

## **Work Session**

Tuesday, September 6, 2022 4:30 PM

917 Board Room, 130 145th Street East, Rosemount, MN 55068

### **I. Call to Order - Chair Cindy Nordstrom**

### **II. Conduct Pledge of Allegiance - Chair Cindy Nordstrom**

### **III. Integrity: Aligning our actions with our values and beliefs**

III.A. Student Services Board Report - Dr. Melissa Schaller

III.B.

- Policy
  - o First readings
  - o Final readings

III.C. Review Rubric for 2022-2023 - Dr. Michael Favor

III.D. Review and Approve Interpreters' Contract for 2022-2024 - Dr. Michael Favor

III.E. Medical and Dental Renewals for 2022-2023 - Nicolle Roush

### **IV. Adjournment - Chair Cindy Nordstrom**



## Intermediate School District 917

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Dr. Michael Favor

TO: School Board  
FROM: Dr. Michael Favor  
DATE: September 6, 2022  
RE: First reading on policies

The policies listed below are a first reading.

- **416 Drug and Alcohol Testing and forms.** Although this was attorney reviewed in June, in July MSBA added the information on Clearinghouse and cannabinoids and other minor changes.

*Notes from attorney:*

*The only modifications I made to the redlined draft you sent previously are the following:*

*I did not include alcohol testing in the preemployment testing described in Section H on Page 5. It is optional. It could be added if the District wanted to do it. This is in the section regarding "Commercial Motor Vehicle" drivers. A CMV is defined as a vehicle designed to transport 16 or more passengers, including the driver. If you have any District employees who drive vehicles that would meet this definition, we should talk about whether the federal testing standards apply to any 917 employees.*

*I added in the ARCpoint facility as the testing site as we discussed. This is on Page 10.*

*Also, note that the Policy references template notices as attachments to be included with the policy. These should also be included with the Board approval and posted online.*

- **Policy 104 Mission Statement** – incorporates our mission from Strategic Planning
- **Policy 418 Drug Free Workplace/Drug Free School** – incorporates "edible cannabis." The revisions include updates to definitions in light of laws that recently took effect. Article V is revised and reorganized due to the revised federal Student Support and Academic Freedom Act (which replaced the Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act). Adopt MSBA Policy.

*Notes from the attorney:*

*I'm following up on the MSBA's proposed revisions to Policy 418. We recently advised another client that we didn't see a legal issue with moving forward with adopting the revised version of the policy. As a reminder, the MSBA's bold and bracketed "notes" should be removed from the final policy language.*

*I spent some time looking into the ban on “nonintoxicating cannabinoids.” While hemp products containing trace amounts of THC were removed from the federal Controlled Substances Act, the problem with CBD and other products containing non-intoxicating cannabinoids is that it is very difficult to be able to determine what is legal and illegal in the evolving cannabis industry. I suspect the MSBA recommends broadly including “nonintoxicating cannabinoids” in the policy language because federal law requires a school district to provide an educational environment and workplace that is free from controlled substances as a condition of receiving federal funds and it is difficult to verify vendor claims regarding what is actually in CBD and other hemp products.*

*The phrase “controlled substances” was moved around a bit, but it is still in the policy. As to the form we discussed previously, I looked at the document again. I think you could keep it as is. The form we had discussed previously mentioned “medical cannabis” is not permitted. The definition of “medical cannabis” is broad enough to include nonintoxicating cannabinoids.*

- **Policy 709 Student Transportation.** Title changes and statute language changes.
- **Policy 721 Uniform Grant Guidance.** Updates micro-purchase limit.
- **Policy 722 Public Data Requests** - The revision adds the statutorily required annual review and posting requirements. See VII. at the end of the policy.
- **Policy 806 Crisis Management.** 917’s policy is one page. MSBA’s policy is many pages. All our sites have an Emergency Procedures Handbook so our one page should be good for this annual review.



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*ISD 917 School District Mission Statement Policy 104*

*Board Approved 1/8/2019*

*Board Reviewed September 6, 2022, first reading*

### **104 SCHOOL DISTRICT MISSION STATEMENT**

#### **I. PURPOSE**

The purpose of this policy is to establish a clear statement of the purpose for which the school district exists.

#### **II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY**

The school board believes that a mission statement should be adopted. The mission statement should be based on the beliefs and values of the community, should direct any change effort and should be the basis on which decisions are made. The school board, on behalf of and with extensive participation by the community, should develop a consensus among its members regarding the nature of the enterprise the school board governs, the purposes it serves, the constituencies it should consider, including student representation, and the results it intends to produce.

#### **III. MISSION STATEMENT**

- A. Mission (= Our Core Purpose): In partnership with member districts, Intermediate School District 917 provides high quality, equitable, and specialized programming to meet the needs of all students.
- B. Vision (= What We Intend to Create): Intermediate School District 917 models an innovative culture with diverse pathways serving students and families through equitable practices with highly trained staff.
- C. Core Values (= Drivers of Our Words and Actions)
  - a. Collaboration: Working together to achieve more collectively.
  - b. Empathy: Considering and respecting the perspective and needs of member districts, students, families and staff.
  - c. Innovation: Ongoing improvement of programs and services.
  - d. Stewardship: Managing financial and human resources carefully and responsibly.
  - e. Communication: Multi-dimensional, transparent conversation focused on sharing information and creating a positive learning and working environment.
  - f. Integrity: Aligning our actions with our values and beliefs.
  - g. Personalization: Building on the strengths and addressing the unique needs of individual students.
  - h. Equity: Intentionally providing opportunities while removing barriers at all levels of the organization.
  - i. Diversity: Appreciating and valuing everyone's unique selves.
- D. Strategic Directions (= Focus of Our Improvement Efforts):
  - a. Increase student achievement and engagement
  - b. Support and lead staff through continuous improvement

- c. Deepen engagement of stakeholders through quality, equitable communication practices
- d. Increase social-emotional learning and skills for students and staff
- e. Increase support for ALL through inclusive practices
- E. District Motto: Purposeful. Personalized. Partners.
- F. Logo:



#### **IV. REVIEW**

The school board will review the school district's mission on a regular basis, especially when members of the board change. The school board will conduct a comprehensive review of the mission, including the beliefs and values of the community, every five to seven years.

#### ***Legal References:***

Minn. Stat. § 120B.11 (School District Process for Reviewing Curriculum, Instruction, and Student Achievement)

Minn. Rule Parts 3501.0010-3501.0180

Minn. Rule Parts 3501.0200-3501.0270

## **ATTACHMENTS TO DRUG AND ALCOHOL TESTING POLICY**

Attachments A through C are to be used in conjunction with the drug and alcohol testing of bus drivers and driver applicants.

- Attachment A is a "Driver Acknowledgment-Drug and Alcohol Testing Policy Materials" form that should be used to document receipt of the policy and other materials by drivers and driver applicants. It is referred to in Article III., Section C., Paragraph 4. of the policy.
- Attachment B is a "Bus Driver or Driver Applicant-Authorization to Release Information" form. It is referred to in Article III., Section H., Paragraph 1. of the policy.
- Attachment C is a "Bus Driver or Driver Applicant-Refusal to Submit to Testing" form. It is referred to in Article III., Section H., Paragraph 7. of the policy.

Attachments D through G are to be used in conjunction with drug and alcohol testing of non-bus drivers and applicants.

- Attachment D is a "Pretest Notice" that must be provided to non-school bus driver employees or job applicants before requesting that the employee or job applicant undergo drug or alcohol testing. It is referred to in Article IV., Section E., Paragraph 1. of the policy.
- Attachment E is a "Notice of Test Results and Various Rights" which should be used by the District when notifying non-school bus driver employees or job applicants of test results and other rights. It is referred to in Article IV., Section E., Paragraph 6. of the policy.
- Attachment F is an "Explanation of Positive Test Result" form which should be used by the school district to request that the employee or job applicant submit information to the school district relevant to the reliability of, or explanation for, a positive test result. It is referred to in Article IV., Section E., Paragraph 4. of the policy.
- Finally, the District may wish to use Attachment G, entitled "Acknowledgment-Drug and Alcohol Testing Policy," to document that written notice of the policy was given to all affected employees. It is referred to in Article IV., Section J. of the policy.



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**DRAFT**

### — DRIVER ACKNOWLEDGMENT —

#### **DRUG AND ALCOHOL TESTING POLICY AND MATERIALS**

I have received a copy of the Drug and Alcohol Testing Policy of Intermediate School District No. 917, Rosemount, Minnesota and have read it in its entirety. I understand that I am subject to the provisions of Article III of the policy, entitled Drug and Alcohol Testing for Bus Drivers, because the position involves operating a commercial motor vehicle and requires a commercial driver's license.

The District's policy was provided to me:

- Upon adoption of the policy (employee).
- Upon my hire (job applicant/new employee).
- After receipt of my conditional job offer, before any testing if my job offer is contingent upon my passing of drug and alcohol testing (job applicant).

I also received materials concerning the effects of alcohol and controlled substances use on an individual's health, work, and personal life; signs and symptoms of an alcohol or drug problem; and available methods of intervening when an alcohol or drug problem is suspected.

I have been advised that the Alcohol and Controlled Substances Testing Program Manager is \_\_\_\_\_ and that any questions I may have concerning the Policy should be directed to the Program Manager.

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Signature of Employee/Applicant*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Typed or Printed Name*



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**( D R A F T )**

**— BUS DRIVER OR DRIVER APPLICANT —  
AUTHORIZATION TO RELEASE INFORMATION**

Section I. To be completed by the school district, signed by the bus driver, or driver applicant, and transmitted to the previous employer:

Employee Printed or Typed Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Employee SS or ID Number: \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby authorize release of information from my Department of Transportation regulated drug and alcohol testing records by my previous employer, listed in Section I-B, to the employer listed in Section I-A. This release is in accordance with DOT Regulation 49 CFR Part 40, Section 40.25. I understand that information to be released in Section II-A by my previous employer, is limited to the following DOT-regulated testing items:

1. Alcohol tests with a result of 0.04 or higher;
2. Verified positive drug tests;
3. Refusals to be tested;
4. Other violations of DOT agency drug and alcohol testing regulations;
5. Information obtained from previous employers of a drug and alcohol rule violation;
6. Documentation, if any, of completion of the return-to-duty process following a rule violation.

Employee Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Section I-A.

School District Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax #: \_\_\_\_\_

Designated Employer Representative: \_\_\_\_\_

Section I-B.

Previous Employer Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Designated Employer Representative (if known): \_\_\_\_\_

Section II. To be completed by the previous employer and transmitted by mail or fax to the new employer:

Section II-A. In the two years prior to the date of the employee's signature (in Section I), for DOT-regulated testing:

1. Did the employee have alcohol tests with a result of 0.04 or higher? YES \_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_
2. Did the employee have verified positive drug tests? YES \_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_
3. Did the employee refuse to be tested? YES \_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_
4. Did the employee have other violations of DOT agency drug and alcohol testing regulations? YES \_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_
5. Did a previous employer report a drug and alcohol rule violation to you? YES \_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_
6. If you answered "yes" to any of the above items, did the employee complete the return-to-duty process? N/A \_\_\_\_ YES \_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_

NOTE: If you answered "yes" to item 5, you must provide the previous employer's report. If you answered "yes" to item 6, you must also transmit the appropriate return-to-duty documentation (e.g., SAP report(s), follow-up testing record).

Section II-B.

Name of person providing information in Section II-A: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_



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**( D R A F T )**

### **— BUS DRIVER OR DRIVER APPLICANT — REFUSAL TO SUBMIT TO TESTING**

I hereby refuse to submit to drug/alcohol testing by doing the following:

- Failing to appear for any test within a reasonable time, as determined by the school district, consistent with applicable DOT regulations, after being directed to do so;
- Failing to remain at the testing site until the testing process is complete;
- Failing to provide a urine specimen or an adequate amount of saliva or breath for any DOT drug or alcohol test;
- Failing to permit the observation or monitoring of any provision of a specimen in the case of a directly observed or monitored collection in a drug test;
- Failing to provide a sufficient breath specimen or sufficient amount of urine when directed and it has been determined that there was no adequate medical explanation for the failure;
- Failing or declining to take a second test as directed;
- Failing to undergo a medical examination or evaluation, as directed by the Medical Review Officer (MRO) or the Designated Employer Representative (DER);
- Failing to cooperate with any part of the testing process (e.g., refusing to empty pockets when so directed by the collector, behaving in a confrontational way that disrupts the collection process, failing to wash hands after being directed to do so by the collector, failing to sign the certification on the form;
- Failing to follow the observer's instructions, in an observed collection, to raise the driver's clothing above the waist, lower clothing and underpants, and to turn around to permit the observer to determine if the driver has any type of prosthetic or other device that could be used to interfere with the collection process;
- Possessing or wearing a prosthetic or other device that could be used to interfere with the collection process;
- Admitting to the collector or MRO that the driver adulterated or substituted the specimen; or
- Having a verified adulterated or substituted test as reported by the MRO.

[An applicant who fails to appear for a preemployment test, who leaves the testing site before the preemployment testing process commences, or who does not provide a urine specimen because he or she left before it commences, is not deemed to have refused to submit to testing.]

I recognize that my refusal subjects me to the consequences specified in federal law and regulations. It also constitutes a presumption of a positive result. I further recognize that if I am an applicant, I will be disqualified from consideration for the conditionally-offered position. If I am an employee, I will not be permitted to perform safety-sensitive functions, and will be considered insubordinate and subject to disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal. If the school district offers me an opportunity to return to a DOT safety-sensitive function, I understand I will be evaluated by a substance abuse professional, and will be required to submit to a return-to-duty test prior to being considered for reassignment to safety-sensitive functions.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Time: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Signature of Employee/Applicant*

Supervisor: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Supervisor's Signature*

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Employee refusal to sign

*Supervisor's Initials:* \_\_\_\_\_



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**( D R A F T )**

**— PRETEST NOTICE —**

I, the undersigned employee/job applicant of Intermediate School District No. 917, Rosemount, Minnesota ("School District") do hereby acknowledge that I have been provided a copy of the School District's Drug and Alcohol Testing Policy.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Signature of Employee/Job Applicant*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Typed or Printed Name*



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**( D R A F T )**

[Employee Name]  
[Employee Address]

**RE: Drug and/or Alcohol Test**  
**[Date of Testing]**

### **NOTICE OF TEST RESULTS AND VARIOUS RIGHTS**

#### Test Results:

Intermediate School District No. 917, Rosemount, Minnesota has received the test result report from the testing laboratory:

- G Your initial screening test result was negative.
- G Your confirmatory test result was negative.
- G Your confirmatory test result was positive.

#### Test Result Report:

You have the right to request and receive from the school district a copy of the test result on any drug or alcohol test.

#### Right to Explain Positive Test Result:

In the case of a positive test result on a confirmatory test, you have the right to explain the results. You may, within three (3) working days after notice of a positive test result on a confirmatory test, submit information to the school district, in addition to any information already submitted, to explain that result. Attached to this Notice is a document entitled "Explanation of Positive Test Result" for this purpose.

#### Right to Request Confirmatory Retests:

In the case of a positive test result on a confirmatory test, you have the right to request a confirmatory retest of the original sample at your own expense.

Within five (5) working days after notice of the confirmatory test result, you must notify the school district in writing of your intention to obtain a confirmatory retest.

Within three (3) working days after receipt of the notice, the school district shall notify the original testing laboratory that you have requested the laboratory to conduct the confirmatory retest or to transfer the sample to another laboratory licensed under Minn. Stat. § 181.953, Subd. 1 to conduct the confirmatory retest. The original testing laboratory shall ensure that appropriate chain-of-custody procedures are followed during transfer of the sample to the

other laboratory. The confirmatory retest must use the same drug or alcohol threshold detection levels as used in the original confirmatory test. If the confirmatory retest does not confirm the original positive test result, no adverse personnel action based on the original confirmatory test may be taken against you.

Other Rights:

In the case of a positive test result on a confirmatory test, you may have other rights provided under the sections detailed below.

A. Employee Discharge and Discipline

1. The school district may not discharge, discipline, discriminate against, request, or require rehabilitation of an employee whose position does not require a commercial driver's license on the basis of a positive test result from an initial screening test that has not been verified by a confirmatory test.

In the case of a positive test result on a confirmatory test, the employee shall be subject to discipline which includes, but is not limited to, immediate suspension without pay and immediate discharge, pursuant to the provisions of this policy.

2. The school district may not discharge an employee whose position does not require a commercial driver's license for whom a positive test result on a confirmatory test was the first such result for the employee on a drug or alcohol test requested by the school district, unless the following conditions have been met:
  - a. The school district has first given the employee an opportunity to participate in, at the employee's own expense or pursuant to coverage under an employee benefit plan, either a drug or alcohol counseling or rehabilitation program, whichever is more appropriate, as determined by the school district after consultation with a certified chemical use counselor or a physician trained in the diagnosis and treatment of chemical dependency; and
  - b. The employee has either refused to participate in the counseling or rehabilitation program or has failed to successfully complete the program, as evidenced by withdrawal from the program before its completion or by a positive test result on a confirmatory test after completion of the program.
3. Notwithstanding Paragraph 1., the school district may temporarily suspend the tested employee or transfer that employee to another position at the same rate of pay pending the outcome of the confirmatory test and, if requested, the confirmatory retest, provided the school district believes that it is reasonably necessary to protect the health or safety of the employee, co-employees or the public. An employee who has been suspended without pay must be reinstated with back pay if the outcome of the confirmatory test or requested confirmatory retest is negative.
4. The school district may not discharge, discipline, discriminate against, request, or require rehabilitation of an employee on the basis of medical history information revealed to the school district, unless the employee was under an affirmative duty to provide the information before, upon, or after hire.
5. An employee must be given access to information in the employee's personnel file relating to positive test result reports and other information acquired in the drug and alcohol testing process and conclusions drawn from and actions taken based on the reports or other acquired information.

B. Withdrawal of Applicant's Job Offer

If a job applicant for a position that does not require a commercial driver's license has received a job offer made contingent on the applicant passing drug and alcohol testing, the school district may not withdraw the offer based on a positive test result from an initial screening test that has not been verified by a confirmatory test. In the case of a positive test result on a confirmatory test, the school district may withdraw the job offer.



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**( D R A F T )**

### **EXPLANATION OF POSITIVE TEST RESULT**

I, the undersigned employee/job applicant of Intermediate School District No. 917, Rosemount, Minnesota acknowledge receipt of a Notice of Test Results and Various Rights. This includes my right to explain the positive test result on a confirmatory test.

I am currently taking or have recently taken:

- no over-the-counter or prescription medications; or
- the following over-the-counter or prescription medications:

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I also offer the following information relevant to the reliability of, or explanation for, a positive test result:

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Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

*Signature of Employee/Job Applicant*

\_\_\_\_\_

*Typed or Printed Name*



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### — ACKNOWLEDGMENT — DRUG AND ALCOHOL TESTING POLICY

I have received a copy of the Drug and Alcohol Testing Policy of Intermediate School District No. 917, Rosemount, Minnesota and have read it in its entirety.

The District's policy was provided to me:

- Upon adoption of the policy (employee)
- Upon my hire (job applicant/new employee)
- After receipt of my conditional job offer, before any testing if my job offer is contingent upon my passing of drug and alcohol testing. (job applicant)

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Signature of Employee/Applicant*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Typed or Printed Name*

Adopted: \_\_\_\_\_

MSBA/MASA Model Policy 418

Orig. 1995

Revised: \_\_\_\_\_

Rev. 2022

*ISD 917 Drug-Free Workplace/Drug-Free School Policy 418*

*Adopted May 7, 2007*

*Board Reviewed 3/1/22*

*Board reviewed, first reading, September 6, 2022*

**418 DRUG-FREE WORKPLACE/DRUG-FREE SCHOOL**

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

**I. PURPOSE**

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

**II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY**

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

**III. DEFINITIONS**

- A. "Alcohol" includes any alcoholic beverage containing more than one-half of one percent alcohol by volume.
- B. "Controlled substances" include narcotic drugs, hallucinogenic drugs, amphetamines, barbiturates, marijuana, anabolic steroids, or any other controlled substance as defined in Schedules I through V of the Controlled Substances Act, 21 United States Code section 812, including analogues and look-alike drugs.
- C. "Edible cannabinoid product" means any product that is intended to be eaten or consumed as a beverage by humans, contains a cannabinoid in combination with food ingredients, and is not a drug.

- D. "Nonintoxicating cannabinoid" means substances extracted from certified hemp plants that do not produce intoxicating effects when consumed by any route of administration.
- E. "Medical cannabis" means any species of the genus cannabis plant, or any mixture or preparation of them, including whole plant extracts and resins, and is delivered in the form of: (1) liquid, including, but not limited to, oil; (2) pill; (3) vaporized delivery method with use of liquid or oil but which does not require the use of dried leaves or plant form; (4) combustion with use of dried raw cannabis; or (5) any other method approved by the commissioner.
- F. "Possess" means to have on one's person, in one's effects, or in an area subject to one's control.
- G. "School location" includes any school building or on any school premises; in any school-owned vehicle or in any other school-approved vehicle used to transport students to and from school or school activities; off school property at any school-sponsored or school-approved activity, event, or function, such as a field trip or athletic event, where students are under the jurisdiction of the school district; or during any period of time such employee is supervising students on behalf of the school district or otherwise engaged in school district business.
- H. "Toxic substances" includes: (1) glue, cement, aerosol paint, containing toluene, benzene, xylene, amyl nitrate, butyl nitrate, nitrous oxide, or containing other aromatic hydrocarbon solvents, but does not include glue, cement, or paint contained in a packaged kit for the construction of a model automobile, airplane, or similar item; (2) butane or a butane lighter; or (3) any similar substance declared to be toxic to the central nervous system and to have a potential for abuse, by a rule adopted by the commissioner of health.
- I. "Use" includes to sell, buy, manufacture, distribute, dispense, possess, use, or be under the influence of alcohol, toxic substances, medical cannabis, nonintoxicating cannabinoids (including edible cannabinoid products), and/or controlled substances, whether or not for the purpose of receiving remuneration or consideration.

#### **IV. EXCEPTIONS**

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

#### **V. PROCEDURES**

- A. Students who have a prescription from a physician for medical treatment with a controlled substance, except medical cannabis, must comply with the school district's student medication policy.

***[Note: School districts are required by Minnesota Statutes, section 121A.22 to develop procedures for the administration of drugs and medicine. If the school district does not have a student medication policy such as MSBA/MASA Model Policy 516, this Paragraph A. can be modified to provide: "Students who have a prescription from a physician for medical treatment with a controlled substance must provide a copy of the prescription and the medication to the school nurse, principal, or other designated staff member. The school district's licensed school nurse, trained health clerk, principal, or teacher will administer the prescribed medication in accordance with school district procedures."]***

- B. Employees who have a prescription from a physician for medical treatment with a controlled substance, except medical cannabis, are permitted to possess such controlled substance and associated necessary paraphernalia, such as an inhaler or syringe. The employee must inform his or her supervisor. The employee may be required to provide a copy of the prescription.
- C. Each employee shall be provided with written notice of this Drug-Free Workplace/Drug-Free School policy and shall be required to acknowledge that he or she has received the policy.

***[Note: The Drug-Free Workplace Act requires that school district employees be notified by a published statement of the prohibition of the use of controlled substances and actions that will be taken against employees for violations of such prohibition. 41 United States Code section 8103; 34 Code of Federal Regulations Part 84. An acknowledgment will document satisfaction by the school district of this federal requirement.]***

- D. Employees are subject to the school district's drug and alcohol testing policies and procedures.
- E. Members of the public are not permitted to possess controlled substances in a school location except with the express permission of the superintendent.
- F. No person is permitted to possess or use medical cannabis on a school bus or van; or on the grounds of any preschool or primary or secondary school; or on the grounds of any child care facility. This prohibition includes (1) vaporizing or combusting medical cannabis on any form of public transportation where the vapor or smoke could be inhaled by a minor child or in any public place, including indoor or outdoor areas used by or open to the general public or place of employment; and (2) operating, navigating, or being in actual physical control of any motor vehicle or working on transportation property, equipment or facilities while under the influence of medical cannabis.
- G. Possession of alcohol on school grounds pursuant to the exceptions of Minnesota Statutes section 624.701, subdivision 1a, shall be by permission of the school board only. The applicant shall apply for permission in writing and shall follow the school board procedures for placing an item on the agenda.

## **VI. ENFORCEMENT**

- A. Students
  - 1. Students may be required to participate in programs and activities that

provide education against the use of alcohol, tobacco, marijuana, smokeless tobacco products, electronic cigarettes, and nonintoxicating cannabinoids (including edible cannabinoid products),

2. Students may be referred to drug or alcohol assistance or rehabilitation programs; school based mental health services, mentoring and counseling, including early identification of mental health symptoms, drug use and violence and appropriate referral to direct individual or group counselling service. which may be provide by school based mental health services providers; and/or referral to law enforcement officials when appropriate.
3. A student who violates the terms of this policy shall be subject to discipline in accordance with the school district's discipline policy. Such discipline may include suspension or expulsion from school.

**B. Employees**

1. As a condition of employment in any federal grant, each employee who is engaged either directly or indirectly in performance of a federal grant shall abide by the terms of this policy and shall notify his or her supervisor in writing of his or her conviction of any criminal drug statute for a violation occurring in any of the places listed above on which work on a school district federal grant is performed, no later than five (5) calendar days after such conviction. Conviction means a finding of guilt (including a plea of nolo contendere) or imposition of sentence, or both, by any judicial body charged with the responsibility to determine violations of the federal or state criminal drug statutes.
2. An employee who violates the terms of this policy is subject to disciplinary action, including nonrenewal, suspension, termination, or discharge as deemed appropriate by the school board.
3. In addition, any employee who violates the terms of this policy may be required to satisfactorily participate in a drug and/or alcohol abuse assistance or rehabilitation program approved by the school district. Any employee who fails to satisfactorily participate in and complete such a program is subject to nonrenewal, suspension, or termination as deemed appropriate by the school board.
4. Sanctions against employees, including nonrenewal, suspension, termination, or discharge shall be pursuant to and in accordance with applicable statutory authority, collective bargaining agreements, and school district policies.

**C. The Public**

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

**Legal References:** Minn. Stat. § 121A.22 (Administration of Drugs and Medicine)  
Minn. Stat. § 121A.40-§ 121A.56 (Pupil Fair Dismissal Act)  
Minn. Stat. § 151.72 (Sale of Certain Cannabinoid Products)

Minn. Stat. § 152.22, subd. 6 (Definitions; Medical Cannabis)  
Minn. Stat. § 152.23 (Limitations; Medical Cannabis)  
Minn. Stat. § 340A.101 (Definitions; Alcoholic Beverage)  
Minn. Stat. § 340A.403 (3.2 Percent Malt Liquor Licenses)  
Minn. Stat. § 340A.404 (Intoxicating Liquor; On-Sale Licenses)  
Minn. Stat. § 609.684 (Abuse of Toxic Substances)  
Minn. Stat. § 624.701 (Alcohol in Certain Buildings or Grounds)  
20 U.S.C. § 7101-7122 (Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grants)  
21 U.S.C. § 812 (Schedules of Controlled Substances)  
41 U.S.C. §§ 8101-8106 (Drug-Free Workplace Act)  
21 C.F.R. §§ 1308.11-1308.15 (Controlled Substances)  
34 C.F.R. Part 84 (Government-Wide Requirements for Drug-Free Workplace)

**Cross References:** MSBA/MASA Model Policy 403 (Discipline, Suspension, and Dismissal of School District Employees)  
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 416 (Drug and Alcohol Testing)  
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 417 (Chemical Use and Abuse)  
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 419 (Tobacco-Free Environment; Possession and use of Tobacco, Tobacco-Related Devices, and Electronic Delivery Devices; Vaping Awareness and Prevention Instruction)  
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 506 (Student Discipline)  
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 516 (Student Medication)

*ISD 917 Policy 709, Student Transportation Policy  
Replaces ISD Policy 6.93  
Board approved January 7, 2020  
Board reviewed, September 6, 2022, first reading*

**709 STUDENT TRANSPORTATION SAFETY POLICY**

**I. PURPOSE**

The purpose of this policy is to provide safe transportation for students and to educate students on safety issues and the responsibilities of Intermediate School District 917.

**II. CONDUCT ON SCHOOL BUSES AND CONSEQUENCES FOR MISBEHAVIOR**

- A. Riding in a school van is a privilege, not a right. The school district's general student behavior rules are in effect for students in district vans.
1. School Van Rules. The school district van safety rules are to be posted in every vehicle. If these rules are broken, the school district's discipline procedures are to be followed. Consequences are progressive and may include suspension of van privileges. It is the school van driver's responsibility to report unacceptable behavior to the program administrator.
  2. Rules on the Van.
    - a. Immediately follow the directions of the driver
    - b. Sit in your seat facing forward.
    - c. Talk quietly and use appropriate language.
    - d. Keep all parts of your body inside the van.
    - e. Keep your arms, legs and belongings to yourself.
    - f. No fighting, harassment, intimidation or horseplay.
    - g. Do not throw any object.
    - h. No eating, drinking or use of tobacco, alcohol, or drugs.
    - i. Do not bring any weapons or dangerous objects on the school van.

j. Do not damage the vehicle.

**k. No electronic smoking devices allowed. ??????????**

3. Consequences.

a. Consequences for van misconduct will apply to all students. Decisions regarding a student's ability to ride the van in connection with co-curricular and extra-curricular events (for example, field trips or competitions) will be in the sole discretion of the school district. Parents or guardians will be notified of any suspension of van privileges.

1) Discipline

Violations of the van rules and student conduct violations will be addressed by appropriate administrator, in conjunction with the student's educational team. Factors to be considered when assessing any penalty for misconduct will include (1) the severity of the offense; (2) the student's prior record; and (3) for a student with a disability, the students' needs, as articulated in his or her IEP or section 504 plan.

2) Records

Records of school van misconduct will be forwarded to the appropriate administrator and will be retained in the same manner as other student discipline records. Reports of student misbehavior on a van that causes an immediate and substantial danger to the student or surrounding persons or property will be provided by the school district to the Department of Public Safety in accordance with state and federal law.

3) Vandalism

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

4) Notice

School van rules and consequences for violations of these rules will be reviewed with students annually

and copies of these rules will be made available to students. School van rules are to be posted in each vehicle.

5) Criminal Conduct

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

**IV. PARENT AND GUARDIAN INVOLVEMENT**

A. Parent and Guardian Notification

The school district van rules will be included with student handbooks. Parents and guardians are asked to review the rules with their children.

B. Parents/Guardians Responsibilities for Transportation Safety

Parents/Guardians are responsible to:

1. Become familiar with school district rules, policies, regulations, and the principles of van safety, and thoroughly review them with their children;
2. Support safe riding and walking practices, and recognize that students are responsible for their actions;
3. Communicate safety concerns to their school administrators.

**V. SCHOOL VAN AND TYPE III SCHOOL BUS DRIVER DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

- A. Under Minnesota law, Intermediate School District 917 vans are considered to be Type III school busses.
- B. A school district employee, whose normal duties do not include operating a school van, who holds a class D driver's license without a school bus endorsement, may operate a Type III school bus.
- C. The school district business office requires a copy of the driver's valid driver's license and will annually obtain a copy of the driver's motor vehicle report. A driver who has had more than three moving violations in three years is not eligible to drive a Type III school bus. The Business Manager will determine if the school van driver's authorization to

transport students is revoked and will notify the school van driver's immediate supervisor.

- D. Drivers shall report all moving violations they receive even in a personal vehicle, to the ~~Business Manager~~ **Executive Director of Business Services** as soon as possible after the violation 6.93-4 occurs. A person who sustains a conviction, as defined under **Minnesota Statutes section Minn. Stat. § 609.02**, of violating **Minnesota Statutes section Minn. Stat. § 169A.25**, **section 169A.26**, **section 169A.27** (driving while impaired offenses), or ~~§~~**section 169A.31** (alcohol-related school bus driver offenses), or whose driver's license is revoked under **Minnesota Statutes section 1 Minn. Stat. §§ 169A.50 to 169A.53** of the implied consent law, or who is convicted of violating or whose driver's license is revoked under a similar statute or ordinance of another state, is precluded from operating a type III vehicle for 5 years from the date of conviction. The report must be made in writing to the ~~Business Manager~~ **Executive Director of Business Services** within 10 days of the conviction.
- E. The school district may conduct pre-employment, random, and reasonable suspicion drug and alcohol testing of all school district van drivers and driver applicants in accordance with school district policy 416 Drug and Alcohol Testing.

## VI. SCHOOL VAN DRIVER TRAINING

### A. Training.

All bus drivers operating a type III vehicle will be provided with annual training and certification as set forth in Section VII.C.1.b., below, by either the school district or the entity from whom such services are contracted by the school district. Such Training shall, at a minimum, include:

1. Safe operation of the Type III (van) bus.
2. Knowledge and understanding of the safety equipment, including proper use of seat belts and child restraints, required for Type III vehicles.
3. Understanding student behavior, including issues related to students with disabilities.
4. Encouraging orderly conduct of students on the van and handling incidents of misconduct appropriately.
5. Knowledge and understanding of relevant laws, rules of the road, and ISD 917 school van safety policies.
6. Handling emergency situations, including accidents.
7. Safe loading and unloading of students including students with disabilities.

8. Performance of pre-trip vehicle inspections.
  9. Defensive driving techniques.
- B. All school van drivers shall receive in-service training annually. Such training shall, at a minimum, include a comprehensive review of the topics included in Section A, above.

## VII. OPERATING RULES AND PROCEDURES

### A. General Operating Rules

1. School vans shall be operated in accordance with state traffic and safety laws.
2. Only students assigned to the school van by the school district shall be transported. The number of students or other authorized passengers transported in a District van shall not exceed ten (10) including the driver, or the number of seats with restraints (whichever is smaller). No person shall be allowed to stand when the van is in motion.
3. A bus driver may not operate a school bus while communicating over, or otherwise operating, a cellular phone for personal reasons, whether hand-held or hands free, when the vehicle is in motion or a part of traffic. For purposes of this paragraph, "school bus" has the meaning given in **Minnesota Statutes section ~~Minn. Stat. §~~ 169.011, Subd. 71**. In addition, "school bus" also includes type III vehicles when driven by employees or agents of the school district. "Cellular phone" means a cellular, analog, wireless, or digital telephone capable of sending or receiving telephone or text messages without an access line for service.

### B. Type III Vehicles

1. Type III vehicles are restricted to passenger cars, station wagons, vans, and buses having a maximum manufacturer's rated seating capacity of 10 or fewer people, including the driver, and a gross vehicle weight rating of 10,000 pounds or less. A van or bus converted to a seating capacity of 10 or fewer and placed in service on or after August 1, 1999, must have been originally manufactured to comply with the passenger safety standards.
2. Type III vehicles must be painted a color other than national school bus yellow.

3. Type III vehicles shall be state inspected in accordance with legal requirements.
4. A Type III vehicle cannot be older than 12 years old, unless waived according to state and federal law.
5. The school district name will be clearly marked on the side of the vehicle. The Type III vehicle must not have the words “school bus” in any location on the exterior of the vehicle or in any interior location visible to a motorist.
6. A “Type III school bus” must not be outwardly equipped and identified as a Type A, B, C, or D bus.
7. Eight-lamp warning systems and stop arms must not be installed or used on Type III vehicles.
8. Type III vehicles must be equipped with mirrors as required by law.
9. Any type III vehicle may not stop traffic and may not load or unload before making a complete stop and disengaging gears by shifting into neutral or park. Any type III vehicle used to transport students must not load or unload so that a student has to cross the road, except where not possible or impractical, then the driver or assistant must escort a student across the road. If the driver escorts the student across the road, then the motor must be stopped, the ignition key removed, the brakes set, and the vehicle otherwise rendered immobile.
10. Any Type III vehicle used to transport students must carry emergency equipment including:
  - a. Fire extinguisher. A minimum of one 10BC rated dry chemical type fire extinguisher is required. The extinguisher must be mounted in a bracket, and must be located in the driver’s compartment and be readily accessible to the driver and passengers. A pressure indicator is required and must be easily read without removing the extinguisher from its mounted position.
  - b. First aid kit and body fluids cleanup kit. A minimum of a ten-unit first aid kit, and a body fluids cleanup kit is required. They must be contained in removable, moisture and dust-proof containers mounted in an accessible place

within the driver's compartment and must be marked to indicate their identity and location.

- c. Passenger cars and station wagons may carry a fire extinguisher, a first aid kit, and warning triangles in the trunk or trunk area of the vehicle if a label in the driver and front passenger area clearly indicates the location of these items.
11. Students will not be regularly transported in private vehicles that are not state inspected as Type III vehicles. Only emergency, unscheduled transportation may be conducted in vehicles with a seating capacity of 10 or fewer without meeting the requirements for a Type III vehicle. The school district has no system of inspection for private vehicles.
  12. All drivers of type III vehicles will be licensed drivers and will be familiar with the use of required emergency equipment. The school district will not knowingly allow a person to operate a type III vehicle if the person has been convicted of an offense that disqualifies the person from operating a school bus.
  13. Type III vehicles will be equipped with child passenger restraints, and child passenger restraints will be utilized to the extent required by law.

## **VIII. SCHOOL DISTRICT EMERGENCY PROCEDURES**

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

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

#### **IX. SCHOOL DISTRICT VEHICLE MAINTENANCE STANDARDS**

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

#### **X. SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY DIRECTOR**

Inasmuch as Intermediate School District 917 does not transport students to and from school, does not operate its own or any leased school buses, does not contract for school bus services except for occasional field trips and does not transport any non-public students, it has not appointed a "Transportation Safety Director." In the absence of an individual with specific transportation safety responsibilities, those responsibilities fall to the superintendent of schools.

#### **Legal References:**

Minn. Stat. § 123B.91 (School District Bus Safety Responsibilities)

Minn. Stat. § 169.01 (subd. 6(5) (Definitions)

Minn. Stat. § 169.454 (Type III Vehicle Standards)

Minn. Stat. § 169.4582 (Reportable Offense on School Buses)

Minn. Stat. § 171.02, Subd. 2a (Licenses; Types, Endorsements, Restrictions)

Minn. Rules Part 7470.1000-7470-1700 (School Bus Inspection)

**Cross References:**

Policy ~~4.81~~ **416** (Drug and Alcohol Testing)

721

## **UNIFORM GRANT GUIDANCE POLICY REGARDING FEDERAL REVENUE SOURCES**

***[Note: School districts are required by the federal Uniform Grant Guidance regulations, 2 Code of Federal Regulations Part 200, to have the policies which establish uniform administrative requirements, cost principles, and audit requirements for federal awards to non-federal entities including school districts. In June 2018, the United States Office of Management and Budget increased the threshold dollar amounts for both simplified acquisition costs (\$250,000) and micro-purchases (\$10,000).]***

### **I. PURPOSE**

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

### **II. DEFINITIONS**

#### **A. Grants**

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

***[Note: All of the requirements outlined in this policy apply to both direct grants and state-administered grants.]***

- B. “Non-federal entity” means a state, local government, Indian tribe, institution of higher education, or nonprofit organization that carries out a federal award as a recipient or subrecipient.
- C. “Federal award” has the meaning, depending on the context, in either paragraph 1. or 2. of this definition:

1.
    - a. The federal financial assistance that a non-federal entity receives directly from a federal awarding agency or indirectly from a pass-through entity, as described in 2 **Code of Federal Regulations section ~~C.F.R.~~ § 200.101** (Applicability); or
    - b. The cost-reimbursement contract under the federal Acquisition Regulations that a non-federal entity receives directly from a federal awarding agency or indirectly from a pass-through entity, as described in 2 **Code of Federal Regulations section ~~C.F.R.~~ § 200.101** (Applicability).
  2. The instrument setting forth the terms and conditions. The instrument is the grant agreement, cooperative agreement, other agreement for assistance covered in paragraph (b) of 200.40 (Federal Financial Assistance), or the cost-reimbursement contract awarded under the federal Acquisition Regulations.
  3. “Federal award” does not include other contracts that a federal agency uses to buy goods or services from a contractor or a contract to operate federal-government-owned, contractor-operated facilities.
- D. “Contract” means a legal instrument by which a non-federal entity purchases property or services needed to carry out the project or program under a federal award. The term, as used in 2 **Code of Federal Regulations ~~C.F.R.~~ Part 200**, does not include a legal instrument, even if the non-federal entity considers it a contract, when the substance of the transaction meets the definition of a federal award or subaward.
- E. Procurement Methods
1. “Procurement by micro-purchase” is the acquisition of supplies or services, the aggregate dollar amount of which does not exceed the micro-purchase threshold (generally \$3,000, except as otherwise discussed in 48 **Code of Federal Regulations ~~C.F.R.~~ Subpart 2.1** or as periodically adjusted for inflation).
 

**[Note: Minnesota school districts may choose to increase their federal micro-purchase threshold to \$25,000, which would align with the Minnesota limit. School districts choosing to adopt this increase must annually certify the higher threshold and the justification for using the higher threshold. Acceptable reasons for justification must meet *one* of the following criteria: (1) a qualification as a low-risk auditee, in accordance with the criteria established in 2 Code of Federal Regulations section 200.520; (2) an annual internal institutional risk assessment to identify, mitigate, and manage financial risks; or (3) a higher threshold consistent with state law.]**
  2. “Procurement by small purchase procedures” are those relatively simple and informal procurement methods for securing services, supplies, or other property that do not cost more than ~~\$150,000~~ **\$250,000** (periodically

adjusted for inflation).

3. “Procurement by sealed bids (formal advertising)” is a publicly solicited and a firm, fixed-price contract (lump sum or unit price) awarded to the responsible bidder whose bid, conforming to all the material terms and conditions of the invitation for bids, is the lowest in price.
  4. “Procurement by competitive proposals” is normally conducted with more than one source submitting an offer, and either a fixed-price or cost-reimbursement type contract is awarded. Competitive proposals are generally used when conditions are not appropriate for the use of sealed bids.
  5. “Procurement by noncompetitive proposals” is procurement through solicitation of a proposal from only one source.
- F. “Equipment” means tangible personal property (including information technology systems) having a useful life of more than one year and a per-unit acquisition cost which exceeds the lesser of the capitalization level established by the non-federal entity for financial statement purposes, or \$5,000.
- G. “Compensation for personal services” includes all remuneration, paid currently or accrued, for services of employees rendered during the period of performance under the federal award, including, but not necessarily limited to, wages and salaries. Compensation for personal services may also include fringe benefits which are addressed in 2 C.F.R. § **Code of Federal Regulations section** 200.431 (Compensation - Fringe Benefits).
- H. “Post-retirement health plans” refer to costs of health insurance or health services not included in a pension plan covered by 2 C.F.R. § **Code of Federal Regulations section** 200.431(g) for retirees and their spouses, dependents, and survivors.
- I. “Severance pay” is a payment in addition to regular salaries and wages by the non-federal entities to workers whose employment is being terminated.
- J. “Direct costs” are those costs that can be identified specifically with a particular final cost objective, such as a federal award, or other internally or externally funded activity, or that can be directly assigned to such activities relatively easily with a high degree of accuracy.
- K. “Relocation costs” are costs incident to the permanent change of duty assignment (for an indefinite period or for a stated period not less than 12 months) of an existing employee or upon recruitment of a new employee.
- L. “Travel costs” are the expenses for transportation, lodging, subsistence, and related items incurred by employees who are in travel status on official business of the school district.

### III. CONFLICT OF INTEREST

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

### IV. ACCEPTABLE METHODS OF PROCUREMENT

- A. General Procurement Standards. The school district must use its own documented procurement procedures which reflect applicable state laws, provided that the procurements conform to the applicable federal law and the standards identified in the Uniform Grant Guidance.
- B. The school district must maintain oversight to ensure that contractors perform in accordance with the terms, conditions, and specifications of their contracts or purchase orders.
- C. The school district's procedures must avoid acquisition of unnecessary or duplicative items. Consideration should be given to consolidating or breaking out procurements to obtain a more economical purchase. Where appropriate, an analysis will be made of lease versus purchase alternatives and any other appropriate analysis to determine the most economical approach.
- D. The school district must award contracts only to responsible contractors possessing the ability to perform successfully under the terms and conditions of a proposed procurement. Consideration will be given to such matters as contractor integrity, compliance with public policy, record of past performance, and

financial and technical resources.

- E. The school district must maintain records sufficient to detail the history of procurement. These records will include, but are not necessarily limited to, the following: rationale for the method of procurement; selection of the contract type; contractor selection or rejection; and the basis for the contract price.
- F. The school district alone must be responsible, in accordance with good administrative practice and sound business judgment, for the settlement of all contractual and administrative issues arising out of procurements. These issues include, but are not limited to, source evaluation, protests, disputes, and claims. These standards do not relieve the school district of any contractual responsibilities under its contracts.
- G. The school district must take all necessary affirmative steps to assure that minority businesses, women's business enterprises, and labor surplus area firms are used when possible.
- H. Methods of Procurement. The school district must use one of the following methods of procurement:
  - 1. Procurement by micro-purchases. To the extent practicable, the school district must distribute micro-purchases equitably among qualified suppliers. Micro-purchases may be awarded without soliciting competitive quotations if the school district considers the price to be reasonable.
  - 2. Procurement by small purchase procedures. If small purchase procedures are used, price or rate quotations must be obtained from an adequate number of qualified sources.
  - 3. Procurement by sealed bids (formal advertising).
  - 4. Procurement by competitive proposals. If this method is used, the following requirements apply:
    - a. Requests for proposals must be publicized and identify all evaluation factors and their relative importance. Any response to publicized requests for proposals must be considered to the maximum extent practical;
    - b. Proposals must be solicited from an adequate number of qualified sources;
    - c. The school district must have a written method for conducting technical evaluations of the proposals received and for selecting recipients;

- d. Contracts must be awarded to the responsible firm whose proposal is most advantageous to the program, with price and other factors considered; and
  - e. The school district may use competitive proposal procedures for qualifications-based procurement of architectural/engineering (A/E) professional services whereby competitors' qualifications are evaluated and the most qualified competitor is selected, subject to negotiation of fair and reasonable compensation. The method where price is not used as a selection factor can only be used in procurement of A/E professional services; it cannot be used to purchase other types of services, though A/E firms are a potential source to perform the proposed effort.
5. Procurement by noncompetitive proposals. Procurement by noncompetitive proposals may be used only when one or more of the following circumstances apply:
- a. The item is available only from a single source;
  - b. The public exigency or emergency for the requirement will not permit a delay resulting from competitive solicitation;
  - c. The DOE or MDE expressly authorizes noncompetitive proposals in response to a written request from the school district; or
  - d. After solicitation of a number of sources, competition is determined inadequate.
- I. Competition. The school district must have written procedures for procurement transactions. These procedures must ensure that all solicitations:
- 1. Incorporate a clear and accurate description of the technical requirements for the material, product, or service to be procured. Such description must not, in competitive procurements, contain features which unduly restrict competition. The description may include a statement of the qualitative nature of the material, product, or service to be procured and, when necessary, must set forth those minimum essential characteristics and standards to which it must conform if it is to satisfy its intended use. Detailed product specifications should be avoided if at all possible. When making a clear and accurate description of the technical requirements is impractical or uneconomical, a "brand name or equivalent" description may be used as a means to define the performance or other salient requirements of procurement. The specific features of the named brand which must be met by offers must be clearly stated; and
  - 2. Identify all requirements which the offerors must fulfill and all other factors to be used in evaluating bids or proposals.

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

## V. MANAGING EQUIPMENT AND SAFEGUARDING ASSETS

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

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

- B. Equipment

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

1. Property records must be maintained that include a description of the property; a serial number or other identification number; the source of the funding for the property (including the federal award identification number (FAIN)); who holds title; the acquisition date; the cost of the property; the percentage of the federal participation in the project costs for the federal award under which the property was acquired; the location, use, and condition of the property; and any ultimate disposition data, including the date of disposition and sale price of the property.
2. A physical inventory of the property must be taken and the results reconciled with the property records at least once every two years.

3. A control system must be developed to ensure adequate safeguards to prevent loss, damage, or theft of the property. Any loss, damage, or theft must be investigated.
4. Adequate maintenance procedures must be developed to keep property in good condition.
5. If the school district is authorized or required to sell the property, proper sales procedures must be established to ensure the highest possible return.

## VI. FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT REQUIREMENTS

A. Financial Management. The school district's financial management systems, including records documenting compliance with federal statutes, regulations, and the terms and conditions of the federal award, must be sufficient to permit the preparation of reports required by general and program-specific terms and conditions; and the tracing of funds to a level of expenditures adequate to establish that such funds have been used according to the federal statutes, regulations, and the terms and conditions of the federal award.

B. Payment. The school district must be paid in advance, provided it maintains or demonstrates the willingness to maintain both written procedures that minimize the time elapsing between the transfer of funds and disbursement between the school district and the financial management systems that meet the standards for fund control.

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

C. Internal Controls. The school district must establish and maintain effective internal control over the federal award that provides reasonable assurance that the school district is managing the federal award in compliance with federal statutes, regulations, and the terms and conditions of the federal award.

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

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

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

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

## VII. ALLOWABLE USE OF FUNDS AND COST PRINCIPLES

- A. Allowable Use of Funds. The school district administration and board will enforce appropriate procedures and penalties for program, compliance, and accounting staff responsible for the allocation of federal grant costs based on their allowability and their conformity with federal cost principles to determine the allowability of costs.
- B. Definitions
1. “Allowable cost” means a cost that complies with all legal requirements that apply to a particular federal education program, including statutes, regulations, guidance, applications, and approved grant awards.
  2. “Education Department General Administrative Regulations (EDGAR)” means a compilation of regulations that apply to federal education programs. These regulations contain important rules governing the administration of federal education programs and include rules affecting the allowable use of federal funds (including rules regarding allowable costs, the period of availability of federal awards, documentation requirements, and grants management requirements). EDGAR can be accessed at: <http://www2.ed.gov/policy/fund/reg/edgarReg/edgar.html>.
  3. “Omni Circular” or “2 ~~C.F.R.~~ **Code of Federal Regulations** Part 200s” or “Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards” means federal cost principles that provide standards for determining whether costs may be charged to federal grants.
  4. “Advance payment” means a payment that a federal awarding agency or passthrough entity makes by any appropriate payment mechanism, including a predetermined payment schedule, before the non-federal entity disburses the funds for program purposes.
- C. Allowable Costs. The following items are costs that may be allowable under the 2 ~~C.F.R.~~ **Code of Federal Regulations** Part 200s under specific conditions:
1. Advisory councils;
  2. Audit costs and related services;

3. Bonding costs;
4. Communication costs;
5. Compensation for personal services;
6. Depreciation and use allowances;
7. Employee morale, health, and welfare costs;
8. Equipment and other capital expenditures;
9. Gains and losses on disposition of depreciable property and other capital assets and substantial relocation of federal programs;
10. Insurance and indemnification;
11. Maintenance, operations, and repairs;
12. Materials and supplies costs;
13. Meetings and conferences;
14. Memberships, subscriptions, and professional activity costs;
15. Security costs;
16. Professional service costs;
17. Proposal costs;
18. Publication and printing costs;
19. Rearrangement and alteration costs;
20. Rental costs of building and equipment;
21. Training costs; and
22. Travel costs.

D. Costs Forbidden by Federal Law. ~~2 C.F.R.~~ **Code of Federal Regulations** Part 200s and EDGAR identify certain costs that may never be paid with federal funds. The following list provides examples of such costs. If a cost is on this list, it may not be supported with federal funds. The fact that a cost is not on this list does not mean it is necessarily permissible. Other important restrictions apply to federal funds, such as those items detailed in the ~~2 C.F.R.~~ **Code of Federal**

**Regulations** Part 200s; thus, the following list is not exhaustive:

1. Advertising and public relations costs (with limited exceptions), including promotional items and memorabilia, models, gifts, and souvenirs;
2. Alcoholic beverages;
3. Bad debts;
4. Contingency provisions (with limited exceptions);
5. Fundraising and investment management costs (with limited exceptions);
6. Donations;
7. Contributions;
8. Entertainment (amusement, diversion, and social activities and any associated costs);
9. Fines and penalties;
10. General government expenses (with limited exceptions pertaining to Indian tribal governments and Councils of Government (COGs));
11. Goods or services for personal use;
12. Interest, except interest specifically stated in 2 C.F.R. § 200.441 as allowable;
13. Religious use;
14. The acquisition of real property (unless specifically permitted by programmatic statute or regulations, which is very rare in federal education programs);
15. Construction (unless specifically permitted by programmatic statute or regulations, which is very rare in federal education programs); and
16. Tuition charged or fees collected from students applied toward meeting matching, cost sharing, or maintenance of effort requirements of a program.

E. Program Allowability

1. Any cost paid with federal education funds must be permissible under the federal program that would support the cost.

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

F. Federal Cost Principles

1. The Omni Circular defines the parameters for the permissible uses of federal funds. While many requirements are contained in the Omni Circular, it includes five core principles that serve as an important guide for effective grant management. These core principles require all costs to be:
  - a. Necessary for the proper and efficient performance or administration of the program.
  - b. Reasonable. An outside observer should clearly understand why a decision to spend money on a specific cost made sense in light of the cost, needs, and requirements of the program.
  - c. Allocable to the federal program that paid for the cost. A program must benefit in proportion to the amount charged to the federal program – for example, if a teacher is paid 50% with Title I funds, the teacher must work with the Title I program/students at least 50% of the time. Recipients also need to be able to track items or services purchased with federal funds so they can prove they were used for federal program purposes.
  - d. Authorized under state and local rules. All actions carried out with federal funds must be authorized and not prohibited by state and local laws and policies.
  - e. Adequately documented. A recipient must maintain proper documentation so as to provide evidence to monitors, auditors, or other oversight entities of how the funds were spent over the lifecycle of the grant.

- G. Program Specific Fiscal Rules. The Omni Circular also contains specific rules on selected items of costs. Costs must comply with these rules in order to be paid with federal funds.

1. All federal education programs have certain program specific fiscal rules that apply. Determining which rules apply depends on the program; however, rules such as supplement, not supplant, maintenance of effort, comparability, caps on certain uses of funds, etc., have an important impact when analyzing whether a particular cost is permissible.
2. Many state-administered programs require local education agencies (LEAs) to use federal program funds to supplement the amount of state, local, and, in some cases, other federal funds they spend on education costs and not to supplant (or replace) those funds. Generally, the “supplement, not supplant” provision means that federal funds must be used to supplement the level of funds from non-federal sources by providing additional services, staff, programs, or materials. In other words, federal funds normally cannot be used to pay for things that would otherwise be paid for with state or local funds (and, in some cases, with other federal funds).
3. Auditors generally presume supplanting has occurred in three situations:
  - a. School district uses federal funds to provide services that the school district is required to make available under other federal, state, or local laws.
  - b. School district uses federal funds to provide services that the school district provided with state or local funds in the prior year.
  - c. School district uses Title I, Part A, or Migrant Education Program funds to provide the same services to Title I or Migrant students that the school district provides with state or local funds to nonparticipating students.
4. These presumptions apply differently in different federal programs and also in schoolwide program schools. Staff should be familiar with the supplement not supplant provisions applicable to their program.

#### H. Approved Plans, Budgets, and Special Conditions

1. As required by the Omni Circular, all costs must be consistent with approved program plans and budgets.
2. Costs must also be consistent with all terms and conditions of federal awards, including any special conditions imposed on the school district’s grants.

#### I. Training

1. The school district will provide training on the allowable use of federal funds to all staff involved in federal programs.

2. The school district will promote coordination between all staff involved in federal programs through activities, such as routine staff meetings and training sessions.
- J. Employee Sanctions. Any school district employee who violates this policy will be subject to discipline, as appropriate, up to and including the termination of employment.

## VIII. COMPENSATION – PERSONAL SERVICES EXPENSES AND REPORTING

### A. Compensation – Personal Services

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

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

Unless an arrangement is specifically authorized by a federal awarding agency, a school district must follow its written non-federal, entity-wide policies and practices concerning the permissible extent of professional services that can be provided outside the school district for non-organizational compensation.

### B. Compensation – Fringe Benefits

1. During leave.

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

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

2. The costs of fringe benefits in the form of employer contributions or expenses for social security; employee life, health, unemployment, and worker's compensation insurance (except as indicated in ~~2 C.F.R. §~~ **Code of Federal Regulations section** 200.447(d)); pension plan costs; and other similar benefits are allowable, provided such benefits are granted under established written policies. Such benefits must be allocated to federal awards and all other activities in a manner consistent with the pattern of benefits attributable to the individuals or group(s) of employees whose salaries and wages are chargeable to such federal awards and other activities and charged as direct or indirect costs in accordance with the school district's accounting practices.
  3. Actual claims paid to or on behalf of employees or former employees for workers' compensation, unemployment compensation, severance pay, and similar employee benefits (e.g., post-retirement health benefits) are allowable in the year of payment provided that the school district follows a consistent costing policy.
  4. Pension plan costs may be computed using a pay-as-you-go method or an acceptable actuarial cost method in accordance with the written policies of the school district.
  5. Post-retirement costs may be computed using a pay-as-you-go method or an acceptable actuarial cost method in accordance with established written policies of the school district.
  6. Costs of severance pay are allowable only to the extent that, in each case, severance pay is required by law; employer-employee agreement; established policy that constitutes, in effect, an implied agreement on the school district's part; or circumstances of the particular employment.
- C. Insurance and Indemnification. Types and extent and cost of coverage are in accordance with the school district's policy and sound business practice.
- D. Recruiting Costs. Short-term, travel visa costs (as opposed to longer-term, immigration visas) may be directly charged to a federal award, so long as they are:
1. Critical and necessary for the conduct of the project;
  2. Allowable under the cost principles set forth in the Uniform Grant Guidance;
  3. Consistent with the school district's cost accounting practices and school district policy; and
  4. Meeting the definition of "direct cost" in the applicable cost principles of the Uniform Grant Guidance.

- E. Relocation Costs of Employees. Relocation costs are allowable, subject to the limitations described below, provided that reimbursement to the employee is in accordance with the school district's reimbursement policy.
- F. Travel Costs. Travel costs may be charged on an actual cost basis, on a per diem or mileage basis in lieu of actual costs incurred, or on a combination of the two, provided the method used is applied to an entire trip and not to selected days of the trip, and results in charges consistent with those normally allowed in like circumstances in the school district's non-federally funded activities and in accordance with the school district's reimbursement policies.

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

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

1. Participation of the individual is necessary to the federal award; and
2. The costs are reasonable and consistent with the school district's established travel policy.

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

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

***[Note: Noncompliance. If a school district fails to comply with federal statutes, regulations, or the terms and conditions of a federal award, the DOE or MDE may impose additional conditions, as described in 2 Code of Federal Regulations section 200.207 (Specific Conditions). If the DOE or MDE determines that noncompliance cannot be remedied by imposing additional conditions, the DOE or MDE may take one or more of the following actions, as appropriate under the circumstances: 1) Temporarily withhold cash payments pending correction of the deficiency by the school district or more severe enforcement action by the DOE or MDE; 2) Disallow (that is, deny both use of funds and any applicable matching credit for) all or part of the cost of the activity or action not in compliance; 3) Wholly or partly suspend or terminate the federal award; 4) Initiate suspension or debarment proceedings as authorized under 2 Code of Federal Regulations Part 180 and DOE regulations (or, in the case of MDE, recommend such a proceeding be initiated by the DOE); 5) Withhold further federal awards for the project or program; and/or 6) Take other remedies that may be legally available.]***

**Legal References:** 2 C.F.R. § 200.12 (**Definitions:** Capital Assets)  
2 C.F.R. § 200.112 (Conflict of Interest)  
2 C.F.R. § 200.113 (Mandatory Disclosures)  
2 C.F.R. § 200.205(d) (Federal Awarding Agency Review of Risk Posed by Applicants)  
2 C.F.R. § 200.**214** ~~212~~ (Suspension and Debarment)  
2 C.F.R. § 200.300(b) (Statutory and National Policy Requirements)  
2 C.F.R. § 200.302 (Financial Management)  
2 C.F.R. § 200.303 (Internal Controls)  
2 C.F.R. § 200.305(b)(1) (**Federal** Payment)  
2 C.F.R. § 200.310 (Insurance Coverage)  
2 C.F.R. § 200.311 (~~Real Property~~) **Federally-owned and Exempt**

**Property**

2 C.F.R. § 200.313(d) (Equipment)  
2 C.F.R. § 200.314 (Supplies)  
2 C.F.R. § 200.315 (Intangible Property)  
2 C.F.R. § 200.318 (General Procurement Standards)  
2 C.F.R. § 200.319(c) (Competition)  
2 C.F.R. § 200.320 (Methods of Procurement to be Followed)  
2 C.F.R. § 200.321 (Contracting with Small and Minority Businesses, Women’s Business Enterprises, and Labor Surplus Area Firms)  
2 C.F.R. § 200.328 (**Financial Reporting** ~~Monitoring and Reporting~~  
~~Program Performance~~)  
2 C.F.R. § 200.**339** ~~38~~ (~~Remedies for Noncompliance~~)  
2 C.F.R. § 200.403(c) (Factors Affecting Allowability of Costs)  
2 C.F.R. § 200.430 (Compensation – Personal Services)  
2 C.F.R. § 200.431 (Compensation – Fringe Benefits)  
2 C.F.R. § 200.447 (Insurance and Indemnification)  
2 C.F.R. § 200.463 (Recruiting Costs)  
2 C.F.R. § 200.464 (Relocation Costs of Employees)  
2 C.F.R. § 200.**74** ~~473~~ (Transportation Costs)  
2 C.F.R. § 200.**75** ~~474~~ (Travel Costs)

**Cross References:** Policy 208 (Development, Adoption, and Implementation of Policies)  
Policy 210 (Conflict of Interest – School Board Members)  
Policy 412 (Expense Reimbursement)

## **722 PUBLIC DATA REQUESTS**

### **I. PURPOSE**

The school district recognizes its responsibility relative to the collection, maintenance, and dissemination of public data as provided in state statutes.

### **II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY**

The school district will comply with the requirements of the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act, ~~Minn. Stat. Ch.~~ **Minnesota Statutes chapter** 13 (MGDPA), and ~~Minn.~~ **Minnesota** Rules Parts 1205.0100-1205.2000 in responding to requests for public data.

### **III. DEFINITIONS**

#### **A. Government Data**

“Government data” means all recorded information that the school district has, including paper, email, flash drives, CDs, DVDs, photographs, etc.

#### **B. Inspection**

“Inspection” means the visual inspection of paper and similar types of government data. Inspection does not include printing copies by the school district, unless printing a copy is the only method to provide for inspection of the data. For data stored in electronic form and made available in electronic form on a remote access basis to the public by the school district, inspection includes remote access to the data by the public and the ability to print copies of or download the data on the public’s own computer equipment.

#### **C. Public Data**

“Public data” means all government data collected, created, received, maintained, or disseminated by the school district, unless classified by statute, temporary classification pursuant to statute, or federal law, as nonpublic or protected nonpublic; or, with respect to data on individuals, as private or confidential.

#### **D. Responsible Authority**

“Responsible authority” means the individual designated by the school board as the individual responsible for the collection, use, and dissemination of any set of data on individuals, government data, or summary data, unless otherwise provided by state law. Until an individual is designated by the school board, the responsible authority is the superintendent.

E. Summary Data

“Summary data” means statistical records and reports derived from data on individuals but in which individuals are not identified and from which neither their identities nor any other characteristic that could uniquely identify an individual is ascertainable.

#### IV. REQUESTS FOR PUBLIC DATA

A. All requests for public data must be made in writing directed to the responsible authority.

1. A request for public data must include the following information:

- a. Date the request is made;
- b. A clear description of the data requested;
- c. Identification of the form in which the data is to be provided (e.g., inspection, copying, both inspection and copying, etc.); and
- d. Method to contact the requestor (such as phone number, address, or email address).

2. A requestor is not required to explain the reason for the data request.

3. The identity of the requestor is public, if provided, but cannot be required by the government entity.

4. The responsible authority may seek clarification from the requestor if the request is not clear before providing a response to the data request.

B. The responsible authority will respond to a data request at reasonable times and places as follows:

1. The responsible authority will notify the requestor in writing as follows:

- a. The requested data does not exist; or

- b. The requested data does exist but either all or a portion of the data is not accessible to the requestor; or
    - (1) If the responsible authority determines that the requested data is classified so that access to the requestor is denied, the responsible authority will inform the requestor of the determination in writing, as soon thereafter as possible, and shall cite the specific statutory section, temporary classification, or specific provision of federal law on which the determination is based.
    - (2) Upon the request of a requestor who is denied access to data, the responsible authority shall certify in writing that the request has been denied and cite the specific statutory section, temporary classification, or specific provision of federal law upon which the denial was based.
  - c. The requested data does exist and provide arrangements for inspection of the data, identify when the data will be available for pick-up, or indicate that the data will be sent by mail. If the requestor does not appear at the time and place established for inspection of the data or the data is not picked up within ten (10) business days after the requestor is notified, the school district will conclude that the data is no longer wanted and will consider the request closed.
- 2. The school district's response time may be affected by the size and complexity of the particular request, including necessary redactions of the data, and also by the number of requests made within a particular period of time.
  - 3. The school district will provide an explanation of technical terminology, abbreviations, or acronyms contained in the responsive data on request.
  - 4. The school district is not required by the MGDPA to create or collect new data in response to a data request, or to provide responsive data in a specific form or arrangement if the school district does not keep the data in that form or arrangement.
  - 5. The school district is not required to respond to questions that are not about a particular data request or requests for data in general.

## **V. REQUEST FOR SUMMARY DATA**

- A. A request for the preparation of summary data shall be made in writing directed to the responsible authority.
  - 1. A request for the preparation of summary data must include the following information:
    - a. Date the request is made;
    - b. A clear description of the data requested;
    - c. Identify the form in which the data is to be provided (e.g., inspection, copying, both inspection and copying, etc.); and
    - d. Method to contact requestor (phone number, address, or email address).
- B. The responsible authority will respond within ten (10) business days of the receipt of a request to prepare summary data and inform the requestor of the following:
  - 1. The estimated costs of preparing the summary data, if any; and
  - 2. The summary data requested; or
  - 3. A written statement describing a time schedule for preparing the requested summary data, including reasons for any time delays; or
  - 4. A written statement describing the reasons why the responsible authority has determined that the requestor's access would compromise the private or confidential data.
- C. The school district may require the requestor to pre-pay all or a portion of the cost of creating the summary data before the school district begins to prepare the summary data.

## **VI. COSTS**

### **A. Public Data**

- 1. The school district will charge for copies provided as follows:
  - a. 100 or fewer pages of black and white, letter or legal sized paper copies will be charged at 25 cents for a one-sided copy or 50 cents for a two-sided copy.

- b. More than 100 pages or copies on other materials are charged based upon the actual cost of searching for and retrieving the data and making the copies or electronically sending the data, unless the cost is specifically set by statute or rule.
  - (1) The actual cost of making copies includes employee time, the cost of the materials onto which the data is copied (paper, CD, DVD, etc.), and mailing costs (if any).
  - (2) Also, if the school district does not have the capacity to make the copies, e.g., photographs, the actual cost paid by the school district to an outside vendor will be charged.
- 2. All charges must be paid for in cash in advance of receiving the copies.

**B. Summary Data**

- 1. Any costs incurred in the preparation of summary data shall be paid by the requestor prior to preparing or supplying the summary data.
- 2. The school district may assess costs associated with the preparation of summary data as follows:
  - a. The cost of materials, including paper, the cost of the labor required to prepare the copies, any schedule of standard copying charges established by the school district, any special costs necessary to produce such copies from a machine-based record-keeping system, including computers and microfilm systems;
  - b. The school district may consider the reasonable value of the summary data prepared and, where appropriate, reduce the costs assessed to the requestor.

**VII: Annual Review and Posting**

- A. The responsible authority shall prepare a written data access policy and a written policy for the rights of data subjects (including specific procedures the school district uses for access by the data subject to public or private data on individuals). The responsible authority shall update the policies no later than August 1 of each year, and at any other time as necessary to reflect changes in personnel, procedures, or other circumstances that impact the public's ability to access data.**
- B. Copies of the policies shall be easily available to the public by distributing free copies to the public or by posting the policies in a conspicuous place**

**within the school district that is easily accessible to the public or by posting them on the school district's website.**

**Data Practices Contacts**

**Responsible Authority:**

Superintendent  
1300 145<sup>th</sup> Street East  
Rosemount, MN 55068  
651-423-8226

**Data Practices Compliance Official:**

Executive Director of Business Services  
1300 145<sup>th</sup> Street East  
Rosemount, MN 55068  
651-423-8227

**Data Practices Designee(s):**

HR Coordinator  
1300 145<sup>th</sup> Street East  
Rosemount, MN 55068  
651-423-8652

**Legal References:** Minn. Stat. Ch. 13 (Minnesota Government Data Practices Act)  
**Minn. Stata. 13.025 (Government Entity Obligation)**

**Cross References:** MSBA/MASA Model Policy 406 (Public and Private Personnel Data)  
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 515 (Protection and Privacy of Pupil Records)

## 806 CRISIS MANAGEMENT POLICY

***[Note: The Minnesota Commissioner of Education is required to maintain and make available to school boards and charter schools a Model Crisis Management Policy. See Minnesota Statutes section 121A.035. School boards and charter schools must adopt a Crisis Management Policy to address potential crisis situations in their school districts or charter schools. Id. This Model Crisis Management Policy was originally the result of a collaborative effort among the Minnesota Department of Education, Division of Compliance and Assistance; the Minnesota Department of Public Safety, Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management; and the Minnesota School Boards Association.]***

### I. PURPOSE

It is the policy of the school district to provide a safe and healthy work environment for its staff and students. The purpose of this policy is to direct the superintendent or designee to develop and implement crisis management procedures.

### II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

- A. The Minnesota state legislature has mandated that each public school district has a crisis management plan.
- B. The school district has developed an Emergency Procedures Handbook for each of the sites which provides procedures for responding to a wide range of natural and man-made crisis situations. The handbooks include roles for school district administrators, staff and community/county agencies in addressing emergencies.

### III. POLICY IMPLEMENTATION AND REVIEW

- A. The Emergency Procedure Handbooks are available for administrator and staff reference in each school/program office.
- B. The school district will conduct reviews of this policy and the crisis management plan, described in the Emergency Procedure Handbooks, as required by state and federal law.

***Legal Reference:*** Minn. Stat. § 121A.035 (Crisis Management Policy)

806-1

Adopted: \_\_\_\_\_

MSBA/MASA Model Policy 806

Orig. 1999

Revised: \_\_\_\_\_

Rev. 2022

## **806 CRISIS MANAGEMENT POLICY**

***[Note: The Minnesota Commissioner of Education is required to maintain and make available to school boards and charter schools a Model Crisis Management Policy. See Minnesota Statutes section 121A.035. School boards and charter schools must adopt a Crisis Management Policy to address potential crisis situations in their school districts or charter schools. Id. This Model Crisis Management Policy was originally the result of a collaborative effort among the Minnesota Department of Education, Division of Compliance and Assistance; the Minnesota Department of Public Safety, Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management; and the Minnesota School Boards Association.]***

### **I. PURPOSE**

The purpose of this Model Crisis Management Policy is to act as a guide for school district and building administrators, school employees, students, school board members, and community members to address a wide range of potential crisis situations in the school district. For purposes of this Policy, the term, "school districts," shall include charter schools. The step-by-step procedures suggested by this Policy will provide guidance to each school building in drafting crisis management plans to coordinate protective actions prior to, during, and after any type of emergency or potential crisis situation. Each school district should develop tailored building-specific crisis management plans for each school building in the school district, and sections or procedures may be added or deleted in those crisis management plans based on building needs.

The school district will, to the extent possible, engage in ongoing emergency planning within the school district and with emergency responders and other relevant community organizations. The school district will ensure that relevant emergency responders in the community have access to their building-specific crisis management plans and will provide training to school district staff to enable them to act appropriately in the event of a crisis.

### **II. GENERAL INFORMATION**

#### **A. The Policy and Plans**

The school district's Crisis Management Policy has been created in consultation with local community response agencies and other appropriate individuals and groups that would likely be involved in the event of a school emergency. It is designed so that each building administrator can tailor a building-specific crisis management plan to meet that building's specific situation and needs.

The school district's administration and/or the administration of each building shall present tailored building-specific crisis management plans to the school board for review and approval. The building-specific crisis management plans will include general crisis procedures and crisis-specific procedures. Upon approval by the school board, such crisis management plans shall be an addendum to this Crisis Management Policy. This Policy and the plans will be maintained and updated on an annual basis.

#### **B. Elements of the District Crisis Management Policy**

1. General Crisis Procedures. The Crisis Management Policy includes general crisis procedures for securing buildings, classroom evacuation, building evacuation, campus evacuation, and sheltering. The Policy designates the individual(s) who will determine when these actions will be taken. These district-wide procedures may be modified by building administrators when creating their building-specific crisis management plans. A communication system will be in place to enable the designated individual to be contacted at all times in the event of a potential crisis, setting forth the method to contact the designated individual, the provision of at least two designees when the contact person is unavailable, and the method to convey contact information to the appropriate staff persons. The alternative designees may include members of the emergency first responder response team. A secondary method of communication should be included in the plan for use when the primary method of communication is inoperable. Each building in the school district will have access to a copy of the Comprehensive School Safety Guide (2011 Edition) to assist in the development of building-specific crisis management plans.

All general crisis procedures will address specific procedures for the safe evacuation of children and employees with special needs such as physical, sensory, motor, developmental, and mental health challenges.

***[Note: More specific information on planning for children with special needs can be found in the Comprehensive School Safety Guide (2011 Edition) and United States Department of Education’s document entitled, “Practical Information on Crisis Planning, a Guide for Schools and Communities.” A website link is provided in the resource section of this Policy.]***

- a. Lock-Down Procedures. Lock-down procedures will be used in situations where harm may result to persons inside the school building, such as a shooting, hostage incident, intruder, trespass, disturbance, or when determined to be necessary by the building administrator or his or her designee. The building administrator or designee will announce the lock-down over the public address system or other designated system. Code words will not be used. Provisions for emergency evacuation will be maintained even in the event of a lock-down. Each building administrator will submit lock-down procedures for their building as part of the building-specific crisis management plan.

***[Note: State law requires a minimum of five school lock-down drills each school year. See Minnesota Statutes section 121A.035.]***

- b. Evacuation Procedures. Evacuations of classrooms and buildings shall be implemented at the discretion of the building administrator or his or her designee. Each building’s crisis management plan will include procedures for transporting students and staff a safe distance from harm to a designated safe area until released by the building administrator or designee. Safe areas may change based upon the specific emergency situation. The evacuation procedures should include specific procedures for children with special needs, including children with limited mobility (wheelchairs, braces, crutches, etc.), visual impairments, hearing impairments, and other sensory, developmental, or mental health needs. The evacuation procedures should also address transporting

necessary medications for students that take medications during the school day.

***[Note: State law requires a minimum of five school fire drills, consistent with Minnesota Statutes section 299F.30, and one school tornado drill each school year. See Minnesota Statutes section 121A.035.]***

- c. Sheltering Procedures. Sheltering provides refuge for students, staff, and visitors within the school building during an emergency. Shelters are safe areas that maximize the safety of inhabitants. Safe areas may change based upon the specific emergency. The building administrator or his or her designee will announce the need for sheltering over the public address system or other designated system. Each building administrator will submit sheltering procedures for his or her building as part of the building-specific crisis management plan.

***[Note: The Comprehensive School Safety Guide (2011 Edition) has sample lock-down procedures, evacuation procedures, and sheltering procedures.]***

2. Crisis-Specific Procedures. The Crisis Management Policy includes crisis-specific procedures for crisis situations that may occur during the school day or at school-sponsored events and functions. These district-wide procedures are designed to enable building administrators to tailor response procedures when creating building-specific crisis management plans.

***[Note: The Comprehensive School Safety Guide (2011 Edition) includes crisis-specific procedures.]***

3. School Emergency Response Teams
  - a. Composition. The building administrator in each school building will select a school emergency response team that will be trained to respond to emergency situations. All school emergency response team members will receive on-going training to carry out the building's crisis management plans and will have knowledge of procedures, evacuation routes, and safe areas. For purposes of student safety and accountability, to the extent possible, school emergency response team members will not have direct responsibility for the supervision of students. Team members must be willing to be actively involved in the resolution of crises and be available to assist in any crisis situation as deemed necessary by the building administrator. Each building will maintain a current list of school emergency response team members which will be updated annually. The building administrator, and his or her alternative designees, will know the location of that list in the event of a school emergency. A copy of the list will be kept on file in the school district office, or in a secondary location in single building school districts.

***[Note: The Comprehensive School Safety Guide (2011 Edition) has a sample School Emergency Response Team list.]***

- b. Leaders. The building administrator or his or her designee will serve as

the leader of the school emergency response team and will be the primary contact for emergency response officials. In the event the primary designee is unavailable, the designee list should include more than one alternative designee and may include members of the emergency response team. When emergency response officials are present, they may elect to take command and control of the crisis. It is critical in this situation that school officials assume a resource role and be available as necessary to emergency response officials.

### III. PREPARATION BEFORE AN EMERGENCY

#### A. Communication

1. District Employees. Teachers generally have the most direct contact with students on a day-to-day basis. As a result, they must be aware of their role in responding to crisis situations. This also applies to non-teaching school personnel who have direct contact with students. All staff shall be aware of the school district's Crisis Management Policy and their own building's crisis management plan. Each school's building-specific crisis management plan shall include the method and dates of dissemination of the plan to its staff. Employees will receive a copy of the relevant building-specific crisis management plans and shall receive periodic training on plan implementation.
2. Students and Parents. Students and parents shall be made aware of the school district's Crisis Management Policy and relevant tailored crisis management plans for each school building. Each school district's building-specific crisis management plan shall set forth how students and parents are made aware of the district and school-specific plans. Students shall receive specific instruction on plan implementation and shall participate in a required number of drills and practice sessions throughout the school year.

#### B. Planning and Preparing for Fire

1. Designate a safe area at least 50 feet away from the building to enable students and staff to evacuate. The safe area should not interfere with emergency responders or responding vehicles and should not be in an area where evacuated persons are exposed to any products of combustion. (Depending on the wind direction, where the building on fire is located, the direction from which the fire is arriving, and the location of fire equipment, the distance may need to be extended.)

***[Note: Evacuation areas at least 50 feet from school buildings are recommended but not mandated by statute or rule. Evacuation areas should be selected based on safety and the individual school site's proximity to streets, traffic patterns, and other hazards.]***

2. Each building's facility diagram and site plan shall be available in appropriate areas of the building and shall identify the most direct evacuation routes to the designated safe areas both inside and outside of the building. The facility diagram and site plan must identify the location of the fire alarm control panel, fire alarms, fire extinguishers, hoses, water spigots, and utility shut offs.
3. Teachers and staff will receive training on the location of the primary emergency evacuation routes and alternate routes from various points in the building. During fire drills, students and staff will practice evacuations using primary evacuation routes and alternate routes.

4. Certain employees, such as those who work in hazardous areas in the building, will receive training on the locations and proper use of fire extinguishers and protective clothing and equipment.
5. Fire drills will be conducted periodically without warning at various times of the day and under different circumstances, e.g., lunchtime, recess, and during assemblies. State law requires a minimum of five fire drills each school year, consistent with Minnesota Statutes section 299F.30. See Minnesota Statutes section 121A.035.

***[Note: The State Fire Marshal advises schools to defer fire drills during the winter months.]***

6. A record of fire drills conducted at the building will be maintained in the building administrator's office.

***[Note: The Comprehensive School Safety Guide (2011 Edition), under the Preparedness/Planning section, has a sample fire drills schedule and log.]***

7. The school district will have prearranged sites for emergency sheltering and transportation as needed.
8. The school district will determine which staff will remain in the building to perform essential functions if safe to do so (e.g., switchboard, building engineer, etc.). The school district also will designate an administrator or his or her designee to meet local fire or law enforcement agents upon their arrival.

***[Note: The Comprehensive School Safety Guide (2011 Edition), under the Response section, has a sample fire procedure form, evacuation/relocation and student reunification/release procedures, and planning for student reunification.]***

C. Facility Diagrams and Site Plans

All school buildings will have a facility diagram and site plan that includes the location of primary and secondary evacuation routes, exits, designated safe areas inside and outside of the building, and the location of fire alarm control panel, fire alarms, fire extinguishers, hoses, water spigots, and utility shut offs. All facility diagrams and site plans will be updated regularly and whenever a major change is made to a building. Facility diagrams and site plans will be maintained by the building administrator and will be easily accessible and on file in the school district office. Facility diagrams and site plans will be provided to first responders, such as fire and law enforcement personnel.

***[Note: For single building school districts, such as charter schools, a secondary location for the diagrams and site plans will be included in the district's Crisis Management Policy and may include filing documents with a charter school sponsor, or compiling facility diagrams and site plans on a CD-Rom and distributing copies to first responders or sharing the documents with first responders during the crisis planning process.]***

***[Note: To the extent data contained in facility diagrams and site plans constitute security information pursuant to Minnesota Statutes section 13.37, school districts are advised to consult with appropriate officials and/or legal counsel prior to dissemination of the facility diagrams or site plans to anyone other than first responders.]***

D. Emergency Telephone Numbers

Each building will maintain a current list of emergency telephone numbers and the names and addresses of local, county, and state personnel who may be involved in a crisis situation. The list will include telephone numbers for local police, fire, ambulance, hospital, the Poison Control Center, county and state emergency management agencies, local public works departments, local utility companies, the public health nurse, mental health/suicide hotlines, and the county welfare agency. A copy of this list will be kept on file in the school district office, or at a secondary location for single building school districts and will be updated annually.

School district employees will receive training on how to make emergency contacts, including 911 calls, when the school district's main telephone number and location is electronically conveyed to emergency personnel instead of the specific building in need of emergency services.

School district plans will set forth a process to internally communicate an emergency, using telephones in classrooms, intercom systems, or two-way radios, as well as the procedure to enable the staff to rapidly convey emergency information to a building designee. Each plan will identify a primary and secondary method of communication for both internal and secondary use. It is recommended that the plan include several methods of communication because computers, intercoms, telephones, and cell phones may not be operational or may be dangerous to use during an emergency.

***[Note: The Comprehensive School Safety Guide (2011 Edition), under the Preparedness/Planning section, has a sample Emergency Phone Numbers list.]***

E. Warning and Notification Systems

The school district shall maintain a warning system designed to inform students, staff, and visitors of a crisis or emergency. This system shall be maintained on a regular basis under the maintenance plan for all school buildings. The school district should consider an alternate notification system to address the needs of staff and students with special needs, such as vision or hearing.

The building administrator shall be responsible for informing students and employees of the warning system and the means by which the system is used to identify a specific crisis or emergency situation. Each school's building-specific crisis management plan will include the method and frequency of dissemination of the warning system information to students and employees.

F. Early School Closure Procedures

The superintendent will make decisions about closing school or buildings as early in the day as possible. The early school closure procedures will set forth the criteria for early school closure (e.g., weather-related, utility failure, or a crisis situation), will specify how closure decisions will be communicated to staff, students, families, and the school community (designated broadcast media, local authorities, e-mail, or district or school building web sites), and will discuss the factors to be considered in closing and reopening a school or building.

Early school closure procedures also will include a reminder to parents and guardians to listen to designated local radio and TV stations for school closing announcements, where possible.

***[Note: The Comprehensive School Safety Guide (2011 Edition), under the Response section, provides universal procedures for severe weather shelter.]***

G. Media Procedures

The superintendent has the authority and discretion to notify parents or guardians and

the school community in the event of a crisis or early school closure. The superintendent will designate a spokesperson who will notify the media in the event of a crisis or early school closure. The spokesperson shall receive training to ensure that the district is in strict compliance with federal and state law relative to the release of private data when conveying information to the media.

***[Note: The Comprehensive School Safety Guide (2011 Edition), under the Response section, has a sample Media Procedures form.]***

H. Behavioral Health Crisis Intervention Procedures

Short-term behavioral health crisis intervention procedures will set forth the procedure for initiating behavioral health crisis intervention plans. The procedures will utilize available resources including the school psychologist, counselor, community behavioral health crisis intervention, or others in the community. Counseling procedures will be used whenever the superintendent or the building administrator determines it to be necessary, such as after an assault, a hostage situation, shooting, or suicide. The behavioral health crisis intervention procedures shall include the following steps:

1. Administrator will meet with relevant persons, including school psychologists and counselors, to determine the level of intervention needed for students and staff.
2. Designate specific rooms as private counseling areas.
3. Escort siblings and close friends of any victims as well as others in need of emotional support to the counseling areas.
4. Prohibit media from interviewing or questioning students or staff.
5. Provide follow-up services to students and staff who receive counseling.
6. Resume normal school routines as soon as possible.

I. Long-Term Recovery Intervention Procedures

Long-term recovery intervention procedures may involve both short-term and long-term recovery planning:

1. Physical/structural recovery.
2. Fiscal recovery.
3. Academic recovery.
4. Social/emotional recovery.

***[Note: The Comprehensive School Safety Guide (2011 Edition), under the Recovery section, addresses the recovery components in more detail.]***

#### **IV. SAMPLE PROCEDURES INCLUDED IN THIS POLICY**

Sample procedures for the various hazards/emergencies listed below are attached to this Policy for use when drafting specific crisis management plans. Additional sample procedures may be found in the Response section of the *Comprehensive School Safety Guide* (2011 Edition). After approval by the school board, an adopted procedure will become an addendum to the Crisis Management Policy.

- A. Fire
- B. Hazardous Materials
- C. Severe Weather: Tornado/Severe Thunderstorm/Flooding
- D. Medical Emergency
- E. Fight/Disturbance
- F. Assault
- G. Intruder
- H. Weapons
- I. Shooting
- J. Hostage
- K. Bomb Threat
- L. Chemical or Biological Threat
- M. Checklist for Telephone Threats
- N. Demonstration
- O. Suicide
- P. Lock-down Procedures
- Q. Shelter-In-Place Procedures
- R. Evacuation/Relocation
- S. Media Procedures
- T. Post-Crisis Procedures
- U. School Emergency Response Team
- V. Emergency Phone Numbers
- W. Highly Contagious Serious Illness or Pandemic Flu

**V. MISCELLANEOUS PROCEDURES**

A. Chemical Accidents

Procedures for reporting chemical accidents shall be posted at key locations such as chemistry labs, art rooms, swimming pool areas, and janitorial closets.

***[Note: School buildings must maintain Material Safety Data Sheets (M.S.D.S.) for all chemicals on campus. State law, federal law, and OSHA require that pertinent staff have access to M.S.D.S. in the event of a chemical accident.]***

B. Visitors

The school district shall implement procedures mandating visitor sign in and visitors in

school buildings. See MSBA/MASA Model Policy 903 (Visitors to School District Buildings and Sites).

The school district shall implement procedures to minimize outside entry into school buildings except at designated check-in points and assure that all doors are locked prior to and after regular building hours.

C. Student Victims of Criminal Offenses at or on School Property

The school district shall establish procedures allowing student victims of criminal offenses on school property the opportunity to transfer to another school within the school district.

***[Note: The Every Student Succeeds Act, 20 United States Code section 6301, et seq.; Title IX, 20 United States Code section 1681, et seq.; and the Unsafe School Choice Option, 20 United States Code section 7912, require school districts to establish such transfer procedures.]***

D. Radiological Emergencies at Nuclear Generating Plants [OPTIONAL]

School districts within a 10-mile radius of the Monticello or Prairie Island nuclear power plants will implement crisis plans in the event of an accident or incident at the power plant.

Questions relative to the creation or implementation of such plans will be directed to the Minnesota Department of Public Safety.

**Legal References:** Minn. Stat. Ch. 12 (Emergency Management)  
Minn. Stat. Ch. 12A (Natural Disaster; State Assistance)  
Minn. Stat. § 121A.035 (Crisis Management Policy)  
Minn. Stat. § 121A.06 (Reports of Dangerous Weapon Incidents in School Zones)  
Minn. Stat. § 299F.30 (Fire Drill in School; Doors and Exits)  
Minn. Stat. § 326B.02, Subd. 6 (Powers)  
Minn. Stat. § 326B.106 (General Powers of Commissioner of Labor and Industry)  
Minn. Stat. § 609.605, Subd. 4 (Trespasses)  
Minn. Rules Ch. 7511 (Fire Code)  
20 U.S.C. § 1681, et seq. (Title IX)  
20 U.S.C. § 6301, et seq. (Every Student Succeeds Act)  
20 U.S.C. § 7912 (Unsafe School Choice Option)  
42 U.S.C. § 5121 et seq. (Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance)

**Cross References:** MSBA/MASA Model Policy 407 (Employee Right to Know – Exposure to Hazardous Substances)  
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 413 (Harassment and Violence)  
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 501 (School Weapons Policy)  
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 506 (Student Discipline)  
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 532 (Use of Peace Officers and Crisis Teams to Remove Students with IEPs from School Grounds)  
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 903 (Visitors to School District Buildings and Sites)  
*Comprehensive School Safety Guide*  
<https://dps.mn.gov/divisions/hsem/mn-school-safety-center/Documents/Comprehensive%20School%20Safety%20Guide.pdf>



## Intermediate School District 917

*Purposeful. Personalized. Partners.*

1300 145th Street East, Rosemount, MN 55068

(651) 423-8229 \* <http://www.isd917.org>

Dr. Michael Favor

TO: School Board  
FROM: Dr. Michael Favor  
DATE: September 6, 2022  
RE: Final reading on annual policies

The policies listed below are on for a final reading. These are annual review policies. Changes since the last meeting include verifying parent/guardian.

- 410 Family and Medical Leave – Minor changes throughout.
- 413 Harassment and Violence – adopt MSBA language. Keep in gender identity and expression.
- 414 Mandated Reporting of Child Neglect or Physical or Sexual Abuse – adopt MSBA language
- 415 Mandated Reporting of Maltreatment of Vulnerable Adult- adopt MSBA language
- 506 Student Discipline – minor changes
- 514 Bullying Prohibition – minor changes
- 522 Title IX Sex Nondiscrimination Policy, Grievance Procedure and Process – adopt MSBA language
- 524 Internet Acceptable Use Safety Policy – adopt MSBA language. Chose option 3.
- 616 School District System Accountability – no changes.

**Recommend approval of the above policies.**

### ISD 917 Vision

Intermediate School District 917 models an innovative culture with diverse pathways serving students and families through equitable practices with highly trained staff.

### ISD 917 Core Values

Collaboration \* Empathy \* Innovation \* Stewardship \* Communication \* Integrity \* Personalization \* Equity \* Diversity

## **410 FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE POLICY**

### **I. PURPOSE**

The purpose of this policy is to provide for family and medical leave to school district employees in accordance with the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 (FMLA) and also with parenting leave under state law.

### **II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY**

The following procedures and policies regarding family and medical leave are adopted by the school district, pursuant to the requirements of the FMLA and consistent with the requirements of the Minnesota parenting leave laws.

### **III. DEFINITIONS**

#### **A. “Covered active duty” means:**

1. in the case of a member of a regular component of the Armed Forces, duty during the deployment of the member with the Armed Forces to a foreign country; and
2. in the case of a member of a reserve component of the Armed Forces, duty during the deployment of the member with the Armed Forces to a foreign country under a call or order to active duty under a provision of law referred to in 10 U.S.C. § ~~United States Code section~~ 101(a)(13)(B).

#### **B. “Covered servicemember” means:**

1. a member of the Armed Forces, including a member of the National Guard or Reserves, who is undergoing medical treatment, recuperation, or therapy, is otherwise in outpatient status, or is otherwise on the temporary disability retired list, for a serious injury or illness; or
2. a covered veteran who is undergoing medical treatment, recuperation, or therapy for a serious injury or illness and who was a member of the Armed Forces, including a member of the National Guard or Reserves, and was discharged or released under conditions other than dishonorable, at any time during the period of five years preceding the first date the eligible employee takes FMLA leave to care for the covered veteran.

- C. “Eligible employee” means an employee who has been employed by the school district for a total of at least 12 months and who has been employed for at least 1,250 hours of service during the 12-month period immediately preceding the commencement of the leave. An employee returning from fulfilling ~~his or her~~ **their** USERRA (Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act) covered service obligation shall be credited with the hours of service that would have been performed but for the period of absence from work due to or necessitated by USERRA-covered service. In determining whether the employee met the hours of service requirement, and to determine the hours that would have been worked during the period of absence from work due to or necessitated by USERRA-covered service, the employee’s pre-service work schedule can generally be used for calculations. While the 12 months of employment need not be consecutive, employment periods prior to a break in service of seven years or more may not be counted unless: (1) the break is occasioned by the employee’s fulfillment of ~~his or her~~ **their** USERRA-covered service obligation; (2) or a written agreement, including a collective bargaining agreement, exists concerning the school district’s intention to rehire the employee after the break in service.
- D. “Military caregiver leave” means leave taken to care for a covered servicemember with a serious injury or illness.
- E. “Next of kin of a covered servicemember” means the nearest blood relative other than the covered service member's spouse, parent, son, or daughter, in the following order of priority: blood relatives who have been granted legal custody of the covered servicemember by court decree or statutory provisions, brothers and sisters, grandparents, aunts and uncles, and first cousins, unless the covered servicemember has specifically designated in writing another blood relative as ~~his or her~~ **their** nearest blood relative for purposes of military caregiver leave under the FMLA. When no such designation is made and there are multiple family members with the same level of relationship to the covered servicemember, all such family members shall be considered a covered servicemember’s next of kin, and the employee may take FMLA leave to provide care to the covered servicemember, either consecutively or simultaneously. When such designation has been made, the designated individual shall be deemed to be the covered servicemember’s only next of kin.
- F. “Outpatient status” means, with respect to a covered servicemember who is a current member of the Armed Forces, the status of a member of the Armed Forces assigned to:
1. a military medical treatment facility as an outpatient; or
  2. a unit established for the purpose of providing command and control of members of the Armed Forces receiving care as outpatients.
- G. “Qualifying exigency” means a situation where the eligible employee seeks leave

for one or more of the following reasons:

1. to address any issues that arise from a short-notice deployment (seven calendar days or less) of a covered military member;
2. to attend military events and related activities of a covered military member;
3. to address issues related to childcare and school activities of a covered military member's child;
4. to address financial and legal arrangements for a covered military member;
5. to attend counseling provided by someone other than a health care provider for oneself, a covered military member, or **their his/her** child;
6. to spend up to 15 calendar days with a covered military member who is on short-term, temporary rest and recuperation leave during a period of deployment;
7. to attend post-deployment activities related to a covered military member;
8. to address ~~parental~~ care needs **of a covered military member's parent who is incapable of self-care**; and
9. to address other events related to a covered military member that both the employee and school district agree is a qualifying exigency.

H. "Serious health condition" means an illness, injury, impairment, or physical or mental condition that involves:

1. inpatient care in a hospital, hospice, or residential medical care facility; or
2. continuing treatment by a health care provider.

I. "Spouse" means a husband or wife. For purposes of this definition, husband or wife refers to the other person with whom an individual entered into marriage as defined or recognized under state law for purposes of marriage in the state in which the marriage was entered into or, in the case of a marriage entered into outside of any state, if the marriage is valid in the place where entered into and could have been entered into in at least one state. This definition includes an individual in a same-sex or common law marriage that either: (1) was entered into in a state that recognizes such marriages; or (2) if entered into outside of any state, is valid in the place where entered into and could have been entered into in at least one state.

- J. “Child” means a biological, adopted, or fostered child, stepchild, legal ward, or child of a person standing in loco parentis, who is either under age 18 or age 18 or older and “incapable of self-care because of a mental or physical disability” at the time that FMLA leave is to commence. **FYI—this paragraph is not in MSBA model policy.**
- K. “Veteran” has the meaning given in 38 **United States Code section U.S.C. §101.**

#### IV. LEAVE ENTITLEMENT

##### A. Twelve Week Leave under Federal Law

1. Eligible employees are entitled to a total of 12 work weeks of unpaid family or medical leave during the applicable 12-month period as defined below, plus any additional leave as required by law. Leave may be taken for one or more of the following reasons in accordance with applicable law:
  - a. birth of the employee’s child and to care for such child;
  - b. placement of an adopted or foster child with the employee;
  - c. to care for the employee’s spouse, son, daughter, or parent with a serious health condition;
  - d. the employee’s serious health condition makes the employee unable to perform the functions of the employee’s job; and/or
  - e. any qualifying exigency arising from the employee’s spouse, son, daughter, or parent being on covered active duty, or notified of an impending call or order to covered active duty in the Armed Forces.
2. For the purposes of this policy, “year” is defined as a rolling 12-month period measured backward from the date an employee’s leave is to commence.

***{NOTE: An employer is permitted to choose any one of the following methods for determining the 12-month period in which the 12 weeks of FMLA leave entitlement occurs; (a) the calendar year; (b) any fixed 12- month leave year, such as a fiscal year, a year required by State law, or a year starting on an employee’s anniversary date; (c) the 12- month period measured forward from the date any employee’s first FMLA leave; or (d) a “rolling” 12-month period measured backward from the date an employee uses any FMLA leave. It is recommended, however, that school districts use the 12-month rolling measurement as it prevents employees from stacking 12-week leave entitlement that could occur if, for example, a calendar or fiscal year is utilized. Where a calendar, fiscal or similar period is used, an employee could use 12 weeks at the end of the period and then again at the beginning of the period, providing an entitlement to a leave of***

***24 consecutive weeks. If a school district changes its definition of a “year” in this policy, it must give employees notice of at least 60 days before implementing this change.***

3. An employee’s entitlement to FMLA leave for the birth, adoption, or foster care of a child expires at the end of the 12-month period beginning on the date of the birth or placement.
4. A “serious health condition” typically requires either inpatient care or continuing treatment by or under the supervision of a health care provider, as defined by applicable law. Family and medical leave generally is not intended to cover short-term conditions for which treatment and recovery are very brief.
5. A “serious injury or illness,” in the case of a member of the Armed Forces, including a member of the National Guard or Reserves, means:
  - a. injury or illness that was incurred by the member in the line of duty on active duty in the Armed Forces or that existed before the beginning of the member’s active duty and was aggravated by service in the line of duty on active duty in the Armed Forces and that may render the member medically unfit to perform the duties of the member’s office, grade, rank, or rating; and
  - b. in the case of a covered veteran who was a member of the Armed Forces, including a member of the National Guard or Reserves, at any time, during the period of five years preceding the date on which the veteran undergoes the medical treatment, recuperation, or therapy, means a qualifying injury or illness that was incurred by the member in the line of duty on active duty in the Armed Forces or that existed before the beginning of the member’s active duty and was aggravated by service in the line of duty in the Armed Forces and that manifested itself before or after the member became a veteran, and is:
    - (1) a continuation of a serious injury or illness that was incurred or aggravated when the covered veteran was a member of the Armed Forces and rendered the servicemember unable to perform the duties of the servicemember’s office, grade, rank, or rating; or
    - (2) a physical or mental condition for which the covered veteran has received a U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Service-Related Disability (VASRD) rating of 50 percent or greater and such VASRD rating is based, in whole or in part, on the condition precipitating the need for military caregiver leave; or

- (3) a physical or mental condition that substantially impairs the covered veteran's ability to secure or follow a substantially gainful occupation by reason of a disability or disabilities related to military service, or would do so absent treatment; or
  - (4) an injury, including a psychological injury, on the basis of which the covered veteran has been enrolled in the Department of Veterans Affairs Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers.
6. Eligible spouses employed by the school district are limited to an aggregate of 12 weeks of leave during any 12-month period for the birth and care of a newborn child or adoption of a child, the placement of a child for foster care, or to care for a parent. This limitation for spouses employed by the school district does not apply to leave taken: by one spouse to care for the other spouse who is seriously ill; to care for a child with a serious health condition; because of the employee's own serious health condition; or pursuant to Paragraph IV.A.1.e. above.
7. Depending on the type of leave, intermittent or reduced schedule leave may be granted in the discretion of the school district or when medically necessary. However, part-time employees are only eligible for a pro-rata portion of leave to be used on an intermittent or reduced schedule basis, based on their average hours worked per week. Where an intermittent or reduced schedule leave is foreseeable based on planned medical treatment, the school district may transfer the employee temporarily to an available alternative position for which the employee is qualified and which better accommodates recurring periods of leave than does the employee's regular position, and which has equivalent pay and benefits.
8. If an employee requests a leave for the serious health condition of the employee or the employee's spouse, child, or parent, the employee will be required to submit sufficient medical certification. In such a case, the employee must submit the medical certification within 15 days from the date of the request or as soon as practicable under the circumstances.
9. If the school district has reason to doubt the validity of a health care provider's certification, it may require a second opinion at the school district's expense. If the opinions of the first and second health care providers differ, the school district may require certification from a third health care provider at the school district's expense. An employee may also be required to present a certification from a health care provider indicating that the employee is able to return to work.
10. The school district requires that all employees requiring a leave of absence

for more than five days submit a leave of absence request form to the Benefits Specialist in human resources. When leave relates to an employee's spouse, son, daughter, parent, or covered servicemember being on covered active duty, or notified of an impending call or order to covered active duty pursuant to Paragraph IV.A.1.e. above, and such leave is foreseeable, the employee shall provide reasonable and practical notice to the school district of the need for leave. For all other leaves, employees must give 30 days' written notice of a leave of absence where practicable. The failure to provide the required notice may result in a delay of the requested leave. Employees are expected to make a reasonable effort to schedule leaves resulting from planned medical treatment so as not to disrupt unduly the operations of the school district, subject to and in coordination with the health care provider.

11. The school district may require that a request for leave under Paragraph IV.A.1.e. above be supported by a copy of the covered military member's active duty orders or other documentation issued by the military indicating active duty or a call to active duty status and the dates of active duty service. In addition, the school district may require the employee to provide sufficient certification supporting the qualifying exigency for which leave is requested.
12. During the period of a leave permitted under this policy, the school district will provide health insurance under its group health plan under the same conditions coverage would have been provided had the employee not taken the leave. The employee will be responsible for payment of the employee contribution to continue group health insurance coverage during the leave. An employee's failure to make necessary and timely contributions may result in termination of coverage. An employee who does not return to work after the leave may be required, in some situations, to reimburse the school district for the cost of the health plan premiums paid by it.
13. The school district requires the employee to use any accrued paid leave (PTO, sick, personal, and vacation) congruently with any part of the 12-week period of FMLA Leave. Employees eligible for leave must comply with the family and medical leave directives and guidelines prior to starting leave. The superintendent is responsible for developing directives and guidelines as necessary to implement this policy. Such directives and guidelines shall be submitted to the school board for annual review.

The school district shall comply with written notice requirements as set forth in federal regulations.

14. Employees returning from a leave permitted under this policy are eligible for reinstatement in the same or an equivalent position as provided by law.

However, the employee has no greater right to reinstatement or to other benefits and conditions of employment than if the employee had been continuously employed during the leave.

B. Twelve Week Leave under State Law

An employee who does not qualify for parenting leave under Paragraphs IV.A.1.a. or IV.A.1.b. above may qualify for a 12-week unpaid leave which is available to a biological or adoptive parent in conjunction with the birth or adoption of a child, or to a female employee for prenatal care or incapacity due to pregnancy, childbirth, or related health conditions. The length of the leave shall be determined by the employee but must not exceed 12 weeks unless agreed **to** by the **school district employer**. The employee may qualify if he or she has worked for the school district for at least 12 months and has worked an average number of hours per week equal to one-half of the full time equivalent during the 12-month period immediately preceding the leave. This leave is separate and exclusive of the family and medical leave described in the preceding paragraphs but may be reduced by any period of paid parental, disability, personal, or medical, or sick leave, or accrued vacation provided by the **school district employer** so that the total leave does not exceed 12 weeks, unless agreed **to** by the **school district employer**, or leave taken for the same purpose under the FMLA. The leave taken under this section shall begin at a time requested by the employee. An employee who plans to take leave under this section must give the **school district employer** reasonable notice of the date the leave shall commence and the estimated duration of the leave. For leave taken by a biological or adoptive parent in conjunction with the birth or adoption of a child, the leave must begin within 12 months of the birth or adoption; except that, in the case where the child must remain in the hospital longer than the mother, the leave must begin within 12 months after the child leaves the hospital.

C. Twenty Six Week Servicemember Family Military Leave

1. An eligible employee who is the spouse, son, daughter, parent, or next of kin of a covered servicemember shall be entitled to a total of 26 work weeks of leave during a 12-month period to care for the servicemember. The leave described in this paragraph shall be available only during a single 12-month period. For purposes of this leave, the need to care for a servicemember includes both physical and psychological care.
2. During a single 12-month period, an employee shall be entitled to a combined total of 26 work weeks of leave under Paragraphs IV.A. and IV.C. above.
3. The 12-month period referred to in this section begins on the first day the eligible employee takes leave to care for a covered servicemember and ends 12 months after that date.
4. Eligible spouses employed by the school district are limited to an aggregate of 26 weeks of leave during any 12-month period if leave is

taken for birth of the employee's child or to care for the child after birth; for placement of a child with the employee for adoption or foster care or to care for the child after placement; to care for the employee's parent with a serious health condition; or to care for a covered servicemember with a serious injury or illness.

5. The school district requires the employee to substitute accrued paid leave for any part of the 26-week period. Employees eligible for leave must comply with the family and medical leave directives and guidelines prior to starting leave.
6. An employee will be required to submit sufficient medical certification issued by the health care provider of the covered servicemember and other information in support of requested leave and eligibility for such leave under this section within 15 days from the date of the request or as soon as practicable under the circumstances.
7. The provisions of Paragraphs IV.A.7., IV.A.10., IV.A.12., IV.A.13., and IV.A.14. above shall apply to leaves under this section.

## **V. SPECIAL RULES FOR INSTRUCTIONAL EMPLOYEES**

- A. An instructional employee is one whose principal function is to teach and instruct students in a class, a small group, or an individual setting. This includes, but is not limited to, teachers, coaches, driver's education instructors, and special education assistants.
- B. Instructional employees who request foreseeable medically necessary intermittent or reduced work schedule leave greater than 20 percent of the work days in the leave period may be required to:
  1. take leave for the entire period or periods of the planned medical treatment; or
  2. move to an available alternative position for which the employee is qualified, and which provides equivalent pay and benefits, but not necessarily equivalent duties.
- C. Instructional employees who request continuous leave near the end of a semester may be required to extend the leave through the end of the semester. The number of weeks remaining before the end of a semester does not include scheduled school breaks, such as summer, winter, or spring break.
  1. If an instructional employee begins leave for any purpose more than five weeks before the end of a semester and it is likely the leave will last at least three weeks, the school district may require that the leave be continued until the end of the semester.

2. If the **instructional** employee begins leave for a purpose other than the employee's own serious health condition during the last five weeks of a semester, the school district may require that the leave be continued until the end of the semester if the leave will last more than two weeks or if the employee's return from leave would occur during the last two weeks of the semester.
3. If the **instructional** employee begins leave for a purpose other than the employee's own serious health condition during the last three weeks of the semester and the leave will last more than five working days, school district may require the employee to continue taking leave until the end of the semester.
4. **If the school district requires an instructional employee to extend leave through the end of a semester as set forth in this paragraph, only the period of leave until the employee is ready and able to return to work shall be charged against the employee's FMLA leave entitlement. Any additional leave required by the school district to the end of the school term is not counted as FMLA leave but as an unpaid or paid leave, to the extent the instructional employee has accrued paid leave available and the school district shall maintain the employee's group health insurance and restore the employee to the same or equivalent job, including other benefits, at the conclusion of the leave.**

~~D. The entire period of leave taken under the special rules will be counted as leave. The school district will continue to fulfill the school district's leave responsibilities and obligations. This may include the obligation to continue the employee's health insurance and other benefits if the employee qualified for FMLA leave up to the point that the instructional employee was placed on the involuntary leave extension. THIS IS THE CURRENT LANGUAGE...RED ABOVE IS NEW. WHICH ONE DO WE KEEP?~~

## VI. OTHER

- A. The provisions of this policy are intended to comply with applicable law, including the FMLA and applicable regulations. Any terms used from the FMLA will have the same meaning as defined by the FMLA and/or applicable regulations. To the extent that this policy is ambiguous or contradicts applicable law, the language of the applicable law will prevail.
- B. The requirements stated in the collective bargaining agreement between employees in a certified collective bargaining unit and the school district regarding family and medical leaves (if any) shall be followed.

## VII. DISSEMINATION OF POLICY

- A. ~~This policy~~ **A poster prepared by the U.S. Department of Labor summarizing the major provisions of the Family and Medical Leave Act and informing employees how to file a complaint** shall be conspicuously posted in each school district building in areas accessible to employees **and applicants for employment.**
- B. This policy will be reviewed at least annually for compliance with state and federal law.

**Legal References:** Minn. Stat. §§ 181.940-181.944 (Parenting Leave **and Accommodations**)  
10 U.S.C. § 101 *et seq.* (Armed Forces General Military Law)  
29 U.S.C. § 2601 *et seq.* (Family and Medical Leave Act)  
38 U.S.C. § 101 (Definitions)  
29 C.F.R. Part 825 (Family and Medical Leave Act)

**Cross References:** ~~MSBA Service Manual, Chapter 13, School Law Bulletin “M” (Statutory Provisions Which Grant Leaves to Licensed as well as and Non-Licensed School District Employees—Family and Medical Leave Act Summary)~~

## 413 HARASSMENT AND VIOLENCE

***[Note: State law (Minnesota Statutes section 121A.03) requires that school districts adopt a sexual, religious, and racial harassment and violence policy that conforms with the Minnesota Human Rights Act, Minnesota Statutes section 363A (MHRA). This policy complies with that statutory requirement and addresses the other classifications protected by the MHRA and/or federal law. While the recommendation is that school districts incorporate the other protected classifications, in addition to sex, religion, and race, into this policy, they are not specifically required to do so by Minnesota Statutes section 121A.03. The Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) is required to maintain and make available a model sexual, religious, and racial harassment policy in accordance with Minnesota Statutes section 121A.03. MDE's policy differs from that of MSBA and imposes greater requirements upon school districts than required by law. For that reason, MSBA recommends the adoption of its model policy by school districts. Each school board must submit a copy of the policy the board has adopted to the Commissioner of MDE.]***

### I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to maintain a learning and working environment free from harassment and violence on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, age, marital status, familial status, status with regard to public assistance, sexual orientation, or disability (Protected Class).

### II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

- A. The policy of the school district is to maintain a learning and working environment free from harassment and violence on the basis of Protected Class **or gender identity or expression**. The school district prohibits any form of harassment or violence on the basis of Protected Class **or gender identity or expression**.
- B. A violation of this policy occurs when any student, teacher, administrator, or other school district personnel harasses a student, teacher, administrator, or other school district personnel or group of students, teachers, administrators, or other school district personnel through conduct or communication based on a person's Protected Class **or gender identity or expression**, as defined by this policy. (For purposes of this policy, school district personnel include school board members, school employees, agents, volunteers, contractors, or persons subject to the supervision and control of the district.)
- C. A violation of this policy occurs when any student, teacher, administrator, or other school district personnel inflicts, threatens to inflict, or attempts to inflict violence upon any student, teacher, administrator, or other school district personnel or group of students, teachers, administrators, or other school district personnel based on a person's Protected Class **or gender identity or expression**.
- D. The school district will act to investigate all complaints, either formal or informal, verbal or written, of harassment or violence based on a person's Protected Class **or gender identity or expression**, and to discipline or take appropriate action against any student, teacher, administrator, or other school district personnel found to have violated this policy.

### III. DEFINITIONS

- A. "Assault" is:
1. an act done with intent to cause fear in another of immediate bodily harm or death;
  2. the intentional infliction of or attempt to inflict bodily harm upon another; or
  3. the threat to do bodily harm to another with present ability to carry out the threat.
- B. "Harassment" prohibited by this policy consists of physical or verbal conduct, including, but not limited to, electronic communications, relating to an individual's or group of individuals' race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, age, marital status, familial status, status with regard to public assistance, sexual orientation, including gender identity or expression, or disability, when the conduct:
1. has the purpose or effect of creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working or academic environment;
  2. has the purpose or effect of substantially or unreasonably interfering with an individual's work or academic performance; or
  3. otherwise adversely affects an individual's employment or academic opportunities.
- C. "Immediately" means as soon as possible but in no event longer than 24 hours.
- D. Protected Classifications; Definitions
1. "Disability" means, with respect to an individual who
    - a. a physical sensory or mental impairment that materially limits one or more major life activities of such individual;
    - b. has a record of such an impairment; or
    - c. is regarded as having such an impairment.
  2. "Familial status" means the condition of one or more minors being domiciled with:
    - a. their parent or parents or the minor's legal guardian; or
    - b. the designee of the parent or parents or guardian with the written permission of the parent or parents or guardian. The protections afforded against harassment or discrimination on the basis of family status apply to any person who is pregnant or is in the process of securing legal custody of an individual who has not attained the age of majority.
  3. "Marital status" means whether a person is single, married, remarried, divorced, separated, or a surviving spouse and, in employment cases, includes protection against harassment or discrimination on the basis of the identity, situation, actions, or beliefs of a spouse or former spouse.
  4. "National origin" means the place of birth of an individual or of any of the individual's lineal ancestors.
  5. "Sex" includes, but is not limited to, pregnancy, childbirth, and disabilities related to pregnancy or childbirth.

6. "Sexual orientation" means having or being perceived as having an emotional, physical, or sexual attachment to another person without regard to the sex of that person or having or being perceived as having an orientation for such attachment, or having or being perceived as having a self-image or identity not traditionally associated with one's biological maleness or femaleness. "Sexual orientation" does not include a physical or sexual attachment to children by an adult.
  7. "Status with regard to public assistance" means the condition of being a recipient of federal, state, or local assistance, including medical assistance, or of being a tenant receiving federal, state, or local subsidies, including rental assistance or rent supplements.
- E. "Remedial response" means a measure to stop and correct acts of harassment or violence, prevent acts of harassment or violence from recurring, and protect, support, and intervene on behalf of a student who is the target or victim of acts of harassment or violence.
- F. Sexual Harassment; Definition
1. Sexual harassment includes unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, sexually motivated physical conduct, or other verbal or physical conduct or communication of a sexual nature when:
    - a. submission to that conduct or communication is made a term or condition, either explicitly or implicitly, of obtaining employment or an education; or
    - b. submission to or rejection of that conduct or communication by an individual is used as a factor in decisions affecting that individual's employment or education; or
    - c. that conduct or communication has the purpose or effect of substantially interfering with an individual's employment or education, or creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive employment or educational environment.
  2. Sexual harassment may include, but is not limited to:
    - a. unwelcome verbal harassment or abuse;
    - b. unwelcome pressure for sexual activity;
    - c. unwelcome, sexually motivated, or inappropriate patting, pinching, or physical contact, other than necessary restraint of student(s) by teachers, administrators, or other school district personnel to avoid physical harm to persons or property;
    - d. unwelcome sexual behavior or words, including demands for sexual favors, accompanied by implied or overt threats concerning an individual's employment or educational status;
    - e. unwelcome sexual behavior or words, including demands for sexual favors, accompanied by implied or overt promises of preferential treatment with regard to an individual's employment or educational status; or

- f. unwelcome behavior or words directed at an individual because of sexual orientation, including gender identity or expression.

G. Sexual Violence; Definition

1. Sexual violence is a physical act of aggression or force or the threat thereof that involves the touching of another's intimate parts or forcing a person to touch any person's intimate parts. Intimate parts, as defined in Minnesota Statutes, section 609.341, includes the primary genital area, groin, inner thigh, buttocks, or breast, as well as the clothing covering these areas.
2. Sexual violence may include, but is not limited to:
  - a. touching, patting, grabbing, or pinching another person's intimate parts
  - b. coercing, forcing, or attempting to coerce or force the touching of anyone's intimate parts;
  - c. coercing, forcing, or attempting to coerce or force sexual intercourse or a sexual act on another; or
  - d. threatening to force or coerce sexual acts, including the touching of intimate parts or intercourse, on another.

H. Violence; Definition

Violence prohibited by this policy is a physical act of aggression or assault upon another or group of individuals because of, or in a manner reasonably related to an individual's Protected Class **or gender identity or expression**.

**IV. REPORTING PROCEDURES**

- A. Any person who believes he or she has been the target or victim of harassment or violence on the basis of Protected Class **or gender identity or expression**. by a student, teacher, administrator, or other school district personnel, or any person with knowledge or belief of conduct which may constitute harassment or violence prohibited by this policy toward a student, teacher, administrator, or other school district personnel or group of students, teachers, administrators, or other school district personnel should report the alleged acts immediately to an appropriate school district official designated by this policy. A person may report conduct that may constitute harassment or violence anonymously. However, the school district may not rely solely on an anonymous report to determine discipline or other remedial responses.
- B. The school district encourages the reporting party or complainant to use the report form available from the principal or building supervisor of each building or available from the school district office, but oral reports shall be considered complaints as well.
- C. Nothing in this policy shall prevent any person from reporting harassment or violence directly to a school district human rights officer or to the superintendent. If the complaint involves the building report taker, the complaint shall be made or filed directly with the superintendent or the school district human rights officer by the reporting party or complainant.
- D. In Each School Building. The building principal, the principal's designee, or the building supervisor (hereinafter the "building report taker") is the person responsible for

receiving oral or written reports of harassment or violence prohibited by this policy at the building level. Any adult school district personnel who receives a report of harassment or violence prohibited by this policy shall inform the building report taker immediately. If the complaint involves the building report taker, the complaint shall be made or filed directly with the superintendent or the school district human rights officer by the reporting party or complainant. The building report taker shall ensure that this policy and its procedures, practices, consequences, and sanctions are fairly and fully implemented and shall serve as a primary contact on policy and procedural matters.

- E. A teacher, school administrator, volunteer, contractor, or other school employee shall be particularly alert to possible situations, circumstances, or events that might include acts of harassment or violence. Any such person who witnesses, observes, receives a report of, or has other knowledge or belief of conduct that may constitute harassment or violence shall make reasonable efforts to address and resolve the harassment or violence and shall inform the building report taker immediately. School district personnel who fail to inform the building report taker of conduct that may constitute harassment or violence or who fail to make reasonable efforts to address and resolve the harassment or violence in a timely manner may be subject to disciplinary action.
- F. Upon receipt of a report, the building report taker must notify the school district human rights officer immediately, without screening or investigating the report. The building report taker may request, but may not insist upon, a written complaint. A written statement of the facts alleged will be forwarded as soon as practicable by the building report taker to the human rights officer. If the report was given verbally, the building report taker shall personally reduce it to written form within 24 hours and forward it to the human rights officer. Failure to forward any harassment or violence report or complaint as provided herein may result in disciplinary action against the building report taker.
- G. In the District. The school board hereby designates \_\_\_\_\_ as the school district human rights officer(s) to receive reports or complaints of harassment or violence prohibited by this policy. If the complaint involves a human rights officer, the complaint shall be filed directly with the superintendent.<sup>1</sup>
- H. The school district shall conspicuously post the name of the human rights officer(s), including mailing addresses and telephone numbers.
- I. Submission of a good faith complaint or report of harassment or violence prohibited by this policy will not affect the complainant or reporter's future employment, grades, work assignments, or educational or work environment.
- J. Use of formal reporting forms is not mandatory.
- K. Reports of harassment or violence prohibited by this policy are classified as private educational and/or personnel data and/or confidential investigative data and will not be disclosed except as permitted by law.
- L. The school district will respect the privacy of the complainant(s), the individual(s) against whom the complaint is filed, and the witnesses as much as possible, consistent with the school district's legal obligations to investigate, to take appropriate action, and to comply with any discovery or disclosure obligations.

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<sup>1</sup> In some school districts the superintendent may be the human rights officer. If so, an alternative individual should be designated by the school board.

- M. Retaliation against a victim, good faith reporter, or a witness of violence or harassment is prohibited.
- N. False accusations or reports of violence or harassment against another person are prohibited.
- O. A person who engages in an act of violence or harassment, reprisal, retaliation, or false reporting of violence or harassment, or permits, condones, or tolerates violence or harassment shall be subject to discipline or other remedial responses for that act in accordance with the school district's policies and procedures.

Consequences for students who commit, or are a party to, prohibited acts of violence or harassment or who engage in reprisal or intentional false reporting may range from remedial responses or positive behavioral interventions up to and including suspension and/or expulsion.

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

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

## **V. INVESTIGATION**

- A. By authority of the school district, the human rights officer, within three (3) days of the receipt of a report or complaint alleging harassment or violence prohibited by this policy, shall undertake or authorize an investigation. The investigation may be conducted by school district officials or by a third party designated by the school district.
- B. The investigation may consist of personal interviews with the complainant, the individual(s) against whom the complaint is filed, and others who may have knowledge of the alleged incident(s) or circumstances giving rise to the complaint. The investigation may also consist of any other methods and documents deemed pertinent by the investigator.
- C. In determining whether alleged conduct constitutes a violation of this policy, the school district should consider the surrounding circumstances, the nature of the behavior, past incidents or past or continuing patterns of behavior, the relationships between the parties involved, and the context in which the alleged incidents occurred. Whether a particular action or incident constitutes a violation of this policy requires a determination based on all the facts and surrounding circumstances.
- D. In addition, the school district may take immediate steps, at its discretion, to protect the target or victim, the complainant, and students, teachers, administrators, or other school district personnel pending completion of an investigation of alleged harassment or violence prohibited by this policy.
- E. The alleged perpetrator of the act(s) of harassment or violence shall be allowed the opportunity to present a defense during the investigation or prior to the imposition of discipline or other remedial responses.
- F. The investigation will be completed as soon as practicable. The school district human rights officer shall make a written report to the superintendent upon completion of the investigation. If the complaint involves the superintendent, the report may be filed directly with the school board. The report shall include a determination of whether the allegations have been substantiated as factual and whether they appear to be violations

of this policy.

## **VI. SCHOOL DISTRICT ACTION**

- A. Upon completion of an investigation that determines a violation of this policy has occurred, the school district will take appropriate action. Such action may include, but is not limited to, warning, suspension, exclusion, expulsion, transfer, remediation, termination, or discharge. Disciplinary consequences will be sufficiently severe to try to deter violations and to appropriately discipline prohibited behavior. School district action taken for violation of this policy will be consistent with requirements of applicable collective bargaining agreements, Minnesota and federal law, and applicable school district policies and regulations.
- B. The school district is not authorized to disclose to a victim private educational or personnel data regarding an alleged perpetrator who is a student or employee of the school district. School officials will notify the targets or victims and alleged perpetrators of harassment or violence, the parent(s) or guardian(s) of targets or victims of harassment or violence and the parent(s) or guardian(s) of alleged perpetrators of harassment or violence who have been involved in a reported and confirmed harassment or violence incident of the remedial or disciplinary action taken, to the extent permitted by law.
- C. In order to prevent or respond to acts of harassment or violence committed by or directed against a child with a disability, the school district shall, where determined appropriate by the child's individualized education program (IEP) or Section 504 team, allow the child's IEP or Section 504 plan to be drafted to address the skills and proficiencies the child needs as a result of the child's disability to allow the child to respond to or not to engage in acts of harassment or violence.

## **VII. RETALIATION OR REPRISAL**

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

## **VIII. RIGHT TO ALTERNATIVE COMPLAINT PROCEDURES**

These procedures do not deny the right of any individual to pursue other avenues of recourse which may include filing charges with the Minnesota Department of Human Rights or another state or federal agency, initiating civil action, or seeking redress under state criminal statutes and/or federal law.

## **IX. HARASSMENT OR VIOLENCE AS ABUSE**

- A. Under certain circumstances, alleged harassment or violence may also be possible abuse under Minnesota law. If so, the duties of mandatory reporting under Minnesota Statutes chapter 260E may be applicable.
- B. Nothing in this policy will prohibit the school district from taking immediate action to protect victims of alleged harassment, violence, or abuse.

**X. DISSEMINATION OF POLICY AND TRAINING**

- A. This policy shall be conspicuously posted throughout each school building in areas accessible to students and staff members.
- B. This policy shall be given to each school district employee and independent contractor who regularly interacts with students at the time of initial employment with the school district.
- C. This policy shall appear in the student handbook.
- D. The school district will develop a method of discussing this policy with students and employees.
- E. The school district may implement violence prevention and character development education programs to prevent and reduce policy violations. Such programs may offer instruction on character education including, but not limited to, character qualities such as attentiveness, truthfulness, respect for authority, diligence, gratefulness, self-discipline, patience, forgiveness, respect for others, peacemaking, resourcefulness, and/or sexual abuse prevention.
- F. This policy shall be reviewed at least annually for compliance with state and federal law.

**Legal References:** Minn. Stat. § 120B.232 (Character Development Education)  
Minn. Stat. § 120B.234 (Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Education)  
Minn. Stat. § 121A.03, Subd. 2 (Sexual, Religious, and Racial Harassment and Violence Policy)  
Minn. Stat. § 121A.031 (School Student Bullying Policy)  
Minn. Stat. Ch. 363A (Minnesota Human Rights Act)  
Minn. Stat. § 609.341 (Definitions)  
Minn. Stat. Ch. 260E (Reporting of Maltreatment of Minors)  
20 U.S.C. §§ 1681-1688 (Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972)  
29 U.S.C. § 621 *et seq.* (Age Discrimination in Employment Act)  
29 U.S.C. § 794 (Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973)  
42 U.S.C. § 1983 (Civil Action for Deprivation of Rights)  
42 U.S.C. § 2000d *et seq.* (Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964)  
42 U.S.C. § 2000e *et seq.* (Title VII of the Civil Rights Act)  
42 U.S.C. § 12101 *et seq.* (Americans with Disabilities Act)

**Cross References:** MSBA/MASA Model Policy 102 (Equal Educational Opportunity)  
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 401 (Equal Employment Opportunity)  
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 402 (Disability Nondiscrimination Policy)  
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 403 (Discipline, Suspension, and Dismissal of School District Employees)  
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 406 (Public and Private Personnel Data)  
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 414 (Mandated Reporting of Child Neglect or Physical or Sexual Abuse)  
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 415 (Mandated Reporting of Maltreatment of Vulnerable Adults)  
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 506 (Student Discipline)  
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 514 (Bullying Prohibition Policy)  
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 515 (Protection and Privacy of Pupil Records)  
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 521 (Student Disability Nondiscrimination)

MSBA/MASA Model Policy 522 (Title IX Sex Nondiscrimination, Grievance Procedures and Process)

MSBA/MASA Model Policy 524 (Internet Acceptable Use and Safety Policy)

MSBA/MASA Model Policy 525 (Violence Prevention)

MSBA/MASA Model Policy 526 (Hazing Prohibition)

MSBA/MASA Model Policy 528 (Student Parental, Family, and Marital Status Nondiscrimination)

Adopted: \_\_\_\_\_

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Rev. 2022

**Harassment and Violence Policy 413 Orig. 5/1/2007  
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**414 MANDATED REPORTING OF CHILD NEGLECT OR PHYSICAL OR SEXUAL ABUSE**

***[Note: This policy reflects the mandatory law regarding reporting of maltreatment of minors and is not discretionary in nature.]***

**I. PURPOSE**

The purpose of this policy is to make clear the statutory requirements of school personnel to report suspected child neglect or physical or sexual abuse.

**II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY**

- A. The policy of the school district is to fully comply with Minn. Stat. Ch. 260E requiring school personnel to report suspected child neglect or physical or sexual abuse.
- B. A violation of this policy occurs when any school personnel fails to immediately report instances of child neglect or physical or sexual abuse when the school personnel knows or has reason to believe a child is being neglected or physically or sexually abused or has been neglected or physically or sexually abused within the preceding three years.

**III. DEFINITIONS**

- A. "Accidental" means a sudden, not reasonably foreseeable, and unexpected occurrence or event that:
  - 1. is not likely to occur and could not have been prevented by exercise of due care; and
  - 2. if occurring while a child is receiving services from a facility, happens when the facility and the employee or person providing services in the facility are in compliance with the laws and rules relevant to the occurrence of event.
- B. "Child" means one under age 18 and, for purposes of Minnesota Statutes chapter 260C (Juvenile Safety and Placement) and Minnesota Statutes chapter 260D (Child in Voluntary Foster Care for Treatment), includes an individual under age 21 who is in foster care pursuant to Minnesota Statutes section 260C.451 (Foster Care Benefits Past Age 18).
- C. "Immediately" means as soon as possible but in no event longer than 24 hours.
- D. "Mandated reporter" means any school personnel who knows or has reason to believe a child is being maltreated or has been maltreated within the preceding three years.
- E. "Mental injury" means an injury to the psychological capacity or emotional stability of a child as evidenced by an observable or substantial impairment in the child's ability to

function within a normal range of performance and behavior with due regard to the child's culture.

F. "Neglect" means the commission or omission of any of the acts specified below, other than by accidental means:

1. failure by a person responsible for a child's care to supply a child with necessary food, clothing, shelter, health care, medical, or other care required for the child's physical or mental health when reasonably able to do so;
2. failure to protect a child from conditions or actions that seriously endanger the child's physical or mental health when reasonably able to do so, including a growth delay, which may be referred to as a failure to thrive, that has been diagnosed by a physician and is due to parental neglect;
3. failure to provide for necessary supervision or child care arrangements appropriate for a child after considering factors as the child's age, mental ability, physical condition, length of absence, or environment, when the child is unable to care for the child's own basic needs or safety, or the basic needs or safety of another child in his or her care;
4. failure to ensure that a child is educated in accordance with state law, which does not include a parent's refusal to provide his or her child with sympathomimetic medications;
5. prenatal exposure to a controlled substance as defined in state law used by the mother for a nonmedical purpose, as evidenced by withdrawal symptoms in the child at birth, results of a toxicology test performed on the mother at delivery or the child's birth, medical effects or developmental delays during the child's first year of life that medically indicate prenatal exposure to a controlled substance, or the presence of a fetal alcohol spectrum disorder;
6. medical neglect as defined by Minnesota Statutes section 260C.007, subdivision 6, Clause (5);
7. chronic and severe use of alcohol or a controlled substance by a person responsible for the care of the child that adversely affects the child's basic needs and safety; or
8. emotional harm from a pattern of behavior that contributes to impaired emotional functioning of the child, which may be demonstrated by a substantial and observable effect in the child's behavior, emotional response, or cognition that is not within the normal range for the child's age and stage of development, with due regard to the child's culture.

Neglect does not occur solely because the child's parent, guardian, or other person responsible for the child's care in good faith selects and depends upon spiritual means or prayer for treatment or care of disease or remedial care of the child in lieu of medical care.

G. "Nonmaltreatment mistake" occurs when: (1) at the time of the incident, the individual was performing duties identified in the center's child care program plan required under Minn. Rules Part 9503.0045; (2) the individual has not been determined responsible for a similar incident that resulted in a finding of maltreatment for at least seven years; (3) the individual has not been determined to have committed a similar nonmaltreatment

mistake under this paragraph for at least four years; (4) any injury to a child resulting from the incident, if treated, is treated only with remedies that are available over the counter, whether ordered by a medical professional or not; and (5) except for the period when the incident occurred, the facility and the individual providing services were both in compliance with all licensing requirements relevant to the incident. This definition only applies to child care centers licensed under Minnesota Rules chapter 9503.

- H. "Person responsible for the child's care" means (1) an individual functioning within the family unit and having responsibilities for the care of the child such as a parent, guardian, or other person having similar care responsibilities, or (2) an individual functioning outside the family unit and having responsibilities for the care of the child such as a teacher, school administrator, other school employee or agent, or other lawful custodian of a child having either full-time or short-term care responsibilities including, but not limited to, day care, babysitting whether paid or unpaid, counseling, teaching, and coaching.
- I. "Physical abuse" means any physical injury, mental injury (under subdivision 13), or threatened injury (under subdivision 23), inflicted by a person responsible for the child's care on a child other than by accidental means; or any physical or mental injury that cannot reasonably be explained by the child's history of injuries, or any aversive or deprivation procedures, or regulated interventions, that have not been authorized by Minnesota Statutes section 125A.0942 or section 245.825.

Abuse does not include reasonable and moderate physical discipline of a child administered by a parent or legal guardian that does not result in an injury. Abuse does not include the use of reasonable force by a teacher, principal, or school employee as allowed by Minnesota Statutes section 121A.582.

Actions that are not reasonable and moderate include, but are not limited to, any of the following: (1) throwing, kicking, burning, biting, or cutting a child; (2) striking a child with a closed fist; (3) shaking a child under age three; (4) striking or other actions that result in any nonaccidental injury to a child under 18 months of age; (5) unreasonable interference with a child's breathing; (6) threatening a child with a weapon, as defined in Minnesota Statutes section 609.02, Subd. 6; (7) striking a child under age one on the face or head; (8) striking a child who is at least age one but under age four on the face or head, which results in an injury; (9) purposely giving a child poison, alcohol, or dangerous, harmful, or controlled substances that were not prescribed for the child by a practitioner, in order to control or punish the child, or other substances that substantially affect the child's behavior, motor coordination, or judgment, or that result in sickness or internal injury, or that subject the child to medical procedures that would be unnecessary if the child were not exposed to the substances; (10) unreasonable physical confinement or restraint not permitted under Minnesota Statutes section 609.379, including, but not limited to, tying, caging, or chaining; or (11) in a school facility or school zone, an act by a person responsible for the child's care that is a violation under Minnesota Statutes section 121A.58.

- J. "Report" means any communication received by the local welfare agency, police department, county sheriff, or agency responsible for child protection pursuant to this section that describes maltreatment of a child and contains sufficient content to identify the child and any person believed to be responsible for the maltreatment, if known.
- K. "School personnel" means professional employee or professional's delegate of the school district who provides health, educational, social, psychological, law enforcement, or child care services.

- L. "Sexual abuse" means the subjection of a child by a person responsible for the child's care, by a person who has a significant relationship to the child (as defined in Minnesota Statutes section 609.341, subdivision 15), or by a person in a current or recent position of authority (as defined in Minnesota Statutes section 609.341, Subd. 10) to any act which constitutes a violation of Minnesota statutes prohibiting criminal sexual conduct. Such acts include sexual penetration, sexual contact, solicitation of children to engage in sexual conduct, and communication of sexually explicit materials to children. Sexual abuse also includes any act involving a minor that constitutes a violation of Minnesota statutes prohibiting prostitution or use of a minor in a sexual performance. Sexual abuse includes all reports of known or suspected child sex trafficking involving a child who is identified as a victim of sex trafficking. Sexual abuse includes threatened sexual abuse which includes the status of a parent or household member who has committed a violation that requires registration under Minnesota Statutes section 243.166, subdivision 1b(a) or (b) (Registration of Predatory Offenders).
- M. "Threatened injury" means a statement, overt act, condition, or status that represents a substantial risk of physical or sexual abuse or mental injury. Threatened injury includes, but is not limited to, exposing a child to a person responsible for the child's care who has (1) subjected the child to, or failed to protect a child from, an overt act or condition that constitutes egregious harm; (2) been found to be palpably unfit; (3) committed an act that resulted in an involuntary termination of parental rights; (4) , or committed an act that resulted in the involuntary transfer of permanent legal and physical custody of a child to a relative.

#### **IV. REPORTING PROCEDURES**

- A. A mandated reporter shall immediately report the information to the local welfare agency, agency responsible for assessing or investigating the report, police department, county sheriff, tribal social services agency, or tribal police department. The reporter will include his or her name and address in the report.
- B. An oral report shall be made immediately by telephone or otherwise., The oral report shall be followed by a written report within 72 hours (exclusive of weekends and holidays) to the appropriate police department, the county sheriff, local welfare agency, or agency responsible for assessing or investigating the report. Any report shall be of sufficient content to identify the child, any person believed to be responsible for the maltreatment of the child if the person is known, the nature and extent of the maltreatment, and the name and address of the reporter.
- C. Regardless of whether a report is made, as soon as practicable after a school receives information regarding an incident that may constitute maltreatment of a child in a school facility, the school shall inform the parent, legal guardian, or custodian of the child that an incident has occurred that may constitute maltreatment of the child, when the incident occurred, and the nature of the conduct that may constitute maltreatment.
- D. A mandated reporter who knows or has reason to know of the deprivation of custodial or parental rights or the kidnapping of a child shall report the information to the local police department or the county sheriff.
- E. With the exception of a health care professional or a social service professional who is providing the woman with prenatal care or other health care services, a mandated reporter shall immediately report to the local welfare agency if the person knows or has reason to believe that a woman is pregnant and has used a controlled substance for a nonmedical purpose during the pregnancy, including, but not limited to,

tetrahydrocannabinol, or has consumed alcoholic beverages during the pregnancy in any way that is habitual or excessive.

- F. A person mandated by Minnesota law and this policy to report who fails to report may be subject to criminal penalties and/or discipline, up to and including termination of employment.
- G. An employer of a mandated reporter shall not retaliate against the person for reporting in good faith maltreatment against a child with respect to whom a report is made, because of the report.
- H. Any person who knowingly or recklessly makes a false report under the provisions of applicable Minnesota law or this policy shall be liable in a civil suit for any actual damages suffered by the person or persons so reported and for any punitive damages set by the court or jury, plus costs and reasonable attorney fees. Knowingly or recklessly making a false report also may result in discipline.

***[Note: The Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) is responsible for assessing or investigating allegations of child maltreatment in schools. Although a report may be made to any of the agencies listed in Section IV. A., above, and there is no requirement to file more than one report, if the initial report is not made to MDE, it would be helpful to MDE if schools also report to MDE.]***

## **V. INVESTIGATION**

- A. The responsibility for assessing or investigating reports of suspected maltreatment rests with the appropriate state, county, or local agency or agencies. The agency responsible for assessing or investigating reports of maltreatment has the authority to interview the child, the person or persons responsible for the child's care, the alleged offender, and any other person with knowledge of the maltreatment for the purpose of gathering facts, assessing safety and risk to the child, and formulating a plan. The investigating agency may interview the child at school. The interview may take place outside the presence of the alleged offender or parent, legal guardian, or school official. The investigating agency, not the school, is responsible for either notifying or withholding notification of the interview to the parent, guardian, or person responsible for the child's care. School officials may not disclose to the parent, legal custodian, or guardian the contents of the notification or any other related information regarding the interview until notified in writing by the local welfare or law enforcement agency that the investigation or assessment has been concluded.
- B. When the investigating agency determines that an interview should take place on school property, written notification of intent to interview the child on school property must be received by school officials prior to the interview. The notification shall include the name of the child to be interviewed, the purpose of the interview, and a reference to the statutory authority to conduct an interview on school property.
- C. Except where the alleged offender is believed to be a school official or employee, the time and place, and manner of the interview on school premises shall be within the discretion of school officials, but the local welfare or law enforcement agency shall have the exclusive authority to determine who may attend the interview. The conditions as to time, place, and manner of the interview set by the school officials shall be reasonable, and the interview shall be conducted not more than 24 hours after the receipt of the notification unless another time is considered necessary by agreement between the school officials and the local welfare or law enforcement agency. Every effort must be made to reduce the disruption of the educational program of the child,

other students, or school employees when an interview is conducted on school premises.

- D. Where the alleged offender is believed to be a school official or employee, the school district shall conduct its own investigation independent of MDE and, if involved, the local welfare or law enforcement agency.
- E. Upon request by MDE, the school district shall provide all requested data that are relevant to a report of maltreatment and are in the possession of a school facility, pursuant to an assessment or investigation of a maltreatment report of a student in school. The school district shall provide the requested data in accordance with the requirements of the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act, Minnesota Statutes chapter . 13, and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, 20 United States Courts section 1232g.

#### **VI. MAINTENANCE OF SCHOOL RECORDS CONCERNING ABUSE OR POTENTIAL ABUSE**

- A. When a local welfare or local law enforcement agency determines that a potentially abused or abused child should be interviewed on school property, written notification of the agency's intent to interview on school property must be received by school officials prior to the interview. The notification shall include the name of the child to be interviewed, the purpose of the interview, and a reference to the statutory authority to conduct the interview. The notification shall be private data. School officials may not disclose to the parent, legal custodian, or guardian the contents of the notice or any other related information regarding the interview until notified in writing by the local welfare or law enforcement agency that the investigation has been concluded.
- B. All records regarding a report of maltreatment, including any notification of intent to interview which was received by the school as described above in Paragraph A., shall be destroyed by the school only when ordered by the agency conducting the investigation or by a court of competent jurisdiction.

#### **VII. PHYSICAL OR SEXUAL ABUSE AS SEXUAL HARASSMENT OR VIOLENCE**

Under certain circumstances, alleged physical or sexual abuse may also be sexual harassment or violence under Minnesota law. If so, the duties relating to the reporting and investigation of such harassment or violence may be applicable.

#### **VIII. DISSEMINATION OF POLICY AND TRAINING**

- A. This policy shall appear in school personnel handbooks.
- B. The school district will develop a method of discussing this policy with school personnel.
- C. This policy shall be reviewed at least annually for compliance with state law.

**Legal References:** Minn. Stat. Ch. 13 (Minnesota Government Data Practices Act)  
Minn. Stat. § 121A.58 (Corporal Punishment)  
Minn. Stat. § 121A.582 (Student Discipline; Reasonable Force)  
Minn. Stat. § 125A.0942 (Standards for Restrictive Procedures)  
Minn. Stat. § 243.166, Subd. 1b(a)(b) (Registration of Predatory Offenders)  
Minn. Stat. § 245.825 (Use of Aversive or Deprivation Procedures)  
Minn. Stat. § 260C.007, Subd. 6, Clause (5) (Child in Need of Protection)  
Minn. Stat. § 260C.451 (Foster Care Benefits Past Age 18)  
Minn. Stat. Ch. 260D (Child in Voluntary Foster Care for Treatment)

Minn. Stat. Ch. 260E (Reporting of Maltreatment of Minors)  
Minn. Stat. § 609.02, Subd. 6 (Definitions – Dangerous Weapon)  
Minn. Stat. § 609.341, Subd. 10 (Definitions – Position of Authority)  
Minn. Stat. § 609.341, Subd. 15 (Definitions – Significant Relationship)  
Minn. Stat. § 609.379 (Reasonable Force)  
20 U.S.C. § 1232g (Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act)

**Cross References:** MSBA/MASA Model Policy 415 (Mandated Reporting of Maltreatment of Vulnerable Adults)

Adopted: \_\_\_\_\_ MSBA/MASA Model Policy 415  
Orig. 1995  
Revised: \_\_\_\_\_ Rev. 201522

Mandated Reporting of Maltreatment of Vulnerable Adult Policy 415  
Orig. 12/17/1996  
Annual Board Review July 7, 2020 Annual Board Review September, 6, 2022, final reading

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**415 MANDATED REPORTING OF MALTREATMENT OF VULNERABLE ADULTS**

***[Note: This policy reflects the mandatory law regarding reporting maltreatment of vulnerable adults and is not discretionary in nature.]***

**I. PURPOSE**

The purpose of this policy is to make clear the statutory requirements of school personnel to report suspected maltreatment of vulnerable adults.

**II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY**

- A. The policy of the school district is to ~~fully~~-comply fully with Minnesota Statutes section § 626.557 requiring school personnel to report suspected maltreatment of vulnerable adults.
- B. A violation of this policy occurs when any school personnel fails to report suspected maltreatment of vulnerable adults when the school personnel has reason to believe that a vulnerable adult is being or has been maltreated, or has knowledge that a vulnerable adult has sustained a physical injury which is not reasonably explained.

**III. DEFINITIONS**

A. "Abuse" means:

1. An act against a vulnerable adult that constitutes a violation of, an attempt to violate, or aiding and abetting a violation of: (1) assault in the first through fifth degrees as defined in Minnesota Statutes sections 609.221 to 609.224; (2) the use of drugs to injure or facilitate crime as defined in Minnesota Statutes section 609.235; (3) the solicitation, inducement, and promotion of prostitution as defined in Minnesota Statutes section 609.322; and (4) criminal sexual conduct in the first through fifth degrees as defined in Minnesota Statutes sections 609.342 to 609.3451. A violation includes any action that meets the elements of the crime, regardless of whether there is a criminal proceeding or conviction.
2. Conduct which is not an accident or therapeutic conduct as defined in Minnesota Statutes section 626.5572 which produces or could reasonably be expected to produce physical pain or injury or emotional distress including, but not limited to, the following: (1) hitting, slapping, kicking, pinching, biting, or corporal punishment of a vulnerable adult; (2) use of repeated or malicious oral, written, or gestured language toward a vulnerable adult or the treatment of a vulnerable adult which would be considered by a reasonable person to be disparaging, derogatory, humiliating, harassing, or threatening; (3) use of any aversive or deprivation procedure, unreasonable confinement, or involuntary seclusion, including the forced separation of the vulnerable adult from other persons

against the will of the vulnerable adult or the legal representative of the vulnerable adult; and (4) use of any aversive or deprivation procedures for persons with developmental disabilities or related conditions not authorized under Minnesota Statutes section 245.825.

3. Any sexual contact or penetration as defined in Minn. Stat. § 609.341 between a facility staff person or a person providing services in the facility and a resident, patient, or client of that facility.

4. The act of forcing, compelling, coercing, or enticing a vulnerable adult against the vulnerable adult's will to perform services for the advantage of another.

Abuse does not include actions specifically excluded by Minnesota Statutes section 626.5572, Subd. 2.

B. "Caregiver" means an individual or facility who has responsibility for the care of a vulnerable adult as a result of a family relationship, or who has assumed responsibility for all or a portion of the care of a vulnerable adult voluntarily, by contract, or by agreement.

C. "Common entry point" means the entity responsible for receiving reports of alleged or suspected maltreatment of a vulnerable adult and designated by the Commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Human Services as the MN Adult Abuse Reporting Center (MAARC).

D. "Financial Exploitation" means a breach of a fiduciary duty by an actor's unauthorized expenditure of funds entrusted to the actor for the benefit of the vulnerable adult or by an actor's failure to provide food, clothing, shelter, health care, therapeutic conduct or supervision, the failure of which results or is likely to result in detriment to the vulnerable adult. Financial exploitation also includes: the willful use, withholding or disposal of funds or property of a vulnerable adult; the obtaining of services for wrongful profit or advantage which results in detriment to the vulnerable adult; the acquisition of a vulnerable adult's funds or property through undue influence, harassment, duress, deception or fraud; and the use of force, coercion, or enticement to cause a vulnerable adult to perform services against the vulnerable adult's will for the profit or advantage of another.

E. "Immediately" means as soon as possible, but no longer than 24 hours from the time initial knowledge that the incident occurred has been received.

F. "Mandated Reporters" means a professional or professional's delegate while engaged in education. any school personnel who has reason to believe that a vulnerable adult is being or has been maltreated.

G. "Maltreatment" means the neglect, abuse, or financial exploitation of a vulnerable adult.

H. "Neglect" means the failure or omission by a caregiver to supply a vulnerable adult with care or services, including but not limited to, food, clothing, shelter, health care, or supervision which is: (1) reasonable and necessary to obtain or maintain the vulnerable adult's physical or mental health or safety, considering the physical and mental capacity or dysfunction of the vulnerable adult; and (2) which is not the result of an accident or therapeutic conduct.

I. Neglect also means the absence or likelihood of absence of care or services, including but not limited to, food, clothing, shelter, health care, or supervision necessary to

maintain the physical and mental health of the vulnerable adult which a reasonable person would deem essential to obtain or maintain the vulnerable adult's health, safety, or comfort considering the physical or mental capacity or dysfunction of the vulnerable adult. Neglect does not include actions specifically excluded by ~~Minn. Stat. §Minnesota Statutes section~~ 626.5572, Subd. 17.

- J. "School personnel" means professional employees or their delegates of the school district engaged in providing health, educational, social, psychological, law enforcement, or other caretaking services of vulnerable adults.
- K. "Vulnerable ~~A~~adult" means any person 18 years of age or older who: (1) is a resident or inpatient of a facility; (2) receives services required to be licensed under ~~Minn. Stat. Ch. Minnesota Statutes chapter~~ 245A, except as excluded under ~~Minn. Stat. §Minnesota Statutes section~~ 626.5572, Subd. 21(a)(2); (3) receives services from a licensed home care provider or person or organization that offers, provides, or arranges for personal care assistance services under the medical assistance program; or (4) regardless of residence or whether any type of service is received, possesses a physical or mental infirmity or other physical, mental, or emotional dysfunction that impairs the individual's ability to ~~adequately~~ provide adequately for the person's individual's own care without assistance or supervision and, because of the dysfunction or infirmity and need for care or services, has an impaired ability to protect the individual's self from maltreatment.

#### IV. REPORTING PROCEDURES

- A. A mandated reporter as defined herein shall immediately report the suspected maltreatment to the common entry point responsible for receiving reports.
- B. Whenever a mandated reporter, as defined herein, knows or has reason to believe that an individual made an error in the provision of therapeutic conduct to a vulnerable adult which results in injury or harm, which reasonably requires the care of a physician, such information shall be reported immediately to the designated county agency. The mandated reporter also may report a belief that the error did not constitute neglect and why the error does not constitute neglect.
- C. The reporter shall, to the extent possible, identify the vulnerable adult, the caregiver, the nature and extent of the suspected maltreatment, any evidence of previous maltreatment, the name and address of the reporter, the time, date, and location of the incident, and any other information that the reporter believes might be helpful in investigating the suspected abuse or neglect. A mandated reporter may disclose not public data, as defined under ~~Minn. Stat. §Minnesota Statutes section~~ 13.02, to the extent necessary to comply with the above reporting requirements.
- D. A person mandated to report suspected maltreatment of a vulnerable adult who negligently or intentionally fails to report is liable for damages caused by the failure. A negligent or intentional failure to report may result in discipline. A mandatory reporter who intentionally fails to make a report, who knowingly provides false or misleading information in reporting, or who intentionally fails to provide all the material circumstances surrounding the reported incident may be guilty of a misdemeanor.
- E. Retaliation against a person who makes a good faith report under Minnesota law and this policy, or against vulnerable adult who is named in a report is prohibited.
- F. Any person who intentionally makes a false report under the provisions of applicable Minnesota law or this policy shall be liable in a civil suit for any actual damages suffered

by the person or persons so reported and for any punitive damages set by the court or jury. The intentional making of a false report may result in discipline.

## V. INVESTIGATION

The responsibility for investigating reports of suspected maltreatment of a vulnerable adult rests with the entity designated by the county for receiving reports.

## VI. DISSEMINATION OF POLICY AND TRAINING

- A. This policy ~~shall~~should appear in school personnel handbooks ~~where as~~as appropriate.
- B. The school district will develop a method of discussing this policy with employees ~~where as~~as appropriate.
- C. This policy ~~shall~~should be reviewed at least annually for compliance with state law.

**Legal References:** Minn. Stat. § 13.02 (~~Government Data Practices; Collection, Security, and Dissemination of Records;~~ Definitions)  
[Minn. Stat. Ch. 245A \(Human Services Licensing\)](#)  
Minn. Stat. § 245.825 (Aversive and Deprivation Procedures; Licensed Facilities and Services)  
Minn. Stat. §§ 609.221-609.224 (Assault)  
Minn. Stat. § 609.232 ~~34~~ (~~Crimes Against Vulnerable Persons~~Adults; Definitions)  
~~Crimes Against the Person~~  
Minn. Stat. § 609.235 (Use of Drugs to Injure or Facilitate Crime)  
Minn. Stat. § 609.322 (Solicitation, Inducement, and Promotion of Prostitution; Sex Trafficking)  
Minn. Stat. § 609.341 (Definitions)  
Minn. Stat. §§ 609.342-609.3451 (Criminal Sexual Conduct)  
Minn. Stat. § 626.557 (Reporting of Maltreatment of Vulnerable Adults)  
Minn. Stat. § 626.5572 (Definitions)  
*In re Kleven*, 736 N.W.2d 707 (Minn. App. 2007)

**Cross References:** MSBA/MASA Model Policy 103 (Complaints – Students, Employees, Parents, Other Persons)  
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 211 (Criminal or Civil Action Against School District, School Board Member, Employee, or Student)  
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 403 (Discipline, Suspension, and Dismissal of School District Employees)  
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 406 (Public and Private Personnel Data)  
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 414 (Mandated Reporting of Child Neglect or Physical or Sexual Abuse)  
[MSBA/MASA Model Policy 515 \(Protection and Privacy of Pupil Records\)](#)

Adopted: \_\_\_\_\_

MSBA/MASA Model Policy 416

Orig. 1995

Revised: \_\_\_\_\_

Rev. 2022

Intermediate School District 917 Policy 416 Drug and Alcohol Testing  
Board reviewed, first reading, September, 6, 2022

## 416 DRUG AND ALCOHOL TESTING

***[Note: Drug and alcohol testing of school bus drivers and applicants is mandatory under federal law. The mandatory testing is described under Part III. of the policy. Testing of other employees or testing of school bus drivers beyond that mandated by federal law is optional and can be done under state law only if a policy containing provisions. such as the provisions of Part IV. of this policy, are adopted. To preserve the right to request or require school district employees who are not bus drivers and applicants to undergo drug and/or alcohol testing or to require bus drivers to submit to testing that is not federally mandated, a school district should adopt Part IV. as part of its drug and alcohol testing policy.]***

### I. PURPOSE

- A. The school board recognizes the significant problems created by drug and alcohol use in society in general, and the public schools in particular. The school board further recognizes the important contribution that the public schools have in shaping the youth of today into the adults of tomorrow.
- B. The school board believes that a work environment free of drug and alcohol use will be not only safer, healthier, and more productive but also more conducive to effective learning. To provide such an environment, the purpose of this policy is to provide authority so that the school board may require all employees and/or job applicants to submit to drug and alcohol testing in accordance with the provisions of this policy and as provided in federal law and Minnesota Statutes, sections 181.950-181.957.

### II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

- A. All school district employees and job applicants whose positions require a commercial driver's license will be required to undergo drug and alcohol testing in accordance with federal law and the applicable provisions of this policy. The school district also may request or require that drivers submit to drug and alcohol testing in accordance with the provisions of this policy and as provided in Minnesota Statutes, sections 181.950-181.957.
- B. The school district may request or require that any school district employee or job applicant, other than an employee or applicant whose position requires a commercial driver's license, submit to drug and alcohol testing in accordance with the provisions of this policy and as provided in Minnesota Statutes, sections 181.950-181.957.
- C. The use, possession, sale, purchase, transfer, or dispensing of any drugs not medically prescribed, including medical cannabis, whether or not it has been prescribed for the employee, is prohibited on school district property (which includes school district vehicles), while operating school district vehicles or equipment, and at any school-sponsored program or event. Use of drugs that are not medically prescribed, including medical cannabis, whether or not it has been prescribed for the employee, is also prohibited throughout the school or work day, including lunch or other breaks, whether or not the employee is on or off school district property. Employees under the influence of drugs that are not medically prescribed are prohibited from entering or remaining on school district property.
- D. The use, possession, sale, purchase, transfer, or dispensing of alcohol is prohibited on school district property (which includes school district vehicles), while operating school district vehicles or equipment, and at any school-sponsored program or event. Use of

alcohol is also prohibited throughout the school or work day, including lunch or other breaks, whether or not the employee is on or off school district property. Employees under the influence of alcohol are prohibited from entering or remaining on school district property.

- E. Any employee who violates this section shall be subject to discipline that includes, but is not limited to, immediate suspension without pay and immediate discharge.

### **III. FEDERALLY MANDATED DRUG AND ALCOHOL TESTING FOR SCHOOL BUS DRIVERS**

#### **A. General Statement of Policy**

All persons subject to commercial driver's license requirements shall be tested for alcohol, marijuana (including medical cannabis), cocaine, amphetamines, opiates (including heroin), and phencyclidine (PCP), pursuant to federal law. Drivers who test positive for alcohol or drugs shall be subject to disciplinary action, which may include termination of employment.

#### **B. Definitions**

1. "Actual Knowledge" means actual knowledge by the school district that a driver has used alcohol or controlled substances based on: (a) direct observation of the employee's use (not observation of behavior sufficient to warrant reasonable suspicion testing); (b) information provided by a previous employer; (c) a traffic citation; or (d) an employee's admission, except when made in connection with a qualified employee self-admission program.
2. "Alcohol Screening Device" (ASD) means a breath or saliva device, other than an Evidential Breath Testing Device (EBT), that is approved by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and placed on its Conforming Products List for such devices.
3. "Breath Alcohol Technician" (BAT) means an individual who instructs and assists individuals in the alcohol testing process and who operates the EBT.
4. "Commercial Motor Vehicle" (CMV) includes a vehicle that is designed to transport 16 or more passengers, including the driver.
5. "Designated Employer Representative" (DER) means an employee authorized by the school district to take immediate action to remove employees from safety-sensitive duties, or cause employees to be removed from these covered duties, and to make required decisions in the testing and evaluation process. The DER receives test results and other communications for the school district.
6. "Department of Transportation" (DOT) means United States Department of Transportation.
7. "Direct Observation" means observation of alcohol or controlled substances use and does not include observation of employee behavior or physical characteristics sufficient to warrant reasonable suspicion testing.
8. "Driver" is any person who operates a CMV, including full-time, regularly employed drivers, casual, intermittent, or occasional drivers, leased drivers, and independent owner-operator contractors.
9. "Evidential Breath Testing Device" (EBT) means a device approved by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration for the evidentiary testing of breath for alcohol concentration and placed on its Conforming Products List for such devices.

10. "Licensed Medical Practitioner" means a person who is licensed, certified, and/or registered, in accordance with applicable Federal, State, local, or foreign laws and regulations, to prescribe controlled substances and other drugs.
11. "Medical Review Officer" (MRO) means a licensed physician responsible for receiving and reviewing laboratory results generated by the school district's drug testing program and for evaluating medical explanations for certain drug tests.
12. "Refusal to Submit" (to an alcohol or controlled substances test) means that a driver: (a) fails to appear for any test within a reasonable time, as determined by the school district, consistent with applicable DOT regulations, after being directed to do so; (b) fails to remain at the testing site until the testing process is complete; (c) fails to provide a urine specimen or an adequate amount of saliva or breath for any DOT drug or alcohol test; (d) fails to permit the observation or monitoring of the driver's provision of a specimen in the case of a directly observed or monitored collection in a drug test; (e) fails to provide a sufficient breath specimen or sufficient amount of urine when directed and a determination has been made that no adequate medical explanation for the failure exists; (f) fails or declines to take an additional test as directed by the school district or the collector; (g) fails to undergo a medical examination or evaluation, as directed by the MRO or the DER; (h) fails to cooperate with any part of the testing process (e.g., refuses to empty pockets when so directed by the collector, behaves in a confrontational way that disrupts the collection process, fails to wash hands after being directed to do so by the collector, fails to sign the certification on the forms); (i) fails to follow the observer's instructions, in an observed collection, to raise the driver's clothing above the waist, lower clothing and underpants, and to turn around to permit the observer to determine if the driver has any type of prosthetic or other device that could be used to interfere with the collection process; (j) possesses or wears a prosthetic or other device that could be used to interfere with the collection process; (k) admits to the collector or MRO that the driver adulterated or substituted the specimen; or (l) is reported by the MRO as having a verified adulterated or substituted test result. An applicant who fails to appear for a pre-employment test, who leaves the testing site before the pre-employment testing process commences, or who does not provide a urine specimen because ~~he or she has~~ **they have** left before it commences is not deemed to have refused to submit to testing.
13. "Safety-Sensitive Functions" are on-duty functions from the time the driver begins work or is required to be in readiness to work until relieved from work and all responsibility for performing work, and include such functions as driving, loading and unloading vehicles, or supervising or assisting in the loading or unloading of vehicles, servicing, repairing, obtaining assistance to repair, or remaining in attendance during the repair of a disabled vehicle.
14. "Screening Test Technician" (STT) means anyone who instructs and assists individuals in the alcohol testing process and operates an ASD.
15. "Stand Down" means the practice of temporarily removing an employee from performing safety-sensitive functions based only upon a laboratory report to the MRO of a confirmed positive test for a drug or drug metabolite, an adulterated test, or a substituted test before the MRO completes the verification process.
16. "Substance Abuse Professional" (SAP) means a qualified person who evaluates employees who have violated a DOT drug and alcohol regulation and makes recommendations concerning education, treatment, follow-up testing, and aftercare.

C. Policy and Educational Materials

***[Note: Federal regulations require that school districts provide materials to bus drivers explaining the school district's policies and procedures and the federal requirements with respect to the mandatory drug and alcohol testing of bus drivers. 49 Code of Federal Regulations section 382.601. Most of the required information is contained within this model policy. Additional materials to be provided to employees are described in Paragraph 2. of Section C.]***

1. The school district shall provide a copy of this policy and procedures to each driver prior to the start of its alcohol and drug testing program and to each driver subsequently hired or transferred into a position requiring driving of a CMV.
2. The school district shall provide to each driver information required under Title 49 of the Code of Federal Regulations, including information concerning the effects of alcohol and controlled substances use on an individual's health, work, and personal life; signs and symptoms of an alcohol or controlled substance problem (the driver's or a coworker's); and available methods of intervening when an alcohol or controlled substance problem is suspected, including confrontation, referral to an employee assistance program, and/or referral to management.
3. The school district shall provide written notice to representatives of employee organizations that the information described above is available.
4. The school district shall require each driver to sign a statement certifying that the driver received a copy of the policy and materials. This statement should be in the form of Attachment A to this policy. The school district will maintain the original signed certificate and will provide a copy to the driver if the driver so requests.

***[Note: The federal regulations require a school district to obtain a signed statement from each driver certifying that he or she received a copy of these materials. 49 Code of Federal Regulations section 382.601(d). The original signed certificate must be maintained by the school district and a copy may be provided to the driver.]***

D. Alcohol and Controlled Substances Testing Program Manager

***[Note: School districts are required by federal regulations to designate a person to answer driver questions about the policy and the education materials described in Section C. above and to notify the drivers of the designation. 49 Code of Federal Regulations section 382.601(b)(1).]***

1. The program manager will coordinate the implementation, direction, and administration of the alcohol and controlled substances testing policy for bus drivers. The program manager is the principal contact for the collection site, the testing laboratory, the MRO, the BAT, the SAP, and the person submitting to the test. Employee questions concerning this policy shall be directed to the program manager.
2. The school district shall designate a program manager and provide written notice of the designation to each driver along with this policy.

E. Specific Prohibitions for Drivers

***[Note: The specific prohibitions for drivers are contained, in large part, in 49 Code of Federal Regulations sections 382.201-382.215.]***

1. Alcohol Concentration. No driver shall report for duty or remain on duty requiring the performance of safety-sensitive functions while having an alcohol concentration of 0.04 or greater. Drivers who test greater than 0.04 will be taken out of service and will be subject to evaluation by a professional and retesting at the driver's expense.
2. Alcohol Possession. No driver shall be on duty or operate a CMV while the driver possesses alcohol.
3. On-Duty Use. No driver shall use alcohol while performing safety-sensitive functions.
4. Pre-Duty Use. No driver shall perform safety-sensitive functions within four (4) hours after using alcohol.
5. Use Following an Accident. No driver required to take a post-accident test shall use alcohol for eight (8) hours following the accident, or until the driver undergoes a post-accident alcohol test, whichever occurs first.
6. Refusal to Submit to a Required Test. No driver shall refuse to submit to an alcohol or controlled substances test required by post-accident, random, reasonable suspicion, return-to-duty, or follow-up testing requirements. A verified adulterated or substituted drug test shall be considered a refusal to test.
7. Use of Controlled Substances. No driver shall report for duty or remain on duty requiring the performance of safety-sensitive functions when the driver uses any controlled substance, except when the use is pursuant to instructions (which have been presented to the school district) from a licensed medical practitioner who is familiar with the driver's medical history and has advised the driver that the substance does not adversely affect the driver's ability to safely operate a CMV. Controlled substance includes medical cannabis, regardless of whether the driver is enrolled in the state registry program.
8. Positive, Adulterated, or Substituted Test for Controlled Substance. No driver shall report for duty, remain on duty, or perform a safety-sensitive function if the driver tests positive for controlled substances, including medical cannabis, or has adulterated or substituted a test specimen for controlled substances.
9. General Prohibition. Drivers are also subject to the general policies and procedures of the school district that prohibit possession, transfer, sale, exchange, reporting to work under the influence of drugs or alcohol, and consumption of drugs or alcohol while at work or while on school district premises or operating any school district vehicle, machinery, or equipment.

F. Other Alcohol-Related Conduct

***[Note: Consequences for drivers engaging in alcohol-related conduct are described in the federal regulations. 49 Code of Federal Regulations section 382.505.]***

No driver found to have an alcohol concentration of 0.02 or greater but less than 0.04 shall perform safety-sensitive functions for at least twenty-four (24) hours following administration of the test. The school district will not take any action under this policy other than removal from safety-sensitive functions based solely on test results showing an alcohol concentration of less than 0.04 but may take action otherwise consistent with law and the policies of the school district.

G. Prescription Drugs/Cannabinoid Products

A driver shall inform the driver's supervisor if at any time the driver is using a controlled

substance pursuant to a physician's prescription. The physician's instructions shall be presented to the school district upon request. Use of a prescription drug shall be allowed if the physician has advised the driver that the prescribed drug will not adversely affect the driver's ability to safely operate a CMV. Use of medical cannabis is prohibited notwithstanding the driver's enrollment in the patient registry. Use of nonintoxicating cannabinoids or edible cannabinoid products is not a legitimate medical explanation for a confirmed positive test result for marijuana. MROs will verify a drug test confirmed as positive, even if a driver claims to have only used nonintoxicating cannabinoids or edible cannabinoid product.

H. Testing Requirements

**[Note: School districts must utilize the U.S. DOT Drug & Alcohol Clearinghouse ("Clearinghouse") to conduct pre-employment queries, annual queries, and reports regarding CDL holders who operate CMVs on public roads (including school bus drivers) and who are covered by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) Drug and Alcohol Testing Program. In addition to utilizing the Clearinghouse, school districts must continue to comply with the alcohol and controlled substance testing required under Title 49 of the Federal Regulations.]**

1. Pre-Employment Testing

**[Note: 49 Code of Federal Regulations section 382.301 details the requirements for pre-employment testing.]**

- a. A driver applicant shall undergo testing for [alcohol and] controlled substances, including medical cannabis, before the first time the driver performs safety-sensitive functions for the school district.

**[Note: A school district is permitted, but not required, to conduct pre-employment testing for the use of alcohol. If a school district elects to require pre-employment testing for alcohol, it should include the bracketed text in Subparagraph a., above, and test all applicants uniformly.]**

- b. Tests shall be conducted only after the applicant has received a conditional offer of employment.
- c. To be hired, the applicant must test negative and must sign an agreement in the form of Attachment B to this policy, authorizing former employers to release to the school district all information on the applicant's alcohol tests with results of blood alcohol concentration of 0.04 or higher, or verified positive results for controlled substances, including medical cannabis, or refusals to be tested (including verified adulterated or substituted drug test results), or any other violations of DOT agency drug and alcohol testing regulations, or, if the applicant violated the testing regulations, documentation of the applicant's successful completion of DOT return-to-duty requirements (including follow-up tests), within the preceding two (2) years.

**[Note: Federal regulations require school districts to inquire about, obtain, and review alcohol and controlled substances information from prior employers pursuant to a driver's written authorization, prior to the time a driver performs safety-sensitive functions, if feasible. 49 Code of Federal Regulations section 382.413 and 49 Code of Federal Regulations section 40.25. If not feasible, school districts must not permit the employee to perform safety-sensitive functions for more than thirty (30) days from the date a safety-sensitive function was performed unless the school districts make good faith efforts to obtain the information and to make a record of those efforts to be retained in the driver's qualification file.]**

- d. The applicant also must be asked whether ~~he or she has~~ **they have** tested positive, or refused to test, on any pre-employment drug or alcohol test administered by an employer to which the employee, during the last two (2) years, applied for, but did not obtain, safety-sensitive transportation work covered by DOT testing rules.
- e. Before employing a driver subject to controlled substances and alcohol testing, the school district must conduct a full pre-employment query of the federal Commercial Driver's License (CDL) Drug and Alcohol Clearinghouse ("Clearinghouse") to obtain information about whether the driver (1) has a verified positive, adulterated, or substituted controlled substances test result; (2) has an alcohol confirmation test with a concentration of 0.04 or higher; (3) has refused to submit to a test in violation of federal law; or (4) that an employer has reported actual knowledge that the driver used alcohol on duty, before duty, or following an accident in violation of federal law or used a controlled substance in violation of federal law. The applicant must give specific written or electronic consent for the school district to conduct the Clearinghouse full query. The school district shall retain the consent for three (3) years from the date of the query.

3. Post-Accident Testing

***[Note: 49 Code of Federal Regulations section 382.303 governs post-accident testing of drivers.]***

- a. As soon as practicable following an accident involving a CMV, the school district shall test the driver for alcohol and controlled substances, including medical cannabis, if the accident involved the loss of human life or if the driver receives a citation for a moving traffic violation arising from an accident which results in bodily injury or disabling damage to a motor vehicle.
- b. Drivers should be tested for alcohol use within two (2) hours and no later than eight (8) hours after the accident.
- c. Drivers should be tested for controlled substances, including medical cannabis, no later than thirty-two (32) hours after the accident.
- d. A driver subject to post-accident testing must remain available for testing, or shall be considered to have refused to submit to the test.
- e. If a post-accident alcohol test is not administered within two (2) hours following the accident, the school district shall prepare and maintain on file a record stating the reasons the test was not promptly administered and continue to attempt to administer the alcohol test within eight (8) hours.
- f. If a post-accident alcohol test is not administered within eight (8) hours following the accident or a post-accident controlled substances test is not administered within thirty-two (32) hours following the accident, the school district shall cease attempts to administer the test, and prepare and maintain on file a record stating the reasons for not administering the test.
- g. The school district shall report drug and alcohol program violations to the Clearinghouse as required under federal law.

4. Random Testing

***[Note: 49 Code of Federal Regulations section 382.305 governs random testing of drivers.]***

- a. The school district shall conduct tests on a random basis at unannounced times throughout the year, as required by the federal regulations.

***[Note: The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) set the random alcohol selection and testing rate at 10% of the average number of driver positions and evaluates this minimum percentage each year. School districts can elect to stay at the 1998 level of 25% (or a higher percentage) if they do not want to monitor the minimum annual percentage rate set by the FHWA. The random controlled substances selection and testing rate has remained at 50% each year and has not been lowered to 25% as is possible under the regulations.]***

- b. The school district shall test for alcohol at a minimum annual percentage rate of 10% of the average number of driver positions, and for controlled substances, including medical cannabis, at a minimum annual percentage of 50%.
- c. The school district shall adopt a scientifically valid method for selecting drivers for testing, such as random number table or a computer-based random number generator that is matched with identifying numbers of the drivers. Each driver shall have an equal chance of being tested each time selections are made. Each driver selected for testing shall be tested during the selection period.
- d. Random tests shall be unannounced. Dates for administering random tests shall be spread reasonably throughout the calendar year.
- e. Drivers shall proceed immediately to the collection site upon notification of selection; provided, however, that if the driver is performing a safety-sensitive function, other than driving, at the time of notification, the driver shall cease to perform the function and proceed to the collection site as soon as possible.

5. Reasonable Suspicion Testing

***[Note: 49 Code of Federal Regulations section 382.307 governs reasonable suspicion testing of drivers.]***

- a. The school district shall require a driver to submit to an alcohol test and/or controlled substances, including medical cannabis, test when a supervisor or school district official, who has been trained in accordance with the regulations, has reasonable suspicion to believe that the driver has used alcohol and/or controlled substances, including medical cannabis, on duty, within four (4) hours before coming on duty, or just after the period of the work day. The test shall be done as soon as practicable following the observation of the behavior indicative of the use of controlled substances or alcohol.
- b. The reasonable suspicion determination must be based on specific, contemporaneous, articulable observations concerning the driver's appearance, behavior, speech, or body odors. The required observations for reasonable suspicion of a controlled substances violation may include indications of the chronic and withdrawal effects of controlled substances.

- c. Alcohol testing shall be administered within two (2) hours following a determination of reasonable suspicion. If it is not done within two (2) hours, the school district shall prepare and maintain a record explaining why it was not promptly administered and continue to attempt to administer the alcohol test within eight (8) hours. If an alcohol test is not administered within eight (8) hours following the determination of reasonable suspicion, the school district shall cease attempts to administer the test and state in the record the reasons for not administering the test.
- d. The supervisor or school district official who makes observations leading to a controlled substances reasonable suspicion test shall make and sign a written record of the observations within twenty-four (24) hours of the observed behavior or before the results of the drug test are released, whichever is earlier.

***[Note: 49 Code of Federal Regulations sections 382.309, 40.23(d) and 40.305 govern return-to-duty testing.]***

- 6. Return-To-Duty Testing. A driver found to have violated this policy shall not return to work until an SAP has determined the employee has successfully complied with prescribed education and/or treatment and until undergoing return-to-duty tests indicating an alcohol concentration of less than 0.02 and a confirmed negative result for the use of controlled substances. The school district is not required to return a driver to safety-sensitive duties because the driver has met these conditions; this is a personnel decision subject to collective bargaining agreements or other legal requirements.

***[Note: 49 Code of Federal Regulations sections 382.311, 40.307 and 40.309 govern follow-up testing.]***

- 7. Follow-Up Testing. When an SAP has determined that a driver is in need of assistance in resolving problems with alcohol and/or controlled substances, the driver shall be subject to unannounced follow-up testing as directed by the SAP for up to sixty (60) months after completing a treatment program.

- 8. Refusal to Submit and Attendant Consequences

***[Note: Consequences for refusals to submit to required drug and alcohol tests are addressed generally in 49 Code of Federal Regulations sections 40.191, 40.261 and 382.211. They are more specifically addressed in 49 Code of Federal Regulations sections 382.501-382.507 and in 49 United States Code section 521(b).]***

- a. A driver or driver applicant may refuse to submit to drug and alcohol testing.
- b. Refusal to submit to a required drug or alcohol test subjects the driver or driver applicant to the consequences specified in federal regulations as well as the civil and/or criminal penalty provisions of 49 United States Code section 521(b). In addition, a refusal to submit to testing establishes a presumption that the driver or driver applicant would test positive if a test were conducted and makes the driver or driver applicant subject to discipline or disqualification under this policy.
- c. A driver applicant who refuses to submit to testing shall be disqualified from further consideration for the conditionally offered position.
- d. An employee who refuses to submit to testing shall not be permitted to perform safety-sensitive functions and will be considered insubordinate

and subject to disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal. If an employee is offered an opportunity to return to a DOT safety-sensitive duty, the employee will be evaluated by an SAP and must submit to a return-to-duty test prior to being considered for reassignment to safety-sensitive functions.

- e. Drivers or driver applicants who refuse to submit to required testing will be required to sign Attachment C to this policy.

## I. Testing Procedures

### 1. Drug Testing

***[Note: The Federal Drug Testing Custody and Control Form (CCF) must be used to document every urine collection required by the DOT drug testing program. 49 Code of Federal Regulations section 40.45.]***

- a. Drug testing is conducted by analyzing a donor's urine specimen. Split urine samples will be collected in accordance with federal regulations. The donor will provide a urine sample at a designated collection site. The collection site personnel will then pour the sample into two sample bottles, labeled "primary" and "split," seal the specimen bottles, complete the chain of custody form, and prepare the specimen bottles for shipment to the testing laboratory for analysis. The specimen preparation shall be conducted in sight of the donor.
- b. If the donor is unable to provide the appropriate quantity of urine, the collection site person shall instruct the individual to drink up to forty (40) ounces of fluid distributed reasonably through a period of up to three (3) hours to attempt to provide a sample. If the individual is still unable to provide a complete sample, the test shall be discontinued and the school district notified. The DER shall refer the donor for a medical evaluation to determine if the donor's inability to provide a specimen is genuine or constitutes a refusal to test. For pre-employment testing, the school district may elect to not have a referral made, and revoke the employment offer.
- c. Drug test results are reported directly to the MRO by the testing laboratory. The MRO reports the results to the DER. If the results are negative, the school district is informed and no further action is necessary. If the test result is confirmed positive, adulterated, substituted, or invalid, the MRO shall give the donor an opportunity to discuss the test result. The MRO will contact the donor directly, on a confidential basis, to determine whether the donor wishes to discuss the test result. The MRO shall notify each donor that the donor has seventy-two (72) hours from the time of notification in which to request a test of the split specimen at the donor's expense. No split specimen testing is done for an invalid result.
- d. If the donor requests an analysis of the split specimen within seventy-two (72) hours of having been informed of a confirmed positive test, the MRO shall direct, in writing, the laboratory to provide the split specimen to another Department of Health and Human Services – SAMHSA certified laboratory for analysis. If the donor has not contacted the MRO within seventy-two (72) hours, the donor may present the MRO information documenting that serious illness, injury, inability to contact the MRO, lack of actual notice of the confirmed positive test, or other circumstances unavoidably prevented the donor from timely making contact. If the MRO concludes that a legitimate explanation for the donor's failure to contact him/her within seventy-two (72) hours exists,

the MRO shall direct the analysis of the split specimen. The MRO will review the confirmed positive test result to determine whether an acceptable medical reason for the positive result exists. The MRO shall confirm and report a positive test result to the DER and the employee when no legitimate medical reason for a positive test result as received from the testing laboratory exists.

- e. If, after making reasonable efforts and documenting those efforts, the MRO is unable to reach the donor directly, the MRO must contact the DER who will direct the donor to contact the MRO. If the DER is unable to contact the donor, the donor will be suspended from performing safety-sensitive functions.
- f. The MRO may confirm the test as a positive without having communicated directly with the donor about the test results under the following circumstances:
  - (1) The donor expressly declines the opportunity to discuss the test results;
  - (2) The donor has not contacted the MRO within seventy-two (72) hours of being instructed to do so by the DER; or
  - (3) The MRO and the DER, after making and documenting all reasonable efforts, have not been able to contact the donor within ten (10) days of the date the confirmed test result was received from the laboratory.

## 2. Alcohol Testing

***[Note: The DOT Alcohol Testing Form (ATF) must be used for every DOT alcohol test. 49 Code of Federal Regulations section 40.225.]***

- a. The federal alcohol testing regulations require testing to be administered by a BAT using an EBT or an STT using an ASD. EBTs and ASDs can be used for screening tests but only EBTs can be used for confirmation tests.
- b. Any test result less than 0.02 alcohol concentration is considered a "negative" test.
- c. If the donor is unable to provide sufficient saliva for an ASD, the DER will immediately arrange to use an EBT. If the donor attempts and fails to provide an adequate amount of breath, the school district will direct the donor to obtain a written evaluation from a licensed physician to determine if the donor's inability to provide a breath sample is genuine or constitutes a refusal to test.
- d. If the screening test results show alcohol concentration of 0.02 or higher, a confirmatory test conducted on an EBT will be required to be performed between fifteen (15) and thirty (30) minutes after the completion of the screening test.
- e. Alcohol tests are reported directly to the DER.

## J. Driver/Driver Applicant Rights

- 1. All drivers and driver applicants subject to the controlled substances testing provisions of this policy who receive a confirmed positive test result for the use

of controlled substances have the right to request, at the driver's or driver applicant's expense, a confirming retest of the split urine sample. If the confirming retest is negative, no adverse action will be taken against the driver, and a driver applicant will be considered for employment.

***[Note: The limitation on discharge in Paragraph 2., below, is contained solely in Minnesota law. State law is preempted by federal laws and regulations as it relates to drivers of commercial motor vehicles (such as bus drivers). See Minnesota Statutes section 221.031, Subd. 10. Nevertheless, school districts may decide to comply with the state law requirements for various reasons (such as to treat all school district employees equally since employees subject to testing only under state law are accorded these additional rights). Consultation with the school district's legal counsel is recommended.]***

2. The school district will not discharge a driver who, for the first time, receives a confirmed positive drug or alcohol test UNLESS:
  - a. The school district has first given the employee an opportunity to participate in, at the employee's own expense or pursuant to coverage under an employee benefit plan, either a drug or alcohol counseling or rehabilitation program, whichever is more appropriate, as determined by the school district after consultation with the SAP; and
  - b. The employee refuses to participate in the recommended program, or fails to successfully complete the program as evidenced by withdrawal before its completion or by a positive test result on a confirmatory test after completion of the program.
  - c. This limitation on employee discharge does not bar discharge of an employee for reasons independent of the first confirmed positive test result.

K. Testing Laboratory

The testing laboratory for controlled substances will be ARCpoint Labs of Apple Valley, 14690 Galaxie Avenue, #110, Apple Valley, MN 55124, (651) 413-9062, which is a laboratory certified by the Department of Health and Human Services – SAMHSA to perform controlled substances testing pursuant to federal regulations.

L. Confidentiality of Test Results

All alcohol and controlled substances test results and required records of the drug and alcohol testing program are considered confidential information under federal law and private data on individuals as that phrase is defined in Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 13. Any information concerning the individual's test results and records shall not be released without written permission of the individual, except as provided for by regulation or law.

M. Recordkeeping Requirements and Retention of Records

1. The school district shall keep and maintain records in accordance with the federal regulations in a secure location with controlled access.

***[Note: The federal recordkeeping requirements for school districts are detailed in the federal regulations, 49 Code of Federal Regulations sections 382.401 et seq. and 40.331. The DOT publishes a guide to the recordkeeping requirements of mandatory drug and alcohol testing for persons with a commercial driver's license as part of its Alcohol & Drugs: DOT Compliance Manual.]***

2. The required records shall be retained for the following minimum periods:

Basic records 5 years

“Basic records” includes records of: (a) alcohol test results with concentration of 0.02 or greater; (b) verified positive drug test results; (c) refusals to submit to required tests (including substituted or adulterated drug test results); (d) SAP reports; (e) all follow-up tests and schedules for follow-up tests; (f) calibration documentation; (g) administration of the testing programs; and (h) each annual calendar year summary.

Information obtained from previous employers 3 years

Alcohol and controlled substance collection procedures 2 years

Negative and cancelled controlled substance tests 1 year

Alcohol tests with less than 0.02 concentration 1 year

Education and training records indefinite

“Education and training records” must be maintained while the individuals perform the functions which require training and for the two (2) years after ceasing to perform those functions.

3. Personal Information

Personal information about all individuals who undergo any required testing under this policy will be shared with the U.S. DOT Drug & Alcohol Clearinghouse (“Clearinghouse”) as required under federal law, including:

- a. The name of the person tested;
- b. Any verified positive, adulterated, or substituted drug test result;
- c. Any alcohol confirmation test with a BAC concentration of 0.04 or higher;
- d. Any refusal to submit to any test required hereunder;
- e. Any report by a supervisor of actual knowledge of use as follows
  - i. Any on-duty alcohol use;
  - ii. Any pre-duty alcohol use;
  - iii. Any alcohol use following an accident; and
  - iv. Any controlled substance use.
- f. Any report from a substance abuse professional certifying successful completion of the return-to-work process;
- g. Any negative return-to-duty test; and
- h. Any employer’s report of completion of follow-up testing.

#### **N. Training**

The school district shall ensure all persons designated to supervise drivers receive training. The designated employees shall receive at least sixty (60) minutes of training on alcohol misuse and at least sixty (60) minutes of training on controlled substances use. The training shall include physical, behavioral, speech, and performance indicators of probable misuse of alcohol and use of controlled substances. The training will be

used by the supervisors to make determinations of reasonable suspicion.

*We use SafeSchools for Defensive Driving---is there other trainings like above?*

O. Consequences of Prohibited Conduct and Enforcement

1. Removal. The school district shall remove a driver who has engaged in prohibited conduct from safety-sensitive functions. A driver shall not be permitted to return to safety-sensitive functions until and unless the return-to-duty requirements of federal DOT regulations have been completed.

2. Referral, Evaluation, and Treatment

a. A driver or driver applicant who has engaged in prohibited conduct shall be provided a listing of SAPs readily available to the driver or applicant and acceptable to the school district.

***[Note: Subparagraphs b. and c., below, are based on the provisions of 49 Code of Federal Regulations section 40.289.]***

b. If the school district offers a driver an opportunity to return to a DOT safety-sensitive duty following a violation, the driver must be evaluated by an SAP and the driver is required to successfully comply with the SAP's evaluation recommendations (education, treatment, follow-up evaluation(s), and/or ongoing services). The school district is not required to provide an SAP evaluation or any subsequent recommended education or treatment.

***[Note: School districts are not required to comply with state law governing drug and alcohol testing when the individuals are subject to the federal laws and regulations (i.e., bus drivers). If a school district, after consultation with legal counsel, chooses to comply voluntarily with these requirements, Subparagraph b., above, can be modified as follows:***

***b. The school district will offer a driver an opportunity to return to a DOT safety-sensitive duty following an employee's first positive test result on a confirmatory test if no reasons independent of the first test result for discharge exist. Otherwise, the school district may choose, but is not required, to provide an SAP evaluation or any subsequent recommended education or treatment.]***

c. Drivers are responsible for payment for SAP evaluations and services unless a collective bargaining agreement or employee benefit plan provides otherwise.

d. Drivers who engage in prohibited conduct also are required to comply with follow-up testing requirements.

3. Disciplinary Action

a. Any driver who refuses to submit to post-accident, random, reasonable suspicion, or follow-up testing not only shall not perform or continue to perform safety-sensitive functions, but also may be subject to disciplinary action, which may include immediate suspension without pay and/or immediate discharge.

b. Drivers who test positive with verification of a confirmatory test or are

otherwise found to be in violation of this policy or the federal regulations shall be subject to disciplinary action, which may include immediate suspension without pay and/or immediate discharge.

- c. Nothing in this policy limits or restricts the right of the school district to discipline or discharge a driver for conduct which not only constitutes prohibited conduct under this policy but also violates the school district's other rules or policies.

P. Other Testing

The school district may request or require that drivers submit to drug and alcohol testing other than that required by federal law. For example, drivers may be requested or required to undergo drug and alcohol testing on an annual basis as part of a routine physical examination. Such additional testing of drivers will be conducted only in accordance with the provisions of this policy and as provided in Minnesota Statutes, sections 181.950-181.957. For purposes of such additional, non-mandatory testing, drivers fall within the definition of "other employees" covered by Section IV. of this policy.

***[Note: When the testing of drivers complies with federal testing requirements and procedures, school districts clearly are exempt from the state drug and alcohol testing requirements in Minnesota Statutes, sections 181.950-181.957. See Minnesota Statutes section 221.031, subdivision 10. When testing beyond the federally mandated requirements, however, school districts still must comply with state law.]***

Q. Report to Clearinghouse

The school district shall promptly submit to the Clearinghouse any record generated of an individual who refuses to take an alcohol or controlled substance test required under Title 49, Code of Federal Regulations, tests positive for alcohol or a controlled substance in violation of federal regulations, or violates subpart B of Part 382 of Title 49, Code of Federal Regulations (or any subsequent corresponding regulations).

R. Annual Clearinghouse Query

1. The school district must conduct a query of the Clearinghouse record at least once per year for information for all employees subject to controlled substance and alcohol testing related to CMV operation to determine whether information exists in the Clearinghouse about those employees. In lieu of a full query, the school district may obtain the individual driver's consent to conduct a limited query to satisfy the annual query requirement. The limited query will tell the employer whether there is information about the driver in the Clearinghouse but will not release that information to the employer. If the limited query shows that information exists in the Clearinghouse about the driver, the school district must conduct a full query within twenty-four (24) hours or must not allow the driver to continue to perform any safety-sensitive function until the employee conducts the full query and the results confirm the driver's Clearinghouse record contains no prohibitions showing the driver has a verified positive, adulterated or substitute controlled substance test, no alcohol confirmation test with a concentration of 0.04 or higher, refuses to submit to a test, or was reported to have used alcohol on duty, before duty, following an accident or otherwise used a controlled substance in violation of the regulations except where the driver completed the SAP evaluation, referral and education/treatment process as required by the regulations. The school district shall comply with the query requirements set forth in 49 Code of Federal Regulations 382.701.
2. The school district may not access an individual's Clearinghouse record unless the school district (1) obtains the individual's prior written or electronic consent

for access to the record; and (2) submits proof of the individual's consent to the Clearinghouse. The school district must retain the consent for three (3) years from the date of the last query. The school district shall retain for three (3) years a record of each request for records from the Clearinghouse and the information received pursuant to the request.

3. The school district shall protect the individual's privacy and confidentiality of each Clearinghouse record it receives. The school district shall ensure that information contained in a Clearinghouse record is not divulged to a person or entity not directly involved in assessing and evaluating whether a prohibition applies with respect to the individual to operate a CMV for the school district.
4. The school district may use an individual's Clearinghouse record only to assess and evaluate whether a prohibition applies with respect to the individual to operate a CMV for the school district.

#### **IV. DRUG AND ALCOHOL TESTING FOR OTHER EMPLOYEES**

The school district may request or require drug and alcohol testing for other school district personnel, i.e., employees who are not school bus drivers, or job applicants for such positions. The school district does not have a legal duty to request or require any employee or job applicant to undergo drug and alcohol testing as authorized in this policy, except for school bus drivers and other drivers of CMVs who are subject to federally mandated testing. (See Section III. of this policy.) If a school bus driver is requested or required to submit to drug or alcohol testing beyond that mandated by federal law, the provisions of Section IV. of this policy will be applicable to such testing.

##### **A. Circumstances Under Which Drug or Alcohol Testing May Be Requested or Required:**

###### **1. General Limitations**

- a. The school district will not request or require an employee or job applicant whose position does not require a commercial driver's license to undergo drug or alcohol testing, unless the testing is done pursuant to this drug and alcohol testing policy; and is conducted by a testing laboratory that meets one of the criteria listed in Minnesota Statutes, section 181.953, subdivision 1.
- b. The school district will not request or require an employee or job applicant whose position does not require a commercial driver's license to undergo drug and alcohol testing on an arbitrary and capricious basis.

###### **2. Job Applicant Testing**

The school district may request or require any job applicant whose position does not require a commercial driver's license to undergo drug and alcohol testing, provided a job offer has been made to the applicant and the same test is requested or required of all job applicants conditionally offered employment for that position. If a job applicant has received a job offer that is contingent on the applicant's passing drug and alcohol testing, the school district may not withdraw the offer based on a positive test result from an initial screening test that has not been verified by a confirmatory test. In the event the job offer is subsequently withdrawn, the school district shall notify the job applicant of the reason for its action.

###### **3. Random Testing**

The school district may request or require employees to undergo drug and alcohol testing on a random selection basis only if they are employed in safety-sensitive positions.

4. Reasonable Suspicion Testing

The school district may request or require any employee to undergo drug and alcohol testing if the school district has a reasonable suspicion that the employee:

- a. is under the influence of drugs or alcohol;
- b. has violated the school district's written work rules prohibiting the use, possession, sale, or transfer of drugs or alcohol while the employee is working or while the employee is on the school district's premises or operating the school district's vehicles, machinery, or equipment;
- c. has sustained a personal injury, as that term is defined in Minnesota Statutes, section 176.011, subdivision 16, or has caused another employee to sustain a personal injury; or
- d. has caused a work-related accident or was operating or helping to operate machinery, equipment, or vehicles involved in a work-related accident.

5. Treatment Program Testing

The school district may request or require any employee to undergo drug and alcohol testing if the employee has been referred by the school district for chemical dependency treatment or evaluation or is participating in a chemical dependency treatment program under an employee benefit plan, in which case the employee may be requested or required to undergo drug and alcohol testing without prior notice during the evaluation or treatment period and for a period of up to two (2) years following completion of any prescribed chemical dependency treatment program.

6. Routine Physical Examination Testing

The school district may request or require any employee to undergo drug and alcohol testing as part of a routine physical examination provided the drug or alcohol test is requested or required no more than once annually and the employee has been given at least two weeks' written notice that a drug or alcohol test may be requested or required as part of the physical examination.

**B. No Legal Duty to Test**

The school district does not have a legal duty to request or require any employee or job applicant whose position does not require a commercial driver's license to undergo drug and alcohol testing.

*I do not think we have anyone needing a commercial driver's license right?*

C. Definitions

1. "Drug" means a controlled substance as defined in Minnesota Statutes, including medical cannabis, regardless of enrollment in the state registry program.
2. "Drug and Alcohol Testing," "Drug or Alcohol Testing," and "Drug or Alcohol Test" mean analysis of a body component sample by a testing laboratory that meets one of the criteria listed in Minnesota Statutes, section 181.953, subdivision 1, for the purpose of measuring the presence or absence of drugs, alcohol, or their metabolites in the sample tested.

3. "Other Employees" means any persons, independent contractors, or persons working for an independent contractor who perform services for the school district for compensation, either full time or part time, in whatever form, except for persons whose positions require a commercial driver's license, and includes both professional and nonprofessional personnel. Persons whose positions require a commercial driver's license are primarily governed by the provisions of the school district's drug and alcohol testing policy relating to school bus drivers (Section III.). To the extent that the drug and alcohol testing of persons whose positions require a commercial driver's license is not mandated by federal law and regulations, such testing shall be governed by Section IV. of this policy and the drivers shall fall within this definition of "other employees."
4. "Job Applicant" means a person, independent contractor, or person working for an independent contractor who applies to become an employee of the school district in a position that does not require a commercial driver's license, and includes a person who has received a job offer made contingent on the person's passing drug or alcohol testing. Job applicants for positions requiring a commercial driver's license are governed by the provisions of the school district's drug and alcohol testing policy relating to school bus drivers (Section III.).
5. "Positive Test Result" means a finding of the presence of drugs, alcohol, or their metabolites in the sample tested in levels at or above the threshold detection levels contained in the standards of one of the programs listed in Minnesota Statutes, section 181.953, subdivision 1.
6. "Random Selection Basis" means a mechanism for selection of employees that:
  - a. results in an equal probability that any employee from a group of employees subject to the selection mechanism will be selected; and
  - b. does not give the school district discretion to waive the selection of any employee selected under the mechanism.
7. "Reasonable Suspicion" means a basis for forming a belief based on specific facts and rational inferences drawn from those facts.
8. "Safety-Sensitive Position" means a job, including any supervisory or management position, in which an impairment caused by drug or alcohol usage would threaten the health or safety of any person.

D. Right of Other Employee or Job Applicant to Refuse Drug and Alcohol Testing and Consequences of Such Refusal

1. Right of Other Employee or Job Applicant to Refuse Drug and Alcohol Testing  
Any employee or job applicant whose position does not require a commercial driver's license has the right to refuse drug and alcohol testing subject to the provisions contained in Paragraphs 2. and 3. of Section IV.D.
2. Consequences of an Employee's Refusal to Undergo Drug and Alcohol Testing  
Any employee in a position that does not require a commercial driver's license who refuses to undergo drug and alcohol testing in the circumstances set out in the Random Testing, Reasonable Suspicion Testing, and Treatment Program Testing provisions of this policy may be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including immediate discharge.
3. Consequences of a Job Applicant's Refusal to Undergo Drug and Alcohol Testing

Any job applicant for a position which does not require a commercial driver's license who refuses to undergo drug and alcohol testing pursuant to the Job Applicant Testing provision of this policy shall not be employed.

E. Reliability and Fairness Safeguards

1. Pretest Notice

Before requesting an employee or job applicant whose position does not require a commercial driver's license to undergo drug or alcohol testing, the school district shall provide the employee or job applicant with a Pretest Notice in the form of Attachment D to this policy on which to acknowledge that the employee or job applicant has received the school district's drug and alcohol testing policy.

2. Notice of Test Results

Within three (3) working days after receipt of a test result report from the testing laboratory, the school district shall inform in writing an employee or job applicant who has undergone drug or alcohol testing of a negative test result on an initial screening test or of a negative or positive test result on a confirmatory test.

3. Notice of and Right to Test Result Report

Within three (3) working days after receipt of a test result report from the testing laboratory, the school district shall inform in writing, an employee or job applicant who has undergone drug or alcohol testing of the employee or job applicant's right to request and receive from the school district a copy of the test result report on any drug or alcohol test.

4. Notice of and Right to Explain Positive Test Result

- a. If an employee or job applicant has a positive test result on a confirmatory test, the school district shall provide the individual with notice of the test results and, at the same time, written notice of the right to explain the results and to submit additional information.
- b. The school district may request that the employee or job applicant indicate any over-the-counter or prescription medication that the individual is currently taking or has recently taken and any other information relevant to the reliability of, or explanation for, a positive test result.
- c. The employee may present verification of enrollment in the medical cannabis patient registry as part of the employee's explanation.
- d. Use of nonintoxicating cannabinoids or edible cannabinoid products is not a legitimate medical explanation for a confirmed positive test result for marijuana. MROs will verify a drug test confirmed as positive, even if an employee claims to have only used nonintoxicating cannabinoids or edible cannabinoid product.
- e. Within three (3) working days after notice of a positive test result on a confirmatory test, an employee or job applicant may submit information (in addition to any information already submitted) to the school district to explain that result.

5. Notice of and Right to Request Confirmatory Retests

- a. If an employee or job applicant has a positive test result on a confirmatory test, the school district shall provide the individual with notice of the test results and, at the same time, written notice of the right to request a confirmatory retest of the original sample at his or her expense.
  - b. An employee or job applicant may request a confirmatory retest of the original sample at his or her own expense after notice of a positive test result on a confirmatory test. Within five (5) working days after notice of the confirmatory test result, the employee or job applicant shall notify the school district in writing of his or her intention to obtain a confirmatory retest. Within three (3) working days after receipt of the notice, the school district shall notify the original testing laboratory that the employee or job applicant has requested the laboratory to conduct the confirmatory retest or to transfer the sample to another laboratory licensed under Minnesota Statutes, section 181.953, subdivision 1 to conduct the confirmatory retest. The original testing laboratory shall ensure that appropriate chain-of-custody procedures are followed during transfer of the sample to the other laboratory. The confirmatory retest must use the same drug or alcohol threshold detection levels as used in the original confirmatory test. If the confirmatory retest does not confirm the original positive test result, no adverse personnel action based on the original confirmatory test may be taken against the employee or job applicant.
6. If an employee or job applicant has a positive test result on a confirmatory test, the school district, at the time of providing notice of the test results, shall also provide written notice to inform the individual of other rights provided under Sections F. or G., below, whichever is applicable.

Attachments E and F to this policy provide the Notices described in Paragraphs 2. through 6. of this Section E.

F. Discharge and Discipline of Employees Whose Positions Do Not Require a Commercial Driver's License

- 1. The school district may not discharge, discipline, discriminate against, request, or require rehabilitation of an employee on the basis of a positive test result from an initial screening test that has not been verified by a confirmatory test.
- 2. In the case of a positive test result on a confirmatory test, the employee shall be subject to discipline which includes, but is not limited to, immediate suspension without pay and immediate discharge, pursuant to the provisions of this policy.
- 3. The school district may not discharge an employee for whom a positive test result on a confirmatory test was the first such result for the employee on a drug or alcohol test requested by the school district, unless the following conditions have been met:
  - a. The school district has first given the employee an opportunity to participate in, at the employee's own expense or pursuant to coverage under an employee benefit plan, either a drug or alcohol counseling or rehabilitation program, whichever is more appropriate, as determined by the school district after consultation with a certified chemical abuse counselor or a physician trained in the diagnosis and treatment of chemical dependency; and
  - b. The employee has either refused to participate in the counseling or rehabilitation program or has failed to successfully complete the

program, as evidenced by withdrawal from the program before its completion or by a positive test result on a confirmatory test after completion of the program.

4. Notwithstanding Paragraph 1., the school district may temporarily suspend the tested employee or transfer that employee to another position at the same rate of pay pending the outcome of the confirmatory test and, if requested, the confirmatory retest, provided the school district believes that it is reasonably necessary to protect the health or safety of the employee, co-employees or the public. An employee who has been suspended without pay must be reinstated with back pay if the outcome of the confirmatory test or requested confirmatory retest is negative.
5. The school district may not discharge, discipline, discriminate against, request, or require rehabilitation of an employee on the basis of medical history information or the employee's status as a patient enrolled in the medical cannabis registry program revealed to the school district, unless the employee was under an affirmative duty to provide the information before, upon, or after hire, or failing to do so would violate federal law or regulations or cause the school district to lose money or licensing-related benefit under federal law or regulations.
  6. The school district may not discriminate against any employee in termination, discharge, or any term of condition of employment or otherwise penalize an employee based upon an employee registered patient's positive drug test for cannabis components or metabolites, unless the employee used, possessed, or was impaired by medical cannabis on school district property during the hours of employment.
7. An employee must be given access to information in the individual's personnel file relating to positive test result reports and other information acquired in the drug and alcohol testing process and conclusions drawn from and actions taken based on the reports or other acquired information.

G. Withdrawal of Job Offer for an Applicant for a Position That Does Not Require a Commercial Driver's License

If a job applicant has received a job offer made contingent on the applicant's passing drug and alcohol testing, the school district may not withdraw the offer based on a positive test result from an initial screening test that has not been verified by a confirmatory test. In the case of a positive test result on a confirmatory test, the school district may withdraw the job offer.

H. Chain-of-Custody Procedures

The school district has established its own reliable chain-of-custody procedures to ensure proper record keeping, handling, labeling, and identification of the samples to be tested. The procedures require the following:

1. Possession of a sample must be traceable to the employee from whom the sample is collected, from the time the sample is collected through the time the sample is delivered to the laboratory;
2. The sample must always be in the possession of, must always be in view of, or must be placed in a secure area by a person authorized to handle the sample;
3. A sample must be accompanied by a written chain-of-custody record; and
4. Individuals relinquishing or accepting possession of the sample must record the time the possession of the sample was transferred and must sign and date the

chain-of-custody record at the time of transfer.

I. Privacy, Confidentiality and Privilege Safeguards

1. Privacy Limitations

A laboratory may only disclose to the school district test result data regarding the presence or absence of drugs, alcohol or their metabolites in a sample tested.

2. Confidentiality Limitations

With respect to employees and job applicants, test result reports and other information acquired in the drug or alcohol testing process are private data on individuals as that phrase is defined in Minnesota Statutes Chapter 13, and may not be disclosed by the school district or laboratory to another employer or to a third-party individual, governmental agency, or private organization without the written consent of the employee or job applicant tested.

3. Exceptions to Privacy and Confidentiality Disclosure Limitations

Notwithstanding Paragraphs 1. and 2., evidence of a positive test result on a confirmatory test may be: (1) used in an arbitration proceeding pursuant to a collective bargaining agreement, an administrative hearing under Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 43A or other applicable state or local law, or a judicial proceeding, provided that information is relevant to the hearing or proceeding; (2) disclosed to any federal agency or other unit of the United States government as required under federal law, regulation or order, or in accordance with compliance requirements of a federal government contract; and (3) disclosed to a substance abuse treatment facility for the purpose of evaluation or treatment of the employee.

4. Privilege

Positive test results from the school district drug or alcohol testing program may not be used as evidence in a criminal action against the employee or job applicant tested.

J. Notice of Testing Policy to Affected Employees

The school district shall provide written notice of this drug and alcohol testing policy to all affected employees upon adoption of the policy, to a previously non-affected employee upon transfer to an affected position under the policy, and to a job applicant upon hire and before any testing of the applicant if the job offer is made contingent on the applicant's passing drug and alcohol testing. Affected employees and applicants will acknowledge receipt of this written notice in the form of Attachment G to this policy.

**V. POSTING**

The school district shall post notice in an appropriate and conspicuous location on its premises that it has adopted a drug and alcohol testing policy and that copies of the policy are available for inspection during regular business hours by its employees or job applicants in its personnel office or other suitable locations.

**Legal References:** Minn. Stat. Ch. 13 (Minnesota Government Data Practices Act)  
Minn. Stat. Ch. 43A (State Personnel Management)  
Minn. Stat. § 151.72 (Sale of Certain Cannabinoid Products)  
Minn. Stat. § 152.01 (Definitions)  
Minn. Stat. § 152.22 (Definitions; Medical Cannabis)

Minn. Stat. § 152.23 (Limitations; Medical Cannabis)  
Minn. Stat. § 152.32 (Protections for Registry Program Participation)  
Minn. Stat. § 176.011, subd. 16 (Definitions; Personal Injury)  
Minn. Stat. §§ 181.950-181.957 (Drug and Alcohol Testing in the Workplace)  
Minn. Stat. § 221.031 (Motor Carrier Rules)  
49 U.S.C. § 31306 (Omnibus Transportation Employee Testing Act of 1991)  
49 U.S.C. 31306a (National Clearinghouse for Controlled Substance and Alcohol  
Test Results of Commercial Motor Vehicle Operators)  
49 U.S.C. § 521(b) (Civil and Criminal Penalties for Violations)  
49 C.F.R. Parts 40 and 382 (Department of Transportation Rules Implementing  
Omnibus Transportation Employee Testing Act of 1991)

**Cross-References:** MSBA/MASA Model Policy 403 (Discipline, Suspension, and Dismissal of School  
District Employees)  
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 406 (Public and Private Personnel Data)  
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 417 (Chemical Use and Abuse)  
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 418 (Drug-Free Workplace/Drug-Free School)

## **506 STUDENT DISCIPLINE**

### **I. PURPOSE**

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that students are aware of and comply with the school district's expectations for student conduct. Such compliance will enhance the school district's ability to maintain discipline and ensure that there is no interference with the educational process. The school district will take appropriate disciplinary action when students fail to adhere to the Code of Student Conduct established by this policy.

### **II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY**

The school board recognizes that individual responsibility and mutual respect are essential components of the educational process. The school board further recognizes that nurturing the maturity of each student is of primary importance and is closely linked with the balance that must be maintained between authority and self-discipline as the individual progresses from a child's dependence on authority to the more mature behavior of self-control.

All students are entitled to learn and develop in a setting which promotes respect of self, others, and property. Proper positive discipline can only result from an environment which provides options and stresses student self-direction, decision-making, and responsibility. Schools can function effectively only with internal discipline based on mutual understanding of rights and responsibilities.

Students must conduct themselves in an appropriate manner that maintains a climate in which learning can take place. Overall decorum affects student attitudes and influences student behavior. Proper student conduct is necessary to facilitate the education process and to create an atmosphere conducive to high student achievement.

Although this policy emphasizes the development of self-discipline, it is recognized that there are instances when it will be necessary to administer disciplinary measures. The position of the school district is that a fair and equitable district-wide student discipline policy will contribute to the quality of the student's educational experience. This discipline policy is adopted in accordance with and subject to the Minnesota Pupil Fair Dismissal Act, **Minnesota Statutes sections** ~~Minn. Stat. §§~~ 121A.40-121A.56.

In view of the foregoing and in accordance with **Minnesota Statutes sections** ~~Minn. Stat. §~~ 121A.55, the school board, with the participation of school district administrators, teachers, employees, students, parents or guardians, community members, and such other individuals and organizations

as appropriate, has developed this policy which governs student conduct and applies to all students of the school district.

### III. AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY

- A. The School Board. The school board holds all school personnel responsible for the maintenance of order within the school district and supports all personnel acting within the framework of this discipline policy.
- B. Superintendent. The superintendent shall establish guidelines and directives to carry out this policy, hold all school personnel, students, and parents or guardians responsible for conforming to this policy, and support all school personnel performing their duties within the framework of this policy. The superintendent shall also establish guidelines and directives for using the services of appropriate agencies for assisting students and parents or guardians. Any guidelines or directives established to implement this policy shall be submitted to the school board for approval and shall be attached as an addendum to this policy.
- C. Administrator. The school administrator is given the responsibility and authority to formulate building rules and regulations necessary to enforce this policy, subject to final school board approval. The administrator shall give direction and support to all school personnel performing their duties within the framework of this policy. The administrator shall consult with parents or guardians of students conducting themselves in a manner contrary to the policy. The administrator shall also involve other professional employees in the disposition of behavior referrals and shall make use of those agencies appropriate for assisting students and parents or guardians. An administrator, in exercising his or her lawful authority, may use reasonable force when it is necessary under the circumstances to correct or restrain a student or prevent bodily harm or death to another.
- D. Teachers. All teachers shall be responsible for providing a well-planned teaching/learning environment and shall have primary responsibility for student conduct, with appropriate assistance from the administration. All teachers shall enforce the Code of Student Conduct. In exercising the teacher's lawful authority, a teacher may use reasonable force when it is necessary under the circumstances to correct or restrain a student or prevent bodily harm or death to another.
- E. Other School District Personnel. All school district personnel shall be responsible for contributing to the atmosphere of mutual respect within the school. Their responsibilities relating to student behavior shall be as authorized and directed by the superintendent. A school employee, school bus driver, or other agent of a school district, in exercising his or her lawful authority, may use reasonable force when it is necessary under the circumstances to restrain a student or prevent bodily harm or death to another.
- F. Parents or Legal Guardians. Parents or guardians shall be held responsible for the

behavior of their children as determined by law and community practice. They are expected to cooperate with school authorities and to participate regarding the behavior of their children.

- G. Students. All students shall be held individually responsible for their behavior and for knowing and obeying the Code of Student Conduct and this policy.
- H. Community Members. Members of the community are expected to contribute to the establishment of an atmosphere in which rights and duties are effectively acknowledged and fulfilled.

#### **IV. STUDENT RIGHTS**

All students have the right to an education and the right to learn.

#### **V. STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES**

All students have the responsibility:

- A. For their behavior and for knowing and obeying all school rules, regulations, policies, and procedures; except when a manifestation of disability has been determined;
- B. To attend school daily, except when excused, and to be on time to all classes and other school functions;
- C. To pursue and attempt to complete the courses of study prescribed by the state and local school authorities;
- D. To make necessary arrangements for making up work when absent from school;
- E. To assist the school staff in maintaining a safe school for all students;
- F. To be aware of all school rules, regulations, policies, and procedures, including those in this policy, and to conduct themselves in accord with them;
- G. To assume that until a rule or policy is waived, altered, or repealed, it is in full force and effect;
- H. To be aware of and comply with federal, state, and local laws;
- I. To volunteer information in disciplinary cases should they have any knowledge relating to such cases and to cooperate with school staff as appropriate;
- J. To respect and maintain the school's property and the property of others;

- K. To dress and groom in a manner which meets standards of safety and health and common standards of decency and which is consistent with applicable school district policy;
- L. To avoid inaccuracies in student newspapers or publications and refrain from indecent or obscene language;
- M. To conduct themselves in an appropriate physical or verbal manner; and
- N. To recognize and respect the rights of others.

## **VI. CODE OF STUDENT CONDUCT**

- A. The following are examples of potential unacceptable behavior subject to disciplinary action by the school district. These examples are not intended to be an exclusive list. Any student who engages in any of these activities shall be disciplined in accordance with this policy. This policy applies to all school buildings, school grounds, and school property or property immediately adjacent to school grounds; school-sponsored activities or trips; school bus stops; school buses, school vehicles, school contracted vehicles, or any other vehicles approved for school district purposes; the area of entrance or departure from school premises or events; and all school-related functions, school-sponsored activities, events, or trips. School district property also may mean a student's walking route to or from school for purposes of attending school or school-related functions, activities, or events. While prohibiting unacceptable behavior subject to disciplinary action at these locations and events, the school district does not represent that it will provide supervision or assume liability at these locations and events. This policy also applies to any student whose conduct at any time or in any place interferes with or obstructs the mission or operations of the school district or the safety or welfare of the student, other students, or employees.
  - 1. Violations against property including, but not limited to, damage to or destruction of school property or the property of others, failure to compensate for damage or destruction of such property, arson, breaking and entering, theft, robbery, possession of stolen property, extortion, trespassing, unauthorized usage, or vandalism;
  - 2. The use of profanity or obscene language, or the possession of obscene materials;
  - 3. Gambling, including, but not limited to, playing a game of chance for stakes;
  - 4. Violation of the school district's Hazing Prohibition Policy;
  - 5. Attendance problems including, but not limited to, truancy, absenteeism,

- tardiness, skipping classes, or leaving school grounds without permission;
6. Violation of the school district's Student Attendance Policy;
  7. Opposition to authority using physical force or violence;
  8. Using, possessing, or distributing tobacco, tobacco-related devices, electronic cigarettes, or tobacco paraphernalia in violation of the school district's Tobacco-Free Environment Policy;
  9. Using, possessing, distributing, intending to distribute, making a request to another person for (solicitation), or being under the influence of alcohol or other intoxicating substances or look-alike substances;
  10. Using, possessing, distributing, intending to distribute, making a request to another person for (solicitation), or being under the influence of narcotics, drugs, or other controlled substances (except as prescribed by a physician), or look-alike substances (these prohibitions include medical marijuana or medical cannabis, even when prescribed by a physician, and one student sharing prescription medication with another student);
  11. Using, possessing, or distributing items or articles that are illegal or harmful to persons or property including, but not limited to, drug paraphernalia;
  12. Using, possessing, or distributing weapons, or look-alike weapons or other dangerous objects;
  13. Violation of the school district's Weapons Policy;
  14. Violation of the school district's Violence Prevention Policy;
  15. Possession of ammunition including, but not limited to, bullets or other projectiles designed to be used in or as a weapon;
  16. Possession, use, or distribution of explosives or any compound or mixture, the primary or common purpose or intended use of which is to function as an explosive;
  17. Possession, use, or distribution of fireworks or any substance or combination of substances or article prepared for the purpose of producing a visible or an audible effect by combustion, explosion, deflagration or detonation;
  18. Using an ignition device, including a butane or disposable lighter or matches, inside an educational building and under circumstances where

there is a risk of fire, except where the device is used in a manner authorized by the school;

19. Violation of any local, state, or federal law as appropriate;
20. Acts disruptive of the educational process, including, but not limited to, disobedience, disruptive or disrespectful behavior, defiance of authority, cheating, insolence, insubordination, failure to identify oneself, improper activation of fire alarms, or bomb threats;
21. Violation of the school district's Internet Acceptable Use and Safety Policy;
22. Possession of nuisance devices or objects which cause distractions and may facilitate cheating including, but not limited to, radios, phones, including picture phones; wearable technology, or smart watches.
23. Violation of school bus or transportation rules or the school district's Student Transportation Safety Policy, and the Student Transportation Safety Policy of their home district;
24. Violation of parking or school traffic rules and regulations, including, but not limited to, driving on school property in such a manner as to endanger persons or property;
25. Violation of directives or guidelines relating to lockers or improperly gaining access to a school locker;
26. Violation of the school district's Search of Student Lockers, Desks, Personal Possessions, and Student's Person Policy;
27. Violation of the school district's Student Use and Parking of Motor Vehicles; Patrols, Inspections, and Searches Policy;
28. Possession or distribution of slanderous, libelous, or pornographic materials;
29. Violation of the school district' Bullying Prohibition Policy;
30. Student attire or personal grooming which creates a danger to health or safety or creates a disruption to the educational process, including clothing which bears a message which is lewd, vulgar, or obscene, apparel promoting products or activities that are illegal for use by minors, or clothing containing objectionable emblems, signs, words, objects, or pictures communicating a message that is racist, sexist, or otherwise derogatory to a protected minority group or which connotes gang

membership;

31. Criminal activity;
32. Falsification of any records, documents, notes, or signatures;
33. Tampering with, changing, or altering records or documents of the school district by any method including, but not limited to, computer access or other electronic means;
34. Scholastic dishonesty which includes, but is not limited to, cheating on a school assignment or test, plagiarism, or collusion, including the use of picture phones or other technology to accomplish this end;
35. Impertinent or disrespectful words, symbols, acronyms, or language, whether oral or written, related to teachers or other school district personnel;
36. Violation of the school district's Harassment and Violence Policy;
37. Sexual and/or racial abuse and/or harassment;
38. Actions, including fighting or any other assaultive behavior, which causes or could cause injury to the student or other persons or which otherwise endangers the health, safety, or welfare of teachers, students, other school district personnel, or other persons;
39. Committing an act which inflicts great bodily harm upon another person, even though accidental or a result of poor judgment;
40. Violations against persons, including, but not limited to, assault or threatened assault, fighting, harassment, interference or obstruction, attack with a weapon, or look-alike weapon, sexual assault, illegal or inappropriate sexual conduct, or indecent exposure;
41. Verbal assaults or verbally abusive behavior including, but not limited to, use of words, symbols, acronyms, or language, whether oral or written, that are discriminatory, abusive, obscene, threatening, intimidating, degrading to other people, or threatening to school property;
42. Physical or verbal threats including, but not limited to, the staging or reporting of dangerous or hazardous situations that do not exist;
43. Inappropriate, abusive, threatening, or demeaning actions based on race, color, creed, religion, sex, marital status, status with regard to public assistance, disability, national origin, or sexual orientation;

44. Violation of the school district's Distribution of Nonschool-Sponsored Materials on School Premises by Students and Employees Policy;
45. Violation of the school district's one-to-one device rules and regulations;
46. Violation of school rules, regulations, policies, or procedures, including, but not limited to, those policies specifically enumerated in this policy;
47. Other acts, as determined by the school district, which are disruptive of the educational process or dangerous or detrimental to the student or other students, school district personnel or surrounding persons, or which violate the rights of others or which damage or endanger the property of the school, or which otherwise interferes with or obstruct the mission or operations of the school district or the safety or welfare of students or employees.

## **VII. DISCIPLINARY ACTION OPTIONS**

The general policy of the school district is to utilize progressive discipline to the extent reasonable and appropriate based upon the specific facts and circumstances of student misconduct. The specific form of discipline chosen in a particular case is solely within the discretion of the school district. At a minimum, violation of school district rules, regulations, policies, or procedures will result in discussion of the violation and a verbal warning. The school district shall, however, impose more severe disciplinary sanctions for any violation, including exclusion or expulsion, if warranted by the student's misconduct, as determined by the school district. Disciplinary action may include, but is not limited to, one or more of the following:

- A. Student conference with teacher, administrator, counselor, or other school district personnel, and verbal warning;
- B. Confiscation by school district personnel and/or by law enforcement of any item, article, object, or thing, prohibited by, or used in the violation of, any school district policy, rule, regulation, procedure, or state or federal law. If confiscated by the school district, the confiscated item, article, object, or thing will be released only to the parent or guardian following the completion of any investigation or disciplinary action instituted or taken related to the violation.
- C. Parent or Guardian contact;
- D. Parent or Guardian conference;
- E. Removal from class;
- F. In-school suspension;

- G. Suspension from extracurricular activities;
- H. Detention or restriction of privileges;
- I. Loss of school privileges;
- J. In-school monitoring or revised class schedule;
- K. Referral to in-school support services;
- L. Referral to community resources or outside agency services;
- M. Financial restitution;
- N. Referral to police, other law enforcement agencies, or other appropriate authorities;
- O. A request for a petition to be filed in district court for juvenile delinquency adjudication;
- P. Out-of-school suspension under the Pupil Fair Dismissal Act;
- Q. Preparation of an admission or readmission plan;

~~R. Saturday school; This is in MSBA Policy in or out? See IX.C.7.b...it is also referenced here.~~

- R. Expulsion under the Pupil Fair Dismissal Act;
- S. Exclusion under the Pupil Fair Dismissal Act; and/or
- T. Other disciplinary action as deemed appropriate by the school district.

### **VIII. REMOVAL OF STUDENTS FROM CLASS**

- A. Teachers have the responsibility of attempting to modify disruptive student behavior by such means as conferring with the student, using positive reinforcement, assigning detention or other consequences, or contacting the student's parents or guardians. When such measures fail, or when the teacher determines it is otherwise appropriate based upon the student's conduct, the teacher shall have the authority to remove the student from class pursuant to the procedures established by this discipline policy. "Removal from class" and "removal" mean any actions taken by a teacher, administrator, or other school district employee to prohibit a student from attending a class or activity period for a period of time not to exceed five (5) days, pursuant to this discipline policy.

Grounds for removal from class shall include any of the following:

1. Willful conduct that significantly disrupts the rights of others to an education, including conduct that interferes with a teacher's ability to teach or communicate effectively with students in a class or with the ability of other students to learn;
2. Willful conduct that endangers surrounding persons, including school district employees, the student or other students, or the property of the school;
3. Willful violation of any school rules, regulations, policies or procedures, including the Code of Student Conduct in this policy; or
4. Other conduct, which in the discretion of the teacher or administration, requires removal of the student from class.

Such removal shall be for at least one (1) activity period or class period of instruction for a given course of study and shall not exceed five (5) such periods.

**B. Procedures for Removal of a Student from a Class**

Teachers have the responsibility to attempt to modify disruptive student behavior by such means as conferring with the student, using positive reinforcement or proactive strategies, offering options from the student's Positive Behavior Support Plan (PBSP), assigning consequences, or contacting the student's parents or guardian. The IEP and/or PBSP shall drive decisions regarding the removal of special education students from a class or activity. When such measures fail, or when the teacher determines it is otherwise appropriate based upon the student's conduct, the teacher shall have the authority to remove the student from class. "Removal from class" and "removal" mean any actions taken by a teacher, administrator, or other school district employee to prohibit a student from continuing to participate in a class or activity with the student's peers. Students who are asked to leave a class by a teacher shall be sent or escorted to the office or other designated area.

**C. Responsibility for and Custody of a Student Removed From Class**

A teacher removing a student receiving special education services from class is required to have the student escorted to the school office or other designated area by either the teacher, a paraprofessional, or other staff and verify his or her arrival as soon as practicable. For a student receiving special education services, the student's PBSP or agreed-upon conditional procedures plan will be followed and the case manager will be notified. General education students shall be sent to the office or other designated area. If a student who is removed from class fails to

report to the designated area, the teacher will report this to the building administrator.

D. Procedures for Return of a Student to a Class From Which the Student Was Removed

Students who are removed from class may return to class the same day, or the next school day, unless the administration (or in the case of student receiving special education services, the IEP team and the administrator) deems additional action or requirements for return are necessary. A general education student may return to class after a conference with the appropriate administrator or teacher, and/or the parent or guardian. At the time of this conference a definite plan of action shall be established, including a review of any existing special education services. A student may return to the class or the activity after becoming calm, demonstrating regulated behavior and meeting with staff as needed to reenter. At this time a plan of action appropriate to the incident and reentry to class shall be developed with the special education student. Staff and the case manager shall meet afterwards, if necessary, to review the student's PBSP.

E. Procedures for Notification

In typical circumstances, parents or guardians shall receive notification of the student's removal from class for students under 18 years of age, or for students receiving special education services 18 or older, or as provided in the IEP. At a minimum, a parent or guardian will be notified if a student is removed from class more than ten (10) times. Students and parents or guardian are informed by the program administrator or designee of the resulting disciplinary action and readmission plan, if any, consistent with state and federal law. Students and their parents or guardian shall be notified of the need to hold a meeting to modify the IEP or PBSP, as appropriate. Seclusionary time out notification shall be made as required by the IEP or PBSP. If emergency restrictive procedures have been implemented, the parent or guardian shall be notified by the student's teacher, a school social worker, school psychologist, behavior specialist, or program administrator according to the district's restrictive procedures plan.

F. Students With Disabilities; Special Provisions

If a student receiving special education services is removed from class, at the time of reentering the class or activity the student's case manager and other staff shall

determine whether there is a need for a team review of the adequacy of the student's IEP and PBSP, if any, and the need for any additional assessment. If the student does not have a PBSP a Functional Behavioral Assessment may be considered. When necessary a manifestation determination hearing shall be held to assess the impact, if any, of the student's disability upon the student's conduct.

G. Procedures for Detecting and Addressing Chemical Abuse Problems of Students While on School Premises

School Board Policy **417 Chemical Use and Abuse 6.12 (Students and Chemical Dependency)** addresses chemical abuse problems of students while on school premises. The school social worker is the program contact person who would refer the student or parent or guardian to assessment resources.

**IX. DISMISSAL**

- A. "Dismissal" means the denial of the current educational program to any student, including exclusion, expulsion and suspension. Dismissal does not include removal from class.

The school district shall not deny due process or equal protection of the law to any student involved in a dismissal proceeding which may result in suspension, exclusion or expulsion.

The school district shall not dismiss any student without attempting to provide alternative educational services before dismissal proceedings, except where it appears that the student will create an immediate and substantial danger to self or to surrounding persons or property.

- B. Violations leading to suspension, based upon severity, may also be grounds for actions leading to expulsion, and/or exclusion. A student may be dismissed on any of the following grounds:
1. Willful violation of any reasonable school board regulation, including those found in this policy;
  2. Willful conduct that significantly disrupts the rights of others to an education, or the ability of school personnel to perform their duties, or school sponsored extracurricular activities; or
  3. Willful conduct that endangers the student or other students, or surrounding persons, including school district employees, or property of the school.

C. Suspension Procedures

1. “Suspension” means an action by the school administration, under rules promulgated by the School Board, prohibiting a student from attending school for a period of no more than ten (10) school days; provided, however, if a suspension is longer than five (5) school days, the suspending administrator shall provide the superintendent with a reason for the longer term of suspension. This definition does not apply to dismissal for one (1) school day or less where a student with a disability does not receive general or special education instruction during that dismissal period.
2. If a student’s total days of removal from school exceed ten (10) cumulative days in a school year, the school district shall make reasonable attempts to convene a meeting with the student and the student’s parent or guardian before subsequently removing the student from school and, with the permission of the parent or guardian, arrange for a mental health screening for the student at the parent or guardian’s expense. The purpose of this meeting is to attempt to determine the student’s need for assessment or other services or whether the parent or guardian should have the student assessed or diagnosed to determine whether the student needs treatment for a mental health disorder.
3. Each suspension action may include a readmission plan. The plan shall include, where appropriate, a provision for implementing alternative educational services upon readmission which must not be used to extend the current suspension. A readmission plan must not obligate a parent or guardian to provide psychotropic drugs to their student as a condition of readmission. School administration must not use the refusal of a parent or guardian to consent to the administration of psychotropic drugs to their student or to consent to a psychiatric evaluation, screening, or examination of the student as a ground, by itself, to prohibit the student from attending class or participating in a school-related activity, or as a basis of a charge of child abuse, child neglect, or medical or educational neglect. The school administration may not impose consecutive suspensions against the same student for the same course of conduct, or incident of misconduct, except where the student will create an immediate and substantial danger to self or to surrounding persons or property or where the school district is in the process of initiating an expulsion, in which case the school administration may extend the suspension to a total of fifteen (15) days.
4. A child with a disability may be suspended. When a child with a disability has been suspended for more than five (5) consecutive days or ten (10) cumulative school days in the same year, and that suspension does not involve a recommendation for expulsion or exclusion or other change in placement under federal law, relevant members of the child’s IEP team, including at least one of the child’s teachers, shall meet and determine the

extent to which the child needs services in order to continue to participate in the general education curriculum, although in another setting, and to progress toward meeting the goals in the child's IEP. That meeting must occur as soon as possible, but no more than ten (10) days after the sixth (6<sup>th</sup>) consecutive day of suspension or the tenth (10<sup>th</sup>) cumulative day of suspension has elapsed.

5. The school administration shall implement alternative educational services when the suspension exceeds five (5) days. Alternative educational services may include, but are not limited to, special tutoring, modified curriculum, modified instruction, other modifications or adaptations, instruction through electronic media, special education services as indicated by appropriate assessments, homebound instruction, supervised homework, or enrollment in another district or in an alternative learning center under Minn. Stat. § 123A.05 selected to allow the student to progress toward meeting graduation standards under Minn. Stat. § 120B.02, although in a different setting.
6. The program administration shall not suspend a student from school without an informal administrative conference with the student. The informal administrative conference shall take place before the suspension, except where it appears that the student will create an immediate and substantial danger to self or to surrounding persons or property, in which case the conference shall take place as soon as practicable following the suspension. At the informal administrative conference, a school administrator shall notify the student of the grounds for the suspension, provide an explanation of the evidence the authorities have, and the student may present the student's version of the facts. A separate administrative conference is required for each period of suspension.
7. After program administration notifies a student of the grounds for suspension, school administration may, instead of imposing the suspension, do one or more of the following:
  - a. strongly encourage a parent or guardian of the student to attend school with the student for one day;
  - b. assign the student to attend school on Saturday as supervised by the administrator or the administrator's designee; and
  - c. petition the juvenile court that the student is in need of services under Minn. Stat. Ch. 260C.
8. A written notice containing the grounds for suspension, a brief statement of the facts, a description of the testimony, a readmission plan, and a copy of the Minnesota Pupil Fair Dismissal Act, [Minnesota Statutes sections Minn. Stat. §§ 121A.40-121A.56](#), shall be personally served upon the student at or before the time the suspension is to take effect, and

upon the student's parent or guardian by mail within forty-eight (48) hours of the conference. (See attached sample Notice of Suspension.)

9. The program administration shall make reasonable efforts to notify the student's parent or guardian of the suspension by telephone as soon as possible following suspension.
10. In the event a student is suspended without an informal administrative conference on the grounds that the student will create an immediate and substantial danger to surrounding persons or property, the written notice shall be served upon the student and the student's parent or guardian within forty-eight (48) hours of the suspension. Service by mail shall be complete upon mailing.
11. Notwithstanding the foregoing provisions, the student may be suspended pending the school board's decision in an expulsion or exclusion proceeding, provided that alternative educational services are implemented to the extent that suspension exceeds five (5) days.

D. Expulsion and Exclusion Procedures

1. "Expulsion" means a school board action to prohibit an enrolled student from further attendance for up to twelve (12) months from the date the student is expelled. The authority to expel rests with the school board.
2. "Exclusion" means an action taken by the school board to prevent enrollment or re-enrollment of a student for a period that shall not extend beyond the school year. The authority to exclude rests with the school board.
3. All expulsion and exclusion proceedings will be held pursuant to and in accordance with the provisions of the Minnesota Pupil Fair Dismissal Act, **Minnesota Statutes sections** ~~Minn. Stat. §§121A.40-121A.56~~.
4. No expulsion or exclusion shall be imposed without a hearing, unless the right to a hearing is waived in writing by the student and parent or guardian.
5. The student and parent or guardian shall be provided written notice of the school district's intent to initiate expulsion or exclusion proceedings. This notice shall be served upon the student and his or her parent or guardian personally or by mail, and shall contain a complete statement of the facts; a list of the witnesses and a description of their testimony; state the date, time and place of hearing; be accompanied by a copy of the Pupil Fair Dismissal Act, **Minnesota Statutes sections** ~~Minn. Stat. §§ 121A.40-121A.56~~; describe alternative educational services accorded the student in an attempt to avoid the expulsion proceedings; and inform the student and

parent or guardian of their right to: (1) have a representative of the student's own choosing, including legal counsel at the hearing; (2) examine the student's records before the hearing; (3) present evidence; and (4) confront and cross-examine witnesses. The school district shall advise the student's parent or guardian that free or low-cost legal assistance may be available and that a legal assistance resource list is available from the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE).

6. The hearing shall be scheduled within ten (10) days of the service of the written notice unless an extension, not to exceed five (5) days, is requested for good cause by the school district, student, parent, or guardian.
7. All hearings shall be held at a time and place reasonably convenient to the student, parent, or guardian and shall be closed, unless the student, parent, or guardian requests an open hearing.
8. The school district shall record the hearing proceedings at district expense, and a party may obtain a transcript at its own expense.
9. The student shall have a right to a representative of the student's own choosing, including legal counsel, at the student's sole expense. The school district shall advise the student's parent or guardian that free or low-cost legal assistance may be available and that a legal assistance resource list is available from MDE. The school board may appoint an attorney to represent the school district in any proceeding.
10. If the student designates a representative other than the parent or guardian, the representative must have a written authorization from the student and the parent or guardian providing them with access to and/or copies of the student's records.
11. All expulsion or exclusion hearings shall take place before and be conducted by an independent hearing officer designated by the school district. The hearing shall be conducted in a fair and impartial manner. Testimony shall be given under oath and the hearing officer shall have the power to issue subpoenas and administer oaths.
12. At a reasonable time prior to the hearing, the student, parent or guardian, or authorized representative shall be given access to all school district records pertaining to the student, including any tests or reports upon which the proposed dismissal action may be based.
13. The student, parent or guardian, or authorized representative, shall have the right to compel the presence of any school district employee or agent or any other person who may have evidence upon which the proposed dismissal action may be based, and to confront and cross-examine any witnesses testifying for the school district.

14. The student, parent or guardian, or authorized representative, shall have the right to present evidence and testimony, including expert psychological or educational testimony.
15. The student cannot be compelled to testify in the dismissal proceedings.
16. The hearing officer shall prepare findings and a recommendation based solely upon substantial evidence presented at the hearing, which must be made to the school board and served upon the parties within two (2) days after the close of the hearing.
17. The school board shall base its decision upon the findings and recommendation of the hearing officer and shall render its decision at a meeting held within five (5) days after receiving the findings and recommendation. The school board may provide the parties with the opportunity to present exceptions and comments to the hearing officer's findings and recommendation provided that neither party presents any evidence not admitted at the hearing. The decision by the school board must be based on the record, must be in writing, and must state the controlling facts on which the decision is made in sufficient detail to apprise the parties and the Commissioner of Education (Commissioner) of the basis and reason for the decision.
18. A party to an expulsion or exclusion decision made by the school board may appeal the decision to the Commissioner within twenty-one (21) calendar days of school board action pursuant to [Minnesota Statutes sections Minn. Stat. § 121A.49](#). The decision of the school board shall be implemented during the appeal to the Commissioner.
19. The school district shall report any suspension, expulsion or exclusion action taken to the appropriate public service agency, when the student is under the supervision of such agency.
20. The school district must report, through the MDE electronic reporting system, each expulsion or exclusion within thirty (30) days of the effective date of the action to the Commissioner. This report must include a statement of alternative educational services given the student and the reason for, the effective date, and the duration of the exclusion or expulsion. The report must also include the student's age, grade, gender, race, and special education status. The dismissal report must include state student identification numbers of affected students.
21. Whenever a student fails to return to school within ten (10) school days of the termination of dismissal, a school administrator shall inform the student and his/her parent or guardian by mail of the student's right to attend and to be reinstated in the school district.

## **X. ADMISSION OR READMISSION PLAN**

A school administrator shall prepare and enforce an admission or readmission plan for any student who is excluded or expelled from school. The plan may include measures to improve the student's behavior, including completing a character education program consistent with **Minnesota Statutes section** ~~Minn. Stat. §~~ 120B.232, Subd. 1, and require parental/**guardian** involvement in the admission or readmission process, and may indicate the consequences to the student of not improving the student's behavior. The readmission plan must not obligate parents or guardians to provide a sympathomimetic medication for their child as a condition of readmission.

## **XI. NOTIFICATION OF POLICY VIOLATIONS**

Notification of any violation of this policy and resulting disciplinary action shall be as provided herein, or as otherwise provided by the Pupil Fair Dismissal Act or other applicable law. The teacher, administrator or other school district official may provide additional notification as deemed appropriate.

## **XII. STUDENT DISCIPLINE RECORDS**

The policy of the school district is that complete and accurate student discipline records be maintained. The collection, dissemination, and maintenance of student discipline records shall be consistent with applicable school district policies and federal and state law, including the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act, **Minnesota Statutes chapter** ~~Minn. Stat. Ch.~~ 13.

## **XIII. STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES**

Students who are currently identified as eligible under the IDEA or Section 504 will be subject to the provisions of this policy, unless the student's IEP or 504 plan specifies a necessary modification.

Before initiating an expulsion or exclusion of a student with a disability, relevant members of the child's IEP team and the child's parent or guardian shall, consistent with federal law, conduct a manifestation determination and determine whether the child's behavior was (i) caused by or had a direct and substantial relationship to the child's disability and (ii) whether the child's conduct was a direct result of a failure to implement the child's IEP. If the student's educational program is appropriate and the behavior is not a manifestation of the student's disability, the school district will proceed with discipline – up to and including expulsion – as if the student did not have a disability, unless the student's educational program provides otherwise. If the team determines that the behavior subject to discipline is a manifestation of the student's disability, the team shall conduct a functional behavioral assessment and implement a behavioral intervention plan for such student provided that the school district had not conducted such assessment prior to the manifestation determination before the behavior that resulted in a change of placement. Where a behavioral intervention plan previously has been developed, the

team will review the behavioral intervention plan and modify it as necessary to address the behavior.

When a student who has an IEP is excluded or expelled for misbehavior that is not a manifestation of the student's disability, the school district shall continue to provide special education and related services during the period of expulsion or exclusion.

#### **XIV. DISTRIBUTION OF POLICY**

The school district will notify students and parents or guardians of the existence and contents of this policy in such manner as it deems appropriate. Copies of this discipline policy shall be made available to all students and parents or guardians at the commencement of each school year and to all new students and parents or guardians upon enrollment by publication in the parent/student handbook. This policy shall also be available upon request in each administrator's office.

#### **XV. REVIEW OF POLICY**

The administrator and representatives of parents or guardians, students and staff in each school building shall confer at least **annually** to review this discipline policy, determine if the policy is working as intended, and to assess whether the discipline policy has been enforced. Any recommended changes shall be submitted to the superintendent for consideration by the school board, which shall conduct an annual review of this policy.

**Legal References:** Minn. Stat. Ch. 13 (Minnesota Government Data Practices Act)  
Minn. Stat. § 120B.02 (Educational Expectations and Graduation Requirements for Minnesota Students)  
Minn. Stat. § 120B.232 (Character Development Education)  
Minn. Stat. § 121A.26 (School Preassessment Teams)  
Minn. Stat. § 121A.29 (Reporting; Chemical Abuse)  
Minn. Stat. §§ 121A.40-121A.56 (Pupil Fair Dismissal Act)  
Minn. Stat. § 121A.575 (Alternatives to Pupil Suspension)  
Minn. Stat. § 121A.582 (Student Discipline; Reasonable Force)  
Minn. Stat. § 121A.60(Definitions)  
Minn. Stat. § 121A.61 (Discipline and Removal of Students from Class)  
Minn. Stat. § 122A.42 (General Control of Schools)  
Minn. Stat. § 123A.05 (State-Approved Alternative Program Organization)  
Minn. Stat. § 124D.03 (Enrollment Options Program)  
Minn. Stat. § 124D.08 (School Boards' Approval to Enroll in Nonresident District; Exceptions)  
Minn. Stat. Ch. 125A (Special Education and Special Programs)  
Minn. Stat. § 152.22, Subd. 6 (Definitions)  
Minn. Stat. § 152.23 (Limitations)  
Minn. Stat. Ch. 260A (Truancy)  
Minn. Stat. Ch. 260C (Juvenile Safety and Placement)  
20 U.S.C. §§ 1400-1487 (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act)  
29 U.S.C. § 794 *et seq.* (Rehabilitation Act of 1973, section 504)  
34 C.F.R. § 300.530(e)(1) (Manifestation Determination)

***Cross References:*** MSBA/MASA Model Policy 413 (Harassment and Violence)  
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 419 (Tobacco-Free Environment; Possession and Use of Tobacco, Tobacco-Related Devices, and Electronic Delivery Devices)  
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 501 (School Weapons)  
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 502 (Search of Student Lockers, Desks, Personal Possessions, and Student's Person)  
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 503 (Student Attendance)  
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 505 (Distribution of Nonschool-Sponsored Materials on School Premises by Students and Employees)  
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 514 (Bullying Prohibition Policy)  
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 524 (Internet Acceptable Use and Safety Policy)  
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 525 (Violence Prevention)  
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 526 (Hazing Prohibition)  
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 527 (Student Use and Parking of Motor Vehicles; Patrols, Inspections, and Searches)  
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 610 (Field Trips)  
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 709 (Student Transportation Safety Policy)  
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 711 (Video Recording on School Buses)  
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 712 (Video Surveillance Other Than on Buses)

**514 BULLYING PROHIBITION POLICY**

**I. PURPOSE**

A safe and civil environment is needed for students to learn and attain high academic standards and to promote healthy human relationships. Bullying, like other violent or disruptive behavior, is conduct that interferes with a student’s ability to learn and/or a teacher’s ability to educate students in a safe environment. The school district cannot monitor the activities of students at all times and eliminate all incidents of bullying between students, particularly when students are not under the direct supervision of school personnel. However, to the extent such conduct affects the educational environment of the school district and the rights and welfare of its students and is within the control of the school district in its normal operations, the school district intends to prevent bullying and to take action to investigate, respond to, and to remediate and discipline for those acts of bullying which have not been successfully prevented. The purpose of this policy is to assist the school district in its goal of preventing and responding to acts of bullying, intimidation, violence, reprisal, retaliation, and other similar disruptive and detrimental behavior.

**II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY**

- A. An act of bullying, by either an individual student or a group of students, is expressly prohibited on school premises, on school district property, at school functions or activities, or on school transportation. This policy applies not only to students who directly engage in an act of bullying but also to students who, by their indirect behavior, condone or support another student’s act of bullying. This policy also applies to any student whose conduct at any time or in any place constitutes bullying or other prohibited conduct that interferes with or obstructs the mission or operations of the school district or the safety or welfare of the student or other students, or materially and substantially interferes with a student’s educational opportunities or performance or ability to participate in school functions or activities or receive school benefits, services, or privileges. This policy also applies to an act of cyberbullying regardless of whether such act is committed on or off school district property and/or with or without the use of school district resources.
- B. No teacher, administrator, volunteer, contractor, or other employee of the school district shall permit, condone, or tolerate bullying.
- C. Apparent permission or consent by a student being bullied does not lessen or

negate the prohibitions contained in this policy.

- D. Retaliation against a victim, good faith reporter, or a witness of bullying is prohibited.
- E. False accusations or reports of bullying against another student are prohibited.
- F. A person who engages in an act of bullying, reprisal, retaliation, or false reporting of bullying or permits, condones, or tolerates bullying shall be subject to discipline or other remedial responses for that act in accordance with the school district's policies and procedures, including the school district's discipline policy Policy 506. The school district may take into account the following factors:
  - 1. The developmental ages and maturity levels of the parties involved;
  - 2. The levels of harm, surrounding circumstances, and nature of the behavior;
  - 3. Past incidences or past or continuing patterns of behavior;
  - 4. The relationship between the parties involved; and
  - 5. The context in which the alleged incidents occurred.

Consequences for students who commit prohibited acts of bullying may range from remedial responses or positive behavioral interventions up to and including suspension and/or expulsion. The school district shall employ research-based developmentally appropriate best practices that include preventative and remedial measures and effective discipline for deterring violations of this policy, apply throughout the school district, and foster student, parent, and community participation.

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

Consequences for other individuals engaging in prohibited acts of bullying may include, but not be limited to, exclusion from school district property and events.

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

### **III. DEFINITIONS**

For purposes of this policy, the definitions included in this section apply.

- A. “Bullying” means intimidating, threatening, abusive, or harming conduct that is objectively offensive and:
1. an actual or perceived imbalance of power exists between the student engaging in the prohibited conduct and the target of the prohibited conduct, and the conduct is repeated or forms a pattern; or
  2. materially and substantially interferes with a student’s educational opportunities or performance or ability to participate in school functions or activities or receive school benefits, services, or privileges.

The term, “bullying,” specifically includes cyberbullying as defined in this policy.

- B. “Cyberbullying” means bullying using technology or other electronic communication, including, but not limited to, a transfer of a sign, signal, writing, image, sound, or data, including a post on a social network Internet website or forum, transmitted through a computer, cell phone, or other electronic device. The term applies to prohibited conduct which occurs on school premises, on school district property, at school functions or activities, on school transportation, or on school computers, networks, forums, and mailing lists, or off school premises to the extent that it substantially and materially disrupts student learning or the school environment.

- C. “Immediately” means as soon as possible but in no event longer than 24 hours.

- D. “Intimidating, threatening, abusive, or harming conduct” means, but is not limited to, conduct that does the following:

1. Causes physical harm to a student or a student’s property or causes a student to be in reasonable fear of harm to person or property;
2. Under Minnesota common law, violates a student’s reasonable expectation of privacy, defames a student, or constitutes intentional infliction of emotional distress against a student; or
3. Is directed at any student or students, including those based on a person’s actual or perceived race, ethnicity, color, creed, religion, national origin, immigration status, sex, marital status, familial status, socioeconomic status, physical appearance, sexual orientation including gender identity and expression, academic status related to student performance, disability, or status with regard to public assistance, age, or any additional characteristic defined in the Minnesota Human Rights Act (MHRA). However, prohibited conduct need not be based on any particular characteristic defined in this paragraph or the MHRA.

- E. “On school premises, on school district property, at school functions or activities,

or on school transportation” means all school district buildings, school grounds, and school property or property immediately adjacent to school grounds, school bus stops, school buses, school vehicles, school contracted vehicles, or any other vehicles approved for school district purposes, the area of entrance or departure from school grounds, premises, or events, and all school-related functions, school-sponsored activities, events, or trips. School district property also may mean a student’s walking route to or from school for purposes of attending school or school-related functions, activities, or events. While prohibiting bullying at these locations and events, the school district does not represent that it will provide supervision or assume liability at these locations and events.

- F. “Prohibited conduct” means bullying or cyberbullying as defined in this policy or retaliation or reprisal for asserting, alleging, reporting, or providing information about such conduct or knowingly making a false report about bullying.
- G. “Remedial response” means a measure to stop and correct prohibited conduct, prevent prohibited conduct from recurring, and protect, support, and intervene on behalf of a student who is the target or victim of prohibited conduct.
- H. “Student” means a student enrolled in a public school or a charter school.

#### IV. REPORTING PROCEDURE

- A. Any person who believes ~~he or she has~~ **they have** been the target or victim of bullying or any person with knowledge or belief of conduct that may constitute bullying or prohibited conduct under this policy shall report the alleged acts immediately to an appropriate school district official designated by this policy. A person may report bullying anonymously. However, the school district may not rely solely on an anonymous report to determine discipline or other remedial responses.
- B. The school district encourages the reporting party or complainant to use the report form available from the principal or building supervisor of each building or available in the school district office, but oral reports shall be considered complaints as well.
- C. The building principal, the principal’s designee, or the building supervisor (hereinafter the “building report taker”) is the person responsible for receiving reports of bullying or other prohibited conduct at the building level. Any person may report bullying or other prohibited conduct directly to a school district human rights officer or the superintendent. If the complaint involves the building report taker, the complaint shall be made or filed directly with the superintendent or the school district human rights officer by the reporting party or complainant.

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

report taker or a third party designated by the school district shall be responsible for the investigation. The building report taker shall provide information about available community resources to the target or victim of the bullying or other prohibited conduct, the perpetrator, and other affected individuals as appropriate.

- D. A teacher, school administrator, volunteer, contractor, or other school employee shall be particularly alert to possible situations, circumstances, or events that might include bullying. Any such person who witnesses, observes, receives a report of, or has other knowledge or belief of conduct that may constitute bullying or other prohibited conduct shall make reasonable efforts to address and resolve the bullying or prohibited conduct and shall inform the building report taker immediately. School district personnel who fail to inform the building report taker of conduct that may constitute bullying or other prohibited conduct or who fail to make reasonable efforts to address and resolve the bullying or prohibited conduct in a timely manner may be subject to disciplinary action.
- E. Reports of bullying or other prohibited conduct are classified as private educational and/or personnel data and/or confidential investigative data and will not be disclosed except as permitted by law. The building report taker, in conjunction with the responsible authority, shall be responsible for keeping and regulating access to any report of bullying and the record of any resulting investigation.
- F. Submission of a good faith complaint or report of bullying or other prohibited conduct will not affect the complainant's or reporter's future employment, grades, work assignments, or educational or work environment.
- G. The school district will respect the privacy of the complainant(s), the individual(s) against whom the complaint is filed, and the witnesses as much as possible, consistent with the school district's obligation to investigate, take appropriate action, and comply with any legal disclosure obligations.

## **V. SCHOOL DISTRICT ACTION**

- A. Within three days of the receipt of a complaint or report of bullying or other prohibited conduct, the school district shall undertake or authorize an investigation by the building report taker or a third party designated by the school district.
- B. The building report taker or other appropriate school district officials may take immediate steps, at their discretion, to protect the target or victim of the bullying or other prohibited conduct, the complainant, the reporter, and students or others, pending completion of an investigation of the bullying or other prohibited conduct, consistent with applicable law.
- C. The alleged perpetrator of the bullying or other prohibited conduct shall be allowed the opportunity to present a defense during the investigation or prior to

the imposition of discipline or other remedial responses.

- D. Upon completion of an investigation that determines that bullying or other prohibited conduct has occurred, the school district will take appropriate action. Such action may include, but is not limited to, warning, suspension, exclusion, expulsion, transfer, remediation, termination, or discharge. Disciplinary consequences will be sufficiently severe to try to deter violations and to appropriately discipline prohibited conduct. Remedial responses to the bullying or other prohibited conduct shall be tailored to the particular incident and nature of the conduct and shall take into account the factors specified in Section II.F. of this policy. School district action taken for violation of this policy will be consistent with the requirements of applicable collective bargaining agreements; applicable statutory authority, including the Minnesota Pupil Fair Dismissal Act; the student discipline policy (See MSBA/MASA Model Policy 506) and other applicable school district policies; and applicable regulations.
- E. The school district is not authorized to disclose to a victim private educational or personnel data regarding an alleged perpetrator who is a student or employee of the school district. School officials will notify the parent(s) or guardian(s) of students who are targets of bullying or other prohibited conduct and the parent(s) or guardian(s) of alleged perpetrators of bullying or other prohibited conduct who have been involved in a reported and confirmed bullying incident of the remedial or disciplinary action taken, to the extent permitted by law.
- F. In order to prevent or respond to bullying or other prohibited conduct committed by or directed against a child with a disability, the school district shall, when determined appropriate by the child's individualized education program (IEP) team or Section 504 team, allow the child's IEP or Section 504 plan to be drafted to address the skills and proficiencies the child needs as a result of the child's disability to allow the child to respond to or not to engage in bullying or other prohibited conduct.

## **VI. RETALIATION OR REPRISAL**

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

## VII. TRAINING AND EDUCATION

- A. The school district shall discuss this policy with school personnel and volunteers and provide appropriate training to school district personnel regarding this policy. The school district shall establish a training cycle for school personnel to occur during a period not to exceed every three school years. Newly employed school personnel must receive the training within the first year of their employment with the school district. The school district or a school administrator may accelerate the training cycle or provide additional training based on a particular need or circumstance. This policy shall be included in employee handbooks, training materials, and publications on school rules, procedures, and standards of conduct, which materials shall also be used to publicize this policy.
- B. The school district shall require ongoing professional development, consistent with **Minnesota Statutes section Minn. Stat. § 122A.60**, to build the skills of all school personnel who regularly interact with students to identify, prevent, and appropriately address bullying and other prohibited conduct. Such professional development includes, but is not limited to, the following:
1. Developmentally appropriate strategies both to prevent and to immediately and effectively intervene to stop prohibited conduct;
  2. The complex dynamics affecting a perpetrator, target, and witnesses to prohibited conduct;
  3. Research on prohibited conduct, including specific categories of students at risk for perpetrating or being the target or victim of bullying or other prohibited conduct in school;
  4. The incidence and nature of cyberbullying; and
  5. Internet safety and cyberbullying.
- C. The school district annually will provide education and information to students regarding bullying, including information regarding this school district policy prohibiting bullying, the harmful effects of bullying, and other applicable initiatives to prevent bullying and other prohibited conduct.
- D. The administration of the school district is directed to implement programs and other initiatives to prevent bullying, to respond to bullying in a manner that does not stigmatize the target or victim, and to make resources or referrals to resources available to targets or victims of bullying.
- E. The administration is encouraged to provide developmentally appropriate instruction and is directed to review programmatic instruction to determine if adjustments are necessary to help students identify and prevent or reduce bullying and other prohibited conduct, to value diversity in school and society, to develop

and improve students' knowledge and skills for solving problems, managing conflict, engaging in civil discourse, and recognizing, responding to, and reporting bullying or other prohibited conduct, and to make effective prevention and intervention programs available to students.

The administration must establish strategies for creating a positive school climate and use evidence-based social-emotional learning to prevent and reduce discrimination and other improper conduct.

The administration is encouraged, to the extent practicable, to take such actions as it may deem appropriate to accomplish the following:

1. Engage all students in creating a safe and supportive school environment;
  2. Partner with parents **or guardians** and other community members to develop and implement prevention and intervention programs;
  3. Engage all students and adults in integrating education, intervention, and other remedial responses into the school environment;
  4. Train student bystanders to intervene in and report incidents of bullying and other prohibited conduct to the schools' primary contact person;
  5. Teach students to advocate for themselves and others;
  6. Prevent inappropriate referrals to special education of students who may engage in bullying or other prohibited conduct; and
  7. Foster student collaborations that, in turn, foster a safe and supportive school climate.
- F. The school district may implement violence prevention and character development education programs to prevent or reduce policy violations. Such programs may offer instruction on character education including, but not limited to, character qualities such as attentiveness, truthfulness, respect for authority, diligence, gratefulness, self-discipline, patience, forgiveness, respect for others, peacemaking, and resourcefulness.
- G. The school district shall inform affected students and their parents **or guardians** of rights they may have under state and federal data practices laws to obtain access to data related to an incident and their right to contest the accuracy or completeness of the data. The school district may accomplish this requirement by inclusion of all or applicable parts of its protection and privacy of pupil records Policy 515 in the student handbook.

## VIII. NOTICE

- A. The school district will give annual notice of this policy to students, parents **or guardians** or guardians, and staff, and this policy shall appear in the student handbook.
- B. This policy or a summary thereof must be conspicuously posted in the administrative offices of the school district and the office of each school.
- C. This policy must be given to each school employee and independent contractor who regularly interacts with students at the time of initial employment with the school district.
- D. Notice of the rights and responsibilities of students and their parents **or guardians** under this policy must be included in the student discipline policy 506 distributed to parents **or guardians** at the beginning of each school year.
- E. This policy shall be available to all parents **or guardians** and other school community members in an electronic format in the language appearing on the school district's or a school's website.
- F. The school district shall provide an electronic copy of its most recently amended policy to the Commissioner of Education.

## IX. POLICY REVIEW

To the extent practicable, the school board shall, on a cycle consistent with other school district policies, review and revise this policy. The policy shall be made consistent with **Minnesota Statutes section** ~~Minn. Stat. §~~ 121A.031 and other applicable law. Revisions shall be made in consultation with students, parents **or guardians**, and community organizations.

**Legal References:** Minn. Stat. Ch. 13 (Minnesota Government Data Practices Act)  
Minn. Stat. § 120A.05, Subds. 9, 11, 13, and 17 (Definition of Public School)  
Minn. Stat. § 120B.232 (Character Development Education)  
Minn. Stat. § 121A.03 (Sexual, Religious and Racial Harassment and Violence)  
Minn. Stat. § 121A.031 (School Student Bullying Policy)  
Minn. Stat. § 121A.0311 (Notice of Rights and Responsibilities of Students and Parents under the Safe and Supportive Minnesota Schools Act)  
Minn. Stat. §§ 121A.40-121A.56 (Pupil Fair Dismissal Act)  
Minn. Stat. § 121A.69 (Hazing Policy)  
Minn. Stat. Ch. 124E (Charter School)  
Minn. Stat. Ch. 363A (Minnesota Human Rights Act)  
20 U.S.C. § 1232g *et seq.* (Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act)

34 C.F.R. §§ 99.1 - 99.67 (Family Educational Rights and Privacy)

***Cross References:*** MSBA/MASA Model Policy 403 (Discipline, Suspension, and Dismissal of School District Employees)  
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 413 (Harassment and Violence)  
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 414 (Mandated Reporting of Child Neglect or Physical or Sexual Abuse)  
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 415 (Mandated Reporting of Maltreatment of Vulnerable Adults)  
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 423 (Employee-Student Relationships)  
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 501 (School Weapons Policy)  
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 506 (Student Discipline)  
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 507 (Corporal Punishment)  
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 515 (Protection and Privacy of Pupil Records)  
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 521 (Student Disability Nondiscrimination)  
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 522 (**Title IX Sex Nondiscrimination Policy**)  
~~Student Sex Nondiscrimination~~ MSBA/MASA Model Policy 524 (Internet Acceptable Use and Safety Policy)  
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 525 (Violence Prevention)  
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 526 (Hazing Prohibition)  
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 529 (Staff Notification of Violent Behavior by Students)  
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 709 (Student Transportation Safety Policy)  
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 711 (Video Recording on School Buses)  
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 712 (Video Surveillance Other Than on Buses)

Adopted: \_\_\_\_\_

MSBA/MASA Model Policy 522

Orig. 1995

Revised: \_\_\_\_\_

Rev. 2022

***Student Sex Nondiscrimination Policy 522***

***Orig. 10/5/2005***

***Board Approved 10/2/18***

***Board Reviewed 7/9/19***

***Annual Board Review September 6, 2022, final reading***

**522 TITLE IX SEX NONDISCRIMINATION POLICY, GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE AND PROCESS**

***[Note: On May 6, 2020, the U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights (OCR), released the long-awaited final rule amending Title IX regulations at 34 Code of Federal Regulations part 106. These regulations, which went into effect on August 14, 2020, are the first Title IX regulations applicable to sexual harassment and are applicable to complaints by both school district students and employees. The extensive regulations will require districts to revise their policies and procedures with respect to sexual harassment and ensure that administration and staff are trained on the new requirements.***

***The final rule requires school districts to provide notice of its nondiscrimination policy and grievance procedures, including how to file or report sexual harassment and how the school district will respond to the following groups: applicants for admission and employment; students; parents or legal guardians; and unions or professional organizations holding agreements with the school district. 34 Code of Federal Regulations section 106.8(b). The provisions of this policy generally conform to the requirements of the new regulations].***

**I. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY**

- A. The school district does not discriminate on the basis of sex in its education programs or activities, and it is required by Title IX of the Education Amendments Act of 1972, and its implementing regulations, not to discriminate in such a manner. The requirement not to discriminate in its education program or activity extends to admission and employment. The school district is committed to maintaining an education and work environment that is free from discrimination based on sex, including sexual harassment.
- B. The school district prohibits sexual harassment that occurs within its education programs and activities. When the school district has actual knowledge of sexual harassment in its education program or activity against a person in the United States, it shall promptly respond in a manner that is not deliberately indifferent.
- C. This policy applies to sexual harassment that occurs within the school district's education programs and activities and that is committed by a school district employee, student, or other members of the school community. This policy does not apply to sexual harassment that occurs off school grounds, in a private setting, and outside the scope of the school district's education programs and activities. This policy does not apply to sexual harassment that occurs outside the geographic boundaries of the United States, even if the sexual harassment occurs in the school district's education programs or activities.
- D. Any student, parent, or guardian having questions regarding the application of Title IX and its regulations and/or this policy and grievance process should discuss them with

the Title IX Coordinator. The school district's Title IX Coordinator(s) is/are:

The school board hereby designates Don Budach, 1300 145<sup>th</sup> Street East, Rosemount, MN 55068, 651-423-8426, [don.budach@isd917.org](mailto:don.budach@isd917.org) as its Title IX coordinator. This employee coordinates the school district's efforts to comply with and carry out its responsibilities under Title IX.

Questions relating solely to Title IX and its regulations may be referred to the Title IX Coordinator(s), the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights of the United States Department of Education, or both.

- E. The effective date of this policy is August 14, 2020, and applies to alleged violations of this policy occurring on or after August 14, 2020.

## **II. DEFINITIONS**

- A. "Actual knowledge" means notice of sexual harassment or allegations of sexual harassment to the school district's Title IX Coordinator or to any employee of the school district. Imputation of knowledge based solely on vicarious liability or constructive notice is insufficient to constitute actual knowledge. This standard is not met when the only official of the school district with actual knowledge is the respondent.
- B. "Complainant" means a person who is alleged to be the victim of conduct that could constitute sexual harassment under Title IX. A Title IX Coordinator who signs a formal complaint is not a complainant unless the Title IX Coordinator is alleged to be the victim of the conduct described in the formal complaint.
- C. "Day" or "days" means, unless expressly stated otherwise, business days (i.e. day(s) that the school district office is open for normal operating hours, Monday - Friday, excluding State-recognized holidays).
- D. "Deliberately indifferent" means clearly unreasonable in light of the known circumstances. The school district is deliberately indifferent only if its response to sexual harassment is clearly unreasonable in light of the known circumstances.
- E. "Education program or activity" means locations, events, or circumstances for which the school district exercises substantial control over both the respondent and the context in which the sexual harassment occurs and includes school district education programs or activities that occur on or off of school district property.
- F. "Formal complaint" means a document filed by a complainant or signed by the Title IX Coordinator alleging sexual harassment against a respondent and requesting that the school district investigate the allegation of sexual harassment.
  - 1. A formal complaint filed by a complainant must be a physical document or an electronic submission. The formal complaint must contain the complainant's physical or digital signature, or otherwise indicate that the complainant is the person filing the formal complaint, and must be submitted to the Title IX Coordinator in person, by mail, or by email.
  - 2. A formal complaint shall state that, at the time of filing the formal complaint, the complainant was participating in, or attempting to participate in, an

education program or activity of the school district with which the formal complaint is filed.

- G. "Informal resolution" means options for resolving a formal complaint that do not involve a full investigation and adjudication. Informal resolution may encompass a broad range of conflict resolution strategies, including mediation or restorative justice.
- H. "Relevant questions" and "relevant evidence" are questions, documents, statements, or information that are related to the allegations raised in a formal complaint. Relevant evidence includes evidence that is both inculpatory and exculpatory. Questions and evidence about the complainant's sexual predisposition or prior sexual behavior are not relevant, unless such questions and evidence about the complainant's prior sexual behavior are offered to prove that someone other than the respondent committed the conduct alleged by the complainant, or if the questions and evidence concern specific incidents of the complainant's prior sexual behavior with respect to the respondent and are offered to prove consent.
- I. "Remedies" means actions designed to restore or preserve the complainant's equal access to education after a respondent is found responsible. Remedies may include the same individualized services that constitute supportive measures, but need not be non-punitive or non-disciplinary, nor must they avoid burdening the respondent.
- J. "Respondent" means an individual who has been reported to be the perpetrator of conduct that could constitute sexual harassment under Title IX.
- K. "Sexual harassment" means any of three types of misconduct on the basis of sex that occurs in a school district education program or activity and is committed against a person in the United States:
  - 1. *Quid pro quo* harassment by a school district employee (conditioning the provision of an aid, benefit, or service of the school district on an individual's participation in unwelcome sexual conduct);
  - 2. Unwelcome conduct that a reasonable person would find so severe, pervasive, and objectively offensive that it denies a person equal educational access; or
  - 3. Any instance of sexual assault (as defined in the Clery Act, 20 United States Code section 1092(f)(6)A(v)), dating violence, domestic violence, or stalking (as defined in the Violence Against Women Act, 34 United States Code section 12291).
- L. "Supportive measures" means individualized services provided to the complainant or respondent without fee or charge that are reasonably available, non-punitive, non-disciplinary, not unreasonably burdensome to the other party, and designed to ensure equal educational access, protect safety, and deter sexual harassment. Supportive measures may include counseling, extensions of deadlines or other course-related adjustments, modifications of work or class schedules, alternative educational services as defined under Minnesota Statutes section 121A.41, as amended, mutual restrictions on contact between the parties, changes in work locations, leaves of absence, increased security and monitoring of certain areas of the school district buildings or property, and other similar measures.
- M. "Title IX Personnel" means any person who addresses, works on, or assists with the school district's response to a report of sexual harassment or formal complaint, and

includes persons who facilitate informal resolutions. The following are considered Title IX Personnel:

1. "Title IX Coordinator" means an employee of the school district that coordinates the school district's efforts to comply with and carry out its responsibilities under Title IX. The Title IX Coordinator is responsible for acting as the primary contact for the parties and ensuring that the parties are provided with all notices, evidence, reports, and written determinations to which they are entitled under this policy and grievance process. The Title IX Coordinator is also responsible for effective implementation of any supportive measures or remedies. The Title IX Coordinator must be free from conflicts of interest and bias when administering the grievance process.
2. "Investigator" means a person who investigates a formal complaint. The investigator of a formal complaint may not be the same person as the Decision-maker or the Appellate Decision-maker. The Investigator may be a school district employee, school district official, or a third party designated by the school district.
3. "Decision-maker" means a person who makes a determination regarding responsibility after the investigation has concluded. The Decision-maker cannot be the same person as the Title IX Coordinator, the Investigator, or the Appellate Decision-maker.
4. "Appellate Decision-maker" means a person who considers and decides appeals of determinations regarding responsibility and dismissals of formal complaints. The Appellate Decision-maker cannot be the same person as the Title IX Coordinator, Investigator, or Decision-maker. The Appellate Decision-maker may be a school district employee, or a third party designated by the school district.
5. The superintendent of the school district may delegate functions assigned to a specific school district employee under this policy, including but not limited to the functions assigned to the Title IX Coordinator, Investigator, Decision-maker, Appellate Decision-maker, and facilitator of informal resolution processes, to any suitably qualified individual and such delegation may be rescinded by the superintendent at any time. The school district may also, in its discretion, appoint suitably qualified persons who are not school district employees to fulfill any function under this policy, including, but not limited to, Investigator, Decision-maker, Appellate Decision-maker, and facilitator of informal resolution processes.

***[NOTE: It is recommended that school districts designate a primary Title IX Coordinator and at least one alternate Title IX Coordinator so that the alternate can undertake Title IX Coordinator responsibilities in the event the primary Title IX Coordinator is a party to a complaint or is otherwise not qualified under this policy to serve in that role in a particular case.]***

### **III. BASIC REQUIREMENTS FOR GRIEVANCE PROCESS**

#### **A. Equitable Treatment**

1. The school district shall treat complainants and respondents equitably. However,

equality or parity with respect to supportive measures provided to complainants and respondents is not required.

2. The school district will not impose any disciplinary sanctions or take any other actions against a respondent that do not constitute supportive measures until it has completed this grievance process and the respondent has been found responsible.
3. The school district will provide appropriate remedies to the complainant any time a respondent is found responsible.

B. Objective and Unbiased Evaluation of Complaints

1. Title IX Personnel, including the Title IX Coordinator, Investigator, Decision-maker, and Appellate Decision-maker, shall be free from conflicts of interest or bias for or against complainants or respondents generally or a specific complainant or respondent.
2. Throughout the grievance process, Title IX Personnel will objectively evaluate all relevant evidence, inculpatory and exculpatory, and shall avoid credibility determinations based solely on a person's status as a complainant, respondent, or witness.

- C. Title IX Personnel will presume that the respondent is not responsible for the alleged conduct until a determination regarding responsibility is made at the conclusion of the grievance process.

D. Confidentiality

The school district will keep confidential the identity of any individual who has made a report or complaint of sex discrimination, including any individual who has made a report or filed a formal complaint of sexual harassment, any complainant, any individual who has been reported to be the perpetrator of sex discrimination, any respondent, and any witness, except as may be permitted by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), 20 United States Code section 1232g, FERPA regulations, 34 Code of Federal Regulations part 99, Minnesota law under Minnesota Statutes section 13.32, or as required by law, or to carry out the purposes of 34 Code of Federal Regulations part 106, including the conduct of any investigation, hearing, or judicial proceeding arising thereunder (i.e., the school district's obligation to maintain confidentiality shall not impair or otherwise affect the complainants and respondents receipt of the information to which they are entitled with respect to the investigative record and determination of responsibility).

E. Right to an Advisor; Right to a Support Person

Complainants and respondents have the right, at their own expense, to be assisted by an advisor of their choice during all stages of any grievance proceeding, including all meetings and investigative interviews. The advisor may be, but is not required to be, an attorney. In general, an advisor is not permitted to speak for or on behalf of a complainant or respondent, appear in lieu of complainant or respondent, participate as a witness, or participate directly in any other manner during any phase of the grievance process.

A complainant or respondent with a disability may be assisted by a support person throughout the grievance process, including all meetings and investigative interviews, if such accommodation is necessary. A support person may be a friend, family member, or any individual who is not otherwise a potential witness. The support person is not permitted to speak for or on behalf of a complainant or respondent, appear in lieu of complainant or respondent, participate as a witness, or participate directly in any other manner during any phase of the grievance process.

F. Notice

The school district will send written notice of any investigative interviews or meetings to any party whose participation is invited or expected. The written notice will include the date, time, location, participants, and purpose of the meeting or interview, and will be provided to allow sufficient time for the party to prepare to participate.

G. Consolidation

The school district may, in its discretion, consolidate formal complaints as to allegations of sexual harassment against more than one respondent, or by more than one complainant against one or more respondents, or by one party against the other party, where the allegations of sexual harassment arise out of the same facts or circumstances.

H. Evidence

1. During the grievance process, the school district will not require, allow, rely upon, or otherwise use questions or evidence that constitute or seek disclosure of information protected under a legally recognized privilege, unless the person holding such privilege has waived the privilege.
2. The school district shall not access, consider, disclose, or otherwise use a party's medical, psychological, and similar treatment records unless the school district obtains the party's voluntary, written consent.

I. Burden of Proof

1. The burden of gathering evidence and the burden of proof shall remain upon the school district and not upon the parties.
2. The grievance process shall use a preponderance of the evidence standard (i.e. whether it is more likely than not that the respondent engaged in sexual harassment) for all formal complaints of sexual harassment, including when school district employees are respondents.

J. Timelines

***[NOTE: The Title IX regulations require reasonably prompt timeframes for conclusion of the grievance process, but do not specify any particular timeframes. The time periods below are suggested. School districts may establish their own district-specific timeline, although it is recommended that legal counsel be consulted before adjusting time periods.]***

1. Any informal resolution process must be completed within thirty (30) calendar days following the parties' agreement to participate in such informal process.

2. An appeal of a determination of responsibility or of a decision dismissing a formal complaint must be received by the school district within five (5) days of the date the determination of responsibility or dismissal was provided to the parties.
3. Any appeal of a determination of responsibility or of a dismissal will be decided within thirty (30) calendar days of the day the appeal was received by the School District.
4. The school district will seek to conclude the grievance process, including any appeal, within 120 calendar days of the date the formal complaint was received by the School District.
5. Although the school district strives to adhere to the timelines described above, in each case, the school district may extend the time frames for good cause. Good cause may include, without limitation: the complexity of the allegations; the severity and extent of the alleged misconduct; the number of parties, witnesses, and the types of other evidence (e.g., forensic evidence) involved; the availability of the parties, advisors, witnesses, and evidence (e.g., forensic evidence); concurrent law enforcement activity; intervening school district holidays, breaks, or other closures; the need for language assistance or accommodation of disabilities; and/or other unforeseen circumstances.

K. Potential Remedies and Disciplinary Sanctions

1. The following is the range of possible remedies that the school district may provide a complainant and disciplinary sanctions that the school district might impose upon a respondent, following determination of responsibility: counseling, extensions of deadlines or other course-related adjustments, modifications of work or class schedules, mutual or unilateral restrictions on contact between the parties, changes in work locations, leaves of absence, monitoring of certain areas of the school district buildings or property, warning, suspension, exclusion, expulsion, transfer, remediation, termination, or discharge.
2. If the Decision-maker determines a student-respondent is responsible for violating this policy, the Decision-maker will recommend appropriate remedies, including disciplinary sanctions/consequences. The Title IX Coordinator will notify the superintendent of the recommended remedies, such that an authorized administrator can consider the recommendation(s) and implement appropriate remedies in compliance with MSBA Model Policy 506 – Student Discipline. The discipline of a student-respondent must comply with the applicable provisions of Minnesota Pupil Fair Dismissal Act, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (IDEA) and/or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1972, and their respective implementing regulations.

**IV. REPORTING PROHIBITED CONDUCT**

- A. Any student who believes they have been the victim of unlawful sex discrimination or sexual harassment, or any person (including the parent **or guardian** of a student) with actual knowledge of conduct which may constitute unlawful sex discrimination or sexual harassment toward a student should report the alleged acts as soon as possible to the Title IX Coordinator.

- B. Any employee of the school district who has experienced, has actual knowledge of, or has witnessed unlawful sex discrimination, including sexual harassment, or who otherwise becomes aware of unlawful sex discrimination, including sexual harassment, must promptly report the allegations to the Title IX Coordinator without screening or investigating the report or allegations.
- C. A report of unlawful sex discrimination or sexual harassment may be made at any time, including during non-business hours, and may be made in person, by mail, by telephone, or by e-mail using the Title IX Coordinator's contact information. A report may also be made by any other means that results in the Title IX Coordinator receiving the person's verbal or written report.
- D. Sexual harassment may constitute both a violation of this policy and criminal law. To the extent the alleged conduct may constitute a crime, the School District may report the alleged conduct to law enforcement authorities. The school district encourages complainants to report criminal behavior to the police immediately.

**V. INITIAL RESPONSE AND ASSESSMENT BY THE TITLE IX COORDINATOR**

- A. When the Title IX Coordinator receives a report, the Title IX Coordinator shall promptly contact the complainant confidentially to discuss the availability of supportive measures, consider the complainant's wishes with respect to supportive measures, inform the complainant of the availability of supportive measures with or without the filing of a formal complaint, and explain to the complainant the process for filing a formal complaint.
- B. The school district will offer supportive measures to the complainant whether or not the complainant decides to make a formal complaint. The school district must maintain as confidential any supportive measures provided to the complainant or respondent, to the extent that maintaining such confidentiality would not impair the school district's ability to provide the supportive measures. The Title IX Coordinator is responsible for coordinating the effective implementation of supportive measures.
- C. If the complainant does not wish to file a formal complaint, the allegations will not be investigated by the school district unless the Title IX Coordinator determines that signing a formal complaint to initiate an investigation over the complainant's wishes is not clearly unreasonable in light of the known circumstances.
- D. Upon receipt of a formal complaint, the school district must provide written notice of the formal complaint to the known parties with sufficient time to prepare a response before any initial interview. This written notice must contain:
  - 1. The allegations of sexual harassment, including sufficient details known at the time, the identities of the parties involved in the incident (if known), the conduct allegedly constituting sexual harassment, and the date and location of the alleged incident, if known;
  - 2. A statement that the respondent is presumed not responsible for the alleged conduct and that a determination regarding responsibility will be made at the conclusion of the grievance process;
  - 3. A statement explaining that the parties may have an advisor of their choice, who may be, but is not required to be, an attorney;

4. A statement that the parties may inspect and review evidence gathered pursuant to this policy;
5. A statement informing the parties of any code of conduct provision that prohibits knowingly making false statements or knowingly submitting false information; and
6. A copy of this policy.

## **VI. STATUS OF RESPONDENT DURING PENDENCY OF FORMAL COMPLAINT**

### **A. Emergency Removal of a Student**

1. The school district may remove a student-respondent from an education program or activity of the school district on an emergency basis before a determination regarding responsibility is made if:
  - a. The school district undertakes an individualized safety and risk analysis;
  - b. The school district determines that an immediate threat to the physical health or safety of any student or other individual arising from the allegations of sexual harassment justifies removal of the student-respondent; and
  - c. The school district determines the student-respondent poses such a threat, it will so notify the student-respondent and the student-respondent will have an opportunity to challenge the decision immediately following the removal. In determining whether to impose emergency removal measures, the Title IX Coordinator shall consult related school district policies, including MSBA Model Policy 506 – Student Discipline. The school district must take into consideration applicable requirements of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, prior to removing a special education student or Section 504 student on an emergency basis.

***[NOTE: The interrelationship between the Title IX regulations authorizing the emergency removal of student and the Minnesota Pupil Fair Dismissal Act (MPFDA) is unclear at this time. School districts should consult with legal counsel regarding the emergency removal of a student. At a minimum, it is recommended that school districts provide alternative educational services, as defined in the MPFDA, to any student so removed under the Title IX regulations.]***

### **B. Employee Administrative Leave**

The school district may place a non-student employee on administrative leave during the pendency of the grievance process of a formal complaint. Such leave will typically be paid leave unless circumstances justify unpaid leave in compliance with legal requirements. The school district must take into consideration applicable requirements of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act prior to removing an individual with a qualifying disability.

## **VII. INFORMAL RESOLUTION OF A FORMAL COMPLAINT**

- A. At any time prior to reaching a determination of responsibility, informal resolution may

be offered and facilitated by the school district at the school district's discretion, but only after a formal complaint has been received by the school district.

- B. The school district may not require as a condition of enrollment or continued enrollment, or of employment or continued employment, or enjoyment of any other right, waiver of the right to a formal investigation and adjudication of formal complaints of sexual harassment.
- C. The informal resolution process may not be used to resolve allegations that a school district employee sexually harassed a student.
- D. The school district will not facilitate an informal resolution process without both parties' agreement, and will obtain their voluntary, written consent. The school district will provide to the parties a written notice disclosing the allegations, the requirements of the informal resolution process including the circumstances under which it precludes the parties from resuming a formal complaint arising from the same allegations, the parties' right to withdraw from the informal resolution process, and any consequences resulting from participating in the informal resolution process, including the records that will be maintained or could be shared.
- E. At any time prior to agreeing to a resolution, any party has the right to withdraw from the informal resolution process and resume the grievance process with respect to the formal complaint.

#### **VIII. DISMISSAL OF A FORMAL COMPLAINT**

- A. Under federal law, the school district must dismiss a Title IX complaint, or a portion thereof, if the conduct alleged in a formal complaint or a portion thereof:
  - 1. Would not meet the definition of sexual harassment, even if proven;
  - 2. Did not occur in the school district's education program or activity; or
  - 3. Did not occur against a person in the United States.
- B. The school district may, in its discretion, dismiss a formal complaint or allegations therein if:
  - 1. The complainant informs the Title IX Coordinator in writing that the complainant desires to withdraw the formal complaint or allegations therein;
  - 2. The respondent is no longer enrolled or employed by the school district; or
  - 3. Specific circumstances prevent the school district from gathering sufficient evidence to reach a determination.
- C. The school district shall provide written notice to both parties of a dismissal. The notice must include the reasons for the dismissal.
- D. Dismissal of a formal complaint or a portion thereof does not preclude the school district from addressing the underlying conduct in any manner that the school district deems appropriate.

***[NOTE: For example, school districts are reminded of the obligation under***

***Minnesota Statutes section 122A.20, subdivision 2, to make a mandatory report to the Minnesota Professional Educator Licensing and Standards Board concerning any teacher who resigns during the course of an investigation of misconduct.]***

**IX. INVESTIGATION OF A FORMAL COMPLAINT**

- A. If a formal complaint is received by the School District, the school district will assign or designate an Investigator to investigate the allegations set forth in the formal complaint.
- B. If during the course of the investigation the school district decides to investigate any allegations about the complainant or respondent that were not included in the written notice of a formal complaint provided to the parties, the school district must provide notice of the additional allegations to the known parties.
- C. When a party's participation is invited or expected in an investigative interview, the Investigator will coordinate with the Title IX Coordinator to provide written notice to the party of the date, time, location, participants, and purposes of the investigative interview with sufficient time for the party to prepare.
- D. During the investigation, the Investigator must provide the parties with an equal opportunity to present witnesses for interviews, including fact witnesses and expert witnesses, and other inculpatory and exculpatory evidence.
- E. Prior to the completion of the investigative report, the Investigator, through the Title IX Coordinator, will provide the parties and their advisors (if any) with an equal opportunity to inspect and review any evidence directly related to the allegations. The evidence shall be provided in electronic format or hard copy and shall include all relevant evidence, evidence upon which the school district does not intend to rely in reaching a determination regarding responsibility, and any inculpatory or exculpatory evidence whether obtained from a party or another source. The parties will have ten (10) days to submit a written response, which the Investigator will consider prior to completion of the investigative report.
- F. The Investigator will prepare a written investigative report that fairly summarizes the relevant evidence. The investigative report may include credibility determinations that are not based on a person's status as a complainant, respondent or witness. The school district will send the parties and their advisors (if any) a copy of the report in electronic format or hard copy, for their review and written response at least ten (10) days prior to a determination of responsibility.

**X. DETERMINATION REGARDING RESPONSIBILITY**

***[NOTE: The Title IX regulations do not require school districts to conduct live hearings as part of the decision-making phase of the grievance process. Accordingly, this Policy does not include procedures for a live hearing. If a school district desires to create such procedures, legal counsel should be consulted.]***

- A. After the school district has sent the investigative report to both parties and before the school district has reached a determination regarding responsibility, the Decision-maker must afford each party the opportunity to submit written, relevant questions that a party wants asked of any party or witness.

- B. The Decision-maker must provide the relevant questions submitted by the parties to the other parties or witnesses to whom the questions are offered, and then provide each party with the answers, and allow for additional, limited follow-up questions from each party.
- C. The Decision-maker must explain to the party proposing the questions any decision to exclude a question as not relevant.
- D. When the exchange of questions and answers has concluded, the Decision-maker must issue a written determination regarding responsibility that applies the preponderance of the evidence standard to the facts and circumstances of the formal complaint. The written determination of responsibility must include the following:
  - 1. Identification of the allegations potentially constituting sexual harassment;
  - 2. A description of the procedural steps taken from the receipt of the formal complaint through the determination, including any notifications to the parties, interviews with parties and witnesses, site visits, and methods used to gather other evidence;
  - 3. Findings of fact supporting the determination;
  - 4. Conclusions regarding the application of the school district's code of conduct to the facts;
  - 5. A statement of, and rationale for, the result as to each allegation, including a determination regarding responsibility, any disciplinary sanctions the school district imposes on the respondent, and whether remedies designed to restore or preserve equal access to the recipient's education program or activity will be provided by the school district to the complainant; and
  - 6. The school district's procedures and permissible bases for the complainant and respondent to appeal and the date by which an appeal must be made.
- E. In determining appropriate disciplinary sanctions, the Decision-maker should consider the surrounding circumstances, the nature of the behavior, past incidents or past or continuing patterns of behavior, the relationships between the parties involved, and the context in which the alleged incident occurred.
- F. The written determination of responsibility must be provided to the parties simultaneously.
- G. The Title IX Coordinator is responsible for the effective implementation of any remedies.
- H. The determination regarding responsibility becomes final either on the date that the school district provides the parties with the written determination of the result of the appeal, if an appeal is filed, or if an appeal is not filed, the date on which an appeal would no longer be considered timely.

## **XI. APPEALS**

- A. The school district shall offer the parties an opportunity to appeal a determination regarding responsibility or the school district's dismissal of a formal complaint or any allegations therein, on the following bases:

1. A procedural irregularity that affected the outcome of the matter (e.g., a material deviation from established procedures);
  2. New evidence that was not reasonably available at the time the determination regarding responsibility or dismissal was made, that could affect the outcome of the matter; and
  3. The Title IX Coordinator, Investigator, or Decision-maker had a conflict of interest or bias for or against complainants or respondents generally or the individual complainant or respondent that affected the outcome of the matter.
- B. If notice of an appeal is timely received by the school district, the school district will notify the parties in writing of the receipt of the appeal, assign or designate the Appellate Decision-maker, and give the parties a reasonable, equal opportunity to submit a written statement in support of, or challenging, the outcome.
  - C. After reviewing the parties' written statements, the Appellate Decision-maker must issue a written decision describing the result of the appeal and the rationale for the result.
  - D. The written decision describing the result of the appeal must be provided simultaneously to the parties.
  - E. The decision of the Appellate Decision-maker is final. No further review beyond the appeal is permitted.

## **XII. RETALIATION PROHIBITED**

- A. Neither the school district nor any other person may intimidate, threaten, coerce, or discriminate against any individual for the purpose of interfering with any right or privilege secured by Title IX, its implementing regulations, or this policy, or because the individual made a report or complaint, testified, assisted, or participated or refused to participate in any manner in an investigation, proceeding, or hearing under this policy. Intimidation, threats, coercion, or discrimination, including charges against an individual for code of conduct violations that do not involve sex discrimination or sexual harassment, but arise out of the same facts or circumstances as a report or complaint of sex discrimination, or a report or formal complaint of sexual harassment, for the purpose of interfering with any right or privilege secured by Title IX, its implementing regulations, or this policy, constitutes retaliation. Retaliation against a person for making a report of sexual harassment, filing a formal complaint, or participating in an investigation, constitutes a violation of this policy that can result in the imposition of disciplinary sanctions/consequences and/or other appropriate remedies.
- B. Any person may submit a report or formal complaint alleging retaliation in the manner described in this policy and it will be addressed in the same manner as other complaints of sexual harassment or sex discrimination.
- C. Charging an individual with violation of school district policies for making a materially false statement in bad faith in the course of a grievance proceeding under this policy shall not constitute retaliation, provided, however, that a determination regarding responsibility, alone, is not sufficient to conclude that any party made a materially false statement in bad faith.

## **XIII. TRAINING**

- A. The school district shall ensure that Title IX Personnel receive appropriate training. The training shall include instruction on:
  - 1. The Title IX definition of sexual harassment;
  - 2. The scope of the school district's education program or activity;
  - 3. How to conduct an investigation and grievance process, appeals, and informal resolution processes, as applicable;
  - 4. How to serve impartially, including by avoiding prejudgment of the facts at issue, conflicts of interest, and bias;
  - 5. For Decision-makers, training on issues of relevance of questions and evidence, including when questions and evidence about the complainant's prior sexual behavior are not relevant; and
  - 6. For Investigators, training on issues of relevance, including the creation of an investigative report that fairly summarizes relevant evidence.
- B. The training materials will not rely on sex stereotypes and must promote impartial investigations and adjudications of formal complaints.
- C. Materials used to train Title IX Personnel must be posted on the school district's website. If the school district does not have a website, it must make the training materials available for public inspection upon request.

#### **XIV. DISSEMINATION OF POLICY**

- A. This policy shall be made available to all students, parents/guardians of students, school district employee, and employee unions.
- B. The school district shall conspicuously post the name of the Title IX Coordinator, including office address, telephone number, and work e-mail address on its website and in each handbook that it makes available to parents **or guardians**, employees, students, unions, or applicants.
- C. The school district must provide applicants for admission and employment, students, parents or legal guardians of secondary school students, employees, and all unions holding collective bargaining agreements with the school district, with the following:
  - 1. The name or title, office address, electronic mail address, and telephone number of the Title IX Coordinator;
  - 2. Notice that the school district does not discriminate on the basis of sex in the education program or activity that it operates, and that it is required by Title IX not to discriminate in such a manner;
  - 3. A statement that the requirement not to discriminate in the education program or activity extends to admission and employment, and that inquiries about the application of Title IX may be referred to the Title IX Coordinator, to the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights of the United States Department of Education, or both; and

4. Notice of the school district's grievance procedures and grievance process contained in this policy, including how to report or file a complaint of sex discrimination, how to report or file a formal complaint of sexual harassment, and how the school district will respond.

## **XV. RECORDKEEPING**

***[NOTE: School districts should consider amending their respective retention schedules to reflect the recordkeeping requirements discussed below].***

- A. The school district must create, and maintain for a period of seven calendar years, records of any actions, including any supportive measures, taken in response to a report or formal complaint of sexual harassment. In each instance, the school district must document:
  1. The basis for the school district's conclusion that its response to the report or formal complaint was not deliberately indifferent;
  2. The measures the school district has taken that are designed to restore or preserve equal access to the school district's education program or activity; and
  3. If the school district does not provide a complainant with supportive measures, then it must document the reasons why such a response was not clearly unreasonable in light of the known circumstances. Such a record must be maintained for a period of seven years.
  4. The documentation of certain bases or measures does not limit the recipient in the future from providing additional explanations or detailing additional measures taken.
- B. The school district must also maintain for a period of seven calendar years records of:
  1. Each sexual harassment investigation including any determination regarding responsibility, any disciplinary sanctions imposed on the respondent, and any remedies provided to the complainant designed to restore or preserve equal access to the recipient's education program or activity;
  2. Any appeal and the result therefrom;
  3. Any informal resolution and the result therefrom; and
  4. All materials used to train Title IX Personnel.

***Legal References:*** Minn. Stat. § 121A.04 (Athletic Programs; Sex Discrimination)  
Minn. Stat. §§ 121A.40 – 121A.575 (Minnesota Pupil Fair Dismissal Act)  
Minn. Stat. Ch. 363A (Minnesota Human Rights Act)  
20 U.S.C. §§ 1681-1688 (Title IX of the Education Amendments)  
34 C.F.R. Part 106 (Implementing Regulations of Title IX)  
20 U.S.C § 1400, *et seq.* (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act)  
29 U.S.C. § 794 (Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act)  
42 U.S.C. § 12101, *et seq.* (Americans with Disabilities Act)  
20 U.S.C. § 1232g (Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974)  
20 U.S.C. § 1092 *et seq.* (Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security and Campus Crime Statistics Act ("Clery Act"))

***Cross References:*** MSBA/MASA Model Policy 102 (Equal Educational Opportunity)

MSBA/MASA Model Policy 413 (Harassment and Violence)  
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 506 (Student Discipline)  
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 528 (Student Parental, Family, and Marital Status  
Nondiscrimination)

## **616 SCHOOL DISTRICT SYSTEM ACCOUNTABILITY**

### **I. PURPOSE**

Intermediate School District 917 supports the importance of creating educational opportunities for all Minnesota youth to enter the workforce as highly qualified individuals. We recognize our role as an intermediate school district in assisting our member districts to achieve the World’s Best Workforce Strategic and Accountability Plans.

### **II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY**

Implementation of the Minnesota Academic Standards and federal law will require a new level of accountability for Minnesota independent school districts. Intermediate School District 917 will support its member school districts which establish a system of transition to the graduation requirements of the Minnesota Academic Standards.

### **III. DEFINITIONS**

- A. “Graduation Standards” means the credit requirements and locally adopted content standards or Minnesota Academic Standards that school districts must offer and certify that students complete to be eligible for a high school diploma.
- B. “World’s best workforce” means striving to: meet school readiness goals; have all third grade students achieve grade-level literacy; close the academic achievement gap among all racial and ethnic groups of students and between students living in poverty and students not living in poverty; have all students attain career and college readiness before graduating from high school; and have all students graduate from high school.

**Legal References:** 20 U.S.C. § 6301, *et seq.* (Every Student Succeeds Act)

**Cross References:** ISD 917 Policy 104 (School District Mission Statement)  
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 601 (School District Curriculum and Instruction Goals)  
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 613 (Graduation Requirements)  
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 615 (Testing Accommodations, Modifications, and Exemptions for IEPs, Section 504 Plans, and LEP Students)

Adopted: \_\_\_\_\_

MSBA/MASA Model Policy 524

Orig. 1996

Revised: \_\_\_\_\_

Rev. 2022

*ISD 917 Internet Acceptable Use and Safety Policy 524  
Annual Board Review July 7, 2020  
Board revised December 7, 2021  
Board annual review, September 6, 2022, final reading*

## **524 INTERNET ACCEPTABLE USE AND SAFETY POLICY**

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

### **I. PURPOSE**

The purpose of this policy is to set forth policies and guidelines for access to the school district computer system and acceptable and safe use of the Internet, including electronic communications.

### **II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY**

In making decisions regarding student and employee access to the school district computer system and the Internet, including electronic communications, the school district considers its own stated educational mission, goals, and objectives. Electronic information research skills are now fundamental to preparation of citizens and future employees. Access to the school district computer system and to the Internet enables students and employees to explore thousands of libraries, databases, bulletin boards, and other resources while exchanging messages with people around the world. The school district expects that faculty will blend thoughtful use of the school district computer system and the Internet throughout the curriculum and will provide guidance and instruction to students in their use.

### **III. LIMITED EDUCATIONAL PURPOSE**

The school district is providing students and employees with access to the school district computer system, which includes Internet access. The purpose of the system is more specific than providing students and employees with general access to the Internet. The school district system has a limited educational purpose, which includes use of the system for classroom activities, educational research, and professional or career development activities. Users are expected to use Internet access through the district system to further educational and personal goals consistent with the mission of the school district and school policies. Uses which might be acceptable on a user's private personal account on another system may not be acceptable on this limited-purpose network.

### **IV. USE OF SYSTEM IS A PRIVILEGE**

The use of the school district system and access to use of the Internet is a privilege, not a right. Depending on the nature and degree of the violation and the number of previous violations, unacceptable use of the school district system or the Internet may result in one or more of the following consequences: suspension or cancellation of use or access privileges; payments for damages and repairs; discipline under other appropriate school district policies, including suspension, expulsion, exclusion, or termination of employment; or civil or criminal liability

under other applicable laws.

## **V. UNACCEPTABLE USES**

- A. While not an exhaustive list, the following uses of the school district system and Internet resources or accounts are considered unacceptable:
1. Users will not use the school district system to access, review, upload, download, store, print, post, receive, transmit, or distribute:
    - a. pornographic, obscene, or sexually explicit material or other visual depictions that are harmful to minors;
    - b. obscene, abusive, profane, lewd, vulgar, rude, inflammatory, threatening, disrespectful, or sexually explicit language;
    - c. materials that use language or images that are inappropriate in the education setting or disruptive to the educational process;
    - d. information or materials that could cause damage or danger of disruption to the educational process;
    - e. materials that use language or images that advocate violence or discrimination toward other people (hate literature) or that may constitute harassment or discrimination.
  2. Users will not use the school district system to knowingly or recklessly post, transmit, or distribute false or defamatory information about a person or organization, or to harass another person, or to engage in personal attacks, including prejudicial or discriminatory attacks.
  3. Users will not use the school district system to engage in any illegal act or violate any local, state, or federal statute or law.
  4. Users will not use the school district system to vandalize, damage, or disable the property of another person or organization, will not make deliberate attempts to degrade or disrupt equipment, software, or system performance by spreading computer viruses or by any other means, will not tamper with, modify, or change the school district system software, hardware, or wiring or take any action to violate the school district's security system, and will not use the school district system in such a way as to disrupt the use of the system by other users.
  5. Users will not use the school district system to gain unauthorized access to information resources or to access another person's materials, information, or files without the implied or direct permission of that person.
  6. Users will not use the school district system to post private information about another person, personal contact information about themselves or other persons, or other personally identifiable information, including, but not limited to, addresses, telephone numbers, school addresses, work addresses, identification numbers, account numbers, access codes or passwords, labeled photographs, or other information that would make the individual's identity easily traceable, and will not repost a message that was sent to the user privately without permission of the person who sent the message.

***[Note: School districts should consider the impact of this paragraph on***

***present practices and procedures, including, but not limited to, practices pertaining to employee communications, school or classroom websites, and student/employee use of social networking websites. Depending upon school district policies and practices, school districts may wish to add one or more of the following clarifying paragraphs.]***

- a. This paragraph does not prohibit the posting of employee contact information on school district webpages or communications between employees and other individuals when such communications are made for education-related purposes (i.e., communications with parents/guardians or other staff members related to students).
- b. Employees creating or posting school-related webpages may include personal contact information about themselves on a webpage. However, employees may not post personal contact information or other personally identifiable information about students unless:
  - (1) such information is classified by the school district as directory information and verification is made that the school district has not received notice from a parent/guardian or eligible student that such information is not to be designated as directory information in accordance with Policy 515; or
  - (2) such information is not classified by the school district as directory information but written consent for release of the information to be posted has been obtained from a parent/guardian or eligible student in accordance with Policy 515.

In addition, prior to posting any personal contact or personally identifiable information on a school-related webpage, employees shall obtain written approval of the content of the postings from the building administrator.

- c. These prohibitions specifically prohibit a user from utilizing the school district system to post personal information about a user or another individual on social networks, including, but not limited to, social networks such as "Facebook," "Twitter," "Instagram," "Snapchat," "TikTok," "Reddit," and similar websites or applications.
- 7. Users must keep all account information and passwords on file with the designated school district official. Users will not attempt to gain unauthorized access to the school district system or any other system through the school district system, attempt to log in through another person's account, or use computer accounts, access codes, or network identification other than those assigned to the user. Messages and records on the school district system may not be encrypted without the permission of appropriate school authorities.
  - 8. Users will not use the school district system to violate copyright laws or usage licensing agreements, or otherwise to use another person's property without the person's prior approval or proper citation, including the downloading or exchanging of pirated software or copying software to or from any school computer, and will not plagiarize works they find on the Internet.
  - 9. Users will not use the school district system for conducting business, for unauthorized commercial purposes, or for financial gain unrelated to the mission of the school district. Users will not use the school district system to offer or provide goods or services or for product advertisement. Users will not use the school district system to purchase goods or services for personal use without

authorization from the appropriate school district official.

10. Users will not use the school district system to engage in bullying or cyberbullying in violation of the school district's Bullying Prohibition Policy. This prohibition includes using any technology or other electronic communication off school premises to the extent that student learning or the school environment is substantially and materially disrupted.
- B. The school district has a special interest in regulating off-campus speech that materially disrupts classwork or involves substantial disorder or invasion of the rights of others. A student or employee engaging in the foregoing unacceptable uses of the Internet when off school district premises also may be in violation of this policy as well as other school district policies. Examples of such violations may include, but are not limited to, serious or severe bullying or harassment targeting particular individuals, threats aimed at teachers or other students, failure to follow rules concerning lessons, the writing of papers, the use of computers, or participation in other online school activities, and breaches of school security devices. If the school district receives a report of an unacceptable use originating from a non-school computer or resource, the school district may investigate such reports to the best of its ability. Students or employees may be subject to disciplinary action for such conduct, including, but not limited to, suspension or cancellation of the use or access to the school district computer system and the Internet and discipline under other appropriate school district policies, including suspension, expulsion, exclusion, or termination of employment.
- C. If a user inadvertently accesses unacceptable materials or an unacceptable Internet site, the user shall immediately disclose the inadvertent access to an appropriate school district official. In the case of a school district employee, the immediate disclosure shall be to the employee's immediate supervisor and/or the building administrator. This disclosure may serve as a defense against an allegation that the user has intentionally violated this policy. In certain rare instances, a user also may access otherwise unacceptable materials if necessary to complete an assignment and if done with the prior approval of and with appropriate guidance from the appropriate teacher or, in the case of a school district employee, the building administrator.

**VI. FILTER** Need to choose an option here.

***[Note: Pursuant to state law, school districts are required to restrict access to inappropriate materials on school computers with Internet access. School districts seeking technology revenue pursuant to Minnesota Statutes section 125B.26 or certain federal funding, such as e-rate discounts, for purposes of Internet access and connection services and/or receive funds to purchase Internet accessible computers are subject to the federal Children's Internet Protection Act, effective in 2001. Those districts are required to comply with additional standards in restricting possible access to inappropriate materials. Therefore, school districts should select one of the following alternative sections depending upon whether the school district is seeking such funding and the type of funding sought.]***

**ALTERNATIVE NO. 1**

**~~*[Note: For a school district that does not seek either state or federal funding in connection with its computer system, the following language should be adopted. It reflects a mandatory requirement under Minnesota Statutes section 125B.15.]*~~**

~~All computers equipped with Internet access and available for student use at each school site will be equipped to restrict, by use of available software filtering technology or other effective methods, all student access to materials that are reasonably believed to be obscene, child pornography or harmful to minors under state or federal law. Software filtering technology shall be narrowly tailored and shall~~

not discriminate based on viewpoint.

~~**[Note: The purchase of filtering technology is not required by state law if the school site would incur more than incidental expense in making the purchase. In the absence of filtering technology, school sites still are required to use "other effective methods" to restrict student access to such materials.]**~~

### ALTERNATIVE NO. 2

~~**[Note: Technology revenue is available to school districts that meet the additional condition of also restricting adult access to inappropriate materials. School districts that seek such state technology revenue may adopt or retain the following language. However, the school district is not required to do so.]**~~

- A. ~~All school district computers with Internet access and available for student use will be equipped to restrict, by use of available software filtering technology or other effective methods, all student access to materials that are reasonably believed to be obscene, child pornography or harmful to minors under state or federal law.~~
- B. ~~All school district computers with Internet access, not just those accessible and available to students, will be equipped to restrict, by use of available software filtering technology or other effective methods, adult access to materials that are reasonably believed to be obscene or child pornography under state or federal law.~~
- C. ~~Software filtering technology shall be narrowly tailored and shall not discriminate based on viewpoint.~~

### ALTERNATIVE NO. 3

**[Note: School districts that receive certain federal funding, such as e-rate discounts, for purposes of Internet access and connection services and/or receive funds to purchase Internet accessible computers are subject to the federal Children's Internet Protection Act, effective in 2001. This law requires school districts to adopt an Internet safety policy that contains the provisions set forth below. Also, the Act requires such school districts to provide reasonable notice and hold at least one public hearing or meeting to address the proposed Internet safety policy prior to its implementation. School districts that do not seek such federal financial assistance need not adopt the alternative language set forth below nor meet the requirements with respect to a public meeting to review the policy. The following alternative language for school districts that seek such federal financial assistance satisfies both state and federal law requirements.]**

- A. With respect to any of its computers with Internet access, the school district will monitor the online activities of both minors and adults and employ technology protection measures during any use of such computers by minors and adults. The technology protection measures utilized will block or filter Internet access to any visual depictions that are:
  - 1. Obscene;
  - 2. Child pornography; or
  - 3. Harmful to minors.
- B. The term "harmful to minors" means any picture, image, graphic image file, or other visual depiction that:

1. Taken as a whole and with respect to minors, appeals to a prurient interest in nudity, sex, or excretion; or
  2. Depicts, describes, or represents, in a patently offensive way with respect to what is suitable for minors, an actual or simulated sexual act or sexual contact, actual or simulated normal or perverted sexual acts, or a lewd exhibition of the genitals; and
  3. Taken as a whole, lacks serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value as to minors.
- C. Software filtering technology shall be narrowly tailored and shall not discriminate based on viewpoint.
  - D. An administrator, supervisor, or other person authorized by the Superintendent may disable the technology protection measure, during use by an adult, to enable access for bona fide research or other lawful purposes.
  - E. The school district will educate students about appropriate online behavior, including interacting with other individuals on social networking websites and in chat rooms and cyberbullying awareness and response.

***[Note: Although school districts are not required to adopt the more restrictive provisions contained in either Alternative No. 2 or No. 3 if they do not seek state or federal funding, they may choose to adopt the more restrictive provisions as a matter of school policy.]***

## **VII. CONSISTENCY WITH OTHER SCHOOL POLICIES**

Use of the school district computer system and use of the Internet shall be consistent with school district policies and the mission of the school district.

## **VIII. LIMITED EXPECTATION OF PRIVACY**

- A. By authorizing use of the school district system, the school district does not relinquish control over materials on the system or contained in files on the system. Users should expect only limited privacy in the contents of personal files on the school district system.
- B. Routine maintenance and monitoring of the school district system may lead to a discovery that a user has violated this policy, another school district policy, or the law.
- C. An individual investigation or search will be conducted if school authorities have a reasonable suspicion that the search will uncover a violation of law or school district policy.
- D. Parents/**or guardians** may have the right at any time to investigate or review the contents of their child's files and e-mail files in accordance with the school district's Protection and Privacy of Pupil Records Policy. Parents/**or guardians** have the right to request the termination of their child's individual account at any time.
- E. School district employees should be aware that the school district retains the right at any time to investigate or review the contents of their files and e-mail files. In addition, school district employees should be aware that data and other materials in files maintained on the school district system may be subject to review, disclosure, or discovery under Minnesota Statutes chapter 13 (Minnesota Government Data Practices Act).

- F. The school district will cooperate fully with local, state and federal authorities in any investigation concerning or related to any illegal activities or activities not in compliance with school district policies conducted through the school district system.

**IX. INTERNET USE AGREEMENT**

- A. The proper use of the Internet, and the educational value to be gained from proper Internet use, is the joint responsibility of students, parents/guardians, and employees of the school district.
- B. This policy requires the permission of and supervision by the school's designated professional staff before a student may use a school account or resource to access the Internet.
- C. The Internet Use Agreement form for students must be read and signed by the user, the parent or guardian, and the supervising teacher. The Internet Use Agreement form for employees must be signed by the employee. The form must then be filed at the school office. As supervising teachers change, the agreement signed by the new teacher shall be attached to the original agreement.

**X. LIMITATION ON SCHOOL DISTRICT LIABILITY**

Use of the school district system is at the user's own risk. The system is provided on an "as is, as available" basis. The school district will not be responsible for any damage users may suffer, including, but not limited to, loss, damage, or unavailability of data stored on school district diskettes, tapes, hard drives, or servers, or for delays or changes in or interruptions of service or misdeliveries or nondeliveries of information or materials, regardless of the cause. The school district is not responsible for the accuracy or quality of any advice or information obtained through or stored on the school district system. The school district will not be responsible for financial obligations arising through unauthorized use of the school district system or the Internet.

**XI. USER NOTIFICATION**

- A. All users shall be notified of the school district policies relating to Internet use.
- B. This notification shall include the following:
  - 1. Notification that Internet use is subject to compliance with school district policies.
  - 2. Disclaimers limiting the school district's liability relative to:
    - a. Information stored on school district diskettes, hard drives, or servers.
    - b. Information retrieved through school district computers, networks, or online resources.
    - c. Personal property used to access school district computers, networks, or online resources.
    - d. Unauthorized financial obligations resulting from use of school district

resources/accounts to access the Internet.

3. A description of the privacy rights and limitations of school sponsored/managed Internet accounts.
4. Notification that, even though the school district may use technical means to limit student Internet access, these limits do not provide a foolproof means for enforcing the provisions of this acceptable use policy.
5. Notification that goods and services can be purchased over the Internet that could potentially result in unwanted financial obligations and that any financial obligation incurred by a student through the Internet is the sole responsibility of the student and/or the student's parents/guardians.
6. Notification that the collection, creation, reception, maintenance, and dissemination of data via the Internet, including electronic communications, is governed by Public and Private Personnel Data Policy, and Protection and Privacy of Pupil Records Policy.
7. Notification that, should the user violate the school district's acceptable use policy, the user's access privileges may be revoked, school disciplinary action may be taken and/or appropriate legal action may be taken.
8. Notification that all provisions of the acceptable use policy are subordinate to local, state, and federal laws.

## **XII. PARENTS' RESPONSIBILITY; NOTIFICATION OF STUDENT INTERNET USE**

- A. Outside of school, parents **or guardians** bear responsibility for the same guidance of Internet use as they exercise with information sources such as television, telephones, radio, movies, and other possibly offensive media. Parents or guardians are responsible for monitoring their student's use of the school district system and of the Internet if the student is accessing the school district system from home or a remote location.
- B. Parents or guardians will be notified that their students will be using school district resources/accounts to access the Internet and that the school district will provide parents or guardians the option to request alternative activities not requiring Internet access. This notification should include:
  1. A copy of the user notification form provided to the student user.
  2. A description of parent/guardian responsibilities.
  3. A notification that the parents or guardians have the option to request alternative educational activities not requiring Internet access and the material to exercise this option.
  4. A statement that the Internet Use Agreement must be signed by the user, the parent or guardian, and the supervising teacher prior to use by the student.
  5. A statement that the school district's acceptable use policy is available for parental or guardian review.

## **XIII. NOTIFICATION REGARDING TECHNOLOGY PROVIDERS**

- A. "Technology provider" means a person who:
1. contracts with the school district, as part of a one-to-one program or otherwise, to provide a school-issued device for student use; and
  2. creates, receives, or maintains educational data pursuant or incidental to a contract with the school district.
- B. "Parent" means a parent of a student and includes a natural parent, a guardian, or an individual acting as a parent in the absence of a parent or a guardian.
- C. Within 30 days of the start of each school year, the school district must give parents and students direct and timely notice, by United States mail, e-mail, or other direct form of communication, of any curriculum, testing, or assessment technology provider contract affecting a student's educational data. The notice must:
1. identify each curriculum, testing, or assessment technology provider with access to educational data;
  2. identify the educational data affected by the curriculum, testing, or assessment technology provider contract; and
  3. include information about the contract inspection and provide contact information for a school department to which a parent or student may direct questions or concerns regarding any program or activity that allows a curriculum, testing, or assessment technology provider to access a student's educational data.
- D. The school district must provide parents and students an opportunity to inspect a complete copy of any contract with a technology provider.
- E. A contract between a technology provider and the school district must include requirements to ensure appropriate security safeguards for educational data. The contract must require that:
1. the technology provider's employees or contractors have access to educational data only if authorized; and
  2. the technology provider's employees or contractors may be authorized to access educational data only if access is necessary to fulfill the official duties of the employee or contractor.
- F. All educational data created, received, maintained, or disseminated by a technology provider pursuant or incidental to a contract with a public educational agency or institution are not the technology provider's property.

#### **XIV. SCHOOL-ISSUED DEVICES**

- A. "School-issued device" means hardware or software that the school district, acting independently or with a technology provider, provides to an individual student for that student's dedicated personal use. A school-issued device includes a device issued through a one-to-one program.
- B. Except as provided in paragraph C, the school district or a technology provider must not electronically access or monitor:

1. any location-tracking feature of a school-issued device;
  2. any audio or visual receiving, transmitting, or recording feature of a school-issued device; or
  3. student interactions with a school-issued device, including but not limited to keystrokes and web-browsing activity.
- C. The school district or a technology provider may only engage in activities prohibited by paragraph B if:
1. the activity is limited to a noncommercial educational purpose for instruction, technical support, or exam-proctoring by school district employees, student teachers, staff contracted by the school district, a vendor, or the Minnesota Department of Education, and notice is provided in advance;
  2. the activity is permitted under a judicial warrant;
  3. the school district is notified or becomes aware that the device is missing or stolen;
  4. the activity is necessary to respond to an imminent threat to life or safety and the access is limited to that purpose;
  5. the activity is necessary to comply with federal or state law, including but not limited to Minnesota Statutes section 121A.031; or
6. the activity is necessary to participate in federal or state funding programs, including but not limited to the E-Rate program.
- D. If the school district or a technology provider interacts with a school-issued device as provided in paragraph C, clause 4, it must, within 72 hours of the access, notify the student to whom the school-issued device was issued or that student's parent and provide a written description of the interaction, including which features of the device were accessed and a description of the threat. This notice is not required at any time when the notice itself would pose an imminent threat to life or safety, but must instead be given within 72 hours after that imminent threat has ceased.

#### **XV. LIMIT ON SCREEN TIME FOR CHILDREN IN PRESCHOOL AND KINDERGARTEN**

A child in a publicly funded preschool or kindergarten program may not use an individual-use screen, such as a tablet, smartphone, or other digital media, without engagement from a teacher or other students. This section does not apply to a child for whom the school has an individualized family service plan, an individualized education program, or a 504 plan in effect.

#### **XVI. IMPLEMENTATION; POLICY REVIEW**

- A. The school district administration may develop appropriate user notification forms, guidelines, and procedures necessary to implement this policy for submission to the school board for approval. Upon approval by the school board, such guidelines, forms, and procedures shall be an addendum to this policy.
- B. The administration shall revise the user notifications, including student and parent or guardian notifications, if necessary, to reflect the adoption of these guidelines and procedures.
- C. The school district Internet policies and procedures are available for review by all parents, guardians, staff, and members of the community.

- D. Because of the rapid changes in the development of the Internet, the school board shall conduct an annual review of this policy.

**Legal References:** Minn. Stat. Ch. 13 (Minnesota Government Data Practices Act)  
Minn. Stat. § 13.32 (Educational Data)  
Minn. Stat. § 121A.031 (School Student Bullying Policy)  
Minn. Stat. § 124D.166 (Limit on Screen Time for Children in Preschool and Kindergarten)  
Minn. Stat. § 125B.15 (Internet Access for Students)  
Minn. Stat. § 125B.26 (Telecommunications/Internet Access Equity Act)  
15 U.S.C. § 6501 *et seq.* (Children’s Online Privacy Protection Act)  
17 U.S.C. § 101 *et seq.* (Copyrights)  
20 U.S.C. § 1232g (Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act)  
47 U.S.C. § 254 (Children’s Internet Protection Act of 2000 (CIPA))  
47 C.F.R. § 54.520 (FCC rules implementing CIPA)  
*Mahanoy Area Sch. Dist. v. B.L.*, 594 U.S. \_\_\_, 141 S. Ct. 2038 (2021)  
*Tinker v. Des Moines Indep. Cmty. Sch. Dist.*, 393 U.S. 503 (1969)  
*United States v. Amer. Library Assoc.*, 539 U.S. 194 (2003)  
*Sagehorn v. Indep. Sch. Dist. No. 728*, 122 F.Supp.2d 842 (D. Minn. 2015)  
*R.S. v. Minnewaska Area Sch. Dist. No. 2149*, 894 F.Supp.2d 1128 (D. Minn. 2012)  
*Tatro v. Univ. of Minnesota*, 800 N.W.2d 811 (Minn. App. 2011), *aff’d* on other grounds 816 N.W.2d 509 (Minn. 2012)  
*S.J.W. v. Lee’s Summit R-7 Sch. Dist.*, 696 F.3d 771 (8<sup>th</sup> Cir. 2012)  
*Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays, Inc. v. Camdenton R-III Sch. Dist.*, 853 F.Supp.2d 888 (W.D. Mo. 2012)  
*M.T. v. Cent. York Sch. Dist.*, 937 A.2d 538 (Pa. Commw. Ct. 2007)

**Cross References:** MSBA/MASA Model Policy 403 (Discipline, Suspension, and Dismissal of School District Employees)  
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 406 (Public and Private Personnel Data)  
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 505 (Distribution of Nonschool-Sponsored Materials on School Premises by Students and Employees)  
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 506 (Student Discipline)  
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 514 (Bullying Prohibition Policy)  
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 515 (Protection and Privacy of Pupil Records)  
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 519 (Interviews of Students by Outside Agencies)  
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 521 (Student Disability Nondiscrimination)  
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 522 (Title IX Sex Nondiscrimination Grievance Procedures and Process)  
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 603 (Curriculum Development)  
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 604 (Instructional Curriculum)  
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 606 (Textbooks and Instructional Materials)  
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 806 (Crisis Management Policy)  
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 904 (Distribution of Materials on School District Property by Nonschool Persons)

**2022-2023 Superintendent Goals & Rubric - Version 1**

	<b>Distinguished (4)</b>	<b>Proficient (3)</b>	<b>Needs Improvement (2)</b>	<b>Unsatisfactory (1)</b>
<b>Goal #1:</b> Identify baseline data, end-of-year goals, & measures of success for all 5 strategic directions	Facilitates diverse internal and external stakeholders in identifying baseline data, end-of-year goals, and measures of success for all five strategic directions.	Identifies baseline data, end-of-year goals, and measures of success for all five strategic directions.	Identifies <b>either</b> baseline data, end-of-year goals, <b>or</b> measures of success for three or more strategic directions.	Identifies baseline data, end-of-year goals, or measures of success for fewer than three strategic directions.
<b>Goal #2:</b> Amplify student, staff, and family voice in support of all 5 strategic directions	Goal-setting reflects the voices of mixed groups of diverse internal and external stakeholders on all five ISD 917 Strategic Directions	Discussions reflect the voices of diverse internal and external stakeholders on all five ISD 917 Strategic Directions	Actively engages <b>either</b> internal <b>or</b> external stakeholders in discussion around three or more ISD 917 Strategic Directions	Does not actively engage internal or external stakeholders in discussion around any of the five ISD 917 Strategic Directions
<b>Goal #3:</b> Align district learning environments and workplace culture to district core values to increase student and staff recruitment, retention, and satisfaction	Consistently models all ISD 917 Core Values and facilitates alignment of staff and leadership development, systems, structures, and practices with all ISD 917 Core Values; Establishes goals for and measures student and staff recruitment, retention, and satisfaction	Models all ISD 917 Core Values and facilitates alignment of staff and leadership development, systems, structures, and practices with all ISD 917 Core Values	Some modeling of and facilitating alignment between ISD 917 Core Values in Superintendent actions, staff or leadership development, systems, structures, or practices	No modeling of or facilitating alignment between ISD 917 Core Values in Superintendent actions, staff or leadership development, systems, structures, or practices

**2022-2023 Superintendent Goals & Rubric - Version 2**

	<b>Distinguished (4)</b>	<b>Proficient (3)</b>	<b>Needs Improvement (2)</b>	<b>Unsatisfactory (1)</b>
<b>Goal #1:</b> Identify baseline data, end-of-year goals, & measures of success for all 5 strategic directions	Facilitates diverse internal and external stakeholders in identifying baseline data, end-of-year goals, and measures of success for all five strategic directions.	Identifies baseline data, end-of-year goals, and measures of success for four or more strategic directions.	Identifies <b>either</b> baseline data, end-of-year goals, <b>or</b> measures of success for three or more strategic directions.	Identifies baseline data, end-of-year goals, or measures of success for fewer than three strategic directions.
<b>Goal #2:</b> Amplify student, staff, and family voice in support of all 5 strategic directions	Goal-setting reflects the voices of mixed groups of diverse internal and external stakeholders on all five ISD 917 Strategic Directions	Discussions reflect the voices of diverse internal and external stakeholders on four or more ISD 917 Strategic Directions	Actively engages <b>either</b> internal <b>or</b> external stakeholders in discussion around three or more ISD 917 Strategic Directions	Does not actively engage internal or external stakeholders in discussion around any of the five ISD 917 Strategic Directions
<b>Goal #3:</b> Align district learning environments and workplace culture to district core values to increase student and staff recruitment, retention, and satisfaction	Consistently models all ISD 917 Core Values and facilitates alignment of staff and leadership development, systems, structures, and practices with all ISD 917 Core Values; Establishes goals for and measures student and staff recruitment, retention, and satisfaction	Models most ISD 917 Core Values and facilitates alignment of staff and leadership development, systems, structures, and practices with all ISD 917 Core Values	Some modeling of and facilitating alignment between ISD 917 Core Values in Superintendent actions, staff or leadership development, systems, structures, or practices	No modeling of or facilitating alignment between ISD 917 Core Values in Superintendent actions, staff or leadership development, systems, structures, or practices



TO: Intermediate School District 917 School Board members  
FROM: Dr. Michael Favor, ISD 917, Superintendent  
DATE: September 6, 2022  
REGARDING: 2022-2024 ISD 917 Dakota County Federation of Interpreters Local #3904A – AFT, NEA, Education Minnesota.

Listed below is the summary of the contract changes for board consideration and approval:

- Proposed Salary increase adding 1.5% year 1 and 1.4% year two (step advancements built in the contract).
- Reduce the probationary period to one (1) year for certified interpreters.
- Add new tier to schedule and enhance longevity:
  - 10-14 years: \$2/hour
  - 15-17 years: \$3/hour
  - 18-20 years: \$4/hour
  - 21 years and more: \$5/hour
- Enhance insurance contributions to align with other contracts as follows:
  - year one (1)*
    - Add \$64 medical individual plans and \$16 dental individual plan
    - Add \$34 to the medical family plans and \$33 dental family plan
  - year two (2)*
    - Add \$40 to the medical individual plan
    - Add \$100 to the medical family plan
- Mark adjustment recommendation of \$3.25 added to each cell and dropping steps 10,11 and 12.

With enhancements outlined the total package for the interpreters agreement is 8.71%.and an additional \$3.25 to each cell to ensure equity in comparison to other Intermediate contracts.

Board recommendation: Approve the 2022-2024 ISD 917 Dakota County Federation of Interpreters Local #3904A – AFT, NEA, Education Minnesota agreement.

AGREEMENT

between

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF  
INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 917

and

DAKOTA COUNTY FEDERATION OF INTERPRETERS  
LOCAL #3904A - AFT, NEA, EDUCATION MINNESOTA

Effective July 1, ~~2020-2022~~ through June 30, ~~2022~~2024

Board Approved ~~July 7, 2020~~September 6,  
2022

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Page

ARTICLE I ..... 3  
 PURPOSE.....3  
 ARTICLE II ..... 3  
 RECOGNITION OF EXCLUSIVE REPRESENTATIVE ..... 3  
 ARTICLE III..... 3  
 DEFINITIONS ..... 3  
 ARTICLE IV ..... 4  
 EMPLOYEE RIGHTS ..... 5  
 SCHOOL DISTRICT RESPONSIBILITIES ..... 5  
 ARTICLE V ..... 4  
 ARTICLE VI..... 6  
 HOURS OF SERVICE - LENGTH OF SCHOOL YEAR..... 6  
 ARTICLE VII..... 7  
 BASIC SALARIES ..... 7  
 ARTICLE VIII..... 9  
 GROUP INSURANCE ..... 9  
 ARTICLE IX..... 13  
 LEAVES OF ABSENCE..... 13  
 ARTICLE X ..... ~~20~~19  
 PROBATIONARY PERIOD ..... ~~20~~19  
 ARTICLE XI..... ~~20~~19  
 EMPLOYEE SUPERVISION ..... ~~20~~19  
 ARTICLE XII..... 22  
 SENIORITY..... 22  
 ARTICLE XIII ..... 23  
 MISCELLANEOUS..... 23  
 ARTICLE XIV..... ~~24~~23  
 GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE..... ~~24~~23  
 ARTICLE XV..... ~~27~~26  
 SEVERANCE/EARLY RETIREMENT ..... ~~27~~26  
 ARTICLE XVI..... ~~28~~27  
 403b MATCHING CONTRIBUTION ..... ~~28~~27  
 ARTICLE XVII ..... ~~29~~28  
 DURATION ..... ~~29~~28  
 SCHEDULE A ..... 29  
 SCHEDULE B ..... 30  
 ATTACHMENT A..... ~~32~~31

## **AGREEMENT**

### **ARTICLE I PURPOSE**

Section 1. Parties: This Agreement is entered into between the School Board of Intermediate School District No. 917, Rosemount, Minnesota, (hereinafter referred to as the school board or school district) and the Dakota County Federation of Interpreters, Local 3904A - AFT, NEA, Education Minnesota, AFL-CIO (hereinafter referred to as the Union) pursuant to and in compliance with the Public Employment Labor Relations Act of 1971, as amended, (hereinafter referred to as the PELRA) to provide the terms and conditions of employment for employees represented by the Dakota County Federation of Interpreters (hereinafter referred to as interpreters) during the duration of this Agreement.

### **ARTICLE II RECOGNITION OF EXCLUSIVE REPRESENTATIVE**

Section 1. Recognition: In accordance with the PELRA, the school district recognizes the Dakota County Federation of Interpreters, Local #3904A - AFT, NEA, Education Minnesota, AFL-CIO, as the exclusive representative of interpreters employed by the school district, which exclusive representative shall have those rights and duties as prescribed by the PELRA and as described in the provisions of this Agreement.

Section 2. Appropriate Unit: The union shall represent all the interpreters of the district as defined in this Agreement and in the PELRA and by certification of the Bureau of Mediation Services, dated February 14, 1992, BMS Case No. 92-PCE-75.

### **ARTICLE III DEFINITIONS**

Section 1. Interpreters: Interpreters shall mean all employees employed by the school district and assigned responsibilities of interpreters, transliterators, and cued language transliterators, but excluding the following: superintendent, business manager, directors, and coordinators, who devote more than fifty percent (50%) of their time to administrative or supervisory duties, confidential employees, supervisory employees, nurses, essential employees, part-time employees whose services do not exceed the lesser of fourteen (14) hours per week or thirty-five percent (35%) of the normal work week in the employee's bargaining unit, employees who hold positions of a temporary or seasonal character for a period not in excess of 67 working days in any calendar year, and emergency employees.

Section 2. Terms and Conditions of Employment: The term "terms and conditions of employment" means the hours of employment, the compensation therefor, including fringe benefits, except retirement contributions or benefits, and the employers personnel policies affecting the working conditions of the employees, subject to the provisions of M.S. 179.66 regarding the rights of public employers and the scope of negotiations.

Section 3. Other Terms: Terms not defined in this Agreement shall have those meanings as defined by the PELRA.

**ARTICLE IV  
EMPLOYEE RIGHTS**

Section 1. Right to Views: Nothing contained in this Agreement shall be construed to limit, impair or affect the right of any interpreter or his/her representative to the expression or communication of a view, grievance, complaint or opinion on any matter related to the conditions or compensation of public employment or their betterment, as long as the same is not designed to and does not interfere with the full, faithful and proper performance of the duties of employment or circumvent the rights of the exclusive representative.

Section 2. Right to Join: Interpreters shall have the right to form and join labor or employee organizations and shall have the right not to form and join such organizations. Interpreters in an appropriate unit shall have the right by secret ballot to designate an exclusive representative for the purpose of negotiating grievance procedures and the terms and conditions of employment for such interpreters with the school district.

Section 3. Use of Communications Facilities: The union shall have the right to post notices of activities and matters of union concern on designated bulletin boards in each school building site, in areas not normally accessible to students or the public.

Section 4. Use of School Buildings, Facilities, Equipment and Inter-School Mail: The union shall have the right to usage of such school district buildings, equipment, facilities and inter-school mail as is permitted pursuant to school district policy, and under such conditions as set forth in school district policy.

Section 5. Exclusive Representative Leave Time:

Subd. 1. When negotiating sessions are scheduled between the Union and the School District or with the state mediator during school hours, two members of the Interpreters' negotiating team will be released from their regular responsibilities for this purpose without any loss of pay.

Subd. 2. When an interpreter is being warned, reprimanded or disciplined for any infraction of rules or failure to make adequate progress on a performance improvement plan, leave for the Interpreter representation will be at the expense of the School District for one member as union representative. No representation shall be allowed for normal counseling or performance evaluation situations. The District shall make the sole determination as to the disciplinary nature of the situation.

Subd. 3. At the beginning of each school year, the Union shall be credited with twenty-eight (28) hours to be used at the discretion of the Local for the purpose of conducting its duties as exclusive representative. The Union has the option of purchasing additional hours at the regular hourly rate (including FICA) for a substitute Interpreter. It is understood that if, for whatever reason, a substitute is not available on the day for which exclusive bargaining leave is requested, the approval for that leave shall be automatically rescinded. The Union President will notify the Superintendent or his/her designee at least three (3)

working days prior to the date of intended leave. The Superintendent may waive the three (3) day notice.

Section 6. Right to Dues Check Off: Each employee shall be eligible to request payroll deductions for the withholding of union dues. Such requests shall be in writing on a form provided by the Union and delivered to the payroll office no later than October 15 of each school year. Pursuant to such authorization, the school district shall deduct one-sixteenth (1/16) of such dues from each regular semimonthly salary check for the employee, each month, beginning on October 15 and ending on May 31. An employee who begins employment in mid-year shall have thirty (30) days from employment date to request dues deduction. Deductions for employees employed after the commencement of the school year shall be specified on the form provided by the school district with the last payment to be on June 15th. The dues checkoff authorization shall continue in effect until termination of the employee or of revocation by the employee. Revocation shall be in writing to the Local and allowed only during the window provided by Education Minnesota. The Local will notify the District if this window changes from the prior year by June 30th.

Section 7. Personnel Files: ~~All evaluations and files generated with the School District relating to each employee shall be available upon written request. The employee shall have the right to request any contents of their own personnel file and to submit for inclusion the employee's response to any material contained within. Upon written request of contents from an employee's file, by the employee, the District will email a scan of the requested item(s) to the employee. At the employee's request, the District will supply the employee with a printed copy the requested item(s), which the employee can pick up at the District office during business hours. All evaluations and files generated with the school district relating to each interpreter shall be available during regular school business hours upon written request. The employee shall have the right to reproduce any contents of the file, at the employee's expense, and to submit for inclusion employee response to any material contained within.~~

## **ARTICLE V SCHOOL DISTRICT RESPONSIBILITIES**

Section 1. Management Responsibilities: The union recognizes the right and obligation of the school district to efficiently manage and conduct the operation of the school district within its legal limitations and with its primary obligations to provide vocational and special educational opportunities for students of the school district and the State of Minnesota.

Section 2. Effect of Law, Rules and Regulations: The union recognizes that all employees covered by this Agreement shall perform the nonteaching services prescribed by the school district and shall be governed by the laws of the State of Minnesota, and by School Board rules, policy, regulations, directives, and orders issued by properly designated officials of the school district. The union also recognizes the right, obligation, and duty of the School Board and its duly designated officials to promulgate rules, policy, regulations, directives, and orders from time to time as deemed necessary by the School Board insofar as such rules, policy, regulations, directives, and orders are not inconsistent with the terms of this Agreement and recognizes that the School Board, all employees covered by this Agreement, and all provisions of this agreement are subject to the laws of the State of Minnesota, Federal laws, rules and regulations and orders of the State and Federal governmental

agencies. Any provisions of this Agreement found to be in violation of any such laws, rules, regulations, directives or orders shall be null and void and without force and effect.

Section 3. Inherent Managerial Rights: The parties recognize that the school district is not required to meet and negotiate on matters of inherent managerial policy, which include, but are not limited to, such areas of discretion or policy as the functions and programs of the employer, its overall budget, utilization of technology, the organizational structure and selection and direction and number of personnel, and that all management rights and management functions not expressly delegated in this Agreement are reserved to the school district.

## **ARTICLE VI HOURS OF SERVICE - LENGTH OF SCHOOL YEAR**

Section 1. Basic Day: The ~~interpreters~~interpreter's basic day, exclusive of lunch, for a regular full-time employee, shall be six (6) to eight (8) hours per day as annually prescribed by the school district prior to August 1. However, the school district may employ such part-time interpreters as it deems appropriate.

Subd. 1. Break Period. Employees shall be scheduled for a morning break and an afternoon break. Schedules will be mutually developed and approved by the supervisor. If the employee and supervisor mutually agree, the morning and afternoon breaks may be combined to provide for a lunch break.

Section 2. Duty Year: The duty year for regular full-time employees under this Agreement shall be as annually prescribed by the school district prior to August 1 for the upcoming school year; ~~but not less than~~Employees in this group shall work the number of student days plus two (2) additional workdays to be determined by the school district. However, the school district may employ such part-time interpreters as it deems appropriate.

Section 3. Modifications in Calendar, Length of School Day:

Subd. 1. In the event of energy shortage, severe weather, or other exigency, the school district reserves the right to modify the duty year, and, if school is closed on a normal duty days(s), the employee shall perform duties on such other day(s) in lieu thereof as the school district or its designated representative shall determine, if any.

Subd. 2. In the event of energy shortage, severe weather, or other exigency, the school district further reserves the right to modify the length of the school day, as the school district shall determine, but with the understanding that the total number of hours shall not be increased, i.e., a four (4) day week with increased hours per day but the total weekly hours not more than the regular five (5) day week.

Subd. 3. Prior to modifying the scheduled length of the school day pursuant to Subd. 2 hereof, or scheduling more than two (2) makeup days pursuant to Subd. 1 hereof, the school district shall afford to the federation the opportunity to meet and confer on such matters.

Subd. 4. Provisions for the closing of schools due to inclement weather or other exigency shall be as addressed in District Policy 466 "Provisions for the closing of schools due to inclement weather or other exigency."

Section 4. Certain Absences: Interpreters shall not be paid for any days on which they do not perform services in accordance with their contract and this Agreement except for absences authorized pursuant to their contracts and this Agreement, and the School Board will in each case make appropriate deductions from pay for any such absences.

## ARTICLE VII BASIC SALARIES

### Section 1. Basic Salaries - Regular Employees:

Subd. 1. The wages and salaries set forth in Schedule A attached hereto shall be a part of this agreement for the period of July 1, ~~2020~~ 2022, through June 30, ~~2021~~ 2023. The wages and salaries set forth in Schedule B attached hereto shall be a part of this agreement for the period July 1, ~~2021~~ 2023 through June 30, ~~2022~~ 2024.

Subd. 2. Effective July 1, ~~2020~~ 2022, employees shall be compensated on Salary Schedule A, on such level and step for the ~~2020-2021~~ 2022-2023 contract year at one step ~~below~~ above their ~~2019-2020~~ 2021-2022 placement, except those on step ten (10), eleven (11), and twelve (12) who will be placed on step nine (9) due to the fact that the ~~first two steps~~ last three steps on the ~~2019-2020~~ 2021-2022 salary scheduled were dropped when creating the ~~2020-2021~~ 2022-2023 salary schedule, which still ~~thus~~ effectively ~~continuing~~ continues to increase all employees' salaries.

Subd. 3. Effective July 1, ~~2021~~ 2023, employees shall be compensated on Salary Schedule B, on such level and step for the ~~2021-2022~~ 2023-2024 contract year at one step over above their ~~2020-2021~~ 2022-2023 placement.

Subd. 4. In the event a successor agreement is not entered into prior to July 1, ~~2020~~ 2024, an employee shall remain at the same step as compensated during the ~~2019-2020~~ 2023-2024 contract year until a successor agreement is reached, which agreement shall govern step advancement, if any. However, the school district reserves the right to withhold step advancement or other salary increase in individual cases for just cause, subject to the grievance procedure.

Subd. 5. Longevity: Employees shall receive a longevity salary increase beyond the rates delineated in Schedules A and B as follows, where continuous applies to employees hired after July 1, 2018: \_\_\_\_\_ \$2.90/hour

Beginning in the 15<sup>th</sup> - 17<sup>th</sup> year of continuous employment  
Beginning in the 18<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup> year of continuous employment  
(Beginning in the 21<sup>st</sup> year of continuous employment and beyond \$3.10/hour)

Years of Continuous Employment	Hourly Increase
Years 10-14	\$2.00
Years 15-17	\$3.00

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<u>Years 18-20</u>	<u>\$4.00</u>
<u>Years 21 and beyond</u>	<u>\$5.00</u>

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The first year of employment shall be defined as any days of employment prior to the last student day of the regular school calendar in the first employment agreement. The next regular school calendar becomes the second year of employment.

Section 2. New Employees: A new employee shall be placed on the salary schedule as agreed between the employer and the employee and shall be eligible for step advancement on the following July 1, if they work any days prior to the last day of the regular school calendar in their employment agreement.

Section 3. Mentor/Lead Interpreter(s): One or more interpreter(s) may be designated by the School District to serve on an annual appointment in one of the following capacities:

<u>Position</u>	<u>Annual Stipend</u>
Lead Interpreter	\$500
Mentor Interpreter	\$1,500 (1-2 mentees)
Mentor Interpreter	\$1,800 (3 or more mentees)
<del>Lead/Mentor Interpreter</del>	<del>\$2,000</del>

An appointment to any of these positions shall not reduce the interpreter's hours of work from the previous school year. All stipends specified shall be in addition to the wages as provided in Schedules A and B and the mileage and expense reimbursements of this Master Agreement.

Section 4. Certification Adjustment: An employee who acquires a certification as reflected in Article XII, Section 4, shall advance to the certification lane at the same step, except as provided in Article VII, Sections 1 and 2 of the Master Agreement, on the appropriate salary -schedule effective following proof of certification. In lieu of retroactive pay, the interpreter shall receive a stipend in the amount of \$1950.00 to be paid in equal installments over the employee's annual paycheck.

Section 5. Certification + BA/BS: Effective July 1, 2003, an employee who has certification and shows proof of a bachelor's degree in education or their field of employment shall be placed in this lane. For those employees receiving degrees subsequently, the advancement to this lane shall be effective the first of the month following the awarding of the degree.

Section 6. Dual Certification Stipend: Any employee who is certified as both a sign language interpreter and cued language transliterator and who will be performing duties of both, shall receive a stipend of \$1,000.00 per year. The stipend specified shall be in addition to the wages as provided in Schedules A and B of this Master Contract.

Section 7: Absence of Regular Teacher. In the event the regular teacher is absent from the classroom two or more consecutive hours per day during the student contact time and a substitute is not hired, one School District designated employee shall receive the current substitute teacher pay for student contact hours that neither the regular teacher nor a substitute teacher is in attendance in the classroom or when an employee is in charge of students on a community outing. If the employee's rate of pay is already higher than that of the substitute teacher rate, the employee shall

receive their regular hourly pay plus an additional \$2.00 per hour. The School District will designate the employee responsible for providing coverage.

Section 8: Change in Assignment: An interpreter who is assigned duties of a program, classroom, or student assistant during any part of their workday shall be paid their interpreter rate of pay.

Section 9: Outside of Regular Assignment Work Hours Interpreting: All interpreters who perform outside of regular assignment work hours interpreting for ISD 917 or member school districts will be compensated at an hourly rate of \$25 an hour or their regular hourly rate whichever is greater. These rates will apply to member district requests for school sanctioned activities and events with the exception of the Minnesota State High School League sanctioned activities. These requests from ISD 917 or a member district may also include but are not limited to IEP meetings, parent/teacher conferences, or other requests approved by the Assistant Special Education Director supervisor responsible for the interpreting program.

Minnesota State High School League sanctioned activities payrate and arrangements for member districts will be made between the member district and the individual interpreter and paid directly to the interpreter by the member district. A list of interpreters willing to provide these services will be made available to member districts upon request.

Subd. 1. If the Outside of Regular Assignment Work Hours interpreting occurs immediately ~~following the end of~~ before or after the interpreter's workday, the interpreter shall be paid a minimum of one hour. If the assignment is longer than 1 hour, the interpreter shall be paid in increments of fifteen (15) minutes. If the interpreter is required to drive between member districts for the assignment, drive time will be included as work time.

Subd. 2. If the Outside of Regular Assignment Work Hours interpreting is not contiguous with the regular work day, the interpreter shall be paid a minimum of two hours plus the drive time equivalent of the end of the Regular Assignment Work Day location to the After Regular Assignment Work Hours location. Any hours worked after the two-hour minimum shall be paid in fifteen (15) minute increments.

Subd. 3. If Outside of Regular Assignment Work Hours result in an interpreter's work week being greater than 40 hours, as per labor law, the interpreter shall be paid time and a half of their regular hourly rate for the hours over 40.

## **ARTICLE ~~VIII~~VIII** **GROUP INSURANCE**

Section 1. Selection of Carrier: The selection of the insurance carrier and policy shall be made by the school district.

Section 2. Health and Hospitalization Insurance:

Subd. 1. Individual Coverage: Effective July 1, ~~2020~~2022, the school district shall contribute a sum not to exceed \$700 per month for each eligible employee employed by the school district who qualifies for and is enrolled in the school district group health and

hospitalization plan. Effective January 1, 2023, the school district shall contribute a sum not to exceed \$764 per month for each eligible employee employed by the school district who qualifies for and is enrolled in the school district group health and hospitalization plan. Effective January 1, 2024, the school district shall contribute a sum not to exceed \$804 per month for each eligible employee employed by the school district who qualifies for and is enrolled in the school district group health and hospitalization plan. The cost of the premium not contributed by the school district shall be borne by the employee and paid by payroll deduction. This subdivision shall not apply to those eligible employees who select coverage under the high deductible health plan described in Subdivision 3.

Subd. 2. Dependent Coverage: Effective July 1, ~~2020~~2022, the school district shall contribute a sum not to exceed ~~\$1650~~ ~~\$1400~~ per month for dependent coverage for each eligible employee employed by the school district who qualifies for and is enrolled in the school district group health and hospitalization plan and who qualifies for dependent coverage. Effective January 1, ~~2024~~2023, the school district shall contribute a sum not to exceed ~~\$1600~~ ~~1684~~ per month for dependent coverage for each eligible employee employed by the school district who qualifies for and is enrolled in the school district group health and hospitalization plan and who qualifies for dependent coverage. Effective January 1, ~~2022~~2024, the school district shall contribute a sum not to exceed ~~\$1650~~ ~~1784~~ per month for dependent coverage for each eligible employee employed by the school district who qualifies for and is enrolled in the school district group health and hospitalization plan and who qualifies for dependent coverage. The cost of the premium not contributed by the school district shall be borne by the employee and paid by payroll deduction. In the event that the school district's contribution for family coverage is discriminatory or illegal, the union will hold the school district harmless and indemnify the school district from any and all action, suits, claims, damages, judgments and other forms of liability which any person may have or claim to have arising out of or by reason of the school district's contribution toward family coverage. This subdivision shall not apply to those eligible employees who select coverage under the high deductible health plan described in Subdivision 4.

Subd. 3. Individual High Deductible Coverage:

- a) Eligible employees shall have the option of enrolling in a high deductible coverage option of the school district's health and hospitalization plan. The high deductible coverage shall be a qualified high deductible health plan within the meaning of Section 223 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended from time to time. Each eligible employee enrolled in the high deductible coverage shall be eligible for a contribution to a health savings account ("HSA") of such employee in accordance with the Intermediate School District No. 917 Flex Choice Plan (the "Flex Choice Plan"). Effective July 1, ~~2020~~2022, the total monthly contribution by the school district toward the cost of the premium of the high deductible coverage, the HSA contribution, and the HSA administrative fees attributable to such eligible employee shall not exceed \$700. Effective January 1, 2023, the total monthly contribution by the school district toward the cost of the premium of the high deductible coverage, the HSA contribution, and the HSA administrative fees attributable to such eligible employee shall not exceed \$764. Effective January 1, 2024, the total monthly contribution by the school district toward the cost of the premium of the high

deductible coverage, the HSA contribution, and the HSA administrative fees attributable to such eligible employee shall not exceed \$804.

- b) The school district shall contribute toward the cost of the premium for each eligible employee employed by the school district who qualifies for and is enrolled in individual coverage under the high deductible coverage option of the school district's health and hospitalization plan a monthly amount equal to the total monthly contribution identified in subsection (a) minus the monthly HSA contribution identified in subsection (c) and the monthly HSA administrative fees.
- c) The school district shall contribute an amount equal to one-half of the applicable deductible to the HSA of each eligible employee employed by the school district who qualifies for and is enrolled in individual coverage under the high deductible coverage option of the school district's health and hospitalization plan. Such contributions shall be made monthly on a pro rata basis. Such employees shall also be eligible, through the Flex Choice Plan, to make pre-tax contributions to the HSA via salary reduction. The school district shall select the vendor of the HSA to which such contributions shall be made. Once deposited in an employee's HSA, such contributions, whether made by the school district or via salary reduction, shall not be subject to restriction by the school district and the employee may access and/or transfer such funds to a different HSA to the fullest extent permitted by law. Such employees also shall be eligible to participate in a Limited Scope Health Care Reimbursement Plan through the Flex Choice Plan, which shall allow reimbursement of medical expenses to the fullest extent permitted by law for an individual receiving contributions to an HSA.

Subd. 4. Family High Deductible Coverage:

- a) Eligible employees shall have the option of enrolling in a high deductible coverage option of the school district's health and hospitalization plan. The high deductible coverage shall be a qualified high deductible health plan within the meaning of Section 223 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended from time to time. Each eligible employee enrolled in the high deductible coverage shall be eligible for a contribution to a health savings account ("HSA") of such employee in accordance with the Intermediate School District No. 917 Flex Choice Plan (the "Flex Choice Plan"). Effective July 1, ~~2020~~2022, the total monthly contribution by the school district toward the cost of the premium of the high deductible coverage, the HSA contribution, and the HSA administrative fees attributable to such eligible employee shall not exceed ~~\$1650~~400. Effective ~~July~~ January 1, ~~2020~~2023, the total monthly contribution by the school district toward the cost of the premium of the high deductible coverage, the HSA contribution, and the HSA administrative fees attributable to such eligible employee shall not exceed ~~\$1600~~1684. Effective ~~July~~ January 1, ~~2020~~2024, the total monthly contribution by the school district toward the cost of the premium of the high deductible coverage, the HSA contribution, and the HSA administrative fees attributable to such eligible employee shall not exceed ~~\$1650~~1784.

- b) The school district shall contribute toward the cost of the premium for each eligible employee employed by the school district who qualifies for and is enrolled in family coverage under the high deductible coverage option of the school district's health and hospitalization plan a monthly amount equal to the total monthly contribution identified in subsection (a) minus the monthly HSA contribution identified in subsection (c) and the monthly HSA administrative fees.
- c) The school district shall contribute an amount equal to one-half of the applicable deductible to the HSA of each eligible employee enrolled in the family high deductible coverage. Such contributions shall be made monthly on a pro rata basis. Such employees shall also be eligible, through the Flex Choice Plan, to make pre-tax contributions to the HSA via salary reduction. The school district shall select the vendor of the HSA to which such contributions shall be made. Once deposited in an employee's HSA, such contributions, whether made by the school district or via salary reduction, shall not be subject to restriction by the school district and the employee may access and/or transfer such funds to a different HSA to the fullest extent permitted by law. Such employees also shall be eligible to participate in a Limited Scope Health Care Reimbursement Plan through the Flex Choice Plan, which shall allow reimbursement of medical expenses to the fullest extent permitted by law for an individual receiving contributions to an HSA.

Subd. 5. Changes in Coverage under High Deductible Coverage: If an eligible employee who qualifies for and is enrolled in coverage under the high deductible coverage option of the school district's health and hospitalization plan changes the type of coverage during a calendar year (e.g., from individual coverage under the high deductible coverage option to family coverage under the high deductible coverage option; from family coverage under the high deductible coverage option to individual coverage under the high deductible coverage option to no coverage under the high deductible coverage option), the school district's contribution to the employee's HSA shall change accordingly. The change in the amount of HSA contributions shall be effective coincident with the change in the type of coverage under the high deductible coverage option.

Section 3. Dental Insurance:

Subd. 1. Individual Coverage: Effective July 1, ~~2020~~2022, the school district shall contribute a sum not to exceed \$40 per month toward the cost of the premium for individual coverage for each eligible employee employed by the school district who qualifies for and is enrolled in the school district's dental insurance plan. Effective January 1, 2023, the school district shall contribute a sum not to exceed \$56 per month toward the cost of the premium for individual coverage for each eligible employee employed by the school district who qualifies for and is enrolled in the school district's dental insurance plan. The cost of the premium not contributed by the school district shall be borne by the employee and paid by payroll deduction.

Subd. 2. Dependent Coverage: Effective July 1, ~~2020~~2022, the school district shall contribute a sum not to exceed \$105 per month toward the cost of the premium for dependent coverage for each eligible employee employed by the school district who qualifies for and is enrolled in the school district's dental insurance plan and who qualifies

for dependent coverage. Effective January 1, 2023, the school district shall contribute a sum not to exceed \$138 per month toward the cost of the premium for dependent coverage for each eligible employee employed by the school district who qualifies for and is enrolled in the school district's dental insurance plan and who qualifies for dependent coverage. The cost of the premium not contributed by the school district shall be borne by the employee and paid by payroll deduction.

Section 4. Group Income Protection: The school district will pay each month 100 percent of the current premium for income protection insurance for each full-time interpreter. The income protection plan shall include the following:

1. Benefits begin after ninety (90) working days of total disability.
2. The monthly income benefit shall be 66-2/3 percent of basic monthly earnings (exclusive of any additional compensation from this district or any other source).

Section 5. Life Insurance: The school district will pay each month 100 percent of the life insurance premium for a \$80,000 term life insurance policy for each full-time interpreter. The value of this benefit will be included in the employee's taxable income as required by the Internal Revenue Code Section 79.

Section 6. Claims Against the School District: The parties agree that any description of insurance benefits contained in this Article is intended to be informational only and the eligibility of any interpreter for benefits shall be governed by the terms of the insurance policy purchased by the school district pursuant to this Article. It is further understood that the school district's only obligation is to purchase an insurance policy and pay such amounts as agreed herein and no claims shall be made against the school district as a result of a denial of insurance benefits by an insurance carrier.

Section 7. Duration of Insurance Contribution: An interpreter is eligible for contributions as provided in this Article as long as he/she is a full-time employee of District No. 917. Upon termination of employment, all district contributions shall cease, except as otherwise provided by law. Employees who work the full school year and resign effective at the end of the school year, or are placed on unrequested leave of absence effective at the end of the school year, shall be eligible for school district contribution as provided in this article through August of the year of resignation or placement on unrequested leave.

Section 8. Eligibility: To be eligible for the benefits of this Article an employee must be a regular full-time employee employed at least 1,050 hours per year. For employees employed less than 1050 hours per year, but at least 550 hours per year, the school district will make a pro rata contribution.

## **ARTICLE IX LEAVES OF ABSENCE**

Section 1. Sick Leave:

Subd. 1. All full-time interpreters shall earn sick leave at the rate of twelve (12) days for each year of service in the employ of the school district. All full-time interpreters shall be given a credit of the number of sick days earned at the beginning of each year of employment. If in the event that an employee leaves the school district before the completion of the school year, one day of sick leave shall be deducted from the accumulated sick leave total for each month that the employee did not work during the school year. The employee will be liable to the school district for any sick leave pay granted to the employee for which they were not eligible by leaving the employment of the school district before completion of their school year.

Subd. 2. Unused sick leave days may accumulate without limit.

Subd. 3. The School Board may require an interpreter to furnish a medical certificate from a qualified physician as evidence of illness, indicating such absence was due to illness, in order to qualify for sick leave pay. However, the final determination as to the eligibility of an interpreter for sick leave is reserved to the School Board.

Subd. 4. In the event that a medical certificate will be required, the interpreter will be so advised.

Subd. 5. Sick leave allowed shall be deducted from the accrued sick leave days earned by the interpreter.

Subd. 6. Sick leave pay shall be approved only upon submission of a signed request.

Subd. 7. An interpreter who is entitled to sick leave pay, who is then receiving Workers Compensation, may not be paid sick leave pay in an amount greater than the difference between such Workers Compensation and his/her basic salary.

## Section 2. Medical Leave

Subd. 1. Personal Medical Leave of Absence: An employee who is unable to work because of a personal illness or disability may, upon written request to human resources per procedure outlined on the School District's website, be granted a medical leave of absence. Such leave shall run concurrently, that is at the same time, with Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA) provisions, if the employee is eligible under FMLA as noted in subdivision two (2) of this section. The employee's accrued paid leave must be exhausted before the employee transitions to an unpaid personal medical leave of absence.

Maternity Leave: The start of a personal physical disability absence for prenatal care, pregnancy, delivery, and recovery from childbirth shall be determined by the employee's physician. The end of a personal physical disability absence for childbirth shall also be determined by the employee's physician. This must be communicated to the School District in writing. Leaves extending beyond the physician's documentation shall fall under parental leave and may be eligible under the Family Medical Leave Act as noted in subdivision two (2) of this section.

Subd. 2. Family Medical Leave of Absence: In accordance with the Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA), eligible employees are entitled to twelve (12) workweeks of unpaid leave within a rolling twelve (12)-month period. Non-contract days, such as non-duty days, shall not count toward the twelve (12) workweeks and accrued paid leave shall not be deducted.

- a) FMLA Eligibility: Over the twelve (12) months prior to leave, employees must have been employed with the School District for at least twelve (12) months and worked 1,250 hours within the twelve (12)-month period preceding the leave. Any use of vacation, sick leave, or unpaid time off (non-duty days) are not be counted toward the 1,250-hour benchmark.
- b) Pursuant to law, FMLA Leave shall be granted for any of the following reasons:
  - i. The employee's own serious health condition, as defined by the FMLA.
  - ii. The employee's need to care for an immediate family member (spouse, child, parent) with a serious health condition, as defined by the FMLA.
  - iii. The placement (adoption or foster care) or birth of a child up to one year after the child's birth or placement.
- c) FMLA Leave will run concurrently, that is at the same time, with any paid leave and any and all of the employee's accrued paid leave must be exhausted before the employee transitions to an unpaid leave of absence.
- d) Spouses who work for the School District shall be allowed a combined total of twelve (12) weeks unpaid FMLA leave during any twelve (12)-month period for the birth or adoption of a child, or to care for a parent's serious health condition. However, the combined limitation does not apply to FMLA leave taken by one spouse in the School District to care for the other spouse in the School District.

Subd. 3. Notification and Request for Medical Leave: An employee must give written notice to human resources requesting a medical leave of absence at least three (3) calendar months before the beginning of the requested medical leave or within 24 hours of receipt of notice of arrival of an adopted child, if notice is received less than three (3) calendar months before the leave start date, or as soon as possible following the onset of a serious health condition. The request for medical leave shall adhere to procedure outlined on the School District's website.

Subd. 4. Medical Verification: The employee shall be required to provide the School District with medical verification from a qualified healthcare provider for their own or the family member's serious health condition when requesting the leave of absence.

Subd. 5. Returning from Medical Leave: An employee on a medical leave of absence under this Section must notify human resources or his/her administrative designee in writing, at least one (1) week prior to his/her intention to return from leave.

- a) If the employee is returning from a personal medical leave of absence, the employee must also provide medical verification from a qualified healthcare provider of the employee's release from medical restrictions allowing them to return to full capacity at work.

The employee may provide medical verification from a qualified healthcare provider of the employee's work restrictions due to the employee's serious medical condition, and the School District will attempt to accommodate those restrictions if possible.

- b) Upon return from a medical leave, the employee shall be returned to the former position held from which the employee was granted the leave, or an equivalent position should that position no longer be available or the School District determines the timing of the employee's return would interfere with student achievement.

Subd. 6. Probationary Period: Periods of time for which the employee is on medical leave may extend the employee's probationary period pursuant to Minnesota Statute (122A.41, Subdivision 1).

### Section 3. Parental Leave

Subd. 1. An employee shall be afforded a parental leave of absence of no more than twelve (12) months in duration for the care of a newborn child or an adopted child, provided that the employee is caring for the child on a full-time basis. The parental leave will run concurrently, that is at the same time, as family medical leave should the leave be an FMLA-qualified leave of absence.

Subd. 2. Notification and Request for Parental Leave: An employee shall give written notice to human resources, per procedure outlined on the School District's website, requesting a parental leave of absence at least three (3) calendar months before the beginning of the requested leave or within 24 hours of receipt of notice of the arrival of an adopted child, if notice is received less than three (3) calendar months before the leave start date.

Subd. 3. Returning from Parental Leave: For partial school year leaves, an employee on a parental leave of absence under this Section must confirm with human resources his/her intention to return from parental leave at least two (2) weeks prior to his/her approved leave end date. For full school-year leaves, an employee on a parental leave of absence under this Section must confirm with human resources or his/her administrative designee in writing, his/her intention to return from parental leave in July of the next fiscal year by April 1 of the leave fiscal year.

Upon return from a parental leave, the employee shall be returned to the former position held from which the employee was granted the leave, or an equivalent position should that position no longer be available or the School District determines the timing of the employee's return would interfere with student achievement.

Subd. 4. Failure of the employee to return from a parental leave pursuant to the agreed upon return date with the School District, may constitute job abandonment and be grounds for termination.

Subd. 5. The School District may adjust the proposed beginning or end date of a parental leave to coincide with a natural break in the school year.

Subd. 6. Probationary Period: Periods of time for which the employee is on parental leave may extend the employee's probationary period pursuant to Minnesota Statute (122A.41, Subdivision 1).

#### Section 4. Civic Duty/Military Leave

Subd. 1. Jury Duty: An employee summoned to serve on a jury shall request to be excused from such jury service. Employees who are not excused will be permitted time off without the loss of pay contingent upon the employee reimbursing the School District any fees / per diem received from the court for said jury duty. Any allowable expenses reimbursed by the court, such as mileage, parking, and meals, may be retained and are the sole responsibility of the employee to seek through the court. The District shall assume no responsibility to seek reimbursement, nor pay reimbursement for said expenses.

Subd. 2. Subpoenaed Witness: An employee subpoenaed in cases involving the School District or students (e.g., a parent custody case) served within the School District, will be permitted time off without the loss of pay and will be allowed to retain any allowable expenses reimbursed by the court. An employee subpoenaed in cases unrelated to the School District, will be permitted time off and use of paid or unpaid leave will be at the discretion of the Superintendent. Any allowable expenses reimbursed by the court, such as mileage, parking, and meals, may be retained and are the sole responsibility of the employee to seek through the court. The District shall assume no responsibility to seek reimbursement, nor pay reimbursement for said expenses.

Subd. 3. Military: Military leave shall be granted pursuant to State and Federal laws.

#### Section 5. General Unpaid Personal Leave

Subd. 1. An employee shall be afforded a general unpaid personal leave of absence, subject to the provisions in this section and District policy 464, through written request from the employee to the Superintendent. Any leave within this section must also be approved by the School Board if it extends beyond five (5) days. The granting of such leave shall be at the sole discretion of the School Board.

A general leave may be granted by the School Board for extended personal illness, extended illness of the employee's immediate family member, additional educational requirements, or other reasons acceptable to the School Board.

Subd. 2. A general leave of absence pursuant to this section shall be leave without pay and the employee will not be permitted to use accrued leave to subsidize his/her general leave of absence.

Subd. 3. An employee on an approved general leave of absence for a full school year or the spring semester of the school year, shall notify the Superintendent in writing of his/her intention to return for the upcoming fiscal year no later than April 1 of the leave fiscal year. For partial school year leaves, an employee on a general leave of absence under this Section must notify the Superintendent in writing, of his/her intention to return from general leave at least one (1) month prior to his/her approved leave end date.

## Section 6. Insurance Implications

Subd. 1. Qualified FMLA Leaves: An employee on a leave under this article that qualifies per the Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA) is eligible to continue to participate in group insurance programs, if permitted under the insurance policy provisions, and shall continue to pay the employee contribution to the insurance premium for any month during which the FMLA-qualified leave falls.

Subd. 2. Other Leaves: For leaves under this article that do not qualify per the FMLA, the employee shall pay the full insurance premium (School District and employee contributions) for any month in which the employee does not work at least one (1) day.

Subd. 3. Payment: The employee is responsible for paying the School District business office the monthly amounts due for any insurance programs the employee wishes to retain in advance of the end of the corresponding month on such a date determined by the School District. However, the employee may elect to discontinue insurance programs. The right to continue participation in such group insurance programs shall automatically discontinue upon termination of employment, except as otherwise provided by law.

## Section 7. Accrued Benefits:

Subd. 1. Employees on Medical or Parental Leaves: An employee on a medical or parental leave under this article shall retain his/her number of personal and sick leave days, and other accrued benefits, if any, up to the date that the employee went on leave for use during the employee's leave of absence, as noted in sections two (2) and three (3) of this article, and accrual will continue so long as the employee is using paid leave. No additional paid leave days, or other benefits shall accrue for the period of time that the employee is on unpaid leave.

Subd. 2. Employees on General Leaves: An employee on a general leave under this article shall retain his/her number of personal and sick leave days, and other accrued benefits, if any, up to the date that the employee went on leave for use upon the employee's return from leave. No additional paid leave days or other benefits shall accrue for the period that the employee is on unpaid leave.

Section 8. Failure to Return to Work from a Leave of Absence: Failure of the employee to return to work from a leave of absence pursuant to this Article shall constitute grounds for termination by the school district.

## Section 9. Death and Illness:

Subd. 1. An employee may be granted up to five (5) days absence with pay due to the death of the employee's spouse, child, step-child, parent, brother, sister, parent-in-law, son-in-law or daughter-in-law, or grandchild. Up to three (3) days absence may be granted with pay for the death of the employee's grandparent, brother-in-law or sister-in-law, or significant person of the immediate household. The leave set forth in this section is non-accumulative and shall not be deducted from sick leave.

Subd. 2. Upon approval of the superintendent or his/her designee, up to twenty (20) days sick leave per year will be granted for the illness or injury of the following: employee's spouse or parent or spouse's parent, or child over 18, or grandchild or sibling and/or grandparent and/or step-parent. An employee may use one (1) day of accumulated sick leave for each day of illness or disability of the employee's child who is less than eighteen (18) years old, for such reasonable periods as the employee's attendance with the child may be necessary, on the same terms the employee is able to use sick leave benefits for the employee's own illness (Minn. Stat. § 181.9413)

Subd. 3: Additional absence for severe illness or death may be granted at the sole discretion of the superintendent, whose decision is final and binding and is not subject to the grievance procedure.

Section 10. Personal Leave:

Subd. 1. Eligibility: Employees will receive personal leave days per the following schedule:

In year one (1) of continuous employment	1 day
In years two (2) through four (4) of continuous employment	2 days
In years five (5) and beyond of continuous employment	3 days

Continuous employment applied to employees hired after July 1, 2018. Personal leave shall be allowed to accumulate to a total of five (5) days.

- A. Employees in their first year of employment, eligible for one (1) day of personal leave, may be granted time off for extraordinary circumstances in emergency situations if their personal leave has been used. Such days will be deducted from accumulated sick leave.
- B. An employee may be granted leave without pay at the sole discretion of the superintendent, in accordance with school board policy.

Subd. 2. The use of a personal leave day is subject to the approval of the School District to ensure a minimum of disruption for the educational program. Accordingly, the following limitations shall apply:

- A. A personal leave day normally shall not be granted for the day preceding or the day following holidays or vacation periods and the first and last ten (10) duty days of the school year.
- B. Personal leave requests may be denied on a particular day, if other employees in the same bargaining unit have already been granted personal leave which would be disruptive of the functioning of the particular program. In addition, personal leave requests will not be approved for more than one (1) interpreter on any given day.

Subd. 3. At the beginning of each contract year, employees will be credited with the number of days of personal leave specified in Subd. 1 herein. Those interpreters who have accumulated three (3) days of personal leave or more prior to the beginning of any contract year shall receive a lump sum payment of \$100.00 for each day beyond five for which they become eligible in lieu of being granted additional days beyond five.

Subd. 4. Usage of personal leave shall be requested as early as practicable and normally at least one (1) week in advance.

Sub. 5. The first year of employment shall be defined as any days of employment prior to the last student day of the regular school calendar in the first employment agreement. The next regular school calendar becomes the second year of employment.

## **ARTICLE X PROBATIONARY PERIOD**

Section 1. Probationary Period: An employee, under the provisions of this Agreement, who is certified (EIPA score of 4.0 or NAD- or RID-, or NIC-certified) shall serve a probationary period of ~~three-one (1)~~ school years of continuous employment during which time the school district shall have the unqualified right to suspend without pay, discharge or otherwise discipline such employee. An employee, under the provisions of this Agreement, who is not certified at the beginning of their second year of continuous employment shall serve a probationary period of two (2) school years of continuous employment or until their reach Minnesota certification, whichever occurs first, during which time the school district shall have the unqualified right to suspend without pay, discharge, or otherwise discipline such employee. If the employee has previously completed a probationary period in another school district they will serve a one school year probationary period. An employee employed prior to July 6, 2004, shall retain the previous probationary period of one school year of continuous employment.

Section 2. Completion of Probationary Period: An employee who has completed the probationary period may be suspended without pay, discharged or disciplined only for just cause by the school district in accordance with Article XI of this Agreement.

## **ARTICLE XI EMPLOYEE SUPERVISION**

Section 1. Employee Improvement Plans:

Subd. 1. Prior to formal or informal disciplinary procedures being employed in cases of minor misconduct or in cases where the behavior or poor performance does not constitute a serious infraction of the contract, district policies, rules or directives of superiors, the school district may, in its discretion, attempt to improve an employee's performance and/or correct an employee's behavior by implementing an "employee improvement plan."

Subd. 2. The purpose of an employee improvement plan is to improve the employee's performance up to the standards and expectations of the school district. Should the

employee fail to raise his/her level of performance to the school district's expectations, or the behavior issues continue, the school district may resort to the disciplinary measures delineated in Section 2 of this Article.

Subd. 3. All employee improvement plans will be placed in the employee's personnel file along with any notations as to the employee's progress in improving performance.

## Section 2. Employee Discipline:

Subd. 1. Employee discipline is the school district's process for assuring compliance with the terms and conditions of the collective bargaining agreement, Board policies and rules, directives issued by the employee's supervisors or other administrators, and generally accepted norms of behavior. Discipline is intended to correct unacceptable behavior and improve performance. The school district shall render disciplinary measures only for just cause and shall ensure that employee rights to "due process" are protected.

Subd. 2. Oral or Written Reprimands. The school district shall typically follow a progressive discipline approach as outlined in this Article depending upon the gravity of the misconduct or the level of performance issues. The school district may, at its sole discretion, move immediately to a higher level of discipline, depending upon the severity of the misconduct or lack of performance.

- a) Oral Reprimand. Oral reprimands may be issued to employees in the event of relatively minor infractions. Oral reprimands shall not be grievable under Article XIV of this agreement. Oral reprimands shall not be documented in the employee's official personnel file.
- b) Written Reprimand. Written reprimands (Notices of Deficiency) may be issued by the school district for more serious misconduct or when oral warnings have not corrected the employee's behavior or performance. Written reprimands will be placed in the employee's personnel file. Employees may respond in writing to written reprimands and such responses shall be placed in the employee's official personnel file. Written reprimands are grievable under Article XIV of this Agreement. The standards of review are whether or not any material in the employee's official personnel file is false or inaccurate or is without just cause. Any material found through the grievance procedure to be false or inaccurate or without just cause shall be expunged from the employee's official personnel file.

## Subd. 3. Suspension.

- a) An employee may be suspended without pay for grounds as described in Minn. Stat. Section 122A.40, Subd. 9(a) through (e) or Minn. Stat. Section 122A.40, Subd. 13 (1) through (6). Any suspension is subject to the grievance procedure under Article XIV of this Agreement. Additionally, an employee may be suspended without pay when other disciplinary measures have been applied without sufficient positive result, or for other willful violations of District policies or directives.

- b) Suspension shall take effect upon written notification from the Superintendent of Schools to the employee stating the grounds for suspension. The employee shall have the right to invoke the grievance procedures set forth in Article XIV of this Agreement at the arbitration level provided written notification requesting arbitration is received by the superintendent within fifteen (15) days after receipt of the written notice of suspension.
- c) The suspension shall take effect upon receipt by the employee of the written notice of suspension or shall take effect as otherwise indicated in the written notice of suspension. The suspension shall continue in effect for the time period provided in the written notice or as otherwise decided by the school board, but not to exceed a period of thirty (30) workdays.

Subd. 4. Termination for Cause.

- a) An Interpreter who has passed the probationary period may be terminated for cause at the end of a school year for any of the following reasons:
  - i. Inefficiency;
  - ii. Neglect of duty, or persistent violation of school laws, rules, regulations, or directives;
  - iii. Conduct unbecoming an Interpreter which materially impairs the Interpreter's educational effectiveness;
  - iv. Other good and sufficient grounds rendering the employee unfit to perform the Interpreter's duties.
- b) An Interpreter will not be terminated upon one of the grounds specified in clause (1), (2), (3), or (4), unless the Interpreter fails to correct the deficiency after being given written notice of the specific items of complaint and reasonable time within which to remedy them.
- c) Immediate discharge. A board may discharge a non-probationary Interpreter, effective immediately, upon any of the following grounds:
  - i. Immoral conduct, insubordination, or conviction of a felony;
  - ii. Conduct unbecoming an Interpreter which requires the immediate removal of the Interpreter from classroom or other duties;
  - iii. Failure without justifiable cause to be present at assigned work place without first securing the written release of the school board;
  - iv. Gross inefficiency which the Interpreter has failed to correct after reasonable written notice;
  - v. Willful neglect of duty; or
  - vi. Continuing physical or mental disability subsequent to a twelve-month (12) leave of absence and inability to qualify for reinstatement.

**ARTICLE XII  
SENIORITY**

Section 1. Seniority: The parties recognize the principle of seniority in the application of this Agreement concerning reduction or increase in force, and reduction of working time, within qualification areas as defined by the school district. For purposes of this Article, the school district reserves the right to define reasonable qualifications within reasonable program areas and program skills. The exercise of seniority, therefore, shall be subject to the employee's qualifications within said areas.

Section 2. Seniority Date: An employee shall acquire a seniority date upon completion of the probationary period as defined in this Agreement and upon acquiring seniority the seniority date shall relate back to the date of original hire. If more than one employee is hired on the same date, the tie shall be broken by lot.

Section 3. Loss of Seniority: An employee shall lose his/her seniority standing upon written resignation of employment, discharge for cause, or after a twelve (12) month continuous lay off.

Section 4. Seniority List: There shall be two separate seniority lists and an employee shall have seniority rights only within the list that they are qualified for pursuant to this section. An employee shall acquire seniority either as a sign language interpreter or as a cued language transliterator. To be eligible on the seniority list, an employee must have the appropriate certification and have been assigned by the school district as either a sign language interpreter or cued language transliterator. To be eligible on the seniority list, an employee must have the appropriate certification and have been assigned by the school district as either an interpreter/transliterator or cued speech transliterator. An employee who meets both of those qualifications may appear on both seniority lists. An employee shall not exercise seniority in one of the two positions unless the employee is eligible on the particular list. Effective July 1, 2000, all sign language interpreters or as a cued language transliterators who have the certification within one or both areas shall be senior to anyone else on the list who does not have such certification. However, the employee without certification will retain his/her original seniority date and upon obtaining certification will have seniority consistent with the original seniority date. For purposes of this section, a sign language interpreter must be certified by Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID), National Association of the Deaf (NAD) or Educational Interpreter Performance Assessment (EIPA). Certification for a cued language transliterator shall be by certification from Testing, Evaluation and Certification Unit (TECUnit). If Minnesota Statute recognizes a new certification testing organization, that certification shall apply here.

Section 5. School District Discretion: Effective July 1, 2000, the school district reserves the right to place on layoff any employee who is not certified and replace such employee with a certified employee if financial aids are negatively affected because of lack of certification.

Section 6. Seniority List Posting: Seniority lists shall be published no later than February 15 each year. The list shall indicate the employees' seniority date and position. The list shall be ~~posted at each school facility where possible~~ distributed to the union members via email.

### ARTICLE XIII MISCELLANEOUS

Section 1. Travel Expense and Mileage Reimbursement:

Subd. 1. Interpreters required by the school district to use their own vehicles in the performance of their duties shall be reimbursed for such travel at the rate as prescribed by School Board policy.

Subd. 2. In the event that an interpreter is obliged to travel to diverse job sites during the course of the employee's duty day, the School District shall reimburse the employee at the School District's approved mileage rate. Mileage reimbursement shall not apply towards the employee's mileage from home to the initial assignment location at the beginning of the day, nor from the last assignment location to the employee's home at the end of the day.

Section 3. Registry of Certified Interpreters and Transliterators: Sign language interpreters who verify their testing for a Certificate of Interpretation issued by the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID), National Association of the Deaf (NAD) or Educational Interpreter Performance Assessment (EIPA) or for cued language transliterators certification from Testing, Evaluation and Certification Unit (TECU) shall, upon such completion of any test, be reimbursed for the testing costs in an actual amount, not to exceed a total of \$550 per interpreter. If Minnesota Statute recognizes a new certification testing organization, that certification shall apply here.

Section 4. Certification Maintenance Program/Annual Registration: For interpreters certified by the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf and for Cued English Transliteratees Certified by the Testing, Evaluation, and Certification Unit who verify their certification, the maintenance fee and annual registration, these employees will be reimbursed by the district as follows:

- ~~a) The first year for Interpreters, reimbursement will be an amount equal to \$165 and for Transliterators reimbursement will be an amount equal to \$100 less the amount that the Minnesota Department of Education is currently charging for teacher license renewal.~~
- ~~a) For the following four (4) years, On an annual basis, interpreters can request reimbursement will be \$165 for for up to \$165. Interpreters and~~
- b) On an annual basis, transliterators can request reimbursement for up to \$100 for Transliterators.

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**ARTICLE XIV  
GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE**

Section 1. Grievance Definition: A "grievance" shall mean an allegation by an employee resulting in a dispute or disagreement between the employee and the school district as to the interpretation or application of terms and conditions of employment insofar as such matters are contained in this Agreement.

Section 2. Representative: The employee, administrator or school district may be represented during any step of the procedure by any person or agent designated by such parties to this Agreement to act in their behalf.

Section 3. Definitions and Interpretations:

Subd. 1. Extension: Time limits specified in this Agreement may be extended by mutual agreement.

Subd. 2. Days: Reference to days regarding time periods in this procedure shall refer to calendar days.

Subd. 3. Filing and Postmark: The filing or service of any notice or document herein shall be timely if it is personally served or if it bears a certified postmark of the United States Postal Service within the time period.

Section 4. Time Limitation and Waiver: Grievances shall not be valid for consideration unless the grievance is submitted in writing to the school district's designee, setting forth the facts and specific provision of the Agreement allegedly violated and the particular relief sought within twenty (20) days -after the date the event giving rise to the grievance occurred. Failure to file any grievance within such period shall be deemed a waiver thereof. Failure to appeal a grievance from one level to another within the time periods hereinafter provided shall constitute a waiver of the grievance. An effort shall first be made to adjust an alleged grievance informally between the employee and the school district's designee.

Section 5. Adjustments of Grievance: The school district and the employee shall attempt to adjust all grievances which may arise during the course of employment of any employee within the school district in the following manner:

Subd. 1. Level I: If the grievance is not resolved through informal discussions, the school district designee shall give a written decision on the grievance to the parties involved within ten (10) days after receipt of the written grievance.

Subd. 2. Level II: In the event the grievance is not resolved in Level I, the decision rendered may be appealed to the superintendent of schools, provided such appeal is made in writing within five (5) days after receipt of the decision in Level I. If a grievance is properly appealed to the superintendent, the superintendent or his/her designee shall set a time to meet regarding the grievance within fifteen (15) days after receipt of the appeal. Within ten (10) days after the meeting the superintendent or his/her designee shall issue a decision in writing to the parties involved.

Section 6. School Board Review: The School Board reserves the right to review any decision issued under Level I or Level II of this procedure provided the School Board or its representative notifies the parties of its intention to review within ten (10) days after the decision has been rendered. In the event the School Board reviews a grievance under this section, the School Board reserves the right to reverse or modify such decision.

Section 7. Denial of Grievance: Failure by the school district or its representative to issue a decision within the time periods provided herein shall constitute a denial of the grievance and the employee may appeal it to the next level.

Section 8. Arbitration Procedures: In the event that the employee and the school district are unable to resolve any grievance, the grievance may be submitted to arbitration as defined herein.

Subd. 1. Request: A request to submit a grievance to arbitration must be in writing signed by the aggrieved party, and such request must be filed in the office of the superintendent within ten (10) days following the decision in Level I I or School Board review, whichever is applicable, of the grievance procedure.

Subd. 2. Prior Procedure Required: No grievance shall be considered by the arbitrator which has not been first duly processed in accordance with the grievance procedure and appeal provisions.

Subd. 3. Selection of Arbitrator: Upon the proper submission of a grievance under the terms of this procedure, the parties shall, within ten (10) days after the request to arbitrate, attempt to agree upon the selection of an arbitrator. If no agreement on an arbitrator is reached, either party may request the BMS to appoint an arbitrator pursuant to the PELRA providing such request is made within twenty (20) days after the request for arbitration. The request shall ask that the appointment be made within thirty (30) days after the receipt of said request. Failure to agree upon an arbitrator or the failure to request an arbitrator from the BMS within the time periods provided herein shall constitute a waiver of the grievance.

Subd. 4. Hearing: The grievance shall be heard by a single arbitrator and both parties may be represented by such a person or persons as they may choose and designate, and the parties shall have the right to a hearing at which time both parties will have the opportunity to submit evidence, offer testimony, and make oral or written arguments relating to the issues before the arbitrator. The proceeding before the arbitrator shall be a hearing de novo.

Subd. 5. Decision: The decision by the arbitrator shall be rendered within thirty (30) days after the close of the hearing. Decisions by the arbitrator in cases properly before him/her shall be final and binding upon the parties; subject, however, to the limitations of arbitration decisions as provided in the PELRA. The arbitrator shall issue a written decision and order including findings of fact which shall be based upon substantial and competent evidence presented at the hearing. All witnesses shall be sworn upon oath by the arbitrator.

Subd. 6. Expenses: Each party shall bear its own expenses in connection with arbitration including expenses relating to the party's representatives, witnesses, and any other expenses which the party incurs in connection with presenting its case in arbitration. A transcript or recording shall be made of the hearing at the request of either party or if the request is mutual, the cost shall be shared. The parties shall share equally fees and expenses of the arbitrator and any other expenses which the parties mutually agree are necessary for the conduct of the arbitration.

Subd. 7. Jurisdiction: The arbitrator shall have jurisdiction over disputes or disagreements relating to grievances properly before the arbitrator pursuant to the terms of this procedure.

The jurisdiction of the arbitrator shall not extend to proposed changes in terms and conditions of employment as defined herein and contained in this written Agreement; nor shall an arbitrator have jurisdiction over any grievance which has not been submitted to arbitration in compliance with the terms of the grievance and arbitration procedure as outlined herein; nor shall the jurisdiction of the arbitrator extend to matters limited or excluded by PELRA of 1971.

Section 9. Grievance Form: A form which must be used for filing grievances shall be provided by the school district (Attachment A). Such form shall be readily accessible in all school buildings.

Section 10. Election of Remedies and Waiver: A party instituting any action, proceeding or complaint in a federal or state court of law, or before an administrative tribunal, federal agency, state agency, or seeking relief through any statutory process for which relief may be granted, the subject matter of which may constitute a grievance under this Agreement, shall immediately thereupon waive any and all rights to pursue a grievance under this Article. Upon instituting a proceeding in another forum as outlined herein, the employee shall waive his/her right to initiate a grievance pursuant to this Article, or, if the grievance is pending in the grievance procedure, the right to pursue it further shall be immediately waived. This section shall not apply to actions to compel arbitration as provided in this Agreement or to enforce the award of an arbitrator.

## **ARTICLE XV SEVERANCE/EARLY RETIREMENT**

Section 1. Retiree Health Coverage: Health coverage following the termination of employment shall be made available to the extent required under, and in accordance with, Minnesota Statutes Section 471.61, subd. 2b. The District makes no contribution towards the premium cost of such coverage.

Section 2. Cut-off Date: The benefits of this article shall not apply to a member of this group employed after July 1, 2020.

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Section 43. Eligibility: Full-time employees who have completed at least fifteen (15) years of continuous service with the School District, and who are at least fifty-five (55) years of age, or have completed thirty (30) years of service with the School District shall be eligible for severance pay pursuant to the provisions of this Article upon submission of a written resignation accepted by the School Board. Severance pay shall not be granted to any employee who is discharged for cause by the School District. ~~This Article shall apply only to employees who retire after the execution of this contract and shall not be retroactive to any employee who retired prior to said execution date.~~

Section 2. Amount of Severance: Eligible employees, upon retirement, shall receive as severance pay unused sick leave days, not to exceed thirty-five (35) days. The amount of severance payment under this Article shall be reduced by the amount of the School District matching 403b contributions made under Article XVI, Section 2, effective July 6, 2004.

Section 3. Method of Pay-out:

- a) Subject to the limitations listed below, the school district will contribute an amount equal to the value of the employee's severance pay directly into the School Board approved 403b vendor account. The retiree will not receive any direct payment from the school district for the severance pay.
- b) The school district's annual contribution into the School Board approved 403b vendor account must not exceed the IRS contribution limit. If the amount calculated in A exceeds the available limits in the year of separation, the excess amount will be paid out in cash and not be tax sheltered.
- c) The school district contribution(s) (into the approved 403b vendor account) will be made according to the same timeline as was provided for the direct payment of the severance pay.
- d) The school district will make the severance pay contributions to the School Board approved 403b vendor. For purposes of calculating the maximum deferral limit, the school district will provide the retiree or approved vendor with contribution information for the previous twelve (12) months of employment. The vendor agrees to calculate the maximum deferral limit.

Section 4. Notice: To be eligible for the benefits of this section, unless waived by the School District, an employee must notify the School District not less than 45 calendar days prior to the proposed retirement date.

**ARTICLE XVI  
403b MATCHING CONTRIBUTION**

Section 1. Eligibility: To be eligible for contribution under this Article, an employee must have completed one (1) year of employment in the District to be eligible for contribution in the employee's second year of service. The first year of employment shall be defined as any days of employment prior to the last student day of the regular school calendar in the first employment agreement. The next regular school calendar becomes the second year of employment. Further, to be eligible for this contribution an employee must be regularly employed at least 1110 hours during the contract year, and such benefits shall not apply to substitute employees. For employees employed less than 1110 hours, but at least 550 hours per year, the school district shall make a contribution according to Section 2 below.

Section 2. Contribution. Effective July 1, 2020, the school district will match the employee contribution up to a maximum as listed in the following schedule for full time employees, according to year of continuous employment. For eligible employees as defined in Section 1, employed less than full time, the school district will make a 50% matching contribution, as listed in the following schedule. (Continuous only applies to persons hired after July 1, 2018.)

<u>Continuous Years of Employment in District</u>	<u>1110+hrs/yr</u>	<u>550-1109 hrs/yr</u>
2-4	\$250	\$125
5	\$400	\$200

6-9	\$550	\$275
10-15	\$700	\$350
16+	\$850	\$425

Section 3. Authorization Agreement. A salary reduction authorization agreement must be completed by the eligible employee by October 1 of the current year, for the employee to participate in the 403b matching contribution plan.

Section 4. Unpaid Leaves. Employees on unpaid leaves may not participate in the matching program while on leave.

Section 5. Matching Requirement. The School District’s contribution, in any event, shall not exceed the employee’s matching contribution within the limitations of this Article.

**ARTICLE XVII  
DURATION**

Section 1. Term and Reopening Negotiations: This Agreement shall remain in full force and effect for a period commencing July 1, ~~2020~~2022, through June 30, ~~2022~~2024, and thereafter pursuant to PELRA. If either party desires to modify or amend this Agreement commencing on July 1, ~~2022~~2024, it shall give written notice of such intent no later than May 1, ~~2022~~2024. Unless otherwise mutually agreed, the parties shall not commence negotiations more than ninety (90) days prior to the expiration of this Agreement.

Section 2. Effect: This Agreement constitutes the full and complete agreement between the school district and the union representing the interpreters of the school district. The provisions herein relating to terms and conditions of employment supersede any and all prior agreements, resolutions, practices, school district policies, rules or regulations concerning terms and conditions of employment inconsistent with these provisions.

Section 3. Finality: Any matters relating to the current contract term, whether or not referred to in this Agreement, shall not be open for negotiation during the term of this Agreement.

Section 4. Severability: The provisions of this Agreement shall be severable, and if any provision thereof or the application of any such provision under any circumstances is held invalid, it shall not affect any other provision of this Agreement or the application of any provision thereof.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have executed this Agreement as follows:

DAKOTA COUNTY FEDERATION  
OF INTERPRETERS  
LOCAL #3904A

INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL DISTRICT 917

\_\_\_\_\_  
President

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman

Clerk

Dated: ~~July 7, 2020~~September 6, 2022  
~~2020~~September 6, 2022

Dated: ~~July 7,~~

**SCHEDULE A  
INTERPRETERS**

**~~2020-2021~~2022-2023 SALARY SCHEDULE**

STEP NUMBER	NON-CERTIFIED LANE 1 (A)	CERTIFIED OR 3.7 OR HIGHER ON THE EIPA TEST LANE 2 (B)	CERT + BA/BS OR BA/BS + 3.7 OR HIGHER ON THE EIPA TEST LANE 3 (C)
1	19.97	21.48	22.42
2	20.55	22.04	22.97
3	21.11	22.60	23.53
4	21.67	23.18	24.10
5	22.23	23.70	24.65
6	22.80	24.27	25.22
7		24.83	25.77
8		25.40	26.31
9		25.94	26.88
10		26.51	27.44
11		27.07	28.00
12		27.64	28.58

STEP NUMBER	NON-CERTIFIED RANGE 1 (A)	CERTIFIED OR 3.7 OR HIGHER ON THE EIPA TEST RANGE 2 (B)	CERT + BA/BS OR BA/BS + 3.7 OR HIGHER ON THE EIPA TEST RANGE 3 (C)
1	24.03	25.56	26.51
2	24.62	26.13	27.07
3	25.18	26.7	27.64
4	25.75	27.29	28.22
5	26.32	27.81	28.78
6	26.9	28.39	29.36
7		28.96	29.91
8		29.54	30.46
9		30.09	31.04

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**SCHEDULE B  
INTERPRETERS**

**~~2021-2022~~2023-2024 SALARY SCHEDULE**

STEP NUMBER	NON-CERTIFIED LANE 1 (A)	CERTIFIED OR 3.7 OR HIGHER ON THE EIPA TEST LANE 2 (B)	CERT + BA/BS OR BA/BS + 3.7 OR HIGHER ON THE EIPA TEST LANE 3 (C)
1	20.47	21.98	22.92
2	21.05	22.54	23.47
3	21.61	23.10	24.03
4	22.17	23.68	24.60
5	22.73	24.20	25.15
6	23.30	24.77	25.72
7	-	25.33	26.27
8	-	25.90	26.81
9	-	26.44	27.38
10	-	27.01	27.94
11	-	27.57	28.50
12	-	28.14	29.08

STEP NUMBER	NON-CERTIFIED RANGE 1 (A)	CERTIFIED OR 3.7 OR HIGHER ON THE EIPA TEST RANGE 2 (B)	CERT + BA/BS OR BA/BS + 3.7 OR HIGHER ON THE EIPA TEST RANGE 3 (C)
1	24.36	25.92	26.88
2	24.96	26.49	27.45
3	25.54	27.07	28.03
4	26.11	27.67	28.61
5	26.69	28.2	29.18
6	27.28	28.79	29.77
7		29.37	30.33
8		29.95	30.89
9		30.51	31.48

ATTACHMENT A  
GRIEVANCE REPORT FORM  
INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL DISTRICT 917

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Building: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Grievance Occurred:  
\_\_\_\_\_

Statement of Facts:

Specific Provisions of Agreement Allegedly Violated:

Particular Relief Sought:

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Grievant

AGREEMENT

between

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF  
INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 917

and

DAKOTA COUNTY FEDERATION OF INTERPRETERS  
LOCAL #3904A - AFT, NEA, EDUCATION MINNESOTA

Effective July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2024

Board Approved September 6, 2022

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<i>Page</i>
ARTICLE I .....	3
PURPOSE.....	3
ARTICLE II.....	3
RECOGNITION OF EXCLUSIVE REPRESENTATIVE.....	3
ARTICLE III.....	3
DEFINITIONS.....	3
ARTICLE IV.....	4
EMPLOYEE RIGHTS .....	5
SCHOOL DISTRICT RESPONSIBILITIES.....	5
ARTICLE V.....	4
ARTICLE VI.....	6
HOURS OF SERVICE - LENGTH OF SCHOOL YEAR.....	6
ARTICLE VII.....	7
BASIC SALARIES.....	7
ARTICLE VIII.....	9
GROUP INSURANCE.....	9
ARTICLE IX.....	13
LEAVES OF ABSENCE.....	13
ARTICLE X.....	19
PROBATIONARY PERIOD.....	19
ARTICLE XI.....	20
EMPLOYEE SUPERVISION.....	20
ARTICLE XII.....	22
SENIORITY.....	22
ARTICLE XIII.....	23
MISCELLANEOUS.....	23
ARTICLE XIV.....	24
GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE.....	24
ARTICLE XV.....	26
SEVERANCE/EARLY RETIREMENT .....	26
ARTICLE XVI.....	27
403b MATCHING CONTRIBUTION.....	27
ARTICLE XVII.....	28
DURATION .....	28
SCHEDULE A.....	29
SCHEDULE B.....	30
ATTACHMENT A.....	31

## **INTERPRETERS AGREEMENT**

### **ARTICLE I PURPOSE**

Section 1. Parties: This Agreement is entered into between the School Board of Intermediate School District No. 917, Rosemount, Minnesota, (hereinafter referred to as the school board or school district) and the Dakota County Federation of Interpreters, Local 3904A - AFT, NEA, Education Minnesota, AFL-CIO (hereinafter referred to as the Union) pursuant to and in compliance with the Public Employment Labor Relations Act of 1971, as amended, (hereinafter referred to as the PELRA) to provide the terms and conditions of employment for employees represented by the Dakota County Federation of Interpreters (hereinafter referred to as interpreters) during the duration of this Agreement.

### **ARTICLE II RECOGNITION OF EXCLUSIVE REPRESENTATIVE**

Section 1. Recognition: In accordance with the PELRA, the school district recognizes the Dakota County Federation of Interpreters, Local #3904A - AFT, NEA, Education Minnesota, AFL-CIO, as the exclusive representative of interpreters employed by the school district, which exclusive representative shall have those rights and duties as prescribed by the PELRA and as described in the provisions of this Agreement.

Section 2. Appropriate Unit: The union shall represent all the interpreters of the district as defined in this Agreement and in the PELRA and by certification of the Bureau of Mediation Services, dated February 14, 1992, BMS Case No. 92-PCE-75.

### **ARTICLE III DEFINITIONS**

Section 1. Interpreters: Interpreters shall mean all employees employed by the school district and assigned responsibilities of interpreters, transliterators, and cued language transliterators, but excluding the following: superintendent, business manager, directors, and coordinators, who devote more than fifty percent (50%) of their time to administrative or supervisory duties, confidential employees, supervisory employees, nurses, essential employees, part-time employees whose services do not exceed the lesser of fourteen (14) hours per week or thirty-five percent (35%) of the normal work week in the employee's bargaining unit, employees who hold positions of a temporary or seasonal character for a period not in excess of 67 working days in any calendar year, and emergency employees.

Section 2. Terms and Conditions of Employment: The term "terms and conditions of employment" means the hours of employment, the compensation therefor, including fringe benefits, except retirement contributions or benefits, and the employers personnel policies affecting the working conditions of the employees, subject to the provisions of M.S. 179.66 regarding the rights of public employers and the scope of negotiations.

Section 3. Other Terms: Terms not defined in this Agreement shall have those meanings as defined by the PELRA.

## **ARTICLE IV EMPLOYEE RIGHTS**

Section 1. Right to Views: Nothing contained in this Agreement shall be construed to limit, impair or affect the right of any interpreter or his/her representative to the expression or communication of a view, grievance, complaint or opinion on any matter related to the conditions or compensation of public employment or their betterment, as long as the same is not designed to and does not interfere with the full, faithful and proper performance of the duties of employment or circumvent the rights of the exclusive representative.

Section 2. Right to Join: Interpreters shall have the right to form and join labor or employee organizations and shall have the right not to form and join such organizations. Interpreters in an appropriate unit shall have the right by secret ballot to designate an exclusive representative for the purpose of negotiating grievance procedures and the terms and conditions of employment for such interpreters with the school district.

Section 3. Use of Communications Facilities: The union shall have the right to post notices of activities and matters of union concern on designated bulletin boards in each school building site, in areas not normally accessible to students or the public.

Section 4. Use of School Buildings, Facilities, Equipment and Inter-School Mail: The union shall have the right to usage of such school district buildings, equipment, facilities and inter-school mail as is permitted pursuant to school district policy, and under such conditions as set forth in school district policy.

### Section 5. Exclusive Representative Leave Time:

Subd. 1. When negotiating sessions are scheduled between the Union and the School District or with the state mediator during school hours, two members of the Interpreters' negotiating team will be released from their regular responsibilities for this purpose without any loss of pay.

Subd. 2. When an interpreter is being warned, reprimanded or disciplined for any infraction of rules or failure to make adequate progress on a performance improvement plan, leave for the Interpreter representation will be at the expense of the School District for one member as union representative. No representation shall be allowed for normal counseling or performance evaluation situations. The District shall make the sole determination as to the disciplinary nature of the situation.

Subd. 3. At the beginning of each school year, the Union shall be credited with twenty-eight (28) hours to be used at the discretion of the Local for the purpose of conducting its duties as exclusive representative. The Union has the option of purchasing additional hours at the regular hourly rate (including FICA) for a substitute Interpreter. It is understood that if, for whatever reason, a substitute is not available on the day for which exclusive bargaining leave is requested, the approval for that leave shall be automatically rescinded. The Union President will notify the Superintendent or his/her designee at least three (3) working days prior to the date of intended leave. The Superintendent may waive the three (3) day notice.

Section 6. Right to Dues Check Off: Each employee shall be eligible to request payroll deductions for the withholding of union dues. Such requests shall be in writing on a form provided by the Union and delivered to the payroll office no later than October 15 of each school year. Pursuant to such authorization, the school district shall deduct one-sixteenth (1/16) of such dues from each regular semimonthly salary check for the employee, each month, beginning on October 15 and ending on May 31. An employee who begins employment in mid-year shall have thirty (30) days from employment date to request dues deduction. Deductions for employees employed after the commencement of the school year shall be specified on the form provided by the school district with the last payment to be on June 15th. The dues checkoff authorization shall continue in effect until termination of the employee or of revocation by the employee. Revocation shall be in writing to the Local and allowed only during the window provided by Education Minnesota. The Local will notify the District if this window changes from the prior year by June 30th.

Section 7. Personnel Files: All evaluations and files generated with the School District relating to each employee shall be available upon written request. The employee shall have the right to request any contents of their own personnel file and to submit for inclusion the employee's response to any material contained within. Upon written request of contents from an employee's file, by the employee, the District will email a scan of the requested item(s) to the employee. At the employee's request, the District will supply the employee with a printed copy the requested item(s), which the employee can pick up at the District office during business hours.

## **ARTICLE V SCHOOL DISTRICT RESPONSIBILITIES**

Section 1. Management Responsibilities: The union recognizes the right and obligation of the school district to efficiently manage and conduct the operation of the school district within its legal limitations and with its primary obligations to provide vocational and special educational opportunities for students of the school district and the State of Minnesota.

Section 2. Effect of Law, Rules and Regulations: The union recognizes that all employees covered by this Agreement shall perform the nonteaching services prescribed by the school district and shall be governed by the laws of the State of Minnesota, and by School Board rules, policy, regulations, directives, and orders issued by properly designated officials of the school district. The union also recognizes the right, obligation, and duty of the School Board and its duly designated officials to promulgate rules, policy, regulations, directives, and orders from time to time as deemed necessary by the School Board insofar as such rules, policy, regulations, directives, and orders are not inconsistent with the terms of this Agreement and recognizes that the School Board, all employees covered by this Agreement, and all provisions of this agreement are subject to the laws of the State of Minnesota, Federal laws, rules and regulations and orders of the State and Federal governmental agencies. Any provisions of this Agreement found to be in violation of any such laws, rules, regulations, directives or orders shall be null and void and without force and effect.

Section 3. Inherent Managerial Rights: The parties recognize that the school district is not required to meet and negotiate on matters of inherent managerial policy, which include, but are not limited to, such areas of discretion or policy as the functions and programs of the employer, its overall budget, utilization of technology, the organizational structure and selection and direction and

number of personnel, and that all management rights and management functions not expressly delegated in this Agreement are reserved to the school district.

## **ARTICLE VI HOURS OF SERVICE - LENGTH OF SCHOOL YEAR**

Section 1. Basic Day: The interpreter's basic day, exclusive of lunch, for a regular full-time employee, shall be six (6) to eight (8) hours per day as annually prescribed by the school district prior to August 1. However, the school district may employ such part-time interpreters as it deems appropriate.

Subd. 1. Break Period. Employees shall be scheduled for a morning break and an afternoon break. Schedules will be mutually developed and approved by the supervisor. If the employee and supervisor mutually agree, the morning and afternoon breaks may be combined to provide for a lunch break.

Section 2. Duty Year: The duty year for regular full-time employees under this Agreement shall be as annually prescribed by the school district prior to August 1 for the upcoming school year. Employees in this group shall work the number of student days plus two (2) additional workdays to be determined by the school district. However, the school district may employ such part-time interpreters as it deems appropriate.

### Section 3. Modifications in Calendar, Length of School Day:

Subd. 1. In the event of energy shortage, severe weather, or other exigency, the school district reserves the right to modify the duty year, and, if school is closed on a normal duty days(s), the employee shall perform duties on such other day(s) in lieu thereof as the school district or its designated representative shall determine, if any.

Subd. 2. In the event of energy shortage, severe weather, or other exigency, the school district further reserves the right to modify the length of the school day, as the school district shall determine, but with the understanding that the total number of hours shall not be increased, i.e., a four (4) day week with increased hours per day but the total weekly hours not more than the regular five (5) day week.

Subd. 3. Prior to modifying the scheduled length of the school day pursuant to Subd. 2 hereof, or scheduling more than two (2) makeup days pursuant to Subd. 1 hereof, the school district shall afford to the federation the opportunity to meet and confer on such matters.

Subd. 4. Provisions for the closing of schools due to inclement weather or other exigency shall be as addressed in District Policy 466 "Provisions for the closing of schools due to inclement weather or other exigency."

Section 4. Certain Absences: Interpreters shall not be paid for any days on which they do not perform services in accordance with their contract and this Agreement except for absences authorized pursuant to their contracts and this Agreement, and the School Board will in each case make appropriate deductions from pay for any such absences.

**ARTICLE VII  
BASIC SALARIES**

Section 1. Basic Salaries - Regular Employees:

Subd. 1. The wages and salaries set forth in Schedule A attached hereto shall be a part of this agreement for the period of July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2023. The wages and salaries set forth in Schedule B attached hereto shall be a part of this agreement for the period July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024.

Subd. 2. Effective July 1, 2022, employees shall be compensated on Salary Schedule A, on such level and step for the 2022-2023 contract year at one step *above* their 2021-2022 placement, except those on step ten (10), eleven (11), and twelve (12) who will be placed on step nine (9) due to the fact that the last three steps on the 2021-2022 salary schedule were dropped when creating the 2022-2023 salary schedule, which still effectively continues to increase all employees' salaries.

Subd. 3. Effective July 1, 2023, employees shall be compensated on Salary Schedule B, on such level and step for the 2023-2024 contract year at one step *above* their 2022-2023 placement.

Subd. 4. In the event a successor agreement is not entered into prior to July 1, 2024, an employee shall remain at the same step as compensated during the 2023-2024 contract year until a successor agreement is reached, which agreement shall govern step advancement, if any. However, the school district reserves the right to withhold step advancement or other salary increase in individual cases for just cause, subject to the grievance procedure.

Subd. 5. Longevity: Employees shall receive a longevity salary increase beyond the rates delineated in Schedules A and B as follows, where continuous applies to employees hired after July 1, 2018:

Years of Continuous Employment	Hourly Increase
Years 10-14	\$2.00
Years 15-17	\$3.00
Years 18-20	\$4.00
Years 21 and beyond	\$5.00

The first year of employment shall be defined as any days of employment prior to the last student day of the regular school calendar in the first employment agreement. The next regular school calendar becomes the second year of employment.

Section 2. New Employees: A new employee shall be placed on the salary schedule as agreed between the employer and the employee and shall be eligible for step advancement on the following July 1, if they work any days prior to the last day of the regular school calendar in their employment agreement.

Section 3. Mentor/Lead Interpreter(s): One or more interpreter(s) may be designated by the School District to serve on an annual appointment in one of the following capacities:

<u>Position</u>	<u>Annual Stipend</u>
Lead Interpreter	\$500
Mentor Interpreter	\$1,500 (1-2 mentees)
Mentor Interpreter	\$1,800 (3 or more mentees)

An appointment to any of these positions shall not reduce the interpreter's hours of work from the previous school year. All stipends specified shall be in addition to the wages as provided in Schedules A and B and the mileage and expense reimbursements of this Master Agreement.

Section 4. Certification Adjustment: An employee who acquires a certification as reflected in Article XII, Section 4, shall advance to the certification lane at the same step, except as provided in Article VII, Sections 1 and 2 of the Master Agreement, on the appropriate salary schedule effective following proof of certification. In lieu of retroactive pay, the interpreter shall receive a stipend in the amount of \$1950.00 to be paid in equal installments over the employee's annual paycheck.

Section 5. Certification + BA/BS: Effective July 1, 2003, an employee who has certification and shows proof of a bachelor's degree in education or their field of employment shall be placed in this lane. For those employees receiving degrees subsequently, the advancement to this lane shall be effective the first of the month following the awarding of the degree.

Section 6. Dual Certification Stipend: Any employee who is certified as both a sign language interpreter and cued language transliterator and who will be performing duties of both, shall receive a stipend of \$1,000.00 per year. The stipend specified shall be in addition to the wages as provided in Schedules A and B of this Master Contract.

Section 7: Absence of Regular Teacher. In the event the regular teacher is absent from the classroom two or more consecutive hours per day during the student contact time and a substitute is not hired, one School District designated employee shall receive the current substitute teacher pay for student contact hours that neither the regular teacher nor a substitute teacher is in attendance in the classroom or when an employee is in charge of students on a community outing. If the employee's rate of pay is already higher than that of the substitute teacher rate, the employee shall receive their regular hourly pay plus an additional \$2.00 per hour. The School District will designate the employee responsible for providing coverage.

Section 8: Change in Assignment: An interpreter who is assigned duties of a program, classroom, or student assistant during any part of their workday shall be paid their interpreter rate of pay.

Section 9: Outside of Regular Assignment Work Hours Interpreting: All interpreters who perform outside of regular assignment work hours interpreting for ISD 917 or member school districts will be compensated at an hourly rate of \$25 an hour or their regular hourly rate whichever is greater. These rates will apply to member district requests for school sanctioned activities and events with the exception of the Minnesota State High School League sanctioned activities. These requests from ISD 917 or a member district may also include but are not limited to IEP meetings, parent/teacher conferences, or other requests approved by the Assistant Special Education Director supervisor responsible for the interpreting program.

Minnesota State High School League sanctioned activities payrate and arrangements for member districts will be made between the member district and the individual interpreter and paid directly to the interpreter by the member district. A list of interpreters willing to provide these services will be made available to member districts upon request.

Subd. 1. If the Outside of Regular Assignment Work Hours interpreting occurs immediately before or after the interpreter's workday, the interpreter shall be paid a minimum of one hour. If the assignment is longer than 1 hour, the interpreter shall be paid in increments of fifteen (15) minutes. If the interpreter is required to drive between member districts for the assignment, drive time will be included as work time.

Subd. 2. If the Outside of Regular Assignment Work Hours interpreting is not contiguous with the regular work day, the interpreter shall be paid a minimum of two hours plus the drive time equivalent of the end of the Regular Assignment Work Day location to the After Regular Assignment Work Hours location. Any hours worked after the two-hour minimum shall be paid in fifteen (15) minute increments.

Subd 3. If Outside of Regular Assignment Work Hours result in an interpreter's work week being greater than 40 hours, as per labor law, the interpreter shall be paid time and a half of their regular hourly rate for the hours over 40.

## **ARTICLE VIII GROUP INSURANCE**

Section 1. Selection of Carrier: The selection of the insurance carrier and policy shall be made by the school district.

Section 2. Health and Hospitalization Insurance:

Subd. 1. Individual Coverage: Effective July 1, 2022, the school district shall contribute a sum not to exceed \$700 per month for each eligible employee employed by the school district who qualifies for and is enrolled in the school district group health and hospitalization plan. Effective January 1, 2023, the school district shall contribute a sum not to exceed \$764 per month for each eligible employee employed by the school district who qualifies for and is enrolled in the school district group health and hospitalization plan. Effective January 1, 2024, the school district shall contribute a sum not to exceed \$804 per month for each eligible employee employed by the school district who qualifies for and is enrolled in the school district group health and hospitalization plan. The cost of the premium not contributed by the school district shall be borne by the employee and paid by payroll deduction. This subdivision shall not apply to those eligible employees who select coverage under the high deductible health plan described in Subdivision 3.

Subd. 2. Dependent Coverage: Effective July 1, 2022, the school district shall contribute a sum not to exceed \$1650 per month for dependent coverage for each eligible employee employed by the school district who qualifies for and is enrolled in the school district group health and hospitalization plan and who qualifies for dependent coverage. Effective January 1, 2023, the school district shall contribute a sum not to exceed \$1684 per month for

dependent coverage for each eligible employee employed by the school district who qualifies for and is enrolled in the school district group health and hospitalization plan and who qualifies for dependent coverage. Effective January 1, 2024, the school district shall contribute a sum not to exceed \$1784 per month for dependent coverage for each eligible employee employed by the school district who qualifies for and is enrolled in the school district group health and hospitalization plan and who qualifies for dependent coverage. The cost of the premium not contributed by the school district shall be borne by the employee and paid by payroll deduction. In the event that the school district's contribution for family coverage is discriminatory or illegal, the union will hold the school district harmless and indemnify the school district from any and all action, suits, claims, damages, judgments and other forms of liability which any person may have or claim to have arising out of or by reason of the school district's contribution toward family coverage. This subdivision shall not apply to those eligible employees who select coverage under the high deductible health plan described in Subdivision 4.

Subd. 3. Individual High Deductible Coverage:

- a) Eligible employees shall have the option of enrolling in a high deductible coverage option of the school district's health and hospitalization plan. The high deductible coverage shall be a qualified high deductible health plan within the meaning of Section 223 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended from time to time. Each eligible employee enrolled in the high deductible coverage shall be eligible for a contribution to a health savings account ("HSA") of such employee in accordance with the Intermediate School District No. 917 Flex Choice Plan (the "Flex Choice Plan"). Effective July 1, 2022, the total monthly contribution by the school district toward the cost of the premium of the high deductible coverage, the HSA contribution, and the HSA administrative fees attributable to such eligible employee shall not exceed \$700. Effective January 1, 2023, the total monthly contribution by the school district toward the cost of the premium of the high deductible coverage, the HSA contribution, and the HSA administrative fees attributable to such eligible employee shall not exceed \$764. Effective January 1, 2024, the total monthly contribution by the school district toward the cost of the premium of the high deductible coverage, the HSA contribution, and the HSA administrative fees attributable to such eligible employee shall not exceed \$804.
- b) The school district shall contribute toward the cost of the premium for each eligible employee employed by the school district who qualifies for and is enrolled in individual coverage under the high deductible coverage option of the school district's health and hospitalization plan a monthly amount equal to the total monthly contribution identified in subsection (a) minus the monthly HSA contribution identified in subsection (c) and the monthly HSA administrative fees.
- c) The school district shall contribute an amount equal to one-half of the applicable deductible to the HSA of each eligible employee employed by the school district who qualifies for and is enrolled in individual coverage under the high deductible coverage option of the school district's health and hospitalization plan. Such contributions shall be made monthly on a pro rata basis. Such employees shall also be eligible, through the Flex Choice Plan, to make pre-tax contributions to the HSA

via salary reduction. The school district shall select the vendor of the HSA to which such contributions shall be made. Once deposited in an employee's HSA, such contributions, whether made by the school district or via salary reduction, shall not be subject to restriction by the school district and the employee may access and/or transfer such funds to a different HSA to the fullest extent permitted by law. Such employees also shall be eligible to participate in a Limited Scope Health Care Reimbursement Plan through the Flex Choice Plan, which shall allow reimbursement of medical expenses to the fullest extent permitted by law for an individual receiving contributions to an HSA.

Subd. 4. Family High Deductible Coverage:

- a) Eligible employees shall have the option of enrolling in a high deductible coverage option of the school district's health and hospitalization plan. The high deductible coverage shall be a qualified high deductible health plan within the meaning of Section 223 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended from time to time. Each eligible employee enrolled in the high deductible coverage shall be eligible for a contribution to a health savings account ("HSA") of such employee in accordance with the Intermediate School District No. 917 Flex Choice Plan (the "Flex Choice Plan"). Effective July 1, 2022, the total monthly contribution by the school district toward the cost of the premium of the high deductible coverage, the HSA contribution, and the HSA administrative fees attributable to such eligible employee shall not exceed \$1650. Effective January 1, 2023, the total monthly contribution by the school district toward the cost of the premium of the high deductible coverage, the HSA contribution, and the HSA administrative fees attributable to such eligible employee shall not exceed \$1684. Effective January 1, 2024, the total monthly contribution by the school district toward the cost of the premium of the high deductible coverage, the HSA contribution, and the HSA administrative fees attributable to such eligible employee shall not exceed \$1784.
- b) The school district shall contribute toward the cost of the premium for each eligible employee employed by the school district who qualifies for and is enrolled in family coverage under the high deductible coverage option of the school district's health and hospitalization plan a monthly amount equal to the total monthly contribution identified in subsection (a) minus the monthly HSA contribution identified in subsection (c) and the monthly HSA administrative fees.
- c) The school district shall contribute an amount equal to one-half of the applicable deductible to the HSA of each eligible employee enrolled in the family high deductible coverage. Such contributions shall be made monthly on a pro rata basis. Such employees shall also be eligible, through the Flex Choice Plan, to make pre-tax contributions to the HSA via salary reduction. The school district shall select the vendor of the HSA to which such contributions shall be made. Once deposited in an employee's HSA, such contributions, whether made by the school district or via salary reduction, shall not be subject to restriction by the school district and the employee may access and/or transfer such funds to a different HSA to the fullest extent permitted by law. Such employees also shall be eligible to participate in a Limited Scope Health Care Reimbursement Plan through the Flex Choice Plan,

which shall allow reimbursement of medical expenses to the fullest extent permitted by law for an individual receiving contributions to an HSA.

Subd. 5. Changes in Coverage under High Deductible Coverage: If an eligible employee who qualifies for and is enrolled in coverage under the high deductible coverage option of the school district's health and hospitalization plan changes the type of coverage during a calendar year (e.g., from individual coverage under the high deductible coverage option to family coverage under the high deductible coverage option; from family coverage under the high deductible coverage option to individual coverage under the high deductible coverage option to no coverage under the high deductible coverage option), the school district's contribution to the employee's HSA shall change accordingly. The change in the amount of HSA contributions shall be effective coincident with the change in the type of coverage under the high deductible coverage option.

### Section 3. Dental Insurance:

Subd. 1. Individual Coverage: Effective July 1, 2022, the school district shall contribute a sum not to exceed \$40 per month toward the cost of the premium for individual coverage for each eligible employee employed by the school district who qualifies for and is enrolled in the school district's dental insurance plan. Effective January 1, 2023, the school district shall contribute a sum not to exceed \$56 per month toward the cost of the premium for individual coverage for each eligible employee employed by the school district who qualifies for and is enrolled in the school district's dental insurance plan. The cost of the premium not contributed by the school district shall be borne by the employee and paid by payroll deduction.

Subd. 2. Dependent Coverage: Effective July 1, 2022, the school district shall contribute a sum not to exceed \$105 per month toward the cost of the premium for dependent coverage for each eligible employee employed by the school district who qualifies for and is enrolled in the school district's dental insurance plan and who qualifies for dependent coverage. Effective January 1, 2023, the school district shall contribute a sum not to exceed \$138 per month toward the cost of the premium for dependent coverage for each eligible employee employed by the school district who qualifies for and is enrolled in the school district's dental insurance plan and who qualifies for dependent coverage. The cost of the premium not contributed by the school district shall be borne by the employee and paid by payroll deduction.

Section 4. Group Income Protection: The school district will pay each month 100 percent of the current premium for income protection insurance for each full-time interpreter. The income protection plan shall include the following:

1. Benefits begin after ninety (90) working days of total disability.
2. The monthly income benefit shall be 66-2/3 percent of basic monthly earnings (exclusive of any additional compensation from this district or any other source).

Section 5. Life Insurance: The school district will pay each month 100 percent of the life insurance premium for a \$80,000 term life insurance policy for each full-time interpreter. The value of this

benefit will be included in the employee's taxable income as required by the Internal Revenue Code Section 79.

Section 6. Claims Against the School District: The parties agree that any description of insurance benefits contained in this Article is intended to be informational only and the eligibility of any interpreter for benefits shall be governed by the terms of the insurance policy purchased by the school district pursuant to this Article. It is further understood that the school district's only obligation is to purchase an insurance policy and pay such amounts as agreed herein and no claims shall be made against the school district as a result of a denial of insurance benefits by an insurance carrier.

Section 7. Duration of Insurance Contribution: An interpreter is eligible for contributions as provided in this Article as long as he/she is a full-time employee of District No. 917. Upon termination of employment, all district contributions shall cease, except as otherwise provided by law. Employees who work the full school year and resign effective at the end of the school year, or are placed on unrequested leave of absence effective at the end of the school year, shall be eligible for school district contribution as provided in this article through August of the year of resignation or placement on unrequested leave.

Section 8. Eligibility: To be eligible for the benefits of this Article an employee must be a regular full-time employee employed at least 1,050 hours per year. For employees employed less than 1050 hours per year, but at least 550 hours per year, the school district will make a pro rata contribution.

## **ARTICLE IX LEAVES OF ABSENCE**

### Section 1. Sick Leave:

Subd. 1. All full-time interpreters shall earn sick leave at the rate of twelve (12) days for each year of service in the employ of the school district. All full-time interpreters shall be given a credit of the number of sick days earned at the beginning of each year of employment. If in the event that an employee leaves the school district before the completion of the school year, one day of sick leave shall be deducted from the accumulated sick leave total for each month that the employee did not work during the school year. The employee will be liable to the school district for any sick leave pay granted to the employee for which they were not eligible by leaving the employment of the school district before completion of their school year.

Subd. 2. Unused sick leave days may accumulate without limit.

Subd. 3. The School Board may require an interpreter to furnish a medical certificate from a qualified physician as evidence of illness, indicating such absence was due to illness, in order to qualify for sick leave pay. However, the final determination as to the eligibility of an interpreter for sick leave is reserved to the School Board.

Subd. 4. In the event that a medical certificate will be required, the interpreter will be so advised.

Subd. 5. Sick leave allowed shall be deducted from the accrued sick leave days earned by the interpreter.

Subd. 6. Sick leave pay shall be approved only upon submission of a signed request.

Subd. 7. An interpreter who is entitled to sick leave pay, who is then receiving Workers Compensation, may not be paid sick leave pay in an amount greater than the difference between such Workers Compensation and his/her basic salary.

## Section 2. Medical Leave

Subd. 1. Personal Medical Leave of Absence: An employee who is unable to work because of a personal illness or disability may, upon written request to human resources per procedure outlined on the School District's website, be granted a medical leave of absence. Such leave shall run concurrently, that is at the same time, with Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA) provisions, if the employee is eligible under FMLA as noted in subdivision two (2) of this section. The employee's accrued paid leave must be exhausted before the employee transitions to an unpaid personal medical leave of absence.

Maternity Leave: The start of a personal physical disability absence for prenatal care, pregnancy, delivery, and recovery from childbirth shall be determined by the employee's physician. The end of a personal physical disability absence for childbirth shall also be determined by the employee's physician. This must be communicated to the School District in writing. Leaves extending beyond the physician's documentation shall fall under parental leave and may be eligible under the Family Medical Leave Act as noted in subdivision two (2) of this section.

Subd. 2. Family Medical Leave of Absence: In accordance with the Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA), eligible employees are entitled to twelve (12) workweeks of unpaid leave within a rolling twelve (12)-month period. Non-contract days, such as non-duty days, shall not count toward the twelve (12) workweeks and accrued paid leave shall not be deducted.

- a) FMLA Eligibility: Over the twelve (12) months prior to leave, employees must have been employed with the School District for at least twelve (12) months and worked 1,250 hours within the twelve (12)-month period preceding the leave. Any use of vacation, sick leave, or unpaid time off (non-duty days) are not be counted toward the 1,250-hour benchmark.
- b) Pursuant to law, FMLA Leave shall be granted for any of the following reasons:
  - i. The employee's own serious health condition, as defined by the FMLA.
  - ii. The employee's need to care for an immediate family member (spouse, child, parent) with a serious health condition, as defined by the FMLA.
  - iii. The placement (adoption or foster care) or birth of a child up to one year after the child's birth or placement.
- c) FMLA Leave will run concurrently, that is at the same time, with any paid leave and any and all of the employee's accrued paid leave must be exhausted before the

employee transitions to an unpaid leave of absence.

- d) Spouses who work for the School District shall be allowed a combined total of twelve (12) weeks unpaid FMLA leave during any twelve (12)-month period for the birth or adoption of a child, or to care for a parent's serious health condition. However, the combined limitation does not apply to FMLA leave taken by one spouse in the School District to care for the other spouse in the School District.

Subd. 3. Notification and Request for Medical Leave: An employee must give written notice to human resources requesting a medical leave of absence at least three (3) calendar months before the beginning of the requested medical leave or within 24 hours of receipt of notice of arrival of an adopted child, if notice is received less than three (3) calendar months before the leave start date, or as soon as possible following the onset of a serious health condition. The request for medical leave shall adhere to procedure outlined on the School District's website.

Subd. 4. Medical Verification: The employee shall be required to provide the School District with medical verification from a qualified healthcare provider for their own or the family member's serious health condition when requesting the leave of absence.

Subd. 5. Returning from Medical Leave: An employee on a medical leave of absence under this Section must notify human resources or his/her administrative designee in writing, at least one (1) week prior to his/her intention to return from leave.

- a) If the employee is returning from a personal medical leave of absence, the employee must also provide medical verification from a qualified healthcare provider of the employee's release from medical restrictions allowing them to return to full capacity at work.

The employee may provide medical verification from a qualified healthcare provider of the employee's work restrictions due to the employee's serious medical condition, and the School District will attempt to accommodate those restrictions if possible.

- b) Upon return from a medical leave, the employee shall be returned to the former position held from which the employee was granted the leave, or an equivalent position should that position no longer be available or the School District determines the timing of the employee's return would interfere with student achievement.

Subd. 6. Probationary Period: Periods of time for which the employee is on medical leave may extend the employee's probationary period pursuant to Minnesota Statute (122A.41, Subdivision 1).

### Section 3. Parental Leave

Subd. 1. An employee shall be afforded a parental leave of absence of no more than twelve (12) months in duration for the care of a newborn child or an adopted child, provided that the employee is caring for the child on a full-time basis. The parental leave will run

concurrently, that is at the same time, as family medical leave should the leave be an FMLA-qualified leave of absence.

Subd. 2. Notification and Request for Parental Leave: An employee shall give written notice to human resources, per procedure outlined on the School District's website, requesting a parental leave of absence at least three (3) calendar months before the beginning of the requested leave or within 24 hours of receipt of notice of the arrival of an adopted child, if notice is received less than three (3) calendar months before the leave start date.

Subd. 3. Returning from Parental Leave: For partial school year leaves, an employee on a parental leave of absence under this Section must confirm with human resources his/her intention to return from parental leave at least two (2) weeks prior to his/her approved leave end date. For full school-year leaves, an employee on a parental leave of absence under this Section must confirm with human resources or his/her administrative designee in writing, his/her intention to return from parental leave in July of the next fiscal year by April 1 of the leave fiscal year.

Upon return from a parental leave, the employee shall be returned to the former position held from which the employee was granted the leave, or an equivalent position should that position no longer be available or the School District determines the timing of the employee's return would interfere with student achievement.

Subd. 4. Failure of the employee to return from a parental leave pursuant to the agreed upon return date with the School District, may constitute job abandonment and be grounds for termination.

Subd. 5. The School District may adjust the proposed beginning or end date of a parental leave to coincide with a natural break in the school year.

Subd. 6. Probationary Period: Periods of time for which the employee is on parental leave may extend the employee's probationary period pursuant to Minnesota Statute (122A.41, Subdivision 1).

#### Section 4. Civic Duty/Military Leave

Subd. 1. Jury Duty: An employee summoned to serve on a jury shall request to be excused from such jury service. Employees who are not excused will be permitted time off without the loss of pay contingent upon the employee reimbursing the School District any fees / per diem received from the court for said jury duty. Any allowable expenses reimbursed by the court, such as mileage, parking, and meals, may be retained and are the sole responsibility of the employee to seek through the court. The District shall assume no responsibility to seek reimbursement, nor pay reimbursement for said expenses.

Subd. 2. Subpoenaed Witness: An employee subpoenaed in cases involving the School District or students (e.g., a parent custody case) served within the School District, will be permitted time off without the loss of pay and will be allowed to retain any allowable expenses reimbursed by the court. An employee subpoenaed in cases unrelated to the School District, will be permitted time off and use of paid or unpaid leave will be at the

discretion of the Superintendent. Any allowable expenses reimbursed by the court, such as mileage, parking, and meals, may be retained and are the sole responsibility of the employee to seek through the court. The District shall assume no responsibility to seek reimbursement, nor pay reimbursement for said expenses.

Subd. 3. Military: Military leave shall be granted pursuant to State and Federal laws.

## Section 5. General Unpaid Personal Leave

Subd. 1. An employee shall be afforded a general unpaid personal leave of absence, subject to the provisions in this section and District policy 464, through written request from the employee to the Superintendent. Any leave within this section must also be approved by the School Board if it extends beyond five (5) days. The granting of such leave shall be at the sole discretion of the School Board.

A general leave may be granted by the School Board for extended personal illness, extended illness of the employee's immediate family member, additional educational requirements, or other reasons acceptable to the School Board.

Subd. 2. A general leave of absence pursuant to this section shall be leave without pay and the employee will not be permitted to use accrued leave to subsidize his/her general leave of absence.

Subd. 3. An employee on an approved general leave of absence for a full school year or the spring semester of the school year, shall notify the Superintendent in writing of his/her intention to return for the upcoming fiscal year no later than April 1 of the leave fiscal year. For partial school year leaves, an employee on a general leave of absence under this Section must notify the Superintendent in writing, of his/her intention to return from general leave at least one (1) month prior to his/her approved leave end date.

## Section 6. Insurance Implications

Subd. 1. Qualified FMLA Leaves: An employee on a leave under this article that qualifies per the Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA) is eligible to continue to participate in group insurance programs, if permitted under the insurance policy provisions, and shall continue to pay the employee contribution to the insurance premium for any month during which the FMLA-qualified leave falls.

Subd. 2. Other Leaves: For leaves under this article that do not qualify per the FMLA, the employee shall pay the full insurance premium (School District and employee contributions) for any month in which the employee does not work at least one (1) day.

Subd. 3. Payment: The employee is responsible for paying the School District business office the monthly amounts due for any insurance programs the employee wishes to retain in advance of the end of the corresponding month on such a date determined by the School District. However, the employee may elect to discontinue insurance programs. The right to continue participation in such group insurance programs shall automatically discontinue upon termination of employment, except as otherwise provided by law.

Section 7. Accrued Benefits:

Subd. 1. Employees on Medical or Parental Leaves: An employee on a medical or parental leave under this article shall retain his/her number of personal and sick leave days, and other accrued benefits, if any, up to the date that the employee went on leave for use during the employee's leave of absence, as noted in sections two (2) and three (3) of this article, and accrual will continue so long as the employee is using paid leave. No additional paid leave days, or other benefits shall accrue for the period of time that the employee is on unpaid leave.

Subd. 2. Employees on General Leaves: An employee on a general leave under this article shall retain his/her number of personal and sick leave days, and other accrued benefits, if any, up to the date that the employee went on leave for use upon the employee's return from leave. No additional paid leave days or other benefits shall accrue for the period that the employee is on unpaid leave.

Section 8. Failure to Return to Work from a Leave of Absence: Failure of the employee to return to work from a leave of absence pursuant to this Article shall constitute grounds for termination by the school district.

Section 9. Death and Illness:

Subd. 1. An employee may be granted up to five (5) days absence with pay due to the death of the employee's spouse, child, step-child, parent, brother, sister, parent-in-law, son-in-law or daughter-in-law, or grandchild. Up to three (3) days absence may be granted with pay for the death of the employee's grandparent, brother-in-law or sister-in-law, or significant person of the immediate household. The leave set forth in this section is non-accumulative and shall not be deducted from sick leave.

Subd. 2. Upon approval of the superintendent or his/her designee, up to twenty (20) days sick leave per year will be granted for the illness or injury of the following: employee's spouse or parent or spouse's parent, or child over 18, or grandchild or sibling and/or grandparent and/or step-parent. An employee may use one (1) day of accumulated sick leave for each day of illness or disability of the employee's child who is less than eighteen (18) years old, for such reasonable periods as the employee's attendance with the child may be necessary, on the same terms the employee is able to use sick leave benefits for the employee's own illness (Minn. Stat. § 181.9413)

Subd. 3: Additional absence for severe illness or death may be granted at the sole discretion of the superintendent, whose decision is final and binding and is not subject to the grievance procedure.

Section 10. Personal Leave:

Subd. 1. Eligibility: Employees will receive personal leave days per the following schedule:

In year one (1) of continuous employment	1 day
In years two (2) through four (4) of continuous employment	2 days
In years five (5) and beyond of continuous employment	3 days

Continuous employment applied to employees hired after July 1, 2018. Personal leave shall be allowed to accumulate to a total of five (5) days.

- A. Employees in their first year of employment, eligible for one (1) day of personal leave, may be granted time off for extraordinary circumstances in emergency situations if their personal leave has been used. Such days will be deducted from accumulated sick leave.
- B. An employee may be granted leave without pay at the sole discretion of the superintendent, in accordance with school board policy.

Subd. 2. The use of a personal leave day is subject to the approval of the School District to ensure a minimum of disruption for the educational program. Accordingly, the following limitations shall apply:

- A. A personal leave day normally shall not be granted for the day preceding or the day following holidays or vacation periods and the first and last ten (10) duty days of the school year.
- B. Personal leave requests may be denied on a particular day, if other employees in the same bargaining unit have already been granted personal leave which would be disruptive of the functioning of the particular program. In addition, personal leave requests will not be approved for more than one (1) interpreter on any given day.

Subd. 3. At the beginning of each contract year, employees will be credited with the number of days of personal leave specified in Subd. 1 herein. Those interpreters who have accumulated three (3) days of personal leave or more prior to the beginning of any contract year shall receive a lump sum payment of \$100.00 for each day beyond five for which they become eligible in lieu of being granted additional days beyond five.

Subd. 4. Usage of personal leave shall be requested as early as practicable and normally at least one (1) week in advance.

Sub. 5. The first year of employment shall be defined as any days of employment prior to the last student day of the regular school calendar in the first employment agreement. The next regular school calendar becomes the second year of employment.

## **ARTICLE X PROBATIONARY PERIOD**

Section 1. Probationary Period: An employee, under the provisions of this Agreement, who is certified (EIPA score of 4.0 or NAD- or RID-, or NIC-certified) shall serve a probationary period of one (1) school year of continuous employment during which time the school district shall have the

unqualified right to suspend without pay, discharge or otherwise discipline such employee. An employee, under the provisions of this Agreement, who is not certified at the beginning of their second year of continuous employment shall serve a probationary period of two (2) school years of continuous employment or until they reach Minnesota certification, whichever occurs first, during which time the school district shall have the unqualified right to suspend without pay, discharge, or otherwise discipline such employee. An employee employed prior to July 6, 2004, shall retain the previous probationary period of one school year of continuous employment.

Section 2. Completion of Probationary Period: An employee who has completed the probationary period may be suspended without pay, discharged or disciplined only for just cause by the school district in accordance with Article XI of this Agreement.

## **ARTICLE XI EMPLOYEE SUPERVISION**

### Section 1. Employee Improvement Plans:

Subd. 1. Prior to formal or informal disciplinary procedures being employed in cases of minor misconduct or in cases where the behavior or poor performance does not constitute a serious infraction of the contract, district policies, rules or directives of superiors, the school district may, in its discretion, attempt to improve an employee's performance and/or correct an employee's behavior by implementing an "employee improvement plan."

Subd. 2. The purpose of an employee improvement plan is to improve the employee's performance up to the standards and expectations of the school district. Should the employee fail to raise his/her level of performance to the school district's expectations, or the behavior issues continue, the school district may resort to the disciplinary measures delineated in Section 2 of this Article.

Subd. 3. All employee improvement plans will be placed in the employee's personnel file along with any notations as to the employee's progress in improving performance.

### Section 2. Employee Discipline:

Subd. 1. Employee discipline is the school district's process for assuring compliance with the terms and conditions of the collective bargaining agreement, Board policies and rules, directives issued by the employee's supervisors or other administrators, and generally accepted norms of behavior. Discipline is intended to correct unacceptable behavior and improve performance. The school district shall render disciplinary measures only for just cause and shall ensure that employee rights to "due process" are protected.

Subd. 2. Oral or Written Reprimands. The school district shall typically follow a progressive discipline approach as outlined in this Article depending upon the gravity of the misconduct or the level of performance issues. The school district may, at its sole discretion, move immediately to a higher level of discipline, depending upon the severity of the misconduct or lack of performance.

- a) Oral Reprimand. Oral reprimands may be issued to employees in the event of relatively minor infractions. Oral reprimands shall not be grievable under Article XIV of this agreement. Oral reprimands shall not be documented in the employee's official personnel file.
- b) Written Reprimand. Written reprimands (Notices of Deficiency) may be issued by the school district for more serious misconduct or when oral warnings have not corrected the employee's behavior or performance. Written reprimands will be placed in the employee's personnel file. Employees may respond in writing to written reprimands and such responses shall be placed in the employee's official personnel file. Written reprimands are grievable under Article XIV of this Agreement. The standards of review are whether or not any material in the employee's official personnel file is false or inaccurate or is without just cause. Any material found through the grievance procedure to be false or inaccurate or without just cause shall be expunged from the employee's official personnel file.

### Subd. 3. Suspension.

- a) An employee may be suspended without pay for grounds as described in Minn. Stat. Section 122A.40, Subd. 9(a) through (e) or Minn. Stat. Section 122A.40, Subd. 13 (1) through (6). Any suspension is subject to the grievance procedure under Article XIV of this Agreement. Additionally, an employee may be suspended without pay when other disciplinary measures have been applied without sufficient positive result, or for other willful violations of District policies or directives.
- b) Suspension shall take effect upon written notification from the Superintendent of Schools to the employee stating the grounds for suspension. The employee shall have the right to invoke the grievance procedures set forth in Article XIV of this Agreement at the arbitration level provided written notification requesting arbitration is received by the superintendent within fifteen (15) days after receipt of the written notice of suspension.
- c) The suspension shall take effect upon receipt by the employee of the written notice of suspension or shall take effect as otherwise indicated in the written notice of suspension. The suspension shall continue in effect for the time period provided in the written notice or as otherwise decided by the school board, but not to exceed a period of thirty (30) workdays.

### Subd. 4. Termination for Cause.

- a) An Interpreter who has passed the probationary period may be terminated for cause at the end of a school year for any of the following reasons:
  - i. Inefficiency;
  - ii. Neglect of duty, or persistent violation of school laws, rules, regulations, or directives;
  - iii. Conduct unbecoming an Interpreter which materially impairs the Interpreter's educational effectiveness;

- iv. Other good and sufficient grounds rendering the employee unfit to perform the Interpreter's duties.
- b) An Interpreter will not be terminated upon one of the grounds specified in clause (1), (2), (3), or (4), unless the Interpreter fails to correct the deficiency after being given written notice of the specific items of complaint and reasonable time within which to remedy them.
  - c) Immediate discharge. A board may discharge a non-probationary Interpreter, effective immediately, upon any of the following grounds:
    - i. Immoral conduct, insubordination, or conviction of a felony;
    - ii. Conduct unbecoming an Interpreter which requires the immediate removal of the Interpreter from classroom or other duties;
    - iii. Failure without justifiable cause to be present at assigned work place without first securing the written release of the school board;
    - iv. Gross inefficiency which the Interpreter has failed to correct after reasonable written notice;
    - v. Willful neglect of duty; or
    - vi. Continuing physical or mental disability subsequent to a twelve-month (12) leave of absence and inability to qualify for reinstatement.

## **ARTICLE XII SENIORITY**

Section 1. Seniority: The parties recognize the principle of seniority in the application of this Agreement concerning reduction or increase in force, and reduction of working time, within qualification areas as defined by the school district. For purposes of this Article, the school district reserves the right to define reasonable qualifications within reasonable program areas and program skills. The exercise of seniority, therefore, shall be subject to the employee's qualifications within said areas.

Section 2. Seniority Date: An employee shall acquire a seniority date upon completion of the probationary period as defined in this Agreement and upon acquiring seniority the seniority date shall relate back to the date of original hire. If more than one employee is hired on the same date, the tie shall be broken by lot.

Section 3. Loss of Seniority: An employee shall lose his/her seniority standing upon written resignation of employment, discharge for cause, or after a twelve (12) month continuous lay off.

Section 4. Seniority List: There shall be two separate seniority lists and an employee shall have seniority rights only within the list that they are qualified for pursuant to this section. An employee shall acquire seniority either as a sign language interpreter or as a cued language transliterator. To be eligible on the seniority list, an employee must have the appropriate certification and have been assigned by the school district as either a sign language interpreter or cued language transliterator. To be eligible on the seniority list, an employee must have the appropriate certification and have been assigned by the school district as either an interpreter/transliterator or cued speech transliterator. An employee who meets both of those qualifications may appear on both seniority

lists. An employee shall not exercise seniority in one of the two positions unless the employee is eligible on the particular list. Effective July 1, 2000, all sign language interpreters or as a cued language transliterators who have the certification within one or both areas shall be senior to anyone else on the list who does not have such certification. However, the employee without certification will retain his/her original seniority date and upon obtaining certification will have seniority consistent with the original seniority date. For purposes of this section, a sign language interpreter must be certified by Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID), National Association of the Deaf (NAD) or Educational Interpreter Performance Assessment (EIPA). Certification for a cued language transliterator shall be by certification from Testing, Evaluation and Certification Unit (TECUnit). If Minnesota Statute recognizes a new certification testing organization, that certification shall apply here.

Section 5. School District Discretion: Effective July 1, 2000, the school district reserves the right to place on layoff any employee who is not certified and replace such employee with a certified employee if financial aids are negatively affected because of lack of certification.

Section 6. Seniority List Posting: Seniority lists shall be published no later than February 15 each year. The list shall indicate the employees' seniority date and position. The list shall be distributed to the union members via email.

### **ARTICLE XIII MISCELLANEOUS**

Section 1. Travel Expense and Mileage Reimbursement:

Subd. 1. Interpreters required by the school district to use their own vehicles in the performance of their duties shall be reimbursed for such travel at the rate as prescribed by School Board policy.

Subd. 2. In the event that an interpreter is obliged to travel to diverse job sites during the course of the employee's duty day, the School District shall reimburse the employee at the School District's approved mileage rate. Mileage reimbursement shall not apply towards the employee's mileage from home to the initial assignment location at the beginning of the day, nor from the last assignment location to the employee's home at the end of the day.

Section 3. Registry of Certified Interpreters and Transliterators: Sign language interpreters who verify their testing for a Certificate of Interpretation issued by the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID), National Association of the Deaf (NAD) or Educational Interpreter Performance Assessment (EIPA) or for cued language transliterators certification from Testing, Evaluation and Certification Unit (TECUnit) shall, upon such completion of any test, be reimbursed for the testing costs in an actual amount, not to exceed a total of \$550 per interpreter. If Minnesota Statute recognizes a new certification testing organization, that certification shall apply here.

Section 4. Certification Maintenance Program/Annual Registration: For interpreters certified by the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf and for Cued English Transliterators Certified by the Testing, Evaluation, and Certification Unit who verify their certification,

the maintenance fee and annual registration, these employees will be reimbursed by the district as follows:

- a) On an annual basis, interpreters can request reimbursement for up to \$165.
- b) On an annual basis, transliterators can request reimbursement for up to \$100.

## **ARTICLE XIV GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE**

Section 1. Grievance Definition: A "grievance" shall mean an allegation by an employee resulting in a dispute or disagreement between the employee and the school district as to the interpretation or application of terms and conditions of employment insofar as such matters are contained in this Agreement.

Section 2. Representative: The employee, administrator or school district may be represented during any step of the procedure by any person or agent designated by such parties to this Agreement to act in their behalf.

Section 3. Definitions and Interpretations:

Subd. 1. Extension: Time limits specified in this Agreement may be extended by mutual agreement.

Subd. 2. Days: Reference to days regarding time periods in this procedure shall refer to calendar days.

Subd. 3. Filing and Postmark: The filing or service of any notice or document herein shall be timely if it is personally served or if it bears a certified postmark of the United States Postal Service within the time period.

Section 4. Time Limitation and Waiver: Grievances shall not be valid for consideration unless the grievance is submitted in writing to the school district's designee, setting forth the facts and specific provision of the Agreement allegedly violated and the particular relief sought within twenty (20) days after the date the event giving rise to the grievance occurred. Failure to file any grievance within such period shall be deemed a waiver thereof. Failure to appeal a grievance from one level to another within the time periods hereinafter provided shall constitute a waiver of the grievance. An effort shall first be made to adjust an alleged grievance informally between the employee and the school district's designee.

Section 5. Adjustments of Grievance: The school district and the employee shall attempt to adjust all grievances which may arise during the course of employment of any employee within the school district in the following manner:

Subd. 1. Level I: If the grievance is not resolved through informal discussions, the school district designee shall give a written decision on the grievance to the parties involved within ten (10) days after receipt of the written grievance.

Subd. 2. Level II: In the event the grievance is not resolved in Level I, the decision rendered may be appealed to the superintendent of schools, provided such appeal is made in writing within five (5) days after receipt of the decision in Level I. If a grievance is properly appealed to the superintendent, the superintendent or his/her designee shall set a time to meet regarding the grievance within fifteen (15) days after receipt of the appeal. Within ten (10) days after the meeting the superintendent or his/her designee shall issue a decision in writing to the parties involved.

Section 6. School Board Review: The School Board reserves the right to review any decision issued under Level I or Level II of this procedure provided the School Board or its representative notifies the parties of its intention to review within ten (10) days after the decision has been rendered. In the event the School Board reviews a grievance under this section, the School Board reserves the right to reverse or modify such decision.

Section 7. Denial of Grievance: Failure by the school district or its representative to issue a decision within the time periods provided herein shall constitute a denial of the grievance and the employee may appeal it to the next level.

Section 8. Arbitration Procedures: In the event that the employee and the school district are unable to resolve any grievance, the grievance may be submitted to arbitration as defined herein.

Subd. 1. Request: A request to submit a grievance to arbitration must be in writing signed by the aggrieved party, and such request must be filed in the office of the superintendent within ten (10) days following the decision in Level I I or School Board review, whichever is applicable, of the grievance procedure.

Subd. 2. Prior Procedure Required: No grievance shall be considered by the arbitrator which has not been first duly processed in accordance with the grievance procedure and appeal provisions.

Subd. 3. Selection of Arbitrator: Upon the proper submission of a grievance under the terms of this procedure, the parties shall, within ten (10) days after the request to arbitrate, attempt to agree upon the selection of an arbitrator. If no agreement on an arbitrator is reached, either party may request the BMS to appoint an arbitrator pursuant to the PELRA providing such request is made within twenty (20) days after the request for arbitration. The request shall ask that the appointment be made within thirty (30) days after the receipt of said request. Failure to agree upon an arbitrator or the failure to request an arbitrator from the BMS within the time periods provided herein shall constitute a waiver of the grievance.

Subd. 4. Hearing: The grievance shall be heard by a single arbitrator and both parties may be represented by such a person or persons as they may choose and designate, and the parties shall have the right to a hearing at which time both parties will have the opportunity to submit evidence, offer testimony, and make oral or written arguments relating to the issues before the arbitrator. The proceeding before the arbitrator shall be a hearing de novo.

Subd. 5. Decision: The decision by the arbitrator shall be rendered within thirty (30) days after the close of the hearing. Decisions by the arbitrator in cases properly before him/her shall be final and binding upon the parties; subject, however, to the limitations of arbitration

decisions as provided in the PELRA. The arbitrator shall issue a written decision and order including findings of fact which shall be based upon substantial and competent evidence presented at the hearing. All witnesses shall be sworn upon oath by the arbitrator.

Subd. 6. Expenses: Each party shall bear its own expenses in connection with arbitration including expenses relating to the party's representatives, witnesses, and any other expenses which the party incurs in connection with presenting its case in arbitration. A transcript or recording shall be made of the hearing at the request of either party or if the request is mutual, the cost shall be shared. The parties shall share equally fees and expenses of the arbitrator and any other expenses which the parties mutually agree are necessary for the conduct of the arbitration.

Subd. 7. Jurisdiction: The arbitrator shall have jurisdiction over disputes or disagreements relating to grievances properly before the arbitrator pursuant to the terms of this procedure. The jurisdiction of the arbitrator shall not extend to proposed changes in terms and conditions of employment as defined herein and contained in this written Agreement; nor shall an arbitrator have jurisdiction over any grievance which has not been submitted to arbitration in compliance with the terms of the grievance and arbitration procedure as outlined herein; nor shall the jurisdiction of the arbitrator extend to matters limited or excluded by PELRA of 1971.

Section 9. Grievance Form: A form which must be used for filing grievances shall be provided by the school district (Attachment A). Such form shall be readily accessible in all school buildings.

Section 10. Election of Remedies and Waiver: A party instituting any action, proceeding or complaint in a federal or state court of law, or before an administrative tribunal, federal agency, state agency, or seeking relief through any statutory process for which relief may be granted, the subject matter of which may constitute a grievance under this Agreement, shall immediately thereupon waive any and all rights to pursue a grievance under this Article. Upon instituting a proceeding in another forum as outlined herein, the employee shall waive his/her right to initiate a grievance pursuant to this Article, or, if the grievance is pending in the grievance procedure, the right to pursue it further shall be immediately waived. This section shall not apply to actions to compel arbitration as provided in this Agreement or to enforce the award of an arbitrator.

## **ARTICLE XV SEVERANCE/EARLY RETIREMENT**

Section 1. Retiree Health Coverage: Health coverage following the termination of employment shall be made available to the extent required under, and in accordance with, Minnesota Statutes Section 471.61, subd. 2b. The District makes no contribution towards the premium cost of such coverage.

Section 2. Cut-off Date: The benefits of this article shall not apply to a member of this group employed after July 1, 2020.

Section 3. Eligibility: Full-time employees who have completed at least fifteen (15) years of continuous service with the School District, and who are at least fifty-five (55) years of age, or have completed thirty (30) years of service with the School District shall be eligible for severance pay

pursuant to the provisions of this Article upon submission of a written resignation accepted by the School Board. Severance pay shall not be granted to any employee who is discharged for cause by the School District.

Section 2. Amount of Severance: Eligible employees, upon retirement, shall receive as severance pay unused sick leave days, not to exceed thirty-five (35) days. The amount of severance payment under this Article shall be reduced by the amount of the School District matching 403b contributions made under Article XVI, Section 2, effective July 6, 2004.

Section 3. Method of Pay-out:

- a) Subject to the limitations listed below, the school district will contribute an amount equal to the value of the employee's severance pay directly into the School Board approved 403b vendor account. The retiree will not receive any direct payment from the school district for the severance pay.
- b) The school district's annual contribution into the School Board approved 403b vendor account must not exceed the IRS contribution limit. If the amount calculated in A exceeds the available limits in the year of separation, the excess amount will be paid out in cash and not be tax sheltered.
- c) The school district contribution(s) (into the approved 403b vendor account) will be made according to the same timeline as was provided for the direct payment of the severance pay.
- d) The school district will make the severance pay contributions to the School Board approved 403b vendor. For purposes of calculating the maximum deferral limit, the school district will provide the retiree or approved vendor with contribution information for the previous twelve (12) months of employment. The vendor agrees to calculate the maximum deferral limit.

Section 4. Notice: To be eligible for the benefits of this section, unless waived by the School District, an employee must notify the School District not less than 45 calendar days prior to the proposed retirement date.

## **ARTICLE XVI 403b MATCHING CONTRIBUTION**

Section 1. Eligibility: To be eligible for contribution under this Article, an employee must have completed one (1) year of employment in the District to be eligible for contribution in the employee's second year of service. The first year of employment shall be defined as any days of employment prior to the last student day of the regular school calendar in the first employment agreement. The next regular school calendar becomes the second year of employment. Further, to be eligible for this contribution an employee must be regularly employed at least 1110 hours during the contract year, and such benefits shall not apply to substitute employees. For employees employed less than 1110 hours, but at least 550 hours per year, the school district shall make a contribution according to Section 2 below.

Section 2. Contribution. Effective July 1, 2020, the school district will match the employee contribution up to a maximum as listed in the following schedule for full time employees, according to year of continuous employment. For eligible employees as defined in Section 1, employed less than full time, the school district will make a 50% matching contribution, as listed in the following schedule. (Continuous only applies to persons hired after July 1, 2018.)

<u>Continuous Years of Employment in District</u>	<u>1110+hrs/yr</u>	<u>550-1109 hrs/yr</u>
2-4	\$250	\$125
5	\$400	\$200
6-9	\$550	\$275
10-15	\$700	\$350
16+	\$850	\$425

Section 3. Authorization Agreement. A salary reduction authorization agreement must be completed by the eligible employee by October 1 of the current year, for the employee to participate in the 403b matching contribution plan.

Section 4. Unpaid Leaves. Employees on unpaid leaves may not participate in the matching program while on leave.

Section 5. Matching Requirement. The School District’s contribution, in any event, shall not exceed the employee’s matching contribution within the limitations of this Article.

**ARTICLE XVII  
DURATION**

Section 1. Term and Reopening Negotiations: This Agreement shall remain in full force and effect for a period commencing July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2024, and thereafter pursuant to PELRA. If either party desires to modify or amend this Agreement commencing on July 1, 2024, it shall give written notice of such intent no later than May 1, 2024. Unless otherwise mutually agreed, the parties shall not commence negotiations more than ninety (90) days prior to the expiration of this Agreement.

Section 2. Effect: This Agreement constitutes the full and complete agreement between the school district and the union representing the interpreters of the school district. The provisions herein relating to terms and conditions of employment supersede any and all prior agreements, resolutions, practices, school district policies, rules or regulations concerning terms and conditions of employment inconsistent with these provisions.

Section 3. Finality: Any matters relating to the current contract term, whether or not referred to in this Agreement, shall not be open for negotiation during the term of this Agreement.

Section 4. Severability: The provisions of this Agreement shall be severable, and if any provision thereof or the application of any such provision under any circumstances is held invalid, it shall not affect any other provision of this Agreement or the application of any provision thereof.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have executed this Agreement as follows:

DAKOTA COUNTY FEDERATION  
OF INTERPRETERS  
LOCAL #3904A

INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL DISTRICT 917

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President

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Chair

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Clerk

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Dated: September 6, 2022  
2022

Dated: September 6,

**SCHEDULE A**

**INTERPRETERS**

**2022-2023 SALARY SCHEDULE**

STEP NUMBER	NON- CERTIFIED	CERTIFIED OR 3.7 OR HIGHER ON THE EIPA TEST	CERT + BA/BS OR BA/BS + 3.7 OR HIGHER ON THE EIPA TEST
	RANGE 1 (A)	RANGE 2 (B)	RANGE 3 ( C )
1	24.03	25.56	26.51
2	24.62	26.13	27.07
3	25.18	26.7	27.64
4	25.75	27.29	28.22
5	26.32	27.81	28.78
6	26.90	28.39	29.36
7		28.96	29.91
8		29.54	30.46
9		30.09	31.04

## SCHEDULE B

### INTERPRETERS

#### 2023-2024 SALARY SCHEDULE

STEP NUMBER	NON-CERTIFIED	CERTIFIED OR 3.7 OR HIGHER ON THE EIPA TEST	CERT + BA/BS OR BA/BS + 3.7 OR HIGHER ON THE EIPA TEST
	RANGE 1 (A)	RANGE 2 (B)	RANGE 3 (C)
1	24.36	25.92	26.88
2	24.96	26.49	27.45
3	25.54	27.07	28.03
4	26.11	27.67	28.61
5	26.69	28.2	29.18
6	27.28	28.79	29.77
7		29.37	30.33
8		29.95	30.89
9		30.51	31.48

ATTACHMENT A

GRIEVANCE REPORT FORM

INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL DISTRICT 917

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Building: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Grievance Occurred:  
\_\_\_\_\_

Statement of Facts:

Specific Provisions of Agreement Allegedly Violated:

Particular Relief Sought:

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Grievant

TO: School Board Members  
Superintendent Dr. Michael Favor

FROM: Nicolle Roush, Executive Director of Business Services

DATE: September 6, 2022

RE: Medical and Dental Insurance Plan Renewals

**Pertinent Facts:**

1. Intermediate School District 917's medical insurance and dental insurance policies renew on January 1, 2023.
2. For fiscal year 2023, ISD 917 was required to bid our medical insurance. In accordance with the Health Insurance Transparency Act, we are required to go out to bid every two years. The bid opening was held virtually on August 11<sup>th</sup> at 1 pm.
  - a. The bids were received by electronic submission. In attendance at the bid opening was Teresa Stiff, union representative for the program assistant, Pam Biegler, union representative for the teachers, Chase Ambrosia, agent from OneDigital, Jake Edlund, Benefit Specialist and Nicolle Roush, Executive Director of Business Services.
3. We received five bid responses from insurance carriers as follows:
  - a. HP Declined due to competitiveness.
  - b. PEIP does not make financial sense for the district to dissolve the current self-funded plan arrangements for the PEIP benefit and quoted rates.
  - c. BCBS provided a less competitive overall contract than Medica's initial renewal offer, there was no savings or incentive to change carriers to BCBS.
  - d. UHC was the most competitive in round #1 of the HITA bid process matching the current contract with Medica.
  - e. Medica provided a standard initial renewal increasing fixed cost by 15% and the claims liability by 4%.
4. Based on the competitive offer from UHC it was decided to request a best and final from Medica to improve their bid to retain the districts business. Medica's best and final offer provided enough relief to compete with the UHC offer and included a second-year rate cap on the stop loss insurance that was a key difference from all the bids received.
5. The district insurance committee met on August 23rd, 2022 with our representative Chase Ambrosia from OneDigital to review our claims history, which continues to remain stable. Due to the competitive bid from Medica, added cost for administration of run out claims when switching carriers during a fiscal year ISD 917 is changing all benefit enrollment and administration platforms, and the excellent customer services provided by Medica the committee recommends staying with Medica.

6. The move in 2016 to a self-funded medical insurance plan has proven to be a successful decision. After reviewing the claims and fixed costs through August 2022, the district anticipates an estimated reserve of \$4.8 million and OneDigital projection with run out claims is \$4.8 million and recommended minimum reserve is 2.4 million.
  - a. Based on our claims, the reserve levels and the recommendations received by Onedigital, the committee is recommending up to 1% increase in premiums round to whole dollars for both single and family insurance plans with no benefit changes effective January 1, 2023.
    - i. The 1% increase proposed results in monthly premiums for co-pay plan single \$910, family \$2,732 and H.S.A plan single \$673, family \$2022.
7. The self-funded dental insurance continues to maintain a healthy stable reserve balance. Estimated fund balance at the end of FY 21-22 is at \$578,000. Even with the incorporated benefit enhancements from fiscal year 2021, increased participation coming out of covid ISD 917 fund balance continues to remain very healthy.
  - a. The dental program was included in the official bid August 2020 year to review the market. Delta Dental kept their rates the same.
  - b. Based on the current reserve, three-year claims history it is recommending a .3% reduction to premium the committee recommends a 0% change in the premiums for both single and family insurance with no benefit design changes effective January 1, 2023.

**Recommendation:**

The insurance committee recommends the School Board approve staying with Medica for administration of the self-funded insurance plan with no benefit changes and a 1% premium increase, and Delta Dental for administration of the self-funded dental plan with no premium increase effective for the January 1, 2023 plan year.