Drugs.** Students participating in extracurricular activities are prohibited from using, possessing, distributing, manufacturing, or having drugs present in their system. "Drugs" means:

a. Any substance considered illegal by the Uniform Controlled Substances Act, Neb. Rev. Stat. § 28-401 *et seq.*
b. Any substance which is controlled by the Food and Drug Administration unless prescribed to the student by any licensed medical practitioner authorized to prescribe controlled substances or other prescription drugs;
c. Alcohol for any student under the age of 21. Alcohol shall have the meaning as provided in NEB. REV. STAT. § 48-1902(1).

20. Testing Procedures

a. Student Selection. All students who participate in extracurricular activities and submit a consent form will be included in a master list and will be subject to random drug screening. The master list shall be submitted to the company employed by the district to conduct the testing.

b. **Reasonable Suspicion Testing.** In addition to random drug testing, a student is subject to drug testing at any time when the Drug Testing Coordinator determines there is individualized reasonable suspicion based upon articulable facts to believe that the student has used a drug. The Drug Testing Coordinator will notify the student and take the necessary steps to schedule a test as soon as practicable.

c. **Parental Request.** Students who do not participate in extracurricular activities may be added to the random drug screening master list upon parental request. Parent(s)/guardians may also request that their student be subject to non-random drug screening. The school will arrange for the test as soon as practicable. The parent(s)/guardian(s) making a request under this subparagraph must submit a signed consent form and indicate which type of test is being requested. Any cost associated with tests administered as a result of parental request must be paid by the parent(s)/guardian(s) in advance of the test.

d. **Type of Test.** The school district reserves the right to utilize breath, saliva, hair or urinalysis testing procedures. Urine and oral fluid samples which screen positive will be confirmed by GC/MS. Positive saliva or breath alcohol tests will be confirmed by EBT (Evidential Breath Tester).

e. **Collection Site.** The Drug Testing Coordinator will designate the collection site at which student will provide specimens. The collection site may be off the premises of the school district.

f. **Collection Procedures.** The school board will select a Drug Program Administrator (DPA). The DPA shall randomly select the students subject to drug testing from the master list. The DPA will maintain and follow generally accepted industry standards for collecting, maintaining, shipping, and accessing all specimens. The DPA will seek to obtain the sample in a manner designed to insure accurate testing protocols while minimizing intrusion into a student's privacy. The DPA and the school district will provide a copy of the collection procedures upon request.

g. **Drugs.** Students may be randomly tested for any drugs, including but not limited to alcohol, amphetamines, marijuana or cannabinoids, cocaine, methadone, methaqualone, propoxyphene, hallucinogens, opiates, phencyclidine, synthetic opiates and PCP, steroids, barbiturates, benzodiazepines, alcohol, and any prescription drug that was obtained without proper authorization.

h. **Results.** The DPA shall notify the student and the Drug Testing Coordinator of any positive test after the initial screening. The school representative shall notify the student's parents. The DPA will use a

secure method to transmit all positive test results to the DPA's Medical Review Officer (MRO). The MRO will be certified by an MRO accreditation body. The MRO will be responsible for reviewing test results and determining whether the use of a substance identified by the sample analysis is from illicit use or a legitimate medical use. Prior to making a final decision, the MRO or his or her assistant shall contact the student and his or parent(s)/guardian(s) to discuss the result either face-to-face or over the telephone. If the MRO determines the test results are negative, no further action shall be taken against the student. The MRO will report results of verified positives to the DPA. The DPA shall then notify the Drug Testing Coordinator of the positive test result. The Drug Testing Coordinator shall notify the student and his or her parent(s)/guardian(s) and any staff members responsible for implementing the consequences of this policy.

i. Request for a Retest. A split specimen will be collected for all testing methods, with the exception of alcohol testing. A positive alcohol test will be confirmed with an EBT device. A student's parent(s)/guardian(s) may request that the split specimen be tested at a second nationally certified laboratory from a list provided by the MRO. The request for the test must be submitted in writing to the MRO (with a copy sent to the Drug Testing Coordinator) within 72 hours of being notified of the final testing result. The student and his or her parent(s)/guardian(s) must pay the associated costs for an additional test in advance. The costs will be reimbursed if the result of the split sample test is negative. The student will remain subject to the consequences of this policy during the retesting procedure.

21. Negative Tests. Students and their parents will receive verbal or written notice when the student's test result is negative.

22. **Consequences for Testing Positive.** Whenever the test results indicate the presence of drugs, Drug Testing Coordinator shall schedule and hold a confidential meeting with the student, parent/guardian, and sponsor/coach. Other members of the school's administration may also attend the meeting. At the meeting, the Drug Testing Coordinator shall explain the drug testing procedures and the policy of the district. The consequences shall be as follows (**All offenses are cumulative in grades 7-8. Offenses that occur in grades 7-8 shall not count as offenses in grades 9-12. All offenses are cumulative in grades 9-12**):

a. First Offense

i. The student shall be required to attend practice.

ii. The student will be ineligible to publicly perform in any extracurricular activity for 21 calendar days. The day of the positive test result shall be the first day for counting

purposes.

iii. The student shall attend 16 hours of drug and alcohol counseling or educational program at the student's expense as arranged or approved by the Principal.

iv. The student must submit to a district administered test and test negative before returning to the activity. [The student will return to the random pool.]

b. Second Offense

i. The student shall be required to attend practice.

ii. The student will be ineligible to publicly perform in any extracurricular activity for 63 calendar days. The day of the positive test result shall be the first day for counting purposes.

iii. The student shall obtain a drug and alcohol assessment at student's expense from a certified substance abuse counselor or licensed mental health provider who holds a valid license that includes in its scope of practice the ability to administer substance abuse evaluations and/or treatment. The student shall provide written proof of obtaining the assessment to the Principal. The student is strongly encouraged to comply with the assessment recommendations.

iv. The student must submit to a district administered test and test negative before returning to the activity. The student will be subject to follow-up drug tests at least one time per month for the next 6 months or end upon graduation.

c. Third Offense

i. The student will be ineligible to practice or publicly perform in any extracurricular activity for one year from the date of the third positive test or end upon graduation. The day of the positive test result shall be the first day for counting purposes.

ii. The student must submit to a district administered test and test negative before returning to the activity. The student will be subject to follow-up drug tests at least one time per month for the next 12 months or end upon graduation.

d. Fourth Offense

i. The student will be ineligible to participate in any extracurricular activity for the remainder of the student's time at the school district.

23. Refusal to Test

A student who refuses to submit to a drug test authorized under this policy, or fails or refuses to comply with any other provision of this policy, shall not be eligible to participate in any activities covered under this policy including all meetings, practices, performances and competitions for the remainder of the school year.

24. Tampering

Tampering is the use of any agent or technique which is designed to avoid detection of a drug and/or compromise the integrity of a drug test and is prohibited. This includes providing false urine samples (for example, urine substitution), contaminating the urine sample with chemicals or chemical products, the use of diuretics to dilute urine samples, and the use of masking. [If the Drug Testing Coordinator determines that a student tampered with a drug test, the student shall be deemed to have submitted a positive test.]

The use of any such agent or technique shall be treated as a positive test for drugs prohibited by this Policy and shall be subject to the penalties set forth in Section 9 of this Policy.

25. Maintenance of Records

All results of drug testing shall be confidential. Procedures for maintaining confidentiality will be developed by the school district and the testing organization. The Drug Testing Coordinator shall maintain records of positive tests in a secure location. This information will not be available to anyone other than appropriate school personnel and parents. This information will be destroyed upon the student's graduation or one year after the student's class graduates. Under no circumstances will this information become a part of the student's permanent file, nor will it be sent to another school when the student moves to another district or transfers to another school. The school district will not share drug testing results with any law enforcement agencies.

26. Appeal.

The school district will rely solely upon the opinion of the MRO to determine whether the positive test result was the result of the consumption of a drug. There shall be no appeal of the test result to any school administrator or the board of education.

27. Severability

If any portion of this policy is deemed to be contrary to the law of the state of Nebraska or the United States by judicial decision or an act of Congress, then only such portion or provision directly deemed to be unconstitutional shall be

stricken, and the remainder of the policy shall remain in full force.

Adopted on: 6-12-17
Revised on: _____
Reviewed on: _____

CONSENT TO PERFORM RANDOM DRUG TESTING
2026-2027

Student Name _____ Grade _____

As a student and parent:

< We understand and agree that participation in extracurricular activities is a privilege that may be withdrawn for violations of the Extracurricular Drug Testing Policy.

< We have read the Extracurricular Drug Testing Policy and understand the responsibilities and consequences as an activity participant if the student violates the policy.

< We understand that when students participate in any extracurricular activity, they will be subjected to random drug testing, and if they refuse, will not be allowed to practice or participate in any extracurricular activity. We have read this consent statement and agree to its terms.

< We understand this is binding while a student is enrolled in Diller-Odell Public School District.

CONSENT TO PERFORM DRUG TESTING

We hereby consent to allow the student named on this form to undergo drug testing for the presence of drugs and alcohol in accordance with the Extracurricular Drug Testing Program adopted by the Board of Education. We understand that any samples will be sent only to a qualified laboratory for actual testing. We hereby give our consent to the medical vendor selected by the school board, their Medical Review Office (MRO), laboratory, doctors, employees, or agents, together with any clinic, hospital, or laboratory designated by the selected medical vendor to perform testing for the detection of drugs and to release the results of those tests as provided in the policy. We understand these results will be forwarded to school district officials and will also be made available to us. We agree to sign any necessary releases if requested to do so.

We understand that consent pursuant to this Consent to Perform Random Drug Testing will be effective for all extracurricular activities in which this student might participate during the current school year.

We hereby release the Diller-Odell Board of Education and its employees from any legal responsibility or liability for the release of such information and records, pursuant to the policy.

Student Signature _____ Date_____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date_____

WITHDRAWAL OF STUDENT FROM ACTIVITY

2026-27 SCHOOL YEAR

I understand that by signing this form I am rescinding my permission for random drug screening and no longer wish to participate in any extracurricular activity. I further understand that I am forfeiting my privilege to participate in athletics and/or extracurricular activities for the remainder of this school year.

I hereby rescind my consent to the administration of the drug screening and forfeit all participation in extracurricular activities for the remainder of the school year at the school district.

Student's Printed Name: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian's Printed Name: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

5073
Retention

Students in Grades K-8 may be retained or not promoted to the next grade level if they do failing work in two core curriculum subjects.

Adopted on: 5-11-15
Revised on: _____
Reviewed on: _____

5074
Assessment

Student assessment by grade level will be reported to the public on an annual basis.

1. State Assessments:
Diller-Odell Public Schools will maintain an assessment plan and has aligned the curriculum with the state approved content standards. The assessment plan includes a schedule and procedures for assessing success in achieving state standards.

Teachers are to clearly articulate the learning targets and align instruction to the learning targets within each of the content standards. Teachers are to give students instruction on the content prior to students being assessed on each content standard in order to provide learning opportunities for all students.

The assessments are to be conducted in accordance with the assessment plan schedule. Teachers are to conduct the assessments in a manner that assures it accurately assesses whether or not students are meeting the targets outlined by the content standards.

Assessment results are to be reported by the teachers in the manner and within the time directed by the administration or designee.

2. Achieving Valid Assessments:
Educators are responsible for maintaining the integrity of assessments to ensure that assessments provide a valid measure of student progress and accomplishments. Assessments include both “standardized assessments” (including state assessments, norm referenced tests, and evaluations conducted for special education eligibility) and “coursework assessments” (e.g., classroom tests, quizzes, and other evaluative tools used to assign grades).

Assessments—Academic Content Standards

The Board of Education adopts the attached academic content standards for Language Arts which are equal to or exceed in rigor the standards of the State Board of Education (“State Board”) that were adopted by the State Board on December 11, 2008 and revised by the State Board on April 2, 2009, the attached Mathematics standards that were approved by the State Board on October 8, 2009, the attached academic content standards for Science which are equal to or exceed in rigor the standards of the State Board that were approved by the State Board on October 6, 2010 and the attached Social Studies standards which are equal to or exceed in rigor the standards of the State Board that were approved by the State Board on December 7, 2012.

Unless other action is taken, the Board of Education adopts the standards of the State Board as such standards are subsequently adopted or amended by the State Board.

The administration shall be responsible for implementing assessments on the state standards in accordance with the procedures established by the State Board and the Department of Education, including conducting assessments in the same subject areas and the same grade levels as established in the state standards, and the reporting of scores and sub-scores.

This policy does not supersede the existing standards adopted by the Board of Education except as set forth herein.

Adopted on: 5-11-15
Revised on: _____
Reviewed on: _____

5075
Student Cumulative Folder Guidelines:

The student file will be composed of three areas: **Diagnostic and Achievement:** which will tabulate information from various test scores, and record the student grades: **General:** which will list age, weight, phone, parents name and other such information: **Discipline:** which will list any discipline problems, procedures, or punishment that students may receive. These records will be reviewed on a yearly basis and information destroyed. Upon graduation from Diller-Odell all discipline records shall be destroyed.

All records will be open to certified instructors of the Diller-Odell Public School. Additional persons wishing to view the records must have a signed permission slip to view the records from the parents (if the child is under 18). To have copies of the records sent to another educational institution or to have a copy for themselves, it will be necessary for the parents of the student under 18 to sign a release form. Eligible students (over 18) or parents (of a student below the age of 18) may view such records by requesting to do so at the school office, unless they waive this right of access on a waiver form. If information on the records is inaccurate they may be challenged and a hearing conducted to correct the records. Grades may not be changed unless they were inaccurately recorded from the grade sheets. If for any reason the student or parents have reason to believe the privacy of the individual records have been infringed upon, they may contact the office of the Secretary, Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, Washington, D.C. If you wish more information regarding Federal regulations regarding the privacy rights of parents and students regarding records, please contact the school office.

Adopted on: 5-11-15
Revised on: _____
Reviewed on: _____

5076
Course Work Requirement

High School students will be enrolled in the appropriate required courses, and will carry a minimum class load of 35 credit hours each semester. The Principal may grant permission to a student to carry more than 35 hours per semester. Junior and Senior level students may take the eighth class on a credit/no credit basis or simply monitor the class. Permission to monitor a class must be secured from the instructor and the guidance director. A credit/no credit or monitored class will not be figured in the students G.P.A.

Dual Credit Courses:
Students taking dual credit college courses will receive the same number of high school credits as given by the college. Student is responsible for all student tuition and fees.

Adopted on: 5-11-15
Revised on: _____
Reviewed on: _____

5077
Career Academy Courses

Career Academy Courses are available to sophomores, juniors and seniors that meet criteria set forth by the administration. Students taking Career Academy Courses will receive College Credit as determined by Southeast Community College. Students will receive 5 high school credits per semester per course. The district will pay tuition costs. Students are responsible for the cost of books, materials, and transportation. Students withdrawing from a Career Academy Course or failing a Career Academy Course will be ineligible for future participation.

Adopted on: 5-11-15
Revised on: _____
Reviewed on: _____

5078
Grade Scales

Grades 7-12		Grades 3-6	
93-100	A	99-100	A+
90-92	B+	96-98	A
86-89	B	93-95	A-
84-85	C+	92	B+
78-83	C	87-91	B
76-77	D+	85-86	B-
70-75	D	84	C+
Below 69.5	F	79-83	C
-		78	C-
		77	D+
		71-76	D
		70	D-
		below 70	F

Adopted on: 5-11-15
Revised on: 12-11-2023
Reviewed on: _____

5079
Down List

The down list is published once every week beginning the third Monday of the quarter. The down list applies to students in grades 7-12. This is a report of a student's accumulative grade during the present quarter. Down list reports are based on PowerSchool data as of noon on the corresponding Monday. Students failing in two 5-credit classes are ineligible for extracurricular activities for the corresponding one-week period.

Adopted on: 5-11-15
Revised on: 9-14-15
Reviewed on: _____

5080
GPA

Diller-Odell Student G.P.A. is computed on a 4 point scale. A grade of A receives 4.0 points, A- receives 3.67 points B+ receives 3.33 and so on. Total points are divided by total credit hours to determine the Diller-Odell GPA. Grades for PE and Driver's Education are exempt from G.P.A.

Adopted on: 5-11-15
Revised on: _____
Reviewed on: _____

5081
Honor Roll

Regular Honor Roll is achieved by receiving a quarterly/semester GPA of 3.33 or greater.

High Honor Roll is achieved by receiving a quarterly/semester GPA of 3.67 or greater.

Adopted on: 5-11-15
Revised on: _____
Reviewed on: _____

5082
Fees

All fees or moneys due to the school must be paid prior to the granting of a diploma. Each graduating senior will be responsible for the payment of his/her cap and gown rental/purchase fee, unless funds are made available from other sources.

Adopted on: 5-11-15
Revised on: _____
Reviewed on: _____

5083
Certificate of Attendance

Special Need Students, who are unable to benefit from the normal educational program provided by the school, and who, because of their abilities are unable to complete the requirements for graduation may be granted a diploma if they meet all the requirements as outlined in their Individual Educational Plan, and with Board of Education approval. Participation in class activities related to graduation will not be denied such a student.

Upon the request of a parent/guardian, Diller Odell Public Schools will issue a certificate of attendance to a student who receives special education services, who has reached the age of seventeen, and who has not completed his/her individualized education plan (IEP).

A student who receives such a certificate of attendance will be allowed to participate in the high school graduation ceremony with students receiving high school diplomas. A student may receive only one certificate of attendance and may participate in only one graduation ceremony at the time the certificate is granted. The receipt of a certificate of attendance under these circumstances would not affect Diller Odell Public Schools' obligation to provide special education services to a student receiving the certificate.

Diller Odell administration may, upon the request of a parent/guardian, allow a student who has participated in a graduation ceremony based on a certificate of attendance to participate in an additional graduation ceremony when the student receives a high school diploma.

Adopted on: 5-11-15
Revised on: _____
Reviewed on: _____

5084
Graduation Exceptions

Exceptions to the graduation requirements may be made by the Board of Education upon recommendation of the administration.

Adopted on: 5-11-15
Revised on: _____
Reviewed on: _____

5085
Injury to Students:

The procedure for handling injury to students shall be as follows:

Schools shall be responsible for maintaining a parental or legal guardian authorization card on file, which may:

Direct school authorities as to the preferred physician to contact upon injury to the student, and provide additional information necessary for an emergency.

Nurses, principals, or other school staff shall be authorized, if necessary, to:
Call 911 in an emergency, and transport injured students to emergency care facilities.
Nurse may contact personal physician.

School personnel shall be responsible for making every possible attempt to reach Parents/guardians on a continual basis during emergencies involving injury to students.

School personnel shall be responsible for filing written reports of student injuries in the manner directed by the administration.

Schools are not responsible for medical expenses for a student who is injured while at school.

Adopted on: 5-11-15
Revised on: _____
Reviewed on: _____

5086
Communicable Disease Regulations

A student with a communicable condition will be allowed to attend school in his/her usual class setting with the written approval of the student's physician stating that the disease is not in a communicable stage. Without such written statement, a student with a communicable condition is subject to an emergency exclusion. When a child is sent home because of suspected reportable communicable disease, a report will be provided to the Board of Health without delay.

Decisions regarding the type of educational setting for these students will be based on the behavior, neurological development and physical condition of the student and the expected type of interaction with others in that setting.
The privacy of the student and his/her family must be protected and knowledge that a person has a communicable condition should be confined to persons with a direct need to know. If it becomes necessary to inform others, these persons will be provided with information concerning necessary precautions and will be made aware of confidentiality requirements.

Students who present a high risk of disease transmission may be temporarily excluded from school by the administration after consultation with some or all of the student's physicians, parent, and /or their representatives, school nurse and medical advisor(s).

A student might be considered at high risk if he/she exhibits behaviors that may spread the disease (e.g. biting, lacks toilet training or is incontinent) or has an open sore that cannot be concealed or hygienically covered, any of which could result in direct spreading of the condition or disease.

During the time a student is excluded from the classroom, an appropriate alternative or adjustment to the student's education will be provided. Long-term cases should be medically reviewed monthly at a minimum.

Adopted on: 5-11-15
Revised on: _____
Reviewed on: _____

5087
Bed Bugs

Students found to have bed bugs will be removed from the classroom and inspected by the school nurse. Any bugs found should be removed and collected for identification. If an active bed bug is discovered, the student's parent(s) or guardian(s) will be notified, and prompt, proper treatment will be required. Any other students residing in the same household or otherwise at risk of infection should be inspected as soon as possible after the initial diagnosis.

The student will be excluded from school the day of the diagnosis and will continue to be excluded from school until the parent(s) or guardian(s) have confirmed that successful treatment has occurred.

If bed bugs are found in a classroom or elsewhere in the building, the school will notify parent(s) and guardian(s) of all students so that the students' clothing and other belongings may be inspected before bringing them into the home. The school will not be closed due to a bed bug presence. If pest management is necessary, it will be provided to affected areas of the school.

Adopted on: 6-8-15
Revised on: 5-11-26
Reviewed on: _____

6000 Series Policies

Policies Regarding Curricular and Academic Matters

6001	School Organization
6002	School Calendar
6003	Instructional Program
6004	Curriculum Development
6005	Academic Credits and Graduation
6006	Commencement Ceremony
6007	Senior Recognition
6008	Class Rank
6009	Grade Placement of Transfer Students
6010	Special Education
6011	Fire Inspection and Prevention
6012	Flag Display and Patriotic Observances
6013	Teaching Controversial Issues
6014	School Attendance on Days of Scheduled Activities
6015	Summer School
6016	Homebound Instruction
6017	Homework
6018	Grades
6019	Communication with Parents
6020	Multi-Cultural Education

6021	District Criteria for Selecting Evaluators to be Used for Special Education Evaluation and Verification and Independent Educational Evaluations
6023	Relations with Non-Accredited Private or Home School Students
6024	Student Discipline
6025	Student Cell Phone and Other Electronic Devices
6026	Emergency Dismissal
6027	Field Trips
6028	The Extracurricular Activities Program
6029	Activity Trips
6030	Public Appearances of School Groups
6031	Emergency Exclusion Procedure
6032	Constitution Day Education
6033	Seclusion and Restraint of Students
6034	Concussion Awareness
6035	Wednesday Night Limitation
6035 A	Athletic Contest Participation by Sixth Graders
6036	Sunday Repose
6036 A	Reading Instruction and Intervention Services
6037	Senior Sneak
6038	High Ability Learners
6038A	Artificial Intelligence

6039 Publication and Communication Policy
6039 A Repeat of Grade at Parent-Guardian Request

6040 Prekindergarten Program

6041 Malcom X Day Education

6042 Projection Maps

6044 Participation and Assignment of Athletic Teams

6045 Behavioral Intervention

6001
School Organization

The school district shall be organized under a system whereby kindergarten through 6th grade shall be designated the elementary school, and 7th grade through 12th grade shall be designated the high school.

Adopted on: 6-8-15
Revised on: _____
Reviewed on: _____

6002
School Calendar

The superintendent shall propose the calendar for each school year. The board will approve and/or amend the proposed calendar. The calendar shall provide for sufficient instructional time to meet or exceed the requirements of state statutes and regulations, and should provide time for staff orientation, in-service and curriculum work.

Adopted on: 6-8-15
Revised on: _____
Reviewed on: _____

6003
Instructional Program

1. The minimum number of instructional hours in the school year will be 1,080 for grades 9 through 12, 1,032 for grades 1 through 8, and 400 for kindergarten, exclusive of lunchtime.

2. The district may establish special programs for individual students that may deviate from these requirements. All special programs must either be adopted pursuant to applicable law or approved by the superintendent in advance. Prior to the district's commencement of a specialized program, the district will provide the student's parents or guardians with notice of the program.

3. The board, acting with the advice of the administration and certificated staff, will adopt a curriculum and procure textbooks and materials to support that curriculum. The administration and certificated staff will design instructional strategies and assessments to implement the curriculum.

4. To the extent possible, practice for, travel to, and participation in activities sponsored by the Nebraska School Activities Association and the Nebraska Department of Education will be scheduled outside of instructional time. Individual student absences because of illness or family-centered activities will be governed by district attendance policies.

5. The board intends to strike a sensible balance between the time spent on academics and time spent on extra-curricular activities, acknowledging that both work and play are important in each student's total development and education.

Adopted on: 6-8-15
Revised on: 7-17-23
Reviewed on: _____

6004
Curriculum Development

The board of education jealously guards its right, prerogative, and discretion to exercise local control of the curriculum development of the district to the greatest extent permitted by state and federal law, and has no intention of ceding such right, prerogative, or discretion.

The superintendent or his/her designee shall be responsible for providing and directing system-wide planning for curriculum, instruction, assessment and staff development.

The curriculum shall be standards-driven and accountability-based. The district's academic content standards shall be those required by the Nebraska State Board of Education in the subject areas of reading and writing (language arts), mathematics, and science only. The curriculum shall be articulated to include all programs and grade levels offered within the district, K-12 and, if applicable, shall include a preschool program. The curriculum shall reflect the comprehensive plan of the school district. All professional staff members are responsible for implementing the curriculum.

The superintendent or his/her designee will present this curriculum to the board for approval or modification.

The superintendent shall be responsible for establishing curriculum guides to articulate and coordinate the written curriculum, and to provide consistency of the written curriculum from one level of the district to the next. Curriculum guides shall provide for the development of the school district's curriculum and shall set academic standards, identify essential educational outcome criteria, and provide for the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of student learning.

Teachers are responsible for following the curriculum guides and teaching the written curriculum. Principals are responsible for monitoring the curriculum and evaluating teachers to ensure that they are teaching in compliance with the curriculum guides and written curriculum. The superintendent and his/her designee shall ensure that principals monitor the curriculum and evaluate teachers.

Curriculum and Textbook Adoption Schedule

The district will review curriculum and adopt associated textbooks on the following schedule.

SUBJECT AREAS	REVIEW	ADOPTION
Foreign Language Fine Arts/Music	2014-2015	2016-2017
K-12 Language Arts	2024-2025	2025-2026
Math	2021-2022	2022-2023
Technology	2017	2017
Science	2020-2021	2021-2022
Physical Ed/Health	2020	2020
Vocational	2024-2025	2025-2026
Social Studies	2016-2017	2017-2018
Financial Literacy	2023	2023
Computer Science and Technology	2024-2025	2025-2026

Adopted on: 6-8-15
Revised on: 7-17-23
Reviewed on: 7-14-25

6005
Academic Credits and Graduation

240 credit hours Four -year total of credits earned for classes 2025-2027
245 credit hours Four – year total of credits earned for classes 2028+
7 classes/semester; Student must be enrolled in 35 credits each semester.

40 credit hours English; English 100,English 200 and English 300 required
5 credit hours Communications
5 credit hours Personal Finance (Junior year)
5 credit hours HS Career Exploration (Junior year)
30 credit hours Math
30 credit hours Science
30 credit hours Social Studies; of which **5** must be American Government (Geography, all History, Sociology, Psychology, Economics, Am. Gov.)
10 credit hours Practical Arts (Family Consumer Science, Industrial Tech, Business Ed., Vocational Agric.)
10 credit hours Health & Physical Education
5 credit hours Fine Arts (Art, Instrumental or Vocal Music)
5 credits hours Computer Science (new for graduates of 2028+)

Adopted on: 6-8-15
Revised on: 6-11-24
Reviewed on: _____

6006
Commencement Ceremony

The district shall conduct a commencement ceremony for members of the senior class at the end of the school year. Participation in the ceremony is a privilege, not a right, and the superintendent or his/her designee may prohibit students who have violated conduct rules from participating in the ceremony as a consequence for the misconduct.

All students who are enrolled as members of the senior class at the end of a school year, whether students in the regular education curriculum or students with individual education plans, shall be eligible to participate in the ceremony regardless of whether they have completed all graduation requirements. A student may participate in only one ceremony. Being permitted to participate in the ceremony does not constitute graduation, and only those students who have completed all graduation requirements prior to the ceremony will receive a diploma.

Commencement exercises shall be held on Saturday or Sunday in the high school auditorium as approved by administration.

The Principal shall arrange for the commencement speaker. While the senior video must meet school content guidelines, it is solely a product of the senior parents.

Adopted on: 6-8-15
Revised on: _____
Reviewed on: _____

6007
Senior Recognition

The school district will recognize the outstanding academic achievement of its graduating seniors in the following manner:

The top five members of the National Honor Society will be invited to speak.

Adopted on: 6-8-15
Revised on: _____
Reviewed on: _____

6008
Class Rank

Student class rank shall be determined by using a numeric grade point average derived from all classes graded on a numeric basis. Class rank is determined by The Diller-Odell Student G.P.A.

To be included in the class ranking, a student must have received a numeric grade for each core curriculum class in which he/she was enrolled.

Students who transfer into the school district will be eligible to be included in class ranking after two semesters of attendance.

Students who transfer into the school district in middle of their senior year will be eligible to be included in class ranking, although a mid-year transfer will not displace the ranking of a student who has not transferred mid-year. In those circumstances there will be two students holding the relevant class ranking. Mid-year transfer students will not be eligible to receive senior awards such as valedictorian and salutatorian unless the student has been enrolled in the district's high school for the last two semesters.

Adopted on: 6-8-15
Revised on: _____
Reviewed on: _____

6009
Grade Placement and Academic Credits of Transfer Students

The district will use the criteria outlined below to determine both the grade-level placement and the academic credit awarded to transfer students. The administration is the final decision-maker and decisions made pursuant to this policy may not be appealed to the board of education.

Transfer from an Accredited School District

A student transferring from an accredited school generally will be placed at the grade level that is comparable to the placement in the school from which the student is transferring. Temporary placement may be made until a student's records are received to verify the placement.

The student's building principal may place a student into a grade level that is different from the accredited school from which the student is transferring after considering the following information:

- Student's chronological age
- Previous school experience
- Academic transcript received from the accredited school of origin
- Testing data from the accredited school of origin, including but not limited to, standardized achievement test data, criterion-referenced test data, classroom testing data, and diagnostic test data
- Testing data from any tests or assessments conducted by the school district

All credits awarded to a student by an accredited institution will be counted towards applicable graduation requirements for the transferring student.

Transfer From a Non-Accredited School

A student or a parent/guardian of a student who is transferring into the district from a non-accredited school must provide the district with copies of all materials that have been used to provide instruction to the student that the family would like the district to consider in determining the appropriate grade level at which to place the student and credits to be awarded to the student. The student's building principal will then consider those materials and the following factors in determining the grade level placement for the student:

- Student's chronological age
- Previous school experience
- Materials submitted by the student or family pursuant to this policy
- Testing data from any tests or assessments conducted by the school district

The district will only award credit toward graduation from courses while the student was in a non-accredited school if the student can demonstrate mastery of the concepts required for completion of that course. Mastery will be assessed by standard and nonstandardized testing, at the discretion of the administration.

Multiple Enrollments and Re-enrollments In the Same Semester

Students from non-accredited schools who disenroll and then re-enroll in the district multiple times during the same semester will be permitted to resume the grade placement that the student was in at the time of the prior enrollment. However, students who fail to attend the total number of days per semester required of enrolled students will not be eligible to receive credit for the partial semester of enrollment.

The district will not retroactively award credit for time spent in exempt or non-accredited status.

A student's eligibility to participate in extracurricular activities upon re-entry is subject to all eligibility rules and the district's policies governing extracurricular eligibility.

Placement of International Students.

The district administration, in conjunction with the building principal, will determine the appropriate grade level/credit status of a student transferring from a country other than the US.

Graduation Requirements

Regardless of the school(s) previously attended, a student transferring into the school district in grades 9-12 will be responsible for meeting all graduation requirements to be awarded a diploma from the district.

Adopted on: 6-8-15
Revised on: 7-13-26
Reviewed on: _____

6010
Special Education

All children, regardless of their handicapping condition, are entitled to a free appropriate public education and an equal opportunity for education according to their needs. The district will follow the rules and protocols created by the Nebraska Department of Education and the United States Department of Education in identifying, evaluating, verifying and serving students who may be entitled to rehabilitation or special education services.

The school district shall provide special education and rehabilitative services only to children with verified disabilities and qualifying conditions.

Adopted on: 6-8-15
Revised on: _____
Reviewed on: _____

6011
Fire Instruction and Prevention

The school district will provide regular periods of instruction in fire danger and fire prevention, and will observe State Fire Day.

Adopted on: 6-8-15
Revised on: _____
Reviewed on: _____

6012
Flag Display and Patriotic Observances

The district shall display the flags of the United States of America and the State of Nebraska prominently on the grounds of every school building each day that school is in session.

Each building principal shall be responsible for the care and display of the flags at his/her assigned building, and shall adhere to the rules and customs pertaining to the use and display of the flags as set forth in the United States Code.

Staff and students shall recite the Pledge of Allegiance at the beginning of each school day. Students will be excused from reciting the pledge upon the written request of their parents/guardian.

Adopted on: 6-8-15
Revised on: _____
Reviewed on: _____

6013
Teaching Controversial Issues

The ability to discuss, listen, and dissent are essential elements of responsible citizenship. The school district encourages students to develop skills in analyzing issues, respecting the opinion of others, distinguishing between fact and opinion, considering all pertinent factors in reaching decisions, and arriving at group decisions.

Teachers may teach or lead discussions about controversial issues if they comply with the following criteria:

1. The issues discussed must be relevant to the curriculum and be part of a planned educational program.

2. Students must have free access to appropriate materials and information for analysis and evaluation of the issues.

3. The teacher must encourage students to consider and discuss a variety of viewpoints.

4. The topic and materials used must be within the range, knowledge, maturity, and competence of the students.

5. The teacher must inform parents and the building principal before discussing sensitive or controversial issues.

6. The teacher must keep detailed, documentary evidence to prove that both sides and/or all facts available were presented.

7. Teachers must refrain from advocating partisan causes, sectarian religious views, or selfish propaganda kind through any classroom or a school device; however, a teacher shall not be prohibited from expressing a personal opinion as long as the student is encouraged to reach his/her own decision independently.

Teachers who are unsure of their obligations under this policy must confer with their principal prior to discussing controversial issues in the classroom.

Adopted on: 6-8-15
Revised on: _____
Reviewed on: _____

6014

School Attendance on Days of Scheduled Activities

Students may receive an excused absence to attend school sponsored school time activities upon the approval of the superintendent or principal. Each student must also have written permission from his /her parents, or guardian and the principal. Student attendance will be reported as to number of days missed. All days missed, unless for school activity, count as an absence. Extracurricular absences will be kept separate and reported as such

Adopted on: 6-8-15
Revised on: _____
Reviewed on: _____

6015
Summer School

The school district may conduct a summer school program to provide additional educational opportunities for students who need remedial instruction and/or to enrich students' educational experiences. Students may earn credit toward high school graduation that may result in a revision of class placement in the high school, but such advance placement is not guaranteed.

Adopted on: 6-8-15
Revised on: _____
Reviewed on: _____

6016
Homebound Instruction

The school district may provide a student with instruction in his or her home and under parental supervision if the student is physically or mentally ill or injured and unable to attend regular classes for an extended period of time. Homebound instruction shall be provided when the student's physical and mental condition are such that the student can benefit from instruction and no other provision will meet the student's educational needs. The superintendent or his/her designee will determine when homebound instruction is appropriate, after conferring with the student's parents, teacher(s) and/or physician.

Adopted on: 6-8-15
Revised on: _____
Reviewed on: _____

6017
Homework

Homework consists of assignments made by teachers that students must complete during non-class time. Homework is intended to ensure student learning of certain concepts and/or skills found in the written and taught curriculum.

Teachers are encouraged to assign homework and must use their professional judgment in determining the length, difficulty, and student readiness to proceed with homework assignments.

Adopted on: 6-8-15
Revised on: _____
Reviewed on: _____

6018
Grades

All teachers are expected to follow the Diller-Odell uniform grading system and will post a minimum of two grades per week.

Semester grades are the only grades recorded on the permanent record.

Student grades in correspondence and distance learning classes will be determined by the instructor of the sending program,

Any music class that meets five days a week will receive 2.5 credits per semester. Any music class that meets three days a week will receive 1.5 credits. No credits will be granted for music classes that meet two days or less per week. All grades will count toward Diller-Odell GPA All credits apply toward graduation requirements. This policy becomes effective for the 2001-02 school year.

Adopted on: 6-8-15
Revised on: 6-11-24
Reviewed on: 6-11-24

6019
Communication with Parents

Effective communication between home and school is crucial to students' educational success. Both teachers and parents must work to communicate frequently about students' progress. Methods of communication include, but are not limited to, parent-teacher conferences, e-mail, telephone contact, school visitation by parents and home visitation by teachers. Teachers must notify parents about unsatisfactory student work promptly and prior to the end of a grading period.

The school calendar will provide opportunities for formal parent-teacher conferences. The conferences need not be limited to these days; they should be scheduled at times that will allow adequate time for an effective conference.

Adopted on: 6-8-15
Revised on: _____
Reviewed on: _____

6020
Multicultural Education

In every curriculum area and at all grades, the school district will provide programs which foster and develop an appreciation and understanding of the racial, ethnic, and cultural heritage of all students. These programs will allow students to explore the history and contributions made by various ethnic groups and will emphasize human relations, sensitivity toward all races, and the rich diversity of the population of the United States. The programs shall be implemented within the guidelines of the State Department of Education and in accordance with any other applicable laws and/or regulations.

Philosophy, Mission, and Program Goals. The school district respects and appreciates cultural diversity and seeks to promote the understanding of unique cultural and ethnic heritage. The district will promote the development of a culturally responsible and responsive curriculum. The school district's program will explore the attitudes, skills, and knowledge necessary to function in various cultures.

District Guides, Frameworks, or Standards. Appropriate district staff and/or committee(s) will review the school district curriculum guides, frameworks, or standards to determine that they appropriately incorporate multicultural education.

Selecting Appropriate Instructional Materials. Appropriate school district staff and/or committee(s) will review instructional materials and make a recommendation regarding those that are appropriate for the school district's multicultural education program.

Providing Staff Development. Appropriate school district staff and/or committee(s) will review the staff development provided for administrators, teachers, and support staff to determine that it includes appropriate multicultural education that is consistent with school district and program goals.

Periodic Assessment. Appropriate school district staff and/or committee(s) will periodically review the school district's multicultural education program by reviewing the criteria in this policy to assess whether the school district is adequately and appropriately incorporating multicultural education in all curriculum areas in all grades.

Annual Status Report. The superintendent will provide the board with a report on the status of the school district's multicultural education program annually.

Adopted on: 6-8-15
Revised on: 7-13-20
Reviewed on: 6-10-25

6021

District Criteria for Selecting Evaluators to be Used for Special Education Evaluation and Verification and Independent Educational Evaluations

The following criteria shall be used for selecting evaluators according to 92 Nebraska Administrative Code 51-006.07B:

1.Those in-state service agencies that have approved rates for the current year established by the Nebraska Department of Education. A list of service agencies with approved rates, including state agencies, individual providers, and in-state providers may be found at https://www.education.ne.gov/sped/service-agencies/.

2.Those Nebraska providers located within 100 miles of the building of the district where the child attends when driving by ordinary public roadways.

3.Evaluations must consider the educational, health, or other student records of the student provided by the district. The parents, guardians, or age-appropriate student must provide any required consent to the disclosure of these records unless disclosure is already authorized by state and federal law.

4.Evaluations must be provided to the district, including all educational, health, student, or other records created as part of or relied upon to complete the evaluation. The parents, guardians, or age-appropriate student must provide any required consent to the disclosure of these records unless disclosure is already authorized by state and federal law.

5.Evaluations must be conducted by a provider that is authorized, available, and willing to discuss, confer, or otherwise cooperate with the district regarding the evaluation, its results, or any other information related to the evaluation. Such cooperation may include reasonable participation in, or the submission of additional reports or information to, an IEP, MDT, or SAT team. The parents, guardians, or age-appropriate student must provide any required consent to the disclosure of these records or information unless disclosure is already authorized by state and federal law.

6.Evaluations must be sufficiently comprehensive for the evaluator to submit to the district a report that specifically details whether the student should be considered eligible for special education and related services, the nature of special education and related services recommended to accommodate the student's suspected disability, and the particular facts or findings underlying the evaluator's conclusions. This report must be submitted to the district within 45 days after the conclusion of the evaluation.

7.Evaluations must meet the then-current state standards for reliability, research-based processes, and educational or professional best practices.

8.Reimbursement to any evaluator chosen in conformance with this policy shall not

exceed the cost that would be charged by the school district's contracted providers for the same or substantially similar evaluation.

All special education evaluations, including those independently obtained at the district's expense, must be obtained in a manner consistent with the criteria set forth above, unless state or federal law requires waiver of one or more criteria in order to accommodate unique circumstances.

Adopted on: 7-13-15
Revised on: 7-13-20
Reviewed on: 7-13-20

6023

Relations with Non-Accredited Private or Home School Students

The board of education finds that allowing students who elect to receive their education in a non-accredited private and/or home school under Title 92 of the ***Nebraska Administrative Code***, Chapter 13 to participate in the curricular or extracurricular programs of the school district would create significant administrative difficulties for the district. Those difficulties include, but are not limited to:

- accommodating students on a selective basis
- the problems posed by admitting students to courses for which they had not completed prerequisite courses
- the impossibility of testing them for participation in such courses
- the increased burden on teachers and administrators
- the rules and regulations of the Nebraska State Activities Association, which require schools to monitor the academic eligibility of students who participate in extracurricular activities

Therefore, such students will not be allowed to participate in the district's curricular programs on a part-time basis (e.g., a home-school student may not take a high school chemistry class) except for state and/or federally-mandated special education services. They will not be allowed to participate in any of the district's extracurricular activities.

Textbooks shall not be made available to home schools that exist under the guidelines of the Nebraska Department of Education.

Adopted on: 7-13-15
Revised on: _____
Reviewed on: _____

6024
Student Discipline

Administrative and teaching personnel may take actions regarding student behavior, other than those specifically provided in this policy and the Student Discipline Act, which are reasonably necessary to aid the student, further school purposes, or prevent interference with the educational process. Such actions may include, but need not be limited to, counseling of students, parent conferences, rearrangement of schedules, requirements that a student remain in school after regular hours to do additional work, restriction of extracurricular activity, or requirements that a student receive counseling, psychological evaluation, or psychiatric evaluation upon the written consent of a parent or guardian to such counseling or evaluation. Disciplinary consequences may also include in-school suspension, Saturday School, and any other consequence authorized by law. District administrators may develop building-specific protocols for the imposition of student discipline.

In this policy, references to "Principal" shall include building principals, the principal's designee, or other appropriate school district administrators.

Any statement, notice, recommendation, determination, or similar action specified in this policy shall be effectively given at the time written evidence thereof is delivered personally to or upon receipt of certified or registered mail or upon actual knowledge by a student or his or her parent or guardian.

Any student who is suspended or expelled from school pursuant to this policy may not participate in any school activity during the duration of that exclusion including adjacent school holidays and weekends. The student activity eligibility of a student who is mandatorily reassigned shall be determined on a case-by-case basis by the principal of the building to which the student is reassigned.

Short-Term Suspension

The Principal may exclude students from school or any school function for a period of up to five school days (short-term suspension) on the following grounds:

1. Conduct constituting grounds for expulsion as hereinafter set forth; or,

2. Other violations of rules and standards of behavior adopted by the Board of Education or the administrative or teaching staff of the school, that occur on or off school grounds, if such conduct interferes with school purposes or there is a connection between such conduct and school.

The following process applies to short-term suspension:

1. The Principal shall make a reasonable investigation of the facts and circumstances. Short-term suspension shall be imposed only after a

determination that the suspension is necessary to help any student, to further school purposes, or to prevent an interference with school purposes.

2. Prior to commencement of the short-term suspension, the student will be given oral or written notice of the charges against the student. The student will be advised of what he or she is accused of having done, be given an explanation of the evidence the authorities have, and be given an opportunity to explain the student's version of the facts.

3. Within 24 hours or such additional time as is reasonably necessary following the suspension, the Principal will send a written statement to the student, and the student's parent or guardian, describing the student's conduct, misconduct or violation of the rule or standard and the reasons for the action taken. An opportunity will be given to the student, and the student's parent or guardian, to have a conference with the Principal ordering the short-term suspension before or at the time the student returns to school. The Principal shall determine who, in addition to the parent or guardian, is to attend the conference.

4. Students who are short-term suspended will be given the opportunity to complete classwork, including but not limited to examinations, under the following conditions: set by administrtion.

Emergency Exclusion

Students may be emergency excluded from school pursuant to the board's separate policy on emergency exclusion or state law.

Weapons and/or Firearms

Students may be disciplined for the possession of weapons and/or firearms pursuant to the board's separate policy on weapons and firearms or state law.

Long-Term Suspension

Students may be excluded by the Principal from school or any school function for a period of more than five school days but less then twenty school days (long-term suspension) for any conduct constituting grounds for expulsion as hereinafter set forth. The process for long-term suspension is set forth below.

Expulsion

1. **Meaning of Expulsion.** Expulsion means exclusion from attendance in all schools, grounds and activities of or within the system for a period not to exceed the remainder of the semester in which it took effect unless the misconduct occurred (a) within ten school days prior to the end of the first semester, in which case the expulsion shall remain in effect through the second semester, or (b)

within ten school days prior to the end of the second semester, in which case the expulsion shall remain in effect for summer school and the first semester of the following school year, or (c) unless the expulsion is for conduct specified in these rules or in law as permitting or requiring a longer removal, in which case the expulsion shall remain in effect for the period specified therein. Such action may be modified or terminated by the school district at any time during the expulsion period.

2. **Summer Review**. Any expulsion that will remain in effect during the first semester of the following school year will be automatically scheduled for review before the beginning of the school year. The review will be conducted by the hearing officer who conducted the initial expulsion hearing, or a hearing officer appointed by the Superintendent in the event no hearing was previously held or the initial hearing officer is no longer available or willing to serve, after the hearing officer has given notice of the review to the student and the student's parent or guardian. This review shall be limited to newly discovered evidence or evidence of changes in the student's circumstances occurring since the original hearing. This review may lead to a recommendation by the hearing officer that the student be readmitted for the upcoming school year. If the school board or board of education or a committee of such board took the final action to expel the student, the student may be readmitted only by action of the board. Otherwise the student may be readmitted by action of the Superintendent.

3. **Suspension of Enforcement of an Expulsion**: Enforcement of an expulsion action may be suspended (i.e., "stayed") for a period of not more than one full semester in addition to the balance of the semester in which the expulsion takes effect, and as a condition of such suspended action, the student may be assigned to a school, class, or program/plan and to such other consequences which the school district deems appropriate.

4. **Alternative School or Pre-expulsion Procedures.** The school shall either provide an alternative school, class or educational program for expelled students or shall follow the pre-expulsion procedures outlined in NEB. REV. STAT. 79-266.

Grounds for Long-Term Suspension, Expulsion or Mandatory Reassignment:

The following conduct constitutes grounds for long-term suspension, expulsion, or mandatory reassignment, subject to the procedural provisions of the Student Discipline Act, NEB. REV. STAT. § 79-254 through 79-296, when such activity occurs on school grounds, in a vehicle owned, leased, or contracted by a school being used for a school purpose or in a vehicle being driven for a school purpose by a school employee or by his or her designee, or at a school-sponsored activity or athletic event:

1. Use of violence, force, coercion, threat, intimidation, or similar conduct in a manner that constitutes a substantial interference with school purposes;

2. Willfully causing or attempting to cause substantial damage to property, stealing or attempting to steal property of substantial value, or repeated damage or theft involving property;
3. Causing or attempting to cause personal injury to a school employee, to a school volunteer, or to any student. Personal injury caused by accident, self-defense, or other action undertaken on the reasonable belief that it was necessary to protect some other person shall not constitute a violation of this subdivision;
4. Threatening or intimidating any student for the purpose of or with the intent of obtaining money or anything of value from such student;
5. Knowingly possessing, handling, or transmitting any object or material that is ordinarily or generally considered a weapon (*see also board policy on weapons and firearms*);
6. Engaging in the unlawful possession, selling, dispensing, or use of a controlled substance or an imitation controlled substance, as defined in section 28-401, a substance represented to be a controlled substance, or alcoholic liquor as defined in section 53-103.02 or being under the influence of a controlled substance or alcoholic liquor (*note: the term "under the influence" for school purposes has a less strict meaning than it does under criminal law; for school purposes, the term means any level of impairment and includes even the odor of alcohol on the breath or person of a student; also, it includes being impaired by reason of the abuse of any material used as a stimulant*);
7. Public indecency as defined in section 28-806, except that this prohibition shall apply only to students at least twelve years of age but less than nineteen years of age;
8. Engaging in bullying as defined in section 79-2,137 and in these policies;
9. Sexually assaulting or attempting to sexually assault any person if a complaint has been filed by a prosecutor in a court of competent jurisdiction alleging that the student has sexually assaulted or attempted to sexually assault any person, including sexual assaults or attempted sexual assaults which occur off school grounds not at a school function, activity, or event. For purposes of this subdivision, sexual assault means sexual assault in the first degree as defined in section 28-319, sexual assault in the second degree as defined in section 28-320, sexual assault of a child in the second or third degree as defined in section 28-320.01, or sexual assault of a child in the first degree as defined in section 28-319.01, as such sections now provide or may hereafter from time to time be amended;
10. Engaging in any other activity forbidden by the laws of the State of Nebraska which activity constitutes a danger to other students or interferes with school purposes; or
11. A repeated violation of any of the following rules, or a single violation if the conduct is forbidden by Nebraska law, if such violations constitute a substantial interference with school purposes:
    a. The use of language, written or oral, or conduct, including gestures, which is profane or abusive to students or staff members. Profane or abusive language or conduct includes, but is not limited to, that which is commonly

understood and intended to be derogatory toward a group or individual based upon race, gender, national origin, or religion;

b. Dressing or grooming in a manner which violates the school district's dress code and/or is dangerous to the student's health and safety, a danger to the health and safety of others, or which is disruptive, distracting or indecent to the extent that it interferes with the learning and educational process;
c. Violating school bus rules as set by the school district or district staff;
d. Possessing, using, selling, or dispensing tobacco, drug paraphernalia, or a tobacco imitation substance or packaging, regardless of form, including cigarettes, chewing tobacco, and any other form of tobacco or imitation, such as electronic cigarettes, vapor pens, etc.;
e. Possessing, using, selling, or dispensing any drug paraphernalia or imitation of a controlled substance regardless of whether the actual substance possessed is a controlled substance by Nebraska law;
f. Possession of pornography;
g. Sexting or the possession of sexting images (a combination of sex and texting - the act of sending sexually explicit messages or photos electronically);
h. Engaging in initiations, defined as any ritualistic expectations, requirements, or activities placed upon new members of a school organization for the purpose of admission into the organization, even if those activities do not rise to the level of "hazing" as defined below. Initiations are prohibited except by permission of the superintendent.
i. Engaging in hazing as defined by state law and this policy. Hazing is defined as any activity by which a person intentionally or recklessly endangers the physical or mental health or safety of an individual for the purpose of initiation into, admission into, affiliation with, or continued membership in any school organization. Under state criminal law, hazing activities include, but are not limited to, whipping, beating, branding, an act of sexual penetration, an exposure of the genitals of the body done with the intent to affront or alarm any person, a lewd fondling or caressing of the body of another person, forced and prolonged calisthenics, prolonged exposure to the elements, forced consumption of any food, liquor, beverage, drug, or harmful substance not generally intended for human consumption, prolonged sleep deprivation, or any brutal treatment or the performance of any unlawful act that endangers the physical or mental health or safety of any person. For purposes of school rules, hazing also includes any activity expected of someone joining a group, team, or activity that humiliates, degrades or risks emotional and/or physical harm, regardless of the person's willingness to participate; personal servitude; restrictions on personal hygiene; yelling, swearing and insulting new members/rookies; being forced to wear embarrassing or humiliating attire in public; consumption of vile substances or smearing of such on one's skin; binge drinking and drinking games; sexual simulation and sexual assault;

j. Bullying which shall include cyber-bullying, defined as the use of the internet, including but not limited to social networking sites such as Facebook, cell phones or other devices to send, post or text message images and material intended to hurt or embarrass another person. This may include, but is not limited to; continuing to send e-mail to someone who has said they want no further contact with the sender; sending or posting threats, sexual remarks or pejorative labels (i.e., hate speech); ganging up on victims by making them the subject of ridicule in forums, and posting false statements as fact intended to humiliate the victim; disclosure of personal data, such as the victim's real name, address, or school at websites or forums; posing as the identity of the victim for the purpose of publishing material in their name that defames or ridicules them; sending threatening and harassing text, instant messages or emails to the victims; and posting or sending rumors or gossip to instigate others to dislike and gang up on the target;
k. Violation of the district's computer acceptable computer use policy are subject to discipline, up to and including expulsion; and
l. Any other violation of a rule or regulation established by a school district staff member pursuant to authority delegated by the board.

Due Process Afforded to Students Facing Long-term Suspension or Expulsion

The following procedures shall be followed regarding any long-term suspension, expulsion or mandatory reassignment

1. On the date of the decision to discipline, the Principal shall file with the Superintendent a written charge and a summary of the evidence supporting such charge.

2. The Principal shall serve the student and the student's parents or guardian with a written notice by registered or certified mail or personal service within two school days of the date of the decision to recommend long-term suspension or expulsion. The notice shall include the following:

    a. The rule or standard of conduct allegedly violated and the acts of the student alleged to constitute a cause for long-term suspension, expulsion, or mandatory reassignment, including a summary of the evidence to be presented against the student;

    b. The penalty, if any, which the principal has recommended in the charge and any other penalty to which the student may be subject;

    c. A statement that, before long-term suspension, expulsion, or mandatory reassignment for disciplinary purposes can be invoked, the student has a right to a hearing, upon request, on the specified charges;

d. A description of the hearing procedures provided by the act, along with procedures for appealing any decision rendered at the hearing;

e. A statement that the principal, legal counsel for the school, the student, the student's parent, or the student's representative or guardian has the right (i) to examine the student's academic and disciplinary records and any affidavits to be used at the hearing concerning the alleged misconduct and (ii) to know the identity of the witnesses to appear at the hearing and the substance of their testimony; and

f. A form on which the student, the student's parent, or the student's guardian may request a hearing, to be signed by such parties and delivered to the principal or superintendent in person or by registered or certified mail.

3. When a notice of intent to discipline a student by long-term suspension, expulsion, or mandatory reassignment is filed with the superintendent, the student may be suspended by the principal until the date the long-term suspension, expulsion, or mandatory reassignment takes effect if no hearing is requested or, if a hearing is requested, the date the hearing examiner makes the report of his or her findings and a recommendation of the action to be taken to the superintendent, if the principal determines that the student must be suspended immediately to prevent or substantially reduce the risk of (a) interference with an educational function or school purpose or (b) a personal injury to the student himself or herself, other students, school employees, or school volunteers.

4. Nothing in this policy shall preclude the student, student's parents, guardian or representative from discussing and settling the matter with appropriate school personnel prior to the hearing stage.

5. If a hearing is requested within five days after receipt of the notice, the Superintendent shall appoint a hearing officer who shall follow the "hearing procedures" outlined below.

6. If a hearing is requested more than five school days following the receipt of the written notice, but not more than thirty calendar days after receipt, the Superintendent shall appoint a hearing officer who shall follow the "hearing procedures" outlined below, except that the time constraints set forth may differ as provided by law and this policy. The student shall be entitled to a hearing but the consequence imposed may continue in effect pending final determination.

7. If a request for hearing is not received within thirty calendar days following the mailing or delivery of the written notice, the student shall not be entitled to a hearing.

In the event a hearing is requested, the hearing, hearing procedures, the student's rights and any appeals or judicial review permitted by law shall be governed by the applicable provisions of the Nebraska Student Discipline Act (NEB. REV. STAT. § 79-254 to 79-294). The school district will provide parents with copies of the relevant statutes upon request.

Adopted on: 7-13-15
Revised on: 6-13-16
Reviewed on: _____

6025
Student Cell Phone and Other Electronic Devices

Students may use cell phones or other electronic devices while at school, so long as they do so safely, responsibly and respectfully and comply with all other school rules while using these devices.

By bringing their cell phones and other electronic communication devices to school, students consent to the search of said devices by school staff when permitted by law.

Students may not have cell phones or electronic devices on while they are in locker rooms, restrooms, or any other area in which others may have a reasonable expectation of privacy.

The taking, disseminating, transferring, or sharing of obscene, pornographic, lewd, or otherwise illegal images or photographs, whether by electronic data transfer or otherwise (including things like texting, sexting, emailing, etc.) may constitute a crime under state and/or federal law. Any person engaged in these activities while on school grounds, in a school vehicle or at a school activity will be subject to the disciplinary procedures of the student code of conduct.

While on school property, at a school activity, or in a school vehicle, students may not use their cell phones or electronic devices to bully, harass, or intimidate any other person as governed by the student code of conduct.

Students shall be personally and solely responsible for the security of their electronic devices. The district is not responsible for theft, loss or damage of any electronic device, including any calls or downloads.

Students who violate this policy may have their cell phones or electronic devices confiscated immediately. The administration will return confiscated devices to the parent or guardian of the offending student, after meeting with the parent or guardian to discuss the rule violation. Students who violate this policy may, at the discretion of the school's administration, be subject to additional discipline, up to and including suspension or expulsion.

Adopted on: 7-13-15
Revised on: 7-14-25
Reviewed on: _____

6026
Emergency Dismissal

The superintendent is responsible for determining when school and/or extracurricular activities should be cancelled or dismissed due to severe weather or other emergency conditions. Coaches and/or sponsors may not conduct practices on days that school is cancelled without first securing the superintendent's specific permission.

Adopted on: 7-13-15
Revised on: _____
Reviewed on: _____

6027
Field Trips

The board encourages instructional staff to incorporate field trips into the curriculum. These trips should normally be conducted during the school day.

1. **General Conditions**

All trips must be pre-approved by the teacher's building principal. Out-of-state and overnight trips require pre-approval by the board. The superintendent and principals will develop guidelines for approval of trips and communicate those guidelines to teaching staff.

2. **Parental Permission**

Each student must submit a signed parental permission slip prior to being allowed to attend a field trip. A new permission slip must be submitted for each trip. Caregivers, as that term is defined in the Nebraska Strengthening Families Act, shall be permitted to sign parental permission slips.

3. **Supervision**

Sponsoring teachers must ensure that students are adequately supervised and chaperoned by a responsible adult at all times during field trips. Whether paid staff or volunteers, chaperones are prohibited from drinking alcoholic beverages of any kind at any time during any field trip. All chaperones must be at least 21 years of age. Any chaperone who drives students must possess a valid driver's license. Chaperones who drive students in private vehicles must possess adequate insurance coverage. Chaperones do not have any property right in or to a chaperone assignment. The school district may deny or terminate a chaperone assignment for any reason that is not unconstitutional or unlawful. The superintendent's decision shall be final.

4. **Student Conduct**

Students must comply with the student code of conduct, any applicable extracurricular conduct codes, and all directives by trip chaperones.

Adopted on: 7-13-15
Revised on: 7-9-18
Reviewed on: _____

6028
The Extracurricular Activities Program

1. **General Purpose**

   a. The extracurricular program includes noncurricular activities which are sponsored by the school district. These actives include sports, speech, plays, Future Farmers of America, Future Business Leaders of America, music performance groups and other activities which are sponsored by the school.

   b. Extracurricular activities are an important part of the total school experience, but are secondary to the academic program and must be kept in that perspective.

   c. Extracurricular activities ***do not*** include:

      i. co-curricular activities such as band and choir, in which students must participate as part of the requirements for enrollment in and receiving a grade for a particular course.

      ii. student-initiated, non-curriculum related student groups which are permitted to hold meetings and events on school premises. These groups are not school-sponsored and are not governed by this policy or other policies and rules governing extracurricular groups.

2. **Governance**

   a. All extracurricular activities shall be under the exclusive governance and control of the school district. This control includes, but is not be limited to, the formation, naming, structure, operation, financing, and discontinuance of all extracurricular activities. Extracurricular activities shall not have any separate or individual existence, status, rights, or authority.

   b. Students and sponsors will be governed by all board's policies and administrative rules including the policy on field trips when traveling for extracurricular activities.

3. **Student Eligibility**

a. Students are encouraged to participate in extracurricular activities. Participation shall be open to and limited to all students who are currently enrolled in the school district on a voluntary basis. Junior high students will not be allowed to play or practice on a High School team.

b. Extracurricular activities may establish academic or course enrollment qualifications for participation if such qualifications are necessarily related to the purposes of the activity.

c. Standards for scholastic eligibility for students wishing to participate in extracurricular activities shall be set by the administration and shall be consistent with at least the minimum standards provided by the NSAA.

d. All students in grades 7-12 who participate in athletics must have a physical examination by a qualified health care provider at the student's expense.

Students who wish to participate in extracurricular activities must abide by the student code of conduct, the extracurricular code of conduct and any additional rules set by the activity sponsor. All extracurricular participants will read the rules of eligibility pertaining to activity participation and acknowledge and understand the purpose and content thereof.

e. Students are not eligible to participate in any extracurricular activity until they and their parents/guardians have signed the student handbook and extracurricular handbook receipt and acknowledgement.

All extracurricular participants are responsible for uniforms, equipment, etc. checked out to them. Misplaced or lost uniforms, equipment, etc. must be paid for before receiving the current grades.

4. **Sponsors**

a. Each extracurricular activity must have a sponsor who is a member of the district's certificated staff or a selected community volunteer who is qualified by virtue of education, training, experience, or special interest to serve as the sponsor.

b. The superintendent or his/her designee will assign activity sponsors. Payment to sponsors will be negotiated with the sponsor based on the terms of any applicable collective bargaining agreement, the sponsor's training and experience and any other lawful criteria. Sponsors serve in their capacity as a sponsor at the will of the superintendent, who is specifically empowered to remove an activity sponsor in the superintendent's sole discretion.

c. Sponsors shall be required to: develop materials, activities, and a budget; promote membership and participation; communicate with the principal or designee, staff, students, and parents; schedule meeting dates and locations; plan meaningful experiences; supervise students during activities; evaluate and make recommendations; and submit a year end report to the principal or designee.

5. **Money-Raising Activities**

All money-raising activities shall require authorization by a member of the school district administration and shall be subject to all other school policies. All money raised by these activities shall be governed by Policy 3005.

Adopted on: 7-13-15
Revised on: _____
Reviewed on: _____

6029
Activity Trips

Students must travel to and from all activities in the transportation provided by the school. A student may travel home from an activity with his/her parent or guardian if the activity sponsor has personally released the student to the parents' custody. The superintendent may prohibit any student who misbehaves while on school-sponsored trips from attending future trips.

Students must comply with the board's policies on field trips as well as the student code of conduct, the extracurricular code, and all directives of a sponsor or chaperone while on activity trip.

Adopted on: 7-13-15
Revised on: _____
Reviewed on: _____

6030
Public Appearances of School Groups

Community-school relationships are enhanced when student groups appear at community functions. Therefore, the board encourages student groups to appear at public events, subject to the following requirements:

9. Activity sponsors must secure the permission of their building principal before booking a student group at a public event.

10. Student groups may not perform on more than one school night (Sunday-Thursday) per week.

11. Student groups may not perform at a political rally without permission from the superintendent and prior notice to parents.

12. The policies and rules that apply to field trips also apply to student group appearances in public.

Adopted on: 7-13-15
Revised on: _____
Reviewed on: _____

6031
Emergency Exclusion

Grounds for Emergency Exclusion. Any student may be excluded from school in the following circumstances subject to the procedural provisions governing short term suspension found elsewhere in these policies or state law:

(a) If the student has a dangerous communicable disease transmissible through normal school contacts and poses an imminent threat to the health or safety of the school community; or

(b) If the student's conduct presents a clear threat to the physical safety of himself, herself, or others, or is so extremely disruptive as to make temporary removal necessary to preserve the rights of other students to pursue an education.

Any emergency exclusion shall be based upon a clear factual situation warranting it and shall last no longer than is necessary to avoid the dangers that prompted the exclusion.

Extension of Exclusion. Pursuant to the Student Discipline Act, the principal has the authority to exclude a student from school for up to five school days on an emergency basis. If the superintendent or superintendent's designee determines that it is appropriate to consider the extension of an exclusion beyond five days, such consideration shall be made according to the procedures set forth below.

Notification of Student's Parent(s) or Guardian(s). The superintendent or the superintendent's designee shall notify the student's parent(s) or guardian(s) that the principal has proposed the extension of the exclusion. If the initial notice is oral, the superintendent shall confirm it in writing. The notice shall include notice of a recommended hearing examiner and an alternate hearing examiner for consideration by the parent(s) or guardian(s) if a hearing is requested.

Opportunity to Request a Hearing. The student's parent(s) or guardian(s) may submit a request for a hearing on the proposed extension of the exclusion within one school day of receiving the notice of the proposed extension.

Failure to Request a Hearing. If the parent(s) or guardian(s) do not request a hearing within one school day of receiving oral or written notice, the proposed extension of the exclusion shall automatically go into effect.

Appointment and Qualifications of a Hearing Examiner. The parent(s) or guardian(s) shall notify the superintendent within one school day of receiving notice of the recommended extension and proposed hearing examiner and alternate hearing examiner if the alternate hearing examiner is preferred.

Hearing Examiner's Notice to Parent(s) or Guardian(s). The hearing examiner shall

promptly give written notice of the time, date and place of the hearing. The hearing will be held within ten school days after the initial date of exclusion; provided, the hearing may be held more than five school days after receipt of the request upon a showing of good cause. No hearing will be held on less than two (2) school days' notice unless otherwise agreed to by the student's parent(s) or guardian(s) and school officials.

Continued Exclusion. If a hearing is requested, the principal may determine in his or her sole discretion that the student shall remain excluded from school until the hearing officer makes a recommendation to the superintendent.

Examination of Student's Records and Affidavits. Prior to the hearing, the student and his/her parent(s) or guardian(s) shall have the right to examine and have school officials explain the student's records and any affidavits that will be used by school officials at the hearing.

Attendance at Hearing. The hearing may be attended by the hearing examiner, the principal (or designee), the student, and the student's parents or guardian(s). The student may be represented at this hearing by a representative of the family's choice.

Student's Witness(es). The student and his/her parent(s) or guardian(s) may ask any person with knowledge of the events leading up to the sanction or with general knowledge of the student's character to testify on behalf of the student. If school personnel or other students are requested to testify by the student's parent(s) or guardian(s), the hearing officer shall endeavor to help obtain the presence of such witnesses at the hearing.

Right to Know Issues and Nature of Testimony. The student and his/her parent(s) or guardian(s) have the right to request in advance of the hearing the issues which the administration will propose in support of the extension, and the general nature of the testimony of any administrative or expert witnesses.

Presence of Student and Witnesses at the Hearing. The student and witnesses may be excluded at the discretion of the hearing examiner in accordance with state statutes. The student may speak in his/her own defense and may be questioned on such testimony, but may choose not to testify. The school district shall make available to testify at the hearing any employee who is a witness to the matter upon request from the parent(s) or guardian(s).

Sworn or Affirmed Testimony. The principal or his or her designee shall present evidence supporting the recommended extension. Witnesses will give testimony under oath of affirmation, and may be questioned.

Hearing Examiner's Report and Recommendations. The hearing examiner shall prepare a report of his or her findings and recommendations, and forward the report to the superintendent.

Superintendent's Decision. The superintendent will review the hearing examiner's report and determine whether to extend the exclusion. He or she shall have the decision delivered or sent by registered or certified mail to the student, student's parent(s), or guardian(s). If the superintendent decides to extend the exclusion, the extension will take effect immediately.

Adopted on: 7-13-15
Revised on: 7-14-25
Reviewed on: _____

6032
Constitution Day Education

Each year on September 17, designated as Constitution Day, the school district will conduct a program designed to highlight the historic and continuing importance of the United States Constitution. When September 17 falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or holiday, the district will provide this program during the preceding or following week.

The program shall be implemented within the guidelines of the U.S. Department of Education and in accordance with any other applicable laws and/or regulations.

Adopted on: 7-13-15
Revised on: _____
Reviewed on: _____

6033
Restraint and Seclusion of Students

Restraint and seclusion, as defined below, are behavioral interventions. The use of such behavioral interventions must be in accordance with this policy. The following interventions do not constitute seclusion and restraint, and are not governed by this policy: voice control, limited to loud, firm commands; time-limited ignoring of specific behaviors; brief physical prompts to interrupt or prevent a specific behavior; physical interventions which a student's health care provider has indicated are medically necessary for the treatment or protection of the individual; or other similar interventions.

Definitions

Physical restraint refers to a personal restriction that immobilizes or reduces the ability of a student to move his or her torso, arms, legs, or head freely. The term physical restraint does not include a physical escort. Physical escort means a temporary touching or holding of the hand, wrist, arm, shoulder or back for the purpose of inducing a student who is acting out to walk to a safe location. Physical restraint does not include incidental touching that comes along with movement inside a classroom, lunch line, or other areas of the school building where maintaining order is required.

Mechanical restraint refers to the use of any device or equipment to restrict a student's freedom of movement. The term does not include devices implemented by trained school personnel, or utilized by a student that have been prescribed by an appropriate medical or related services professional and are used for the specific and approved purposes for which such devices were designed, such as:

- Adaptive devices or mechanical supports used to achieve proper body position, balance, or alignment to allow greater freedom of mobility than would be possible without the use of such devices or mechanical supports;
- Vehicle safety restraints when used as intended during the transport of a student in a moving vehicle;
- Restraints for medical immobilization; or
- Orthopedically prescribed devices that permit a student to participate in activities without risk of harm.

Chemical restraint refers to the administration of medication for the purpose of restraint, but does not include the administration of medication in accordance with the directions and prescription of a physician with the consent of the student's parent or guardian.

Seclusion refers to the involuntary confinement of a student alone in a room or area from which the student is physically prevented from leaving. It does not include a timeout, which is a behavior management technique that is part of an approved

program, involves the monitored separation of the student in a non-locked setting, and is implemented for the purpose of calming.

Use of Restraint and Seclusion

The use of chemical restraint is strictly prohibited. The use of any seclusion or restraint intervention for punitive or disciplinary purposes is strictly prohibited. Similarly, the use of any technique that constitutes corporal punishment, which is the infliction of bodily pain as a penalty for disapproved behavior, is strictly prohibited. Seclusion and/or restraint shall not be used for the convenience of staff or as a substitute for an educational program. When restraint or seclusion is used to respond to the danger of harm posed by a student's behavior, the intervention shall be discontinued as soon as the danger of harm has dissipated.

The use of physical restraint, mechanical restraint, and seclusion is permitted in a manner consistent with this policy as reasonably necessary to aid the student, further school purposes, or prevent interference with the educational process.

Procedures

No technique shall restrict a student's breathing, deprive a student of basic needs, or unnecessarily expose a student to physical pain or discomfort.

Seclusion shall not be used for students who are severely self-injurious or suicidal. When seclusion is utilized as permitted by this policy, the following procedures shall be followed:

- The student shall be monitored by an adult in close proximity who is able to regularly observe the student;
- The confining space shall be approved for such use, unless the use of such a space is impossible or impracticable under the circumstances;
- The confining space shall be appropriately lighted, ventilated, and heated or cooled; *and*
- The confining space shall be free from objects that unreasonably expose the student or others to harm.

If a pattern of behavior emerges that requires or is anticipated to require the use of restraint and/or seclusion for the student, the appropriate educators and/or team members shall review what assessments, evaluations, supports, services, programs, or placements are appropriate in light of the student's needs and circumstances.

Recording and Reporting

Each incident of restraint or seclusion must be recorded and reported as required by the building administrators.

Training

All staff members shall be provided notice of this policy and will be trained on its contents. The Superintendent or his or her designee will identify school staff members likely to implement the restraint or seclusion interventions authorized by this policy and arrange for those individuals to receive appropriate training on the appropriate implementation of such interventions and the use of other behavioral supports and interventions.

Adopted on: 7-13-15
Revised on: 7-13-20
Reviewed on: 7-13-20

6034
Concussion Awareness

The Nebraska Unicameral has found that concussions are one of the "most commonly reported injuries in children and adolescents who participate in sports and recreational activities and that the risk of catastrophic injury or death is significant when a concussion or brain injury is not properly evaluated and managed."

The School District will:

a. Require all coaches and trainers to complete a training course approved by the Chief Medical Officer on how to recognize the symptoms of a concussion or brain injury and how to seek proper medical treatment for a concussion or brain injury.

b. On an annual basis provide concussion and brain injury information to students and their parents or guardians prior to such students initiating practice or competition. This information will include:
    1 The signs and symptoms of a concussion;
    2 The risks posed by sustaining a concussion; and
    3 The actions a student should take in response to sustaining a concussion, including the notification of his or her coaches.

A student who participates on a school athletic team must be removed from a practice or game when he/she is reasonably suspected of having sustained a concussion or brain injury in such practice or game after observation by a coach or a licensed health care professional who is professionally affiliated with or contracted by the school. The student will not be permitted to participate in any school supervised team athletic activities involving physical exertion, including practices or games, until the student:

a. has been evaluated by a licensed health care professional;

b. has received written and signed clearance to resume participation in athletic activities from the licensed health care professional; and

c. has submitted the written and signed clearance to resume participation in athletic activities to the school accompanied by written permission to resume participation from the student's parent or guardian.

If a student is reasonably suspected after observation of having sustained a concussion or brain injury and is removed from an athletic activity, the parent or guardian of the student will be notified by the school of:

a. the date and approximate time of the injury suffered by the student,

b. the signs and symptoms of a concussion or brain injury that were observed, and

c. any actions taken to treat the student.

The school district will not provide for the presence of a licensed health care professional at any practice or game.

School officials shall deem the signature of an individual who represents that he/she is a licensed health care professional on a written clearance to resume participation that is provided to the school to be conclusive and reliable evidence that the individual who signed the clearance is a licensed health care professional. The school will not take any additional or independent steps to verify the individual's qualifications.

Students who have sustained a concussion and returned to school may need informal or formal accommodations, modifications of curriculum, and monitoring by medical or academic staff until the student is fully recovered. The school's "return to learn protocol" shall follow the model provided by the Nebraska Department of Education. Nothing in this policy or the referenced protocol shall entitle a student who has sustained a concussion to an individualized plan under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, although staff will refer students who have sustained a concussion for evaluation under Section 504 as appropriate.

Adopted on: 7-13-15
Revised on: 7-14-25
Reviewed on: _____

6035
Wednesday Night Limitation

There shall be no student activities scheduled at Diller-Odell Public School after 7:00 P.M. on Wednesday night; unless there is no school the following day.

Adopted on: 7-13-15
Revised on: _____
Reviewed on: _____

6035 A

Athletic Contest Participation by Sixth Graders

If there are fewer than 12 boys or 12 girls in the combined enrollment of the seventh and eighth grades when those grades are part of the elementary school system, sixth grade students may participate in athletic contests between schools, within a school system, or between school systems if the administration judges that it is appropriate after taking into consideration the competition's nature and value to the students, its physical requirements and dangers, and the sixth grade students' ages, physical and mental abilities, maturity, skills, and preparation for the competition. Otherwise, pupils in kindergarten through the sixth grade may not participate in any kinds of athletic contests between schools, within a school system, or between school systems except as provided in this policy or as otherwise allowed by law. This prohibition does not apply to annual filed or play days.

Adopted on: 10-14-25

Revised on:_____

Reviewed on:_____

6036
Sunday Repose

There shall be no activities, practices, or rehearsals scheduled for Sunday, except Baccalaureate and Graduation. If there is a scheduled tournament or State contest for Monday this rule is waived. This rule may also be waived if a student(s) has been selected or earned the privilege to participate to in an activity, which is related to a curricular or extracurricular organization of which the student(s) is currently a member. The administration may also waive the policy on a case-by-case basis.

Adopted on: 7-13-15
Revised on: _____
Reviewed on: _____

6036 A
Reading Instruction and Intervention Services

The purpose of this policy is to facilitate reading instruction and intervention services to address student reading needs, including, but not limited to, dyslexia. It is the school district's goal that each student be able to read at or above grade level by third grade.

Effective Reading Teachers. It is the intent of the school district to employ teachers for kindergarten through third grade who are effective reading teachers as evidenced by (a) evaluations based on classroom observations and student improvement on reading assessments or (b) specialized training in reading improvement.

Reading Assessment. The school district will administer a reading assessment approved by the Nebraska Department of Education three times during the school year to all students in kindergarten through third grade. Exceptions to this requirement include:

- Any student receiving specialized instruction for limited English proficiency who has been receiving such instruction for less than two years;
- Any student receiving special education services for whom such assessment would conflict with the individualized education plan; and
- Any student receiving services under a plan pursuant to the requirements of section 504 of the federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 29 U.S.C. 794, or Title II of the federal Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, 42 U.S.C. 12131 to 12165, as such acts and sections existed on January 1, 2018, for whom such assessment would conflict with such section 504 or Title II plan.

The first assessment for kindergarten students must occur within the first 45 calendar days that school is in session of each school year. For all other grades, the first assessment must occur within the first 30 calendar days that school in in session of each school year.

Diagnostic assessments used within a supplemental reading intervention program do not require Nebraska Department of Education approval.

Deficiency Identification. Any student in kindergarten through third grade performing below the threshold level as determined by the Nebraska Department of Education shall be identified as having a reading deficiency for purposes of the Nebraska Reading Improvement Act and this policy. A student who is identified as having a reading deficiency shall remain identified as having a reading deficiency until the student performs at or above the threshold level on an approved reading assessment. Nothing in the Nebraska Reading Improvement Act or this policy shall prohibit a school district from identifying any other student as having a reading deficiency.

Supplemental Reading Intervention Program. The school district will provide a supplemental reading intervention program to ensure that students can read at or above

grade level at the end of third grade. The school district may work collaboratively with a reading specialist at the Nebraska Department of Education, with educational service units, with learning communities, or through interlocal agreements to develop and provide such supplemental reading intervention programs. Each supplemental reading intervention program must be:

- Provided to any student identified as having a reading deficiency;
- Implemented during regular school hours in addition to regularly scheduled reading instruction unless otherwise agreed to by a parent or guardian; and
- Made available as a summer reading program between each summer for any student who has been enrolled in grade one, grade two, or grade three or in a higher grade and is identified as continuing to have a reading deficiency at the conclusion of the school year preceding such summer reading program. The summer reading program may be held in conjunction with existing summer programs in the school district or in a community reading program not affiliated with the school district or offered online.

The supplemental reading intervention program may also include:

- Reading intervention practices that are evidence-based;
- Diagnostic assessments to identify specific skill-based strengths and weaknesses a student may have;
- Frequent monitoring of student progress throughout the school year with instruction adjusted accordingly;
- Intensive intervention using strategies selected from the following list to match the weaknesses identified in the diagnostic assessment:
    - Development in phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, and reading comprehension;
    - Explicit and systematic instruction with detailed explanations, extensive opportunities for guided practice, and opportunities for error corrections and feedback; or
    - Daily targeted individual or small-group reading intervention based on student needs as determined by diagnostic assessment data subject to planned extracurricular school activities;
- Strategies and resources to assist with reading skills at home, including parent-training workshops and suggestions for parent-guided home reading; or
- Access to before-school or after-school supplemental reading intervention with a teacher or tutor who has specialized training in reading intervention.

Parent/Guardian Notification. The school will give notice in writing or by electronic communication to the parent(s) or guardian(s) of any student identified as having a reading deficiency within 15 working days of such identification that the student has been identified as having a reading deficiency and that an individual reading improvement plan will be established and shared with the parents or guardians.

Reading Improvement Plan. Any student who is identified as having a reading deficiency will receive an individualized reading improvement plan, that shall include a supplemental reading intervention program, no later than 30 days after the identification

of the reading deficiency. The reading improvement plan may be created by the teacher, the principal, other pertinent school personnel, and the parents or guardians of the student and shall describe the reading intervention services the student will receive through the supplemental reading intervention program to remedy the reading deficiency. The student must receive reading intervention services through the supplemental reading intervention program until the student is no longer identified as having a reading deficiency.

Reading Progress. Each student in kindergarten through third grade and his or her parent(s) or guardian(s) will be informed of the student's reading progress within a reasonable time after the school district receives the results from the student's approved reading assessment.

NDE Professional Learning System. The Nebraska Department of Education provides a professional learning system. The elementary school(s) and early childhood education programs approved by the State Board of Education will ensure that teachers who teach children from four years of age through third grade are aware of the professional learning system and are adequately trained regarding evidence-based reading instruction to effectively instruct students in reading.

NDE Report. On or before July 1 of each year, the school district will provide the required information relating to dyslexia to the Nebraska Department of Education.

Adopted on: 7-9-18
Revised on: 6-11-24
Reviewed on: _____

6037
Senior Sneak

Senior Sneak Day is limited to a 24-hour period, no overnight trip. Sneak Day must be approved by the Board of Education on a yearly basis.

Adopted on: 7-13-15
Revised on: _____
Reviewed on: _____

6038
High Ability Learners Policy

It shall be the policy of the Diller-Odell Public School to provide a plan for providing for high ability learners subject to the availability of funding at the local, state, or federal level. For purpose of this policy, funds shall mean funds specifically budgeted through the legal budgeting procedures of the Board of Education at the local level. Nothing in this policy shall be construed to require compliance with this policy in the absence of funding for such plan.

If funds for a plan for high ability learners are available it shall be the policy of the district to require the administrator or his designee to develop a plan containing the following:

a. District philosophy on service to learners with high ability
b. Goals and objectives of the local program for learners with high ability.
c. Identification of high ability learners which includes multiple assessments and
d. appraisals. equal access to identification opportunities, and which identifies talents that are not readily apparent in students and those which are. Teachers and parents will be notified within thirty days of such identification.
e. Differentiated cognitive and affective curricular and instructional plans.
f. Staff training and assistance procedures.
g. Evaluative procedures for the success of the program.

If a local plan is in place pursuant to this policy, it may be revised as directed by the Board of Education based upon recommendations, if any, from the Superintendent of schools or his designee. Such plan shall have a duration of one fiscal year unless reauthorized and funded by the Board of Education.

Adopted on: 7-13-15
Revised on: _____
Reviewed on: _____

6038 A
Student Use of AI Tools

As used in this policy, artificial intelligence tools ("AI Tools") mean machine-based resources that use computer science, algorithms, large language models, and/or machine learning to perform tasks, answer questions, collect information, and respond to human-directed tasks, queries, and objectives. AI Tools include, but are not necessarily limited to, commercially-available resources like ChatGPT, Gemini, Claude and similar programs.

AI Tools may be useful to student learning. However, students and staff must ensure that student use of AI Tools should focus on using such tools as a resource and for background material, rather than using the AI Tools to complete the assignment. Therefore, AI Tools may only be used by students in accordance with the following requirements:

1. Students may not use AI tools on any assignment, test, or project unless the staff member has given express permission for the student to do so. Staff Member permission to use an AI tool on one assignment does not carry over to other assignments. Individual staff members will decide for each individual assignment the extent to which students may use AI Tools.

2. If a student uses any AI Tools in connection with a school assignment, the student must:

    a. Give proper attribution to the specific AI Tool(s) used to the same extent that students are expected to give proper attribution to other sources of information such as books, texts, encyclopedias, secondary sources, and other traditional media. Such attribution may include, but is not necessarily limited to, accurate quotations, citations, footnotes, endnotes, and/or bibliography entries.
    b. Never copy and paste the output from the AI Tool into the student's work as if the student wrote such section himself or herself.

3. Students may never use AI Tools to:

    a. Cheat on any assignment, test, or quiz;
    b. Help answer questions on a test or quiz without staff member permission;
    c. Make or share deepfakes or fake images, audio, or video of any real person;
    d. Make or share sexual, nude, or intimate images of any real person—even if the image is fake or AI-made;
    e. Bully, harass, threaten, intimidate or impersonate any person;
    f. Place another student or staff member name, photo, voice, or personal information into an AI Tool without staff member authorization;
    g. Use AI Tools to bypass accommodations, content filers, or school security.

4. A student may use AI Tools as an accommodation if his/her IEP team or Section 504 committee has approved use of the tool. The student must disclose the use of AI Tools to the staff member grading the assignment.

5. A student's failure to meet the requirements stated in this policy will constitute a violation of the district's prohibitions against cheating plagiarism and/or academic dishonesty, including but not necessarily limited to such prohibitions stated in the Student Handbook, which violation will subject the student to discipline up to and including expulsion.

6. The student requirements stated above are the minimum requirements for any student assignment. An individual teacher may impose more stringent requirements for any specific academic assignment or coursework.

Adopted on: 7-17-23
Revised on: 7-13-26
Reviewed on: _____

6039
Publication and Communication Policy

The administration of the Diller-Odell Public School will be given by the student or instructor a written copy of all material that is to be published by, presented by, or in any other communicative form to an individual or group. Such material is subject to administrative review and censorship if the material or information is deemed to be inappropriate or inaccurate. This policy applies only to instructors or students and subsequent information that they disseminate while representing the Diller-Odell Public School. In cases of dispute, the Board of Education shall serve as the mediator and will make the final determination on an administrative ruling.

Adopted on: 7-13-15
Revised on: _____
Reviewed on: _____

6039 A
Repeat of Grade at Parent-Guardian Request

Parents and guardians may request that their student repeat a grade level under the following conditions:

Students in Kindergarten through Fourth Grade

Parents and guardians of students in kindergarten through fourth grade may request that their student repeat the grade level that the student has just completed under the following conditions:

1) If the student is at least one year below grade level and behind the child's typically developing peers in reading, English, and language arts such that the child does not possess the necessary academic skills required to succeed in reading, English, and language arts at grade level for the next grade to which the student would otherwise advance; or
2) If the student was absent fifty percent or more of the days in which school was in session for students during the school year which the student has just completed; or
3) If the student experienced a severe mental or physical illness resulting in hospitalization of two or more weeks during the school year.

Students in Fifth through Twelfth Grade

Parents and guardians of students in fifth through twelfth grade may request that their student repeat the grade level that the student has just completed if the student was absent fifty percent or more of the days in which school was in session for students during the school year which the student has just completed.

Procedure for Parent Requests for Student Grade Repetition

Parents and guardians who seek to have their student repeat the grade level just completed must submit a written request to the student's building principal no earlier than the day after the last scheduled student attendance day of the school year, and no later than two weeks after that date. This deadline may be waived by the superintendent for good cause shown. The request must include written documentation the provides evidence that the parents or guardians believe substantiate that the conditions outlined above have been met.

The principal shall promptly forward the request to the superintendent or his/her designee, along with any building-level information about the student which the principal believes will be relevant to the superintendent or designee in responding to the parents' or guardian's request.

The superintendent or designee shall review the request and promptly schedule a

meeting with the parents or guardians. At this meeting, the superintendent or designee shall identify any alternative educational opportunities available to the student, including remedial instruction if applicable, and verify any special education supports available to the student. If the child's parent or guardian still intends to have such child repeat a grade, the parent or guardian shall complete a form prescribed by the Nebraska Department of Education and return the form to the office of the superintendent of schools.

Upon completion of the form and if all requirements pursuant to this policy are met, the school district shall have the child repeat the child's grade for the next school year.

Nothing in this policy modifies the school district's policies on mandatory attendance and reporting excessive absenteeism to the county attorney or other members of law enforcement. Likewise, nothing in this policy shall dictate or direct the provision of special education or related services, including but not limited to any IEP team decision about the appropriate educational placement of a child with a disability under Rule 51 of the Nebraska Department of Education.

Adopted on: 6-11-24
Revised on: _____
Reviewed on: _____

6040
Prekindergarten (Preschool or Early Childhood) Program

The school board establishes a program to provide prekindergarten services to resident or option students, also referred to as an early childhood or preschool program. The school district will provide the program in compliance with state law and 92 NAC 11 (Nebraska Department of Education "Rule 11"). The availability of the program is subject to the district being able to employ and retain appropriate and qualified personnel.

Purpose. The purpose of the program is to promote the social, emotional, intellectual, language, physical, and aesthetic development and learning for the children served and to promote family development and support.

Age Participation. The program will be available to children of the following ages:

- Children who are 4 years of age at the start of the enrollment year; and
- If there is space available, children who are 5 years of age at the start of the enrollment year, so long as they do not turn 6 years of age prior to January 1 of that year.

All enrollment is subject to capacity limitations and enrollment priorities established in this policy.

Capacity Limitation. The maximum capacity for the program is 16 children. In the event where the total number of children registered for the program by July 15 rises above 16, the district will only offer the program to children with the following priority for enrollment:

- 4-year-olds;
- "At-risk" children (as defined by Rule 11);

If the program is at capacity after July 15, further enrollment applications will be denied. Exception: If an "at-risk child" (as defined by Rule 11) moves into the district and the program is at capacity, the child will be enrolled in the program. The youngest child in the class that is not "at risk" will be withdrawn from the program.

Program Coordinator. The program will be coordinated by an individual qualified by law to be a Program Coordinator.

Program and Staff Requirements. All teachers and administrators in prekindergarten programs must hold a valid certificate or permit to teach issued by NDE except as otherwise allowed by law or Rule 11.

Participation and Inclusion. Participation of children and families in the program will be voluntary. The program will not exclude children verified as having disabilities and will include to the extent possible children of diverse social and economic characteristics.

Birth Certificates. Within 30 days of enrollment, parents or guardians must submit a certified copy of the child's birth certificate or other documentation in compliance with the Missing Children Identification Act (sections 43-2001 through 43-2012).

Instructional Hours. Each class in the program will operate a minimum of 12 instructional hours per week during the school year. Programs receiving grant funds pursuant to state law will operate a minimum of 450 instructional hours per school year.

Fees. The district may charge a fee for its program in accordance with the Policy 5045 - Student Fees, provided that the fee may not exceed the actual cost of the program. If the district charges a fee, it will also use a sliding fee scale in order to maximize the participation of economically and categorically diverse groups. The district may waive fees on the basis of need.

General Reports. The head administrator will include information about the program in the NDE approved data system. All early childhood data is due as specified by the data system calendar.

Early Childhood Program Report. An Early Childhood Program Report Form will be submitted annually by October 15 on the form required by NDE.

Planning. Each program will have a planning period that complies with the requirements of Rule 11.

Coordination with Existing Programs and Funding Sources. The district will develop, and keep on file, a written plan to show that the program will be coordinated or contracted with existing programs in compliance with Rule 11 requirements. The district will develop and keep on file a written plan to coordinate and use a combination of local, state, and federal funding sources including, but not limited to, those listed in Rule 11 in order to maximize the participation of economically and categorically diverse groups of children and to ensure that participating children and families have access to knowledge of comprehensive services that may be available.

Additional Rule 11 Requirements. Rule 11 includes additional requirements that are not included in this policy, including but not limited to requirements addressing family development and support; developmentally and culturally appropriate curriculum, practices, and assessment; evaluation and quality assurance; program staff; child/staff ration and group size; facilities, equipment, health, and safety; meals and snacks, immunizations; supervision; toileting; infants and toddlers; Sixpence programs; and home-based programs. The district will comply with these additional requirements that are applicable to the program.

Special Education Act Compliance. Nothing in this policy allows the school district to fail to meet its responsibilities under the Special Education Act (section 79-1110 through

79-1167). To the extent there is any conflict between this policy or Rule 11 with the Special Education Act, the Act shall control.

Adopted on: 6-11-24
Revised on: _____
Reviewed on: _____

6041
Malcolm X Day Education

Each year on May 19th, designated as El-Hajj Malik ElShabazz, Malcolm X Day, the school district will hold suitable exercises in recognition of the sacrifices of the late Nebraska Hall of Fame inductee El-Hajj Malik El-Shabazz, Malcolm X, and his contributions to the betterment of society. When May 19th falls on a Saturday or Sunday, the district will provide the suitable exercises during the preceding or following week. The program shall be implemented within any applicable laws and/or regulations.

Adopted on: 6-11-24
Revised on: _____
Reviewed on: _____

6042
Projection Maps

The school district will only use the Gall-Peters projection map or a similar cylindrical equal-area projection map or the AuthaGraph projection map for display or use in the classroom. Use of the Mercator projection map is prohibited unless:

1. The Mercator projection map is used in conjunction with other projection maps in a teaching exercise to demonstrate that all maps are flawed in some way and different map projections serve different functions and may affect how individuals view the world; or

2. The Mercator projection map is part of any:

    a. book or material obtained prior to July 19, 2024; or geographic information system; or computer program that renders a three-dimensional representation of Earth based primarily on satellite imagery, such as Google Earth or similar software; and
    b. a Gall-Peters projection map or similar cylindrical equal-area projection map or an AuthaGraph projection map is displayed in the classroom or shown to students during the lesson in which a Mercator projection map is used.

Adopted on: 6-11-24
Revised on: _____
Reviewed on: _____

6044
Participation and Assignment of Athletic Teams

Designation of Athletic Team or Sport. The terms male, female, and coed are defined as provided by state law. All athletic and sports teams of the district are hereby designated as male, female, or coed as follows:

Sport/Team	Designation
Football	Male
Volleyball	Female
Golf	Male and Female Teams
Basketball	Male and Female Teams
Track	Male and Female Teams
Baseball	Male
Softball	Female
[	

Participation on Assigned Teams. Males shall not participate on teams designated for females. Females may only participate on male teams when there is no female team offered or available for such sport. Males and females may participate on coed teams and in coed events as long as their participation is consistent with the eligibility and other rules of that team or event.

Determination of Student Sex. To determine eligibility, a student and the student's parent or guardian shall provide the district with confirmation of the student's sex on a document signed by a doctor or signed under authority of a doctor.

Conduct of Visitors and the Public. Visitors and members of the public attending district interscholastic team activities are expected to comply with all district policies and practices, including sportsmanship rules.

Adopted on: 7-14-25
Revised on: _____
Reviewed on: _____

6045
Behavioral Intervention

General Approach. The district utilizes a tiered system of support to foster a positive school climate and culture, encourage appropriate student behavior, and provide the necessary supports for academic and behavioral success.

Interaction with Student Discipline Policy. This policy does not replace the Student Discipline policy or limit the District's authority under the Student Discipline Act when behaviors warrant action under that policy or Act.

Classroom Removal. Students may be removed from the classroom if the student poses a threat to their own safety, the safety of others, or the environment or if the student's behavior is disruptive to the learning environment. When appropriate, prior to removal staff should consider the use of de-escalation techniques, behavior redirection, or other Tier 1 or Tier 2 or comparable interventions.

When classroom removal is appropriate, the District will consider whether the student requires additional support to transition back to the classroom and continue to monitor the student's behavior to adjust interventions and supports as needed.

Required Training. The School District, independently or through the educational service unit, will develop and provide behavioral awareness and intervention training to employees with behavioral management responsibilities. Each employee with behavior management responsibilities must complete the behavioral awareness and intervention training during the 2026-27 school year or during the first year of employment with the district.
The length of such training will be at least 1 hours.

Behavioral Awareness Point of Contact (BAPC). Each school building must designate one or more school employees as a BAPC. Each BAPC must have knowledge of community services providers and other resources available for students and families. Each BAPC must coordinate access to support services for students.

The BAPC will be identified on the district website and in the school directory.

Adopted on: 7-14-25
Revised on: _____
Reviewed on: _____