

KSB SCHOOL LAW

5000 Series I N D E X

5001	Compulsory Attendance and Excessive Absenteeism
5002	Admission of Students
5002.1	Admission of Out-of-State Students
5003	Admission of Part-Time Students
5004	Option Enrollment
5005	Transportation
5006	Foreign Exchange Students
5007	Enrollment of Expelled Students
5008	Pregnant or Parenting Students
5009	Adult Education
5010	Immunizations
5011	Physical and Visual Examination of Students
5012	Testing and Assessment Program
5014	Homeless Students
5015	Protection of Pupil Rights
5016	Student Records
5017	Routine Directory Information
5018	Parental Involvement in Educational Practices
5019	Communicating with Parents
5020	Rights of Custodial and Non-Custodial Parents

- 5022 Investigations, Arrests, and Other Student Contact by Law Enforcement and Health and Human Services
- 5023 Student Illness
- 5024 Medication of Students
- 5025 Student Insurance
- 5028 Initiations and Hazing
- 5030 Dating Violence
- 5031 Student Appearance
- 5032 Closed Campus
- 5033 Student Driving and Parking
- 5035 Student Discipline
- 5036 Lockers
- 5037 Student Internet and Computer Access
- 5039 Fundraising Activities
- 5040 Work Permits
- 5041 Student Government
- 5042 Bulletin Boards
- 5043 School-Sponsored Publications
- 5044 Safe Pupil Transportation Plan
- 5045 Student Fees
- 5046 Secret Organizations
- 5048 Emergency Response to Life Threatening Asthma or Systemic Allergic Reactions (Anaphylaxis)
- 5050 Reporting Related to Exempt (Home) Schools
- 5052 School Wellness

5053	Self-Management of Diabetes or Asthma/Anaphylaxis
5054	Student Bullying
5055	Enrollment in Kindergarten
5056	Free Expression by Students
5057	District Title I Parent and Family Engagement Policy
5059	Emergency Medical Treatment
5062	Lice and Nits
5064	Title I Supplement, Not Supplant
5065	Bed Bugs
5066	Early Graduation
5067	Student Assistance Team Process

FORMS INDEX

5000 Series Forms

Related Policy

Application for Admission of Out-of-State Student	5002.1
Bus Emergency Incident Report	5044
Collaborative Plan Addressing Barriers to Attendance	5001
County Attorney Letter re Collaboration	5035
Disenrollment Packet	5001
Emergency Response Protocol for Asthma and Anaphylaxis	N/A
Excessive Absenteeism Letter to County - Policy	5001
Excessive Absenteeism Letter to County Attorney – Report	5001
Excessive Absenteeism Letter to Family	5001

Fee Waiver	5045
Foreign Exchange Student Application Form	5006
Immunization Opt Out Affidavit	5010
Intent to Disenroll	5001
McKinney Vento Dispute	5014
McKinney Vento Dispute Written Response and Right to Appeal	5014
McKinney Vento Written Notification of Enrollment	5014
NDE Option Application - Acceptance or Rejection - Appeals Process	5004
Notice of Opt Out Policy	5012
Notice of Parent Rights (FERPA)	5016
Option Enrollment Resolution	5004
Part-Time Enrollment Form	5003
Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment	5015
Statement of Law Enforcement Officer Removing Child	5022
Student Employment Certificate	5040
Title I Compact	5057
Written Objection to Physical or Visual Exams	5011
Education Court Report	N/A
Prescription Drug Authorization and Release	5024
Nonprescription Drug Authorization and Release	5024

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.

Regular Attendance:

1. Students are expected to attend every class, every day.
2. The only "excused" absences shall be:
 - a.) 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.

- b.) absences when the Nebraska State Patrol confirms in writing that weather conditions have made the roads impassable so that the student's attendance impracticable or impossible.
- c.) student attendance at a school-sponsored activity;
- 3. all other absences, including absences for minor physical or mental illnesses, family events, routine medical appointments are simply "absences."

When students are absent from school, district staff will respond as follows:

First Stage Response to Absences

1. A member of district staff will contact a parent or guardian via telephone for every student absence if the parent or guardian has not contacted the school. Parents or guardians will be notified in writing when their child reaches 5 absences. When a student accumulates 8 absences in a semester, an Attendance Improvement Plan meeting will be scheduled with the building principal. The meeting must include, at a minimum, the attendance officer, the student's parent or guardian, building principal, and the student when appropriate. The team will develop a collaborative plan to address barriers to attendance and support improved regular attendance.
2. When a student accumulates more than 10 absences in a semester or 15 absences for the school year the building principal may report the student to the county attorney for the county in which the person having legal or actual charge or control of the student resides. The school will provide written notice to the student's parent, guardian, or other person having legal or actual charge or control of the student prior to any referral to the county attorney.
3. Any students who exceed ten percent (10%) of the total number of student days in a school year will be referred to the county attorney for action under Neb. Rev. Stat. § 43-247(3)(a) and (b).

Adopted on: 4-11-2005

Revised on: 7-10-2017, 6-16-2025, 1-12-2026

Reviewed on: 6-10-2024

Disenrollment Packet

Disenrollment from school is a serious decision with significant legal ramifications. Nebraska Statutes § 79-201 to 79-209 cover compulsory attendance at public school, exceptions, and the ways that a parent or a student who has reached 18 years of age may disenroll. The forms in this packet will help parents and students complete the legally required steps.

The disenrollment process is different for students of different ages. Multiple forms are contained in this packet. You only need to complete one of the disenrollment forms. When selecting the correct form for disenrollment, please note that the forms ask about your student's current age AND what age your student will be on January 1 of the current school year.

Depending on the age of your student at disenrollment, an exit interview may be required by state law.

**Alternative Educational Arrangements for Six-Year-Old Child
Attendance Affidavit of Parent/Guardian and Student**

I, _____, am the parent or legal guardian of _____, and have legal authority to make education decisions regarding the student. My child resides in the Southwest Public School District but will not be enrolled in and regularly attend a public, private, denominational, or parochial day school which meets the requirements for legal operation in Chapter 79 of the Nebraska statutes.

I certify that the child was born on (date) _____, is six years old, and will not reach the age of seven years old prior to January 1 of the ____-____ school year. I am not enrolling my child this school year because:

Please check one of the following:

____ The child is participating in an education program that I believe will prepare the child to enter grade one for the following school year.

____ I intend the child to participate in a school which has elected or will elect, pursuant to section 79-1601 of the Nebraska statutes, not to meet accreditation or approval requirements; and I intend to provide the Commissioner of Education with the required statement to that effect on or before the child's seventh birthday.

Printed Name of parent or guardian: _____

Relationship to Student: _____

Address: _____ Phone Number: (____) _____

Signature of parent or guardian: _____

Signature of student: _____

(not required if the student is too ill to attend)

COUNTY OF _____)

) ss.

STATE OF NEBRASKA)

Signed in my presence and sworn to this ____ day of _____, 201__.

Notary Public

**Disenrollment of Child Between 16 and 18 Years of Age
Attendance Affidavit of Parent/Guardian and Student**

I, _____ am the parent or legal guardian of _____, and have legal authority to make education decisions regarding the student. My child resides in the Southwest Public School District but will not be enrolled in and regularly attend a public, private, denominational, or parochial day school which meets the requirements for legal operation in Chapter 79 of the Nebraska statutes because illness makes attendance impossible or impracticable, or because financial hardships make it necessary for the child to be employed to support the child's family.

I certify that the child was born on (date) _____, and is 16 or 17 years old. I authorize and direct the school district to discontinue the child's enrollment pursuant to section 79-202 of the Nebraska statutes. I understand that state law requires an exit interview as part of the disenrollment process. I agree to attend an exit interview scheduled by the superintendent's office at a date to be determined. My child will attend the exit interview unless unable to do so due to illness.

Printed Name of parent or guardian: _____

Relationship to Student: _____

Address: _____ Phone Number: (____) _____

Signature of parent or guardian: _____

Signature of student: _____

(not required if the student is too ill to attend)

COUNTY OF _____)

) ss.

STATE OF NEBRASKA)

Signed in my presence and sworn to this ____ day of _____, 201__.

Notary Public

Printed name of student: _____

Signature of student: _____

Signed in my presence and sworn to this ____ day of _____, 20__.

Figure 1. Schematic representation of the experimental design. The subjects were divided into two groups: the control group (CG) and the experimental group (EG). The CG was exposed to a control environment (CE) and the EG was exposed to an experimental environment (EE). The EE was designed to simulate a real-world environment with various stimuli and tasks. The subjects were exposed to the EE for a period of 10 days. The results of the experiment are shown in the table below.

Superintendent Verification of Exit Interview

I _____, am Superintendent of Southwest Public Schools. Principal _____ and I attended the exit interview with the parent and child on _____, 20____. The parent and child presented the information that is required by statute. In my opinion, the parent has legal and actual charge of the child and the child's illness makes attendance impossible or impracticable, or the child is experiencing financial hardship which necessitates employment to support the family.

_____, Superintendent

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 interests 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 Families 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: 4-11-2005

Revised on: 7-10-2017, 6-10-2019, 7-14-2025

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 is authorized to admit out-of-state students whose academic history, disciplinary records, prior school community involvement and other relevant factors 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. The administration may reject an out-of-state student when acceptance of the student:

- 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 the student;
- Would require the procurement of new equipment, technology, or furnishings;
- Would cause or require the rearrangement of caseloads for staff and contracted professionals;
- Is reasonably deemed by appropriate school staff to pose a potential risk to the health or safety of students or staff;
- May pose a risk of adversely affecting the quality of educational services being provided to resident students, as determined by appropriate school staff.

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.

Out-of-state students may be charged tuition per semester by the district. 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: 7-10-2017

Revised on: _____

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 1st prior to the year of enrollment. For second semester high school courses, the application must be filed by December 1st. 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 if they participate in extracurricular sports and activities at 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

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: 7-10-2017

Revised on: 7-10-2023, 7-13-2026

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 - 5.
- e. Middle School Defined.** Middle school means grades 6 – 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 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: 11-14-2011

Revised on: 8-12-2013, 7-14-2014, 6-13-2016, 7-13-2023, 8-14-2023, 7-15-2024, 7-13-2026

Reviewed on: _____

RESOLUTION ON SCHOOL DISTRICT STANDARDS FOR ACCEPTANCE OR REJECTION OF OPTION ENROLLMENT APPLICATIONS

WHEREAS, Southwest Public Schools is committed to providing an education of high quality to its students in an economically efficient manner; and

WHEREAS, the school district's faculty, facilities, and equipment can serve only a limited number of students effectively; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education, in consultation with the administration, has reviewed the school district's faculty, facilities, equipment, interdisciplinary efforts and interrelationships of grades, subjects, and faculty; and has determined the maximum number of students it can serve effectively at any given grade level and in total;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the board adopts the following standards for acceptance or rejection of option enrollment applications:

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 the student has an individualized education program under the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, 20 U.S.C. 1400 et seq., or has been diagnosed 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 the applicant 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.

Numeric Capacity. The capacity in the following grade levels, programs, classes, and/or school buildings is as follows:

- **Grade Level Numeric Capacity:**
 - Kindergarten through 3rd Grade: 20 students in each grade
 - 4th Grade through 6th Grade: 25 students in each grade
 - 7th Grade through 12th Grade: 30 students in each grade

Other Standards. The school district shall not accept an option student when acceptance of the student:

- (a) 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 the student;
- (b) Would require the procurement of new equipment, technology, or furnishings;
- (c) Would cause or require the rearrangement of caseloads for staff and contracted professionals;
- (d) Is reasonably deemed by appropriate school staff to pose a potential risk to the health or safety of students or staff;
- (e) May pose a risk of adversely affecting the quality of educational services being provided to resident students, as determined by appropriate school staff.

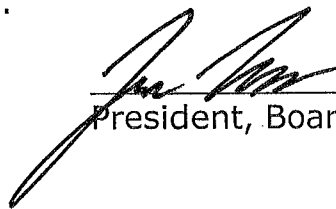
After the above resolution was read, board member Duane moved for passage of the motion. Board member Koepping seconded the motion. After discussion, and on roll call vote, the following members voted in favor of the motion: Duane Teter, Jason Kloepping, Brooke Brooks, and Jason Neseth.

The following members voted against the motion:

The following members did not vote: John O'Dea, Jenni McConville

Having been consented to by a majority of the voting members, the board president declared the motion to have been passed and adopted.

Dated this 9th day of October, 2023.



President, Board of Education

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.

Adopted on: 4-11-2005

Revised on: 7-15-2024

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.

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: April 11, 2005

Revised on: _____

Reviewed on: _____

Foreign Exchange Student Application Form

THIS SECTION MUST BE COMPLETED BY THE HOST FAMILY:

Name(s) of Host Family Parent(s): _____

Address: _____ Phone: _____

****Note to Host Family Parent(s):** Attached to this form is the Nebraska Department of Education Rule 19 Attendance form required for admission of students. Please fill it out and return it with this Application.

THIS SECTION MUST BE COMPLETED BY THE STUDENT AND/OR EXCHANGE PROGRAM SPONSOR AND/OR PARENT OR GUARDIAN:

Student Name: _____

Country of Origin: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Age: _____

Exchange Program Name: _____

Previous Exchange Programs: _____

Previous School Attended: _____

Location and Contact Information: _____

Student is Fluent in English: ☐ Yes ☐ No

If "No" Describe the Student's English Language Education and Training:

PRIOR TO ADMITTANCE THE STUDENT MUST PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING:

1. Copy of Birth Certificate
2. Complete Physical and Eye exams as required by State Law 79-214 (2)
3. Record of Immunizations
4. Transcript from Current Educational Institution

For District Use Only

Application

- ☐ Denied (reason): _____
☐ Approved

Forms Provided

- ☐ Birth Certificate
☐ Physical Exam
☐ Eye Exam
☐ Immunization Records
☐ Transcripts

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: April 11, 2005

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: 4-11-2005

Revised on: 7-10-2017, 7-9-2019, 8-12-2024

Reviewed on: _____

5009
Adult Education

The school district may offer adult education programs.

Adopted on: April 11, 2005

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: _____4-11-2005

Revised on: _____6-12-2017

Reviewed on: _____

5011

Physical Examination and Visual Evaluation of Students

I. Physical Examination

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

II. Visual Evaluation for Students

The following students shall provide evidence of a vision evaluation by a qualified vision health care provider:

- all incoming students in the beginner grade and
- all out-of-state transfer students

The health care provider must test the student for amblyopia, strabismus and internal and external eye health, with testing sufficient to determine visual acuity. Evidence of a visual evaluation must be dated no more than six months prior to entrance.

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.

III. Objection to Examination

Any parent(s) or guardian(s) who object to a physical and/or vision examination and evaluation must submit a signed and dated refusal form to the school.

Adopted on: 4/11/2005

Revised on: 7/15/2024

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: April 11, 2005

Revised on: 6-13-2022

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 R. Todd Porter, Superintendent. Students in homeless situations who require assistance should contact the liaison at 308-692-3223 (phone number) or in person at 900 Coke St., Bartley, Nebraska 69020 (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: April 11, 2005

Reviewed on: _____

Revised on: June 12, 2017

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).

1. 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.

2. 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.

3. 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.

4. 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.

5. 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 at least annually, at the beginning of the school year and within a reasonable period after any substantive change in this policy.

Adopted on: 4-11-2005

Revised on: 7-10-2017, 7-14-2025

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" only those student records which are reduced to paper or physical format and placed within a student's file in the district's central offices or in the file pertaining to the student's special education or Section 504 services. Records which can be printed in paper form must be printed in order to be "maintained." Other records such as video recordings, which constitute student records, must be reduced to a physical medium in order to be "maintained." For example, a video must be put on a compact disk or other compatible hardware and placed within the student's file to be "maintained."

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: 4-11-2005

Revised on: 6-10-2019

Reviewed on: 8-8-2011, 8-12-2013, 7-14-2014, 7-11-2016, 6-16-2025

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: 4-11-2005

Revised on: 7-10-17, 7-9-18, 6-10-2019

Reviewed on: _____

5018
Parent Involvement in Education Practices

For purposes of this policy, "parent" includes a parent, guardian, or educational decisionmaker (a person designated or ordered by a court to make educational decisions on behalf of a student).

The school district recognizes the importance of parental involvement in the education of their children. To the extent practicable, the school district will make a reasonable effort to make any learning materials, including original materials, available for inspection by a parent upon request.

The school district will take the following steps to ensure that the rights of parents to participate in the education of their children are preserved.

1. Parents will be provided access to textbooks, tests, activities information; digital materials; websites or applications used for learning; training materials for teachers, administrators, and staff; procedures for the review and approval of training materials, learning materials, and activities; and other curriculum materials ("curricular materials") as follows:
 - a. A parental request to review specific curricular materials (written, visual, or audio) should be made to the principal of the building where the curricular materials are used.
 - b. The building principal will assess the request and determine the allowable volume and time frame of the review to prevent disruption to the efficient operations of the district.
 - c. The purpose of this provision is to allow reasonable access to the extent practicable. Individuals who make requests (a) for the purpose of adding staff burden; (b) at an unreasonable frequency or volume; or (c) for purposes inconsistent with the efficient operations of the district may be denied access to materials.
 - d. 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 will be permitted, within district procedures, to attend and observe courses, assemblies, counseling sessions, and other instructional activities.
 - a. Parents 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 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 may contact the building principal to request permission to attend counseling sessions in which their child is involved.
3. Parents may request that their children be excused from testing (except as provided below), classroom instruction, learning materials, activities, guest speaker events, and other school experiences ("school events") that parents find objectionable.
 - a. Parents must submit this request in writing to the building principal for consideration.
 - b. Building principals may excuse a student from any school events at the parent's written request if, in the principal's professional judgment, excusal from the activity would not result in diminution of the student's educational experience.
 - c. When the building principal determines it appropriate, alternative experiences may be provided for the student by the school.
4. Parents 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 will be informed of the standardized and criterion-referenced district testing program. Parents may request additional information from the building principal.

6. Parents 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 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 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 of eligible students with reasonable notice prior to the exam being administered. Parents 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 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 may restrict their child from participating in any survey.
 - c. If the school administers (1) a survey requesting that students provide sexual information, mental health information, medical information, information on health-risk behaviors, religious information, information of political affiliation, or any other information that the school board deems to be sensitive in nature or (2) a non-anonymous survey requesting students provide information relating to drug, vape, alcohol, or tobacco use, the school district shall, at least fifteen days prior to the administration of the survey, notify parents, guardians, and educational decisionmakers of students that are to receive such survey. The notice will be made through the school's electronic notification system or by physical mail to the address on file for the student. The notice will describe the nature and types of questions included in the survey, the purposes and age-appropriateness of the survey, how information collected by the survey will be used, who will have access to such information, the steps that will be taken to protect student privacy, and whether and how any findings or results of such survey will be disclosed.
 - d. Parents have the right to: (1) request that a copy of the survey be sent through the school's electronic notification system or physical mail to the address on file for the student, (2) review the survey in person at the school, and (3) exempt their child from participating in the survey.
 - e. Unless required by federal or state law or regulation, school personnel administering any survey shall not disclose personally identifiable information of a child.
 - f. No survey requesting sexual information of a student shall be administered to any student in kindergarten through grade six.
 - g. The district will also comply with any survey requirements found in the district's policy on Protection of Pupil Rights.
8. The district will make this policy accessible by a prominently displayed link on its public website. Any amended policy will be made accessible within a reasonable time of its amendment.

Adopted on: 4-11-2005

Revised on: 7-10-2017, 7-14-2025

Reviewed on: _____

5018

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Adopted on: 4-11-2005

Revised on: 7-10-2017, 7-14-2025, 6-13-2026

Reviewed on: _____

Communicating with Parents

Parents shall be kept informed of student progress, grades, and attendance through report cards, progress reports, and parent/teacher conferences. The school district will notify parents if their students are failing or close to failing. 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: April 11, 2005

Revised on: _____

Reviewed on: _____

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: August 11, 2005

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: 4-11-2005

Revised on: 7-10-2017, 6-10-2019

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: April 11, 2005

Revised on: July 13, 2015

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: April 11, 2005

Revised on: _____

Reviewed on: _____

5025
Student Insurance

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. The school district may disseminate information about insurance plans available for purchase by parents for their students from third party vendors.

Adopted on: 4/11/2005

Revised on: 7/25/2024

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: April 11, 2005

Revised on: June 13, 2016

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: 7-14-2010

Revised on: 6-12-2017

Reviewed on: _____

5031 Student Appearance

The board directs the Administration to develop and maintain a dress code that governs student appearance and that shall be included within the student handbook(s). The Administration may elect to adopt different versions of the dress code for different schools, buildings, or grades (e.g., elementary dress code, high school dress code, etc.).

General Regulations. Dress codes adopted in conformance with this policy may prohibit student attire or appearance that:

- Causes or is reasonably likely to cause a material and substantial disruption to the District's programs and activities.
- Invades the rights of others.
- Promotes, depicts, or refers to violence, drugs, alcohol, vulgarity, obscenity, illegal activity, hate speech, bullying speech, lewd speech, indecent 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.

Students may be required to adhere to uniform standards and/or wear district-approved or issued uniforms in order to participate in activities.

Specific Limitations on Dress Codes. Except as provided in the *Health and Safety Standard* below, the specific dress codes enacted pursuant to this policy may not:

- Target, disproportionately impact, discriminate, or be applied in a discriminatory manner against any students on the basis of race, religion, sex, disability, or national origin;
- Prohibit a student from wearing attire associated with race, national origin, or religion (including religious attire, natural and protective hairstyles, adornments or other such characteristics); or
- Require a student's hair be permanently or temporarily altered.

Health and Safety Standard. Notwithstanding these *Specific Limitations on Dress Codes*, this policy allows for dress codes to regulate characteristics associated with race, national origin, or religion under the following circumstances:

- In the absence of regulating the student's appearance or attire, it is reasonably certain that the health and safety of the student or another individual will be impaired;
- Regulating the student's appearance or attire is for nondiscriminatory reasons;
- Regulation of the student appearance or attire is applied equally;
- The administrator (or his or her designee) engages in a good-faith effort to reasonably accommodate the student and notifies the student's parent or guardian, in a language that such parent or guardian understands, of the school district's attempt to accommodate the student's appearance or attire; and
- The school district uses a process to obtain written or oral consent from a student's parent or guardian prior to altering a student's appearance or removing or altering a student's attire.

Record Retention. When the *Health and Safety Standard* is used, the school must keep records on each effort to reasonably accommodate a student's appearance or attire, hairstyle, adornment, or other characteristics associated with race, national origin, or religion occurring at school, on school grounds, or at a school-sponsored event and ensure that such records allow for analysis of related data and delineate:

- The reason for such student's referral relating to the dress code; and
- Federally identified demographic characteristics of such student.

Dress Code Enforcement. School personnel are authorized to request immediate changes in the appearance or attire of student so as to remedy any dress code violations. Enforcement of dress code violations must be done in a manner that is consistent with a school's overall discipline plan and in a consistent manner. A student's violation of the dress code shall not subject the student to long-term suspension, expulsion, or mandatory reassignment as provided in NEB. REV. STAT. § 79-267. A violation of the dress code may not require the student to miss substantial classroom time, instruction time, or school activities.

Under no circumstances is any administrator, teacher, other member of the school district's staff, or any school district contractor allowed to permanently or temporarily alter or cut a student's hair.

No student shall be disproportionately affected by dress code enforcement because of the student's gender, race, color, religion, disability, or national origin.

Adopted on: 4-11-2005

Revised on: 7-14-2025

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: April 11, 2005

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 10 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: April 11, 2005

Revised on: June 13, 2016

Reviewed on: _____

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: 4-11-2005

Revised on: 7-14-2014, 7-9-2018, 6-10-2019, 6-8-2020, 7-10-2023, 7-15-2024, 7-13-2026

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: April 11, 2005

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: 4-11-2005

Revised on: 8-8-2011, 7-9-2018

Reviewed on: _____

5039
Money-Raising Activities

All money-raising activities shall require authorization by a member of the school district administration.

Adopted on: April 11, 2005

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: April 11, 2005

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: April 11, 2005

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: April 11, 2005

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: April 11, 2005

Revised on: _____

Reviewed on: _____

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: April 11, 2005

Revised on: August 8, 2011, July 14, 2014

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 \$0.

As with all school property, students may be charged for damage to such devices. To protect against such potential losses, students and parents may, but are not required, to purchase insurance coverage for the devices. The maximum dollar amount of this insurance coverage facilitated by the district will be \$0. 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.

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 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: \$ 25
 - Covers admission to all extracurricular events
- Student Participation Fee: \$0
- Future Business Leaders of America: \$10
- National Honor Society: \$0
- Cheerleading: 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: uniforms vary by year
- Football: \$0
 - Students must provide their own football shoes, undergarments, and mouthguards
- Golf: \$0
 - Students must provide their own golf shoes, undergarments, and clubs.
- Track, Volleyball, and Wrestling: \$0
 - Students must provide their own shoes and undergarments
- FFA: Students will be required to purchase their own official FFA dress. The official dress consists of an official FFA jacket, a white shirt or blouse, an FFA scarf or tie, black pants or a black skirt, and black shoes and socks.

- Art 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.

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 \$0.25 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 afterschool daycare is \$8 per day.

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 K-8
 - Regular Price \$2.15
 - Reduced Price \$0.50
- Breakfast Program – Grades 9-12
 - Regular Price \$2.15
 - Reduced Price \$0.50
- Lunch Program – Grades K-5
 - Regular Price \$3.30
 - Reduced Price \$0.50
- Lunch Program – Grades 6-12
 - Regular Price \$3.80
 - Reduced Price \$0.50

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.

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: 4-11-2005

Revised on: 7-10-2023, 7-15-2024, 1-13-2025, 7-14-2025, 6-13-2026

Reviewed on: _____

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: April 11, 2005

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 employee, 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: 4-11-2005

Revised on: 7-13-2026

Reviewed on: _____



Self-management Of Asthma and Severe Allergy (Anaphylaxis) at School Consent/release form

Parental consent/release in writing is required annually and must be accompanied by:

- Signed physician authorization for self-management of asthma/anaphylaxis at school.
- Current written medical management plan. The school can provide a form for your use.
- We strongly recommend you allow us to keep an extra supply of your child's medications at school.

PARENT/GUARDIAN: By signing below, you acknowledge the following:

1. You are requesting that your student be allowed to self-manage his or her asthma or allergy condition at school.
2. You have confidence that your student has the knowledge and skills need to self-manage his or her asthma or allergy condition at school.
3. You understand that you are not required to make this request on behalf of your child. Your child may utilize the health office for asthma and allergy cares. Your child may request assistance from qualified school health personnel at any time during the school day.
4. If your student injures school personnel or another student as a result of misuse of asthma or allergy supplies, you shall be responsible for any and all cost associated with such injury.
5. The school and its employees are not liable for any injury or death arising from a student's self-management of his or her asthma or allergy condition.
6. You will indemnify and hold harmless the school and its employees and agents against any claim arising from a student's self-management of his or her asthma or allergy.

Parent/Guardian Printed Name

Student Printed Name

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

THIS PORTION RECOMMENDED, NOT REQUIRED

STUDENT: By signing below, you agree that you understand:

1. You must not share, or allow another student to handle, your medications or supplies.
2. You will notify the school nurse or other designated adult when you have used your medication.
3. If you don't feel better after using your medication, you will seek help from school personnel.

Student Signature

Date

Student Printed Name

Student Asthma/Allergy Action Plan

(This Page To Be Completed By Health Care Provider)

Student Name: _____ Date Of Birth: ____/____/____
(MONTH) (DAY) (YEAR)

- ☐ **Exercise Pre-Treatment:** Administer inhaler (2 inhalations) 15-30 minutes prior to exercise. (e.g., PE, recess, etc).
- ☐ Albuterol HFA inhaler (Proventil, Ventolin, ProAir) ☐ Use inhaler with valved holding chamber
- ☐ Albuterol DPI (ProAir RespiClick) ☐ Other: _____
- ☐ Levalbuterol (Xopenex HFA)

Asthma Treatment

Give **quick relief medication** when student has asthma symptoms, such as coughing, wheezing or tight chest.

- ☐ Albuterol HFA (Proventil, Ventolin, ProAir) 2 inhalations
- ☐ Albuterol DPI (ProAir RespiClick) 2 inhalations
- ☐ Levalbuterol (Xopenex HFA) 2 inhalations
- ☐ Use inhaler with valved holding chamber
- ☐ Albuterol inhaled **by nebulizer** (Proventil, Ventolin, AccuNeb)
- ☐ .63 mg/3 mL ☐ 1.25 mg/3 mL ☐ 2.5 mg/3 mL
- ☐ Levalbuterol inhaled **by nebulizer** (Xopenex)
- ☐ 0.31 mg/3 mL ☐ 0.63 mg/3 mL ☐ 1.25 mg/3 mL
- ☐ May carry & self-administer inhaler (MDI)
- ☐ Other: _____

Closely Watch the Student after Giving Quick Relief Medication

If, after 10 minutes:

- Symptoms are better, student may return to classroom **after** notifying parent/guardian
- Symptoms are not better, give the treatment again and notify parent/guardian right away
- **If student continues to get worse, CALL 911 and use the Nebraska Schools' Emergency Response to Life-Threatening Asthma or Systemic Allergic Reactions (Anaphylaxis) Protocol**

Anaphylaxis Treatment

Give **epinephrine** when student has allergy symptoms, such as hives, hard to breathe (chest or neck "sucking in"), lips or fingernails turning blue, or trouble talking (shortness of breath).

- ☐ EpiPen® 0.3 mg ☐ EpiPen® Jr 0.15 mg
- ☐ AUVI-Q® 0.3 mg ☐ AUVI-Q® Jr. 0.15 mg
- ☐ Other: _____
- ☐ May carry & self-administer epi auto-injector
- ☐ **Use epinephrine auto-injector immediately upon exposure to known allergen**
- ☐ **If symptoms do not improve or they return, epinephrine can be repeated after 5 minutes or more**

Lay person flat on back and raise legs. If vomiting or difficulty breathing, let them lie on their side.

CALL 911 After Giving Epinephrine & Closely Watch the Student

- Notify parent/guardian immediately
- **Even if student gets better, the student should be watched for more signs/symptoms of anaphylaxis in an emergency facility**
- **If student does not get better or continues to get worse, use the Nebraska Schools' Emergency Response to Life-Threatening Asthma or Systemic Allergic Reactions (Anaphylaxis) Protocol**

☐ This Student has the ability to self-manage Student's Health Condition and I authorize Student to self-manage in accordance with this Plan. If medications are self-administered, the school staff **must** be notified immediately.

Additional information: (i.e. asthma triggers, allergens) _____

Health Care Provider name: (please print) _____ Phone: _____

Health Care Provider signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent signature: _____ Date: _____

Reviewed by school nurse/nurse designee: _____ Date: _____

Student Asthma/Allergy Action Plan

(This Page To Be Completed By Parent/Guardian)

Student Name: _____ Age: _____ Grade: _____

School: _____ Homeroom Teacher: _____

Parent/Guardian: _____ Phone() _____ () _____

Parent//Guardian: _____ Phone() _____ () _____

Emergency Contact: _____ Phone() _____ () _____

Known Asthma Triggers: Please check the boxes to identify what can cause an asthma episode for your student.

- | | | | |
|---|---|---|--|
| ☐ Exercise | ☐ Respiratory/viral infections | ☐ Odors/fumes/smoke | ☐ Mold/mildew |
| ☐ Pollens | ☐ Animals/dander | ☐ Dust/dust mites | ☐ Grasses/trees |
| ☐ Temperature/weather—humidity, cold air, etc. | ☐ Pesticides | ☐ Food—please list below | |
| ☐ Other—please list: _____ | | | |

Known Allergy/Intolerance: Please check those which apply and describe what happens when your child eats or comes into contact with the allergen..

- | | | |
|---------------|--------------------------|-------|
| Peanuts | ☐ | _____ |
| Tree Nuts | ☐ | _____ |
| /shellfish | ☐ | _____ |
| eggs | ☐ | _____ |
| Soy | ☐ | _____ |
| Wheat | ☐ | _____ |
| Milk | ☐ | _____ |
| Medication | ☐ | _____ |
| Latex | ☐ | _____ |
| Insect stings | ☐ | _____ |
| Other | ☐ | _____ |

Notice: If your child has been prescribed epinephrine (such as an EpiPen®) for an allergy, you must provide epinephrine at school. If your student needs a special diet to limit or avoid foods, your doctor will need to complete the form "Medical Statement Form to Request Special Meals and/or Accommodations" which can be found on the website—www.airenebraska.org

Medicines: Please list medicines used at home and/or to be given at school.

Medicine Name	Amount/Dose	When does it need to be given

I understand that all medicines to be given at school must be provided by the parent/guardian.

Parent signature: _____ Date: _____

Reviewed by school nurse/nurse designee: _____ Date: _____

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: 6-12-2007

Revised on: 7-10-2023, 7-15-2024

Reviewed on: 9-10-2018, 9-9-2019, 9-14-2020, 3-13-2023

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: 6-13-2016

Revised on: _____

Reviewed on: _____

5054 Student Bullying

Definition of Bullying. Nebraska statute defines bullying as "an ongoing pattern of physical, verbal or electronic abuse." 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." The school district's administrators will consider these definitions when determining whether any specific situation constitutes bullying. These definitions include both in-person and cyberbullying behaviors.

Bullying Prohibited. Students are prohibited from engaging in any form of bullying behavior.

Reporting Bullying. Students who experience or observe bullying behavior must immediately report what happened to a teacher or administrator. Students may always confer with their parents or guardians about bullying they experience or witness, but the students must also ultimately report the situation to a teacher or administrator.

Bullying Investigations. School district staff will investigate allegations of bullying using the same practices and procedures that the district observes for student disciplinary matters. In no circumstance will school district staff be deliberately indifferent to allegations of bullying.

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: 08-11-2008

Revised on: 6-12-17, 7-9-2018, 6-8-2020

Reviewed on: 6-12-2023, 6-10-2024, 6-13-2026

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(s) approved by the board are the Developmental Test of Kindergarten Readiness - Second Edition (DTKR-II) by ProEd, Kindergarten Readiness Test (KRT) by Scholastics or The Developmental Indicators for the Assessment of Learning Fourth Edition (DIAL - 4).

The board delegates to the elementary principal responsibility for determining whether the conditions of this policy have been met.

Adopted on: August 8, 2011

Revised on: August 12, 2013

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: August 8, 2011

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 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: 8-8-2011

Revised on: 7-13-2015, 7-11-2016, 7-9-2018

Reviewed on: 8-12-2019, 8-10-2020, 8-9-2021, 8-12-2022, 6-10-2024, 6-15-2026

5062 Lice

Upon discovering the presence of live lice, school personnel will notify the parent(s) and/or guardian(s). School staff will discuss FDA approved medicated treatment plans with the parent/guardian(s). Siblings of students that live in the same household will also be checked for the presence of lice. If live lice are found, the student(s) will be isolated, and will go home with parent/guardian(s).

Criteria for Return to School

The student(s) will be checked for the presence of live lice when they return to school after treatment. If any live lice are found, parents/guardian(s) will be contacted and the student will be sent home immediately for further treatment. This process will be repeated until no live lice are found.

Adopted on: 07/19/2018

Revised on: 07/10/2023, 9/9/2024

Reviewed on: _____

5064
Supplement, Not Supplant

The district will use Title I, Title II, Title IV, and any other funds subject to Supplement, Not Supplant requirements as required by law. The district will use said funds to Supplement, Not Supplant, state and local funds that would, in the absence of such funds, be spent on Title programs. The district will ensure that Title 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 funds. The Superintendent will ensure that professional development is aligned with the needs of the district's Title programs. Title professional development will not duplicate that which the district provides for non-Title purposes which, in the absence of Title funds, would be provided to all staff.

Adopted on: 10-14-2023

Revised on: 8-14-2023

Reviewed on: _____

5065 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 on 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: 7/13/2015

Revised on: 7/15/2024

Reviewed on: _____

5066

Early Graduation

General Policy. Students most effectively obtain the skills and experience necessary to graduate from high school by completing grades 9 through 12 over the course of 4 years. Unless otherwise permitted by Board policy or other applicable law, students must finish all 4 grade levels in order to graduate.

Requirements for Application. In unique circumstances, the Board may waive the four-year attendance requirement for high school graduation, provided that the student has met the requirements of this policy.

Students must make an application to the high school principal before they may seek permission to graduate early from the Board. The principal may consult with appropriate instructional and guidance staff members in making the determination. The student's application must include:

1. Proof that the student will meet all academic requirements necessary to graduate on or before the proposed graduation date;
2. A transcript showing that the student has no grade lower than "C" in any required course at the time of application;
3. A detailed essay that (a) addresses the reasons for seeking early graduation and (b) articulates the student's post-graduation plans, including goals and objectives justifying the need to graduate early; and
4. A letter from a parent/guardian supporting the application.

The student may submit any additional materials which support the student's efforts to graduate early. Such materials may include, but are not required to include: letters of support from staff and community members; proof of admission in a postsecondary program; and/or any other materials which the student believes to support the student's application.

Consideration by the Board of Education. The principal will make a written recommendation to the Board based on the submitted application from the student. The Board will consider but is not bound by the principal's recommendation. Along with the application, the Board may consult with members of the administration, staff, or anyone else the Board deems appropriate. The Board will grant a student's application only if it determines that the student is best served by permitting the student to graduate early.

Participation in District Activities. Early graduates will be considered graduates of the district at the time the Board confers such status upon them. Therefore, early graduates will no longer be considered members of the student body and will forfeit those rights and privileges accorded such students.

Adopted on: 7/14/2024

Revised on: _____

Reviewed on: _____

5065.1

Early Dismissal for Seniors

General Policy. Students most effectively obtain the skills and experience necessary to graduate from high school by completing grades 9 through 12 over the course of 4 years. Unless otherwise permitted by Board policy or other applicable law, students must finish all 4 grade levels in order to graduate.

Requirements for Application. In unique circumstances, the Board may allow Senior students to be dismissed prior to lunch for the entire school year.

Students must make an application to the high school principal before they may seek permission to be granted early dismissal for the entire school year from the Board. The principal may consult with appropriate instructional and guidance staff members in making the determination. The student's application must include:

1. Proof that the student will meet all academic requirements necessary to graduate on or before the proposed graduation date;
2. Present the application by September 1st of the student's Senior year;
3. A detailed essay that (a) addresses the reasons for seeking early dismissal and (b) articulates the student's post-graduation plans, including goals and objectives justifying the need to be dismissed early; and
4. A letter from a parent/guardian supporting the application.

The student may submit any additional materials which support the student's efforts to be granted second semester early dismissal. Such materials may include, but are not required to include: letters of support from staff and community members; proof of admission in a postsecondary program; and/or any other materials which the student believes to support the student's application.

Consideration by the Board of Education. The principal will make an oral recommendation to the Board based on the submitted application from the student. The Board will consider but is not bound by the principal's recommendation. Along with the application, the Board may consult with members of the administration, staff, or anyone else the Board deems appropriate. The Board will grant a student's application only if it determines that the student is best served by permitting the student to be dismissed early.

Participation in District Activities. Students who have been granted early dismissal for the second semester of their senior year may participate in extracurricular sports and activities if they are enrolled in at least 20 credit hours per semester. All early dismissal students 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 all eligibility and other requirements of the Nebraska School Activities Association and any other governing bodies for the activity.

Adopted on: 3-12-2018

Revised on: 8-14-2023, 6-10,2024

Reviewed on: _____

5067

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: 6-12-2017

Revised on: 10-12-2020

Reviewed on: _____

Policy 5901
Southwest Public Schools Foster Care Plan

Commitment to Educational Stability

In accordance with the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) and Nebraska state guidance, Southwest Public Schools is dedicated to supporting the educational stability and academic success of foster care students. The district will fully comply with all applicable requirements to ensure equitable education and access to support services.

Assurances

Southwest Public Schools will participate in the Best Interest Determination (BID) process to determine the most appropriate educational setting for each student in foster care.

- Students will remain in their school of origin unless it is determined that such placement is not in the student's best interest.
- If returning to the school of origin is inappropriate, the student will be immediately enrolled in Southwest Public Schools.
- Immediate enrollment will occur even if the student is missing records usually required for enrollment, such as proof of residency, immunization records, or academic transcripts.
- When a student moves, the district will promptly gather and transfer educational records to any receiving district.
- Southwest Public Schools will ensure that students in foster care have equitable access to academic services, extracurricular activities, and any specialized programs for which they qualify.

Notification and Response

The Superintendent will serve as the district's Foster Care Point of Contact (POC). Upon receiving official notification from the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) that a school-age state ward is enrolled or a ward (birth to age 5) resides in the district, Southwest Public Schools will follow state foster care procedures.

The district will:

- Collaborate with all relevant agencies to ensure timely and coordinated decision-making.
- Prioritize educational continuity and stability throughout transitions
- Ensure all foster care students receive equitable and appropriate services.
- Participate in any required team meetings or transition planning initiated by DHHS or other child welfare entities.

Transportation

To support educational stability and the maintenance of the school of origin when appropriate:

- The district will collaborate with child welfare and state/local agencies to determine if transportation is required under state law.
- Transportation will be arranged only when:
 - The child welfare agency agrees to reimburse transportation costs, or
 - Transportation is required by law or part of a formal agreement.

Dispute Resolution

If a dispute arises regarding the student's school placement:

- Southwest Public Schools will follow the Nebraska Department of Education's dispute resolution process for foster care students.
- Unless otherwise agreed upon, the student will remain in the school of origin pending the resolution of the dispute.
- The district will ensure that any resolution prioritizes the student's best interests.

Training and Awareness

Southwest Public Schools will:

- Provide training and guidance to school staff about foster care students' rights and needs.
- Ensure staff understand enrollment procedures, BID participation, confidentiality obligations, and service coordination.

Data Privacy and Reporting

The district will:

- Handle all student information under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and applicable state privacy laws.
- Maintain records securely and limit access to authorized personnel.
- Report foster care data to the Nebraska Department of Education as required for compliance and monitoring purposes.

Southwest Public Schools will review and revise this plan as needed to ensure it is in accordance with current laws, guidance, and the best interests of the students we serve.

Adopted on: 5/12/2025

Revised on: _____

Reviewed on: _____