

**NORTH BRANCH INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 138
NORTH BRANCH AREA EDUCATION CENTER
38705 GRAND AVENUE
NORTH BRANCH, MN 55056
POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING
APRIL 8, 2021
4:30 PM**

AGENDA

- | | | |
|----|---|----|
| I. | Policies to be Discussed | |
| A. | Policy 102 - Equal Educational Opportunity (Review only - No MSBA changes) | 2 |
| B. | Policy 401 - Equal Employment Opportunity (Review only - No MSBA changes) | 3 |
| C. | Policy 402 - Disability Nondiscrimination Policy (MSBA change - This change reflects an update to the legal reference. The substance of the policy language is not affected.) | 4 |
| D. | Policy 417 - Chemical Use and Abuse (Review only - No MSBA changes) | 5 |
| E. | Policy 418 - Drug-Free Workplace/Drug-Free School (Review only - No MSBA changes) | 12 |
| F. | Policy 501 - School Weapons Policy (Review only - No MSBA changes) | 17 |
| G. | Policy 502 - Search of Student Lockers, Desks, Personal Possessions, and Student's Person (MSBA changes - Minor changes) | 22 |
| H. | Policy 526 - Hazing Prohibition (Review only - No MSBA changes) | 25 |
| I. | Policy 709-NB - Student Transportation Safety Policy (Review only - No MSBA changes) | 30 |
| J. | Policy 714-NB - Fund Balances (Review only - No MSBA changes) | 47 |
| K. | Policy 721 - Uniform Grant Guidance Policy Regarding Federal Revenue Sources (Review only - No MSBA changes) | 54 |

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that equal educational opportunity is provided for all students of the school district.

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

- A. The policy of the school district is to provide equal educational opportunity for all students. The school district does not unlawfully discriminate on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, marital status, parental status, status with regard to public assistance, disability, sexual orientation, including gender identity and expression, or age. The school district also makes reasonable accommodations for disabled students.
- B. The school district prohibits the harassment of any individual for any of the categories listed above. For information about the types of conduct that constitute violation of the school district's policy on harassment and violence and the school district's procedures for addressing such complaints, refer to the school district's policy on harassment and violence.
- C. This policy applies to all areas of education including academics, coursework, co-curricular and extracurricular activities, or other rights or privileges of enrollment.
- D. Every school district employee shall be responsible for complying with this policy conscientiously.
- E. Any student, parent, or guardian having a question regarding this policy should discuss it with the appropriate school district official as provided by policy. In the absence of a specific designee, an inquiry or a complaint should be referred to the superintendent.

Legal References: Minn. Stat. § 121A.03, Subd. 2 (Sexual, Religious, and Racial Harassment and Violence Policy)
Minn. Stat. Ch. 363A (Minnesota Human Rights Act)
20 U.S.C. § 1681 *et seq.* (Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972)
42 U.S.C. § 12101 *et seq.* (Americans with Disabilities Act)

Cross References: NB Policy 402 (Disability Nondiscrimination)
NB Policy 413 (Harassment and Violence)
NB Policy 521 (Student Disability Nondiscrimination)
NB Policy 522 (Student Sex Nondiscrimination)

North Branch Independent School District No. 138: District Policy #102**Adopted:** 9/24/74**Replaced:** 10/13/83, 4/11/02**Last Reviewed:****Revised:** 12/8/94, 4/11/02, 10/11/12, 11/8/18**Effective:** 10/11/12, 11/8/18

EMPLOYEES/PERSONNEL

Equal Employment Opportunity

401

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to provide equal employment opportunity for all applicants for school district employment and school district employees.

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

- A. The policy of the school district is to provide equal employment opportunity for all applicants and employees. The school district does not unlawfully discriminate on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, marital status, status with regard to public assistance, disability, sexual orientation, including gender identity or expression, age, family care leave status, or veteran status. The school district also makes reasonable accommodations for disabled employees.
- B. The school district prohibits the harassment of any individual for any of the categories listed above. For information about the types of conduct that constitute impermissible harassment and the school district's internal procedures for addressing complaints of harassment, please refer to the school district's policy on harassment and violence.
- C. This policy applies to all areas of employment including hiring, discharge, promotion, compensation, facilities, or privileges of employment.
- D. Every school district employee shall be responsible for following this policy.
- E. Any person having a question regarding this policy should discuss it with the Director of Finance and Human Resources.

Legal References: Minn. Stat. Ch. 363A (Minnesota Human Rights Act)
29 U.S.C. § 621 *et seq.* (Age Discrimination in Employment Act)
29 U.S.C. § 2615 (Family and Medical Leave Act)
38 U.S.C. § 4211 *et seq.* (Employment and Training of Veterans)
38 U.S.C. § 4301 *et seq.* (Employment and Reemployment Rights of Members of the Uniformed Services)
42 U.S.C. § 2000e *et seq.* (Title VII of the Civil Rights Act)
42 U.S.C. § 12101 *et seq.* (Equal Opportunity for Individuals with Disabilities)

Cross References: NB Policy 402 (Disability Nondiscrimination)
NB Policy 405 (Veteran's Preference)
NB Policy 413 (Harassment and Violence)

North Branch Independent School District No. 138: Policy #401

Adopted: 4/11/02

Replaced: 4111 Recruitment and Selection

Last Reviewed:

Revised: 10/13/16, 11/8/18

Effective: 4/11/02, 10/13/16, 11/8/18

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to provide a fair employment setting for all persons and to comply with state and federal law.

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

- A. The school district shall not discriminate against qualified individuals with disabilities because of the disabilities of such individuals in regard to job application procedures, hiring, advancement, discharge, compensation, job training, and other terms, conditions, and privileges of employment.
- B. The school district shall not engage in contractual or other arrangements that have the effect of subjecting its qualified applicants or employees with disabilities to discrimination on the basis of disability. The school district shall not exclude or otherwise deny equal jobs or job benefits to a qualified individual because of the known disability of an individual with whom the qualified individual is known to have a relationship or association.
- C. The school district shall make reasonable accommodations for the known physical or mental limitations of an otherwise qualified individual with a disability who is an applicant or employee, unless the accommodation would impose undue hardship on the operation of the business of the school district.
- D. Any job applicant or employee wishing to discuss the need for a reasonable accommodation, or other matters related to a disability or the enforcement and application of this policy, should contact the Director of Finance and Human Resources. This individual is the school district's appointed ADA/Section 504 coordinator.

Legal References: Minn. Stat. Ch. 363A (Minnesota Human Rights Act)
29 U.S.C. 794 *et seq.* (Rehabilitation Act of 1973, § 504)
42 U.S.C., Ch. 126 § 12112 (Americans with Disabilities Act)
29 C.F.R. Part 32
34 C.F.R. Part 35
34 C.F.R. Part 104

Cross References: NB Policy 521 (Student Disability Nondiscrimination)

I. PURPOSE

The school board recognizes that chemical use and abuse constitutes a grave threat to the physical and mental well-being of students and employees and significantly impedes the learning process. Chemical use and abuse also creates significant problems for society in general. The school board believes that the public school has a role in education, intervention, and prevention of chemical use and abuse. The purpose of this policy is to assist the school district in its goal to prevent chemical use and abuse by providing procedures for education and intervention.

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

- A. Use of controlled substances, medical cannabis, toxic substances, and alcohol is prohibited in the school setting in accordance with school district policies with respect to a Drug-Free Workplace/Drug-Free School.
- B. The policy of this school district is to provide an instructional program in every elementary and secondary school in chemical abuse and the prevention of chemical dependency.
- C. The school district shall establish and maintain in every school a chemical abuse preassessment team. The team is responsible for addressing reports of chemical abuse problems and making recommendations for appropriate responses to the individual reported cases.
- D. The superintendent, with the advice of the school board, shall be responsible for establishing a school and community advisory team to address chemical abuse problems in the district.
- E. The school district shall establish and maintain a program to educate and assist employees, students and others in understanding this policy and the goals of achieving drug-free schools and workplaces.

III. DEFINITIONS

- A. "Chemical abuse" means use of any psychoactive or mood-altering chemical substance, without compelling medical reason, in a manner that induces mental, emotional, or physical impairment and causes socially dysfunctional or socially disordering behavior, to the extent that the student's normal function in academic, school, or social activities is chronically impaired.
- B. "Chemicals" includes, but is not limited to, alcohol, toxic substances, medical cannabis, and controlled substances as defined in the school district's Drug-Free Workplace/Drug-Free School policy.
- C. "Use" includes to sell, buy, manufacture, distribute, dispense, use, or be under the influence of alcohol and/or controlled substances, whether or not for the purpose of receiving remuneration.

North Branch Independent School District No. 138: Policy #417**Adopted:** 2/12/98**Replaced:** Policy 5131.61 Chemical Use and Abuse (Students)**Last Reviewed:****Revised:** 6/10/04, 11/10/16**Effective:** 6/10/04, 11/10/16

EMPLOYEES/PERSONNEL

Chemical Use and Abuse

417

- D. "School location" includes any school building or on any school premises; on any school-owned vehicle or in any other school-approved vehicle used to transport students to and from school or school activities; off-school property at any school-sponsored or school-approved activity, event, or function, such as a field trip or athletic event, where students are under the jurisdiction of the school district; or during any period of time such employee is supervising students on behalf of the school district or otherwise engaged in school district business.

IV. STUDENTS

A. Instruction

1. Every school shall provide an instructional program in chemical abuse and the prevention of chemical dependency. The school district may involve parents, students, health care professionals, state department staff, and members of the community in developing the curriculum.
2. Each school shall have age-appropriate and developmentally based activities that:
 - a. address the consequences of violence and the illegal use of drugs, as appropriate;
 - b. promote a sense of individual responsibility;
 - c. teach students that most people do not illegally use drugs;
 - d. teach students to recognize social and peer pressure to use drugs illegally and the skills for resisting illegal drug use;
 - e. teach students about the dangers of emerging drugs;
 - f. engage students in the learning process; and
 - g. incorporate activities in secondary schools that reinforce prevention activities implemented in elementary schools.
3. Each school shall have activities that involve families, community sectors (which may include appropriately trained seniors), and a variety of drug and violence prevention providers in setting clear expectations against violence and illegal use of drugs and appropriate consequences for violence and illegal use of drugs.
4. Each school shall disseminate drug and violence prevention information within the school and to the community.
5. Each school shall have professional development and training for, and involvement of,

North Branch Independent School District No. 138: Policy #417

Adopted: 2/12/98

Replaced: Policy 5131.61 Chemical Use and Abuse (Students)

Last Reviewed:

Revised: 6/10/04, 11/10/16

Effective: 6/10/04, 11/10/16

EMPLOYEES/PERSONNEL

Chemical Use and Abuse

417

school personnel, student services personnel, parents, and interested community members in prevention, education, early identification and intervention, mentoring, or rehabilitation referral, as related to drug and violence prevention.

6. Each school shall have drug and violence prevention activities that may include the following:
 - a. Community-wide planning and organizing activities to reduce violence and illegal drug use, which may include gang activity prevention.
 - b. The hiring and mandatory training, based on scientific research, of school security personnel who interact with students in support of youth drug and violence prevention activities under this policy that are implemented in the school.
 - c. Conflict resolution programs, including peer mediation programs that educate and train peer mediators and a designated faculty supervisor, and youth anti-crime and anti-drug councils and activities.
 - d. Counseling, mentoring, referral services, and other student assistance practices and programs, including assistance provided by qualified school-based mental health services providers and the training of teachers by school-based mental health services providers in appropriate identification and intervention techniques for students at risk of violent behavior and illegal use of drugs.
 - e. Programs that encourage students to seek advice from, and to confide in, a trusted adult regarding concerns about violence and illegal drug use.

B. Reports of Chemical Use and Abuse

1. In the event that a school district employee knows that a student is abusing, possessing, transferring, distributing, or selling chemicals in a school location:
 - a. The employee shall immediately either take the student to an administrator or notify an appropriate administrator of the observation and continue to observe the student until the administrator arrives.
 - b. The administrator will notify the student's parents. If there is a medical emergency, the administrator will notify the school nurse and/or outside medical personnel as appropriate.
 - c. The administrator will notify law enforcement officials, the student's counselor, and the chemical preassessment team.

North Branch Independent School District No. 138: Policy #417

Adopted: 2/12/98

Replaced: Policy 5131.61 Chemical Use and Abuse (Students)

Last Reviewed:

Revised: 6/10/04, 11/10/16

Effective: 6/10/04, 11/10/16

- d. The administrator and/or law enforcement officials will confiscate the chemicals and/or conduct a search of the student's person, effects, locker, vehicle, or areas within the student's control. Searches by school district officials shall be in accordance with school board policies regarding search and seizure.
 - e. The school district will take appropriate disciplinary action in compliance with the student discipline code. Such discipline may include immediate suspension, initiation of expulsion proceedings, and/or referral to a detoxification center or medical center.
2. If a school district employee has reason to believe that a student is abusing, possessing, transferring, distributing, or selling chemicals:
 - a. The employee shall notify the building administrator or a member of the preassessment team and shall describe the basis for the suspicion. The building administrator and/or team will determine what action should be taken. Action may include conducting an investigation, gathering data, scheduling a conference with the student or parents, or providing a meeting between a single member of the team and the student to discuss the behaviors that have been reported and attempting to ascertain facts regarding chemical abuse.
 - b. The team may determine there is no chemical abuse. If the team determines there is chemical abuse, the team will select an appropriate course of action, which may include referral to a school counselor; referral to a treatment program; referral for screening, assessment, and treatment planning; participation in support groups; or other appropriate measures.
 3. Students involved in the abuse, possession, transfer, distribution, or sale of chemicals shall be suspended in compliance with the student discipline policy and the Pupil Fair Dismissal Act, Minn. Stat. § 121A.40-121A.56, and proposed for expulsion.
 4. Searches by school district officials in connection with the abuse, possession, transfer, distribution, or sale of chemicals will be conducted in accordance with school board policies related to search and seizure.

C. Preassessment Team

1. Every school shall have a chemical abuse preassessment team designated by the superintendent or designee. The team will be composed of classroom teachers, administrators, and other appropriate professional staff to the extent they exist in each school, such as the school nurse, school counselor or psychologist, social worker, chemical abuse specialist, or others.

North Branch Independent School District No. 138: Policy #417

Adopted: 2/12/98

Replaced: Policy 5131.61 Chemical Use and Abuse (Students)

Last Reviewed:

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Effective: 6/10/04, 11/10/16

2. The team is responsible for addressing reports of chemical abuse problems and making recommendations for appropriate responses to the individual reported cases.
3. Within forty-five (45) days after receiving an individual reported case, the team shall make a determination whether to provide the student and, in the case of a minor, the student's parents with information about school and community services in connection with chemical abuse.

D. Data Practices

1. Student data may be disclosed without consent in health and safety emergencies pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 13.32 and applicable federal law and regulations.

2. Destruction of Records

- a. If the preassessment team decides not to provide a student and, in the case of a minor, the student's parents with information about school or community services in connection with chemical abuse, records created or maintained by the team about the student shall be destroyed not later than six (6) months after the determination is made.
- b. If the team decides to provide the student and, in the case of a minor or a dependent student, the student's parents with such information, records created or maintained by the team about the student shall be destroyed not later than six (6) months after the student is no longer enrolled in the district.
- c. This section shall govern destruction of records notwithstanding provisions of the Records Management Act, Minn. Stat. § 138.163.

E. Consent

Any minor may give effective consent for medical, mental, and other health services to determine the presence of or to treat conditions associated with alcohol and other drug abuse, and the consent of no other person is required.

F. School and Community Advisory Team

1. The superintendent, with the advice of the school board, shall establish a school and community advisory team to address chemical abuse problems. The advisory team will be composed of representatives from the school preassessment teams to the extent possible, law enforcement agencies, county attorney's office, social service agencies, chemical abuse treatment programs, parents, and the business community.

North Branch Independent School District No. 138: Policy #417

Adopted: 2/12/98

Replaced: Policy 5131.61 Chemical Use and Abuse (Students)

Last Reviewed:

Revised: 6/10/04, 11/10/16

Effective: 6/10/04, 11/10/16

EMPLOYEES/PERSONNEL

Chemical Use and Abuse

417

2. The advisory team shall:
 - a. build awareness of the problem within the community, identify available treatment and counseling programs for students, and develop good working relationships and enhance communication between the schools and other community agencies; and
 - b. develop a written procedure clarifying the notification process to be used by the chemical abuse preassessment team when a student is believed to be in possession of or under the influence of alcohol or a controlled substance. The procedure must include contact with the student and the student's parents or guardian in the case of a minor student.

V. EMPLOYEES

- A. The superintendent or designee shall undertake and maintain a drug-free awareness and prevention program to inform employees, students, and others about:
 1. The dangers and health risks of chemical abuse in the workplace/school.
 2. The school district's drug-free workplace/drug-free school policy.
 3. Any available drug or alcohol counseling, treatment, rehabilitation, re-entry, and/or assistance programs available to employees and/or students.
 4. The penalties that may be imposed on employees for drug abuse violations.
- B. The superintendent or designee shall notify any federal granting agency required to be notified under the Drug-Free Workplace Act within ten (10) days after receiving notice of a conviction of an employee for a criminal drug statute violation occurring in the workplace. To facilitate the giving of such notice, any employee aware of such a conviction shall report the same to the superintendent.

Legal References: Minn. Stat. § 13.32 (Educational Data)
Minn. Stat. § 121A.25-121A.29 (Chemical Abuse)
Minn. Stat. § 121A.40-121A.56 (Pupil Fair Dismissal Act)
Minn. Stat. § 138.163 (Records Management Act)
Minn. Stat. § 144.343 (Pregnancy, Venereal Disease, Alcohol or Drug Abuse, Abortion)
Minn. Stat. § 152.22 (Medical Cannabis; Definitions)
Minn. Stat. § 152.23 (Medical Cannabis; Limitations)
20 U.S.C. § 1232g (Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act)
20 U.S.C. §§ 7101- 7165 (Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act)

North Branch Independent School District No. 138: Policy #417

Adopted: 2/12/98

Replaced: Policy 5131.61 Chemical Use and Abuse (Students)

Last Reviewed:

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Effective: 6/10/04, 11/10/16

EMPLOYEES/PERSONNEL

Chemical Use and Abuse

417

41 U.S.C. §§ 8101-8106 (Drug-Free Workplace Act)
34 C.F.R. Part 84 (Government-wide Requirements for Drug-Free Workplace)

Cross References: NB Policy 403 (Discipline, Suspension, and Dismissal of School District Employees)
NB Policy 416 (Drug and Alcohol Testing)
NB Policy 418 (Drug-Free Workplace/Drug Free School)
NB Policy 502 (Search of Student Lockers, Desks, Personal Possessions, and Student's Person)
NB Policy 506 (Student Discipline)
NB Policy 515 (Protection and Privacy of Pupil Records)
NB Policy 527 (Student Use and Parking of Motor Vehicles; Patrols, Inspections, and Searches)

North Branch Independent School District No. 138: Policy #417

Adopted: 2/12/98

Replaced: Policy 5131.61 Chemical Use and Abuse (Students)

Last Reviewed:

Revised: 6/10/04, 11/10/16

Effective: 6/10/04, 11/10/16

EMPLOYEES/PERSONNEL

Drug-Free Workplace/Drug-Free School

418

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to maintain a safe and healthful environment for employees and students by prohibiting the use of alcohol, toxic substances, medical cannabis, and controlled substances without a physician's prescription.

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

- A. Use or possession of controlled substances, toxic substances, medical cannabis, and alcohol before, during, or after school hours, at school or in any other school location, is prohibited as general policy. Paraphernalia associated with controlled substances is prohibited.
- B. A violation of this policy occurs when any student, teacher, administrator, other school district personnel, or member of the public uses or possesses alcohol, toxic substances, controlled substances, or medical cannabis in any school location.
- C. The school district will act to enforce this policy and to discipline or take appropriate action against any student, teacher, administrator, school personnel, or member of the public who violates this policy.

III. DEFINITIONS

- A. "Alcohol" includes any alcoholic beverage, malt beverage, fortified wine, or other intoxicating liquor.
- B. "Controlled substances" include narcotic drugs, hallucinogenic drugs, amphetamines, barbiturates, marijuana, anabolic steroids, or any other controlled substance as defined in Schedules I through V of the Controlled Substances Act, 21 U.S.C. § 812, including analogues and look-alike drugs.
- C. "Medical cannabis" means any species of the genus cannabis plant, or any mixture or preparation of them, including whole plant extracts and resins, and is delivered in the form of: (1) liquid, including, but not limited to, oil; (2) pill; (3) vaporized delivery method with use of liquid or oil but which does not require the use of dried leaves or plant form; or (4) any other method, excluding smoking, approved by the commissioner.
- D. "Toxic substances" includes glue, cement, aerosol paint, or other substances used or possessed with the intent of inducing intoxication or excitement of the central nervous

North Branch Independent School District No. 138: Policy #418

Adopted: 2/12/98

Replaced: Policy #5131.6 and 6164.11 Drugs and Alcohol (Students); and Policy #4114.3 Employee Drug and Alcohol Policy (Personnel)

Last Reviewed:

Revised: 6/12/02, 11/10/16, 5/9/19

Effective: 6/12/02, 11/10/16, 5/9/19

EMPLOYEES/PERSONNEL

Drug-Free Workplace/Drug-Free School

418

system.

- E. "Use" includes to sell, buy, manufacture, distribute, dispense, possess, use, or be under the influence of alcohol and/or controlled substances, whether or not for the purpose of receiving remuneration or consideration.
- F. "Possess" means to have on one's person, in one's effects, or in an area subject to one's control.
- G. "School location" includes any school building or on any school premises; in any school-owned vehicle or in any other school-approved vehicle used to transport students to and from school or school activities; off school property at any school-sponsored or school-approved activity, event, or function, such as a field trip or athletic event, where students are under the jurisdiction of the school district; or during any period of time such employee is supervising students on behalf of the school district or otherwise engaged in school district business.

IV. EXCEPTIONS

- A. A violation of this policy does not occur when a person brings onto a school location, for such person's own use, a controlled substance, except medical cannabis, which has a currently accepted medical use in treatment in the United States and the person has a physician's prescription for the substance. The person shall comply with the relevant procedures of this policy.
- B. A violation of this policy does not occur when a person possesses an alcoholic beverage in a school location when the possession is within the exceptions of Minn. Stat. § 624.701, Subd. 1a (experiments in laboratories; pursuant to a temporary license to sell liquor issued under Minnesota laws or possession after the purchase from such a temporary license holder).

V. PROCEDURES

- A. Students who have a prescription from a physician for medical treatment with a controlled substance, except medical cannabis, must comply with the school district's student medication policy.
- B. Employees who have a prescription from a physician for medical treatment with a controlled substance, except medical cannabis, are permitted to possess such controlled substance and associated necessary paraphernalia, such as an inhaler or syringe. The

North Branch Independent School District No. 138: Policy #418

Adopted: 2/12/98

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EMPLOYEES/PERSONNEL

Drug-Free Workplace/Drug-Free School

418

employee must inform his or her supervisor. The employee may be required to provide a copy of the prescription.

- C. Each employee shall be provided with written notice of this Drug-Free Workplace/Drug-Free School policy and shall be required to acknowledge that he or she has received the policy.
- D. Employees are subject to the school district's drug and alcohol testing policies and procedures.
- E. Members of the public are not permitted to possess controlled substances in a school location except with the express permission of the superintendent.
- F. No person is permitted to possess or use medical cannabis on a school bus or van; or on the grounds of any preschool or primary or secondary school; or on the grounds of any child care facility.
- G. Possession of alcohol on school grounds pursuant to the exceptions of Minn. Stat. § 624.701, Subd. 1a, shall be by permission of the school board only. The applicant shall apply for permission in writing and shall follow the school board procedures for placing an item on the agenda.

VI. ENFORCEMENT

A. Students

- 1. A student who violates the terms of this policy shall be subject to discipline in accordance with the school district's discipline policy. Such discipline may include suspension or expulsion from school.
- 2. The student may be referred to a drug or alcohol assistance or rehabilitation program and/or to law enforcement officials when appropriate.

B. Employees

- 1. As a condition of employment in any federal grant, each employee who is engaged either directly or indirectly in performance of a federal grant shall abide by the terms of this policy and shall notify his or her supervisor in writing of his or her conviction of any criminal drug statute for a violation occurring in any of the places listed above on which work on a school district federal grant is

North Branch Independent School District No. 138: Policy #418

Adopted: 2/12/98

Replaced: Policy #5131.6 and 6164.11 Drugs and Alcohol (Students); and Policy #4114.3 Employee Drug and Alcohol Policy (Personnel)

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EMPLOYEES/PERSONNEL

Drug-Free Workplace/Drug-Free School

418

performed, no later than five (5) calendar days after such conviction. Conviction means a finding of guilt (including a plea of nolo contendere) or imposition of sentence, or both, by any judicial body charged with the responsibility to determine violations of the federal or state criminal drug statutes.

2. An employee who violates the terms of this policy is subject to disciplinary action, including nonrenewal, suspension, termination, or discharge as deemed appropriate by the school board.
3. In addition, any employee who violates the terms of this policy may be required to satisfactorily participate in a drug and/or alcohol abuse assistance or rehabilitation program approved by the school district. Any employee who fails to satisfactorily participate in and complete such a program is subject to nonrenewal, suspension, or termination as deemed appropriate by the school board.
4. Sanctions against employees, including nonrenewal, suspension, termination, or discharge shall be pursuant to and in accordance with applicable statutory authority, collective bargaining agreements, and school district policies.

C. The Public

A member of the public who violates this policy shall be informed of the policy and asked to leave. If necessary, law enforcement officials will be notified and asked to provide an escort.

Legal References: Minn. Stat. § 121A.22 (Administration of Drugs and Medicine)
Minn. Stat. § 152.22 (Medical Cannabis; Definitions)
Minn. Stat. § 152.23 (Medical Cannabis; Limitations)
Minn. Stat. § 340A.403 (3.2 Percent Malt Liquor Licenses)
Minn. Stat. § 340A.404 (Intoxicating Liquor; On-Sale Licenses)
Minn. Stat. § 609.684 (Sale of Toxic Substances to Children; Abuse of Toxic Substances)
Minn. Stat. § 624.701 (Alcohol in Certain Buildings or Grounds)
20 U.S.C. § 7101-7165 (Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act)
21 U.S.C. § 812 (Schedules of Controlled Substances)
41 U.S.C. §§ 8101-8106 (Drug-Free Workplace Act)
21 C.F.R. §§ 1308.11-1308.15 (Controlled Substances)
34 C.F.R. Part 84 (Government-wide Requirements for Drug-Free Workplace)

North Branch Independent School District No. 138: Policy #418

Adopted: 2/12/98

Replaced: Policy #5131.6 and 6164.11 Drugs and Alcohol (Students); and Policy #4114.3 Employee Drug and Alcohol Policy (Personnel)

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Revised: 6/12/02, 11/10/16, 5/9/19

Effective: 6/12/02, 11/10/16, 5/9/19

EMPLOYEES/PERSONNEL

Drug-Free Workplace/Drug-Free School

418

Cross References: NB Policy 403 (Discipline, Suspension, and Dismissal of School District Employees)
NB Policy 416 (Drug and Alcohol Testing)
NB Policy 417 (Chemical Use and Abuse)
NB Policy 506 (Student Discipline)
NB Policy 516 (Student Medication)

North Branch Independent School District No. 138: Policy #418

Adopted: 2/12/98

Replaced: Policy #5131.6 and 6164.11 Drugs and Alcohol (Students); and Policy #4114.3 Employee Drug and Alcohol Policy (Personnel)

Last Reviewed:

Revised: 6/12/02, 11/10/16, 5/9/19

Effective: 6/12/02, 11/10/16, 5/9/19

STUDENTS

School Weapons Policy

501

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to assure a safe school environment for students, staff and the public.

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

No student or nonstudent, including adults and visitors, shall possess, use or distribute a weapon when in a school location except as provided in this policy. The school district will act to enforce this policy and to discipline or take appropriate action against any student, teacher, administrator, school employee, volunteer, or member of the public who violates this policy.

III. DEFINITIONS

A. "Weapon"

1. A "weapon" means any object, device or instrument designed as a weapon or through its use is capable of threatening or producing bodily harm or which may be used to inflict self-injury including, but not limited to, any firearm, whether loaded or unloaded; airguns; pellet guns; BB guns; all knives; blades; clubs; metal knuckles; numchucks; throwing stars; explosives; fireworks; mace and other propellants; stunguns; ammunition; poisons; chains; arrows; and objects that have been modified to serve as a weapon.
2. No person shall possess, use or distribute any object, device or instrument having the appearance of a weapon and such objects, devices or instruments shall be treated as weapons including, but not limited to, weapons listed above which are broken or non-functional, look-alike guns; toy guns; and any object that is a facsimile of a real weapon.
3. No person shall use articles designed for other purposes (i.e., lasers or laser pointers, belts, combs, pencils, files, scissors, etc.), to inflict bodily harm and/or intimidate and such use will be treated as the possession and use of a weapon.

- B. "School Location" includes any school building or grounds, whether leased, rented, owned or controlled by the school, locations of school activities or trips, bus stops, school buses or school vehicles, school-contracted vehicles, the area of entrance or departure from school premises or events, all locations where school-related functions are conducted, and anywhere students are under the jurisdiction of the school district.

- C. "Possession" means having a weapon on one's person or in an area subject to one's control in a school location.

North Branch Independent School District No. 138: Policy #501

Adopted: 2/12/98

Replaced: Policy #5143 Gun-Free Schools, Weapons, Violence Prevention and Discipline (Student)

Last Reviewed:

Revised: 6/12/03, 7/10/14, 2/11/16

Effective: 2/12/98, 6/12/03, 7/10/14, 2/11/16

IV. EXCEPTIONS

- A. A student who finds a weapon on the way to school or in a school location, or a student who discovers that he or she accidentally has a weapon in his or her possession, and takes the weapon immediately to the principal's office shall not be considered to possess a weapon. If it would be impractical or dangerous to take the weapon to the principal's office, a student shall not be considered to possess a weapon if he or she immediately turns the weapon over to an administrator, teacher or head coach or immediately notifies an administrator, teacher or head coach of the weapon's location.
- B. It shall not be a violation of this policy if a nonstudent (or student where specified) falls within one of the following categories:
1. active licensed peace officers;
 2. military personnel, or students or nonstudents participating in military training, who are on duty performing official duties;
 3. persons authorized to carry a pistol under Minn. Stat. § 624.714 while in a motor vehicle or outside of a motor vehicle for the purpose of directly placing a firearm in, or retrieving it from, the trunk or rear area of the vehicle;
 4. persons who keep or store in a motor vehicle pistols in accordance with Minn. Stat. §§ 624.714 or 624.715 or other firearms in accordance with § 97B.045;
 - a. Section 624.714 specifies procedures and standards for obtaining pistol permits and penalties for the failure to do so. Section 624.715 defines an exception to the pistol permit requirements for "antique firearms which are carried or possessed as curiosities or for their historical significance or value."
 - b. Section 97B.045 generally provides that a firearm may not be transported in a motor vehicle unless it is (1) unloaded and in a gun case without any portion of the firearm exposed; (2) unloaded and in the closed trunk; or (3) a handgun carried in compliance with §§ 624.714 and 624.715.
 5. firearm safety or marksmanship courses or activities for students or nonstudents conducted on school property;
 6. possession of dangerous weapons, BB guns, or replica firearms by a ceremonial color guard;
 7. a gun or knife show held on school property;

North Branch Independent School District No. 138: Policy #501**Adopted:** 2/12/98**Replaced:** Policy #5143 Gun-Free Schools, Weapons, Violence Prevention and Discipline (Student)**Last Reviewed:****Revised:** 6/12/03, 7/10/14, 2/11/16**Effective:** 2/12/98, 6/12/03, 7/10/14, 2/11/16

STUDENTS

School Weapons Policy

501

8. possession of dangerous weapons, BB guns, or replica firearms with written permission of the principal or other person having general control and supervision of the school or the director of a child care center; or
9. persons who are on unimproved property owned or leased by a child care center, school or school district unless the person knows that a student is currently present on the land for a school-related activity.

C. Policy Application to Instructional Equipment/Tools

While the school district does not allow the possession, use, or distribution of weapons by students or nonstudents, such a position is not meant to interfere with instruction or the use of appropriate equipment and tools by students or nonstudents. Such equipment and tools, when properly possessed, used, and stored, shall not be considered in violation of the rule against the possession, use, or distribution of weapons. However, when authorized instructional and work equipment and tools are used in a potentially dangerous or threatening manner, such possession and use will be treated as the possession and use of a weapon.

D. Firearms in School Parking Lots and Parking Facilities

A school district may not prohibit the lawful carry or possession of firearms in a school parking lot or parking facility. For purposes of this policy, the "lawful" carry or possession of a firearm in a school parking lot or parking facility is specifically limited to nonstudent permit-holders authorized under Minn. Stat. § 624.714 to carry a pistol in the interior of a vehicle or outside the motor vehicle for the purpose of directly placing a firearm in, or retrieving it from, the trunk or rear area of the vehicle. Any possession or carry of a firearm beyond the immediate vicinity of a permit-holder's vehicle shall constitute a violation of this policy.

V. CONSEQUENCES FOR STUDENT WEAPON POSSESSION/USE/ DISTRIBUTION

- A. The school district does not allow the possession, use, or distribution of weapons by students. Consequently, the minimum consequence for students possessing, using, or distributing weapons shall include:
1. immediate out-of-school suspension;
 2. confiscation of the weapon;
 3. immediate notification of police;
 4. parent or guardian notification; and

North Branch Independent School District No. 138: Policy #501

Adopted: 2/12/98

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Effective: 2/12/98, 6/12/03, 7/10/14, 2/11/16

STUDENTS

School Weapons Policy

501

5. recommendation to the superintendent of dismissal for a period of time not to exceed one year.
- B. Pursuant to Minnesota law, a student who brings a firearm, as defined by federal law, to school will be expelled for at least one year. The school board may modify this requirement on a case-by-case basis.
- C. Administrative Discretion

While the school district does not allow the possession, use, or distribution of weapons by students, the superintendent may use discretion in determining whether, under the circumstances, a course of action other than the minimum consequences specified above is warranted. If so, other appropriate action may be taken, including consideration of a recommendation for lesser discipline.

VI. CONSEQUENCES FOR WEAPON POSSESSION/USE/DISTRIBUTION BY NONSTUDENTS

- A. Employees
 1. An employee who violates the terms of this policy is subject to disciplinary action, including nonrenewal, suspension, or discharge as deemed appropriate by the school board.
 2. Sanctions against employees, including nonrenewal, suspension, or discharge shall be pursuant to and in accordance with applicable statutory authority, collective bargaining agreements, and school district policies.
 3. When an employee violates the weapons policy, law enforcement may be notified, as appropriate.
- B. Other Nonstudents
 1. Any member of the public who violates this policy shall be informed of the policy and asked to leave the school location. Depending on the circumstances, the person may be barred from future entry to school locations. In addition, if the person is a student in another school district, that school district may be contacted concerning the policy violation.
 2. If appropriate, law enforcement will be notified of the policy violation by the member of the public and may be asked to provide an escort to remove the member of the public from the school location.

North Branch Independent School District No. 138: Policy #501

Adopted: 2/12/98

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STUDENTS

School Weapons Policy

501

Legal References: Minn. Stat. § 97B.045 (Transportation of Firearms)
Minn. Stat. § 121A.05 (Referral to Police)
Minn. Stat. §§ 121A.40-121A.56 (Pupil Fair Dismissal Act)
Minn. Stat. § 121A.44 (Expulsion for Possession of Firearm)
Minn. Stat. § 609.02, Subd. 6 (Definition of Dangerous Weapon)
Minn. Stat. § 609.605 (Trespass)
Minn. Stat. § 609.66 (Dangerous Weapons)
Minn. Stat. § 624.714 (Carrying of Weapons without Permit; Penalties)
Minn. Stat. § 624.715 (Exemptions; Antiques and Ornaments)
18 U.S.C. § 921 (Definition of Firearm)
In re C.R.M. 611 N.W.2d 802 (Minn. 2000)

Cross References: NB Policy 403 (Discipline, Suspension, and Dismissal of School District Employees)
NB Policy 506 (Student Discipline)
NB Policy 525 (Violence Prevention)

North Branch Independent School District No. 138: Policy #501

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Adopted: _____

MSBA/MASA Model Policy 502

Orig. 1995

Revised: _____

Rev. 1999

502 SEARCH OF STUDENT LOCKERS, DESKS, PERSONAL POSSESSIONS, AND STUDENT'S PERSON

[Note: School districts are required by statute to have a policy addressing these issues.]

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to provide for a safe and healthful educational environment by enforcing the school district's policies against contraband.

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

A. Lockers and Personal Possessions Within a Locker

Pursuant to Minnesota statutes, school lockers are the property of the school district. At no time does the school district relinquish its exclusive control of lockers provided for the convenience of students. Inspection of the interior of lockers may be conducted by school officials for any reason at any time, without notice, without student consent, and without a search warrant. The personal possessions of students within a school locker may be searched only when school officials have a reasonable suspicion that the search will uncover evidence of a violation of law or school rules. As soon as practicable after the search of a student's personal possessions, the school officials must provide notice of the search to students whose lockers were searched unless disclosure would impede an ongoing investigation by police or school officials.

B. Desks

School desks are the property of the school district. At no time does the school district relinquish its exclusive control of desks provided for the convenience of students. Inspection of the interior of desks may be conducted by school officials for any reason at any time, without notice, without student consent, and without a search warrant.

C. Personal Possessions and Student's Person

The personal possessions of students and/or a student's person may be searched when school officials have a reasonable suspicion that the search will uncover a violation of law or school rules. The search will be reasonable in its scope and intrusiveness.

D. ~~It shall be a~~ A violation of this policy occurs when ~~for~~ students ~~to~~ use lockers and desks for unauthorized purposes or to store contraband. ~~It shall be a~~ A violation

occurs when ~~for~~ students ~~to~~ carry contraband on their person or in their personal possessions.

III. DEFINITIONS

- A. “Contraband” means any unauthorized item possession of which is prohibited by school district policy and/or law. It includes, but is not limited to, weapons and “look-alikes,” alcoholic beverages, controlled substances and “look-alikes,” overdue books and other materials belonging to the school district, and stolen property.
- B. “Personal possessions” includes, but is not limited to, purses, backpacks, bookbags, packages, and clothing.
- C. “Reasonable suspicion” means that a school official has grounds to believe that the search will result in evidence of a violation of school district policy, rules, and/or law. Reasonable suspicion may be based on a school official’s personal observation, a report from a student, parent or staff member, a student’s suspicious behavior, a student’s age and past history or record of conduct both in and out of the school context, or other reliable sources of information.
- D. “Reasonable scope” means that the scope and/or intrusiveness of the search is reasonably related to the objectives of the search. Factors to consider in determining what is reasonable include the seriousness of the suspected infraction, the reliability of the information, the necessity of acting without delay, the existence of exigent circumstances necessitating an immediate search and further investigation (e.g., to prevent violence, serious and immediate risk of harm or destruction of evidence), and the age of the student.

IV. PROCEDURES

- A. School officials may inspect the interiors of lockers and desks for any reason at any time, without notice, without student consent, and without a search warrant.
- B. School officials may inspect the personal possessions of a student and/or a student’s person based on a reasonable suspicion that the search will uncover a violation of law or school rules. A search of personal possessions of a student and/or a student’s person will be reasonable in its scope and intrusiveness.
- C. As soon as practicable after a search of personal possessions within a locker pursuant to this policy, the school officials must provide notice of the search to students whose possessions were searched unless disclosure would impede an ongoing investigation by police or school officials.
- D. Whenever feasible, a search of a person shall be conducted in private by a school official of the same sex. A second school official of the same sex shall be present as an observer during the search of a person whenever feasible.

- E. A strip search is a search involving the removal of coverings or clothing from private areas. Mass strip searches, or body cavity searches, are prohibited. Strip searches will be conducted only in circumstances involving imminent danger.
- F. A school official conducting any other search may determine when it is appropriate to have a second official present as an observer.
- G. A copy of this policy will be printed in the student handbook or disseminated in any other way which school officials deem appropriate. The school district shall provide a copy of this policy to a student when the student is given use of a locker.

V. DIRECTIVES AND GUIDELINES

School administration may establish reasonable directives and guidelines which address specific needs of the school district, such as use of tape in lockers, standards of cleanliness and care, posting of pin-ups and posters which may constitute sexual harassment, etc.

VI. SEIZURE OF CONTRABAND

If a search yields contraband, school officials will seize the item and, where appropriate, turn it over to legal officials for ultimate disposition.

VII. VIOLATIONS

A student found to have violated this policy and/or the directives and guidelines implementing it shall be subject to discipline in accordance with the school district's Student Discipline Policy, which may include suspension, exclusion, or expulsion, and the student may, when appropriate, be referred to legal officials.

Legal References: U. S. Const., amend. IV
 Minn. Const., art. I, § 10
 Minn. Stat. § 121A.72 (School Locker Policy)
New Jersey v. T.L.O., 469 U.S. 325, 105 S.Ct. 733, 83 L.Ed.2d 720 (1985)
[G.C. v. Owensboro Public Schools, 711 F.3d 623 \(6th Cir. 2013\)](#)

Cross References: MSBA/MASA Model Policy 417 (Chemical Use and Abuse)
 MSBA/MASA Model Policy 418 (Drug-Free Workplace/Drug-Free School)
 MSBA/MASA Model Policy 501 (School Weapons)
 MSBA/MASA Model Policy 506 (Student Discipline)

STUDENTS

Hazing Prohibition

526

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to maintain a safe learning environment for students and staff that is free from hazing. Hazing activities of any type are inconsistent with the educational goals of the school district and are prohibited at all times.

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

- A. No student, teacher, administrator, volunteer, contractor, or other employee of the school district shall plan, direct, encourage, aid, or engage in hazing.
- B. No teacher, administrator, volunteer, contractor, or other employee of the school district shall permit, condone, or tolerate hazing.
- C. Apparent permission or consent by a person being hazed does not lessen the prohibitions contained in this policy.
- D. Retaliation against a victim, good faith reporter, or a witness of hazing is prohibited.
- E. False accusations or reports of hazing against a student, teacher, administrator, volunteer, contractor, or other employee are prohibited.
- F. A person who engages in an act of hazing, reprisal, retaliation, or false reporting of hazing or permits, condones, or tolerates hazing shall be subject to discipline or other remedial responses for that act in accordance with the school district's policies and procedures.

Consequences for students who commit, tolerate, or are a party to prohibited acts of hazing may range from remedial responses or positive behavioral interventions up to and including suspension and/or expulsion.

Consequences for employees who permit, condone, or tolerate hazing or engage in an act of reprisal or intentional false reporting of hazing may result in disciplinary action up to and including termination or discharge.

Consequences for other individuals engaging in prohibited acts of hazing may include, but not be limited to, exclusion from school district property and events and/or termination of services and/or contracts.

- G. This policy applies to hazing that occurs during and after school hours, on or off school premises or property, at school functions or activities, or on school transportation.
- H. A person who engages in an act that violates school policy or law in order to be initiated into or affiliated with a student organization shall be subject to discipline for that act.

North Branch Independent School District No. 138: Policy #526

Adopted: 12/11/97

Last Reviewed:

Revised: 4/10/03, 12/11/14, 4/14/16

Effective: 12/11/97, 4/10/03, 12/11/14, 4/14/16

STUDENTS

Hazing Prohibition

526

- I. The school district will act to investigate all complaints of hazing and will discipline or take appropriate action against any student, teacher, administrator, volunteer, contractor, or other employee of the school district who is found to have violated this policy.

III. DEFINITIONS

- A. "Hazing" means committing an act against a student, or coercing a student into committing an act, that creates a substantial risk of harm to a person, in order for the student to be initiated into or affiliated with a student organization, or for any other school-related purpose. The term hazing includes, but is not limited to:
 1. Any type of physical brutality such as whipping, beating, striking, branding, electronic shocking, or placing a harmful substance on the body.
 2. Any type of physical activity such as sleep deprivation, exposure to weather, confinement in a restricted area, calisthenics, or other activity that subjects the student to an unreasonable risk of harm or that adversely affects the mental or physical health or safety of the student.
 3. Any activity involving the consumption of any alcoholic beverage, drug, tobacco product, or any other food, liquid, or substance that subjects the student to an unreasonable risk of harm or that adversely affects the mental or physical health or safety of the student.
 4. Any activity that intimidates or threatens the student with ostracism, that subjects a student to extreme mental stress, embarrassment, shame, or humiliation, that adversely affects the mental health or dignity of the student or discourages the student from remaining in school.
 5. Any activity that causes or requires the student to perform a task that involves violation of state or federal law or of school district policies or regulations.
- B. "Immediately" means as soon as possible but in no event longer than 24 hours.
- C. "On school premises or school district property, or at school functions or activities, or on school transportation" means all school district buildings, school grounds, and school property or property immediately adjacent to school grounds, school bus stops, school buses, school vehicles, school contracted vehicles, or any other vehicles approved for school district purposes, the area of entrance or departure from school grounds, premises, or events, and all school-related functions, school-sponsored activities, events, or trips. School district property also may mean a student's walking route to or from school for purposes of attending school or school-related functions, activities, or events. While prohibiting hazing at these locations and events, the school district does not represent that it will provide supervision or assume liability at these locations and events.

North Branch Independent School District No. 138: Policy #526

Adopted: 12/11/97

Last Reviewed:

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STUDENTS

Hazing Prohibition

526

- D. "Remedial response" means a measure to stop and correct hazing, prevent hazing from recurring, and protect, support, and intervene on behalf of a student who is the target or victim of hazing.
- E. "Student" means a student enrolled in a public school or a charter school.
- F. "Student organization" means a group, club, or organization having students as its primary members or participants. It includes grade levels, classes, teams, activities, or particular school events. A student organization does not have to be an official school organization to come within the terms of this definition.

IV. REPORTING PROCEDURES

- A. Any person who believes he or she has been the target or victim of hazing or any person with knowledge or belief of conduct which may constitute hazing shall report the alleged acts immediately to an appropriate school district official designated by this policy. A person may report hazing anonymously. However, the school district may not rely solely on an anonymous report to determine discipline or other remedial responses.
- B. The school district encourages the reporting party to use the report form available from the principal or building supervisor of each building or available from the school district office, but oral reports shall be considered complaints as well.

The building principal, the principal's designee, or the building supervisor (hereinafter the "building report taker") is the person responsible for receiving reports of hazing at the building level. Any adult school district personnel who receives a report of hazing prohibited by this policy shall inform the building report taker immediately. Any person may report hazing directly to a school district human rights officer or to the superintendent. If the complaint involves the building report taker, the complaint shall be made or filed directly with the superintendent or the school district human rights officer by the reporting party or complainant.

The building report taker shall ensure that this policy and its procedures, practices, consequences, and sanctions are fairly and fully implemented and shall serve as a primary contact on policy and procedural matters.

- C. A teacher, administrator, volunteer, contractor, and other school employees shall be particularly alert to possible situations, circumstances, or events which might include hazing. Any such person who witnesses, observes, receives a report of, or has other knowledge or belief of conduct which may constitute hazing shall make reasonable efforts to address and resolve the hazing and shall inform the building report taker immediately. School district personnel who fail to inform the building report taker of conduct that may constitute hazing or who fail to make reasonable efforts to address and resolve the hazing in a timely manner may be subject to disciplinary action.

North Branch Independent School District No. 138: Policy #526

Adopted: 12/11/97

Last Reviewed:

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Effective: 12/11/97, 4/10/03, 12/11/14, 4/14/16

STUDENTS

Hazing Prohibition

526

- D. Submission of a good faith complaint or report of hazing will not affect the complainant or reporter's future employment, grades, or work assignments, or educational or work environment.
- E. Reports of hazing are classified as private educational and/or personnel data and/or confidential investigative data and will not be disclosed except as permitted by law. The building report taker, in conjunction with the responsible authority, shall be responsible for keeping and regulating access to any report of hazing and the record of any resulting investigation.
- F. The school district will respect the privacy of the complainant(s), the individual(s) against whom the complaint is filed, and the witnesses as much as possible, consistent with the school district's legal obligations to investigate, to take appropriate action, and to comply with any discovery or disclosure obligations.

V. SCHOOL DISTRICT ACTION

- A. Within three (3) days of the receipt of a complaint or report of hazing, the school district shall undertake or authorize an investigation by school district officials or a third party designated by the school district.
- B. The building report taker or other appropriate school district officials may take immediate steps, at their discretion, to protect the target or victim of the hazing, the complainant, the reporter, and students or others pending completion of an investigation of alleged hazing prohibited by this policy.
- C. The alleged perpetrator of the hazing shall be allowed the opportunity to present a defense during the investigation or prior to the imposition of discipline or other remedial responses.
- D. Upon completion of an investigation that determines hazing has occurred, the school district will take appropriate action. Such action may include, but is not limited to, warning, suspension, exclusion, expulsion, transfer, remediation, termination, or discharge. Disciplinary consequences will be sufficiently severe to try to deter violations and to appropriately discipline prohibited behavior. School district action taken for violation of this policy will be consistent with the requirements of applicable collective bargaining agreements; applicable statutory authority, including the Minnesota Pupil Fair Dismissal Act; and applicable school district policies and regulations.
- E. The school district is not authorized to disclose to a victim private educational or personnel data regarding an alleged perpetrator who is a student or employee of the school district. School officials will notify the parent(s) or guardian(s) of students who are targets or victims of hazing and the parent(s) or guardian(s) of alleged perpetrators of hazing who have been involved in a reported and confirmed hazing incident of the remedial or disciplinary action taken, to the extent permitted by law.

North Branch Independent School District No. 138: Policy #526

Adopted: 12/11/97

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STUDENTS

Hazing Prohibition

526

- F. In order to prevent or to respond to hazing committed by or directed against a child with a disability, the school district shall, where determined appropriate by the child's individualized education program (IEP) team or Section 504 team, allow the child's IEP or Section 504 plan to be drafted to address the skills and proficiencies the child needs as a result of the child's disability to allow the child to respond to or not to engage in hazing.

VI. RETALIATION OR REPRISAL

The school district will discipline or take appropriate action against any student, teacher, administrator, volunteer, contractor, or other employee of the school district who commits an act of reprisal or who retaliates against any person who asserts, alleges, or makes a good faith report of alleged hazing, who provides information about hazing, who testifies, assists, or participates in an investigation of alleged hazing, or who testifies, assists, or participates in a proceeding or hearing relating to such hazing. Retaliation includes, but is not limited to, any form of intimidation, reprisal, harassment, or intentional disparate treatment. Disciplinary consequences will be sufficiently severe to deter violations and to appropriately discipline the individual(s) who engaged in the prohibited conduct. Remedial responses to the prohibited conduct shall be tailored to the particular incident and nature of the conduct.

VII. DISSEMINATION OF POLICY

- A. This policy shall appear in each school's student handbook and in each school's building and staff handbooks.
- B. The school district will develop a method of discussing this policy with students and employees.

Legal References: Minn. Stat. § 121A.031 (School Student Bullying Policy)
Minn. Stat. § 121A.0311 (Notice of the Rights and Responsibilities of Students and Parents Under the Safe and Supportive Minnesota Schools Act)
Minn. Stat. § 121A.40-121A.56 (Pupil Fair Dismissal Act)
Minn. Stat. § 121A.69 (Hazing Policy)

Cross References: NB Policy 403 (Discipline, Suspension, and Dismissal of School District Employees)
NB Policy 413 (Harassment and Violence)
NB Policy 506 (Student Discipline)
NB Policy 514 (Bullying Prohibition Policy)
NB Policy 525 (Violence Prevention [Applicable to Students and Staff])

NON INSTRUCTIONAL OPERATIONS

Student Transportation Safety Policy

709-NB

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to provide safe transportation for students and to educate students on safety issues and the responsibilities of school bus ridership.

II. PLAN FOR STUDENT TRANSPORTATION SAFETY TRAINING

A. School Bus Safety Week

The school district may designate a school bus safety week. The National School Bus Safety Week is the third week in October.

B. Student Training

1. The school district shall provide students enrolled in grades kindergarten (K) through 10 with age-appropriate school bus safety training of the following concepts:
 - a. transportation by school bus is a privilege, not a right;
 - b. school district policies for student conduct and school bus safety;
 - c. appropriate conduct while on the bus;
 - d. the danger zones surrounding a school bus;
 - e. procedures for safely boarding and leaving a school bus;
 - f. procedures for safe vehicle lane crossing; and
 - g. school bus evacuation and other emergency procedures.
2. All students in grades K through 6 who are transported by school bus and are enrolled during the first or second week of school must receive the school bus safety training by the end of the third week of school. All students in grades 7 through 10 who are transported by school bus and are enrolled during the first or second week of school must receive the school bus safety training or receive bus safety instruction materials by the end of the sixth week of school, if they have not previously received school bus training. Students in grades K through 10 who enroll in a school after the second week of school, are transported by school bus, and have not received training in their previous school districts shall undergo school bus safety training or receive bus safety instructional materials within 4 weeks of their first day of attendance.
3. The school district and a nonpublic school with students transported by school bus at public expense must provide students enrolled in grades K through 3 school bus safety

North Branch Independent School District No. 138: Policy #709-NB

Adopted: 6/10/10

Replaces: 3541.35 Student Transportation Safety Policy

Last Reviewed:

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Effective: 6/10/10, 4/10/14, 4/14/16, 2/14/19

NON INSTRUCTIONAL OPERATIONS

Student Transportation Safety Policy

709-NB

training twice during the school year.

4. Students taking driver's training instructional classes must receive training in the laws and proper procedures for operating a motor vehicle in the vicinity of a school bus as required by Minn. Stat. § 169.446, Subd. 2.
5. The school district and a nonpublic school with students transported by school bus at public expense must conduct a school bus evacuation drill at least once during the school year.
6. The school district will make reasonable accommodations in training for students known to speak English as a second language and students with disabilities.
7. The school district may provide kindergarten students with school bus safety training before the first day of school.
8. The school district may provide student safety education for bicycling and pedestrian safety for students in grades K through 5.
9. The school district shall adopt and make available for public review a curriculum for transportation safety education.
10. Nonpublic school students transported by the school district will receive school bus safety training by their nonpublic school. The nonpublic schools may use the school district's school transportation safety education curriculum. Upon request by the school district superintendent, the nonpublic school must certify to the school district's school transportation safety director that all students enrolled in grades K through 10 have received the appropriate training.

III. CONDUCT ON SCHOOL BUSES AND CONSEQUENCES FOR MISBEHAVIOR

- A. Riding the school bus is a privilege, not a right. The school district's general student behavior rules are in effect for all students on school buses, including nonpublic and charter school students.
- B. Consequences for school bus/bus stop misconduct will be imposed by the school district under adopted administrative discipline procedures. In addition, all school bus/bus stop misconduct will be reported to the school district's transportation safety director. Serious misconduct may be reported to local law enforcement.
 1. School Bus and Bus Stop Rules. The school district school bus safety rules are to be posted on every bus. If these rules are broken, the school district's discipline procedures are to be followed. In most circumstances, consequences are progressive and may include suspension of bus privileges. It is the school bus driver's responsibility

North Branch Independent School District No. 138: Policy #709-NB

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NON INSTRUCTIONAL OPERATIONS

Student Transportation Safety Policy

709-NB

to report unacceptable behavior to the school district's Transportation Office/School Office.

2. Rules at the Bus Stop

- a. Get to your bus stop 5 minutes before your scheduled pick up time. The school bus driver will not wait for late students.
- b. Respect the property of others while waiting at your bus stop.
- c. Keep your arms, legs, and belongings to yourself.
- d. Use appropriate language.
- e. Stay away from the street, road, or highway when waiting for the bus.
- f. Wait until the bus stops before approaching the bus.
- g. After getting off the bus, move away from the bus.
- h. If you must cross the street, always cross in front of the bus where the driver can see you. Wait for the driver to signal to you before crossing the street.
- i. No fighting, harassment, intimidation, or horseplay.
- j. No use of alcohol, tobacco, or drugs.

3. Rules on the Bus

- a. Immediately follow the directions of the driver.
- b. Sit in your seat facing forward.
- c. Talk quietly and use appropriate language.
- d. Keep all parts of your body inside the bus.
- e. Keep your arms, legs, and belongings to yourself.
- f. No fighting, harassment, intimidation, or horseplay.
- g. Do not throw any object.
- h. No eating, drinking, or use of alcohol, tobacco, or drugs.

North Branch Independent School District No. 138: Policy #709-NB

Adopted: 6/10/10

Replaces: 3541.35 Student Transportation Safety Policy

Last Reviewed:

Revised: 4/10/14, 4/14/16, 2/14/19

Effective: 6/10/10, 4/10/14, 4/14/16, 2/14/19

NON INSTRUCTIONAL OPERATIONS

Student Transportation Safety Policy

709-NB

- i. Do not bring any weapons or dangerous objects on the school bus.
- j. Do not damage the school bus.
- 4. Consequences
 - a. Consequences for school bus/bus stop misconduct will apply to all regular and late routes. Decisions regarding a student's ability to ride the bus in connection with cocurricular and extracurricular events (for example, field trips or competitions) will be in the sole discretion of the school district. Parents or guardians will be notified of any suspension of bus privileges.

(1) Elementary (K-6) Offense (NB change)

Warning – Mailed to parent or guardian
Referral #1 – student & parent contact
Referral #2 – 3-day bus suspension
Referral #3 – 5-day bus suspension
Referral #4 – 10-day bus suspension -- Parent meeting may be held at the discretion of the school district (NB change)

Further offenses – individually considered. Students may be suspended for longer periods of time, including the remainder of the school year. All referrals will have student and parent contact. (NB change)

Note: When any elementary elementary (NB change) student goes 60 transportation days without a report, the student's consequences may start over at the first offense.

(2) Secondary (7-12) Offense (NB change)

Warning – Mailed to parent or guardian
Referral #1 – student & parent contact
Referral #2 – 5-day bus suspension
Referral #3 – 10-day bus suspension
Referral #4 – 20-day bus suspension – Parent meeting may be held at the discretion of the school district
Further offense – remainder of the year (NB change)

(3) Other Discipline

Based on the severity of a student's conduct, more serious consequences may be imposed at any time. Depending on the

North Branch Independent School District No. 138: Policy #709-NB

Adopted: 6/10/10

Replaces: 3541.35 Student Transportation Safety Policy

Last Reviewed:

Revised: 4/10/14, 4/14/16, 2/14/19

Effective: 6/10/10, 4/10/14, 4/14/16, 2/14/19

NON INSTRUCTIONAL OPERATIONS

Student Transportation Safety Policy

709-NB

nature of the offense, consequences such as suspension or expulsion from school also may result from school bus/bus stop misconduct.

(4) Records

Records of school bus/bus stop misconduct will be forwarded to the individual school building and will be retained in the same manner as other student discipline records. Reports of student misbehavior on a school bus or in a bus-loading or unloading area that are reasonably believed to cause an immediate and substantial danger to the student or surrounding persons or property shall be provided by the school district to local law enforcement and the Department of Public Safety in accordance with state and federal law.

(5) Vandalism/Bus Damage

Students damaging school buses will be responsible for the damages. Failure to pay such damages (or make arrangements to pay) within 2 weeks may result in the loss of bus privileges until damages are paid.

(6) Notice

School bus and bus stop rules and consequences for violations of these rules will be reviewed with students annually and copies of these rules will be made available to students. School bus rules are to be posted on each school bus.

(7) Criminal Conduct

In cases involving criminal conduct (for example, assault, weapons, drug possession, or vandalism), the appropriate school district personnel and local law enforcement officials will be informed.

IV. PARENT AND GUARDIAN INVOLVEMENT

A. Parent and Guardian Notification

The school district school bus and bus stop rules will be provided to each family. Parents and guardians are asked to review the rules with their children.

B. Parents/Guardians Responsibilities for Transportation Safety

North Branch Independent School District No. 138: Policy #709-NB

Adopted: 6/10/10

Replaces: 3541.35 Student Transportation Safety Policy

Last Reviewed:

Revised: 4/10/14, 4/14/16, 2/14/19

Effective: 6/10/10, 4/10/14, 4/14/16, 2/14/19

NON INSTRUCTIONAL OPERATIONS

Student Transportation Safety Policy

709-NB

Parents/Guardians are responsible to:

1. Become familiar with school district rules, policies, regulations, and the principles of school bus safety, and thoroughly review them with their children;
2. Support safe riding and walking practices, and recognize that students are responsible for their actions;
3. Communicate safety concerns to their school administrators;
4. Monitor bus stops, if possible;
5. When appropriate, assist student in safely crossing local streets before boarding and after leaving the bus; (NB change)
6. Have their children to the bus stop 5 minutes before the bus arrives;
7. Have their children properly dressed for the weather; and
8. Have a plan in case the bus is late, if school closes early, or if school closes for the day. (NB change)

V. SCHOOL BUS DRIVER DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- A. School bus drivers shall have a valid Class A, B, or C Minnesota driver's license with a school bus endorsement. A person possessing a valid driver's license, without a school bus endorsement, may drive a type III vehicle set forth in Sections VII.B. and VII.C., below. Drivers with a valid Class D driver's license, without a school bus endorsement, may operate a "type A-I" school bus as set forth in Section VII.D., below.
- B. The school district shall conduct mandatory drug and alcohol testing of all school district bus drivers and bus driver applicants in accordance with state and federal law and school district policy.
- C. A school bus driver, with the exception of a driver operating a type A-I school bus or type III vehicle, who has a commercial driver's license and who is convicted of a criminal offense, a serious traffic violation, or of violating any other state or local law relating to motor vehicle traffic control, other than a parking violation, in any type of motor vehicle in a state or jurisdiction other than Minnesota, shall notify the Minnesota Division of Driver and Vehicle Services (Division) of the conviction within 30 days of the conviction. For purposes of this paragraph, a "serious traffic violation" means a conviction of any of the following offenses:
 1. excessive speeding, involving any single offense for any speed of 15 miles per hour or

North Branch Independent School District No. 138: Policy #709-NB

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Replaces: 3541.35 Student Transportation Safety Policy

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Revised: 4/10/14, 4/14/16, 2/14/19

Effective: 6/10/10, 4/10/14, 4/14/16, 2/14/19

NON INSTRUCTIONAL OPERATIONS

Student Transportation Safety Policy

709-NB

- more above the posted speed limit;
2. reckless driving;
 3. improper or erratic traffic lane changes;
 4. following the vehicle ahead too closely;
 5. a violation of state or local law, relating to motor vehicle traffic control, arising in connection with a fatal accident;
 6. driving a commercial vehicle without obtaining a commercial driver's license or without having a commercial driver's license in the driver's possession.
- D. A school bus driver, with the exception of a driver operating a type A-I school bus or type III vehicle, who has a commercial driver's license and who is convicted of violating, in any type of motor vehicle, a Minnesota state or local law relating to motor vehicle traffic control, other than a parking violation, shall notify the person's employer of the conviction within 30 days of conviction. The notification shall be in writing and shall contain all the information set forth in Attachment A accompanying this policy.
- E. A school bus driver, with the exception of a driver operating a type A-I school bus, who has a Minnesota commercial driver's license suspended, revoked, or cancelled by the state of Minnesota or any other state or jurisdiction and who loses the right to operate a commercial vehicle for any period or who is disqualified from operating a commercial motor vehicle for any period shall notify the person's employer of the suspension, revocation, cancellation, lost privilege, or disqualification. Such notification shall be made before the end of the business day following the day the employee received notice of the suspension, revocation, cancellation, lost privilege, or disqualification. The notification shall be in writing and shall contain all the information set forth in Attachment B accompanying this policy.
- F. A person who operates a type III vehicle and who sustains a conviction as described in Section VII.C.1.g. (i.e., driving while impaired offenses), VII.C.1.h. (i.e., felony, controlled substance, criminal sexual conduct offenses, or offenses for surreptitious observation, indecent exposure, use of minor in a sexual performance, or possession of child pornography or display of pornography to a minor), or VII.C.1.i. (multiple moving violations) while employed by the entity that owns, leases, or contracts for the school bus, shall report the conviction to the person's employer within 10 days of the date of the conviction. The notification shall be in writing and shall contain all the information set forth in Attachment C accompanying this policy.

VI. SCHOOL BUS DRIVER TRAINING

- A. Training

North Branch Independent School District No. 138: Policy #709-NB

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Replaces: 3541.35 Student Transportation Safety Policy

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NON INSTRUCTIONAL OPERATIONS

Student Transportation Safety Policy

709-NB

1. All new school bus drivers shall be provided with pre-service training, including in-vehicle (actual driving) instruction, before transporting students and shall meet the competency testing specified in the Minnesota Department of Public Safety Model School Bus Driver Training Manual. All school bus drivers shall receive in-service training annually. For purposes of this section, "annually" means at least once every 380 days from the initial or previous evaluation and at least once every 380 days from the initial or previous license verification. The school district shall retain on file an annual individual school bus driver "evaluation certification" form for each school district driver as contained in the Model School Bus Driver Training Manual.
2. All bus drivers operating a type III vehicle will be provided with annual training and certification as set forth in Section VII.C.1.b., below, by either the school district or the entity from whom such services are contracted by the school district.

B. Evaluation

School bus drivers with a Class D license will be evaluated annually and all other bus drivers will be assessed periodically for the following competencies:

1. Safely operate the type of school bus the driver will be driving;
2. Understand student behavior, including issues relating to students with disabilities;
3. Ensure orderly conduct of students on the bus and handling incidents of misconduct appropriately;
4. Know and understand relevant laws, rules of the road, and local school bus safety policies;
5. Handle emergency situations; and
6. Safely load and unload students.

The evaluation must include completion of an individual "school bus driver evaluation form" (road test evaluation) as contained in the Model School Bus Driver Training Manual.

VII. OPERATING RULES AND PROCEDURES

A. General Operating Rules

1. School buses shall be operated in accordance with state traffic and school bus safety laws and the procedures contained in the Minnesota Department of Public Safety Model School Bus Driver Training Manual.

North Branch Independent School District No. 138: Policy #709-NB

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Replaces: 3541.35 Student Transportation Safety Policy

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Effective: 6/10/10, 4/10/14, 4/14/16, 2/14/19

NON INSTRUCTIONAL OPERATIONS

Student Transportation Safety Policy

709-NB

2. Only students assigned to the school bus by the school district shall be transported. The number of students or other authorized passengers transported in a school bus shall not be more than the legal capacity for the bus. No person shall be allowed to stand when the bus is in motion.
3. The parent/guardian may designate, pursuant to school district policy, a day care facility, respite care facility, the residence of a relative, or the residence of a person chosen by the parent or guardian as the address of the student for transportation purposes. The address must be in the attendance area of the assigned school and meet all other eligibility requirements.
4. Bus drivers must minimize, to the extent practical, the idling of school bus engines and exposure of children to diesel exhaust fumes.
5. To the extent practical, the school district will designate school bus loading/unloading zones at a sufficient distance from school air-intake systems to avoid diesel fumes from being drawn into the systems.
6. A bus driver may not operate a school bus while communicating over, or otherwise operating, a cellular phone for personal reasons, whether hand-held or hands free, when the vehicle is in motion or a part of traffic. For purposes of this paragraph, "school bus" has the meaning given in Minn. Stat. § 169.011, Subd. 71. In addition, "school bus" also includes type III vehicles when driven by employees or agents of the school district. "Cellular phone" means a cellular, analog, wireless, or digital telephone capable of sending or receiving telephone or text messages without an access line for service.

B. Type III Vehicles

1. Type III vehicles are restricted to passenger cars, station wagons, vans, and buses having a maximum manufacturer's rated seating capacity of 10 or fewer people including the driver and a gross vehicle weight rating of 10,000 pounds or less. A van or bus converted to a seating capacity of 10 or fewer and placed in service on or after August 1, 1999, must have been originally manufactured to comply with the passenger safety standards.
2. Type III vehicles must be painted a color other than national school bus yellow.
3. Type III vehicles shall be state inspected in accordance with legal requirements.
4. A type III vehicle cannot be older than 12 years old unless excepted by state and federal law.
5. If a type III vehicle is school district owned, the school district name will be clearly marked on the side of the vehicle. The type III vehicle must not have the words "school bus" in any

North Branch Independent School District No. 138: Policy #709-NB

Adopted: 6/10/10

Replaces: 3541.35 Student Transportation Safety Policy

Last Reviewed:

Revised: 4/10/14, 4/14/16, 2/14/19

Effective: 6/10/10, 4/10/14, 4/14/16, 2/14/19

NON INSTRUCTIONAL OPERATIONS

Student Transportation Safety Policy

709-NB

location on the exterior of the vehicle or in any interior location visible to a motorist.

6. A "type III vehicle" must not be outwardly equipped and identified as a type A, B, C, or D bus.
7. Eight-lamp warning systems and stop arms must not be installed or used on type III vehicles.
8. Type III vehicles must be equipped with mirrors as required by law.
9. Any type III vehicle may not stop traffic and may not load or unload before making a complete stop and disengaging gears by shifting into neutral or park. Any type III vehicle used to transport students must not load or unload so that a student has to cross the road, except where not possible or impractical, then the driver or assistant must escort a student across the road. If the driver escorts the student across the road, then the motor must be stopped, the ignition key removed, the brakes set, and the vehicle otherwise rendered immobile.
10. Any type III vehicle used to transport students must carry emergency equipment including:
 - a. Fire extinguisher. A minimum of one 10BC rated dry chemical type fire extinguisher is required. The extinguisher must be mounted in a bracket, and must be located in the driver's compartment and be readily accessible to the driver and passengers. A pressure indicator is required and must be easily read without removing the extinguisher from its mounted position.
 - b. First aid kit and body fluids cleanup kit. A minimum of a 10-unit first aid kit and a body fluids cleanup kit is required. They must be contained in removable, moisture- and dust-proof containers mounted in an accessible place within the driver's compartment and must be marked to indicate their identity and location.
 - c. A type III vehicle must contain at least three red reflectorized triangle road warning devices. Liquid burning "pot type" flares are not allowed. (NB change)
 - d. Passenger cars and station wagons may carry a fire extinguisher, a first aid kit, and warning triangles in the trunk or trunk area of the vehicle if a label in the driver and front passenger area clearly indicates the location of these items.
11. Students will not be regularly transported in private vehicles that are not state inspected as type III vehicles. Only emergency, unscheduled transportation may be conducted in vehicles with a seating capacity of 10 or fewer without meeting the requirements for a type III vehicle. Also, parents may use a private vehicle to transport their own children under a contract with the district. The school district has no system of inspection for private vehicles.

North Branch Independent School District No. 138: Policy #709-NB

Adopted: 6/10/10

Replaces: 3541.35 Student Transportation Safety Policy

Last Reviewed:

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Effective: 6/10/10, 4/10/14, 4/14/16, 2/14/19

NON INSTRUCTIONAL OPERATIONS

Student Transportation Safety Policy

709-NB

12. All drivers of type III vehicles will be licensed drivers and will be familiar with the use of required emergency equipment. The school district will not knowingly allow a person to operate a type III vehicle if the person has been convicted of an offense that disqualifies the person from operating a school bus.
13. Type III vehicles will be equipped with child passenger restraints, and child passenger restraints will be utilized to the extent required by law.

C. Type III Vehicle Driven by Employees with a Driver's License Without a School Bus Endorsement

1. The holder of a Class A, B, C, or D driver's license, without a school bus endorsement, may operate a type III vehicle, described above, under the following conditions:
 - a. The operator is an employee of the entity that owns, leases, or contracts for the school bus, which may include the school district.
 - b. The operator's employer, which may include the school district, has adopted and implemented a policy that provides for annual training and certification of the operator in:
 - (1) safe operation of a type III vehicle;
 - (2) understanding student behavior, including issues relating to students with disabilities;
 - (3) encouraging orderly conduct of students on the bus and handling incidents of misconduct appropriately;
 - (4) knowing and understanding relevant laws, rules of the road, and local school bus safety policies;
 - (5) handling emergency situations;
 - (6) proper use of seat belts and child safety restraints;
 - (7) performance of pretrip vehicle inspections;
 - (8) safe loading and unloading of students, including, but not limited to:
 - (a) utilizing a safe location for loading and unloading students at the curb, on the nontraffic side of the roadway, or at off-street loading areas, driveways, yards, and other areas to enable the student to avoid hazardous conditions;

North Branch Independent School District No. 138: Policy #709-NB

Adopted: 6/10/10

Replaces: 3541.35 Student Transportation Safety Policy

Last Reviewed:

Revised: 4/10/14, 4/14/16, 2/14/19

Effective: 6/10/10, 4/10/14, 4/14/16, 2/14/19

NON INSTRUCTIONAL OPERATIONS

Student Transportation Safety Policy

709-NB

- (b) refraining from loading and unloading students in a vehicular traffic lane, on the shoulder, in a designated turn lane, or a lane adjacent to a designated turn lane;
 - (c) avoiding a loading or unloading location that would require a student to cross a road, or ensuring that the driver or an aide personally escort the student across the road if it is not reasonably feasible to avoid such a location;
 - (d) placing the type III vehicle in “park” during loading and unloading;
 - (e) escorting a student across the road under clause (c) only after the motor is stopped, the ignition key is removed, the brakes are set, and the vehicle is otherwise rendered immobile; and
- (9) compliance with paragraph V.F. concerning reporting convictions to the employer within 10 days of the date of conviction.
- c. A background check or background investigation of the operator has been conducted that meets the requirements under Minn. Stat. § 122A.18, Subd. 8, or Minn. Stat. § 123B.03 for school district employees; Minn. Stat. § 144.057 or Minn. Stat. Ch. 245C for day care employees; or Minn. Stat. § 171.321, Subd. 3, for all other persons operating a type III vehicle under this section.
 - d. Operators shall submit to a physical examination as required by Minn. Stat. § 171.321, Subd. 2.
 - e. The operator's employer requires preemployment drug testing of applicants for operator positions. Current operators must comply with the employer's policy under Minn. Stat. § 181.951, Subds. 2, 4, and 5. Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, the operator's employer may use a breathalyzer or similar device to fulfill random alcohol testing requirements.
 - f. The operator's driver's license is verified annually by the entity that owns, leases, or contracts for the type III vehicle as required by Minn. Stat. § 171.321, Subd. 5.
 - g. A person who sustains a conviction, as defined under Minn. Stat. § 609.02, of violating Minn. Stat. § 169A.25, § 169A.26, § 169A.27 (driving while impaired offenses), or § 169A.31 (alcohol-related school bus driver offenses), or whose driver's license is revoked under Minn. Stat. §§ 169A.50 to 169A.53 of the

North Branch Independent School District No. 138: Policy #709-NB

Adopted: 6/10/10

Replaces: 3541.35 Student Transportation Safety Policy

Last Reviewed:

Revised: 4/10/14, 4/14/16, 2/14/19

Effective: 6/10/10, 4/10/14, 4/14/16, 2/14/19

NON INSTRUCTIONAL OPERATIONS

Student Transportation Safety Policy

709-NB

implied consent law, or who is convicted of violating or whose driver's license is revoked under a similar statute or ordinance of another state, is precluded from operating a type III vehicle for 5 years from the date of conviction.

- h. A person who has ever been convicted of a disqualifying offense as defined in Minn. Stat. § 171.3215, Subd.1(c), (i.e., felony, controlled substance, criminal sexual conduct offenses, or offenses for surreptitious observation, indecent exposure, use of minor in a sexual performance, or possession of child pornography or display of pornography to a minor) may not operate a type III vehicle.
 - i. A person who sustains a conviction, as defined under Minn. Stat. § 609.02, of a moving offense in violation of Minn. Stat. Ch. 169 within 3 years of the first of 3 other moving offenses is precluded from operating a type III vehicle for 1 year from the date of the last conviction.
 - j. Students riding the type III vehicle must have training required under Minn. Stat. § 123B.90, Subd. 2 (See Section II.B., above).
 - k. Documentation of meeting the requirements listed in this section must be maintained under separate file at the business location for each type III vehicle operator. The school district or any other entity that owns, leases, or contracts for the type III vehicle operating under this section is responsible for maintaining these files for inspection.
- 2. The type III vehicle must bear a current certificate of inspection issued under Minn. Stat. § 169.451.
 - 3. An employee of the school district who is not employed for the sole purpose of operating a type III vehicle may, in the discretion of the school district, be exempt from paragraphs VII.C.1.d. (physical examination) and VII.C.1.e. (drug testing), above.
- D. Type A-I "Activity" Buses Driven by Employees with a Driver's License Without a School Bus Endorsement
- 1. The holder of a Class D driver's license, without a school bus endorsement, may operate a type A-I school bus or a Multifunction School Activity Bus (MFSAB) under the following conditions:
 - a. The operator is an employee of the school district or an independent contractor with whom the school district contracts for the school bus and is not solely hired to provide transportation services under this paragraph.
 - b. The operator drives the school bus only from points of origin to points of

North Branch Independent School District No. 138: Policy #709-NB

Adopted: 6/10/10

Replaces: 3541.35 Student Transportation Safety Policy

Last Reviewed:

Revised: 4/10/14, 4/14/16, 2/14/19

Effective: 6/10/10, 4/10/14, 4/14/16, 2/14/19

NON INSTRUCTIONAL OPERATIONS

Student Transportation Safety Policy

709-NB

- destination, not including home-to-school trips to pick up or drop off students.
- c. The operator is prohibited from using the 8-light system if the vehicle is so equipped.
 - d. The operator has submitted to a background check and physical examination as required by Minn. Stat. § 171.321, Subd. 2.
 - e. The operator has a valid driver's license and has not sustained a conviction of a disqualifying offense as set forth in Minn. Stat. § 171.02, Subd. 2a(h) - 2a(j).
 - f. The operator has been trained in the proper use of child safety restraints as set forth in the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's "Guideline for the Safe Transportation of Pre-school Age Children in School Buses," if child safety restraints are used by passengers, in addition to the training required in Section VI., above.
 - g. The bus has a gross vehicle weight rating of 14,500 pounds or less and is designed to transport 15 or fewer passengers, including the driver.
- 2. The school district shall maintain annual certification of the requirements listed in this section for each Class D license operator.
 - 3. A school bus operated under this section must bear a current certificate of inspection.
 - 4. The word "School" on the front and rear of the bus must be covered by a sign that reads "Activities" when the bus is being operated under authority of this section.

VIII. SCHOOL DISTRICT EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

- A. If possible, school bus drivers or their supervisors shall call "911" or the local emergency phone number in the event of a serious emergency.
- B. School bus drivers shall meet the emergency training requirements contained in Unit III "Crash & Emergency Preparedness" of the Minnesota Department of Public Safety Model School Bus Driver Training Manual. This includes procedures in the event of a crash (accident).
- C. School bus drivers and bus assistants for special education students requiring special transportation service because of their handicapping condition shall be trained in basic first aid procedures, shall within 1 month after the effective date of assignment participate in a program of in-service training on the proper methods for dealing with the specific needs and problems of students with disabilities, assist students with disabilities on and off the bus when necessary for their safe ingress and egress from the bus; and ensure that protective safety devices are in use and fastened properly.

North Branch Independent School District No. 138: Policy #709-NB

Adopted: 6/10/10

Replaces: 3541.35 Student Transportation Safety Policy

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NON INSTRUCTIONAL OPERATIONS

Student Transportation Safety Policy

709-NB

- D. Emergency Health Information shall be maintained on the school bus for students requiring special transportation service because of their handicapping condition. The information shall state:
1. the student's name and address;
 2. the nature of the student's disabilities;
 3. emergency health care information; and
 4. the names and telephone numbers of the student's physician, parents, guardians, or custodians, and some person other than the student's parents or custodians who can be contacted in case of an emergency.

IX. SCHOOL DISTRICT VEHICLE MAINTENANCE STANDARDS

- A. All school vehicles shall be maintained in safe operating conditions through a systematic preventive maintenance and inspection program adopted or approved by the school district.
- B. All school vehicles shall be state inspected in accordance with legal requirements.
- C. A copy of the current daily pre-trip inspection report must be carried in the bus. Daily pre-trip inspections shall be maintained on file in accordance with the school district's record retention schedule. Prompt reports of defects to be immediately corrected will be submitted.
- D. Daily post-trip inspections shall be performed to check for any children or lost items remaining on the bus and for vandalism.

X. SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY DIRECTOR

The school board has designated an individual to serve as the school district's school transportation safety director. The school transportation safety director shall have day-to-day responsibility for student transportation safety, including transportation of nonpublic school children when provided by the school district. The school transportation safety director will assure that this policy is periodically reviewed to ensure that it conforms to law. The school transportation safety director shall certify annually to the school board that each school bus driver meets the school bus driver training competencies required by Minn. Stat. § 171.321, Subd. 4. The transportation safety director also shall annually verify or ensure that the private contractor utilized by the school has verified the validity of the driver's license of each employee who regularly transports students for the school district in a type A, B, C, or D school bus, type III vehicle, or MFSAB with the National Driver Register or the Department of Public Safety. Upon request of the school district superintendent or the superintendent of the school district where nonpublic students are transported, the school transportation safety director also shall certify to the superintendent that students have received school bus safety training in accordance with state law. The name, address and telephone

North Branch Independent School District No. 138: Policy #709-NB

Adopted: 6/10/10

Replaces: 3541.35 Student Transportation Safety Policy

Last Reviewed:

Revised: 4/10/14, 4/14/16, 2/14/19

Effective: 6/10/10, 4/10/14, 4/14/16, 2/14/19

NON INSTRUCTIONAL OPERATIONS

Student Transportation Safety Policy

709-NB

number of the school transportation safety director are on file in the school district office. Any questions regarding student transportation or this policy may be addressed to the school transportation safety director.

XI. STUDENT TRANSPORTATION SAFETY COMMITTEE

The school board may establish a student transportation safety committee. The chair of the student transportation safety committee is the school district's school transportation safety director. The school board shall appoint the other members of the student transportation safety committee. Membership may include parents, school bus drivers, representatives of school bus companies, local law enforcement officials, other school district staff, and representatives from other units of local government.

Legal References:

Minn. Stat. § 122A.18, Subd. 8 (Board to Issue Licenses)
Minn. Stat. § 123B.03 (Background Check)
Minn. Stat. § 123B.42 (Textbooks; Individual Instructor or Cooperative Learning Material; Standard Tests)
Minn. Stat. § 123B.88 (Independent School Districts; Transportation)
Minn. Stat. § 123B.885 (Diesel School Buses; Operation of Engine; Parking)
Minn. Stat. § 123B.90 (School Bus Safety Training)
Minn. Stat. § 123B.91 (School District Bus Safety Responsibilities)
Minn. Stat. § 144.057 (Background Studies on Licensees and Other Personnel)
Minn. Stat. Ch. 169 (Traffic Regulations)
Minn. Stat. § 169.011, Subds. 15, 16, and 71 (Definitions)
Minn. Stat. § 169.02 (Scope)
Minn. Stat. § 169.443 (Safety of School Children; Bus Driver's Duties)
Minn. Stat. § 169.446, Subd. 2 (Driver Training Programs)
Minn. Stat. § 169.451 (Inspecting School and Head Start Buses; Rules; Misdemeanor)
Minn. Stat. § 169.454 (Type III Vehicle Standards)
Minn. Stat. § 169.4582 (Reportable Offense on School Buses)
Minn. Stat. §§ 169A.25-169A.27 (Driving While Impaired)
Minn. Stat. § 169A.31 (Alcohol-Related School Bus or Head Start Bus Driving)
Minn. Stat. §§ 169A.50-169A.53 (Implied Consent Law)
Minn. Stat. § 171.02, Subds. 2, 2a, and 2b (Licenses; Types, Endorsements, Restrictions)
Minn. Stat. § 171.168 (Notification of Conviction for Violation by a Commercial Driver)
Minn. Stat. § 171.169 (Notification of Suspension of License of Commercial Driver)
Minn. Stat. § 171.321 (Qualifications of School Bus Driver)
Minn. Stat. § 171.3215, Subd. 1(c) (Canceling Bus Endorsement for Certain Offenses)
Minn. Stat. § 181.951 (Authorized Drug and Alcohol Testing)
Minn. Stat. Ch. 245C (Human Services Background Studies)
Minn. Stat. § 609.02 (Definitions)
Minn. Rules Parts 7470.1000-7470.1700 (School Bus Inspection)
49 C.F.R. § 383.31 (Notification of Convictions for Driver Violations)

North Branch Independent School District No. 138: Policy #709-NB

Adopted: 6/10/10

Replaces: 3541.35 Student Transportation Safety Policy

Last Reviewed:

Revised: 4/10/14, 4/14/16, 2/14/19

Effective: 6/10/10, 4/10/14, 4/14/16, 2/14/19

NON INSTRUCTIONAL OPERATIONS

Student Transportation Safety Policy

709-NB

49 C.F.R. § 383.33 (Notification of Driver's License Suspensions)

49 C.F.R. § 383.5 (Transportation Definitions)

Cross References:

NB Policy 416 (Drug and Alcohol Testing)

NB Policy 506 (Student Discipline)

NB Policy 515 (Protection and Privacy of Pupil Records)

NB Policy 707 (Transportation of Public Students)

NB Policy 708 (Transportation of Nonpublic Students)

NB Policy 710 (Extracurricular Transportation)

North Branch Independent School District No. 138: Policy #709-NB

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NON INSTRUCTIONAL OPERATIONS AND BUSINESS SERVICES

Fund Balances

714-NB

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to create new fund balance classifications to allow for more useful fund balance reporting and for compliance with the reporting guidelines specified in Statement No. 54 of the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB).

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

The policy of this school district is to comply with GASB Statement No. 54. To the extent a specific conflict occurs between this policy and the provisions of GASB Statement No. 54, the GASB Statement shall prevail.

III. DEFINITIONS

- A. "Assigned" fund balance amounts are comprised of unrestricted funds constrained by the school district's intent that they be used for specific purposes, but that do not meet the criteria to be classified as restricted or committed. In funds other than the general fund, the assigned fund balance represents the remaining amount that is not restricted or committed. The assigned fund balance category will cover the portion of a fund balance that reflects the school district's intended use of those resources. The action to assign a fund balance may be taken after the end of the fiscal year. An assigned fund balance cannot be a negative number.
- B. "Committed" fund balance amounts are comprised of unrestricted funds used for specific purposes pursuant to constraints imposed by formal action of the school board and that remain binding unless removed by the school board by subsequent formal action. The formal action to commit a fund balance must occur prior to fiscal year end; however, the specific amounts actually committed can be determined in the subsequent fiscal year. A committed fund balance cannot be a negative number.
- C. "Enabling legislation" means legislation that authorizes a school district to assess, levy, charge, or otherwise mandate payment of resources from external providers and includes a legally enforceable requirement that those resources be used only for the specific purposes listed in the legislation.
- D. "Fund balance" means the arithmetic difference between the assets and liabilities reported in a school district fund.
- E. "Nonspendable" fund balance amounts are comprised of funds that cannot be spent because they are either not in spendable form or are legally or contractually required to be maintained intact. They include items that are inherently unspendable, such as, but not limited to, inventories, prepaid items, long-term receivables, non-financial assets held for resale, or the permanent principal of endowment funds.

North Branch Independent School District No. 138: Policy #714-NB

Adopted: June 9, 2011

Reviewed:

Revised: December 12, 2013

Effective: June 9, 2011, December 12, 2013

NON INSTRUCTIONAL OPERATIONS AND BUSINESS SERVICES

Fund Balances

714-NB

- F. "Restricted" fund balance amounts are comprised of funds that have legally enforceable constraints placed on their use that either are externally imposed by resource providers or creditors (such as through debt covenants), grantors, contributors, voters, or laws or regulations of other governments, or are imposed by law through constitutional provisions or enabling legislation.
- G. "Unassigned" fund balance amounts are the residual amounts in the general fund not reported in any other classification. Unassigned amounts in the general fund are technically available for expenditure for any purpose. The general fund is the only fund that can report a positive unassigned fund balance. Other funds would report a negative unassigned fund balance should the total of nonspendable, restricted, and committed fund balances exceed the total net resources of that fund.
- H. "Unrestricted" fund balance is the amount of fund balance left after determining both nonspendable and restricted net resources. This amount can be determined by adding the committed, assigned, and unassigned fund balances.

IV. CLASSIFICATION OF FUND BALANCES

The school district shall classify its fund balances in its various funds in one or more of the following five classifications: nonspendable, restricted, committed, assigned, and unassigned.

V. MINIMUM UNASSIGNED FUND BALANCE

It is the goal of the school district to achieve and maintain an unassigned fund balance in the general fund equal to 10% of expenditures. The school district considers a balance of less than 5% to be cause for concern, barring unusual or deliberate circumstances.

If unassigned fund balance is projected to fall below 5%, the Superintendent will develop a recommendation to the School Board to address fund balance as part of the annual budget process. (NB change in December 2013)

VI. ORDER OF RESOURCE USE

If resources from more than one fund balance classification could be spent, the school district will strive to spend resources from fund balance classifications in the following order (first to last): restricted, committed, assigned, and unassigned.

VII. COMMITTING FUND BALANCE

A majority vote of the school board is required to commit a fund balance to a specific purpose and subsequently to remove or change any constraint so adopted by the board.

NON INSTRUCTIONAL OPERATIONS AND BUSINESS SERVICES

Fund Balances

714-NB

VIII. ASSIGNING FUND BALANCE

The school board, by majority vote, may assign fund balances to be used for specific purposes when appropriate. The board also delegates the power to assign fund balances to the following: Superintendent and Director of Finance and Human Resources. Assignments so made shall be reported to the school board on an annual basis, either separately or as part of ongoing reporting by the assigning party if other than the school board.

An appropriation of an existing fund balance to eliminate a projected budgetary deficit in the subsequent year's budget in an amount no greater than the projected excess of expected expenditures over expected revenues satisfies the criteria to be classified as an assignment of fund balance.

IX. REVIEW

The school board will conduct an annual review of the sufficiency of the minimum unassigned general fund balance level.

Legal References: Statement No. 54 of the Governmental Accounting Standards Board

Cross References: MSBA Service Manual, Chapter 7, Education Funding

Adopted: _____

MSBA/MASA Model Policy 714
Orig. 2011

Revised: _____

714 FUND BALANCES

[Note: The provisions of this policy include the provisions of Statement No. 54 of the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB).]

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to create new fund balance classifications to allow for more useful fund balance reporting and for compliance with the reporting guidelines specified in Statement No. 54 of the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB).

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

The policy of this school district is to comply with GASB Statement No. 54. To the extent a specific conflict occurs between this policy and the provisions of GASB Statement No. 54, the GASB Statement shall prevail.

III. DEFINITIONS

- A. “Assigned” fund balance amounts are comprised of unrestricted funds constrained by the school district’s intent that they be used for specific purposes, but that do not meet the criteria to be classified as restricted or committed. In funds other than the general fund, the assigned fund balance represents the remaining amount that is not restricted or committed. The assigned fund balance category will cover the portion of a fund balance that reflects the school district’s intended use of those resources. The action to assign a fund balance may be taken after the end of the fiscal year. An assigned fund balance cannot be a negative number.
- B. “Committed” fund balance amounts are comprised of unrestricted funds used for specific purposes pursuant to constraints imposed by formal action of the school board and that remain binding unless removed by the school board by subsequent formal action. The formal action to commit a fund balance must occur prior to fiscal year end; however, the specific amounts actually committed can be determined in the subsequent fiscal year. A committed fund balance cannot be a negative number.
- C. “Enabling legislation” means legislation that authorizes a school district to assess, levy, charge, or otherwise mandate payment of resources from external providers and includes a legally enforceable requirement that those resources be used only for the specific purposes listed in the legislation.

- D. “Fund balance” means the arithmetic difference between the assets and liabilities reported in a school district fund.
- E. “Nonspendable” fund balance amounts are comprised of funds that cannot be spent because they are either not in spendable form or are legally or contractually required to be maintained intact. They include items that are inherently unspendable, such as, but not limited to, inventories, prepaid items, long-term receivables, non-financial assets held for resale, or the permanent principal of endowment funds.
- F. “Restricted” fund balance amounts are comprised of funds that have legally enforceable constraints placed on their use that either are externally imposed by resource providers or creditors (such as through debt covenants), grantors, contributors, voters, or laws or regulations of other governments, or are imposed by law through constitutional provisions or enabling legislation.
- G. “Unassigned” fund balance amounts are the residual amounts in the general fund not reported in any other classification. Unassigned amounts in the general fund are technically available for expenditure for any purpose. The general fund is the only fund that can report a positive unassigned fund balance. Other funds would report a negative unassigned fund balance should the total of nonspendable, restricted, and committed fund balances exceed the total net resources of that fund.
- H. “Unrestricted” fund balance is the amount of fund balance left after determining both nonspendable and restricted net resources. This amount can be determined by adding the committed, assigned, and unassigned fund balances.

IV. CLASSIFICATION OF FUND BALANCES

The school district shall classify its fund balances in its various funds in one or more of the following five classifications: nonspendable, restricted, committed, assigned, and unassigned.

V. MINIMUM FUND BALANCE

The school district will strive to maintain a minimum unassigned general fund balance of [____ percent of the annual budget.] [____ months of operating expenses.]

[Note: School districts need to select one of the bracketed choices above and fill in the blank. The other bracketed choice should be deleted. If a minimum fund balance is specified, a stabilization arrangement such as that specified in Part IX below that sets aside specific stabilization amounts may not be necessary.]

VI. ORDER OF RESOURCE USE

If resources from more than one fund balance classification could be spent, the school district will strive to spend resources from fund balance classifications in the following order (first to last): restricted, committed, assigned, and unassigned.

[Note: The school board determines this order.]

VII. COMMITTING FUND BALANCE

A majority vote of the school board is required to commit a fund balance to a specific purpose and subsequently to remove or change any constraint so adopted by the board.

VIII. ASSIGNING FUND BALANCE

The school board, by majority vote, may assign fund balances to be used for specific purposes when appropriate. The board also delegates the power to assign fund balances to the following: _____. *[Specify individual(s), such as the superintendent, business manager, etc., or an entity, such as the finance committee, authorized to make these assignments.]* Assignments so made shall be reported to the school board on a monthly basis, either separately or as part of ongoing reporting by the assigning party if other than the school board.

An appropriation of an existing fund balance to eliminate a projected budgetary deficit in the subsequent year's budget in an amount no greater than the projected excess of expected expenditures over expected revenues satisfies the criteria to be classified as an assignment of fund balance.

IX. STABILIZATION ARRANGEMENTS

[Note: If the school board has established any arrangement(s) for emergencies and other contingencies, the description(s) should be included in this section. The school board needs to specifically define the circumstances or conditions when these amounts may be used, which must be unanticipated adverse financial or economic circumstances. These circumstances or conditions cannot be situations that are expected to or which occur routinely. Stabilization arrangements should be reported as restricted or committed if they meet the criteria or, otherwise, should be reported as unassigned. They should not be reported as assigned. If the school board does not have any such arrangements, this section should be deleted.]

X. REVIEW

The school board will conduct an annual review of the sufficiency of the minimum unassigned general fund balance level.

[Note: The school board should determine the review period adequate for their school district and change “an annual” to “a quarterly” or “a monthly” or some other time frame if appropriate.]

Legal References: Statement No. 54 of the Governmental Accounting Standards Board

Cross References: MSBA Service Manual, Chapter 7, Education Funding

NON-INSTRUCTIONAL OPERATIONS AND BUSINESS SERVICES

Uniform Grant Guidance Policy Regarding Federal Revenue Sources

721

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to ensure compliance with the requirements of the federal Uniform Grant Guidance regulations by establishing uniform administrative requirements, cost principles, and audit requirements for federal grant awards received by the school district.

II. DEFINITIONS

A. Grants

1. "State-administered grants" are those grants that pass through a state agency such as the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE).
2. "Direct grants" are those grants that do not pass through another agency such as MDE and are awarded directly by the federal awarding agency to the grantee organization. These grants are usually discretionary grants that are awarded by the U.S. Department of Education (DOE) or by another federal awarding agency.

B. "Non-federal entity" means a state, local government, Indian tribe, institution of higher education, or nonprofit organization that carries out a federal award as a recipient or subrecipient.

C. "Federal award" has the meaning, depending on the context, in either paragraph 1. or 2. of this definition:

1. a. The federal financial assistance that a non-federal entity receives directly from a federal awarding agency or indirectly from a pass-through entity, as described in 2 C.F.R. § 200.101 (Applicability); or
- b. The cost-reimbursement contract under the federal Acquisition Regulations that a non-federal entity receives directly from a federal awarding agency or indirectly from a pass-through entity, as described in 2 C.F.R. § 200.101 (Applicability).
2. The instrument setting forth the terms and conditions. The instrument is the grant agreement, cooperative agreement, other agreement for assistance covered in paragraph (b) of 2 C.F.R. § 200.40 (Federal Financial Assistance), or the cost-reimbursement contract awarded under the federal Acquisition Regulations.
3. "Federal award" does not include other contracts that a federal agency uses to buy goods or services from a contractor or a contract to operate federal-government-owned, contractor-operated facilities.

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721 Uniform Grant Guidance Policy Regarding Federal Revenue Sources, Page 1 of 17

NON-INSTRUCTIONAL OPERATIONS AND BUSINESS SERVICES

Uniform Grant Guidance Policy Regarding Federal Revenue Sources

721

- D. "Contract" means a legal instrument by which a non-federal entity purchases property or services needed to carry out the project or program under a federal award. The term, as used in 2 C.F.R. Part 200, does not include a legal instrument, even if the non-federal entity considers it a contract, when the substance of the transaction meets the definition of a federal award or subaward.
- E. Procurement Methods
1. "Procurement by micro-purchase" is the acquisition of supplies or services, the aggregate dollar amount of which does not exceed the micro-purchase threshold (generally \$10,000, except as otherwise discussed in 48 C.F.R. Subpart 2.1 or as periodically adjusted for inflation).
 2. "Procurement by small purchase procedures" are those relatively simple and informal procurement methods for securing services, supplies, or other property that do not cost more than \$250,000 (periodically adjusted for inflation).
 3. "Procurement by sealed bids (formal advertising)" is a publicly solicited and a firm, fixed-price contract (lump sum or unit price) awarded to the responsible bidder whose bid, conforming to all the material terms and conditions of the invitation for bids, is the lowest in price.
 4. "Procurement by competitive proposals" is normally conducted with more than one source submitting an offer, and either a fixed-price or cost-reimbursement type contract is awarded. Competitive proposals are generally used when conditions are not appropriate for the use of sealed bids.
 5. "Procurement by noncompetitive proposals" is procurement through solicitation of a proposal from only one source.
- F. "Equipment" means tangible personal property (including information technology systems) having a useful life of more than one year and a per-unit acquisition cost which exceeds the lesser of the capitalization level established by the non-federal entity for financial statement purposes, or \$5,000.
- G. "Compensation for personal services" includes all remuneration, paid currently or accrued, for services of employees rendered during the period of performance under the federal award, including, but not necessarily limited to, wages and salaries. Compensation for personal services may also include fringe benefits which are addressed in 2 C.F.R. § 200.431 (Compensation - Fringe Benefits).
- H. "Post-retirement health plans" refer to costs of health insurance or health services not included in a pension plan covered by 2 C.F.R. § 200.431(g) for retirees and their spouses, dependents,

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721 Uniform Grant Guidance Policy Regarding Federal Revenue Sources, Page 2 of 17

NON-INSTRUCTIONAL OPERATIONS AND BUSINESS SERVICES

Uniform Grant Guidance Policy Regarding Federal Revenue Sources

721

and survivors.

- I. "Severance pay" is a payment in addition to regular salaries and wages by the non-federal entities to workers whose employment is being terminated.
- J. "Direct costs" are those costs that can be identified specifically with a particular final cost objective, such as a federal award, or other internally or externally funded activity, or that can be directly assigned to such activities relatively easily with a high degree of accuracy.
- K. "Relocation costs" are costs incident to the permanent change of duty assignment (for an indefinite period or for a stated period not less than 12 months) of an existing employee or upon recruitment of a new employee.
- L. "Travel costs" are the expenses for transportation, lodging, subsistence, and related items incurred by employees who are in travel status on official business of the school district.

III. CONFLICT OF INTEREST

- A. Employee Conflict of Interest. No employee, officer, or agent may participate in the selection, award, or administration of a contract supported by a federal award if he or she has a real or apparent conflict of interest. Such a conflict of interest would arise when the employee, officer, or agent, any member of his or her immediate family, his or her partner, or an organization which employs or is about to employ any of the parties indicated herein, has a financial or other interest in or a tangible personal benefit from a firm considered for a contract. The employees, officers, and agents of the school district may neither solicit nor accept gratuities, favors, or anything of monetary value from contractors or parties to subcontracts. However, the school district may set standards for situations in which the financial interest is not substantial or the gift is an unsolicited item of nominal value. The standards of conduct must provide for disciplinary actions to be applied for violations of such standards by employees, officers, or agents of the school district.
- B. Organizational Conflicts of Interest. The school district is unable or appears to be unable to be impartial in conducting a procurement action involving the related organization because of relationships with a parent company, affiliate, or subsidiary organization.
- C. Disclosing Conflicts of Interest. The school district must disclose in writing any potential conflict of interest to MDE in accordance with applicable federal awarding agency policy.

IV. ACCEPTABLE METHODS OF PROCUREMENT

- A. General Procurement Standards. The school district must use its own documented procurement procedures which reflect applicable state laws, provided that the procurements conform to the applicable federal law and the standards identified in the Uniform Grant Guidance.

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721 Uniform Grant Guidance Policy Regarding Federal Revenue Sources, Page 3 of 17

NON-INSTRUCTIONAL OPERATIONS AND BUSINESS SERVICES

Uniform Grant Guidance Policy Regarding Federal Revenue Sources

721

- B. The school district must maintain oversight to ensure that contractors perform in accordance with the terms, conditions, and specifications of their contracts or purchase orders.
- C. The school district's procedures must avoid acquisition of unnecessary or duplicative items. Consideration should be given to consolidating or breaking out procurements to obtain a more economical purchase. Where appropriate, an analysis will be made of lease versus purchase alternatives and any other appropriate analysis to determine the most economical approach.
- D. The school district must award contracts only to responsible contractors possessing the ability to perform successfully under the terms and conditions of a proposed procurement. Consideration will be given to such matters as contractor integrity, compliance with public policy, record of past performance, and financial and technical resources.
- E. The school district must maintain records sufficient to detail the history of procurement. These records will include, but are not necessarily limited to, the following: rationale for the method of procurement; selection of the contract type; contractor selection or rejection; and the basis for the contract price.
- F. The school district alone must be responsible, in accordance with good administrative practice and sound business judgment, for the settlement of all contractual and administrative issues arising out of procurements. These issues include, but are not limited to, source evaluation, protests, disputes, and claims. These standards do not relieve the school district of any contractual responsibilities under its contracts.
- G. The school district must take all necessary affirmative steps to assure that minority businesses, women's business enterprises, and labor surplus area firms are used when possible.
- H. Methods of Procurement. The school district must use one of the following methods of procurement:
 - 1. Procurement by micro-purchases. To the extent practicable, the school district must distribute micro-purchases equitably among qualified suppliers. Micro-purchases may be awarded without soliciting competitive quotations if the school district considers the price to be reasonable.
 - 2. Procurement by small purchase procedures. If small purchase procedures are used, price or rate quotations must be obtained from an adequate number of qualified sources.
 - 3. Procurement by sealed bids (formal advertising).
 - 4. Procurement by competitive proposals. If this method is used, the following requirements apply:

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721 Uniform Grant Guidance Policy Regarding Federal Revenue Sources, Page 4 of 17

NON-INSTRUCTIONAL OPERATIONS AND BUSINESS SERVICES

Uniform Grant Guidance Policy Regarding Federal Revenue Sources

721

- a. Requests for proposals must be publicized and identify all evaluation factors and their relative importance. Any response to publicized requests for proposals must be considered to the maximum extent practical;
 - b. Proposals must be solicited from an adequate number of qualified sources;
 - c. The school district must have a written method for conducting technical evaluations of the proposals received and for selecting recipients;
 - d. Contracts must be awarded to the responsible firm whose proposal is most advantageous to the program, with price and other factors considered; and
 - e. The school district may use competitive proposal procedures for qualifications-based procurement of architectural/engineering (A/E) professional services whereby competitors' qualifications are evaluated and the most qualified competitor is selected, subject to negotiation of fair and reasonable compensation. The method where price is not used as a selection factor can only be used in procurement of A/E professional services; it cannot be used to purchase other types of services, though A/E firms are a potential source to perform the proposed effort.
5. Procurement by noncompetitive proposals. Procurement by noncompetitive proposals may be used only when one or more of the following circumstances apply:
- a. The item is available only from a single source;
 - b. The public exigency or emergency for the requirement will not permit a delay resulting from competitive solicitation;
 - c. The DOE or MDE expressly authorizes noncompetitive proposals in response to a written request from the school district; or
 - d. After solicitation of a number of sources, competition is determined inadequate.
- I. Competition. The school district must have written procedures for procurement transactions. These procedures must ensure that all solicitations:
1. Incorporate a clear and accurate description of the technical requirements for the material, product, or service to be procured. Such description must not, in competitive procurements, contain features which unduly restrict competition. The description may include a statement of the qualitative nature of the material, product, or service to be

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721 Uniform Grant Guidance Policy Regarding Federal Revenue Sources, Page 5 of 17

NON-INSTRUCTIONAL OPERATIONS AND BUSINESS SERVICES

Uniform Grant Guidance Policy Regarding Federal Revenue Sources

721

procured and, when necessary, must set forth those minimum essential characteristics and standards to which it must conform if it is to satisfy its intended use. Detailed product specifications should be avoided if at all possible. When making a clear and accurate description of the technical requirements is impractical or uneconomical, a “brand name or equivalent” description may be used as a means to define the performance or other salient requirements of procurement. The specific features of the named brand which must be met by offers must be clearly stated; and

2. Identify all requirements which the offerors must fulfill and all other factors to be used in evaluating bids or proposals.
- J. The school district must ensure that all prequalified lists of persons, firms, or products which are used in acquiring goods and services are current and include enough qualified sources to ensure maximum open and free competition. Also, the school district must not preclude potential bidders from qualifying during the solicitation period.
- K. Non-federal entities are prohibited from contracting with or making subawards under “covered transactions” to parties that are suspended or debarred or whose principals are suspended or debarred. “Covered transactions” include procurement contracts for goods and services awarded under a grant or cooperative agreement that are expected to equal or exceed \$25,000.
- L. All nonprocurement transactions entered into by a recipient (i.e., subawards to subrecipients), irrespective of award amount, are considered covered transactions, unless they are exempt as provided in 2 C.F.R. § 180.215.

V. MANAGING EQUIPMENT AND SAFEGUARDING ASSETS

- A. Property Standards. The school district must, at a minimum, provide the equivalent insurance coverage for real property and equipment acquired or improved with federal funds as provided to property owned by the non-federal entity. Federally owned property need not be insured unless required by the terms and conditions of the federal award.

The school district must adhere to the requirements concerning real property, equipment, supplies, and intangible property set forth in 2 C.F.R. §§ 200.311, 200.314, and 200.315.

- B. Equipment

Management requirements. Procedures for managing equipment (including replacement equipment), whether acquired in whole or in part under a federal award, until disposition takes place will, at a minimum, meet the following requirements:

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721 Uniform Grant Guidance Policy Regarding Federal Revenue Sources, Page 6 of 17

NON-INSTRUCTIONAL OPERATIONS AND BUSINESS SERVICES

Uniform Grant Guidance Policy Regarding Federal Revenue Sources

721

1. Property records must be maintained that include a description of the property; a serial number or other identification number; the source of the funding for the property (including the federal award identification number (FAIN)); who holds title; the acquisition date; the cost of the property; the percentage of the federal participation in the project costs for the federal award under which the property was acquired; the location, use, and condition of the property; and any ultimate disposition data, including the date of disposition and sale price of the property.
2. A physical inventory of the property must be taken and the results reconciled with the property records at least once every two years.
3. A control system must be developed to ensure adequate safeguards to prevent loss, damage, or theft of the property. Any loss, damage, or theft must be investigated.
4. Adequate maintenance procedures must be developed to keep property in good condition.
5. If the school district is authorized or required to sell the property, proper sales procedures must be established to ensure the highest possible return.

VI. FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT REQUIREMENTS

- A. Financial Management. The school district's financial management systems, including records documenting compliance with federal statutes, regulations, and the terms and conditions of the federal award, must be sufficient to permit the preparation of reports required by general and program-specific terms and conditions; and the tracing of funds to a level of expenditures adequate to establish that such funds have been used according to the federal statutes, regulations, and the terms and conditions of the federal award.
- B. Payment. The school district must be paid in advance, provided it maintains or demonstrates the willingness to maintain both written procedures that minimize the time elapsing between the transfer of funds and disbursement between the school district and the financial management systems that meet the standards for fund control.

Advance payments to a school district must be limited to the minimum amounts needed and timed to be in accordance with the actual, immediate cash requirements of the school district in carrying out the purpose of the approved program or project. The timing and amount of advance payments must be as close as is administratively feasible to the actual disbursements by the non-federal entity for direct program or project costs and the proportionate share of any allowable indirect costs. The school district must make timely payment to contractors in accordance with the contract provisions.

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721 Uniform Grant Guidance Policy Regarding Federal Revenue Sources, Page 7 of 17

NON-INSTRUCTIONAL OPERATIONS AND BUSINESS SERVICES

Uniform Grant Guidance Policy Regarding Federal Revenue Sources

721

- C. Internal Controls. The school district must establish and maintain effective internal control over the federal award that provides reasonable assurance that the school district is managing the federal award in compliance with federal statutes, regulations, and the terms and conditions of the federal award. These internal controls should be in compliance with guidance in “Standards for Internal Control in the Federal Government,” issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, or the “Internal Control Integrated Framework,” issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission (COSO).

The school district must comply with federal statutes, regulations, and the terms and conditions of the federal award.

The school district must also evaluate and monitor the school district’s compliance with statutes, regulations, and the terms and conditions of the federal award.

The school district must also take prompt action when instances of noncompliance are identified, including noncompliance identified in audit findings.

The school district must take reasonable measures to safeguard protected personally identifiable information considered sensitive consistent with applicable federal and state laws regarding privacy and obligations of confidentiality.

VII. ALLOWABLE USE OF FUNDS AND COST PRINCIPLES

- A. Allowable Use of Funds. The school district administration and board will enforce appropriate procedures and penalties for program, compliance, and accounting staff responsible for the allocation of federal grant costs based on their allowability and their conformity with federal cost principles to determine the allowability of costs.
- B. Definitions
1. “Allowable cost” means a cost that complies with all legal requirements that apply to a particular federal education program, including statutes, regulations, guidance, applications, and approved grant awards.
 2. “Education Department General Administrative Regulations (EDGAR)” means a compilation of regulations that apply to federal education programs. These regulations contain important rules governing the administration of federal education programs and include rules affecting the allowable use of federal funds (including rules regarding allowable costs, the period of availability of federal awards, documentation requirements, and grants management requirements). EDGAR can be accessed at: <http://www2.ed.gov/policy/fund/reg/edgarReg/edgar.html>.

North Branch Independent School District No. 138: Policy #721

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Effective: 9/8/16, 2/13/20

721 Uniform Grant Guidance Policy Regarding Federal Revenue Sources, Page 8 of 17

NON-INSTRUCTIONAL OPERATIONS AND BUSINESS SERVICES

Uniform Grant Guidance Policy Regarding Federal Revenue Sources

721

3. "Omni Circular" or "2 C.F.R. Part 200s" or "Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards" means federal cost principles that provide standards for determining whether costs may be charged to federal grants.
 4. "Advance payment" means a payment that a federal awarding agency or passthrough entity makes by any appropriate payment mechanism, including a predetermined payment schedule, before the non-federal entity disburses the funds for program purposes.
- C. Allowable Costs. The following items are costs that may be allowable under the 2 C.F.R. Part 200s under specific conditions:
1. Advisory councils;
 2. Audit costs and related services;
 3. Bonding costs;
 4. Communication costs;
 5. Compensation for personal services;
 6. Depreciation and use allowances;
 7. Employee morale, health, and welfare costs;
 8. Equipment and other capital expenditures;
 9. Gains and losses on disposition of depreciable property and other capital assets and substantial relocation of federal programs;
 10. Insurance and indemnification;
 11. Maintenance, operations, and repairs;
 12. Materials and supplies costs;
 13. Meetings and conferences;
 14. Memberships, subscriptions, and professional activity costs;
 15. Security costs;

North Branch Independent School District No. 138: Policy #721

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Effective: 9/8/16, 2/13/20

721 Uniform Grant Guidance Policy Regarding Federal Revenue Sources, Page 9 of 17

NON-INSTRUCTIONAL OPERATIONS AND BUSINESS SERVICES

Uniform Grant Guidance Policy Regarding Federal Revenue Sources

721

16. Professional service costs;
 17. Proposal costs;
 18. Publication and printing costs;
 19. Rearrangement and alteration costs;
 20. Rental costs of building and equipment;
 21. Training costs; and
 22. Travel costs.
- D. Costs Forbidden by Federal Law. 2 CFR Part 200s and EDGAR identify certain costs that may never be paid with federal funds. The following list provides examples of such costs. If a cost is on this list, it may not be supported with federal funds. The fact that a cost is not on this list does not mean it is necessarily permissible. Other important restrictions apply to federal funds, such as those items detailed in the 2 CFR Part 200s; thus, the following list is not exhaustive:
1. Advertising and public relations costs (with limited exceptions), including promotional items and memorabilia, models, gifts, and souvenirs;
 2. Alcoholic beverages;
 3. Bad debts;
 4. Contingency provisions (with limited exceptions);
 5. Fundraising and investment management costs (with limited exceptions);
 6. Donations;
 7. Contributions;
 8. Entertainment (amusement, diversion, and social activities and any associated costs);
 9. Fines and penalties;
 10. General government expenses (with limited exceptions pertaining to Indian tribal governments and Councils of Government (COGs));

North Branch Independent School District No. 138: Policy #721

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Effective: 9/8/16, 2/13/20

721 Uniform Grant Guidance Policy Regarding Federal Revenue Sources, Page 10 of 17

NON-INSTRUCTIONAL OPERATIONS AND BUSINESS SERVICES

Uniform Grant Guidance Policy Regarding Federal Revenue Sources

721

11. Goods or services for personal use;
12. Interest, except interest specifically stated in 2 C.F.R. § 200.441 as allowable;
13. Religious use;
14. The acquisition of real property (unless specifically permitted by programmatic statute or regulations, which is very rare in federal education programs);
15. Construction (unless specifically permitted by programmatic statute or regulations, which is very rare in federal education programs); and
16. Tuition charged or fees collected from students applied toward meeting matching, cost sharing, or maintenance of effort requirements of a program.

E. Program Allowability

1. Any cost paid with federal education funds must be permissible under the federal program that would support the cost.
2. Many federal education programs detail specific required and/or allowable uses of funds for that program. Issues such as eligibility, program beneficiaries, caps or restrictions on certain types of program expenses, other program expenses, and other program specific requirements must be considered when performing the programmatic analysis.
3. The two largest federal K-12 programs, Title I, Part A, and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), do not contain a use of funds section delineating the allowable uses of funds under those programs. In those cases, costs must be consistent with the purposes of the program in order to be allowable.

F. Federal Cost Principles

1. The Omni Circular defines the parameters for the permissible uses of federal funds. While many requirements are contained in the Omni Circular, it includes five core principles that serve as an important guide for effective grant management. These core principles require all costs to be:
 - a. Necessary for the proper and efficient performance or administration of the program.
 - b. Reasonable. An outside observer should clearly understand why a decision to spend money on a specific cost made sense in light of the cost, needs, and
 - c.

North Branch Independent School District No. 138: Policy #721

Adopted: 9/8/16

Replaced:

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Effective: 9/8/16, 2/13/20

721 Uniform Grant Guidance Policy Regarding Federal Revenue Sources, Page 11 of 17

NON-INSTRUCTIONAL OPERATIONS AND BUSINESS SERVICES

Uniform Grant Guidance Policy Regarding Federal Revenue Sources

721

requirements of the program.

- d. Allocable to the federal program that paid for the cost. A program must benefit in proportion to the amount charged to the federal program – for example, if a teacher is paid 50% with Title I funds, the teacher must work with the Title I program/students at least 50% of the time. Recipients also need to be able to track items or services purchased with federal funds so they can prove they were used for federal program purposes.
 - e. Authorized under state and local rules. All actions carried out with federal funds must be authorized and not prohibited by state and local laws and policies.
 - f. Adequately documented. A recipient must maintain proper documentation so as to provide evidence to monitors, auditors, or other oversight entities of how the funds were spent over the lifecycle of the grant.
- G. Program Specific Fiscal Rules. The Omni Circular also contains specific rules on selected items of costs. Costs must comply with these rules in order to be paid with federal funds.
1. All federal education programs have certain program specific fiscal rules that apply. Determining which rules apply depends on the program; however, rules such as supplement, not supplant, maintenance of effort, comparability, caps on certain uses of funds, etc., have an important impact when analyzing whether a particular cost is permissible.
 2. Many state-administered programs require local education agencies (LEAs) to use federal program funds to supplement the amount of state, local, and, in some cases, other federal funds they spend on education costs and not to supplant (or replace) those funds. Generally, the “supplement, not supplant” provision means that federal funds must be used to supplement the level of funds from non-federal sources by providing additional services, staff, programs, or materials. In other words, federal funds normally cannot be used to pay for things that would otherwise be paid for with state or local funds (and, in some cases, with other federal funds).
 3. Auditors generally presume supplanting has occurred in three situations:
 - a. School district uses federal funds to provide services that the school district is required to make available under other federal, state, or local laws.
 - b. School district uses federal funds to provide services that the school district provided with state or local funds in the prior year.

North Branch Independent School District No. 138: Policy #721

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Effective: 9/8/16, 2/13/20

721 Uniform Grant Guidance Policy Regarding Federal Revenue Sources, Page 12 of 17

NON-INSTRUCTIONAL OPERATIONS AND BUSINESS SERVICES

Uniform Grant Guidance Policy Regarding Federal Revenue Sources

721

- c. School district uses Title I, Part A, or Migrant Education Program funds to provide the same services to Title I or Migrant students that the school district provides with state or local funds to nonparticipating students.
 4. These presumptions apply differently in different federal programs and also in schoolwide program schools. Staff should be familiar with the supplement not supplant provisions applicable to their program.
- H. Approved Plans, Budgets, and Special Conditions
 1. As required by the Omni Circular, all costs must be consistent with approved program plans and budgets.
 2. Costs must also be consistent with all terms and conditions of federal awards, including any special conditions imposed on the school district's grants.
- I. Training
 1. The school district will provide training on the allowable use of federal funds to all staff involved in federal programs.
 2. The school district will promote coordination between all staff involved in federal programs through activities, such as routine staff meetings and training sessions.
- J. Employee Sanctions. Any school district employee who violates this policy will be subject to discipline, as appropriate, up to and including the termination of employment.

VIII. COMPENSATION – PERSONAL SERVICES EXPENSES AND REPORTING

A. Compensation – Personal Services

Costs of compensation are allowable to the extent that they satisfy the specific requirements of the Uniform Grant Guidance and that the total compensation for individual employees:

1. Is reasonable for the services rendered and conforms to the established written policy of the school district consistently applied to both federal and non-federal activities; and
2. Follows an appointment made in accordance with a school district's written policies and meets the requirements of federal statute, where applicable.

Unless an arrangement is specifically authorized by a federal awarding agency, a school district must follow its written non-federal, entitywide policies and practices concerning the permissible

North Branch Independent School District No. 138: Policy #721

Adopted: 9/8/16

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Effective: 9/8/16, 2/13/20

721 Uniform Grant Guidance Policy Regarding Federal Revenue Sources, Page 13 of 17

NON-INSTRUCTIONAL OPERATIONS AND BUSINESS SERVICES

Uniform Grant Guidance Policy Regarding Federal Revenue Sources

721

extent of professional services that can be provided outside the school district for non-organizational compensation.

B. Compensation – Fringe Benefits

1. During leave.

The costs of fringe benefits in the form of regular compensation paid to employees during periods of authorized absences from the job, such as for annual leave, family-related leave, sick leave, holidays, court leave, military leave, administrative leave, and other similar benefits, are allowable if all of the following criteria are met:

- a. They are provided under established written leave policies;
- b. The costs are equitably allocated to all related activities, including federal awards; and
- c. The accounting basis (cash or accrual) selected for costing each type of leave is consistently followed by the school district.

2. The costs of fringe benefits in the form of employer contributions or expenses for social security; employee life, health, unemployment, and worker's compensation insurance (except as indicated in 2 C.F.R. § 200.447(d)); pension plan costs; and other similar benefits are allowable, provided such benefits are granted under established written policies. Such benefits must be allocated to federal awards and all other activities in a manner consistent with the pattern of benefits attributable to the individuals or group(s) of employees whose salaries and wages are chargeable to such federal awards and other activities and charged as direct or indirect costs in accordance with the school district's accounting practices.

3. Actual claims paid to or on behalf of employees or former employees for workers' compensation, unemployment compensation, severance pay, and similar employee benefits (e.g., post-retirement health benefits) are allowable in the year of payment provided that the school district follows a consistent costing policy.

4. Pension plan costs may be computed using a pay-as-you-go method or an acceptable actuarial cost method in accordance with the written policies of the school district.

5. Post-retirement costs may be computed using a pay-as-you-go method or an acceptable actuarial cost method in accordance with established written policies of the school district.

North Branch Independent School District No. 138: Policy #721

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Effective: 9/8/16, 2/13/20

721 Uniform Grant Guidance Policy Regarding Federal Revenue Sources, Page 14 of 17

NON-INSTRUCTIONAL OPERATIONS AND BUSINESS SERVICES

Uniform Grant Guidance Policy Regarding Federal Revenue Sources

721

6. Costs of severance pay are allowable only to the extent that, in each case, severance pay is required by law; employer-employee agreement; established policy that constitutes, in effect, an implied agreement on the school district's part; or circumstances of the particular employment.
- C. Insurance and Indemnification. Types and extent and cost of coverage are in accordance with the school district's policy and sound business practice.
 - D. Recruiting Costs. Short-term, travel visa costs (as opposed to longer-term, immigration visas) may be directly charged to a federal award, so long as they are:
 1. Critical and necessary for the conduct of the project;
 2. Allowable under the cost principles set forth in the Uniform Grant Guidance;
 3. Consistent with the school district's cost accounting practices and school district policy; and
 4. Meeting the definition of "direct cost" in the applicable cost principles of the Uniform Grant Guidance.
 - E. Relocation Costs of Employees. Relocation costs are allowable, subject to the limitations described below, provided that reimbursement to the employee is in accordance with the school district's reimbursement policy.
 - F. Travel Costs. Travel costs may be charged on an actual cost basis, on a per diem or mileage basis in lieu of actual costs incurred, or on a combination of the two, provided the method used is applied to an entire trip and not to selected days of the trip, and results in charges consistent with those normally allowed in like circumstances in the school district's non-federally funded activities and in accordance with the school district's reimbursement policies.

Costs incurred by employees and officers for travel, including costs of lodging, other subsistence, and incidental expenses, must be considered reasonable and otherwise allowable only to the extent such costs do not exceed charges normally allowed by the school district in its regular operations according to the school district's written reimbursement and/or travel policies.

In addition, when costs are charged directly to the federal award, documentation must justify the following:

1. Participation of the individual is necessary to the federal award; and

North Branch Independent School District No. 138: Policy #721

Adopted: 9/8/16

Replaced:

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Effective: 9/8/16, 2/13/20

NON-INSTRUCTIONAL OPERATIONS AND BUSINESS SERVICES

Uniform Grant Guidance Policy Regarding Federal Revenue Sources

721

2. The costs are reasonable and consistent with the school district's established travel policy.

Temporary dependent care costs above and beyond regular dependent care that directly results from travel to conferences is allowable provided the costs are:

1. A direct result of the individual's travel for the federal award;
2. Consistent with the school district's documented travel policy for all school district travel; and
3. Only temporary during the travel period.

Legal References:

- 2 C.F.R. § 200.12 (Capital Assets)
- 2 C.F.R. § 200.112 (Conflict of Interest)
- 2 C.F.R. § 200.113 (Mandatory Disclosures)
- 2 C.F.R. § 200.205(d) (Federal Awarding Agency Review of Risk Posed by Applicants)
- 2 C.F.R. § 200.212 (Suspension and Debarment)
- 2 C.F.R. § 200.300(b) (Statutory and National Policy Requirements)
- 2 C.F.R. § 200.302 (Financial Management)
- 2 C.F.R. § 200.303 (Internal Controls)
- 2 C.F.R. § 200.305(b)(1) (Payment)
- 2 C.F.R. § 200.310 (Insurance Coverage)
- 2 C.F.R. § 200.311 (Real Property)
- 2 C.F.R. § 200.313(d) (Equipment)
- 2 C.F.R. § 200.314 (Supplies)
- 2 C.F.R. § 200.315 (Intangible Property)
- 2 C.F.R. § 200.318 (General Procurement Standards)
- 2 C.F.R. § 200.319(c) (Competition)
- 2 C.F.R. § 200.320 (Methods of Procurement to be Followed)
- 2 C.F.R. § 200.321 (Contracting with Small and Minority Businesses, Women's Business Enterprises, and Labor Surplus Area Firms)
- 2 C.F.R. § 200.328 (Monitoring and Reporting Program Performance)
- 2 C.F.R. § 200.338 (Remedies for Noncompliance)
- 2 C.F.R. § 200.403(c) (Factors Affecting Allowability of Costs)
- 2 C.F.R. § 200.430 (Compensation – Personal Services)
- 2 C.F.R. § 200.431 (Compensation – Fringe Benefits)
- 2 C.F.R. § 200.447 (Insurance and Indemnification)
- 2 C.F.R. § 200.463 (Recruiting Costs)
- 2 C.F.R. § 200.464 (Relocation Costs of Employees)
- 2 C.F.R. § 200.473 (Transportation Costs)

North Branch Independent School District No. 138: Policy #721

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Effective: 9/8/16, 2/13/20

721 Uniform Grant Guidance Policy Regarding Federal Revenue Sources, Page 16 of 17

NON-INSTRUCTIONAL OPERATIONS AND BUSINESS SERVICES

Uniform Grant Guidance Policy Regarding Federal Revenue Sources

721

2 C.F.R. § 200.474 (Travel Costs)

Cross References: NB Policy 208 (Development, Adoption, and Implementation of Policies)
NB Policy 210 (Conflict of Interest – School Board Members)
NB Policy 210.1 (Conflict of Interest – Charter School Board Members)
NB Policy 412 (Expense Reimbursement)
NB Policy 701 (Establishment and Adoption of School District Budget)
NB Policy 701.1 (Modification of School District Budget)
NB Policy 702 (Accounting)
NB Policy 703 (Annual Audit)

North Branch Independent School District No. 138: Policy #721

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721 Uniform Grant Guidance Policy Regarding Federal Revenue Sources, Page 17 of 17
