

2026 Policy Updates

For Board Review

July 13, 2026

These policy revisions reflect changes in Oklahoma law, administrative rule revisions, and local governance recommendations. Unless otherwise noted, these revisions are necessary to keep Ponca City Public Schools in compliance with current state requirements and best practices.

Section I – The School Board

1.18 – Employment Decisions Regarding Relatives of Board of Education Members (REVISED)

- Updates conflict-of-interest provisions regarding employment decisions involving relatives of Board members.
 - Clarifies when Board members must abstain from participating in discussions or votes.
 - Aligns policy language with current Oklahoma ethics and statutory requirements.
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Section III – Administration

3.21 – Use of Computers and Electronic Communication Equipment and Services (REVISED)

- Updates technology policy to reflect current cybersecurity practices and expanding use of electronic communications.
- Clarifies employee responsibilities for appropriate use of district technology resources.
- Revises terminology and legal references to align with current law.

3.21-2.0 – Personal Electronic Devices and Accounts (REVISED)

- Updates district policy to reflect recent state legislation governing student use of personal electronic devices during the instructional day.
- Clarifies expectations and exceptions for student and employee use of electronic devices.
- Supports consistent implementation throughout the district.

3.21-6.0 – Artificial Intelligence Systems and Tools (NEW)

- Establishes district expectations for the responsible use of artificial intelligence technologies.

- Provides guidance for students and employees regarding ethical, appropriate, and secure use of AI tools.
 - Addresses data privacy, academic integrity, and professional responsibilities as AI becomes increasingly integrated into education.
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Section IV – Instruction

4.2-7.0 – Strong Readers Act (*REVISED*)

- Updates district policy to reflect revisions to Oklahoma's Strong Readers Act.
- Clarifies reading assessment, intervention, and reporting requirements.
- Aligns district procedures with current state literacy expectations.

4.3 – Student Promotion and Retention and Student Pass/Failure of a Course (*REVISED*)

- Updates promotion and retention procedures to align with current state requirements.
 - Clarifies criteria for student advancement and academic interventions.
 - Revises statutory references where necessary.
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Section V – Business Operations

5.5-1.0 – Approval of Contracts/Agreements (*REVISED*)

- Increases the Board approval threshold for contracts and agreements placed on the Consent Agenda from \$10,000 to \$100,000
 - Allows routine administrative items to be handled more efficiently while maintaining Board oversight of significant expenditures.
 - Reflects current operational needs and purchasing practices.
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Section VI – Personnel

6.2-4.0 – Criminal Records Search Policy (*REVISED*)

- Updates background check requirements to reflect current statutory language.
- Clarifies district procedures for criminal history record searches.
- Ensures compliance with state employment requirements.

6.5-10.0 – Bereavement Leave (*REVISED*)

- Clarifies employee eligibility and use of bereavement leave.
- Updates language for consistency with current district leave practices.

6.5-14.0 – Maternity Leave (*REVISED*)

- Updates maternity leave provisions to reflect current law and district practices.
 - Clarifies employee rights and administrative procedures.
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Section VII – Students

7.5-4.0 – Student Transfers (*REVISED*)

- Updates transfer procedures to reflect current Oklahoma transfer statutes.
- Clarifies enrollment procedures, capacity determinations, and eligibility requirements.
- Revises statutory references and administrative procedures.

7.5-4.2 – Transfers Pursuant to the Deployed Parents School Act of 2013 (*REPEALED*)

- Policy 7.5-4.2 is recommended for repeal because its provisions have been incorporated into Policy 7.5-4.0 – Student Transfers, eliminating duplicate language within the Board Policy Manual.

7.7-1.0 – Abuse, Neglect, Exploitation and Trafficking (*REVISED*)

- Updates mandatory reporting and employee training requirements.
- Incorporates current statutory language regarding child abuse prevention and reporting.
- Clarifies district responsibilities for employee training and reporting procedures.

7.12 – Concurrent Enrollment (*REVISED*)

- Updates eligibility requirements and participation guidelines.
- Aligns district policy with Oklahoma concurrent enrollment requirements.
- Clarifies student, parent, and district responsibilities.

7.16-1.2 – Policy Prohibiting Student Bullying (*REVISED*)

- Incorporates new state requirements regarding annual bullying prevention training.
- Adds anti-retaliation language.
- Strengthens reporting and prevention procedures.
- Aligns district policy with updated OSDE guidance.