

## **1000 Series Policies**

### **Policy Overview and Mission Statement**

- |      |   |
|------|---|
| 1001 | General Policy Statement                              |
| 1002 | Creation and Amendment of Board of Education Policies |
| 1003 | Mission Statement                                     |
| 1004 | Distribution of Policies                              |

## **1001 General Policy Statement**

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

Written board policies serve the following purposes:

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

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

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

### **Exceptional Circumstances**

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

## **Validity of Policies**

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

Adopted on: August 10, 2015\_\_\_\_\_

Revised on: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_

## 1002

### Creation and Amendment of Board of Education Policies

#### Creation of Board Policies

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

It shall generally be the practice of the board to review each policy at a regular or special board meeting before adopting or amending it at a second meeting. However, the board may, in its discretion, adopt or amend any policy at any regular or special board meeting without a prior review.

#### Amendment of Board Policies

The board may revise policies at a regular or special meeting if the proposed revision, addition, or amendment has been distributed to the board members in writing or email prior to the meeting at which it is to be adopted.

In an emergency, the board may declare an emergency and revise policies without having distributed copies of the proposed revisions to board members prior to the meeting.

Each policy shall bear the date when it was adopted, revised or reviewed.

The superintendent shall distribute copies of these policies to all members of the board, maintain a master copy in the central office, and see to it that the policies are maintained on the school district's web site.

#### Annual Review

The board shall review all policies at least once every three years. Nebraska statutes require an annual review of specific policies, and such policies shall be so identified. The board may update or add policies as needed. The board shall determine the number of copies of policies to be made and their distribution. The superintendent shall maintain an up-to-date master copy of the policies in the main administrative office. Unless otherwise directed by the board, the master copy shall be considered the official district policy manual.

Adopted on: August 10, 2015

Revised on: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_



**1003**  
**Mission Statement**

Bridgeport Public Schools is dedicated to providing opportunities to generate success for all.

**1004**  
**Distribution of Policies**

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

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

Adopted on: August 10, 2015

Revised on: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_

## **2000 Series**

### **Policies Regarding Role and Conduct of the Board of Education**

|      |  |
|------|--|
| 2001 | Role of the Board of Education                     |
| 2002 | Organization of Board                              |
| 2003 | Development and Education of Board Members         |
| 2004 | Oath of Office                                     |
| 2005 | Conflict of Interest                               |
| 2006 | Complaint Procedure                                |
| 2007 | Reimbursement and Miscellaneous Expenditures       |
| 2008 | Meetings   |
| 2009 | Public Participation at Board Meetings             |
| 2010 | Preparation for Regularly Scheduled Board Meetings |
| 2011 | Membership in Organizations                        |
| 2012 | Board Code of Ethics                               |
| 2013 | Violation of Board Ethics                          |
| 2014 | Relationship with School Attorney                  |
| 2015 | Student Member of School Board                     |



## **2001 Role of the Board of Education**

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

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

### **1. Establishment of Mission, Goals and Policies**

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

### **2. Establishment and Maintenance of School Facilities and Other Resources**

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

### **3. Selection of the Superintendent of Schools**

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

4. Fiscally Responsible Budget

The board will annually adopt a fiscally responsible budget that will permit the district to accomplish its goals and objectives. The management of the financial program and the development of the proposed budget for the district is delegated to the superintendent.

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

5. Evaluation of Program

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

Adopted on: August 10, 2015

Revised on: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_

## **2002 Organization of the Board**

1. Membership, Term and Election
  - a. The Board of Education shall be comprised of six members who will be elected at large.
  - b. Those who wish to serve on the board shall file, be elected, and serve terms of office on the board according to law.
2. Internal Organization
  - a. President
    - i. At the regular January meeting, the board shall elect from among its members a president who shall serve in that capacity for one year.
    - ii. The president shall preside at all board meetings, and shall perform such other duties as may be prescribed by law or by action of the board.
  - b. Vice President
    - i. At the regular January meeting, the board shall elect from among its members a vice president who shall serve in that capacity for one year.
    - ii. The vice president shall preside in the absence of the president, and shall perform such other duties as are assigned by the board.
  - c. Secretary
    - i. At the regular January meeting, the board shall elect a secretary who is a member of the board. The secretary shall serve in that capacity for one year. If the secretary is a member of the board, an assistant secretary may be named and his or her duties and compensation set by the board.
    - ii. The secretary shall see that an accurate record of the proceedings of the board is kept, that a copy of the

proceedings is provided to each board member and to the superintendent, and that a concise summary of each month's meeting is published along with a list of all approved claims. The secretary shall perform such other duties as are prescribed by law and assigned by the board.

d. Treasurer

- i. A treasurer from the board will be designated on a year-to-year basis.
- ii. The treasurer will sign checks and certain other documents. The treasurer is the custodian of the monies of the district.
- iii. The treasurer shall give a bond or equivalent insurance coverage payable to the district as prescribed by law with the cost of the bond being paid by the district.
- iv. The treasurer shall issue no warrant of payment of claim against the district until such claim has been duly authorized by the board and has been duly countersigned by the president.
- v. The vice president or secretary may sign any warrant in the absence of either the president or the treasurer.

3. Committees

- a. To achieve its goals and objectives and to promote efficiency, the school board may conduct its business or assign various tasks to committees as required or allowed by law.
- b. **Committee of the Whole.** The board of education may act as a committee of the whole at a meeting.
- c. **Standing Committees.** The board of education shall have the following standing committees:
  - i. **Committee on Americanism.** On or before the beginning of each school year, the board shall appoint three members to form a Committee on Americanism. The committee's duties shall be those prescribed by Nebraska statutes.

- d. **Temporary, Special, or *Ad Hoc* Committees.** The board shall authorize such temporary, special, or *ad hoc* committees as it deems necessary.
- e. **Committee Members.** Except as otherwise provided in this policy, the board president shall appoint members to the committee, and designate its function, tasks it is to perform, and a completion date for its work. The board president may authorize the superintendent or other administrator to appoint the members of the committees.
- f. **Open Meetings Act.** Committees that constitute a quorum of the board, hold hearings, make policy, or take formal action on behalf of the board of education and committee meetings attended by a quorum of the board shall be subject to the Open Meetings Act. Nothing in this policy shall otherwise require or prohibit the committee from complying with the Open Meetings Act.

#### 4. Vacancies

- a. A vacancy on the board of education shall exist when any one of the following occurs:
  - i. A member submits his or her formal resignation from the board.
  - ii. A member removes himself or herself from the district or is absent from the district for a continuous period of sixty days.
  - iii. A member misses more than two consecutive regular board meetings unless excused by a majority of the remaining members.
  - iv. Such other reasons as are set forth in Nebraska statutes.
- b. The board shall make note the vacancy in its minutes and shall give notice of the date the vacancy occurred, the office vacated, and the length of the unexpired term to (1) the election commissioner or county clerk, and (2) the public by published notice in a newspaper of general circulation in the district.
- c. Vacancies shall be filled in the manner set forth in Nebraska statutes.

Adopted on: August 10, 2015

Revised on: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_

**2003**  
**Development and Education of Board Members**

1. New Board Member Orientation

- a. All new board members are strongly encouraged to attend the Nebraska Association of School Boards (NASB) workshop for board members unless excused by the remaining members of the board.
- b. Sitting board members and the superintendent will assist each new member-elect to understand the board's functions, policies and procedures before he or she takes office.

2. Ongoing Development and Education

- a. Board members provide the most effective service to the district when they are continuously updated on educational and legal issues. Attendance at meetings directly or indirectly related to education or school matters is encouraged for the value they have to the school system and the professional growth of board members.
- b. Board members are encouraged to engage in continuing education such as:
  - i. Participation in local, regional and state conferences and workshops such as meetings of the NASB, the Nebraska Rural Community Schools Association (NRCSA), and the Nebraska Council of School Administrators (NCSA).
  - ii. Participation in legislative sessions and related activities.
  - iii. Participation in national conventions such as the National School Boards Association (NSBA) and/or the American Association of School Administrators (AASA) on a rotating basis among the members.
  - iv. Examination of other school facilities and their programs.

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

3. Reimbursement for Education and Development

Board member expenses for attendance at any of the above activities shall be paid by the school district. These expenses include registration, travel, lodging and meals directly connecting with the activity. The district will reimburse board members for their actual and necessary expenses incurred carrying out their duties while attending local, regional and national conferences and workshops.

Adopted on: August 10, 2015

Revised on: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_



**2004  
Oath of Office**

All new board members shall take the following oath before entering into their official duties:

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

Board members shall affirm this oath orally, and shall sign it in written form. Copies of these documents shall be retained as official records of the school district in the main administrative office and such other places as may be required by law.

Adopted on: August 10, 2015  
Revised on: \_\_\_\_\_  
Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_

## **2005 Conflict of Interest**

Any member of the board of education who meets the conditions set forth in this policy shall be deemed to have a business or financial conflict of interest and should file a conflict of interest disclosure with the Nebraska Accountability and Disclosure Commission (NADC).

### **1. General Rule**

- a. No board member or member of his or her immediate family shall enter into a contract valued at two thousand dollars or more, in any one year, with this school district unless the contract is awarded through an open and public process that includes prior public notice and subsequent availability for public inspection during the regular office hours of the school district.

### **2. Effect of Conflicts**

- a. The existence of any conflict of interest in any contract, or the failure to make public the board member's interest, may render a contract null and void.
- b. This prohibition of conflict of interest or requirement for the board member to make public notice shall apply when the board member, or his or her immediate family (parent, spouse, or child) has a business association with the school district or will receive a fee or commission as a result of the contract.

### **3. Definitions**

- a. Business with which a board member is associated shall include the following:
  - i. A business in which the board member or a member of his or her immediate family is a partner, a limited liability company, or serves as a director or an officer.
  - ii. A business in which the board member or a member of his or her immediate family is a stockholder in a closed corporation with stock worth one thousand dollars or more, or he or she, or his or her immediate family owns more than a five percent equity interest or is a stockholder of publicly traded stock

worth more than ten thousand dollars or more at fair market value, or which represents more than ten percent equity interest. This shall not apply to publicly traded stock under a trading account if the board member reports the name and address of the company and stockbroker.

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

#### 4. Employing Board Members

- a. No member of the board shall be engaged in a contract to teach pursuant to sections 79-817 to 79-821 or in any other employment relationship with this school district.

#### 5. Employing Members of the Immediate Family

- a. If a person in a board member's immediate family is an employee of this school district, the board member may vote on all issues of a contract which are generally applicable to:
  - i. All district employees.
  - ii. All employees within a specific classification but which does not single out the member of his or her immediate family.
- b. A board member may recommend for employment or supervise the employment of an immediate family member if:
  - i. The board member does not abuse his or her position.
    - (1) Abuse of official position shall include, but not be limited to, employing an immediate family member:
      - (a) who is not qualified for and able to perform the duties of the position;
      - (b) for any unreasonably high salary;
      - (c) who is not required to perform the duties of the position.

- ii. The board makes a reasonable solicitation and consideration of applications for employment.
  - iii. The board member makes a full disclosure on the record to the governing body of the school district and to the secretary of the board. If the secretary of the board of education would be the individual filing the disclosure statement, the statement shall be filed with the president of the board of education.
  - iv. The board approves the employment or supervisory position.
  - c. The board shall not employ an immediate family member without first having made a reasonable solicitation and consideration of applications for such employment.
  - d. The board has not terminated the employment of another employee so as to make funds or a position available for the purpose of hiring an immediate family member.
6. Gifts, Loans, Contributions, Rewards, or Promises of Future Employment
- a. No board member shall offer or give to the following persons anything of value, including a gift, loan, contribution, reward, or promise of future employment, based upon an agreement that a vote, official action, or judgment would be influenced thereby:
    - i. a public official, public employee, or candidate.
    - ii. a member of the immediate family of an individual listed in Subparagraph 'a' above.
    - iii. a business with which an individual listed in Subparagraph 'a' or 'b' above is associated.
  - b. No board member shall solicit or accept anything of value, including a gift, loan, contribution, reward, or promise of future employment based on an agreement that the vote, official action, or judgment of the board member would thereby be influenced.

- c. A board member shall not use or authorize the use of compensation for financial gain of the board member, a member of his or her immediate family, or a business with which he or she is associated, other than as provided by law.
  - i. that person's public office or any confidential information received through the holding of the public office;
  - ii. personal resources, property, or funds under that person's official care and control other than in accordance with prescribed constitutional, statutory, and regulatory procedures.

## 7. Conflict of Interest Relating to Campaigning or Political Issues

- a. Except as provided below, the board shall not authorize the use of personnel, property, resources, or funds under its jurisdiction for the purpose of campaigning for or against the nomination or election of a candidate or the qualification, passage, or defeat of a ballot question.
- b. This does not prohibit the board from making school district facilities available to a person for campaign purposes if the identity of the candidate or the support for or opposition to the ballot question is not a factor in making the facilities available or a factor in determining the cost or conditions for use.
- c. This does not prohibit the board from discussing and voting upon a resolution supporting or opposing a ballot question.
- d. This does not prohibit the board, while legally seated as a body, from responding to specific inquiries by the press or the public as to the board's opinion regarding a ballot question or from providing information in response to a request for information.
  - i. The board may designate one or more members of its body, or one or more of its school administrators, to speak on behalf of the board on specific occasions such as public meetings or legislative hearings.
  - ii. Any member of the board may present his or her personal opinion regarding a ballot question or respond to a request for information related to a ballot question; but in so doing, the

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

## 8. Conflict of Interest Statement

- a. If a board member has a potential conflict of interest, he or she is required to take the following action as soon as he or she is aware of such potential conflict or should be aware of such potential conflict:
  - i. Prepare a written statement describing the matter requiring action or decision and the nature of the potential interest. (Use NADC Form C-2)
  - ii. Deliver a copy of the statement to the secretary of the board of education. The secretary of the board shall enter the statement into the school board minutes.
  - iii. If the board member would like a formal opinion from the NADC as to whether there is an actual conflict of interest, he/she shall deliver a copy of the statement to the NADC.
  - iv. The board member shall take such action as the NADC shall prescribe to remove himself or herself from influence over the matter.
- b. The actions set forth in Paragraphs I, II, and III above shall not prevent a board member from making or participation in the making of a governmental decision to the extent that his or her participation is legally required for the action or decision to be made. A board member acting pursuant to this section shall report the occurrence to the NADC.

## 9. Recordkeeping

- a. The board secretary shall maintain a separate record of the following information:
  - i. The names of the contracting parties.

- ii. The nature of the interest of the board member in question.
  - iii. The date that the contract was approved.
  - iv. The amount of the contract.
  - v. The basic terms of the contract.
- b. The information supplied relative to the contract shall be provided no later than ten (10) days after the contract has been signed by both parties. The ledger kept by the board secretary shall be available for public inspection during normal working hours of the office in which it is kept.
10. Any action must be brought within one year after the contract is signed or assigned to have that contract declared void as a result of a conflict of interest.

Adopted on: August 10, 2015

Revised on: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_

## **2006 Complaint Procedure**

Good communication helps to resolve many misunderstandings and disagreements. This complaint procedure applies to board members, patrons, visitors, students and school staff, unless the staff member is subject to a different grievance procedure pursuant to policy or contract. Individuals who have a complaint should discuss their concerns with appropriate school personnel in an effort to resolve problems. When such efforts do not resolve matters satisfactorily, including matters involving discrimination or harassment on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, marital status, disability, or age, a complainant should follow the procedures set forth below:

1. The first step is for the complainant to speak directly to the person(s) with whom the complainant has a concern. For example, a parent who is unhappy with a classroom teacher should initially discuss the matter with the teacher. However, the complainant should skip the first step if complainant believes speaking directly to the person would subject complainant to discrimination or harassment.
  
2. The second step is for the complainant to speak to the building principal, Title IX/504 coordinator, superintendent of schools, or president of the board of education, as set forth below.
  - a) Complaints about the operation, decisions, or personnel within a building should be submitted to the principal of the building.
  
  - b) Complaints about the operations of the school district or a building principal should be submitted in writing to the superintendent of schools.
  
  - c) Complaints about the superintendent of schools should be submitted in writing to the president of the board of education.
  
  - d) Complaints involving discrimination or harassment on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, marital status, disability, or age may also be submitted, at any time during the complaint procedure to the School District's Title IX/504 coordinator. Complaints involving discrimination or harassment may also be submitted at



any time to the Office for Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Education: by email at [OCR.KansasCity@ed.gov](mailto:OCR.KansasCity@ed.gov); by telephone at (816) 268-0550; or by fax at (816) 268-0599.

3. When a complainant submits a complaint to an administrator or to the Title IX/504 coordinator, the administrator or Title IX/504 coordinator shall promptly and thoroughly investigate the complaint, and shall:
  - a) Determine whether the complainant has discussed the matter with the staff member involved.
    - 1) If the complainant has not, the administrator or Title IX/504 coordinator will urge the complainant to discuss the matter directly with that staff member, if appropriate.
    - 2) If the complainant refuses to discuss the matter with the staff member, the administrator or Title IX/504 coordinator shall, in his or her sole discretion, determine whether the complaint should be pursued further.
  - b) Strongly encourage the complainant to reduce his or her concerns to writing.
  - c) Interview the complainant to determine:
    - 1) All relevant details of the complaint;
    - 2) All witnesses and documents which the complainant believes support the complaint;
    - 3) The action or solution which the complainant seeks.
  - d) Respond to the complainant. If the complaint involved discrimination or harassment, the response shall be in writing and shall be submitted within 180 days after the administrator or Title IX/504 coordinator received the complaint.

- e) To the extent possible, the administrator will keep the complaint, name of the complainant, and investigation confidential.
4. A complainant who is not satisfied with the administrator's or the Title IX/504 coordinator's decision regarding a complaint may appeal the decision to the superintendent.
- a) This appeal must be in writing.
  - b) This appeal must be received by the superintendent no later than ten (10) business days from the date the administrator or Title IX/504 coordinator communicated his/her decision to the complainant.
  - c) The superintendent will investigate as he or she deems appropriate. However, all matters involving discrimination or harassment shall be promptly and thoroughly investigated.
  - d) Upon completion of this investigation, the superintendent will inform the complainant in writing of his or her decision. If the complaint involved discrimination or harassment, the superintendent shall submit the decision within 180 days after the superintendent received complainant's written appeal.
  - e) To the extent possible, the administrator will keep the complaint, name of the complainant, and investigation confidential.
5. A complainant who is not satisfied with the superintendent's decision regarding a complaint may appeal the decision to the board.
- a) This appeal must be in writing.
  - b) This appeal must be received by the board president no later than ten (10) business days from the date the superintendent communicated his/her decision to the complainant.
  - c) This policy allows, but does not require the board to receive statements from interested parties and witnesses relevant to the complaint appeal. However, all matters

involving discrimination or harassment shall be promptly and thoroughly investigated.

- d) The board will notify the complainant in writing of its decision. If the complaint involved discrimination or harassment, the board shall submit its decision within 180 days after it received complainant's written appeal.
  - e) There is no appeal from a decision of the board.
6. When a formal complaint about the superintendent of schools has been filed with the president of the board, the president shall promptly and thoroughly investigate the complaint, and shall:
- a) Determine whether the complainant has discussed the matter with the superintendent.
    - 1) If the complainant has not, the board president will urge the complainant to discuss the matter directly with the superintendent, if appropriate.
    - 2) If the complainant refuses to discuss the matter with the superintendent, the board president shall, in his or her sole discretion, determine whether the complaint should be pursued further.
  - b) Strongly encourage the complainant to reduce his or her concerns to writing.
  - c) Determine, in his or her sole discretion, whether to place the matter on the board agenda for consideration at a regular or special meeting.
  - d) Respond to the complainant. If the complaint involved discrimination or harassment, the response shall be in writing and shall be submitted within 180 days after the president received the complaint.

The school district prohibits retaliation against any person for filing a complaint or for participating in the complaint procedure in good faith.

Adopted on: August 10, 2015

Revised on: September 12, 2016

Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_

## 2007

### Reimbursement and Miscellaneous Expenditures

1. Board members, employees, and volunteers of the school district are expected to maintain and enhance their effectiveness by being well-informed on issues affecting education. They are encouraged to attend education workshops, conferences, training programs, official functions, hearings, and meetings sponsored by the school district or state and national educational organizations which are helpful to them in performing their duties or which are in the best interests of the school district.
2. This board hereby gives prior approval for board members to attend meetings described in paragraph no. 1. Upon approval by the board president or the superintendent or designee when the board president is unavailable, such board members may attend authorized meetings without further action or approval by the board, and shall be paid or reimbursed for registration costs, tuition costs, fees or charges, travel expenses, and costs of meals and lodging.
  - a. The superintendent or the superintendent's designee may authorize employees and volunteers to attend meetings described in paragraph no. 1, and may authorize the payment of such registration costs, tuition costs, fees or charges, travel expenses, costs of meals, and/or costs of lodging as he or she deems appropriate.
  - b. The decision to authorize attendance at such functions shall be made after consideration of the value to the school district of attending the function, the cost of attendance, the availability of funds in the budget, and such other criteria as the decision-maker deems relevant.
  - c. The school district may pay the registration costs, tuition costs, fees or charges for such functions along with actual travel expenses, if travel is by commercial or charter means. If the use of a personal automobile is authorized, mileage shall be reimbursed at the rate provided by board policy. The cost of meals and lodging, if authorized, shall be reimbursed based upon documented expenditures actually and necessarily incurred.

- d. Upon proper authorization, the board shall allow the payment or reimbursement for expenses incurred by board members, employees or volunteers as otherwise specifically permitted by law.
- e. The board authorizes the expenditure of funds for non-alcoholic beverages for individuals attending public meetings of the board and non-alcoholic beverages and meals for individuals while performing or immediately after performing relief, assistance, or support activities in emergency situations, and for any volunteers during or immediately following their participation in any activity approved by the board.
- f. It is in the best interest of this school district to recognize service by board members, employees, and volunteers. The board authorizes the president, superintendent or the superintendent's designee to determine when and to whom plaques, certificates of achievement, flowers or other items of value should be granted, provided that no such plaque, certificate, flowers or other item of value shall cost more than \$50.00.
- g. Funds may be spent for one recognition dinner each year for elected and appointed officials, employees or volunteers of the school district. The maximum cost per person for such a dinner shall not exceed \$25.00.

Adopted on: August 10, 2015

Revised on: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_

## **2008 Meetings**

### 1. Open Meetings

The formation of policy is public business and will be conducted openly.

### 2. Types of Meetings

- a. The board shall hold its regular meetings on the [second Monday or Tuesday] of each month.
- b. Special and emergency meetings may be called as provided by law.
- c. Work sessions and retreats. The board may schedule informal work sessions between regular meetings in order to provide board members and administrators with the opportunity to plan, research, and engage in discussion without taking immediate action.

Topics for discussion and study will be announced publicly. Work sessions and retreats will be conducted in open session; however, no board action shall take place at a work session or retreat.

### 3. Notice

The board shall give reasonable advance publicized notice of the time and place of each of its meetings. Such notice shall be transmitted to all members of the board and to the public. Notice of regular and special meetings shall be posted in three prominent places within the school district at least 48 hours before the announced beginning of the meeting. These places are Sonny's, Prairie Winds and the US Post Office in Bridgeport. Such notice shall contain a statement that the agenda shall be readily available for public inspection at the administration office of the school during the normal business hours. In addition, the superintendent is authorized, but not required, to publish the notice of any meeting in a newspaper of general circulation within the district if, in the opinion of the superintendent, it is convenient and useful to do so.

When it is necessary to hold an emergency meeting without

reasonable advance public notice, the nature of the emergency shall be stated in the minutes of the meeting, and that any formal action taken in such meeting shall pertain only to the emergency. Complete minutes of such emergency meetings specifying the nature of the emergency and any formal action taken at the meeting shall be made available to the public no later than the end of the next regular business day.

#### 4. Minutes

- a. The board shall keep minutes of all meetings showing the time, place, members present and absent, and the substance of all matters discussed.
- b. Any action taken on any question or motion duly moved and seconded shall be by roll call vote of the board in open session, and the record shall state how each member voted, or if the member was absent or not voting.
- c. The minutes of all meetings and evidence and documentation received or disclosed in open session shall be public record and may be published on the school district's website.

Adopted on: August, 2015

Revised on: January 12, 2017

Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_



**2009**  
**Public Participation at Board Meetings**

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

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

The board may make and enforce reasonable rules and regulations regarding the conduct of persons attending, speaking at, videotaping, photographing, or recording its meetings. The board may not forbid public participation at all meetings, but the board is not required to allow citizens to speak at each meeting.

The board shall not require members of the public to identify themselves as a condition for admission to the meeting, nor shall such body require that the name of any member of the public be placed on the agenda prior to such meeting in order to speak about items on the agenda. However, the board may require members of the public desiring to address the board to identify themselves.

Adopted on: August 20, 2015

Revised on: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_

**2010**  
**Preparation for Regularly Scheduled Board Meetings**

The agenda will be set by the Superintendent in consultation with the Board President. The tentative agenda and any supporting materials that are available on the Friday preceding each regularly scheduled board meeting will be prepared by the superintendent in consultation with the board president. The materials will be sent or delivered to each board member in advance of such meeting.

Adopted on: August 10, 2015

Revised on: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_

**2011**  
**Membership in Organizations**

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

Adopted on: August 10, 2015

Revised on: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_

## **2012 Board Code of Ethics**

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

Each board member shall:

1. Attend all regularly scheduled board meetings insofar as possible, and become informed concerning the issues to be considered at those meetings;
2. Endeavor to make policy decisions only after full discussion at publicly held board meetings;
3. Render all decisions based on the available facts and his or her independent judgment, and refuse to surrender that judgment to individuals or special interest groups;
4. Encourage the free expression of opinion by all board members, and seek systematic communication between the board and students, staff and all elements of the community;
5. Work with other board members to establish effective board policies and to delegate authority to the superintendent to administer the school district;
6. Communicate expressions of public reaction to the board policies and school program to other board members and the superintendent;
7. Learn about current educational issues by individual study and through participation in seminars and programs, such as those sponsored by the state and national school board associations;
8. Support the employment of those persons best qualified to serve as school staff, and insist on a regular and impartial evaluation of all staff;

9. Avoid being placed in a position of conflict of interest, and refrain from using the board member's position on the board for personal or political gain;
10. Refrain from discussing the confidential business of the board in any setting except a board meeting;
11. Refrain from micro-managing the affairs of the school district;
12. Recognize the superintendent as the executive officer of the board;
13. Work constructively and collegially with the other members of the board, students, staff and patrons.
14. Refer complaints to the superintendent or building principal, as appropriate;
15. Remember that a board member's first and greatest concern must be the educational welfare of the students attending this district's schools.

Adopted on: August 10, 2015

Revised on: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_

**2013**  
**Violation of Board Ethics**

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

1. The board president may confer with the board member who has violated the code of ethics in order to:
  - a. Identify the provision of the code that the member has violated;
  - b. Propose how the member can remedy the violation;
  - c. If the board member who violated the code is the board president, the vice president is empowered to confer with the president about the violation.
  
2. The board may enter executive session during a regular meeting to confront the offending board member.
  - a. The board may enter executive session when necessary to prevent needless injury to the reputation of the offending board member.
  - b. During the executive session, board members will identify the provision of the code that has been violated and propose how the member can remedy the violation.
  - c. The board may invite its attorney to participate in an executive session regarding a breach of board ethics.
  
3. The board may vote to publicly censure any board member who commits a serious or repeated violation of the code. The board will pass a censure motion to inform the community that an individual member of the board is not fulfilling the responsibilities for which he or she was elected.

Adopted on: August 10, 2015

Revised on: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_

**2014**  
**Relationship with School Attorney**

The board of education shall choose an attorney to assist it and the administration in dealing with legal issues.

The superintendent and the board president shall have the authority to contact the school's attorney on behalf of the district. The superintendent may give other members of the administration permission to contact the school's attorney on an as-needed basis. Individual board members other than the president may not contact the school attorney on behalf of the board without the approval of a majority of the board. Any board member who contacts the school attorney without board approval may be personally responsible for any legal fees incurred as a result of the unapproved contact.

The superintendent will, to the extent permitted by law, keep the board informed of matters in which the school attorney is involved.

Adopted on: August 10, 2015

Revised on: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_

**2015**  
**STUDENT MEMBER OF SCHOOL BOARD**

In order to provide the School Board gain a greater insight into student activities, programs, and needs; and to encourage student involvement in school district governance activities the board may allow one nonvoting student member(s) on the Board of Education. The role of student member is advisory. The board shall decide whether to have a student member at its regular May board meeting.

**Selection and Term of Student Member**

The student member shall be the student body or student council president, the senior class representative, or a representative elected from and by the entire student body, as designated by the voting members of the School Board.

The term of office will be one school year, beginning on September 1 and ending on June 1.

Student members will not participate in executive or closed sessions.

**Guidelines**

Student membership on the Board of Education is limited to senior students.

Student members may not introduce motions.

Student members are expected to attend all public meetings of the Board and can be appointed to committees of the Board at the discretion of the president.

The president of the board, in consultation with the Superintendent of Schools, has the right to bar the participation of a student member at the board's discretion. The decision of the board president is final and is not subject to review.

Adopted on: August 10, 2015

Revised on: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_



## **3000 Series Policies Index**

- 3001 – Budget
- 3002 – Deposits
- 3003 – Bid Letting and Contracts
- 3004 -- Purchasing
- 3005 – School Activities Fund
- 3006 -- Intentionally Left Blank
- 3007 – Review of Bills
- 3008 – Gifts, Grants and Bequests
- 3009 – Audit
- 3010 – Insurance
- 3011 – Transportation
- 3012 – School Meal Program
- 3013 – Emergency Closings
- 3014 – Use of School Property
- 3015 – Time Away from School Activities
- 3016 – Smoking
- 3017 – Intentionally Left Blank
- 3018 – Denial of Access to School Premises
- 3020 – Copyright Compliance
- 3021 – Operation of School Business Office
- 3022 – Volunteers
- 3023 – Electronic Records Management
- 3024 – Booster Clubs and PTO Policy
- 3025 – Returned Checks
- 3026 – Handbooks
- 3027 – Resolution of Conflicts Between Parent of School Issues
- 3028 – Sex Offenders
- 3029 – Distribution of Flyers Advertising Non-school Organizations
- 3030 – Automatic External Defibrillator Program
- 3031 – Students Electing to Attend School in Adjoining State
- 3032 – Copying Fees for School District Records
- 3033 – Lending Textbooks to Children Enrolled in Private Schools
- 3034 – Disbursements
- 3035 – Chain of Command
- 3036 – Purchasing Card
- 3037 – Reports to Law Enforcement

## **3001 Budget**

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

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

The board shall present the proposed budget to the public so that patrons may review it and participate in any public hearing(s). The board shall consider and adopt the budget in accordance with Nebraska law.

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

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

Adopted on: August 10, 2015

Revised on: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_

[13-501 et seq](#)  
[79-1023 et. seq](#)

## **3002 Deposits**

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

Funds collected by district representatives shall be receipted, accounted for, and directed without delay to the proper depository. Funds exceeding \$1,000 shall not be left overnight in school buildings, except in safes provided for the safekeeping of valuables.

Adopted on: August 10, 2015

Revised on: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_

**3003**  
**Bid Letting and Contracts**

**1. General Bidding Policy**

- a) At the discretion of the board, contracts may be oral or written, formal or informal, expressed or implied, or true or quasi contracts.
- b) The quality of the product and its suitability for the purpose for which it will be used, not price alone, shall be considered in determining the awarding of contracts.
- c) The board reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

**2. Informal Bidding for Moderate Purchases**

- a) Written or verbal quotes may be requested on orders of supplies and equipment, new construction, or repair and renovation, when the estimated cost is between \$2,000 and \$5,000. These quotes may be accepted without board action.

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

- a) The board or superintendent may solicit either quotes or bids for the provision of large orders of supplies and equipment, new construction, repair or renovation, if the estimated amount for the supplies and/or equipment exceeds \$5,000.00.
- b) Pursuant to section 73-106 of the Nebraska statutes, the board will advertise for bids when the contemplated expenditure of the project exceeds \$100,000 for the construction, remodeling or repair of a school-owned building or for site improvement.
- c) In projects that involve professional engineering or architecture, the board will have a registered professional engineer or architect prepare the plans, specifications, and estimates when the anticipated cost of the project exceeds \$100,000.
- d) Advertising for Bids
  - 1) The superintendent or designee will arrange to advertise

for bids under this section by publishing notice in any newspaper of general circulation within the school district at least 7 calendar days prior to the date on which bids are due.

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

e) Bid Documents

- (1) The bid documents shall identify the day upon which the bids shall be returned, received or opened and shall identify the hour at which the bids will close or be received or opened.
- (2) The bid documents shall also provide that such bids shall be opened simultaneously in the presence of the bidders or their representatives.
- (3) Bids received after the date and time specified in the bid documents shall be returned to the bidder unopened.
- (4) If bids are being opened on more than one contract, the board, in its discretion, may award each contract as the bids are opened.
- (5) Sealed bids will be opened in a place and at the specific time stated in the bid form. Bidders shall be notified of the opening and invited to be present.
- (6) The board shall have discretion in determining which bidders are responsible and responsive and shall award the contract to the lowest, responsible, and responsive bidder whose bid meets the bid specifications.

4. **Use of State-Wide Cooperative Purchasing Program.** The administrative team may, in its discretion, use a Nebraska a state-wide cooperative purchasing program in lieu of obtaining quotes or bids under this policy to the extent such a bid or quote is not otherwise independently required by law.

Adopted on: August 10, 2015

Revised on: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_

## **3004 Purchasing**

### **1. General Purchasing Policy**

- a) The school district's budget shall be the guide for all purchases. No employee of the district may make a purchase that is not provided for in the budget without board or administrative approval.
- b) The board intends to purchase competitively, whenever possible, without prejudice and to seek maximum educational value for every dollar expended.
- c) The acquisition of services, equipment and supplies shall be centralized in the administration office under the supervision of the superintendent of schools, who shall be responsible for developing and administering the purchasing program of the school district.
- d) purchases or commitments of district funds that are not authorized by this policy will be the responsibility of the person making the commitment.

### **2. Building-Specific Purchasing**

- a) School buildings are operationally under the control of building principals. Principals have control and responsibility for the building and grounds, for all supplies and equipment housed at the building, for all school-related activities in the building, and for all pupils, teachers, and other employees assigned to the building.
- b) Principals, in consultation with their staff, are responsible for requisitioning, managing, distributing, and utilizing supplies within the building.
- c) The superintendent of schools or his designee is responsible for the requisitioning, managing, distributing, and utilizing of supplies for maintenance and transportation.
- d) The administration is responsible for purchasing of goods, services and supplies and for providing the necessary forms for

establishing efficient procedures to facilitate the process.

### 3. **Purchasing Procedures**

- a) School personnel must secure the approval of an authorized administrator before making any purchases.
- b) Employees seeking reimbursement for a purchase made with their personal funds must attach an itemized receipt or invoice to all requests for reimbursement; must sign all purchase receipts or charge slips; and must submit itemized receipts and any purchasing card or credit card receipts to the office of the superintendent no later than the Friday prior to the next regular board meeting. A non-itemized credit card receipt is not sufficient.
- a) Employees making purchases with a school district credit card or purchasing program must comply with the steps set forth in the district's Purchasing (Credit) Card Program.
- c) All purchases of goods and services made with district funds must be made on a properly executed purchase order.
- d) All purchases shall be initiated with a purchase order. Purchase orders are signed by the person responsible for that particular budget and finally by the superintendent.

### 4. **Purchasing Controls**

The board encourages the administration to help achieve both quality control and the price advantages of purchasing in quantity. The administration is encouraged to:

- a) establish specifications for goods and services as needed;
- b) identify several existing, commercially available "standard brands" that meet those specifications as examples; and
- c) invite vendors to bid, based on those examples, or comparable ones, which the vendors believe to be acceptable according to



the specifications.

## 5. **Relations with Vendors**

- a) The board wishes to maintain good working relations with vendors who supply materials, supplies and services to the school system. The school shall not extend favoritism to any vendors. Each order shall be placed on the basis of quality, price and delivery, with past services being a factor if all other considerations are equal. The administrative team may, in its discretion, use a Nebraska a state-wide cooperative purchasing program in lieu of obtaining quotes or bids under this policy to the extent such a bid or quote is not otherwise independently required by law.
- b) Unless such purchase is made in compliance with applicable state statutes, no purchase will be made from:
  - (1) a board member or an employee;
  - (2) a board member's or employee's parent, spouse, child or a member of his/her immediate household; or
  - (3) any enterprise in which a board member or employee has a direct or indirect interest (except public utilities).
- c) No employee shall endorse any product of any type or kind in such a manner as will identify him/her in any way as an employee of the school district.
- d) The board believes in patronizing local businesses. Consequently, when proposals are judged to be equal in terms of quality, price, and/or service, the contract or purchase will be awarded to the firm that is located within the district. However, the board will not sacrifice either quality or economy to patronize local businesses.

Adopted on: August 10, 2015

Revised on: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_

**3005**  
**School Activities Fund**

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

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

Funds in an activity's account after the activity ceases to exist shall be transferred to the general fund or such other fund as the board may choose. Funds left in a graduating class's account may be transferred into any other school account at any time after graduation upon board approval.

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

Adopted on: August 10, 2015

Revised on: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_

**3007**  
**Review of Bills**

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

Adopted on: August 10, 2015

Revised on: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_

**3008**  
**Gifts, Grants and Bequests**

The school district encourages those who wish to make gifts, grants, bequests or devises of property, real or personal, to the school district. The superintendent or his or her designee is authorized to accept on behalf of the school district gifts of personal property that are consistent with the district's mission and objectives and which the superintendent reasonably believes has a fair market value of \$10,000.00 or less. In its sole discretion, the board of education may accept all other donations when they are consistent with the district's mission and objectives. Upon acceptance, donations shall become the sole property of the district. The donation will be under the complete control of the board or school district which will not have any obligation to replace it if it is destroyed or becomes obsolete.

Adopted on: August 10, 2015

Revised on: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_

**3009  
Audit**

The board of education shall appoint a certified public accountant or public accounting firm to audit all school accounts annually and report to the board of education. The audit shall include all areas required by law and the rules of the Nebraska Department of Education. The auditor is not obligated to follow generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) but shall conduct the audit according to the standards of the auditing profession.

Adopted on: August 10, 2015

Revised on: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_

**3010**  
**Insurance**

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

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

Adopted on: August 10, 2015

Revised on: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_

**3012**  
**School Meal Program**

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

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

Adopted on: August 10, 2015

Revised on: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_

Neb. Rev. Stat. 79-526, 79-10,137

42 U.S.C. 1771 et seq

42 U.S.C. 1751 et seq

**3013**  
**Emergency Closings**

School shall be held on the dates set forth on the official calendar, and shall not be closed or dismissed except when superintendent or his or her designee determines that it is impossible or impracticable to hold school. When school is closed there will be no school-sponsored activities held without the permission of the superintendent or building administrator.

Adopted on: August 10, 2015

Revised on: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_



## **3014 Use of School Property**

### **1) General Use**

School organizations may use school facilities at no cost to the group, if they restore the facilities to their normal state after using them.

The school district may permit the use of public school buildings or other school property under such rules and regulations as it may adopt. The board may charge a fee as may be necessary to meet the expense of such meeting, restore the property, pay for extra help required, or as otherwise deemed appropriate.

Any person or group using school facilities must assure that it will be responsible for maintaining order, protecting property, and providing security and safety. Activities or entertainment held on school premises shall be suitable for a school environment. Any person or school group using the school facilities, for any purpose, must comply with all of the district's policies, rules and regulations.

### **2) Entry and Participation Fees**

Rental fees, if any, for school facilities and property shall be set by the board or the board's designee. The board may adjust rental fees at its discretion.

### **3) Supervision of Students**

The kitchen, industrial technology, weight rooms, and other facilities or property containing potentially dangerous equipment may not be used by students when school is not in session, unless supervised by an adult approved by the administration.

### **4) Use of Equipment and Staff**

The district shall bear any costs for a school group (e.g., the fee paid to a cook or a custodian required to be in attendance). All other groups will reimburse the school districts for reasonable staffing costs.

Students, faculty and community members may borrow school equipment for non-school use only if they have received the prior permission of the superintendent or building principal.

## **5) Denial of Access**

Pursuant to Policy 3018, the superintendent or designee may limit or deny access to school buildings, grounds, and activities to any person or group whom the administrator deems to be using the facilities in a manner that is unsafe or inconsistent with the educational mission of the district.

Adopted on: August 10, 2015

Revised on: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_

**3015**  
**Time Away From School Activities**

As it is important for students to have some nights free from school activities, school activities will not be scheduled on Wednesday nights or on Sundays without the approval of the superintendent.

Adopted on: August 10, 2015

Revised on: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_

**3016**  
**Smoking**

Smoking, including the use of vapor products, alternative nicotine products, or any other such look-alike product, is not permitted on school property at any time.

Adopted on: August 10, 2015

Revised on: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_

**3018**  
**Denying Access to School Premises or Activities**

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

1. Disrupts the educational environment;
2. Is unreasonably boisterous;
3. Engages in violence, force, coercion, threats, intimidation, or similar conduct;
4. Causes or attempts to cause damage to school property or to the property of any student or school employee;
5. Causes or attempts to cause personal injury to any member of the school community on school grounds or at a school activity on or off school grounds;
6. Uses vulgar, profane, or demeaning language;
7. Uses fighting words; or
8. Is a registered sex offender or otherwise poses a danger to the safety and wellbeing of any member of the school community.

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

The administrator shall have the authority to fix the time when, and the conditions under which, the offending person may return to school premises. A person who enters school premises in violation of these conditions shall be deemed to be trespassing. The administrator may summon law enforcement authorities to remove the person and request that criminal proceedings be initiated.

Adopted on: August 10, 2015

Revised on: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_

**3019**  
**Sale or Disposal of School Property**

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

Adopted on: August 10, 2015

Revised on: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_

**3020**  
**Copyright Compliance**

Copyrighted print, audio, video, software and other media may be reproduced only when the use of the reproduction is a fair use in compliance with the Copyright Act or when the written permission for such use by reproduction has been obtained from the copyright holder. Any staff member who violates this policy will face disciplinary action up to and including the cancellation, non-renewal, or termination of the employee's employment. Any student who violates this policy will face disciplinary action up to and including expulsion, depending on the seriousness of the misconduct. Individuals who subject the school district to financial penalty for copyright violations may be required to reimburse the district for its costs for such violation.

Adopted on: August 10, 2015

Revised on: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_



**3021**  
**Operation of School Business Office**

The central office of the school district shall generally be open for business from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. every weekday except for New Year's Day, Memorial Day, the Fourth of July, Labor Day, Thanksgiving and Christmas Day. The office shall generally be open, even on days when school is cancelled due to inclement weather. The Superintendent shall be responsible for ensuring that the central office is appropriately staffed when the district is open for business and shall be responsible for supervising all staff employed in the central office.

Adopted on: August 10, 2015

Revised on: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_

## **3022 Volunteers**

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

1. Volunteers must provide the district with directory information including their name, address, and telephone number.
2. Upon request by the district, volunteers must promptly execute a Volunteer Services Agreement.
3. The district may, but is not required to, conduct a criminal background check on any volunteer. A potential volunteer who refuses to undergo a background check will not be permitted to volunteer for the district.
4. Volunteers shall not perform the duties of a teacher as that term is defined in Nebraska statutes or regulations.

Adopted on: August 10, 2015

Revised on: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_

**3023**  
**Electronic Records Management Policy**

In order to meet the District's technical and business needs and to achieve good faith, routine operation of the District's electronic information system, it is the policy of this District to retain electronically stored information in a form with its metadata intact ("ESI") for a period of one year from the date the ESI is created ("Retention Period"). At the expiration of the Retention Period, the ESI shall be subject to overwriting or deletion from the District's electronic files and records, except as otherwise required by these policies or state and federal law. When ESI is relevant or may reasonably become relevant to pending or reasonably anticipated litigation, such ESI shall be retained until the pending litigation is over or until the reasonable anticipation of litigation no longer exists, regardless of whether such ESI's Retention Period has expired. When ESI is relevant or may reasonably become relevant to pending or reasonably anticipated litigation, the District's central administration office shall send a litigation hold memorandum to all personnel that may have access to such ESI.

Adopted on: August 10, 2015

Revised on: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_

## **3024**

### **Booster Clubs and Parent-Teacher Organizations**

Parent-teacher organizations and booster clubs (collectively, "Supporting Entities") promote goodwill throughout the community and strengthen educational programs via parental and community involvement in the district. However, the district's involvement with Supporting Entities may result in negative legal and political consequences.

Supporting Entities are separate entities from the district and board. Therefore, district employees may only participate in a Supporting Entity's activities as a member, officer, or director of the Supporting Entity. District employees may not participate in Supporting Entities in their capacity as a district employee. Further, in-school announcements for Supporting Entity sponsored functions must provide a clear indication that the function is sponsored by the Supporting Entity.

Notwithstanding anything herein to the contrary, an administrator employed by the district may attend the meetings of the Supporting Entity.

Supporting Entities may only use the district's facilities for meetings or public activities, and may only use the district's names, logos, or mascots, upon prior written approval of a district administrator.

Adopted on: August 10, 2015

Revised on: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_

**3025**  
**Returned Checks**

Any individual or entity that writes a check to the school district which is returned due to insufficient funds must reimburse the school district in cash for the amount of the check plus a \$30.00 returned check charge. Individuals or entities whose checks are repeatedly returned due to insufficient funds may be prohibited from paying amounts due to the school district via check.

Adopted on: August 10, 2015

Revised on: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_

**3026  
Handbooks**

The school district’s handbooks for students and staff are intended to convey information and explain school regulations and procedures that are necessary for the school to run smoothly and efficiently. Although the board of education may take action to approve the handbooks annually, the administration has the authority to change the contents of any handbook so long as the changes are consistent with board policy.

None of the district’s handbooks creates a “contract” between the school district, staff members, parents or students.

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

Adopted on: August 10, 2015

Revised on: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_

## **3027**

### **Resolution of Conflicts Between Parents Over School Issues**

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

#### 1) Obtaining Records and Conferring with Teachers.

All parents can obtain their children's records and meet with their children's teachers regardless of custody or visitation rights unless a court enters an order otherwise or their parental rights have been terminated. The district may choose to schedule separate parent-teacher conferences absent extraordinary circumstances.

#### 2) Accessing a Child at School/Picking Up a Child.

School personnel will neither interpret nor enforce court orders governing the relations between separated or divorced parents unless the court order terminates the parental rights of a parent, limits a parent to supervised visitation with minor children or otherwise specifically limits the parent's access to the child at school. In all other circumstances, parents may contact their child while at school or pick a child up from school at any time. School staff are not responsible for enforcing visitation schedules contained in any court order to which the school district is not a party.

Adopted on: August 10, 2015

Revised on: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_

**3028**  
**Sex Offenders**

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

The Nebraska Legislature has enacted the Nebraska Sex Offender Registration Act. The Act requires sex offenders to register with the local county sheriff where they reside. The school district shall notify staff members, parents, and students of any registered sex offenders residing in the school district. Such notice shall contain information about the availability of further information on the State Patrol's web page, and shall inform the recipient of the prohibition against using the information for any retaliatory purpose against the sex offender, the offender's family, or the offender's employer. Only information deemed non-confidential pursuant to NEB. REV. STAT. §§ 29-4006 and 29-4009 will be disclosed in the aforementioned notification.

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

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

Adopted on: August 10, 2015

Revised on: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_



**3029**  
**Distribution of Flyers Advertising Non-School Organization**  
**Activities**

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

1. The flyer may not contain statements that are obscene, lewd, vulgar, profane; violate federal, state or local laws or regulations; violate board policy; advocate the use or advertise the availability of any substance or material that may reasonably be believed to constitute a direct and substantial danger to the health or welfare of students, such as tobacco, alcohol or illegal drugs; incite violence; advocate use of force or urge violation of federal, state or municipal law, district policy or regulations; interfere with or advocate interference with the rights of any individual or the orderly operation of the schools and their programs.
2. The non-school organization must contact the district office to (a) inform the district that it wishes to have flyers distributed to students and (b) obtain a date from the office on which the flyers will be delivered.
3. The non-school organization must provide a sufficient number of copies of the flyer and must deliver them to the district at **least three days before the date the flyers are to be distributed.**
4. The flyer may not advertise any activity which will take place during instructional time or during school-sponsored activities.
5. The flyer must include a statement explaining that the organization is not affiliated with or endorsed by the district.

Adopted on: August 10, 2015

Revised on: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_

## **3030 Automatic External Defibrillator (AED) Program**

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

### **1. Equipment**

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

When the school acquires an AED it will notify the local emergency medical service of the existence, location, and type of the AED, and will notify EMS of any change in the location of such defibrillator. If an AED is located in a bus or other school vehicle, only the primary site where the vehicle or object is located will be reported to EMS.

### **2. Program Coordinator**

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

b. The Program Coordinator shall:

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

- Arrange for appropriate training of anticipated users at least annually
- Maintain a training schedule that includes the names of those trained and dates both of current training and dates for recertification.
- Check equipment according to the manufacturer's guidelines and take appropriate action in the event of any variance or need
- Maintain on file a specification sheet on each approved AED model
- Monitor the effectiveness of this system
- Communicate with medical director on issues related to medical emergency response program including post-event reviews
- Coordinate with the local fire department and police department
- Take appropriate steps after an AED event, including sharing of data with appropriate medical and EMS personnel, cleaning, replacing or recharging components of the AED as appropriate.

### 3. Medical Oversight

- a. The medical advisor of the AED program is a local Physician, MD.
- b. The medical advisor has ongoing responsibility for:
  - Providing medical direction for use of AEDs
  - Writing a prescription for AEDs
  - Reviewing and approving guidelines for emergency procedures related to use of AEDs and cardio pulmonary resuscitation
  - Evaluation of post-event review forms and digital files downloaded from the AED

### 4. Volunteer Responders

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

Adopted on: August 10, 2015

Revised on: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_

**3031**  
**Students Electing to Attend School in Adjoining State**

The board shall deny applications of students seeking to attend school in an adjoining state. The board shall make an exceptions to this policy only upon a showing by the student's family that (1) the student will suffer extreme and unusual harm if not allowed to attend school in an adjoining state; or (2) the district's financial circumstances will be unaffected by the out-of-state transfer.

This policy shall not apply to out-of-state placements of students with verified disabilities by their Individualized Education Plan Teams.

Adopted on: August 10, 2015

Revised on: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_

## **3032**

### **Copying Fees for School District Records**

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

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

- Black and white letter or legal-sized photocopies: No charge for the first 20 copies; 10 cents for each copied page thereafter.
- Computer data printouts: No charge for the first 20 pages; 10 cents for each page thereafter.
- Other medium: Actual cost of reproduction.
- Postage fees: Actual cost

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

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

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

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

- For photocopies, actual added costs may include a reasonably apportioned cost of the supplies, such as paper, toner, other equipment used in preparing the copies, and any additional payment obligation for the time of contractors necessarily incurred to comply with the copy request.

- For printouts of computerized data on paper, actual added cost may include computer run time and the cost of materials for making the copy.
- For electronic data, the actual added cost may include the reasonably calculated actual added cost of the computer run time, any necessary analysis and programming, and production of a report in the form furnished to the requester.
- The actual added cost shall not include any charge for the existing salary or pay obligation to public officer or employees for the first four hours of searching, identifying, physically redacting, or copying records, but fees may be charged after the first four hours.
- The district shall not charge any fee for copies of public records that is prohibited by law but reserves the right to charge any other fee allowed by law.

The fee schedule for public records copies is as follows:

- Black and white letter or legal-sized photocopies: No charge for the first 20 copies; 10 cents for each copied page thereafter.
- Computer data printouts: No charge for the first 20 pages; 10 cents for each page thereafter.
- Other medium: Actual cost of reproduction.
- Postage fees: Actual cost

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

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

Adopted on: August 10, 2015

Revised on: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_

### **3033**

#### **Lending Textbooks to Children Enrolled in Private Schools**

The school district shall make textbooks available to private school children who reside within the district or are otherwise entitled to borrow them pursuant to statute and 92 Nebraska Administrative Code, section 4. The district is obligated to purchase and lend textbooks only to the extent that the Legislature appropriates funds to the Nebraska Department of Education to be distributed for this purpose. The district shall make a request for funds by filing an application on the form prescribed by the Department of Education no later than February 15<sup>th</sup> prior to the school year for which the application is made. The application shall include: the number of applications received; the number of textbooks requested; the number of textbooks needed to be purchased to fill the requests; the purchase price of the textbooks needed to be purchased which may include up to 5% of the cost to defray administrative expense; the title, purchase price, and number requested of each textbook including any shipping or handling charges; and if applicable the amount of carryover funds remaining from the previous year, amount of funds on hand from sale of unused textbooks, and amount of funds on hand from reimbursements for damaged textbook.

The term textbook means books or electronic media such as DVDs, audio CDs, CD-ROMs, audiotapes, and videotapes that are designated for use by individual students in classroom instruction as the principal source of study material. It does not include library books, teacher's editions, workbooks and other similar consumable materials, and any book or material designated for classroom, and not individual use. Textbooks which have not been requested for three consecutive years may be classified as unused and disposed of by sale or otherwise.

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

Any parent or legal guardian who wishes to borrow textbooks shall submit an application on the form prescribed by the Department of Education to the district's administration offices on or before January 15<sup>th</sup>



prior to the school year for which the application is made. The district shall maintain a supply of blank application forms and receipt forms. It shall keep the forms that have been signed by parents and guardians in a separate file for at least 5 years. It shall notify the parents and guardians at least 10 days prior to the start of school when and where the textbooks will be available. It shall make textbooks available to parents or guardians on or before August 15<sup>th</sup>. If the number of textbooks for a particular subject or grade level is insufficient to fill all of the requests, the textbooks shall be distributed to parents and guardians based on a random drawing.

Parents and guardians shall sign a receipt on the form prescribed by the Department of Education when they pick up the textbooks and shall return the textbooks no later than 15 days after the district's last day of class. The district shall assess the returned textbooks for damage beyond normal wear and tear. The parent or guardian who signed the receipt is responsible for paying the reasonable cost of the repair or replacement of any book that is damaged, lost, stolen, or not returned.

Adopted on: August 10, 2015

Revised on: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_

**3034**  
**DISBURSEMENTS**

Notwithstanding any provision of any other policy, facsimile signatures of board members may be used to sign any warrant, check, or other instrument drawn upon bank depository funds of the district, and a person or persons delegated by the board may sign and validate all warrants, checks, and other instruments drawn upon bank depository funds of the district.

Adopted on: August 10, 2015

Revised on: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_

### 3035

#### Chain of Command – District Administration

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

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>Student Discipline:</b>                  | <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Classroom Teacher</li><li>2. Principal/Assistant Principal</li><li>3. Superintendent</li></ol>         |
| <b>Instruction or Curriculum:</b>           | <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Teacher</li><li>2. Principal/Curriculum Director</li><li>3. Superintendent</li></ol>                   |
| <b>Transportation:</b>                      | <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Bus Driver</li><li>2. Principal/Assistant Principal</li><li>3. Superintendent</li></ol>                |
| <b>Facilities, Grounds, or Maintenance:</b> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Custodial staff</li><li>2. Head custodian</li><li>3. Principal</li><li>4. Superintendent</li></ol>     |
| <b>Policy or Handbook:</b>                  | <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Principal</li><li>2. Superintendent</li></ol>  |
| <b>Athletics:</b>                           | <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Coach</li><li>2. Athletic/Activities Director</li><li>3. Principal</li><li>4. Superintendent</li></ol> |
| <b>Personnel:</b>                           | <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Employee in question</li><li>2. Principal</li><li>3. Superintendent</li></ol>                          |
| <b>All Other Matters</b>                    | <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Building Principal</li><li>2. Superintendent</li></ol>   |

Absent extraordinary circumstances, each matter must be addressed at whatever level the initial action occurred. If the matter is not resolved, the individual may raise it with the next person on the chain of command. This

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

Adopted on: August 10, 2015

Revised on: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_

## 3036

### **Purchasing (Credit) Card Program**

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

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

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

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

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

required documentation shall be considered unauthorized, and the individual making the purchase shall reimburse the district within 10 days of the purchase or the discovery of the non-itemized purchase, whichever occurs first.

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

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

Adopted on: August 10, 2015

Revised on: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_

**3037**  
**Reports to Law Enforcement**

Administrative, professional, or paraprofessional employees of a school who have information that a student has engaged in criminal conduct on school grounds, at a school activity, or in a school vehicle shall report the information and the identity of the student to the principal. The principal shall investigate the matter and determine whether the student has violated the code of conduct. Additionally, the principal will determine whether it is appropriate to refer the matter to local law enforcement. In doing so, the principal shall not discriminate against students with disabilities.

Nothing in this policy shall prevent a principal from complying with NEB. REV. STAT. § 79-293, and reports made pursuant to that statute will not be deemed to be a violation of this policy.

Adopted on: September 12, 2016

Revised on: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_

## **4000 Series Policies**

- Policy 4001. Nondiscrimination
- Policy 4002. Drug Free Workplace
- Policy 4003. Drug Testing of Drivers
- Policy 4004. Employment of Relatives
- Policy 4005. Communication between Board and District Employees
- Policy 4006. Insurance
- Policy 4007. Personnel Records
- Policy 4008. Outside Employment
- Policy 4009. Restrictions on Employees Receiving Gratuities.
- Policy 4010. Inclement Weather
- Policy 4011. Family Medical and Military Leave.
- Policy 4012. Staff Internet Use
- Policy 4013. Grievance Policy
- Policy 4014. Employee Sex Harassment
- Policy 4015. Employment of Board Members
- Policy 4016. Jury Duty and Witness in Court
- Policy 4017. Relations with Collective Bargaining Associations
- Policy 4018. Corporal Punishment
- Policy 4019. Safety Committee
- Policy 4020. Ownership of Copyrighted Words
- Policy 4021. This number intentionally left blank
- Policy 4022. Certification
- Policy 4023. Professional Ethics
- Policy 4024. Teachers' Rights, Responsibilities & Duties.
- Policy 4025. Superintendent
- Policy 4026. This number intentionally left blank
- Policy 4027. Part-Time Certificated Employees
- Policy 4028. Substitute Teachers
- Policy 4029. Salary Schedule for Certificated Employees
- Policy 4030. Evaluation of Certificated Employees
- Policy 4031. Evaluation of Probationary Certificated Employees
- Policy 4033. This number intentionally left blank
- Policy 4034. Staff Handbook
- Policy 4035. This number intentionally left blank Policy
- Policy 4036. Crisis Response Team
- Policy 4037. Reduction in Force
- Policy 4038. Classified Staff Defined
- Policy 4039. Employment of Classified Staff
- Policy 4041. Staff Dress and Appearance
- Policy 4042. Employee Social Security Numbers
- Policy 4043. Professional Boundaries Between Employees and Students
- Policy 4044. Staff Election Conduct



- Policy 4045. Milk Expression
- Policy 4046. Internet Searches Regarding Potential Employees
- Policy 4047. Implementation of Student Assistance Team Process
- Policy 4048. Assessment Security
- Policy 4049. This number intentionally left blank
- Policy 4050. Overtime and Compensatory Time
- Policy 4051. Use of Social Media by School District Employees
- Policy 4052. Job References to Prospective Employers
- Policy 4053. Conflict of Interest
- Policy 4054. Reporting Child Abuse or Neglect
- Policy 4056. Resignation of Certificated Staff
- Policy 4057. Superintendent Evaluation
- Policy 4058. Confidentiality in Counseling and Guidance
- Policy 4059. Suicide Prevention Training

## **4001 Nondiscrimination**

The School District does not discriminate on the basis of prohibited factors in employment and educational programs/activities. The School District affirmatively strives to provide equal opportunity for all as required by:

Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 - prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, or national origin

Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 as amended - prohibits discrimination in employment on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, or national origin

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 - prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex

Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967 (ADEA) as amended - prohibits discrimination on the basis of age with respect to individuals who are at least 40

The Equal Pay Act of 1963 as amended - prohibits sex discrimination in payment of wages to women and men performing substantially equal work in the same establishment

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 - prohibits discrimination against the disabled

Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) - prohibits discrimination against individuals with disabilities in employment, public service, public accommodations and telecommunications

The Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 (FMLA) - requires covered employers to provide up to 12 weeks of unpaid, job-protected leave to "eligible" employees for certain family and medical reasons

The Pregnancy Discrimination Act of 1978 - prohibits discrimination in employment on the basis of pregnancy, childbirth, or related medical conditions

The Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA) – provides job protections and reemployment rights to military reservists and National Guard members called to active duty

The Boy Scouts of America Equal Access Act which prohibits discrimination against groups that wish to access district facilities

The Nebraska Fair Employment Practice Act (FEPA) – prohibits employment discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex (including pregnancy), disability, marital status, and retaliation

Nebraska Age Discrimination in Employment Act (Age Act) – prohibits employment discrimination on the basis of age for those individuals who are over 40 years of age

The Equal Pay Act of Nebraska – prohibits discriminatory wage practices based on sex

The Nebraska Equal Opportunity in Education Act – prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex (including pregnancy) by any educational institution

Veterans Preference Law (NEB. REV. STAT §§ 48-225 to 48-231) - stipulates categorical preferences for employment for military veterans and for the spouses of disabled veterans

Additional School Board policies prohibit harassment and/or discrimination against students, employees, or patrons on the basis of sex, race, color, ethnic or national origin, religion, marital status, disability, age, pregnancy, and any other legally prohibited basis. Retaliation for engaging in a protected activity is also prohibited.

Any person who believes she or he has been discriminated against, denied a benefit, or excluded from participation in any district education program or activity may file a grievance using the district's grievance procedures.

Inquiries regarding compliance with any of the laws referred to in this policy may be directed to the superintendent or to the district's Title IX and/or Section 504 Coordinator.

Adopted on: December 14, 2015

Revised on: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_

## **4002 Drug Free Workplace**

It is vitally important to have a healthy workforce that is free from the effects of illegal drugs. The use or possession of unlawful drugs in the workplace has a very detrimental effect upon safety and morale of the affected employee, coworkers, and the public at large; and on productivity and the quality of work.

Federal law requires this school district, as a recipient of federal funds, to maintain a drug-free workplace. The unlawful manufacture, distribution, dispensing, possession, or use of a controlled substance in the district's workplace is prohibited. The term "workplace" includes every location where district employees may be found during their working hours or while they are on duty, regardless of whether the location is within the geographic boundaries of the district. Any employee who violates this policy will be disciplined with measures up to and including discharge. The district may, in its sole discretion, require or allow an employee who violates this policy to participate in and satisfactorily complete a drug abuse assistance or rehabilitation program.

The district shall provide every current employee with a copy of this policy, and shall provide each newly hired employee with a copy upon hiring. Every employee shall be required to signify receipt of a copy of the policy in writing. All district employees must abide by this policy, including those who are not directly engaged in the performance of work pursuant to a federal grant.

An employee must notify his/her supervisor of any conviction of a criminal drug statute for a violation occurring in the workplace within five days. The failure to report such a conviction will be grounds for dismissal. If the employee convicted of such an offense is engaged in the performance of work pursuant to the provisions of a federal grant, the district shall notify the grant agency within 10 days of receiving notice of a conviction from the affected employee or of receiving actual notice of such a conviction.

Adopted on: December 14, 2015

Revised on: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_

## **4003 Drug Policy Regarding Drivers**

**Policy Statement.** Drivers for the school district must be free from drug and alcohol abuse, and the use of illegal drugs or improper use of alcohol is prohibited. The overall goal of drug and alcohol testing is to insure a drug-free and alcohol-free transportation environment, and to reduce accidents, injuries and fatalities.

**Types of Testing.** Pursuant to regulations promulgated by the Department of Transportation (DOT), the district has implemented four types of testing: (1) pre-employment testing, (2) reasonable cause testing, (3) post-accident testing and (4) random testing.

**Refusal to Submit to Testing.** The refusal to submit to the testing used by the district will be grounds for refusal to hire driver applicants and to terminate the employment of existing drivers. Any driver who becomes unqualified on the basis of violation of the terms of this policy will be subject to disciplinary action which may include termination of the driver's employment.

**Disqualification.** Any applicant who tests positive for the presence of the following drugs is medically unqualified to drive and will not be considered for the position of driver: (1) marijuana, (2) cocaine, (3) opiates, (4) amphetamines, or (5) phencyclidine (PCP). Any district driver who tests positive shall be medically unqualified and removed from service immediately.

**Pre-employment Testing.** All applicants for employment must submit to drug and alcohol tests as a condition of being considered for employment.

**Reasonable Cause Testing.** The district shall have reasonable cause to require a driver to submit to drug testing when a driver manifests physical or physiological symptoms or reactions commonly attributed to the use of controlled substances or alcohol.

**Post-Accident Testing.** A driver who has been involved in a reportable accident must submit to drug and alcohol testing as soon as possible. A reportable accident includes any accident in which there is a fatality, a person is injured and must be treated away from the accident site, the driver receives a citation for a moving violation, or a vehicle is towed from the scene. The driver must notify the district immediately regarding any reportable accident.

**Serious Injury to the Driver.** If a driver is so seriously injured that he or she cannot submit to testing at or immediately after the time of the accident, the driver must provide the necessary authorization for the district to obtain hospital reports or other documents that would indicate whether there were controlled substances or alcohol in the driver's system.

**Random Testing.** All drivers will be subject to unannounced random testing for drugs and alcohol. The district or its agents will periodically select drivers at random for testing. A district official will notify a driver when his or her name has been selected and will instruct the driver to report immediately for testing. By its very nature, random selection may result in one driver being tested more than once in a 12-month period, while another driver may not be selected at all during the same 12 months.

**Frequency of Random Testing.** Under DOT regulations, the district must test at least 50 percent of its average number of driver positions for drugs and 25 percent of its average number of driver positions for alcohol each year. The tests must be unannounced and spread evenly throughout the year. DOT regulations also require that every driver selected at random must have his or her name placed back in the random pool for the next selection period.

**Testing Procedure.** All urine and blood specimens collected under the policy will be submitted to an approved laboratory for testing. Specimens that initially test positive for drugs will be subjected to a subsequent confirmation test before being reported by the laboratory as positive.

**Medical Resource Officer.** All laboratory test results will be reported by the laboratory to a medical review officer (MRO) designated by the district. Negative test results will be reported as such by the MRO to the district. Before reporting a positive test result to the district, the MRO will attempt to contact the driver to discuss the test result. If the MRO is unable to contact the driver directly, the MRO will contact a district official designated in advance by the district, who shall in turn contact the driver and direct the driver to contact the MRO. Upon being so directed, the driver shall contact the MRO immediately or, if after the MRO's business hours and the MRO is unavailable, at the start of the MRO's next business day.

**Confidentiality.** Pursuant to DOT regulations, individual test results for applicants and drivers will be released to the district and will be kept confidential unless the tested individual consents to their release. Any person who has submitted to drug testing in compliance with this policy is entitled to receive the results of such testing upon timely written request.

**Retesting.** An individual who tested positive for the presence of drugs may request that the original sample be retested. The request for a retest must be submitted in writing on a form provided by the district within 3 working days of the district's notification to the individual that he or she has a positive test result. The individual making the request must pay all costs associated with the retest and transfer of the sample to another laboratory before the retest will be performed.

Adopted on: December 14, 2015

Revised on: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_



## **4004 Employment of Relatives, Domestic Partners and Significant Others**

It is in the school district's best interest to hire the best qualified candidate for employment. However, the district will use sound judgment in hiring and placing employees who are closely related, reside together as domestic partners, or are involved in close relationships for the following reasons: avoiding conflict of interest and the appearance of a conflict of interest; avoiding favoritism and the appearance of favoritism; promoting collegiality among employees; minimizing lost productivity; easing the task of managing employees; avoiding friction and conflict when marriages or relationships break down; and avoiding claims of sexual harassment.

For the purposes of this policy, the term "relative" refers to a spouse, child, parent, sibling, grandparent, grandchild, aunt, uncle, first cousin, or corresponding in-law or "step" relation. "Domestic partner" refers to individuals who reside in the same household and are involved in a relationship, who may hold themselves out to the public as marital partners, but who are not legally married. "Significant others" refers to individuals who are dating or engaged to be married but may or may not reside together. This policy applies to all categories of employment including regular, temporary, and part-time classifications.

Generally, an employee's relative, domestic partner, or significant other should not be hired to work in the same department as the employee or in any other position in which the district believes a conflict or the appearance of a conflict may exist. Relatives, domestic partners, and significant others are permitted to work at the district provided one does not report directly to, supervise, or manage the other. The superintendent and/or board may make exceptions to this general rule.

Employees in a supervisory-subordinate relationship or employed in the same department who marry, become domestic partners, or become significant others while employed will be treated in accordance with these guidelines, and one of the employees will be transferred at the earliest practicable time. The transfer will be voluntary when possible. When a voluntary transfer is not possible, the superintendent will make the decision based upon the importance of each job, the needs of the district, and the availability of candidates to fill either position. The district shall endeavor to place the transferred

employee in a position which is similar in terms of pay and benefits. The superintendent and/or board may make exceptions to this general rule.

Adopted on: December 14, 2015

Revised on: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_

## **4005**

### **Communication Between the Board and District Employees**

Employees have the same right to communicate with the board about matters of public concern as other patrons of the district. Regarding employment-related issues, employees must follow the applicable board policies and/or contractual procedures regarding the administrative chain of command, complaints, grievances and other applicable processes.

When appropriate, the superintendent shall inform employees of official board policies, directives, actions and concerns.

Adopted on: December 14, 2015

Revised on: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_

**4006**  
**Insurance**

The school district shall provide workers' compensation insurance for the protection of the district and its employees, and such other insurance as the board deems appropriate or has agreed to provide pursuant to a contract or collective bargaining agreement.

Adopted on: December 14, 2015

Revised on: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_

**4007**  
**Personnel Records**

The district shall maintain a personnel file regarding each employee. All materials in a personnel file, except for employment references and information that was gathered in the process of assessing an applicant for hiring, shall be available to the employee for review within a reasonable period of time of the employee's request. Employees (or individuals to whom employees have given written authorization) may inspect the contents of their personnel files only in the presence of an administrator or a person designated by the administration.

An employee may respond to any document(s) in his or her personnel file by submitting a written response to the person responsible for keeping the file, who shall attach the response to file copies of the disputed document.

No person other than school officials engaged in their professional duties shall be granted access to employees' personnel files, and the contents of such files shall not be divulged in any manner to any unauthorized person. An attorney acting on behalf of the board of education or administration is deemed to be a school official.

Adopted on: December 14, 2015

Revised on: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_

**4008**  
**Outside Employment**

1. An employee's responsibilities to the district take precedence over personal responsibilities during school hours. Employees may not engage in other employment business activity during assigned duty hours.
2. Tutoring
  - a. Teachers are expected to assist students who are having learning problems as part of the teachers' employment. Such assistance is expected both in the classroom and at other times during the school day.
  - b. A teacher shall not solicit a student or parent to retain the teacher as a tutor and shall not act as a tutor for pay or other remuneration for any student who is then enrolled in any class taught by that teacher.
  - c. In all other cases during the school year, a teacher may act as a tutor for pay or other remuneration upon prior approval of the building principal and superintendent or designee.
3. Employees shall attend to personal matters outside their assigned duty hours with the district whenever possible.
4. Employees may conduct business on behalf of the district during assigned duty hours, but at times that do not disrupt or interfere with teaching responsibilities or student activities.
5. Employees shall not misrepresent, either expressly or by implication, that any activity, solicitation, or other endeavor is sponsored, sanctioned, or endorsed by the district.
6. In any written or verbal presentation by an employee that might be perceived as being sanctioned, sponsored, or endorsed by the district, other than district-related instruction or presentation to district students or personnel, the employee shall communicate to the audience or recipients that the views expressed are those of the employee and not necessarily those of the district or board.

7. Sale of goods or services by employees.
  - a. Employees shall not sell, solicit or promote the sale of goods or services to students.
  - b. Employees shall not sell, solicit or promote the sale of goods or services to parents of students when the employee's relationship with the district is used to influence any sale or may be reasonably perceived by parents as attempting to influence any sale.
  - c. Employees with supervisory or managerial responsibilities shall not sell, solicit or promote the sale of goods or services to employees over whom they have such responsibilities in any manner that could reasonably be perceived as coercive by the subordinate employee(s).
  - d. Employees shall not use employee, student, or parent directories in connection with the solicitation, sale, or promotion of goods or services and shall not provide any such directory to any person or entity for any purpose without the prior knowledge or approval of the building principal.
8. No school board member, administrator, teacher, or other employee shall use the personnel, facilities, resources, equipment, property, or funds of the district for personal financial gain or business activities.
9. All written or artistic works, instructional materials, inventions, procedures, ideas, innovations, systems, programs, or other work product created or developed by any employee in the course and scope of performance of his or her employment duties on behalf of the district, whether published or not, shall be the exclusive property of the district; and the district has the sole right to sell, license, assign, or transfer any and all right, title, or interest in and to such property.

Adopted on: December 14, 2015

Revised on: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_

**4009**  
**Restrictions on Employees Receiving Gratuities**

An employee who, because of his or her employment by the school district, receives any bonus merchandise or gift with a value over \$25.00 must disclose the receipt of such gift to the superintendent. The superintendent, at his or her discretion, may require that the gift become the property of the district.

Employees are directed to discourage merchants from offering bonus paraphernalia in exchange for the school's patronage.

Adopted on: December 14, 2015

Revised on: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_



**4010**  
**Inclement Weather**

If school is canceled during the day because of inclement weather, classified and certified personnel not listed above may be released after students have been excused.

Adopted on: December 14, 2015

Revised on: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_

## **4011 Family Medical and Military Leave**

The school district shall provide leave to its employees in accordance with the Family and Medical Leave Act ("FMLA") and the Nebraska Family Military Leave Act. The board intends this policy to cover all procedures the district and its employees shall follow in connection with leave under these Acts. For purposes of this policy, any reference to "leave" or "FMLA" will include leave permitted by the Nebraska Family Military Leave Act. The terms used herein shall have the meaning ascribed to them under the FMLA.

### **I. Qualifying for Leave**

#### **A. Qualified Employees**

1. To be eligible for ***unpaid*** leave under this policy, an employee must:
  - a. Make the request for leave at a time when the school district employs 50 or more workers;
  - b. Have been working for the school district for at least 12 months prior to the request; and
  - c. Have worked a minimum of 1,250 hours during the 12-month period immediately preceding the commencement of the leave.
2. The applicable 12-month period for computing an employee's entitlement to FMLA leave shall be the 12-month period measured forward from the date such employee's first FMLA leave begins.
3. Employees ineligible for FMLA leave for any reason may be eligible for leave under the Nebraska Family Military Leave Act and should consult with the administration.

**B. Qualified Circumstances Necessitating Leave**

1. The school district will grant an eligible employee up to a total of 12 workweeks of **unpaid** leave under the following conditions:
  - a. for birth of a son or daughter, and to care for the newborn child;
  - b. for placement of a son or daughter with the employee for adoption or foster care;
  - c. to care for the employee's spouse, son, daughter, or parent with a serious health condition;
  - d. because of a serious health condition that makes the employee unable to perform the functions of his or her job;
  - e. because of any qualifying exigency arising out of the fact that the employee's spouse, son, daughter, or parent is a Military Member on Covered Active Duty (or has been notified of an impending call or order to Covered Active Duty) in National Guard, Reserves, and/or Regular Armed Forces in support of a contingency operation; or
  
2. The school district will grant an eligible employee who is the spouse, son, daughter, parent or next of kin of a Covered Servicemember a total of 26 workweeks of **unpaid** leave during a 12-month period to care for the service member as permitted under the FMLA. The leave described in this paragraph shall only be available during a single 12-month period.

For purposes of this provision and this policy, "Covered Servicemember" includes both Military Members and covered Veterans, so long as the

covered Veteran was discharged or released under conditions other than dishonorable at any time during the five-year period prior to the first date the eligible employee takes FMLA leave to care for the covered Veteran.

3. During the single 12-month period described in paragraph I(B)(2), an eligible employee shall be entitled to a combined total of 26 workweeks of leave under paragraphs I(B)(1) and I(B)(2). Nothing in this paragraph shall limit the availability of leave under paragraph I(B)(1) during any other 12-month period.

### **C. Limitations on Leave**

1. Leave for birth or placement for adoption or foster care must conclude within 12 months of the birth or placement.
2. In any case in which a husband and wife both employed by the school district are entitled to FMLA leave:
  - a. the aggregate number of workweeks of FMLA leave to which both are entitled is limited to 12 during any 12-month period if such leave is taken (i) because of the birth of a son or daughter of the employee and in order to care for such son or daughter; (ii) because of the placement of a son or daughter with the employee for adoption or foster care; or (iii) to care for a sick parent who has a serious health condition; and
  - b. the aggregate number of workweeks of FMLA leave to which both that husband and wife are entitled is limited to 26 during the single 12-month period in which leave is taken to care for a Covered Servicemember and the husband and wife employees are both either the son, daughter, parent, or next

of kin of such Covered Servicemember, if the leave is taken for this reason or a combination of this reason and one of the three reasons described in paragraph I(C)(2)(a). If the leave taken by the husband and wife includes leave described in paragraph I(C)(2)(a), the limitation in paragraph I(C)(2)(a) shall apply to the leave described in I(C)(2)(a).

#### **D. Qualifying Notice and Certification**

Employees seeking to use FMLA leave will be required to provide:

1. 30-day advance notice when the need to take the leave is foreseeable; provided, if (a) the leave is for needed treatment which is required to begin in less than thirty days or (b) the leave is for the reason set forth in paragraph I(B)(1)(e), the employee shall provide such notice to the school district as is reasonable and practical;
2. medical certification supporting the need for leave due to a Serious Health Condition affecting the employee or family member or to care for a Military Member, and/or due to a Serious Injury or Illness to care for a Veteran;
3. second or third medical opinions and periodic recertifications (at the school district's expense);
4. certification supporting the need for leave because of a qualifying exigency arising out of the fact that the employee's spouse, son, daughter or parent is a Military Member on Covered Active Duty (or has been notified of an impending call or order to Covered Active Duty) in the National Guard, Reserves, and/or Regular Armed Forces in support of a contingency operation;
5. certification supporting the need for leave to care for a Veteran who was discharged or released

under conditions other than dishonorable at any time during the five-year period prior to the first date the eligible employee takes FMLA leave to care for the covered Veteran, and who is undergoing medical treatment, recuperation, or therapy for a Serious Injury or Illness; and

6. periodic reports during leave, at a frequency reasonably requested by the superintendent, regarding the employee's status and intent to return to work.

#### **E. Scheduling Leave**

1. When leave is needed to care for a family member, for the employee's own illness, or to care for a Covered Servicemember, and such leave is foreseeable based on planned medical treatment, the employee must attempt to schedule treatment so as not to unduly disrupt the school district's operations.

### **II. Relationship with District During Leave**

#### **A. Leave to Be Unpaid**

All leave provided to employees under the provisions of the FMLA and this policy shall be unpaid leave.

#### **B. Substitution of Paid Leave**

1. The school district requires employees to substitute any accrued paid vacation leave, paid personal leave, paid family leave, paid medical leave or paid sick leave for FMLA leave. However, nothing in this policy shall require the school district to provide paid sick or medical leave in any situation in which the school district would not normally provide such paid leave.
2. If an employee uses paid leave under circumstances which do not qualify as FMLA leave, the leave will not count against the

number of workweeks of FMLA leave to which the employee is entitled.

3. Any paid leave which is substituted for FMLA leave will be subtracted from the number of workweeks of unpaid leave provided by the FMLA and this policy.

**C. Group Health Plan Benefits**

1. The school district will continue group health plan benefits on the same basis as coverage would have been provided if the employee had been continuously employed during the FMLA leave period.
2. Any share of health plan premiums which have been paid by the employee prior to FMLA leave must continue to be paid by the employee during the FMLA leave period.

**D. Intermittent or Reduced-Schedule Leave**

1. Leave may be taken under this policy intermittently or on a reduced-leave schedule under certain circumstances.
  - a. When leave is taken because of a birth or because of a placement of a child for adoption or foster care, an eligible employee may take leave intermittently or on a reduced-leave schedule only with the agreement of the school district. In such a case, the superintendent shall have the authority to approve or disapprove such intermittent or reduced leave schedule, in the superintendent's sole discretion.
  - b. When leave is taken to care for a sick family member, for an employee's own serious health condition, or to care for a covered Veteran or Military Member, an eligible employee may take leave

intermittently or on a reduced-leave schedule when medically necessary.

- c. When leave is taken by an eligible employee because of any qualifying exigency arising out of the fact that the employee's spouse, son, daughter, or parent is a Military Member on Covered Active Duty (or has been notified of an impending call or order to Covered Active Duty) in National Guard, Reserves, and/or Regular Armed Forces in support of a contingency operation, the employee may take leave intermittently or on a reduced-leave schedule.
- d. When leave is taken by an eligible employee to care for a Covered Servicemember, including a Veteran who was discharged or released under conditions other than dishonorable at any time during the five-year period prior to the first date the eligible employee takes FMLA leave to care for the covered Veteran, and who is undergoing medical treatment, recuperation, or therapy for a Serious Injury or Illness
- e. Intermittent or reduced leave shall not result in a reduction in the employee's total amount of leave beyond the amount of leave actually taken.
- f. When an instructional employee seeks to take intermittent leave in connection with a family or personal illness (e.g. physical therapy or periodic care for a sick relative) or to care for a covered Veteran or Military Member, and when such leave would constitute at least 20 percent of the total number of working days in the period during which the leave would extend, the school district may require the employee to elect to take



leave in a block, instead of intermittently, for the entire period or to transfer to an available alternative position within the school system that is equivalent in pay, for which the employee is qualified, and which better accommodates the intermittent leave.

2. If an eligible employee requests intermittent leave or leave on a reduced-leave schedule that is foreseeable based on planned medical treatment, including during a period of recovery from a serious health condition, the school district may require the employee to transfer temporarily to an available alternative position for which the employee is qualified and which better accommodates recurring periods of leave than does the employee's regular position. Such alternative position must have equivalent pay and benefits as the employee's permanent position.
3. Leave taken on an intermittent or reduced-schedule basis will be tracked hourly.

### **III. Return From Leave**

#### **A. Restoration to Position**

1. On return from FMLA leave, an employee is entitled to be returned to the same position the employee held when leave commenced, or to an equivalent position with equivalent benefits, pay, and other terms and conditions of employment.
2. Any leave taken under this policy will not result in the loss of any employment benefits accrued prior to the date on which the leave commenced.
3. An eligible employee is not entitled to accrual of any seniority or employment benefits during any period of leave, or any right, benefit, or

position of employment other than to which the employee would have been entitled had the employee not taken leave.

**B. Denial of Restoration**

1. The school district reserves the right to deny restoration to any eligible employee who is a "key employee" (that is an employee who is salaried and among the highest paid 10% of the employees of the school district) if such denial is necessary to prevent substantial and grievous economic injury to the operations of the school district.
2. If the school district intends to deny restoration to such an employee, it will:
  - a. notify the employee of his/her status as a "key employee" in response to the employee's notice of intent to take FMLA leave;
  - b. notify the employee as soon as the school district decides it will deny job restoration and explain the reasons for this decision;
  - c. offer the employee a reasonable opportunity to return to work from FMLA leave after giving this notice; and
  - d. make a final determination as to whether reinstatement will be denied at the end of the leave period if the employee then requests restoration.

**C. Failure to Return from Leave**

If an employee fails to return from FMLA leave after the period of leave to which the employee is entitled has expired, the employee shall reimburse the district for any premiums the employer paid for

maintaining health insurance coverage for the employee during the employee's FMLA leave unless the reason the employee does not return is due to: (1) the continuation, recurrence, or onset of the serious health condition which entitled the employee to FMLA leave and the employee provides the district with sufficient certification from the proper health care provider of such continuation, recurrence, or onset of the serious health condition or (2) other circumstances beyond the employee's control.

#### **IV. Notice to Employees**

- A. The school district will post in conspicuous places where employees are employed notices explaining the FMLA and providing information concerning the procedures for filing complaints of FMLA violations with the U.S. Wage and Hour Division.
- B. When an employee provides notice of the need for FMLA leave, the school district shall provide the employee with a copy of the "section 301(c) notice" which is attached to this policy.
- C. To the extent that any provision in this policy is in any manner inconsistent with the provisions of the Act or the regulations promulgated thereunder, the Act and regulations shall prevail over the provisions of this policy. The school district reserves the right to modify this policy from time to time in its sole discretion.
- D. Employees may direct any questions or concerns regarding FMLA leave to the superintendent.

Adoption: December 14, 2015

## **4012 Staff Internet and Computer Use**

Internet access is an important tool for communicating, keeping up-to-date with current developments in education, and for conducting research to enhance management, teaching and learning skills. The following procedures and guidelines are intended to ensure appropriate use of the Internet at the school by the district's faculty and staff.

### **I. Staff Expectations in Use of the Internet**

#### **A. Acceptable Use**

1. Staff shall be restricted to use the Internet to conduct research for instructional purposes.
2. Staff may use the Internet for school-related e-mail communication with fellow educators, students, parents and patrons.
3. Staff may use the Internet in any other way which serves a legitimate educational purpose.
4. Teachers should integrate the use of electronic resources into the classroom. As the quality and integrity of content on the Internet is not guaranteed, teachers must examine the source of the information and provide guidance to students on evaluating the quality of information they may encounter on the Internet.

#### **B. Unacceptable Use**

1. Staff shall not access obscene or pornographic material.
2. Staff shall not engage in any illegal activities on school computers, including the downloading and reproduction of copyrighted materials.
3. Staff shall not use chat rooms, message boards, or instant messaging.

4. Staff shall not use school computers or district internet access to participate in on-line auctions, on-line gaming, mp3/mp4 sharing systems or other digital content sharing systems such as BitTorrent.
5. Staff shall not access social networking sites such as Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram on school computers or during school time unless such access is for an educational activity which has been preapproved by the staff member's immediate supervisor. This prohibition extends to posting on social networking sites using personal electronic devices during a staff member's lunch or planning period.
6. The only political advocacy allowed by staff on school computers or district internet access shall be lobbying via e-mail on educational-related issues. Before engaging in this sort of activity on school computers or district internet access, staff must obtain the consent of the superintendent or designee.
7. Staff shall not share their passwords with anyone, including students, volunteers or fellow employees.

## **II. School Affiliated Digital Content**

Staff must obtain the permission of the administration prior to creating or publishing any school-affiliated web pages, microblogs, social media pages or handles, or any other digital content which represents itself to be school-related, or which could be reasonably understood to be school-related. This includes any content which identifies the school district by name or which uses the school's mascot name or image.

Staff must provide administrators with the username and password for all school-affiliated accounts and must only publish content appropriate for the school setting. Staff must also comply with all board policies in their school-affiliated accounts and must comply with the board's policy on professional boundaries between staff and students.

Publication of student work or personality-identifiable student information on the Internet may violate the Federal Education Records

Privacy Act. Staff must obtain the consent of their building principal or the superintendent prior to posting any student-related information on the Internet.

### **III. Enforcement**

#### **A. Methods of Enforcement**

The district owns the computer system and monitors e-mail and Internet communications, Internet usage, and patterns of Internet usage. Staff members have no right of privacy in any electronic communications or files, which are stored or accessed on or using school property and these are subject to search and inspection at any time.

1. The district uses a technology protection measure that blocks access to some sites that are not in accordance with the district's policy. Standard use of the Internet utilizes a proxy server-based filter that screens for non-curriculum related pages.
2. Due to the nature of technology, the filter may sometimes block pages that are appropriate for staff research. The system administrator may override the technology protection measures that blocks or filters Internet access for staff access to a site with legitimate educational value that is wrongly blocked.
3. The district will monitor staff use of the Internet by monitoring Internet use history to ensure enforcement of this policy.

#### **B. Any violation of school policy and rules may result in that staff member facing:**

1. Discharge from employment or such other discipline as the administration and/or the board deem appropriate;
2. The filing of a complaint with the Commissioner of Education alleging unprofessional conduct by a certified staff member;

3. When appropriate, the involvement of law enforcement agencies in investigating and prosecuting wrongdoing.

Adopted on: December 14, 2015

Revised on: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_

## **4013 Grievance Procedure**

**Definition of Grievance.** A grievance is an allegation by an employee or group of employees that there has been a violation of a provision of the negotiated agreement or a policy of the board of education.

**Procedural Steps.** The procedure for handling grievances is as set forth below.

**Step 1 - Oral Notice to Principal.** The grievant shall initiate the grievance by presenting it to his or her principal or immediate supervisor within seven (7) school days from the date that the grievant knew or should have known of the incident giving rise to the grievance.

**Step 2 - Written Grievance to the Principal.** If the grievance is not resolved to the satisfaction of the grievant within five (5) school days of the meeting with the principal, the grievant representative may present the grievance in writing to the principal.

The principal shall schedule a meeting within three (3) school days of receipt of the written grievance to discuss the elements of the grievance. The principal shall submit his or her determination in writing to the grievant within five (5) school days of the meeting.

**Step 3 - Written Appeal to the Superintendent of Schools.** If the determination of the principal is not satisfactory to the grievant, the grievant may appeal it to the superintendent of schools or his or her designated representative. Said appeal shall be presented, in writing, to the office of the superintendent of schools within five (5) school days of receipt of the principal's determination.

The superintendent of schools or a designee shall hold a formal meeting within seven (7) school days of receiving the written appeal. The superintendent of schools or a designated representative shall make a written determination regarding the grievance within five (5) school days of the date of the meeting.



**Step 4 - Appeal to the Board of Education.** If the determination of the superintendent of schools is not satisfactory to the grievant, the grievant may appeal it to the board within five (5) school days of receipt of the superintendent's decision. The board shall hear the grievance within thirty (30) days in open or closed session in accordance with the law. The board shall notify the grievant of its decision within five (5) school days of hearing the grievance.

**Written Presentation.** All grievances presented at Step 2 and subsequent steps of the procedure shall set forth in writing all facts giving rise to the grievance, the provision(s) of the Agreement or policy alleged to have been violated, the names of the grievant(s), the names of all witnesses, and the remedy sought by the grievant. All grievances at Step 2 and appeals at Step 3 and Step 4 shall be signed and dated by the aggrieved employee. All written answers submitted by the district shall be signed and dated by the appropriate district representative.

**Grievance Meetings or Hearings.** All meetings and hearings conducted under this procedure up to and including Step 3 shall be conducted in private and shall include only the administration's representatives, the grievant, the grievant's representatives, and witnesses as necessary.

**Association Representation.** A grievant shall have the right to have an Association representative present to represent the grievant at each level of the grievance procedure.

**Reprisals.** No reprisals of any kind shall be taken against any employee who uses this grievance procedure in good faith.

**Withdrawal of a Grievance.** A grievant may withdraw his or her grievance at any level of the procedure without fear of reprisal from any party.

**Advanced Step Filing.** A grievance shall be filed initially at the level at which the decision resulting in the grievance was made.

**Time Limitations.** Time limitations herein are critical. All references to days are to calendar days. No grievance shall be accepted by the district unless it is submitted or appealed within the time limits set forth in this Agreement. If at any time during the grievance process, it is discovered that the grievance was not filed or appealed in a timely

manner, the grievance shall be dismissed. If the grievance is not submitted in a timely manner at Step 1 or Step 2, it shall be deemed to be waived. If the grievance is not appealed to Step 3 in a timely manner, it shall be deemed to have been settled in accordance with the district's Step 2 determination. If the district fails to answer within the time limits set forth in this Agreement, the grievance shall automatically proceed to the next step.

When the deadline for taking an action falls on a Saturday, a Sunday or a legal holiday, the time for taking the action shall be extended to the next working day.

Adopted on: December 14, 2015

Revised on: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_

## **4014 Employment-Related Sexual Harassment**

It is the policy of the school district to provide an environment free of unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors and other verbal or physical conduct or communication constituting sexual harassment. Sexual harassment by any employees and students is unequivocally prohibited. Sexual harassment is misconduct that interferes with work productivity and wrongfully deprives employees of the opportunity to work and students of the opportunity to study and be in an environment free from unsolicited and unwelcome sexual overtones. Sexual harassment includes all unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors and other such verbal or physical misconduct. Sexual harassment is a prohibited practice and is a violation of the law.

The U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission has issued guidelines interpreting Section 703 of Title VII as prohibiting sexual harassment. Sexual harassment is defined in those guidelines as follows:

Unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical misconduct of a sexual nature constitutes sexual harassment when:

- (1) Submission to such conduct is made either explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of an individual's employment,
- (2) Submission to or rejection of such conduct by an individual is used as the basis for employment decisions affecting such individual, or
- (3) Such conduct has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual's work performance or creating an intimidating, hostile or offensive working environment.

A person who feels harassed is encouraged to inform the person engaging in sexually harassing conduct or communication directly that the conduct or communication is offensive and must stop. If the person who feels harassed does not wish to communicate directly with the person whose conduct or communication is offensive, or if direct communication with the offending person has been ineffective, the

person who feels harassed should report the conduct or communication to a supervisor, principal, the superintendent of schools, or a board of education member with whom he or she feels comfortable in reporting the issue.

Regardless of the means selected for resolving the problem, the good faith initiation of a complaint of sexual harassment will not affect the complainant's employment, compensation or work assignments as an employee, or status as a student.

Sexual harassment of one student by another student or students is addressed in a separate policy.

Adopted on: September 14, 2015

Revised on: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_

**4015**  
**Prohibition Against Employment of Board Members**

Nebraska statutes prohibit board members from serving as a teacher on a regular teaching contract.

The board will allow a member of the board of education to be employed by the school district in a non-teaching capacity, including substitute teaching. Board members who are also employed by the district are strictly prohibited from discussing any issue with students, staff or parents in their capacity as an employee that may come before the board.

This policy does not prohibit the board from contracting with members of the board for services or products when the relationship is not one of employer/employee and such contracts are in compliance with the requirements of statute and board policy regarding conflicts of interest.

Adopted: December 14, 2015

**4016**  
**Jury Duty/Service as Witness in Court**

An employee who has been called to serve as a juror will be granted paid leave. Employees must sign over to the district the compensation they receive for jury duty, but not compensation for expenses.

An employee who has been subpoenaed to testify as a witness in a court proceeding shall be entitled to one day of paid leave. To receive paid leave, the employee must sign over to the district his or her witness fee.

Adopted on: December 14, 2015

Revised on: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_

## **4017**

### **Relations with Employee Collective Bargaining Associations**

The board of education recognizes the right of staff members to belong to organizations for bargaining purposes pursuant to state statutes. The board will negotiate with employee associations that have been established in accordance with public employee bargaining statutes and will negotiate with local collective bargaining unit representatives at mutually agreeable times.

To facilitate an amicable relationship between the district and any local employee associations, the district will allow associations to make reasonable use of district facilities for meetings outside the school's and the employees' work hours. With administrative approval, associations may use district resources, post notices of meetings and other information on bulletin boards designated for this purpose, and use district e-mail and mail boxes for delivery of employment-related information. Associations must pay for all supplies used, damage caused, or the loss or theft of borrowed property.

Adopted on: December 14, 2015

Revised on: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_

**4018**  
**Corporal Punishment**

Corporal punishment, defined as the infliction of bodily pain as a penalty for disapproved behavior, is prohibited. Some physical contact is inevitable, and most of it is appropriate. Therefore, physical contact, short of corporal punishment, is acceptable to promote personal interaction with students, to maintain order and control, and to protect persons and property.

Adopted on: December 14, 2015

Revised on: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_



## **4019 Safety Committee**

The school district is committed to providing and maintaining a safe work environment, and to taking reasonable precautions for the safety of the students, employees, visitors, and all others having business with this school district. Every employee district should show concern for the safety of fellow employees, students, and members of the public. The district shall have a safety committee as required by Nebraska law.

The committee shall adopt and maintain a written injury prevention program. The committee shall participate in the development of safety education, training, and the establishment of safety rules, policies and procedures pursuant to this policy, the district's written injury prevention program, or as otherwise provided by law. New employees shall receive an initial safety orientation, and training for all employees shall be conducted annually.

The safety committee shall maintain minutes of all meetings and file them in the district office. The committee shall implement accident investigation, record keeping procedures, safety rules, safety and health training, and policies. The district shall maintain records for at least three years, or longer if directed by the Department of Labor.

The committee shall meet at least once every three months or more frequently in the event of an employee complaint or of a job-related injury or death. The safety committee shall keep written minutes of all meetings, and provide a copy to the superintendent or designee who shall maintain the minutes in the district's administrative offices for a period of at least three years, unless otherwise instructed by the Department of Labor.

The safety committee shall develop an injury prevention plan and present it to the board. The plan should be developed and presented in the spirit of employees working together in a cooperative, non-adversarial effort to promote safety at the work sites within the district.

The committee shall ensure that the Employer's Injury Prevention Plan includes:

1. Initial safety orientation on rules, policies, and job specific procedures for new employees or employees who are

- assuming new and different duties within the school district, if appropriate.
2. Job specific training for employees before they perform potential hazardous work.
  3. Periodic refresher training and dissemination of information on an annual basis, or more frequently if so designated by the administrator, for employees regarding the injury prevention plan of the unit and safety rules, policies, and procedures pertaining to safety within the school district.

In the event of a death in the workplace, the safety committee shall forward to the Department of Labor within 15 working days a copy of any review of the matter made by the safety committee.

The committee shall establish record-keeping procedures to control and maintain all accident and injury records pertaining to accidents and injuries within the district or activities under the control of the district. Such records shall be kept for at least three years, or longer if so advised by the Department of Labor.

Adopted on: December 14, 2015

Revised on: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_

**4020**  
**Ownership of Copyrighted Works**

Works created by district employees in the course and scope of their employment remain the property of the district. The board may enter into a written agreement with a staff member allowing the staff member to share ownership of a copyright in the covered work. The board will only enter into such an agreement if the written work was created apart from, and in addition to, what the district requires and if the district will not incur an expense to replace the work.

The board hereby expressly grants to other educational entities located within Nebraska a non-exclusive license to use the district's copyrighted works for educational purposes within Nebraska when those works have been placed onto collaborative learning systems within the State.

Adopted on: September 14, 2015

Revised on: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_

**4022**  
**Certification and Endorsements**

All educators must be duly certified by the Nebraska Department of Education in accordance with the Department's rules and the laws of Nebraska. They must file copies of their teaching certificates, including endorsements, with the superintendent of schools, and must promptly file any changes in certification or endorsements. Certified employees are required to maintain all their endorsements, and may not permit any endorsement to lapse or remove it from their certificates. The board or superintendent may require a certified employee to obtain a new endorsement when it is deemed necessary for the benefit of the school district and/or to comply with federal or state requirements.

Adopted on: December 14, 2015

Revised on: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_

**4023**  
**Professional Ethics**

The Regulations and Standards for Professional Practices Criteria, commonly known as Rule 27 of the Nebraska Department of Education, are the minimum standards for all certificated staff members of the school district. All certific employees are responsible for reading, understanding, and complying with these standards.

Adopted on: December 14, 2015

Revised on: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_

## **4024**

### **Teachers' Rights, Responsibilities and Duties**

All certificated employees shall assume the duties and responsibilities assigned by the superintendent or designee. Teachers' professional responsibilities involve considerably more than merely classroom instruction. They include, but are not limited to, study and research to keep abreast of new knowledge and instructional techniques; assessment of students' work; record-keeping; lesson planning and preparation; conferences with students, parents and administrators; in-service meetings; and supervision of pupils outside the classroom.

Teachers must be in their classrooms or assigned areas as instructed by the building principal. All duty time is necessary for educational planning, preparation, and conferences with students, parents and faculty members.

All teachers must maintain a standard of dress, personal appearance, general decorum, moral standards and behavior that reflects their professional status in the community.

Adopted on: December 14, 2015

Revised on: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_

**4025**  
**Superintendent**

The superintendent is hired by and shall report directly to the board of education. The superintendent will be the chief administrative officer of the board of education and shall keep the board informed on important issues. The board delegates to the superintendent the general power and authority to make necessary decisions to ensure the efficient and effective operations of the school.

The superintendent is charged with timely preparing, presenting, and filing an annual school budget, subject to the approval of the board at the annual budget hearing.

All school employees shall be under the direct and/or delegated supervision of the superintendent. The board delegates to the superintendent the authority to hire and terminate the employment of all classified staff. He or she shall review all certified and non-certified employees applying for vacancies and shall make recommendations regarding these employees.

All of the grounds and buildings are supervised by the superintendent, including necessary repairs and improvements unless the board is required to approve such repairs or improvements.

The superintendents other duties shall be included in his or her job description, contract, or as otherwise assigned by the board.

Adopted on: December 14, 2015

Revised on: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_

## **4027 Part-Time Certified Employees**

**Percentage of Time.** The percentage of time that a teacher works will be determined by calculating the amount of time that the teacher is required to be at school to teach or supervise classes, plus any assigned preparation time, as a percentage of the entire school day. Extracurricular assignments shall not be considered in determining a teacher's percentage of time. Part-time and temporary teachers may or may not be assigned preparation time, at the sole discretion of the board of education, upon the recommendation of the superintendent of schools.

**Acquiring Permanent Status.** A part-time teacher may become a permanent certificated employee pursuant to the provisions of state statutes.

**Salary.** The salary, benefits and leave entitlement of a part-time teacher shall be determined by multiplying the percentage of time the individual works by his or her placement on the full-time salary schedule contained in each academic year's negotiated agreement. The percentage of time a part-time teacher is required to be on duty shall be determined by the board of education upon the recommendation of the superintendent of schools.

**Horizontal Movement on the Salary Schedule.** A part-time teacher may qualify for movement horizontally on the salary schedule by earning graduate hours of college credit as set forth in the guidelines of the school district's salary schedule, and according to the applicable district policies.

**Attendance at In-service Meetings, Faculty Meetings, and School Activities.** A part-time teacher is responsible for attending in-service meetings, faculty meetings, and school activities that take place outside the teacher's assigned duty hours without additional compensation. A part-time teacher is responsible for performing such tasks as selling or taking tickets, and will be compensated for such tasks pursuant to the policy, practice or negotiated agreement of the school district.

**Continuation of Employment.** The school district administration and board will deal with the continuation of a part-time teacher's employment pursuant to state statute and the procedures prescribed for full-time employees in these policies.



Adopted on: December 14, 2015

Revised on: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_

**4028**  
**Substitute Teachers**

A substitute teacher is an educator who possesses the required certification from the Nebraska Department of Education and is employed to fill a teaching position on a temporary basis. The board shall establish the pay and benefits for substitute teachers.

Adopted on: December 14, 2015

Revised on: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_

**4029**  
**Salary Schedule for Certificated Employees**

The board of education recognizes the "salary schedule" and related provisions for compensation currently in effect resulting from negotiations between the board and the education association. This policy is intended to supplement the terms and conditions contained in the collective bargaining agreement. If there is any conflict between the terms of this policy and the collective bargaining agreement, the terms of this policy shall control.

**Horizontal Advancement.** A teacher may advance only one step horizontally on the schedule in any year.

**Superintendent's Review.** The superintendent shall review all requests for advancement on the salary schedule resulting from a teacher's acquiring additional teaching experience or for completion of college courses, and shall report all changes to the board of education annually.

**Vertical Advancement.** A teacher may advance only one step vertically on the schedule in any year.

Adopted on: December 14, 2015

Revised on: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_

## **4030 Evaluation of Certificated Employees**

All certificated employees to be evaluated shall be notified annually in writing of the evaluation process. A certificated administrator, with the exception of the local board of education when it is evaluating the superintendent, will observe and evaluate each probationary certificated employee for a full instructional period once each semester and each permanent certificated employee for a full instructional period once each school year. If the probationary certificated employee is a superintendent, he or she shall be evaluated twice during the first year of employment and at least once annually thereafter. The evaluation will include, but not be limited to evaluating the employee's instructional performance, classroom organization and management, personal conduct, and professional conduct. Evaluation of instructional performance and classroom organization and management is applicable to teachers only. The administrator will provide the employee with a written list of deficiencies, suggestions and a timeline for correcting the deficiencies and improving performance, and sufficient time to improve. The evaluation form will include notice that the employee may respond to the evaluation in writing.

The school district will train administrators in evaluation annually through meetings with the superintendent or other administrator, attendance at regional, state or national workshops, or any other method approved by the superintendent.

For the purposes of this policy, the terms "actual classroom observation" and "entire instructional period" are defined as follows:

**Entire Instructional Period.** For certificated employees whose classes are held during defined periods of time (e.g., senior high classes), an entire instructional period consists of one such time period. For those whose time periods are not so defined (e.g., elementary classroom teachers), an entire instructional period consists of 40 minutes. The instructional period for those whose work does not necessarily involve continuous instruction for 40-minute periods (e.g., librarians or speech therapists) consists of no less than 40 minutes total during the semester. The entire instructional period for administrators cannot be defined in terms of an instructional period and shall be satisfied by the actual

observation of an administrator's work during the semester for no less than 40 minutes.

**Actual Classroom Observation.** Actual classroom observation consists of observing the certificated employee in any activities in a classroom setting. When a certificated employee does not have classroom responsibility (e.g., administrators or librarians), the requirement of "actual classroom observation" will be satisfied by observing the certificated employee performing activities that are typical of his or her position.

This policy and the evaluation instrument shall be included in the teacher handbook which will be distributed to staff members upon their employment and annually thereafter.

Adopted on: December 14, 2015

Revised on: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_

## 4031

### Evaluation of Probationary Certified Employees

A certificated administrator will observe and evaluate each probationary certified employee for a full instructional period once each semester. The administrator will provide each employee with a written list of deficiencies, concrete suggestions for improvement, and sufficient time to improve.

For the purposes of this policy, the terms "actual classroom observation" and "entire instructional period" are defined as follows:

**Entire Instructional Period.** For certified employees whose classes are held during defined periods of time (e.g., senior high classes), an entire instructional period consists of one such time period. For those whose time periods are not so defined (e.g., elementary classroom teachers), an entire instructional period consists of 40 minutes. The instructional period for those whose work does not necessarily involve continuous instruction for 40-minute periods (e.g., librarians or speech therapists) consists of no less than 40 minutes total during the semester. The entire instructional period for administrators cannot be defined in terms of an instructional period and shall be satisfied by the actual observation of an administrator's work during the semester for no less than 40 minutes.

**Actual Classroom Observation.** Actual classroom observation consists of observing the certified employee in any activities in a classroom setting. When a certified employee does not have classroom responsibility (e.g., administrators or librarians), the requirement of "actual classroom observation" will be satisfied by observing the certified employee performing activities that are typical of his or her position.

Adopted on: December 14, 2015

Revised on: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_

**4032**  
**Professional Growth**

Every six years, permanent certificated employees shall give evidence of professional growth. Six semester hours of college credit shall be accepted as evidence of professional growth.

The board of education believes the goal of professional self-improvement to be inherent in the responsibilities of each certificated district employee.

Other professional growth activities which may count toward the six-year requirement include non-credit courses, lecture series, workshops, conferences, study groups, local in-service courses, committee service, supervising a student teacher, serving with professional groups, travel of significant educational value, and membership in professional organizations. The employee must receive prior approval from the building principal for any of these activities to count toward professional growth.

No professional growth units will be awarded if the applicant has been paid for a non-college activity either by released time or by an additional amount paid by the school district.

One unit of professional growth credit will generally be equivalent to ten hours of personal time spent on an educational activity.

Adopted on: \_\_\_\_\_

Revised on: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_

**4034**  
**Staff Handbook**

The superintendent or designee shall annually formulate, review and revise a staff handbook that will contain information about the district's employment policies and practices. The staff handbook is an extension of these policies and has the force and effect of board policy when approved by the board of education.

Adopted on: December 14, 2015

Revised on: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_



## **4036 Crisis Response Team Duties**

The school district will use a Crisis Response Team (CRT) to plan and coordinate efforts to deal with an emergency that involves the school, staff, and students. The primary concern will be the safety and welfare of students and staff, followed by the protection and salvaging of property.

The CRT will consist of the superintendent or designee (who will serve as general coordinator), the principal (who will serve as staff/operations coordinator), the counselor (who will serve as counseling services coordinator), one secondary and one elementary staff member, and one male and one female secondary student. Examples of situations that the CRT would address are the death of a student, staff member, local or national leader; an accident or illness involving any of the previously mentioned people; a threat to the safety of students or staff; weather-related disaster; or other incidents that seriously affect the school.

The superintendent will direct and coordinate CRT members. The principal will assume these responsibilities in the absence of the superintendent, and a designated board member will assume the responsibilities of the superintendent and principal in their absence. Team appointments and assignments may change annually based upon the district's needs.

During a crisis, school will be conducted in as normal and routine a manner as possible. To help provide students and staff with the services to cope with an emergency, the CRT may call upon patrons and school and community professionals who are skilled in providing counseling.

A careful balance must be maintained between the right of the public to information and the rights of the student and staff to privacy and normalcy. The general coordinator will be responsible for dealing with the media and providing information to the public.

### **Responsibilities of General Coordinator:**

1. Pre-Crisis:
  - a. Appoint team members;
  - b. Call meetings;
  - c. Serve as chair of CRT; and

- d. Inform staff and community of functions of CRT.
2. When Crisis Occurs:
- a. Compile checklist of activities that must be addressed prior to meeting with CRT;
  - b. Decide whether to convene or postpone school with necessary transportation and scheduling adjustments; and
  - c. Communicate with president of the board. President of the board will communicate with remainder of board.
  - d. Conduct secretarial and custodial meetings to tell them what information to give out and to direct all visitors to the crisis headquarters.
  - e. Communicate as needed with police, civil defense, fire and emergency personnel;
  - f. See that students and staff are appropriately notified after CRT meeting;
  - g. Approve press releases and schedule news conferences;
  - h. Serve as approval authority on plans presented by other coordinators; and
  - i. Handle unexpected details as they arise.
3. Post Crisis:
- a. Critique the response strategy of the CRT after the crisis with the CRT; and
  - b. Report on the incident at the next regular (or emergency) board meeting.

**Responsibilities of Staff/Operations Coordinator:**

1. Pre-Crisis:
- a. Attend meetings;
  - b. Assist in informing staff and community of functions of CRT;
  - c. Arrange for special training as needed.
2. When Crisis Occurs:
- a. Meet with general coordinator;
  - b. Meet with CRT as needed;
  - c. Provide staff with necessary information.
  - d. Provide support services for staff: refer the staff to counseling services coordinator as needed, arrange for substitutes to be in the building, arrange for class coverage as needed, and keep staff updated.

- e. Support services for family: express condolences and offer support, check on financial matters for the family as needed (social security, insurance, retirement).
  - f. Check on funeral arrangements if needed, notify staff and students, and arrange substitutes as needed.
  - g. Support services for students: refer those needing support to counseling services coordinator and assist in calling community personnel as needed.
  - h. Keep records of occurrences as they happen.
3. Post Crisis:
- a. Critique the response strategies and turn in recommendation to the general coordinator; and
  - b. Meet with the CRT.

### **Responsibilities of Counseling Services Coordinator:**

1. Pre-Crisis:
- a. Compile a list of support staff from the community and other area support services, with names and phone numbers; and
  - b. In-service CRT members and selected building personnel regarding specific counseling interventions for crises, especially the student members of CRT.
2. When Crisis Occurs:
- a. Meet with the general coordinator;
  - b. Meet with the CRT as needed;
  - c. Evaluate counseling needs for the day; involve support staff from the community and other agencies as needed;
  - d. Arrange for small group and individual counseling sessions for students, staff, and parents as needed;
  - e. Contact area mental health agencies if necessary for referral or additional assistance;
  - f. Arrange to visit classes as needed to make announcements, give details, answer questions, etc.;
  - g. Oversee the use of student records;
  - h. Maintain counseling records for follow-up;
  - i. Liaison with parents if necessary; and
  - j. Liaison with student representatives to CRT.
3. Post Crisis:

- a. Critique the response strategies used, update the crisis plan, and update counseling records and turn in recommendations to the general coordinator; and
- b. Be observant for support needed by CRT members and other involved staff.

Adopted on: December 14, 2015

Revised on: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_

## **4037 Reduction In Force**

The board of education may determine that a reduction in force of certificated staff members is appropriate due to declining enrollment in a grade or grades, changes in financial support, changes in curricular programs, a decline in the taxable value of property located within the school district, increased costs of operating the school district, or another change or changes in circumstances. If the board, in its sole discretion, determines that a reduction of certificated staff is necessary, the superintendent shall notify those employees whose contracts may be reduced. However, the employment of a permanent employee may not be terminated through a reduction in force while a probationary employee is retained to render a service that the permanent employee is qualified to perform by reason of certification and endorsement, or when certification is not applicable, by reason of college credits in the teaching area.

1. **Definition of Reduction in Force.** A reduction in force shall consist of a reduction of one or more positions or a reduction in the percentage of employment of one or more certificated staff members, even if the number or percentage of employment of the certificated staff overall may be increased by other hirings or increases in the percentage of employment of other employees. Reduction in force may result in the termination of employment or an amendment to an employee's contract reducing the extent of the employee's employment.
2. **Restriction of Right to Administrative Position.** Due to the confidential and unique personal working relationship necessary between the administration and the board of education, a certificated employee who is not currently serving in a predominantly administrative capacity shall have no rights under this policy to any administrative position within the school system.
3. **Criteria for Reduction in Force.** The criteria set forth below shall be considered in selecting the personnel to be reduced. The criteria are not listed in any order of priority, and shall be given the weight that the board considers appropriate.
  - a. Programs to be offered;
  - b. Areas of endorsement that are of present or future value to the district. This criterion shall be based upon the

endorsement(s) shown on each teacher's Nebraska Teaching Certificate;

- c. State and federal laws or regulations that may mandate certain employment practices;
  - d. Involvement in the programs and activities sponsored by the school district;
  - e. Special or advanced training consisting of college credit or other training that would be of present or future value to the district;
  - f. The organizational and educational effect caused by multiple part-time certificated employees;
  - g. Formal and informal evaluation of staff performance by supervising administrators and if evaluations will be used as a criterion for a given reduction-in-force, the evaluation procedures shall be those adopted by board policy in effect at the time of the reduction and the evaluation forms shall be those on file with the Nebraska Department of Education for the district;
  - h. Any other reasons that are rationally related to the instruction in or administration of the school district.
4. **Consideration of Uninterrupted Service.** If, after consideration of the criteria listed above, it is the opinion of the superintendent that there is no significant difference between or among certificated employees being considered for reduction, the employee(s) with the longest uninterrupted service to the district shall be retained.
- a. Uninterrupted length of service is defined as the number of continuous full-time equivalent years of employment in the district as a teacher.
  - b. A full-time equivalent year is defined as employment on a full-time basis for an entire school year.
  - c. Less than full-time employment reduces the teacher's full-time equivalent employment for a school year. For example, a teacher employed on a half-time basis would be credited with half a year full-time equivalent employment.
  - d. A break in service will terminate a teacher's seniority and length of service under this provision. That period of time when a teacher is on a leave of absence shall not constitute a break in service; however, any years of

absences or fractions of years of leave of absence will not count as years of employment for the purposes of determining the length of a teacher's uninterrupted service.

5. **Rights of Recall.**

- a. Any certificated employee whose contract has been terminated shall be considered to have been dismissed with honor and shall, upon request, be provided a letter to that effect.
- b. Such employee shall have preferred rights to re-employment for a period of 24 months commencing at the end of the contract year, and the employee shall be recalled on the basis of length of service to the district to any position that he or she is qualified to teach by endorsement or college preparation.
- c. Upon re-employment, a recalled employee shall be placed on the salary schedule and provided fringe benefits based on existing district policies and the current negotiated agreement. Any year or years of absence from employment shall not be considered as a year or years of employment by the district.
- d. An employee under contract to another education institution may waive recall, but such waiver shall not deprive the employee of his or her right to subsequent recall.

6. **Current Teaching Certificate.**

- a. Upon initial employment with the district, each certificated employee shall file a copy of his or her teaching certificate, including endorsements with the superintendent of schools.
- b. The employee shall be responsible for filing any changes in certification or endorsements with the superintendent.

7. **Address Records.**

- a. A certificated employee whose employment contract has been terminated because of a reduction in force shall, during the period which he or she is eligible for recall, be responsible for reporting any change of address to the superintendent of schools.
- b. If there is a vacancy to which a former employee has a right of recall, the district may communicate an offer of re-employment by telephone, by e-mail, or by United States

mail sent to the former employee's last known address. If the school district does not receive written acceptance of the offer within seven days, the former employee shall be deemed to have waived his or her rights to be recalled to the employment position.

Adopted on: December 14, 2015

Revised on: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_



**4038**  
**Classified Staff Defined**

The term "classified staff" means all employees other than certificated teachers and administrators. Classified staff employees are employed at will, and their employment may be amended or terminated at any time and without any cause.

Adopted on: December 14, 2015

Revised on: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_

**4039**  
**Employment of Classified Staff**

The superintendent or designee shall hire classified staff to meet personnel needs consistent with the district's budget, instructional needs, and non-instructional operations. The superintendent or designee may, but is not required to, conduct a criminal background check on any classified staff applicant, provided that such check shall occur only after the school district has determined that the applicant meets the minimum employment qualifications. This policy shall not prevent the school district from requiring an applicant to disclose his or her criminal record or history relating to sexual or physical abuse prior to any minimum employment qualification determination.

The superintendent or designee shall discipline and discharge classified staff as appropriate.

Adopted on: September 14, 2015

Revised on: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_

## **4041 Staff Dress and Appearance**

The attire worn by staff members conveys an important image to students and the general public.

**Certified staff, paraeducators and office staff** should generally dress in business casual attire.

Classroom staff **may not** wear the following types of clothing during the traditional school day from 7:45 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., when students or visitors are in attendance, or when the employee is supervising, directing or coaching students when the public is in attendance:

- Sweat, jogging and wind suits, except when teaching a physical education activity in the gymnasium or on a playing field or at athletic or other activity practices.
- Shorts, except when teaching physical education class or at athletic or other activity practices.
- Blue jeans, except at athletic or other activity practices.
- Any clothing which is immodest and may distract other employees or students in the learning environment.

The building principal may temporarily suspend all or a portion of the dress code when other factors support a lower dress expectation for school employees (e.g., special "casual days").

The appearance of professional staff members shall be appropriate to their assigned duties and indicative of their professional standing in the school and community. To help meet that end, jeans of any color may not be worn except on Friday which is considered a "dress down" day.

**Custodial, maintenance and transportation staff** should dress in attire appropriate to the work they are performing.

Staff **may not** wear visible body piercing jewelry, including tongue adornment, while at school or during a school function on or off school premises. This prohibition applies to all parts of the body other than the ear or nose.

Adopted on December 14, 2015

Reviewed on \_\_\_\_\_

Revised on \_\_\_\_\_

**4042**  
**Employee Social Security Numbers**

Nebraska law prohibits employers from using or publishing an employee's social security number except under certain specified circumstances. This district shall comply with this law and take reasonable steps to protect the confidentiality of employees' social security numbers. However, neither state law nor this policy prohibits the district from using the last four digits of an employee's social security number as an employee identification number or in any other reasonable manner.

Adopted on: December 14, 2015

Revised on: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_

## 4043

### **Professional Boundaries Between Employees and Students**

School district employees are responsible for conducting themselves professionally and for teaching and modeling high standards of behavior and civic values, both at and away from school. Employees are required to establish and maintain professional boundaries with students. They may be friendly with students, but they are the students' teachers, not their friends, and they must take care to see that this line does not become blurred. This applies to employees' conduct and interactions with students and to material they post on personal web sites and other social networking sites including, but not limited to, MySpace, Facebook, and Twitter. The posting or publication of messages or pictures or other images that diminish an employee's professionalism or ability to maintain the respect of students and parents may impair his or her ability to be an effective employee. Employees are expected to behave at all times in a manner supportive of the best interests of students.

Unless an employee has a legitimate educational purpose, the following behavior is a violation of the professional boundaries that employees are expected to maintain with students. The following list is intended to illustrate inappropriate behavior involving students but not to describe every kind of prohibited behavior.

- Communicating about sex when the discussion is not required by a specific aspect of the curriculum.
- Joking about matters involving sex, using double entendre or making suggestive remarks of a sexual nature.
- Displaying sexually inappropriate material or objects.
- Making any sexual advance, whether written, verbal, or physical or engaging in any activity of a sexual or romantic nature.
- Kissing of any kind.
- Dating a student or a former student within one year of the student graduating or otherwise leaving the district.
- Intruding on a student's personal space (e.g. by touching unnecessarily, moving too close, staring at a portion of the student's body, or engaging in other behavior that makes the student uncomfortable).
- Initiating unwanted physical contact with a student.
- Communicating electronically (e.g. by e-mail, text messaging, or instant messaging) on a matter that does not pertain to a school matter. Electronic communications with students generally are to be sent simultaneously to multiple recipients and not just to one student except when the communication is clearly school related

and inappropriate for persons other than the individual student to receive (i.e. grades).

- Playing favorites or permitting a specific student to engage in conduct that is not tolerated from other students.
- Discussing the employee's personal issues or problems that should normally be discussed with adults.
- Giving a student a gift of a personal nature.
- Giving a student a ride in the employee's vehicle without first obtaining the express permission of the student's parents or a school administrator.
- Taking a student on an outing without first obtaining the express permission of the student's parents or a school administrator.
- Inviting a student to the employee's residence without first obtaining the express permission of the student's parents and a school administrator.
- Going to a student's home when the student's parent or a proper chaperone is not present.
- Repeatedly seeking to be alone with a student.
- Being alone in a room with an individual student at school with the door closed.
- Any after-school hours activity with only one student.
- Any other behavior which exploits the special position of trust and authority between an employee and student.

This list is not exhaustive. Any behavior which exploits a student is unacceptable. If in doubt, ask yourself, "Would I be doing this if my family or colleagues were standing next to me?"

An employee is required to make a report to the superintendent if the employee reasonably believes that another employee has violated or may have violated this policy. Minor concerns or violations shall be reported within 24 hours. Major concerns or violations shall be reported immediately. Violations committed by or concerns about the superintendent shall be reported to the Board President.

A student who feels his or her boundaries have been violated should directly inform the offender that the conduct or communication is offensive and must stop. If the student does not wish to communicate directly with the offender or if direct communication has been ineffective, the student should report the conduct or communication to a teacher, administrator, counselor, or other school employee with whom she or he feels comfortable.

All reports made under this policy will remain confidential to the extent allowed by law.

Retaliation for good faith reports or complaints made as a result of this policy is prohibited. Individuals who knowingly and intentionally make a false report shall be subject to discipline as provided by district policy and state law.

A violation of this policy will form the basis for employee discipline up to and including termination or cancellation of employment, filing a report with law enforcement officials, and filing a report with the Commissioner of Education.

Adopted on: December 14, 2015

Revised on: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_

## **4044 Staff Election Conduct**

The Board recognizes its individual employees' rights of citizenship, including, but not limited to, engaging in political activities. An employee of the District may seek an elective office, provided that the staff member does not campaign on school property during working hours, and provided all other legal requirements are met. The District assumes no obligation beyond making such opportunities available.

The following activities are prohibited during an employee's work time (including duty-free lunch and planning periods):

1. Soliciting votes or contributions for or against a particular candidate or ballot proposition.
2. Discussing with students opinions regarding a political candidate or ballot proposition unless the topic is part of the approved curriculum.
3. Preparing, displaying, wearing or distributing campaign literature, materials, or signs for or against a candidate or ballot proposition (this prohibition does not apply to bumper stickers on personal vehicles).
4. Soliciting volunteers to assist with a campaign for or against a political candidate or ballot proposition.
5. Preparing for, organizing, or participating in any political meeting, petition, rally, or event.
6. Other prohibited political activity as defined by state law.

The following activities are prohibited at all times:

1. Using any school district resources including, but not limited to, facsimile machines, copy machines, computers or e-mail accounts, for political campaign activities.



2. Using school district property or facilities for any political campaign activities, unless such use is approved pursuant to school board rules or policy.
3. Spending district funds to urge votes to vote for or against a candidate or ballot proposition
4. Requiring employees to engage in political campaign activities as part of their job duties.
5. Providing employees with additional compensation or benefits for engaging in political activities.
6. Representing an employee's personal political position as the position of the school district or the board of education.

Adopted on: December 14, 2015

Revised on: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_

**4045**  
**Milk Expression**

The district will provide reasonable break time for an employee who wishes to express breast milk for her nursing child in a place, other than a bathroom, which is shielded from view and free from intrusion from co-workers and the public for one year after the child's birth.

Adopted on: December 14, 2015

Revised on: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_

## 4046

### Internet Searches Regarding Potential Employees

Members of the administrative team or of a hiring committee (hereinafter "the committee") may conduct internet research about job applicants by using the following protocol, except that no criminal history record information check shall be made until the school district has determined that the applicant meets the minimum employment qualifications:

1. The committee may Google candidates' full names and any aliases. Other search engines such as Yahoo or Bing may also be used. The committee may also search candidates' full names and any aliases on Facebook, MySpace, LinkedIn, Twitter, YouTube, SocialMention and other social networking websites.
2. All applicants or all finalists must have the same research conducted about them. For example, if the committee conducts a search on Google using the name of one applicant in order to determine whether to include that applicant in the list of finalists, the committee must also conduct an identical search of all applicants' names.
3. The committee may not use deception to gain access to applicants' social networking pages, blogs or other on-line media.
4. The committee must take reasonable steps to verify the reliability of the information obtained in the search, including consulting with the applicant for confirmation of accuracy, if appropriate.
5. The committee will consider the following information to be relevant in making hiring decisions about an applicant based on information obtained through internet research:
  - a. Disparaging remarks made about current or former co-workers, supervisors or employers,
  - b. Discriminatory, harassing or demeaning behavior or comments,
  - c. Unprofessional, lewd or obscene behavior or remarks,

- d. Criminal activity
  - e. Information which indicates the applicant will or will not be able to perform the essential functions of the position sought,
  - f. Information which indicates that the applicant is particularly suited or unsuited to the position sought.
6. The committee will retain documents to demonstrate its compliance with this policy with other documentation relevant to the job search.

Adopted on: December 14, 2015

Revised on: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_

## **4047**

### **Implementation of Student Assistance Team Process**

Pursuant to the Rules of the Nebraska Department of Education, the school district uses general education student assistance teams (SATs). SATs consider and create problem-solving and intervention strategies to assist classroom teachers to meet the needs of students who may be struggling in the general curriculum.

All teaching staff must:

- 1) Support the SAT process by appropriately referring students who may benefit from the SAT process; and
- 2) Faithfully and consistently implementing the intervention strategies recommended by the SAT.

The failure to support the SAT process is a serious matter and may constitute just cause for terminating or canceling a teacher's employment.

Adopted on: December 14, 2015

Revised on: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_

**4048**  
**Assessment Administration and Security**

The purpose of all testing and assessments is to measure students' knowledge, skills or abilities in the area tested. All staff members are prohibited from engaging in any behavior that adversely affects the validity of test scores as a measure of student achievement. This policy applies to all national, state, and local assessments, including both standardized and general classroom assessments.

**1. Assessment Responsibilities**

- a. Each building principal, in consultation with the Superintendent and classroom teachers, will be responsible for:
  - overseeing the scheduling of state administered assessments, and ensuring that all assessments, including make-up testing, is completed within relevant testing windows
  - obtaining Standards, Assessment and Accountability Updates from the Department of Education and circulating the relevant portions of those updates to other staff members
  - informing the board of education of changes to the Nebraska State Accountability Security Procedures; and
  - signing and enforcing the Nebraska State Accountability Test Security Agreement.
- b. Every classroom teacher or other staff member who administers assessments is responsible for:
  - complying with the Nebraska State Accountability Security Procedures; and
  - taking all reasonable and prudent steps to ensure the accuracy and integrity of all academic testing, including statewide assessments.

**2. Security Violations and Cheating**

a. **Classroom assessments**

Staff members who suspect students of having cheated on a classroom assessment should conduct a reasonable inquiry and impose consequences on the student consistent with classroom rules and the student handbook.

b. **State Accountability Tests**

Staff members who suspect a breach of security on State Accountability Tests, must promptly report their suspicious to the building principal or superintendent. The superintendent must notify the Department of Education's Statewide Assessment Office and follow the Department's protocol for Reporting and Investigating Test Security Violations.

c. Staff members who engage in or enable students to engage in academic dishonesty in any testing or assessment will be subject to discipline up to and including the immediate cancellation of their employment contract.

Adopted on: September 14, 2015

Revised on: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_

## **4050 Overtime and Compensatory Time**

Employees who are "non-exempt" under the Fair Labor Standards Act and who work more than 40 hours in a workweek will be paid at the rate of time-and-one-half (1½) times their regular rate of pay for all overtime hours or will be provided compensatory time. All overtime must be approved in advance by the employee's supervisor. Scheduled holidays, vacation days, time off for jury duty, and time off for sickness, emergencies or other personal reasons will not be considered hours worked for overtime purposes.

The district may grant compensatory time in lieu of overtime pay at a rate of one and one-half (1½) hours off for each hour of overtime the employee worked. Employees may accrue a maximum of 240 hours of compensatory time, which represents 160 hours of actual overtime worked. When an employee has accrued 240 hours of compensatory time, the district shall pay him/her at the rate of one and one-half (1½) times his/her regular rate of pay for each additional hour of overtime. An employee who asks to use compensatory time shall be permitted to use it within a reasonable period after the request if its use does not unduly disrupt the district's operations.

Upon termination of employment, an employee shall be paid for unused compensatory time at a rate of compensation not less than: (1) the average regular hourly rate paid to the employee during the last three years of his/her employment, or (2) the final regular hourly rate paid to the employee, whichever is higher.

Payment for unused compensatory time shall be at the employee's regular rate of pay for each hour of compensatory time, not one and one-half (1½) times the regular rate of pay.

Adopted on: December 14, 2015

Revised on: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_



## **4051**

### **Use of Social Media by School District Employees**

The school board supports the use of technology to communicate with students for legitimate educational purposes. However, school district employees are responsible for conducting themselves professionally, exercising appropriate judgment, and teaching and modeling high standards of behavior and civic values, regardless of location. This applies to employees' conduct and interactions with students and to material they post on personal web sites, blogs, and other social networking sites including, but not limited to, Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, and Twitter. District employees are prohibited from inappropriate technological communication including but not limited to texting, online socializing or social networking (including but not limited to Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram), internet use, e-mail, blogging, or any other electronic communication that violates the law, district policies, or the Regulations and Standards for Professional Practices Criteria, commonly known as Rule 27 of the Nebraska Department of Education ("Rule 27").

Unless an employee has a legitimate educational purpose, the following use of social media is a violation of this policy. The following list is intended to be illustrative and does not describe every kind of prohibited behavior.

- Communicating with students about sex, personal, intimate, or similar matters.
- Joking with students about matters involving sex, using double entendre or making suggestive remarks of a sexual nature.
- Sharing sexually inappropriate material or objects with students.
- Displaying pornography.
- Making any sexual advance or engaging in any activity of a sexual or romantic nature with a student.
- "Friending" or otherwise authorizing or requesting student access to personal social media accounts. This prohibition shall not apply to social media accounts created solely for class or educationally related matters to which all of the employees' students are allowed or offered access.
- Disclosing confidential student records or information.
- Disclosing confidential personnel records or information of other school district employees, agents, or volunteers.

- Behaving in any manner that results in a disruption to the school environment or that impairs the employee's ability to perform his or her employment duties or to be an effective employee.
- Using an employment title or including any reference to the employee's affiliation with the school district unless the communication is school related and in compliance with the law, district policies, or Rule 27.
- Including school mascots, symbols, logos, or other district trademarks in non-school related communications.

Nothing in this policy should be construed to (1) limit an employee's right to speak as a citizen about matters of public concern, (2) prohibit an employee from communicating with students about non-school organizations or activities for which the employee is a coach or supervisor as long as the employee's communication is in compliance with the non-school organization's standards of conduct and Rule 27 or (3) regulate any communication that is unrelated to the employee's position of employment with the school district and otherwise protected by the United States Constitution and the Nebraska Constitution.

Students, parents, and any other person should notify an administrator if they believe that a school district employee or any other person affiliated with the school district may be engaging in conduct that violates this policy. School district employees are required to promptly notify an administrator if they become aware of any situation that may constitute a violation of this policy.

A violation of this policy will form the basis for employee discipline up to and including termination or cancellation of employment, filing a report with law enforcement officials, and filing a report with the Commissioner of Education.

Adopted on: December 14, 2015

Revised on: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_

**4052**  
**Job References to Prospective Employers**

All requests for employment-related references or employment history by prospective employers of current or former employees must be referred to a member of the administrative team. The administrator will either provide a reference in compliance with this policy or will forward the request to the superintendent.

If the school district is subject to a written separation agreement regarding a particular employee, the terms of that agreement will govern the district's response to requests for information, regardless of any written consent provided to the school district.

If the school district is not bound by a separation agreement and receives a legally enforceable written consent to release information, the district will provide the information authorized by that document. The school district may provide additional truthful information to prospective employers of current and former employees.

Adopted on: December 14, 2015

Revised on: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_

## **4053 Conflict of Interest**

Any school district employee who meets the conditions set forth in this policy shall be deemed to have a business or financial conflict of interest.

1. Definitions. For the purposes of this policy:
  - a. Business with which an employee is associated shall include the following:
    - (1) A business in which the employee or a member of his or her immediate family is a partner, a limited liability company, or serves as a director or an officer.
    - (2) A business in which the employee or a member of his or her immediate family is a stockholder in a closed corporation with stock worth one thousand dollars or more, or he or she, or his or her immediate family owns more than a five percent equity interest or is a stockholder of publicly traded stock worth more than ten thousand dollars or more at fair market value, or which represents more than ten percent equity interest. This shall not apply to publicly traded stock under a trading account if the employee reports the name and address of the company and stockbroker.
  - b. A business association shall be defined to include an individual as a partner, limited liability company member, director or officer, or a business in which the individual or member of the immediate family is a stockholder.
2. Contracts with the School District.
  - a. No employee or member of his or her immediate family shall enter into a contract valued at two thousand dollars or more, in any one year, with this school district unless the contract is awarded through an open and public process that (1) includes prior public notice and (2) allows the public to inspect during the school district's regular business hours the proposals considered and the contract awarded.

- b. The existence of any conflict of interest in any contract in which the employee has an interest and in which the school district is a party, or the failure to make public the employee's interest known, may render a contract null and void.
- c. The prohibition of a conflict of interest or requirement for public notice shall apply when the employee, or his or her immediate family (parent, spouse, or child) has a business association with the business involved in the contract or will receive a direct pecuniary fee or commission as a result of the contract.

3. Employing Members of the Immediate Family.

- a. An employee may employ or recommend or supervise the employment of an immediate family member if:
  - (1) The employee does not abuse his or her position.
    - (a) Abuse of official position shall include, but not be limited to, employing an immediate family member:
      - (i) who is not qualified for and able to perform the duties of the position;
      - (ii) for any unreasonably high salary;
      - (iii) who is not required to perform the duties of the position.
  - (2) The employee makes a reasonable solicitation and consideration of applications for employment.
  - (3) The employee makes a full disclosure on the record to the governing body of the school district and to the secretary of the board.
  - (4) The board approves the employment or supervisory position.
- b. The employee shall not terminate the employment of another employee so as to make funds or a position available for the purpose of hiring an immediate family member.

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

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

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

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

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

b. No employee shall solicit or accept anything of value, including a gift, loan, contribution, reward, or promise of future employment based on an agreement that the vote, official action, or judgment of the employee would thereby be influenced.

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

d. An employee shall not use or authorize the use of personnel, resources, property, or funds under that person's official care and control other than in accordance with prescribed constitutional, statutory, and regulatory procedures or use such items for personal financial gain, other than compensation provided by law.

5. Conflict of Interest Relating to Campaigning or Political Issues

a. Except as provided below, an employee shall not authorize the use of school district personnel, property, resources, or funds for the purpose of campaigning for or against the nomination or election of a candidate or the qualification, passage, or defeat of a ballot question.

- b. This does not prohibit an employee from making school district facilities available to a person for campaign purposes if the identity of the candidate or the support for or opposition to the ballot question is not a factor in making the facilities available or a factor in determining the cost or conditions for use.
  - c. This does not prohibit an employee from discussing and voting upon a resolution supporting or opposing a ballot question.
  - d. This does not prohibit an employee under the direct supervision of a public official from responding to specific inquiries by the press or the public as to the board's opinion regarding a ballot question or from providing information in response to a request for information.
  - e. An employee may present his or her personal opinion regarding a ballot question or respond to a request for information related to a ballot question; but in so doing, the person should clearly state that the information being presented is his or her personal opinion and is not to be considered as the official position or opinion of the school district. However, this shall not be done during a time that the individual is engaged in his or her official duties.
6. Conflict. To the extent that there is a conflict between this policy and the Nebraska Political Accountability and Disclosure Act ("Act"), the Act shall control.

Adopted on: December 14, 2015

Revised on: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_

## **4054 Reporting Child Abuse or Neglect**

Because of their daily contact with school-age children, educators and other school employees are in a unique position to identify abused and/or neglected children. Nebraska law defines child abuse or neglect as knowingly, intentionally, or negligently causing or permitting a minor child to be (1) placed in a situation that endangers his or her life or physical or mental health; (2) cruelly confined or cruelly punished; (3) deprived of necessary food, clothing, shelter or care; (4) left unattended in a motor vehicle, if such child is six years of age or younger; (5) sexually abused; or (6) sexually exploited by allowing, encouraging, or forcing such person to solicit for or engage in prostitution, debauchery, public indecency, or obscene or pornographic photography, films, or depictions.

**Reporting Procedure.** School employees who have reasonable cause to believe that a child has been subjected to child abuse or neglect or observe a child being subjected to conditions or circumstances which reasonably would result in child abuse or neglect will report the suspected abuse or neglect according to the following procedure.

1. Any school employee who has reasonable cause to believe that a child has been abused or neglected shall report the suspicion to the building principal immediately. Employees shall also personally report or cause a report to be made to local law enforcement or to the Department of Health and Human Services.
2. When the principal makes a report of suspected child abuse or neglect, he/she shall inform the employee(s) who made the initial report.
3. Nothing in the paragraph above shall hinder a school employee from fulfilling his/her/their obligation to report suspected abuse or neglect if he, she or they have reasonable cause to believe that a child has been abused or neglected.
4. Any doubt or question in reporting such cases shall be resolved in the favor of reporting the suspected abuse or neglect. Consultation between the administrator and school employee is encouraged, keeping in mind that prompt reporting is essential.



**Contents of the Report.** The report to authorities shall contain the following information to the extent it is available: (1) name and position of reporting person; (2) name, address, and age of abused or neglected person; (3) address of the person or persons having custody of the abused or neglected person; (4) the nature and extent of the abuse or neglect, or the conditions and circumstances which would reasonably result in such abuse or neglect; and (5) any other information that may be useful in establishing the identity of the persons involved and cause of the abuse or neglect.

**Legal Immunity.** Nebraska statutes give legal immunity from any civil or criminal liability to any person who makes a good faith report of child abuse or neglect or participates in a judicial proceeding resulting from such a report.

Adopted on: December 14, 2015

Revised on: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_

**4056**  
**Resignation of Certificated Staff**

Certificated staff members who know they will not be returning to employment at the school district for the following school year are encouraged to submit their resignations as early as possible, to enable the board to find suitable replacements.

As a general matter, the board will not release certificated staff members from their contractual obligations. Staff members who refuse to fulfill their contractual obligations will be reported to the Professional Practices Committee of the Nebraska Department of Education.

Adopted on: December 14, 2015

Revised on: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_

## **4057 Superintendent Evaluation**

The board shall observe and evaluate the superintendent based upon actual classroom observations for an entire instructional period at least twice during his first year of employment and at least once each year thereafter. Additional evaluations may be conducted at the discretion of the board. For the purposes of this policy, "actual classroom observation" shall mean observing the superintendent performing activities that are typical of his or her position. An "entire instructional period" for administrators cannot be defined in terms of an instructional period and shall be satisfied by the actual observation of some aspect of the superintendent's work during the semester for no less than 40 minutes.

**Purpose.** The purposes of the formal job evaluation are:

1. To provide a means of rational, structured communication between the board and superintendent to create a more constructive and effective working relationship.
2. To provide a basis for commending, rewarding and reinforcing good work, as well as identifying areas where the superintendent needs to improve.
3. To clarify the superintendent's role and inform the superintendent of the board's expectations.

**Dates.** Unless otherwise provided for in the superintendent's employment contract, the first year evaluations shall take place (1) at or prior to the October board meeting, and (2) at or prior to the January board meeting. Annual evaluations shall take place at a board meeting held during the month before the date in the superintendent's employment contract by which the board must notify the superintendent of its intention to consider the nonrenewal or amendment of the contract. In the absence of such a contract provision, the annual evaluation shall take place at or prior to the March board meeting. The Superintendent shall remind the Board members in writing at least 45 days before the date of each upcoming evaluation and shall make his evaluation an agenda item for the board meeting.

**Evaluation Document.** The superintendent shall submit a recommended evaluation document to the board. The board shall meet and discuss the proposed document with the superintendent. The board may amend and adopt the proposed evaluation document. The board may amend the document or adopt a new document without amending this policy. The superintendent shall submit the evaluation document to the Nebraska Department of Education.

**Evaluation Procedures.** Each board member shall have the opportunity to individually evaluate the superintendent and complete an evaluation document. The board shall compile the individual evaluations into a single evaluation, provide a copy to the superintendent, and discuss it with him or her. The superintendent's evaluation may be conducted in closed session if it is necessary to prevent needless injury to the superintendent's reputation and he or she has not requested it be done in open session.

**Deficiencies.** If deficiencies are noted in the superintendent's work performance, the board shall provide the superintendent at the time of the observation with a list of deficiencies and a list of suggestions for improvement and assistance in overcoming the deficiencies. The board shall also provide the superintendent with followup evaluations and assistance when deficiencies remain, a timeline for improvement, and sufficient time to improve. In the alternative, the board may rely upon the superintendent's education, training, and expertise and require him or her to submit a "list of suggestions for improvement" or plan of improvement for the board's consideration.

**Personnel File.** The evaluation shall be signed by the board president (or other member of the board) and the superintendent. The superintendent shall place a copy of the evaluation in his or her personnel file. The superintendent may provide a written response to the evaluation to the board. A copy of the response shall also be placed in the superintendent's personnel file. The board may meet with the superintendent to discuss the written response.

**Policy Limitation.** The evaluation procedures are included in this policy as a result of the board's statutory obligation to evaluate the superintendent and do not give the superintendent any rights not provided by statute. The board's failure to comply with any procedures provided in this policy but not required by law shall not prohibit the board from taking any action regarding the superintendent's employment, up to and including the nonrenewal or cancellation of the employment contract.

Adopted: December 14, 2015

**4058**  
**Confidentiality in Counseling and Guidance**

The school district provides students with a certificated school guidance counselor. Information that students provide to counselors is confidential but not legally privileged. The counselor will attempt to respect the privacy of student disclosures, but will share all relevant information with other education professionals as appropriate or as directed. The counselor will also contact parents and law enforcement officials as appropriate.

Records of the counseling relationship, including interview notes, test data, correspondence, tape recordings and other documents, are to be considered professional information for use in counseling, not part of the student's education record.

When a counselor is in doubt about what information to release, he or she should discuss the matter with the building principal or with the superintendent.

Adopted on: December 14, 2015

Revised on: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_

**4059**  
**Suicide Prevention Training**

The following employees are required to complete at least one hour of suicide awareness and prevention training every year:

- school nurses
- teachers
- counselors
- school psychologists
- administrators
- school social workers

These employees must complete the online training provided by the Nebraska Department of Education no later than October 31, 2015 and every preceding year by September 1<sup>st</sup>. Failure to complete this training shall constitute just cause for the termination or nonrenewal of an employee's contract.

Adopted on: December 14, 2015

Revised on: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_

## **5000 Series**

### **Policies Regarding Students**

|        |   |
|--------|---|
| 5000   | Policies Regarding the School District's Students             |
| 5001   | Compulsory Attendance and Excessive Absenteeism               |
| 5002   | Admission of Students   |
| 5002.1 | Admission of Part Time Students                               |
| 5002.2 | Admission of Students Who Reside Out of the State of Nebraska |
| 5003   | Post-Graduate   |
| 5004   | Option Enrollment   |
| 5005   | Transportation of Option Students                             |
| 5006   | Foreign Exchange Students                                     |
| 5007   | Enrollment of Expelled Students                               |
| 5008   | Married and/or Pregnant Students                              |
| 5009   | Adult Education   |
| 5010   | Immunizations   |
| 5011   | Physical Examination of Students                              |
| 5012   | Basic Testing Program   |
| 5013   | Use and Dissemination of Test Results                         |
| 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
- 5021 Student Photograph and Video Policy
- 5022 Investigations and Arrests by Police or Other Law Enforcement Officers
- 5023 Student Illness
- 5024 Medication of Students
- 5025 Insurance Programs
- 5026 Sex Equality in the Educational Program
- 5027 Sexual Harassment of Students by Other Students
- 5028 Initiations
- 5029 Crisis Response Policy
- 5030 Dating Violence
- 5031 Student Appearance
- 5033 Student Driving and Parking
- 5034 Handbooks
- 5035 Student Discipline
- 5036 Lockers
- 5037 Student Internet and Computer Access
- 5038 Lunch Program
- 5039 Money-Raising 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
- 5047 Press Releases
- 5048 Emergency Response to Life Threatening Asthma or Systemic Allergic Reactions (Anaphylaxis)
- 5049 Firearms and Weapons
- 5050 Home Schools and/or Schools Not Meeting Approval and Accreditation Regulations
- 5051 Eye Examinations for Students
- 5052 School Wellness Policy
- 5053 Self Management of Diabetes or Asthma/Anaphylaxis
- 5054 Student Bullying
- 5055 Enrollment in Kindergarten
- 5056 Free Expression by Students
- 5057 Parental Involvement in the Title I Program
- 5058 Threat Assessment and Response
- 5059 Emergence Medical Treatment
- 5060 Animals
- 5061 Therapy Dogs
- 5062 Lice and Nits
- 5063 Recording Policy
- 5064 Title I Supplement, Not Supplant Policy
- 5065 Bed Bugs

5066

Early Graduation

## 5001

### **Compulsory Attendance and Excessive Absenteeism**

*"School success is 90 percent showing up; the other half is mental." Yogi Berra*

Research on policies and practices that effectively encourage regular student attendance share some key components:

1. Education of parents regarding school attendance requirements.
2. Effective policies and practices to monitor attendance.
3. Clear definition of excessive absenteeism and a two-stage response to excessive absences.

The board has considered this educational research and used it to create the following policy on 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.

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 and 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 a non-accredited 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 non-accredited schools. The superintendent may confirm the validity of the submission with the State Department of Education.

### **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.

### **Expectations for Regular Attendance:**

1. Students are expected to attend every class, every day.
2. The only "excused" absences shall be:
  - a.) absences when a licensed health care provider has confirmed in writing that, in his/her professional medical opinion and within his/her scope of practice, the student is so physically or mentally ill that attendance impracticable or impossible;
  - 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;

**Comment [KAH1]:** One of the biggest complaints we hear from school administrators about student attendance is that parents call students in "sick" when the student is not really too ill to attend. This definition of "excused" absence will not include the minor illnesses that students routinely contract (stomach flu, colds and other viruses). That means the student will be counted "absent" on those days that the parent calls him/her in ill. Parents may elect to take a child to see a physician for these minor illnesses to secure the "excused" absence if the student is approaching a benchmark level of absences.

- c.) student attendance at a school-sponsored activity;
- d.) student has been suspended or expelled from school by the school district; and
- e.) absences required by law enforcement, child protective services or a court of competent jurisdiction, confirmed in writing to the school district.

3. All other absences, including absences for minor illnesses, family events, routine medical appointments are simply "absences."

4. Upon return from every absence or partial-day absence, students must remain after school for 30 minutes to meet with teachers, work on missed assignments or simply to study. The location and supervision of the student will be determined by the building principal in consultation with the student's classroom teacher(s).

5. Students must not be absent from any course more than seven days in any given quarter in order to earn academic credit for that course for that quarter. Students who lose credit in any given course due to absences may appeal that loss of credit to his/her building principal.

#### Attendance Incentives:

Building principals will establish attendance incentives for their students. Those may include:

- Special Recognition of students who have 95% or greater attendance each quarter
- Excusal from certain classroom assignments (final exam, written report) for students with 95% or greater attendance each semester
- Special rewards (movie day, field day, extra recess) for students who have 95% or greater attendance

At the conclusion of each quarter building principals report to the board what incentives were implemented and the effectiveness of the incentive in improving student attendance and engagement.

**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 parent via telephone for every absence if the parent has not contacted the school in advance.
2. After a student's third absence in any given quarter, the school's attendance officer will schedule a meeting with the student's parents or guardians. That meeting will be documented on the attached form.

**Comment [KAH2]:** With the elimination of the emotionally-loaded term "truant" schools will be free to treat all absences the same – hopefully creating a culture where the expectation is that the student is in school.

**Comment [KAH3]:** Education research has shown that student attendance dramatically increases when the school imposes a small consequence for every absence that inconveniences the student. The consequence must be small enough that staff will ALWAYS impose it and that students and families accept it as an expected event.

**Comment [KAH4]:** There are some cases in which courts have held that schools may not revoke academic credit once a student has received it. The educational research is overwhelming in indicating that a system of grade reduction as a result of absences is ineffective in improving student attendance. However, a consistently enforced system of total loss of credit, when paired with the other policy elements in this sample, has been shown to be effective.

**Comment [KAH5]:** The education research shows that small social and student-oriented incentives are highly effective in improving student attendance. The benchmark for achieving the incentive must be attainable – thus "perfect attendance awards" are actually less effective than a lower benchmark. The rewards must be something which students value, so they should vary by students' developmental levels.

**Comment [KAH6]:** Personal contact by staff has been shown to be highly effective in improving student attendance. Automated calling systems are less effective, the research shows.

- a. This meeting must be attended by attendance officer, parents, social worker or principal, and the student (if appropriate)
  - b. The meeting shall be documented
  - c. The meeting shall develop a collaborative plan to assist the student in improving his/her attendance
3. Building principals must meet with teachers who have 10% of their students miss seven or more days of class in any given quarter to review strategies to increase student engagement. A consistent pattern of student absences from a teacher's classes may result in a formal remediation plan.
  4. The superintendent must meet with the building principal if more than 10% of students miss seven or more days of class in any quarter to review strategies to improve the school building's climate. A consistent pattern of building-wide absenteeism may result in a formal remediation plan.

**Comment [KAH7]:** A consistent pattern in the research on improving student attendance is that students miss a lot of classes which are not engaging. A pattern of student absenteeism could be a signal that a classroom teacher is not using effective methods of student engagement. This also signals that the board of education expects staff to care about improving student attendance.

**Comment [KAH8]:** Another fairly surprising element of the research on student absenteeism is that student attendance is directly linked to a school's building climate. A building with chronic attendance issues may be a symptom of poor school climate. This provision also will create incentives for building principals to be engaged and creative in addressing student patterns of absenteeism.

**Comment [KAH9]:** The board can substitute "shall" for "may" if it wishes to require reporting upon the 20 day trigger.

**Second Stage Response to Absences**

Students who accrue more than 20 absences in a school year may be referred to the county attorney for action under NEB. REV. STAT. § 43-247(3)(a) and (b).

Adopted on: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Revised on: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_

**Acknowledgment of Receipt**

I understand that consistent school attendance is required by state law. I also understand that student achievement is directly linked to excellent attendance. I have received the board of education's new policy on student attendance and have reviewed it.

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Name \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Comment [KAH10]:** This is not required, but the educational research shows a strong link between improved student attendance and clear communication of expectations to parents. At least in the first year of a new approach like this, it is probably a good idea to have a separate sign-off for the policy.

**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 temporary illness or severe weather conditions make attendance impossible or impracticable.

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 and 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 a non-accredited 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 non-accredited schools. The superintendent may confirm the validity of the submission with the State Department of Education.

### **Attendance Officer**

Each building principal is designated as an attendance officer for the district. Each building principal, at his or her discretion, may delegate these responsibilities to any other qualified individual. The attendance officer is responsible for enforcing the provisions of state law relating to compulsory attendance. This responsibility includes but is not limited to filing a report with the county attorney of the county in which a student resides. Compensation for the duties of attendance officer is included in the salary for the superintendent or designee.

### **Excused Absences**

The following absences will be considered excused if they are confirmed by communication to the school from the student's parent/guardian:

1. Physical or mental illness of the student (a physician's verification is required after four (4) consecutive days of absence for illness)
2. Severe weather
3. Medical appointments for the student
4. Death or serious illness of the student's family member
5. Attending a funeral, wedding or graduation
6. Appearance at court or for other legal matters

7. Observance of religious holidays of the student's own faith
8. College planning visits

**Excessive Absenteeism**

When a student receives 8 unexcused absences or the hourly equivalent in any semester, the Attendance Officer will follow the attached procedure for addressing barriers to the student's attendance.

When a student is absent more than twenty days per year or the hourly equivalent and any portion of the absences is unexcused, the Attendance Officer may/must file a report with the county attorney of the county in which the student resides. For example, if the student accumulates 23 days of excused absences due to documented illness and is tardy one time, the Attendance Officer may/must file a report with the appropriate county attorney.

Adopted on: July 18<sup>th</sup>, 2016

Revised on: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_

**5002**  
**Admission of Students**

Students shall be admitted to the school district who are:

- legal residents of the school district or otherwise entitled by Nebraska law to attend the schools of the district tuition-free;
- approved for option enrollment pursuant to policy;
- approved as a foreign exchange students pursuant to policy; or
- legal residents of a district that has contracted with this district for their educational services.
- statutorily entitled to attend the schools of the district on a part-time basis pursuant to policy 5002.1.
- out-of-state students who have been enrolled pursuant to policy 5002.2.

Students who have been placed in a foster home within the school district are not residents of the district and will not be permitted to enroll unless the district has received a written determination from the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services that it is in the best interest of the student not to attend his or her district of residence.

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: July 18<sup>th</sup>, 2016

Revised on: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_

## **5002.1 Admission of Part Time Students**

A student may be permitted to enroll on a part-time basis pursuant to this policy and applicable regulations when enrollment is appropriate for reasons that include but are not limited to the following: the student attends another education institution on a part-time 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 resides in the school district but 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).

**Application for Enrollment.** The parent or guardian of an exempt school student who is of appropriate age to attend school, resides in the school district, has not graduated from high school, and has not received a graduate equivalency diploma must meet all of the district's admission requirements and file an application for enrollment on forms provided by the school district by August 1<sup>st</sup>, of the year of enrollment. For second semester high school courses, the application must be filed by December 1<sup>st</sup> of the that current school year. 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 year to the next, and the parent or guardian of an exempt school student must apply for enrollment each school year.

**Capacity.** The enrollment of exempt school students is subject to the capacity limitations established by the district for grades, classes, courses, and programs. Full-time students shall be given priority for enrollment in grades, classes, courses, and programs.

**Placement of Students.** Exempt school students 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.** Exempt school students 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 for

such including earning a sufficient number of credit hours and semesters of attendance.

**Applicability of School Rules.** Exempt school students are subject to all rules and regulations 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 teaching personnel. They must remain on the school campus during scheduled classes but must leave the school campus when not engaged in a course or course-related activity unless the course or course-activity requires their presence or 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.** Exempt school students may not participate in extracurricular sports and activities; provided, they may participate in activities that are part of the school district curriculum (e.g. band performance). Exempt school students who become full-time students and satisfy the eligibility requirements of the district and the Nebraska School Activities Association, where applicable, may participate in extracurricular sports and activities.

**Transportation.** Exempt school students are not entitled to transportation or reimbursement for transportation.

Adopted on: July 18<sup>th</sup>, 2016

Revised on: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_

## 5002.2

### Admission of Students Who Reside Out of the State of Nebraska

Students who reside in a state other than Nebraska must submit an application to enroll in the district at least three weeks prior to the beginning of the semester in which they wish to begin attending the district. Out of state students may not enroll mid-semester.

The administration will review each application and will admit out-of-state students whose academic history, disciplinary records and prior school community involvement indicate that they will be successful in this school district. Those who have verified disabilities pursuant to the Individuals with Disabilities in Education Act or section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act will not be excluded from admission based solely on their disability. However, those who need specialized programming or whose enrollment would require the hiring of additional staff or specific training of existing staff will not be admitted. The administration's approval or disapproval of an out-of-state student's application is final.

Out-of-state students who are admitted pursuant to this policy must meet the requirements of board policy 5002 and must comply with each board policy, state statute and regulation that applies to their situation. Once admitted, they will be subject to the same disciplinary rules and procedures as resident students. Students must reapply for admission prior to each semester. Re-admission may be denied for students who are not academically and/or behaviorally successful. Once admitted, out-of-state students' grade level placement will be determined in accordance with district policy.

Out-of-state students are not entitled to transportation or reimbursement for transportation.

Out-of-state students will be charged tuition TBD 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: July 18<sup>th</sup>, 2016

Revised on: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_

**5003**  
**Post-Graduate**

Except in adult education classes or when otherwise approved by the board of education, no person who is of 21 years of age or older, or who has earned a high school diploma or its equivalent will be allowed to attend school in the district.

Adopted on: \_\_\_\_\_

Revised on: \_\_\_\_\_

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 insuring 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 shall mean 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 shall mean the school district in which a student resides or in which the student is deemed to reside by operation of state law.
- c. **Option School District Defined.** Option school district shall mean the school district that a student chooses to attend other than his or her resident school district.

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, option students shall be treated as resident students of the school district.

### 4. Standards for Acceptance or Rejection of Option Students.

- a. In determining whether to accept or reject applications for students to option into the district, the board of education may consider the capacity of a program, class, grade level, or school building. Capacity shall be determined by setting a maximum number of option students that this school district will accept in any program, class, grade level, or school building, based upon factors such as, but not limited to, available staff, facilities, projected enrollment of resident students, projected number of students with which the



option district will contract based on existing contractual arrangements, and the availability of appropriate education programs. The board may, by resolution, declare a program, a class, or a school unavailable to option students due to lack of capacity.

- b. The school district shall not accept any option student into any program, class, grade level or school building when acceptance of the student would cause overcrowding in that program, class, grade level or school building as determined by the school administration, or would significantly increase the operating costs of the school district, such as by requiring the hiring of new staff.
- c. The school district shall accept an option student with a disability only to the extent that the school district's then current staff and facilities are sufficient to accommodate the student's needs without significantly increasing the operating costs of the school district, such as by requiring the hiring of new staff.
- d. The school district shall not base the decision to accept or reject an option student on the student's previous academic achievement, athletic or other extracurricular ability, disabling condition(s), proficiency in the English language, or previous disciplinary proceedings.
- e. 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 in the following order:
  - i. students with brothers or sisters attending the school district, either as resident students or as option students, shall be granted first priority;
  - ii. thereafter, option students shall be accepted into such program, class, grade level or school building in the order in which written applications were received by the school district.

**5. False or Misleading Option Applications.** If, prior to the student's attendance as an option student, the school district discovers that a previously accepted option application contained false or substantively misleading information, the option application will be rejected.

6. **Certain Programs Unavailable to Option Students.** The board reserves the right by resolution to declare a program, a class, or a school building unavailable to option students due to lack of capacity.
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 Superintendent 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 May 1<sup>st</sup>, the school district shall notify the parent or legal guardian of any 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**
  - a. The Superintendent shall make a case by case decision for the school district when the option application is submitted after May 1st.

**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 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 Superintendent shall accept or reject an application from a student under this paragraph using the criteria set forth in this policy and will take action on the application within forty-five days.

**12. 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.

**13. 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: \_\_\_\_\_  
Revised on: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_

**5005**  
**Transportation of Option Students**

The board of education does not provide transportation services for option-enrolled students, unless such services are otherwise required by law.

Adopted on: July 18<sup>th</sup>, 2016

Revised on: \_\_\_\_\_

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. All foreign exchange applications must be received by August 1<sup>st</sup> of the upcoming school year.

Adopted on: July 18<sup>th</sup>, 2016

Revised on: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_

**5007**  
**Enrollment of Expelled Students**

The administration shall not enroll any student during the term of any known expulsion of the student from any public school in any state unless the board of education has approved the enrollment by a vote of a majority of the members of the board. The district shall not enroll any student during the known term of any expulsion of the student from a private school for an offense for which expulsion is authorized for a public school student unless the board has approved the enrollment by a vote of a majority of the members of the board. This policy does not require the board to take a vote on the enrollment application of any such student.

Adopted on: July 18<sup>th</sup>, 2016

Revised on: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_

**5008**  
**Married and/or Pregnant Students**

Students who are married and/or pregnant are encouraged to continue with their formal education, and will be allowed to stay in their school placement if they so desire.

Adopted on: July 18<sup>th</sup>, 2016

Revised on: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_



**5009**  
**Adult Education**

The school district may offer adult education programs.

Adopted on: July 18<sup>th</sup>, 2016

Revised on: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_

**5010**  
**Immunizations**

**1. General Rule**

- a. Each student wishing to enroll in the school district is required to be immunized against measles, mumps, rubella, poliomyelitis, diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus, hepatitis and varicella (chicken pox) prior to 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.

**2. Exceptions**

- a. Provisional Enrollment.

Students who meet the statutory requirements for provisional enrollment shall 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.
  - 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: July 18<sup>th</sup>, 2016

Revised on: \_\_\_\_\_

**5011**  
**Physical Examination of Students**

The following students shall provide evidence of a physical examination by a qualified health care provider:

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

Evidence of a physical examination must be dated no more than six months prior to entrance or within sixty days after enrollment. If the student's parent(s) or guardian(s) object to a physical examination, they must submit a signed and dated refusal form to the school.

Adopted on: July 18<sup>th</sup>, 2016

Revised on: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_

**5012**  
**Basic Testing Program**

The school district will use a basic testing 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

Adopted on: July 18<sup>th</sup>, 2016

Revised on: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_

## 5013

### Use and Dissemination of Test Results

At the board of education's regular July meeting, the superintendent of schools shall provide an annual written report consisting of the results of the district's performance program including but not limited to: standardized norm-referenced assessments, criterion-referenced assessments, student performance, school system demographics, financial information, a follow-up study of graduates, and a learning climate survey. This report shall be made available to all patrons of the district. Building level results will be reported only to appropriate staff for review and goal setting.

This report shall not include any individual test scores or assessment, but individual student test scores or assessment results will be reported to the student's parents or legal guardian(s).

A comprehensive evaluation of the district shall be conducted at least once every five years using instruments and guides approved by the Department of Education.

Adopted on: July 18<sup>th</sup>, 2016

Revised on: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_

## **5014 Homeless Students**

### **1. General Policy**

The school 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 school district.

### **2. Homeless Liaison**

The district's homeless liaison is the Superintendent. Students in homeless situations who require assistance should contact the liaison at 308 262 1470 or in person at the District Office, 800 Q Street, Bridgeport, Ne 69336.

### **3. Definitions**

- a. "Homeless children and youth" means individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence and include
  - 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; are abandoned in hospitals or are awaiting foster care placement; and
  - 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 the 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" includes a 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. 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.

**5. 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.

**6. 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 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 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.

**7. 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: July 18<sup>th</sup>, 2016

Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_

Revised on: \_\_\_\_\_

**5015**  
**Protection of Pupil Rights**

The Board of Education respects the rights of parents and their children, and has adopted this policy in consultation with parents to comply with the federal Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA) and The No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB).

**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.

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

Adopted on: July 18<sup>th</sup>, 2016

Revised on: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_

## **5016 Student Records**

The school district shall maintain student records and reports as are necessary for effective administration and in compliance with law. In general "student records" shall not include transitory communications such as e-mail, text messages, handwritten communication between school and home and the like, and these items will not generally be maintained by the district.

Each building principal will assign responsibilities for the preparation and maintenance of pupil records and will establish rules and regulations regarding their storage and use in the building.

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. "School administrators" include attorneys, members of law enforcement acting on behalf of the school district as well as third-party website operators who have contracted with the school district or its agent to offer online programs for the benefit of students and the district. No other person shall have access thereto nor shall the contents thereof be divulged in any manner to any unauthorized person. 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.

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.

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: July 18<sup>th</sup>, 2016

Revised on: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_

**5017**  
**Routine Directory Information**

The school district shall disclose the following as routine directory information pertaining to any past, present or future student who is, has been, or will be regularly enrolled in the district.

- Name and grade
- 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
- 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 listings of high school students unless a student's parents have notified the district that they do not want this information disclosed without their prior written consent

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 to opportunity to prevent the release of this directory information by filing a written objection with the district.

Adopted on: July 18<sup>th</sup>, 2016

Revised on: \_\_\_\_\_



Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_

**5018**  
**Parental Involvement In Education Practices**

The school district recognizes the importance of parental involvement in the education of their children. To ensure such rights, parents will be:

1. Provided access, as described in district procedures, to district-approved textbooks and other curricular materials and tests used in the district.
  - a. A parental request to review specific approved textbooks and other district- or building-approved curricular materials (written, visual, and audio) should be made to the principal of the building where the textbooks and curriculum materials are used. Parents may check out textbooks and may review curricular materials such as video and audio recordings within a time frame determined by the building principal to prevent disruption of the instructional process. 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. In the case of secure tests such as the ACT, parents must contact the publisher to obtain copies of the test.
2. 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.
  - b. Parents may request permission to attend counseling sessions in which their child is involved.
3. Permitted, within district procedures, to ask that their children be excused from testing, classroom instruction, surveys and other school experiences that parents find objectionable.
  - a. Building principals will excuse a student from any single school experience at the parent's written request.

- b. When appropriate, alternative experiences will be provided for the student by the school.
- 4. Informed through the student handbook of the manner that the district will provide access to records of students.
- 5. Informed of the standardized and criterion-referenced district testing program. Parents may request additional information from the building principal.
- 6. 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.

Adopted on: July 18<sup>th</sup>, 2016

Revised on: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_

**5019**  
**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: July 18<sup>th</sup>, 2016

Revised on: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_

**5020**  
**Rights of Custodial and Non-Custodial Parents**

The school district will honor the parental rights of natural and adoptive parents unless those rights have been altered by a court.

The term “custodial parent” refers to a biological or adoptive parent to whom a court has given primary physical and legal custody of a child, and a person such as a caseworker or foster parent to whom a court has given legal custody of a child.

The district will not restrict the access of custodial and non-custodial parents to their students and their students’ records, unless the district has been provided a copy of a court order that limits those rights. If the district is provided such a court order, school officials will follow the directives set forth in the order.

The district will provide the custodial parent with routine information about his or her child, including notification of conferences. The district will not provide the non-custodial parent with such information on a routine basis, but will provide it upon the non-custodial parent’s request unless it has been denied by the courts.

A non-custodial parent who wishes to attend conferences regarding his or her child will be provided information about conference times so both parents may attend a single conference. The district is not required to schedule separate conferences if both parents have been previously informed of scheduled conference times.

If either or both parents’ behavior is disruptive, staff members may terminate a conference and reschedule it with appropriate modifications or expectations.

Adopted on: July 18<sup>th</sup>, 2016  
Revised on: \_\_\_\_\_  
Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_

**5021**  
**Student Photograph and Video Policy**

The school district generally prohibits students from taking photographs or making video recordings on school grounds, in a school vehicle, or at a school event except as provided in this policy or as otherwise required by law. Students may take photographs and make video recordings only after receiving permission from the administration. An exception will be made to this policy if photographs or video recordings are necessary to accommodate a student's disability or are required by the student's Individualized Education Plan (IEP) or Section 504 Plan. In no event shall photographs or video recordings be taken or made in restrooms, locker rooms, or other areas where there is a reasonable expectation of privacy. Students who violate this policy may be subject to discipline up to and including expulsion.

Adopted:July 18<sup>th</sup>, 2016

**5022**  
**Investigations and Arrests by Police**  
**or Other Law Enforcement Officers**

Police or other law enforcement officers may be called to the school at the request of school administration, or may initiate contact with the school in connection with a criminal investigation. The school district shall not allow law enforcement officers access to students to conduct an investigation during school hours unless the officers are investigating charges that the student has been the victim of abuse or neglect. Contact between the school and law enforcement authorities on matters involving students shall be made through the office of the superintendent or principal and the law enforcement officer.

Law enforcement officers may talk to a student away from the school before or after school hours, and they should be encouraged to do so. Law enforcement officers shall be allowed to conduct an interview at the school only when the interview is conducted at the request of the school or when they can show that special circumstances exist. This determination should be made by the appropriate building principal or superintendent. Law enforcement officers should be permitted to interview students on school grounds only after providing the superintendent or appropriate building principal with a statement in writing that the law enforcement officer has reason to believe and does believe that the student is the victim of child abuse or neglect perpetrated by the child's parent(s) or some other member of the child's immediate family or household, and that the law enforcement official wishes to interview the student regarding such abuse or neglect.

Throughout this process, all 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.

1. Law enforcement officers should be permitted to take custody of a student if they possess an arrest warrant or if they otherwise assert a lawful basis for doing so. Whenever possible, the arrest or release of the student should be conducted in the building principal's office and out of the view of other students. When a principal or other school official releases a minor student to a law enforcement officer for the purpose of removing the minor from the school premises, he or she shall take immediate steps to notify the parent, guardian, or other responsible adult regarding the release of the minor to the officer 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. If the law enforcement officer indicates that the child is being taken into custody because the child is the victim of suspected child abuse, the principal or other school official shall, as a condition of releasing the student to the law enforcement officer, require the officer to sign the statement appended hereto 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.

2. Law enforcement personnel shall not be allowed to roam about the school until the student is found, and shall remain in the administration office while school personnel seek the student.
3. If possible, the education program of the student should not be disrupted to allow for police questioning of the student during class time.
4. 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.
5. If law enforcement officers are to be allowed to question a student under the age of 18, the principal or school official shall make a reasonable attempt to notify the child's parents before questioning begins, except in cases of suspected child abuse or child neglect involving the parent or other family member. The parents should be given the opportunity to come to the school prior to the questioning.
6. If the parents are notified and are able to attend, they should be allowed to be present at the interview. The principal or designee should be present at the interview, but should not take part in any questioning. The principal or designee should remain a neutral observer at all times.

Adopted on: July 18<sup>th</sup>, 2016

Revised on: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_



## **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: July 18<sup>th</sup>, 2016

Revised on: \_\_\_\_\_

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: July 18<sup>th</sup>, 2016

Revised on: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_

**5025**  
**Insurance Program**

The school district is not an insurer of student safety, and parents are encouraged to secure insurance covering their students' healthcare needs, including catastrophic coverage for injuries which may be sustained while participating in athletics or other extracurricular activities.

Adopted on: July 18<sup>th</sup>, 2016

Revised on: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_

**5026**  
**Sex Equality in the Education Program**

The district prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in any educational program or activity except when it is necessary to accomplish a specific purpose that does not impinge upon essential equality or fairness in the treatment of students or employees. Employees are required to comply with this policy and the subsequent rules and regulations, as well as with Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 and the regulations of the U.S. Department of Education as applicable to this district.

The district's Title IX Coordinator is the Superintendent. The Title IX Coordinator may be contacted at 308 262 1470 or in person at 800 Q Street, Bridgeport NE 69336.

The Title IX Coordinator shall administer, coordinate, and publish this policy, together with any rules and regulations, to all students, parents, and other interested groups and associations. The Title IX Coordinator shall report annually to the board of education on the district's compliance with this policy and shall recommend such changes as he or she deems necessary.

Any individual who believes he or she is being discriminated against on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, marital status, disability, or age may seek relief by filing a complaint pursuant to Board Policy 2006 – Complaint Policy.

Adopted on: July 18<sup>th</sup>, 2016

Revised on: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_

## **5027**

### **Sexual Harassment of Students by Other Students**

Students should be provided with an environment that is free from unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors and other verbal or physical conduct constituting sexual harassment. The board of education unequivocally prohibits sexual harassment by its students against other students even when the affected student does not complain to the faculty or the administration.

Sexual harassment is a form of misconduct that wrongfully deprives students of their dignity and the opportunity to study and be in an environment free from unwelcome sexual overtones. Sexual harassment includes all unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors and other such verbal or physical misconduct. Sexual harassment means:

Unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical misconduct of a sexual nature constitutes sexual harassment when such conduct has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual's educational opportunities or creates an intimidating, hostile or offensive learning environment.

A student who feels he or she has been sexually harassed by another student should directly inform the offending student that the conduct or communication is offensive and must stop. If the student does not wish to communicate directly with the offending student, or if direct communication has been ineffective, the student should report the conduct or communication to the Title IX coordinator or to a teacher, principal or counselor with whom she or he feels comfortable.

Regardless of the means selected for resolving the problem, the good faith initiation of a complaint of sexual harassment will not cause any reflection on the complaining student, or affect his or her status as a student.

Any student who sexually harasses another student will be subject to discipline up to and including expulsion, depending on the severity of the misconduct. A decision to take disciplinary action under this policy may be based on the statements of a complaining student, statements, observations of educators, or any other credible evidence.

This policy pertains to sexual harassment of students by other students. The sexual harassment of students by school district employees is governed by other board policy.

Adopted on: July 18<sup>th</sup>, 2016

Revised on: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_

**5028**  
**Initiations**

Initiations by classes, clubs, or athletic teams are prohibited except by permission of the administration. Hazing in connection with any school organization is absolutely prohibited. 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, 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: \_\_\_\_\_

Revised on: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_



**5029**  
**Crisis Response Policy**

**I. The following objectives apply to dealing with a crisis situation:**

- A. Ensuring the safety and emotional security of students.
- B. Formulating a plan of action immediately that provides uniformity in the treatment of each crisis.
- C. Identifying those students and staff who will likely be most strongly affected by grief.
- D. Preserving, to the extent possible, the daily school routine and pre-scheduled activities so as not to draw others into deeper levels of grief than they would normally experience.
- E. Monitoring students' progress through the stages of the grief process.
- F. Making the school's resources available to parents and guardians who become concerned about their child's reaction to a crisis.

**II. Policy**

- A. School Hours
  - 1. During a crisis situation, the administration will maintain established school hours and proceed with all co-curricular activities as scheduled whenever possible.
  - 2. If, during a crisis situation, the parent(s) or guardian of a student decide that the student needs to be absent, this absence will be excused.
- B. Access to School Facilities
  - 1. The school's facilities may not be used for funeral or memorial services during the school day.

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

C. Memorials

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

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

Adopted on: July 18<sup>th</sup>, 2016

Revised on: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_

**5031**  
**Student Appearance**

Any manner of dress, hair style, make up, or personal cleanliness, that constitutes a threat to the safety, health, welfare, or morals of the student or others; that violates any statute; that interferes with the education process, or that school officials can reasonably predict will interfere with the education process; or that causes or may cause excessive maintenance problems in the school, may be grounds for corrective or disciplinary action. The superintendent or designee may institute specific dress code regulations in any school consistent with board policy.

Adopted on: July 18<sup>th</sup>, 2016

Revised on: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_

**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. 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: July 18, 2016

Revised on: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_

**5034**  
**Handbooks**

The student handbook is an extension of these policies and has the force and effect of board policy when approved by the board of education.

Adopted on: July 18<sup>th</sup>, 2016

Revised on: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_

**5035**  
**Student Discipline**

Students who violate school rules will face disciplinary consequences up to and including expulsion from school. The code of conduct and procedure for imposing discipline on students is set forth in Board Policy 6024 and the student handbook. The board of education will not consider an appeal of any disciplinary sanction unless the student and his/her family have complied with all applicable procedures.

Adopted on: July 18<sup>th</sup>, 2016

Revised on: \_\_\_\_\_

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: July 18<sup>th</sup>, 2016

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 electronic mail, chat rooms, instant messaging, or other forms of direct electronic communications on school computers.
4. Students shall not use school computers to participate in on-line auctions, on-line gaming or mp3 sharing systems including, but not limited to Aimster or Freenet and the like.
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 and 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: July 18<sup>th</sup>, 2016

Revised on: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_

**5038**  
**Lunch Program**

The superintendent shall be the administrator of school lunch program which shall be run in accordance with state and federal guidelines.

Adopted on: July 18<sup>th</sup>, 2016

Revised on: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_

**5039**  
**Money-Raising Activities**

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

Adopted on: July 18<sup>th</sup>, 2016

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: July 18<sup>th</sup>, 2016

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: July 18<sup>th</sup>, 2016

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: July 18<sup>th</sup>, 2016

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: July 18<sup>th</sup>, 2016

Revised on: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_

**5044**  
**Safe Pupil Transportation Plan**

It is the goal of the school district to provide safe, comfortable and reliable transportation for bus-riding school children.

**1. Emergency Procedures**

**a) Mechanical breakdown**

In the event of a mechanical breakdown, the driver will:

- 1) Stop the vehicle in a safe location
- 2) Keep passengers in the vehicle, if it is safe to do so
- 3) Take steps to warn motorists, by activating hazard lights and placing emergency triangles
- 4) Radio or call for assistance

**b) Injuries/Medical Emergencies**

If a student is seriously injured or suffers from a medical emergency, the driver will stop the vehicle at the first safe opportunity. The driver will provide emergency medical assistance in accordance with the driver's first aid training. The driver will notify the school district of the emergency using the radio or other communication equipment. The district will then summon emergency medical services by immediately calling 911 and notify administrative personnel.

**c) Severe Weather**

**1) Tornadoes.**

If the driver determines that there is likelihood that a tornado will hit the vehicle, and there is not an escape route available or time to drive to a safe location, the driver will evacuate the vehicle, taking only the first aid kit. The driver will take the students to the basement of a nearby building or to the nearest depression or ditch upwind (toward the storm) of the vehicle far enough away from the vehicle so that it will not roll over on the students. The driver should instruct students to cover their heads with their arms. If the students are wearing coats or jackets, they can be used to provide additional protection for their heads and bodies. If there is no time to evacuate the students after stopping the vehicle, the driver

should have the students remain in their seats and assume a protective position with their heads below window level.

2) **Winter Weather**

If the school district or driver determines that a trip is too dangerous to drive due to winter weather conditions, the district will cancel the trip.

Parents should ensure that students are appropriately dressed for winter conditions.

d) **Weapons, Hazardous Substances and Dangerous Contraband**

If a driver discovers that a passenger may have a weapon, hazardous substance or other dangerous contraband on the vehicle, he or she should remain calm and call for assistance. The driver should not inform passengers of the presence of the weapon or other contraband.

e) **Terroristic Threat**

If a driver receives a terroristic threat that he or she deems credible, he or she will notify the school district of the threat using the radio or other communication equipment. After consulting with school officials, the driver will determine whether the threat requires evacuation of the bus. The school will promptly notify the authorities of the threat.

For purposes of this policy, a terroristic threat is a threat to commit any crime of violence or to burn or damage property with the purpose of terrorizing another or of causing the evacuation of the bus or in reckless disregard of causing such terror or inconvenience

f) **Emergency Incident Reports**

Drivers will provide written documentation of any of the emergency events specified in this policy by completing the incident form attached hereto. This documentation must be submitted to the school administration within 24 hours of the event.

2. **Drop-off**

Drivers will drop students off at a location pre-determined through communication between the school district and parents/guardians.

In the event the drop-off location is uncertain or appears to be unsafe, the driver will communicate with school staff in the building to seek additional guidance.

In no event will a driver drop a student off in a location which in the reasonable judgment of the driver appears to be unsafe. Drivers who believe the drop-off location to be unsafe shall release students directly into the custody of a parent/guardian or shall return students to their school building.

### **3. Evacuation of Students With Disabilities**

The Transportation supervisor, in consultation with bus drivers and members of the administrative team, shall develop a written emergency evacuation plan for each bus route. The plan shall include an assessment of each student's ability to evacuate himself or herself as well as his or her ability to assist others. Disabled students should practice their evacuation skills as required of their non-disabled peers if possible during evacuation drills. Students or other individuals who will be assisting disabled students evacuate during emergencies should practice this skill during evacuation drills. Drivers or students who will be assisting with the evacuation process should be familiar with any equipment on the bus that would aid in the actual evacuation.

### **4. Student Behavior on School Vehicles**

Riding school vehicles is a privilege, not a right. Students must comply with the following rules and all school conduct rules and directives while riding in school vehicles. In addition, students must also comply with the student code of conduct while riding in school vehicles.

#### **a) Rules of Conduct on School Vehicles:**

- 1) Students must obey the driver promptly.
- 2) Students must wait in a safe place for the bus to arrive, clear of traffic and away from where the vehicle stops.
- 3) Students are prohibited from fighting, engaging in bullying, harassment or horseplay.
- 4) Students must enter the bus without crowding or disturbing others and go directly to their assigned seats.
- 5) Students must remain seated and keep aisles and exits clear while the vehicle is moving.
- 6) Students are prohibited from throwing or passing objects on, from, or into vehicles.

- 7) Students may not use profane language, obscene gestures, tobacco, alcohol, drugs or any other controlled substance on the vehicles.
- 8) Students may not carry weapons, look-a-like weapons, hazardous materials, nuisance items or animals onto the vehicle.
- 9) Students may carry on conversations in ordinary tones, but may not be loud or boisterous and should avoid talking to the driver while the vehicle is in motion. Students must be absolutely quiet when the vehicle approaches a railroad crossing and any time the driver calls for quiet.
- 10) Students may not open windows without permission from the driver. Students may not dangle any item (e.g. legs, arms, backpacks) out of the windows.
- 11) Student must secure any item or items that could break or produce injury if tossed about the inside of the vehicle if the vehicle were involved in an accident
- 12) Student must respect the rights and safety of others at all times.
- 13) Students must help keep the vehicle clean, sanitary and orderly. Students must remove all personal items and trash upon exiting.
- 14) Students may not leave or board the vehicle at locations other than the assigned stops at home or school unless approved prior to departure by the superintendent or designee.
- 15) Video cameras may be placed on buses, at random, to monitor student behavior on the bus.

b) **Consequences**

Drivers must promptly report all student misconduct to the administration. These reports may be oral or written. Students who violate the Rules for Conduct will be referred to their building principal for discipline. Disciplinary consequences may include:

- 1) Note home to parents
- 2) Suspension of bus riding privileges
- 3) Exclusion from extracurricular activities

- 4) In-school suspension
- 5) Short term or long term suspension from school
- 6) Expulsion

These consequences are not progressive, and school officials have discretion to impose any listed punishment they deem appropriate, in accordance with state and federal law and board policy.

c) **Records**

Records of vehicle misconduct will be forwarded to the appropriate building principal and will be maintained in the same manner as other student discipline records. Reports of serious misconduct may be forwarded to law enforcement.

Adopted on: July 18<sup>th</sup>, 2016

Revised on: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_

## **5045 Student Fees**

The school district shall provide free instruction in accordance with the Nebraska State Constitution and the Nebraska statutes. The district also provides activities, programs, and services that extend beyond the minimum level of constitutionally required free instruction. Under the Public Elementary and Secondary Student Fee Authorization Act, the district is permitted to charge students fees for these activities or to require students to provide specialized equipment and attire for certain purposes. This policy is subject to further interpretation or guidance by administrative or board regulations. Students are encouraged to contact their building administration, their teachers or their coaches, and sponsors for further specifics.

### **A. Definitions.**

1. "Students" means students, their parents, guardians or other legal representatives.
2. "Extracurricular activities" means student activities or organizations that (1) are supervised or administered by the district; (2) do not count toward graduation or advancement between grades; and (3) are not otherwise required by the district.
3. "Post-secondary education costs" means tuition and other fees associated with obtaining credit from a post-secondary educational institution.

### **B. Listing of Fees Charged by this District.**

#### **1. Guidelines for Clothing Required for Specified Courses and Activities.**

Students are responsible for complying with the district's grooming and attire guidelines and for furnishing all clothing required for any special programs, courses or activities in which they participate. The teacher, coach, or sponsor of the activity will provide students with written guidelines that detail any special clothing requirements and explain why the special clothing is required for the specific program, course or activity.

**2. Safety Equipment and Attire.**

The district will provide students with all safety equipment and attire that is required by law. Building administrators will assure that (a) such equipment is available in the appropriate classes and areas of the school buildings, (b) teachers are directed to instruct students in the use of such devices, and (c) students use the devices as required. Students are responsible for using the devices safely and as instructed.

**3. Personal or Consumable Items.**

The district may 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 does not provide students with the materials necessary to complete all curricular projects. In courses where students produce a project that requires more than minimal cost for materials, the finished product will remain the property of the district unless the students either furnish or pay for the reasonable cost of materials required for the course project.

The maximum dollar amount charged by the district for course materials shall be:

- Industrial Technology Classes \$TBD
- Art Classes \$TBD
- Family and Consumer Science Classes \$TBD



## 5. Extracurricular Activities.

The district may charge students a fee to participate in extracurricular activities to cover the district's reasonable costs in offering such activities. The district may require students to furnish specialized equipment and clothing that is required for participation in extracurricular activities, or may charge a reasonable fee for the use of district-owned equipment or attire. Attached to this policy is a list of the fees charged for particular activities. The coach or sponsor will provide students with additional written guidelines detailing the fees charged, the equipment and/or clothing required, or the usage fee charged. The guidelines will explain the reasons that fees, equipment and/or clothing are required for the activity.

The following list details the maximum dollar amount of all extracurricular activities fees and the specifications for any equipment or attire required for participation in extracurricular activities:

- Student activity card \$TBD  
*Covers admission to all extracurricular events*
- Student participation fee \$TBD  
*Required of all students who participate in athletics and/or other extracurricular activities*
- Future Business Leaders of America \$TBD
- DECA \$TBD
- National Honor Society \$TBD
  
- Cheerleading, Drill Team, Flag Corps 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 \$TBD.
  
- Football students must provide their own football shoes, undergarments, and mouth guards

- Golf students must provide their own golf shoes, undergarments, and clubs
- Softball and Baseball students must provide their own shoes, gloves, and undergarments
- Track, Volleyball, Wrestling and Basketball students must provide their own shoes and undergarments
- Future Farmers of America student must purchase their own jackets and pay dues of \$TBD
- Rifle and Trap Teams students must provide their own weapons and ammunition
- Science Club \$TBD
- FCCLA \$TBD
- Spanish Club \$TBD

## **6. 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 chose 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.

## **7. 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 \$TBD.

**8. 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 \$TBD per page for reproduction of student records.

**9. Participation in Before-and-After-School or Pre-Kindergarten Services.**

The district will charge reasonable fees for participation in before-and-after school or pre-kindergarten services offered by the district pursuant to statute.

The maximum dollar amount charged by the district for these services shall be \$TBD.

**10. 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 \$TBD.

**11. 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.

## **12. 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. For musical extracurricular activities, the school district will require students to provide the following equipment and/or attire:

- Band Students must provide their own instruments and marching band shoes, which must be white, rubber-soled sneakers
- Swing Choir Students must purchase outfits and shoes selected by the sponsor and/or student group. The maximum dollar amount charged by the district for these materials will be \$TBD

## **13. 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 \$TBD.

### **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.

## CERTIFICATION

On the \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_, the Board of Education of \_\_\_\_\_ Public Schools held a public hearing on a proposed student fee policy. The hearing followed a review of the amount of money collected from students pursuant to, and the use of waivers provided in, the student fee policy for the \_\_\_\_-\_\_ school year. This student fee policy was then adopted by a majority vote of the school board at an open public meeting conducted in compliance with the Open Meetings Act.

Superintendent of Schools or Other  
Authorized School Representative

Adopted on: July 18<sup>th</sup>, 2016

Revised on: \_\_\_\_\_

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: July 18<sup>th</sup>, 2016

Revised on: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_

**5047**  
**Press Releases**

All press releases regarding school-related activities and events must have administrative approval prior to being given to the media. The superintendent may delegate responsibility for communicating with the media to building principals, the activities director, event sponsors, and other staff on an ad hoc basis.

Adopted on: July 18<sup>th</sup>, 2016

Revised on: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_



**5048**

**Emergency Response to Life Threatening Asthma or Systemic Allergic Reactions (ANAPHYLAXIS)**

School employees will comply with the requirements of “Protocol: Emergency Response to Life Threatening Asthma or Systemic Allergic Reactions (Anaphylaxis)”. 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 physicians licensed to practice medicine in Nebraska on the form entitled “Protocol: Emergency Response to Life Threatening Asthma or Systemic Allergic Reactions (Anaphylaxis)” (“Protocol”). The superintendent shall publish this policy and Protocol in each employee handbook.

The superintendent shall arrange to have a qualified medical person train employees, and for training updates as necessary.

Adopted on: July 18<sup>th</sup>, 2016

Revised on: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_

**5049**  
**Firearms and Weapons**

**Weapons.** No student may possess, handle, or transmit any weapon while on school grounds or at any school activity or event off school grounds except as permitted by this policy. No visitor under the age of 18 may possess, handle, or transmit any weapon while on school grounds or at any school activity or event off school grounds except as permitted by this policy. **Definition of Weapon.** The term “weapon” means any object, device, instrument, material, or substance which is capable of causing injury in the manner it is used or intended to be used.

**Firearms.** No person may bring, possess, handle or transmit a firearm on school grounds, in a school owned vehicle, or at a school activity or event off school grounds, except as permitted by this policy. **Definition of Firearm.** The term “firearm, as defined in 18 U.S.C. 921, means any weapon (including a starter gun) which will or is designed to or may readily be converted to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive, the frame or receiver of any such weapon, any firearm muffler or firearm silencer, or any destructive device (excluding an antique firearm).

**Exceptions Regarding Firearms.** The prohibition against firearms does not apply to:

1. The issuance of firearms to or possession by members of the armed forces of the United States, active or reserve, National Guard of this State, or Reserve Officers Training Corps or peace officers or other duly authorized law enforcement officers when on duty or training; or
2. Firearms that may lawfully be possessed by a person who is receiving instruction at the school under the immediate supervision of an adult instructor;
3. Firearms which may lawfully be possessed by a person for the purpose of using them, with the approval of the school, in a historical reenactment, in a hunter education program, or as part of an honor guard;
4. Firearms contained within a private vehicle **operated by a nonstudent adult** that are not loaded **and** are encased or are in a locked firearm rack that is on a motor vehicle; or

5. A handgun carried as a concealed handgun by nonstudent adult who holds a valid permit issued under the Concealed Handgun Permit Act in a vehicle or on his or her person while riding in or on a vehicle into or onto any parking area, which is open to the public and used by the school if, prior to exiting the vehicle, the handgun is locked inside the glove box, trunk, or other compartment of the vehicle, a storage box securely attached to the vehicle, or, if the vehicle is a motorcycle, a hardened compartment securely attached to the motorcycle while the vehicle is in or on such parking area, except as prohibited by federal law.

***Definition of Encased.*** The term “encased” means enclosed in a case that is expressly made for the purpose of containing a firearm and that is completely zipped, snapped, buckled, tied, or otherwise fastened with no part of the firearm exposed.

**Exceptions for Students.** The only exceptions for a student to bring or possess a weapon, including a firearm, are as follows:

1. The firearm or weapon has been brought to school grounds or to an activity or event off school grounds for some educational purpose;
2. The person bringing the firearm or weapon has requested and received the prior approval of both the instructor and the building principal to do so; and
3. All arrangements to use and store the firearm or weapon safely while it is on school premises have been agreed to and carried out.

**Consequences - Firearm.** Any student who brings a firearm, as that term is defined in 18 United States Code 921, to school will be expelled from school for one calendar year. The superintendent of schools and the board of education shall have the authority to modify the expulsion requirement on a case-by-case basis.

**Consequences – Weapon.** State law and this policy provide that any student who violates this policy by knowingly bringing, possessing, handling or transmitting a weapon, other than a firearm, on school grounds, in a school owned vehicle, or at a school activity or event off school grounds may be suspended on a long-term basis, mandatorily reassigned, or expelled for the remainder of the school year in which the expulsion takes effect (if the misconduct occurs during the first semester) or the remainder of the second semester, summer school, and the first semester of the following school year (if the misconduct occurs during the second semester).

**Confiscation of Firearms.** Administrative and teaching personnel are statutorily authorized, without a warrant, to confiscate any firearm possessed in violation of this policy. By statute, any firearm that is confiscated by school personnel shall be delivered to a peace officer as soon as practicable. Such firearms are subject to being destroyed by law enforcement authorities.

**Report to Law Enforcement Authorities.** All school personnel are required to report any violation of this policy to a principal or the superintendent of schools. Pursuant to state and federal law, school personnel are required to report to law enforcement authorities when a student brings a firearm or weapon to school.

Adopted on: July 18<sup>th</sup>, 2016 \_\_\_\_\_

Revised on: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_

**5050**  
**Home Schools and/or Schools Not Meeting Approval and Accreditation**  
**Regulations**

Students in Nebraska may choose to be educated at a home school that meets the requirements of statute and the Nebraska Department of Education. The board of education encourages the parents and guardians of all school-age children who reside within the school district to enroll them in the public school or an approved or accredited private school so they may benefit from a well-planned education program and the socialization of a group environment.

The school district's administration will inform the appropriate agency of the names of all students who are school age and known not to be in attendance at a public, private, or parochial school that has met the requirements for legal operation prescribed in statute and the rules of the Nebraska Department of Education.

Adopted on: July 18<sup>th</sup>, 2016

Revised on: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_

**5051**  
**Eye Examinations for Students**

The parent(s) or guardian(s) of (1) all incoming students in the beginner grade and (2) all out-of-state transfer students must provide evidence of a vision examination by a qualified vision health care provider.

They must provide evidence of the vision examination within six months prior to entrance. The health care provider must test the student for amblyopia, strabismus and internal and external eye health, with testing sufficient to determine visual acuity.

Any parent(s) or guardian(s) who object to a vision examination must submit a signed and dated refusal form to the school. Parents or guardians who wish to receive information regarding free or reduced-cost visual evaluations may contact Kids Connection at (877)-NEB-KIDS or the Nebraska Optometric Association at (800) 766-4466.

Adopted on: July 18<sup>th</sup>, 2016

Revised on: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_

## **5052 School Wellness Policy**

The school district is committed to providing a school environment that enhances learning and the development of lifelong wellness.

### **1. Goals for Nutrition Education**

- a. The health curriculum will include information on good nutrition and healthy living habits.
- b. Teachers will incorporate information on nutrition and wellness into the classroom curriculum as appropriate.

### **2. Goals for Physical Activity**

- a. The physical education curriculum 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.
- 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. Students will be provided sufficient time in which to eat school-provided meals.
- b. The district's lunchrooms will be attractive and well-lighted.
- c. 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.

**4. Nutrition Guidelines**

- a. Food providers will take measures to ensure that student access to foods and beverages meet federal, state and local laws and guidelines.
- b. Food providers will offer students a variety of age appropriate healthy food and beverage selections for elementary schools, middle schools and high schools.

**5. 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.

Adopted on: July 18<sup>th</sup>, 2016

Revised on: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_



## 5053

### Self Management of Diabetes or Asthma/Anaphylaxis

Upon receiving the written request of a student's parent or guardian and the written authorization by the student's physician, the school district will work with the parent or guardian in consultation with the physician to develop a medical management plan for a student with diabetes, asthma, or anaphylaxis (referred to herein as "medical condition").

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.

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 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 diabetic student's misuse of necessary medical supplies.

The district may prohibit a student 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.

Adopted on: July 18<sup>th</sup>, 2016

Revised on: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_

**5054**  
**Student Bullying**

**Bullying Prohibited.** Students are prohibited from engaging in any form of bullying behavior. Without limiting any definition of bullying under any state or federal law or regulation, bullying behavior, as used herein, refers to the use of physical force or verbal, nonverbal, written, and electronic communication (including but not limited to instant messaging, text messaging, e-mailing, and using websites) to threaten, intimidate, ridicule, humiliate, or harass any person.

**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 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 and bullying prevention.

**Policy Review.** The school district shall review this policy annually.

Adopted on: July 18<sup>th</sup>, 2016

Revised on: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_

**5055**  
**Enrollment in Kindergarten**

Beginning with the 2013-14 school year, a child must reach the age of five on or before July 31<sup>st</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> and October 15<sup>th</sup> 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 is TBD

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

Adopted on: July 18<sup>th</sup>, 2016

Revised on: \_\_\_\_\_

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: July 18<sup>th</sup>, 2016

Revised on: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_

**5057**  
**Parental Involvement In the Title I Program**

The school district will jointly develop with parents a School-Parent-Student Compact that outlines shared responsibility for improved student academic achievement.

The school district recognizes the unique needs of students who are being served in its Title I program, and the importance of parental involvement in the Title I program. Parental Involvement 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. 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, type and extent of participation, parental input in educational decisions, coordination and integration with other district programs, and evaluations of progress. This information may be included in the annual Title I Individual Education Plan (IEP) for the student.
3. Opportunities for parent involvement activities, such as training on ways to support children's learning. This opportunity may include, but is not limited to, attendance at the annual Nebraska State Title I Parent Involvement Conference. The goal of these parent activities is to provide parents with opportunities to participate in decisions relating to the education of their students, where appropriate.
4. The district will, to the extent practicable, provide parents of limited English proficiency, parents with disabilities, and 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.

This policy shall be reviewed annually at the annual meeting where concerned parties can have a conversation about possible changes to the Parental Involvement Policy, and the Board will either (1) alter the policy and adopt it as altered, or (2) reaffirm the policy, following a public hearing.

Adopted on: July 18<sup>th</sup>, 2016

Revised on: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_

## 5058

### Threat Assessment and Response

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

#### 1. Obligation to Report threatening Statements or Behaviors.

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

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

#### 2. Threat Assessment Investigation and Response

All reports of violent, threatening, stalking or other behavior or statements which could be interpreted as posing a threat to school safety will immediately be forwarded to the superintendent. Upon receipt of an initial report of any threat, the superintendent will take steps to verify the information, make an initial assessment, and document any decision involving further action. This investigation may include interviews with the person who made the statement(s) or engaged in the behavior of concern, interviews with teachers and other staff members who may have information about the individual of concern, interviews with the target(s) of the threatening statements or behavior, interviews of family members, physical searches of the individual of concern's person, possessions, and home (as allowed by law and in cooperation with law enforcement), and any other investigatory methods that the superintendent determines to be reasonable and useful.

At the conclusion of the investigation, the superintendent will determine what, if any, response to the threat is appropriate. The superintendent is authorized to disclose the results of his/her investigation to law enforcement and to the target(s) of any threatened acts. The



superintendent may refer the individual of concern to the appropriate school administrator for consequences under the school's student discipline policy or, if appropriate, report the results of his/her investigation to the student's individualized education plan team.

### 3. Communication with the Public about Reported Threats

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

Adopted: July 18<sup>th</sup>, 2016

**5059**  
**Emergency Medical Treatment**

If a child becomes ill or is injured while at school or while being supervised by a member of the school district's staff, the staff member shall promptly render first aid and, when appropriate, summon rescue squad assistance. Staff will promptly notify a student's parent or guardian when a student needs medical attention.

The school district is not qualified under law to comply with directives to physicians limiting medical treatment and will not accept such directives. School district staff members will not honor "do not resuscitate/do not intubate" (DNR/DNI) orders, requests for transport to particular medical facilities and the like. Parents/Guardians must arrange for all such requests with rescue squad and medical providers directly.

Adopted on: July 18<sup>th</sup>, 2016

Revised on: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_

## 5060 Animals

Animals are not allowed in school district buildings or on school district property without the permission of the superintendent except as provided in this policy.

The school district does not permit discrimination against individuals with disabilities, including those who require the assistance of a service animal. An individual with a disability is permitted to be accompanied by his/her service animal on school property when required by law, subject to the conditions of this policy.

**Service Animal.** A “service animal” is a dog that has been individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability, including a physical, sensory, psychiatric, intellectual, or other mental disability. Work or tasks **do not** include the crime deterrent effects of an animal’s presence and the provision of emotional support, well-being, comfort, or companionship. The work or tasks performed by a service animal must be directly related to the handler’s disability or necessary to mitigate a disability. Other species of animals, whether wild or domestic, trained or untrained, are not service animals for the purposes of this definition. **See also**, Miniature Horses below.

**School District Inquiries.** School officials **may** ask the owner or handler of an animal whether the animal is required because of a disability and what work or task the animal has been trained to do **unless** the answers to these inquiries are readily apparent. School officials **may not** ask about the nature or extent of a person’s disability and may not require documentary proof of certification or licensing as a service animal.

**Procedural Requirements.** The following requirements must be satisfied **before** a service animal will be allowed in school buildings or on school grounds:

**Request.** A person who wants to be accompanied by his/her service animal must submit a written request form to a principal or superintendent. The request form is attached to this policy. These requests must be renewed each school year or whenever a different service animal will be used.

**Health and Vaccination.** The service animal must be in good health and immunized against diseases common to that type of animal. The owner or handler of the animal must submit proof of current licensure from the local licensing authority and proof of the service animal’s current vaccinations and immunizations from a licensed veterinarian.

Service animals will not be allowed in school buildings or other school property until the school has approved the request.

**Control.** A service animal must be under the control of its handler at all times. The service animal must have a harness, backpack, vest identifying the dog as a trained service dog, leash, or other tether. If the handler is unable to use a harness, backpack, vest, leash, or other tether, because of a disability or the use of a harness, backpack, vest, leash, or other tether would interfere with the service animal's safe, effective performance of work or tasks, the use of these items is not required. However, the service animal must be otherwise under the handler's control.

**Exclusion or Removal from School.** A service animal may be excluded from school property and buildings if a school administrator determines that:

- (1) A handler does not have control of the service animal;
- (2) The service animal is not housebroken;
- (3) The service animal presents a direct and immediate threat to others in the school; or
- (4) The animal's presence fundamentally alters the nature of the service, program, or activity.

The handler or the student's parent or guardian shall be required to remove the service animal from school premises immediately upon such a determination. If the service animal is removed, the individual with a disability shall be provided with the opportunity to participate in the service, program, or activity without the service animal.

**Allergic Reactions.** If any student or school employee assigned to a classroom or mode of transportation in which a service animal is permitted suffers an allergic reaction to the service animal, the person having custody and control of the animal will be required to remove the animal to a different location designated by an administrator. The school will arrange a meeting between school personnel, the individual with the disability, and the parents or guardian(s) of the person with the disability if that person is a student to develop an alternate plan.

**Supervision and Care of Service Animals.** The owner or handler of a service animal is solely responsible for the supervision and care of the animal, including any feeding, exercising, and clean up while the animal is in a school building or on school property. The student's parent or guardian is responsible for providing for the supervision and the care of the animal in the event that his or her student

is not able to do so. The school district is not responsible for providing any care, supervision, or assistance for a service animal.

**Extra Charges.** The owner or handler of a service animal will not be required to pay an admission fee or a charge for the animal to attend events for which a fee is charged.

**Damage to School Property and Injuries.** The owner or handler of a service animal is solely responsible and liable for any damage to school property or injury to personnel, students, or others caused by the animal.

**Miniature Horses.** Requests to permit the use of a miniature horse by an individual with a disability will be addressed on a case-by-case basis by considering the following factors:

- (1) The type, size, and weight of the miniature horse and whether the facility can accommodate these features;
- (2) Whether the handler has sufficient control of the miniature horse;
- (3) Whether the miniature horse is housebroken; and
- (4) Whether the miniature horse's presence in a specific facility compromises legitimate safety requirements that are necessary for safe operation.

All additional requirements outlined in this policy, which apply to service animals, shall apply to miniature horses.

**Service Animal in Training.** This policy shall also be applicable to service animals in training that are accompanied by a bona fide trainer.

**Denial of Access and Grievance.** If a school official denies a request for access of a service animal, the disabled individual or parent or guardian can file a written grievance with the school's Section 504 Coordinator.

ADOPTED: July 18<sup>th</sup>, 2016

## 5061 Therapy Dogs

The school district supports the use of therapy dogs by teachers or other qualified school personnel (“Owner”) for the benefit of its students subject to the conditions of this policy.

**Therapy Dog.** A “therapy dog” is a dog that has been individually trained and certified to work with its Owner to provide emotional support, well-being, comfort, or companionship to school district students. Therapy dogs are not “service animals” as that term is used in the American with Disabilities Act. The dog must be well behaved and have a temperament that is suitable for interaction with students and others in a public school. Therapy dogs are personal property of the teacher or employee and are not owned by the school district.

**Therapy Dog Standards and Procedures.** The following requirements must be satisfied *before* a therapy dog will be allowed in school buildings or on school grounds:

**Request.** An Owner who wants to bring a therapy dog to school must submit a written request form to a principal or superintendent. The request form is attached to this policy. The request must be renewed each school year or whenever a different therapy dog will be used.

**Training and Certification.** The Owner must submit the American Kennel Club’s Canine Good Citizen Certification or its equivalent as determined by the Superintendent. The certification must remain current at all times.

**Health and Vaccination.** The therapy dog must be clean, well groomed, in good health, house broken, and immunized against diseases common to dogs. The Owner must submit proof of current licensure from the local licensing authority and proof of the therapy dog’s current vaccinations and immunizations from a licensed veterinarian.

**Control.** A therapy dog must be under the control of the teacher or school employee through the use of a leash or other tether unless the use of a leash or other tether would interfere with the therapy dog’s safe, effective performance of its work or tasks. However, the therapy dog must be under the owner’s control at all times.

**Identification.** The therapy dog must have appropriate identification identifying it as a therapy dog.

**No Disruption.** The therapy dog must not disrupt the educational process by barking, seeking attention, or any other behavior.

**Health and Safety.** The therapy dog must not pose a health and safety risk to any student, employee, or other person at school.

**Supervision and Care of Therapy dogs.** The Owner is solely responsible for the supervision and care of the therapy dog, including any feeding, exercising, and clean up while the animal is in a school building or on school property. The school district is not responsible for providing any care, supervision, or assistance for a therapy dog.

**Authorized Area(s).** The Owner shall only allow the therapy dog to be in areas in school buildings or on school property that are authorized by school district administrators.

**Insurance.** The Owner must submit a copy of an insurance policy that provides liability coverage for the therapy dog while on school property.

**Exclusion or Removal from School.** A therapy dog may be excluded from school property and buildings if a school administrator determines that:

- (1) A handler does not have control of the therapy dog;
- (2) The therapy dog is not housebroken;
- (3) The therapy dog presents a direct and immediate threat to others in the school; or
- (4) The animal's presence otherwise interferes with the educational process.

The Owner shall be required to remove the therapy dog from school premises immediately upon such a determination.

**Allergic Reactions.** If any student or school employee assigned to a classroom in which a therapy dog is permitted suffers an allergic reaction to the therapy dog, the Owner of the animal will be required to remove the animal to a different location designated by an administrator.

**Damages to School Property and Injuries.** The Owner of a therapy dog is solely responsible and liable for any damage to school property or injury to personnel, students, or others caused by the therapy dog.

**Therapy dog in Training.** This policy shall also be applicable to therapy dogs in training that are accompanied by a bona fide trainer.

Adopted on: July 18<sup>th</sup>, 2016

Revised on: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_



**5062**  
**Lice and Nits**

Students found to have head lice, louse eggs, or nits will not be permitted at school and will be sent home. Upon discovering the presence of any indication of lice, louse eggs, or nits, the student's parent(s) or guardian(s) will be notified, and if appropriate will be asked to pick up the student from school immediately.

Students will not be permitted to return to school until the district finds that no live lice, eggs, or nits can be detected. The parent(s) or guardian(s) will be required to treat the student and accompany the student to school to be examined.

The student cannot ride the school bus until the district has cleared the student to return to school.

Adopted on: July 18<sup>th</sup>, 2016

Revised on: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_

**5063**  
**Recording Policy**

Students are prohibited from making audio or video recordings on school grounds, in a vehicle owned, leased, or contracted by a school being used for a school purpose by a school employee or by his or her designee, or at a school-sponsored activity or athletic event except as provided in this policy or as otherwise required by law.

**Classroom Recordings.** Students may make audio recordings of classroom lectures, discussions, or activities:

- (1) For their convenience after providing notice to the classroom teacher and receiving the teacher's permission;
- (2) For the benefit of another student who is absent after providing notice to the classroom teacher and receiving the teacher's permission;
- (3) If recording is necessary to accommodate the student's disability and is required by the student's Individualized Education Plan (IEP) or Section 504 Plan.

Students and their parents or guardians should assume that any class in which students are enrolled may be recorded by the school district or other students.

**Non-classroom Recordings.** Students may make audio or video recordings pursuant to this policy outside the classroom only with the permission of a teacher or school administrator, provided that such recordings otherwise comply with any applicable state and federal laws.

Adopted on: July 18<sup>th</sup>, 2016

Revised on: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_

**5064**

**Title I Supplement, Not Supplant Policy**

The district will use Title I funds to Supplement, Not Supplant, state and local funds that would, in the absence of Title I funds, be spent on Title I programs. The district will ensure that Title I funds will not be used to provide services which otherwise take the place of public education services that are to be provided to all students.

The district maintains records of the professional development provided at the district level that is funded with Title I funds. The Superintendent will ensure that professional development is aligned with the needs of the district's Title I programs. Title I professional development will not duplicate that which the district provides for non-Title I purposes which, in the absence of Title I funds, would be provided to all staff.

Adopted on: July 18<sup>th</sup>, 2016

Revised on: \_\_\_\_\_

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 not be excluded from school the day of the diagnosis unless the student has been diagnosed previously and attempts at treatment have failed. No healthy child should be excluded from or allowed to miss school time because of bed bugs unless efforts to remedy an infestation have been unsuccessful.

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: July 18<sup>th</sup>, 2016

Revised on: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_

## 5065 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: July 18<sup>th</sup>, 2016

Revised on: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_

## **6000 Series Policies**

### **Policies Regarding Curricular and Academic Matters**

|      |   |
|------|---|
| 6001 | School Organization                               |
| 6002 | School Calendar                                   |
| 6003 | Instructional Program                             |
| 6004 | Curriculum Development                            |
| 6005 | Academic Credits and Graduation                   |
| 6006 | Commencement Ceremony                             |
| 6007 | Senior Recognition                                |
| 6008 | Class Rank  |
| 6009 | Grade Placement of Transfer Students              |
| 6010 | Special Education                                 |
| 6011 | Fire Inspection and Prevention                    |
| 6012 | Flag Display and Patriotic Observances            |
| 6013 | Teaching Controversial Issues                     |
| 6014 | School Attendance on Days of Scheduled Activities |
| 6015 | Summer School                                     |
| 6016 | Homebound Instruction                             |
| 6017 | Homework  |
| 6018 | Grades  |
| 6019 | Communication with Parents                        |
| 6020 | Multi-Cultural Education                          |

- 6021 District Criteria for Selecting Evaluators to be Used for Special Education Evaluation and Verification and Independent Educational Evaluations
- 6022 Section 504 Grievance Procedure
- 6024 Student Discipline
- 6026 Emergency Dismissal
- 6027 Field Trips
- 6028 The Extracurricular Activities Program
- 6029 Activity Trips
- 6030 Public Appearances of School Groups
- 6031 Emergency Exclusion Procedure
- 6032 Constitution Day Education
- 6033 Seclusion and Restraint of Students
- 6034 Concussion Awareness













**6006**  
**Commencement Ceremony**

The district shall conduct a commencement ceremony for members of the senior class at the end of the school year. Participation in the ceremony is a privilege, not a right, and the superintendent or his/her designee may prohibit students who have violated conduct rules from participating in the ceremony as a consequence for the misconduct.

Only those students who have completed all graduation requirements (i.e., completed the required coursework or achieved the goals set in the student's individual education plan) will be allowed to participate in commencement exercises.

Adopted on: May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2016  
Revised on: \_\_\_\_\_  
Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_

**6007**  
**Senior Recognition**

The school district will recognize the outstanding academic achievement of its graduating seniors in the following manner:

Valedictorian and Salutatorian. If there is more than one Valedictorian, Salutatorian will not be recognized.

Adopted on: May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2016

Revised on: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_





## **6009**

### **Grade Placement of Transfer Students**

Subject to a determination on grade placement based on the criteria set forth below, a student transferring from an accredited school will generally be placed at the grade level that is comparable to the placement in the school from which the student is transferring. Temporary placement may be made until a student's records are received to verify the placement.

#### **Elementary Level Students**

The appropriate level of placement for elementary level students may be determined by, but not limited to, consideration of the following information:

- Chronological age.
- Previous public school or private school experience.
- Diagnostic test data.
- Achievement test data.
- Criterion referenced test data.
- Parental recommendation.

#### **Secondary Level Students**

The appropriate level of placement for secondary students may be determined by, but not limited to, consideration of the following information:

- Chronological age.
- Previous public school or private school experience.
- Standardized achievement test data.
- Criterion referenced test data.
- Final examination test data.
- Diagnostic test data.

A student transferring into the school district in grades 9-12 will be responsible for meeting all graduation requirements to earn a high school diploma. Credits earned in grades 9-12 at an accredited school will be counted toward high school graduation requirements.

Students who transfer from a home school and/or a non-accredited school may be awarded credits to be counted toward high school graduation requirements at the discretion of the building principal in consultation with the superintendent of schools. The principal will consider all of the factors listed above and will also consider the student's performance on the district's internal benchmark tests.

The district administration, in conjunction with the building principal, will determine the appropriate grade level/credit status of a student transferring from a foreign country.

Adopted on: May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2016

Revised on: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_







## **6013**

### **Teaching Controversial Issues**

The ability to discuss, listen, and dissent are essential elements of responsible citizenship. The school district encourages students to develop skills in analyzing issues, respecting the opinion of others, distinguishing between fact and opinion, considering all pertinent factors in reaching decisions, and arriving at group decisions.

Teachers may teach or lead discussions about controversial issues if they comply with the following criteria:

1. The issues discussed must be relevant to the curriculum and be part of a planned educational program.
2. Students must have free access to appropriate materials and information for analysis and evaluation of the issues.
3. The teacher must encourage students to consider and discuss a variety of viewpoints.
4. The topic and materials used must be within the range, knowledge, maturity, and competence of the students.
5. The teacher must inform parents and the building principal before discussing sensitive or controversial issues.
6. The teacher must keep detailed, documentary evidence to prove that both sides and/or all facts available were presented.
7. Teachers must refrain from advocating partisan causes, sectarian religious views, or selfish propaganda of any kind through any classroom or a school device; however, a teacher shall not be prohibited from expressing a personal opinion as long as the student is encouraged to reach his/her own decision independently.

Teachers who are unsure of their obligations under this policy must confer with their principal prior to discussing controversial issues in the classroom.

Adopted on: May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2016

Revised on: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_





**6015  
Summer School**

The school district may conduct a summer school program to provide additional educational opportunities for students who need remedial instruction and/or to enrich students' educational experiences. Students may earn credit toward high school graduation that may result in a revision of class placement in the high school, but such advance placement is not guaranteed.

Adopted on: May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2016  
Revised on: \_\_\_\_\_  
Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_



**6017  
Homework**

Homework consists of assignments made by teachers that students must complete during non-class time. Homework is intended to ensure student learning of certain concepts and/or skills found in the written and taught curriculum.

Teachers are encouraged to assign homework and must use their professional judgment in determining the length, difficulty, and student readiness to proceed with homework assignments.

Adopted on: May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2016  
Revised on: \_\_\_\_\_  
Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_







**6021**

**District Criteria for Selecting Evaluators to be Used for Special Education Evaluation and Verification and Independent Educational Evaluations**

The following criteria shall be used for selecting evaluators according to 92 Nebraska Administrative Code 51-006.07B:

1. Those in-state service agencies that have approved rates for the current year established by the Nebraska Department of Education. A list of service agencies with approved rates, including state agencies, individual providers, and in-state providers may be found at [www.nde.state.ne.us](http://www.nde.state.ne.us).
2. Those Nebraska providers located within 100 miles of the school district.

Adopted on: \_\_\_\_\_

Revised on: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_





**6024**  
**STUDENT DISCIPLINE**

Administrative and teaching personnel may take actions regarding student behavior, other than those specifically provided in this policy and the Student Discipline Act, which are reasonably necessary to aid the student, further school purposes, or prevent interference with the educational process. Such actions may include, but need not be limited to, counseling of students, parent conferences, rearrangement of schedules, requirements that a student remain in school after regular hours to do additional work, restriction of extracurricular activity, or requirements that a student receive counseling, psychological evaluation, or psychiatric evaluation upon the written consent of a parent or guardian to such counseling or evaluation. Disciplinary consequences may also include in-school suspension, Saturday School, and any other consequence authorized by law. District administrators may develop building-specific protocols for the imposition of student discipline.

In this policy, references to "Principal" shall include building principals, the principal's designee, or other appropriate school district administrators.

Any statement, notice, recommendation, determination, or similar action specified in this policy shall be effectively given at the time written evidence thereof is delivered personally to or upon receipt of certified or registered mail or upon actual knowledge by a student or his or her parent or guardian.

Any student who is suspended or expelled from school pursuant to this policy may not participate in any school activity during the duration of that exclusion including adjacent school holidays and weekends. The student activity eligibility of a student who is mandatorily reassigned shall be determined on a case-by-case basis by the principal of the building to which the student is reassigned.

**Short-Term Suspension**

The Principal may exclude students from school or any school function for a period of up to five school days (short-term suspension) on the following grounds:

1. Conduct constituting grounds for expulsion as hereinafter set forth; or,
2. Other violations of rules and standards of behavior adopted by the Board of Education or the administrative or teaching staff of the school, that occur on or off school grounds, if such conduct interferes with school purposes or there is a connection between such conduct and school.

The following process applies to short-term suspension:

1. The Principal shall make a reasonable investigation of the facts and circumstances. Short-term suspension shall be imposed only after a determination that the suspension is necessary to help any student, to further school purposes, or to prevent an interference with school purposes.
2. Prior to commencement of the short-term suspension, the student will be given oral or written notice of the charges against the student. The student will be advised of what he or she is accused of having done, be given an explanation of the evidence the authorities have, and be given an opportunity to explain the student's version of the facts.
3. Within 24 hours or such additional time as is reasonably necessary following the suspension, the Principal will send a written statement to the student, and the student's parent or guardian, describing the student's conduct, misconduct or violation of the rule or standard and the reasons for the action taken. An opportunity will be given to the student, and the student's parent or guardian, to have a conference with the Principal ordering the short-term suspension before or at the time the student returns to school. The Principal shall determine who, in addition to the parent or guardian, is to attend the conference.
4. Students who are short-term suspended will be given the opportunity to complete classwork, including but not limited to examinations.

### **Emergency Exclusion**

Students may be emergency excluded from school pursuant to the board's separate policy on emergency exclusion or state law.

### **Weapons and/or Firearms**

Students may be disciplined for the possession of weapons and/or firearms pursuant to the board's separate policy on weapons and firearms or state law.

### **Long-Term Suspension**

Students may be excluded by the Principal from school or any school function for a period of more than five school days but less 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 or guardian. This review shall be limited to newly discovered evidence or evidence of changes in the student's circumstances occurring since the original hearing. This review may lead to a recommendation by the hearing officer that the student be readmitted for the upcoming school year. If the school board or board of education or a committee of such board took the final action to expel the student, the student may be readmitted only by action of the board. Otherwise the student may be readmitted by action of the Superintendent.
3. **Suspension of Enforcement of an Expulsion:** Enforcement of an expulsion action may be suspended (i.e., "stayed") for a period of not more than one full semester in addition to the balance of the semester in which the expulsion takes effect, and as a condition of such suspended action, the student may be assigned to a school, class, or program/plan and to such other consequences which the school district deems appropriate.
4. **Alternative School or Pre-expulsion Procedures.** The school shall either provide an alternative school, class or educational program for expelled students or shall follow the pre-expulsion procedures outlined in NEB. REV. STAT. 79-266.

## **Grounds for Long-Term Suspension, Expulsion or Mandatory Reassignment:**

The following conduct constitutes grounds for long-term suspension, expulsion, or mandatory reassignment, subject to the procedural provisions of the Student Discipline Act, NEB. REV. STAT. § 79-254 through 79-296, when such activity occurs on school grounds, in a vehicle owned, leased, or contracted by a school being used for a school purpose or in a vehicle being driven for a school purpose by a school employee or by his or her designee, or at a school-sponsored activity or athletic event:

1. Use of violence, force, coercion, threat, intimidation, or similar conduct in a manner that constitutes a substantial interference with school purposes;
2. Willfully causing or attempting to cause substantial damage to property, stealing or attempting to steal property of substantial value, or repeated damage or theft involving property;
3. Causing or attempting to cause personal injury to a school employee, to a school volunteer, or to any student. Personal injury caused by accident, self-defense, or other action undertaken on the reasonable belief that it was necessary to protect some other person shall not constitute a violation of this subdivision;
4. Threatening or intimidating any student for the purpose of or with the intent of obtaining money or anything of value from such student;
5. Knowingly possessing, handling, or transmitting any object or material that is ordinarily or generally considered a weapon (*see also board policy on weapons and firearms*);
6. Engaging in the unlawful possession, selling, dispensing, or use of a controlled substance or an imitation controlled substance, as defined in section 28-401, a substance represented to be a controlled substance, or alcoholic liquor as defined in section 53-103.02 or being under the influence of a controlled substance or alcoholic liquor (*note: the term "under the influence" for school purposes has a less strict meaning than it does under criminal law; for school purposes, the term means any level of impairment and includes even the odor of alcohol on the breath or person of a student; also, it includes being impaired by reason of the abuse of any material used as a stimulant*);
7. Public indecency as defined in section 28-806, except that this prohibition shall apply only to students at least twelve years of age but less than nineteen years of age;
8. Engaging in bullying as defined in section 79-2,137 and in these policies;
9. Sexually assaulting or attempting to sexually assault any person if a complaint has been filed by a prosecutor in a court of competent jurisdiction alleging that the student has sexually assaulted or attempted to

- sexually assault any person, including sexual assaults or attempted sexual assaults which occur off school grounds not at a school function, activity, or event. For purposes of this subdivision, sexual assault means sexual assault in the first degree as defined in section 28-319, sexual assault in the second degree as defined in section 28-320, sexual assault of a child in the second or third degree as defined in section 28-320.01, or sexual assault of a child in the first degree as defined in section 28-319.01, as such sections now provide or may hereafter from time to time be amended;
10. Engaging in any other activity forbidden by the laws of the State of Nebraska which activity constitutes a danger to other students or interferes with school purposes; or
  11. A repeated violation of any of the following rules if such violations constitute a substantial interference with school purposes:
    - a. The use of language, written or oral, or conduct, including gestures, which is profane or abusive to students or staff members. Profane or abusive language or conduct includes, but is not limited to, that which is commonly understood and intended to be derogatory toward a group or individual based upon race, gender, national origin, or religion;
    - b. Dressing or grooming in a manner which violates the school district's dress code and/or is dangerous to the student's health and safety, a danger to the health and safety of others, or which is disruptive, distracting or indecent to the extent that it interferes with the learning and educational process;
    - c. Violating school bus rules as set by the school district or district staff;
    - d. Possessing, using, selling, or dispensing tobacco, drug paraphernalia, or a tobacco imitation substance or packaging, regardless of form, including cigarettes, chewing tobacco, and any other form of tobacco or imitation, such as electronic cigarettes, vapor pens, etc.;
    - e. Possessing, using, selling, or dispensing any drug paraphernalia or imitation of a controlled substance regardless of whether the actual substance possessed is a controlled substance by Nebraska law;
    - f. Possession of pornography;
    - g. Sexting or the possession of sexting images (a combination of sex and texting - the act of sending sexually explicit messages or photos electronically);
    - h. Engaging in 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 cyber-bullying, defined as the use of the internet, including but not limited to social networking sites such as Facebook, cell phones or other devices to send, post or text message images and material intended to hurt or embarrass another person. This may include, but is not limited to; continuing to send e-mail to someone who has said they want no further contact with the sender; sending or posting threats, sexual remarks or pejorative labels (i.e., hate speech); ganging up on victims by making them the subject of ridicule in forums, and posting false statements as fact intended to humiliate the victim; disclosure of personal data, such as the victim's real name, address, or school at websites or forums; posing as the identity of the victim for the purpose of publishing material in their name that defames or ridicules them; sending threatening and harassing text, instant messages or emails to the victims; and posting or sending rumors or gossip to instigate others to dislike and gang up on the target;
- j. Violation of the district's acceptable computer use policy are subject to discipline, up to and including expulsion; and
- k. Any other violation of a rule or regulation established by a school district staff member pursuant to authority delegated by the board.

### **Due Process Afforded to Students Facing Long-term Suspension or Expulsion**

The following procedures shall be followed regarding any long-term suspension, expulsion or mandatory reassignment

1. On the date of the decision to discipline, the Principal shall file with the Superintendent a written charge and a summary of the evidence supporting such charge.
2. The Principal shall serve the student and the student's parents or guardian with a written notice by registered or certified mail or personal service within two school days of the date of the decision to recommend long-term suspension or expulsion. The notice shall include the following:
  - a. The rule or standard of conduct allegedly violated and the acts of the student alleged to constitute a cause for long-term suspension,

- expulsion, or mandatory reassignment, including a summary of the evidence to be presented against the student;
- b. The penalty, if any, which the principal has recommended in the charge and any other penalty to which the student may be subject;
  - c. A statement that, before long-term suspension, expulsion, or mandatory reassignment for disciplinary purposes can be invoked, the student has a right to a hearing, upon request, on the specified charges;
  - d. A description of the hearing procedures provided by the act, along with procedures for appealing any decision rendered at the hearing;
  - e. A statement that the principal, legal counsel for the school, the student, the student's parent, or the student's representative or guardian has the right (i) to examine the student's academic and disciplinary records and any affidavits to be used at the hearing concerning the alleged misconduct and (ii) to know the identity of the witnesses to appear at the hearing and the substance of their testimony; and
  - f. A form on which the student, the student's parent, or the student's guardian may request a hearing, to be signed by such parties and delivered to the principal or superintendent in person or by registered or certified mail.
3. When a notice of intent to discipline a student by long-term suspension, expulsion, or mandatory reassignment is filed with the superintendent, the student may be suspended by the principal until the date the long-term suspension, expulsion, or mandatory reassignment takes effect if no hearing is requested or, if a hearing is requested, the date the hearing examiner makes the report of his or her findings and a recommendation of the action to be taken to the superintendent, if the principal determines that the student must be suspended immediately to prevent or substantially reduce the risk of (a) interference with an educational function or school purpose or (b) a personal injury to the student himself or herself, other students, school employees, or school volunteers.
  4. Nothing in this policy shall preclude the student, student's parents, guardian or representative from discussing and settling the matter with appropriate school personnel prior to the hearing stage.

5. If a hearing is requested within five days after receipt of the notice, the Superintendent shall appoint a hearing officer who shall follow the "hearing procedures" outlined below.
6. If a hearing is requested more than five school days following the receipt of the written notice, but not more than thirty calendar days after receipt, the Superintendent shall appoint a hearing officer who shall follow the "hearing procedures" outlined below, except that the time constraints set forth may differ as provided by law and this policy. The student shall be entitled to a hearing but the consequence imposed may continue in effect pending final determination.
7. If a request for hearing is not received within thirty calendar days following the mailing or delivery of the written notice, the student shall not be entitled to a hearing.

In the event a hearing is requested, the hearing, hearing procedures, the student's rights and any appeals or judicial review permitted by law shall be governed by the applicable provisions of the Nebraska Student Discipline Act (NEB. REV. STAT. § 79-254 to 79-294). The school district will provide parents with copies of the relevant statutes upon request.

Adopted on: May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2016  
Revised on: \_\_\_\_\_  
Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_







## 6028

### The Extracurricular Activities Program

#### 1. General Purpose

- a. The extracurricular program includes noncurricular activities which are sponsored by the school district. These activities include sports, speech, plays, Future Farmers of America, music performance groups and other activities which are sponsored by the school.
- b. Extracurricular activities are an important part of the total school experience, but are secondary to the academic program and must be kept in that perspective.
- c. Extracurricular activities **do not** include:
  - i. co-curricular activities such as band and choir, in which students must participate as part of the requirements for enrollment in and receiving a grade for a particular course.
  - ii. student-initiated, non-curriculum related student groups which are permitted to hold meetings and events on school premises. These groups are not school-sponsored and are not governed by this policy or other policies and rules governing extracurricular groups.

#### 2. Governance

- a. All extracurricular activities shall be under the exclusive governance and control of the school district. This control includes, but is not be limited to, the formation, naming, structure, operation, financing, and discontinuance of all extracurricular activities. Extracurricular activities shall not have any separate or individual existence, status, rights, or authority.
- b. Students and sponsors will be governed by all board's policies and administrative rules including the policy on field trips when traveling for extracurricular activities.

#### 3. Student Eligibility

- a. Students are encouraged to participate in extracurricular activities.

Participation shall be open to and limited to all students who are currently enrolled in the school district on a voluntary basis.

- b. Extracurricular activities may establish academic or course enrollment qualifications for participation if such qualifications are necessarily related to the purposes of the activity.
- c. Standards for scholastic eligibility for students wishing to participate in extracurricular activities shall be set by the administration and shall be consistent with at least the minimum standards provided by the NSAA.
- d. All students in grades 7-12 who participate in athletics must have a physical examination by a qualified health care provider at the student's expense.
- e. Students who wish to participate in extracurricular activities must abide by the student code of conduct, the extracurricular code of conduct and any additional rules set by the activity sponsor.
- f. Students are not eligible to participate in any extracurricular activity until they and their parents/guardians have signed the student handbook and extracurricular handbook receipt and acknowledgement.

#### 4. **Sponsors**

- a. Each extracurricular activity must have a sponsor who is a member of the district's certificated staff or a selected community volunteer who is qualified by virtue of education, training, experience, or special interest to serve as the sponsor.
- b. The superintendent or his/her designee will assign activity sponsors. Payment to sponsors will be negotiated with the sponsor based on the terms of any applicable collective bargaining agreement, the sponsor's training and experience and any other lawful criteria. Sponsors serve in their capacity as a sponsor at the will of the superintendent, who is specifically empowered to remove an activity sponsor in the superintendent's sole discretion.
- c. Sponsors shall be required to: develop materials, activities, and a budget; promote membership and participation; communicate with







## **6031 Emergency Exclusion**

### **Grounds for Emergency Exclusion**

Any student may be excluded from school in the following circumstances subject to the procedural provisions governing short term suspension found elsewhere in these policies or state law:

(a) If the student has a dangerous communicable disease transmissible through normal school contacts and poses an imminent threat to the health or safety of the school community; or

(b) If the student's conduct presents a clear threat to the physical safety of himself, herself, or others, or is so extremely disruptive as to make temporary removal necessary to preserve the rights of other students to pursue an education.

Any emergency exclusion shall be based upon a clear factual situation warranting it and shall last no longer than is necessary to avoid the dangers that prompted the exclusion.

### **Extension of Exclusion**

In the event it is appropriate to consider the extension of an emergency exclusion (exclusion) of a student for more than five school days. Pursuant to the Student Discipline Act, the principal has the authority to exclude a student from school for five school days on an emergency basis. If the superintendent or superintendent's designee determines that it is appropriate to consider the extension of an exclusion beyond five days, such consideration shall be considered according to the procedures set forth below.

**Notification of Student's Parent(s) or Guardian(s).** The superintendent or the superintendent's designee shall notify the student's parent(s) or guardian(s) that the principal has proposed the extension of the exclusion. If the initial notice is oral, the superintendent shall confirm it in writing.

**Opportunity to Request a Hearing.** The student's parent(s) or guardian(s) may submit an oral request for a hearing on the proposed extension of the exclusion within two school days of receiving the initial notice. If the initial



request for a hearing is oral, they shall confirm the request in writing.

**Failure to Request a Hearing.** If the parent(s) or guardian(s) do not request a hearing within two school days of receiving oral or written notice, the proposed extension of the exclusion shall automatically go into effect.

**Appointment and Qualifications of a Hearing Examiner.** If the parent(s) or guardian(s) request a hearing, the superintendent shall appoint a hearing examiner upon receiving a request for a hearing. The hearing examiner may be any person who did not bring charges against the student, is not to be a witness at the hearing, and has no involvement in the charge.

**Hearing Examiner's Notice to Parent(s) or Guardian(s).** The hearing examiner shall promptly give written notice of the time, date and place of the hearing. The hearing will be held within five school days after the school district receives the initial oral or written request; provided, the hearing may be held more than five school days after receipt of the request upon a showing of good cause. No hearing will be held on less than two (2) school days' notice unless otherwise agreed to by the student's parent(s) or guardian(s) and school officials.

**Continued Exclusion.** If a hearing is requested, the principal may determine in his or her sole discretion that the student shall remain excluded from school until the hearing officer makes a recommendation to the superintendent.

**Examination of Student's Records and Affidavits.** Prior to the hearing, the student and his/her parent(s) or guardian(s) shall have the right to examine and have school officials explain the student's records and any affidavits that will be used by school officials at the hearing.

**Attendance at Hearing.** The hearing may be attended by the hearing examiner, the principal (or designee), the student, and the student's parents or guardian(s). The student may be represented at this hearing by a representative of the family's choice.

**Student's Witness(es).** The student and his/her parent(s) or guardian(s) may ask any person with knowledge of the events leading up to the sanction or with general knowledge of the student's character to testify on behalf of the student. If school personnel or other students are requested to testify by the

student's parent(s) or guardian(s), the hearing officer shall endeavor to help obtain the presence of such witnesses at the hearing.

**Right to Know Issues and Nature of Testimony.** The student and his/her parent(s) or guardian(s) have the right to request in advance of the hearing the issues which the administration will propose in support of the extension, and the general nature of the testimony of any administrative or expert witnesses.

**Presence of Student and Witnesses at the Hearing.** The student and witnesses may be excluded at the discretion of the hearing examiner in accordance with state statutes. The student may speak in his/her own defense and may be questioned on such testimony, but may choose not to testify.

**Sworn or Affirmed Testimony.** The principal or his or her designee shall present evidence supporting the recommended extension of the exclusion. Witnesses will give testimony under oath of affirmation, and may be questioned.

**Hearing Examiner's Report and Recommendations.** The hearing examiner shall prepare a report of his or her findings and recommendations, and forward the report to the superintendent.

**Superintendent's Decision.** The superintendent will review the hearing examiner's report and determine whether to extend the exclusion. He or she shall have the decision delivered or sent by registered or certified mail to the student, student's parent(s), or guardian(s). If the superintendent decides to extend the exclusion, the extension will take effect immediately.

Adopted on: May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2016  
Revised on: \_\_\_\_\_  
Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_



## 6033

### Restraint and Seclusion of Students

Restraint and seclusion are behavioral interventions, not educational techniques. They are limited to exigent circumstances and situations that necessitate their use to protect the safety of the student, other students, staff and property. When used as safety intervention, they should be used as methods of last resort. When used as behavior intervention, they must be used according to the terms of this policy.

This policy does not cover interventions such as voice control, limited to loud, firm commands; time-limited ignoring of specific behaviors; brief physical prompts to interrupt or prevent a specific behavior; physical interventions which a student's health care provider has indicated are medically necessary for the treatment or protection of the individual; or other similar interventions.

#### I. Seclusion

##### A. Definition

1. Seclusion is a last resort emergency safety intervention that provides an opportunity for the student to regain self-control. Seclusion is the confinement of a student in a room or other space from which the student is physically prevented from leaving and which provides for continuous adult observation of the student.
2. A room or area used for seclusion:
  - a. must not be locked;
  - b. must not prevent the student from exiting the area should staff become incapacitated or leave that area;
  - c. must provide for adequate space, lighting, ventilation, viewing, and the safety of the student.

##### B. Timeout

1. Timeout is a behavior intervention in which a student, for a limited and specified time, is placed in an environment where access to positive reinforcement is unavailable.

2. Timeout should not be confused with seclusion because a student's movement in a timeout setting is not physically restricted.
  3. Timeout lies within a continuum of procedures that help students self-regulate and control their behavior.
- C. Seclusion is inappropriate for students who are severely self-injurious or suicidal.
- D. Time and Duration
1. Emergency seclusion should be used only as long as necessary to allow a student to regain control of his/her behavior, but generally:
    - a) Elementary school students – no longer than 15 minutes; and
    - b) Middle and high school students – no longer than 20 minutes.
    - c) If an emergency seclusion lasts longer than the suggested maximum time, the staff member should:
      - (1) summon additional support (e.g., change of staff, introducing a nurse or specialist, obtaining additional expertise); and
      - (2) document the need to explain the extension beyond the time limit.

E. Staff Requirements

While using seclusion, staff must:

1. involve appropriately-trained key identified personnel to protect the care, welfare, dignity, and safety of the student;
2. continually observe the student in seclusion for indications of physical distress and seek medical assistance if there is a concern; and
3. document observations.

## II. Restraint

There are three types of restraint: physical, chemical, and mechanical.

- A. Physical restraint involves direct physical contact that prevents or significantly restricts a student's movement.
  - 1. Restraint is a last resort emergency safety intervention. Restraint is an opportunity for the student to regain self-control.
  - 2. This policy on physical restraint is not intended to forbid actions undertaken:
    - a. to break up a fight
    - b. to take a weapon away from a student
    - c. to hold a student briefly in order to calm or comfort
    - d. to escort a student physically from one area to another location within the school building
    - e. to assist a student in completing a task/response if the student does not resist or resistance is minimal in intensity or duration.
    - f. to hold a student briefly in order to prevent an impulsive behavior that threatens the student's immediate safety (e.g., running in front of a car).
  
- B. Chemical restraint is the administration of medication for the purpose of restraint.
  - 1. The school district will not, under any circumstances, engage in chemical restraint.
  - 2. Chemical restraint does not apply to medication prescribed by and administered in accordance with the directions of a physician.
  
- C. Mechanical restraint means the use of any device or material attached to or adjacent to a student's body that restricts normal freedom of movement and which cannot be easily removed by a student.
  - 1. Mechanical restraint does not include:
    - a. an adaptive or protective device recommended by a physician or therapist (when it is used as recommended).
    - b. safety equipment used by the general student population as intended (for example, seat belts, safety harness on school transportation).

### III. Limitations in Use

- A. Seclusion and/or restraint shall not be used:
  - 1. for the convenience of staff;

2. as a substitute for an educational program; or
3. as a form of discipline/punishment.

IV. Recurring Behavior

- A. If a pattern of behavior emerges, or is anticipated, which may require the use of emergency seclusion, the school personnel must:
  1. conduct a functional behavioral assessment;
  2. call a meeting of the student's IEP team to develop or revise a positive behavior intervention plan to facilitate the reduction or elimination of the use of seclusion and/or restraint
  
- B. Given the limited size and training of the school district's staff, students whose behavior routinely requires seclusion and restraint may not be able to be served in the school district and may require a placement out of the school district.

V. Prohibited Practices

- A. The following are prohibited under all circumstances, including emergency situations:
  1. corporal punishment;
  2. the deprivation of basic needs;
  3. anything that constitutes child abuse;
  4. the seclusion of preschool children; and
  5. the intentional application of any noxious substance(s) or stimuli which result in physical pain or extreme discomfort

Adopted on: May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2016

Revised on: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_

## 6034

### Concussion Awareness

The Nebraska Unicameral has found that concussions are one of the “most commonly reported injuries in children and adolescents who participate in sports and recreational activities and that the risk of catastrophic injury or death is significant when a concussion or brain injury is not properly evaluated and managed.”

The School District will:

- a. Require all coaches and trainers to complete one of the following on-line courses on how to recognize the symptoms of a concussion or brain injury and how to seek proper medical treatment for a concussion or brain injury:
  - Heads UP Concussions in Youth Sports
  - Concussion in Sports—What You Need to Know
  - Sports Safety International
  - ConcussionWise
  - ACTive™ Athletic Concussion Training for Coaches; and
- b. On an annual basis provide concussion and brain injury information to students and their parents or guardians prior to such students initiating practice or competition. This information will include:
  - 1 The signs and symptoms of a concussion;
  - 2 The risks posed by sustaining a concussion; and
  - 3 The actions a student should take in response to sustaining a concussion, including the notification of his or her coaches.

A student who participates on a school athletic team must be removed from a practice or game when he/she is reasonably suspected of having sustained a concussion or brain injury in such practice or game after observation by a coach or a licensed health care professional who is professionally affiliated with or contracted by the school. The student will not be permitted to participate in any school supervised team athletic activities involving physical exertion, including practices or games, until the student:



- a. has been evaluated by a licensed health care professional;
- b. has received written and signed clearance to resume participation in athletic activities from the licensed health care professional; and
- c. has submitted the written and signed clearance to resume participation in athletic activities to the school accompanied by written permission to resume participation from the student's parent or guardian.

If a student is reasonably suspected after observation of having sustained a concussion or brain injury and is removed from an athletic activity, the parent or guardian of the student will be notified by the school of:

- a. the date and approximate time of the injury suffered by the student,
- b. the signs and symptoms of a concussion or brain injury that were observed, and
- c. any actions taken to treat the student.

The school district will not provide for the presence of a licensed health care professional at any practice or game.

School officials shall deem the signature of an individual who represents that he/she is a licensed health care professional on a written clearance to resume participation that is provided to the school to be conclusive and reliable evidence that the individual who signed the clearance is a licensed health care professional. The school will not take any additional or independent steps to verify the individual's qualifications.

Students who have sustained a concussion and returned to school may need informal or formal accommodations, modifications of curriculum, and monitoring by medical or academic staff until the student is fully recovered. The school's "return to learn protocol" shall be the guidance provided by the Nebraska Department of Education entitled "Bridging the Gap from Concussion to the Classroom," and accompanying materials and future supplements. Nothing in this policy or the referenced protocol shall entitle a student who has sustained a concussion to an individualized plan under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act,

although staff will refer students who have sustained a concussion for evaluation under Section 504 as appropriate.

Adopted on: May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2016

Revised on: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_