

# BRIDGEPORT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



## STUDENT HANDBOOK 2023-2024

*BPS Mission Statement:*

*“Dedicated to providing opportunities to generate success for all.”*

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This section contains forms that must be returned no later than August 25th, 2023. Please submit these forms to the elementary office upon completion of reading the student handbook.

## WELCOME

Dear Students and Parents:

On behalf of the faculty, administration and board of education, we welcome you to another school year. We are looking forward to helping your children reach their learning potential and achieve their educational goals in the upcoming year.

**Please read this handbook carefully. Students and their parents are responsible for knowing the rules, regulations, and procedures covered in this handbook. The student handbook is an extension of school policies and has the force and effect of board policy when approved by the board of education.**

**There are several forms at the end of this handbook which you must read, sign and return no later than August 25th, 2023.**

This handbook contains information of value to every student and parent. It contains explanations of school regulations and procedures necessary for our school to run smoothly and efficiently. If you are ever in doubt about what is the right thing to do, ask a classroom teacher, speak with the building principal, or contact our office.

Sincerely,

*James Simmons*

Elementary Principal  
jsimmons@bpsbulldogs.org

School Website:  
<https://www.bpsbulldogs.org/>  
Office: 308-262-1574

## **Intent of Handbook**

This handbook is intended to be used by students, parents and staff as a guide to the rules, procedures, and general information about this school district. Students and their parents must become familiar with the handbook, and parents should use it as a resource and assist their children in following the rules contained in it. The use of the word "parents" refers to any adult who has the responsibility for making education-related decisions about a child, including, but not limited to biological parents, adoptive parents, legal guardians, and adults acting in loco parentis.

Although the information in this handbook is detailed and specific on many topics, it is not intended to be all-encompassing or to cover every situation and circumstance that may arise during a school day or school year. This handbook does not create a "contract" with parents, students or staff, and the administration may make decisions and rule revisions at any time to implement the educational program and to assure the well-being of all students. The administration is responsible for interpreting the rules contained in the handbook. If a situation or circumstance arises that is not specifically covered in this handbook, the administration will make a decision based on applicable school district policies, and state and federal statutes and regulations.

## **Notice of Non-Discrimination**

This school district does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, marital status, disability, or age or in admission or access to, or treatment of employment, in its programs and activities and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. Any person having inquiries concerning this school district's compliance with the regulations implementing Title VI, Title IX, or Section 504 is directed to contact Superintendent Schlothauer in writing at Bridgeport Public Schools, PO Box 430, Bridgeport, NE 69336 or by telephone at (308) 262-1470. For

further assistance, you may also contact Office for Civil Rights (Kansas City Office), U.S. Department of Education, 8930 Ward Parkway, Suite 2037, Kansas City, MO 64114-3302, Telephone: 816-268-0550, FAX: 816-823-1404; TDD: 877-521-2172, Email: [OCR.KansasCity@ed.gov](mailto:OCR.KansasCity@ed.gov). Also see the "Discrimination and Harassment" section below.

## **District Title I Parent and Family Engagement Policy**

The school district will jointly develop with partners a School-Student Compact that outlines how the parents, school staff, and students will share the responsibility for improved academic achievement and the means by which the school and parents will build and develop a partnership to help children achieve the State's high standards.

The written District Parent and Family Engagement Policy will be jointly developed and distributed to parents and family members of participating children and the local community in an understandable format and to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand. An annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of the Parent and Family Engagement Policy will be used to design evidence-based strategies for more effective parental involvement, to revise the Parent and Family Engagement Policy, and to remove barriers to participation.

The school recognizes the unique needs of students who are being served in its Title I program, and the importance of family engagement in the Title I program. Parent and family engagement in the Title I program shall include, but is not limited to:

1. An annual meeting to which all parents and participating children will be invited to inform parents of their school's participation under this part, to explain the requirements of this part, and the right of the parents to be involved. Invitations may take the form of notes sent with students or announcements in the school newsletter. Additional

meetings may be scheduled, based upon need and interest for such meetings.

2. An explanation of the details for the child's and parents' participation, including but not limited to: curriculum objectives, the forms of academic assessment used to measure student progress and the achievement levels of the challenging State academic standards, type and extent of participation, parental input in educational decisions, coordination and integration with other Federal, State, and district programs, and evaluations of progress.
3. Opportunities for participation in parent involvement activities such as training to help parents work with their children to improve achievement. A goal of parent activities is to provide parents with opportunities to participate in decisions relating to the education of their students, where appropriate.
4. The district will, to the extent practicable, provide parents of limited English proficiency, parents with disabilities, parents with limited literacy, are economically disadvantaged, are of racial or minority background or parents of migratory children with opportunities for involvement in the Title I program. Communication to parents about student progress and the district's other Title I program communications will be provided in the language used in the home to the extent practicable. Responses to parent concerns will be provided in a timely manner.
5. Opportunities for parent-teacher conferences, in addition to those regularly scheduled by the school district, if requested by the parents or as deemed necessary by school district staff.
6. The district will coordinate and integrate parental involvement programs and activities with other programs in the community. These may include cooperation with other community programs such as Head Start and preschools and other community services such as the public library.
7. Educate teachers, specialized instructional support personnel, principals, and other school leaders, with the assistance of parents in

the value and utility of contributions of parents, how to reach out to, communicate with and work with parents as equal partners.

This policy shall be reviewed annually at the annual meeting where concerned parties can have a conversation about possible changes to the Parent and Family Engagement Policy.

## **SECTION ONE**

### **BASIC SCHOOL RULES AND GENERAL PRACTICES**

#### **Attendance**

##### **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 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.

### **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. Personal or family vacations

### **Excessive Absenteeism**

When a student receives 9 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 20 days per year or the hourly equivalent and any portion of the absences is unexcused, the Attendance Officer may/shall file a report with the county attorney of the county in which the student resides.

### **Absences due to illness**

The school district will contact parents if a student becomes ill at school. A student who is absent due to illness has two days for every day of absence to complete missed assignments.

### **Planned absences**

Parents who know in advance that a student will be absent must call the school or send a written note at the earliest possible date. Students who will be absent for reasons that can be anticipated, such as routine medical

appointments and school activities, must complete any work required by the teacher before the absence. Parents should make every attempt to schedule medical and other appointments after school hours when possible.

**Students are obligated to:**

- 1) complete all class work in advance for any absence that can be anticipated;
- 2) attend school a full day before attending practice or participating in a scheduled student activity except in cases of family emergencies or pre arranged absences;
- 3) check out of school at the office if leaving school during the school day; and
- 4) make up any and all work that is assigned by teachers as make-up work for the instructional time that has been missed.

**Parents are obligated to:**

- 1) call the appropriate building office to inform the school of the reason for each absence; and
- 2) submit a doctor's statement, if requested, for each period of absence due to illness that exceeds five days.

**Band**

Students may participate in the elementary band and begin taking band lessons in the 5th grade. Students in grades 7-8 may participate in the middle school band; grades 9-12 may participate in the high school band. Instruments will be provided by students or the school as provided by school policy. Fees may be charged as allowed or provided in the Public Elementary and Secondary Student Fee Authorization Act and the school's student fee policy or other applicable policy.

**Bills**

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. The superintendent will review outstanding checks issued from the school districts

### **Books and Supplies**

Students must take care of books and other supplies provided by the district. The school will assess fines for damage to books and school property.

Students must supply their own consumable items such as pens, pencils, tablets, notebooks, erasers, and crayons. Each classroom teacher will prepare a supply list for students at the beginning of the school year.

### **Bulletin Boards**

Bulletin boards are maintained throughout the building to communicate general information, material, and school announcements. Students should check the bulletin boards carefully each school day.

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.

## **Bullying**

Definition of Bullying: The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention defines bullying as “any unwanted aggressive behavior(s) by another youth or group of youths who are not siblings or current dating partners that involves an observed or perceived power imbalance and is repeated multiple times or is highly likely to be repeated.” Nebraska statute defines bullying as “an ongoing pattern of physical, verbal, or electronic abuse”. The District’s administrators are authorized to use both of these definitions to determine whether any specific situation constitutes bullying. Both of these definitions include both in-person and cyberbullying behaviors.

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

**Disciplinary Consequences.** The disciplinary consequences for bullying behavior will depend on the frequency, duration, severity and effect of the behavior.

A student who engages in bullying behavior on school grounds, in a vehicle owned, leased, or contracted by a school being used for a school purpose by a school employee or his or her designee, or at school-sponsored activities or school-sponsored athletic events may be subject to disciplinary consequences including but not limited to long-term suspension, expulsion, or mandatory reassignment.

Without limiting the foregoing, a student who engages in bullying behavior that materially and substantially interferes with or disrupts the educational environment, the district’s day-to-day operations, or the education process, regardless of where the student is at the time of engaging in the bullying behavior, may be subject to discipline to the extent permitted by law.

### **Support for Students Who Have Experienced Bullying.**

Regardless of where the bullying occurred, the district will consider whether victims of bullying are suffering an adverse educational impact and, if appropriate, will refer those students to the district’s student assistance team.

## **Bullying Prevention and Education**

Students and parents are encouraged to inform teachers or administrators orally or in writing about bullying behavior or suspected bullying behavior. School employees are required to inform the administrator of all such reports. The appropriate administrator shall promptly investigate all such reports. Each building shall engage in activities which educate students about bullying, bullying prevention and digital citizenship.

## **Cafeteria Rules**

1. All food is to be eaten by the student or left on the tray when returned to the dishwasher. All straws, papers, milk cartons should be deposited in the trash cans. All leftover food should be scraped off the tray onto the correct container.
2. Forks and spoons should be placed in the pan with water, not thrown away.
3. Students are to use proper manners including eating quietly.
4. There will be no throwing of food or other items.
5. Second servings are available to those who have made an effort to clean their trays.
6. Students should remain at their tables until they are dismissed.
7. Students must treat lunch personnel with respect.
8. Students who violate the above rules will be disciplined.

## **Candy and Gum**

Students may not bring candy or gum to school unless they have prior permission from their classroom teacher or the administration.

## **Cell Phones and Other Electronic Devices**

Students may not use cellular (cell) phones or other electronic devices while at school, except as permitted in this handbook.

Students may use cell phones or other electronic devices on the school sidewalks and in the common areas of the school before and after school, so long as they do not create a distraction, or a disruption. Students may not have cell phones or other electronic devices while they are in locker rooms, classrooms or restrooms. During school hours, students must keep their cell phones or other electronic devices in lockers or a personal vehicle.

Students may not use cell phones or other electronic devices while riding in a school vehicle unless they have express permission to do so from the vehicle's driver.

Students are personally and solely responsible for the security of their cell phones and other electronic devices. The school district is not responsible for theft, loss or damage of a cell phone or any calls made on a cell phone.

Students who violate this policy will have their cell phones or other electronic devices confiscated immediately. The administration will return confiscated devices to the offending student's parent or guardian after meeting with the parent or guardian to discuss the violation. Students who violate this policy may, at the discretion of the school's administration, be subject to additional discipline, up to and including suspension or expulsion.

The taking, disseminating, transferring, or sharing of obscene, pornographic, lewd, or otherwise illegal images or photographs, whether by electronic data transfer or otherwise (commonly called texting, sexting, e-mailing, etc.) may constitute a crime under state and/or federal law. Any person engaged in these activities while on school grounds, in a school vehicle or at a school activity will be subject to the disciplinary procedures of the student code of conduct. Any student found to be in possession of obscene, pornographic, lewd, or otherwise illegal images or photographs will be promptly referred to law enforcement and/or other state or federal agencies, which may result in arrest, criminal prosecution and possible inclusion on sex offender registries.

### **Child Abuse and Neglect**

School employees will report suspected abuse or neglect of a child as required by state law and school policy. Nebraska law defines abuse or neglect as knowingly, intentionally, or negligently causing or permitting a minor child or an incompetent or disabled person 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; or (5) sexually abused.

### **Classroom Behavior**

Student behavior and attitude in the classroom must be cooperative and serious. All students must:

- arrive to class on time;
- prepare for class with all necessary materials;
- be considerate of others;
- respond promptly to all directions of the teacher; and
- take care of school property and the property of others.

Teachers will establish classroom conduct rules which students must obey.

### **Closed Campus**

Students may not leave the building without permission from the administration.

### **Coats and Boots**

Elementary students must wear coats outdoors when the weather makes it advisable. The staff will decide when coats are required for recess.

Elementary students may choose to wear overshoes or boots when the playground is wet or muddy. Waterproof boots worn to school should be taken off and regular shoes worn during the day. Boots worn to school should be marked with the student's name.

### **Communicable Diseases**

Any student who has contracted a contagious disease may be restricted from attendance at school until the student is no longer contagious. The school district uses the Title 173- Nebraska Health and Human Services/Control of Communicable Disease, Chapter 3 of the Nebraska Administrative Code as a "best practice" guideline for contagious and infectious diseases. If there are questions regarding the communicability of your child's health condition or if you know your child has contracted a contagious or communicable disease or condition, please call the school nurse.

### **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. 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.

### **Computer Network Use by Students**

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 email, chat rooms, instant messaging, or other forms of direct electronic communications on school computers for any unauthorized or unlawful purpose or in violation of any school policy or directive.
4. Students shall not use school computers to participate in on-line auctions, on-line gaming or mp3 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. Protection of Students**

**A. Children's Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA)**

1. The school will not allow companies to collect personal information from children under 13 for commercial purposes. The school will make reasonable efforts to

- disable advertising in educational computer applications.
2. 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.

### **Complaint Procedure**

Good communication helps to resolve many misunderstandings and disagreements. This complaint procedure applies to board members, patrons, 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:

A preponderance of the evidence will be required to discipline a party accused of misconduct. This means that the investigator must conclude that it is more likely than not that misconduct occurred.

#### Complaint and Appeal Process.

1. The first step is for the complainant to speak directly to the person(s) with whom the complainant has a concern. For example, a parent who is unhappy with a classroom teacher should initially discuss the matter with the teacher. However, the complainant should skip the first step if the complainant believes speaking directly to the person would subject the 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, sex, 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.
4. If either the complainant or the accused party is not satisfied with the administrator's or the Title IX/504 coordinator's decision regarding a complaint he or she 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.
5. If either the complainant or the accused party is not satisfied with the superintendent's decision regarding a complaint he or she 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.

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

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

### **Conferences**

Students' academic success has been closely linked to parental involvement in school. The school district has formal parent-teacher conferences at the end of the first quarter and during the third quarter.

In addition to formal conferences, classroom teachers will communicate with parents as necessary. Parents are encouraged to communicate with their student's teacher or the building principal to discuss parental concerns, student needs or any other issue.

### **Contact Information**

Parents must supply the school with their student's address and telephone number as well as information about how to reach a responsible adult during the school day. Parents must promptly inform the school if this contact information changes during the school year.

### **Damage to School Property**

Students who damage school property either intentionally or unintentionally may be required to pay to replace or restore the property, at the discretion of the administration.

### **Discrimination and Harassment**

The school district prohibits discrimination and harassment based upon or related to race, color, national origin, sex, religion, marital status, disability, age or any other unlawful basis that (1) has the purpose or effect of creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive school environment, (2) has the purpose or effect of substantially or unreasonably interfering with a student's school performance, or (3) otherwise adversely affects a student's school opportunities. Students who believe that they have been the subject of unlawful discrimination or harassment due to their disability should contact the following Section 504 Coordinator: Superintendent Schlothauer at (308) 262-1470, [gschlothauer@bpsbulldogs.org](mailto:gschlothauer@bpsbulldogs.org) or in person at school. Students who believe that they have been the subject of unlawful discrimination or harassment due to their sex should contact the following Title IX Coordinator: Superintendent Schlothauer at (308)262-1470, [gschlothauer@bpsbulldogs.org](mailto:gschlothauer@bpsbulldogs.org) or in person at school. Students who believe that they have been the subject of any other unlawful discrimination or harassment should contact the Superintendent Schlothauer at (308) 262-1470, [gschlothauer@bpsbulldogs.org](mailto:gschlothauer@bpsbulldogs.org) or in person at school. Students may report discrimination or harassment to any staff member who will then forward it on to the appropriate coordinator or administrator. The staff member will follow school district policies to respond to the report.

#### Sex Discrimination

- A. The district prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in any educational program or activity except when it is necessary to accomplish a specific purpose that does not impinge upon essential equality or fairness in the treatment of students or employees. Employees are required to comply with this policy as well as with Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 and the regulations of the U.S. Department of Education as applicable to this district.
- B. Any individual who believes he or she is being discriminated against on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, marital status, disability, or age may seek relief



by filing a complaint pursuant to the board's complaint policy or contacting the district's Title IX coordinator.

### Sexual Harassment

- A. Students should be provided with an environment that is free from unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors and other verbal or physical conduct constituting sexual harassment. The board of education unequivocally prohibits sexual harassment of its students, even when the affected student does not complain to the faculty or the administration.
- B. Sexual harassment is a form of misconduct that wrongfully deprives students of their dignity and the opportunity to study and be in an environment free from unwelcome sexual overtones. Sexual harassment includes all unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors and other such verbal or physical misconduct. Sexual harassment means:
- C. Unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical misconduct of a sexual nature constitutes sexual harassment when such conduct has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual's educational opportunities or creates an intimidating, hostile or offensive learning environment.
- D. A student who feels he or she has been sexually harassed should directly inform the offending student that the conduct or communication is offensive and must stop. If the student does not wish to communicate directly with the offending student, or if direct communication has been ineffective, the student should report the conduct or communication to the Title IX coordinator or to a teacher, principal or counselor with whom she or feels comfortable.
- E. Retaliation against students who make good faith reports of sexual harassment is prohibited.

### Disciplinary Decisions

- A. A decision to take disciplinary action under this policy may be based on the statements of a complaining student, statements, observations of educators, or any other credible evidence.

- B. All complaints against staff members will follow the investigation, decision, and appeal process established in the district's complaint policy.
- C. Any student who sexually harasses another student will be subject to discipline up to and including expulsion, depending on the severity of the misconduct, as established in the district's student discipline policy.

### **Dress Code**

Students must come to school dressed in clean, neat and appropriate clothing to conform with educational standards.

Students are prohibited from wearing the following attire:

1. Clothing displaying indecent, suggestive or profane writing, pictures or slogans
2. Clothing that advertises or displays alcohol, tobacco or any illegal substance
3. Caps, hats and bandannas during the school day or at school-sponsored events or **wearing hoods up on sweatshirts/jackets.**
4. Bare feet (some type of footwear must be worn)
5. Short-shorts, biker shorts, or cutoffs
6. Hairstyles which distract from the learning process or the health and safety for either the student or others
7. Any clothing that could cause damage to others or school property
8. Clothing that is torn, ripped, or cut
9. Shirts, blouses, or other clothing worn unbuttoned, unzipped, or otherwise purposely unfastened
10. Costumes and/or those clothes intended only for leisure, entertaining or special occasions
11. Bare "midriff" (belly button) styles, see-through and low cut blouses, halters, tank tops or thin-strapped tops (spaghetti straps)
12. Pants and shorts worn below the waist so as to expose undergarments
13. Pants that drag on the floor
14. Chains hanging or attached to pants or shorts
15. Coats during school hours unless the student has permission from a faculty member
16. Any item that causes a material and substantial disruption

Students who violate dress code guidelines will be required to correct the violation by changing into something appropriate at school or returning home to change. A detention or suspension may be given to make up the time away from school. Repeated dress code violations may result in more severe consequences.

### **Emergency Contact Information**

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.

### **Evacuations**

The school district will hold routine evacuation drills throughout the school year. Whenever the fire alarm sounds, all students and faculty must evacuate the building in a quiet and orderly fashion and remain outside until told to return to the building. Classroom teachers will provide students with detailed instructions on building evacuations.

### **Eye Exams**

All students enrolling in kindergarten or transferring into the school district from out of state must undergo a visual examination by a physician, a physician assistant, an advanced practice registered nurse, or an optometrist, which consists of testing for amblyopia, strabismus, and internal and external eye health, with testing sufficient to determine visual acuity, except that no such physical examination or visual evaluation shall be required of any child whose parent or guardian objects in writing. They must provide evidence of the vision examination within six months prior to entrance. The cost of such physical examination and visual evaluation shall be borne by the parent or guardian of each child who is examined.

### **Food Service Program**

The school district provides a food service program that is designed to provide adequate nutrition and an educational experience for students.

## **Breakfast**

The school will serve breakfast daily from 7:30 a.m. until 7:50 a.m. All students receive free breakfast. The school district charges adults \$2.00 for breakfast. Breakfast for all students is free.

## **Lunch**

Lunch prices depend on the federal funding that the program receives. Lunch is \$4.00 for adults. Lunch for all students is free.

## **Notice of Non-discrimination**

In accordance with federal law and U.S. Department of Agriculture policy, this institution is prohibited from discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age or disability. To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20230-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (voice and TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

## **Field Trips**

Classes occasionally take field trips off school property for educational enrichment. A student's parent must authorize a student to participate in a field trip by signing a permission slip and providing it to the school before the field trip. Students who have not completed classroom work on time may not be allowed to attend field trips. Students must comply with the student code of conduct, any applicable extracurricular conduct codes, and all directives by trip chaperones.

## **First-Aid**

First-aid items may only be used by school staff. Students who need first aid should ask for assistance from their classroom teacher or the nearest staff member.

## **Head 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 an 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.

### **Health Problems**

Parents who do not want their children to play outdoors or participate in physical education for health reasons must send a written request to school. If a student persistently requests to be excused from these activities, the building principal or classroom teacher may require a doctor's verification.

Parents should notify the principal or superintendent if their student has any special health problems such as diabetes, asthma, and the like.

### **Homebound Instruction**

The school district may provide a student with instruction in his or her home and under parental supervision if the student is physically or mentally ill or injured and unable to attend regular classes for an extended period of time. Homebound instruction shall be provided when the student's physical and mental condition are such that the student can benefit from instruction and no other provision will meet the student's educational needs. If you believe that homebound instruction is appropriate for your child, please contact the building principal to initiate the appropriate process to determine eligibility.

### **Homeless Children and Youth**

Homeless students generally include children who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence, as further defined by applicable state and federal law.

It is the school's policy not to stigmatize or segregate homeless students on the basis of their status of being homeless. Transportation for homeless students who enroll in the district shall be furnished by the district under the same guidelines applying to other students or if such transportation is necessary for compliance with federal law.

Each homeless child shall be provided services for which the child is eligible comparable to services provided to other students in the school selected regardless of residency. Homeless children shall be provided access to education and other services that such children need to ensure that they have an opportunity to meet the same student performance standards to which all students are held.

If a homeless child registered to attend school in the district is receiving family reconciliation services pursuant to state law, the district will work in cooperation with any county or department of social services in the district to jointly develop an educational program for the child. The district's homeless coordinator is Superintendent Schlothauer, who may be contacted at (308) 262 1470.

### **Illness or Injury at school**

Students who feel ill or are hurt while at school should seek immediate assistance from their classroom teacher or the nearest staff member. The school will contact parents to pick students up from school whenever necessary. When school officials determine that a student needs immediate medical attention but the parents cannot be reached by phone, emergency services will be summoned or the student will be taken directly to the doctor and/or hospital. 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.

### **Immunizations**

All students must furnish one of the following to school officials:

- proof of adequate immunizations for mumps, measles, rubella; diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus; polio; and hepatitis B series; or

- a signed waiver of refusal for one of two reasons: 1) Religious or 2) Medical.
- Homeless students who are in need of immunizations will be referred to the homeless coordinator, who shall assist in obtaining necessary immunizations or medical records.

### Provisional Enrollment

Students who meet the statutory requirements for provisional enrollment shall be allowed to attend school while completing the immunization schedule as designated.

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.

### **Initiations and Hazing**

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.

### **Lockers and Other School Property**

The school district owns and exercises exclusive control over student lockers, desks, computer equipment, and other such property. Students should not expect privacy regarding usage of or items placed in or on school property, because school property is subject to search at any time by school officials. Periodic, random searches of lockers, desks, computers and other such property may be conducted at the discretion of the administration. 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.

### **Lost and Found**

All lost and found articles are to be taken to elementary or secondary offices. Students may claim lost articles there. Unclaimed articles will be donated to a local charity or otherwise disposed of at the conclusion of each semester.

### **Medications**

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:

**Prescription medication.** (1) Parents/guardians must provide a physician's written authorization for the administration of the medication. (2) Parents/guardians must provide their own written permission for the administration of the medication. (3) 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. (4) Parents must transport the medication to and from school and be prepared to count medications with a designated school staff member.

**Non-prescription medication.** (1) Parents/guardians must provide written permission for the administration of the medication. (2) The medication must be brought to the school in the manufacturer's container. (3) 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.

### **Media Center**

Students must check out materials from the librarian on duty. Each borrower is responsible for all books checked out in his/her name. A fine of five cents per day per book may be charged for overdue books. Each student is responsible for any fine which accumulated on a book charged to him/her. If a book is lost and not found by the end of the semester, the student must pay for it. Students must also pay for any damage they cause to library books.

### **Parties**

Elementary classes may have seasonal parties during the year. Parents shall communicate with their student's classroom teacher for the teacher's rules regarding birthday and holiday parties.

### **Personal Items**

The school provides the necessary equipment for classroom and school day activities. **The school is not responsible for ruined or lost personal equipment. Students should not bring items such as athletic equipment, electronic devices, toys, or other similar personal items to school unless they have the prior permission of their classroom teacher or a school administrator.**

### **Physical Education**

The school district requires students to receive physical education to assist them in developing gross and fine motor skills. Students are not required to wear PE uniforms, but are encouraged to wear tennis shoes for P.E.

### **Physical Exam**

Students entering kindergarten and the seventh grade, and those entering school from another state, are statutorily required to show evidence that

they have had a physical examination within six months prior to the date of entering school.

### **Pictures**

The school district arranges for a photographer to be present at school in the fall to take class pictures. Parents will be notified of date. Included in the individual packet is a class composite. Parents who want pictures of their students or of their student's class composite may purchase them directly from the photographer.

### **Playground Rules**

Students must follow these rules to keep the playground safe:

1. Students must obey the playground supervisor at all times.
2. Students may not enter the street/highway to retrieve a ball unless given permission by the playground supervisor.
3. Students must play away from the school windows.
4. Touch and flag football are permitted, but tackle football is prohibited. Students may only play football on grassy areas.
5. Students may throw balls and other authorized play equipment. They may not throw rocks, gravel, snowballs, and clothing.
6. Students must use the playground equipment properly and in a safe manner.
7. Students may not leave the playground after they have arrived at school for the day.

Students who violate these rules will be disciplined with the loss of recess or other privileges, detention and/or other consequences.

School staff supervise the playground during school hours. However, it is not supervised after school, and students should not play on the equipment without adult supervision.

### **Police Questioning and Apprehension**

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 inform parents when law enforcement officers seek access to their student prior to the student being questioned unless the officers are investigating charges that the student has been the victim of abuse or neglect. Members of the

school district staff will comply with board policy regarding police questioning of students.

### **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.

### **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.

### **School Day**

The school day typically begins at 8:00 a.m. and ends at 3:25 p.m. Students are to leave the school grounds after dismissal. School staff will provide supervision for students on school grounds 30 minutes before the school day begins and 10 minutes after the school day ends. **There will be no supervision provided by the school before or after these times.** Parents must make arrangements for their children to leave school promptly at the end of the day.

### **Self Management of Diabetes or Asthma/Anaphylaxis**

The school district will work with the parent or guardian in consultation with a physician to develop a medical management plan for a student with diabetes, asthma, or anaphylaxis subject to school policy. Parents desiring to develop such a plan should contact the school nurse.

### **Smoking and Tobacco**

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

### **Staff Qualifications**

The No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 gives parents the right to get information about the professional qualifications of their child's classroom teachers. Upon request, the school district will give parents the following information about their child's classroom teacher:

1. Whether the teacher has met state qualifications and licensing criteria for the grade levels and subject areas in which the teacher provides instruction.
2. Whether the teacher is teaching under an emergency or provisional teaching certificate.
3. The teacher's baccalaureate degree and major. Parents may also get information about other graduate certification or degrees held by the teacher, and the field of discipline of the certification or degree.

Upon request, the school district will inform parents whether their child is being provided services by a paraprofessional and, if so, the paraprofessional's qualifications. The request for such information should be made to the appropriate building administrator.

The school district will provide timely notice to parents if their child has been assigned to, or has been taught for four or more consecutive weeks by a teacher who does not meet the requirements of the No Child Left Behind Act.

### **Standardized Testing**

NSCAS Assessments (Nebraska State Accountability) are given to students in grades 3-6. The tests will be administered in April. Results will be mailed home during the 1st quarter of the following school year.

### **Student Assistance**

If your child has any learning, behavior, or emotional needs that you believe are not being addressed by the school district under existing circumstances, please contact your child's teacher. If appropriate, the teacher may convene the Student Assistance Team (SAT). The SAT can explore possibilities and strategies that will best meet the educational needs of your child.

### **Student Fee Policy**

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.

#### **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.

### **Listing of Fees Charged by this District.**

- 1. Clothing Required for Specified Courses and Activities.** Students are responsible for complying with the district's grooming and attire guidelines and for furnishing all clothing required for any special programs, courses or activities in which they participate. The teacher, coach, or sponsor of the activity will provide students with written guidelines that detail any special clothing requirements and explain why the special clothing is required for the specific program, course or activity.
- 2. Safety Equipment and Attire.** The district will provide students with all safety equipment and attire that is required by law. Building administrators will assure that (a) such equipment is available in the appropriate classes and areas of the school buildings, (b) teachers are directed to instruct students in the use of such devices, and (c) students use the devices as required. Students are responsible for using the devices safely and as instructed.
- 3. Personal or Consumable Items.** The district does not provide students with personal or consumable items for participation in courses and activities including, but not limited to, pencils, paper, pens, erasers and notebooks. Students who wish to supply their own personal or consumable items may do so, as long as those items comply with the requirements of the district. The district will provide students with facilities, equipment, materials and supplies, including books. Students are responsible for the careful and appropriate use of such property. Students will be charged for damage to school property caused by the student and will be held responsible for the reasonable replacement cost of any school property that they lose.
- 4. Transportation Costs.** The district can charge students reasonable fees for district-provided transportation services to the extent permitted by federal and state statutes and regulations.

**5. Participation in Before-School, After-School or Pre-Kindergarten Services.** The district will charge reasonable fees for participation in before-school, after-school or pre-kindergarten services offered by the district pursuant to statute.

**6. 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.

Student Breakfast- free  
Adult Breakfast- \$1.90  
Student Lunch- free  
Adult Lunch- \$3.65

Please contact the elementary office to inquire about reduced price meals 262-1574.

**7. 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.

**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. Students are not required to participate in the free or reduced-price lunch program 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. Application forms are available in each school building office.

### **Voluntary Contributions to Defray Costs.**

When appropriate, the district will 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 communicate that fact clearly to students, parents and patrons.

### **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.



## **Student Records**

The Family Education Rights and Privacy Act ("FERPA") provides parents certain rights with respect to their student's education records. These rights include the right to inspect and review the student's education records within 45 days of the date the school receives a request for access; and the right to request the amendment of the student's education records that you believe to be inaccurate.

If parents believe one of their student's records is inaccurate, they should write to the school principal, clearly identify the part of the record they want changed, and specify why they believe it is inaccurate. If the school decides not to amend the record as requested, it will notify the parents of the decision and advise them of their right to a hearing regarding the request for amendment.

**Directory Information.** FERPA and the Nebraska Public Records Law authorize school districts to make "directory information" available for review at the request of non-school individuals. These laws also give parents and guardians a voice in the decision-making process regarding the disclosure of directory information regarding their children. The school district has designated the following as directory information:

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.

Directory information about students may also be disclosed to outside organizations without a parent's prior written consent. Outside organizations include, but are not limited to, companies that market or manufacture class rings, sell student photographs or publish student yearbooks.

Federal law requires school districts to provide military recruiters and institutions of higher education with the names, addresses and telephone listings of high school students unless parents have notified the school district that they do not want this information disclosed without prior written parental consent.

Parents who **OBJECT** to the disclosure of any directory information about their student should write a letter to the principal. This letter should specify the particular categories of directory information that the parents do not wish to have released about their child or the particular types of outside organizations to which they do not wish directory information to be released. This letter must be received by the school district no later than September 1st.

### **Non-Directory Information**

All of the other personally identifiable information about students that is contained in this school district's education records will generally not be disclosed to anyone outside the school system except under one of two circumstances: (1) in accordance with the provisions of the FERPA statutes and related administrative regulations, or (2) in accordance with the parent's written instructions.

### **Transfer of Records Upon Student Enrollment**

Upon request, the school discloses education records without consent to officials of another school district in which a student seeks or intends to enroll. The school is not obligated to inform parents when it makes a disclosure under this provision.

### **Complaints**

Individuals who wish to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the School to comply with the requirements of FERPA may contact the Office that administers FERPA:

### **Tardiness**

A student who does not have a valid excuse for being tardy to any class may be required to serve detention. After four tardies to school, the student and parents may be required to meet with the principal to discuss the situation.

### **Telephone Calls**

The school's telephone may be used only with permission of staff. Students are not permitted to use cellular telephones during school hours or on school property without the express permission of a member of the staff.

### **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.

### **Transportation Services**

The district operates school buses as a convenience for students and parents. They represent a substantial investment, and students are expected to care for and respect them.

## **Transportation to School**

Students who ride the bus to school will arrive in time for them to eat breakfast at school. Parents must contact their bus driver if a student will not ride the bus on a given day. Bus drivers endeavor to adhere to their schedule, and will wait for riders only a short period of time so as not to jeopardize the time remaining for the rest of their schedule.

Non-resident or option enrollment students may ride the buses, but they will be charged a fee to be established by the board of education. The Superintendent will schedule bus routes, and questions concerning them should be directed to that office.

## **Bus Regulations**

Riding school vehicles is a privilege, not a right. The bus drivers have the same authority as teachers while transporting students. 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. If misconduct is recurring, the student will not be allowed to ride the bus.

### **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 a note home to parents, suspension of bus riding privileges, exclusion from extracurricular activities, in-school suspension, short term or long term suspension from school, and/or 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.

Requests to be dropped off at a point **not** on the regular route will not be accommodated, unless extenuating circumstances arise and the request is approved by the transportation director or administration.

Students who are not regular route riders may not ride the bus home with a friend, unless the parent of the non-route student presents written permission to the bus driver ahead of time. The written permission should include the date, the non-route rider's name, the signature of the non-rider's parent, and the place approved for drop off. Such requests may not be granted if they cause overcrowding of the vans or buses (Vans-10 riders only, plus driver).

### **Transportation to Activities**

The school district provides transportation to students who are participating in school-sponsored events and they must ride to those events in a school vehicle. Students who wish to take private transportation home from a school event must submit a release form to the sponsor which has been signed by that student's parent.

### **Video Surveillance and Photographs**

The Board of Education has authorized the use of video cameras on school district property to ensure the health, welfare and safety of all staff, students and visitors, and to safeguard District facilities and equipment. Video cameras may be used in locations deemed appropriate by the Superintendent. If a video surveillance recording captures a student or other building user violating school policies or rules or local, state, or federal laws, it may be used in appropriate disciplinary proceedings against the student or other building user and may also be provided to law enforcement agencies.

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 a staff member. 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.

### **Weather-Related School Closing**

The Superintendent will occasionally announce an emergency early school dismissal, late start, or cancellation of school due to extreme heat, snow or ice. The school district will communicate via the Parent Square automated message system and will report on the Weather Threat website that is found online at [www.kneb.com](http://www.kneb.com). Parents should assume that school is open and a regular schedule is being followed if there is no announcement concerning the school district. Please do not call the school or individual staff members to find out whether school is being canceled. Parents who do not believe it is safe to transport their students to school may keep their students home after contacting the district office.

If schools are closed due to severe weather conditions, all after-school activities will be canceled.

### **Withdrawal From School**

Students who are moving from the district must notify the school office.



**SECTION TWO**  
**ACADEMIC INFORMATION**

**Grades**

**Elementary School Grading System for All Curricular Areas**

The following grading system is used in the K-2 grades:

C= Commendable

S=Satisfactory

B= Beginning

N=Needs Improvement

/=Not yet introduced

The following grading system is used in the 3rd- 6<sup>th</sup> grades:

A	94 – 100	Excellent
B	86 – 93	Good
C	78 – 85	Satisfactory
D	70 – 77	Needs Improvement
F	Below 70	Failing

The parent may request their child's academic average at any time.

Report cards are issued every nine weeks.

### **Homework**

Classroom teachers will often assign homework. Parents who have questions about homework or concerns about class work should contact the teacher. Questions not resolved by the teacher should be referred to the administration.

Each student is expected to spend some time preparing for studies outside of school hours. The amount of time that is needed will depend upon each student. Normally, at least an hour a day should be spent in preparing for an average assignment.

Students who struggle to complete assignments or who must spend an inordinate amount of time completing an assignment should seek the help and advice of their teachers and consult with the principal and/or the guidance counselor.

### **Honor Roll**

The Honor Roll will consist of two separate lists for grades 4-6. The "Gold Honor Roll", will include the names of those students who have earned all "A's". The "Silver Honor Roll", will include the names of those students who have earned all "A's" and "B's" (by semester). The honor roll will be published in the town newspaper and on the school website.

### **Report Cards**

Report cards are sent home the week following the end of the nine-week reporting period. Mid-quarter reports are also sent to parents of students who are having difficulty in an academic subject.

## **SECTION THREE**

### **STUDENT DISCIPLINE**

#### **General Discipline Philosophy**

The school district has the authority to discipline students who behave inappropriately on the way to school, at school, during lunch, on the way home, and at all school activities (home and away or any time while on school or district property).

The school district's discipline is guided by the following principles:

1. The school district's discipline policy is intended to ensure that students take responsibility for their behavior.
2. Behavior expectations and the consequences for failing to meet those expectations will be clearly communicated to all students and their parents.
3. The severity of consequences for violating behavior expectations will generally be progressive in nature. That is, sanctions will increase with each instance of misconduct; however, each instance will be assessed on its own facts, and sanctions will be imposed based on the severity of the misconduct.
4. Parents play a vital role in supporting and reinforcing the school district's expectations of their students.
5. Behavior expectations apply to all students; consequences are enforced consistently without regard to a student's academic record or achievement.

The school district reserves the right to refer to the appropriate non-school agency any act or conduct of its students which may constitute a crime under federal, state, county, or local law. The administration will cooperate with these agencies in their investigations.

#### **Forms of School Discipline**

Administrative and teaching personnel may take actions regarding student behavior 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. The actions may also include in-school suspensions during the day or mandatory attendance at Saturday school. When in-school suspensions, after-school assignments, Saturday School or other disciplinary measures are assigned, the student is responsible for complying with such disciplinary measures; and a failure to serve such assigned discipline as directed will serve as grounds for further discipline, up to expulsion from school. District administrators may develop building-specific protocols for the imposition of student discipline.

In this section, 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 section 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 section 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.

### **After School Sessions and Detentions**

Teachers and administrators may require students to stay after school or to serve a detention when the student violates any of the rules contained in this handbook or violates classroom-specific conduct rules set by individual teachers.

Students who ride the bus home from school will be given a 24-hour notice of after-school time or a detention so that the parents may make plans to pick up the student the following day.

- After-school sessions will not exceed 30 minutes from the time of dismissal and are to be served in the teacher's room. A student who fails to attend an after school session may be given a detention by the teacher or may face additional disciplinary consequences up to and including long-term suspension and/or expulsion. A student who has a conflict with an after-school session is responsible for working it out with the teacher.
- Detentions are 30 minutes, served in the central office or the detention room designated by the building principal.

### **In-School Suspension**

The building administrator may require a student to serve in-school suspension. Students may be required to attend up to six hours per day of school-sponsored suspension a day at a designated location where they will study and participate in campus clean up. There will be zero tolerance for behavior problems from students placed in in-school suspension. Students not completing their In-School Suspension will face further disciplinary action.

### **Emergency Exclusion**

Students may be emergency excluded from school pursuant to the board's separate policy on emergency exclusion or state law.

### **Short-Term Suspension**

The Principal or the Principal's designee may exclude a student 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, which occur on or off school grounds, if such conduct interferes with school purposes or there is a nexus between such conduct and school.

The following process will apply to short-term suspensions:

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/she is accused of having done, an explanation of the evidence the authorities have, and given an opportunity to explain his/her 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.

### **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 Short-Term Suspension, 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, sex, 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 computer 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.

The length of any suspension, expulsion, or mandatory reassignment shall be as provided or allowed by law.

### **Due Process Afforded to Students Facing Long-term Suspension or Expulsion**

The following procedures shall be followed with regard to 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.

#### Reporting Requirement to Law Enforcement

\_\_\_ Violations of this section will result in a report to law enforcement if:

1. The violation includes possession of a firearm;
2. The violation results in child abuse;
3. It is a violation of state law that the administration believes can be adequately addressed solely by discipline from the school district;

4. It is a violation of state law that endangers the health and welfare of staff or students;
5. It is a violation of state law that interferes with school purposes;
6. The report is required or requested by law enforcement or the county attorney.

## **SECTION FOUR**

### **STAFF DIRECTORY**

#### **Board of Education**

Justin Corman- President

Ryan Amateis

Kay Anderson

Jeff Pohl

Linda Norman

Jim Lapaseotes

#### **Bridgeport Administration**

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James Simmons, Elementary Principal [jsimmons@bpsbulldogs.org](mailto:jsimmons@bpsbulldogs.org)

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Sharon Schluterbusch <i>Media Specialist/Librarian</i>	<a href="mailto:sschluterbusch@bpsbulldogs.org">sschluterbusch@bpsbulldogs.org</a>
Micheal Berry <i>ELL/English Language Learner</i> <i>Instructor</i>	<a href="mailto:mberry@bpsbulldogs.org">mberry@bpsbulldogs.org</a>
Debbie Millette <i>Art Instructor</i>	<a href="mailto:dmillette@bpsbulldogs.org">dmillette@bpsbulldogs.org</a>
Michelle Stevens <i>Guidance Counselor</i>	<a href="mailto:mstevens@bpsbulldogs.org">mstevens@bpsbulldogs.org</a>

Brittany Norman <i>School Nurse</i>	<a href="mailto:bnorman@bpsbulldogs.org">bnorman@bpsbulldogs.org</a>
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<b>Support Staff</b>	
Vonnie Brown <i>Business Manager</i>	<a href="mailto:vbrown@bpsbulldogs.org">vbrown@bpsbulldogs.org</a>
Gail Beyer <i>Superintendent Secretary</i>	<a href="mailto:gbeyer@bpsbulldogs.org">gbeyer@bpsbulldogs.org</a>
Kathy Sides <i>Elementary Secretary</i>	<a href="mailto:ksides@bpsbulldogs.org">ksides@bpsbulldogs.org</a>
Brian Moss <i>Technology Director</i>	<a href="mailto:bmoss@bpsbulldogs.org">bmoss@bpsbulldogs.org</a>
Josh MacDonald <i>Technology Assistant</i>	<a href="mailto:jmacdonald@bpsbulldogs.org">jmacdonald@bpsbulldogs.org</a>
Rayma Armer Sara Lang <i>Paraprofessional/Teacher Assistant</i>	
Steve Lissner Lorri Carrier <i>Paraprofessional/Teacher Assistant</i>	
Regina Gonzales Beth Freeze <i>Paraprofessional/Teacher Assistant</i>	
Rachel Blue Jennifer Erickson <i>Paraprofessional/Teacher Assistant</i>	
<i>Belle Gregory</i>	

<i>Kim Stuart</i> <i>Paraprofessional/Teacher Assistant</i>	
<i>Heather Weyenberg</i> <i>Liz Dillon</i> <i>Paraprofessional/Teacher Assistant</i>	
<i>Darlene Richards</i> <i>Marisela Torres-Bravo</i> <i>Paraprofessional/Teacher Assistant</i>	
<i>Alicia Lopez</i> <i>Paraprofessional/Teacher Assistant</i>	
<i>Lindsey Ellis</i> <i>Paraprofessional/Teacher Assistant</i>	

<b>Maintenance &amp; Transportation Director</b> Marie Brown <i>Maintenance Supervisor</i>	
<b>Bus Drivers</b> Marie Brown <i>Transportation Director</i>	Leigh Burr, 308-225-0342 Peggy Backer, 308-489-5405 Gail Beyer, 308-279-1797 Leo Gusman, 308-262-0453 Cal Renander 308-262-1773 Lexie Sterkel 308-279-1480
<b>Custodians</b> Willis Beyer, Lead Custodian Susan Simons, Custodian Susana Cantu, Custodian Jesus Cantu, Custodian Maria Castano, Custodian	

Patti Trujillo-Trujillo	
<b>Kitchen Personnel</b> Lauren Faessler, Manager	<a href="mailto:lfessler@bpsbulldogs.org">lfessler@bpsbulldogs.org</a>



## Bridgeport Public Schools 2023-2024 School Calendar

Aug. 2023							Aug. 2023				Jan. 2024				Jan. 2024						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S					3	Teacher In-Service	S	M	T	W	T	F	S		
			1	2	3	4	5	9	New Staff Only	3	No School		1	2	3	4	5	6			
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	14	Board Meeting	4	School Resumes	7	8	9	10	11	12	13				
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	14-18	Teacher Workdays	11	Board Meeting	14	15	16	17	18	19	20				
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	21	First Day - 3:25 Dis			21	22	23	24	25	26	27				
27	28	29	30	31							28	29	30	31							
							TD	15	SD	9	TD	21	SD	20							

  

Sept. 2023							Sept. 2023				Feb. 2024				Feb. 2024						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S					5/6	Pt Con. 4 to 7:00	S	M	T	W	T	F	S		
					1	2	4	Labor Day	5/6	Pt Con. 4 to 7:00					1	2	3				
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	4	No School	9	NO School		4	5	6	7	8	9	10			
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	11	Board Meeting	12	Board Meeting	11	12	13	14	15	16	17				
17	18	19	20	21	22	23			19	Teacher In-Service	18	19	20	21	22	23	24				
24	25	26	27	28	29	30			19	No School	25	26	27	28	29						
							TD	20	SD	20	TD	20	SD	18							

  

Oct. 2023							Oct. 2023				Mar. 2024				Mar. 2024						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S					1	Spring Break	S	M	T	W	T	F	S		
							3	Pt Con. 4 to 7:00	1	Spring Break							1	2			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	4	PT con 3:00 to 6:00	7,8	Spring Break	3	4	5	6	7	8	9				
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	4	2:15 Dismissal	8	End of 3rd Qt.	10	11	12	13	14	15	16				
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	9	No School	11	Board Meeting	17	18	19	20	21	22	23				
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	9	Board Meeting	29	No School	24	25	26	27	28	29	30				
29	30	31					13	End of 1st Quarter	31	Easter	31										
							18	12:30 Dis/PD													
							TD	22	SD	20.5	TD	17	SD	17							

  

Nov. 2023							Nov. 2023				Apr. 2024				Apr. 2024						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S					1	No School	S	M	T	W	T	F	S		
			1	2	3	4	13	Board Meeting	1	No School							1	2			
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	22-25	No School	8	Board Meeting	7	8	9	10	11	12	13				
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	22	Teacher In-Serv			14	15	16	17	18	19	20				
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	23	Thanksgiving			21	22	23	24	25	26	27				
26	27	28	29	30							28	29	30								
							TD	20	SD	19	TD	21	SD	21							

  

Dec. 2023							Dec. 2023				May 2024				May 2024						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S					11	Graduation	S	M	T	W	T	F	S		
					1	2	11	Board Meeting	11	Graduation				1	2	3	4				
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	21	End of 1st Sem	13	Board Meeting	5	6	7	8	9	10	11				
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	22	Teacher In-Serv	15	Last Day 12:30/dis	12	13	14	15	16	17	18				
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	22-31	No School	16	Teacher Workday	19	20	21	22	23	24	25				
24	25	26	27	28	29	30					26	27	28	29	30	31					
31																					
							TD	16	SD	15	TD	12	SD	10.5							

Total Teachers Day (TD)      184  
 Total Student Days (SD)      170

HS Day - 415 Minutes                      1176 hours  
 El. Days - 405 Minutes                    1148 hours

## Bridgeport Elementary Schools Title I School-Parent Compact

*The Bridgeport Elementary School and the parents of the students participating in activities, services, and programs funded by Title I, Part A of the Elementary agree that this compact outlines how the parents, the school staff, and the students will share the responsibility for improving student academic achievement and the means by which the school and parents will build and develop a partnership that will help children achieve the State's high standards.*

### **School Responsibilities**

**Bridgeport Elementary School will:**

1. Provide high-quality curriculum and instruction in a supportive and effective learning environment that enables the participating children to meet the State's student academic achievement standards as follows:
2. Provide to parents information in a timely manner about Title I programs that includes a description and explanation of the school's curriculum, the forms of academic assessment used to measure student's progress, and the proficiency levels students are expected to meet.
3. Hold parent-teacher conferences twice a year (once during the fall semester and once during the spring semester) during which this compact will be discussed as it relates to the individual child's achievement.
4. Provide parents with reports with individual reports on their student's academic progress, and reports indicating their student's progress on State assessments in Math, Language Arts, and Reading.
5. Involve parents in the planning, review, and improvement of the school's parental involvement policy, in an organized, ongoing and timely manner.
6. Provide parent reasonable access to staff.
7. Provide parents opportunities to volunteer and participate in their child's class, and to observe classroom activities.
8. Provide each parent timely notice when their student will be taught for four or more consecutive weeks by a teacher who is not highly qualified within the meaning of the term in section 200.56 of the Title I Final Regulations (67 Fed. Reg. 71710, December 2, 2002).
9. Hold an annual Title I, Part A meeting to inform parents of the school's participation in Title I, Part A programs, and to explain the Title I, Part A requirements and the right of parent to be involved in Title I, Part A programs.
10. Provide information to parents of participating students in an understandable and uniform format, including alternative formats upon the request of parent with



disabilities, and, to the extent practicable, in a language that parents can understand.

11. Provide to parents of participating children information in a timely manner about Title I, Part A programs that includes a description and explanation of the school's curriculum, the forms of academic assessment used to measure children's progress, and the proficiency levels students are expected to meet.

### **Parent Responsibilities**

**We, as parents, will support our children's learning in the following ways:**

1. See to it that my child is in school every day as long as he/she is healthy. I understand the relationship between regular attendance and successful academic performance.
2. Communicate regularly with my child's school and teacher by communicating with the teacher during parent-teacher conferences, classroom visits and phone calls. Developing and maintaining an open and positive relationship with the teacher to discuss decisions relating to our students' education.
3. Attending school functions on a regular basis to support our children during school activities.
4. Reviewing homework, report cards, assignment books, and written communication from the school with our children.
5. Establishing quiet environment for our children to complete his/her homework each night, discussing what was learned at school each day, modeling the importance of learning, providing positive reinforcement of academic achievement, fostering a healthy respect for school, and reading to or with our children of a daily basis.
6. Discuss the importance of self-discipline by reinforcing appropriate school behavior, emphasizing the importance of being well prepared for school by having the necessary school supplies and completing homework assignments, and by reviewing the Code of Conduct with our children.
7. Parent/Guardian has the right to request teacher qualifications.

### **Student Responsibilities**

**I, as a student at Bridgeport Elementary, will share the responsibility to improve my academic achievement and the State's high standards by:**

1. Doing my homework every day and ask for help when I need it.
2. Be actively engaged in all classroom activities and assignments.
3. Give to my parents or the adult who is responsible for my welfare all notices and information received by me from my school.
4. Come to class on time, with appropriate materials (books, pen, pencil, and paper). Bridgeport Public Schools can arrange to provide the school supplies if informed that there is a need.
5. Set aside time every day to complete my homework.
6. Know and follow the school and classroom rules. Respect my school, classmates, staff and family.
7. Regularly discuss my academic progress with my parents and teachers.
8. Believe that I can and will learn.

**SECTION FIVE**

**FORMS**

This section contains forms which students and their parents must complete and return to the school office **NO LATER THAN August 25th, 2023.**

# *The Elite Eight*

## *Expectations*

- 1. Listen and make eye contact. Respond appropriately.*
- 2. Focus on the speaker during instruction, with your whole body.*
- 3. "The Golden Rule". Treat others the way you want to be treated.*
- 4. Always use your manners. Say please, thank you, excuse me, and hold the door for others.*
- 5. No matter the circumstances, always be honest.*
- 6. Learn from your mistakes, and move on.*
- 7. Do your best work, no complaining.*
- 8. When a substitute teacher is present, all rules apply.*

*Bridgeport Elementary School*  
*Nebraska*

# RECEIPT

This Student Handbook is distributed in accordance with Nebraska State Law, Section 79-262, paragraph three which states in part: "Rules and Standards which form the basis for discipline shall be distributed to students and parents at the beginning of each school year or at the time of enrollment.."

Parents (or guardians) and students are required to sign & return the receipt form below before August 27<sup>th</sup>, 2023

## PARENT/STUDENT AGREEMENT

I have received and read the Student Handbook that describes the Bridgeport Public School District's discipline policies, regulations, rules, and expectations to be followed by students enrolled in the Bridgeport Public Schools, including the Drug Free School Policy. My child and I have discussed these policies and understand that we must comply with them.

I have received the Title I Parent/Student Compact and will contact the school if I have further questions regarding the federal Title I Program at Bridgeport Elementary School.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student's Signature                      Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian's Signature      Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Cell Phone Number (Optional)

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent's Email Address (Optional)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent's Email Address (Optional)

**STUDENT INFORMATION SHEET**

STUDENT'S NAME \_\_\_\_\_

DATE OF BIRTH \_\_\_\_\_

PARENT'S NAME \_\_\_\_\_

MAILING ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

PHYSICAL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP CODE \_\_\_\_\_

HOME PHONE # \_\_\_\_\_

CELL PHONE # DAD \_\_\_\_\_ MOM \_\_\_\_\_

PLACE OF WORK -DAD \_\_\_\_\_ WORK PHONE # \_\_\_\_\_

PLACE OF WORK-MOM \_\_\_\_\_ WORK PHONE # \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL ADDRESS DAD \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL ADDRESS MOM \_\_\_\_\_

**LOCAL FRIEND OR RELATIVE TO CALL IN CASE OF EMERGENCY:**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE# \_\_\_\_\_

**LOCAL FAMILY PHYSICIAN** \_\_\_\_\_

**IF YOUR CHILD IS A BUS STUDENT, PLEASE GIVE THE DRIVER'S NAME.**

**DRIVER** \_\_\_\_\_

***PLEASE SIGN BELOW TO GIVE CONSENT FOR RELEASE OF YOUR CHILD TO THE ABOVE  
EMERGENCY CONTACT PERSON IN THE EVENT OF AN EMERGENCY EVACUATION.***

**PARENT/GUARDIAN SIGNATURE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Consent for Counseling Services:**

**Bridgeport Public Schools has access to a Licensed Mental Health Therapist for the 2023-2024 school year. The therapist is available to Bridgeport Public School District students at no cost to the parents. Parent permission is requested for students to see the counselor. Counseling is confidential. Information shared with the counselor will not be disclosed to anyone without written consent unless there is a duty to warn.**

**Signature: I understand and agree to the above statements.**

**Student Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent Name Printed:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent Name Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_