

NEOLA UPDATES

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Bylaw 0100: Definitions. Revised. The definitions of “wireless communications device” and “personal communications device” were added to this bylaw for use regarding the new policy prohibiting students from using wireless communications devices on school grounds during instructional time.

Policy 1410 & 4210: Staff Ethics. New. These policies are consistent with Policy 3210 - Staff Ethics, but we now include administrators and support staff with our ethics. Key ethical responsibilities across five areas are addressed: the profession itself, professional competence, relationships with students, engagement with the school community, and the responsible use of technology.

Policy 2370.01: Online/Blended Learning Program. Revised. This revision reflects the latest provisions in the School Aid Act regarding Online/Blended Learning Programs. The Act eliminated the provision for a district to provide online instruction for not more than 15 days per school year.

Policy 2417: Comprehensive School Health Education. Revised. This revision expands the program’s scope by explicitly addressing self-efficacy, a broader range of social-emotional skills, and the use of valid and reliable health information, and also introduces mandates for safe, trauma-responsive, and culturally responsive learning environments. Key additions include a new focus on incorporating personal safety skills and the prevention of child sexual abuse, alongside more detailed guidance for implementation, such as specific teacher endorsements and the provision for parental opt-out from sex education.

Policy 2418: Sex Education. Revised. This revision broadens the scope of instruction to include “consent education” while also structuring the curriculum into detailed content areas appropriate for specific grade spans (3-5, 6-8, 9-12). Additionally, the policy strengthens its position on abstinence, stating it is the only 100% effective protection, and includes new requirements for secondary-level teacher endorsements, aligning with the Michigan Health Education Standard Guidelines and the Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act.

Poilcy 3120.09/4120.09(RenumberedRescind).8120.09: Renumbered/Revised: Volunteers. Policies 3120.09 and 4120.09 have both been deleted and replaced by one policy - 8120.09. Much of the content remains the same. The change to a different series recognizes that volunteers are not considered employees of the district, but rather function more to support general district operations. This policy governs unpaid volunteers. Teaching and nonteaching employees who receive supplemental contracts/stipends to supervise extracurricular activities are covered by other policies.

Policy 5136: Wireless Communications Devices (WCDs). Replacement. This replacement policy reflects provisions that were signed by the governor in February. This legislation prohibits students from using a wireless communications device on school grounds during instructional time, allows for specific exemptions, and requires a protocol for when and how pupils are permitted to use wireless communications devices during an emergency be included in the District's emergency operations plan.

Policy 6320: Purchasing. Revised. This revision includes language specific to bidding requirements and processes to ensure all procurement of supplies, materials, equipment, and services using District funds complies with federal and state laws, encourages full and open competition, and is conducted with sound business judgment. Below is a note under "Competitive Bids:"

NOTE: The maximum amount specified in this subsection shall be adjusted each year by multiplying the amount for the immediately preceding year by the percentage by which the average consumer price index for all items for the twelve (12) months ending August 31 of the year in which the adjustment is made differs from that index's average for the twelve (12) months ending on August 31 of the immediately preceding year and adding that product to the maximum amount that applied in the immediately preceding year, rounding to the nearest whole dollar. The state laws also provide for an increase in the base amount corresponding to increases in the Consumer Price Index ("CPI"). For fiscal year 2026, which began on Wednesday, October 1, the base amount for Section 1267 (pertaining to construction, renovation, repair, or remodeling) and the new base for Sections 623a and 1274 (pertaining to procurement of supplies, materials, and equipment) are each \$31,321.]

Policy 6325: Procurement-Federal Grants/Funds. Revised. This policy is revised to reflect threshold amounts for micro-purchases (not to exceed \$15,000 up from \$10,000), small purchases (not to exceed \$350,000 up from \$250,000). These revisions make the policy consistent with Federal regulations.

Policy 8402. Emergency Operations Plan. Revised. This revision has been revised to reflect the requirement to include a protocol for if/when/how pupils are permitted to use wireless communications devices during an emergency.

Policy 8655. Specialized Transportation for Students with IEPs. New. The intent of this new policy is to ensure that students with an Individualized Education Program (IEP) receive specialized transportation as a related service when it is necessary for them to access a Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) in the Least Restrictive Environment (LRE). The IEP Team is responsible for determining the need for specialized transportation based on the student's individual needs, considering all options to keep the student with their peers, and without cost being a factor in the determination.