

Board of Education
Monday, August 19, 2019 6:00 PM Central

High School Media Center
740 Sherman Avenue
Grant, Nebraska 69140

1. Call to Order
 1. Pledge of Allegiance
 2. Reminder to public of Open Meetings Law
 3. Roll Call
 4. Verification of Notice of Meeting
 5. Approval of Agenda
2. Consent Agenda
 1. Consider approving the 20 July 2020 Board minutes and 11 August 2020.
 2. Approve Payment of the In & Out Claim (Each month the In & Out claim will be voted on separately so that there is no conflict of interest by Board Member Kroeker)
 3. Approve all other Bills and Payroll
3. Reports
 1. Principal
 2. Activities Director
 3. Curriculum Coordinator
 4. Technology Director
 5. Superintendent
 6. Board Committee Reports - NASB Update
4. Public Comment
5. Discussion Items/Action Items
 1. Review and discuss 2020-2021 budget.
 2. Appoint board members to the Committee on American Civics.
 3. Review, consider, and take all necessary action to transfer \$40,000 from the General Fund to the Activity Fund.
 4. Discuss, consider, and take all necessary action to approve up to \$_____ in an inter-local or other agreement with the City of Grant to repair and pave a section of 8th Street between Perkins County Jr/Snr High School and the PCS bus barn.
 5. Review, consider, and take all necessary action to approve the 2019-2020 Faculty Handbook.
 6. Review, consider, and take all necessary action to approve the 2019-2020 Classified Employee Handbook.
 7. Accept the resignation and thank Mrs. Sally Borowski for her years of service to Perkins County Schools.
 8. Approve revisions to Board Policy 2014, Relationship with District Legal Counsel
 9. Approve revision of Board Policy 3003.1: Bidding for Construction, Remodeling, Repair, or Related Projects Financed with Federal Funds
 10. Approve revision of Board Policy 3004.1
 11. Approve revisions to Board Policy 5016: Student Records.
 12. Approve revisions to Board Policy 5017: Routine Directory Information

6. Executive Session

1. Approve a motion to enter Executive Session. The topics of discussion in Executive Session shall be in agreement with Statute 84-1410 and stay within the perimeters of strategy sessions with respect to personnel, negotiations, real estate purchases, or legal matters.

7. Adjournment

PERKINS COUNTY SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING
Monday, July 15, 2019

The regular monthly meeting of the Perkins County Schools Board of Education was called to order in the high school media center on Monday, July 15, 2019 at 7:07pm by President Jayson Bishop. The following board members answered roll call: Jayson Bishop, Chris Fryzek, Angela Gloy, Amy Kroeker, Angie Patrick and Larry Pritchett. Tonya McArtor was present for part of the meeting, while Deanne Bishop, Ben Jones and Phillip Picquet were present for the entire meeting. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, notation of the posted Open Meetings Law was made, and Angie Patrick and Larry Pritchett verified they had seen the published notice of the meeting.

Consent agenda

This motion to approve the agenda as presented, made by Angela Gloy and seconded by Chris Fryzek, Passed. Jayson Bishop: Yea, Chris Fryzek: Yea, Angela Gloy: Yea, Amy Kroeker: Yea, Angie Patrick: Yea, Larry Pritchett: Yea
Yea: 6, Nay: 0

Consider approving the 17 June 2019 board minutes

This motion to approve the 17 June 2019 board minutes, made by Chris Fryzek and seconded by Angela Gloy, Passed. Jayson Bishop: Yea, Chris Fryzek: Yea, Angela Gloy: Yea, Amy Kroeker: Yea, Angie Patrick: Yea, Larry Pritchett: Yea
Yea: 6, Nay: 0

Approve payment of the In & Out claim (Each month the In & Out claim will be voted on separately so that there is no conflict of interest by Board Member Kroeker)

This motion, to pay the In & Out claim of \$504.79, made by Angela Gloy and seconded by Angie Patrick, Passed. Jayson Bishop: Yea, Chris Fryzek: Yea, Angela Gloy: Yea, Amy Kroeker: Abstain (With Conflict), Angie Patrick: Yea, Larry Pritchett: Yea
Yea: 5, Nay: 0, Abstain (With Conflict): 1

Approve all other bills and payroll

This motion to pay General Fund claims of \$432,231.06 (Payroll \$186,095.18; Bills \$246,135.88) and Lunch Fund claims of \$5,667.78 (Payroll \$1,215.09; Bills \$4,452.69), made by Amy Kroeker and seconded by Angela Gloy, Passed. Jayson Bishop: Yea, Chris Fryzek: Yea, Angela Gloy: Yea, Amy Kroeker: Yea, Angie Patrick: Yea, Larry Pritchett: Yea
Yea: 6, Nay: 0

This motion to pay Special Fund claims of \$8,302.00 to Sterling West, \$17,836.00 to Sterling West and \$4,201.42 to Mohawk Carpet, made by Angie Patrick and seconded by Amy Kroeker, Passed. Jayson Bishop: Yea, Chris Fryzek: Yea, Angela Gloy: Yea, Amy Kroeker: Yea, Angie Patrick: Yea, Larry Pritchett: Yea
Yea: 6, Nay: 0

Reports
Principals
Activities Director
Curriculum Coordinator
Technology Director
Superintendent
NASB Update/Report

Public Comment

Discussion/Action Items

1. Review and discuss board goals. Discussion only. No action was taken.
2. Review, consider and take all necessary action to approve the 2019-2020 Activities Handbook and continuation of random drug testing policy for participation in school activities.
This motion to approve the 2019-2020 Activities Handbook and continuation of random drug testing policy for participation in school activities, made by Chris Fryzek and seconded by Larry Pritchett, Passed. Jayson Bishop: Yea, Chris Fryzek: Yea, Angela Gloy: Yea, Amy Kroeker: Yea, Angie Patrick: Yea, Larry Pritchett: Yea
Yea: 6, Nay: 0
3. Review, consider and take all necessary action to approve the 2019-2020 Jnr-Snr High School Handbook with necessary date, names and policy/protocol changes.
This motion to approve the 2019-2020 Jnr-Snr High School Handbook with necessary date, names and policy/protocol changes, made by Larry Pritchett and seconded by Chris Fryzek, Passed. Jayson Bishop: Yea, Chris Fryzek: Yea, Angela Gloy: Yea, Amy Kroeker: Yea, Angie Patrick: Yea, Larry Pritchett: Yea
Yea: 6, Nay: 0
4. Consider approval of contract with Rauner & Associates P.C. as Perkins County Schools auditor.
This motion to approve the contract with Rauner & Associates P.C. as Perkins County Schools auditor, made by Larry Pritchett and seconded by Angela Gloy, Passed. Jayson Bishop: Yea, Chris Fryzek: Yea, Angela Gloy: Yea, Amy Kroeker: Yea, Angie Patrick: Yea, Larry Pritchett: Yea
Yea: 6, Nay: 0
5. Review board policy 5001: Attendance and Excessive Absenteeism. Review only. No action was taken.
6. Review board policy 2007: Reimbursement and Miscellaneous Expenditures. Review only. No action was taken.
7. Review board policy 5054: Student Bullying. Review only. No action was taken.
8. Consider, review and take all necessary action to approve revised board policy 2002: Organization of the Board
This motion to approve revised board policy 2002: Organization of the Board with Option 2 noted, made by Larry Pritchett and seconded by Angela Gloy, Passed. Jayson Bishop: Yea, Chris Fryzek: Yea, Angela Gloy: Yea, Amy Kroeker: Yea, Angie Patrick: Yea, Larry

Pritchett: Yea

Yea: 6, Nay: 0

9. Consider, review and take all necessary action to approve revised board policy 2006: Complaint Procedure

This motion to approve revised board policy 2006: Complaint Procedure, made by Amy Kroeker and seconded by Angie Patrick, Passed. Jayson Bishop: Yea, Chris Fryzek: Yea, Angela Gloy: Yea, Amy Kroeker: Yea, Angie Patrick: Yea, Larry Pritchett: Yea

Yea: 6, Nay: 0

10. Consider, review and take all necessary action to approve revised board policy 3016: Smoking

This motion to approve revised board policy 3016: Smoking with Option B noted, made by Amy Kroeker and seconded by Angela Gloy, Passed. Jayson Bishop: Yea, Chris Fryzek: Yea, Angela Gloy: Yea, Amy Kroeker: Yea, Angie Patrick: Yea, Larry Pritchett: Yea

Yea: 6, Nay: 0

11. Consider, review and take all necessary action to approve revised board policy 3039: Threat Assessment and Response

This motion to approve revised board policy 3039: Threat Assessment and Response, made by Amy Kroeker and seconded by Larry Pritchett, Passed. Jayson Bishop: Yea, Chris Fryzek: Yea, Angela Gloy: Yea, Amy Kroeker: Yea, Angie Patrick: Yea, Larry Pritchett: Yea

Yea

Yea: 6, Nay: 0

12. Consider, review and take all necessary action to approve revised board policy 3046: Animals at School and delete board policies 5060: Animals and 5061: Therapy Dogs

This motion to approve revised board policy 3046: Animals at School with Option 2 noted and delete board policies 5060: Animals and 5061: Therapy Dogs, made by Amy Kroeker and seconded by Angela Gloy, Passed. Jayson Bishop: Yea, Chris Fryzek: Yea, Angela Gloy: Yea, Amy Kroeker: Yea, Angie Patrick: Yea, Larry Pritchett: Yea

Yea: 6, Nay: 0

13. Consider, review and take all necessary action to move and change board policy 4001: Nondiscrimination to board policy 3053: Nondiscrimination

This motion to move and change board policy 4001: Nondiscrimination to board policy 3053: Nondiscrimination, made by Larry Pritchett and seconded by Angie Patrick, Passed. Jayson Bishop: Yea, Chris Fryzek: Yea, Angela Gloy: Yea, Amy Kroeker: Yea, Angie Patrick: Yea, Larry Pritchett: Yea

Yea: 6, Nay: 0

14. Consider, review and take all necessary action to approve revised board policy 4048: Assessment Administration and Security

This motion to approve revised board policy 4048: Assessment Administration and Security, made by Larry Pritchett and seconded by Angie Patrick, Passed. Jayson Bishop: Yea, Chris Fryzek: Yea, Angela Gloy: Yea, Amy Kroeker: Yea, Angie Patrick: Yea, Larry Pritchett: Yea

Yea: 6, Nay: 0

15. Consider, review and take all necessary action to approve revised board policy 4052: Job References to Prospective Employers

This motion to approve revised board policy 4052: Job References to Prospective Employers, made by Angela Gloy and seconded by Chris Fryzek, Passed. Jayson Bishop:

Yea, Chris Fryzek: Yea, Angela Gloy: Yea, Amy Kroeker: Yea, Angie Patrick: Yea, Larry Pritchett: Yea

Yea: 6, Nay: 0

16. Consider, review and take all necessary action to approve revised board policy 5035:

Student Discipline, Organization of the Board

This motion to approve revised board policy 5035: Student Discipline, Organization of the Board, made by Larry Pritchett and seconded by Angela Gloy, Passed. Jayson Bishop: Yea,

Chris Fryzek: Yea, Angela Gloy: Yea, Amy Kroeker: Yea, Angie Patrick: Yea, Larry Pritchett: Yea

Yea: 6, Nay: 0

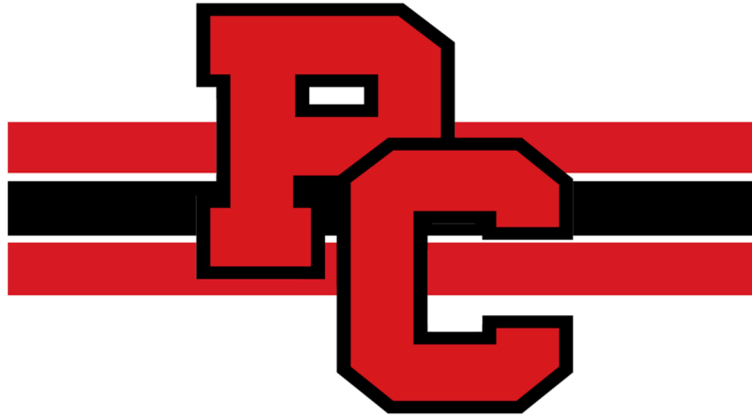
Board Committee Reports

Next meeting is scheduled for August 19, 2019 at 6pm. This motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:26pm, made by Jayson Bishop and seconded by Amy Kroeker, Passed. Jayson Bishop:

Yea, Chris Fryzek: Yea, Angela Gloy: Yea, Amy Kroeker: Yea, Angie Patrick: Yea, Larry Pritchett: Yea

Yea: 6, Nay: 0

August 2019 – School Board Meeting – Principals Report



Admin Professional Development

- Admin Days in Lincoln – July 31 to Aug. 2

Staff Professional Development

- New Teacher Academy in North Platte at ESU 16
- PLC Leader Training

Back 2 School Night for 7-12

- Paperwork
- Fees and Dues Paid
- Concussion Tests
- Computer Policy Discussion and Checkout
- Yearbook Sales
- Drug testing consent forms returned

New Students – 8 Total

- Kaila Bullock - 7th grade – Part Time
- Charis Goodell - 7th grade – Part Time
- Blake Garner - 8th grade (Oberlin, KS)
- Kayleigh Kimbrue - 9th grade (Nobel, OK)
- Bridgette Washa - 10th grade (Roundup, MT)
- Hunter Garner - 10th grade (Oberlin, KS)
- AnnaBell Wagnitz - 11th grade (Hay Springs, NE)
- James Garner - 12th grade (Oberlin, KS)

August 2019 – School Board Meeting – Principals Report

Enrollment – 7 -12

- Total Students – 168
- Boys - 92
- Girls - 76
 - o Seniors - 28
 - o Juniors - 24
 - o Sophomores - 36
 - o Freshmen - 20
 - o Eighth - 25
 - o Seventh - 35

Staff Work Days

- PLCs in Hershey
- Schoology Training
- SAT/504 Training
- New Phone System Training
- New Staff Training

MAPS Testing

- HS – Aug. 27th
- JH – Aug. 27th and 28th

Safety Drills Scheduled

- Aug. 20th
 - o Fire Drill
 - o Bus Evacuations
- Aug. 30th
 - o Lockdown
 - o Evacuation

Elementary Board Report

Nicole Long

8/19/19

1. Lots of drills and PBIS lessons are taking place.
 - a. Monday- Hallway, Playground, Cafeteria
 - b. Tuesday- Bus evacuation, Arrival and Dismissal lesson, Tornado Drill, Fire Drill
 - c. September 30- Lockdown and Evacuation
2. Enrollment-
 - Preschool- 37
 - Kindergarten- 30
 - 1st- 36
 - 2nd-20
 - 3rd- 36
 - 4th- 28
 - 5th- 30
 - 6th- 30
3. The elementary hosted their open house night on Thursday. We had 85% of the students attend.
4. We were able to hire a new para in the preschool, Ciara Lampmann. She comes to us with great early childhood experience.
5. Introduction of new teachers. <https://youtu.be/Lg5Xtry1vFc>
6. We are going to be offering our fall assessments.
 - Dibels- August 26-30
 - Jr/Sr Maps- August 27-28
 - Elem. Maps- Sep. 9-13

AD Board Report
August 19, 2019

- Back to school night was a huge success. 85% of the students/parents, 7-12 grade, attended. A huge thanks to Mrs. Seiler, Mrs. Dana Lee, Mrs. Johnson, and Mr. Jones with the coordination of this. We are working on solutions to make it even more effective for next year.
- We are classified for H.S. girls sports as D1 for the Fall. Winter activity classifications will be released in September. We are on the bubble for many activities for classification by the NSAA
- Free physicals were completed on August 29, 2019.
- The 2020-21 schedule is complete, will send contracts out for that year during the first quarter. 75% of the refs have been contracted.
- With a new cross country staff, I will not put in for districts as this is too much pressure for first year coaches. I will put in for district track in January. I will also put in for class C1 and C2 district VB and BB finals.
- The E. Lee Todd Track meet has found a new home on the calendar. I am currently waiting on Colorado's sports governing body so that Colorado schools can attend. If CHSAA grants us to host a Colorado prequalification meet, we will absorb the Holyoke Dragon meet into the E. Lee Todd meet.
- Reclassification of football will happen this year for 2020-21. Mr. Hunt, myself, and the administration will be meeting to talk about PC numbers and our options for what is best for our district and the football program.
- Participation rates in H.S. and J.H. sports is up at a whole compared to last year for this Fall.
- I would like to praise Mrs. Seiler for all her work over summer in keeping the online website current to daily happenings. She works hard and is very dedicated in keeping the website current and letting the public know what is going on. I would like to also praise Mrs. Bishop for keeping social media current on a daily basis.
- The school online website has the activities calendar and sport specific calendars under calendars in the toolbar.
- SPVA contests that Perkins is hosting for 2019-20: H.S. Track, Cross Country, and Volleyball.
- The new SPVA board of directors was announced in May. I am now the current conference secretary. I am replacing Dustin Mitchell of Sutherland in this role.

Respectfully,

Mr. Jeremy Struckman
Perkins County A.D.

Curriculum Report

School Board Meeting – Aug. 19, 20119

Submitted By: Deanne Bishop – Curriculum Director

OUTLINE

1. Update – Beginning of the School Year

2. Update – HAL

1. Update – Beginning of the School Year

There are a number of duties that have required my time during the beginning of the school year.

- * extra copies of books that need to be ordered for large classes
- * replacement copies of books for ones that cannot be fixed
- * in-service time to address our 7-year-cycle of maps and purchases with staff members
- * contacting textbook reps to troubleshoot online resource access for staff and students
- * making backup copies of our 2018-19 PK-12 curriculum maps
- * setting up new, 2019-20 spreadsheets and permissions for added curriculum maps (K-8 Guidance, JH Study Skills)

2. Update - HAL

Currently, there are 25 students (grades 4-12 in HAL). I will start with pull-out services for the 4th-8th graders during the week of Aug. 19-23.

IDENTIFICATION

Regarding our 3rd graders, I'm currently waiting on teachers to return their HAL Teacher Referral Forms, which are a part of our identification process. Based on those results, we may add additional students to the program. I hope to have these forms processed and to identify any affected students and their parents/guardians by early in September.

Regarding our 4th-11th graders, I am currently waiting on the public release of spring NSCAS scores to assess students' eligibility to either be dismissed from and/or join the HAL program. These will be released on Oct. 9, 2019.

SERVICE PLAN

3rd-6th Grade: 40 min. of pull-out time/all but one week of every month

3rd-4th Graders: will meet from 11:00-11:40 a.m. on Mondays

5th-6th Graders: will meet from 11:40 a.m. – 12:20 p.m. on Wednesdays

* Use one week of 3rd-6th HAL time every month for in-class, K-6 enrichment work

* Meet in the elementary board room

7th-8th Grade: 1 period of pull-out time/once per week

7th-8th Graders: will meet during 3rd period on Thursdays

* Meet in my high school classroom

ADDITIONAL GOALS FOR 2019-20

- * review our HAL identification criteria
- * implement the to-be-released ESU's Fine Arts Recommendation Form
- * vary HAL topics and incorporate students' multiple intelligences
- * mail home quarterly letters to the parents/guardians of HAL students
- * conference with high school HAL students at least once per year
- * in-class enrichment work to help K-6 teachers address problem solving, STEM and critical thinking skills with all of our K-6 students

Policy Revision Summaries

REVISION OF POLICY 2014: Relationship with School Attorney

NEW NAME: Relationship with District Legal Counsel

We have revised this policy to swap out the term “school’s attorney” for “district legal counsel.” We think this will make it clearer that the school’s law firm serves at the discretion of the board of education, and the board is free to use law firms and legal services whenever it deems advisable. We have also added a provision in the policy that allows the board president or superintendent to retain an attorney if there is a pressing situation between board meetings. For example, this will allow the superintendent to retain a hearing officer before a personnel hearing if there is not a board meeting before the date of the hearing.

This change is not required but is highly recommended.

REVISION OF POLICY 3003.1: Bidding for Construction, Remodeling, Repair, or Related Projects Financed with Federal Funds

Very few school districts in Nebraska use federal funds for construction projects. However, those districts that do use federal dollars for construction must follow all of the special provisions required by the federal government. We included all of these special requirements in Policy 3004.1, but we have had feedback from auditors and NDE compliance reviewers that it is better to have all of these unique requirements centralized in the construction policy as well.

We have also modified this policy to make it clear that, although the federal limit for solicitation of sealed bids is \$250,000, Nebraska state law requires formal bidding for all construction projects with an anticipated aggregate cost of \$100,000 or more.

This change is required, even though it is likely to impact very few districts.

REVISION OF POLICY 3004.1: Fiscal Management for Purchasing and Procurement Using Federal Funds

This revision just fixes a typographical error that we discovered when we were transferring duplicate sections of Policy 3004.1 into Policy 3003.1.

This change is required.

REVISIONS OF POLICY 5016: Student Records

Under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) there must be "data protections" set up around the personally identifiable student information in education records. The US Department of Education identifies elements which must be present in contracts between local education agencies and the testing companies. The good news is that in Nebraska the state department of education has signed a single statewide contract with ACT, Inc. The revision to Policy 5016 makes it clear that any information disclosed to ACT, Inc. by the school is pursuant to the portion of FERPA which allows schools to disclose information to their state departments of education. It also makes it clear that any redisclosure of information about student test scores by ACT, Inc. is governed by the NDE contract and not within the control of the local school district.

This change is required.

Under the section designating "school officials," we have added in the school district's insurance carriers. When schools report incidents which may trigger coverage, we often get the question of whether FERPA-protected information can be disclosed. This allows schools to disclose information and records to insurance representatives required to exercise the district's rights under the policy. It also eliminates a sentence which is more restrictive than required under federal law.

This change is required.

REVISION OF POLICY 5017: Routine Directory Information

LB 575 adds a provision to state law to provide equal access to high schools for military recruiters that is enjoyed by all other post-secondary recruiters who visit high schools and speak with students about opportunities after graduation. This is the same concept put into law by the federal government under the 2001 No Child Left Behind Act, but the wording of the state law is slightly different than the federal law which necessitates an amendment to this policy.

This change is required.

Superintendent Report

- A. The phone system is up and running. The transition has been relatively seamless. Corey provided staff training on the 13th.
- B. We have had multiple staff meetings to complete some of the required notices and reviews as we start the school. Additionally, we have started the conversation of continuous school improvement and revamping our school improvement committee process.
- C. The Department of Environment and Energy would like to feature Perkins County Schools in the annual report for the partial reimbursement of the rubber playground mulch and swing mats. I have shared a few pictures of the project with them.
- D. Mr. Jones and I have met with Mr. Krutsinger regarding projects his classes could do around the school. The first priority project is to extend and add concrete pads at the track. Additionally, the classes will tie into the sidewalk along the fence that separates the track and the football field. This sidewalk will then extend to the track bleachers and be wide enough for those requiring wheelchairs or scooters to have a place to watch the meets.
- E. Administrative staff will organize and start to plan School Improvement, Career Tech Ed, and professional development meetings for the school year.
- F. I have included a summary of the required board policy revisions.
- G. The faculty and classified staff handbooks are on the agenda for approval. Changes to these handbooks range from dates, wording changes due to the negotiated agreement, and omission of references to No Child Left Behind Act.

Discussion/Action Items

- A. We will review the proposed budget for the 2019-20 school year.
- B. I have budgeted to transfer \$50,000 from the general fund to the activities fund. After reviewing the activities account, I think a \$40,000 transfer will be sufficient.
- C. I have met with the City of Grant administrator to discuss 8th street and the condition of the road. Our buses play a major factor in its poor condition. The city is interested in improving the road. Mr. Dunn and I discussed the school possibly helping to support such a project financially. Excavating and asphaltting the road would cost approximately \$89,000. Excavating and concreting the road would cost approximately \$106,000. We will discuss our options and if there is board support to work with the city on such a project.
- D. Mrs. Sally Borowski has submitted her letter of resignation from her media center para-educator position. I think we should recognize and thank Mrs. Borowski for her years of service to the youth of Perkins County Schools and the Perkins County School system.
- E. Please see the summary sheet regarding the required revised board policies.

**Perkins County Schools Teacher Handbook
2019-20 School Year**

FOREWORD

Intent of Handbook

Welcome to Perkins County Schools. This handbook is intended to be used by teachers and other certificated staff to provide general information about Perkins County Schools and to serve as a guide to the District's policies, rules, and regulations, benefits of employment, and performance expectations.

References in this handbook to "teachers" are intended to apply to all certificated staff. This includes administrative staff to the extent the handbook deals with professional expectations and conduct.

Each teacher is responsible for becoming familiar with the handbook and knowing the information contained in it. Although the information found in this handbook is detailed and specific on many topics, the handbook is not intended to be all encompassing so as to cover every situation and circumstance that may arise. This handbook is intended to supplement other documents that deal with your employment, including your employment contract, the negotiated agreement between the Perkins County Schools and the Perkins County Schools Education Association, and the policies and regulations of the Board of Education. In reading this handbook, please understand that where a direct conflict exists, state or federal law, the negotiated agreement, and Board policies and regulations will control.

This handbook does not create a "contract" of employment. Staff positions and assignments which do not legally require a certificate or are otherwise not protected by the teacher tenure laws may be ended or changed on an "at will" basis notwithstanding anything in this handbook or any other publication or statement, except for a contract approved by the Board of Education.

The administration will be responsible for interpreting the rules contained in the handbook and shall have the right to make decisions and make rule revisions at any time. Should a situation or circumstance arise that is not specifically covered in this handbook, the administration will make a decision based upon applicable school district policies, state and federal statutes and regulations, and the best interests of the District.

This handbook will be in effect for the 2019-20 and subsequent school years unless replaced by a later edition.

Section 3 School Mission Statement

The mission of Perkins County Schools is to develop capable, responsible, lifelong learners who demonstrate those skills necessary for academic and occupational success in a global society.

- Proficient in meeting the State's academic content standards and essential learnings and such additional standards as are established by the Board of Education
- Successful at each educational level and in transitioning between those levels from early childhood through postsecondary education and/or career entry
- Effective in functioning in and contributing to our culturally diverse democratic society

The District seeks to provide an essential education by developing and maintaining:

- Qualified and competent administrative, teaching, paraprofessional, and operational staff;
- Integrated, planned curriculum that prepares students to achieve state standards and such additional standards as are established by the Board of Education and to reach the student outcomes identified above;
- Comprehensive support programs and services that meet the diverse needs of students;
- Safe, clean and supportive facilities and learning environments;
- Implementation of a curriculum that meets the following:

Is based on state standards in reading, writing, speaking, listening, mathematics, science and social studies/history and essential learnings in visual and performing arts, world languages, technology, health and physical education, and career and technical education and such additional standards; as are established by the Board of Education; Is appropriate for the developmental level of the students; Addresses diverse learning needs; Instills a passion for learning and the importance of life-long learning; Develops problem solving and critical thinking skills, decision making skills, data gathering, and critical use of information; Develops expected work ethics, as well as group participation and leadership skills; Incorporates character education and multicultural education, including respect for diversity; Provides for application of technology in all learning areas; Provides access to advanced courses; and Is organized in a schedule that is functional and meets student needs in all curriculum areas.

- Providing a supportive learning environment which includes: a welcoming and inviting environment that is emotionally safe, nurturing, supportive, and disciplined; that promotes respect, trust, integrity, and regard for self and others; and that honors diversity; learning as the central purpose with students engaged in meaningful, relevant, and productive learning experiences; and Implementation of policies and practices that result in an orderly environment with emphasis on consistent school-wide positive behavior.

Severe Weather and School Cancellations

The Superintendent of schools is authorized by the Board of Education to close public schools in case of severe weather. Representatives of the Superintendent's staff will notify patrons, students, and families via the district's Instant Notification System should a school closing be deemed necessary. Information will also be shared with local news media when inclement weather warrants such action. The information is broadcast regularly by radio and television stations.

Decision to Close Schools. A decision to close school is made when forecasts by the weather service and civil defense officials indicate that it would be unwise for students to go to school. If possible, a decision about the next school day will be made by 9 p.m. for announcement during the 10 p.m. news. An early decision is not always possible because of uncertain weather conditions. School officials will make periodic assessments of conditions during the night and will decide early in the morning (by 6 a.m. if possible). In any case, **an announcement will be made to patrons, students, and families via the district's Instant Notification System as well as the news media when schools will be closed.** In some instances, schools will be open, but certain services may be cancelled (bus transportation, kindergarten, student activities). Some staff may be designated as being required to come to school even in the event of a school closing.

After School Starts. Every attempt will be made to avoid closing school once classes are in session. In some instances, closing school during the day is inevitable if children are to safely return home before the brunt of a major storm hits. In these cases, as much advance notice as possible will be given. If school is closed during the day staff will be notified and parents will be notified via media broadcast. Teachers will be responsible for remaining with students until all students have safely left school or the administration has made arrangements for remaining students.

Parental Decisions. Parents may decide to keep their children at home in inclement weather because of personal circumstances. Students absent because of severe weather when school is in session will be marked absent. You should treat the absence like any other absence for legitimate causes provided parents properly notify the school of their decision. Parents may pick up their children in inclement weather (except in case of a tornado) at any time during the school day. Students will not normally be dismissed from school during severe weather on the basis of a telephone request.

Emergency Conditions. Perkins County Schools has a signal which, when activated, includes the necessity to either evacuate the building or to move to safer areas of the building. All regular drills are held as required by law through the school year. There are plans for Emergency Exit system, Tornado Warning System, and Critical Incident Response. **School officials are not permitted to release students from the school building during a tornado warning.** In the event of an emergency exit alert or tornado warning, you should implement the school's established safety procedures.

Contract Days

Teachers are contracted for 184 days (hereinafter referred to as the “contract year”). Such contract days shall be served by individual teachers on varying schedules as established by the Board of Education and administration.

Make-Up Days

In the event teachers are not required to report for duty due to inclement weather conditions or other circumstance whereby a duty day is canceled, such days may not be credited as a contract day served. Make-up days may be scheduled by the administration during the contract year as needed to allow all teaching staff to serve the full number of contract days.

The scheduling of make-up days is at the prerogative of administration. If teachers have any of their three initial personal days remaining for that contract year, and with administrative approval, they may use any or all of those days in lieu of make-up days. Note, this provision does not apply to the fourth or fifth days of personal leave in the negotiated agreement. Administration may accept professional development workshop days in the month of June as substitute make-up days. Administration will determine what professional development workshops would qualify.

Article 2 – EMPLOYMENT, COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS

Employment

A teacher is employed by Perkins County Schools when the teacher signs the Teacher’s Contract and the Board of Education approves such contract of employment. The teacher’s employment continues absent action by the administration or the Board of Education to non-renew, terminate, amend or cancel the teacher’s employment contract with the school district, or action by the Board of Education to accept a resignation of employment.

On or after March 15 of each school year a teacher may be requested to accept employment for the next school year and shall be required to signify such acceptance on or before April 1 or such other date after March 15 as may be designated in the notice. It is important for teachers to respond to the request to signify acceptance as a failure to signify acceptance of employment by the April 1 or other designated date shall constitute cause for amendment or termination of the teacher’s contract. If a teacher signifies acceptance of employment for the next school year the teacher may either be issued a new Teacher’s Contract or a “Contract Renewal Agreement.”

Should a teacher wish to resign from employment the teacher should give written notice of resignation to the Superintendent. The request to resign will be acted upon by the Board of Education. Mid-year resignations and resignations given late in the spring for the following school year can present significant planning problems for the District. If a mid-year resignation is submitted, or a resignation for the following school year is submitted after May 15 or after the teacher has signified acceptance of employment for the next school year, the Board of Education may act to not accept the resignation unless a suitable

replacement can be found. The District will enforce the continuing contract of teachers accepting employment for the next school year under the provisions of Neb Rev. Stat. §79-820.

Assignments

The professional duties to be performed by a teacher with the District shall be subject to assignment by the Superintendent of the District with the approval of the Board of Education. A teacher will be expected to devote full time during days of school to the teacher's position and to diligently and faithfully perform the assigned duties to the best of the teacher's professional ability. Job descriptions, where available, provide additional information about the position duties.

In addition to the normal duties traditionally required of teachers, a teacher may be assigned such "extra duty" assignments to support the extra-curricular programs of the District, which shall be upon such terms and conditions and at such additional rate of compensation as the Teacher and the District may agree upon or as set forth in the negotiated agreement. The extra-curricular program of the school district is an integral part of the overall educational program of the school district. As such, a teacher shall not unreasonably refuse to accept such extra-duty assignments. In addition, performance in an extra duty assignment is a part of the evaluation of the teacher's overall performance to the District.

Personnel File

The District will follow the requirements of state and federal law and regulation with regard to a teacher's personnel file, including but not limited to Neb. Rev. Stat. § 79-8,109.

Grievances and Complaints

Teacher grievances regarding wages, hours, and conditions of employment set forth in the negotiated agreement shall be governed by the grievance or complaint procedure in the negotiated agreement. All other employment related grievances or complaints shall be addressed through the administrative chain of command following the process set forth in board policy.

Compensation

Regular Salary and Extra-Duty Compensation. Compensation is paid only as authorized by the Board of Education. Teachers are paid a salary based on placement on the salary schedule set forth in the collectively bargained negotiated agreement between the District and the collective bargaining agent for the certificated teaching staff (referred to in this handbook as the "negotiated agreement"), and the extra-duty salary schedule also incorporated into the negotiated agreement.

Changes in Salary Schedule Placement. Changes in a teacher's placement on the salary schedule shall be governed by the provisions of the negotiated agreement. Teachers are expected to provide the Superintendent with a transcript for all graduate hours earned for purposes of advancement on the salary schedule on or before September 1 of the school year in which such hours are to be credited for the teacher's placement on the salary schedule. Failure to timely provide an official transcript from the post-graduate institution

of the graduate hours earned will result in a loss of such credit for such school year.

Salary Payments. Salary is payable over twelve equal installments. Teachers will be paid on the 15th of the month, or the last preceding school day, if the 15th falls on a vacation or week-end day. In emergency cases exceptions may be made, subject to the approval of the Board. In no case shall the Board advance more than one month's salary. Upon separation of a teacher's employment, or upon fulfillment of the contract, the teacher may, at the option of the Board, be paid all salary due in one lump sum.

Additional compensation over and above regular compensation, extra-duty pay and supplemental pay shall be disbursed as it is earned and deductions from compensation due to unpaid leave shall be taken out as they are reported to the payroll office. Reimbursements for mileage or other expenses will be considered separate from compensation.

Extended Duty Pay

Extended duty for any teacher beyond the number of contract days established by the Board of Education for the school year shall be paid at 60% of schedule placement on a per diem basis for such teacher's extended time.

Benefits

Teachers are provided benefits in accordance with the negotiated agreement, group health insurance plan requirements, and the school district's Section 125 Plan document. Teachers shall make annual fringe benefit elections by September 1 of each school year. Should a teacher fail to make such election, the teacher election from the immediately preceding school and contract year shall be continued. Each teacher is responsible for informing the Office of the Superintendent in writing of any changes in benefit status.

Continued health insurance benefits are available through COBRA subject to certain qualifying requirements. A Notice of COBRA Continuation Coverage Rights is attached to this handbook as Appendix "A."

The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) provides rights and protections for participants and beneficiaries in group health plans. HIPAA includes protections for coverage under group health plans that limit exclusions for preexisting conditions; prohibit discrimination against employees and dependents based on their health status; and allow a special opportunity to enroll in a new plan to individuals in certain circumstances. HIPAA may also give you a right to purchase individual coverage if you have no group health plan coverage available, and have exhausted COBRA or other continuation coverage. Further information may be obtained from the Plan Administrator of the group health plan.

Payroll and Payroll Deductions

Salary and benefits are paid in accordance with the individual employment contracts and negotiated agreement. Payroll deductions shall be made in accordance with law and the negotiated agreement.

Expense Reimbursement

Reimbursement for authorized mileage will be paid to teachers required to drive their own vehicles during their regular scheduled working hours between two or more work sites. Perkins County Schools Claims for reimbursement should be submitted to the appropriate supervisor. The allowable rate shall be governed by Board policy, unless otherwise required by law. Staff may use personal vehicle only if a school vehicle is unavailable and/or with administrative approval. The District is not liable for physical damage to employee vehicles.

Materials necessary for instruction are provided by the District. If teachers need additional materials for instruction or school-related purposes, the request must be made to the Principal.

Reimbursement for purchase of materials or for meals or other expenses related to travel must be submitted to and approved by either the Principal or, if the expense relates to an activity, by the Athletic Director. The request for reimbursement should include a voucher sufficient to establish that the expense was actually incurred and that the expense was reasonable and related to a school-purpose.

All purchases must have administrative approval and a purchase order on file in the office. Failure to follow procedure may result in staff member being responsible for the purchase. District is not responsible for the tax on reimbursements.

Credit card use must be approved prior to purchase by administration.

403(b) Salary Reduction Agreements

The District will cooperate with any staff member who chooses to participate in an investment program under an Internal Revenue Code Section 403(b) provided that the employee's vendor of the 403(b) Plan elected by the teacher has entered into an Information Sharing Agreement no later than December 31, 2018. The District will use Almquist, Maltzahn, Galloway, and Luth as the third party administrator the 403(b) plans.

Overtime

Teaching professionals are classified as exempt from overtime under the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA). The overtime exemption for teaching professionals is not dependent on whether the employee is paid on a "salary basis." Exempt employees are not eligible for overtime or compensatory time. A publication provided by the federal government which provides more information about the FLSA is attached as Appendix "A" to this handbook.

Any non-exempt employees must receive prior approval from their supervisor to work additional hours beyond their regular work schedule. Non-exempt employees must be paid for each hour worked in excess of 40 hours in a workweek. The regular workweek is

from 12:00 a.m. on Monday through 11:59 p.m. on Sunday. The administration may establish a different 7-day period workweek from time-to-time for specified employees or employee groups.

Overtime pay for non-exempt employees will be paid at the rate of not less than 1½ times the employee's regular rate of pay for hours worked in excess of the 40-hour workweek. Employees with two or more non-exempt positions may be eligible for overtime pay based upon the total number of hours worked in one workweek. If applicable, the employee and the Superintendent will agree upon the overtime rate, in compliance with FLSA regulations. A non-exempt employee may request compensatory time in lieu of overtime pay, with approval of the employer, with the rate figured as 1½ times the number of hours worked in excess of 40 hours in any work week. Compensatory time may be accumulated up to 40 hours upon approval by their supervisor. Any accumulation of compensatory time over 40 hours must be approved by the Superintendent. The FLSA limits the accumulation of compensatory time to 240 hours.

The District's policy is to not permit improper deductions from the salary of exempt employees who are required to meet a "salaried basis" test for the exemption to be applicable. (Teaching professionals are not subject to the "salaried basis" test). An employee who feels an improper deduction affecting exemption status has occurred may submit a complaint to the Superintendent or the Superintendent's designee, who shall promptly investigate the complaint. Reimbursement shall be made and a good faith commitment to comply in the future will be given in the event it is determined that an improper deduction affecting overtime exemption has been made.

The District's policy is to authorize unpaid disciplinary suspensions of a full day or more for infractions of workplace conduct rules and to apply such policy uniformly to all similarly situated employees, including exempt employees who are required to meet a "salaried basis" test for the exemption to be applicable. Unpaid disciplinary suspensions of a partial day or of a full day or more may be implemented for infractions of safety rules of major significance. Deductions of pay of a partial day or of a full day or more may be made for FMLA leaves and in the first and last weeks of employment. In addition, based on principles of public accountancy, deductions from pay of a partial day or of a full day or more will be made for absences for illness, injury or personal reasons when accrued leave is not used or not available, and for absences due to any budget-required furlough.

Article 3 – ABSENCES FROM WORK

Paid Leave - Sick and Personal Leaves

Teachers are provided with paid sick and personal leaves (professional leaves, bereavement leaves, etc.) in accordance with the negotiated agreement. During such paid leaves, teachers shall continue to receive all salary and fringe benefits called for by the negotiated agreement.

The leaves provided by the District are to be used for the purpose intended. Abuse of leave privileges affects the students, other staff, and the entire District and will not be tolerated. *Teachers should avoid using personal leave during the first or last week of school and during professional development days unless it is unavoidable. These days should be held in high regard for developing and implementing classroom procedures, professional growth, and completion of end of the year tasks and ceremonies.*

Requests for Leave

Advance reporting of the need to take a leave and having effective lesson plans and materials prepared and readily available for the substitute are important.

A teacher who becomes ill and is unable to work is to contact their building Principal or **Teacher Attendance Secretary** before 6:45. Before the end of the school day on the first day of the sick leave, and on each subsequent day of absence, a report should be made to **Teacher Attendance Secretary** as to whether the teacher will be able to return to duty on the next duty day. For illnesses or medical situations where the need for the leave can be determined in advance, the teacher is to make such advance report of need for leave as possible.

For personal and other leaves, a Request for Leave form is to be submitted to **Teacher Attendance Secretary** at least five school days prior to the leave, or such other advance notice as is practical under the circumstances.

Return from Leave

Upon return from leave, teachers are to review information supplied by the substitute teacher as to progress made in the class and any student behavior concerns. The substitute should be contacted directly if the written information supplied is not adequate.

A teacher who is absent for any period of time because of injury requiring care from a physician or health care provider, or for a period of one week or more due to illness, must present a written statement to the Principal from the teacher's physician or health care provider stating that the teacher is physically able to return to duty. This statement is to be presented in person before the teacher returns to duty in order that the present stage of convalescence can be observed and discussed.

Payroll Deductions for Absences in Excess of Paid Leave

Should a teacher be absent from work in excess of the teacher's accumulated sick leave or other paid leaves called for in the negotiated agreement, the teacher's salary and fringe benefits (including the cost of premiums for group health insurance) shall be reduced by the day or days or work missed on a per diem basis calculated using the number of days missed as the numerator, and the number of total contract days for the school years as the denominator; e.g. one day missed = $[1/184\text{th}]$ of total salary and fringe benefits.

Leaves of Absence

A teacher may apply to the Board of Education for a leave of absence from the teacher's duties. The Board of Education will consider such requests on a case-by-case basis. No leave of absence shall extend beyond one school year. All leaves of absence shall be without pay except for the payment of health insurance benefits as may be required under applicable state or federal laws. The Board's approval will depend partially on whether a suitable replacement can be hired.

Leave Not Covered in items A, B, C, or D in the Negotiated Agreement

Any leave that is not covered in the provisions regarding sick, bereavement, professional activity, or personal leave will require prior approval of the superintendent of schools. The teacher's salary for such unpaid leave will be reduced by the amount generated by the ratio of the number of days of unpaid absence bears to 184 multiplied by the salary of the teacher on leave.

Jury Duty

A teacher who is summoned for jury service shall promptly notify the Principal of such summons. The teacher's salary will continue during time spent in jury service, and no deduction of leave time shall occur, except that the District may reduce the pay by an amount equal to any compensation, other than expenses, paid by the court for jury duty. Teachers are to notify the Principal of the amount received for such jury duty.

If a teacher, upon reporting for jury duty in the morning, is dismissed from jury duty for the remainder of the day, the teacher is to report for duty and resume duties for the balance of the day. When a teacher is entirely dismissed from jury duty, the teacher is directed to report for duty and the substitute will be dismissed.

Teachers are expected to promptly notify the Principal of any other form of legal summons which may require an absence from duty. In the event the summons involves a school-related matter, the matter shall be treated similar to a jury duty absence. In the event the summons involves a personal matter, the teacher will be required to use available leave days.

Military Leave

Teachers who are members of the National Guard, Army Reserve, Naval Reserve, Marine Corps Reserve, Air Force Reserve, or Coast Guard Reserve (hereinafter, "reserves"), are entitled to a military leave of absence from their respective duties, without loss of pay, when employed with or without pay under the orders or authorization of competent authority in the active service of the state or of the United States. Teachers who normally work or are normally scheduled to work 120 hours or more in three consecutive weeks shall receive a military leave of absence of 120 hours each calendar year. Teachers who normally work or are normally scheduled to work less than 120 hours in three consecutive weeks shall receive a military leave of absence each calendar year equal to the number of hours they normally work or would normally be scheduled to work, whichever is greater, in three consecutive weeks. Such military leave of absence

may be taken in hourly increments and shall be in addition to the teacher's regular annual leave. Employees requesting military leave under the Nebraska Statutes must notify the superintendent at least 14 days in advance of taking such a leave if the leave will be for 5 or more consecutive days.

When the governor of this state shall declare that a state of emergency exists, and any teacher who is a member of the reserves is ordered to active service of the state, the teacher shall be granted a state of emergency leave of absence until released from active service by competent authority. The leave of absence shall not be a military leave of absence; other forms of leave may be granted. The teacher shall receive normal salary or compensation minus the state active duty base pay the teacher receives in active service of the state.

Family and Medical Leave Act

The Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) provides for 12 weeks of job-protected unpaid leave in a 12-month period to eligible employees in specified circumstances. A publication provided by the federal government which provides more information about FMLA leaves is attached as Appendix "C" to this handbook. Some specifics regarding FMLA leave at [Insert School Name]:

The plan year for FMLA is a rolling year. A rolling year is a 12-month period measured backward from the date an employee last used any FMLA leave. Employees will be required to substitute remaining applicable paid leave prior to using unpaid leave. In other words, the total of job-protected paid and unpaid leave is 12 weeks.

If you need to take an FMLA leave, or have any questions regarding an FMLA leave, you should contact the Superintendent.

Article 4 – DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Teacher duty hours are M-TH 7:45-3:45 and FRIDAY 7:45-2:45

Section 11 Hours of Work & Meetings

Regular, dependable attendance at work is an essential function of a teacher's employment position.

The Board of Education recognizes that teachers' responsibilities to their students and their profession generally involve the performance of duties and the commitment of time beyond the normal working day, but also recognizes that teachers and other educational professionals are entitled to regular time and work schedules on which they can rely in the ordinary course of events and which will be fairly and evenly maintained to the extent possible throughout the school system.

Schools have differing starting and ending times for the student day. Certificated

employees assigned to a building are to spend seven hours and 30 minutes on site, including lunch break (30-minute lunch), except that duty-free lunch-time can be spent off-site. The Principal will determine the length of time prior to and after the student class schedule for staff to be on-site in order to meet the required seven hours and 30 minutes. Staff may leave the building earlier when called to a professional meeting.

Certificated employees are required to serve on playground, lunchroom and hall supervision as designated by the Principal. The Principal will attempt to make an equitable distribution of such assignments and professional staff shall assume such duties as part of their work and agreement of employment.

Teachers shall attend meetings called by the Superintendent of Schools, principals, department heads and team leaders, except those meetings which are designated for optional attendance.

Building administrators may call building meetings during the scheduled work week. Building administrators will make every attempt to create a routine schedule for such meetings. Example: Meeting from 7:30AM-7:55AM, equals teachers dismissed at 3:30 PM; Meeting from 3:30 PM-3:55PM, teachers arrive at 7:55AM. There may be times that such schedules will not work due to the importance of the meeting or the scheduling of other events.

Arrival to Duty Assignments

Full-time teachers have a designated on-site work day as eight (8) hours. Teachers are to be in the building by no later than 15 minutes prior to the arrival of students and to remain on duty until at least 15 minutes after students have left. Certificated employees other than teachers are expected to meet the same guidelines for entry to the building, being in their assigned duty area, and duty departure time. Teachers and other certificated employees who are part-time or work on adjusted schedules are to be in the building at least 10 minutes before their class or assigned duty begins, and to be in their classroom or assigned duty area at least 10 minutes before their class or assignment begins. During the school day, teachers are to be in their assigned classroom at least five minutes before each period begins to assure that students are not unsupervised within the classroom.

Leaving School

Teachers are to be on duty at all times during the school day. Teachers are considered on duty even during designated planning periods. An uninterrupted lunch period of not less than 30-minutes each day is provided to teachers during which they are not assigned teaching, supervisory, or other duties. Teachers who leave the school during the designated lunch period must check out with the Principal's office.

Teachers may not leave school during duty hours without approval of the Principal. If the absence has been approved, the teacher must check out with the Principal's office when leaving, and check back in with the Principal's office upon return. Teachers who need to leave during the school day for reason of illness or emergency are to check out with the Principal's office and make sure that a responsible person has been notified of their

unexpected absence so student coverage may be provided.

Lesson Plans

Teachers are expected to prepare lesson plans in accordance with the building administrators directive.

Daily Class Record Books

Teachers are expected to keep grades and attendance current on the student information system (Power School). Teachers are to assess frequently enough and to record grades in timely manner so as to realistically justify the current term and final grade.

Classroom and School Procedures

Teachers are expected to adhere to the following classroom and school procedure in the performance of their duties:

Text Book and Room Inventory

All school purchased materials must be inventoried with the building bookkeeper or secretary. Textbooks are to be numbered and either have cards in pockets or a form for writing the name of the student whom the book is assigned. Teachers should keep good records of who has which book. At the start of the year, note condition of the textbook on the inventory sheet and keep this sheet. When a book is turned in, again note its condition, and if the book shows abuse (other than normal wear) assess a fine that you consider is fair. Insist that students put covers on their books by the end of the first week after receiving them.

Use of Cell Phones

Teachers shall not use personal cell phones for any non-school purpose during teacher duty time.

Use of Para-professionals

Teacher aides provide valuable assistance in the educational process and allow teachers to carry out their responsibilities in a more efficient and effective manner. A teacher aide must not, however, assume teaching responsibilities. The teacher must maintain the role of leadership and responsibility for the students, with the teacher aide in a supportive role. Teacher aides may be used to assist the teacher by, among other tasks, assisting with instructional activities under the direction of the teacher, helping to supervise students, copying tests and other written material, organizing class materials, preparing bulletin boards, grading tests or class work, and calculate grades and record grades. Teacher aides are to work only on their assigned workdays and within their assigned work day. If the teacher desires the aide to work hours other than the assigned work hours or assigned workday, contact the administration for approval.

Use of Student Aides

Student aides are to be directly supervised by the teacher and are not to leave the building or be in the halls or anywhere they are not being supervised. Student aides are not to be used to assist the teacher by helping supervise another student, grade tests or class work, calculate student grades or record grades. Keys are NEVER to be given to students, whether they are student aides or not. A student aide should not be present and assisting a teacher without another adult present after the end of regular teacher duty hours.

Checking Out of Equipment

All equipment must be checked out through the building principal. All school equipment may be used only for school purposes. No school equipment may be directed to the personal use of a teacher or another District employee.

Requisition of Equipment and Supplies

Books and supplies which are needed for instruction should be requested through the Principal's office. No equipment or supplies ordered through the District may be directed to the personal use of a teacher or another District employee.

E-mail

Each teacher will be assigned a school e-mail address for purposes of intra-school and inter-school e-mail correspondence. Teachers should check for e-mail throughout the day, and should timely respond to e-mails which require a response, but should avoid checking and responding to e-mails during instructional time. Use of the District's e-mail system for personal communications should be limited, and is subject to the rules governing overall computer usage found in Board policy and this handbook.

Teacher Mail Box

Each teacher will be assigned a mailbox located in the [insert location of mail box]. Teachers should check for mail each morning and also later in the school day, if possible. If something requires an answer teachers are responsible for responding promptly. Teacher mailboxes are to be limited to communicate regarding school business.

Teachers Meetings

Teachers' meetings will be scheduled by administration throughout the year. **ALL** teachers are expected to be present for the meetings, unless they are absent from school for good cause or have made prior arrangements.

Supervision of Students

Proper supervision of students is an important responsibility for teachers and other adults responsible for our students. Teachers and other adults responsible for student supervision are expected to meet the four "P's" for student supervision and safety.

Proper Supervision

Report to all duty assignments on time.

Circulate through your duty area. Pay particular attention to areas and activities that pose an increased risk of injury.

Be vigilant while supervising students. Never leave your classroom unattended; the need to make a copy is not greater than the need to supervise your students. Do not send students to areas that are not supervised (i.e. media center, computer lab). If an emergency requires that you leave your classroom, request that another nearby staff member cover your class, or notify the office so someone can provide assistance. If you are on recess duty, your responsibility is to supervise the students in your assigned area. When talking with other adults or students, remember that your primary duty is supervision and make sure you are aware of what all students who you are to be supervising are doing.

If you have seen or have been informed that a particular student has a propensity to act dangerously or in an unpredictable manner, your supervision of that student must increase with the known risk of injury. (Remember, though, that this type of information may be confidential—do not share confidential information about students except with other staff who need to know the information to perform their jobs).

Be careful with touching students. Use of corporal punishment is prohibited at Perkins County Schools. Touching students should be limited to that necessary to protect the student from harm (e.g., falling from playground equipment) and that which professional educators determine appropriate for purposes of proper student relationships.

Be careful with your language. Profanity or abusive language should not be used by you. Be a good role model for students. If a student uses such language, you should correct the student and take such disciplinary action as is appropriate, which may include making a report to administration.

2. Proper Instructions

- Proper instructions are important to reduce the risk of injury when students undertake an activity, especially an activity that has an increased risk of harm to students.
- Repeat the instructions on how to complete a task that has a heightened risk of danger as often as needed. Do not assume because students heard the directions once that they will be remembered.
- When you go over safety rules with students note it in your written records (e.g., your lesson plan book or daily reports).
- Review playground and classroom safety rules with students at least once each semester and note when you do it in your written records. Also, if any students are absent when you review the rules contact the student(s) to review the same information and also note that contact in your written records.

3. Proper Maintenance of Buildings, Grounds, and Equipment

- Conduct periodic inspections of equipment under your control or in your area of supervision.
- If equipment is broken and presents a risk of injury, immediately take it out of service (if it can't be moved, tape a "Do Not Use" sign) and notify the office so those repairs may be undertaken.
- Check your communication device (whether it be a school phone in your

supervision area, a walkie-talkie, or a cell phone) periodically to

make sure you can communicate with the office immediately in the event an emergency.

Proper Warnings

If you have knowledge of a hazard that can likely cause injury, take steps to warn other staff and students. Tell the office so additional warnings may be given.

Contact the Office for Assistance

The office administration should be contacted immediately when a situation exists which could cause injury to students or others. Examples include:

- student fight
- student health problem (fainting, bleeding, high temperature, difficulty breathing, etc.); if the office can not be immediately located, call 911 if the problem appears to be of immediate and serious concern
- a report or a suspicion that a student has a weapon or other dangerous item or drugs, alcohol, or other illegal substances
- presence of an intruder (a non-student or staff member who refuses to go to the office)

Student Searches

Office administration will perform searches of students or their belongings. Administration may appoint a designee to perform searches. You may direct a student suspected of having an item in violation of school rules to wait with you until another adult is present, or to follow you to the office if you can leave your assigned area without causing risk of harm to others. Do not use physical force to detain the student or to make the student accompany you except as reasonably necessary to protect the student or others.

Student Rights

Students should be treated fairly and given the same treatment without consideration of race, color, religion, gender, or disability. Students who need special accommodations should be given those accommodations as needed for them to participate in school and school activities. Further, students have the right to have their school records kept confidential. Such information should be shared only with other school staff with a need to know the information to perform their duties.

Managing Student Conduct

Discipline is everyone's responsibility. It begins with the student being responsible for his/her own behavior and understanding the consequences it may cause. The teacher is responsible for articulating classroom expectations at the beginning of the school year, implementing the classroom expectations on a consistent basis, and being familiar with the student handbook. All staff are responsible for **all students** in the hallways, in the rest rooms, at assemblies, at pep

rallies, and during lunch. Consequences for inappropriate behavior may include students making up time before or after school, a student or a parent conference, or a referral to an administrator.

The following guidelines will assist in maintaining appropriate student conduct and complying with the process required for student discipline.

1. On the first day of class make students aware of classroom expectations. Students will accept them if they know in advance and if they are fair and consistent. Students often appreciate giving input on classroom rules. These expectations should be in writing. Give one copy to the students, post one copy in the room and provide one copy for the principal.
2. It is important to document student behavior in your classroom, calls to parents, referrals, and/or communications with a student.
3. If, after attempts to improve student behavior, the problems continue, talk to the student's counselor or the Principal about possible alternatives in discipline procedures. Be attentive and respond to "bullying."
4. If a student continues to cause problems, inform the administration for disciplinary action using the approved reporting forms. Be sure to state the problem clearly and expectations in terms of assistance, as at times the student's and teacher's stories are different. Be prepared to provide documentation.
5. Follow up on any referral. The student may not go to the principal or the counselor when sent. The administrator or attendance coordinator will inform the teacher of the consequences.
6. Refer students with continued and significant behavioral problems to the student assistance team for a determination of whether the student is in need of special services. Contact the counselor if you have questions as to the procedure.
7. Talk with other teachers about the classroom management techniques they use to establish an atmosphere conducive to learning in their classroom. A large repertoire of classroom management techniques always enhances learning.
8. Read and understand the student handbook and the student conduct rules of the District.
9. Use good judgment when dealing with difficult situations involving students. Physical confrontation generally escalates tense situations. Corporal punishment is prohibited in our school district and is not to be used. Physical force may only be used to the extent reasonably necessary to protect the student, yourself and others, and to protect property as may be reasonable.
10. Violations of student rules which are also violations of state law are required to be reported to law enforcement. Make a report of such conduct to the Principal so this law may be followed.

Dispensing Medication

Teachers are not permitted to give any medication to students unless trained under the Medication Aid Act, Neb. Rev. Stat. §71-6718 to 71-6743. Students who need to take prescription medicine must have a signed parent release form on file in the office.

Medications are to be taken in the presence of the office staff, the nurse, or medication aide and are to be stored in the office. Medical procedures are not to be administered in

the classroom except in accordance with the District's Safety and Security Management Plan and the District's Emergency Protocol (asthma/anaphylaxis protocol).

If students must take medication and/or perform medical procedures prescribed by a duly licensed physician during school hours, it is the responsibility of the parents or guardians to sign permission to dispense the medicine at the school and to submit a note or prescription from the physician authorizing the medicine and/or medical procedure. School district personnel will not administer medicine, including over the counter medicine, without this signed form and note or prescription. Any medication brought to school needs to be properly labeled. The label should include the following information: Student's name, name of medication, dosage needed, and time of dispensing the medication.

Reporting Child Abuse

Nebraska State Law and school policy mandates school officials to make a report to the proper law enforcement agency or the Department of Health and Human Services (Child Protective Services) when there is reasonable cause to believe that a child has been abused or neglected, or a child is in a situation which would reasonably result in abuse or neglect. According to Nebraska State Law, abuse or neglect means knowingly, intentionally, or negligently causing or permitting a minor child to be:

- (a) Placed in a situation that endangers his or her life or physical or mental health;
- (b) Cruelly confined or cruelly punished;
- (c) Deprived of necessary food, clothing, shelter, or care;
- (d) Left unattended in a motor vehicle if such minor child is six years of age or younger;
- (e) Sexually abused; or
- (f) Sexually exploited by allowing, encouraging, or forcing such person to solicit for or engage in prostitution, debauchery, public indecency, or obscene or pornographic photography, films, or depictions.

Teachers are to inform their principal or supervisor that they intend to make a report. Administrative staff may sometimes choose to make the report for a teacher. However, informing a principal or supervisor does not end the teacher's responsibility; teachers are obligated to make certain a report was made if they do not do it themselves.

It is vital that the report be made as accurately and as soon as possible. To assure accuracy, you are encouraged to document the date of the incident and specific statements or explanations made by a child regarding an abuse/neglect concern. Timeliness in making a report will assist in minimizing further risk to the child by allowing the police or Child Protective Services workers to interview the child during the school day and prior to an evening or weekend. In cases of physical injury (e.g., bruising or other marks), it is essential the police observe and document the injury. A counselor, the school social worker or an administrator will help you.

Article 5 – PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT

Professional Ethics Standards

The Perkins County Schools expects its certificated employees to adhere to the professional ethics standards established by the Nebraska Department of Education as such standards may be modified from time to time. The professional ethics standards which certificated employees are expected to adhere to include those set forth below. References to “educator” shall include all certificated employees of the District.

Preamble

The educator shall believe in the worth and dignity of human beings. Recognizing the supreme importance of the pursuit of truth, the devotion to excellence and the nurture of democratic citizenship, the educator shall regard as essential to these goals the protection of the freedom to learn and to teach and the guarantee of equal educational opportunity for all. The educator shall accept the responsibility to practice the profession to these ethical standards.

The educator shall recognize the magnitude of the responsibility he or she has accepted in choosing a career in education, and engages, individually and collectively with other educators, to judge his or her colleagues, and to be judged by them, in accordance with the provisions of this code of ethics.

The standards listed in this section are held to be generally accepted minimal standards for public school certificate holders in the State of Nebraska and for all educators, including administrators, with respect to ethical and professional conduct.

Principle I - Commitment as a Professional Educator:

Fundamental to the pursuit of high educational standards is the maintenance of a profession possessed of individuals with high skills, intellect, integrity, wisdom, and compassion. The educator shall exhibit good moral character, maintain high standards of performance and promote equality of opportunity.

In fulfillment of the educator's contractual and professional responsibilities, the educator:

- A. Shall not interfere with the exercise of political and citizenship rights and responsibilities of students, colleagues, parents, school patrons, or school board members.
- B. Shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, creed, sex, marital status, age, national origin, ethnic background, or handicapping condition.
- C. Shall not use coercive means, or promise or provide special treatment to students, colleagues, school patrons, or school board members in order to influence professional decisions.
- D. Shall not make any fraudulent statement or fail to disclose a material fact for which the educator is responsible.
- E. Shall not exploit professional relationships with students, colleagues, parents, school patrons, or school board members for personal gain or private advantage.
- F. Shall not sexually harass students, parents or school patrons, employees, or

board members.

- G. Shall not have had revoked for cause in another state a teaching certificate, administrative certificate, or any certificate enabling a person to engage in any of the activities for which a special services counseling certificate is issued in Nebraska.
- H. Shall not engage in conduct involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit, or misrepresentation in the performance of professional duties.
- I. Shall report to the Superintendent any known violation of paragraphs G, E, or B above.

Shall seek no reprisal against any individual who has reported a violation of this rule.

Principle II - Commitment to the Student:

Mindful that a profession exists for the purpose of serving the best interests of the client, the educator shall practice the profession with genuine interest, concern, and consideration for the student. The educator shall work to stimulate the spirit of inquiry, the acquisition of knowledge and understanding, and the thoughtful formulation of worthy goals.

In fulfillment of the obligation to the student, the educator:

- A. Shall permit the student to pursue reasonable independent scholastic effort, and shall permit the student access to varying points of view.
- B. Shall not deliberately suppress or distort subject matter for which the educator is responsible.
- C. Shall make reasonable effort to protect the student from conditions which interfere with the learning process or are harmful to health or safety.
- D. Shall conduct professional educational activities in accordance with sound educational practices that are in the best interest of the student.
- E. Shall keep in confidence personally identifiable information that has been obtained in the course of professional service, unless disclosure serves professional purposes, or is required by law.
- F. Shall not tutor for remuneration students assigned to his or her classes unless approved by the Board of Education.
- G. Shall not discipline students using corporal punishment.

Principle III - Commitment to the Public:

The magnitude of the responsibility inherent in the education process requires dedication to the principles of our democratic heritage. The educator bears particular responsibility for instilling an understanding of the confidence in the rule of law, respect for individual freedom, and a responsibility to promote respect by the public for the integrity of the profession.

In fulfillment of the obligation to the public, the educator:

- A. Shall not misrepresent an institution with which the educator is affiliated, and shall take added precautions to distinguish between the educator's personal and institutional views.
- B. Shall not use institutional privileges for private gain or to promote political candidates, political issues, or partisan political activities.**

- C. Shall neither offer nor accept gifts or favors that will impair professional judgment.
- D. Shall support the principle of due process and protect the political, citizenship, and natural rights of all individuals.
- E. Shall not commit any act of moral turpitude, nor commit any felony under the laws of the United States or any state or territory.
- F. Shall, with reasonable diligence, attend to the duties of his or her professional position.

Principle IV - Commitment to the Profession:

In belief that the quality of the services to the education profession directly influences the nation and its citizens, the educator shall exert every effort to raise professional standards, to improve service, to promote a climate in which the exercise of professional judgment is encouraged, and to achieve conditions which attract persons worthy of the trust to careers in education. The educator shall believe that sound professional relationships with colleagues are built upon personal integrity, dignity, and mutual respect.

In fulfillment of the obligation to the profession, the educator:

- A. Shall provide upon the request of an aggrieved party, a written statement of specific reasons for recommendations that lead to the denial of increments, significant changes in employment, or termination of employment.
- B. Shall not misrepresent his or her professional qualifications, nor those of colleagues.
- C. Shall practice the profession only with proper certification, and shall actively oppose the practice of the profession by persons known to be unqualified.

Principle V - Commitment to Professional Employment Practices:

The educator shall regard the employment agreement as a pledge to be executed both in spirit and in fact. The educator shall believe that sound personnel relationships with governing boards are built upon personal integrity, dignity, and mutual respect.

In fulfillment of the obligation to professional employment practices, the educator:

- A. Shall apply for, accept, offer, or assign a position or responsibility on the basis of professional preparation and legal qualifications.
- B. Shall not knowingly withhold information regarding a position from an applicant or employer, or misrepresent an assignment or conditions of employment.
- C. Shall give prompt notice to the employer of any change in availability of service.
- D. Shall conduct professional business through designated procedures, when available, that have been approved by the employing agency.
- E. Shall not assign to unqualified personnel, tasks for which an educator is responsible.
- F. Shall permit no commercial or personal exploitation of his or her professional position.

Shall use time on duty and leave time for the purpose for which intended.

Evaluations

Evaluations of teachers will be conducted in accordance with the District's evaluation policy. Supervisors reserve the right to observe, appraise or evaluate teachers more frequently than required by policy on an as-needed basis. Teachers are expected to participate constructively and positively in the evaluation process and to accept and implement constructive suggestions and improvement strategies developed by the administration.

Role Model

Teachers serve as role models for students and their actions and conduct reflect on the school as a whole. Teachers are in all respects to conduct themselves in a professional manner.

Relationships

It is important for teachers to maintain an effective working relationship with the administration and all co-workers, including other teachers and support staff. Teachers are also to maintain appropriate relationships with students. Appropriate relationships are established by extending social courtesies, following through on commitments and promises, complying with administrative directives and Board policies, being honest and consistent, and not intruding into personal matters outside the scope of duties or gossiping or spreading rumors about others.

Professional Attire

It is important for teachers to project a professional image to students, parents and co-workers. Appropriate attire and grooming is one of the means of projecting a professional image. Teachers are expected to maintain conservative and professional attire and grooming when on duty. As professionals, teachers are expected to be aware of the standard to be maintained. As a minimal guide, teachers should not wear clothing which students would not be permitted to wear at school. The administration may establish more detailed guidelines for individual teachers should that be necessary.

Private Tutoring

Teachers are encouraged to provide individual assistance to students as a part of their duties. Teachers who engage in private tutoring for pay (compensation of any kind from a source other than the District) are subject to the following rules:

1. The teacher may not arrange to provide private tutoring for any child enrolled in the teacher's class.
2. The teacher is not to provide private tutoring in a school building.
3. The teacher is not to provide private tutoring during duty time.
4. The teacher is not to advertise or promote the teacher's private tutoring services in the school or in the school's communications systems except with the express permission of the Superintendent or designee.

Outside Employment

Teachers shall not perform duties unrelated to District employment during duty hours. In addition, teachers shall not engage in employment which conflicts with their school duties. Teachers are not required to notify the District of outside employment except: (1) teachers who are also employed by another Nebraska school district in order to comply with Nebraska State Retirement System regulations and (2) teachers who have a work-related injury in order to comply with workers' compensation requirements.

Article 6 – ACADEMIC MATTERS

Purpose and Goals of Academic Achievement

The Perkins County Schools Board of Education is committed to providing a quality education for all Perkins County Schools students consistent with the school's mission statement. Effective, quality instruction by teachers is an essential means of meeting the District's mission of providing a quality education.

Teaching to Student Understanding to Assure Learning

Each teacher is responsible for teaching in a manner to meet the mission of the District and to assure student understanding and learning of the principles and concepts to be presented to students within the curriculum adopted by the District. Teachers will model classroom instruction on the educational model implemented by the District and reflected in the teacher evaluation instrument adopted by the Board of Education. Teachers are responsible for familiarizing themselves with the instructional model and the principles of instruction set forth in the evaluation instrument. The administration shall provide periodic in-services regarding the instructional model.

State and federal laws and regulations have been enacted which require that students with certain needs be provided instruction and services consistent with those special needs. Examples include students who have been verified as in need of special education ("special education students"), students with other disabilities which impact the educational program ("504 students"), and limited English proficient students ("LEP or ELL students"). The District's policy is to comply with the state and federal laws and regulations in all respects. Teachers who are assigned special education, 504, or LEP/ELL students are required to provide instruction and services consistent with legal requirements and the requirements of Board policy and regulation.

Instruction in the Curriculum

Teachers shall instruct students in the curriculum, including the use of curriculum materials, adopted and implemented by the Board of Education and as directed by the administration.

Measuring and Reporting Academic Achievement

Grades and Grading. Measuring and accurately reporting the level of each student's academic achievement is of critical importance to students, parents, staff, the board of education and community. To this end, each teacher shall develop a variety of assessment instruments and techniques to measure student achievement in the curriculum adopted and implemented by the school district, record the results of such assessment,

and report such results on Report Cards. Teachers should endeavor to measure student learning and understanding on a frequent basis during each quarter to provide an accurate evaluation of each student's academic achievement for that period. It is recommended that the teacher record at least two grades per week. **Grades need to be recorded electronically within 5 days of the assignment due date.** It is generally preferable to give numerical grades for tests, quizzes, and daily work. **GRADES MUST BE RECORDED FOR ALL CURRICULAR AREAS.**

Recording Grades. Each teacher shall record grades in the Daily Class Record POWER SCHOOL. A sufficient number of grades must be recorded in the grade book to justify all quarter and semester grades for each student. Please keep consistent and complete records. Teachers must be able to support and justify the grades that each individual student earns. Grades must be completed on dates specified by building principals. Refrain from asking for extensions.

Grade Scales. Teachers are to use only the grading scales set forth below. Any deviation from the approved grade scales must be approved by the building principal.

The preceding grade scales are expected to be used according to the following guidelines:

1. No other grade scales are to be used on official records or reports.
2. "Failing," "unsatisfactory" or equivalent terms indicate that student performance does not meet the minimum requirements established for the course. A final mark of "failing" or "unsatisfactory" in a credit-bearing course means that credit hours will not be granted.
3. The mark given at the end of each reporting period is considered an evaluation of the pupil's status at the time (for example, the final mark in a semester course is an evaluation of the pupil's status as of the close of the semester; not an average of two nine-week marks).
4. Teachers may exercise professional judgment in distributing marks. Marks are not expected to be distributed on a normal curve.

Reconsideration of Grades/Marks

Questions raised concerning duly assigned grades will be resolved cooperatively in a conference which includes the teacher(s) involved and the Principal. In the event a grade is questioned by parents or students, the parents/guardians and/or student may be included in the conference.

Failure to resolve the issue will result in a second conference involving the Superintendent or designee and the participants in the initial conference described above. The grades designated by teachers will not be changed unilaterally by the Superintendent unless the Superintendent determines that the grade is not consistent with the requirements of law, Board policy, or the best interests of the District.

Reduced Credit. Some students in certain situations may qualify for less than the number

of credits normally granted for a course. Late entry or a serious injury at an awkward point in the semester would be a couple of examples. If a student is excessively absent from a class for any particular reason, a teacher may request reduced credit. All cases of reduced credit should be recorded on a "Reduced Credit/Error Summary" form and be approved by the Principal.

Transfer Grades. A student transferring into Perkins County Schools at the fifteen-to eighteen-week time period will have all grades on transcript from an accredited school accepted for semester credit. Grades must be approved for credit by the Principal.

Reports to Parents. Grades and credit are assigned on a quarter (9 weeks) or semester basis (18 weeks). Reports are sent to parents at the close of each nine weeks during the school year. It is the responsibility of the teacher to contact parents if a student is failing or near failing in an attempt to garner their support in finding a successful solution.

The grade reports are produced from information supplied by teachers and distributed to parents by the building principal.

All term or mid-quarter grades are calculated on a cumulative basis; i.e., the grade given at the end of the first quarter represents an evaluation of work done during that quarter, and the grade given at the close of the semester represents an evaluation of all the work done during the entire eighteen weeks.

The end-of-quarter and end-of-semester reports are directed to parents, not to students. Students probably know quite well how they stand in such areas as citizenship, attitude, cooperation, attendance, preparation of assignments, etc. The parents do not have this knowledge. If any such factors have significant bearing on the student's grades or their relationship with teachers, notes should be sent to parents. Arrangements will be made to place these teacher-written notes with the grade report forms. The notes may call attention to deficiencies, faults, or failures; or they may be commendatory in nature. If carefully prepared, they can be most valuable. Parents need to have information about areas of strengths and areas needing improvement and progress being made by their child. For their instruction, and for our ultimate well-being, if and when problems arise, it is essential that the reports be as informative as possible. Teachers should, in all cases, plan to keep on file duplicate copies of the notes which are sent to parents.

Please accept, cooperatively and professionally, the responses that parents may make subsequent to the distribution of term or mid-quarter reports. Parents are not always helpful or reasonable under these circumstances but they do need information and direction. Please encourage parents to discuss their student-centered problems with you and give them all possible assistance.

Parent-Teacher Conferences

Parent-Teacher conferences are a critical opportunity for teachers to dialogue with parents (or guardians) of students regarding student achievement and learning. To this end, quarterly Parent-Teacher conferences will be scheduled and held during the school year.

Teacher attendance at Parent-Teacher conferences is mandatory. A teacher may only be excused from attendance at Parent-Teacher conferences in writing by the Superintendent. The schedule setting forth the dates and times for the Parent-Teacher conferences for the school years is as follows:

Teachers are expected to be prepared for such conferences. Being prepared includes having completed grade books which include all student assignments, work or tests completed within five (5) days of the date of the Parent-Teacher conference.

Article 7 – USE OF SCHOOL FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT

Drug-Free Workplace

The District has established the school as a drug-free workplace. The drug-free workplace for this purpose includes school grounds, school utilized vehicles, and places in which school activities are held.

The unlawful manufacture, distribution, disposition, possession, or use of a controlled substance is prohibited in the work place. The possession, use or distribution of illicit drugs or alcohol, the use of glue or aerosol paint or any other chemical substance for inhalation, and being under the influence of illicit drugs, alcohol, or inhalants, is prohibited in any place while teachers are on duty time. Any level of impairment from illicit drugs, alcohol, or inhalants, and the presence of any odor of illicit drugs (such as marijuana) or alcohol on a teacher in the work place or on duty time shall be a violation of the drug-free workplace. The possession or distribution of a look-alike drug or look-alike controlled substance is prohibited. In addition, teachers are expected to serve as role models for students and will be considered to have violated the District's expectations in the event the teacher commits a criminal drug or alcohol offense off the work place or off duty time.

As a condition of employment teachers will abide by the District's drug-free workplace policies and notify the Superintendent of any criminal drug statute conviction for a violation occurring in the workplace no later than 5 days after such conviction. Disciplinary sanctions up to and including termination of employment and referral for prosecution will be imposed for violations of the District's drug-free workplace policies. Sanctions may include the requirement that the teacher complete an appropriate rehabilitation program, a reprimand, and termination of employment. Drug and alcohol counseling and rehabilitation and reentry programs are available through local health agencies.

Smoke and Tobacco-Free Workplace

The use of and/or possession of tobacco products in the District's buildings and on school grounds, all owned or leased facilities and vehicles is prohibited. This includes vaping and vape products.

Weapon-Free Workplace

The District prohibits any person from being in possession of a weapon at a school attendance facility, on school property, at a school-supervised activity, or at a school-sponsored function. Any teacher found to be in violation of this policy shall be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including termination.

The term "weapon" means an instrument or object used, or which may be used, as a means of attack, defense, or destruction, including, without limitation:

Any object which will, or is designed to, or may readily be converted to, expel a projectile by the action of an explosive or other means;

The frame or receiver of any object described in the preceding example;

Any firearm muffler or silencer;

Any explosive, incendiary or gas (a) bomb, (b) grenade, (c) rocket, (d) missile, (e) mine, or similar device;

Any bludgeon, club, metal knuckles, or throwing star;

Any knife other than as used for strictly instructional or personal care or eating purposes. A pocket knife with a blade of 2-1/2 inches or more is a prohibited weapon. A switch-blade knife is prohibited regardless of size of the blade. A switch-blade knife is defined as a knife with a blade that opens automatically by hand pressure applied to a button, spring, or other device in the handle of a knife, or any knife having a blade that opens or falls or is ejected into position by the force of gravity or by an outward, downward, or centrifugal thrust or movement;

Any electronic device designed to discharge immobilizing levels of electricity, commonly known as a stun gun; and

A teacher may possess mace or other similar chemical agents in quantity and/or concentration typically designed for individual personal defensive purposes shall not be considered as possession of a weapon. Possession of larger quantities and/or concentrations of mace or other similar chemical agents than is typically designed for individual personal defensive purposes will be considered as possession of a weapon. Usage of mace or other similar chemical agents will be considered as usage of a weapon if the usage is found to be for non-defensive purposes. A teacher who is negligent in their possession of mace or other similar chemical agents will be subject to disciplinary action.

A teacher may possess an item which may be considered a weapon where such item is used for instructional purposes and the teacher has received approval of the administration to possess the item, provided it is used in the manner approved and is maintained in such manner as the administration has directed.

Any other object that is designed for or intended for use as a destructive or injurious device.

The phrase "possession of a weapon" includes, without limitation, a weapon in a teacher's personal possession, as well as in a teacher's motor vehicle, desk, locker, briefcase, backpack, or purse.

Use of District Computer Network and Internet

Teachers have access to the District's computer network and the Internet for the enhancement and support of student instruction. It is important to remember that the equipment and the software are the property of the school district.

In using the computers and the Internet, teachers are agreeing to the following:
Since copyright laws protect software, teachers will not make unauthorized copies of software found on school computers by any means. Teachers will not give, lend, or sell copies of software to others unless the original software is clearly identified as shareware or in the public domain.

- If a teacher downloads public domain programs for personal use or non commercially redistributes a public domain program, the teacher assumes all risks regarding the determination of whether a program is in the public domain.
- Teachers shall not access material that is obscene, child pornography or otherwise inappropriate matter for educational or work-related uses or contrary to the District's mission.
- Teachers are not permitted to knowingly access information that is profane, obscene or offensive toward a group or individual based upon race, gender, national origin or religion. Further, teachers are prohibited from placing such information on the Internet.
- Teachers will protect the privacy of other computer users' areas by not accessing their passwords without written permission. Teachers will not copy, change, read, or use another person's files. Teachers will not engage in "hacking" or otherwise attempt to gain unauthorized access to system programs or computer equipment.
- Teachers will not use computer systems to disturb or harass other computer users by sending unwanted mail or by other means.
- Teachers will not disclose their passwords and account names to anyone or attempt to ascertain or use anyone else's password and account name.
- Teachers will not attempt to login to the system as a system administrator.
- Teachers understand that the intended use of all computer equipment is to meet instructional objectives.
- Teachers will not waste or take supplies, such as paper, printer ribbons, toner, and diskettes that are provided by the District.
- Teachers will not use the network for financial gain or for any commercial or illegal activity. Attempts to bypass security systems on computer workstations or servers or vandalism will result in cancellation of privileges and may result in further consequences. Malicious attempts to harm or destroy data of another teacher, or data that resides anywhere on the network or on the Internet, or the uploading or creation of computer viruses is forbidden.
- The District will not be responsible for any liabilities, costs, expenses, or purchases incurred by the use of the District's telecommunications systems such as the Internet. This includes, but is not limited to, the purchase of on line services or products.
- The teacher is solely responsible for any such charges. The teacher's acceptance of an email account is an acceptance of the teacher's agreement to indemnify the District for any expenses, including legal fees, arising out of the

teacher's use of the system in violation of the agreement.

- The Internet will be supplied for your use on an "as is, as available" basis.
- The District does not imply or expressly warrant that any information you access will be valuable or fit for a particular purpose or that the system will operate error free.
- The District is not responsible for the integrity of information accessed, or software downloaded from the Internet.
- The District reserves the right to refuse posting of files, and to remove files.
- The District further reserves the right to inspect a teacher's computer and computer usage at any time. Teachers have no privacy rights or expectations of privacy with regard to use of the District's computers or Internet system. The computer system is not a public forum. It is provided for the limited purpose of advancing the District's mission.

A technology protection measure is in place that blocks and/or filters Internet access to prevent access to Internet sites that are not in accordance with policies and regulations. In addition to blocks and/or filters, the District may also use other technology protection measures or procedures as deemed appropriate. The technology protection measure that blocks and/or filters Internet access may be disabled only by an authorized staff member for bona fide research or educational purposes: (a) who has successfully completed district training by the on proper disabling circumstances and procedures, (b) with permission of the immediate supervisor of the staff member requesting said disabling, or (c) with the permission of a building administrator. An authorized staff member may override the technology protection measure that blocks and/or filters Internet access for a minor to access a site for bona fide research or other lawful purposes provided the minor is monitored directly by an authorized staff member.

Teachers and administrators should not "friend" students, parents or guardians of students, or otherwise "establish special relationships" through personal social media. Neither should educators give students or parents access to personal postings unrelated to school. Pre-existing relationships outside of school, e.g. neighbors, fellow church members, etc., are an appropriate exception. Employees are required to use "appropriately respectful speech" in their personal social media posts, and must refrain from harassing, defamatory, abusive, discriminatory, sexually explicit, threatening, or other inappropriate communications on their personal posts.

Any violation of any part of this agreement or any other activity which school administrators deem inappropriate will be subject to disciplinary action. Discipline could include but would not be limited to, the immediate suspension or termination of the teacher's Internet account and computer privileges, reprimand, suspension, or termination.

Use of School Facilities

Teachers will be issued keys and a key card to the school. Teachers are expected to not lose their keys or key card and to not allow others to have access to or to use their keys/key card. Teachers should not possess keys that they have not been approved to use. Possessing non-approved keys or copying keys without permission will be considered insubordination. Teachers are permitted to have access to school facilities during non-school time provided such access is for work-related purposes. When teachers leave the building, they are to close all windows, lock their classroom door, and make sure that the entry doors are fully closed and locked. This is especially important when teachers are using the school facilities prior to the beginning of the school year and during any weekend or evening usage.

School property is to be used for approved work-related purposes and not for personal purposes or for personal gain or benefit. Use of school supplies (paper, staples, etc.), school equipment (copiers, fax machines, telephones, etc.), and school postage is to be used for approved school-related purposes only. Excess or surplus supplies or equipment, including items which have been placed in the trash, should not be removed for non-school use without approval from the administration.

Care of School Property

Teachers are responsible for the proper care of all books, equipment, supplies and furniture supplied by the school. If an item is in need of maintenance or repair, report it to the Principal. If you learn that a student has damaged school property or equipment, or if you are responsible for damage to school property, promptly report it to the Principal so the item may be replaced or repaired if possible and appropriate responsibility for the cost of replacement or repair may be determined.

Visitors

Teachers are not to have visitors on school property except on a short-term basis and only with permission of the principal. Included in the definition of visitors are family members of the teacher. Visitors should follow posted procedures for being on school property. Teachers are not to bring their children to school with them in lieu of taking them to childcare.

Salespersons

Teachers need not allow, and should not permit, any salesperson or representative or agent of any commercial enterprise or theatrical presentation to contact the teacher while engaged in the teacher's duties except for such times as may be designated by the Superintendent or designee. By law, the hours of no solicitation are between 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. on all days school is in session. If you are required to be at work earlier than 8:00 a.m., the hours are extended to that earlier time as well.

Teachers shall not use classrooms, buildings or other school property for personal use or profit without specific approval from the Superintendent or designee. Teachers shall not use time for which the teacher is on duty or paid by the District to engage in any activity for personal financial profit. Any violation of this policy will be held to be willful insubordination.

Security of Desks and Lockers

Offices, teacher desks, lockers, file cabinets and other such storage devices (“storage devices”) are owned by the school and are to be properly cared for and maintained. Appropriate security measures should be used to protect school and personal property kept in storage devices from theft or vandalism and to protect confidential student records.

The school exercises exclusive control over school property and reserves the right search offices and storage devices provided to or used by employees where permitted by law, such as where reasonable grounds exist for suspecting that a search will turn up evidence that the employee has committed work-related misconduct, or that a search is necessary for a non-investigatory work-related purpose, such as to retrieve a file. School-related documents or records must remain readily available to administration and other appropriate school staff. Any personal items a teacher wants to have kept private should be kept in a separate personal storage device, such as a brief case, purse or backpack.

The District is not responsible for any personal property teachers may bring to school. Teachers are cautioned not to bring large amounts of money or items of significant value to school.

Video Surveillance

The Board of Education has authorized the use of video cameras on School District property to ensure the health, welfare and safety of all staff, students and visitors to District property, and to safeguard District facilities and equipment. Video cameras may be used in locations as deemed appropriate by the Superintendent.

Notice is hereby given that video surveillance may occur on District property. In the event a video surveillance recording captures a student or other building user violating school policies or rules or local, state or federal laws, the video surveillance recording may be used in appropriate disciplinary proceedings against the student or other building user and may also be provided to law enforcement agencies.

Bulletins and Announcements

Bulletin boards and display cases are available for school-related and approved materials to be posted and displayed. Posters to be used in the halls or materials for distribution will need to be approved by the Principal’s office. Posters are not to be attached to any painted wall surfaces. The person or organization responsible for distributing the posters is responsible to see that all posters are removed within 48 hours after the event.

Copyright and Fair Use Policy

It is the school’s policy to follow the federal copyright law. Students are reminded that, when using school equipment and when completing course work, they also must follow the federal copyright laws. The federal copyright law governs the reproduction of works of authorship. Copyrighted works are protected regardless of the medium in which they are created or reproduced; thus, copyright extends to digital works and works

transformed into a digital format. Copyrighted works are not limited to those that bear a copyright notice.

The “fair use” doctrine allows limited reproduction of copyrighted works for educational and research purposes. The relevant portion of the copyright statute provides that the “fair use” of a copyrighted work, including reproduction “for purposes such as criticism, news reporting, teaching (including multiple copies for classroom use), scholarship, or research” is not an infringement of copyright. The law lists the following factors as the ones to be evaluated in determining whether a particular use of a copyrighted work is a permitted “fair use,” rather than an infringement of the copyright:

the purpose and character of the use, including whether such use is of a commercial nature or is for nonprofit educational purposes;
the nature of the copyrighted work;
the amount and substantiality of the portion used in relation to the copyrighted work as a whole, and
the effect of the use upon the potential market for or value of the copyrighted work.

Although all of these factors will be considered, the last factor is the most important in determining whether a particular use is “fair.” Students should seek assistance from a faculty member if there are any questions regarding what may be copied.

Lost and Found

Teachers who find lost articles are asked to take them to the office, where the articles can be claimed by the owner.

Safety

Safety Program and Safety Committee

The District has established a Safety and Security Management Plan which includes safety and security plans and procedures, including plans and procedures to address emergency and crisis situations. Teachers are expected to be familiar with and to comply with the Safety and Security Management Plan. The Plan may be obtained for review or copy from the Principal or the Superintendent.

The District also has a safety committee to address employee accidents, injuries and work place conditions. A representative from each bargaining group plus representatives appointed by administration serve on the committee. If you have a desire to serve on the committee, you should contact the President of the teachers’ association. Teachers can make suggestions and/or report concerns to the safety committee in the following ways: (1) contact the teachers’ association representative of the safety committee, (2) contact the President of the teachers’ association, or (3) contact the Safety Committee in care of the Superintendent.

Safety Practices

Guidelines for safe work practices which teachers should follow and model for students include the following:

1. Never stand on chairs, counters, tables, etc. Only use step stools, ladders and locking stools to stand, climb, etc., to reach high places, put things on bulletin boards, etc.
2. Always wear protective equipment (i.e., goggles, aprons, gloves, and ear protection).
3. Wipe up spills or report promptly to appropriate personnel. DO NOT assume someone else will do it.
4. Be aware of your surroundings. Pick up clutter, keep your work area or room clean and free of clutter, debris, etc.
5. Identify and report all hazards (i.e., broken equipment, broken or uneven floor surfaces, non-operating tools, windows, doors, etc.). Follow up if not repaired.
6. Do not use equipment if you are not familiar with it or operate machinery without proper training.
7. Do not carry heavy or bulky objects. Get a cart, dolly or assistance. Know how to properly lift.
8. Report any injuries or medical problems to your supervisor immediately and complete the employee accident report.
9. Wear seatbelts when in vehicles where provided.
10. Do not do repetitive tasks for long periods of time (i.e., keyboarding, dipping cookies, cutting out things, filing, typing, etc.). Take breaks, learn and do stretching exercises, etc. Every accident in the school building, on the school grounds, at practice sessions, or at any athletic event sponsored by the school must be reported immediately to the Principal.

As required by law, approved safety glasses will be required of every student and teacher while participating in or observing vocational, technical, industrial technology, science, and art classes. All visitors to these areas must check out a pair of safety glasses when entering any of these areas.

Use of Personal Vehicles

Teachers who drive school vehicles or volunteer to use their personal automobile to transport students must have a valid driver's license and proof of insurance. Teachers will be provided a Driver's Certification form to verify this information and to be given instruction on emergency evacuation and first aid. Teachers who drive school vehicles or transport students in their personal vehicles are responsible for following safe driving practices, including use of seat belts by all occupants, and are responsible for any injury or accident. Teachers are not to use cell phones while driving a school vehicle or while transporting children.

Accidents

Every accident which results in a personal injury must be reported to the Principal immediately. In the event the injury involves a student, the teacher responsible for the student either as teacher, coach or sponsor is responsible for making the report. If the injury occurs in the presence of the teacher, the teacher is also responsible for making a report.

Workers Compensation

Teachers are required to immediately report any work-related injury and/or work-related medical condition to their supervisor and complete all appropriate paperwork.

Article 8 – STATE AND FEDERAL PROGRAMS

Section 1 Notice of Nondiscrimination

The Perkins County Schools does not discriminate on the basis of sex, disability, race, color, religion, veteran status, national or ethnic origin, marital status, pregnancy, childbirth or related medical condition, or other protected status in admission or access to, or treatment with regard to employment or with regard to its programs and activities. Reasonable accommodations will be provided to employees with disabilities and to those who are pregnant, have given birth, or have a related medical condition, as required by law.

The Coordinators listed in Section 2 have been designated to handle inquiries regarding complaints, grievance procedures or the application of these policies of nondiscrimination.

Local complaint or grievance procedures are provided for by the District and set forth in this handbook. If an employee does not feel that a complaint of nondiscrimination has been satisfactorily resolved at the school level, the employee may file a complaint with the appropriate federal or state agency. Complaints are to be filed with the regional Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights where the complaint relates to Title IX (discrimination, harassment or lack of equity based on gender), Title VI (discrimination or harassment based on race, color, or national origin) or Section 504 (discrimination, harassment or failure to accommodate a disability). Complaints are to be filed with the regional U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) if the complaint relates to Title VII (discrimination or harassment based on race, color, gender, national origin, or religion), the Americans with Disabilities Act (discrimination, harassment or failure to accommodate a disability), or the Age Discrimination in Employment Act (discrimination based on age). The contact information for the OCR and the EEOC in this regard are:

Office for Civil Rights Commission (EEOC) 612 East 12 th Street Room 353 Kansas City, MO 64106 800-368-1019 FAX: 816-426-3686; TDD: 800-537-7697 or ocr.kansascity@ed.gov	The U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission 1801 L Street, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20507 (800) 669-4000; TDD: (800) 669-6820
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A publication provided by the federal government concerning rights of non-discrimination

is attached as Appendix “D” to this handbook.

Section 2 Designation of Coordinators

Any person having inquiries concerning the District’s compliance with anti-discrimination laws or policies or other programs should contact or notify the following person(s) who are designated as the coordinator for such laws, policies or programs. The contact address for each coordinator is: Perkins County Schools, 740 Sherman Ave., P.O. Box 829, Grant, NE 69140, (308) 352-4735.

Section 3 Anti-discrimination & Harassment Policy

Elimination of Discrimination

The Perkins County Schools hereby gives this statement of compliance and intent to comply with all state and federal laws prohibiting discrimination or harassment and requiring accommodations. This school district intends to take necessary measures to assure compliance with such laws against any prohibited form of discrimination or harassment or which require accommodations.

Preventing Harassment and Discrimination

Purpose: Perkins County Schools is committed to offering employment and educational opportunity to its employees and students in a climate free of discrimination. Accordingly, unlawful discrimination or harassment of any kind by administrators, teachers, co-workers, students or other persons is prohibited. In addition, the Perkins County Schools will try to protect employees and students from reported discrimination or harassment by non-employees or others in the work place and educational environment.

For purposes of this policy, discrimination or harassment based on a person's race, color, national origin, gender, marital status, disability, religion or age is prohibited. The following are general definitions of what might constitute prohibited harassment.

In general, ethnic or racial slurs or other verbal or physical conduct relating to a person's race, color, religion, disability or national origin constitute harassment when they unreasonably interfere with the person's work performance or create an intimidating work, instructional or educational environment.

Age harassment (40 years of age and higher) has been defined by federal regulations as a form of age discrimination. It can consist of demeaning jokes, insults or intimidation based on a person's age.

Sexual harassment is defined by federal and state regulations as a form of sex discrimination. It can consist of unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, or physical or verbal conduct of a sexual nature by supervisors or others in the work place, classroom or educational environment. Sexual harassment may exist when:

Submission to such conduct is either an explicit or implicit term and condition of employment or of participation and enjoyment of the school’s programs and activities; Submission to or rejection of such conduct is used or threatened as a basis for employment

related decisions, such as promotion, performance, evaluation, pay adjustment, discipline, work assignment, etc., or school program or activity decisions, such as admission, credits, grades, school assignments or playing time;

The conduct has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual's work or educational performance or creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working, class room or educational environment.

Sexual harassment may include explicit sexual propositions, sexual innuendo, suggestive comments, sexually oriented "kidding" or "teasing", "practical jokes", jokes about gender-specific traits, foul or obscene language or gestures, displays of foul or obscene printed or visual material, and physical contact, such as patting, pinching or brushing against another's body.

Complaint and Grievance Procedures

Employees or students should initially report all instances of discrimination or harassment to their immediate supervisor or classroom teacher. However, if the employee or student is uncomfortable in presenting the problem to the supervisor or teacher, or if the supervisor or teacher is the problem, the employee or student is encouraged to go to the next level of supervision. In the case of a student, the Principal would be the next or alternative person to contact.

If the employee or student's complaint is not resolved to his or her satisfaction within five (5) to ten (10) calendar days, or if the discrimination or harassment continues, or if as a student you feel you need immediate help for any reason, please report your complaint to the Superintendent of Perkins County Schools. If a satisfactory arrangement cannot be obtained through the Superintendent, the complaint may be processed to the Board of Education.

The supervisor, teacher or the Superintendent will thoroughly investigate all complaints. These situations will be treated with the utmost confidence, consistent with resolution of the problem. Based on the results of the investigation, appropriate corrective action, up to and including discharge of offending employees, and disciplinary action up to expulsion against a harassing student, may be taken. Under no circumstances will any threats or retaliation be permitted to be made against an employee or student for alleging in good faith a violation of this policy.

Section 4 Grievance Procedure for Persons with a Disability

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act address discrimination, harassment or failure to provide reasonable accommodations to persons with a disability. The following grievance procedure shall be used for resolution of complaints of alleged violations of the ADA or Section 504:

1. Complaints shall be filed with the ADA and Section 504 Coordinator.
Complaints shall be made in writing, unless the Complainant's disability prevents such, in which event the Complaint can be made verbally.
2. Complaints shall set forth: (a) the name of the Complainant, (b) the address and telephone number or other such information sufficient to enable the Coordinator to contact the Complainant, (c) a brief description of the

- alleged violation, and (d) the relief requested by the Complainant.
3. Complaints shall be investigated by the Coordinator or the Coordinator's designee. Investigations shall be thorough, but informal, and the Complainant shall be given a full opportunity to submit evidence relevant to the complaint.
 4. The Coordinator shall make a decision on the Complaint within thirty (30) days of the filing of the Complaint, unless such time period is extended by agreement of the Complainant. The decision shall be made in writing, shall set forth the Coordinator's proposed resolution of the Complaint, and shall be forwarded to the Complainant.
 5. The Complainant shall have ten (10) days from the date the Coordinator's decision is sent to the Complainant to accept or reject the Coordinator's proposed resolution, and shall be deemed to have accepted the proposed resolution unless the Complainant rejects the proposed resolution within such time period. In the event the complainant rejects the proposed resolution, the complainant shall be given the opportunity to file a request for reconsideration within the ten (10) days from the date the Coordinator's division is sent to the Complainant. The request for reconsideration shall be filed with the Coordinator. The Coordinator shall consider any additional information provided in the request for reconsideration and make a decision on the request for reconsideration within 10 (ten) days after the request for reconsideration was filed.

Section 5 Confidentiality of Student Records (FERPA)

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) gives parents and students over 18 years of age rights of access and confidentiality with respect to education records. Employees are expected to provide access rights and maintain the confidentiality of education records in accordance with FERPA and Board policy. Further information about FERPA and the District's policies under FERPA are found in Board policy and in the student handbook.

Section 6 Disclosure of Student Information to Military Recruiters and Colleges

Federal law requires school districts to provide military recruiters and institutions of higher education with the names, addresses, and telephone listings of high school students unless parents have notified the school district in writing that they do not want this information disclosed without prior written parental consent. Military recruiters will be granted the same access to a student in a high school grade as is provided to postsecondary educational institutions or to prospective employers of such students.

Section 7 Disclosure of Staff Qualifications

The Every Student Succeeds Act gives parents/guardians the right to get information about the professional qualifications of their child's classroom teachers. The District designates the following information as "directory information" and will give parents/guardians such

information upon request:

1. Whether the teacher has met the state's certification criteria for the grade level and subject matter s/he teaches;
2. Whether the state has waived its qualification and licensing criteria to permit the teacher to teach on an emergency or other provisional basis;
3. Whether the teacher is teaching coursework in the field or discipline of his/her certification;
4. Whether teachers' aides or similar paraprofessionals provide services to the parents' children, and if they do, their qualifications.

Section 8 Student Privacy Protection

Federal law requires the District to protect the privacy of students. Further information about student privacy and the District's policies with regard to student privacy are found in Board policy and in the student handbook. In general, employees are expected to comply with these provisions of the NCLB and related Board policy, as follows:

1. Student surveys created by and administered by either the United States Department of Education or a third party (a group or person other than the District)—give parent/guardian the opportunity to inspect the survey upon request before the survey is administered or distributed to the students;
2. Student surveys which involve "sensitive" matters—make suitable arrangements to protect student privacy (that is, do not include the name or other identifying information about a particular student) and give parents the opportunity, in advance, to "opt-out" their child from the survey. Sensitive matters include:
 1. Political affiliations or beliefs of the student or the student's parent;
 2. Mental or psychological problems of the student or the student's parent;
 3. Sex behavior or attitudes;
 4. illegal, anti-social, self-incriminating or demeaning behavior;
 5. Critical appraisals of other individuals with whom the student has close family relationships;
 6. Legally recognized privileged or analogous relationships, such as those of lawyers, physicians, and ministers;
 7. Religious practices, affiliations, or beliefs of the students or the student's parent;Income (other than that required by law to determine eligibility for participation in a program or for receiving financial assistance under such program).
3. Instructional materials—permit parents upon reasonable request to inspect any instructional material used as part of the educational curriculum for their child. The term "instructional materials" does not include academic tests or academic assessments for purposes of this parent inspection requirement.

If you receive such a request, direct the parent to contact your building principal and also inform the building principal yourself about the request to get instructions.

4. Collection, disclosure, or use of personal information collected from students for the purpose of marketing or for selling that information—the District policy is to not gather such information for such purposes.

Section 9 Parental Involvement

General - Parental/Community Involvement in Schools

The District's policy is to welcome parental involvement in the education of their children. As a part of this policy, employees are expected to:

1. provide parents timely information about their child's progress, including use of quarterly report cards, active and constructive attendance at parent-teacher conferences, and more frequent parent contacts where warranted by the student's academic and behavioral needs;
2. make textbooks, completed tests and other curriculum materials available for review by parents upon request;
3. permit parents access to their child's records according to law and school policy;
4. encourage parents to attend courses, assemblies, counseling sessions and other instructional activities with prior approval of the proper teacher, counselor or administrator, provided that such parent attendance be educationally appropriate and not disruptive to the educational program;
5. assure that testing occurs to assure proper measurement of each child's educational progress and achievement;
6. permit parents to excuse their child from testing, classroom instruction and other school experiences when possible and educationally appropriate;
7. notify parents of student surveys in accordance with district policy, obtain parental permission for surveys where required by District policy or law, and allow parents to opt-out of such surveys in accordance with District policy and law; and
8. encourage parents to express their concerns, share their ideas and advocate for their child's education.

Title I Parental Involvement

The District has a separate policy established pursuant to Federal law relating to parental involvement applicable to parents of children enrolled in Title I programs. The policy requires that parents of Title I children been given the opportunity to participate in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities, including ensuring—(A) that parents play an integral role in assisting their child's learning; (B) that parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education at school; (C) that parents are full partners in their child's education and are included, as appropriate, in decision making and on advisory committees to assist in the education of their child; and (D) the carrying out of other activities, such as those described in the parental involvement policy. Employees are expected to comply with the Title I parental involvement policy.

Homeless Students

Federal law requires that homeless students not be stigmatized or segregated on the basis of their status as homeless. Homeless children generally include children who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence. The Superintendent serves as the District's designated Homeless Coordinator and should be contacted for questions relating to a homeless student.

Breakfast and Lunch Programs

The District participates in the National School Lunch Program. Employees are expected to keep information about the participation of students in the program confidential.

Confidentiality of Protected Health Information

It is the policy of the District to develop and implement all necessary practices, policies, and procedures to comply with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) where and to the extent applicable and to maintain the privacy of protected health information (PHI), as that term is defined by HIPAA, that it receives, obtains, or transmits for employees and students. The District designates the Superintendent as its HIPAA privacy officer. Student and employee records containing PHI shall be accessible only to those who require such information to carry out their duties. *Faculty is to use caution and avoid inquiring of students about their personal health issues unless this information is deemed necessary to appropriately educate the student.*

Notice of COBRA Continuation Coverage Rights

**** Continuation Coverage Rights Under COBRA****

Introduction

You are receiving this notice because you have recently become covered under [Insert Name of School] health plan (the "Plan"). This notice contains important information about your right to COBRA continuation coverage, which is a temporary extension of coverage under the Plan. The right to COBRA continuation coverage was created by a federal law, the Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1985 (COBRA). COBRA continuation coverage can become available to you and to other members of your family who are covered under the Plan when you would otherwise lose your group health coverage. **This notice generally explains COBRA continuation coverage, when it may become available to you and your family, and what you need to do to protect the right to receive it.** This notice gives only a summary of your COBRA continuation coverage rights. For more information about your rights and obligations under the Plan and under federal law, you should either review the Plan's Summary Plan Description or get a copy of the Plan Document from the Plan Administrator.

The Plan Administrator is The Plan Administrator is responsible for administering COBRA continuation coverage.

COBRA Continuation Coverage

COBRA continuation coverage is a continuation of Plan coverage when coverage would otherwise end because of a life event known as a "qualifying event." Specific qualifying events are listed later in this notice. COBRA continuation coverage must be offered to each person who is a "qualified beneficiary." A qualified beneficiary is someone who will lose coverage under the Plan because of a qualifying event. Depending on the type of qualifying event, employees, spouses of employees, and dependent children of employees may be qualified beneficiaries. Under the Plan, qualified beneficiaries who elect COBRA continuation must pay for COBRA continuation coverage.

If you are an employee, you will become a qualified beneficiary if you will lose your coverage under the Plan because either one of the following qualifying events happens:

Your hours of employment are reduced, or

Your employment ends for any reason other than your gross misconduct.

If you are the spouse of an employee, you will become a qualified beneficiary if you will lose your coverage under the Plan because any of the following qualifying events happens:

Your spouse dies;

Your spouse's hours of employment are reduced;

Your spouse's employment ends for any reason other than his or her gross misconduct;

Your spouse becomes enrolled in Medicare (Part A, Part B, or both); or

You become divorced or legally separated from your spouse.

Your dependent children will become qualified beneficiaries if they will lose coverage under the Plan because any of the following qualifying events happens:

The parent-employee dies;

The parent-employee's hours of employment are reduced;

The parent-employee's employment ends for any reason other than his or her gross misconduct;

The parent-employee becomes enrolled in Medicare (Part A, Part B, or both);

The parents become divorced or legally separated; or

The child stops being eligible for coverage under the plan as a "dependent child."

Sometimes, filing a proceeding in bankruptcy under title 11 of the United States Code can be a qualifying event. If a proceeding in bankruptcy is filed with respect to the employer and that bankruptcy results in the loss of coverage of any retired employee covered under the Plan, the retired employee is a qualified beneficiary with respect to the bankruptcy. The retired employee's spouse, surviving spouse, and dependent children will also be qualified beneficiaries if bankruptcy results in the loss of their coverage under the Plan.

The Plan will offer COBRA continuation coverage to qualified beneficiaries only after the Plan Administrator has been notified that a qualifying event has occurred. When the qualifying event is the end of employment or reduction of hours of employment, death of the employee, commencement of a proceeding in bankruptcy with respect to the employer to the extent retiree health coverage is provided, or enrollment of the employee in Medicare (Part A, Part B, or both), the employer must notify the Plan Administrator of the qualifying event within 30 days of any of these events.

For the other qualifying events (divorce or legal separation of the employee and spouse or a dependent child's losing eligibility for coverage as a dependent child), you must notify the Plan Administrator. The Plan requires you to notify the Plan Administrator within 60 days after the qualifying event occurs. You must send this notice to the Plan Administrator. Any additional Plan procedures for this notice must also be provided.

Once the Plan Administrator receives notice that a qualifying event has occurred, COBRA continuation coverage will be offered to each of the qualified beneficiaries. For each qualified beneficiary who elects COBRA continuation coverage, COBRA continuation coverage will begin on the date of the qualifying event.

COBRA continuation coverage is a temporary continuation of coverage. When the qualifying event is the death of the employee, enrollment of the employee in Medicare (Part A, Part B, or both), your divorce or legal separation, or a dependent child losing eligibility as a dependent child, COBRA continuation coverage lasts for up to 36 months.

When the qualifying event is the end of employment or reduction of the employee's hours of employment, COBRA continuation coverage lasts for up to 18 months. There are two ways in which this 18-month period of COBRA continuation coverage can be extended.

Disability extension of 18-month period of continuation coverage

If you or anyone in your family covered under the Plan is determined by the Social Security Administration to be disabled at any time during the first 60 days of COBRA continuation coverage and you notify the Plan Administrator in a timely fashion, you and your entire family can receive up to an additional 11 months of COBRA continuation coverage, for a total maximum of 29 months. You must make sure that the Plan Administrator is notified of the Social Security Administration's determination within 60 days of the date of the determination and before the end of the 18-month period of COBRA continuation coverage. This notice should be sent to the Plan Administrator. Any additional Plan procedures for this notice must also be provided.

Second qualifying event extension of 18-month period of continuation coverage

If your family experiences another qualifying event while receiving COBRA continuation coverage, the spouse and dependent children in your family can get additional months of COBRA continuation coverage, up to a maximum of 36 months. This extension is available to the spouse and dependent children if the former employee dies, enrolls in Medicare (Part A, Part B, or both), or gets divorced or legally separated. The extension is also available to a dependent child when that child stops being eligible under the Plan as a dependent child. In all of these cases, you must make sure that the Plan Administrator is notified of the second qualifying event within 60 days of the second qualifying event. This notice must be sent to the Plan Administrator. Any additional Plan procedures for this notice must also be provided.

If You Have Questions

If you have questions about your COBRA continuation coverage, you should contact the Superintendent or Plan Administrator or you may contact the nearest Regional or District Office of the U.S. Department of Labor's Employee Benefits Security Administration (EBSA). Addresses and phone numbers of Regional and District EBSA Offices are available through EBSA's web site at www.dol.gov/ebsa.

Keep Your Plan Informed of Address Changes

In order to protect your family's rights, you should keep the Plan Administrator informed of any changes in the addresses of family members. You should also keep a copy, for your records, of any notices you send to the Plan Administrator.

**RECEIPT OF 2019-20 TEACHER HANDBOOK
OF PERKINS COUNTY SCHOOLS**

This signed receipt acknowledges receipt of the 2019-20 Teacher Handbook of Perkins County Schools. This receipt acknowledges that it is understood that the I am to read and be familiar with the handbook, that I understand the handbook contains a disclaimer of contract and that I understand that the handbook includes the District's policies of non-discrimination and equity, and that specific complaint and grievance procedures exist in the handbook which should be used for responding to harassment or discrimination.

Date: _____

Teacher's Signature

Return to:

Phillip Picquet Superintendent
Perkins County Schools

2019-2020
CLASSIFIED EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK
Perkins County Schools

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Section 1 Intent of Handbook

Welcome to Perkins County Schools. This handbook is intended to be used by classified employees to provide general information about Perkins County Schools and to serve as a guide to policies, rules and regulations, benefits of employment, and performance expectations.

References in this handbook to “Classified Employees” are intended to apply to all staff who are not required by their position to hold a teaching or administrative certificate.

Each classified employee is responsible for becoming familiar with the handbook and knowing the information contained in it. Although the information found in this handbook is detailed and specific on many topics, the handbook is not intended to be all encompassing so as to cover every situation and circumstance that may arise. This handbook is intended to supplement other documents that deal with your employment, including your employment contract and the policies and regulations of the Board of Education. In reading this handbook, please understand that where a direct conflict exists, state or federal law and Board policies and regulations will control.

This handbook does not create a “contract” of employment. Classified employee positions and assignments may be ended or changed on an “at will” basis notwithstanding anything in this handbook or any other publication or statement, except for a contract approved by the Board of Education.

The administration will be responsible for interpreting the rules contained in the handbook and shall have the right to make decisions and make rule revisions at any time. Should a situation or circumstance arise that is not specifically covered in this handbook, the administration will make a decision based upon applicable school district policies, state and federal statutes and regulations, and the best interest of the District.

This handbook will be in effect for the 2019-2020 and subsequent school years unless replaced by a later edition.

Section 2 Information About Perkins County Schools

Perkins County Schools is an accredited PreK-12 school system by the Nebraska Department of Education. The school system has more than 100 employees with a certified staff of approximately 50. The district operates two facilities in Grant, which are valued at more than \$12,000,000 with an estimated budget of more than \$6.4 million dollars. The students of Perkins County come from various parts of the county and from multiple communities within the county. These communities consist of: Grant, Elsie, Madrid, and Venango.

Section 3 School Mission Statement

The mission of the Perkins County Schools is to develop capable, responsible, lifelong learners who demonstrate those skills necessary for academic and occupational success in a global society.

EMPLOYMENT, COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS

Section 4 Employment

Employment occurs when the employee signs the Employee’s Contract and the Superintendent approves and signs such contract of employment.

Classified employees may be asked in the spring whether they wish to continue in employment during the following school year. This is done for staff planning purposes and does not constitute an offer of employment.

Should an employee wish to resign from employment the employee should give two (2) weeks' written notice of resignation to the Superintendent.

Classified employees are "at will" employees and may be terminated at any time by the school district. Notice of termination may be delivered by the Building Principal or Superintendent.

Section 5 Assignments

The duties to be performed by an employee with the District shall be subject to assignment by the Building Principal or Superintendent. Job descriptions, where available, provide additional information about the position duties.

An employee will be expected to devote full time during days of school to the employee's position and to diligently and faithfully perform the assigned duties to the best of the employee's ability.

Section 6 Personnel File

The District will follow the requirements of state and federal law and regulation with regard to employee personnel files. Employees are to notify the Principal's office of any changes in contact information (address/telephone). For a name change, provide your new social security card. Employees may contact the Principal to request a review of their personnel file.

Section 7 Grievances and Complaints

Employment related grievances or complaints shall be addressed through the administrative chain of command following the process set forth in board policy.

Section 8 Compensation

Compensation is paid only as authorized by the Superintendent of Schools.

Wages are payable on a once per month basis for those months when services are performed. Employees will be paid on the 15th of the month, or the last preceding school day, if the 15th falls on a vacation or weekend day. Reimbursement for mileage or other expenses will be considered separate from compensation.

Section 9 Benefits

Classified employees on contracts exceeding 10 months are provided the following benefits: Tier One Health/Dental insurance through Blue Cross/Blue Shield. Employees shall make annual fringe benefit elections by September 1 of each school year. Should an employee fail to make such election, the employee election from the immediately preceding school and contract year shall be continued. Each

employee is responsible for informing the Office of the Superintendent in writing of any changes in benefit status.

Continued health insurance benefits are available through COBRA subject to certain qualifying requirements. A Notice of COBRA Continuation Coverage Rights will be provided to you or will be made available upon request from the Superintendent's office.

The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) provides rights and protections for participants and beneficiaries in group health plans. HIPAA includes protections for coverage under group health plans that limit exclusions for preexisting conditions; prohibit discrimination against employees and dependents based on their health status; and allow a special opportunity to enroll in a new plan to individuals in certain circumstances. HIPAA may also give you a right to purchase individual coverage if you have no group health plan coverage available, and have exhausted COBRA or other continuation coverage. Further information may be obtained from the Plan Administrator of the group health plan.

Section 10 Payroll and Payroll Deductions

Wages/salary and benefits are paid in accordance with the individual employment contracts and negotiated agreement, if any. Payroll deductions shall be made in accordance with law and the negotiated agreement if any.

Section 11 Expense Reimbursement

Reimbursement for authorized mileage will be paid to employees required to drive their own vehicles during their regular scheduled working hours. Claims for reimbursement should be submitted to the employee's immediate supervisor. The allowable rate shall be governed by Board policy, unless otherwise required by law. The District is not liable for physical damage to employee vehicles.

Necessary materials and supplies are provided by the District. If an employee needs additional materials for performance of duties, the request should be made to the employee's immediate supervisor. Employees who purchase materials or supplies without advance approval may not be reimbursed.

Reimbursement for meals or other expenses related to District-required travel must be submitted to and approved by either the Principal or, if the expense relates to an activity, by the Athletic Director. The request for reimbursement should include a voucher sufficient to establish that the expense was actually incurred and that the expense was reasonable and related to a school-purpose.

Section 12 Overtime

All overtime must be pre-approved by the Administration.

Overtime is paid to classified employees in accordance with the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA). A publication provided by the federal government which provides more information about the FLSA is attached as Appendix "A" to this handbook.

Classified employees may be classified as either “exempt” or “non-exempt” for overtime purposes. Employees who are classified as “exempt” employees are not eligible for overtime, while those who are “non-exempt” are eligible for overtime.

Non-exempt employees will be expected to accurately report hours worked. Falsification of time cards is a serious offense.

Non-exempt employees must receive prior approval from their supervisor to work additional hours beyond their regular work schedule. Non-exempt employees will be paid for each hour worked in excess of 40 hours in a work week and are expected to accurately and timely report overtime hours to their supervisor. The regular work week for overtime purposes is from 12:00 a.m. on Monday through 11:50 p.m. on Sunday. The administration may establish a different 7-day period work week from time to time for specified employees or employee groups.

Overtime pay for non-exempt employees will be paid at the rate of not less than 1 ½ times the employee’s regular rate of pay for hours worked in excess of the 40-hour work week. Employees with two or more non-exempt positions may be eligible for overtime pay based upon the total number of hours worked in one work week. If applicable, the employee and the Superintendent will agree upon the overtime rate, in compliance with FLSA regulations.

A non-exempt employee may request compensatory time in lieu of overtime pay, with approval of the employer, with the rate figured as 1 ½ times the number of hours worked in excess of 40 hours in any work week. Compensatory time may be accumulated up to 40 hours upon approval by their supervisor. Any accumulation of compensatory time over 40 hours must be approved by the Superintendent. The FLSA limits the accumulation of compensatory time to 240 hours.

The District’s policy is to not permit improper deductions from the salary of exempt employees who are required to meet a “salaried basis” test for the overtime exemption to be applicable. An employee who feels an improper deduction affecting exemption status has occurred may submit a complaint to the Superintendent or the Superintendent’s designee, who shall promptly investigate the complaint. Reimbursement shall be made in a good faith commitment to comply in the future will be given in the event it is determined that an improper deduction affecting overtime exemption has been made.

The District’s policy is to authorize unpaid disciplinary suspensions of a full day or more for infractions of workplace conduct rules and to apply such policy uniformly to all similarly situated employees, including exempt employees who are required to meet a “salaried basis” test for the exemption to be applicable. Unpaid disciplinary suspensions of a partial day or of a full day or more may be implemented for infractions of safety rules of major significance. Deductions of pay or a partial day or of a full day or more may be made for FMLA leaves and in the first and last weeks of employment. In addition, based on principles of public accountancy, deductions from pay of a partial day or of a full day or more will be made for absences for illness, injury or personal reasons when accrued leave is not used or not available, and for absences due to any budget-required furlough.

ABSENCES FROM WORK

Section 13 Paid Leave – Sick and Personal Leaves

Classified employees are provided with paid sick and personal leave in accordance with the employee's individual contract or board policy, if any. During such paid leaves, classified employees shall continue to receive all wages/salary and fringe benefits called for by the individual contract or board policy, if any.

The leaves provided by the District are to be used for the purpose intended. Abuse of leave privileges affects the students, other staff, and the entire District and will not be tolerated. Staff members should avoid using personal leave during the first or last week of school and during designated professional development days unless it is unavoidable. These days should be held in high regard for developing

and implementing classroom procedures, professional growth, and completion of end of year tasks and ceremonies.

Requests for Leave

Advance reporting of the need to take a leave is important. A classified employee who becomes ill and is unable to work is to contact their Immediate Supervisor/Building Principal or designee before 6:45 A.M. Before the end of the school day on the first day of sick leave, and on each subsequent day of absence, a report should be made to Building Principal as to whether the classified employee will be able to return to duty on the next duty day. For illnesses or medical situations where the need for the leave can be determined in advance, the classified employee is to make such advance report of need for leave as possible.

For personal and other leaves, a Request for Leave form is to be submitted to your Immediate Supervisor and then on to Building Principal's at least five school days prior to the leave, or such other advance notice as is practicable under the circumstances.

Return from Leave

A classified employee who is absent for any period of time because of injury requiring care from a physician or health care provider, or for a period of one week or more due to illness, must present a written statement to the Principal from the classified employee's physician or health care provider stating that the classified employee is physically able to return to duty. This statement is to be presented in person before the classified employee returns to duty in order that the present stage of convalescence can be observed and discussed.

Section 14 Payroll Deductions for Absences in Excess of Paid Leave

Should an employee be absent from work in excess of the employee's accumulated sick leave or other paid leave, the employee's salary and fringe benefits (including the cost of premiums for group health insurance) shall be reduced by the day or days of work missed. In the case of hourly employees, the reduction will be made on an hourly basis. In the case of salaried employees, the reduction will be made on a per diem basis calculated using the number of days missed as the numerator, and the number of total contract days for the school year as the denominator.

Section 15 Leaves of Absence

A classified employee may apply to the Superintendent for a leave of absence from the classified employee's duties. The Superintendent will consider such requests on a case-by-case basis. No leave of absence shall extend beyond one school year. All leave of absence shall be without pay except for the payment of health insurance benefits as may be required under applicable state or federal laws.

Section 16 Jury Duty

An employee who is summoned for jury service shall promptly notify the employee's immediate Supervisor on such summons. The employee's salary will continue during time spent in jury service,

and no deduction of leave time shall occur, except that the District may reduce the pay by an amount equal to any compensation, other than expenses, paid by the court for jury duty. Employees are to notify their Supervisor of the amount received for such jury duty.

If an employee, upon reporting for jury duty in the morning, is dismissed from jury duty for the remainder of the day, the employee is to report for duty and resume duties for the balance of the day. When an employee is entirely dismissed from jury duty, the employee is directed to report for duty.

Employees are expected to promptly notify the employee's immediate Supervisor of any other form of legal summons which may require an absence from duty. In the event the summons involves a school-related matter, the matter shall be treated similar to a jury duty absence. In the event the summons involves a personal matter, the employee will be required to use available leave days.

Section 17 Military Leave

Employees who are members of the National Guard, Army Reserve, Naval Reserve, Marine Corps Reserve, Air Force Reserve or Coast Guard Reserve (hereinafter, "reserves"), are entitled to a military leave of absence from their respective duties, without loss of pay, when employed with or without pay under the orders or authorization of competent authority in the active service of the state or of the United States. Employees who normally work or are normally scheduled to work 120 hours or more in three consecutive weeks shall receive a military leave of absence of 120 hours each calendar year. Employees who normally work or are normally scheduled to work less than 120 hours in three consecutive weeks shall receive a military leave of absence each calendar year equal to the number of hours they normally work or would normally be scheduled to work, whichever is greater, in three consecutive weeks. Such military leave of absence may be taken in hourly increments and shall be in addition to the classified employee's regular annual leave.

When the governor of this state shall declare that a state of emergency exists, and any employee who is a member of the reserves is ordered to active service of the state, the employee shall be granted a state of emergency leave of absence until released from active service by competent authority. The leave of absence shall not be a military leave of absence; other forms of leave may be granted. The employee shall receive normal salary or compensation minus the state active duty base pay the employee receives in active service of the state.

Section 18 Family and Medical Leave Act

The Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) provides for 12 weeks of job-protected unpaid leave in a 12-month period to eligible employees in specified circumstances. A publication provided by the federal government which provides more information about FMLA leaves is attached as Appendix "B" to this handbook. Some specifics regarding FMLA leave at Perkins County Schools:

- A. The plan year for FMLA is a rolling year. A rolling year is a 12-month period measured backward from the date an employee uses any FMLA leave.
- B. Employees will be required to substitute remaining applicable paid leave prior to using unpaid leave. In other words, the total of job-protected paid and unpaid leave is 12 weeks.

If you need to take FMLA leave, or have any questions regarding an FMLA leave, you should contact the Superintendent.

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Section 19 Hours of Work

Regular, dependable attendance at work is an essential function of a classified employee's employment position.

Section 20 Arrival to Duty Assignments

Schools have differing starting and ending times for the student day. Classified employees' work assignments may or may not be related to the regular school day. Classified employees are expected to know their duty dates and times, and to be on time for work.

Section 21 Leaving School

Employees are to be on duty at all times during the assigned work day. Employees may not leave school or their assigned area during duty hours without approval of the Principal. Employees who

leave the school during their designated lunch period must check out with the Principal's office. Employees who leave during their work hours for an approved absence must check out with the Principal's office or their Supervisor when leaving and check back in upon return. Employees who need to leave during the school day for reason of illness or emergency are to check out with the Principal's office or their Supervisor and make sure that the responsible person has been notified of their unexpected absence so work coverage may be provided.

Section 22 School Procedures

Employees are expected to adhere to the following classroom and school procedures in the performance of their duties:

1. Use of Cell Phones

Employees shall not use personal cell phones for any non-school purpose during duty time.

2. Checking Out of Equipment

All equipment must be checked out through the Building Principal. All school equipment may be used only for school purposes.

3. Requisition of Equipment and Supplies

Equipment and supplies which are needed for work duties should be requested through the Principal's office. No equipment or supplies ordered through the District may be directed to the personal use of an employee or another District employee.

4. Email

Employees may be assigned a school Email address for purposes of intra-school and inter-school Email correspondence. Employees should check for Email throughout the day and should timely respond to Emails which require a response. Para-educators and other staff assigned to work with students should avoid checking and responding to Emails during instructional or supervisory time. Use of the District's Email system for personal communications should be limited and is subject to the rules governing overall computer usage found in Board policy and this handbook.

5. Employee Mailbox

Employees may be assigned a mailbox located in the designated area within their site. Employees should check for mail each morning and also later in the school day, if possible. If something requires an answer, employees are responsible for responding promptly. Employee mailboxes are to be limited to communicate regarding school business.

6. Record Keeping

Duties of classified employees often involve keeping detailed records. Make sure to complete these records as directed by your Supervisor.

7. Employee Meetings

Meetings will be held on an as needed basis. ALL employees are expected to be present for the meetings, unless they are absent from school for good cause or have made prior arrangements.

Section 23 Supervision of Students

Proper supervision of students is an important responsibility for employees. Employees who have responsibilities for student supervision are expected to meet the four “P’s” for student supervision and safety. All employees of the school should be familiar with these principles, to the extent they may be involved in supervision of students or interacting with students.

1) Proper Supervision

- Report to all duty assignments on time
- Circulate through your duty area. Pay particular attention to areas and activities that pose an increased risk of injury.
- Be vigilant while supervising students. Never leave students unattended; the need to make a copy is not greater than the need to supervise your students. If an emergency requires that you leave students who you are supervising, request that another nearby staff member provide supervision for you or notify the office so someone can provide assistance. If you are assisting with recess duty, your responsibility is to supervise the students in your assigned area. When talking with other adults or students, remember that your primary duty is supervision and make sure you are aware of what all students who you are to be supervising are doing.
- Be accountable for students who are assigned to you from the beginning of the supervision assignment to the end. Do not dismiss students early. If a student needs to leave class, make sure they have a hall pass. If the student is to report to the office, inform the office to be expecting the student. If the student is to be returning to your class after a brief absence (e.g., after using the restroom), contact the office if the student has not returned by the time expected.
- If you have seen or have been informed that a particular student has a propensity to act dangerously or in an unpredictable manner, your supervision of that student must increase with the known risk of injury. (Remember, though, that this type of information may be confidential – do not share confidential information about students except with other staff who need to know the information to perform their jobs).
- Be careful with touching students. Use of corporal punishment is prohibited in our school district. Touching students should be limited to that necessary to protect the student from harm (e.g. falling from playground equipment) and that which professional educators determine appropriate for purposes of proper student relationship.
- Be careful with your language. Profanity or abusive language is not acceptable. Be a good role model for students. If a student used such language, you should make a report to the student’s teacher or administration.

2) Proper Instructions

- Proper instructions are important to reduce the risk of injury when students undertake an activity, especially an activity that has an increased risk of harm to students.
- Repeat the instructions on how to complete a task that has a heightened risk of danger as often as needed. Do not assume because students heard the directions once that they will be remembered.
- When you go over safety rules with students note it in your written records. If any students are absent when you review the rules contact the student(s) to review the same information and also note that contact in your written records.

3) Proper Maintenance of Buildings, Grounds and Equipment

- Conduct periodic inspections of equipment under your control or in your area of supervision.
- If equipment is broken and presents a risk of injury, immediately take it out of service. If it can't be moved, tape a "Do Not Use" sign and notify the office so those repairs may be undertaken.
- Check your communication device (whether it be a school phone in your supervision area, a walkie talkie, or a cell phone) periodically to make sure you can communicate with the office immediately in the event of an emergency.

4) Proper Warnings

- If you have knowledge of a hazard that can likely cause injury, take steps to warn other staff and students.
- Tell the office so additional warnings may be given.

Contact the Office for Assistance

The office administration should be contacted immediately when a situation exists which could cause injury to students or others. Examples include:

- Student fight
- Student health problems (fainting, bleeding, high temperature, difficulty breathing, etc); if the office cannot be immediately located, call 911 if the problem appears to be of immediate and serious concern.
- A report or a suspicion that a student has a weapon or other dangerous item or drugs, alcohol, or other illegal substances.
- Presence of an intruder (a non-student or staff member who refuses to go to the office)
- Violations of student rules which are also violations of state law are required to be reported to law enforcement. Make a report of such conduct to the Principal so this law may be followed.

Student Searches

Administration is only allowed to conduct student searches. Do not conduct a search yourself. You may direct a student suspected of having an item in violation of school rules to wait with you until an administrator or the administrator's designee arrives. You may deny a student access to property that is suspected to have an item that is in violation of school rules until administration arrives or an

administrator's designee is present. Do not use physical force, except reasonably necessary to protect the student or others, to detain a student or when accompanying you to the office or another assigned area.

Student Rights

Students should be treated fairly and given the same treatment without consideration of race, color, religion, gender, or disability. Students who need special accommodations should be given those accommodations as needed for them to participate in school and school activities. Further, students have the right to have their school records kept confidential. Such information should be shared only with other school staff with a need to know the information to perform their duties.

Section 24 Role of Para-Educators

Para-Educators provide valuable assistance in the educational process and allow teachers to carry out their responsibilities in a more efficient and effective manner. A Para-Educator must not, however, assume teaching responsibilities. The teacher must maintain the role of leadership and responsibility for the students, with the Para-Educator in a supportive role. Para-Educators may assist the teacher by, among other tasks, assisting with instructional activities under the direction of the teacher, helping to supervise students, copying tests and other written material, organizing class materials, and preparing bulletin boards. Para-Educators are to work only on their assigned work days and within their assigned work day. If a teacher requests a Para-Educator to work hours other than the assigned work hours or assigned work day, the administration should be contacted for approval.

Section 25 Dispensing Medication

Employees are not permitted to give any medication to students unless trained under the Medication Aid Act. Students who need to take prescription medicine must have a signed parent release form on file in the office. Medications are to be taken in the presence of the office staff, the nurse, or medication aide and are to be stored in the office. Medical procedures are not to be administered in the classroom except in accordance with the District's Safety and Security Management Plan and the District's Emergency Protocol (asthma/anaphylaxis protocol). If students must take medication and/or perform medical procedures prescribed by a duly licensed physician during school hours, it is the responsibility of the parents or guardians to sign permission to dispense the medicine at the school and to submit a note or prescription from the physician authorizing the medicine and/or medical procedure. School district personnel will not administer medicine, including over the counter medicine, without this signed form and note or prescription. Any medication brought to school needs to be properly labeled. The label should include the following information: Student's name, name of medication, dosage needed, and time of dispensing the medication.

Section 26 Reporting Child Abuse

Nebraska State Law and school policy mandates school officials to make a report to the proper law enforcement agency of the Department of Health and Human Services (Child Protective Services) when there is reasonable cause to believe that a child has been abused or neglected, or a child is in a

situation which would reasonably result in abuse or neglect. According to Nebraska State Law, abuse or neglect means knowingly, intentionally, or negligently causing or permitting a minor child to be:

- a) Placed in a situation that endangers his or her life or physical or mental health;
- b) Cruelly confined or cruelly punished;
- c) Deprived of necessary food, clothing, shelter or care;
- d) Left unattended in a motor vehicle if such minor child is six years of age or younger;
- e) Sexually abused; or
- f) Sexually exploited by allowing, encouraging, or forcing such person to solicit for or engage in prostitution, debauchery, public indecency, or obscene or pornographic photography, files, or depictions.

Employees are to inform their Principal or Supervisor in the event they become aware of child abuse or neglect. Be as specific as possible with what, when, and where you observed the abuse or neglect and anything which you may have heard said by the student or others. It is vital that your report to school officials be made as accurately and as soon as possible. Timeliness in making a report will assist in minimizing further risk to the child.

Do not talk about the matter directly with the parent or others, as that may violate confidentiality restrictions, affect the ability of authorities to investigate, create problems with relationships and create legal problems. The school administration will consider your information, conduct any further investigation needed to justify a report, and determine whether a report of child abuse or neglect is to be made. If the person who you have reported to does not make a report to the police or Child Protective Services, and you feel a report should be made, report the matter directly to the Superintendent.

CLASSIFIED POSITION AND PERSONAL CONDUCT AND PERFORMANCE

Section 27 Ethics Standards

The Perkins County Schools expects its classified employees to adhere to ethics standards which are modified from those established by the Nebraska Department of Education for certificated employees. The classified school employment job ethics standards which classified employees are expected to adhere to include those set forth below.

Principle I – Commitment as a School Employee:

Employees shall exhibit good moral character, maintain high standards of performance and promote equality of opportunity.

In the fulfillment of the employee's contractual and personal responsibilities, the employee:

- A. Shall not interfere with the exercise of political and citizenship rights and responsibilities of students, colleagues, parents, school patrons, or school board members.
- B. Shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, creed, sex, marital status, age, national origin, ethnic background, or handicapping condition.

- C. Shall not use coercive means, or promise or provide special treatment to students, colleagues, school patrons, or school board members in order to influence personal decisions.
- D. Shall not make any fraudulent statement or fail to disclose a material fact for which the employee is responsible.
- E. Shall not exploit school relationships with students, colleagues, parents, school patrons, or school board members for personal gain or private advantage.
- F. Shall not sexually harass students, parents or school patrons, employees, or board members.
- G. Shall not engage in conduct involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit, or misrepresentation in the performance of job duties.
- H. Shall report to the Superintendent any known violation of paragraphs B or E above.
- I. Shall seek no reprisal against any individual who has reported a violation of this rule.

Principle II – Commitment to the Student:

Mindful that the employee’s classified position exists for the purpose of serving the best interests of the school district’s students and patrons, the classified employee shall perform his/her job duties with genuine interest, concern, and consideration for the student. The employee shall work to stimulate the spirit of inquiry, the acquisition of knowledge and understanding, and the thoughtful formulation of worthy goals.

In fulfillment of the obligation to the student, the employee:

- A. Shall make reasonable effort to protect the student from conditions which interfere with the learning process or are harmful to health or safety.
- B. Shall keep in confidence personally identifiable information that has been obtained in the course of employment, unless disclosure is approved by the administration or is required by law.
- C. Shall not discipline students using corporal punishment.

Principle III – Commitment to the Public:

The magnitude of the responsibility inherent in the education process requires dedication to the principles of our democratic heritage. The classified employee bears responsibility for instilling an understanding of the confidence in the rule of law, respect for individual freedom, and a responsibility to promote respect by the public for the integrity of the profession.

In fulfillment of the obligation to the public, the employee:

- A. Shall not misrepresent an institution with which the employee is affiliated and shall take added precautions to distinguish between the employee’s personal and institutional views.
- B. Shall not use institutional privileges for private gain or to promote political candidates, political issues, or partisan political activities.
- C. Shall neither offer nor accept gifts or favors that will impair judgement to be exercised in the course of employment.

- D. Shall support the principle of due process and protect the political, citizenship, and natural rights of all individuals.
- E. Shall not commit any act of moral turpitude, nor commit and felony under the laws of the United States or any state or territory.
- F. Shall, with reasonable diligence, attend to the duties of the employee's position.

Principle IV – Commitment to Classified Position Employment Practices:

The employee shall regard the employment agreement as a pledge to be executed both in spirit and in fact. The employee shall believe that sound personnel relationships with governing administration and board of education are built upon personal integrity, dignity, and mutual respect.

In fulfillment of the obligation to professional employment practices, the employee:

- A. Shall apply for, accept, offer, or assign a position or responsibility on the basis of preparation and legal qualifications.
- B. Shall not knowingly withhold information regarding a position from an applicant or employer or misrepresent an assignment or conditions of employment.
- C. Shall give prompt notice to the employer of any change in availability of service.
- D. Shall conduct job related business through designated procedures, when available, that have been approved by the employing agency.
- E. Shall not assign to unqualified personnel, tasks for which an employee is responsible.
- F. Shall permit no commercial or personal exploitation of his or her professional position.
- G. Shall use time on duty and leave time for the purpose for which intended.

Section 28 Evaluations

Evaluations of employees will be conducted in accordance with the Board policy. Supervisors reserve the right to observe, appraise or evaluate employees more frequently than required by policy on an “as needed” basis. Employees are expected to participate constructively and positively in the evaluation process and to accept and implement constructive suggestions and improvement strategies developed by the administration.

Section 29 Role Model

Employees serve as role models for students and their actions and conduct reflect on the school as a whole. Employees are in all respects to conduct themselves in a manner supportive of the mission of the school.

Section 30 Relationships

It is important for employees to maintain an effective working relationship with the administration, co-workers, students and parents. Appropriate relationships are established by extending social courtesies, following through on commitments and promises, complying with administrative directives and Board

policies, being honest and consistent, and not intruding into personal matters outside the scope of duties or gossiping or spreading rumors about others.

Section 31 Attire

It is important for employees to project a responsible, adult image to students, parents and co-workers. Appropriate attire and grooming is one of the means of projecting such an image. Employees are expected to maintain conservative attire and grooming when on duty. As a minimal guide, employees should not wear clothing which students would not be permitted to wear to school. Employees should wear clothing which is safe and suitable for their work assignments; and avoid clothing which may be caught in machinery. The administration may establish more detailed guidelines for individual employees should that be necessary. (Cooks, para-educators, secretaries, bookkeepers shall not wear jeans unless otherwise notified.

Section 32 Outside Employment

Employees shall not perform other work or engage in activities unrelated to District employment during duty hours. In addition, employees shall not engage in employment which conflicts with their school duties. Employees are not required to notify the District of outside employment except: (1) employees who are also employed by another Nebraska school district in order to comply with Nebraska State Retirement System regulations, and (2) employees who have a work-related injury in order to comply with worker's compensation requirements.

USE OF SCHOOL FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT

Section 33 Drug-Free Workplace

The District has established the school as a drug-free workplace. The drug-free workplace for this purpose includes school grounds, school utilized vehicles, and places in which school activities are held.

The unlawful manufacture, distribution, disposition, possession, or use of a controlled substance is prohibited in the workplace. The possession, use, or distribution of illicit drugs or alcohol, the use of glue or aerosol paint or any other chemical substance for inhalation, and being under the influence of illicit drugs, alcohol, or inhalants, is prohibited in any place while employees are on duty time. Any level of impairment from illicit drugs, alcohol, or inhalants, and the presence of any odor of illicit drugs (such as marijuana) or alcohol on an employee in the workplace or on duty time shall be a violation of the drug-free workplace. The possession or distribution of a look-alike drug or look-alike-controlled substance is prohibited. In addition, employees are expected to serve as role models for students and will be considered to have violated the District's expectations in the event the employee commits a criminal drug or alcohol offense off the work place or off duty time.

As a condition of employment employees will abide by the District's drug-free workplace policies and notify the Superintendent of any criminal drug statute conviction for a violation occurring in the workplace no later than 5 days after such conviction. Disciplinary sanctions up to and including termination of employment and referral for prosecution will be imposed for violations of the District's

drug-free workplace policies. Sanctions may include the requirement that the employee complete an appropriate rehabilitation program, a reprimand, and termination of employment. Drug and alcohol counseling and rehabilitation and reentry programs are available through local health agencies.

Section 34 Smoke and Tobacco-Free Workplace

The use of tobacco products in the District's buildings and on school grounds, all owned or leased facilities and vehicles is prohibited.

Section 35 Weapon-Free Workplace

The District prohibits any person from being in possession of a weapon at a school attendance facility, on school property, at a school-supervised activity, or at a school-sponsored function. Any employee found to be in violation of this policy shall be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including termination.

The term "weapon" means an instrument or object used, or which may be used, as a means of attack, defense, or destruction, including, without limitation:

- A. Any object which will, or is designed to, or may readily be converted to, expel a projectile by the action of an explosive or other means;
- B. The frame or receiver of any object described in the preceding example;
- C. Any firearm muffler or silencer;
- D. Any explosive, incendiary or gas (a) bomb, (b) grenade, (c) rocket, (d) missile, (e) mine, or similar device.
- E. Any bludgeon, sand club, metal knuckles, throwing star;
- F. Any knife other than as used for strictly instructional or personal care of eating purposes. A pocket knife with a blade of 2 ½ inches or more is a prohibited weapon. A switchblade knife is prohibited regardless of size of the blade. A switchblade knife is defined as a knife with a blade that opens automatically by hand pressure applied to a button, spring, or other device in the handle of a knife, or any knife having a blade that opens or falls or is ejected into position by the force of gravity or by an outward, downward, or centrifugal thrust or movement;
- G. Any electronic device designed to discharge immobilizing levels of electricity, commonly known as a stun gun; and
- H. An employee may possess mace or other similar chemical agents in quantity and/or concentration typically designed for individual personal defensive purposes shall not be considered as possession of a weapon. Possession of larger quantities and/or concentrations of mace or other similar chemical agents than is typically designed for individual personal defensive purposes will be considered as possession of a weapon. Usage of mace or other similar chemical agents will be considered as usage of a weapon if the usage is found to be for non-defensive purposes. An employee who is negligent in their possession of mace or other similar chemical agents will be subject to disciplinary action.
- I. An employee may possess an item which may be considered a weapon where such item is used for instructional purposes and the employee has received approval of the administration to possess the item, provided it is used in the manner approved and is maintained in such manner as the administration has directed.
- J. Any other object that is designed for or intended for use as a destructive or injurious device.

The phrase “possession of a weapon” includes, without limitation, a weapon in an employee’s personal possession, as well as in an employee’s motor vehicle, desk, locker, briefcase, backpack, or purse.

Section 36 Use of District Computer Network and Internet

Employees have access to the District’s computer network and the Internet for the enhancement and support of student instruction and performance of their duties. It is important to remember that the equipment and the software are the property of the school district.

In using the computers and the Internet, employees are agreeing to the following:

1. Since copyright laws protect software, employees will not make unauthorized copies of software found on school computers by any means. Employees will not give, lend or sell copies of software to others unless the original software is clearly identified as shareware or in the public domain.
2. If an employee downloads public domain programs for personal use or non-commercially redistributes a public domain program, the employee assumes all risks regarding the determination of whether a program is in the public domain.
3. Employees shall not access material that is obscene, child pornography or otherwise in appropriate matter for educational or work-related uses or contrary to the District’s mission. Employees are not permitted to knowingly access information that is profane, obscene or offensive toward a group or individual based upon race, gender, national origin or religion. Further, employees are prohibited from placing such information on the Internet.
4. Employees will protect the privacy of other computer users’ areas by no accessing their passwords without written permission. Employees will not copy, change, read, or use another person’s files. Employees will not engage in “hacking” or otherwise attempt to gain unauthorized access to system programs or computer equipment.
5. Employees will not use computer systems to disturb or harass other computer users by sending unwanted mail or by other means.
6. Employees will not disclose their passwords and account names to anyone or attempt to ascertain or use anyone else’s password and account name.
7. Employees will not attempt to login to the system as a system administrator.
8. Employees understand that the intended use of all computer equipment is to meet instructional objectives.
9. Employees will not waste or take supplies, such as paper, printer ribbons, toner, and storage devices that are provided by the District.
10. Employees will not sue the network for financial gain or for any commercial or illegal activity.
11. Attempts to bypass security systems on computer workstations or servers, or vandalism will result in cancellation of privileges and may result in further consequences. Malicious attempts to harm or destroy data of another employee, or data that resides anywhere on the network or on the Internet, or the uploading or creation of computer viruses are forbidden.
12. The District will not be responsible for any liabilities, costs, expenses, or purchases incurred by the use of the District’s telecommunications systems such as the Internet. This includes, but is not limited to, the purchase of online services or products. The employee is solely responsible for any such charges. The employee’s acceptance of an email account is an acceptance of the

- employee's agreement to indemnify the District for any expenses, including legal fees, arising out of the employee's use of the system in violation of the agreement.
13. The Internet will be supplied for your use on an "as is, as available" basis. The District does not imply or expressly warrant that any information you access will be valuable or fit for a particular purpose or that the system will operate error free.
 14. The District is not responsible for the integrity of information accessed, or software downloaded from the Internet.
 15. The District reserves the right to refuse posting of files, and to remove files.
 16. The District further reserves the right to inspect an employee's computer and computer usage at any time. Employees have no privacy rights or expectations of privacy with regard to use of the District's computers or Internet system.
 17. The computer system is not a public forum. It is provided for the limited purpose of advancing the District's mission.
 18. A technology protection measure is in place that blocks and/or filters Internet access to prevent access to Internet sites that are not in accordance with policies and regulations. In addition to blocks and/or filters, the District may also use other technology protection measures or procedures as deemed appropriate. The technology protection measure that blocks and/or filters Internet access may be disabled only by an authorized staff member for bona fide research or educational purposes: (a) who has successfully completed district training by the on proper disabling circumstances and procedures, (b) with permission of the immediate Supervisor of the staff member requesting said disabling, or (c) with the permission of a building administrator. An authorized staff member may override the technology protection measure that blocks and/or filters Internet access for a minor to access a site for bona fide research or other lawful purposes provided the minor is monitored directly by an authorized staff member.
 19. *Teachers and administrators should not "friend" students, parents or guardians of students, or otherwise "establish special relationships" through personal social media. Neither should educators give students or parents access to personal postings unrelated to school. Pre-existing relationships outside of school, e.g. neighbors, fellow church members, etc. are an appropriate exception. Employees are required to use "appropriately respectful speech" in their personal social media posts, and must refrain from harassing, defamatory, abusive, discriminatory, sexually explicit, threatening, or other inappropriate communications on their personal posts.*

Any violation of any part of this agreement or any other activity which school administrators deem inappropriate will be subject to disciplinary action. Discipline could include but would not be limited to, the immediate suspension or termination of the employee's Internet account and computer privileges, reprimand, suspension, or termination.

Section 37 Use of School Facilities

Employees who are issued keys to the school are expected to not lose their keys and to not allow others to have access to or to use their keys. Employees are permitted to have access to school facilities during non-school time provided your Principal or Supervisor has given permission and such access is for work-related purposes. When employees leave the building, they are to close all windows, lock doors, and make sure that the entry door is fully closed and locked. This is especially important when employees are using the school facilities prior to the beginning of the school year and during any weekend or evening usage.

School property is to be used for approved work-related purposes and not for personal purposes or for personal gain or benefit. Use of school supplies (paper, staples, etc.), school equipment (copiers, fax machines, telephones, etc.), and school postage is to be used for approved school-related purposes only. Excess or surplus supplies or equipment, including items which have been placed in the trash, should not be removed for non-school use without approval from the Administration.

Section 38 Care of School Property

Employees are responsible for the proper care of all books, equipment, supplies and furniture supplied by the school. If an item is in need of maintenance or repair, report it to the Principal. If you learn that a student or staff member has damaged school property or equipment, or if you are responsible for damage to school property, promptly report it to the Principal so that the item may be replaced or repaired if possible and appropriate responsibility for the cost of replacement or repair may be determined.

Section 39 Use of Telephone

Personal telephone calls shall not be made during duty time except in the event of an emergency. Long distance calls on school telephones must be made from the office. You will need to promptly log long distance calls and be responsible for any charges which are for personal use.

Section 40 Visitors

Employees are not to have visitors on school property except on a short-term basis and only with permission of the Principal. Included in the definition of visitors are family members of the employee. Visitors should follow posted procedures for being on school property. Employees are not to bring their children to school with them in lieu of taking them to childcare.

Section 41 Salespersons

Employees need not allow, and should not permit, any salesperson or representative or agent of any commercial enterprise or theatrical presentation to contact the employee while engaged in the employee's duties except for such times as may be designated by the Superintendent or designee.

Employees shall not use classrooms, buildings or other school property for personal use or profit without specific approval from the Superintendent or designee. Employees shall not use time for which the employee is on duty or paid by the District to engage in any activity for personal financial profit. Any violation of this policy will be held to be willful insubordination.

Section 42 Security of Desks and Lockers

Offices, employee desks, lockers, file cabinets and other such storage devices ("storage devices") are owned by the school and are to be properly cared for and maintained. Appropriate security measures should be used to protect school and personal property kept in storage devices from theft or vandalism and to protect confidential student records.

The school exercises exclusive control over school property and reserves the right to search offices and storage devices provided to or used by employees where permitted by law, such as where reasonable

grounds exist for suspecting that a search will turn up evidence that the employee has committed work-related misconduct, or that a search is necessary for a non-investigatory work-related purpose, such as to retrieve a file. School-related documents or records must remain readily available to Administration and other appropriate school staff. Any personal items an employee wants to have kept private should be kept in a separate personal storage device, such as a brief case, purse or backpack.

The District is not responsible for any personal property employees may bring to school. Employees are cautioned not to bring large amounts of money or items of significant value to school.

Section 43 Video Surveillance

The Board of Education has authorized the use of video cameras on School District property to ensure the health, welfare and safety to all staff, students and visitors to District property, and to safeguard District facilities and equipment. Video cameras may be used in locations as deemed appropriate by the Superintendent.

Notice is hereby given that video surveillance may occur on District property. In the event a video surveillance recording captures a student or other building user violating school policies or rules, or local, state or federal laws, the video surveillance recording may be used in appropriate disciplinary proceedings against the employee or other building user and may also be provided to law enforcement agencies.

Section 44 Bulletins and Announcements

Bulletin boards and display cases are available for school-related and approved materials to be posted and displayed. Posters to be used in the halls or materials for distribution will need to be approved by the Principal's office. Posters are not to be attached to any painted wall surfaces. The person or organization responsible for distributing the posters is responsible to see that all posters are removed within 48 hours after the event.

Section 45 Copyright and Fair Use Policy

It is the school's policy to follow the federal copyright law. Employees are reminded that, when using school equipment, they also must follow the federal copyright laws. The federal copyright law governs the reproduction of works of authorship. Copyrighted works are protected regardless of the medium in which they are created or reproduced; thus, copyright extends to digital works and works transformed into a digital format. Copyrighted works are not limited to those that bear a copyright notice.

The "fair use" doctrine allows limited reproduction of copyrighted works for educational and research purposes. The relevant portion of the copyright statute provides that the "fair use" of a copyrighted work, including reproduction "for purposes such as criticism, news reporting, teaching (including multiple copies for classroom use), scholarship, or research" is not an infringement of copyright. The law lists the following factors as the ones to be evaluated in determining whether a particular use of a copyrighted work is permitted "fair use," rather than in infringement of the copyright:

- The purpose and character of the use, including whether such use is of a commercial nature or is for nonprofit education purposes;
- The nature of the copyrighted work;
- The amount and substantiality of the portion used in relation to the copyrighted work as a whole, and
- The effect of the use upon the potential market for or value of the copyrighted work.

Although all of these factors will be considered, the last factor is the most important in determining whether a particular use is “fair.” Employees should seek assistance from their immediate Supervisor or the Principal if there are any questions regarding what may be copied.

Section 46 Lost and Found

Employees who find lost articles are asked to take them to the office, where the articles can be claimed by the owner.

Section 47 Safety

Safety Program and Safety Committee

This District has established a Safety and Security Management Plan which includes safety and security plans and procedures, including plans and procedures to address emergency and crisis situations. Employees are expected to be familiar with and to comply with the Safety and Security Management Plan. The Plan may be obtained for review or copy from the Principal or the Superintendent.

The District also has a Safety Committee to address employee accidents, injuries and work place conditions. A representative from each bargaining group plus representatives appointed by the Administration serve on the committee. If you have a desire to serve on the committee, you should contact your Supervisor or the Superintendent. Employees can make suggestions and/or report concerns to the safety committee by contacting a member of the Safety Committee of the Superintendent.

Safety Policies

Guidelines for safe work practices which employees should follow include the following:

1. Never stand on chairs, counters, tables, etc. Only use step stools, ladders and locks stools to stand, climb, etc., to reach high places, put things on bulletin boards, etc.
2. Always wear protective equipment (i.e., goggles, aprons, gloves, and ear protection).
3. Wipe up spills or report promptly to appropriate personnel. DO NOT assume someone else will do it.
4. Be aware of your surroundings. Pick up clutter, keep your work area or room clean and free of clutter, debris, etc.

5. Identify and report all hazards (i.e., broken equipment, broken or uneven floor surfaces, non-operating tools, windows, doors, etc.). Follow up if not repaired.
6. Do not use equipment if you are not familiar with it or operate machinery without proper training.
7. Do not carry heavy or bulky objects beyond your physical abilities. Get a cart, dolly or assistance. Know how to properly lift.
8. Report any injuries or medical problems to your Supervisor immediately and complete the employee accident report.
9. Wear seatbelts when in vehicles where provided.
10. Do not do repetitive tasks for long periods of time (i.e., keyboarding, dipping cookies, cutting out things, filing, typing, etc.). Take breaks, learn and do stretching exercises, etc.

Do not engage in “horseplay.” Such conduct is a common cause of injuries and is not consistent with job duties.

As required by law, approved safety glasses will be required of every student and employee while participating in or observing vocational, technical, industrial technology, science, and art classes. All visitors to these areas must check out a pair of safety glasses when entering any of these areas.

Use of Personal Vehicles

Employees who drive school vehicles or volunteer to use their personal automobile to transport students must have a valid driver’s license and proof of insurance. Employees will be provided a Driver’s Certification form to verify this information and to be given instruction on emergency evacuation and first aid. Employees who drive school vehicles or transport students in their personal vehicles are responsible for following safe driving practices, including use of seat belts by all occupants, and are responsible for any injury or accident. Employees are not to use cell phones while driving a school vehicle or while transporting children.

Accidents

Every accident which results in a personal injury must be reported to the Principal immediately. In the event the injury involves a student, the employee responsible for the student either as employee, coach or sponsor is responsible for making the report. If the injury occurs in the presence of the employee, the employee is also responsible for making a report.

Workers Compensation

Employees are required to immediately report any work-related injury and/or work-related medical condition to their Supervisor and complete all appropriate paperwork.

STATE AND FEDERAL PROGRAMS

Section 48 Notice of Non-Discrimination

The Perkins County Schools does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, marital status, disability, religion or age in admission or access to, or treatment of employment, in its programs and activities. The Coordinators listed in Section 2 have been designated to handle inquiries regarding complaints, grievance procedures or the application of these policies of nondiscrimination.

Local complaint or grievance procedures are provided for the District and set forth in this handbook. If an employee does not feel that a complaint of non-discrimination has been satisfactorily resolved at the school level, the employee may file a complaint with the appropriate federal or state agency. Complaints are to be filed with the regional Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights where the complaint relates to Title IX (discrimination, harassment or lack of equity based on gender), Title VI (discrimination or harassment based on race, color, or national origin) or Section 504 (discrimination, harassment or failure to accommodate a disability). Complaints are to be filed with the regional U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) if the complaint relates to Title VII (discrimination or harassment based on race, color, gender, national origin, or religion), the Americans with Disabilities Act (discrimination, harassment or failure to accommodate a disability), or the Age Discrimination in Employment Act (discrimination based on age). The contact information for the OCE and EEOC in this regard are:

Office for Civil Rights
8930 Ward Parkway, Ste 2037
Kansas City, MO 64114
(816) 268-0550
TDD: (800) 437-0833
Fax: (816) 823-1404

U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC)
1801 L Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20507
(800) 669-4000
TDD: (800) 669-6820

A publication provided by the federal government concerning rights of non-discrimination is attached as Appendix “C” to this handbook.

Section 49 Designation of Coordinators

Any person having inquiries concerning the District’s compliance with anti-discrimination laws or policies or other programs should contact or notify the following person(s) who are designated as the coordinator for such laws, policies or programs. The contact address for the coordinator is:

Phillip Picquet, Superintendent
 740 Sherman Avenue
 P.O. Box 829
 Grant, NE 69140
 (308) 352-4735

<u>Law, Policy or Program</u>	<u>Issue or Concern</u>	<u>Coordinator</u>
Title VI	Discrimination or harassment based on race, color, or national origin; harassment	Superintendent
Title IX	Discrimination or harassment based on sex; gender equity	Superintendent
Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act the Americans with Disability Act (ADA)	Discrimination, harassment or reasonable accommodations of persons with disabilities	Superintendent
Homeless Student Laws	Children who are homeless	Superintendent
Safe and Drug Free Schools and Communities	Safe and drug free schools	Superintendent

Section 50 Anti-discrimination & Harassment Policy

Elimination of Discrimination

The Perkins County Schools hereby gives this statement of compliance and intent to comply with all state and federal laws prohibiting discrimination or harassment and requiring accommodations. This school district intends to take necessary measures to assure compliance with such laws against any prohibited form of discrimination or harassment or which require accommodations.

Preventing Harassment and Discrimination

Purpose: Perkins County Schools is committed to offering employment and educational opportunity to its employees and students in a climate free of discrimination. Accordingly, unlawful discrimination or harassment of any kind by administrators, teachers, co-workers, students or other persons is prohibited. In addition, the Perkins County Schools will try to protect employees and students from reported discrimination or harassment by non-employees or others in the work place and educational environment.

For purposes of this policy, discrimination or harassment based on a person's race, color, national origin, gender, marital status, disability, religion or age is prohibited. The following are general definitions of what might constitute prohibited harassment.

- In general, ethnic or racial slurs or other verbal or physical conduct relating to a person's race, color, religion, disability or national origin constitute harassment when they unreasonably interfere with the person's work performance or create an intimidating work, instructional or educational environment.
- Age harassment (40 years of age and higher) has been defined by federal regulations as a form of age discrimination. It can consist of demeaning jokes, insults or intimidation based on a person's age.
- Sexual harassment is defined by federal and state regulations as a form of sex discrimination. It can consist of unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, or physical or verbal conduct of a sexual nature by supervisors or others in the work place, classroom or educational environment. Sexual harassment may exist when:
 - Submission to such conduct is either an explicit or implicit term and condition of employment or of participation and enjoyment of the school's programs and activities;
 - Submission to or rejection of such conduct is used or threatened as a basis for employment related decisions, such as promotion, performance, evaluation, pay adjustment, discipline, work assignment, etc., or school program or activity decisions, such as admission, credits, grades, school assignments or playing time;
 - The conduct has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfere with an individual's work or educational performance or creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working, class room or educational environment.
 - Sexual harassment may include explicit sexual propositions, sexual innuendo, suggestive comments, sexually oriented "kidding" or "teasing", "practical jokes", jokes about gender-specific traits, foul or obscene language or gestures, displays of foul or obscene printed or visual material, and physical contact, such as patting, pinching or brushing against another's body.

Complaint and Grievance Procedures

Employees or students should initially report all instances of discrimination or harassment to their immediate supervisor or classroom teacher. However, if the employee or student is uncomfortable in presenting the problem to the supervisor or teacher, or if the supervisor or teacher is the problem, the employee or student is encouraged to go to the next level of supervision. In the case of a student, the Principal would be the next or alternative person to contact.

If the employee or student's complaint is not resolved to his or her satisfaction within five (5) to ten (10) calendar days, or if the discrimination or harassment continues, or if as a student you feel you need

immediate help for any reason, please report your complaint to the Superintendent of Perkins County Schools. If a satisfactory arrangement cannot be obtained through the Superintendent, the complaint may be processed to the Board of Education.

The supervisor, teacher or the Superintendent will thoroughly investigate all complaints. These situations will be treated with the utmost confidence, consistent with resolution of the problem. Based on the results of the investigation, appropriate correct action, up to and including discharge of offending employees, and disciplinary action up to expulsion against a harassing student, may be taken. Under no circumstances will any threats or retaliation be permitted to be made against an employee or student for alleging in good faith a violation of this policy.

Section 51 Grievance Procedure for Persons with a Disability

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act address discrimination, harassment or failure to provide reasonable accommodations to persons with a disability. The following grievance procedure shall be used for resolution of complaints of alleged violations of the ADA or Section 504:

1. Complaints shall be filed with the ADA and Section 504 Coordinator. Complaints shall be made in writing, unless the Complainant's disability prevents such, in which event the Complaint can be made verbally.
2. Complaints shall set forth: (a) the name of the Complainant, (b) the address and telephone number or other such information sufficient to enable the Coordinator to contact the Complainant, (c) a brief description of the alleged violation, and (d) the relief requested by the Complainant.
3. Complaints shall be investigated by the Coordinator or the Coordinator's designee. Investigations shall be thorough, but informal, and the Complainant shall be given a full opportunity to submit evidence relevant to the complaint.
4. The Coordinator shall make a decision on the Complaint within thirty (30) days of the filing of the Complaint, unless such time period is extended by agreement of the Complainant. The decision shall be made in writing, shall set forth the Coordinator's proposed resolution of the Complaint, and shall be forwarded to the Complainant.
5. The Complainant shall have ten (10) days from the date of the Coordinator's decision is sent to the Complainant to accept or reject the Coordinator's proposed resolution and shall be deemed to have accepted the proposed resolution unless the Complainant rejects the proposed resolution within such time period. In the event the Complainant rejects the proposed resolution, the Complainant shall be given the opportunity to file a request for reconsideration within the ten (10) days from the date of the Coordinator's decision is sent to the Complainant. The request for reconsideration shall be filed with the Coordinator. The Coordinator shall consider any additional information provided in the request for reconsideration and make a decision on the request for reconsideration within ten (10) days after the request for reconsideration was filed.

Section 52 Confidentiality of Student Records (FERPA)

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) gives parents and students over 18 years of age rights of access and confidentiality with respect to education records. Employees are expected to provide access rights and maintain the confidentiality of education records in accordance with FERPA and Board policy. Further information about FERPA and the District's policies under FERPA are found in Board policy and in the student handbook

Section 53 Breakfast and Lunch Programs

The District participates in the National School Lunch Program. Employees are expected to keep information about the participation of students in the program confidential.

Section 54 Confidentiality of Protected Health Information

It is the policy of the District to develop and implement all necessary practices, policies, and procedures to comply with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) where and to the extent applicable and to maintain the privacy of protected health information (PHI), as that term is defined by HIPAA, that it receives, obtains, or transmits for employees and students. The District designates the Superintendent as its HIPAA privacy office. Student and employee records containing PHI shall be accessible only to those who require such information to carry out their duties.

APPENDIX

Appendix A:	FSLA	www.dol.gov/whd/flsa/
Appendix B:	FMLA	www.dol.gov/whd/fmla/
Appendix C:	EEOC	www.eeoc.gov/

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**Proceed to Receipt Acknowledgement
on Page 35**

**RECEIPT OF 2019-2020
CLASSIFIED HANDBOOK
OF PERKINS COUNTY SCHOOLS**

This signed receipt acknowledges receipt of the 2019-2020 Handbook of Perkins County Schools. This receipt acknowledges that I understand that I am to read and be familiar with the handbook, that I understand the handbook contains a disclaimer of contract and that I understand that the handbook includes the District's policies of non-discrimination and equity, and that specific complaint and grievance procedures exist in the handbook which should be used for responding to harassment or discrimination.

Employee Signature

Date

Return this signed/dated page to:

Phillip Picquet
Superintendent – Perkins County Schools
740 Sherman Avenue
PO Box 829
Grant, NE 69140

3003.1
Bidding for Construction, Remodeling, Repair, or Related Projects
Financed with Federal Funds

I. Applicability of the Policy

This policy applies only to construction and contracts undertaken with federal funds which are subject to the federal Uniform Grant Guidance (UGG) and other applicable federal law, including but not limited to the Education Department and General Administration Regulations (EDGAR) and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) regulations governing school food service programs. In the event this policy conflicts or is otherwise inconsistent with mandatory provisions of the UGG, EDGAR or other applicable federal law, the mandatory provisions of the laws shall control.

The District will also comply with the requirements of the public lettings laws (NEB. REV. STAT. §§ 73-101 through 73-106) when the contemplated expenditure for the complete project exceeds \$100,000, the Political Subdivisions Construction Alternatives Act (NEB. REV. STAT. §§ 13-2901 through 13-2914), energy financing contracts (NEB. REV. STAT. §§ 66-1062 through 66-1066), other applicable state laws, and the board's general policy on Bidding for Construction and Related Projects. In the event of a conflict between state and federal law, the more stringent requirement shall apply.

II. All projects undertaken pursuant to this policy will be subject to the following bond requirements

A. A bid guarantee from each bidder equivalent to five percent of the bid price. The "bid guarantee" must consist of a firm commitment such as a bid bond, certified check, or other negotiable instrument accompanying a bid as assurance that the bidder will, upon acceptance of the bid, execute such contractual documents as may be required within the time specified.

B. A performance bond on the part of the contractor for 100 percent of the contract price. A "performance bond" is one executed in connection with a contract to secure fulfillment of all the contractor's obligations under such contract.

C. A payment bond on the part of the contractor for 100 percent of the contract price. A "payment bond" is one executed in connection with a contract to assure payment as required by

law of all persons supplying labor and material in the execution of the work provided for in the contract.

III. Construction Projects with an Anticipated Cost of Under \$250,000

A. Methods of Bidding/Soliciting Quotations or Estimates

The type of procedures required depends on the anticipated cost of the project.

1. Construction with an Anticipated Cost of up to \$10,000 (Micro-Purchases)

Micro-purchase means a purchase of supplies or services using simplified acquisition procedures, the annual aggregate amount of which does not exceed \$10,000. Micro-purchases may be made or awarded without soliciting competitive quotations, to the extent district staff determine that the cost of the purchase is reasonable. For purposes of this policy "reasonable" means the purchase is comparable to market prices for the geographic area.

To the extent practicable, the District distributes micro-purchases equitably among qualified suppliers. The District will follow its standard policy on purchasing.

2. Construction with an Anticipated Cost of between \$10,000 and \$250,000 (Small Purchase Procedures)

For construction projects subject to this policy, small purchases are purchases that, in the aggregate amount, is more than \$10,000 and less than \$250,000 annually. For small purchases, price or rate quotes shall be obtained in advance from a reasonable number of qualified sources as detailed in the district's standard policies on purchasing and on bid letting and contracts.

B. Construction Projects with an estimated cost of between \$100,000 and \$249,999 will be made pursuant to the District's Policy on Bid Letting and Contracts.

Pursuant to Nebraska law, construction projects which have an anticipated aggregate cost of \$100,000 or more are subject to state

public lettings laws (NEB. REV. STAT. §§ 73-101 through 73-106). The board will follow its standard policy on bid letting and contracts for construction projects financed with federal funds which have an anticipated aggregate cost of between \$100,000 and \$250,000.

IV. Construction Projects with an Anticipated Cost Over \$250,000

A. Sealed Bids: All constructions projects subject to this policy with an anticipated cost of \$250,000 or more will be publicly solicited using the sealed bid method

1. Bids must be solicited from an adequate number of known suppliers, providing them sufficient response time prior to the date set for opening the bids, for state, local, and tribal governments, the invitation for bids must be publically advertised;
2. The invitation for bids, which will include any specifications and pertinent attachments, must define the items or services in order for the bidder to properly respond;
3. Sealed bids will be publically opened in a place and at the specific time stated in the bid solicitation. Bidders shall be notified of the opening and invited to be present.
4. The contract will be awarded to the lowest responsive and responsible bidder.
 - a) Where specified in bidding documents, factors such as discounts, transportation cost, and life cycle costs must be considered in determining which bid is lowest.
 - b) Payment discounts will only be used to determine the low bid when prior experience indicates that such discounts are usually taken advantage of.
 - c) Any or all bids may be rejected if there is a sound documented reason.
5. The board shall have discretion in determining which bidders are responsible and responsive and shall award the contract to the lowest, responsible, and responsive bidder whose bid meets the bid specifications. This means that the board will select the bid that offers the best value and award a contract based upon the amount of the bid and the bidder's ability and capacity to carry on the work, its equipment and facilities, honesty, integrity, skills,

business judgment, experience, equipment, facilities, financial stability, past performance, and other relevant factors.

6. The board will generally complete its review of bids and select a vendor within 30 days of bid submission.

B. Advertising for Bids.

1. The superintendent or designee will arrange to advertise for bids by publishing notice in any newspaper of general circulation within the school district at least 7 calendar days prior to the date on which bids are due.

2. Nothing shall prevent the superintendent or designee from advertising in additional media outlets or for a longer period of time.

C. Bid Documents

1. The bid documents shall identify the day upon which the bids shall be returned, received, or opened and shall identify the hour at which the bids will close or be received or opened.

2. The bid documents shall also provide that such bids shall be opened simultaneously in the presence of the bidders or their representatives.

3. Bids received after the date and time specified in the bid documents shall be returned to the bidder unopened.

4. If bids are being opened on more than one contract, the board, in its discretion, may award each contract as the bids are opened.

5. Sealed bids will be opened in a place and at the specific time stated in the bid solicitation. Bidders shall be notified of the opening and invited to be present.

6. Bids will be reviewed by the Superintendent and/or designee and submitted to the board for approval.

7. The board shall have discretion in determining which bidders are responsible and responsive and shall award the contract to the lowest, responsible, and responsive bidder whose bid meets the

bid specifications. This means that the board will select the bid that offers the best value and award a contract based upon the amount of the bid and the bidder's ability and capacity to carry on the work, its equipment and facilities, honesty, integrity, skills, business judgment, experience, equipment, facilities, financial stability, past performance, and other relevant factors.

8. The board will generally complete its review of bids and select a vendor within 30 days of bid submission.

D. The terms of any construction project undertaken pursuant to this policy will be memorialized in a written contract which has been reviewed by the district's legal counsel and approved by the board.

V. Other Contract Matters.

A. Required Terms

The non-Federal entity's contracts must contain the applicable provisions required by section 200.326 and described in Appendix II to Part 200—Contract Provisions for non-Federal Entity Contracts Under Federal Awards.

B. Contracting with Certain Vendors

Pursuant to the standards contained in 2 C.F.R. § 200.321, the District will take all necessary affirmative steps to assure that minority businesses, women's business enterprises, and labor surplus area firms are used when possible consistent with state law.

To the maximum extent practicable, the school food program shall purchase domestic commodities or products produced in US or processed in US substantially using agricultural commodities produced in US.

C. Full and Open Competition

The district's procurement transactions will be conducted in a manner providing full and open competition consistent with 2 C.F.R §200.319.

D. Debarment and Suspension

The District awards contracts only to responsible contractors possessing the ability to perform successfully under the terms and conditions of a proposed

procurement. Consideration will be given to such matters as contractor integrity, compliance with public policy, record of past performance, and financial and technical resources.

The District may not subcontract with or award subgrants to any person or company who is debarred or suspended. For all contracts over \$25,000 the District verifies that the vendor with whom the District intends to do business with is not excluded or disqualified. 2 C.F.R. Part 200, Appendix II(1) and 2 C.F.R. §§ 180.220 and 180.300.

The District will verify debarment or suspension by revising the excluded parties list on SAM.gov, collecting a certification through the bidding process, and/or by including a debarment and suspension provision in the bid and contract documents. The Superintendent or his/her designee shall be responsible for such verification.

E. Settlements of Issues Arising Out of Contract

The District alone is responsible, in accordance with good administrative practice and sound business judgment, for the settlement of all contractual and administrative issues arising out of procurements. These issues include, but are not limited to, source evaluation, protests, disputes, and claims. These standards do not relieve the District of any contractual responsibilities under its contracts. Violations of law will be referred to the local, state, or federal authority having proper jurisdiction.

F. Record Keeping

1. Record Retention

- a) The District maintains all records that fully show (1) the amount of funds under the grant or subgrant; (2) how the subgrantee uses those funds; (3) the total cost of each project; (4) the share of the total cost of each project provided from other sources; (5) other records to facilitate an effective audit; and (6) other records to show compliance with federal program requirements. 34 C.F.R. §§ 76.730-.731 and §§ 75.730-.731. The District also maintains records of significant project experiences and results. 34 C.F.R. § 75.732. These records and accounts must be retained and made available for programmatic or financial audit.

- b) The U.S. Department of Education is authorized to recover any federal funds misspent within 5 years before the receipt of a program determination letter. 34 C.F.R. § 81.31(c). Schedule 10 (Local School Districts) and Schedule 24 (Local Agencies General Records) of the Nebraska Records Management Division as approved by the Nebraska Secretary of State/State Records Administrator requires the District to maintain records regarding construction projects for a minimum of five (5) years after the sale or demolition of the building. However, if any litigation, claim, or audit is started before the expiration of the record retention period, the records will be retained until all litigation, claims, or audit findings involving the records have been resolved and final action taken. 2 C.F.R. § 200.333.
 - c) Records will be destroyed in compliance with Schedule 10, Schedule 24, and State law. This includes the completion of a Records Disposition Report.
2. Maintenance of Construction Records for Projects Financed with Federal Funds
- a) The District must maintain records sufficient to detail the history of all construction projects financed with federal funds. These records will include, but are not necessarily limited to the following: rationale for the method of construction, selection of contract type, contractor selection or rejection, the basis for the contract price (including a cost or price analysis), and verification that the contractor is not suspended or debarred.
 - b) Retention of construction records shall be in accordance with applicable law and Board policy.

VI. Conflict of Interest and Code of Conduct

A. Board and staff member conflicts of interest are governed by the district’s conflict of interest policies.

B. Contracts covered by this policy are subject to the following additional provisions.

1. Employees, officers, and agents engaged in the selection, award, and/or administration of district contracts which are prohibited from engaging in such actions if a real or apparent conflict of interest is present.
2. Such a conflict of interest would arise when the employee, officer, or agent, any member of his or her immediate family, his or her partner, or an organization which employs or is about to employ any of the parties indicated herein, has a financial or other interest in or a tangible personal benefit from a firm considered for a contract.
3. The board may determine at its discretion that a financial interest is not substantial enough to give rise to a conflict of interest.

C. Favors and Gifts

The officers, employees, and agents of the District may neither solicit nor accept gratuities, favors, or anything of monetary value from contractors or parties to subcontracts, with the limited exception of unsolicited items of nominal value.

D. Enforcement

Disciplinary Actions will be applied for violations of such standards by officers, employees, or agents of the District at the board’s discretion.

Adopted on: ___ 8/16/18 _____
Revised on: ___ 8-19-19 _____
Reviewed on: _____

3004.1

Fiscal Management for Purchasing and Procurement Using Federal Funds

I. Applicability of Policy

This policy applies only to non-construction related purchases undertaken with federal funds which are subject to the federal Uniform Grant Guidance (UGG) and other applicable federal law, including but not limited to the Education Department and General Administration Regulations (EDGAR) and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) regulations governing school food service programs. In the event this policy conflicts or is otherwise inconsistent with mandatory provisions of the UGG, EDGAR or other applicable federal law, the mandatory provisions of the laws shall control.

All other non-construction purchases will be governed by the Board's general purchasing policy, which can be found earlier in this subsection. In the event of a conflict between state and federal law, the more stringent requirement shall apply.

This procurement policy shall govern all purchasing activities that relate to any aspect of the National School Lunch and Breakfast Programs. The district's goal is to fully implement all required procurement rules, regulations and policies set forth in 2 CFR 200, 7 CFR parts 210, 3016 and 3019, and by the Nebraska Department of Education.

II. Procurement System

The District maintains the following purchasing procedures.

A. Responsibility for Purchasing

The authority to make purchases shall be governed by the District's purchasing policy, which can be found elsewhere in this section. Except as otherwise provided in the District's purchasing policy, the acquisition of services, equipment, and supplies shall be centralized in the administration office under the supervision of the superintendent of schools, who shall be responsible for developing and administering the purchasing program of the school district. Purchases or commitments of district funds that are not authorized by this policy will be the responsibility of the person making the commitment.

B. Methods of Purchasing

The type of purchase procedures required depends on the cost of the item(s) being purchased.

1. Purchases up to \$10,000 (Micro-Purchases)

Micro-purchase means a purchase of supplies or services using simplified acquisition procedures, the annual aggregate amount of which does not exceed \$10,000. Micro-purchases may be made or awarded without soliciting competitive quotations, to the extent district staff determine that the cost of the purchase is reasonable. For purposes of this policy "reasonable" means the purchase is comparable to market prices for the geographic area.

To the extent practicable, the District distributes micro-purchases equitably among qualified suppliers. The District will follow its standard policy on purchasing, which can be found earlier in this subsection.

2. Purchases between \$10,000 and \$250,000 (Small Purchase Procedures)

Small purchases are purchases that, in the aggregate amount, is more than \$10,000 and less than \$250,000 annually. For small purchases, price or rate quotes shall be obtained in advance from a reasonable number of qualified sources as detailed in the district's standard policies on purchasing and on bid letting and contracts, which can be found earlier in this subsection.

3. Purchases Over \$250,000

a) Sealed Bids (Formal Advertising)

For purchases over \$250,000, the district will generally follow the bidding process outlined in the board's policy on Bidding for Construction, Remodeling, Repair or Site Improvement.

b) Contract/Price Analysis

The District performs a cost or price analysis in connection with every procurement action in excess of \$250,000, including contract modifications. The district will make an independent estimate of costs prior to receiving bids or proposals.

4. Noncompetitive Proposals (Sole Sourcing)

- a) Procurement by noncompetitive proposals is procurement through solicitation of a proposal from only one source and may be used only when one or more of the following circumstances apply:
 - 1) The item is available only from a single source;
 - 2) The public exigency or emergency for the requirement will not permit a delay resulting from competitive solicitation;
 - 3) The federal awarding agency or pass-through entity expressly authorizes noncompetitive proposals in response to a written request from the District; or
 - 4) After solicitation of a number of sources, competition is determined inadequate.
- b) Noncompetitive proposals may only be solicited with the approval of the superintendent or the board. Sufficient and appropriate documentation that justifies the sole sourcing decision must be maintained by the superintendent or designee.
- c) A cost or price analysis will be performed for noncompetitive proposals when the price exceeds \$250,000.

C. Use of Purchase (Debit & Credit) Cards

District use of purchase cards is subject to the policy on purchase cards which can be found elsewhere in this subsection.

D. Federal Procurement System Standards

The district's procurement transactions will be conducted in a manner providing full and open competition consistent with 2 C.F.R §200.319.

The District will maintain and follow general procurement standards consistent with 2 C.F.R. §200.318.

E. Debarment and Suspension

The District awards contracts only to responsible contractors possessing the ability to perform successfully under the terms and conditions of a proposed procurement. Consideration will be given to such matters as contractor integrity, compliance with public policy, record of past performance, and financial and technical resources.

The District may not subcontract with or award subgrants to any person or company who is debarred or suspended. For all contracts over \$25,000 the District verifies that the vendor with whom the District intends to do business with is not excluded or disqualified. 2 C.F.R. Part 200, Appendix II(1) and 2 C.F.R. §§ 180.220 and 180.300.

The District will verify debarment or suspension by revising the excluded parties list on SAM.gov, collecting a certification through the bidding process, and/or by including a debarment and suspension provision in the bid and contract documents. The Superintendent or his/her designee shall be responsible for such verification.

F. Settlements of Issues Arising Out of Procurements

The District alone is responsible, in accordance with good administrative practice and sound business judgment, for the settlement of all contractual and administrative issues arising out of procurements. These issues include, but are not limited to, source evaluation, protests, disputes, and claims. These standards do not relieve the District of any contractual responsibilities under its contracts. Violations of law will be referred to the local, state, or federal authority having proper jurisdiction.

III. Conflict of Interest and Code of Conduct

A. Board and staff member conflicts of interest are governed by the district's conflict of interest policies.

B. Purchases covered by this policy are subject to the following additional provisions.

- 1.** Employees, officers, and agents engaged in the selection, award, and/or administration of district contracts which are prohibited from engaging in such actions if a real or apparent conflict of interest is present.

2. Such a conflict of interest would arise when the employee, officer, or agent, any member of his or her immediate family, his or her partner, or an organization which employs or is about to employ any of the parties indicated herein, has a financial or other interest in or a tangible personal benefit from a firm considered for a contract.
3. The board may determine at its discretion that a financial interest is not substantial enough to give rise to a conflict of interest.

C. Favors and Gifts

The officers, employees, and agents of the District may neither solicit nor accept gratuities, favors, or anything of monetary value from contractors or parties to subcontracts, with the limited exception of unsolicited items of nominal value.

D. Enforcement

Disciplinary Actions will be applied for violations of such standards by officers, employees, or agents of the District at the board's discretion.

IV. Property Management Systems

A. Property Classifications

1. Equipment means tangible personal property (including information technology systems) having a useful life of more than one year and a per-unit acquisition cost which equals or exceeds the lesser of the capitalization level established by the District for financial statement purposes, or \$5,000.
2. Supplies means all tangible personal property other than those described in §200.33 Equipment. A computing device is a supply if the acquisition cost is less than the lesser of the capitalization level established by the District for financial statement purposes or \$5,000, regardless of the length of its useful life. 2 C.F.R. §200.94.
3. Computing Devices means machines used to acquire, store, analyze, process, and publish data and other information electronically, including accessories (or "peripherals") for

printing, transmitting and receiving, or storing electronic information. 2 C.F.R. §200.20.

4. Capital Assets means tangible or intangible assets used in operations having a useful life of more than one year which are capitalized in accordance with GAAP. Capital assets include:
 - a) Land, buildings (facilities), equipment, and intellectual property (including software) whether acquired by purchase, construction, manufacture, lease-purchase, exchange, or through capital leases; and
 - b) Additions, improvements, modifications, replacements, rearrangements, reinstallations, renovations or alterations to capital assets that materially increase their value or useful life (not ordinary repairs and maintenance). 2 C.F.R. §200.12.

B. Inventory Procedure

Newly purchased property shall be received and inspected by the staff member who ordered it to ensure that that it matches the purchase order, invoice, or contract and that it is in acceptable condition.

Equipment, Computing Devices, and Capital Assets must be tagged with an identification number, manufacturer, model, name of individual who tagged the item, and date tagged).

C. Inventory Records

For equipment, computing devices, and capital assets purchased with federal funds, the following information is maintained in the property management system:

1. Serial number;
2. District identification number;
3. Manufacturer;
4. Model;
5. Date tagged and individual who tagged it;
6. Source of funding for the property;
7. Who holds title;
8. Acquisition date and cost of the property;
9. Percentage of federal participation in the project costs for the federal award under which the property was acquired;
10. Location, use and condition of the property; and

11. Any ultimate disposition data including the date of disposal and sale price of the property.

The inventory list shall be adjusted by the superintendent of schools or his/her designee for property that is sold, lost, stolen, cannot be repaired, or that cannot be located.

D. Physical Inventory

1. A physical inventory of the property must be taken and the results reconciled with the property records at least once every two years.
2. The Superintendent or his/her designee will ensure that the physical inventory is performed. The physical inventory will generally occur during the months of June or July, but may be conducted during other time periods with the approval of the superintendent.

E. Maintenance

In accordance with 2 C.F.R. 313(d)(4), the District maintains adequate maintenance procedures to ensure that property is kept in good condition.

F. Lost or Stolen Items

The District maintains a control system that ensures adequate safeguards are in place to prevent loss, damage, or theft of the property.

G. Use of Equipment

Equipment must be used in the program or project for which it was acquired as long as needed, whether or not the project or program continues to be supported by the federal award, and the District will not encumber the property for any non-federal program use without prior approval of the federal awarding agency and the pass-through entity.

H. Disposal of Equipment

When it is determined that original or replacement equipment acquired under a federal award is no longer needed for the original project or program or for other activities currently or previously supported by a federal awarding agency, the Superintendent or his/her designee will contact the awarding

agency (or pass-through for a state-administered grant) for disposition instructions.

If the item has a current FMV of \$5,000 or less, it may be retained, sold, or otherwise disposed of with no further obligation to the federal awarding agency.

V. Other Contract Matters.

A. Required Terms

The non-Federal entity's contracts must contain the applicable provisions required by section 200.326 and described in Appendix II to Part 200—Contract Provisions for non-Federal Entity Contracts Under Federal Awards.

B. Contracting with Certain Vendors

Pursuant to the standards contained in 2 C.F.R. § 200.321, the District will take all necessary affirmative steps to assure that minority businesses, women's business enterprises, and labor surplus area firms are used when possible consistent with state law.

To the maximum extent practicable, the school food program shall purchase domestic commodities or products produced in US or processed in US substantially using agricultural commodities produced in US.

C. Record Keeping

1. Record Retention

- a) The District maintains all records that fully show (1) the amount of funds under the grant or subgrant; (2) how the subgrantee uses those funds; (3) the total cost of each project; (4) the share of the total cost of each project provided from other sources; (5) other records to facilitate an effective audit; and (6) other records to show compliance with federal program requirements. 34 C.F.R. §§ 76.730-.731 and §§ 75.730-.731. The District also maintains records of significant project experiences and results. 34 C.F.R. § 75.732. These records and accounts must be retained and made available for programmatic or financial audit.

- b) The U.S. Department of Education is authorized to recover any federal funds misspent within 5 years before the receipt of a program determination letter. 34 C.F.R. § 81.31(c). Schedule 10 (Local School Districts) and Schedule 24 (Local Agencies General Records) of the Nebraska Records Management Division as approved by the Nebraska Secretary of State/State Records Administrator requires the District to maintain records regarding federal awards for a minimum of six (6) years. Consequently, the District shall retain records for a minimum of six (6) years from the date on which the final Financial Status Report is submitted, unless otherwise notified in writing to extend the retention period by the awarding agency, cognizant agency for audit, oversight agency for audit, or cognizant agency for indirect costs. However, if any litigation, claim, or audit is started before the expiration of the record retention period, the records will be retained until all litigation, claims, or audit findings involving the records have been resolved and final action taken. 2 C.F.R. § 200.333.
- c) Records will be destroyed in compliance with Schedule 10, Schedule 24, and State law. This includes the completion of a Records Disposition Report.

2. Maintenance of Procurement Records

- a) The District must maintain records sufficient to detail the history of all procurements. These records will include, but are not necessarily limited to the following: rationale for the method of procurement, selection of contract type, contractor selection or rejection, the basis for the contract price (including a cost or price analysis), and verification that the contractor is not suspended or debarred.
- b) Retention of procurement records shall be in accordance with applicable law and Board policy.

D. Privacy

The District has protections in place to ensure that the personal information of both students and employees is protected. These include the use of passwords that are changed on a regular basis; staff training on the

requirements of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and State confidentiality requirements; and training on identifying whether an individual requesting access to records has the right to the documentation.

Adopted on: _____ 8-16-18 _____

Revised on: _____ 8-19-19 _____

Reviewed on: _____

5016 Student Records

The school district shall manage student records and reports as is necessary for effective administration and in compliance with law. In general "student records" shall not include transitory communications such as e-mail, text messages, handwritten communication between school and home, and the like, and these items will not generally be maintained by the district.

For purposes of the district's compliance with state and federal law, the district "maintains" student records which are printed and kept in the student's physical file or which school district staff have intentionally saved within the official school district digital student information system that specifically identifies the student for whom those records are maintained. The school district may also use learning management systems, which deliver and manage instructional content. The school district maintains student records within its student information system but not in its learning management system. The official school district student information system is POWERSCHOOL.

Each building principal will assign responsibilities for the preparation and maintenance of records and will ensure compliance with the applicable federal and state laws, regulations, and record retention schedules regarding their storage and use in the building. No "student record" or record required to be retained by the Nebraska Secretary of State's Record Retention Schedules applicable to the district will be destroyed unless it is first saved in a retrievable, digital format. This includes only records required to be kept by the applicable Retention Schedules and "student records" as defined by state and federal law, and this policy does not prohibit the district from following its record expungement procedures for all other records.

Students or their parents, guardians, teachers, counselors, or school administrators shall have access to the school's files or records maintained concerning themselves or their students. For purposes of this policy, "teachers" include paraeducators and volunteers who are providing educational services to a student on behalf of the School District. "School officials" include attorneys; members of law enforcement acting on behalf of the school district; representatives of insurance providers that provide coverage to the school district; and third-party website operators who have contracted with the school district or its agent to offer online programs for the benefit of students and the district. All disciplinary material shall be removed and destroyed upon the pupil's graduation or after the pupil's continuous absence from the school for a period of three years, and after authorization is

given by the State Records Board pursuant to state law. Upon request, the school district will disclose education records without consent to officials of another school district in which a student seeks or intends to enroll.

Outside agencies such as physicians, probation officers, psychologists, child guidance clinics, and other agencies concerned with child welfare who are working directly with a child may have access to information pertaining to that child with written parental consent or upon issuance of a valid court order.

The school district shall share student data, records, and information with school districts, educational service units, learning communities, and the State Department of Education to the fullest extent practicable unless otherwise prohibited by law. This includes sharing information with the Department of Education necessary to comply with the requirement of state law that all third-year high school students take a college entrance exam. Any redisclosure of information related to the administration of this exam shall be governed by the agreement between the Nebraska Department of Education and the third-party testing company.

Each year, the school district will notify parents and guardians of their rights under this policy and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act.

Adopted on: __6-19-17_____
Revised on: _____8-19-19_____
Reviewed on: _____

5017 Routine Directory Information

The school district shall disclose the following as routine directory information pertaining to any past, present or future student who is, has been, or will be regularly enrolled in the district.

- Name and grade
- Name of parent and/or guardian
- Address
- Telephone number, including the student's cell phone number
- E-mail address
- Date and place of birth
- Dates of attendance
- The image or likeness of students in pictures, videotape, film or other medium
- Major field of study
- Participation in activities and sports
- Degrees and awards received
- Social media usernames or handles
- Weight and height of members of athletic teams
- Most recent previous school attended
- Certain class work which may be published onto the Internet
- Classroom assignment and/or home room teacher
- Student ID number, user ID, or other unique personal identifier used by the student for purposes of accessing or communicating in electronic systems, but only if the identifier cannot be used to gain access to education records except when used in conjunction with one or more factors that authenticate the user's identity, such as a personal identification number (PIN), password, or other factor known or possessed only the authorized user.

Directory information does not include a student's social security number.

Upon request, the district will provide military recruiters and institutions of higher education with the names, addresses, and telephone numbers of high school students unless a student's parents have notified the district in writing that they do not want this information disclosed without their prior written consent. Military recruiters will be granted the same access to a student in a high school grade as is provided to postsecondary educational institutions or to prospective employers of such students.

Within 30 days prior to or following the commencement of each school year and, for a new student who enrolls after the commencement of a school year, within 30 days following such enrollment, the district will notify parents and guardians each year of their rights under this policy and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act. Parents will be given an opportunity to prevent the release of this directory information by filing a written objection with the district.

When a student reaches 18 years of age, the permission or consent required of and the rights accorded to the parents or guardians of such student under this policy shall only be required of and accorded to such student. Within 30 days prior to or following the commencement of each school year and, for a new student who enrolls after the commencement of a school year, within 30 days following such enrollment, each school district shall notify each student who is at least 18 years of age or who will reach 18 years of age during such school year of (1) the option to make a written request to the school district that routine directory information for such student not be released in response to a request made by a military recruiter without such student's written consent and (2) that any such request made previously by a parent or guardian for such student expires upon the student reaching 18 years of age.

Adopted on: _____6/19/17 & 7/16/18_____

Revised on: _____8/19/19_____

Reviewed on: _____