



Board of Education

ACTION

TITLE: Consider Approval of Student Handbook for 2026-2027

DATE: July 20, 2026

RESPONSIBLE ADMINISTRATOR: Dr. Michael Farrell
Executive Director of Student Services

BACKGROUND/CONSIDERATIONS:

The administration desires to update the 2026-2027 Fort Smith Public School Student Handbook.

On May 27, 2026, the [Student Handbook Review Committee](#) met to review the following changes. Mr. Marshall Ney was present at the meeting via a virtual platform. Members of this review committee voted to bring these proposed changes as written to the Fort Smith School Board.

These sections for changes are submitted in both redline and clean copy for Board review. The handbook is present in its entirety following the individual sectional review.

Introduction-(pages i-vi) – Updating dates of approval by Superintendent and School Board (if approved on July 20, 2026).

[Red Line](#)

[Clean Line](#)

Attendance – Absences

- **Medical Documentation and Timelines** - Changes provide clarity regarding required medical documentation and timeline for submission to excuse absences.

[Red Line](#)

[Clean Line](#)

- **Unexcused Absences** - Rectify transcription error and provide clarity regarding unexcused absences.

[Red Line](#)

[Clean Line](#)

Child Custody Situations – Updating district procedures as a result Arkansas Code awareness.

- **Student interviews by officials directed by the Department of Human Services (DHS)**

[Red Line](#)

[Clean Line](#)

- **Custodial Rights**

[Red Line](#)

[Clean Line](#)

Student Health – Updating and enhancing clarity of procedures as well as updating language to include increased management of services provided by all health providers.

[Red Line](#)

[Clean Line](#)

Nutrition Guidelines – Updating changes to the meal accounting platform.

[Red Line](#)

[Clean Line](#)

Graduation Requirements – Accounts for the elimination of specific graduation requirements for the Class of 2026. Coordinates terms used in the FSPS Course Catalog for the Class of 2027 and thereafter.

[Red Line](#)

[Clean Line](#)

Student Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) – Provides guidelines for the use of AI and rectifies a transcription error regarding the nature of AI.

[Red Line](#)

[Clean Line](#)

Technology Support - Accounts for 2026-2027 change in the physical location of the Director of Technology office.

[Red Line](#)

[Clean Line](#)

[Student Handbook 2026–2027 Red Line](#)

[Student Handbook 2026-2027 Clean Line](#)

RECOMMENDATION:

The administration recommends the attached handbook changes be approved as presented for inclusion in the 2026-2027 District Handbook. If the Board agrees, the motion would read:

Move to approve the attached handbook changes as presented for inclusion in the 2026-2027 Fort Smith Public School District Student Handbook.