

May Board Meeting
Monday, May 13, 2024 7:00 PM

Kenesaw Public School Library
110 N Fifth Avenue
Kenesaw, NE 68956-1563

Agenda

1. Opening the Meeting
 - 1.A. Call to Order
 - 1.B. Recite the Pledge of Allegiance
 - 1.C. Nebraska Open Meetings Law
 - 1.D. Publication of Meeting
 - 1.E. Roll Call
2. Welcome Visitors and Public Comment
3. Reports
 - 3.A. Comments from Principal Webben
 - 3.B. Comments from Principal LeClaire
 - 3.C. Comments from Superintendent Masters
 - 3.D. Board Committees
 - 3.D.1. American Civics Committee Report
4. Consent Agenda
 - 4.A. Approve Minutes from April Regular Board Meeting
 - 4.B. Approval of May Treasurer's Report
 - 4.C. Approval of May Claims - Payroll: \$343,287.36 Claims \$64,139.33
 - 4.D. ESU 9 Special Education Contract - 24-25
 - 4.E. ESU 7 Orientation & Mobility Sped Contract
5. Action Items
 - 5.A. Second Reading & Approval of Policy 6600 - Instruction - Special Education
 - 5.B. Discuss and Approve Classified Compensation for the 2024-2025 School Year
 - 5.C. Evaluation and Hiring of Classified Staff & Offering of Contracts to Classified Employees
6. Discussion Items
 - 6.A. Review of Facilities Report and Summer Maintenance Projects
 - 6.B. Annual Review of Transportation
 - 6.C. Review Current Staffing Needs for 2024-2025 School Year.
 - 6.D. Discuss the Possible Participation with the Kenesaw Village with the Auditorium Project - Perry Law Firm to Inform the Board - Justin Knight
 - 6.E. First Review of Policies 1050, 3130, 3140, 3241, 3571, 4141, 5006, 5008, 5013, 5101, 5201, 6000, 6700, 6111, 8240, 8342, 8346,
 - 6.F. Review Board Policies 5205 thru 5412
 - 6.G. Board Video - Public Comment and Executive Session
7. June Master Board Calendar Items
 - 7.A. Review of Hot Lunch Program
 - 7.B. Review Board Policies 5413 thru 5417
 - 7.C. Preliminary Report of Major Requisitions for Ensuing School Year
 - 7.D. Review Policy 5415 - Bullying Policy

- 7.E. Review and Affirm Policy 6400 - Parent Involvement & Policy 6410 - Family Engagement
- 7.F. Review and Approve Breakfast & Lunch Prices
- 7.G. Review Student-Parent Handbook and Combined Employee Handbook and any Proposed Changes
- 7.H. Set Board Workshop to Establish District Goals and Priorities, and Budget Goals and Priorities
- 7.I. Review Spring Student Assessment Results
- 7.J. Review and Approve Extra-Curricular Programs and Approve Extra Duty Positions for 2024-2025
- 8. Executive Session
- 9. Adjourn
- 10. Next Meeting - Wednesday, June 12, 2024, 7:00 pm - Financial review with Sidders, Kimle, and Uden at 6:30pm.



Principal's Monthly Report for School Board
Elementary Principal - Don Webben
May 13, 2024

Updates & Upcoming Events

Testing

NSCAS, Acadience, MAP, and GOLD assessments are complete for the year. Math NSCAS growth (Developing, On Track, or Advanced) results are locked until mid summer when the curriculum task force meets. Teachers can access growth results for ELA however and can access the RIT scores for Math.

Elementary field day/ barnyard day.

Elementary field day was May 1st. We partnered with FFA and did barnyard day to begin the day. There were a variety of animals for the kids to meet. I have to give a big thanks to the NHS and student counsel students for organizing the field events and helping move students from station to station. I thought it all went pretty smoothly and the weather held out for us. Students had a great time competing in the events and got to finish the day with an ice cream treat from special scoops.

Field trips to end the year.

There were a lot of field trips to end the year. 2nd and 3rd accelerated reader participants went to the Big Apple fun center in Kearney on May 3rd. They had a great time sharing new experiences with their classmates. 3rd and 4th got to go to the outdoor expo last Friday. There were a variety of activities that they learned about from fly fishing to a historical Teddy Roosevelt reenactment. 4th 5th and 6th grade accelerated reader participants were able to go to Spring City today and had a great time creating memories with their classmates. 5th and 6th graders will be going to Grand Island tomorrow to participate in the Groundwater Festival at College Park for the first time. They will be learning about a variety of different things including our ecosystem and how our water system plays an important role in that system.



Principal's Monthly Report for School Board

Secondary Principal - Nicole J. LeClaire

May 13, 2024

Celebrations

- **Nebraska Action Grant for \$99,111.00 for CTE Programming** (emphasis on Health Science). I have applied for this competitive state grant for the past 3 years and received news that Kenesaw has been “preliminarily awarded” this amount pending State School Board approval on June 7th. Over 50% of this grant centers around the Health Science pathway and the effort to create opportunities for students to earn CNA and EMT certifications and real-life experience through the building out of a medical bay and simulation equipment. There is also several thousands of dollars in professional development and curriculum specific to Health Science, STS, and Education.
- This was a great year with a lot of recognition of Kenesaw students and teachers!
 - Educators Rising Award
 - Nebraska for the Arts Award
 - 1st Place at State Skills USA - Alex Rutt (HVAC)
 - FBLA Contests went well
 - FFA Contests went well
 - 10 State Qualifiers - Track
 - Prom was a great success
 - Graduation great success - All 22 Seniors got their diplomas!
 - Global Education Excellence Award (EF Foreign Exchange Student Program)

Testing

- ACT
- PRE-ACT
- AP Tests Complete - Scores in July
 - Chemistry (6)
 - Psychology (6)
 - Pre-Calculus (3)

Year in Review

- **Discipline**
 - No major incidents (fights, weapons, drugs, vaping)
- **Credit Loss**
 - 9th Grade - 1 student lost credit in 3 core classes
 - 10th Grade - 2 students lost credit in 1 core class; 1 student lost credit in 2
 - 11th Grade - 1 student lost credit in 3 core classes

Next Year Concerns

- **Bus Drivers**
 - **This will be a real issue this year particularly for activity drivers**
- **High School SPED space and Paraprofessionals**

Superintendent's Comments - May 2024

NDE School Safety and Security-Related Infrastructure Grant -

I applied for the Safety/Security Grant a few months back. Included in this grant was completing our fob keyless access for door entryways as well as replacing the classroom doors and hardware for the oldest section of our school. The amount of the grant request was \$54,142. NDE ended up approving half of our grant funds request - \$27,071. With this money I plan to place keyless entry fobs at our remaining outside entrance locations and use the remainder of the funds to purchase new doors/hardware for our older classrooms. I have already contacted Keven Hansen of CEI to get on their list for this summer. We are currently working to determine the doors used for the Science/band/library renovation.

Safety Grant Proposal -

This grant has now opened. I will begin working on the COPS grant during the end of May through the middle of June. I believe that it is due June 15th.

Kenesaw Public Schools Miscellaneous Items Sale -

Garrett and I will get this sale organized and ready. We have some items that need to be sold or discarded so that room is available in the bus barn.

Graduation Ceremony -

The graduation ceremony went well. We had a nice crowd of family and friends. This year we had two salutatorians and one valedictorian. All of the students did a great job on their speeches. Overall, the event ran smoothly and I believe was enjoyed by all those that attended.

reVISION Action Grant -

Kenesaw Public Schools has been preliminarily selected as a reVISION Action Grant recipient for 2024-2025. Our determination will not be final until approved by the State Board of Education on June 7th. Mrs. LeClaire wrote this grant. I will work with her to determine how these funds are to be spent.

Music Performances - (Band & Vocal)

The high school and elementary concerts were excellent. We had a great turnout for both performances. A job well done by Mrs. Nielsen.

NCSA Free Webinar Series with Perry Law Firm -

May 15, 2024 - 10 am

Reminder

6:15 pm - Americanism Committee Meeting - May 13, 2024 - Tonya Hansen, Katheryn Schneider, Troy Legg

6:30 pm - Financial Statement Review - May 13, 2024 - Tonya Hansen, Katheryn Schneider, Troy Legg

7:00 pm - May 13, 2024 - Monday - Regular Board Meeting

Next Board Meeting - Wednesday, June 12, 2024 - Regular Board Meeting - - 7 pm

Financial Statement Review - 6:30 pm - Kimle, Uden, Sidders



Educational Service Unit 9

Drew Harris, Administrator
5807 Osborne Dr. West, Hastings, NE 68901
Telephone: 402-463-5611
www.esu9.org

TO: Superintendent of Schools

FROM: Drew Harris, Administrator
Emily Burr, Business Office Manager
Joe Haney, Director of Special Services

DATE: March 22, 2024

SUBJ: Contracts for Special Education Services for 2024-25 School Year -
School Age and Below Age Five

Thank you for meeting with ESU 9 representatives regarding your services for the 2024-25 school year. During our conversations, you agreed to purchase the following services for your district (see attached). We are respectfully asking that your board approve this contract during its next board meeting.

Attached please find a copy of the Contract for Special Education Services for school age and below age five children for school year 2024-25. The following information is provided to assist you in completing the budgeting process. As a reminder, these rates are an estimate.

The Special Education Contract for Services is based on the cost estimates prepared for your school. The amounts and types of services included in this contract have been based on estimated costs for the following school year.

Please review the accompanying estimated costs as reported on Schedule "B" and, if acceptable, sign the contract by April 12th, 2024. The district should retain a copy of the contract, which includes the Schedule "A" (Description of Services) for audit purposes, and return a signed copy of the contract back to ESU 9. Please be reminded that ESU 9 uses contracts with schools as a basis for hiring staff needed to provide the amount of services purchased by schools. Therefore, projections are calculated to be as close to actual needs as is possible.

If the school contracts with other agencies for special education services, that agency should also provide the school with a contract, a description of services, and a cost schedule. **Prior to contracting with other agencies, the district should check to make sure the agency has a state approved rate.** For more information on service agencies see 92 NAC Rule 51.

Just a reminder to include in your school district's special education budget for 2024-25 the following:

1. Contracted amounts from ESU 9
2. Costs for district hired staff
3. Services purchased from other school districts
4. Services purchased from service agencies other than ESU 9

If you have any questions regarding the attached contract, please contact us.

EDUCATIONAL SERVICE UNIT 9
CONTRACT FOR SCHOOL AGE AND BELOW AGE FIVE
SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES

THIS AGREEMENT, made and entered into this 25th day of March, 2024, by and between EDUCATIONAL SERVICE UNIT 9 of the State of Nebraska hereinafter called "SERVICING AGENCY", and Kenesaw Public Schools, called "DISTRICT". This contract is in effect from August 7, 2024 or the date signed by both parties, whichever is later, through May 23, 2025.

WITNESSETH:

The District does hereby agree to hire Servicing Agency to service its school age students with disabilities and below age five children with disabilities during the school year 2024-25 and the Servicing Agency agrees to act as such Servicing Agency for the consideration and under the terms and conditions as hereinafter set forth:

1. A description of the program of Special Education and related services to be provided to District students shall be as set forth in Schedule "A" hereto attached and by reference made a part thereof.
2. It is agreed that the District shall pay the Servicing Agency for said special education or related services as listed on Schedule "B".
3. The Servicing Agency agrees to bill the District for the actual cost of special education services rendered and to make any adjustments caused by prior overpayment or underpayment.
4. The Service Agency retains the right to adjust any service rate listed on Schedule "B" during the contract period.
5. The Servicing Agency agrees to provide the District with the final billing and the actual rate for cost of services. A complete reconciliation of the actual costs of special education services rendered will be provided upon request only. The final billing to the District shall serve as a final reconciliation of the amount of payments. The Servicing Agent will apply credits owed from the final billing to any amounts due to the Servicing Agent. Amounts billed to Districts on the final billing must be paid in full within 45 days of date of final invoice.
6. The District agrees that the final billing for special education services submitted to the District by the Servicing Agency for actual services rendered during the contract period shall be considered as an amendment to the original contract and by reference made a part thereof.
7. Special education programs or services which extend beyond the regular school year will be provided by the Servicing Agency upon request by the District. Said costs of such extended programs shall be billed to the District by the Servicing Agency and the District agrees to pay the Servicing Agency for any such costs.
8. It is further agreed that in the event the District does not pay the Servicing Agency as herein set forth, the Servicing Agency may cancel this contract and refuse further service. In the event of such cancellation, the Servicing Agency may recover any past due amounts.
9. Upon request, the Servicing Agency shall record and supply to the District information on each child for whom services are contracted.
10. Servicing Agency shall assist the District with the preparation of financial reports and other procedures required by NDE Rule 51 and any other applicable law when requested by the District.
11. The District delegates the development of the Individual Education Program (IEP) and Individual Family Service Plan (IFSP) to the Servicing Agency and the Servicing Agency agrees to perform those duties required to comply with NDE Rule 51, Rule 52 and any other applicable law.
12. The District and the Servicing Agency agree to abide by the mandated procedures for identification, verification, placement, development of the Individual Education Program and Individual Family Service Plan, inspection and review of student records, and other requirements as specified in NDE Rule 51 and any other applicable law, Regulations and Standards for Special Education Programs, Nebraska State Department of Education, the Federal Regulations of the Individual with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).
13. The District hereby agrees that changes or modifications in the program or children served shall be mutually agreed upon before said change or modifications are implemented.

14. Should the Servicing Agency be unable to render the services contracted because of the Servicing Agency's inability to employ personnel who meet the criteria for employment of the Servicing Agency and/or the certification requirements of the State of Nebraska, or for other reasons which are determined by the Servicing Agency to be valid, the Servicing Agency will not assume liability for those services contracted for but not provided. In which instance, schools will be notified no later than September 2, 2024.
15. The District herewith agrees that any act intentionally and unilaterally done which act may cause litigation against the Servicing Agency shall be defended at the sole expense of the District and any damages assessed against the District for the Servicing Agency or either of them shall be borne entirely by the District. This paragraph shall not operate to indemnify or relieve the Servicing Agency of any liability otherwise attaching to it under any applicable state or federal law, nor to any action undertaken by the District in the provision of special education services or related services which is undertaken in consultation with the Servicing Agency or in a good faith effort by the District to comply with lawful obligations of the District.
16. The Servicing Agency shall be responsible to the District for acts and omissions of the Servicing Agency's employees, subcontractors and their agents and employees, and other persons or entities performing portions of the work for, or on behalf of, the Servicing Agency or any of its subcontractors. As part of that responsibility, the Servicing Agency shall enforce the District's alcohol-free, drug-free, tobacco-free, harassment-free and weapon-free policies and zones, and all policies and regulations with regard to criminal background check and sex offender registry notice found on the District's website and require compliance with those policies and zones by the Servicing Agency's employees, subcontractors, and all persons carrying out the contract.
17. The District herewith agrees that in the event the District desires to change the services provided by this contract for a subsequent year whether by change in staffing, change in specific personnel, change in contracted hours of any area of endorsement held by personnel presently assigned to the District, to eliminate any program or service being provided pursuant to this contract, it shall be the duty of the District to notify the administrator in writing of such requested change on or before March 15th next preceding the starting date of the school year to be affected by any changes as are described in this paragraph.
18. The District herewith agrees that in the event that no such written notice is made to the Servicing Agency on or before March 15th, that the Servicing Agency shall be entitled to assume that the District desires the same FTE in all areas of endorsement, certification or other qualification, and in all programs it had through this contract with the Servicing Agency. In the event the District should later notify the Servicing Agency of a diminished request for FTE in any area of endorsement, certification or other qualification, or in any program or service provided by this contract, the Servicing Agency shall use its best effort to find other employment for such affected personnel, provided, however, that in the event such personnel cannot be reassigned and to the extent that such personnel constitute a cost to the Servicing Agency that cannot be passed through by way of contract or otherwise, the District agrees to pay any cost incurred by the Servicing Agency for such personnel.
19. This contract may be renegotiated by mutual agreement.

ACCEPTED FOR EDUCATIONAL SERVICE UNIT 9 AS SERVICING AGENCY

THIS 27th DAY OF March 2024

BY 
 ESU 9 Representative

ACCEPTED FOR Kenesaw Public SCHOOL AS DISTRICT THIS 2nd DAY OF

April, 2024 BY 
 School Official's Signature

SCHEDULE "A"
DESCRIPTION OF SPECIAL EDUCATION AND RELATED SERVICES

SERVICING AGENCY: Educational Service Unit 9, Hastings, NE

- I. Special Education Direct Instructional Services. These services include all disability categories as per Rule 51/52. The following descriptors apply to Speech Language Pathology Services, Services for the Deaf and Hearing Impaired, Visually Impaired Services, and Below Age Five Center and Home based Services.

Service Descriptors:

1. Assist in the provision of appropriate diagnostic information for verification as per 92 NAC 51/52.
2. Provide information to other school staff regarding the educational/social needs of students related to their disability(s).
3. Serve as a member of the MDT/IEP/IFSP teams.
4. Provide expertise in determining most appropriate service for the child.
5. Provide services to the qualifying students in the least restrictive environment (LRE).
6. Collaborate with team members to provide quality service to the child through planning, team teaching, demonstration teaching, etc.
7. Educate, through workshops and inservices, the community, school staff, students and parents regarding student disabilities and services available.
8. Evaluate unit contracted non-certified staff.
9. Consult with school student assistance teams on request.
10. Monitor and document student progress.
11. Facilitate communication among team members.
12. Monitor student's specialized/augmentative equipment.
13. Implements required special education compliance policies/procedures as per 92 NAC 51/52.

- II. Educational Sign Language Interpreters

Disability Category - Deaf/Hard of Hearing

Service Descriptors:

1. Educational Sign Language Interpreters facilitate communication between the deaf student and hearing individuals in the educational setting using manual sign system.
2. Provide manual sign language instruction to school staff and students.

III. Education Coordinator

Disability Category - All disability categories as per 92 NAC 51/52

Service Descriptors:

1. The role of the Education Coordinator as **Diagnostician** may include the following responsibilities:
 - A. Consultation with personnel concerning pre-referral steps which include referral and parent permission completion as well as providing assistance in determining the next appropriate step to be taken.
 - B. If the decision is made for an educational diagnosis, the education coordinator is responsible for coordinating that formal and informal diagnosis with the resource teacher or other personnel in the district as appropriate.
 - C. Coordinates multidisciplinary team to review diagnostic results and other student performance data to determine verification and/or educational needs.
 - D. Provides consultation for re-verification of students.
2. The role of education coordinator as **program consultant** may include the following responsibilities:
 - A. To provide on-going compliance (both State and Federal regulations) information through regular updates, inservices, individual consultation and monitoring of student files.
 - B. To monitor and consult on individual student programs.
 - C. To provide on-going communication with all school and ESU personnel.
 - D. To provide on the job training in diagnostic, instructional, and communication skills.
 - E. To assist in the communication and case coordination with all who may be involved with the child including outside agencies and professionals.
 - F. To provide assistance with vocational assessment and programming for students with special needs.
 - G. To assist in the development of behavioral interventions and educational strategies for students.
 - H. To provide staff training to address specific educational needs.

IV. Below Age Five Program Supervision

Disability Category - All disability categories as per 92 NAC 51/52

This service includes the program consultation/supervision duties described above under Education Coordinator. The cost of this service is funded through contracts with schools for below age five special education services.

V. School Psychologist

Disability Category - All disability categories as per 92 NAC 51/52

Service Descriptors:

1. Diagnosis
 - A. Select and administer appropriate individual psychological and educational tests to be used in the diagnosis of cognitive disorders, psychological processing

problems, learning problems, behavioral disorders including social and emotional maladjustment, problems of achievement and other problems relative to general child development.

- B. Gather relevant data through observation and/or consultation.
- C. Interpret diagnostic results of informal and formal individual evaluation and from information provided by outside agencies or from the student's cumulative school data.
- D. Report findings that would be relevant to understanding the student's level of functioning, basis for disability, pertinent strengths and weaknesses and prognosis for progress and development.
- E. Provides consultation for re-verification of students.

2. Multidisciplinary Team Participation

The psychologist's responsibility on the team is for presentation and interpretation of diagnostic data relative to verification of handicapping conditions, making recommendation regarding appropriate program placement, and conferring on general or special objectives to be included in the student's educational plan.

3. Consultation

- A. Consultation with parents for gathering home and environmental data and for interpreting to parents the implications of diagnosis, verification and placement.
- B. Consultation with classroom teachers, resource teachers or other school personnel for information gathering and for making recommendations relative to special education programming.
- C. Conferring with agencies or individuals outside the schools such as the courts, medical personnel, mental health or other social service agencies, for the purpose of receiving or relating pertinent student information.

4. Referral

Provide information regarding local, state, or regional sources for diagnosis, therapy, or placement or for other services which cannot be provided by the local school or by Educational Service Unit.

5. Inservice

Provide information to teachers, parents or community groups relative to individual student needs.

VI. Compliance Services

A part of ESU 9's funded supplemental service to schools is the compliance service. ESU 9 will make recommendations to district administrators and other appropriate personnel (either verbal or in writing) in order to assure that laws and regulations governing special education are being properly interpreted and enforced.

One major function of this service is to assist schools faced with mediation and/or a due process hearing. Since the special education laws affords parents the right of due process, compliance services are necessary to help avoid or reduce costly appeals.

VII. Financial Services

Another ESU 9 funded supplemental service provided to schools is the service of a full time accountant. The Business Office Manager is responsible for preparing the special education cost estimates for each school contracting for services on an annual basis. The Business Office Manager may also prepare the final financial report for the school. These items are annually

submitted to the State for approval. These services are provided for special education programs for children below age five as well as for school age programs.

VIII. Director of Special Services

As part of ESU 9's supplementary service, it provides a qualified Director of Special Services who is responsible for all special education services provided to schools. The Director's duties include recruiting, interviewing and recommending to the Administrator those candidates ESU 9 would like to employ to serve schools through their contractual agreements. Personnel problems, appeals by parents, staffing patterns and assignments also are duties assigned to the Director. The Director is assisted by education coordinators, supervisors, and other directors. The Director is in charge of below age five services and is responsible for identifying future needs of schools and preparing plans to meet these needs.

ESU 9 SERVICE AGENCY CODE:				950009
2024-25 SPECIAL EDUCATION SCHEDULE B FOR:			KENESAW	010003
ESTIMATED COSTS FOR BUDGET PURPOSES ONLY				
BELOW AGE 5 SERVICES				
Service Description	Service	Estimated	Estimated	Budget
	Code	Hourly Rate	Hours	Cost
Speech/Language Pathologist	4001	85.00	560.00	\$47,600.00
Home Base	3000	95.00	80.00	\$7,600.00
School Psychologist	1002	120.00	10.00	\$1,200.00
Below Age 5 Budget Total				\$56,400.00

ESU 9 SERVICE AGENCY CODE:				950009
2024-25 SPECIAL EDUCATION SCHEDULE B FOR:			KENESAW	010003
ESTIMATED COSTS FOR BUDGET PURPOSES ONLY				
SCHOOL AGE SERVICES				
Service Description	Service	Estimated	Estimated	Budget
	Code	Hourly Rate	Hours	Cost
Deaf Educator	4024	154.00	20.00	\$3,080.00
Vision	4030	128.00	80.00	\$10,240.00
Speech/Language Pathologist	4001	85.00	1,130.00	\$96,050.00
School Psychologist	1002	120.00	245.00	\$29,400.00
SPED Consultant	2001	123.00	20.00	\$2,460.00
Consultant - Behavior	2013	105.00	30.00	\$3,150.00
18 Plus* (two students)	4012	31.50	2,040.00	\$64,260.00
SRS Fees	7003	125.00	7.94	\$993.00
School Age Budget Total				\$209,633.00
NON SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICE				
Licensed Mental Health Practitioner	1000	76.50	575.00	\$43,987.50
TOTAL				\$253,620.50

*Rate estimate is based on the assumption at least four total students, including students from other districts, will be in the program.

AGREEMENT

CONTRACTED LEVEL I, II, AND III SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES

THIS AGREEMENT, made and entered into this *1st* day of *March 2024* by and between Educational Service Unit 7 of the State of Nebraska, hereinafter called "Servicing Agency" and **Kenesaw** hereinafter called "District."

WITNESSETH:

1. That the Servicing Agency does hereby agree that it will furnish to the District the following described Special Education services which meet the requirements of the State Department of Education. All rates are subject to the approval of the State Department of Education, and will be provided to the district prior to the district's budget preparation.
2. That the Servicing Agency does hereby agree it will furnish to the District the following described special education services as follows:
3. Services shall be provided only to children who qualify for such services as specified in State Department of Education, Special Education Rules and Regulations (Rule 51).
4. The Servicing Agency shall supply recorded information on each child for whom services are contracted. The Servicing Agency agrees that it will confer with the School District personnel for purposes of evaluating each child's progress.
5. The placing of a child in said program shall be made by joint decision of the Servicing Agency, the District, parents and/or guardians, and other members of the IEP team.
6. The Servicing Agency agrees to perform the services and the District agrees to pay in accordance with the Servicing Agency rate schedule as approved by the Nebraska State Board of Education. This schedule shall be in full force and effect during the school year of 24-25 commencing no earlier than August 1, 2024 and ending no later than July 31, 2025 .
7. The Servicing Agency retains the right to designate personnel to provide services. All personnel provided by the Servicing Agency shall be endorsed to provide their respective services.
8. Policies regarding sick leave, personal leave, and professional leave shall be determined by the negotiated agreement with the Servicing Agency for personnel providing services to the District.
9. In the event that school district's programming requirements and needs change at any time subsequent to and during the term of this agreement, the costs to the school established by this agreement, shall in mutual agreement between ESU 7 and the school district be adjusted and prorated and the parties may agree. Nothing in this paragraph, however, shall be construed to entitle the school district to abrogate this contract or declare it void. The district shall be obligated to pay all sums specified by this contract as due and owing the ESU 7 regardless of changes in circumstances within the district during the course of this contract. The ESU 7 shall, however, be obligated to meet with the school district and discuss in good faith alternatives to mitigating expense, reallocating staff, and other resources within the bounds of the law and as the ESU 7 may

in its sole discretion determine to be in the best interest of ESU 7 and the school district. Any and all changes or expenses incurred by ESU 7 in the course of performing its obligations pursuant to this agreement, or in preparing to do so, shall become due and payable by school district to ESU 7 upon billing in a manner consistent with the billing provision of this agreement.

10. If, for any reason the District does not pay as agreed, the Servicing Agency may cancel this contract and forthwith, without notice, refuse further services, without notice, to said district, but the District shall not be relieved from paying for services rendered by the Servicing Agency to the said District to date of termination of service. The District hereby expressly agrees, acknowledges and affirms that its refusal to pay for services rendered will result in the Servicing Agency refusal to render services in the future and that, by refusing to pay, the District does not and will not expect the Servicing Agency to provide services of any kind to the District until payment has been made in full.

11. The School District agrees that its payments will be made upon receipt of billing from the Servicing Agency. If the District refuses to make payment within sixty(60) days upon its receipt of billing, the outstanding amounts owed shall accrue in interest of the 1.25% per month or the maximum permitted by law, whichever is less, plus the expenses of collection.

12. It is understood and agreed, that in the event of any reason this contract does not comply with the State's requirement, it will be changed in accordance therewith, upon written notice by the Servicing Agency to the District and advising the District of the required changes to meet State requirements.

13. It is agreed this contract between the Servicing Agency and district must be signed by the District Board or Representative and returned to the Servicing Agency by **March 29, 2024**. The Servicing Agency's Board will then sign and return a copy of the contract to the District.

This agreement shall be binding upon the parties hereto and their successors. The persons executing this Agreement on behalf of the respective parties specifically acknowledge and represent that they have value authority to bind the party to whose benefit this Agreement had been executed.

Signatures:

Rick Masters
Rick Masters (Apr 24, 2024 09:37 CDT)

District Board Representative

Larriane Polk
Larriane Polk (Apr 24, 2024 12:15 CDT)

ESU 7 Servicing Agency Representative

Tami Clay

ESU 7 SPED Director

Apr 24, 2024
Date

Apr 24, 2024
Date

Apr 25, 2024
Date

InstructionSpecial Education

[Name] Public Schools adopts this special education policy with the intent that the policy maintains the District's compliance with all applicable laws affecting special education services and programs. The Superintendent or designees shall develop regulations or procedures to implement these policies. Employees and contractors of the District are expected to comply with these policies and all regulations, guidelines and procedures related to this policy in all respects.

The District will abide by all state and federal laws relating to special education. The District's special education policy and regulations, guidelines and procedures related to this policy are to be interpreted so as to be in compliance with such laws. In the event of changes in law, the school administration shall be authorized to implement modifications of practice to comply with such changes (whether the changes impose more or less stringent procedural or substantive requirements) until such time as amended policies are adopted by the Board of Education. References herein to 92 NAC 51 citations are made to Rule 51 as in effect on the date of the adoption of these policies. In the event of renumbering or other revisions to Rule 51, the policy shall be interpreted and implemented consistent with such renumbering or revisions.

1. Free Appropriate Public Education

A free appropriate public education shall be made available to all children with disabilities residing in the District, including children with disabilities who have been suspended or expelled, from date of verification through the school year in which the child is no longer eligible or the student reaches twenty-one (21) years of age, whichever occurs earlier. An Individualized Education Plan ("IEP") will be created for each such child that will enable the student to make progress appropriate in light of the student's unique circumstances.

Legal Reference: 92 NAC 51-004.01 through 004.03A and 007.07C2 through 007.07C6

2. Full Educational Opportunity Goal

The District shall take steps to ensure that its children with verified disabilities, through the age of twenty-one, have available to them the variety of educational programs and services available to children without disabilities in the areas served by the District, including art, music, industrial arts, family consumer science education, and vocational education.

Legal Reference: 92 NAC 51-004.11A

3. Child Find

All children from birth to age twenty-one (21) with disabilities residing in the District, including children with disabilities who are homeless or are wards of the state or attending nonpublic schools, regardless of the severity of their disabilities, who are in need of special education and related services, will be identified, located and evaluated. A practical method shall be developed and implemented by the administration to determine which children with disabilities are currently receiving needed special education and related services. The District will implement multiple methods to provide parents, guardians, and community members with information regarding how to refer a child for an evaluation and the identification process and will publish an annual notice of any significant activity that is designed to identify, locate, or evaluate children to

publicly notify parents, guardians, or appointed surrogates. The District's child find process will be consistent with Federal and Nebraska regulations. Legal Reference: 92 NAC 51-006.01 through 006.01A2

4. Pre-Referral Interventions

For a school age student, a general education student assistance team (SAT) or a comparable problem solving team shall be used prior to referral for multidisciplinary team evaluation. The SAT or comparable problem solving team shall utilize and document problem solving and intervention strategies to assist the teacher in the provision of general education. If the student assistance team or comparable problem solving team feels that all viable alternatives have been explored, a referral for multidisciplinary evaluation shall be completed. A referral shall include information from the SAT or comparable problem solving team, meeting the requirements of 92 NAC 51-006.01B and a listing of the members of the SAT or comparable problem solving team.

Legal Reference: 92 NAC 51-006.01B

5. Disability Verification and Eligibility

Eligibility for services will be determined by a multidisciplinary team based on the results of a comprehensive evaluation. The multidisciplinary team will identify whether a child is eligible for special education services based on the disability categories identified by Nebraska and Federal regulations. The multidisciplinary team will rule out the determinant factor is due to a lack of appropriate instruction in reading or math or due to lack of English proficiency. The team will prepare a written report documenting all evaluation findings in accordance with Federal and Nebraska requirements that will be provided to the parent, guardian, or appointed surrogate. When a child is not eligible for services, the multidisciplinary team will determine if general education interventions or strategies are needed.

Legal Reference: 92 NAC 51-006.03; 92 NAC 51-006.04B through 006.04N;

6. Individualized Education Program (IEP)

An individualized education program, or an individualized family service plan, is to be developed, reviewed, and revised for each child with a disability in accordance with 92 NAC 51-007 by teams that will include all roles identified within Federal and Nebraska rules. Any draft of an IEP that is developed will not be considered final until it is reviewed and revised based on the team, including the parent, guardian, or appointed surrogate, input, and consensus. The district will make reasonable efforts to obtain informed consent from the parent, guardian, or appointed surrogate for special education placement on the IEP form before services are initiated. Revocation of consent for services must be documented by the parent, guardian, or appointed surrogate in writing.

Legal Reference: 92 NAC 51-007

7. Least Restrictive Environment

To the maximum extent appropriate, children with disabilities, through the age of twenty-one, including children in public or private institutions or other care facilities, are to be educated with children who are not disabled. Placement for a student with a disability will be based upon a completed IEP developed by a group of persons, including the parent, guardian, or appointed surrogate, knowledgeable about the child, the meaning of the evaluation data, and the placement options. Special classes, separate schooling, or other removal of children with disabilities from the regular educational environment will occur only when the nature or severity of the disability of a child is such that education in regular classes with the use of supplementary aids and services

cannot be achieved satisfactorily (the “Least Restrictive Environment Rules”). The District will ensure that a continuum of alternative placements is available to meet the needs of children with disabilities, particularly those in disproportionate groups, for special education and related services.

Legal Reference: 92 NAC 51-008.01

8. Procedural Safeguards

Children with disabilities and their parents, guardians, or appointed surrogates shall be afforded the required procedural safeguards. Parents, guardians, and appointed surrogates will be given a copy of their procedural safeguards annually or upon initial referral or parental (parent, guardian, or appointed surrogate) request for evaluation; upon request by a parent, guardian, or appointed surrogate; upon receipt by the school district or approved cooperative of the first occurrence of the filing of a complaint under 92 NAC 51-009.11 and the first occurrence of filing a special education due process case under 92 NAC 55; and in accordance with the discipline procedures in 92 NAC 51-016.

Legal Reference: 92 NAC 51-009.01 through 009.07; 009.10 through 009.12; 009.14, 006.07

9. Disciplinary Removal of Children with Disabilities

School personnel may remove a child with a disability who violates a code of student conduct from his or her current placement to an appropriate interim alternative educational setting, another setting, or suspension as long as those removals do not constitute a change of placement. The District defines a change of placement as it is defined under 92 NAC 51-016. The school district will ensure that school personnel appropriately consider unique circumstances on a case-by-case basis when determining whether a change in placement has occurred. Within 10 school days of any decision to change the placement of a child with a disability because of a violation of a code of student conduct, the school district, the parent, and relevant members of the student’s IEP shall conduct a manifestation determination pursuant to 92 NAC 51-016. If the conduct which gave rise to the violation of the school code is determined to be a manifestation of the student’s disability, any change of placement for the student will only be made by a student’s IEP team. For disciplinary changes in placement that would exceed ten (10) consecutive school days, if the behavior that gave rise to the violation of the school code is determined not to be a manifestation of the child’s disability, school personnel may apply the relevant disciplinary procedures to children with disabilities in the same manner and for the same duration as the procedures that would be applied to children without disabilities.

Legal Reference: 92 NAC 51-016

10. Evaluation, Identification, and Reevaluation Procedures

Children with disabilities shall be evaluated, identified, and reevaluated by a team of multidisciplinary qualified professionals in accordance with 92 NAC 51-006. The MDT of a child suspected of having a specific learning disability shall include the additional requirements in accordance with 92 NAC 51-006.04K. The District will make reasonable efforts to obtain written permission for evaluation in accordance with Federal and Nebraska rules. Revocation for consent for evaluation must be documented by the parent, guardian, or appointed surrogate in writing.

The documented results of the evaluation will be provided to parent, guardian, or appointed surrogate and included in student files. All evaluation components will be at district expense. The

District will utilize a variety of assessment instruments to ensure district teams have access to appropriate measures to complete evaluations. The district will follow any publisher guidelines for assessments and will not use outdated or culturally inappropriate tools.

The District will respond to a request for an Independent Educational Evaluation without unnecessary delay. The parent, guardian, or appointed surrogate will be given written notice of the District's decision to either move forward with the Independent Educational Evaluation or to initiate a hearing to determine the appropriateness of the evaluation. If the District agrees to move forward with the evaluation, locations of any evaluator shall be within a reasonable distance of the District. A reasonable distance means within 100 miles of the school building the child attends and within Nebraska. In the event this geographic area restriction would prevent a parent, guardian, or appointed surrogate from obtaining an Independent Educational Evaluation, the location of the evaluator may be outside the specified geographic area but must be within Nebraska. The District will provide the parent, guardian, or appointed surrogate with a list of qualified agencies/evaluators within the geographic area. The evaluators are to have their rates approved by the Nebraska Department of Education to be authorized to conduct the evaluation.

Legal Reference: 92 NAC 51-006

11. Confidentiality of Personally Identifiable Information

A system of safeguards will be implemented to protect the confidentiality of student records and information in accordance with law.

Legal Reference: 92 NAC 51-003.16, 003.20, 009.03 through 009.03M3

12. Transition of Students

Beginning not later than the first IEP to be in effect when a student turns 14, or younger if deemed appropriate by the IEP team, and updated annually thereafter, the District will ensure that the student's IEP includes appropriate measurable postsecondary goals based upon age appropriate transition assessments related to training, education, employment, and, where appropriate, independent living skills; and transition services (including courses of study) needed to assist the child in reaching those goals. If any participating agency (other than the District) fails to provide the transition services described in the IEP, then the District shall reconvene the IEP Team to identify alternative strategies to meet the transition objectives for the child set out in the IEP.

Legal Reference: 92 NAC 51-007.07A9

12.13. Transition of Children from Part C to Preschool Programs

Children participating in early intervention programs under Part C of the IDEA (early intervention services) will be appropriately evaluated, identified, and have services under Part B of the IDEA by age 3 in a manner consistent with 92 NAC 52-008. Children receiving early intervention services under Part C of the IDEA may continue to receive Part C services, upon parental consent, until the August 31st following the child's third birthday. The District will participate in transition planning conferences arranged by the designated lead agency.

Legal Reference: 92 NAC 52-008

13.14. Children in Nonpublic Schools

To the extent consistent with the number and location of children with disabilities in the District who are enrolled by their parents, guardians, or appointed surrogates in nonpublic elementary and secondary schools in the District, provision will be made for the participation of those children in

the programs assisted or carried out under Part B of the IDEA (services for school-aged children) by providing them with special education and related services.

Legal Reference: 92 NAC 51-012.08 and 015

14.15. Personnel Standards and Personnel Development

Personnel providing special education or related services to children with disabilities shall be appropriately and adequately prepared and trained in accordance with IDEA requirements and the District will take measurable steps to recruit, hire, train and retain personnel meeting the requirements of IDEA to provide such services.

Legal Reference: 92 NAC 51-010

15.16. Accessibility of IEP and Responsibility to Implement

A child's IEP shall be accessible to each regular education teacher, special education teacher, related service provider, and other service provider who is responsible for the IEP's implementation. Each of the aforementioned providers shall be informed of his or her specific responsibilities related to implementing the child's IEP, and the specific accommodations, modifications, and supports that must be provided for the child in accordance with the IEP. All providers who are responsible for the implementation of a child's IEP are expected to implement the child's IEP according to its terms.

16.17. Participation in and Reporting of State and District Wide Assessments

All children with disabilities shall be included in all general state and district wide assessment programs, including assessments described under section 612(a)(16)(A) of the IDEA with appropriate accommodations and alternate assessments where necessary and as indicated in their respective individualized education programs. The District will make available to the Nebraska Department of Education the information necessary to carry out its duties relating to the reporting of children with disabilities participation in assessments.

Legal Reference: 92 NAC 51-004.05

17.18. Suspension and Expulsion Rates

The District will examine data, including data disaggregated by race/ethnicity, gender, LEP status, and disability category, to determine if significant discrepancies are occurring in the rate of long-term suspensions and expulsions of children with disabilities.

Legal Reference: 92 NAC 51-004.06E

18.19. Access to Instructional Materials

As part of any printed instructional materials adoption process, procurement contract, or other practice or instrument used for purchase of printed instructional materials, the District will enter into a written contract with the publisher of the printed instructional materials to:

- A. Require the publisher to prepare and, on or before delivery of the print instructional materials, provide to the National Instructional Material Access Center, electronic files containing the contents of the printed instructional materials using the National Instructional Materials Accessibility Standard, or
- B. Purchase instructional materials from the publisher that are produced in, or may be rendered in specialized formats.

Legal Reference: 92 NAC 51-004.15

19.20. Over-Identification and Disproportionality

Procedures shall be in place to ensure that testing and evaluation materials and procedures utilized for the evaluation and placement of children with disabilities will be selected and administered so as not to be racially or culturally discriminatory. Such materials or procedures shall be provided and administered in the child's native language or mode of communication, unless it is clearly not feasible to do so, and no single procedure shall be the sole criterion for determining an appropriate educational program for a child. All District special education provisions will be equitably available to all children regardless of race, ethnicity, language, location, transience, income level, and access to medical care.

Legal Reference: 92 NAC 51-006.02C

20.21. Prohibition on Mandatory Medication

Children shall not be required to obtain a prescription for a controlled substance as a condition of attending school, receiving an evaluation to determine whether a child has a disability or the nature and extent of special education and related services the child needs, or receiving special education services.

Legal Reference: 92 NAC 51-004.11D; 21 U.S.C. §812(c)

21.22. Transportation

Transportation will be provided for children with disabilities who are eligible for transportation and residents of the school district as required by law to access academic, related services, and nonacademic services and activities as determined by the child's IEP. Except when a parent is transporting only his or her child, the District shall require that the driver and vehicle meet the standards required by 92 NAC 91 and 92.

Legal Reference: 92 NAC 51-014.01 through 014.02

22.23. Surrogates

A surrogate will be appointed, and other action taken to ensure the rights of children with a disability as required by law. The surrogate may represent the child in all matters related to the identification, evaluation, and educational placement of a child and the provision of a free appropriate public education to the child.

Legal Reference: 92 NAC 51-009.10

23.24. Early Intervention Services – Consent

When a parent refuses to provide consent under 92 NAC 52, a meeting will be held or offered to explain to the parents how their failure to consent affects the ability of their child to receive services under 92 NAC 52.

Legal Reference: 92 NAC 52

Legal Reference: 34 CFR Parts 300, 303 and 304
Neb. Rev. Stat. Sec. 79-1110 to 79-1167
92 NAC 51, 52 and 55

Date of Adoption: [Insert Date]

Community RelationsPublic Access to School Records - Examination, Making Memoranda, and Copying

1. The School District, through the Superintendent, shall provide interested persons access to the records of the School District as required by law. Such access shall include the opportunity to examine School District records, when permitted by law. The School District shall not make records of individual students, personnel, or other confidential material available, except as allowed by law or compelled by court order.

2. Records may be examined at the School District offices during the hours such offices are open for the ordinary transaction of business. School district offices will be open for the ordinary transaction of business (a) during the school year on such days as school is in session, and (b) during the summer months when school is not in session, Monday through Friday, except legal holidays or other days the District is closed.

3. Records may be obtained in the form in which the record is maintained including, but not limited to, printouts, electronic data, and photocopies. The School District will not be required to produce or generate any record in a new or different form or format modified from that of the original School District record. Copies of records may be made as follows:

(a) Copies may be made by persons using their own copying or photocopying equipment, provided that such copies shall be made on the premises of the School District offices or at a location mutually agreed to by the requester and the School District.

(b) Copies may be obtained from the School District if the School District has copying equipment reasonably available, and upon payment of a fee for providing copies. The Superintendent shall determine a reasonable fee for the copying of school district records, provided that such fee is not to exceed the actual cost of making the copies available. If the copies requested are estimated by the School District to be more than fifty dollars (\$50.00), the School District may require the requester to furnish a deposit prior to fulfilling such request.

4. For residents of Nebraska and news media desiring to submit a public records request to the School District, a requester must submit a written request to the School District. Upon written request for access to records, the School District will provide to the requester as soon as is practicable and without delay, but not more than four (4) business days after actual receipt of the request:

(a) Access to or, if copying equipment is reasonably available, copies of the school district records requested;

(b) A written denial of the request, or portion thereof, if there is a legal basis for such denial of access to school district records on a written form from the school district; or

(c) If the entire request cannot with reasonable good faith efforts be fulfilled within four (4) business days after actual receipt of the request due to the significant difficulty or extensiveness of the request, the school district shall provide a written explanation, including the earliest practicable date for fulfilling the request, and estimate of the expected cost of any copies, and an opportunity to modify or prioritize the items within the request. If the response to the request is expected to require more than eight cumulative hours of staff time spent searching, identifying, physically redacting, or copying, the District may require the requester to furnish a deposit, as permitted under the Public Records Request Laws.

5. For nonresidents of Nebraska, a requester must submit a written request to the School District. The School District may then require the requester to submit a deposit, as permitted under the Public Records Request Laws.

Legal Reference: Neb. Rev. Stat. Sec. 84-712 et seq.

Date of Adoption: [Insert Date]

Business OperationsPurchasing Policies

The Superintendent shall ensure that all purchases are made in the interest of economy and efficiency. Where necessary, standards and procedures shall be established to accomplish the following policies of the Board of Education:

1. Purchases up to \$5,000. For the greatest efficiency in expediting purchases, the administration shall be authorized to purchase any item specifically budgeted which has a sale price within the established limit.
2. Purchases from \$5,000 up to \$90,000. The Superintendent shall request the submission of proposals for purchases which have a sale price within the established limit. The Superintendent shall receive and evaluate all proposals in making a recommendation to the Board of Education for acceptance. The Board of Education may review all proposals submitted relating to the recommended purchase. Since this is a proposal system, not a bidding process, the school district in no way shall be obligated to arbitrarily award the contract to the lowest proposal, but shall reserve the right to reject any and all proposals or to waive any informality in any proposal it deems advisable, and to award to the proposer which, in its opinion, is most desirable.
3. Purchases of \$90,000 and above. The Superintendent shall advertise for sealed bids which shall be opened in conformity with any applicable laws and in compliance with any procedures established by the Superintendent. The Board retains the right to determine the responsibility of the bidders, and shall award the contract to the lowest responsible bidder meeting specifications, be the bidder a member or apart from the local community.
4. These purchasing limits or requirements will not apply in the event of a time-sensitive purchase, or a purchase where these requirements would not reasonably or practically apply, as long as the Superintendent obtains prior approval from the Board President, and the Board of Education subsequently ratifies said purchase at a subsequent Board meeting.
5. Any school employee who orders any supplies or equipment outside of that which has been included in the annual budget and without written authorization of the principal or Superintendent shall be personally liable for payment for the supplies or equipment purchased.
6. School employees or students purchasing supplies and equipment out of an activity account must first secure a purchase order from the principal authorizing the purchase. Failure to do so will cause the person to be personally liable for payment for the supplies or equipment purchased.
7. The District need not comply with the bidding requirements if the District purchases property from the Nebraska State Purchasing Bureau, so long as the Nebraska State

Purchasing Bureau competitively bid the purchase of property.

8. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary, no employee may enter into any agreement or understanding on behalf of the District that may financially benefit the employee, member of the employee's immediate family, or a business with which the employee is associated, unless the Board of Education approves such contract or arrangement in advance.

Credit Card Purchasing Program

1. The Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent or designee to contract with one or more financial institutions, card-issuing banks, credit card companies, charge card companies, debit card companies, or third-party merchant banks capable of operating a purchasing card program on behalf of the District.
2. The Board of Education delegates to the Superintendent or designee: (a) the determination of the type of purchasing card or cards to be utilized in the District's purchasing card program; and (b) the determination of which employees shall be approved or disapproved to be assigned a purchasing card in the District's purchasing card program. The Superintendent shall submit the approved names to the Board, from time to time.
3. The District's purchasing card program may only be utilized for the purchase of goods and services for and on behalf of the District. No officer or employee of the District shall use a purchasing card for any unauthorized use.
4. An itemized receipt for purposes of tracking expenditures shall accompany all purchasing card purchases. In the event that a receipt does not accompany an authorized cardholder's purchase, the Superintendent or designee shall temporarily or permanently suspend said cardholder's purchasing card privileges.
5. Upon the termination or suspension of employment of an individual using a purchasing card, the Superintendent or designee shall immediately close such individual's purchasing card account and said employee shall immediately return the purchasing card.

Legal Reference: Neb. Rev. Stat. Sec. 13-610
Neb. Rev. Stat. Sec. 49-1401, et seq

Date of Adoption: [Insert Date]

Business OperationsContracting for Services

Contractual services which by their nature are not adapted to award by competitive bidding, such as contracts for the services of individuals possessing a high degree of professional skill, where the ability or fitness of the individual plays an important part, are not subject to bid but are subject to approval by the Board of Education in conformity with established policy.

Every contract for services to be provided to [Name] Public Schools shall require that the contractor use a federal immigration verification system to determine the work eligibility status of new employees physically performing services within the State of Nebraska. Such requirement shall be deemed to be included and a part of the terms of every contract for services with the School District, including but not limited to oral contracts.

For any company that submits a bid or proposal for any technology-related product or service, and before entering into any contract with any company for any technology-related product or service, the company must certify that: (1) the company is not a scrutinized company (as defined by law); (2) the company will not subcontract with any scrutinized company for any aspect of performance of the contemplated contract; and (3) any products or services to be provided do not originate with a scrutinized company. The District will not knowingly enter into any contract with any scrutinized company.

Legal Reference: Neb. Rev. Stat. Sec. 4-114
LB 1300 (2024)

Date of Adoption: [Insert Date]

Business OperationsEmergency Response Mapping

[Name] Public Schools will provide mapping data to public safety agencies for use in response to emergencies. The mapping data will be provided in an electronic or digital format and will contain all information identified in state statute and as reasonably requested by the public safety agencies.

At least annually, the District will certify to the appropriate public safety agencies that the mapping data provided to the public safety agencies is accurate or, if information has changed, provide the appropriate public safety agencies with updated mapping data.

Legal Reference: LB 1329 (2024)

Date of Adoption: [Insert Date]

Business Operations

Meal Charge Policy

It is the policy of the District to comply with the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program and all other federal grant programs that provide free or reduced meals to qualifying students.

Student Eligibility

Families of students who may be eligible for free or reduced price school meals should submit an application to determine their eligibility. Applications are available through the Superintendent or Superintendent's designee. As long as an application is submitted on or after July 1, the application will be considered current for the new school year. A student may become eligible for free or reduced meals at any time during the school year if the household experiences a change in financial circumstances.

Meal Account Balances

The District will ensure that families can check their meal account balances in a manner other than exclusively online. The District will ensure that at least one form of meal account payment is free of charge.

The District encourages families to pre-pay without charge for free or reduced price meals. Notwithstanding the option to pre-pay, students and families will have a method to add funds during the school day. Any balance remaining in a pre-paid account shall carry over into the next month. Households approved for free or reduced price meals with funds remaining in their meal account at the end of the school year shall receive a refund. When a student leaves the District or graduates, the District shall attempt to contact the student's household to return any funds remaining in the student's meal account.

Unpaid meal charges may be carried over at the end of the school year as a delinquent debt and the District shall undertake reasonable collection efforts to collect unpaid meal charges classified as delinquent debt, pursuant to and in compliance with state and federal law. The District shall maintain records of its collection efforts and, once delinquent meal charges are converted to bad debt, its documentation establishing and handling of the bad debt.

The District will not use a debt collection agency to collect or attempt to collect, directly or indirectly, debts due or assessed to be owed for outstanding debts on a school lunch or breakfast account of any student. Nor will the District assess or collect any interest, fees, or other monetary penalties for outstanding debts on a school lunch or breakfast account of any student.

Student Confidentiality

The District will disclose individual student eligibility information only to those persons (and organizations) who require the information in order to carry out an activity specifically authorized

by the National School Lunch Act, subject to applicable legal exceptions.

The District shall not use or implement any colored or coded meal cards, tickets, tokens, or other methods of payment that would overtly identify a student as being eligible for free or reduced price meals.

Distribution Annually

This policy shall be provided or made available to all students' households at the start of each school year and to households transferring to the District during the school year.

This policy shall also be provided annually to District staff members responsible for the enforcement of this policy, including food service professionals.

The Superintendent or the Superintendent's designee shall maintain documentation of the annual distribution of this policy to students' households and District staff.

Legal Reference: Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. Sec. 1751);
U.S.D.A. Memorandum SP 57-2016.
LB 1329 (2024)

Date of Adoption: [Insert Date]

Personnel - Certificated EmployeesTeacher Training

The district shall provide and promote development programs for all professional staff - Superintendent, principals, teachers and the Board of education. Features of the staff development program:

1. Staff development resources and time shall be allocated in keeping with the key values and priorities of the district.
2. The staff development program shall concentrate on the programs and practices of effective schools and teaching, goal setting, assessment procedures, evaluation of staff, and the change process.
3. Content shall be selected that has been verified by research to improve student outcomes.
4. Teachers shall be actively involved in initiating, planning, and conducting the development programs for teachers.

At least annually, the administration will present to the Board the planned staff training as required by law. The Board will then approve those training requirements if the Board determines that the length of each training is reasonable.

Legal Reference: LB 1329 (2024)

Date of Adoption: [Insert Date]

StudentsOption EnrollmentA. Process and Time Lines to Option In

For a student to attend [Name] Public Schools as an option enrollment student, the student's parent or legal guardian must submit an application to the Board of Education of the [Name] Public School District between September 1 and March 15 for enrollment during the following and subsequent school years (the "application period").

Upon receipt of an application, the Superintendent or the Superintendent's designee shall provide the resident school district or, if the student attends a different district as an option student, the option district with the name of the applicant on or before April 1 or, in the case of an application submitted after March 15, within sixty days after submission.

Provisions for Waiver of Application Deadline (Choose one or modify as desired):**Option 1 (Waiver unless at capacity):**

The application deadline will be waived by the School District for applications to option into the [Name] Public School District, provided that the application contains a release approval from the resident district or, if the student is an option student attending a different district, the option district attended by the student and satisfies any other requirements of law. Further, the application deadline shall not be waived if the application is for enrollment in any program, class, grade level or school building or in any special education programs operated by this School District which have been determined by the School District to be at capacity in accordance with the capacity standards (Appendix "1"), and no waiver of the deadline shall be made for such an application regardless of whether such capacity determinations are declared invalid for any reason.

Option 2 (Limited Deadline Waiver):

The application deadline will not be waived by the School District for applications to option into the [Name] Public School District, except in the following circumstances:

1. Siblings: The application deadline will be waived where the application is for a student who is the sibling of a student attending [Name] Public Schools as of the time the application is filed. A "sibling" for this purpose means a child who resides in the same household on a permanent basis with a student who is currently attending the School District and who has the same natural or adoptive parent or who is a stepbrother or stepsister.
2. Kindergarten: The application deadline will be waived where the application is for a student who is seeking to enroll and attend the Kindergarten grade level provided the application was filed on or before June 1 prior to the first semester of the next school year.
3. Release Approval: For the foregoing exceptions, the application must contain a release approval from the resident district or, if the student attends a different district as an option student, the student's current option district.
4. Other Conditions: The waiver of the deadline in the above circumstances does not

require acceptance of the application, as such applications may be rejected for reasons other than late filing.

5. Capacity: For the foregoing exceptions, the application deadline shall not be waived if the application is for enrollment in any program, class, grade level or school building operated by this School District which have been determined by the School District to be at capacity in accordance with the capacity standards (Appendix “1”), and no waiver of the deadline shall be made for such an application regardless of whether such capacity determinations are declared invalid for any reason. For any option application for a student that would receive or could be eligible to receive special education or related services, the Director of Special Education or designee shall conduct a case-by-case analysis to determine if the District has the capacity to provide the student with the appropriate services and accommodations.

B. Rejection of Applications; Reasons

1. Capacity: An option enrollment application shall be rejected in the event the capacity of a program, class, grade level, or school building operated by the School District would be exceeded by acceptance of the application, and an option enrollment application shall be rejected in the event the application is for enrollment in a program, class, grade level, or school building which has been declared unavailable to option students due to lack of capacity.

The Director of Special Education shall review on a case-by-case basis all option applications for students that would receive or could be eligible to receive special education or related services. If the Director or designee determines that the District does not have the capacity to provide the student with the appropriate services and accommodations, then the Director or designee shall send a denial notice to the parent(s) or guardian(s) and include a description of services and accommodations that the District does not have the capacity to provide.

2. Timeliness: An option enrollment application shall be rejected in the event the application is not filed on or before the April 1st immediately preceding the school year in which enrollment is sought, and the filing deadline has not been waived.
3. Previous Option Enrollment: An option enrollment application shall be rejected in the event the student has exhausted their option enrollments in other school districts, as determined by state law.~~previously filed an option enrollment application for enrollment in any School District and has had such application accepted, unless a statutory exception to the “one-time” rule is applicable to the student’s circumstance.~~
4. Other Reasons: An option enrollment application may be rejected in the event the Superintendent, the Superintendent’s designee, or the School District determines: The application is not submitted on a form prescribed by the State Department of Education, is not completely and accurately filled in, is not received within the time required by law, or any additional information requested to be supplied is not

supplied to the School District within the time lines indicated; or in the event acceptance of the application is not required by law. Matters which are legally prohibited from being considered as standards for acceptance or rejection of applications (including “previous academic achievement, athletic or extracurricular ability, disabilities, proficiency in the English language, or previous disciplinary proceedings” and further including, without limitation, race, national origin, and gender) shall not be considered as reasons for acceptance or rejection.

C. Priority of Acceptance

Priority shall be accorded in the following order: (1) those applications required to be given priority by law, (2) those with a sibling in attendance at [Name] Public Schools, with priority within this group being given to those who had earliest filed applications, and (3) those without an option student sibling in attendance at [Name] Public Schools, with priority within this group to those who had earliest filed applications.

Filing date determinations are made by the Superintendent, or the Superintendent’s designee. In the event applications within a group are received at the same or substantially the same time, priority as between such same-date applications shall be determined on the basis of random drawing.

D. Determination of Capacity

The School District will determine and set, on an annual basis, the maximum number of option enrollment applications the School District will accept in any program, class, grade level or school building operated by this School District, based upon available staff, facilities, projected enrollment of resident students, projected number of students with which this School District will contract based on existing contractual arrangements, and may declare a program, class or school unavailable to option students due to lack of capacity. Such determinations may be made in the form of an Appendix “1” to this Policy. The determination and declaration made for any school year shall continue in effect for the next and subsequent school years unless otherwise determined and/or declared. The capacity for special education services shall be determined on a case-by-case basis as determined by the Director of Special Education or designee.

E. Releases for Options Out

Provisions for Release (Choose one or modify as desired):

Option 1 (Release unless Expulsion is Pending):

A request for release of a resident student or option student currently attending of the [Name] Public School District who submits an option application after March 15 will be granted, unless the administration is considering or has recommended expulsion of the student at the time the application is filed, and the administration determines it is appropriate to complete the expulsion process.

Option 2 (Release Conditions):

A request for release of a resident student of or option student currently attending of the [Name] Public School District who submits an enrollment option application after March 15 or

any other statutory deadline will be granted only on the following conditions:

1. Kindergarten: A release will be granted where the application is for a student who is seeking to enroll and attend the Kindergarten grade level provided the application was filed on or before June 1 prior to the first semester of the next school year.
2. Siblings: A release will be granted where the application would allow the student to attend the same school as a sibling. A “sibling” for this purpose means a child who resides in the same household on a permanent basis with a student who is currently enrolled in the option district and who has the same natural or adoptive parent or who is a stepbrother or stepsister.
3. Educational Programming: A release will be granted where the needs of the student require the District to obtain additional staffing or equipment and it is in the best interests of the District and the student to enroll in the option district. The determination of whether this condition is met shall be made by the Superintendent or the Superintendent’s designee.
4. No Pending Expulsion: The deadline shall not be waived if the administration is considering or has recommended expulsion of the student at the time the application is filed, and the administration determines it is appropriate to complete the expulsion process.

The Superintendent or the Superintendent’s designee is hereby authorized to execute such releases on behalf of the School District and the School District.

F. Notification of Acceptance or Rejection

In the case of an application to option enroll into the School District, the Superintendent or the Superintendent’s designee shall notify, in writing, the parent or legal guardian of the student, and the resident school district or, if the student is an option student attending a different district, that option district whether the application is accepted or rejected on or before April 1 or, in the case of an application submitted after March 15, within sixty days after submission.

If an option enrollment application or a request for release is rejected by the [Name] Public School District, the Superintendent or the Superintendent’s designee shall provide written notification to the parent or guardian stating the reasons for the rejection and the process for appealing such rejection to the State Board of Education. Such notification shall be sent by certified mail.

G. Status of Option Student

A student who is admitted under the enrollment option program shall be treated as a resident student, and in such regard shall be required to provide such enrollment information and documentation as is required for enrollment of other students (e.g., certified birth certificate and evidence of physical examination, visual evaluation and immunization), shall be required to be enrolled on a full-time basis, and shall be required to adhere to student conduct rules. The building assignment for an option student, as well as classroom and grade level assignments, shall be determined solely by the administration.

An option student shall not be entitled to transportation except as required by law. Transportation or transportation reimbursement will be provided only in the following circumstances:

1. The [Name] Public School District may, upon mutual agreement with the parent or legal guardian of an option student, provide transportation to the option student on the same basis as provided for resident students. The school district may charge the parents of each option student transported a fee sufficient to recover the additional costs of such transportation.
2. Option students who qualify for free lunches are eligible for either free transportation or transportation reimbursement from the option school district. The District's policy is that the District selects which service (transportation or reimbursement) is to be provided to students.
3. For option students receiving special education services, the transportation services required in the student's Individualized Education Plan shall be provided by the resident school district.

H. Information Regarding Schools, Programs, Policies and Procedures.

As part of the option enrollment program, the administration shall make information about the [Name] Public Schools and its school, programs, policies and procedures available to all interested persons and shall have a copy of the option enrollment policy and regulations available at each school building.

Legal Reference: Neb. Rev. Stat. Sections 79-232 to 79-246

Date of Adoption: [Insert Date]

Students

Preschool Enrollment

The District's preschool program shall be operated in accordance with this policy.

Eligibility

The Superintendent or designee will develop and maintain eligibility guidelines for children to enroll in the District's preschool program.

If the Superintendent or designee determines that the preschool program is at capacity, then children will be admitted to the daycare program in the following order of priority:

1. Those students that are required by law to participate or be given a preference in the preschool program;
2. Resident students who are or will turn four-years old during the school year;
3. Resident students who are not otherwise eligible to enroll in kindergarten;
4. Non-resident students who are not eligible to enroll in kindergarten;
5. Resident or non-resident students who are eligible to enroll in kindergarten.

The Superintendent or designee shall have the authority to implement and interpret capacity and enrollment decisions to ensure the best interests of the District and its preschool program, and there shall be no appeal process to the Board of Education related to the Superintendent or designee's decision.

Enrollment Process

Enrollment for the preschool program will be conducted on an annual basis. Parents or legal guardians must complete and submit a preschool enrollment application form by the specified deadline. Applications will be reviewed, and enrollment decisions will be based on available space, eligibility criteria, and other factors deemed appropriate by District staff. Parents will be notified of their child's enrollment status within a reasonable timeframe after the application deadline.

Waitlist

In the event that the number of applicants exceeds the preschool program's capacity, a waitlist may be established. Priority on the waitlist may be given to eligible children based on the priorities listed in this policy. Parents will be notified if their child is placed on the waitlist and will receive updates regarding their status if openings become available.

Compliance

All aspects of this policy shall be implemented in accordance with applicable state and federal laws, regulations, and guidelines related to preschool education and enrollment.

Date of Adoption: [Insert Date]

StudentsStudent Discipline

- A. Development of Uniform Discipline System. It shall be the responsibility of the Superintendent to develop and maintain a system of uniform discipline. The discipline which may be imposed includes actions which are determined to be reasonably necessary to aid the student, to further school purposes, or to prevent interference with the educational process, such as (without limitation) counseling and warning students, parent contacts and parent conferences, rearrangement of schedules, requirements that a student remain in school after regular hours to do additional work, restriction of extracurricular activity, or requirements that a student receive counseling upon written consent of the parent or guardian, or in-school suspension. The discipline may also include out-of-school suspension (short-term or long-term) and expulsion.
1. Short-Term Suspension: Students may be excluded by the Principal or the Principal's designee from school or any school function for a period of up to five school days (short-term suspension) on the following grounds:
 - a. Conduct that constitutes grounds for expulsion, whether the conduct occurs on or off school grounds; or
 - b. Other violations of rules and standards of behavior adopted by the Board of Education or the administrative or teaching staff of the school, which occur on or off school grounds, if such conduct interferes with school purposes or there is a nexus between such conduct and school.

The following process will apply to short-term suspensions:

- a. The Principal or the Principal's designee will make a reasonable investigation of the facts and circumstances. A short-term suspension will be made upon a determination that the suspension is necessary to help any student, to further school purposes, or to prevent an interference with school purposes.
- b. Prior to commencement of the short-term suspension, the student will be given oral or written notice of the charges against the student. The student will be advised of what the student is accused of having done, an explanation of the evidence the authorities have, and be afforded an opportunity to explain the student's version of the facts.
- c. Within 24 hours or such additional time as is reasonably necessary, not to exceed an additional 48 hours, following the suspension, the Principal or administrator will send a written statement to the student and the student's parent or guardian describing the student's conduct, misconduct or violation of the rule or standard and the reasons for the action taken.
- d. An opportunity will be given to the student, and the student's parent or guardian, to have a conference with the Principal or administrator ordering the short-term suspension before or at the time the student returns to school. The Principal or administrator shall determine who in addition to the parent or guardian is to attend the conference. The Principal shall document their

- attempt to make a reasonable effort to hold a conference with the parent or guardian.
- e. A student who is on a short-term suspension shall not be permitted to be on school grounds without the express permission of the Principal.
2. Long-Term Suspension: A long-term suspension means an exclusion from school and any school functions for a period of more than five school days but less than twenty school days. A student who is on a long-term suspension shall not be permitted to be on school grounds without the express permission of the Principal. A notice will be given to the student and the parents/guardian when the Principal recommends a long-term suspension. The notice will include a description of the procedures for long-term suspension; the procedures will be those set forth in the Student Discipline Act.
3. Expulsion:
- a. Meaning of Expulsion. Expulsion means exclusion from attendance in all schools, grounds and activities of or within the system for a period not to exceed the remainder of the semester in which it took effect unless the misconduct occurred (a) within ten school days prior to the end of the first semester, in which case the expulsion shall remain in effect through the second semester, or (b) within ten school days prior to the end of the second semester, in which case the expulsion shall remain in effect for summer school and the first semester of the following school year, or (c) unless the expulsion is for conduct specified in these rules or in law as permitting or requiring a longer removal, in which case the expulsion shall remain in effect for the period specified therein. Such action may be modified or terminated by the school district at any time during the expulsion period. A student who has been expelled shall not be permitted to be on school grounds without the express permission of the Principal. A notice will be given to the student and the parents/guardian when the Principal recommends an expulsion. The notice will include a description of the procedures for expulsion; the procedures will be those set forth in the Student Discipline Act.
- b. Suspensions Pending Hearing. When a notice of intent to discipline a student by long-term suspension, expulsion, or mandatory reassignment is filed with the Superintendent, the student may be suspended by the principal until the date the long-term suspension, expulsion, or mandatory reassignment takes effect if the principal determines that the student must be suspended immediately to prevent or substantially reduce the risk of (a) interference with an educational function or school purpose or (b) a personal injury to the student himself or herself, other students, school employees, or school volunteers. If the student is suspended pending the outcome of the hearing, the student may complete classwork and homework, including, but not limited to, examinations, missed during the period of suspension. During this period, the student will not be required to attend the alternative

programs for expelled students in order to complete classwork or homework.

- c. Summer Review. Any expulsion that will remain in effect during the first semester of the following school year will be automatically scheduled for review before the beginning of the school year in accordance with law.
- d. Alternative Education: Students who are expelled may be offered an alternative education program that will enable the student to continue academic work for credit toward graduation. A student will not be required to attend the alternative education program in order to complete classwork and homework. In the event an alternative education program is not provided, a conference will be held with the parent, student, the Principal or another school representative assigned by the Principal, and a representative of a community organization that assists young people or that is involved with juvenile justice to develop a plan for the student in accordance with law.
- e. Suspension of Enforcement of an Expulsion: Enforcement of an expulsion action may be suspended for a period of not more than one full semester in addition to the balance of the semester in which the expulsion takes effect. As a condition of such suspended action, the student and parents will be required to sign a discipline agreement.
- f. Students Subject to Juvenile or Court Probation. Prior to the readmission to school of any student who is less than nineteen years of age and who is subject to the supervision of a juvenile probation officer or an adult probation officer pursuant to the order of the District Court, County Court, or Juvenile Court, who chooses to meet conditions of probation by attending school, and who has previously been expelled from school, the Principal or the Principal's designee shall meet with the student's probation officer and assist in developing conditions of probation that will provide specific guidelines for behavior and consequences for misbehavior at school (including conduct on school grounds and conduct during an educational function or event off school grounds) as well as educational objectives that must be achieved. If the guidelines, consequences, and objectives provided by the Principal or the Principal's designee are agreed to by the probation officer and the student, and the court permits the student to return to school under the agreed to conditions, the student may be permitted to return to school. The student may with proper consent, upon such return, be evaluated by the school for possible disabilities and may be referred for evaluation for possible placement in a special education program. The student may be expelled or otherwise disciplined for subsequent conduct as provided in Board policy and state statute.
- g. Returning from Expulsion. At the conclusion of an expulsion, the District will reinstate the student and accept nonduplicative, grade-appropriate credits earned by the student during the term of expulsion from any

Nebraska accredited institution or institution accredited by one of the six regional accrediting bodies in the United States.

h. Exception for Pre-Kindergarten through Second Grade Students. Notwithstanding the foregoing, no pre-kindergarten through second grade student may be suspended from school, unless the student brings a deadly weapon on school grounds, in a school vehicle, or to a school activity. Instead, the Principal or Principal's designee may implement alternative disciplinary measures on a case-by-case basis if a pre-kindergarten through second grade student engages in misconduct that would otherwise result in a short-term suspension. If a pre-kindergarten through second grade student brings a deadly weapon on school grounds, in a school vehicle, or to a school activity, then the student may be suspended or expelled in accordance with this Policy's disciplinary procedures.

h.i. Religious Freedom. The District will not substantially burden a student's right to religious exercise unless the student's religious exercise is disruptive to the school environment, not permitted by staff, may pose a safety risk, or would otherwise interfere with the school day.

4. Emergency Exclusion: A student may be excluded from school in the following circumstances:
- a. If the student has a dangerous communicable disease transmissible through normal school contacts and poses an imminent threat to the health or safety of the school community; or
 - b. If the student's conduct presents a clear threat to the physical safety of himself, herself, or others, or is so extremely disruptive as to make temporary removal necessary to preserve the rights of other students to pursue an education.

Any emergency exclusion shall be based upon a clear factual situation warranting it and shall last no longer than is necessary to avoid the dangers described above.

If the emergency exclusion will be for five school days or less, the procedures for a short-term suspension shall be followed. If the Superintendent or his or her designee determines that an emergency exclusion shall extend beyond five days, a hearing may be held, upon a parent's timely request, and a final determination made within ten school days after the initial date of exclusion. Such procedures shall substantially comply with the procedures set forth in this policy for a long-term suspension or expulsion, and be modified only to the extent necessary to accomplish the hearing and determination within this shorter time period.

5. Other Forms of Student Discipline: Administrative and teaching personnel may also take actions regarding student behavior, other than removal of students from school, which are reasonably necessary to aid the student, further school purposes, or prevent interference with the educational process. Such actions may include, but are not limited to, counseling of students, parent conferences, rearrangement of

schedules, requirements that a student remain in school after regular hours to do additional work, restriction of extracurricular activity, or requirements that a student receive counseling, psychological evaluation, or psychiatric evaluation upon the written consent of a parent or guardian to such counseling or evaluation. The actions may also include in-school suspensions. When in-school suspensions, after-school assignments, or other disciplinary measures are assigned, the student is responsible for complying with such disciplinary measures. A failure to serve such assigned discipline as directed will serve as grounds for further discipline, up to expulsion from school.

- B. Student Conduct Expectations. Students are not to engage in conduct which causes or which creates a reasonable likelihood that it will cause a substantial disruption in or material interference with any school function, activity or purpose or interfere with the health, safety, well being or rights of other students, staff or visitors.
- C. Grounds for Short-Term Suspension, Long-Term Suspension, Expulsion or Mandatory Reassignment. The following conduct has been determined by the Board of Education to have the potential to seriously affect the health, safety or welfare of students, staff and other persons or to otherwise seriously interfere with the educational process. Such conduct constitutes grounds for long-term suspension, expulsion, or mandatory reassignment, and any other lesser forms of discipline. The conduct is subject to the consequence of long-term suspension, expulsion, or mandatory reassignment where it occurs on school grounds, in a vehicle owned, leased, or contracted by the school and being used for a school purpose or in a vehicle being driven for a school purpose by a school employee or an employee's designee, or at a school-sponsored activity or athletic event.
1. Willfully disobeying any reasonable written or oral request of a school staff member, or the voicing of disrespect to those in authority.
 2. Use of violence, force, coercion, threat, intimidation, harassment, or similar conduct in a manner that constitutes a substantial interference with school purposes or making any communication that a reasonable recipient would interpret as a serious expression of an intent to harm or cause injury to another.
 3. Willfully causing or attempting to cause substantial damage to property, stealing or attempting to steal property of substantial value, repeated damage or theft involving property, or setting or attempting to set a fire of any magnitude.
 4. Causing or attempting to cause personal injury to any person, including any school employee, school volunteer, or student. Personal injury caused by accident, self-defense, or other action undertaken on the reasonable belief that it was necessary to protect some other person shall not constitute a violation of this subdivision.
 5. Threatening or intimidating any student for the purpose of or with the intent of obtaining money or anything of value from such student or making a threat which causes or may be expected to cause a disruption to school operations.
 6. Knowingly possessing, handling, or transmitting any object or material that is ordinarily or generally considered a weapon or that has the appearance of a weapon or bringing or possessing any explosive device, including fireworks.
 7. Engaging in selling, using, possessing or dispensing of alcohol, tobacco, narcotics, drugs, controlled substance, or an inhalant; being under the influence of any of the above; possession of drug paraphernalia, or the selling, using, possessing, or

dispensing of an imitation controlled substance as defined in section 28-401 of the Nebraska statutes, or material represented to be alcohol, narcotics, drugs, a controlled substance or inhalant. Tobacco means any tobacco product (including but not limited to cigarettes, cigars, and chewing tobacco), vapor products (such as e-cigarettes), electronic nicotine delivery systems, alternative nicotine products, tobacco product look-alikes, and products intended to replicate tobacco products either by appearance or effect. Use of a controlled substance in the manner prescribed for the student by the student's physician is not a violation. The term "under the influence" has a less strict meaning than it does under criminal law; for school purposes, the term means any level of impairment and includes even the odor of alcohol or illegal substances on the breath or person of a student; also, it includes being impaired by reason of the abuse of any material used as a stimulant.

8. Public indecency or sexual conduct.
9. Engaging in bullying, which includes any ongoing pattern of physical, verbal, or electronic abuse on school grounds, in a vehicle owned, leased, or contracted by a school being used for a school purpose by a school employee or a school employee's designee, or at school-sponsored activities or school-sponsored athletic events.
10. Sexually assaulting or attempting to sexually assault any person. This conduct may result in an expulsion regardless of the time or location of the offense if a complaint alleging such conduct is filed in a court of competent jurisdiction.
11. Engaging in any activity forbidden by law which constitutes a danger to other students or interferes with school purposes. This conduct may result in an expulsion regardless of the time or location of the offense if the conduct creates or had the potential to create a substantial interference with school purposes, such as the use of the telephone or internet off-school grounds to threaten.
12. A repeated violation of any rules established by the school district or school officials if such violations constitute a substantial interference with school purposes.
13. Truancy or failure to attend assigned classes or assigned activities; or tardiness to school, assigned classes or assigned activities.
14. The use of language, written or oral, or conduct, including gestures, which is profane or abusive to students or staff members. Profane or abusive language or conduct includes, but is not limited to, that which is commonly understood and intended to be derogatory toward a group or individual based upon race, gender, disability, national origin, or religion.
15. Dressing or grooming in a manner which is dangerous to the student's health and safety or a danger to the health and safety of others or repeated violations of the student dress and grooming standards; dressing, grooming, or engaging in speech that is lewd or indecent, vulgar or plainly offensive; dressing, grooming, or engaging in speech that school officials reasonably conclude will materially and substantially disrupt the work and discipline of the school; dressing, grooming, or engaging in speech that a reasonable observer would interpret as advocating illegal drug use.
16. Willfully violating the behavioral expectations for riding school buses or vehicles.

A student who engages in the following conduct shall be expelled for the remainder of the school year in which it took effect if the misconduct occurs during the first semester, and if the

expulsion for such conduct takes place during the second semester, the expulsion shall remain in effect for the first semester of the following school year, with the condition that such action may be modified or terminated by the school district during the expulsion period on such terms as the administration may establish:

- a. The knowing and intentional use of force in causing or attempting to cause personal injury to a school employee, school volunteer, or student, except if caused by accident, self-defense, or on the reasonable belief that the force used was necessary to protect some other person and the extent of force used was reasonably believed to be necessary, or
- b. The knowing and intentional possession, use, or transmission of a dangerous weapon other than a firearm.

Knowingly and intentionally possessing, using, or transmitting a firearm on school grounds, in a school-owned or utilized vehicle, or during an educational function or event off school grounds, or at a school-sponsored activity or athletic event. This conduct shall result in an expulsion for one calendar year. "Firearm" means a firearm as defined in 18 U.S.C. 921, as that statute existed on January 1, 1995. That statute includes the following statement: "The term 'firearm' means (a) any weapon (including a starter gun) which will or is designed to or may readily be converted to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive; (b) the frame or receiver of any such weapon; (c) any firearm muffler or firearm silencer; or (d) any destructive device." The Superintendent may modify such one year expulsion requirement on a case-by-case basis, provided that such modification is in writing. Bringing a firearm or other dangerous weapon to school for any reason is discouraged; however, a student will not be subject to disciplinary action if the item is brought or possessed under the following conditions:

- a. Prior written permission to bring the firearm or other dangerous weapon to school is obtained from the student's teacher, building administrator and parent.
- b. The purpose of having the firearm or other dangerous weapon in school is for a legitimate educational function.

For purposes of this policy, the term "dangerous weapon" includes any personal safety or security device (such as tasers, mace and pepper spray). If a student desires to carry or possess a personal safety or security device, the student must obtain prior approval from the building principal before bringing such device on school grounds. If a student obtains prior approval from the building principal, the student must store the device during the school day in the student's locker, in the main office or in another secure location designated by the building principal. A student shall not carry a personal safety or security device during the school day.

- D. Additional Student Conduct Expectations and Grounds for Discipline. The following additional student conduct expectations are established. Failure to comply with such rules is grounds for disciplinary action. When such conduct occurs on school grounds, in a vehicle owned, leased, or contracted by a school being used for a school purpose or in a vehicle being driven for a school purpose by a school employee or by his or her designee, or at a school-sponsored activity or athletic event, the conduct is grounds for long-term suspension, expulsion or mandatory reassignment.

1. Student Appearance: Students are expected to dress in a way that is appropriate for the school setting. Students should not dress in a manner that is dangerous to the health and safety of anyone or interferes with the learning environment or teaching process in our school. Following is a list of examples of attire that will not be considered appropriate, such list is not exclusive and other forms of attire deemed inappropriate by the administration may be deemed inappropriate for the school setting:
 - a. Clothing that shows an inappropriate amount of bare skin or underwear (midriffs, spaghetti straps, sagging pants) or clothing that is too tight, revealing or baggy, or tops and bottoms that do not overlap or any material that is sheer or lightweight enough to be seen through, or otherwise of an appropriate size and fit so as to be revealing or drag on the ground.
 - b. Clothing or jewelry that advertises or promotes beer, alcohol, tobacco, or illegal drugs.
 - c. Clothing or jewelry that could be used as a weapon (chains, spiked apparel) or that would encourage “horse-play” or that would damage property (e.g. cleats).
 - d. Head wear including hats, caps, bandannas, and scarves.
 - e. Clothing or jewelry which exhibits nudity, makes sexual references or carries lewd, indecent, or vulgar double meaning.
 - f. Clothing or jewelry that is gang related.

A student who is a member of an indigenous tribe of the United States or another country may wear tribal regalia in any location where the student is authorized to be on such school grounds or at any school function, as long as the tribal regalia does not interfere with the educational process and does not endanger another person, as determined by the administration.

The final decision regarding attire and grooming will be made by the Principal or Superintendent. In the event a student is uncertain as to whether a particular item or method of grooming is consistent with the school’s guidelines, the student should contact the Principal for approval, and may also review such additional posting of prohibited items or grooming which may be available in the Principal’s office.

2. Academic Integrity.
 - a. Policy Statement: Students are expected to abide by the standards of academic integrity established by their teachers and school administration. Standards of academic integrity are established in order for students to learn as much as possible from instruction, for students to be given grades which accurately reflect the student’s level of learning and progress, to provide a level playing field for all students, and to develop appropriate values.

Cheating and plagiarism violate the standards of academic integrity. Sanctions will be imposed against students who engage in such conduct.

- b. Definitions: The following definitions provide a guide to the standards of academic integrity:
- (1) “Cheating” means intentionally misrepresenting the source, nature, or other conditions of academic work so as to accrue undeserved credit, or to cooperate with someone else in such misrepresentation. Such misrepresentations may, but need not necessarily, involve the work of others. Cheating includes, but is not limited to:
 - (a) Tests (includes tests, quizzes and other examinations or academic performances):
 - (i) Advance Information: Obtaining, reviewing or sharing copies of tests or information about a test before these are distributed for student use by the instructor. For example, a student engages in cheating if, after having taken a test, the student informs other students in a later section of the questions that appear on the test.
 - (ii) Use of Unauthorized Materials: Using notes, textbooks, pre-programmed formulae in calculators, or other unauthorized material, devices or information while taking a test except as expressly permitted. For example, except for “open book” tests, a student engages in cheating if the student looks at personal notes or the textbook during the test.
 - (iii) Use of Other Student Answers: Copying or looking at another student’s answers or work, or sharing answers or work with another student, when taking a test, except as expressly permitted. For example, a student engages in cheating if the student looks at another student’s paper during a test. A student also engages in cheating if the student tells another student answers during a test or while exiting the testing room, or knowingly allows another student to look at the student’s answers on the test paper.
 - (iv) Use of Other Student to Take Test. Having another person take one's place for a test, or taking a test for another student, without the specific knowledge and permission of the instructor.
 - (v) Misrepresenting Need to Delay Test. Presenting false or incomplete information in order to postpone or avoid the taking of a test. For example, a student engages in cheating if the student misses class on the day of a test, claiming to be sick, when the student’s real reason for missing class was because the student was not prepared for the test.
 - (b) Papers (includes papers, essays, lab projects, and other similar academic work):

- i) Use of Another's Paper: Copying another student's paper, using a paper from an essay writing service, or allowing another student to copy a paper, without the specific knowledge and permission of the instructor.
 - (ii) Re-use of One's Own Papers: Using a substantial portion of a piece of work previously submitted for another course or program to meet the requirements of the present course or program without notifying the instructor to whom the work is presented.
 - (iii) Assistance from Others: Having another person assist with the paper to such an extent that the work does not truly reflect the student's work. For example, a student engages in cheating if the student has a draft essay reviewed by the student's parent or sibling, and the essay is substantially re-written by the student's parent or sibling. Assistance from home is encouraged, but the work must remain the student's.
 - (iv) Failure to Contribute to Group Projects. Accepting credit for a group project in which the student failed to contribute a fair share of the work.
 - (v) Misrepresenting Need to Delay Paper. Presenting false or incomplete information in order to postpone or avoid turning in a paper when due. For example, a student engages in cheating if the student misses class on the day a paper is due, claiming to be sick, when the student's real reason for missing class was because the student had not finished the paper.
- (c) Alteration of Assigned Grades. Any unauthorized alteration of assigned grades by a student in the teacher's grade book or the school records is a serious form of cheating.
- (2) "Plagiarism" means to take and present as one's own a material portion of the ideas or words of another or to present as one's own an idea or work derived from an existing source without full and proper credit to the source of the ideas, words, or works. Plagiarism includes, but is not limited to:
 - (a) Failure to Credit Sources: Copying work (words, sentences, and paragraphs or illustrations or models) directly from the work of another without proper credit. Academic work frequently involves use of outside sources. To avoid plagiarism, the student must either place the work in quotations or give a citation to the outside source.

- (b) Falsely Presenting Work as One's Own: Presenting work prepared by another in final or draft form as one's own without citing the source, such as the use of purchased research papers or use of another student's paper.
- (3) "Contributing" to academic integrity violations means to participate in or assist another in cheating or plagiarism. It includes but is not limited to allowing another student to look at your test answers, to copy your papers or lab projects, and to fail to report a known act of cheating or plagiarism to the instructor or administration.
- c. Sanctions: The following sanctions will occur when a student engages in cheating, plagiarism, or contributing to an academic integrity offense:
- (1) Academic Sanction. The instructor will refuse to accept the student's work in which the academic integrity offense took place, assign a grade of "F" or zero for the work, and require the student to complete a test or project in place of the work within such time and under such conditions as the instructor may determine appropriate. In the event the student completes the replacement test or project at a level meeting minimum performance standards, the instructor will assign a grade which the instructor determines to be appropriate for the work.
 - (2) Report to Parents and Administration. The instructor will notify the Principal of the offense and the instructor or Principal will notify the student's parents or guardian.
 - (3) Student Discipline Sanctions. Academic integrity offenses are a violation of school rules. The Principal may recommend sanctions in addition to those assigned by the instructor, up to and including suspension or expulsion. Such additional sanctions will be given strong consideration where a student has engaged in serious or repeated academic integrity offense or other rule violations, and where the academic sanction is otherwise not a sufficient remedy, such as for offenses involving altering assigned grades or contributing to academic integrity violations.

E. Law Violations

1. Any act of a student which is a basis for expulsion and which the principal or designee knows or suspects is a violation of the Nebraska Criminal Code will be reported to law enforcement as soon as possible. Conduct to be reported for law enforcement referral includes conduct that may constitute a felony, conduct which may constitute a threat to the safety or well-being of students or others in school programs and activities, and conduct that the legal system is better equipped to address than school officials. Conduct that does not need to be reported for law enforcement referral includes typical adolescent behavior that can be addressed by school administrators without the involvement of law enforcement. In making the decision of whether to report, consideration should be given to the student's maturity, mental capacity, and behavioral disorders, where applicable. When

appropriate, it shall be the responsibility of the referring administrator to contact the student's parent of the fact that the referral to legal authorities has been or will be made.

The foregoing reporting standards shall be reviewed annually by the school Board on or before August 1 of each year, be annually reviewed in collaboration with the County Attorney each year, be distributed to each student and his or her parent or guardian at the beginning of each school year, or at the time of enrollment if during the school year, and shall be posted in conspicuous places in each school during the school year.

2. When a principal or other school official releases a minor student to a peace officer (e.g., police officer, sheriff, and all other persons with similar authority to make arrests) for the purpose of removing the minor from the school premises, the principal or other school official shall take immediate steps to notify the parent, guardian, or responsible relative of the minor regarding the release of the minor to the officer and regarding the place to which the minor is reportedly being taken, except when a minor has been taken into custody as a victim of suspected child abuse, in which case the principal or other school official shall provide the peace officer with the address and telephone number of the minor's parents or guardian.

Legal Reference: Neb. Rev. Stat. Sections 79-254 to 79-296
[LB 43 \(2024\)](#)

Date of Adoption: [Insert Date]

StudentsPromotion and Retention

Students will typically progress annually from grade to grade. A student may be retained at a grade level or be required to repeat a course or program when such is determined in the judgment of the Principal, in consultation with the student's teachers and counselor, to be appropriate for the educational interests of the student and the school's educational program.

If a parent or guardian would like their student to retake a grade level, the parent or guardian must meet with the Superintendent or designee to discuss the student repeating a grade. At that meeting, the parent or guardian must provide evidence of academic needs, illness, or excessive absenteeism that would warrant the student to repeat the grade. A student in kindergarten through fourth grade may be retained due to academic needs, illness, or excessive absenteeism. A student in grades fifth through twelfth grade may be retained due to excessive absenteeism. At such meeting, the Superintendent or designee shall identify any alternative educational opportunities, including remedial instruction, if applicable, and verify any special education supports available to such student. If the student's parent or guardian still intends for their student to repeat a grade, such parent or guardian shall then complete the required form and return such form to the District. Upon completion of the form and if all requirements pursuant to this policy and law are met, the District shall permit the student to repeat the student's grade for the next school year.

Legal Reference: Neb. Rev. Stat. Sec. 79-526

Date of Adoption: [Insert Date]

StudentsStudent AttendanceAttendance Policy and Excessive Absenteeism

Regular and punctual student attendance is required. The administration is responsible for developing further attendance rules and regulations, and all staff are expected to implement this policy and administrative rules and regulations to encourage regular and punctual student attendance. The ~~Principals and teachers are required to~~District will maintain an accurate record of student attendance.

A. Attendance and Absences.

1. Circumstances of Absences – Definitions. The circumstances for all absences from school will be identified as School Excused or Not School Excused. Absences should be cleared through the Principal's office in advance whenever possible. All absences, except for illness and/or death in the family, require advance approval.
 - a. School Excused. Any of the following circumstances that lead to an absence will be identified as a School Excused absence, provided the required attendance procedures have been followed:
 - (1) Impossible or impracticable barriers outside the control of the parent or child prevent a student from attending school. The parent may be required to provide the school with documentation to demonstrate the absence was beyond the control of the parent or child. This could include, but is not limited to documented illness (including physical or mental illness), court, death of a family member, or suspension.
 - (2) Other absences as determined by the principal or the principal's designee.
 - b. Not School Excused. Absences that are not school excused may result in a report to the county attorney and may be classified as follows:
 - (1) Parent acknowledged absences are those in which the parent communicated with the school in the prescribed manner that the child is absent and is the parent's responsibility for the extent of the school day. This includes vacations or other events that do not meet the criteria for a School Excused absence.
 - (2) Other absences are those in which the parent has not communicated a reason for the student's absence.

2. Absence Procedure. In its Student Information System, the District may identify many different codes that provide greater definition to the circumstances of a child's absence, but all of the codes need to be identified to parents and students as fitting into one of the above defined absence circumstances.
3. Mandatory Ages of Attendance. A child is of mandatory age if the child will reach age 6 prior to January 1 of the then-current school year and has not reached 18 years of age.

Exceptions for Younger Students. Attendance is not mandatory for a child who has reached 6 years of age prior to January 1 of the then-current school year, but will not reach age 7 prior to January 1 of such school year, if the child's parent or guardian has signed and filed with the school district in which the child resides an affidavit stating either: (1) that the child is participating in an education program that the parent or guardian believes will prepare the child to enter grade one for the following school year; or (2) that the parent or guardian intends for the child to participate in a school which has elected or will elect pursuant to law not to meet accreditation or approval requirements and the parent or guardian intends to provide the Commissioner of Education with a statement pursuant to section 79-1601(3) on or before the child's seventh birthday.

Exceptions for Older Students. Attendance is also not mandatory for a child who: (1) has obtained a high school diploma by meeting statutory graduation requirements; (2) has completed the program of instruction offered by a school which elects pursuant to law not to meet accreditation or approval requirements; or (3) has reached the age of 16 years and has been withdrawn from school in the manner prescribed by law.

Early Withdrawal for Students Enrolled in Accredited or Approved Schools. A person who has legal or actual charge or control of a child who is at least 16 but less than 18 years of age may withdraw such child from school before graduation and be exempt from the mandatory attendance requirements if an exit interview is conducted and a withdrawal form is signed.

Exit Interview. The process is initiated by a person who has legal or actual charge or control of the child submitting a withdrawal form. The form is to be as prescribed by the Commissioner of Education. Upon submission of the form, the Superintendent or Superintendent's designee shall set a time and place for an exit interview if the child is enrolled in [Name] Public Schools or resides in the [Name] Public School District and is enrolled in a private, denominational, or parochial school.

The exit interview shall be personally attended by:

- The child, unless the withdrawal is being requested due to an illness of the child making attendance at the exit interview impossible or impracticable;
- the person who has legal or actual charge or control of the child who requested the exit interview;
- the Superintendent or Superintendent's designee;
- the child's principal or the principal's designee if the child at the time of the exit interview is enrolled in a school operated by the school district; and
- any other person requested by any of the required parties who agrees to attend the exit interview and is available at the time designated for the exit interview which may include, for example, other school personnel or the child's principal if the child is enrolled in a private school.

At the exit interview, the person making the written request must present evidence that (a) the person has legal or actual charge or control of the child and (b) the child would be withdrawing due to either:

- financial hardships requiring the child to be employed to support the child's family or one or more dependents of the child, or
- an illness of the child making attendance impossible or impracticable.

The Superintendent or Superintendent's designee shall identify all known alternative educational opportunities, including vocational courses of study, that are available to the child in the school district and how withdrawing from school is likely to reduce potential future earnings for the child and increase the likelihood of the child being unemployed in the future. Any other relevant information may be presented and discussed by any of the parties in attendance.

At the conclusion of the exit interview, the person making the written request may sign a withdrawal form provided by the school district agreeing to the withdrawal of the child or may rescind the written request for the withdrawal.

Withdrawal Form. Any withdrawal form signed by the person making the written request shall be valid only if:

- the child also signs the form, unless the withdrawal is being requested due to an illness of the child making attendance at the exit interview impossible or impracticable, and
- the Superintendent or Superintendent's designee signs the form acknowledging that the interview was held, the required information was provided and discussed at the interview, and, in the opinion of the Superintendent or Superintendent's designee, the person making the written request does in fact have legal or actual charge or control of the child and the child is experiencing either (i) financial hardship, or (ii) an illness making attendance impossible or impracticable.

Early Withdrawal for Students Enrolled in an Exempt School (Home Schools). A person who has legal or actual charge or control of a child who is at least 16 but less than 18 years of age may withdraw such child from school before graduation and be exempt from the mandatory attendance requirements if such child has been enrolled in a school that elects not to meet the accreditation or approval requirements by filing with the State Department of Education a signed notarized release on a form prescribed by the Commissioner of Education.

4. Reporting and Responding to Excessive Absenteeism. Any District staff member or board member who knows of any failure on the part of any child of mandatory school attendance age to attend school regularly without lawful reason, shall within three days report such violation to the Superintendent or Superintendent's designee to be the attendance officer. The attendance officer shall immediately cause an investigation into any such report to be made. The attendance officer shall also investigate any case when of his or her personal knowledge, or by report or complaint from any resident of the district, the attendance officer believes there is a violation of the compulsory attendance laws. The school shall render all services in its power to compel such child to attend school
5. Excessive Absenteeism. Students who accumulate five (5) unexcused absences in a quarter which are Not School Excused shall be deemed to have "excessive absences." Such absences shall be determined on a per day (or hourly equivalent) basis for elementary students and on a per class basis for secondary students. When a student has excessive absences, school officials will have verbal or written communication with the person or persons who have legal or actual charge or control of any child.

When a student continues thereafter to have absences of at least twenty days which are Not School Excused, one or more meetings will be held between the school, the child's parent or guardian, and the child, when appropriate, to address the barriers to attendance. The result of the meeting or meetings shall be to develop a collaborative plan to reduce barriers identified to improve regular attendance. The plan shall include, if agreed to by the person who is responsible for making educational decisions on behalf of the child, an educational evaluation to determine whether any intellectual, academic, physical, or social-emotional barriers are contributing factors to the lack of attendance. The plan shall also consider, but not be limited to:

- (a) The physical, mental, or behavioral health of the child.
- (b) Educational counseling;
- ~~(c)~~ ~~Educational evaluation;~~
- (~~c~~d) Referral to community agencies for economic services;
- (~~d~~e) Family or individual counseling; and
- (~~e~~f) Assisting the family in working with other community services.

If the parent/guardian refuses to participate in such meeting, the principal shall place documentation of such refusal in the child's attendance records.

6. Reporting Excessive Absenteeism to the County Attorney.

The school may report to the county attorney of the county in which the person having control of the student resides when the school has documented the efforts to address excessive absences, the collaborative plan to reduce barriers identified to improve regular attendance has not been successful, and the student has accumulated more than twenty (20) absences per school year. The school shall notify the child's family in writing prior to making the referral to the county attorney. Illness (including physical or mental illness) that makes attendance impossible or impracticable shall not be the basis for referral to the county attorney.

Legal Reference: Neb. Rev. Stat. Sections 79-201 and 79-209

Date of Adoption: [Insert Date]

InstructionClassroom Environment

At all times, teachers are expected to organize, maintain and ensure that their classroom is in a safe, orderly and clean condition for student learning. Classrooms should be free from distractions (such as inappropriate or unprofessional posters or other displays) and other apparatus that may cause student health problems (such as essential oils and/or essential oil diffusers). Teachers who are uncertain as to whether their classroom meets this requirement are encouraged to consult with their building principal in a proactive manner.

The District will only permit the Gall-Peters projection map (or a similar cylindrical equal-area projection map) or the AuthaGraph projection map for display or use in the classroom.

Legal Reference: LB 1329 (2024)

Date of Adoption: [Insert Date]

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InstructionFirearm Policy

It shall be the policy of the [Name] Public School District to undertake all reasonable efforts to prohibit the unlawful possession, the knowingly and intentionally selling, attempting to sell, providing, loaning, delivering, or in any other way transferring the possession of a firearm to a juvenile, and to prevent the unlawful possession of a firearm, including concealed firearms, in a school, on school grounds, in a school owned vehicle, or at a school sponsored activity or athletic event. This policy shall not apply to the issuance of firearms to or possession by members of the Armed Services of the United States, active or reserve, National Guard of the State, or reserve officers training corp, peace officers, or other duly authorized law enforcement officers when on duty or training or when contracted by a school to provide school security or school event contract services. Further, nothing in this policy shall be construed to require school action when a firearm is lawfully possessed by a person receiving instruction, or instruction under the immediate supervision of an adult instructor, or as to firearms contained within a private vehicle operated by a non-student adult when the firearm is not loaded, is encased, and is either in a locked firearm rack that is on a motor vehicle or is in a case that is expressly made for the purpose of containing a firearm and that is completely zipped, snapped, buckled, tied or otherwise fastened with no part of a firearm exposed.

Any unlawful use or possession of a firearm, including concealed firearms, as described in this policy and as described by statute shall as soon as is reasonably possible be reported to an appropriate peace officer. Nothing in this policy shall be construed to prevent the district from carrying out regular disciplinary procedures as have been adopted by the Board of Education or as otherwise authorized by law.

Legal Reference: Neb. Rev. Stat. Sec. 28-1204.04

Date of Adoption: [Insert Date]

Internal Board Policies - Board MembersMembership in School Board Associations

The Board of Education shall hold memberships in such school board associations as it may from time to time determine appropriate.

The Board will list on the school's website the organizations and memberships that the Board belongs to and the annual membership dues (if any) for such organizations and memberships, as well as the fees paid by the Board to any individual lobbyist or lobbying firm (if any).

Legal Reference: Neb. Rev. Stat. Sec. 79-512
LB 304 (2024)

Date of Adoption: [Insert Date]

Internal Board Policies - Methods of OperationDesignated Method of Giving Notice of Meetings

The Board of Education will give advance notice of meetings by publishing such notice in a newspaper of general circulation within the District's jurisdiction and, if available, on such newspaper's web site. If a newspaper refuses, neglects, or is unable to timely publish such notice, then notice may be given by (1) posting on the newspaper's website, if available, and (2) posting such notice in conspicuous public places within the District. The Board Secretary shall keep a written record of such postings. The Board may also give advance notice of meetings by posting. If notice is given by posting, such notice shall be given by posting notice in at least three (3) public places throughout the school district. The school house door, the post office, and a local bank are designated posting places, though other or different places at which the public may reasonably be notified are also designated as permissible places.

Notice shall be given a reasonable time in advance of the meeting. Two (2) days advance notice shall be considered sufficient.

For an emergency meeting, notice shall not be required to be given; however, the Board will complete minutes for such an emergency meeting as required by law. An emergency has been defined as any event or occasional combination of circumstances which calls for immediate action or remedy; pressing necessity; exigency; a sudden or unexpected happening; an unforeseen occurrence or condition.

The Secretary of the Board of Education, or the Secretary's designee, shall maintain a list of the news media requesting notification of meetings and shall make reasonable efforts to provide advance notification to such news media of the time and place of each meeting and the subjects to be discussed at the meeting.

Legal Reference: Neb. Rev. Stat. Sections 79-554; 79-555 and 84-1411

Date of Adoption: [Insert Date]

Internal Board Policies - Methods of OperationPublic Participation at Board MeetingsA. Attend

Members of the public shall be permitted to attend and to speak at Board meetings. They will not be required to identify themselves as a condition for admission to the meeting.

The Board may allow advisors, consultants, and other persons who are not Board members to appear at the meeting via telephone or other similar means.

The President has the authority to assure that people conduct themselves in an orderly manner at the meeting. Undue interruption or other interference with the orderly conduct of business will not be allowed. The President may order persons who are disorderly to be removed from the meeting.

B. Hear

The Board will, upon request, make a reasonable effort to accommodate the public's right to hear the discussion and testimony presented at the meeting.

C. Record

Members of the public may use recording devices (phone, video camera, etc.) to record any part of a board meeting, except for closed sessions. The President shall control the placement of the recording device so the device does not obstruct the view of Board members or other members of the public attending the meeting and does not otherwise interfere with the meeting.

D. Access to Written Materials

At least one copy of all reproducible written material to be discussed at an open meeting will be made available at the meeting for examination and copying by members of the public.

E. Speak

Members of the public will be permitted to speak at Board meetings ~~at which a public forum is on the Agenda~~. Members of the public may also speak when invited to make a presentation or when recognized by the President. ~~The Board is not required to allow members of the public to speak at each meeting. However, the Board will not forbid public participation at all meetings.~~

Option #1: For all meetings of the Board, individual speakers shall have up to [redacted] minutes to address the Board, and the Board shall hear up to [redacted] cumulative minutes of public comment. The Board may vote to modify these time limits when the Board deems appropriate. The President may implement other reasonable requirements for public comment, consistent with the Open Meetings Act.

Option #2: For regular meetings of the Board, individual speakers shall have up to [redacted] minutes to address the Board, and the Board shall hear up to [redacted] cumulative minutes of public comment. For all meetings other than regular meetings of the Board, individual speakers shall have up to [redacted] minutes to address the Board, and the Board shall hear up to [redacted] cumulative minutes of public comment. The Board may vote to modify these time limits when the Board deems appropriate. The President may implement other reasonable requirements for public comment, consistent with the Open Meetings Act.

Members of the public will not be required to have their name be placed on the agenda prior to the meeting in order to speak about items on the agenda.

Any member of the public desiring to address the body shall be required to identify himself or herself, including an address and the name of any organization represented by such person, unless the address requirement is waived to protect the security of the individual.

~~The President or chair for the meeting shall have the authority to establish reasonable time limits for individual speakers and for the duration of public forum sessions.~~

Option #3: To ensure the Board completes its business during meetings other than regular meetings, public comment will be listed at the end of the agenda for all meetings other than regular meetings.

Speakers will be permitted to address the Board consistent with free speech rights. However, offensive language, defamatory remarks, and hostile conduct will not be tolerated. Further, charges or complaints against a school employee shall not be made for the first time at a public Board meeting without having followed the school's complaint procedure.

Legal Reference: Neb. Rev. Stat. 84-1412

Date of Adoption: [Insert Date]