

BRIDGEPORT JR/SR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT HANDBOOK 2026-2027 Edition



Bridgeport Public Schools
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<https://www.bpsbulldogs.org/>

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Sign Off Forms

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 Friday, August 23rd 2024.

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, or contact our office.

Sincerely,

Jason Blanco
7-12 Principal
Email: jblanco@bpsbulldogs.org

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 ensure the wellbeing 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. 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 George 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. Also see the "Discrimination and Harassment" section below.

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 – 16 and 17 Year Old Students

Only children who are at least 16 years of age may be dis-enrolled from the district. The person seeking to discontinue the child's enrollment shall submit a signed, written request and submit it to the superintendent. The district will consider requests to disenroll.

Only children disenrolling to attend a non-accredited school may be exempt from this policy. The person with legal or actual charge or control of the child must provide the superintendent with a copy of the signed request submitted to the State Department of Education for attending non-accredited schools. The superintendent may confirm the validity of the submission with the State Department of Education.

Attendance Officer

Each building principal is designated as an attendance officer for the district. Each building principal, at his or her discretion, may delegate

these responsibilities to any other qualified individual. The attendance officer is responsible for enforcing the provisions of state law relating to compulsory attendance. This responsibility includes but is not limited to filing a report with the county attorney of the county in which a student resides. Compensation for the duties of attendance officer is included in the salary for the superintendent or designee.

Excused Absences – Physical or Mental Illness

Absences shall be excused by a parent, guardian, or educational decision maker, as defined in section 79-530, of the child for physical or mental illness and as documented by a credentialed health professional, provided the documentation supports such absence. In the instance of chronic illness, documentation shall be reviewed each semester.

Excused Absences

The following absences will be considered excused if they are confirmed by communication to the school from the student's parent/guardian:

- **Illness of the student that requires the student to seek medical attention
- **Severe weather
- **Medical appointments for the student (Documentation Required)
- **Death or serious illness of the student's family member
- **Attending a funeral, wedding or graduation
- **Appearance at court or for other legal matters
- **Observance of religious holidays of the student's own faith
- **College planning visits

Students who have more than 9 unexcused absences in a semester may lose credit in those classes for the current semester.

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 each 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.

Title IX Policy

It is the policy of the school district that no person shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subject to discrimination under any of the school district's programs or activities. The district is required by Title IX (20 U.S.C. § 1681) and 34 C.F.R. part 106 to not discriminate in such a manner.

Title IX Coordinator: Superintendent and/or Designee • Address: 800 Q Street, Bridgeport, NE 69336 • Email: gschlothauer@bpsbulldogs.org • Phone: (308) 262-1470

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.

Pregnant and Parenting Students

The District will not discriminate in its education program or activity against any student based on the student's current, potential, or past pregnancy. Students who are pregnant or parenting are encouraged to continue participating in the district's educational and extracurricular programs. Students who anticipate deviations from their regular school experience or accrue absences due to pregnancy or parenting should notify their building principal as early as possible to discuss their educational programming collaboration with the Title IX Coordinator.

Band

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

Students should pay bills for supplies, fines, shop materials, clothing orders, etc. in the school bookkeeper's office. Any check for these payments should be made out to Bridgeport Public Schools unless otherwise instructed. Pursuant to board policy, the district will assess an additional penalty of \$30 for any check returned from the bank for insufficient funds.

When students purchase items of significant value, such as class rings and letter jackets, they must make payment at the time of purchase or when the order is placed.

Books and Supplies

Students must take care of books and other supplies provided by the district. The school may 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.

Breastfeeding and Lactation

In order to accommodate lactating and breastfeeding students, the district will provide reasonable opportunities to express breast milk or breastfeed in a place, other than a bathroom, which is shielded from view and free from intrusion from district students, employees, and the public. The district will also provide a location for students to store expressed breast milk in or near the location designated for students to express milk to create the least amount of disruption to the student's participation in class or activities.

Students who wish or need to express breast milk on a regular schedule must work with school administrators to create a schedule that accommodates the student's needs while facilitating education to the maximum extent possible.

In order to prevent interference with the educational process, no student shall express breast milk within school classrooms or buses. Nothing in this policy limits the authority of the administration to impose consequences consistent with the Student Discipline Act and other state and federal law.

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

Students are prohibited from engaging in any form 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 will consider these definitions when determining whether any specific situation constitutes bullying. Both of these definitions include both in-person and cyberbullying behaviors.

The disciplinary consequences for bullying will depend on the severity, frequency, duration, and effect of the behavior and may result in sanctions up to and including suspension or expulsion. Students who believe they are being bullied should immediately inform a teacher or the building principal.

Reporting Bullying

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

Bullying Investigations

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

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. Jr high students should remain at their tables until they are dismissed. Students are expected to either eat lunch at school or go to their own homes. Parents must provide a written authorization for their student to eat lunch at home.
7. Students must treat lunch personnel with respect.
8. Students who violate the above rules will be disciplined.
9. 9-12 grades will have an open campus. 9-12 graders may drive off of campus for lunch but must return to school and report to class prior to the tardy bell ringing. Open campus is a privilege not a right. Open campus may be revoked for students who are late returning. This will be handled on a case by case basis.

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 (i.e mobile devices) while at school, except as permitted in this handbook.

Students shall not use mobile devices in a manner that is a distraction to the educational process. Students should not be using their mobile devices without permission of their teacher. If a student is using their mobile device in a manner that is disruptive the following consequences may occur:

1. Verbal warning
2. Device confiscated — Student pick it up at the end of the school day;
3. Device confiscated — Parent pick it up at the end of school day;
4. Referred to administration for resolution.

Cheating, Plagiarism, and Academic Dishonesty

Students may not cheat, plagiarize, or otherwise participate in any academic dishonesty in any form. Prohibited behavior includes:

- Obtaining, attempting to obtain, or aiding another person to obtain credit for work by any dishonest or deceptive means.
- Lying.
- Copying another person's work or answers.
- Discussing the answers or questions on a test or assignment unless specifically authorized by the teacher.
- Taking or receiving copies of a test without the permission of the teacher.
- Using or displaying notes, "cheat sheets," or other sources of unauthorized information.
- Using the ideas or work of another person as if they were your own without giving proper credit to the source.
- Submitting work or any portion of work completed by another person.
- Failing to give credit for ideas, statements, facts, or conclusions which rightfully belong to another person.
- Failing to use quotation marks or other appropriate means of attribution when quoting directly from another person or source.

A student who cheats, plagiarizes, or otherwise participates in any academic dishonesty is subject to discipline, up to and including expulsion.

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.

Class Dismissal

Classes are in session from the ringing of the tardy bell until the teacher dismisses the class. The bell at the end of the period is not a dismissal bell, and students may not leave their classrooms until they have been excused by their classroom teacher.

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

Junior high students will not be allowed to leave campus during the lunch period. They will be required to go to the cafeteria. They may eat hot lunch or bring a sack lunch. All federal regulations to the lunch program must be followed. Students may leave campus to go home for lunch if they have secured their parents' written permission and submitted it to the office.

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 PowerSchool, report cards, progress reports, and parent/teacher conferences. The school district will notify parents if their students are failing or close to failing. The school district will endeavor to notify parents of failing students prior to entry of the failing grade on the student's report card. Parents will also be notified of their student's possible failure to meet graduation requirements. Other pertinent information will be communicated to parents by email, 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.

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. If a coach does not respond within 48 hours during the week or 72 hours over the weekend, please contact the building administrator. If the issue persists, the parent can request a meeting in writing (emailing, text, or letter) or calling the administration to set up a meeting to address the issue. 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. Allegations of sex discrimination covered by Title IX will be addressed through the board's Title IX policy.

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

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

Complaint and Appeal Process.

1. The first step is for the complainant to speak directly to the person(s) with whom the complainant has a concern. For example, a parent who is unhappy with a classroom teacher should initially discuss the matter with the teacher. However, the complainant should skip the first step if the complainant reasonably believes speaking directly to the person would subject complainant or complainant's student to discrimination or harassment.
2. The second step is for the complainant to speak to the building principal, coordinator, superintendent of schools, or president of the board of education, as set forth below. Anyone with questions about the appropriate person to speak with may request clarification from the superintendent.
 - a) Complaints about the operation, decisions, or personnel within a building should be submitted to the principal of the building.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1) All relevant details of the complaint;

- 2) All witnesses and documents which the complainant believes support the complaint;
 - 3) The action or solution which the complainant seeks.
 - d) Respond to the complainant. If the complaint involves discrimination or harassment, the response shall be in writing and shall be submitted within 180 calendar days after the administrator or coordinator receives the complaint.
4. If either the complainant or the respondent is not satisfied with the decision, he or she may appeal the decision to the superintendent. The superintendent may assign a qualified designee to hear any appeal.
 - a) The appeal must be in writing.
 - b) This appeal must be received by the superintendent no later than three (3) calendar days from the date of the decision.
 - c) For complaints addressed through other applicable procedures that do not include a separate investigatory process, the superintendent will investigate as he or she deems appropriate.
 - d) The superintendent will prepare a written decision and provide it to the complainant and any other person entitled by law to receive the appeal decision. For complaints involving discrimination or harassment, the superintendent shall submit the decision within 180 calendar days after the superintendent received complainant's written appeal. Appeals to the superintendent from complaints involving discrimination or harassment are final once the superintendent delivers the written decision, as are all other appeals/complaints to the superintendent unless the complaint can be appealed on the limited grounds to appeal to the board below.
5. The board's role is to set policy, establish and implement a budget, and evaluate the superintendent. The board does not manage the daily operations of the school district entrusted to its administration unless required by law or policy. Because of the

board's statutory roles, it does not hear complaints or appeals that may involve oversight or discipline of students, staff, or others, unless those involve the superintendent as discussed below. The board does not hear complaints or appeals based on allegations of discrimination or harassment unless otherwise required by law. The board will hear appeals only in the following circumstances:

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

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

- a) This appeal must be in writing.
- b) This appeal must be received by the board president no later than ten (10) calendar 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 allegations against the superintendent shall be promptly and thoroughly investigated by the board president or a designee.
- d) The board president will notify the complainant and any other person legally required to receive the decision in writing of its decision. If the complaint involves discrimination or harassment allegations against the Superintendent, the board president shall submit the decision within 180 calendar days after receiving the written appeal.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- d) Respond to the complainant or appeal. If the complaint or appeal involves discrimination or harassment, the response

shall be in writing and shall be submitted within 180 calendar days after the president received the complaint.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Bad Faith or Serial Filings. The purpose of the complaint procedure is to resolve complaints at the lowest level possible within the chain of command. Individuals who file complaints (a) without a good faith intention to attempt to resolve the issues raised; (b) for the purpose of adding administrative burden; (c) at a volume unreasonable to expect satisfactory resolution; or (c) 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.

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

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 falsify 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 deems 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.

B. Education About Appropriate On-Line Behavior

1. School district staff will educate students about appropriate online behavior, both in specific computer usage units and in the general curriculum.

2. Staff will specifically educate students on

- a. Appropriate interactions with other individuals on social networking websites and in chat rooms.
- b. Cyberbullying awareness and response.

3. The School District's technology coordinator shall inform staff of this educational obligation and shall keep records of the instruction which occurs in compliance with this policy

Conferences

Students' academic success has been closely linked to parental involvement in school. The school district has formal parent-teacher conferences during the spring and the fall.

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.

Copyright and Fair Use

The school district complies with federal copyright laws. Students must comply with copyright laws when using school equipment or working on school projects and assignments. Federal law prohibits the unauthorized reproduction of works of authorship, regardless of the medium in which they were created.

The "fair use" doctrine allows limited reproduction of copyrighted works for educational and research purposes. "Fair use" of a copyrighted work includes reproduction for purposes such as criticism, news reporting, teaching (including multiple copies for classroom use), scholarship, or research. Students who are unsure whether their proposed reproduction of copyrighted material constitutes "fair use" should consult with their teacher or building principal, review the school district's copyright compliance policy, and review *Copyright for Students* found at

<https://www.whoishostingthis.com/resources/student-copyright/>. You can find more information on copyright compliance requirements and permitted uses from the U.S. Copyright Office and the Library of Congress at the following site: <http://www.loc.gov/teachers/usingprimarysources/copyright.html>.

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.

Dating Violence

Dating violence, as that term is defined by Nebraska law, will not be tolerated by the school district. Students who engage in dating violence on school grounds, in a school vehicle or at a school activity or that otherwise violates the Nebraska Student Discipline Act will receive consequences consistent with the Act and the district's student discipline policies.

The school district shall provide dating violence training to staff deemed appropriate by the administration and in accordance with Nebraska law.

Deliveries

Students will not be allowed to have food or drink delivered to the school during the school day other than lunchtime. Items such as flowers, candy, and other gifts may be delivered to the school, however, these items will be held in the office until the end of the school day. Any exception to this may be made through 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 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 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 at (308) 262-1470, gschlothauer@bpsbulldogs.org or in person at school. Students may report discrimination or harassment to any staff member who will then forward it onto the appropriate coordinator or administrator. The staff member will follow school district policies to respond to the report.

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 bandanas during the school day or at school-sponsored events
4. Bare feet (some type of footwear must be worn)
5. Short-shorts, biker shorts, or cutoffs which do not sufficiently cover the student.
6. Any clothing that could cause damage to others or school property
7. Clothing that is torn, ripped, or cut
8. Bare "midriff" (belly button) styles, see-through and low cut blouses, halters, or tank tops or thin-strapped tops (spaghetti straps)
9. Pants and shorts worn below the waist so as to expose undergarments
10. Chains hanging or attached to pants or shorts
11. Coats during school hours unless the student has permission from a faculty member
12. Clothing with tears or holes that expose flesh or underclothes
13. 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.

Driving and Parking Personal Vehicles

Students who drive privately owned motor vehicles to school must obey the following rules:

1. Students may not move their vehicles during the school day without the permission of the building principal or superintendent. Students will not be allowed to sit in or be around their vehicles during the school day, without administrative permission.
2. Students must drive with care to ensure the safety of the pedestrians. Students may not drive carelessly or with excessive speed.
3. By driving personal vehicles to school and parking on school grounds, students consent to having that vehicle searched by school officials when they have reasonable suspicion that such a search will reveal a violation of school rules.
4. Students must park in designated areas with a parking permit clearly displayed.

Drug Free Schools

The board of education has adopted policies to comply with the Federal Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act. Students are prohibited from using, possessing or selling any drug, alcohol or tobacco while on school grounds, at a school activity or in a school vehicle. In addition, students who participate in the school's activities program should refer to the Activities Handbook which prohibits the use or possession of alcohol, controlled substances and tobacco at all times.

Any student who violates any school policy regarding drug, alcohol and tobacco use will be disciplined, up to and including short-term suspension, long-term suspension, or expulsion from school and/or referral to appropriate authorities for criminal prosecution.

Use of Sniffer Dogs

The board of education finds that the possession of illegal drugs and other contraband on school grounds is unlawful, is disruptive of the educational process, is harmful to students and staff, and is contrary to the interests of the school district. Accordingly, to minimize the presence of these items

on school grounds, the administration is authorized to use sniffer dogs according to the protocol set forth in this policy.

Protocol for Use of Sniffer Dogs

1. The superintendent, or the building principal with the superintendent's permission, may initiate the use of specially trained sniffer dogs to conduct an inspection.
2. The administration will contact the canine provider and/or the appropriate law enforcement agency to schedule the use of a sniffer dog or dogs. The administration shall require an assurance from the provider that any sniffer dogs to be used in the school have been properly trained, and may request evidence of the training and/or certification of the dogs. In no event will the school district authorize a sniffer dog to sniff any person.
3. The superintendent or if designated by the superintendent, the building principal, and law enforcement representatives or canine provider will confer regarding the specific plan of areas to be inspected. The plan may involve any or all school building facilities, vehicles in the school parking lot, or other areas where student and staff vehicles are parked on school property during or after school hours.
4. If the inspection is scheduled for a day when school is in session, students and staff will be informed over the public address system, and will be directed to remain in their rooms until given further directions.
5. During the inspection, administrators may assign personnel to designated areas as deemed appropriate to assist in the smooth handling of the inspection.
6. After the inspection is finished, students and staff will be notified over the public address system, and will be thanked for their cooperation.
7. If the sniffer dog alerts, the alert will constitute reasonable cause for the administration to conduct a search of the property. If the sniffer dog alerts on a vehicle on school grounds, the owner will be required to unlock the vehicle doors and trunk for further inspection of the interior of the

vehicle. If the owner refuses to unlock the vehicle, the matter will be turned over to law enforcement authorities. The owner will be subject to disciplinary action as specified in board policy and/or the student or staff handbook or as otherwise allowed by law. This may include discipline for the refusal to obey an administrative directive.

8. Any illegal drugs or contraband found on school grounds, whether in a desk, locker, vehicle, or any other place on school grounds, will be confiscated and turned over to law enforcement authorities. A student's parents will be contacted. The individual will be subject to disciplinary action as specified in board policy and/or the student or staff handbook or as otherwise allowed by law.

9. At the conclusion of the inspection, school officials will confer with the canine provider and/or any law enforcement authorities who were involved in the inspection to review the results of the inspection. The administration may authorize any follow-up inspections or other action deemed appropriate.

NOTICE TO STUDENTS AND STAFF

Students and staff shall be informed of the District policy regarding the use of sniffer dogs as soon as practicable after the adoption of this policy. Thereafter, students and staff shall be informed of the policy at the beginning of the school year. By this policy and/or via the provision in the student or staff handbook, students and staff are specifically notified that:

1. Lockers may be sniffed by sniffer dogs at any time.
2. Vehicles parked on school property may be sniffed by sniffer dogs at any time.
3. Classrooms and other common areas may be sniffed by sniffer dogs at any time students and staff are not present.
4. If contraband of any kind is found, the student or staff member shall be subject to appropriate disciplinary action.

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 7:55 a.m. All students eat for free.

Lunch

The school will serve 7-12 lunch from 12:30 to 1:00 PM Daily. Campus is open for 9-12 only. Lunch is free for students.

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

Students found to have head lice, louse eggs, or nits will not be permitted at school and will be sent home. Upon discovering the presence of any indication of lice, louse eggs, or nits, the student's parent(s) or guardian(s) will be notified, and if appropriate will be asked to pick up the student from school immediately.

Students will not be permitted to return to school until the district finds that no live lice, eggs, or nits can be detected. The parent(s) or guardian(s) will be required to treat the student and accompany the student to school to be examined.

The student cannot ride the school bus until the district has cleared the student to return to school.

Health Problems Limiting Activities

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 parental statement of refusal to provide the immunization history. 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 for sixty days without the necessary immunizations.

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 and hazing by members of classes, clubs, athletic teams, or any other organization affiliated with the district are prohibited except as otherwise permitted by this policy. Any student engaging in hazing or non-approved initiations is subject to discipline as permitted by policy and law.

Initiations are defined as any ritualistic expectations, requirements, or activities placed upon new members of a school organization for the purpose of admission into the organization, even if those activities do not rise to the level of "hazing" as defined below. Initiations are prohibited except by permission of the superintendent.

Hazing is defined as any activity by which a person intentionally or recklessly endangers the physical or mental health or safety of an individual for the purpose of initiation into, admission into, affiliation with, or continued membership in any school organization. Hazing activities include, but are not limited to, whipping, beating, branding, an act of sexual penetration, an exposure of the genitals of the body done with the intent to affront or alarm any person, a lewd fondling or caressing of the body of another person, forced and prolonged calisthenics, prolonged exposure to the elements, forced consumption of any food, liquor, beverage, drug, or harmful substance not generally intended for human consumption, prolonged sleep deprivation, or any brutal treatment or the performance of any unlawful act that endangers the physical or mental health or safety of any person.

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.

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. Students with overdue materials will not be allowed to check out materials until their books are returned. 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.

Memorials

Memorials or plaques honoring the deceased students are generally not allowed in or on the school grounds. Dedications to students will not be allowed.

Scholarships in the deceased person's name will not be set up by the school. Scholarships set up by outside organizations or individuals will be allowed.

Opting Out of Assessments

The Board of Education has adopted a policy on approval and denial of state and federal assessment opt-out requests, which is based on requirements in law. The policy can be requested by contacting the Superintendent of Schools.

Parental Involvement

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

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

announcements in the school newsletter. Additional meetings may be scheduled, based upon need and interest for such meetings.

2. An explanation of the details for the child's and parents' participation, including but not limited to: curriculum objectives, the forms of academic assessment used to measure student progress and the achievement levels of the challenging State academic standards, type and extent of participation, parental input in educational decisions, coordination, and integration with other Federal, State, and district programs, and evaluations of progress.

3. Opportunities for participation in parent involvement activities, such as training to help parents work with their children to improve achievement. A goal of these parent activities is to provide parents with opportunities to participate in decisions relating to the education of their students, where appropriate.

4. The district will, to the extent practicable, provide parents of limited English proficiency, parents with disabilities, parents with limited literacy, are economically disadvantaged, are of a racial or minority background or parents of migratory children with opportunities for involvement in the Title I Program. Communication to parents about student progress and the district's other Title I Program communications will be provided in the language used in the home to the extent practicable. Responses to parent concerns will be provided in a timely manner.

5. Opportunities for parent-teacher conferences, in addition to those regularly scheduled by the school district, if requested by the parents or as deemed necessary by school district staff.

6. The district will coordinate and integrate parental involvement programs and activities with other programs in the community. These may include cooperation with other community programs such as Head Start and preschools and other community services such as the public library.

7. The district will 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.

Parties/Classroom Celebrations

At various times, classes may have seasonal parties, or celebration activities 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 the 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.

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.

Protection of Student Rights

The Board of Education respects the rights of parents and their children and has adopted a Protection of Pupil Rights policy in consultation with parents to comply with the Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA). The policy is available on the district's website or upon request from the district's administrative office. Parents may opt their child out of participation in activities identified by the Protection of Pupil Rights policy by submitting a written request to the superintendent. Parents may have access to any survey or other material described in the Protection of Pupil Rights policy by submitting a written request to the superintendent.

ACT Exam

Students taking the ACT Exam will be prompted to complete a short, optional questionnaire addressing a number of topics. If you wish to review this questionnaire prior to the administration of the exam, please submit a written request to the superintendent.

Public Displays of Affection

Students may not engage in public displays of affection that is disruptive to the school environment or distracting to others. Prohibited conduct includes hugging, kissing, touching or any other display of affection that a staff member determines to be inappropriate.

Reasonable Suspicion Testing

Students may be required to submit to drug or alcohol testing if there is a reasonable suspicion that the student is under the influence of drugs or alcohol.

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 a.m. and ends at 3:25p.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 30 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

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

Standardized Testing

NWEA Summative Tests are administered to students in the 7th and 8th grades. The tests will be administered in April. Results will be mailed home during the 1st quarter of the following school year. Juniors take the ACT in accordance with state requirements.

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. Materials Required for Course Projects.** The school district will provide students with the materials necessary to complete all curricular projects. In courses where students produce a project that requires more than minimal cost for materials, the finished product will remain the property of the district unless the students either furnish or pay for the reasonable cost of materials required for the course project.

- 5. Extracurricular Activities.** The school district may charge students a fee to participate in extracurricular activities to cover the district's reasonable costs in offering such activities. The district may require students to furnish specialized equipment and clothing that is required for participation in extracurricular activities, or may charge a reasonable fee for the use of district-owned equipment or attire. The coach or sponsor may provide students with additional written guidelines detailing the fees charged, the equipment and/or clothing required, or the usage fee charged. The guidelines will explain the reasons that fees, equipment and/or clothing are required for the activity.
- 6. Post-Secondary Education Costs.** Some students enroll in post-secondary courses while still enrolled in high school. As a general rule, students must pay all costs associated with such post-secondary courses. However, for a course in which students receive high school credit or a course being taken as part of an approved accelerated or differentiated curriculum program, the district shall offer the course without charge for tuition, transportation, books, or other fees. Students who chose to apply for post-secondary education credit for these courses must pay tuition and all other fees associated with obtaining credits from a post-secondary educational institution.
- 7. Transportation Costs.** The district can charge students reasonable fees for district-provided transportation services to the extent permitted by federal and state statutes and regulations.
- 8. 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.
- 9. Participation in Summer School or Night School.** The district will charge reasonable fees for participation in summer school or night school and may charge reasonable fees for correspondence courses.
- 10. Charges for Food Consumed by Students.** The district will charge for items that students purchase from the district's breakfast and lunch programs. The fees charged for these items will be set according to applicable federal and state statutes and regulations. The

district will charge students for the cost of food, beverages, and the like that students purchase from a school store, vending machine, booster club or from similar sources. Students may be required to bring money or food for field trip lunches and similar activities.

The maximum dollar amount charged by the district for the breakfast and lunch programs is as follows:

- Adult Breakfast- \$3.50
- Adult Lunch- \$5.00

11. 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.
- Swing choir students must purchase outfits and shoes selected by the sponsor and/or student group.

12. Contributions for Class Extracurricular Activities. Students are eligible to participate in a number of extracurricular activities during their years in Junior/ Senior High School, including prom, various senior recognitions, and graduation. In order to fund these extracurricular activities, the school district will ask each student to make a contribution to their class's fund beginning in seventh grade. This contribution is completely voluntary. Students who chose not to contribute to the class fund are still eligible to participate in the extra activities.

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 support 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 Government

Students are encouraged to formulate and participate in elective and representative student government activities. The organization, operation and scope of the student government shall be administered by the superintendent or designee.

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 1 of the current school year.

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.

One FERPA exception permits disclosure to school officials with legitimate educational interests without consent. A school official includes, but is not necessarily limited to, a teacher or other educator, administrator, supervisor, instructor, or support staff member (including health or medical staff and law enforcement unit personnel); school board member; volunteer; contractor or consultant who, while not employed by the school, performs an institutional service or function for which the school would otherwise use its own employees and who is under the direct control of the school with respect to the use and maintenance of PII from education records, such as an attorney, representative of the district's insurance providers, auditor, medical consultant, therapist, or a third-party website operator who has contracted with the school district or its agent to offer online programs for the benefit of students and/or the district; members of law enforcement acting on behalf of the school district; a parent or student volunteering to serve on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee; or a parent, student, or other volunteer assisting another school official in performing his or her tasks. A school official typically has a "legitimate educational interest" if the official

needs to review an education record in order to fulfill a school-related professional, contractual, statutory, or regulatory responsibility.

The district will share information with the Department of Education necessary to comply with the requirement of state law that all third- year high school students take a college entrance exam. Any redisclosure of information related to the administration of this exam shall be governed by the agreement between the Nebraska Department of Education and the third-party testing company.

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:

Family Policy Compliance Office
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20202-4605

Student Schedule Changes

Schedule changes, including dropping/adding classes will be limited to the first two days of each semester by contacting the school counselor and having the approval of the teachers for the classes affected by the change. Schedule changes outside of that window will be handled on a case by case basis and must be approved by the principal.

After the first week of the semester, students who insist on dropping a class, except for instances of an extended illness, may receive a "0" on their permanent records, and that grade may be averaged into the student's cumulative grade point average.

Student Use of AI Tools

As used in this section, artificial intelligence tools ("AI Tools") mean machine-based resources that use computer science, algorithms, large language models, and/or machine learning to perform tasks, answer questions, collect information, and respond to human-directed tasks,

queries, and objectives. AI Tools include, but are not necessarily limited to, commercially-available resources like ChatGPT, Gemini, Claude and similar programs.

AI Tools may be useful to student learning. However, students and staff must ensure that student use of AI Tools should focus on using such tools as a resource and for background material, rather than using the AI Tools to complete the assignment. Therefore, AI Tools may only be used by students in accordance with the following requirements:

1. Students may not use AI tools on any assignment, test, or project unless the staff member has given express permission for the student to do so. Staff Member permission to use an AI tool on one assignment does not carry over to other assignments. Individual staff members will decide for each individual assignment the extent to which students may use AI Tools.
2. If a student uses any AI Tools in connection with a school assignment, the student must:
 - a. Give proper attribution to the specific AI Tool(s) used to the same extent that students are expected to give proper attribution to other sources of information such as books, texts, encyclopedias, secondary sources, and other traditional media. Such attribution may include, but is not necessarily limited to, accurate quotations, citations, footnotes, endnotes, and/or bibliography entries.
 - b. Never copy and paste the output from the AI Tool into the student's work as if the student wrote such section himself or herself.
3. Students may never use AI Tools to:
 - a. Cheat on any assignment, test, or quiz;
 - b. Help answer questions on a test or quiz without staff member permission;
 - c. Make or share deepfakes or fake images, audio, or video of any real person;
 - d. Make or share sexual, nude, or intimate images of any real person—even if the image is fake or AI-made;
 - e. Bully, harass, threaten, intimidate or impersonate any person;
 - f. Place another student or staff member name, photo, voice, or personal information into an AI Tool without staff member authorization;

- g. Use AI Tools to bypass accommodations, content filters, or school security.
- 4. A student may use AI Tools as an accommodation if his/her IEP team or Section 504 committee has approved use of the tool. The student must disclose the use of AI Tools to the staff member grading the assignment.
- 5. A student's failure to meet the requirements stated in this policy will constitute a violation of the district's prohibitions against cheating plagiarism and/or academic dishonesty, including but not necessarily limited to such prohibitions stated in the Student Handbook, which violation will subject the student to discipline up to and including expulsion.
- 6. The student requirements stated above are the minimum requirements for any student assignment. An individual teacher may impose more stringent requirements for any specific academic assignment or coursework.

Tardy Policy

A tardy is a failure by a student to be in his/her classroom when the tardy bell rings. Tardy students should report directly to class. Teachers will record tardies in Powerschool. If students are seen loitering in the hallways without a pass, they will be escorted to their assigned classroom by school personnel. The consequences for tardies will be as follows.

- Tardy 1-2. Teacher warning
- Tardy 3. Five minute detention with teacher
- Tardy 4. Five minute detention with teacher, parent phone call by the student and office referral
- Tardy 5 and Greater. Office referral and administration will provide a resolution(lunch detention, before/after school detention, etc)

Telephone Calls

The school's telephone may be used only with permission of staff. Students are permitted to use cellular telephones during school hours or on school property ONLY if they have obtained 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) Students 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 and have the permission of the sponsor or school administration.

Video Surveillance, Recordings, 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.

Recordings Made by Parents/Guardians and Patrons.

Parents/guardians and patrons may make recordings of school activities intended to be public in a non-disruptive manner including things like athletic contests and school board meetings to the extent permitted by law unless otherwise lawfully restricted by the administration. Parents/guardians or patrons may not make recordings if they are volunteering or visiting school during the school day without permission of the administration or supervising staff member and subject to this policy, such as recording their child's classroom activities or recess. Parents may not record meetings with administrators or staff, including meetings related to a student's IEP or 504 Plan. Violation of this policy will result in immediate termination of any meeting that is being recorded and may be grounds for exclusion from school property, loss of volunteer privileges, or other restrictions deemed appropriate by the administration.

Recordings Made by Students. This policy applies to students during the school day on school grounds; when being transported to and from school activities or programs in a vehicle owned, leased, or contracted by a school being used for a school purpose by a school employee or by his or her designee; or at a school-sponsored activity or athletic event. Students may make recordings of school activities in a non-disruptive manner including things like athletic contests and other extracurricular performances to the extent permitted by law. Students generally are not permitted to record classroom instruction or members of the school community during the school day without the express consent of a staff member or as required by the student's education plan. Student use of assistive technology that has the capacity to record and/or transmit recordings (e.g. AngelSense) must be approved by the student's education team or administration. Students remain subject to all other district policies and rules. In no event shall recordings be taken or made in restrooms, locker rooms, or other areas where there is a reasonable expectation of privacy. 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. School closings will be announced on radio stations KNEB 960 AM,

KNEB 94.1, KSID 98.7 FM, and school social media accounts. The school district will also communicate via the Power School automated message system. 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.

Work Permits

The building principal or other authorized school official shall be responsible for the issuance of work permits for children in accordance with state law.

SECTION TWO

ACADEMIC INFORMATION

Class Rank

Student class rank shall be determined by using a numeric grade point average derived from all classes graded on a numeric basis. To be included in the class ranking, a student must have received a numeric grade for the class in which he/she was enrolled.

Students who transfer into the school district will be eligible to be included in class ranking after two semesters of attendance. Students who transfer into the school district in the middle of their senior year will be eligible to be included in class ranking, although a mid-year transfer will not displace the ranking of a student who has not transferred mid-year. In those circumstances there will be two students holding the relevant class ranking. Mid-year transfer students will not be eligible to receive senior awards such as valedictorian unless the student has been enrolled in the district's high school for the last two semesters.

In order to be eligible for valedictorian and salutatorian recognition, a student must have attended Bridgeport Public Schools as a full-time student for a minimum of two consecutive semesters in grades 9-12.

Eligibility

- An eligibility list will be compiled weekly. The third week of each quarter, a grade report will be run on all students. The report will identify any student who has a failing grade for the current nine weeks grading period.
- If a student is failing one class, that student will be placed on academic probation. The student will be encouraged to attend after school eligibility tutoring. If a student is failing the same class for three weeks or more, and all avenues of rectifying the failing grade are exhausted (teacher conference, tutoring, parent meeting, etc.) that student may be ineligible for all extracurricular activities, king/queen royalty selections, school dances/prom, trips, and other performances, until they are returned to good standing.
- If a student is failing two or more courses at any time (and all avenues to rectify the failing grades are exhausted) he/she will be ineligible to compete, perform or participate until they are returned to good standing. This includes all extracurricular activities, king/queen royalty selections, school dances/prom, trips, and other performances.

*A preliminary eligibility list will be populated the second week of the quarter and students who are failing classes will be notified.

*A student who is habitually ineligible may face further activity restrictions in an effort to remedy the student's poor academic performance.

*After school eligibility tutoring will be available 2-3 days per week, TBD.

- *Administration will review students who become ineligible.
Administration will have discretion to determine ineligibility.

Bridgeport Public Schools Activities Eligibility for Part-Time (Homeschool) Students

Part-time (homeschool) students are eligible to participate in Bridgeport Public Schools activities as long as they meet all BPS eligibility requirements. Eligibility reports will be run on Monday mornings beginning after the third week of each academic quarter. Prior to each eligibility check, part-time students must submit current non-BPS grade reports to school administration. Failure to provide grade documentation may result in ineligibility for participation.

Grades

Students will receive letter grades for their academic core classes.

SUGGESTED GRADING SCALE FOR JR/SR HIGH SCHOOLS

94-100 - A 86-93 - B 78-85 - C 70-77 - D 69 or Below F

P = Passing, S=Satisfactory

Graduation Awards/Honors

The valedictorian of the graduating class shall be the students with the highest cumulative grade point averages respectively in course work completed in grades nine through twelve.

Graduation Requirements

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS—Board Policies 6000's

In order to receive a diploma, students must meet all graduation requirements as set forth in BPS school board policy. Please refer to board policy for all requirements. Special attention to board policy 6006:

The district shall conduct a commencement ceremony for members of the senior class at the end of the school year. Participation in the ceremony is a privilege, not a right, and the superintendent or his/her designee may prohibit students who have violated conduct rules from participating in the ceremony as a consequence for the misconduct. Only those students who have completed all graduation requirements (i.e., completed the required coursework or achieved the goals set in the student's individual education plan) will be allowed to participate in commencement exercises.

A. DIPLOMA REQUIREMENTS

To be eligible for a diploma from the Bridgeport Public Schools, a student must have completed eight semesters of full-time high school attendance. Students must earn at least 240 total credits in grades 9-12, including the following:

- 40 credits of English
- 30 credits of Mathematics
- 30 credits of Science
- 30 credits of Social Science
- 10 credits of approved CTE courses
- 10 credits of Fine Arts
- 10 credits of Physical Education
- 80 credits or more of additional elective/core credit

Transfer students must meet the minimum hour requirement for graduation both in terms of total number and specific subject areas. Substitutions may be made for deficiencies in required courses, provided that it was not possible to include the courses on the student's schedule while enrolled at this school district.

Students who receive special education services are mainstreamed into the regular education curriculum when appropriate. The curriculum content of regular education classes may be modified to accommodate the individual needs and abilities of verified special education students. Each curriculum modification will be included on the student's Individual Education Plan by the Multi-Disciplinary Team and/or school staffing teams composed of special and regular education staff. Hours in special education will be counted toward a high school diploma.

Parents of students who may not qualify for their high school diploma because of academic deficiencies will be notified of this possibility by the beginning of the second semester of the student's senior year.

GRADE LEVEL PROMOTION

A student's classification is determined by the number of credits earned. Grade level classification is as follows:

CLASSIFICATION SEMESTER	BEGINNING OF 1ST SEMESTER	BEGINNING OF 2ND
Sophomores (10 th)	60 Credits	90 Credits
Junior (11 th)	120 Credits	150 Credits
Senior (12 th)	180 Credits	205 Credits

NOTE: Ten Credits are earned by successfully completing a 36-week course, or five credits for an 18-week course, meeting one period each day, five days a week.

Honor Roll

Junior high and senior high honor roll will be figured on all classes. GPA and class rank will be figured on a 4.0 scale using the conversion of A=4, B=3, C=2, D=1, F=0

Honors: 3.00 — 3.44

High Honors: 3.45 — 3.99

All A's - 4.0

Academic Banquet - Students that have a 3.45 or higher for first semester and third quarter will be invited along with 2 guests to the Academic Banquet.

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.

Extracurricular activities including athletics, cheerleading, band, chorus, and club activities, are governed by the Student Activity Handbook. Students who are involved in extracurricular activities may face consequences related to the activity in addition to the consequences discussed in this handbook.

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 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 for 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 unless the offended teacher requires the student to serve it in their room.

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. 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. After the principal has determined that a short-term suspension is necessary, but prior to commencement of the short-term suspension, the student and the Parent will be given oral and written notice of the charges against the student. They will be advised of what the student is accused of having done, an explanation of the evidence the authorities have, and an opportunity to present evidence of the student's version of the facts.

3. Within 24 hours or such additional time as is reasonably necessary following the suspension (not to exceed an additional 48 hours), the Principal will send a written statement to the student and the student's Parent, describing: the student's conduct, misconduct, or violation of the rule or standard; the reasons for the action taken; the actions made by the school to try to discontinue or alleviate the behavior of the student prior to considering suspension; resources the school is able to provide or recommend to assist the student; and how the school plans to handle such behavior in the future, including an actionable plan aimed at maximizing strategies to keep the student in school.

An opportunity will be given to the student, and the student's Parent, to have a conference with the Principal ordering the short-term suspension before or at the time the student returns to school and shall document such effort in writing. The Principal shall determine who, in addition to the Parent, is to attend the conference. If no conference has been held, a Parent may submit a written request to the suspending principal before the student returns to school. Students who are short-term suspended will be given the opportunity to complete classwork.

Firearms. No student may bring, possess, handle, or transmit a firearm on school grounds, in a school owned vehicle, or at a school activity or event off school grounds, except as permitted by this policy.

Definition of Firearm. The term "firearm," as defined in 18 U.S.C. 921, means any weapon (including a starter gun) which will or is designed to or may readily be converted to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive, the frame or receiver of any such weapon, any firearm muffler or firearm silencer, or any destructive device (excluding an antique firearm).

Exceptions Regarding Firearms. The only exceptions for a student to bring or possess a weapon, including a firearm, are as follows:

1. The issuance of firearms to or possession of firearms by members of the Reserve Officers Training Corps when training or
2. Firearms which may lawfully be possessed by the person receiving instruction under the immediate supervision of an adult instructor who may lawfully possess firearms.

Consequences - Firearm. Any student who brings a firearm, as that term is defined in 18 United States Code 921, to school will be expelled from school for one calendar year. The superintendent of schools and the board of education shall have the authority to modify the expulsion requirement on a case-by-case basis.

Long-Term Suspension

Students may be excluded by the Principal from school or any school function for a period of more than five school days but less than twenty school days (long-term suspension) for any conduct constituting grounds for expulsion as hereinafter set forth. The process for long-term suspension is set forth below.

Expulsion

1. **Meaning of Expulsion.** Expulsion means exclusion from attendance in all schools, grounds and activities of or within the system for a period not to exceed the remainder of the semester in which it took effect unless the misconduct occurred (a) within ten school days prior to the end of the first semester, in which case the expulsion shall remain in effect through the second semester, or (b) within ten school days prior to the end of the second semester, in which case the expulsion shall remain in effect for summer school and the first semester of the following school year, or (c) unless the expulsion is for conduct specified in these rules or in law as permitting or requiring a longer removal, in which case the expulsion shall remain in effect for the period specified therein. Such action may be modified or terminated by the school district at any time during the expulsion period.
2. **Summer Review.** Any expulsion that will remain in effect during the first semester of the following school year will be automatically scheduled for review before the beginning of the school year. The review will be conducted by the hearing officer who conducted the initial expulsion hearing, or a hearing officer appointed by the Superintendent in the event no hearing was previously held or the initial hearing officer is no longer available or willing to serve, after the hearing officer has given notice of the review to the student and the student's parent or guardian. This review shall be limited to newly discovered evidence or evidence of changes in the student's circumstances occurring since the original hearing. This review may lead to a recommendation by the hearing officer that the student be readmitted for the upcoming school year. If the school board or

board of education or a committee of such board took the final action to expel the student, the student may be readmitted only by action of the board. Otherwise the student may be readmitted by action of the Superintendent.

3. **Suspension of Enforcement of an Expulsion:** Enforcement of an expulsion action may be suspended (i.e., "stayed") for a period of not more than one full semester in addition to the balance of the semester in which the expulsion takes effect, and as a condition of such suspended action, the student may be assigned to a school, class, or program/plan and to such other consequences which the school district deems appropriate.

4. **Alternative School or Pre-expulsion Procedures.** The school shall either provide an alternative school, class or educational program for expelled students or shall follow the pre-expulsion procedures outlined in Neb. Rev. Stat. 79-266.

Grounds for Long-Term Suspension, Expulsion, or Mandatory Reassignment:

The following conduct constitutes grounds for long-term suspension, expulsion, or mandatory reassignment, subject to the procedural provisions of the Student Discipline Act, Neb. Rev. Stat. § 79-254 through 79-296, when such activity occurs on school grounds, in a vehicle owned, leased, or contracted by a school being used for a school purpose or in a vehicle being driven for a school purpose by a school employee or by his or her designee, or at a school-sponsored activity or athletic event:

1. Use of violence, force, coercion, threat, intimidation, or similar conduct in a manner that constitutes a substantial interference with school purposes. The board has determined that the use of synthetic media such as deepfakes may constitute "similar conduct";
2. Willfully causing or attempting to cause substantial damage to property, stealing or attempting to steal property of substantial value, or repeated damage or theft involving property;
3. Causing or attempting to cause personal injury to a school employee, to a school volunteer, or to any student. Personal injury caused by accident, self-defense, or other action undertaken on the reasonable belief that it was necessary to protect some other person shall not constitute a violation of this subdivision;
4. Threatening or intimidating any student for the purpose of or with the intent of obtaining money or anything of value from such student;

5. Knowingly possessing, handling, or transmitting any object or material that is ordinarily or generally considered a weapon (see *also board policy on weapons and firearms*);
6. Engaging in the unlawful possession, selling, dispensing, or use of a controlled substance or an imitation controlled substance, as defined in section 28-401, a substance represented to be a controlled substance, or alcoholic liquor as defined in section 53-103.02 or being under the influence of a controlled substance or alcoholic liquor (*note: the term "under the influence" for school purposes has a less strict meaning than it does under criminal law; for school purposes, the term means any level of impairment and includes even the odor of alcohol on the breath or person of a student; also, it includes being impaired by reason of the abuse of any material used as a stimulant*);
7. Public indecency as defined in section 28-806, except that this prohibition shall apply only to students at least twelve years of age but less than nineteen years of age;
8. Engaging in bullying as defined in section 79-2,137 and in these policies;
9. Sexually assaulting or attempting to sexually assault any person if a complaint has been filed by a prosecutor in a court of competent jurisdiction alleging that the student has sexually assaulted or attempted to sexually assault any person, including sexual assaults or attempted sexual assaults that occur off school grounds not at a school function, activity, or event. For purposes of this subdivision, sexual assault means sexual assault in the first degree as defined in section 28-319, sexual assault in the second degree as defined in section 28-320, sexual assault of a child in the second or third degree as defined in section 28-320.01, or sexual assault of a child in the first degree as defined in section 28-319.01, as such sections now provide or may hereafter from time to time be amended;
10. Engaging in any other activity forbidden by the laws of the State of Nebraska which activity constitutes a danger to other students or interferes with school purposes; or
11. A repeated violation of any of the following rules, or a single violation if the conduct amounts to a criminal act, 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, an electronic nicotine delivery system, or a tobacco imitation substance or packaging, regardless of form, including cigars, cigarettes, chewing tobacco, and any other form of tobacco, tobacco derivative product or imitation, or electronic cigarettes, vapor pens, etc.;

e. Possessing, using, selling, or dispensing any drug paraphernalia or imitation of a controlled substance regardless of whether the actual substance possessed is a controlled substance by Nebraska law;

f. Possession of pornography, including creation, possession, dissemination, accessing, sale, or any other use of synthetic media, such as deepfakes;

g. Sexting or the possession of sexting images (a combination of sex and texting - the act of sending sexually explicit messages or photos electronically), including creation, possession, dissemination, accessing, sale, or any other use of synthetic media, such as deepfakes;

h. Engaging in initiations, defined as any ritualistic expectations, requirements, or activities placed upon new members of a school organization for the purpose of admission into the organization, even if those activities do not rise to the level of "hazing" as defined below. Initiations are prohibited except by permission of the superintendent;

i. Engaging in hazing as defined by state law and this policy. Hazing is defined as any activity by which a person intentionally or recklessly endangers the physical or mental health or safety of an individual for the purpose of initiation into, admission into, affiliation with, or continued membership in any school organization. Under state criminal law, hazing activities include, but are not limited to, whipping, beating, branding, an act of sexual penetration, an exposure of the genitals of the

body done with the intent to affront or alarm any person, a lewd fondling or caressing of the body of another person, forced and prolonged calisthenics, prolonged exposure to the elements, forced consumption of any food, liquor, beverage, drug, or harmful substance not generally intended for human consumption, prolonged sleep deprivation, or any brutal treatment or the performance of any unlawful act that endangers the physical or mental health or safety of any person. For purposes of school rules, hazing also includes any activity expected of someone joining a group, team, or activity that humiliates, degrades or risks emotional and/or physical harm, regardless of the person's willingness to participate; personal servitude; restrictions on personal hygiene; yelling, swearing and insulting new members/rookies; being forced to wear embarrassing or humiliating attire in public; consumption of vile substances or smearing of such on one's skin; binge drinking and drinking games; sexual simulation and sexual assault;

j. Bullying which shall include cyber-bullying, defined as the use of the internet, including but not limited to social networking sites such as Facebook, cell phones or other devices to send, post or text message images and material intended to hurt or embarrass another person. This may include, but is not limited to; continuing to send e-mail to someone who has said they want no further contact with the sender; sending or posting threats, sexual remarks or pejorative labels (i.e., hate speech); ganging up on victims by making them the subject of ridicule in forums, and posting false statements as fact intended to humiliate the victim; disclosure of personal data, such as the victim's real name, address, or school at websites or forums; posing as the identity of the victim for the purpose of publishing material in their name that defames or ridicules them; sending threatening and harassing text, instant messages or emails to the victims; and posting or sending rumors or gossip to instigate others to dislike and gang up on the target;

k. Violation of the district's computer acceptable computer use policy are subject to discipline, up to and including expulsion;

l. Knowingly possessing, handling, or transmitting any object or material that is ordinarily or generally considered a simulated or "look-a-like" weapon;

- m. Using any object to simulate possession of a weapon;
- n. Knowingly making a false statement or knowingly submitting false information during the Title IX grievance process or any other school investigation or making a materially false statement in bad faith in the course of a Title IX grievance proceeding or any other school investigation; and
- o. 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.

Reporting Requirement to Law Enforcement

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

1. The violation includes possession of a firearm;
2. The violation results in child abuse;
3. It is a violation of the Nebraska Criminal Code that the administration believes cannot be adequately addressed by discipline from the school district;
4. It is a violation of the Nebraska Criminal Code that endangers the health and welfare of staff or students; or
5. It is a violation of the Nebraska Criminal Code that interferes with school purposes.

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

The following procedures shall be followed regarding any long-term suspension, expulsion, or mandatory reassignment:

1. The decision to recommend discipline shall be made within two school days after learning of the alleged student misconduct. On the date of the decision to discipline, the Principal shall file with the Superintendent a written charge and a summary of the evidence supporting such charge.
2. The Principal shall serve the student and the student's Parent with a written notice by registered or certified mail or personal service within two school days of the date of the decision to

recommend long-term suspension or expulsion. The notice shall include the following:

1. 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;
 2. The penalty, if any, which the principal has recommended in the charge and any other penalty to which the student may be subject;
 3. Resources the school is able to provide or recommend to assist the student;
 4. How the school plans to handle such behavior in the future, including an actionable plan aimed at maximizing strategies to keep the student in school;
 5. A statement that, before long-term suspension, expulsion, or mandatory reassignment can be invoked, the student has a right to a hearing, upon request, and that if the student is suspended pending the outcome of the hearing, the student may complete classwork and homework, including, but not limited to, examinations, missed during the period of suspension pursuant to district guidelines which shall not require the student to attend the school district's alternative programs for expelled students in order to complete classwork or;
 6. A description of the hearing procedures provided by the act, along with procedures for appealing any decision rendered at the hearing;
 7. A statement that the principal, legal counsel for the school, the student, the student's Parent, or the student's representative has the right (i) to examine the student's academic and disciplinary records and any affidavits to be used at the hearing concerning the alleged misconduct and (ii) to know the identity of the witnesses to appear at the hearing and the substance of their testimony; and
 8. A form on which the student, the student's Parent may request a hearing, to be signed by such parties and delivered to the principal or superintendent in person or by registered or certified mail to the address provided on the form.
3. When a notice of intent to discipline a student by long-term suspension, expulsion, or mandatory reassignment is filed with the

superintendent, the student may be suspended by the principal until the date the long-term suspension, expulsion, or mandatory reassignment takes effect, if the principal determines that the student must be suspended immediately to prevent or substantially reduce the risk of (a) interference with an educational function or school purpose or (b) a personal injury to the student himself or herself, other students, school employees, or school volunteers.

4. Nothing in this policy shall preclude the student, student's Parent or representative(s) from discussing and settling the matter with appropriate school personnel prior to the time the long-term suspension, expulsion, or mandatory reassignment takes effect.

5. If a hearing is requested within five days after receipt of the notice, the Superintendent shall recommend appointment of a hearing examiner within two school days after receipt of the hearing request. The student or the student's Parent may request designation of a hearing examiner other than the hearing examiner recommended by the superintendent if notice of the request is given to the superintendent within two school days after receipt of the superintendent's recommended appointment. Upon receiving such request, the superintendent must provide one alternative hearing examiner who is not an employee of the school district or otherwise currently under contract with the school district and whose impartiality may not otherwise be reasonably questioned. The student or the student's Parent must, within five school days, select a hearing examiner to conduct the hearing who was recommended or provided as an alternative hearing examiner, and shall notify the superintendent in writing of the selection. The superintendent must appoint the selected hearing examiner upon receipt of such notice.

6. The hearing examiner must, within two school days after being appointed, give written notice to the principal, the student, and the student's Parent of the time and place for the hearing.

7. The hearing shall be held within a period of five school days after appointment of the hearing examiner, but such time may be changed by the hearing examiner for good cause with consent of the parties. No hearing shall be held upon less than two school days' actual notice to the principal, the student, and the student's Parent, except with the consent of all the parties.

8. The principal or legal counsel for the school, the student, and the student's Parent or representative have the right to receive a copy of all records and written statements referred to in the Student Discipline Act as well as the statement of any witness in the possession of the school board or board of education no later than forty-eight hours prior to the hearing.

9. If a hearing is requested more than five school days following the receipt of the written notice, but not more than thirty calendar days after receipt, the Superintendent shall appoint a hearing examiner. The hearing will be held according to the requirements of section 79-269. The student shall be entitled to a hearing but the consequence imposed may continue in effect pending final determination.

10. If a request for hearing is not received within thirty calendar days following the mailing or delivery of the written notice, the student shall not be entitled to a hearing.

In the event a hearing is requested, the hearing, hearing procedures, the student's rights and any appeals or judicial review permitted by law shall be governed by the applicable provisions of the Nebraska Student Discipline Act (NEB. REV. STAT. § 79-254 to 79-294).

SECTION FOUR

The school district is committed to providing a school environment that enhances learning and the development of lifelong wellness. The goals outlined in this policy were determined and selected after reviewing and considering evidence-based strategies.*

1. Goals for Nutrition Promotion and Education

a. The district will promote healthy food and beverage choices for all students, as well as encourage participation in school meal programs by such methods as implementing evidence-based healthy food promotion techniques through the school meal programs and promoting foods and beverages that meet or exceed the USDA Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards.

b. The health curriculum will include information on good nutrition and healthy living habits.

c. Teachers will incorporate information on nutrition and wellness into the classroom curriculum as appropriate.

d. The district will collaborate with public and private entities to promote student wellness.

- e. Water will be made available to students throughout the school day.

2. Goals for Physical Activity

- a. The school district's curriculums shall include instruction on physical activity and habits for healthy living.
- b. Students will be encouraged to engage in physical activities throughout the school day and will be provided with opportunities to do so.
- c. The district encourages parents and guardians to support their children's participation in physical activity, and to be physically active role models.

3. Goals for Other School-Based Activities Designed to Promote Student Wellness

- a. The district will participate in state and federal child nutrition programs as appropriate.
- b. The district will provide professional development, support, and resources for staff about student wellness.
- c. Students will be provided sufficient time in which to eat school-provided meals.
- d. The district's lunchrooms will be attractive and well-lighted.
- e. The district will allow other health-related entities to use school facilities for activities such as health clinics and screenings so long as the activities meet the district's requirements and criteria for the use of facilities.
- f. The district may partner with other individuals or entities in the community to support the implementation of this policy.
- g. The district will strive to provide physical activity breaks for all students, recess for elementary students, and before and after school activities, as well as encourage students to use active transport (walking, biking, etc.)

- h. The district will use evidence-based strategies to develop, structure, and support student wellness.

4. Standards and Nutrition Guidelines for All Foods and Beverages Sold to Students on the School Campus and During the School Day

- a. The district will ensure that student access to foods and beverages meet federal, state and local laws and guidelines including, but not limited to:

- I. USDA National School Lunch and School Breakfast nutrition standards

- Ii. USDA Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards.

- b. The district will offer students a variety of age-appropriate, healthy food and beverage selections with plenty of fruits, vegetables, and whole grains aimed at meeting the nutrition needs of students.

5. Standards for All Foods and Beverages Provided, But Not Sold to Students During the School Day

The district may provide a list of healthy party ideas or food and beverage alternatives to parents, teachers, and students for classroom parties, rewards and incentives, or classroom snacks. The district discourages the use of food and beverages as a reward or incentive for performance or behavior.

6. Food and Beverage Marketing

Marketing and advertising is only allowed on school grounds or at school activities for foods and beverages that meet or exceed the USDA Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards, except as follows:

- a. This requirement does not apply to marketing that occurs at events outside of school hours such as after school sporting or any other events, including school fundraising events.
- b. The district will not immediately replace menu boards, coolers, tray liners, beverage cups, and other food service equipment with depictions of noncompliant products or logos to comply with the new USDA Smart Snacks in Schools

nutrition requirements. All previously purchased products will be used, and all existing contracts honored.

c. All equipment that currently displays noncompliant marketing materials will not be removed or replaced (e.g., a score board with a Coca-Cola logo). However, as the district reviews and considers new contracts, and as scoreboards or other such durable equipment are replaced or updated over time, any products that are marketed and advertised will meet or exceed the USDA Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards

7. Public Participation

Parents, students, representatives of the school food authority, teachers, school health professionals, board members, school administrators, and members of the general public shall be allowed to provide their input to the school district during the wellness policy adoption and review process.

8. Competitive Foods (Includes Food and Beverages Sold in Vending Machines, School Stores, Fundraisers or in Competition with the National School Lunch and Breakfast Programs)

1. Definitions. "Competitive food" means all food and beverages other than meals reimbursed under programs authorized by the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act and the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 available for sale to students on the school campus during the school day. For the purpose of competitive food standards implementation, "school day" means the period from the midnight before to 30 minutes after the end of the official school day.
2. Applicability. Except as otherwise allowed by the Nebraska Department of Education (NDE) or applicable law, all competitive food sold during the school day must meet the USDA Smart Snacks Standards and the nutrition standards found in 7 CFR § 210.11. The competitive food restrictions do not apply to food sold during non-school day hours, weekends, and off-campus fundraising events such as concessions during after-school sporting events, school plays or concerts; or to bulk food items that are sold for consumption at home. (Ex: frozen pizzas, cookie dough tubs, etc.)
3. Fundraiser Exemptions. A special exemption is allowed for the sale of food and/or beverages that do not meet the

competitive food standards as required in this section for the purpose of conducting an infrequent school-sponsored fundraiser. The specially exempted fundraisers must not take place more than the frequency specified by NDE during such periods that schools are in session. No specially exempted fundraiser foods or beverages may be sold in competition with school meals in the food service area during the meal service.

4. Other Exemptions. The only other nutrition exemptions from the competitive food requirements are those found in 7 CFR § 210.11.
5. Other Limitations. No competitive food can be sold to children anywhere on school premises beginning one half hour before breakfast and/or lunch service until one half hour after meal service unless all proceeds earned during these time periods go to the school nutrition program.

9. **Triennial Assessment**

The school board shall assess and review this policy at least every three years to determine:

- a. Compliance with this policy;
- b. How this policy compares to NDE model wellness policies;
- c. Progress made in attaining the goals of this policy.

The school board will update or modify this policy as appropriate.

10. **Public Notice**

In addition to identifying the topic on its meeting agenda as required by the Open Meetings Act, the school district will provide notice of this policy at least annually to the public and other stakeholders identified in this policy by one or more of the following methods: on its webpage, in its newsletter, in the student and employee handbooks, newspaper advertisements, direct mailings, electronic mail, and public postings.

In addition to identifying the topic on its meeting agenda as required by the Open Meetings Act, the school district will provide notice of the Triennial Assessment and progress reports towards meeting the goals in this policy using one or more of those same methods.

11. **Recordkeeping**

The District will retain records to document compliance with the requirements of the wellness policy at its central office.

12. Operational Responsibility

The superintendent is responsible for coordinating the implementation of this policy and for monitoring the district's progress in meeting the goals established by this policy. The superintendent will periodically report to the board on the district's progress in implementing this policy.

* These strategies include, but are not necessarily limited to, those cited in the Alliance for a Healthier Generation's Model Wellness Policy (Updated June 2020 to Reflect the USDA Final Rule) found at <https://api.healthiergeneration.org/resource/2>.

SECTION FIVE

ACTIVITIES HANDBOOK

A great athletic tradition is not made overnight—it takes hard work, dedication of many individuals and many years. As a member of an interscholastic team, an athlete has certain responsibilities to uphold.

Our tradition has been to compete so that honor comes to our community, our school, and our athletes. Such a tradition is worthy of the best efforts of all concerned: the followers, coaching staff, athletes, and student body. We will maintain respect for our school, our community, and most of all, our opponents.

WARNING

The purpose of this WARNING is to bring to your attention to the existence of potential dangers associated with athletic participation. Participation in any athletic activity may involve injury of some type. The severity of such injury can range from minor cuts, bruises, sprains, and muscle strains to more serious injuries to the body's bones, joints, ligaments, tendons, or muscles, to catastrophic injuries to the head, neck, and spinal cord. On rare occasions, injuries can be so severe as to result in total disability, paralysis, or death. Even with the best coaching, the use of the best protective equipment and strict observance of rules, injuries are still a possibility.

Responsibilities to yourself

We like to think of an athlete as being someone special, in that certain responsibilities are imposed on him/her. An athlete is one who accepts these responsibilities and broadens

himself/herself and develops strength of character. Athletes owe it to themselves to get the greatest possible good from their school experiences: their studies, participation in the other co-curricular activities, as well as from athletics.

Responsibilities to the school

By being an athlete, you have the responsibility to your school to do your best and to follow the guidelines set forth. As an athlete you are representing your school and your community. You assume a leadership role when you are on an athletic team. The student body, community, and other communities judge our school based on your conduct and attitudes, both on and off the field.

Responsibility of the coaching staff

Coaches feel they have the responsibility to give the community the best possible team with the available talent each year. Those who want to be team members will have to accept the responsibilities, which are set for every member of all teams on interscholastic athletes. These guidelines are drawn from the beliefs of the coaching staff, athletic director, administration, and NSAA.

ATHLETIC GUIDELINES

1. Participation on other teams

Any person who is a member of any Bridgeport Junior or Senior High interscholastic team cannot take part in any organized sport, in school or out of school during the period he/she is a member of a BHS interscholastic team (example—church league basketball).

2. Team Travel

A. Transportation

Students who ride to a school sponsored activity, by school provided transportation must return on the school provided vehicle unless they are leaving at the conclusion of the event with their parents. The parent must sign the student athlete out with the head coach.

B. Dress

Dress of team members should be clean, neat, and in good taste. Game days are dress-up.

C. Meals

When an athletic team is required or will be away from home all day for a contest, or if the return trip is exceptionally long, arrangements may be made to feed the athletes.

3. Participation and Attendance

Athletes are expected to be at all practices scheduled by the coach. Should an athlete not be able to attend they must contact the coach in advance. A student must be in attendance the entire day in order to be eligible to practice or participate in an activity. The only exceptions

are medical and family emergencies. The Athletic Director or Principal must approve any exception.

4. Pre-practice Requirements

All athletes must meet the following requirements before they start practices:

- A. Return a medical physical to the coach who will get the physical to the proper personnel.
- B. Return these other sheets which are included in the activity booklet.

- 1. Parental/Guardian permission to participate in the sport**

- 2. Parental/Guardian agreement to the Athletic Guidelines**

- 3. Athlete's agreement to the Athletic Guidelines**

- 4. Parental/Guardian signature regarding insurance**

- 5. Eligibility**

Any student representing the Bridgeport Public School District in competitive activities must meet the coaches' or sponsors' participation requirements in addition to academic requirements set by the Board of Education. Regardless of a student's ability in an activity, that student must meet or exceed the following academic requirements to be eligible to participate in any competitive activity (i.e. all athletic activities, cheerleading, debate/forensics, music and drama contests, etc.):

Eligibility will be based on NSAA Rules and Board Policy. See Appendix A.

- 6. Activities on Church Nights and Sundays**

According to NSAA, no athletic event may be scheduled on Sunday. In addition to this, the school will try to work cooperatively with the churches of the community by not having any practices after 6:00 p.m. on Wednesdays. In the event of a Monday conference, district or regional contest, the team may hold a Sunday practice.

- 7. Starting, Dismissal, and Length of Practice**

Each coach on an individual team basis will establish starting times of practices. All athletes are expected to be on time at the field or court. A student who must stay after school for classroom purposes shall notify the head coach as to his/her academic commitment. In all cases, academics will come first. A student who must stay after school for disciplinary reasons should notify the head coach.

- 8. Equipment**

The athletic department tries to furnish the athlete with as much of the equipment needed as is feasible. We are confident that we have good equipment and in the case of contact sports our athletes are well protected. All equipment will be checked out to individuals at the beginning of the season by the head coach. The athlete will be responsible for this equipment and should be prepared to pay for the cost of replacement if it is not checked in at the close of the season in reasonable condition. All collections for lost equipment will be handled in the Athletic Director's office. At no time shall any athlete wear equipment checked out to him/her except for practices and contests.

9. Lettering Requirements

Each time an individual letters in the Senior High, they will be awarded a certificate by the coach of the sport at the conclusion to the school year, at the individual team banquets. The first time, and the first time only, that an individual letters in any sport on the Senior High level, he/she will be awarded by the coach of that sport, a standard chenille letter.

Football

Twelve quarters of varsity competition are needed. The athlete must finish the season in good standing (not under disciplinary suspension, etc.). The final decision on lettering is up to the coach's discretion.

Volleyball

Participation in at least $\frac{1}{4}$ of all varsity sets for the season is required. The athlete must finish the season in good standing. The final decision on lettering is up to the coach's discretion.

Boys' and Girls' Cross Country

The athlete must participate as a varsity team member in at least $\frac{1}{3}$ of all varsity competitions. The athlete must finish the season in good standing. The final decision on lettering is up to the coach's discretion.

Boys' and Girls' Golf

Must participate as a varsity team member in at least 3 meets. The athlete must finish the season in good standing. The final decision on lettering is up to the coach's discretion.

Wrestling

Athlete must participate in $\frac{1}{3}$ of all varsity competitions. The athlete must finish the season in good standing. The final decision on lettering is up to the coach's discretion.

Boys' and Girls' Basketball

Participation in at least 1/4 of all varsity quarters for the season is required. The athlete must finish the season in good standing. The final decision on lettering is up to the coach's discretion.

Boys' and Girls' Track

The athlete must score 4 points total in the season. The points must be scored in major meets (more than 6 teams). The athlete must finish the season in good standing. The final decision on lettering is up to the coach's discretion.

Band and Chorus

The student must be in the 9th grade or above. The student must participate in all performances of the organization throughout the school year (excused absences must be approved by the directors). The student must finish the year in good standing. The final decision for lettering is up to the director's discretion.

Cheerleading

Cheerleaders must score 30 pts to letter during the cheerleading season. The final decision on lettering is up to the coach's discretion.

IN ALL INSTANCES, THE COACH OR DIRECTOR SHALL HAVE THE PREROGATIVE OF LETTERING A STUDENT WHO HE/SHE FEELS IS DESERVING BECAUSE OF EFFORT, INJURY, OR OTHER FACTORS, BUT WHO HAS NOT MET THE CRITERIA. THE COACH OR DIRECTOR SHALL NOT HAVE THE PREROGATIVE OF NOT LETTERING A STUDENT WHO HAS MET THE CRITERIA.

10. Dressing Room Policies

All athletes will be under the direct supervision of the coach in charge while dressing. The coach in charge will handle all cases of misconduct. Athletes and coaches are expected to keep the dressing rooms clean.

11. Traveling to Practice Fields/Courts or Course

If athletes have to travel, they will walk/jog or ride transportation that is provided by school to the practice site unless other arrangements are established through the administration.

12. Parent Complaints

Coaches and activity sponsors are not expected to deal with parent complaints in the time period immediately following a game or performance. Coaches/sponsors should not be expected to defend coaching/activity philosophies or to discuss students other than with the son/daughter of the complaining person. They are further not expected to deal with parent complaints over the telephone other than to set up an appointment in an attempt to resolve a complaint. If a parent has a complaint they should contact the coach/sponsor involved between 8:00 — 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

If a coach does not respond within 48 hours during the week or 72 hours over the weekend, please contact the building administrator. If the issue persists,, the parent can request a meeting in writing (emailing, text, or letter) or calling the administration to set up a meeting to address the issue. A problem or complaint will be addressed by contacting the appropriate school personnel in the following order:

- Coach-Athlete Conference
- Coach-Athlete & Parent Conference
- Coach-Athlete & Parent - AD/Principal Conference
- Coach-Athlete & Parent - AD/Principal - Superintendent Conference

MANDATORY DRUG TESTING POLICY FOR STUDENTS INVOLVED IN EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES — Senior High School

The Board of Education for Bridgeport Public Schools values students' participation in extracurricular activities. Such students, as role models for other students, are a key to our goal to provide the best possible educational program for our students. To achieve our goal and to maximize the skills and talents of our students, it is important that each student understands the dangers of drug and alcohol use. This policy statement should qualify our position on student drug and alcohol use. Participation in extracurricular activities is a privilege which can be taken away for failure to comply with this policy. The purpose of this policy is as follows:

- 1) To provide for the health and safety of all students;
- 2) To undermine the effects of peer pressure by providing legitimate reason for students to refuse use of illegal drugs and/or alcohol;
- 3) To identify students who use illegal drugs and/or alcohol; and
- 4) To encourage students who use illegal drugs and/or alcohol to participate in appropriate treatment programs.

DEFINITIONS

DPA: A national certified Drug Program Administrator, which shall use a certified laboratory in testing of samples.

Drugs: Any substance considered illegal by Nebraska Statute, i.e., Uniform Controlled Substances Act, section 28-401 et seq., or which is controlled by the Food and Drug Administration unless prescribed to the student by any licensed medical practitioner authorized to prescribe controlled substances. For purposes of this policy, drugs shall include the illegal use of alcohol.

Drug Program Coordinator: The Drug Program Coordinator shall be the Bridgeport High School Principal or the designee.

MRO: Medical Review Officer.

School Year: From the first day classes commence in the fall, unless the activity begins prior to the first day of classes, in which event it shall include from the first day of practice through and including the last day of classes in the following spring.

Activity Programs: Any activity that meets the guidelines of an extracurricular activity at Bridgeport Public Schools, which shall include but is not limited to the following:

Basketball	B Club	All School Play
Cheerleading	Jazz Band	FCCLA
Cross Country	Musicals	Spanish Club
Science Club	One Act Plays	Track
Drill Team	Show Choir	Volleyball
Flag Team	Speech/Debate	Wrestling
Football	Student Council	FFA
Golf	Art Club	Student Council
E Sport		

Participant: Any student who participates in any extracurricular activity as herein before set forth shall be a participant and his/her name shall be included in the participant pool. A participant shall enter the participant pool upon signing the attached consent form EXHIBIT A and returning said signed consent form to the High School Principal. A participant shall remain in the selection pool for an entire year (365 days) from the date the consent form is returned to the High School Principal. A participant may be subject to testing at any time during said 365 day period except during summer weeks when activities are not in session. A student will be removed from the testing pool if he/she has quit or been cut from an activity. Quitting the activity must occur prior to being selected for testing to be removed from the testing pool of students.

Sample Collection: Samples will be collected as directed by the Drug Program Administrator on the same day the student is selected for testing, or if the student is absent on that day, on the day of the student's return to school. If a urine sample is required, all students providing samples will do so alone in an individual bathroom or stall with the door closed.

Drug Program Administrator: The Board will choose a nationally certified Drug Program Administrator (DPA) for the purpose of determining through random selection the student(s)/ participant(s) to be tested. This will be accomplished by the use of a "Student List" identifying the student by number only. The DPA, by use of a certified laboratory, shall also process sample results and maintain privacy with respect to test results and related matters.

Medical Review Officer "IVIRO": Bridgeport High School will utilize an MRO to review all laboratory-reported positive tests. The role of the MRO is critical to protecting the interest of the students. The MRO serves a critical role in determining whether the use of a substance identified by the sample analysis is from illicit use or a legitimate medical use. The MRO will demonstrate his/her knowledge by being certified by an MRO Accreditation body. The parent or the guardian will be contacted by the MRO or his/her assistant. The MRO will report

results of verified positives and/or warrant health and safety issues to the student and to the designated school representative through the DPA.

Scope of Tests: The drug screen tests for one or more illegal drugs and/or alcohol. The Drug Program Coordinator shall determine which illegal drugs shall be screened, but in no event shall that determination be made after selection of students for testing. Student samples will not be screened for the presence of any substances other than an illegal drug or for the existence of any physical condition other than drug use.

Non-Punitive Nature of Policy: No student shall be penalized academically for testing positive for illegal drugs or alcohol. The results of drug tests pursuant to this policy will not be documented in any student's academic records. Information regarding the results of drug tests will not be disclosed to criminal or juvenile authorities absent legal compulsion by valid and binding subpoena or other legal process, which the district shall not solicit. In the event of service of any such subpoena or legal process, the student and the student's custodial parent or legal guardian will be notified as soon as possible by the district.

DRUG SCREENING PROCEDURES

General Policy: Practical experience and research have proven that even small quantities of narcotics, abused prescription drugs or alcohol can affect judgment and reflexes which can create unsafe conditions for students, especially those involved in sports or any activity covered in this policy. Even when not readily apparent, the effect can have serious results for students engaged in activities. Drug-using students participating in extracurricular activities are a threat to co-participants, other students, and themselves, and may make injurious errors. For these reasons, the Board has adopted a policy that all students participating in extracurricular activities must remain substance-free.

Prohibitions: All students participating in extracurricular activities are prohibited from using, possessing, distributing, manufacturing, or having controlled substances, improperly used medications, or any mind/mood altering or intoxicating substances present in their system.

Code of Conduct

Alcohol Use / Possession: All students participating in extracurricular activities are prohibited from possessing or use of alcohol.

After School Hours Conduct: After-school-hours use of drugs, alcohol, or any other prohibited substances is illegal. All students participating in extracurricular activities should realize that these regulations prohibit all illicit drug use during and away from school activities.

Consequences for the: - The use, purchase, or possession of: alcohol, steroids, mood altering chemicals, build-altering chemicals, drug paraphernalia and/or tobacco products. - Being cited for the use, purchase, or possession of: alcohol, mood altering chemicals, build- altering chemicals, drug paraphernalia and/or tobacco products(including the use of vapor products, alternative nicotine products, or any other such look-alike product). The following consequences also apply to failure of mandatory drug testing for extracurricular activities.

CONSEQUENCE FOR THE FIRST OFFENSE The student will be suspended from extracurricular activity performances for 14 calendar days. *If the student self-reports the violation to the principal or A/D by the end of the next day that classes are held he or she may have the activity suspension decreased to 7

calendar days. The student may be allowed to practice. The student will be required to complete a drug/alcohol counseling program approved by the school district.

CONSEQUENCE FOR THE SECOND OFFENSE The student will be suspended from participation in the activity program for 28 calendar days. *If the student self-reports the violation to the principal or A/D by the end of the next day that classes are held he or she may have the activity suspension decreased to 14 calendar days. The student may be allowed to practice. The student will be required to complete a drug/alcohol counseling program approved by the school district.

CONSEQUENCE FOR THE THIRD OFFENSE The student will be suspended from participation and practice in the activity programs for the remainder of the school year, from the date of the violation. Before being allowed to participate the following school year, the student will be required to complete a drug/alcohol counseling program (at their own expense.) Must provide written proof from counseling program director that the course was successfully completed.

TESTING Procedure:

1. All Current Students Participating in Extracurricular Activities

A. Random Testing

The Board authorizes random unannounced screening of all students participating in extracurricular activities. The list of students participating in extracurricular activities contained in the random pool will be updated upon receipt of a signed consent form. Students participating in extracurricular activities who have been selected will be required to report to the designated collection site for testing.

B. Consent

Each student wishing to participate in any extracurricular activity and the student's custodial parent or legal guardian shall consent in writing to drug testing pursuant to the district's drug testing program. Written consent shall be in the form attached to this policy as EXHIBIT A. No student shall be allowed to participate in any extracurricular activity absent such consent.

C. Removal From the Random Testing List

Students who quit or are cut from an activity, prior to being selected for random testing, may request their name be dropped from the testing list. A request form must be signed by the student and his/her parents to be dropped. However, students may volunteer to remain in the pool even though he/she are not part of the activity.

D. There is no Junior High Testing.

2. Testing Procedures

A. General Guidelines

The Board and the DPA shall rely, when practical, on the guidance of the Federal Department of Transportation, Procedures for Transportation Workplace Drug Testing Programs, 49 C.F.R. Parts 40.1 through 40.39, and on the further guidance of the Omnibus Transportation Employee Testing Act provided in 49 C.F.R. Parts 382, 391, 392 and 395.

B. Substances

Substances that students participating in extracurricular activities may be randomly tested for: alcohol, amphetamines, cannabinoids, cocaine, opiates, synthetic opiates and PCP, and other substances, such as but not limited to steroids, barbiturates, and benzodiazepines without

advance notice as part of tests authorized by the Board for safety purposes. Such tests will be coordinated with the Drug Program Coordinator.

C. Testing Procedure

The Board reserves the right to utilize breath, saliva or urinalysis testing procedures. Urine, and oral fluid samples which screen positive will be confirmed by GC/MS. Positive saliva or breath alcohol tests will be confirmed by EBT (Evidential Breath Tester).

Collection Sites

The Drug Program Coordinator will designate a collection site(s) at Bridgeport High School where individuals may provide specimens.

Collection Procedures.

The Board and the DPA have developed and will maintain a documented procedure for collecting, shipping and accessing all specimens. The Board and the DPA will utilize a standard Custody and Control Form for all students participating in extracurricular activities testing. A tamper-proof sealing system, identifying numbers, labels, and sealed shipping containers will be used for specimen transportation. Collection sites will maintain instructions and training emphasizing the responsibility of the collection site personnel to protect the integrity of the specimen and maintain as proper a collection procedure that is reasonable. All alcohol testing will be performed by a certified Breath Alcohol Technician (BAT). Where the Board has an employee collect the specimen, the Board will provide instruction and training to that employee.

5. Return of Results

The DPA will transmit by a secure method the results of all tests to the DPA's MRO. The MRO will be responsible for reviewing test results of students. Prior to making a final decision, the MRO shall give the individual an opportunity to discuss the result either face-to-face or over the telephone. The DPA shall then promptly tell the principal of the high school which student(s) tested positive.

Request for Retest

A split specimen will be collected for all testing methods, with the exception of alcohol testing. A positive alcohol test will be confirmed with an EBT device. Students involved in the program may, upon a non-negative test result, request that the split sample be tested (within 72 hours of being notified of the final testing result) at a second nationally certified laboratory from a list provided by the MRO. The request for the test must be submitted in writing to the MRO. Students participating in extracurricular activities are required to pay the associated costs for an additional test in advance. However, the costs will be reimbursed if the result of the split sample test is negative.

Positive Results: Whenever a student's test results indicate the presence of an illegal drug (positive test), the following will occur: If the sample tests positive, the custodial parent or legal guardian will be notified and a meeting will be scheduled with the Bridgeport High

School Principal (Drug Program Coordinator), the student, and the custodial parent or legal guardian.

Refusal to Submit to Drug Use Test: A participating student who refuses to submit to a drug test authorized under this policy, or fails or refuses to comply with any other provision of this policy, shall not be eligible to participate in any activities covered under this policy including all meetings, practices, performances and competitions for the remainder of the school year.

Appeal: A student participating in extracurricular activities who has been determined by the principal or Drug Program Coordinator to be in violation of this policy shall have the right to appeal the decision to the Superintendent or his/her designee(s). Such request for a review must be submitted to the Superintendent in writing within five (5) calendar days of notice of the positive test. A student requesting a review will remain eligible to participate in any extracurricular activities until the review is completed. The Superintendent or his/her designee(s) shall then determine whether the original finding was justified. No further review of the Superintendent's decision will be provided, and his/her decision shall be conclusive in all respects. Any necessary interpretation or application of this policy shall be in the sole and exclusive judgment and discretion of the Superintendent which shall be final and non-appealable.

Record Keeping and Confidentiality: All records pertaining to participants shall be kept separate from the student records. The record keeping and results of all testing will be held in the strictest confidence. These records will be accessible only to the Drug Program Coordinator or his designee.

SEVERABILITY

Should any sentence, clause, provision, or paragraph of this entire policy be deemed unlawful or unconstitutional, it is intended that, insofar as may be practicable, the remaining portions of this policy shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION SIX

STAFF DIRECTORY

Members of the Board of Education:

Justin Corman
Jeff Pohl

Ryan Amateis
Linda Norman

Kay Anderson
Jim Lapaseotes

Administrative Staff:

George Schlothauer, Superintendent – gschlothauer@bpsbulldogs.org
Jason Blanco, Secondary Principal -- jblanco@bpsbulldogs.org
James Simmons, Elementary Principal - jsimmons@bpsbulldogs.org
Erin Reynolds, Principal of Instruction-- ereynolds@bpsbulldogs.org

Teaching Staff:**Administration Support Staff:**

Jennifer Kriha, Business Manager
Kathy Sides, Elementary office

Gail Beyer, Superintendent's office
Julie Cardenas, Secondary office

School Nurse:

Brittany Norman

Secondary Teachers:

Brad Noonan, History
Claudia Loomis, English
Jackie Rahmig, Math
Amanda Reilly, Jr. High Science
Ethan Strey, Science
Joey Dohse, English
Todd Janicek, Industrial Arts
Christy Schuler, Ag
Elisa Rodak, English
Jase Dean, Science/Math
Pat Goltl, SPED
Dave Baxter, Spanish
Anne Van Winkle, Math
Sean Sterkel, PE
Kimi Kramer, SPED
Tony McGrath, Government
Amy Retchless, SPED
Jeremy Reimers - Science
Doug Babic, Band
Michaela Babic, Choir
Christy Schuler, Business
Kylee Sterkel, Counselor
Debbie Millette, Art
Donelle Pankowski - Library Aide
Activities Director:
Dave Kuhlen (308) 262-1470

Coaching Staff:

Girls Golf

Head Coach: Todd Janicek

Track

HS Coordinator: Jackie Rahmig

Assisted by: Tony McGrath, Jase Dean & Dave Baxter

JH Head Coach: Derrick Wells

Assisted by: Amber Dean & Jackie Rahmig

Wrestling

Boys HS Head Coach: Derrick Wells, Tony McGrath(G)

Assisted by: Tony McGrath, Brandon Nichols

JH Head Coach: Tony McGrath

Assisted by: Derek Wells

Girls HS Head Coach: Tony McGrath

Assisted by: Alicia Tretter

JH Head Coach: Tony McGrath

Assisted by: Alicia Tretter

HS/JH Band/Pep Band – Doug Babic

Cheerleading – Marie Brown/Maddie Widener

Speech – Janelle Galvan

FFA – Christy Schuler

Annual – Claudia Loomis

TeamMates – Gail Beyer

One Act- Spring Play – Kristen Kraupie

HS Quiz Bowl – Brad Noonan

JH Quiz Bowl – Brad Noonan and Tony McGrath

B Club – Dave Kuhlen

National Honor Society – Joey Dohse

Art Club – Debbie Millette

Student Council – Jason Blanco

Senior Class Sponsors: Kylee Sterkel

Junior Class Sponsors: Amanda Reilly

Sophomore Class Sponsor: Claudia Loomis

Freshman Class Sponsor: Delenn Rodriguez

Paraprofessionals:

Rayma Armer

Jennifer Erickson

Beth Freeze

Mari Torres

Lorri Carrier

Heather Weyenberg

Mariaha Jackson

Samantha Marquez

Cross Country

HS Head Coach: Pat Goltl
Assisted by: Claudia Loomis
JH Head Coach: Pat Goltl
Assisted by: Amber Dean

Football
HS Head Coach: Jeremy Reimers
Assisted by: Brad Noonan
JH Head Coach: Jerod Dean
Assisted by: Tony McGrath

Volleyball
HS Head Coach: Grace Simmons
Assisted by: Lauren Gasseling, Amber Thurow and Ashley Robb
JH Head Coach: Jackie Rahmig
Assisted by: Brittany Norman

Boys Basketball
HS Head Coach: Sean Sterkel
Assisted by: Aaron Ogden and Collin Harvey
JH Head Coach: Sean Sterkel
Assisted by: Luis Garza

Girls Basketball
HS Head Coach: Amber Dean
Assisted by: Jase Dean and Stephanie Schmidt
JH Head Coach: Jase Dean
Assisted by: Jackie Rahmig

Boys Golf
Head Coach: Todd Janicek

Technology:
Joshua MacDonald

Transportation (308) 225-1335
Marie Brown

Bus Drivers:
Kevin Myers
Troy Hedin
Lorri Carrier
Robert Edwards

Doug Bowman
Lexie Sterkel
Gail Beyer
Dave Kuhlen
Willis Beyer -sub
Amador Virgil - sub
Tony McGrath – sub
Jerod Dean - sub

Cafeteria

Lauren Faessler, Director
(308) 262-1470
Elba Sandoval
Lucy VanBuren
Olga Cantu
Adriana Castano

Custodial Staff:

Willis Beyer, Head Custodian
Lecha Cuevas
Susana Cantu
Jesus Cantu
Maria Casarez
Jose Perez

SCHOOL CALENDAR

Bridgeport Public Schools

2026-2027 School Calendar -Final

Aug. 2026							Aug. 2026							Jan. 2027							Jan. 2027												
S	M	T	W	T	F	S								1	No School						S	M	T	W	T	F	S						
						1	6	New Staff Only						4	Teacher Inservice													1	2				
2	3	4	5	6	7	8							10	Board Meeting						5	School Resumes						3	4	5	6	7	8	9
9	10	11	12	13	14	15								Teacher Workdays						11	Board Meeting						10	11	12	13	14	15	16
16	17	18	19	20	21	22							17	First Day - 3-25 Dis													17	18	19	20	21	22	23
23	24	25	26	27	28	29																					24	25	26	27	28	29	30
30	31						TD	16	SD	11				TD	20	SD	19				31												
Sept. 2026							Sept. 2026							Feb. 2027							Feb. 2027												
S	M	T	W	T	F	S								4	Teacher Inservice						S	M	T	W	T	F	S						
			1	2	3	4	5	7	Labor Day						8	Board Meeting								1	2	3	4	5	6				
6	7	8	9	10	11	12							14	Board Meeting						10	PT Con 4 to 7:00						7	8	9	10	11	12	13
13	14	15	16	17	18	19							23	12:30 Dismissal/PD						10	PTCon 3:00-6:00						14	15	16	17	18	19	20
20	21	22	23	24	25	26							29	Pt Con. 4 to 7:00						12	No School						21	22	23	24	25	26	27
27	28	29	30										30	PT Con 3 to 6:00						15	Teacher In-Serv						28						
							TD	21	SD	20.5				TD	19	SD	16.5																
Oct. 2026							Oct. 2026							Mar. 2027							Mar. 2027												
S	M	T	W	T	F	S								4	End of 3rd Quarter						S	M	T	W	T	F	S						
					1	2	3	12	Board Meeting						5	Teacher Inservice								1	2	3	4	5	6				
4	5	6	7	8	9	10							16	End of 1st Quarter						8	Board Meeting						7	8	9	10	11	12	13
11	12	13	14	15	16	17							21	12:30 Dismissal/PD						12	Teacher Inservice						14	15	16	17	18	19	20
18	19	20	21	22	23	24														26	Teacher Inservice						21	22	23	24	25	26	27
25	26	27	28	29	30	31														26-29	Spring Break						28	29	30	31			
							TD	21	SD	20.5				TD	22	SD	19																
Nov. 2026							Nov. 2026							Apr. 2027							Apr. 2027												
S	M	T	W	T	F	S								12	Board Meeting						S	M	T	W	T	F	S						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7							9	Board Meeting											1	2	3						
8	9	10	11	12	13	14							25	Teacher Inservice								4	5	6	7	8	9	10					
15	16	17	18	19	20	21							26-27	Thanksgiving								11	12	13	14	15	16	17					
22	23	24	25	26	27	28																18	19	20	21	22	23	24					
29	30																					25	26	27	28	29	30						
							TD	19	SD	18				TD	22	SD	22																
Dec. 2026							Dec. 2026							May-27							May 2027												
S	M	T	W	T	F	S								8	Graduation						S	M	T	W	T	F	S						
			1	2	3	4	5	14	Board Meeting						10	Board Meeting													1				
6	7	8	9	10	11	12								12	Last Day 12:30/dis								2	3	4	5	6	7	8				
13	14	15	16	17	18	19							21-31	No School						13-14	Teacher Workday						9	10	11	12	13	14	15
20	21	22	23	24	25	26																					16	17	18	19	20	21	22
27	28	29	30	31																							23	24	25	26	27	28	29
							TD	14	SD	13.5				TD	10	SD	8																
Total Teachers Day (TD)							184																										
Total Student Days (SD)							168																										
HS Day - 415 Minutes							1162 hours																										
El. Days - 405 Minutes							1134 hours																										

SECTION SEVEN

FORMS

This section contains forms which students and their parents must complete and return to the school office **NO LATER THAN** August 28th.

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 28th, 2026

PARENT/STUDENT AGREEMENT

I have received and read the Student Handbook that describes the Bridgeport 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, and Acceptable Use Policy (AUP). My child and I have discussed these policies and understand that we must comply with them.

Student's Signature
Date

_____ Date

CUSTODIAL Parent Signature

Home Phone Number

Parent Cell Phone Number

Parent's Email Address (Optional)
(Optional)

Parent's Email Address

EMERGENCY INFORMATION:

Student's Name_____

Student's Cell # (For Parent Squares) - _____

Home Phone_____ Mailing Address_____

Mother's
Name_____

Mothers Employer_____Mother's Cell
Phone_____

Father's
Name_____

Father's Employer_____Father's Cell
Phone_____

Other Person to contact in case of emergency:

Name:_____

Phone Number:_____

Relationship to student:_____

Primary Doctor:_____

Known Allergies:_____

**PARENTAL AUTHORIZATION AND RELEASE FORM
ADMINISTRATION OF PRESCRIPTION DRUGS TO STUDENTS**

The undersigned are the parent(s), guardian(s), or person(s) in charge of

(name of the student)

It is necessary that the student receive (name of drug) _____, a physician-prescribed drug, during school intervals beginning on (date) _____ and continuing through _____. (date)

I hereby request that the School District, or its authorized representative, administer the drug named above to my child named above, in accordance with the prescribing physician's instructions, and agree to:

1. Submit this request to the teacher.
2. Make certain the Physician's Request for the Administration of Prescription Medication by School Personnel is submitted to the teacher.
3. Make sure personally that the drug is received by the teacher and/or county nursing service administering it, in the container in which it was dispensed by the prescribing physician or licensed pharmacist.
4. Make sure personally that the container in which the drug is dispensed is marked with the drug name, dosage, interval dosage, and date after which no administration should be given.
5. Submit a REVISED STATEMENT signed by the physician prescribing the drug to the teacher IF ANY OF THE INFORMATION PROVIDED BY THE PHYSICIAN CHANGES.
6. Release the School District and the Board of Education of the School District and all employees, agents, and the representatives of the School District from any liability concerning the giving or non-giving of the drug to the student.

DATED this _____ day of _____, 20__.

Parent/Guardian

**ADMINISTRATION OF MEDICATION TO STUDENTS
PHYSICIAN'S REQUEST FOR ADMINISTRATION OF PRESCRIPTION
MEDICATIONS BY SCHOOL PERSONNEL**

DATE _____

CHILD'S FULL NAME _____ is under my care and must take medication which I have prescribed during the school day.

Name of medication (as it appears on container in which the drug is stored) _____

Dosage _____ and time _____

Date _____ administration _____ of _____ drug _____ is _____ to _____ begin

Possible _____ adverse _____ reactions _____ to _____ be _____ reported _____ to _____ physician

Special instructions for the administration and storage of the drug _____

I or my designee(s) have trained school personnel or approved alternative training as adequate to administer the medication, have evaluated the situation, the general administration plan and if applicable, the self administration plan or emergency care plan, and deemed each to be safe and appropriate, and if applicable authorize the use of hypodermic syringes and needles or similar medical terms.

Name of Physician and Designee _____

Print or Type _____

Primary Phone Number _____

Secondary Phone Number _____

Signature of Physician _____

**RECORD OF THE ADMINISTRATION OF
SELF-ADMINISTRATION OF MEDICATION**

Parent's Phone _____
Student Name _____ Grade _____
Date to Begin _____ Date to End _____
Name of Medication _____
Dosage of Medication _____ Time _____
Doctor _____ Phone #1 _____
Phone # _____
Possible Adverse Reaction: _____

_____ gives permission for _____ our
son/daughter to self-administer specific medications at school. This
medication cannot be taken at any other non-school time.
DATED this _____ day of _____. 20_____.

Students who are able to self administer specific medication may do so
provided:

1. The physician provides written authorization allowing self-administration of
said medication.
2. The parent provides written authorization allowing self-administration of
said medication.
3. Such medication is transported to the school and maintained under the
student's control in the original, properly labeled package and (a) is not
opened except when self-administering the medication, (b) is not
self-administered during instructional time or in the presence of other
students unless medically necessary, and (c) is not shown or exhibited to
other students.
4. The student's physician or physicians' designee has (1) evaluated the
situation and deemed it to be safe and appropriate; (2) documented this
on the physician's authorization for the student's cumulative health record,
and (3) approved the general administration plan.
5. The student and the student's physician or physician's designee have
developed a plan for reporting and supervising self-administration.
6. The principal and appropriate teacher are informed that the student is
self-administering prescribed medication.

Doctor's Signature _____

Consent for Counseling Services:

Bridgeport Public Schools has access to a Licensed Mental Health Therapist for the 2026-2027 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: _____