

Board of Education Regular Meeting

Monday, June 17, 2024 7:30 PM

Elementary Media Center, Twin River Public  
School  
PO Box 640  
Genoa, NE 68640

## **Agenda**

1. Meeting Called to Order
  - 1.1. Roll Call
    - 1.1.1. Excused/Unexcused Absences
  - 1.2. Open Meeting Law
  - 1.3. Meeting Properly Published and Posted
  - 1.4. Rules for Public Participation Stated
    - 1.4.1. Visitors
2. Consent Agenda
  - 2.1. Minutes of Previous Meetings
  - 2.2. Claims and Treasurer's Financial Report
  - 2.3. Staffing Report
3. Consider and take possible action for the approval and adoption of a resolution authorizing the issuance of one or more series of the District's general obligation school bonds, in the aggregate principal amount of not to exceed \$39,900,000 for the purpose of financing the construction of capital improvements and equipping and furnishing the same.
4. Consider and take possible action to approve the resolution for staff trainings.
5. Consider and take possible action to approve the update board policies.
6. Consider and take possible action to approve the 2024-25 Student Handbook.
7. Consider and take possible action to approve the 2024-25 Activity Handbook.
8. Consider and take possible action to approve the 2024-25 Staff Handbook.
9. Reports of Administrators and Committees
  - 9.1. Principal's Reports

9.2. Activities Report

9.3. Superintendent Report

10. Date, Time, and Location of Next Meeting

11. Adjournment

Board of Education Regular Meeting  
Monday, May 20, 2024 7:30 PM

Elementary Media Center, Twin River  
Public School  
816 Willard Ave  
PO Box 640  
Genoa, NE 68640

## Agenda

### 1. Meeting Called to Order

#### 1.1. Roll Call

Dave Baxa-Present, John Nelson-Present, John Reeg-Present, Jennifer Swantek-Present, Chelsa Thompson-Present, Jeremy Vetick-Present

##### 1.1.1. Excused/Unexcused Absences

#### 1.2. Open Meeting Law

#### 1.3. Meeting Properly Published and Posted

#### 1.4. Rules for Public Participation Stated

##### 1.4.1. Visitors

### 2. Discussion with Osceola Public Schools over baseball co-op

The superintendent and principal from Osceola spoke briefly over the baseball co-op, their appreciation for the co-op and some ideas to continue the co-op.

### 3. Items to Remove from the Consent Agenda

### 4. Consent Agenda

#### 4.1. Minutes of Previous Meetings

#### 4.2. Claims and Treasurer's Financial Report

Mr. Schapmann talked briefly about the monthly accounts and expenditures highlighting ones over a bus repair and new laser for the CTE programs paid for by a statewide grant. Mr. Schapmann talked about the monthly receipts and financial status of the fiscal year.

#### 4.3. Staffing Report

Sandy Morris and Wendy Gaunt resigned 5/17-Paraprofessionals; have a need for elementary/high school paras and a kitchen worker

Chelsa Thompson makes the motion to approve the consent agenda and second by Dave Baxa.

Baxa-yes,Nelson-yes,Reeg-yes,Swantek-yes,Thompson-yes,Vetick-yes

## 5. Reports of Administrators

### 5.1. Principal's Reports

Mrs. Buhl- Honors night was held on April 23rd, 6th grade had 14 students recognized for the Presidential Award. Honor Band at Pender over 200 5th and 200 6th graders performed, Twin River had 25 students represent the district. On May 7th the 6th graders performed the Adamms Family Musical. Pre-K graduation on May 9th and track and field day on the 14th. NSCAS, MAPS and Fastbridge testing were all completed and reviewing scores. Finalizing budget and maintenance request, switching rooms.

Mr. Barrett- Honors night on April 23rd, High School Graduation on May 4, finishing up end of the year things. Finalizing end of year budgets, maintenance requests and transitioning for Mr. Banahan.

### 5.2. Activities Report

Golf competed at EHC and finished 7th as a team.Kirk Hebda qualified at district track to compete at state. JH track finished the year at EHC 8th grade boys finished 2nd 8th grade girls finished 3rd. Baseball ended 5-9 and at Ralston for districts. New Conference banners are in and shot clocks are mounted.

### 5.3. Superintendent Report

Test furniture has been ordered for Mrs. Jones (Kindergarten), furniture for 7-12 is on order; finalizing end of year and working on transitions for next year.

## 6. Consider and take possible action to declare old, unusable, and unsellable furniture, supplies, and other materials as surplus.

John Reeg makes the motion to take possible action to declare old, unusable, and unsellable furniture, supplies, and other materials as surplus and a second by Jeremy Vetick.

Nelson-yes,Reeg-yes,Swantek-yes,Thompson-yes,Vetick-yes, Baxa-yes

## 7. Consider and take possible action to approve the interlocal agreement with Fullerton Public Schools to offer distance learning classes.

Chelsa Thompson makes the motion to approve the interlocal agreement with Fullerton Public Schools to offer distance learning classes and a second by Dave Baxa

Reeg=yes,Swantek=yes,Thompson=yes,Vetick=yes,Baxa=yes,Nelson=yes

8. Consider and take possible action to approve the Hiland Dairy milk bid for the 2024-25 school year.

John Nelson makes the motion to approve the Hiland Dairy milk bid for the 2024-25 school year and second by John Reeg.

Thompson=yes, Vetick=yes,Baxa=yes,Nelson=yes,Reeg=yes,Swantek=yes

9. Consider and take possible action to approve the superintendent's contract for the 2024-25 school year.

John Nelson makes the motion to approve the superintendent's contract for the 2024-25 school year and a second by Chelsa Thompson.

Baxa=yes,Nelson=yes,Reeg=yes,Swantek=yes,Thompson=yes,Vetick=yes

10. Date, Time, and Location of Next Meeting

June 17, 2024 at Elem. Media Center @ 7:30p.m.

11. Adjournment

Jeremy Vetick makes the motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:07 p.m. and a second by Dave Baxa.

Nelson=yes,Reeg=yes,Swantek=yes,Thompson=yes,Vetick=yes,Baxa=yes

May 2024  
Monthly Claims

Ace Hardware-\$509.63, Ace Sanitation-\$84, AJ's-\$5,953.45,Applied Connective-\$1,430, Apple Inc.-\$1,149, Awards and Engravings- \$135, Awards Unlimited-\$35.62, B&C Electrical-\$2,142, Bank of America (dues/fees, supplies)- \$7,691.91, Black Hills Energy- \$2,107.79, Bosselman Pump & Pantry- \$4,640.42, Boss Laser-\$8,691.50, Boys Town Father Flannigan-\$4,951.80, BSN Sports- \$763.93, Capital One-\$220.32, Central Nebraska Rehab Services- \$15,264.334, City of Genoa-\$758.91, Computer Hardware-\$49.00, Eakes-\$11, 979.51, ESU #7 (SPED svc)- \$18,739.50, ESU#7Trainings-\$2,872.25, Fair Play-\$7,000, Frontier-\$1,390.41,Genoa Medical Facilities-\$6,455,Grains Family Market-\$1,247.10,Hy-Vee-\$685,Island Supply-\$67.20, Jackson Svc.-\$1,183.80, JW Pepper-\$46.79,KSB-\$2,096,LaQuinta Inn-\$259.90, Lightbox System-\$1,946.63,Loup Power District-\$6,845.22,Menards-\$235.43, Misko-\$2,865, NAEA-\$275, Nance County Journal-\$692.53, NCSA-\$435, Nitro Truck Repair-2,753.32,NoSwett-\$2,325, Northwest Evaluation- \$1,575, Paper 101-\$2,491.20, Platte Valley Pest-\$90, Polk County RPPD (SC electric bill)- \$3,631.47,Power of ICU-\$3,499,Quadient-\$167, Roman, Wiemer &Associates-\$8,055, Rutt's-\$450,Sapp Bros-\$297.50, Staples-\$1,366.21, T&R Repair-\$1,044.36, Unite Private Network- \$651.22, University of Lincoln-\$20, Verizon-\$160.08, Village of Silver Creek (water, sewer, gas)- \$174, Vine street Cafe-\$100, Vyve Broadband- \$505, Wage Works-\$100, Wynn's World-\$680.57,Zieglar-\$953.08

**Superintendent**  
Jason Schapmann  
**Elementary Principal**  
Brenda Buhl  
**High School Principal**  
Zach Barrett  
**Assistant Principal/AD**  
David Schmit



P.O. Box 640  
Genoa, NE 68640  
Phone: (402) 993-2274  
Fax: (402) 993-7718

**Business Manager**  
Lori Swantek

## Twin River Public Schools

### June 2024 Board Meeting

### Staffing Update

Staff Name	Position	Status	Effective
Nichole Pearson	High School Para	Hire	August 2024
Peg Cuba	Elementary Para	Hire	August 2024
Barb Engebretson	High School Para	Resignation	June 2024

*“... providing opportunities for individuals to become lifelong learners”*

**ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF RECEIPT OF  
ADVANCE NOTICE OF MEETING**

The undersigned Members of the Board of Education of Nance County School District 0030 (Twin River Public Schools) in the State of Nebraska acknowledge receipt of advance notice of a meeting of said body, and the agenda for such meeting, held at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, June 17, 2024, in the Media Center of its Elementary School located at 816 Willard Ave., Genoa, Nebraska.

DATED June 17, 2024.

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June 17, 2024  
Genoa, Nebraska

A meeting of the Board of Education (the “Board”) of Nance County School District 0030 (Twin River Public Schools) in the State of Nebraska (the “District”) was held at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, June 17, 2024, in the Media Center of its Elementary School located at 816 Willard Ave., Genoa, Nebraska. Advance publicized notice of such meeting was given in strict accordance with the provisions of Article 21, Chapter 84, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, as amended (the “Open Meetings Act”), and set forth (a) the time, date and place of this meeting, (b) that the meeting would be open to the attendance of the public and (c) that an agenda of then known subjects to be taken up at the meeting could be obtained from the office of the Superintendent of Schools (the “Superintendent”). A copy of said advance publicized notice (in the form of an affidavit of publication) was ordered annexed to the minutes of this meeting as Attachment 1. Each Board Member was previously furnished with a copy of said advance publicized notice, the same having been transmitted to each Board Member simultaneously with its publicizing, and a copy of their collective acknowledgment of receipt of such notice is attached to these minutes as Attachment 2. Additionally, reasonable efforts were made to provide advance notification of the meeting to all news media requesting the same of the time, date and place of the meeting.

The President of the Board, \_\_\_\_\_, presided, and the Secretary of the Board, \_\_\_\_\_, recorded the proceedings. On roll call the following Board Members were present: \_\_\_\_\_

The following Board Members were absent: \_\_\_\_\_.

A quorum being present and the meeting duly commenced, the following proceedings were had and done.

The President of the Board publicly stated to all in attendance that a current and complete copy of the Open Meetings Act was available for review and indicated the location of such copy in the room where the meeting was being held. All proceedings hereafter shown were taken while the meeting was open to the attendance of the public.

\* \* \* \* \*

(Other Proceedings)

\* \* \* \* \*

Board Member \_\_\_\_\_ introduced the following resolution and moved for its adoption, the full text of which is attached hereto as Attachment 3:

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE AND SALE BY NANCE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT 0030 (TWIN RIVER PUBLIC SCHOOLS) IN THE STATE OF NEBRASKA OF ITS GENERAL OBLIGATION SCHOOL BUILDING BONDS, SERIES 2024, IN ONE OR MORE SERIES AND IN AN AGGREGATE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED THIRTY-NINE MILLION NINE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$39,900,000); CANVASSING THE RETURNS OF THE ELECTION HELD IN CONNECTION WITH SUCH BONDS; AUTHORIZING CERTAIN OFFICIALS TO DETERMINE THE FINAL AGGREGATE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT, MATURITIES, RATES, TERMS AND OTHER DETAILS OF SUCH BONDS; IMPOSING AN AD VALOREM TAX ON ALL TAXABLE PROPERTY WITHIN THE DISTRICT TO PAY THE PRINCIPAL OF, PREMIUM, IF ANY, AND THE INTEREST ON SUCH BONDS; AUTHORIZING THE DESIGNATION OF CERTAIN BONDS AS QUALIFIED TAX-EXEMPT OBLIGATIONS; AUTHORIZING THE SALE AND DELIVERY OF THE BONDS TO THE PURCHASER THEREOF; ADOPTING CERTAIN POST-ISSUANCE TAX COMPLIANCE AND DISCLOSURE POLICIES AND PROCEDURES WITH RESPECT TO THE BONDS; DECLARING THE DISTRICT'S OFFICIAL INTENT TO REIMBURSE CERTAIN CAPITAL EXPENDITURES FROM THE PROCEEDS OF THE BONDS; AUTHORIZING THE TAKING OF CERTAIN ACTIONS AND THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF CERTAIN DOCUMENTS; AND PRESCRIBING OTHER MATTERS RELATING THERETO.**

The foregoing Resolution having been read, Board Member \_\_\_\_\_  
seconded the motion for its passage and adoption, and after discussion, the roll was called and  
the following Board Members voted in favor of the passage and adoption of said Resolution:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.

The following Board Members voted against the same: \_\_\_\_\_.

The following Board Members were absent or did not vote: \_\_\_\_\_.

Said Resolution having been voted upon favorably by a majority of the Board, the same was by  
the President declared passed and adopted.

\* \* \* \* \*

(Other Business)

\* \* \* \* \*

Motion to adjourn.

DATED June 17, 2024.

\_\_\_\_\_  
President, Board of Education

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary, Board of Education

ATTACHMENT 1

AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION OF NOTICE OF MEETING

ATTACHMENT 2

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF RECEIPT OF ADVANCE NOTICE OF MEETING

ATTACHMENT 3  
BOND RESOLUTION

See Tab #\_\_

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE AND SALE BY NANCE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT 0030 (TWIN RIVER PUBLIC SCHOOLS) IN THE STATE OF NEBRASKA OF ITS GENERAL OBLIGATION SCHOOL BUILDING BONDS, SERIES 2024, IN ONE OR MORE SERIES AND IN AN AGGREGATE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED THIRTY-NINE MILLION NINE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$39,900,000); CANVASSING THE RETURNS OF THE ELECTION HELD IN CONNECTION WITH SUCH BONDS; AUTHORIZING CERTAIN OFFICIALS TO DETERMINE THE FINAL AGGREGATE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT, MATURITIES, RATES, TERMS AND OTHER DETAILS OF SUCH BONDS; IMPOSING AN AD VALOREM TAX ON ALL TAXABLE PROPERTY WITHIN THE DISTRICT TO PAY THE PRINCIPAL OF, PREMIUM, IF ANY, AND THE INTEREST ON SUCH BONDS; AUTHORIZING THE DESIGNATION OF CERTAIN BONDS AS QUALIFIED TAX-EXEMPT OBLIGATIONS; AUTHORIZING THE SALE AND DELIVERY OF THE BONDS TO THE PURCHASER THEREOF; ADOPTING CERTAIN POST-ISSUANCE TAX COMPLIANCE AND DISCLOSURE POLICIES AND PROCEDURES WITH RESPECT TO THE BONDS; DECLARING THE DISTRICT'S OFFICIAL INTENT TO REIMBURSE CERTAIN CAPITAL EXPENDITURES FROM THE PROCEEDS OF THE BONDS; AUTHORIZING THE TAKING OF CERTAIN ACTIONS AND THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF CERTAIN DOCUMENTS; AND PRESCRIBING OTHER MATTERS RELATING THERETO.**

**BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF NANCE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT 0030 (TWIN RIVER PUBLIC SCHOOLS) IN THE STATE OF NEBRASKA AS FOLLOWS:**

**Section 1.** The Board of Education (the “**Board**”) of Nance County School District 0030 (Twin River Public Schools) in the State of Nebraska (the “**District**”), hereby makes the following findings and determinations:

(a) The District is duly organized as a Class III School District under Sections 79-102 and 79-407, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, as amended; the District maintains both elementary and high school grades under the direction of a single board of education; and the District embraces territory having a population of not more than 150,000 inhabitants.

(b) Pursuant to a resolution passed by this Board on February 22, 2024 (the “**Election Resolution**”), there was submitted to the qualified electors of the District at an election held in such District in conjunction with the Statewide Primary Election on May 14, 2024 (the “**Election**”), the question of issuing bonds of the District in one or more series in the total principal amount not to exceed \$39,900,000 for the purposes of financing the costs of (a) constructing one or more additions to the District’s existing K-12 school buildings and related site improvements, (b) demolishing portions of an existing building, and (c) purchasing certain necessary equipment, furniture and apparatus for such buildings and additions (collectively, the “**Project**”), and levying and

collecting annually a special levy of taxes against all the taxable property in the District sufficient in rate and amount to pay the principal of, premium, if any, and interest on said bonds.

(c) A proposition for the issuance of bonds for such purposes had not been submitted to the electors of the District within the 6 months preceding the Election.

(d) Notice of the Election and the submission of such question was duly given to the qualified electors of the District by publication in the *Nance County Journal News*, a legal newspaper of general circulation within the District, said notice being published on April 17 and 24 and May 1 and 8, 2024, with the first publication being at least 20 days prior to the Election. The sample ballot regarding such question was published in the *Nance County Journal News* on May 8, 2024.

(e) The Election was held as designated in the Election Resolution and the notice, and at said Election there was submitted to the qualified electors of the District the question of issuing said bonds and levying taxes to pay the same as set out in the Election Resolution.

(f) The ballots cast at the Election were counted by the Election Commissioner of Nance County, Nebraska and disinterested persons appointed by said Election Commissioner. The returns of the Election and certificate of the counting board showing the results of the Election have been delivered to this Board for purpose of making a canvas thereof.

(g) The Election returns, as certified by the Election Commissioner, provide that at the Election 523 ballots were cast in favor of said bonds and tax, 522 ballots were cast against said bonds and tax, and 0 ballots cast were rejected and not counted.

(h) The Board has canvassed the returns of the Election and does hereby determine that a majority of all qualified electors voting on the question of said bonds and tax have voted in favor of issuing said bonds and levying the tax to pay the same.

(i) All conditions, acts and things required by law to exist or to be done precedent to the issuance of general obligation school building bonds of the District as authorized by the qualified voters at the Election in the aggregate principal amount of not to exceed \$39,900,000 do exist and have been done in due form and time as required by law.

(j) It is necessary that the District adopt (i) policies and procedures to satisfy all applicable requirements of federal income tax law in order to preserve, post-issuance, the tax-exempt status of the bonds described herein and (ii) policies and procedures to satisfy the issuance and post-issuance disclosure requirements of Rule 15c2-12 (as described herein).

(k) It is also necessary that the District declare its official intent, solely for purposes of Treasury Regulations, Section 1.150-2, promulgated under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the “**Code**”), to reimburse certain capital expenditures from the proceeds of the Bonds.

**Section 2.** (a) The Board hereby authorizes the issuance and delivery of one or more series of negotiable general obligation school building bonds of the District in the aggregate principal amount not to exceed Thirty-Nine Million Nine Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$39,900,000), designated as “General Obligation School Building Bonds, Series 2024” (the “**Bonds**”) or such other designation as shall be made by the President of the Board, the Vice President of the Board and the Superintendent of Schools (each, including any person authorized to act on their behalf, an “**Authorized Officer**”), or by each individually. Unless otherwise determined by an Authorized Officer, the Bonds shall be issued only as fully registered bonds, without coupons, on the books of the Registrar and Paying Agent designated herein (the “**Registrar**”) in denominations of \$5,000 or whole multiples thereof not exceeding the principal amount due on a given date of maturity, shall be numbered consecutively from one upward in order of issuance, and shall bear interest calculated on the basis of a 360-day year consisting of twelve 30-day months.

(b) The Authorized Officers, or each individually, are authorized and directed, in the exercise of such officers’ independent judgment and absolute discretion, to hereafter, from time to time, specify, set, designate, determine, establish and appoint with respect to each series of the Bonds herein authorized, as the case may be, and in each case in accordance with and subject to the provisions of this Resolution: (i) the dated date and the delivery date, (ii) the aggregate principal amount to be issued, not exceeding the aggregate principal amount set forth in this Section 2, (iii) the dates and years in which a principal maturity shall occur and the principal amount to mature or to be paid in such year, (iv) the date of final maturity, which shall not be later than thirty (30) years after the date of issuance of the Bonds, (v) the date or dates upon which the Bonds shall be sold, which shall not be later than three years from the date of this Resolution, (vi) the rate or rates of interest to be carried by each maturity, such that the true interest cost of the Bonds shall not exceed 7.00%, (vii) the method by which such rates of interest shall be calculated, (viii) the dates on which interest shall be paid, (ix) the redemption dates and prices and all terms relating thereto, including the amount and maturity date of any Bonds issued as “term bonds” and the amount of each sinking fund installment therefor, and all terms relating thereto, if any; provided that any series of Bonds issued pursuant to this Resolution shall be subject to redemption not later than the fifth anniversary of their date of original issuance and delivery, (x) the form, content, terms and provisions of any bond purchase agreement entered into by the District with an Underwriter or any loan agreement between the District and the Lender, all as set forth in Section 6 hereof, (xi) the identity of the Underwriter, the Placement Agent or the Lender of the Bonds, as applicable (each, a “**Purchaser**”) and structure of the financing, each in accordance with Section 6 hereof; (xii) the fee of the Purchaser, which shall not be more than 1.00% of the aggregate principal amount of the Bonds, (xiii) the purchase price for the Bonds, which shall not be less than 96.00% of the aggregate principal amount of the Bonds (inclusive of the Purchaser’s fee or discount and any original issue discount), (xiv) the form and contents of any Offering Document (as defined in Section 12 hereof), (xv) the identity of the Registrar, (xvi) whether to obtain a municipal bond insurance policy or other credit enhancement feature for any series of Bonds, (xvii) the form, content, terms, and provisions of any closing and other documentation executed and delivered by the District in connection with the authorization, issuance, sale and delivery of the Bonds and (xviii) all of the other terms of the Bonds not otherwise determined or fixed by the provisions of this Resolution.

(c) (i) The Bonds shall be subject to redemption prior to maturity as determined by an Authorized Officer; provided, however, that the Bonds maturing after the date five years from their date of original issue shall be subject to redemption at the option of the District on the date that is no later than five years from their date of original issue and any date thereafter, as a whole, or in part in such principal amounts and from such maturity or maturities as the District in its sole and absolute discretion shall determine, at a redemption price equal to the principal amount so redeemed, together with the interest accrued thereon to the date fixed for redemption, with or without a premium as may be determined by such Authorized Officer. If less than all Bonds of any maturity are to be called for redemption pursuant to this Resolution, the Registrar shall select by lot the particular Bonds of such maturity to be redeemed.

(ii) The Authorized Officers, or each individually, may designate in a certificate certain Bonds as “**Term Bonds**”, portions of which are to be redeemed on such dates of the years (each such date being herein referred to as a “**Sinking Fund Payment Date**”) and in the amounts (hereinafter referred to as a “**Mandatory Sinking Fund Payment**”) set forth in such certificate. The Registrar shall select and call for redemption, in accordance with this subsection (c), from the Term Bonds the amounts specified by the Authorized Officer in the certificate, and the Term Bonds selected by the Registrar shall become due and payable on such date. If Term Bonds are redeemed at the option of the District pursuant to Section 2(c)(i), the Term Bonds so optionally redeemed may, at the option of the District, be applied as a credit against any subsequent Mandatory Sinking Fund Payment with respect to Term Bonds otherwise to be redeemed thereby, such credit to be equal to the principal amount of such Term Bonds redeemed pursuant to Section 2(c)(i), provided that the District shall have delivered to the Registrar not less than 45 days prior to such Sinking Fund Payment Date a District certificate stating its election to apply such Term Bonds as such a credit. In such case, the Registrar shall reduce the amount of Term Bonds to be redeemed on the Sinking Fund Payment Date specified in such District certificate by the principal amount of Term Bonds so redeemed pursuant to Section 2(c)(i). Any credit given to Mandatory Sinking Fund Payments pursuant to this subsection (c)(ii) shall not affect any subsequent Mandatory Sinking Fund Payments, which shall remain payable as otherwise provided in this subsection, unless and until another credit is given in accordance with the provisions hereof.

(iii) Bonds subject to redemption shall be redeemed in whole multiples of \$5,000. If any Bond is in a denomination in excess of \$5,000, portions of the principal amount thereof in installments of \$5,000 or any whole multiple thereof may be redeemed, and if less than all of the principal amount thereof is to be redeemed, in such case upon the surrender of such Bonds there shall be issued to the registered owner thereof without charge therefor, for the then unredeemed balance of the principal amount thereof, Bonds of like series, maturity and interest rates in any of the authorized denominations provided by this Resolution.

(iv) Notice of redemption of Bonds stating their designation, date, maturity, principal amounts and the redemption date shall be given by the Registrar by mailing such notice by first-class mail, postage prepaid, not less than 30 days prior to the date fixed for redemption to the registered owners (or such shorter period as may be acceptable to the then registered owners) at their most recent addresses appearing upon

the books of the Registrar. Failure to give notice to any particular registered owner or any defect in the notice given to such owner shall not affect the validity of the proceedings calling the Bonds or the redemption of any Bonds for which proper notice has been given. Notice of redemption need not be given to the holder of any Bonds, whether registered or not, who has waived notice of redemption. Notice of redemption having been given as provided above or notice of redemption having been waived by the owners of Bonds called for redemption who have not been given such notice as provided above, the Bonds so called for redemption shall become due and payable on the designated redemption date. The District shall give written notice to the Registrar of its election to redeem Bonds at least 45 days prior to the said redemption date, or such shorter period as shall be acceptable to the Registrar. If on or before the said redemption date funds sufficient to pay the Bonds so called for redemption at the applicable redemption price and accrued interest to said date have been deposited or caused to have been deposited by the District with the Registrar for the purposes of such payment and notice of redemption thereof has been given or waived as hereinbefore provided, then from and after the date fixed for redemption interest on such Bonds so called shall cease to accrue and become payable. If such funds shall not have been so deposited with the Registrar as aforesaid no later than the date fixed for redemption, such call for redemption shall be revoked and the Bonds so called for redemption shall continue to be outstanding the same as though they had not been so called; such Bonds shall continue to bear interest until paid at such rate as they would have borne had they not been called for redemption and shall continue to be protected by this Resolution and entitled to the benefits and security hereof.

(d) Interest on the Bonds at the respective rates for each maturity is payable semiannually on each interest payment date determined in accordance with this Section 2 (each of said dates, an “**Interest Payment Date**”) from the date of original issue or the most recent Interest Payment Date, whichever is later, until maturity or earlier redemption by check or draft mailed by the Registrar or its successor on such Interest Payment Date to the registered owner of each Bond at such registered owner’s address as it appears on the bond register maintained by the Registrar or its successor as of the close of business on the 15<sup>th</sup> day (whether or not a business day) immediately preceding each Interest Payment Date (the “**Record Date**”) subject to the provisions of the following paragraph. The principal on the Bonds and the interest due at maturity or upon redemption prior to maturity is payable in lawful money of the United States of America to the registered owners thereof upon presentation and surrender of such Bonds to the Registrar at its designated corporate trust office.

If any payments of interest due on the Bonds on an Interest Payment Date are not timely made, such interest shall cease to be payable to the registered owners as of the Record Date for such Interest Payment Date and shall be payable to the registered owners of the Bonds as of a special date of record for payment of such defaulted interest as shall be designated by the Registrar whenever moneys for the purpose of paying such defaulted interest become available.

If the date for payment of the principal of or the interest on the Bonds shall be a Saturday, Sunday, legal holiday or day on which banking institutions in the city in which the designated corporate trust office of the Registrar is located are authorized by law or executive order to close, the date for such payment shall be the next succeeding day which is not a Saturday, Sunday,

legal holiday or day on which such banking institutions are authorized to close, and payment on such day shall have the same force and effect as if made on the nominal payment date.

(e) The Bonds shall be executed on behalf of the District by the manual or facsimile signatures of the President and the Secretary of the Board (including such other persons authorized to sign on their behalf). In case any officer whose signature or a facsimile of whose signature shall appear on the Bonds shall cease to be such officer before the delivery of any Bonds, such signature or facsimile shall nevertheless be valid and sufficient for all purposes, the same as if such officer had remained in office until delivery. Notwithstanding such execution, no Bond shall be valid or obligatory for any purpose or entitled to any security or benefit under this Resolution unless and until a certificate of authentication on such Bond has been duly executed by the manual signature of an authorized representative of the Registrar. Certificates of authentication on different Bonds need not be signed by the same representative. The executed certificate of authentication on each Bond shall be conclusive evidence that it has been authenticated and delivered under this Resolution.

(f) If any Bond is mutilated, lost, stolen or destroyed, the District shall execute a new Bond of like date, maturity and denomination to that mutilated, lost, stolen, or destroyed, provided that, in the case of any mutilated Bond, such mutilated Bond shall first be surrendered to the Registrar and, in the case of any lost, stolen, or destroyed Bonds, there first shall be furnished to the Registrar evidence of such loss, theft, or destruction satisfactory to the Registrar, together with an indemnity satisfactory to it. If such Bond shall have matured, instead of issuing a duplicate Bond, the District may pay the same without surrender thereof upon the performance of such requirements as it deems fit for its protection, including a lost instrument bond. The District and the Registrar may charge the owner of such Bond with their reasonable fees and expenses for such service.

(g) Unless otherwise directed by the Purchaser, the Bonds shall be issued initially as “book-entry-only” bonds under the services of The Depository Trust Company (the “**Depository**”), with one typewritten bond per maturity being issued to the Depository. In such connection the officers of the District are authorized to execute and deliver a Letter of Representations (the “**Letter of Representations**”) in the form required by the Depository, for and on behalf of the District, which shall thereafter govern matters with respect to registration, transfer, payment and redemption of the Bonds. If the Bonds are issued as “book-entry-only” bonds, the following provisions shall apply:

(i) The District and the Registrar shall have no responsibility or obligation to any broker-dealer, bank or other financial institution for which the Depository holds Bonds as securities depository (each, a “**Bond Participant**”) or to any person who is an actual purchaser of a Bond from a Bond Participant while the Bonds are in book-entry form (each a “**Beneficial Owner**”) with respect to the following:

(A) the accuracy of the records of the Depository, any nominees of the Depository or any Bond Participant with respect to any ownership interest in the Bonds,

(B) the delivery to any Bond Participant, any Beneficial Owner or any other person, other than the Depository, of any notice with respect to the Bonds, including any notice of redemption, or

(C) the payment to any Bond Participant, any Beneficial Owner or any other person, other than the Depository, of any amount with respect to the Bonds. The Registrar shall make payments with respect to the Bonds only to or upon the order of the Depository or its nominee, and all such payments shall be valid and effective fully to satisfy and discharge the obligations with respect to such Bonds to the extent of the sum or sums so paid. No person other than the Depository shall receive an authenticated Bond, except as provided in (v) below.

(ii) Upon receipt by the Registrar of written notice from the Depository to the effect that the Depository is unable or unwilling to discharge its responsibilities, the Registrar shall issue, transfer and exchange Bonds requested by the Depository in appropriate amounts. Whenever the Depository requests the Registrar to do so, the Registrar will cooperate with the Depository in taking appropriate action after reasonable notice (A) to arrange, with the prior written consent of the District, for a substitute depository willing and able upon reasonable and customary terms to maintain custody of the Bonds or (B) to make available Bonds registered in whatever name or names as the Beneficial Owners transferring or exchanging such Bonds shall designate.

(iii) If the District determines that it is desirable that certificates representing the Bonds be delivered to the ultimate beneficial owners of the Bonds and so notifies the Registrar in writing, the Registrar shall so notify the Depository, whereupon the Depository will notify the Bond Participants of the availability through the Depository of bond certificates representing the Bonds. In such event, the Registrar shall issue, transfer and exchange bond certificates representing the Bonds as requested by the Depository in appropriate amounts and in authorized denominations.

(iv) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Resolution to the contrary, so long as any Bond is registered in the name of the Depository or any nominee thereof, all payments with respect to such Bond and all notices with respect to such Bond shall be made and given, respectively, to the Depository as provided in the Letter of Representations.

(v) Registered ownership of the Bonds may be transferred on the books of registration maintained by the Registrar, and the Bonds may be delivered in physical form to the following:

(A) any successor securities depository or its nominee; or

(B) any person, upon (I) the resignation of the Depository from its functions as depository or (II) termination of the use of the Depository pursuant to this Section and the terms of the Registrar and Paying Agent Agreement.

(vi) In the event of any partial redemption of a Bond unless and until such partially redeemed Bond has been replaced in accordance with the provisions of this Resolution, the books and records of the Registrar shall govern and establish the principal amount of such Bonds as is then outstanding and all of the Bonds issued to the Depository or its nominee shall contain a legend to such effect.

If for any reason the Depository resigns and is not replaced, the District shall immediately provide a supply of printed bond certificates, duly executed by manual or facsimile signatures of the President and Secretary of the Board, for issuance upon the transfers from the Depository and subsequent transfers or in the event of partial redemption. If such supply of certificates shall be insufficient to meet the requirements of the Registrar for issuance of replacement certificates upon transfer or partial redemption, the District agrees to order printed an additional supply of such certificates and to direct their execution by manual or facsimile signatures of its then duly qualified and acting President and Secretary of the Board.

**Section 3.** (a) The Registrar designated pursuant to Section 2(b) hereof, shall serve in the capacities of registrar and paying agent under the terms of an agreement entitled “**Registrar and Paying Agent Agreement**” between the District and the Registrar. The Authorized Officers, or each individually, is hereby authorized to execute said agreement in such form as such officer shall deem appropriate or necessary. The Registrar shall have only such duties and obligations as are expressly specified by this Resolution and the Registrar and Paying Agent Agreement, and no other duties or obligations shall be implied to the Registrar, except as may be set forth in a written agreement between the District and a successor Registrar.

(b) The District reserves the right to remove the Registrar upon 30 days’ notice and upon the appointment of a successor Registrar, in which event the predecessor Registrar shall deliver all cash and Bonds in its possession to the successor Registrar and shall deliver the bond register to the successor Registrar. The Authorized Officers, or each individually, is authorized to remove the Registrar as provided herein if such officer determines such removal is in the best interest of the District. Upon such removal, the Authorized Officers, or each individually, is authorized to appoint a successor Registrar and to execute a Registrar and Paying Agent Agreement with such successor Registrar in a form substantially similar to that approved by the Board pursuant to this Resolution, but with such changes as such officer shall deem appropriate or necessary.

(c) The Registrar shall keep and maintain for the District books for the registration and transfer of the Bonds at its designated corporate trust office. The names and registered addresses of the registered owner or owners of the Bonds shall at all times be recorded in such books. Any Bond may be transferred pursuant to its provisions at the office of the Registrar by surrender of such Bond for cancellation, accompanied by a written instrument of transfer, in form satisfactory to the Registrar, duly executed by the registered owner in person or by such owner’s duly authorized agent, and thereupon the Registrar on behalf of the District will deliver at such office (or send by registered mail to the transferee owner or owners thereof at such transferee owner’s or owners’ risk and expense), registered in the name of the transferee owner or owners, a new Bond or Bonds of the same interest rate, aggregate principal amount and maturity, bearing numbers not contemporaneously then outstanding. To the extent of the denominations authorized for the Bonds by this Resolution, one Bond may be transferred for several such Bonds of the same interest rate and maturity and for a like aggregate principal amount, and several such Bonds may be transferred for one or several such Bonds, respectively, of the same interest rate and maturity and for a like aggregate principal amount. In every case of transfer of a Bond, the surrendered Bond shall be canceled and destroyed. The Registrar may impose a charge sufficient to defray all costs and expenses incident to registrations of transfer and exchanges. In each case the Registrar shall require the payment by the owner requesting

exchange or transfer of any tax or other governmental charge required to be paid with respect to such exchange or transfer. Bonds issued upon transfer or exchange of Bonds shall be dated as of the date six months preceding the Interest Payment Date next following the date of registration thereof in the office of the Registrar, unless such date of registration shall be an Interest Payment Date, in which case they shall be dated as of such date of registration; provided, however, that if, as shown by the records of the Registrar, interest on the Bonds shall be in default, the Bonds issued in lieu of Bonds surrendered for transfer or exchange may be dated as of the date to which interest has been paid in full on the Bonds surrendered; and provided further, that if the date of registration shall be prior to the first Interest Payment Date, the Bonds shall be dated as of their date of original issue. All Bonds issued upon transfer of the Bonds so surrendered shall be valid obligations of the District evidencing the same obligations as the Bonds surrendered and shall be entitled to all the benefits and protection of this Resolution to the same extent as the Bonds upon transfer of which they were delivered. The District and the Registrar shall not be required to transfer any Bond during any period from any Record Date until its immediately following Interest Payment Date or to transfer any Bond called for redemption for a period of 30 days next preceding the date fixed for redemption.

(d) The Registrar shall also be responsible for making the payments of principal and interest as the same fall due upon the Bonds from funds provided by the District for such purposes. Payments of interest due upon the Bonds prior to maturity or redemption shall be made by the Registrar by mailing a check in the amount due for such interest on each Interest Payment Date to the registered owner of each Bond to such owner's registered address as shown on the books of registration as required to be maintained under this Section 3. As provided in Section 9 hereof, on or before each principal or interest due date, without further order of the Board, the Treasurer of the Board or an Authorized Officer shall transmit from the Bond Fund (hereinafter established) to the Registrar money sufficient for payment of all principal and interest then due. Payments of principal due at maturity or at any date fixed for redemption prior to maturity, together with any accrued interest then due, shall be made by the Registrar upon presentation and surrender of such Bond. The District and the Registrar may treat the registered owner of any Bonds as the absolute owner of such Bond for purposes of making payments thereon and for all other purposes. All payments on account of interest or principal made to the registered owner of any Bond shall be valid and effectual and shall be a discharge of the District and the Registrar in respect of the liability upon the Bonds or claims for interest to the extent of the amount or amounts so paid.

**Section 4.** The Bonds shall be in substantially the following form:

**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
STATE OF NEBRASKA**

**NANCE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT 0030  
(TWIN RIVER PUBLIC SCHOOLS)  
GENERAL OBLIGATION SCHOOL BUILDING BOND  
SERIES 2024**

No. \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

<u>Interest Rate</u>	<u>Date of Maturity</u>	<u>Date of Original Issue</u>	<u>CUSIP</u>
_____%	_____, 20__	_____, 202__	_____

**REGISTERED OWNER:** CEDE & CO.

**PRINCIPAL AMOUNT:**

**NANCE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT 0030 (TWIN RIVER PUBLIC SCHOOLS) IN THE STATE OF NEBRASKA** (the “District”) promises to pay to the order of the Registered Owner, or its registered assigns, the Principal Amount of this Bond upon presentation and surrender hereof on or after the Date of Maturity at the corporate trust offices of \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, Nebraska, as Bond Registrar and Paying Agent (the “Registrar”).

The District also promises to pay interest on said Principal Amount on \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ of each year, commencing \_\_\_\_\_, 202\_\_ (each of such dates an “Interest Payment Date”), at the Rate of Interest per annum indicated above until maturity or earlier redemption. Interest shall be calculated on the basis of a 360-day year consisting of twelve 30-day months, from the Date of Original Issue or most recent Interest Payment Date, whichever is later. Interest on this Bond prior to maturity or earlier redemption shall be paid by check or draft mailed on such Interest Payment Date to the Registered Owner at such Registered Owner’s address as it appears on the registration books of the Registrar at the close of business on the 15th day (whether or a not a business day) immediately preceding each Interest Payment Date (the “Record Date”). Any interest not so timely paid shall cease to be payable to the person entitled thereto as of the Record Date such interest was payable, and shall be payable to the person who is the Registered Owner of this Bond (or of one or more predecessor Bonds hereto) on such special record date for payment of such defaulted interest as shall be fixed by the Registrar whenever moneys for such purpose become available.

This Bond is one of an issue of fully registered bonds of the total principal amount of \_\_\_\_\_ Million \_\_\_\_\_ Hundred \_\_\_\_\_ Thousand Dollars (\$ \_\_\_\_\_), of even date and like tenor herewith, except as to date of maturity, rate of interest, denomination and priority of redemption (the “Bonds”), which were authorized by more than 50% of the ballots cast by the qualified electors of the District at an election held in the District in

conjunction with the statewide primary election duly called by the Board of Education and held on May 14, 2024. The Bonds are being issued for the purposes of financing the costs of (a) constructing one or more additions to the District's existing K-12 school buildings and related site improvements, (b) demolishing portions of an existing building, and (c) purchasing certain necessary equipment, furniture and apparatus for such buildings and additions.

Notice of said election was given for more than twenty days prior thereto in a legal newspaper of general circulation in the District, and at said election the question of the issuance of said Bonds and the levy of the tax to pay the same was submitted to the qualified electors of the District in compliance with Sections 10-701 et seq., Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, as amended. All of said Bonds are issued pursuant to a resolution duly adopted by the Board of Education of the District on June 17, 2024 (the "Bond Resolution").

The Bonds are direct, general obligations of the District, and the full faith, credit and resources and the taxing power of the District are irrevocably pledged to the prompt payment of the principal of, premium, if any, and interest on the Bonds, as the same become due. The District shall cause to be made annually a special levy of taxes on all the taxable property in the District, in addition to all other taxes, sufficient in rate and amount to pay the principal of, premium, if any, and interest on the Bonds as and when the same become due. The District has pledged such tax levy and all receipts therefrom to the payment of the Bonds pursuant to the Bond Resolution.

The Bonds maturing on or prior to \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_, are not subject to redemption prior to their stated maturities. The Bonds maturing on and after \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_ are subject to redemption at the option of the District prior to the stated maturities thereof at any time on or after \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_ as a whole, or in part from time to time in such principal amounts and from such maturity or maturities as the District in its sole and absolute discretion may determine, at the redemption price of the principal amount so redeemed, together with the interest accrued on such principal amount to the date fixed for redemption. If less than all of the Bonds of a maturity are to be called for redemption, the Registrar shall select the particular Bonds of such maturity to be redeemed by lot.

[The Bonds maturing on \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_ are subject to mandatory redemption prior to maturity, in part, prior to their stated maturity, on the dates, in the amounts and at the prices set forth in the Bond Resolution, through the application of mandatory sinking fund payments.]

Bonds shall be redeemed in whole multiples of \$5,000. If any Bond is in a denomination in excess of \$5,000, portions of the principal amount thereof in installments of \$5,000 or whole multiples thereof may be redeemed, and if less than all of the principal amount thereof is to be redeemed, in such case upon the surrender of such Bond there shall be issued to the Registered Owner thereof without charge therefor, for the then unredeemed balance of the principal amount thereof, registered bonds of like series, maturity and interest rates in any of the authorized denominations provided by the Bond Resolution.

Notice of redemption of this Bond shall be given to the Registered Owner hereof by first-class mail, postage prepaid, not less than thirty (30) days prior to the date fixed for redemption (or such shorter period as may be acceptable to the then registered owner of the Bonds), all as more particularly set forth in the Bond Resolution; provided, however, that failure to give such notice by mailing, or any defect therein, shall not affect the validity of any

proceeding for the redemption of any Bond with respect to which no such failure has occurred. Notice of redemption having been given as provided in the Bond Resolution, or notice of redemption having been waived, and funds for the payment thereof having been deposited with the Registrar, this Bond shall cease to bear interest from and after the date fixed for redemption.

The Bonds of the series of which this Bond is one are issuable as fully registered Bonds without coupons in the denomination of \$5,000 and any whole multiple thereof. Subject to the limitations and upon payment of the charges provided in the Bond Resolution, Bonds may be exchanged for a like aggregate principal amount of Bonds. This Bond is transferable by the Registered Owner or such owner's attorney duly authorized in writing at the designated corporate trust office of the Registrar in \_\_\_\_\_, Nebraska, upon surrender and cancellation of this Bond, and thereupon a new Bond or Bonds of the same aggregate principal amount, interest rate and maturity will be issued to the transferee as provided in the Bond Resolution, subject to the limitations therein prescribed. The District, the Registrar and any other person may treat the person in whose name this Bond is registered as the absolute owner hereof for the purpose of receiving payment due hereunder and for all purposes and shall not be affected by any notice to the contrary, whether this Bond be overdue or not.

If the date for payment of the principal or redemption price of or interest on this Bond shall be a Saturday, Sunday, legal holiday or a day on which banking institutions in the city in which the principal corporate trust office of the Registrar is located are authorized by law or executive order to close, then the date for such payment shall be the next succeeding day which is not a Saturday, Sunday, legal holiday or a day on which such banking institutions are authorized to close, and payment on such date shall have the same force and effect as if made on the nominal date of payment.

[The Bonds are "qualified tax-exempt obligations" as described in Section 265(b)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended.]

[AS PROVIDED IN THE BOND RESOLUTION, UNTIL THE TERMINATION OF THE SYSTEM OF BOOK-ENTRY-ONLY TRANSFERS THROUGH THE DEPOSITORY TRUST COMPANY, NEW YORK, NEW YORK (TOGETHER WITH ANY SUCCESSOR SECURITIES DEPOSITORY APPOINTED PURSUANT TO THE BOND RESOLUTION, "DTC"), AND NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER PROVISIONS OF THE BOND RESOLUTION TO THE CONTRARY, A PORTION OF THE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF THIS BOND MAY BE PAID OR REDEEMED WITHOUT SURRENDER HEREOF TO THE REGISTRAR. DTC OR A NOMINEE, TRANSFEREE OR ASSIGNEE OF DTC OF THIS BOND MAY NOT RELY UPON THE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT INDICATED HEREON AS THE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT HEREOF OUTSTANDING AND UNPAID. THE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT HEREOF OUTSTANDING AND UNPAID SHALL FOR ALL PURPOSES BE THE AMOUNT DETERMINED IN THE MANNER PROVIDED IN THE BOND RESOLUTION.

UNLESS THIS BOND IS PRESENTED BY AN AUTHORIZED OFFICER OF DTC (A) TO THE REGISTRAR FOR REGISTRATION OF TRANSFER OR EXCHANGE OR (B) TO THE REGISTRAR FOR PAYMENT OF PRINCIPAL, AND ANY BOND ISSUED IN REPLACEMENT HEREOF OR SUBSTITUTION HEREOF IS REGISTERED IN THE NAME OF DTC AND ANY PAYMENT IS MADE TO DTC OR ITS NOMINEE, ANY TRANSFER,

PLEDGE OR OTHER USE HEREOF FOR VALUE OR OTHERWISE BY OR TO ANY PERSONS IS WRONGFUL BECAUSE ONLY THE REGISTERED OWNER HEREOF, DTC OR ITS NOMINEE, HAS AN INTEREST HEREIN.]

**IT IS HEREBY CERTIFIED AND WARRANTED** that all conditions, acts and things required by law to exist or to be done precedent to and in the issuance of this Bond did exist, did happen and were done and performed in regular and due form and time as required by law and that the indebtedness of the District, including this Bond, does not exceed any limitation imposed by law.

This Bond shall not be valid or become obligatory for any purpose or be entitled to any security or benefit under the Bond Resolution until the certificate of authentication hereon shall have been executed by the Registrar.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, the District has caused this Bond to be executed on its behalf by the original or facsimile signature of the President of its Board of Education and attested by the original or facsimile signature of the Secretary of said Board of Education, all as of the Date of Original Issue shown above.

**NANCE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT 0030  
(TWIN RIVER PUBLIC SCHOOLS) IN THE  
STATE OF NEBRASKA**

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Sample - Do not sign)  
Secretary

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Sample - Do not sign)  
President

**CERTIFICATE OF AUTHENTICATION  
AND REGISTRATION**

This Bond is one of the Bonds of the series designated therein issued under the provisions of the Bond Resolution and has been registered to the owner named in said Bond recorded in the books of record maintained by the undersigned Registrar for said issue of Bonds.

\_\_\_\_\_  
as Bond Registrar and Paying Agent

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Its Authorized Officer

(FORM OF ASSIGNMENT)

For value received, the undersigned hereby sells, assigns and transfers unto \_\_\_\_\_ the within Bond and hereby irrevocably constitutes and appoints \_\_\_\_\_, attorney, to transfer

the same on the books of registration in the office of the within mentioned Registrar with full power of substitution in the premises.

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Registered Owner

Witness: \_\_\_\_\_

Note: The signature(s) on this assignment MUST CORRESPOND with the name(s) as written on the face of the within Bond in every particular, without alteration, enlargement or any change whatsoever, and must be guaranteed by a commercial bank or a trust company or by a firm having membership on the New York, Midwest or other stock exchange.

**Section 5.** (a) After being executed by the President and the Secretary of the Board, in accordance with Section 2(e) hereof, the Bonds shall be delivered to the Registrar for registration and authentication. The Superintendent of Schools shall be responsible for the delivery of the Bonds and for all other ministerial acts relating to the Bonds. The Authorized Officers, or each individually, are hereby authorized to take all actions necessary to effect the delivery of each series of the Bonds to the Purchaser, inclusive of the power and authority to execute such orders, certificates, receipts and other documents as may be necessary or desirable to effect such delivery and to receive the purchase price for the Bonds.

(b) The Superintendent of Schools is directed to make and certify a transcript of the proceedings of the District precedent to the issuance of each series of bonds authorized by this Resolution, which transcript shall be delivered to the Purchaser. The Authorized Officers, or each individually, shall certify for the Nebraska Auditor of Public Accounts the taxable valuation, the number of children of school age residing in the District and the total bonded indebtedness of the District.

**Section 6.** (a) The District is authorized to sell the Bonds to an investment banking firm, as original purchaser of the Bonds (the “**Underwriter**”), in accordance with Section 2 of this Resolution, with the assistance of the hereinafter described Financial Advisor. Delivery of the Bonds shall be made to the Underwriter as soon as practicable after the adoption of this Resolution, upon payment therefor in accordance with the terms of sale. The District is authorized to enter into a Bond Purchase Agreement (the “**Purchase Agreement**”) between the District and the Underwriter in form and substance acceptable to the Authorized Officers, or each individually. Such Authorized Officer is authorized to execute the Purchase Agreement, in form and substance acceptable to such Authorized Officer, for and on behalf of the District, such officer’s signature thereon being conclusive evidence of such official’s and the District’s approval thereof. The Underwriter shall have the right to direct the registration of the Bonds and the denominations thereof within each maturity, subject to the restrictions of this Resolution. Such Underwriter and its agents, representatives and counsel (including bond counsel) are hereby authorized to take such actions on behalf of the District as are necessary to effectuate the closing of the issuance and sale of the Bonds, including, without limitation, authorizing the release of the Bonds by the Depository at closing.

(b) The District is further authorized to place the Bonds with a private purchaser (the “**Private Purchaser**”) with the assistance of Northland Securities, Inc., serving as financial advisor to the District (together with any successors and assigns, including, without limitation, Northland Securities, Inc., the “**Financial Advisor**”), and/or an investment banking firm serving as placement agent to the District (the “**Placement Agent**”), in accordance with Section 2 of this Resolution. The Private Purchaser shall have the right to direct the registration of the Bonds and the denominations thereof within each maturity, subject to the restrictions of this Resolution. The Financial Advisor and/or the Placement Agent and their respective agents, representatives and counsel (including bond counsel) are hereby authorized to take such actions on behalf of the District as are necessary to effectuate the closing of the issuance and placement of the Bonds.

(c) The District is further authorized to (i) issue the Bonds directly to a bank or other institutional lender (the “**Lender**”) to evidence or secure a loan from such Lender to the District or (ii) enter into a loan agreement with a Lender in lieu of issuing the Bonds, in accordance with Section 2 of this Resolution and subject to the other restrictions of this Resolution. Such Lender may be identified with the assistance of the Financial Advisor and/or the Placement Agent. The Lender shall have the right to direct the registration of the Bonds and the denominations thereof within each maturity, subject to the restrictions of this Resolution. The Financial Advisor and/or the Placement Agent and their respective agents, representatives and counsel (including bond counsel) are hereby authorized to take such actions on behalf of the District as are necessary to effectuate the closing of the issuance of the Bonds.

**Section 7.** The District hereby establishes the following funds and accounts: (a) the Series 2024 Bond Fund (the “**Bond Fund**”) and (b) the Series 2024 Project Fund (the “**Project Fund**”). The foregoing funds shall be maintained by the District in accordance with the provisions of this Resolution. The Authorized Officers, or each individually, are hereby authorized to create additional accounts, if necessary, if the District issues more than one series of bonds pursuant to this Resolution, and is also authorized to create additional sub-accounts within the foregoing funds and accounts as are necessary and appropriate to carry out the provisions of this Resolution.

**Section 8.** The proceeds from the sale of each series of Bonds, including the interest, if any, accrued on the Bonds from their date of original issue to the date of delivery and payment thereof, shall be received by the District Treasurer. The District Treasurer shall apply such proceeds as follows: (a) any accrued interest shall be deposited in the Bond Fund and (b) all remaining proceeds shall be deposited in the Project Fund to pay Project costs and costs of issuing the Bonds.

**Section 9.** (a) The District shall deposit in the Bond Fund, as and when received, all proceeds of the tax levy provided for in Section 10 hereof. All amounts paid and credited to the Bond Fund shall be expended and used by the District for the sole purpose of paying the principal of, premium, if any, and interest on the Bonds as and when the same become due, including on any redemption date, and paying the usual and customary fees and expenses of the Registrar.

(b) The Authorized Officers (or such other persons authorized to act on their behalf), or each individually, is authorized and directed to withdraw from the Bond Fund and forward to the Registrar sums sufficient to pay principal of, premium, if any, and interest on the Bonds as

and when the same become due, and also to pay the charges made by the Registrar for acting in such capacity, if applicable, which charges shall be over and above the amount of the principal of, premium, if any, and interest on the Bonds. If, through the lapse of time, or otherwise, the owners of Bonds shall no longer be entitled to enforce payment of their obligations, it shall be the duty of the Registrar to return the funds to the District. All moneys deposited with the Registrar shall be deemed to be deposited in accordance with and subject to all of the provisions contained in this Resolution.

(c) Any moneys or investments remaining in the Bond Fund after all principal of and the interest on the Bonds have been paid in full shall be transferred to the general fund of the District.

**Section 10.** The Bonds shall be direct, general obligations of the District, and the District irrevocably pledges the full faith and credit and the tax power of the District, including such special levy of taxes described in this Section and all receipts therefrom, to the prompt payment of the principal of, premium, if any, and the interest on the Bonds as the same become due. The District represents, warrants and covenants that it shall cause to be levied and collected annually a special levy of taxes on all the taxable property in the District, without limitation as to rate or amount, to pay the interest on, premium, if any, and the principal of the Bonds as and when such interest, premium, and principal, respectively, become due, which taxes shall be in excess of and in addition to all other taxes now or hereafter authorized to be levied by the District. Such tax levy and all receipts therefrom to all payments due on the Bonds are pledged to the payment of debt service on the Bonds. The District further agrees to direct the application of such tax levy moneys held by the County Treasurer of Nance County and the county treasurer of any other county in which portions of the District may lie to the payment of the Bonds so that not later than each maturity date and/or Interest Payment Date with respect to the Bonds, there shall be on hand with the Registrar sufficient funds to make the payments of principal of, premium, if any, and interest on the Bonds as they fall due.

**Section 11.** (a) The District covenants and agrees that (i) it will comply with all applicable provisions of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the “**Code**”), including Sections 103 and 141 through 150, necessary to maintain the exclusion from gross income for federal income tax purposes of the interest on the Bonds and (ii) it will not use or permit the use of any proceeds of the Bonds or any other funds of the District nor take or permit any other action, or fail to take any action, if any such action or failure to take action would adversely affect the exclusion from gross income of the interest on the Bonds. In addition, the District will adopt such other resolutions and take such other actions as may be necessary to comply with the Code and with all other applicable future laws, regulations, published rulings and judicial decisions, in order to ensure that the interest on the Bonds will remain excluded from federal gross income, to the extent any such actions can be taken by the District.

(b) The District covenants and agrees that (i) it will comply with all requirements of Section 148 of the Code to the extent applicable to the Bonds, (ii) it will use the proceeds of the Bonds as soon as practicable and with all reasonable dispatch for the purposes for which the Bonds are issued, and (iii) it will not invest or directly or indirectly use or permit the use of any proceeds of the Bonds or any other funds of the District in any manner, or take or omit to take any action, that would cause the Bonds to be “arbitrage bonds” within the meaning of Section 148(a) of the Code.

(c) The District covenants and agrees that it will pay or provide for the payment from time to time of all amounts required to be rebated to the United States pursuant to Section 148(f) of the Code and any Treasury Regulations applicable to the Bonds from time to time. This covenant shall survive payment in full or defeasance of the Bonds. The District specifically covenants to pay or cause to be paid to the United States of America, the required amounts of rebatable arbitrage at the times and in the amounts as determined by its Federal Tax Certificate. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained herein, the Federal Tax Certificate may be amended or replaced if, in the opinion of counsel nationally recognized on the subject of municipal bonds, such amendment or replacement will not adversely affect the exclusion from gross income for federal income tax purposes of interest on the Bonds.

(d) The District covenants and agrees that (to the extent within its power or direction) it will not use any portion of the proceeds of the Bonds, including any investment income earned on such proceeds, directly or indirectly, in a manner that would cause any Bond to be a “private activity bond”.

(e) If applicable and in consultation with bond counsel, the Authorized Officers, or each individually, are authorized to make the following representations in connection with the exception for small governmental units from the arbitrage rebate requirements under Section 148(f)(4)(D) of the Code:

(i) the District is a governmental unit under Nebraska law with general taxing powers;

(ii) none of the Bonds is a private activity bond as defined in Section 141 of the Code;

(iii) ninety-five percent or more of the net proceeds of the Bonds are to be used for local governmental activities of the District;

(iv) the aggregate face amount of the Bonds attributable to financing the construction of public school facilities is not less than \$39,900,000 (the “**Construction Amount**”);

(v) the aggregate face amount of all tax-exempt obligations (other than “private activity bonds and certain refunding bonds” but including any tax-exempt lease-purchase agreements) to be issued by the District during the current calendar year is not reasonably expected to exceed the sum of (A) \$5,000,000, plus (B) the lesser of \$10,000,000 (provided that such amount is attributable to the construction of public school facilities) or the Construction Amount; District understands that, for this purpose, (y) the District and all entities which issue bonds on behalf of the District are treated as one issuer; and (z) all bonds issued by an entity subordinate to the District are treated as issued by the District; and

(vi) the District (including all subordinate entities thereof) will not issue in excess of \$15,000,000 (no more than \$5,000,000 of which may be attributable to expenditures not relating to the construction of public school facilities) of tax-exempt bonds (other than “private activity bonds” and certain refunding bonds but including any tax-exempt lease-purchase agreements) during the current calendar year without first

obtaining an opinion of nationally recognized counsel in the area of municipal finance that the excludability of the interest on the Bonds from gross income for federal tax purposes will not be adversely affected thereby.

(f) If applicable and in consultation with bond counsel, the Authorized Officers, or each individually, are authorized to designate one or more series of Bonds as “qualified tax-exempt obligations” as defined in Section 265(b)(3) of the Code. In connection with such designation, the District will represent that:

(i) the aggregate face amount of all tax-exempt obligations (other than private activity bonds that are not “qualified 501(c)(3) bonds” and certain refunding bonds) which will be issued by the District (and all subordinate entities thereof) during the current calendar year is not reasonably expected to exceed \$10,000,000; and

(ii) the District (including all subordinate entities thereof) will not issue an aggregate principal amount of tax-exempt obligations (other than private activity bonds that are not “qualified 501(c)(3) bonds” and certain refunding bonds) during the current calendar year, including the Bonds, in excess of \$10,000,000, without first obtaining an opinion of nationally recognized counsel in the area of municipal finance that the designation of the Bonds as “qualified tax-exempt obligations” will not be adversely affected.

Any Authorized Officer shall take such other action as may be necessary to make effective the designation in this subsection (f).

**Section 12.** The Board authorizes the use and distribution of any official statement, offering circular, term sheet, request for lenders or any other offering document (including any preliminary thereof, the “**Offering Document**”) by the Underwriter or the Placement Agent in connection with the reoffering or placement of the Bonds. Any Authorized Officer is authorized to approve the final Offering Document as so supplemented, amended and completed and the use and distribution of the final Offering Document by the Underwriter or the Placement Agent in connection with the reoffering or placement of the Bonds is hereby authorized. Any Authorized Officers is hereby authorized to execute and deliver a certificate pertaining to such Offering Document as prescribed therein, dated as of the date of payment for and delivery of the Bonds.

The District shall provide to the Underwriter or the Placement Agent within seven Business Days of the date of the sale of the Bonds sufficient copies of the final Offering Document to enable the Underwriter or the Placement Agent to comply with the requirements of Rule 15c2-12(b)(4) and with the requirements of Rule G-32 of the Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board, if applicable.

**Section 13.** If so required by the Underwriter, the Board (a) authorizes and directs the Authorized Officers, or each individually, to execute and deliver, on the date of the issuance of the Bonds, a continuing disclosure agreement or certificate (the “**Undertaking**”) in such form that satisfies the requirements of Rule 15c2-12 and is acceptable to the Underwriter and bond counsel and (b) shall comply with and carry out all of the provisions of the Undertaking. The Authorized Officers, or each individually, may engage a dissemination agent to assist the District with its obligations pursuant to the Undertaking. Notwithstanding any other provisions of this Resolution, failure of the District to comply with the Undertaking will not be considered a

default under this Resolution or the Bonds; however, any Bondholder or Beneficial Owner may take such actions as may be necessary and appropriate, including seeking mandate or specific performance by court order, to cause the District to comply with its obligations under this Section 13 and the Undertaking. For purposes of this Section 13, “Beneficial Owner” means any person who (i) has the power, directly or indirectly, to vote or consent with respect to, or to dispose of ownership of, any Bonds (including persons holding Bonds through nominees, depositories or other intermediaries), or (ii) is treated as the owner of any Bonds for federal income tax purposes.

**Section 14.** The District reserves the right to issue refunding bonds and provide for the investment of the proceeds thereof for purposes of providing for the payment of principal and interest on the Bonds in such manner as may be prescribed by law from time to time but specifically including the provisions of Sections 10-142 and 10-717 et seq., Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, as amended.

**Section 15.** The District’s obligations under this Resolution shall be fully discharged and satisfied as to the Bonds authorized and issued hereunder, and said Bonds, or portions thereof, shall no longer be deemed outstanding hereunder when payment of the principal thereof plus interest thereon to the date of maturity or redemption thereof (a) shall have been made or caused to have been made in accordance with the terms thereof and hereof, or (b) shall have been provided for by depositing in escrow with a national or state bank having trust powers in trust solely for such payment (i) sufficient money to make such payment and/or (ii) direct general obligations of, or obligations the principal and interest of which are unconditionally guaranteed by, the United States of America, or obligations of any agency of the United States of America (herein referred to as “**Government Obligations**”), in such amount and with such maturities as to principal and interest as will insure the availability of sufficient money to make such payment, and thereupon such Bonds shall cease to draw interest from the date of their redemption or maturity and, except for the purposes of such payments, shall no longer be entitled to the benefits of this Resolution; provided that, with respect to any Bonds called or to be called for redemption prior to the stated maturity thereof, notice of redemption shall have been duly given or provided for. If money shall have been deposited in accordance with the terms hereof with the escrow agent in trust for that purpose sufficient to pay the principal of such Bonds and all interest due thereon to the due date thereof or to the date fixed for the redemption thereof, all liability of the District for such payment shall forthwith cease, determine and be completely discharged, and all such Bonds shall no longer be considered outstanding.

**Section 16.** Without in any way limiting the power, authority, or discretion elsewhere herein granted or delegated, the Board hereby (a) authorizes and directs each of the Authorized Officers and all other officers, employees and agents of the District to carry out, or cause to be carried out, and to perform such obligations of the District and such other actions as they, or any one of them shall consider necessary, advisable, desirable, or appropriate in connection with this Resolution, and the issuance, sale, and delivery of the Bonds, including, without limitation and whenever applicable, the execution and delivery thereof and of all other related documents, instruments, certificates, and opinions; and (b) directs, authorizes, and delegates to each of the Authorized Officers the right, power, and authority to exercise such officers’ own independent judgment and absolute discretion in determining and finalizing the terms, provisions, form and contents of each of the foregoing. The execution and delivery by any Authorized Officer or by any other officer, officers, agent, or agents of the District of any such documents, instruments,

certifications, and opinions, or the doing by them of any act in connection with any of the matters which are the subject of this Resolution, shall constitute conclusive evidence of both the District's and their approval of all changes, modifications, amendments, revisions, and alterations made therein, and shall conclusively establish their absolute, unconditional, and irrevocable authority with respect thereto from the District and the authorization, approval, and ratification by the District of the documents, instruments, certifications, and opinions so executed and the action so taken.

**Section 17.** The District presently intends and reasonably expects to initially finance a portion of the costs of the Project with legally available funds of the District (the "**Prior Capital Expenditures**"), in an amount not exceeding the amount authorized under Section 2(a) of this Resolution. The District also presently intends and reasonably expects that such Prior Capital Expenditures will be repaid from proceeds of the Bonds. In accordance with the provisions of this Resolution and Treasury Regulations, Section 1.150-2, promulgated under the Code, and solely for such purposes, the District hereby declares its official intent to reimburse the Prior Capital Expenditures out of the proceeds of the Bonds. All of the Prior Capital Expenditures covered by this declaration of official intent will be incurred during the period commencing 60 days prior to the date of this Resolution and ending no later than the later of (a) the date that is 18 months after the date on which it makes such Prior Capital Expenditures, or (ii) the date that is 18 months after the date on which the Project financed with such Prior Capital Expenditures is placed in service, but in any event no later than 3 years after the original date of such Prior Capital Expenditures, or (iii) such other date that is permitted by law.

**Section 18.** If any one or more of the provisions of this Resolution should be determined by a court of competent jurisdiction to be contrary to law, then such provisions shall be deemed severable from the remaining provisions of this Resolution and the invalidity thereof shall in no way affect the validity of the other provisions of this Resolution or of the Bonds and the owners of the Bonds shall retain all the rights and benefits accorded to them under this Resolution and under any applicable provisions of law. If any provision of this Resolution shall be held or deemed to be or shall, in fact, be inoperative or unenforceable or invalid in any particular case in any jurisdiction or jurisdictions, or in all cases because it conflicts with any constitution or statute or rule of public policy, or for any other reason, such circumstances shall not have the effect of rendering the provision in question inoperative or unenforceable or invalid in any other case or circumstances, or of rendering any other provision or provisions herein contained inoperative or unenforceable or invalid to any extent whatever.

**Section 19.** The District hereby adopts the Post-Issuance Tax Compliance Procedures attached to this Resolution as Exhibit A to ensure that all applicable post-issuance requirements of federal income tax law needed to preserve the tax-exempt status of the Bonds are met. The District reserves the right to use its discretion as necessary and appropriate to make exceptions or request additional provisions as it may determine. The District also reserves the right to change these policies and procedures from time to time, without notice.

**Section 20.** The District hereby adopts the Disclosure Policies and Procedures attached to this Resolution as Exhibit B to ensure that the District satisfies the requirements of Rule 15c2-12 and the Undertaking. The District reserves the right to use its discretion as necessary and appropriate to make exceptions or request additional provisions as it may determine. The District also reserves the right to change such policies and procedures from time to time, without notice.

**Section 21.** This Resolution shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage as provided by law.

ADOPTED June 17, 2024.

**NANCE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT 0030  
(TWIN RIVER PUBLIC SCHOOLS) IN THE  
STATE OF NEBRASKA**

ATTEST:

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary, Board of Education

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
President, Board of Education

## EXHIBIT A

### POST-ISSUANCE TAX COMPLIANCE PROCEDURES

#### General

In connection with the issuance by the District of its General Obligation School Building Bonds, Series 2024, and any additional bonds of the District issued pursuant to the resolution adopted on the June 17, 2024 (the “**Bonds**”), the District will execute a tax compliance certificate (the “**Tax Certificate**”) that describes the requirements and provisions of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the “**Code**”) that must be followed in order to maintain the tax-exempt status of interest on the Bonds. In addition, the Tax Certificate will contain the reasonable expectations of the District at the time of issuance of the Bonds with respect to the use of the gross proceeds of the Bonds and the assets to be financed or refinanced with the proceeds thereof. These Procedures supplement and support the covenants and representations made by the District in the Tax Certificate. In order to comply with the covenants and representations set forth in the Bond documents and in the Tax Certificate, the District tracks and monitors the actual use of the proceeds of the Bonds, the investment and expenditure of the Bond proceeds and the assets financed or refinanced with the proceeds of the Bonds over their life.

#### Designation of Responsible Person

The Superintendent of the District shall maintain an inventory of the Bonds and assets financed which contains the pertinent data to satisfy the District’s monitoring responsibilities. Any transfer, sale or other disposition of Bond-financed assets must be reviewed and approved by the Superintendent.

#### Post-Issuance Compliance Requirements

##### External Advisors/Documentation

The District shall consult with bond counsel and other legal counsel and advisors, as needed, throughout the Bond issuance process to identify requirements and to establish procedures necessary or appropriate so that the Bonds will continue to qualify for tax-exempt status. Those requirements and procedures shall be documented in the Tax Certificate and/or other documents finalized at or before issuance of the Bonds. Those requirements and procedures shall include future compliance with applicable arbitrage rebate requirements and all other applicable post-issuance requirements of federal tax law throughout (and in some cases beyond) the term of the Bonds.

The District also shall consult with bond counsel and other legal counsel and advisors, as needed, following issuance of the Bonds to ensure that all applicable post-issuance requirements in fact are met. This shall include, without limitation, consultation in connection with future contracts with respect to the use of Bond-financed or refinanced assets.

The District shall train and employ or otherwise engage expert advisors (a “**Rebate Analyst**”) to assist in the calculation of arbitrage rebate payable in respect of the investment of

Bond proceeds, unless the Tax Certificate documents provide that arbitrage rebate will not be applicable to the Bonds.

Unless otherwise provided by the resolution or other authorizing documents relating to the Bonds, unexpended Bond proceeds shall be held in a segregated account by a trustee, and the investment of Bond proceeds shall be managed by the District. The District shall prepare (or cause the trustee to prepare) regular, periodic statements regarding the investments and transactions involving Bond proceeds.

#### Arbitrage Rebate and Yield

Unless the Tax Certificate documents provide that arbitrage rebate will not be applicable to the Bonds, the District shall be responsible for:

- engaging the services of a Rebate Analyst and, prior to each rebate calculation date, causing the trustee or other account holder to deliver periodic statements concerning the investment of Bond proceeds to the Rebate Analyst;
- providing to the Rebate Analyst additional documents and information reasonably requested by the Rebate Analyst;
- monitoring efforts of the Rebate Analyst;
- assuring payment of required rebate amounts, if any, no later than 60 days after each 5-year anniversary of the issue date of the Bonds, and no later than 60 days after the last Bond is redeemed;
- during the construction period of each capital project financed in whole or in part by the Bonds, monitoring the investment and expenditure of Bond proceeds and consulting with the Rebate Analyst to determine compliance with any applicable exceptions from the arbitrage rebate requirements during each 6-month spending period up to 6 months, 18 months or 24 months, as applicable, following the issue date of the Bonds; and
- retaining copies of all arbitrage reports and account statements as described below under “Record Keeping Requirements”.

The District, in the Tax Certificate and/or other documents finalized at or before the issuance of the Bonds, has agreed to undertake the tasks listed above (unless the Tax Certificate documents provide that arbitrage rebate will not be applicable to the Bonds).

#### Use of Bond Proceeds and Bond-Financed or Refinanced Assets:

The District shall be responsible for:

- monitoring the use of Bond proceeds and the use of Bond-financed or refinanced assets (*e.g.*, facilities, furnishings or equipment) throughout the term of the Bonds to ensure compliance with covenants and restrictions set forth in the Tax Certificate;

- maintaining records identifying the assets or portion of assets that are financed or refinanced with proceeds of the Bonds, including a final allocation of Bond proceeds as described below under “Record Keeping Requirements”;
- consulting with bond counsel and other legal counsel and advisers in the review of any contracts or arrangements involving use of Bond-financed or refinanced assets to ensure compliance with all covenants and restrictions set forth in the Tax Certificate;
- maintaining records for any contracts or arrangements involving the use of Bond-financed or refinanced assets as described below under “Record Keeping Requirements”;
- conferring at least annually with personnel responsible for Bond-financed or refinanced assets to identify and discuss any existing or planned use of Bond-financed or refinanced assets, to ensure that those uses are consistent with all covenants and restrictions set forth in the Tax Certificate; and
- to the extent that the District discovers that any applicable tax restrictions regarding use of Bond proceeds and Bond-financed or refinanced assets will or may be violated, consulting promptly with bond counsel and other legal counsel and advisers to determine a course of action to remediate all nonqualified bonds, if such counsel advises that a remedial action is necessary.

The District, in the Tax Certificate and/or other documents finalized at or before the issuance of the Bonds, has agreed to undertake the tasks listed above.

All relevant records and contracts shall be maintained as described below.

#### Record Keeping Requirements

The District shall be responsible for maintaining the following documents for the term of the Bonds (including refunding bonds, if any) plus at least three years:

- a copy of the Bond closing transcript(s) and other relevant documentation delivered to the District at or in connection with closing of the Bonds, including any elections made by the District in connection therewith;
- a copy of all material documents relating to capital expenditures financed or refinanced by Bond proceeds, including (without limitation) construction contracts, purchase orders, invoices, trustee requisitions and payment records, draw requests for Bond proceeds and evidence as to the amount and date for each draw down of Bond proceeds, as well as documents relating to costs paid or reimbursed with Bond proceeds and records identifying the assets or portion of assets that are financed or refinanced with Bond proceeds, including a final allocation of Bond proceeds;
- a copy of all contracts and arrangements involving the use of Bond-financed or refinanced assets;

- copies of all trustee statements and reports, including arbitrage reports, prepared with respect to the Bonds; and
- a copy of all records of investments, investment agreements, arbitrage reports and underlying documents, including trustee statements, in connection with any investment agreements, and copies of all bidding documents, if any.

## EXHIBIT B

### DISCLOSURE POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

#### Purpose of Disclosure Policies and Procedures

The issuance and sale of certain municipal bonds, notes, certificates of participation or other obligations (collectively, “**Obligations**”) are subject to certain federal and state securities laws, including Rule 15c2-12 (the “**Rule**”) promulgated by the Securities and Exchange Commission under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the “**Exchange Act**”). The Rule requires that an underwriter, prior to purchasing or selling an issue of Obligations in a principal amount of \$1,000,000 or more, obtain a written agreement from the issuer of such Obligations to provide certain financial information or operating data on an annual basis and notices of the occurrence of certain enumerated events with the Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board (“**MSRB**”) using the MSRB’s Electronic Municipal Market Access system (“**EMMA**”).

Nance County School District 0030 (Twin River Public Schools) in the State of Nebraska (the “**District**”) has previously issued or may in the future issue Obligations subject to the Rule, and in connection with such issuances the District has entered and/or will enter into one or more Continuing Disclosure Certificates or Continuing Disclosure Agreements (collectively, the “**Undertakings**”) in accordance with the Rule. Pursuant to such Undertakings, the District has covenanted or will covenant to comply with the Rule by timely making the required filings. These Policies and Procedures are intended to assure that all filings required under the Rule are made timely and completely and meet all requirements of the Rule.

#### Designation of District Representative; Maintenance of List and Files

The “**District Representative**” for the District shall be the Superintendent of Schools of the District and any alternate or assistant as such Superintendent shall appoint. The District Representative is directed to employ the policies and procedures described herein. The District Representative shall be knowledgeable and familiar with the provisions of each Undertaking as to the type, format and content of the financial information or operating data to be included in each Annual Report required to be made thereunder, the instances in which notice of the occurrence of certain events must be given, and the timing requirements for the filing thereof. The District and the District Representative recognize and acknowledge that the terms, requirements and filing deadlines may vary by Undertaking.

The District Representative shall maintain a current list for each fiscal year identifying each issue of Obligations of the District outstanding during such fiscal year setting forth the name, original principal amount, date of issuance and CUSIP numbers for each such issue and the dates by which the Annual Reports are required to be submitted to the MSRB using EMMA, such list to be accompanied by copies of the related Undertakings.

## **Dissemination Agents**

The District and the District Representative may utilize the services of a financial institution or other provider to act as dissemination agent (each, a “**Dissemination Agent**”) in filing the disclosures and notices described herein and performing the duties of the Dissemination Agent in accordance with the terms of the applicable Undertaking. The Dissemination Agent shall review and be familiar with the contents and filing requirements of the particular Undertaking and with the procedures for making the filings required under such Undertaking with the MSRB using the EMMA system. The District Representative shall coordinate the preparation and submission of the required information with such Dissemination Agent to ensure full compliance with the requirements of the Rule and the applicable Undertakings.

## **Annual Financial Filings**

The District Representative will review the Undertaking related to each outstanding issue of Obligations to determine the financial information required to be included in the Annual Report (i.e., the District’s audited financial statements and certain other financial information or operating data with respect to the District, if applicable (the “**Annual Report**”)) required to be filed annually with the MSRB using the EMMA system, and the deadline by which such information must be filed. Unless required otherwise by an Undertaking and as permitted by EMMA filing procedures, the District Representative may file identical Annual Reports with respect to each issue of the District’s Obligations. The District Representative shall be knowledgeable and familiar with the specific requirements for the filing of a Notice of Failure to File the Annual Report by the date(s) required under the terms of each Undertaking, if applicable.

The District Representative shall timely initiate the process of preparing the financial information or operating data required to be submitted under each Undertaking as part of the Annual Report. The District Representative shall assemble the information as soon as it becomes available and determine the scope of additional information to be required and also contact the auditors to establish a schedule for completion and submission for the Audited Financial Statements.

The District Representative will timely file the Annual Report, or will cause the Dissemination Agent to file the Annual Report, with the MSRB using the EMMA system. If the Audited Financial Statements are not then available, unaudited financial information may be filed with the MSRB using EMMA and the Audited Financial Statements shall be filed within 10 business days of their receipt and acceptance.

## **Listed Event Filings**

The District Representative will review the Undertaking related to each outstanding issue of Obligations for the listed events which, upon the occurrence thereof, require prompt notices to be filed with the MSRB using the EMMA system. The District Representative will monitor the Obligations and the District’s operations for occurrences of any such events and will actively evaluate whether an event may be a listed event as set forth in the

District's outstanding Undertakings. After obtaining actual knowledge of such an event, the District Representative will promptly contact the District's bond counsel and the Dissemination Agent, if any, to determine whether the District must file notice of the event with the MSRB under one or more of its Undertakings. Upon a determination that the District must file such notice, the District Representative will file the appropriate notice, or will cause the Dissemination Agent to file such notice, with the MSRB using the EMMA system within ten (10) business days after the occurrence of the listed event or as the District's bond counsel may otherwise direct.

### **Reports of District Representative; Record Retention**

The District Representative shall provide to the School Board of the District, any Dissemination Agent and the underwriter of each issue of Obligations confirmation from EMMA received upon the filing of each Annual Report and any other filings made with the MSRB using the EMMA system promptly upon receipt of each such confirmation.

The District Representative shall maintain records with respect to the filings with the MSRB using EMMA, including, but not limited to, EMMA posting receipts showing the dates and nature or contents of all filings for each issue of Obligations outstanding during each fiscal year. Such records shall be kept for at least 5 years after the respective issue of Obligations is no longer outstanding.

### **Familiarity with EMMA Submission Process**

The District Representative shall register with EMMA and review the on-line process of filing with EMMA located at [www.emma.msrb.org](http://www.emma.msrb.org) in order to submit the required information. The MSRB Market Information Department can also be contacted at 703.797.6668. A tutorial is available at the website and a practice submission is available as well. The District Representative also shall enroll the District in EMMA's reminder system to ensure timely performance of its responsibilities and obligations.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, if the District has retained a Dissemination Agent to assist with making the filings required by the District's Undertakings and to remind the District of its filing deadlines, the District Representative need not register with EMMA or enroll in EMMA's reminder system.

### **Training**

To ensure adequate resources to comply with the Rule, the District Representative shall develop a training process aimed at providing additional assistance in preparing required information. The training process shall be conducted at least annually and shall encompass a review of the EMMA submission process and an understanding of the timing requirements necessary for full compliance. The retention by the District of a Dissemination Agent to assist it with compliance under its Undertakings and the Rule may be deemed part of such training process.

## **Review of Offering Document in Connection with Primary Offerings**

In connection with a new issue of Obligations, the District Representative, together with such District officials as the District Representative deems appropriate, shall promptly review upon receipt the offering document by which such Obligations shall be offered and sold. For any issue of Obligations subject to the Rule, prior to the distribution of the related offering document the District shall deem the information concerning the District in such offering document as accurate and complete in all material respects (except for such information as permitted to be omitted by the Rule) as of the date of such offering document. The District shall confirm prior to the final pricing of the Obligations that the information concerning the District in the offering document does not contain an untrue statement of a material fact or omit to state any material fact necessary to make the statements therein, in light of the circumstances under which they were made, not misleading.

## RESOLUTION APPROVING CERTAIN STAFF TRAININGS

**WHEREAS**, during the 2024 legislative session, the Legislature enacted LB 1329; and,

**WHEREAS**, LB 1329 defers to each Board of Education to determine the reasonable length of time for certain staff training requirements; and

**WHEREAS**, to ensure that the District’s planned training requirements for the 2024-2025 school year comply with these statutory requirements, the Board of Education adopts this Resolution to find and determine that the following training requirements are reasonable in scope and length.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Education hereby determines as follows:

1. The following trainings are reasonable in both length and scope and the Superintendent or designee shall identify the District staff who shall be trained as follows:

<b>Subject</b>	<b>Required by</b>	<b>Source of Training</b>	<b>Approximate Length of Training</b>
Behavioral Awareness	Neb. Rev. Stat. § 79-3603	ESUCC	1 hour
Dating Violence Prevention	Neb. Rev. Stat. § 79-2,141	Vector Solutions	1 hour
Suicide Prevention	Neb. Rev. Stat. § 79-2,146	ESU 7 LMHP	1 hour
Bloodborne Pathogens		Vector Solutions	20 minutes
Safe Pupil Transportation		University of Nebraska-Kearney	3 hours
CPR		Local	1 hour
Fire, Tornado, and Bus Evacuation		Administration	TBD

2. The Superintendent or designee is authorized to implement additional training requirements for staff if the Superintendent or designee determines that additional training would be in the best interest of the District and/or is otherwise required by law.

3. The Superintendent or designee is further authorized to deviate from the source of these training requirements if any unexpected circumstances arise and the Superintendent or designee determines that it is in the best interests of the District to require a different training(s).

4. All District staff who are directed to attend or participate in any training requirement(s) must complete such training(s) in good faith and in accordance with this Resolution and the directives of the Superintendent or designee.

This Resolution shall continue until or unless modified by a vote of the majority of a quorum of the Board of Education.

**DATED** this \_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2024.

\_\_\_\_\_ **PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

**BY:** \_\_\_\_\_  
President

**ATTEST:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary



# School Safety & Security Policies, Plans, Requirements, Trainings, & Best Practices



Guidance & Support

# SUBSTANCE USE

## Alcohol/Drug Abuse Awareness & Prevention

- **Required Policy/Plan: Yes**, Provisions shall be made by the proper local school authorities for instructing the pupils in all public schools in comprehensive health education program. See reference to State Statute 79-712 (link below).
- **Required Staff Training: No**, reference provision above and State Statute 79-712 (link below).
- **Required Student Training: Yes**, shall include instruction in physiological, psychological, and sociological aspects of drug use, misuse, and abuse.
  
- **Reference:**
  - [State Statute 79-712](#)
  
- **Educational and/or Training Resources:**
  - [SAMHSA – Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration](#)
  - [Just Think Twice](#)
  - [National Institutes of Health \(NIDA\)](#)
  - [Drug Enforcement Administration \(DEA\)](#)
  - [NDE School Safety YouTube Channel – Opioid Overdose & Narcan Administering Videos](#)
  - [Substance Use Awareness Curriculum](#)
  
- **Best Practice:** Alcohol & drug use are a leading cause to youth risky behaviors & criminal activity potentially impacting school safety & security. Therefore, it is best practice for staff to have an awareness on drug trends impacting the youth in their local school district.

## Opioid/Fentanyl Overdose Response and the Use of Naloxone/Narcan in Schools

- **Required Policy/Plan: No**
- **Required Staff Training: No**, reference Rule 59.
- **Required Student Training: No**
  
- **References:**
  - [NDE Opioid/Fentanyl Overdose and Naloxone/Narcan School Guidance](#)
  - [State Statute 28-711](#)
  - [State Statute 38-2840](#)
  - [State Statute 25-21,186](#)
  - [Rule 59](#)
  
- **Educational and/or Training Resources:**
  - [SAMHSA - Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration](#)
  - [Resource Center | SAMHSA](#)
  - [Practitioner Training | SAMHSA](#)
  - [NDE School Safety - YouTube](#)
  
- **Best Practice:** Although this is not a requirement, it is considered a best practice to have Narcan available in schools and to have some staff trained in administering the Narcan nasal spray. Reference the NDE Opioid/Fentanyl Overdose and Naloxone/Narcan School Guidance above.

# CONCERNS OF HARM TO SELF OR OTHERS

## Behavioral & Mental Health Training with Focus on Suicide Awareness & Prevention

- **Required Policy/Plan: No**
- **Required Staff Training: Yes**, at least one hour of behavioral and mental health with a focus on suicide awareness and prevention training each year required for all accredited school employees who interact with students and any other appropriate personnel as determined by the school superintendent.
- **Required Student Training: No**
  - **References:**
    - [Approved Suicide Awareness Prevention Trainings](#)
    - [Nebraska Revised Statute 79-2,146](#)
    - [State Statute 79-2,144 - \(7\)](#)
  - **Educational and/or Training Resources:**
    - [Nebraska Department of Education School Suicide Prevention Resource](#)
    - [NDE School Safety YouTube Channel – Relationships & Building Character Videos](#)
  - **Best Practices:** Studies show *connectedness* is an important protective factor for suicide prevention. Students need to find connections with other students as well as at least one adult in schools. Social connections can lower anxiety & depression while improving mental and physical health & well-being.

## Suicide Hotline Number on School ID

- **Required Policy/Plan: Yes**, **988 Hotline**, each school board shall require the telephone number for national suicide prevention hotline, a local suicide prevention hotline, or a crisis text line is printed on each new student identification card issued to a student enrolled in a middle school or high school grades.
- **Required Staff Training: No**
- **Required Student Training: No**
  - **Reference:**
    - [State Statute 79-538](#)
  - **Best Practice:** Hotlines and anonymous report line services have proven to change the path of potential suicides.

## Child Abuse Reporting and Requirements

- **Required Policy/Plan/Procedure: Yes**, required procedure. When any school employee has reasonable cause to believe a child has been subjected to child abuse or neglect, he or she shall report such incident to the proper law enforcement agency or to the toll-free number (1-800-652-1999) established by the Department of Health and Human Services. The required contents and process of reporting are detailed in State Statute 28-711 (link below).
- **Required Staff Training: No**, however all staff should be aware of this requirement & how to accomplish it.
- **Required Student Training: No**
  - **References:**
    - [State Statute 28-711](#)
    - [State Statute 79-2,157](#) Each public school in Nebraska may post in a clearly visible location in a public area of the school that is readily accessible to students containing the statewide toll-free number to receive reports of child abuse or neglect. In lieu of displaying a poster, a school may post a link to the poster on their website.
  - **Educational and/or Training Resources:**
    - [LB281Posters-Break-the-Silence.pdf \(ne.gov\)](#)
    - [LB281PostersSPANISH-1.pdf \(ne.gov\)](#)

## Dating Violence Prevention

- **Required Policy/Plan: Yes**, Districts, as referred to State Statute [79-101](#), are required to have a policy. The policy is required to be published in any school district handbook or similar manual or publication. Schools are required to inform the students' parents or legal guardians of the district's policy. Such policy shall include a statement that dating violence will not be tolerated.
- **Required Staff Training: Yes**, per State Statute 79-2, 141 (link below). Each school district shall provide dating violence training to staff deemed appropriate by a school district's administration. The dating violence training shall include, but not be limited to, basic awareness of dating violence, warning signs of dating violence, and the school district's dating violence policy.
- **Required Student Training: Yes**, per State Statute 79-2,142 (link below). Each school district shall incorporate dating violence education that is age-appropriate into the school program. Dating violence education shall include, but not be limited to, defining dating violence, recognizing dating violence warning signs, and identifying characteristics of healthy dating relationships.
- **References:**
  - [Nebraska Revised Statute 79-2,141](#)
  - [State Statute 79-2,142](#)
  - [Rule 10 Code Section 11 \(pg. 35\) School Environment \(011.01G\)](#)
- **Educational and/or Training Resources:**
  - [Dating Violence Prevention – Nebraska Department of Education](#)
  - [Stalking and Harassment Education per State Statute 28-311.02](#)
  - [Title IX Regulations- U.S. Department of Education](#)
  - [Digital Future Initiative – Relationships Curriculum](#)
- **Best Practices**
  - Students need to understand healthy dating etiquette and when to access supportive measures due to a violation occurring. Therefore, the following are other topics, but not limited to, that students should learn: bullying/cyberbullying, harassment, sexual harassment, sexual assault, stalking, dating violence, consent, and healthy relationships.

## Harassment, Sexual Harassment & Misconduct

- **Required Policy/Plan: Yes**, Policy regarding appropriate relationships with students; contents per State Statute 79-879 (link below).
  - Policies (*Nondiscrimination, harassment, complaint/grievance procedures, etc.*); The updated Title IX Rule **specifically requires schools to post on their websites:**
    1. *The contact information for the school's Title IX Coordinator(s)*
    2. *The school's non-discrimination policy; and*
    3. *Training materials used to train the school's Title IX personnel.*
- **Required Staff Training: No**, there are no specific sexual harassment training requirements for the state of **Nebraska**. However, we still recommend sexual harassment training for your Nebraska employees if you meet any of the following criteria:
  1. You have employees working in states other than Nebraska (please check each states' requirements below),
  2. You are an educational institution who worries about meeting [Title IX training requirements](#),
  3. You have had problems with sexual harassment or other types of harassment in your organization in the past, or
  4. You wish to mitigate potential liability for sexual harassment in your organization.
  - *Training required for "Title IX Personnel" (i.e., Title IX Coordinator(s), mediators, investigators, review panels, etc.)*
- **Required Student Training: No**, however, students are required to have 'Dating Violence Prevention' which includes Title IX content.
- **References:**
  - [Nebraska Revised Statute 79-879](#)
  - [Eliminating Discrimination in Nebraska](#)
  - [Title IX and Sex Discrimination \(ed.gov\)](#)
  - [QA-Title IX 20200904.pdf \(ed.gov\)](#)
  - [Office of Civil Rights](#)

- **Best Practices:**
  - Verify the policy was received and understood by school staff.
  - To have a good understanding of Title IX which covers all forms of harassment, sexual harassment, and sexual violence. Sexual harassment under Title IX includes *any unwelcome sexual conduct, such as unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal, nonverbal, or physical conduct of a sexual nature*. Title IX is an important element in the required 'Dating Violence Prevention' education.

## **Bullying/Cyber Bullying**

- **Required Policy/Plan: Yes**, each school district (as defined in [State Statute 79-101](#)) is required to have a policy. The policy is required to be reviewed annually.
- **Required Staff Training: No**, reference statute 79-2, 137.
- **Required Student Training: Yes**, education is required. Reference Statute 79-2, 137.
- **References:**
  - [State Statute 79-2,137](#)
  - [State Statute 79-2,144 \(10\)](#)
  - [Rule 10 Code Section 11 School Environment \(011.01F\) pg. 34](#)
- **Educational and/or Training Resources:**
  - [Help, My Child is Being Bullied – Nebraska Department of Education](#)
  - [Digital & Relationship Curriculum with Bullying & Cyber-Bullying Content](#)
  - [NDE YouTube Channel](#)
  - [Common Sense Media](#)
  - [NetSmartz](#)
- **Best Practices:**
  - Bullying and cyberbullying are the number one anonymous report calls and likely the number one concern among students and staff in schools. It is a topic requiring continuous education for staff/students and with the nuances of social media platforms, apps, and artificial intelligence it is an area requiring continual updating on the latest trends among youth.

## **Digital Citizenship**

- **Required Policy/Plan: Yes**, per State Statute 79-2, 137, as it pertains to cyberbullying.
- **Required Staff Training: No**, reference State Statute 79-2,144 (10)
- **Required Student Training: No**, reference State Statute 79-2,144 (10)
- **References:**
  - [State Statute 79-2, 137](#)
  - [State Statute 79-2,144 \(10\)](#)
- **Educational and/or Training Resources:**
  - [Digital Citizenship Lessons](#)
  - [Children and Screens](#)
  - [Center for Humane Technology](#)
  - [Common Sense Media](#)
  - [Net- Smartz](#)
  - [Cyber Civics](#)
  - [Smart Social](#)
  - [The Smart Talk](#)
  - [Know Be 4](#)
- **Best Practices:**
  - State Statute 79-2, 144 (10) states: NDE, School Safety and Security Director recommends curricular and extracurricular materials to assist school districts in preventing and responding to cyberbullying and digital citizenship issues; staff and students should have education related to digital citizenship.
    - Digital citizenship encompasses digital literacy, digital laws/concerns (sexting, human trafficking, mental health concerns, etc.), and digital privacy. Mental, behavioral, and emotional well-being are

all being impacted by the nuances digital media provide to school communities.

- Digital Parent Academies are highly recommended trainings for school communities when schools provide a digital device (iPad or Chromebook) to a student that goes home with them. Discussions around digital platforms business model & goals, digital influences, digital misinformation, digital impact on emotions, and best digital practices at home are necessary discussions to have in school communities.
- Digital Media is often the foundation of many issues that arise in schools. Therefore, education and training around these nuances is highly recommended for staff, parents, and students.

## ANONYMOUS REPORTING & THREAT ASSESSMENT TEAMS

### School Safety and Security Reporting System Act (Safe2Help)

- **Required Policy/Plan: No**, however it is advisable to have an anonymous report line in schools.
- **Required Staff Training: Yes**, Threat Assessment Training, P3/Safe2Help NE Training
  - If a school decides to use the Safe2Help report services utilizing the Boys Town Communication Center, a five member or more threat assessment team is needed. Threat assessment training is required for these members who will receive the calls from the Safe2Help NE crisis counselors.
  - P3/Safe2Help NE systems training is also a requirement that involves about a one and a half hour of learning how to use the Safe2Help NE system and how reports are received and the distribution/disposition process of the reports.
- **Required Student Training: No**, however student bodies who are in a school district participating in Safe2Help NE should view the Safe2Help NE videos for students on the NDE School Safety YouTube Channel (link below).

- **References:**

- [Nebraska Revised Statute 79-3104](#)
- [Nebraska Revised Statute 79-3105](#)
- [Safe2Help NE](#)
- [Safe2Help FAQ](#)

- **Educational and/or Training Resources:**

- [NDE YouTube Channel](#) – Safe2Help NE Videos
- [Threat Assessment & Safe2Help NE Resources](#)
- [Registration for a School Team to Start Safe2Help NE](#)
- [Registration for Threat Assessment Training Dates](#)

- **Best Practices:**

- Nebraska Legislature approved Safe2Help NE for permanent funding starting in 2024. This makes the system an available assistant (not necessarily a replacement) to any anonymous system a school district may already have in place.
- Students, parents, and staff should view the educational training videos on our YouTube Channel to learn about the services Safe2Help NE provides and best practices.
- NDE offers threat assessment team training through the ESUCC and the UNLPPC with Dr. Bulling and Dr. Scalora.
- Safe2Help NE or P3 training is available through the Boys Town Communication Center and Diana Schmidt.



## **School Threat Assessment Team**

- **Required Policy/Plan: No**
- **Required Staff Training: No**
- **Required Student Training: No**
  
- **References:**
  - [State Statute 79-3103](#)
  - [State Statute 79-3104](#)
  - [State Statute 79-3105](#)
  
- **Best Practices:**
  - Although having a threat assessment team is not required, schools should consider having a school threat assessment team to consider man-made and environmental threats, which would allow schools and communities to respond in a timely and appropriate way.
  - Best practices indicate a threat assessment team would consist of a school-based team of at least five members who have completed the training required pursuant to section 79-3105 and includes, but is not limited to, the principal or principal's designee, a mental health professional, law enforcement professional (if available), and a member of the school staff.

## **REQUIRED DRILLS**

### **Fire/Bus Evacuation Drills**

- **Required Policy/Plan: No**
- **Required Staff Training:**
- **Required Student Training: Yes**
  - Fire Drills
    - Require teachers of public and private schools and educational institutions to conduct regular fire drills. Not less than one emergency egress and relocation drill shall be conducted every month the facility is in session (10 required fire evacuation drills). All occupants of the building shall participate in the drill. All emergency and relocation drill alarms shall be sounded on the fire alarm system.
  - Fire Prevention Instruction
    - Every public, private, denominational, or parochial school shall provide regular periods of instruction in the subject of fire dangers and in methods of fire prevention.
  - Bus Evacuation
    - The governing authority of any private, denominational, or parochial school shall provide at least 2 bus evacuation drills per year and instruction in safe riding practice to each pupil who is transported in a school bus.
  - Other evacuation training and drills are suggested.
  
- **References:**
  - [Nebraska Revised Statute 81-527](#)
  - [Fire Drill Codes](#)
  - [State Statute 79-609](#)
  - [Nebraska Revised Statute 79-706](#)
  - [Rule 10 Code Section 11 School Environment \(011.01A\)](#)
  
- **Best Practices:**
  - Monthly fire drills to be conducted.
  - The first bus evacuation bus drill should be conducted the first two weeks of school and the second bus evacuation drill should be conducted within the first two weeks of the second semester.

## Tornado Drills

- **Required Policy/Plan: Yes**
- **Required Staff Training: Yes**
- **Required Student Training: Yes**
  - Every school must conduct at least two tornado drills per year.
- **Reference:**
  - [Nebraska Revised Statute 79-2,144](#)
- **Best Practices:**
  - First drill should be within the first two weeks of school and the second within the first two weeks of March.

# SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS & WEAPONS

## SRO Training

- **Required Policy/Plan: Yes**, per State Statute 79-2704 (link below).
  - **MOU – Memorandum of Understanding**
    - An MOU is required between any law enforcement agency, which provides school resource officers or any security agency, which provides security guards to schools and the school district.
    - The superintendent of a school district will, within three months after its adoption, provide a copy of the MOU to the education department or publicly post the MOU on the district website.
    - When changes are made to the MOU in the preceding year, the superintendent will provide an updated copy to the department of education or publicly post the MOU on or before January 1st.
  - **Records**
    - Ensure records are kept on each student referral for prosecution from a school resource officer in response to an incident occurring at school, on school grounds, or at a school-sponsored event.
  - **Requires School Policy**
    - Address when a parent or guardian will be notified or present if a student is subjected to questioning by a school official or by a school resource officer or security guard operating in conjunction with a school official.
    - Identify the school or law enforcement agency policies that address under what circumstances a student will be advised of constitutional rights prior to being questioned or interrogated.
    - Identify the school policy required by [State Statute 79-262](#) that addresses the type or category of student conduct or actions that will be referred to law enforcement for prosecution and the type that will be resolved as a disciplinary matter by a school official and not subject to referral to law enforcement.
    - Identify a student and parent complaint process to express a concern or file a complaint about a school resource officer or security guard or their practices.
- **Required Administrator Training: Yes**
  - Requires a minimum of one administrator in each elementary or secondary school where a school officer or security guard is assigned to attend a minimum of twenty hours of training.
- **Required Law Enforcement (SRO) Training: Yes**
  - Requires each school officer to attend a minimum of twenty hours of training. Refer to State Statute 79-2704 for training contents (link below).
- **References:**
  - [State Statute 79-2701](#)
  - [State Statute 79-2702](#)
  - [Nebraska Revised Statute 79-2703](#)
  - [Nebraska Revised Statute 79-2704](#)

- [NDE Model MOU for SRO](#)
- [NDE Model MOU for Security Agencies](#)
- **Essential SRO Training: Focus Areas and Best Practices":**
  - school law,
  - student rights,
  - understanding special needs students and students with disabilities,
  - conflict de-escalation techniques,
  - ethics for school resource officers,
  - teenage brain development, adolescent behavior,
  - implicit bias training, diversity, and cultural awareness,
  - trauma-informed responses, &
  - preventing violence in school settings.
  - Curriculum training is determined by local school district and SRO.
- **Best Practice:**
  - Best practice is to have a highly trained SRO in a school building.

### **Firearms on school property**

- **Required Policy/Plan: Yes**, reference State Statute 28-1204.04
- **Required Staff Training: No**
- **Required Student Training: No**
- **References:**
  - [State Statute 79-263](#) (student expulsion)
  - [State Statute 79-265.01](#) (exceptions for pre-k to 2nd grade)
  - [State Statute 28-1204.04](#). (possession of firearm by any person)






## **SCHOOL SAFETY & SECURITY PLAN, (EOP/SRP/SRM)**

### **School Safety and Security Plan (Emergency Operations Plan)**

- **Required Policy/Plan: Yes**
  - All public and accredited non-public schools must have Emergency Operations Plan (EOP)
  - Committee Requirements/Responsibilities
    - Each public and accredited school system has a school safety and security committee which includes representatives of faculty, parents, and the community.
    - The committee meets at least annually to prepare and/or review safety and security plans (EOP) and procedures.
  - Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) Requirements/Responsibilities
    - Each public and accredited school system has a safety and security plan. The plan addresses the safety and security of students, staff, and visitors.
    - The plan is required to be approved by the local governing body.
    - When requested by the NDE School Safety Director, the EOP is submitted to the Nebraska Department of Education
- **Required Staff Training: No**
- **Required Student Training: No**
- **References:**
  - [Rule 10 Code Section 11 School Environment pg. 35 \(011.01C\)](#)
  - [State Statute 79-3103](#)
  - [State Statute 79-3105](#)
- **Educational and/or Training Resources:**
  - Online Learning Management System (LMS) - Coming 2024
  - [NDE Developing an EOP](#)
  - [NDE School Safety YouTube Channel](#)

- **Best Practices:**
  - It is suggested that a member of law enforcement, local emergency manager, and a member from the local fire and rescue department be included in the school safety committee.
  - When creating, modifying, and updating an EOP, it should be done by the safety committee versus an individual.

### Standard Response Protocol (SRP) or Initial Response to Threats, Hazards, or Incidents

- **Required Policy/Plan: No**, Initial Response Protocol should be included in your EOP.
- **Required Staff: No**, recommended to staff, students, parents, community, and community partners.
- **Students Training: No**, recommended to staff, students, parents, community, and community partners.
- **References & Educational Resources:**
  - [I Love U Guys Foundation](#)
  - [NDE School Safety YouTube Channel](#)
- **Best Practices:** (These directives should be repeated twice when activated.)
  -  **HOLD**: “Hold. In Your Room or Area”
  -  **SECURE**: “Secure. Get Inside. Lock Outside Doors.”
  -  **LOCKDOWN**: “Lockdown. Locks, Lights, Out of Sight.”
  -  **EVACUATION**: “Evacuate, followed by the evacuation location”
  -  **SHELTER**: “Shelter. State the Hazard and Safety Strategy”
  - Using common signage and language during a threat, hazard, or incident is best communication practices to avoid pitfalls in an emergency.

### Standard Reunification Method (SRM) or Reunification

- **Required Policy/Plan: No**, SRM/Reunification should be included in your EOP.
- **Required Staff: No**, recommended to staff, students, parents, community, and community partners.
- **Students Training: No**, recommended to staff, students, parents, community, and community partners.
- **Reference & Educational Resource:**
  - [SRM -"I Love U Guys" Foundation](#)
- **Best Practices:**
  - Practicing reunification drills is a best practice to avoid pitfalls when an actual event happens.

### National Incident Management System (NIMS)

- **Required Policy/Plan: Yes**
  - NIMS is required to be utilized by anyone receiving federal funding of any kind.
  - NIMS and ICS should be included in your local EOP.
- **Required Staff Training: No**
- **Required Student Training: No**
- **References:**
  - [Homeland Security Presidential Directive 5](#)
  - [FEMA NIMS Training](#)
  - [FEMA ICS 100 Training](#)

## **Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP)**

- **Required Policy/Plan: Yes**, The COOP is part of an Emergency Operations Plan (EOP).
- **Required Staff Training: No**
- **Required Student Training: No**
- **Reference:**
  - [Rule 10 Code Section 11 School Environment pg. 35 \(011.01C\)](#)
- **Best Practices:**
  - The COOP is part of the high-quality elements of an Emergency Operations Plan. The COOP is suggested by state and federal best practices.
  - In practice/reality schools created a COOP during COVID Pandemic but called it Continuity of Learning Plan. A COOP encompasses the total operations of a school district and continues essential functions.

## **Psychological First Aid (PFA) or Recovery**

- **Required Policy/Plan: No**, However, your recovery component should be in your EOP.
- **Required Staff Training: No**
- **Required Student Training: No**
- **References:**
  - [PFA-for-Schools-Field-Operations-Guide;](#)
  - <https://www.nctsn.org/>
- **Best Practices:**
  - PFA-S is a best practice in the aftermath of an emergency to address a school communities short and long-term distress to better cope with the incident.

## **Conduct Annual Safety Review/Assessment (Audit)**

- **Required Review: Yes**
  - School systems are required to have their security plan(s) reviewed annually by one or more persons not on the local school safety committee and not an employee of the school system. This review will include a visit to school buildings to analyze plans, policies, procedures, and practices and provide recommendations. Any recommendations made as a result of the analysis are forwarded to the head administrator and to the school safety and security committee to be considered in making revisions to the plan.
- **Required Staff Training: No**
- **Required Student Training: No**
- **References:**
  - [Rule 10 Code Section 11 School Environment \(011.01D\)](#)
  - [State Statute 79-2,144](#)
  - [NDE Safety and Security Standards](#)

## **Safety and Security Standards (Adopted in 2016 by State Board of Education)**

- **Required Policy/Plan: No**
- **Required Staff Training: No**
- **Required Student Training: No**
- **References:**
  - [NDE Safety and Security Standards](#)
  - [State Statute 79-2, 144](#)

# Quick Reference to School Safety Requirements

<b>Green=Required</b>							
<b>Blue=Best Practice</b>		<b>Teachers</b>	<b>Administration</b>	<b>Other School Staff</b>	<b>Students</b>	<b>Specific Staff</b>	<b>Other Stakeholders</b>
Alcohol/Drug Abuse Awareness & Prevention	Policy						
	Training						
Opioid Overdose and Use of Narcan	Policy						
	Training		Trained in administering Narcan			Trained in administering Narcan	
Suicide Prevention Awareness & Prevention	Policy						
	Training						
Child Abuse Reporting	Policy						
	Training						
Dating Violence Prevention	Policy						
	Training					Determined by School Administrator	Parents
Harassment, Sexual Harassment & Misconduct	Policy						
	Training	Per Title IX	Per Title IX	Per Title IX	Per Title IX	Title IX coordinator	
Bullying and Cyberbullying	Policy		Reviewed Annually				
	Training						
Digital Citizenship	Policy		Per cyberbullying				
	Training						

<b>Green=Required</b>							
<b>Blue=Best Practice</b>		<b>Teachers</b>	<b>Administration</b>	<b>Other School Staff</b>	<b>Students</b>	<b>Specific Staff</b>	<b>Other Stakeholders</b>
Safe2Help NE	Policy						
	Training	If S2H is adopted, NDE youtube channel videos	If S2H is adopted, NDE youtube channel videos	If S2H is adopted, NDE youtube channel videos	If S2H is adopted, NDE youtube channel videos	Threat Assessment Team and Safe2Help System	If S2H is adopted, NDE youtube channel videos (parents)
School Threat Assessment Team	Policy						
	Training					Schools should have a threat assessment team	
Fire, Bus, and Tornado Drills	Policy						
	Training						
SRO	Policy		MOU				SRO/Security Officer
	Training		20 hours				SRO/Security Officer 20 hours
Firearms on School Property	Policy						
	Training						
EOP/COOP	Policy						First Responders
	Training					School Safety Team	First Responders
SRP/SRM	Policy						
	Training					School Safety Team	First Responders
NIMS/ICS	Policy						First Responders
	Training					School Safety Team	First Responders

<b>Green=Required</b>		<b>Teachers</b>	<b>Administration</b>	<b>Other School Staff</b>	<b>Students</b>	<b>Specific Staff</b>	<b>Other Stakeholders</b>
<b>Blue=Best Practice</b>							
PFA-S	Policy						
	Training					PFA Team	
Conduct Annual Review	Policy		Admin required to have annual safety review				
	Training						

**4059**  
**Suicide Awareness and Prevention Training**

Prior to starting employment at a school district and every five years after the start of employment, all certified school employees are required to complete an approved youth suicide awareness and prevention training that is at least one hour long. A certificate of completion must be submitted to the school district. The school district will retain the certificates as part of documentation for accreditation. Failure to complete this training may subject the employee to employment-related discipline.

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

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

Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_

## 2006 Complaint Procedure

Good communication helps to resolve many misunderstandings and disagreements. This complaint procedure applies ~~to board members, patrons, students and school staff, to complaints~~ unless the ~~staff member~~ complaint is subject to a different ~~grievance~~ procedure ~~pursuant required by law, to~~ policy or contract. Individuals who have a complaint should discuss their concerns with appropriate school personnel in an effort to resolve problems at the lowest level of the chain of command. When ~~such those~~ efforts do not resolve matters satisfactorily, including matters involving discrimination or harassment on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, marital status, disability, or age, a complainant should follow the procedures set forth in any specific policy addressing those areas or the procedures set forth below. ~~Students and employees who believe they have been subjected to sex harassment in violation of Title IX should refer to the board's policy titled "Title IX." Allegations of sex discrimination covered by Title IX will be addressed through the board's Title IX policy.~~

References to "coordinator" in this policy refer to the board-designated coordinator for the applicable area, such as the Section 504 Coordinator for allegations of disability-based discrimination.

A preponderance of the evidence will be required to discipline a party accused of misconduct. This means that the investigator must conclude that it is more likely than not that misconduct occurred.

### **Complaint and Appeal Process.**

1. The first step is for the complainant to speak directly to the person(s) with whom the complainant has a concern. For example, a parent who is unhappy with a classroom teacher should initially discuss the matter with the teacher. However, the complainant should skip the first step if complainant reasonably believes speaking directly to the person would subject complainant or complainant's student to discrimination or harassment.
2. The second step is for the complainant to speak to the building principal, ~~Title IX/504~~ coordinator, superintendent of schools, or president of the board of education, as set forth below. Anyone with questions about the appropriate person to speak with may request clarification from the superintendent.

- a) Complaints about the operation, decisions, or personnel within a building should be submitted to the principal of the building.
  - b) Complaints about the operations of the school district or a building principal should be submitted in writing to the superintendent of schools.
  - c) Complaints about the superintendent of schools should be submitted in writing to the president of the board of education.
  - d) Complaints involving discrimination or harassment on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, marital status, disability, or age may also be submitted, at any time during the complaint procedure to the ~~School District's Title IX/504~~applicable coordinator. Complaints involving discrimination or harassment may also be submitted at any time to the Office for Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Education: by email at OCR.KansasCity@ed.gov; by telephone at (816) 268-0550; or by fax at (816) 268-0599.
3. When a complainant submits a complaint to an administrator or ~~to the Title IX/504~~ coordinator, the administrator or ~~Title IX/504~~ coordinator shall first determine whether another applicable procedure is required by policy or law and if so, direct the complaint to the appropriate person to follow that procedure. If not, the administrator or coordinator will promptly and thoroughly investigate the complaint, and shall:
- a) Determine whether the complainant has discussed the matter with the staff member respondent involved.
    - 1) If the complainant has not, ~~the administrator or Title IX/504 coordinator will~~ urge the complainant to discuss the matter directly with ~~that staff member~~the respondent, if appropriate.
    - 2) If the complainant refuses to discuss the matter with the staff member respondent, the administrator or ~~Title IX/504~~ coordinator shall, in his or her sole discretion, determine whether the complaint should or must be pursued further.

- b) Strongly encourage the complainant to reduce his or her concerns to writing.
  - c) Interview the complainant and, if necessary, the respondent against whom the complaint is filed, to determine:
    - 1) All relevant details of the complaint;
    - 2) All witnesses and documents which the complainant believes support the complaint;
    - 3) The action or solution which the complainant seeks.
  - d) Respond to the complainant. If the complaint ~~involved~~ involves discrimination or harassment, the response shall be in writing and shall be submitted within 180 calendar days after the administrator or ~~Title IX/504~~ coordinator ~~received~~ receives the complaint.
4. If either the complainant or the ~~accused party~~respondent is not satisfied with the ~~administrator's or the Title IX/504 coordinator's~~ decision ~~regarding a complaint~~ her or she may appeal the decision to the superintendent. The superintendent may assign a qualified designee to hear any appeal. This provision applies to appeals under the board's policies governing complaints of discrimination or harassment, including Title IX and any other policy with a separate grievance or complaint procedure, unless that other procedure includes its own appeal process. All requirements for appeals within any other policy apply, and in addition to those requirements, the following also apply.
- a) ~~This~~The appeal must be in writing.
  - b) This appeal must be received by the superintendent no later than ~~ten-three~~ (103) calendar days from the date ~~the administrator or Title IX/504 coordinator communicated his/her decision to the complainant~~of the decision.
  - c) ~~The~~For complaints addressed through other applicable procedures that do not include a separate investigatory process, the superintendent will investigate as he or she deems appropriate. ~~However, all matters involving discrimination or harassment shall be promptly and thoroughly investigated.~~

d) ~~Upon completion of this investigation, the~~The superintendent will prepare a written decision and inform provide it to the complainant and any other person entitled by law to receive the appeal decision in writing of his or her decision. If the complaint involved discrimination or harassmentFor complaints involving discrimination or harassment, the superintendent shall submit the decision within 180 calendar days after the superintendent received complainant's written appeal. Appeals to the superintendent from complaints involving discrimination or harassment are final once the superintendent delivers the written decision, as are all other appeals/complaints to the superintendent unless the complaint can be appealed on the limited grounds to appeal to the board below.

5. The board's role is to set policy, establish and implement a budget, and evaluate the superintendent. The board does not manage the daily operations of the school district entrusted to its administration unless required by law or policy. Because of the board's statutory roles, it does not hear complaints or appeals that may involve oversight or discipline of students, staff, or others, unless those involve the superintendent as discussed below. The board does not hear complaints or appeals based on allegations of discrimination or harassment unless otherwise required by law. The board will hear appeals only in the following circumstances:

- a) When the complaint is about a board policy, not implementation of the policy;
- b) When the complaint involves the budget or school expenditures that have been or must be approved by the board; or
- c) When the board is required by law, policy, or contract to hear a complaint or appeal.

~~5. If either the complainant or the accused~~If a complaint involves those limited grounds and a party is not satisfied with the superintendent's decision regarding ~~a~~the complaint or appeal, he or she may appeal the decision to the board.

a)d) This appeal must be in writing.

b)e) This appeal must be received by the board president no later than ten (10) calendar days from the date the

superintendent communicated his/her decision to the complainant.

- e)f) This policy allows, but does not require the board to receive statements from interested parties and witnesses relevant to the complaint appeal. However, all matters involving discrimination or harassment allegations against the superintendent shall be promptly and thoroughly investigated by the board president or a designee.
  - d)g) The board president will notify the complainant and any other person legally required to receive the decision in writing of its decision. If the complaint ~~involved~~ involves discrimination or harassment allegations against the Superintendent, the board president shall submit ~~its~~ the decision within 180 calendar days after ~~it received~~ receiving ~~complainant's~~ the written appeal.
  - e)h) There is no appeal from any decision of the board unless authorized by law.
6. ~~When a formal complaint about the superintendent of schools has been~~ Formal complaints about the superintendent shall be filed with the president of the board. ~~7. However, complaints about the superintendent do not include disagreement with the superintendent's decision on appeal based on a complaint of discrimination, harassment, or action of any other employee who is not the superintendent. Upon receipt of a complaint, the board president or his or her designee shall promptly and thoroughly investigate the complaint, and shall:~~
- a) Coordinate with school district staff, other than the superintendent, to determine if another procedure in policy or law requires the complaint against the superintendent to follow another procedure. If so, the board president will coordinate handling the complaint through that procedure. If another procedure applies, such as in the case of allegations of sex discrimination against the superintendent, the board president or, at his or her discretion, the full board will serve only to hear any appeal by a party to the complaint.
  - a)b) Determine whether the complainant has discussed the matter with the superintendent.

- 1) If the complainant has not, the board president or designee will urge or require the complainant to discuss the matter directly with the superintendent, if appropriate or required.
  - 2) If the complainant refuses to discuss the matter with the superintendent, the board president shall, in his or her sole discretion, determine whether the complaint should or must be pursued further.
- ~~b) Strongly encourage the complainant to reduce his or her concerns to writing.~~
- c) Determine, in his or her sole discretion, whether to place the matter on the board agenda for consideration at a regular or special meeting by the full board.
  - d) Respond to the complainant or appeal. If the complaint or appeal involved-involves discrimination or harassment, the response shall be in writing and shall be submitted within 180 calendar days after the president received the complaint.
- ~~d)e) Appoint or contract with other individuals qualified to assist the board through this process or any other applicable procedure used to address allegations against the superintendent.~~

**No Retaliation.** The school district prohibits retaliation against any person for filing a complaint or for participating in the complaint procedure in good faith.

**Special Rules Regarding Educational Services and Related Services to Students with Disabilities.** Students with disabilities and their families have specific rights outlined in state and federal law, including administrative processes by which they may challenge the educational services being provided by the school district. Therefore, the appeal process contained in this policy may not be used to challenge decisions made by a student's individualized education plan (IEP) team or 504 team.

Complaints about the educational services provided a student with a disability, including but not limited to services provided to a student with

an IEP, access to curricular and extracurricular activities, and educational placement must be submitted to the school district's Director of Special Education. The Director of Special Education will address the complaint in a manner that he/she deems appropriate and will provide the complainant with a copy of the Notice of IDEA Parental Rights promulgated by the Nebraska Department of Education.

Complaints about the educational services provided a student with a disability pursuant to a Section 504 plan must be submitted to the school district's 504 Coordinator. The 504 Coordinator will address the complaint in a manner that he/she deems appropriate and will provide the complainant with a copy of the Notice of Section 504 Parental Rights adopted by the board of education.

Complaints about the educational services provided to a student who is suspected of having a disability must be submitted in writing to the school district's Director of Special Education or to the district's 504 Coordinator. The Director of Special Education or 504 Coordinator will either refer the student for possible verification as a student with a disability or will provide prior written notice of the district's refusal to do so.

**Bad Faith or Serial Filings.** The purpose of the complaint procedure is to resolve complaints at the lowest level possible within the chain of command. Individuals who file complaints (a) without a good faith intention to attempt to resolve the issues raised; (b) for the purpose of adding administrative burden; (c) at a volume unreasonable to expect satisfactory resolution; or (c) for purposes inconsistent with the efficient operations of the district may be dismissed by the superintendent without providing final resolution other than noting the dismissal. There is no appeal from dismissals made pursuant to this section.

Adopted on: \_\_\_\_\_  
Revised on: \_\_\_\_\_  
Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_

## 2008 Meetings

The formation of policy is public business and will be conducted openly in accordance with the Nebraska Open Meetings Act.

### 1. Types of Meetings

- a. The board shall hold its regular meetings on or before the third Monday of each month.
- b. Special and emergency meetings may be called as provided by law.
- c. The board may schedule work sessions and retreats in order to provide board members and administrators with the opportunity to plan, research, and engage in discussion.

### 2. Notice

The board shall give reasonable advance publicized notice of the time and place of each of its meetings, which generally will be 48 hours or more in advance of the meeting. Such notice shall be transmitted to all members of the board and to the public.

Notice of regular and special meetings shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation within the district and, if available, on the newspaper's website. Newspapers of general circulation in the district include, ~~but are not necessarily limited to,~~ the **Nance County Journal News or the Genoa Leader Times** ~~or the Omaha World-Herald~~. Such notice shall contain a statement that the agenda shall be readily available for public inspection at the administration office of the school during the normal business hours. In addition, the superintendent is authorized, but not required, to publish the notice of any meeting on the school district's website, posting in three prominent places within the school district, or by any other appropriate method designated by the board.

In case of refusal, neglect, or inability of the newspaper to timely publish the notice, the school district will (1) post the notice on its website, if available, and (2) post the notice in a conspicuous public place in the school district's jurisdiction. The school district will keep a written record of the posting.

When it is necessary to hold an emergency meeting without reasonable advance public notice, the nature of the emergency shall be stated in the minutes of the meeting, and any formal action taken in such meeting shall pertain only to the emergency. Complete minutes of such emergency meetings specifying the nature of the emergency and any formal action taken at the meeting shall be made available to the public no later than the end of the next regular business day.

### 3. Weather Delays

In the event of inclement weather which makes it dangerous or unreasonable for board members or members of the public to attend a meeting for which notice has already been given, such meeting may be postponed by the board president. The board will communicate the delay to members of the public by posting it on the district's website and by following the same communication protocol that the district follows when student attendance at school is called off due to inclement weather. When possible, the board president and superintendent will attempt to communicate the information to local media members and business owners to assist in notifying the public of the delay. Notice of the date, time, and location of the postponed meeting will be advertised as required in the "Notice" section above.

### 4. Minutes

- a. The board shall keep minutes of all meetings showing the time, place, members present and absent, the method(s) and date(s) of the meeting notice, and the substance of all matters discussed.
- b. Any action taken on any question or motion duly moved and seconded shall be by roll call vote of the board in open session, and the record shall state how each member voted, or if the member was absent or not voting.
- c. The minutes of all meetings and evidence and documentation received or disclosed in open session shall be public record and shall be published on the school district's website within ten working days of the last meeting or prior to the next convened meeting, whichever occurs earlier. The minutes shall be available on the website for at least six months.

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

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

Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_

## 2009 Public Participation at Board Meetings

The board of education shall conduct its meetings in accordance with state law.

The board shall make reasonable efforts to accommodate the public's right to hear the discussions and testimony presented at its meetings. The board shall permit public comment at meetings as required by law, subject to lawful limitations at the discretion of the board. Public comment is a limited forum, and such limitations include a prohibition against discussing particular staff members, students, or officers. Individuals also may be required to sign up for public comment in advance to allow the board to efficiently allocate time. The board may make and enforce other reasonable rules and regulations regarding the conduct of persons attending, speaking at, videotaping, photographing, or recording its meetings.

The board may, at its discretion, enter into executive session in accordance with state law. The public will not be able to view or participate in the meeting while the board is in executive session, and will be required to leave the meeting during the pendency of executive session. The board may enter into executive session in accordance with state law for the following reasons:

- (1) Discussing personnel issues, including but not limited to hiring or discipline;
- (2) Discussing student discipline or placement;
- (3) Consulting with legal counsel or reviewing communications from legal counsel;
- (4) Preparing for negotiations with collective bargaining associations;
- (5) Discussing marketing or pricing strategies by a board or commission of a business owned by the state or any of its political subdivisions, when public discussion may be harmful to the competitive position of the business; or
- (6) Discussing school safety information as described in 1-27-1.5(8) and 1-27-1.5(17).

**Library Materials.** Any statements regarding specific library materials, regardless of whether the speaker wishes for the District to maintain a particular source or material or wishes for the district to exclude a specific source or material, will not be allowed during public comment. Such requests will be considered in accordance with District Policy 6032.

Statements regarding the District's policy itself will be considered subject to other lawful limitations on the statement.

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

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

Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_

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

**I. Applicability of the Policy**

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

The District will also comply with the requirements of the public lettings laws (NEB. REV. STAT. §§ 73-101 through 73-106) when the contemplated expenditure for the complete project exceeds \$109,000, the Political Subdivisions Construction Alternatives Act (NEB. REV. STAT. §§ 13-2901 through 13-2914), energy financing contracts (NEB. REV. STAT. §§ 66-1062 through 66-1066), other applicable state laws, and the board's general policy on Bidding for Construction and Related Projects. In addition, all procurement and construction shall comply with the rules and requirements of 2 CFR part 200.317 through 200.326 and 34 CFR sections 75.601 through 75.615. In the event of a conflict between state and federal law, the more stringent requirement shall apply.

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

- A. A bid guarantee from each bidder equivalent to five percent of the bid price. The "bid guarantee" must consist of a firm commitment such as a bid bond, certified check, or other negotiable instrument accompanying a bid as assurance that the bidder will, upon acceptance of the bid, execute such contractual documents as may be required within the time specified.
- B. A performance bond on the part of the contractor for 100 percent of the contract price. A "performance bond" is one executed in connection with a contract to secure fulfillment of all the contractor's obligations under such contract.
- C. A payment bond on the part of the contractor for 100 percent of the contract price. A "payment bond" is one executed in connection with

a contract to assure payment as required by law of all persons supplying labor and material in the execution of the work provided for in the contract.

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

#### **A. Methods of Bidding/Soliciting Quotations or Estimates**

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

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

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

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

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

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

- B. Construction Projects with an estimated cost of between \$109,000 and \$249,999 will be made pursuant to the District's Policy on Bid Letting and Contracts.

Pursuant to Nebraska law, construction projects which have an anticipated aggregate cost of \$109,000 or more are subject to state public lettings laws (NEB. REV. STAT. §§ 73-101 through 73-106). The board will follow its standard policy on bid letting and contracts for construction projects financed with federal funds which have an anticipated aggregate cost of between \$109,000 and \$250,000.

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

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

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

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

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

#### B. Advertising for Bids.

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

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

#### C. Bid Documents

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

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

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

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

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

6. Bids will be reviewed by the Superintendent and/or designee

and submitted to the board for approval.

7. The board shall have discretion in determining which bidders are responsible and responsive and shall award the contract to the lowest, responsible, and responsive bidder whose bid meets the bid specifications. This means that the board will select the bid that offers the best value and award a contract based upon the amount of the bid and the bidder's ability and capacity to carry on the work, its equipment and facilities, honesty, integrity, skills, business judgment, experience, equipment, facilities, financial stability, past performance, and other relevant factors.

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

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

## **V. Other Contract Matters.**

### **A. Required Terms**

The non-Federal entity's contracts must contain the applicable provisions required by section 200.32~~26~~ and described in Appendix II to Part 200—Contract Provisions for non-Federal Entity Contracts Under Federal Awards. This includes a "Buy American" provision that provides that as appropriate and to the extent consistent with law, the District and contractor should, to the greatest extent practicable under a Federal award, provide a preference for the purchase, acquisition, or use of goods, products, or materials produced in the United States (including but not limited to iron, aluminum, steel, cement, and other manufactured products). The requirements of the Buy American provision must be included in all subawards including all contracts and purchase orders for work or products under this award.

### **B. Contracting with Certain Vendors**

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

To the maximum extent practicable, the school food program shall purchase domestic commodities or products produced in the U.S. or processed in the

U.S. substantially using agricultural commodities produced in the U.S.

### C. Full and Open Competition

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

### D. Debarment and Suspension

The District awards contracts only to responsible contractors possessing the ability to perform successfully under the terms and conditions of a proposed procurement. Consideration will be given to such matters as contractor integrity, ~~compliance with public policy,~~ compliance, proper classification of employees (see the Fair Labor Standards Act, 29 U.S.C. 201, chapter 8), record of past performance, and financial and technical resources when conducting a procurement transaction.

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

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

### E. Settlements of Issues Arising Out of Contract

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

### F. Record Keeping

#### 1. Record Retention

- a) The District maintains all records that fully show (1) the amount of funds under the grant or subgrant; (2) how the subgrantee uses those funds; (3) the total cost of each project; (4) the share of the total cost of each project provided from other sources; (5) other records to facilitate an effective audit; and (6) other records to show compliance with federal program requirements. 34 C.F.R. §§ 76.730-.731 and §§ 75.730-.731. The District also maintains records of significant project experiences and results. 34 C.F.R. § 75.732. These records and accounts must be retained and made available for programmatic or financial audit.
  
  - b) The U.S. Department of Education is authorized to recover any federal funds misspent within 5 years before the receipt of a program determination letter. 34 C.F.R. § 81.31(c). Schedule 10 (Local School Districts) and Schedule 24 (Local Agencies General Records) of the Nebraska Records Management Division as approved by the Nebraska Secretary of State/State Records Administrator requires the District to maintain records regarding construction projects for a minimum of five (5) years after the sale or demolition of the building. However, if any litigation, claim, or audit is started before the expiration of the record retention period, the records will be retained until all litigation, claims, or audit findings involving the records have been resolved and final action taken. 2 C.F.R. § 200.333.
  
  - c) Records will be destroyed in compliance with Schedule 10, Schedule 24, and State law. This includes the completion of a Records Disposition Report.
2. Maintenance of Construction Records for Projects Financed with Federal Funds
- a) The District must maintain records sufficient to detail the history of all construction projects financed with federal funds. These records will include, but are not necessarily limited to the following: rationale for the method of construction, selection of contract type, contractor selection or rejection, the basis for the contract price (including a cost or price analysis), and verification that the contractor is not suspended or debarred.

- b) Retention of construction records shall be in accordance with applicable law and Board policy.

## **VI. Conflict of Interest and Code of Conduct**

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

### C. Favors and Gifts

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

### D. Enforcement

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

## **VII. Financial Management**

### **A. Identification.**

The District will identify, in its accounts, all federal awards received and expended and the federal programs under which they were received. Federal program and award identification include, as applicable, the CFDA title and number, federal award identification number and year, name of the federal agency, and, if applicable, name of the pass-through entity.

### **B. Financial Reporting**

The District will make an accurate, current, and complete disclosure of the financial results of each federal award or program in accordance with the financial reporting requirements set forth in the Education Department General Administrative Regulations (EDGAR).

### **C. Accounting Records**

The District maintains records which adequately identify the source and application of funds provided for federally-assisted activities. These records must contain information pertaining to grant or subgrant awards, authorizations, obligations, unobligated balances, assets, expenditures, income and interest and be supported by source documentation.

### **D. Internal Controls**

The Superintendent or his/her designee must maintain effective control and accountability for all funds, real and personal property, and other assets through board review and approval of claims, an annual audit of the district's finances pursuant to the applicable Nebraska Department of Education and federal rules and regulations, and comparison of expenditures and outlays to budgeted amounts. The District adequately safeguards all such property and assures that it is used solely for authorized purposes.

### **E. Budget Control**

Actual expenditures or outlays will be compared with budgeted amounts for each federal award at least annually and more often as required by law or deemed prudent by the board or administrative staff.

### **F. Payment Methods**

The District will comply with applicable methods and procedures for payment that minimize the time elapsing between the transfer of funds and

disbursement by the District, in accordance with the Cash Management Improvement Act at 31 CFR Part 205. Generally, the District receives payment from the Nebraska Department of Education on a reimbursement basis. 2 CFR § 200.305. However, if the District receives an advance in federal grant funds, the District will remit interest earned on the advanced payment quarterly to the federal agency. The District may retain interest amounts up to \$500 per year for administrative expenses. 2 CFR § 200.305(b)(9).

Consistent with state and federal requirements, the District will maintain source documentation supporting the federal expenditures (invoices, time sheets, payroll stubs, etc.) and will make such documentation available for the Nebraska Department of Education to review upon request.

#### G. Allowability of Costs

Expenditures must be aligned with approved budgeted items. Any changes or variations from the state-approved budget and grant application need prior approval.

When determining how the District will spend its grant funds, the Superintendent or his/her designee will review the proposed cost to determine whether it is an allowable use of federal grant funds before obligating and spending those funds on the proposed good or service. All costs supported by federal education funds must meet the standards outlined in EDGAR, 2 CFR Part 3474 and 2 CFR Part. The Superintendent or his/her designee must consider these factors when making an allowability determination.

The Superintendent or his/her designee will consider Part 200's cost guidelines when federal grant funds are expended. The Superintendent or his/her designee will also consider whether all state - and District-level requirements and policies regarding expenditures have been followed.

#### H. Use of Program Income – Deduction, Addition, or Cost Sharing or Matching

The default method for the use of program income for the District is the deduction method. 2 C.F.R. § 200.307(e). Under the deduction method, program income is deducted from total allowable costs to determine the net allowable costs. Program income will only be used for current costs unless the District is otherwise directed by the federal awarding agency or pass-through entity. 2 C.F.R. § 200.307(e)(1). The District may also request prior approval from the federal awarding agency to use the addition method. Under the addition method, program income may be added to the Federal award by

the Federal agency and the non-Federal entity. The program income must then be used for the purposes and under the conditions of the Federal award. 2 C.F.R. § 200.307(e)(2). The District may also request prior approval from the federal awarding agency to use the cost sharing or matching method.

While the deduction method is the default method, the District always refers to the grant award notice prior to determining the appropriate use of program income.

#### I. Cost Sharing or Matching

For all Federal awards, any shared costs or matching funds and all contributions, including cash and third-party in-kind contributions, must be accepted as part of the non-Federal entity's cost sharing or matching when such contributions meet all of the following criteria:

- (1) Are verifiable from the non-Federal entity's records;
- (2) Are not included as contributions for any other Federal award;
- (3) Are necessary and reasonable for accomplishment of project or program objectives;
- (4) Are allowable under [subpart E \(Cost Principles\) of this part](#);
- (5) Are not paid by the Federal Government under another Federal award, except where the Federal statute authorizing a program specifically provides that Federal funds made available for such program can be applied to matching or cost sharing requirements of other Federal programs;
- (6) Are provided for in the approved budget when required by the Federal awarding agency; and
- (7) Conform to other provisions of this part, as applicable.

#### J. Documentation of Personnel Expenses

Records that reflect charges to federal awards for salaries and wages will comply with the rules and requirements of 2 CFR 200.430.

### **VIII. Other Contract Matters.**

#### A. Required Terms

The non-Federal entity's contracts must contain the applicable provisions required by section 200.326 and described in Appendix II to Part 200—

## Contract Provisions for non-Federal Entity Contracts Under Federal Awards.

### B. Contracting with Certain Vendors

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

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

### C. Record Keeping

#### 1. Record Retention

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

b) The U.S. Department of Education is authorized to recover any federal funds misspent within 5 years before the receipt of a program determination letter. 34 C.F.R. § 81.31(c). Schedule 10 (Local School Districts) and Schedule 24 (Local Agencies General Records) of the Nebraska Records Management Division as approved by the Nebraska Secretary of State/State Records Administrator requires the District to maintain records regarding federal awards for a minimum of six (6) years. Consequently, the District shall retain records for a minimum of six (6) years from the date on which the final Financial Status Report is submitted, unless otherwise notified in writing to extend the retention period by the awarding agency, cognizant agency for audit,

oversight agency for audit, or cognizant agency for indirect costs. However, if any litigation, claim, or audit is started before the expiration of the record retention period, the records will be retained until all litigation, claims, or audit findings involving the records have been resolved and final action taken. 2 C.F.R. § 200.333.

c) Records will be destroyed in compliance with Schedule 10, Schedule 24, and State law. This includes the completion of a Records Disposition Report.

2. Maintenance of Procurement Records

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

b) Retention of procurement records shall be in accordance with applicable law and Board policy.

D. Privacy

The District has protections in place to ensure that the personal information of both students and employees is protected. These include the use of passwords that are changed on a regular basis; staff training on the requirements of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and State confidentiality requirements; and training on identifying whether an individual requesting access to records has the right to the documentation.

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

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

Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_

## **3003.1**

### **Bidding for Public Improvements Financed with Federal Funds**

#### **I. Applicability of the Policy**

This policy applies only to construction and contracts undertaken with federal funds which are subject to the federal Uniform Grant Guidance (UGG) and other applicable federal law, including but not limited to the Education Department and General Administration Regulations (EDGAR) and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) regulations governing school food service programs. In the event this policy conflicts or is otherwise inconsistent with mandatory provisions of the UGG, EDGAR or other applicable federal law, the mandatory provisions of the laws shall control. The District will also comply with the requirements of South Dakota public bidding law. In addition, all procurement and construction shall comply with the rules and requirements of 2 CFR part 200.317 through 200.326 and 34 CFR sections 75.601 through 75.615. In the event of a conflict between state and federal law, the more stringent requirement shall apply.

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

- A. A bid guarantee from each bidder equivalent to five percent of the bid price. The "bid guarantee" must consist of a firm commitment such as a bid bond, certified check, or other negotiable instrument accompanying a bid as assurance that the bidder will, upon acceptance of the bid, execute such contractual documents as may be required within the time specified.
- B. A performance bond on the part of the contractor for 100 percent of the contract price. A "performance bond" is one executed in connection with a contract to secure fulfillment of all the contractor's obligations under such contract.
- C. A payment bond on the part of the contractor for 100 percent of the contract price. A "payment bond" is one executed in connection with a contract to assure payment as required by law of all persons supplying labor and material in the execution of the work provided for in the contract.

#### **III. Construction Projects with an Anticipated Cost of Under**

## **\$250,000**

### A. Methods of Bidding/Soliciting Quotations or Estimates

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Pursuant to South Dakota law, construction projects which have an anticipated aggregate cost of \$100,000 or more are subject to state public bidding requirements. The board will follow its standard policy

on bidding and contracts for construction projects financed with federal funds which have an anticipated aggregate cost of between \$100,000 and \$250,000.

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

- A. Sealed Bids: All constructions projects subject to this policy with an anticipated cost of \$250,000 or more will be publicly solicited using the sealed bid method
1. Bids must be solicited from an adequate number of known suppliers, providing them sufficient response time prior to the date set for opening the bids, for state, local, and tribal governments, the invitation for bids must be publicly advertised;
  2. The invitation for bids, which will include any specifications and pertinent attachments, must define the items or services in order for the bidder to properly respond;
  3. Sealed bids will be publicly opened in a place and at the specific time stated in the bid solicitation. Bidders shall be notified of the opening and invited to be present.
  4. The contract will be awarded to the lowest responsive and responsible bidder.
    - a) Where specified in bidding documents, factors such as discounts, transportation cost, and life cycle costs must be considered in determining which bid is lowest.
    - b) Payment discounts will only be used to determine the low bid when prior experience indicates that such discounts are usually taken advantage of.
    - c) Any or all bids may be rejected if there is a sound documented reason.
  5. The board shall have discretion in determining which bidders are responsible and responsive and shall award the contract to the lowest, responsible, and responsive bidder whose bid meets the bid specifications. This means that the board will select the bid that offers the best value and award a contract based upon the amount of the bid and the bidder's ability and capacity to carry on the work, its equipment and

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

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

#### B. Advertising for Bids

1. The superintendent or designee will arrange to advertise for bids by publishing notice in any newspaper of general circulation within the school district at least ten calendar days prior to the date on which bids are due. The advertisement must include the approximate cost of the publication and that the notice may be viewed free of charge on a statewide public notice website.
2. Nothing shall prevent the superintendent or designee from advertising in additional media outlets or for a longer period of time.

#### C. Bid Documents

1. The bid documents shall identify the day upon which the bids shall be returned, received, or opened and shall identify the hour at which the bids will close or be received or opened.
2. The bid documents shall also provide that such bids shall be opened simultaneously in the presence of the bidders or their representatives.
3. Bids received after the date and time specified in the bid documents shall be returned to the bidder unopened.
4. If bids are being opened on more than one contract, the board, in its discretion, may award each contract as the bids are opened.
5. Sealed bids will be opened in a place and at the specific time stated in the bid solicitation. Bidders shall be notified of the opening and invited to be present.
6. Bids will be reviewed by the Superintendent and/or designee

and submitted to the board for approval.

7. The board shall have discretion in determining which bidders are responsible and responsive and shall award the contract to the lowest, responsible, and responsive bidder whose bid meets the bid specifications. This means that the board will select the bid that offers the best value and award a contract based upon the amount of the bid and the bidder's ability and capacity to carry on the work, its equipment and facilities, honesty, integrity, skills, business judgment, experience, equipment, facilities, financial stability, past performance, and other relevant factors.
  8. The board will generally complete its review of bids and select a vendor within 30 days of bid submission.
- D. The terms of any construction project undertaken pursuant to this policy will be memorialized in a written contract which has been reviewed by the district's legal counsel and approved by the board.

## **V. Other Contract Matters**

### **A. Required Terms**

The non-Federal entity's contracts must contain the applicable provisions required by section 200.32~~26~~ and described in Appendix II to Part 200—Contract Provisions for non-Federal Entity Contracts Under Federal Awards. This includes a "Buy American" provision that provides that as appropriate and to the extent consistent with law, the District and contractor should, to the greatest extent practicable under a Federal award, provide a preference for the purchase, acquisition, or use of goods, products, or materials produced in the United States (including but not limited to iron, aluminum, steel, cement, and other manufactured products). The requirements of the Buy American provision must be included in all subawards including all contracts and purchase orders for work or products under this award.

### **B. Contracting with Certain Vendors**

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

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

#### C. Full and Open Competition

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

#### D. Debarment and Suspension

The District awards contracts only to responsible contractors possessing the ability to perform successfully under the terms and conditions of a proposed procurement. Consideration will be given to such matters as contractor integrity, ~~compliance with~~ public policy, compliance, proper classification of employees (See the Fair Labor Standards Act, 29 U.S.C. 201, chapter 8), record of past performance, and financial and technical resources when conducting a procurement transaction.

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

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

#### E. Settlements of Issues Arising Out of Contract

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

## F. Record Keeping

### 1. Record Retention

- a) The District maintains all records that fully show (1) the amount of funds under the grant or subgrant; (2) how the subgrantee uses those funds; (3) the total cost of each project; (4) the share of the total cost of each project provided from other sources; (5) other records to facilitate an effective audit; and (6) other records to show compliance with federal program requirements. 34 C.F.R. §§ 76.730-.731 and §§ 75.730-.731. The District also maintains records of significant project experiences and results. 34 C.F.R. § 75.732. These records and accounts must be retained and made available for programmatic or financial audit.
- b) The U.S. Department of Education is authorized to recover any federal funds misspent within 5 years before the receipt of a program determination letter. 34 C.F.R. § 81.31(c). South Dakota law requires retention of successful bids for five past the expiration of the contract's term. However, if any litigation, claim, or audit is started before the expiration of the record retention period, the records will be retained until all litigation, claims, or audit findings involving the records have been resolved and final action taken. 2 C.F.R. § 200.333.
- c) Records will be destroyed in compliance with the state law and the South Dakota Local School Records Retention and Destruction Schedule.

### 2. Maintenance of Construction Records for Projects Financed with Federal Funds

- a) The District must maintain records sufficient to detail the history of all construction projects financed with federal funds. These records will include, but are not necessarily limited to the following: rationale for the method of construction, selection of contract type,

contractor selection or rejection, the basis for the contract price (including a cost or price analysis), and verification that the contractor is not suspended or debarred.

b) Retention of construction records shall be in accordance with applicable law and Board policy.

## **VI. Conflict of Interest and Code of Conduct**

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

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

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

C. Favors and Gifts

~~The officers, employees, and agents~~ An employee, officer, agent, and board member of the District may neither solicit nor accept gratuities, favors, or anything of monetary value from contractors or parties to subcontracts, except that this provision does not prohibit the receipt of unsolicited items of nominal value. For purposes of this policy, "nominal value" means a fair market value of \$25 or less.

D. Enforcement

Disciplinary Actions including, but not limited to, counseling, oral reprimand, written reprimand, suspensions without pay, or termination of employment, will be applied for violations of such standards by officers, employees, board members, or agents of the District.

## **VII. Financial Management**

### **A. Identification**

The District will identify, in its accounts, all federal awards received and expended and the federal programs under which they were received. Federal program and award identification include, as applicable, the CFDA title and number, federal award identification number and year, name of the federal agency, and, if applicable, name of the pass-through entity.

### **B. Financial Reporting**

The District will make an accurate, current, and complete disclosure of the financial results of each federal award or program in accordance with the financial reporting requirements set forth in the Education Department General Administrative Regulations (EDGAR).

### **C. Accounting Records**

The District maintains records which adequately identify the source and application of funds provided for federally-assisted activities. These records must contain information pertaining to grant or subgrant awards, authorizations, obligations, unobligated balances, assets, expenditures, income and interest and be supported by source documentation.

### **D. Internal Controls**

The Superintendent or his/her designee must maintain effective control and accountability for all funds, real and personal property, and other assets through board review and approval of claims, an annual audit of the district's finances pursuant to the applicable federal rules and regulations, and comparison of expenditures and outlays to budgeted amounts. The District adequately safeguards all such property and assures that it is used solely for authorized purposes.

### **E. Budget Control**

Actual expenditures or outlays will be compared with budgeted amounts for each federal award at least annually and more often as required by law or deemed prudent by the board or administrative staff.

#### F. Payment Methods

The District will comply with applicable methods and procedures for payment that minimize the time elapsing between the transfer of funds and disbursement by the District, in accordance with the Cash Management Improvement Act at 31 CFR Part 205. Generally, the District receives payment from the South Dakota Department of Education on a reimbursement basis. 2 CFR § 200.305. However, if the District receives an advance in federal grant funds, the District will remit interest earned on the advanced payment quarterly to the federal agency. The District may retain interest amounts up to \$500 per year for administrative expenses. 2 CFR § 200.305(b)(9).

Consistent with state and federal requirements, the District will maintain source documentation supporting the federal expenditures (invoices, time sheets, payroll stubs, etc.) and will make such documentation available for the South Dakota Department of Education to review upon request.

#### G. Allowability of Costs

Expenditures must be aligned with approved budgeted items. Any changes or variations from the state-approved budget and grant application need prior approval.

When determining how the District will spend its grant funds, the Superintendent or his/her designee will review the proposed cost to determine whether it is an allowable use of federal grant funds before obligating and spending those funds on the proposed good or service. All costs supported by federal education funds must meet the standards outlined in EDGAR, 2 CFR Part 3474 and 2 CFR Part. The Superintendent or his/her designee must consider these factors when making an allowability determination.

The Superintendent or his/her designee will consider Part 200's cost guidelines when federal grant funds are expended. The Superintendent or his/her designee will also consider whether all state - and District-level requirements and policies regarding expenditures have been followed.

## H. Use of Program Income – Deduction, Addition, or Cost Sharing or Matching

The default method for the use of program income for the District is the deduction method. 2 C.F.R. § 200.307(e). Under the deduction method, program income is deducted from total allowable costs to determine the net allowable costs. Program income will only be used for current costs unless the District is otherwise directed by the federal awarding agency or pass-through entity. 2 C.F.R. § 200.307(e)(1). The District may also request prior approval from the federal awarding agency to use the addition method. Under the addition method, program income may be added to the Federal award by the Federal agency and the non-Federal entity. The program income must then be used for the purposes and under the conditions of the Federal award. 2 C.F.R. § 200.307(e)(2). The District may also request prior approval from the federal awarding agency to use the cost sharing or matching method.

While the deduction method is the default method, the District always refers to the grant award notice prior to determining the appropriate use of program income.

### I. Cost Sharing or Matching

For all Federal awards, any shared costs or matching funds and all contributions, including cash and third-party in-kind contributions, must be accepted as part of the non-Federal entity's cost sharing or matching when such contributions meet all of the following criteria:

- (1) Are verifiable from the non-Federal entity's records;
- (2) Are not included as contributions for any other Federal award;
- (3) Are necessary and reasonable for accomplishment of project or program objectives;
- (4) Are allowable under [subpart E \(Cost Principles\) of this part](#);
- (5) Are not paid by the Federal Government under another Federal award, except where the Federal statute authorizing a program specifically provides that Federal funds made available for such program can be applied to matching or cost sharing requirements of other Federal programs;
- (6) Are provided for in the approved budget when required by the Federal awarding agency; and
- (7) Conform to other provisions of this part, as applicable.

## J. Documentation of Personnel Expenses

Records that reflect charges to federal awards for salaries and wages will comply with the rules and requirements of 2 CFR 200.430.

### **VIII. PrivacyOther Contract Matters**

#### **Required Terms**

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

#### **Contracting with Certain Vendors**

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

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

#### **Record Keeping**

##### Record Retention

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

The U.S. Department of Education is

authorized to recover any federal funds misspent within 5 years before the receipt of a program determination letter. 34 C.F.R. § 81.31(c). The Records Retention and Destruction Schedule of the South Dakota Bureau of Administration Records Management Program requires the District to maintain records regarding federal awards for a minimum of five (5) years. Consequently, the District shall retain records for a minimum of five (5) years from the date on which the final Close Out Report is submitted, unless otherwise notified in writing to extend the retention period by the awarding agency, cognizant agency for audit, oversight agency for audit, or cognizant agency for indirect costs. However, if any litigation, claim, or audit is started before the expiration of the record retention period, the records will be retained until all litigation, claims, or audit findings involving the records have been resolved and final action taken. 2 C.F.R. § 200.333.

#### Maintenance of Procurement Records

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

Retention of procurement records shall be in accordance with applicable law and Board policy.

#### **Privacy**

The District has protections in place to ensure that the personal information of both students and employees is protected. These include the use of passwords that are changed on a regular basis; staff training on the requirements of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and State confidentiality requirements; and training on identifying whether an individual requesting access to records has the right to the documentation. The District has protections in place to ensure that the personal information of both students and employees is protected. These include the use of

~~passwords that are changed on a regular basis; staff training on the requirements of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and State confidentiality requirements; and training on identifying whether an individual requesting access to records has the right to the documentation.~~

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

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

Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_

## **3004.1 Fiscal Management for Purchasing and Procurement Using Federal Funds**

### **I. Applicability of Policy**

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

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

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

### **II. Procurement System**

The District maintains the following purchasing procedures.

#### **A. Responsibility for Purchasing**

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

## B. Methods of Purchasing

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

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

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

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

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

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

### 3. Purchases Over \$250,000

#### a) Sealed Bids (Formal Advertising)

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

#### b) Contract/Price Analysis

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

#### 4. **Noncompetitive Proposals (Sole Sourcing)**

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

#### 5. **Competitive Proposals.**

- a) The technique of 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. It is generally used when conditions are not appropriate for the use of sealed bids. If this method is used, the following requirements apply:

- 1) 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~~;
  - 2) Proposals must be solicited from an adequate number of qualified sources; and
  - 3) Contracts must be awarded to the responsible firm whose proposal is most advantageous to the program, with price and other factors considered.
- b) The 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 ~~to procure in procurement of~~ A/E professional services. ~~It cannot~~The method may not be used to purchase other ~~types of services though provided by~~ A/E firms are a potential source to perform the proposed effort.
- c) The District may select a proposal that offers the best value and that is based upon the proposer's responsiveness to the proposal, experience, reputation, staff qualifications, ability and capacity to carry on the work, price, honesty, integrity, skills, business judgment, financial stability, past performance, and other relevant factors. The evaluation may be conducted by the school board, a designated committee, or another designee of the school board.

### **C. Use of Purchase (Debit & Credit) Cards**

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

## **D. Federal Procurement System Standards**

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

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

## **E. Debarment and Suspension**

The District awards contracts only to responsible contractors possessing the ability to perform successfully under the terms and conditions of a proposed procurement. Consideration will be given to such matters as contractor integrity, ~~compliance with public policy,~~ compliance, proper classification of employees (see the Fair Labor Standards Act, 29 U.S.C. 201, chapter 8), record of past performance, and financial and technical resources when conducting a procurement transaction.

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

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

## **F. Settlements of Issues Arising Out of Procurements**

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

## **III. Conflict of Interest and Code of Conduct**

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

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

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

**C. Favors and Gifts**

~~The officers, employees, and agents~~An employee, officer, agent, and board member of the District may neither solicit nor accept gratuities, favors, or anything of monetary value from contractors or parties to subcontracts, except that this provision does not prohibit the receipt of unsolicited items of nominal value. For purposes of this policy, "nominal value" means a fair market value of \$25 or less.

**D. Enforcement**

Disciplinary Actions including, but not limited to, counseling, oral reprimand, written reprimand, suspensions without pay, or termination of employment, will be applied for violations of such standards by officers, employees, board members, or agents of the District.

**IV. Property Management Systems**

**A. Property Classifications**

1. Equipment means tangible personal property (including information technology systems) having a useful life of more

than one year and a per-unit acquisition cost ~~which that~~ equals or exceeds the lesser of the capitalization level established by the District for financial statement purposes, or \$~~105~~,000.

2. Supplies means all tangible personal property other than those described in §200.33 Equipment. A computing device is a supply if the acquisition cost is less than the lesser of the capitalization level established by the District for financial statement purposes or \$5,000, regardless of the length of its useful life. 2 C.F.R. §200.94.
3. Computing Devices means machines ~~used to that~~ acquire, store, analyze, process, and publish data and other information electronically, including accessories (or “peripherals”) for printing, transmitting and receiving, or storing electronic information. 2 C.F.R. §200.20.
4. Capital Assets means tangible or intangible assets used in operations having a useful life of more than one year which are capitalized in accordance with GAAP. Capital assets include:
  - a) Land, buildings (facilities), equipment, and intellectual property (including software) whether acquired by purchase, construction, manufacture, lease-purchase, exchange, or through capital leases; and
  - b) Additions, improvements, modifications, replacements, rearrangements, reinstallations, renovations or alterations to capital assets that materially increase their value or useful life (not ordinary repairs and maintenance). 2 C.F.R. §200.12.

## **B. Inventory Procedure**

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

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

## **C. Inventory Records**

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

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

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

#### **D. Physical Inventory**

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

#### **E. Maintenance**

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

#### **F. Lost or Stolen Items**

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

notify the Federal agency or pass-through entity of any loss, damage, or theft of equipment that will have an impact on the program.

## **G. Use of Equipment**

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

## **H. Disposal of Equipment**

When it is determined that ~~original or replacement~~ equipment acquired under a federal award is no longer needed for the original project or program or for other activities currently or previously supported by a federal awarding agency, the Superintendent or his/her designee will contact the awarding agency (or pass-through for a state-administered grant) for disposition instructions.

If the item has a current ~~FMV~~ fair market value of \$~~105~~,000 or less, it may be retained, sold, or otherwise disposed of with no further obligation to the federal awarding agency or pass-through entity.

## **I. Equipment Retention**

When included in the terms and conditions of the Federal award, the Federal agency may permit the recipient to retain equipment, or authorize a pass-through entity to permit the recipient to retain equipment, with no further obligation to the Federal Government unless prohibited by Federal statute or regulation.

## **I.J. Equipment and Capital Expenditures**

All equipment and capital expenditures shall comply with the rules and requirements of 2 CFR 200.439.

## **J.K. Depreciation**

All depreciation shall comply with the rules and requirements of 2 CFR 200.436.

## **V. Financial Management**

## **A. Identification**

The District will identify, in its accounts, all federal awards received and expended and the federal programs under which they were received. Federal program and award identification include, as applicable, the CFDA title and number, federal award identification number and year, name of the federal agency, and, if applicable, name of the pass-through entity.

## **B. Financial Reporting**

The District will make an accurate, current, and complete disclosure of the financial results of each federal award or program in accordance with the financial reporting requirements set forth in the Education Department General Administrative Regulations (EDGAR).

## **C. Accounting Records**

The District maintains records which adequately identify the source and application of funds provided for federally-assisted activities. These records must contain information pertaining to grant or subgrant awards, authorizations, obligations, unobligated balances, assets, expenditures, income and interest and be supported by source documentation.

## **D. Internal Controls**

The Superintendent or his/her designee must maintain effective control and accountability for all funds, real and personal property, and other assets through board review and approval of claims, an annual audit of the district's finances pursuant to the applicable Nebraska Department of Education and federal rules and regulations, and comparison of expenditures and outlays to budgeted amounts. The District adequately safeguards all such property and assures that it is used solely for authorized purposes.

## **E. Budget Control**

Actual expenditures or outlays will be compared with budgeted amounts for each federal award at least annually and more often as required by law or deemed prudent by the board or administrative staff.

## **F. Payment Methods**

The District will comply with applicable methods and procedures for payment that minimize the time elapsing between the transfer of funds and disbursement by the District, in accordance with the Cash Management

Improvement Act at 31 CFR Part 205. Generally, the District receives payment from the Nebraska Department of Education on a reimbursement basis. 2 CFR § 200.305. However, if the District receives an advance in federal grant funds, the District will remit interest earned on the advanced payment quarterly to the federal agency. The District may retain interest amounts up to \$500 per year for administrative expenses. 2 CFR § 200.305(b)(9).

Consistent with state and federal requirements, the District will maintain source documentation supporting the federal expenditures (invoices, time sheets, payroll stubs, etc.) and will make such documentation available for the Nebraska Department of Education to review upon request.

### **G. Allowability of Costs**

Expenditures must be aligned with approved budgeted items. Any changes or variations from the state-approved budget and grant application need prior approval.

When determining how the District will spend its grant funds, the Superintendent or his/her designee will review the proposed cost to determine whether it is an allowable use of federal grant funds before obligating and spending those funds on the proposed good or service. All costs supported by federal education funds must meet the standards outlined in EDGAR, 2 CFR Part 3474 and 2 CFR Part. The Superintendent or his/her designee must consider these factors when making an allowability determination.

The Superintendent or his/her designee will consider Part 200's cost guidelines when federal grant funds are expended. The Superintendent or his/her designee will also consider whether all state - and District-level requirements and policies regarding expenditures have been followed.

### **H. Use of Program Income – Deduction, Addition, or Cost Sharing or Matching**

The default method for the use of program income for the District is the deduction method. 2 C.F.R. § 200.307(e). Under the deduction method, program income is deducted from total allowable costs to determine the net allowable costs. Program income will only be used for current costs unless the District is otherwise directed by the federal awarding agency or pass-through entity. 2 C.F.R. § 200.307(e)(1). The District may also request prior approval from the federal awarding agency to use the addition method. Under the addition method, program income may be added to the Federal award by the Federal agency and the non-Federal entity. The program income must then be used for the purposes and under the conditions of the Federal award.

2 C.F.R. § 200.307(e)(2). The District may also request prior approval from the federal awarding agency to use the cost sharing or matching method.

While the deduction method is the default method, the District always refers to the grant award notice prior to determining the appropriate use of program income.

### **I. Cost Sharing or Matching**

For all Federal awards, any shared costs or matching funds and all contributions, including cash and third-party in-kind contributions, must be accepted as part of the non-Federal entity's cost sharing or matching when such contributions meet all of the following criteria:

- (1) Are verifiable from the non-Federal entity's records;
- (2) Are not included as contributions for any other Federal award;
- (3) Are necessary and reasonable for accomplishment of project or program objectives;
- (4) Are allowable under [subpart E \(Cost Principles\) of this part](#);
- (5) Are not paid by the Federal Government under another Federal award, except where the Federal statute authorizing a program specifically provides that Federal funds made available for such program can be applied to matching or cost sharing requirements of other Federal programs;
- (6) Are provided for in the approved budget when required by the Federal awarding agency; and
- (7) Conform to other provisions of this part, as applicable.

### **J. Documentation of Personnel Expenses**

Records that reflect charges to federal awards for salaries and wages will comply with the rules and requirements of 2 CFR 200.430.

## **VI. Written Compensation Policies**

### **A. Time and Effort Standards**

All employees who are paid in full or in part with federal funds must keep specific documents to demonstrate the amount of time they spent on grant activities. This includes an employee whose salary is paid with state or local funds but is used to meet a required "match" in a federal program. These documents, known as time and effort records, are maintained in order to charge the costs of personnel compensation to federal grants. Charges to

federal awards for salaries and wages must be based on records that accurately reflect the work performed. These records must:

- (1) Be supported by a system of internal controls which provides reasonable assurance that the charges are accurate, allowable, and properly allocated;
- (2) Be incorporated into official records;
- (3) Reasonably reflect total activity for which the employee is compensated, not exceeding 100% of compensated activities;
- (4) Encompass both federally assisted and all other activities compensated by the District on an integrated basis;
- (5) Comply with the established accounting policies and practices of the District and
- (6) Support the distribution of the employee's salary or wages among specific activities or costs objectives.

#### **B. Time and Effort Procedures**

Time and effort procedures will follow and comply with 2 CFR 200.430(i).

#### **C. Fringe Benefits**

Except as provided otherwise by federal law, the costs of fringe benefits will be allowable provided that the benefits are reasonable and required by law, a district-employee agreement, or another policy of the District.

#### **D. Leave**

The cost 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 they are provided under established written District leave policies.

#### **E. Unexpected or Extraordinary Circumstances**

In the event of a pandemic or other unexpected or extraordinary circumstance, the District may close school or individual buildings. In such case, the District may compensate federally funded or other employees during such closure to ensure the return of staff to employment after the closure as allowed by state or federal law.

#### **F. Documentation for Personnel Expenses**

Records that reflect charges to federal awards for salaries and wages will comply with the rules and requirements of 2 CFR 200.430.

## **VII. Other Contract Matters.**

### **A. Required Terms**

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

### **B. Contracting with Certain Vendors**

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

**Buy American.** The District participates in the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program and is required to use the nonprofit food service funds, to the maximum extent practicable, to buy domestic commodities or products for Program meals. A “domestic commodity or product” is defined as one that is either produced in the U.S. or is processed in the U.S. substantially using agricultural commodities that are produced in the U.S. as provided in 7 CFR 210.21(d). The District may deviate from this general requirement only if:

- The product is not produced or manufactured in the U.S. in sufficient and reasonably available quantities of a satisfactory quality; or
- Competitive bids reveal the costs of a U.S. product are significantly higher than the non-domestic product.

### **C. Record Keeping**

#### 1. Record Retention

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

results. 34 C.F.R. § 75.732. These records and accounts must be retained and made available for programmatic or financial audit.

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

## 2. Maintenance of Procurement Records

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

## **D. Privacy**

The District has protections in place to ensure that the personal information of both students and employees is protected. These include the use of passwords that are changed on a regular basis; staff training on the requirements of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and State confidentiality requirements; and training on identifying whether an individual requesting access to records has the right to the documentation.

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

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

Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_

[Intentionally Left Blank]

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**Transportation**

~~The school district will provide free transportation, partially provide free transportation, or pay an allowance for transportation in lieu of free transportation on each day school is in session to the students who reside in the district and qualify for transportation according to the district's transportation plan. The families of students who will not be provided transportation pursuant to the district's plan or who must drive students to a pick-up point will be reimbursed according to statute if they qualify for such reimbursement. Parents seeking mileage reimbursement must submit requests to the district on forms which may be obtained from the office of the Superintendent of Schools.~~

~~When a student who has been attending the district is placed into foster care, school district staff will collaborate with state and local child welfare agencies to determine whether transportation is required under state law when it is in the child's best interest that their school of origin be maintained. The district will only provide transportation to students placed in foster care when the responsible child welfare agency agrees to reimburse the school district for the cost of transportation or when transportation is otherwise required by law. The board designates the Superintendent of Schools as the initial point of contact for child welfare agency representatives to discuss transportation issues related to children in foster care.~~

~~Students who are homeless will be provided with transportation pursuant to Board Policy 5014.~~

~~The district will provide transportation to tuition students in accordance with the contract provisions, if any, for services from the contracting districts.~~

~~The use of buses for class parties, field trips, and similar purposes shall require the prior approval of the superintendent or appropriate principal.~~

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

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

Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_

**3017**

**Press Releases Official Communication with the Public**

Only individuals who have prior administrative approval may issue press releases or other official communication regarding school-related activities and events in furtherance of the individual's official responsibilities. The superintendent may delegate responsibility for communicating with the media to building principals, the activities director, event sponsors, and other staff on an ad hoc basis.

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

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

Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_

**3017**

**~~Press Releases and Other~~ Official Communication with the Public**

Only individuals who have prior administrative approval may issue press releases or other official communications regarding school-related activities and events in furtherance of the individual's official responsibilities. The superintendent may delegate responsibility for communicating with the media to building principals, the activities director, event sponsors, and other staff on an ad hoc basis.

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

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

Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_

## **3019 Sale or Disposal of School Property**

In selling school property, whether real or personal, the board of education shall be mindful of its financial obligation to the taxpayers of the school district.

If the board determines that property shall be sold, the board will conduct an appraisal prior to placing the property for sale. The appraisal may be accomplished by three property owners in the District or by a licensed appraiser. Appraisal is not required if:

- the property is to be transferred to a political subdivision such as a municipality, county, sanitary district, improvement district, or irrigation district;
- the property is to be traded for other property;
- the property was created as a result of the District's educational program;
- the property is valued at ~~\$2,500 or less.~~ less than \$500,

If appraisal is not required due to an exception above, the District can dispose of the property however it finds appropriate. If no exception applies, the value is over that amount, the District will solicit bids as described in this policy.

### **Advertising**

The District will publish notice of the sale twice in its designated newspaper. The first notice must be at least ten days out from the opening of the bids. The notice must describe

- the property to be sold;
- when the bids will be opened;
- and whether the bids will be opened in a regular board meeting or in front of a designated official prior to a regular board meeting.

### **Bid Opening.**

Bids must be sealed and filed with the Business Manager. The District may reject all bids if it so chooses, but it must select the highest bid if any bid is to be chosen. If no bids are received, the District may have the surplus property reappraised or may sell the property at private sale for not less than ninety percent of the appraised value without further publication or appraisal. This sale must take place within twelve months of the date of the bid opening.

If the property to be sold was created as a result of the District's educational

program, the District may accept the highest bid or it may reject all bids and may sell the property at private sale without further publication.

**Public Auction**

The District can choose to sell property at public auction in lieu of sealed bids. The District must advertise the auction as it would for a bid opening. Board members or district administrators may only purchase the property if the public auction option is used.

**Sale Proceeds**

Sale proceeds can be deposited into the District’s general fund, the capital outlay, or any other fund where the property was previously inventoried.

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

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

Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_

**[OPTIONAL]**

**3031**

**Use of School Name and Logo**

No person or organization is permitted to use the District's name, school name's, marks, logos, and mascot without prior written permission from the Superintendent. The Superintendent may revoke prior approval for the use of the District's names and symbols at any time.

**3032**  
**Fees for School District Records**

Requests for school district records shall be subject to applicable fees. No fee shall be charged for providing a copy of a student or public record if a specific law or regulation requires the copy to be provided without charge.

**Student Records.** Students and their parents or guardians shall not be charged any fee to inspect and review the student's files or records. Students and their parents or guardians who desire a copy of the student's files or records shall pay the reasonable cost of reproduction as follows:

- Black and white letter or legal-sized photocopies: No charge for the first 4 copies; \$.25 cents for each copied page thereafter.
- Computer data printouts: No charge for the first 4 pages; \$.25 cents for each page thereafter.
- Other medium: Actual cost of reproduction.
- Postage fees: Actual cost

Students and their parents or guardians **shall not be charged any fee:**

- To search for or retrieve any student's files or records.
- For a copy of a student's Individualized Education Plan (IEP).
- For copy of the special education evaluation report and the documentation of determination of eligibility for special education services upon completion of the administration of assessments and other evaluation measures.
- If the fee effectively prevents the parents from exercising their right to inspect and review student records.

**Student Records – Transfer School.** A copy of the student's files or records, including academic material and any disciplinary material relating to any suspension or expulsion shall be provided at no charge, upon request, to any public or private school to which the student transfers.

**Public Records.** Individuals requesting copies of public records shall pay the actual added cost of making the copies available.

- For photocopies, actual added costs may include a reasonably apportioned cost of the supplies, such as paper, toner, other

equipment used in preparing the copies, and any additional payment obligation for the time of contractors necessarily incurred to comply with the copy request.

- For printouts of computerized data on paper, actual added cost may include computer run time and the cost of materials for making the copy.
- For electronic data, the actual added cost may include the reasonably calculated actual added cost of the computer run time, any necessary analysis and programming, and production of a report in the form furnished to the requester.
- For residents of Nebraska, the actual added cost shall not include any charge for the existing salary or pay obligation to public officer or employees for the first eight hours of searching, identifying, physically redacting, or copying records, but fees may be charged after the first eight hours. The fee for records shall not include any charge for the services of an attorney or any other person to review the requested public records seeking a legal basis to withhold the public records from the public. No special service charge or fee shall be charged for copies of blank forms or pages that have all meaningful information redacted.
- For nonresidents of Nebraska, the actual added cost used as the basis for the calculation of a fee for records may include a charge for the proportion of the existing salary or pay obligation to the public officers or employees, including a proportional charge for the services of an attorney to review the requested public records, for the time spent searching, identifying, physically redacting, copying, or reviewing such records.
- The district shall not charge any fee for copies of public records that is prohibited by law but reserves the right to charge any other fee allowed by law.

The fee schedule for public records copies is as follows:

- Black and white letter or legal-sized photocopies: No charge for the first 4 copies; \$0.25 cents for each copied page thereafter.
- Computer data printouts: No charge for the first 4 pages; \$0.25 cents for each page thereafter.
- Other medium: Actual cost of reproduction.
- Postage fees: Actual cost

**Deposit.** The school district may require a deposit before providing copies of student or public records if the estimated cost to fulfill the request exceeds fifty dollars.

**Waiver.** Documents may be furnished without charge or at a reduced charge where the district determines that waiver or reduction is in the public interest.

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

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

Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_

**3033**

**[Intentionally Left Blank]**

**Lending Textbooks to Children Enrolled in Private Schools**

~~Through June 30, 2024, the school district shall make textbooks available to private school children who reside within the district or are otherwise entitled to borrow them pursuant to statute and 92 Nebraska Administrative Code, section 4. The district is obligated to purchase and lend textbooks only to the extent that the Legislature appropriates funds to the Nebraska Department of Education to be distributed for this purpose. As used in this policy, "textbooks" shall have the definition adopted by the Nebraska State Board of Education in Rule 4.~~

~~The district shall make a request for funds by filing an application on the form prescribed by the Department of Education no later than February 15<sup>th</sup> prior to the school year for which the application is made. The application shall include: the number of applications received; the number of textbooks requested; the number of textbooks needed to be purchased to fill the requests; the purchase price of the textbooks needed to be purchased which may include up to 5% of the cost to defray administrative expense; the title, purchase price, and number requested of each textbook including any shipping or handling charges; and if applicable the amount of carryover funds remaining from the previous year, amount of funds on hand from sale of unused textbooks, and amount of funds on hand from reimbursements for damaged textbook.~~

~~Textbooks which have not been requested for three consecutive years may be classified as unused and disposed of by sale or otherwise.~~

~~On or before November 15<sup>th</sup>, the district shall prepare a list of textbooks that are designated for use in the district during the current year and a list of new textbooks designated for use the following school year. The lists shall be kept current and in a place where they may be viewed during regular business hours. The district shall maintain a separate inventory of textbooks purchased for the use of private school children residing in the district.~~

~~Any parent or legal guardian who wishes to borrow textbooks shall submit an application on the form prescribed by the Department of Education to the district's administration offices on or before January 15<sup>th</sup> prior to the school year for which the application is made. The district shall maintain a supply of blank application forms and receipt forms. It shall keep the forms that have been signed by parents and guardians in a separate file for at least 5 years.~~

~~It shall notify the parents and guardians at least 10 days prior to the start of school when and where the textbooks will be available. It shall make textbooks available to parents or guardians on or before August 15<sup>th</sup>. If the number of textbooks for a particular subject or grade level is insufficient to fill all of the requests, the textbooks shall be distributed to parents and guardians based on a random drawing.~~

~~Parents and guardians shall sign a receipt on the form prescribed by the Department of Education when they pick up the textbooks and shall return the textbooks that can be returned no later than 15 days after the district's last day of class. The district shall assess the returned textbooks for damage beyond normal wear and tear. The parent or guardian who signed the receipt is responsible for paying the reasonable cost of the repair or replacement of any book that is damaged, lost, stolen, or not returned.~~

~~The school district shall limit the loan each year to ten textbooks per student for students in grades K-6 and to eight textbooks per student for students in grades 7-12.~~

~~This policy shall terminate July 1, 2024.~~

Adopted on: \_\_\_\_\_  
Revised on: \_\_\_\_\_  
Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_

**NOTE TO DELETE: REVIEW ALL OPTIONS AND DELETE UNUSED  
OPTIONS AFTER DECISION**

**3038**

**Possession of Firearms by District Patrons**

**OPTION A-BLANKET PROHIBITION**

It is the official policy of the school district that no firearms are allowed on school property. Anyone found in possession of a firearm on school property will be considered a trespasser, and the District will contact law enforcement to have the person removed.

**Employees.** No district employee will knowingly allow anyone to possess a firearm on school property. Any employee who violates this prohibition will be subjected to discipline, up to and including termination.

**Exceptions.** This policy does not apply to law enforcement officers  
**[OPTIONAL LANGUAGE]** or the usages described in SDCL 13-32-7.

**OPTION B-SCHOOL SENTINEL**

It is the general policy of the school district that no firearms are allowed on school property, except as specifically allowed by this policy. Anyone found in possession of a firearm on school property without complying with this policy will be considered a trespasser, and the District will contact law enforcement to have the person removed.

**School Sentinel Training Required.** If any individual wishes to possess firearms on school property, that person must complete all the requirements under South Dakota law required to become a school sentinel as described in South Dakota Law. The District granting such permission to a person completing the training does not constitute the creation of a school sentinel program, and any individual granted permission will not be considered an agent of the school district in any way.

**Training Requirements.** To obtain permission under this policy, the individual must undergo at least 80 hours of training in the following subject areas.

- Firearms proficiency
- Use of force
- Legal aspects
- Weapons retention
- Identifying protocol for identifying sentinel
- First aid

The individual seeking permission must also:

- Be a citizen of the United States;
- Be at least 21 years of age at time of appointment;
- Have fingerprints taken by a qualified law enforcement officer;
- Have good moral character;
- Be a graduate of an accredited high school or has a high school equivalency certificate acceptable to the commission;
- Be examined by a licensed physician who certifies, on forms prescribed by the commission, that the applicant is able to perform the duties of a school sentinel;
- Be interviewed in person by the school board or its designee and approved by the school board to apply to the school sentinel basic training course;
- Receive written approval to apply to the school sentinel basic training course by all local law enforcement agencies with jurisdiction over the school premises in which the individual will act as a school sentinel;
- Affirm that he or she has not unlawfully used any prescribed drug, controlled substance, or marijuana within one year before the time of application for training; and
- Hold a valid concealed weapons permit.

## **OPTION C-ADMINISTRATIVE DISCRETION**

It is the general policy of the school district that no firearms are allowed on school property, except as specifically allowed by this policy. Anyone found in possession of a firearm on school property without obtaining permission in accordance with this policy will be considered a trespasser, and the District will contact law enforcement to have the person removed.

**Law Enforcement.** This policy does not apply to law enforcement officers.

**Procedure.** Any person, other than members of law enforcement, who wishes to possess a firearm on school property must obtain permission from a building principal via written request signed by the individual seeking permission.

When considering whether to allow an individual to possess a firearm on school grounds, principals will demand documentation to inform their decision. The patron must produce: **NOTE TO BE DELETED: These documents can be listed in either place-those required in every instance or those that may be demanded by the principal but are not required in every instance. These lists are not exhaustive and Boards can require administration to demand other documents if they wish**

- A permit to carry concealed firearms;
- Evidence of a criminal background check (provided by the individual seeking permission)

District principals are authorized to require further documentation as they see fit, including but not limited to:

- A personal statement justifying possession;
- Letters of recommendation regarding the individual's character and fitness to possess a firearm;
- Documentation illustrating experience with emergency response scenarios;
- A statement by a licensed physician that the individual is in good mental health;
- Documentation from previous service in the armed forces;
- Or any other documentation deemed relevant by the principal.

Refusal to comply with these procedures will result in a denial of permission to possess a firearm on school property.

**Notification.** Any district administrator who grants [OPTIONAL LANGUAGE] or refuses to grant permission under this policy is required to inform the Superintendent of their decision within 24 hours. The principal will also maintain a list of each person granted permission and share that list with law enforcement each time someone is granted permission. The Superintendent is specifically authorized to overturn the previous decision without further process or communication with the patron. The Superintendent will then inform the patron in writing of the revocation of permission. [OPTIONAL LANGUAGE] The Board will not consider complaints regarding revocations or denials of permission under its general complaint policy and the final authority on permission resides with the Superintendent.

**[OPTIONAL LANGUAGE] Check-In Procedure.** An individual granted permission under this policy is required to check-in with district administration each time they enter school grounds, regardless of if school is in session. This check-in may be done by sign-in at the main office or by contacting a district administrator directly. Failure to do so may result in revocation of permission.

**No Entitlement to Possession.** Possession of a firearm on District property with District permission is purely a privilege - not a right. Once granted, District permission may be revoked at any time and for any reason.

Any individual with information pertaining to an individual's fitness for permission under this policy is encouraged to share their concerns with district administration.

## **3053 Nondiscrimination**

The School District does not discriminate on the basis of prohibited factors in employment and educational programs/activities. The School District affirmatively strives to provide equal opportunity for all as required by:

Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 - prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, or national origin

Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 as amended - prohibits discrimination in employment on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, or national origin

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 - prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex

Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967 (ADEA) as amended - prohibits discrimination on the basis of age with respect to individuals who are at least 40

The Equal Pay Act of 1963 as amended - prohibits sex discrimination in payment of wages to women and men performing substantially equal work in the same establishment

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 - prohibits discrimination against the disabled

Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) - prohibits discrimination against individuals with disabilities in employment, public service, public accommodations and telecommunications

The Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 (FMLA) - requires covered employers to provide up to 12 weeks of unpaid, job-protected leave to "eligible" employees for certain family and medical reasons

The Pregnancy Discrimination Act of 1978 - prohibits discrimination in employment on the basis of pregnancy, childbirth, or related medical conditions

[The Pregnant Workers Fairness Act \(PWFA\) – requires covered employers to provide reasonable accommodations to qualified](#)

employee's or applicant's known limitations related to, affected by, or arising out of pregnancy, childbirth, or related medical conditions

The Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA) – provides job protections and reemployment rights to military reservists and National Guard members called to active duty

The Boy Scouts of America Equal Access Act which prohibits discrimination against groups that wish to access district facilities

The Nebraska Fair Employment Practice Act (FEPA) – prohibits employment discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex (including pregnancy), disability, marital status, and retaliation

Nebraska Age Discrimination in Employment Act (Age Act) – prohibits employment discrimination on the basis of age for those individuals who are over 40 years of age

The Equal Pay Act of Nebraska – prohibits discriminatory wage practices based on sex

The Nebraska Equal Opportunity in Education Act – prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex (including pregnancy) by any educational institution

Veterans Preference Law (NEB. REV. STAT §§ 48-225 to 48-231) - stipulates categorical preferences for employment for military veterans and for the spouses of disabled veterans

Additional School Board policies prohibit harassment and/or discrimination against students, employees, or patrons on the basis of sex, race, color, ethnic or national origin, religion, marital status, disability, age, pregnancy, and any other legally prohibited basis. Retaliation for engaging in a protected activity is also prohibited.

Any person who believes she or he has been discriminated against, denied a benefit, or excluded from participation in any district education program or activity may file a complaint using the district's complaint procedures.

Inquiries regarding compliance with any of the laws referred to in this policy may be directed to the superintendent or to the district's Title IX and/or Section 504/ADA Coordinator.

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

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

Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_

## **30589** **Audio and Video Recording**

Students, staff, parents/guardians, and patrons should assume that any class or activity in the school may be recorded by the school district for legitimate educational purposes. There is no reasonable expectation of privacy within classrooms, common areas of the school building or on school grounds outside of the building. Recordings permitted pursuant to this policy may only be used for authorized purposes and may not be republished without additional, written consent from a school administrator. For purposes of this policy "recording" includes still photographs, video, audio, and other similar data captured in any medium.

**Secret Recordings.** No person is permitted to make surreptitious recordings on school grounds unless authorized by the superintendent.

**Recordings Made by The District.** The district may use cameras or other devices for purposes of making security, safety, or other recordings when such recordings are deemed necessary or appropriate by an authorized representative of the district. The district will not maintain recordings unless the recording is purposefully copied and saved. Any recording not copied and maintained separately may only be accessible by the authorized representative for a limited time. Recordings made by the district may be destroyed by an authorized representative at any time unless retention is required by law.

**Recordings Made by Parents/Guardians and Patrons.** Parents/guardians and patrons may make recordings of school activities in a non-disruptive manner including things like athletic contests and school board meetings to the extent permitted by law unless otherwise lawfully restricted by the administration. Parents/guardians or patrons may not make recordings if they are volunteering or visiting school during the school day without permission of the administration or supervising staff member and subject to this policy, such as recording their child's classroom activities or recess. Parents may not record meetings with administrators or staff, including meetings related to a student's IEP or 504 plan. Violation of this policy will result in immediate termination of any meeting that is being recorded and may be grounds for exclusion from school property, loss of volunteer privileges, or other restrictions deemed appropriate by the administration.

**Recordings Made by Staff.** Staff members may make recordings of classroom instruction, student behavior or performance, and school activities

without prior administrative approval only for legitimate educational purposes . Staff members may not make secret recordings while on duty, even if those recordings do not violate state or federal criminal or privacy laws. Staff members who violate this provision may be subject to consequences up to termination for classified staff and cancellation of contract for certificated staff.

**Recordings Made by Students.** This policy applies to students during the school day on school grounds; when being transported to and from school activities or programs in a vehicle owned, leased, or contracted by a school being used for a school purpose by a school employee or by his or her designee; or at a school-sponsored activity or athletic event. Students may make recordings of school activities in a non-disruptive manner including things like athletic contests and other extracurricular performances to the extent permitted by law. Students generally are not permitted to record classroom instruction or members of the school community during the school day without the express consent of a staff member or as required by the student’s education plan. Student use of assistive technology that has the capacity to record and/or transmit recordings (e.g. AngelSense) must be approved by the student’s education team or administration. Students remain subject to all other district policies and rules. In no event shall recordings be taken or made in restrooms, locker rooms, or other areas where there is a reasonable expectation of privacy.

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

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

Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_

## **3059 Audio and Video Recording**

Students, staff, parents/guardians, and patrons should assume that any class or activity in the school may be recorded by the school district for legitimate educational purposes. There is no reasonable expectation of privacy within classrooms, common areas of the school building or on school grounds outside of the building. Recordings permitted pursuant to this policy may only be used for authorized purposes and may not be republished without additional, written consent from a school administrator. For purposes of this policy "recording" includes still photographs, video, audio, and other similar data captured in any medium.

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**Recordings Made by The District.** The district may use cameras or other devices for purposes of making security, safety, or other recordings when such recordings are deemed necessary or appropriate by an authorized representative of the district. The district will not maintain recordings unless the recording is purposefully copied and saved. Any recording not copied and maintained separately may only be accessible by the authorized representative for a limited time. Recordings made by the district may be destroyed by an authorized representative at any time unless retention is required by law.

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**Recordings Made by Staff.** Staff members may make recordings of classroom instruction, student behavior or performance, and school activities

without prior administrative approval only for legitimate educational purposes. Staff members may not make secret recordings while on duty, even if those recordings do not violate state or federal criminal or privacy laws. Staff members who violate this provision may be subject to consequences up to termination for classified staff and cancellation of contract for certificated staff.

**Recordings Made by Students.** This policy applies to students during the school day on school grounds; when being transported to and from school activities or programs in a vehicle owned, leased, or contracted by a school being used for a school purpose by a school employee or by his or her designee; or at a school-sponsored activity or athletic event. Students may make recordings of school activities in a non-disruptive manner including things like athletic contests and other extracurricular performances to the extent permitted by law. Students generally are not permitted to record classroom instruction or members of the school community during the school day without the express consent of a staff member or as required by the student’s education plan. Student use of assistive technology that has the capacity to record and/or transmit recordings (e.g. AngelSense) must be approved by the student’s education team or administration. Students remain subject to all other district policies and rules. In no event shall recordings be taken or made in restrooms, locker rooms, or other areas where there is a reasonable expectation of privacy.

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

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

Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_

**4011**  
**Employee Leave Under the Family and Medical Leave Act**  
**(FMLA)**

The school district shall provide leave to its employees in accordance with the Family and Medical Leave Act ("FMLA"). The terms used herein shall have the meaning ascribed to them under the FMLA. Employees may also qualify for leave under the Nebraska Family Military Leave Act, which is covered under the district's policy for that law. If an employee qualifies for leave under both the Family and Medical Leave Act and the Nebraska Military Leave Act, any leave taken by the employee will count concurrently toward the leave limits of both acts.

**I. Qualifying for Leave**

**A. Qualified Employees**

1. To be eligible for ***unpaid*** leave under this policy, an employee must:
  - a. Make the request for leave at a time when the school district employs 50 or more workers;
  - b. Have been working for the school district for at least 12 months prior to the request; and
  - c. Have worked a minimum of 1,250 hours during the 12-month period immediately preceding the commencement of the leave.
2. The applicable 12-month period for computing an employee's entitlement to FMLA leave shall be "rolling" 12-month period measured backward from the date an employee uses any FMLA leave~~be the 12-month period measured forward from the date such employee's first FMLA leave begins.~~
3. Employees ineligible for FMLA leave for any reason may be eligible for leave under the

Nebraska Family Military Leave Act and should consult policy 4011.1.

**B. Qualified Circumstances Necessitating Leave**

1. The school district will grant an eligible employee up to a total of 12 workweeks of **unpaid** leave under the following conditions:
  - a. For birth of a son or daughter, and to care for the newborn child;
  - b. For placement of a son or daughter with the employee for adoption or foster care;
  - c. To care for the employee's spouse, son, daughter, or parent with a serious health condition;
  - d. Because of a serious health condition that makes the employee unable to perform the functions of his or her job; or
  - e. Because of any qualifying exigency arising out of the fact that the employee's spouse, son, daughter, or parent is a Military Member on Covered Active Duty (or has been notified of an impending call or order to Covered Active Duty) in National Guard, Reserves, and/or Regular Armed Forces in support of a contingency operation
  
2. The school district will grant an eligible employee who is the spouse, son, daughter, parent or next of kin of a Covered Servicemember a total of 26 workweeks of **unpaid** leave during a 12-month period to care for the service member as permitted under the FMLA. The leave described in this paragraph shall only be available during a single 12-month period.

For purposes of this provision and this policy, "Covered Servicemember" includes both Military

Members and covered Veterans, so long as the covered Veteran was discharged or released under conditions other than dishonorable at any time during the five-year period prior to the first date the eligible employee takes FMLA leave to care for the covered Veteran.

3. During the single 12-month period described in paragraph I(B)(2), an eligible employee shall be entitled to a combined total of 26 workweeks of leave under paragraphs I(B)(1) and I(B)(2). Nothing in this paragraph shall limit the availability of leave under paragraph I(B)(1) during any other 12-month period.

### **C. Limitations on Leave**

1. Leave for birth or placement for adoption or foster care must conclude within 12 months of the birth or placement.
2. In any case in which a husband and wife both employed by the school district are entitled to FMLA leave:
  - a. The aggregate number of workweeks of FMLA leave to which both are entitled is limited to 12 during any 12-month period if such leave is taken (i) because of the birth of a son or daughter of the employee and in order to care for such son or daughter; (ii) because of the placement of a son or daughter with the employee for adoption or foster care; or (iii) to care for a sick parent who has a serious health condition; and
  - b. The aggregate number of workweeks of FMLA leave to which both that husband and wife are entitled is limited to 26 during the single 12-month period in which leave is taken to care for a Covered Servicemember and the husband and wife employees are both either the son,

daughter, parent, or next of kin of such Covered Servicemember, if the leave is taken for this reason or a combination of this reason and one of the three reasons described in paragraph I(C)(2)(a). If the leave taken by the husband and wife includes leave described in paragraph I(C)(2)(a), the limitation in paragraph I(C)(2)(a) shall apply to the leave described in I(C)(2)(a).

#### **D. Qualifying Notice and Certification**

Employees seeking to use FMLA leave will be required to provide:

1. 30-day advance notice when the need to take the leave is foreseeable; provided, if (a) the leave is for needed treatment which is required to begin in less than thirty days or (b) the leave is for the reason set forth in paragraph I(B)(1)(e), the employee shall provide such notice to the school district as is reasonable and practical;
2. Medical certification supporting the need for leave due to a Serious Health Condition affecting the employee or family member or to care for a Military Member, and/or due to a Serious Injury or Illness to care for a Veteran;
3. Second or third medical opinions and periodic re-certifications (at the school district's expense);
4. Certification supporting the need for leave because of a qualifying exigency arising out of the fact that the employee's spouse, son, daughter or parent is a Military Member on Covered Active Duty (or has been notified of an impending call or order to Covered Active Duty) in the National Guard, Reserves, and/or Regular Armed Forces in support of a contingency operation;

5. Certification supporting the need for leave to care for a Veteran who was discharged or released under conditions other than dishonorable at any time during the five-year period prior to the first date the eligible employee takes FMLA leave to care for the covered Veteran, and who is undergoing medical treatment, recuperation, or therapy for a Serious Injury or Illness; and
6. Periodic reports during leave, at a frequency reasonably requested by the superintendent, regarding the employee's status and intent to return to work.

**E. Scheduling Leave**

When leave is needed to care for a family member, for the employee's own illness, or to care for a Covered Servicemember, and such leave is foreseeable based on planned medical treatment, the employee must attempt to schedule treatment so as not to unduly disrupt the school district's operations.

**II. Relationship with District During Leave**

**A. Leave to Be Unpaid**

All leave provided to employees under the provisions of the FMLA and this policy shall be unpaid leave.

**B. Substitution of Paid Leave**

1. The school district requires employees to substitute any accrued paid vacation leave, paid personal leave, paid family leave, paid medical leave or paid sick leave for FMLA leave. However, nothing in this policy shall require the school district to provide paid sick or medical leave in any situation in which the school district would not normally provide such paid leave.

2. If an employee uses paid leave under circumstances which do not qualify as FMLA leave, the leave will not count against the number of workweeks of FMLA leave to which the employee is entitled.
3. Any paid leave which is substituted for FMLA leave will be subtracted from the number of workweeks of unpaid leave provided by the FMLA and this policy.

**C. Group Health Plan Benefits**

1. The school district will continue group health plan benefits on the same basis as coverage would have been provided if the employee had been continuously employed during the FMLA leave period.
2. Any share of health plan premiums which have been paid by the employee prior to FMLA leave must continue to be paid by the employee during the FMLA leave period.

**D. Intermittent or Reduced-Schedule Leave**

1. Leave may be taken under this policy intermittently or on a reduced-leave schedule under certain circumstances.
  - a. When leave is taken because of a birth or because of a placement of a child for adoption or foster care, an eligible employee may take leave intermittently or on a reduced-leave schedule only with the agreement of the school district. In such a case, the superintendent shall have the authority to approve or disapprove such intermittent or reduced leave schedule, in the superintendent's sole discretion.
  - b. When leave is taken to care for a sick family member, for an employee's own

serious health condition, or to care for a covered Veteran or Military Member, an eligible employee may take leave intermittently or on a reduced-leave schedule when medically necessary.

- c. When leave is taken by an eligible employee because of any qualifying exigency arising out of the fact that the employee's spouse, son, daughter, or parent is a Military Member on Covered Active Duty (or has been notified of an impending call or order to Covered Active Duty) in National Guard, Reserves, and/or Regular Armed Forces in support of a contingency operation, the employee may take leave intermittently or on a reduced-leave schedule.
- d. When leave is taken by an eligible employee to care for a Covered Servicemember, including a Veteran who was discharged or released under conditions other than dishonorable at any time during the five-year period prior to the first date the eligible employee takes FMLA leave to care for the covered Veteran, and who is undergoing medical treatment, recuperation, or therapy for a Serious Injury or Illness
- e. Intermittent or reduced leave shall not result in a reduction in the employee's total amount of leave beyond the amount of leave actually taken.
- f. When an instructional employee seeks to take intermittent leave in connection with a family or personal illness (e.g. physical therapy or periodic care for a sick relative) or to care for a covered Veteran or Military Member, and when such leave would constitute at least 20 percent of the total number of working days in the period

during which the leave would extend, the school district may require the employee to elect to take leave in a block, instead of intermittently, for the entire period or to transfer to an available alternative position within the school system that is equivalent in pay, for which the employee is qualified, and which better accommodates the intermittent leave.

2. If an eligible employee requests intermittent leave or leave on a reduced-leave schedule that is foreseeable based on planned medical treatment, including during a period of recovery from a serious health condition, the school district may require the employee to transfer 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. Such alternative position must have equivalent pay and benefits as the employee's permanent position.
3. Leave taken on an intermittent or reduced-schedule basis will be tracked hourly.

### **III. Return from Leave**

#### **A. Restoration to Position**

1. On return from FMLA leave, an employee is entitled to be returned to the same position the employee held when leave commenced, or to an equivalent position with equivalent benefits, pay, and other terms and conditions of employment.
2. Any leave taken under this policy will not result in the loss of any employment benefits accrued prior to the date on which the leave commenced.

3. An eligible employee is not entitled to accrual of any seniority or employment benefits during any period of leave, or any right, benefit, or position of employment other than to which the employee would have been entitled had the employee not taken leave.

**B. Denial of Restoration**

1. The school district reserves the right to deny restoration to any eligible employee who is a "key employee" (that is an employee who is salaried and among the highest paid 10% of the employees of the school district) if such denial is necessary to prevent substantial and grievous economic injury to the operations of the school district.
2. If the school district intends to deny restoration to such an employee, it will:
  - a. notify the employee of his/her status as a "key employee" in response to the employee's notice of intent to take FMLA leave;
  - b. notify the employee as soon as the school district decides it will deny job restoration and explain the reasons for this decision;
  - c. offer the employee a reasonable opportunity to return to work from FMLA leave after giving this notice; and
  - d. make a final determination as to whether reinstatement will be denied at the end of the leave period if the employee then requests restoration.

**C. Failure to Return from Leave**

If an employee fails to return from FMLA leave after the period of leave to which the employee is entitled has expired, the employee shall reimburse the district

for any premiums the employer paid for maintaining health insurance coverage for the employee during the employee's FMLA leave unless the reason the employee does not return is due to: (1) the continuation, recurrence, or onset of the serious health condition which entitled the employee to FMLA leave and the employee provides the district with sufficient certification from the proper health care provider of such continuation, recurrence, or onset of the serious health condition or (2) other circumstances beyond the employee's control.

#### **IV. Notice to Employees**

**A.** The school district will post in conspicuous places where employees are employed notices explaining the FMLA and providing information concerning the procedures for filing complaints of FMLA violations with the U.S. Wage and Hour Division.

~~**B.** When an employee provides notice of the need for FMLA leave, the school district shall provide the employee with a copy of the "section 301(c) notice" which is attached to this policy.~~

**C.B.** To the extent that any provision in this policy is in any manner inconsistent with the provisions of the Act or the regulations promulgated thereunder, the Act and regulations shall prevail over the provisions of this policy. The school district reserves the right to modify this policy from time to time in its sole discretion.

**D.C.** Employees may direct any questions or concerns regarding FMLA leave to the superintendent.

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

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

Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_

## **4037 Reduction In Force**

The board of education may determine that a reduction in force of certified staff members is appropriate due to declining enrollment in a grade or grades, changes in financial support, changes in curricular programs, a decline in the taxable value of property located within the school district, increased costs of operating the school district, or another change or changes in circumstances.

If the board, in its sole discretion, determines that a reduction of staff is necessary, the superintendent shall notify those employees whose contracts may be reduced by April 15. The Board will notify the education association of a possible Reduction in Force, and may consider the association's recommendations if they are received within 14 days of the issuance of the notice.

**Criteria for Reduction in Force.** The criteria set forth below shall be considered in selecting the personnel to be reduced. The criteria are not listed in any order of priority, and shall be given the weight that the board considers appropriate.

- Programs to be offered;
- Areas of endorsement that are of present or future value to the district. This criterion shall be based upon the endorsement(s) shown on each teacher's Teaching Certificate;
- Years of professional experience;
- Years of service in the District;
- State and federal laws or regulations that may mandate certain employment practices;
- Involvement in the programs and activities sponsored by the school district;
- Special or advanced training consisting of college credit or other training that would be of present or future value to the district;
- The organizational and educational effect caused by multiple part-time certified employees;
- Formal and informal evaluation of staff performance by supervising administrators and if evaluations will be used as a criterion for a given reduction-in-force, the evaluation procedures shall be those adopted by board policy in effect at the time of the reduction and the evaluation forms shall be those on file with the South Dakota Department of Education for the district;

- Any other reasons that are rationally related to the instruction in or administration of the school district.

**Rights of Recall.** Any certified employee whose contract has been terminated shall be considered to have been dismissed with honor and shall, upon request, be provided a letter to that effect. Such employee shall have preferred rights to re-employment for a period of 24 months commencing at the end of the contract year, and the employee shall be recalled on the basis of length of service to the district to any position that he or she is qualified to teach by endorsement or college preparation.

Upon re-employment, a recalled employee shall be placed on the salary schedule and provided fringe benefits based on existing district policies and the current negotiated agreement. Any year of years of absence from employment shall not be considered as a year or years of employment by the district. An employee under contract to another education institution may waive recall, but such waiver shall not deprive the employee of his or her right to subsequent recall.

**Address Records.** A certified employee whose employment contract has been terminated because of a reduction in force shall, during the period which he or she is eligible for recall, be responsible for reporting any change of address to the superintendent of schools.

If there is a vacancy to which a former employee has a right of recall, the district may communicate an offer of re-employment by telephone, by e-mail, or by United States mail sent to the former employee's last known address. If the school district does not receive written acceptance of the offer within seven days, the former employee shall be deemed to have waived his or her rights to be recalled to the employment position.

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

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

Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_

## 4061

### **Workplace or Non-Workplace Injuries or Illness and Return to Work**

**Reporting Workplace Injuries.** Staff members who are injured while performing duties or who witness workplace injuries must report them to the superintendent or superintendent's designee as soon as possible after being injured or witnessing an injury. Written notice of the injury must be provided to the District no later than three business days after the injury. The notice of injury submitted by the staff member must include the when, where, and how the injury occurred. Staff members must prepare written statements regarding the injuries they sustained or witnessed when they are asked to do so by the school district. Failure to report a workplace injury as a witness will constitute insubordination and neglect of duty and may result in adverse employment action up to and including termination—~~or cancellation~~—of employment. Failure to report workplace injuries may also result in delayed or forfeited benefits to which an employee may otherwise be entitled.

**Returning to Work after Workplace Injuries or Non-Workplace Injuries or Illness.** Staff members whose injuries or illness prevent them from completing any or all of their duties, whether or not incurred at work, may be permitted to continue working or may be offered modified duty positions as required by law or as determined appropriate by the superintendent. This policy does not guarantee a limited or modified assignment during the recovery period unless it is otherwise required by law. The employee may be required to provide a return to work certification or report from their treating physician which delineates any restrictions, modifications, or accommodations needed to allow the employee to perform the essential functions of their position.

**Termination After Workplace Injuries or Illness.** Unless otherwise covered in an individual employment contract, employees may be terminated after suffering a workplace injury or illness when the district has a legitimate, nondiscriminatory reason for doing so. Such reasons include but are not limited to:

- Necessity to fill the position to maintain continuous services as required by law or district policy or standards;
- Performance deficiencies of the employee unrelated to the injury or illness;
- Unavailability of substitute or replacement employees;
- When the absence will negatively impact students' educational experience or opportunities; or
- Any other reason not otherwise prohibited by law.

The district may make such employment determinations regardless of whether the employee has returned to work and regardless of whether a medical professional has certified that the employee has reached maximum medical improvement. In the event the injury or illness lasts beyond the amount of leave time provided by the district and by the Family Medical Leave Act, which is generally no greater than 12 weeks, the employee may be terminated even if the employee remains eligible for Workers' Compensation under state law or short or long-term disability under a policy available through the district. In no event will an employee be terminated as retaliation for filing a Workers' Compensation claim.

**Termination After Non-Workplace Injuries.** Unless otherwise covered in an individual employment contract or prohibited by law, employees who are unable to perform any of the essential functions of their positions with reasonable accommodation(s) due to injury or illness occurring outside of the workplace may be terminated. The employee's position or a similar position will be held open only as required by law, such as the Family Medical Leave Act.

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

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

Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_

## 5001

### **Compulsory Attendance and Excessive Absenteeism Required Attendance**

Every person residing in the school district who has legal or actual charge or control of any child who is of mandatory attendance age shall cause that child to attend a public or private school regularly unless the child has graduated from high school or has been allowed to disenroll pursuant to this policy.

#### **Mandatory Attendance Age**

All children who are or will turn six years old before January 1 of the current school year are of mandatory attendance age. Children who have not turned eighteen years of age are of mandatory attendance age.

#### **Exceptions**

This policy does not apply when attendance is made impossible or impracticable by severe weather conditions or by the ~~temporary-mental or~~ physical illness of the student or a child whom the student is parenting.

A child who will not reach age 7 before January 1 of the current school year may be excused from mandatory attendance if the child's parent or guardian completes an affidavit affirming that alternative educational arrangements have been made for the child. A copy of the required affidavit is attached to this policy.

#### **Discontinuing Enrollment – 5 Year Old Students**

The person seeking to discontinue the enrollment of a student who will not reach six years of age prior to January 1 of the current school year shall submit a signed, written request to the superintendent using the form which is attached to this policy. The school district may request written verification or documentation that the person signing the form has legal or actual charge or control of the student. The school district shall discontinue the enrollment of any student who satisfies these requirements. Any student whose enrollment is discontinued under this subsection shall not be eligible to reenroll in this school district until the beginning of the following school year unless otherwise required by law.

## Discontinuing Enrollment – 16 and 17 Year Old Students

Only children who are at least 16 years of age may be disenrolled from the district. The person seeking to discontinue the child's enrollment shall submit a signed, written request and submit it to the superintendent using the form which is attached to this policy. The district will follow the procedures outlined on the attached form in considering requests to disenroll.

Only children disenrolling to attend a ~~non-accredited~~ exempt school may be exempt from this policy. The person with legal or actual charge or control of the child must provide the superintendent with a copy of the signed request submitted to the State Department of Education for attending ~~non-accredited~~ exempt schools. The superintendent may confirm the validity of the submission with the State Department of Education.

### Attendance Officer

Each building principal is designated as an attendance officer for the district. Each building principal, at his or her discretion, may delegate these responsibilities to any other qualified individual. The attendance officer is responsible for enforcing the provisions of state law relating to compulsory attendance. This responsibility includes but is not limited to filing a report with the county attorney of the county in which a student resides. Compensation for the duties of attendance officer is included in the salary for the superintendent or designee.

### Excused Absences

The following absences will be considered excused if they are confirmed by communication to the school from the student's parent/guardian:

1. Physical or mental illness of the student (a physician's verification is required after four (4) consecutive days of absence for illness)
2. Severe weather
3. Medical appointments for the student
4. Death or serious illness of the student's family member
5. Attending a funeral, wedding or graduation

**Commented [1]:** This sample list is very liberal in what the school considers "excused." Schools that adopt this sample list will have very few students who accrue many "unexcused" absences. Boards may eliminate any of these categories of excused absence except for illness documented by a physician, suspension/expulsion and severe weather. Boards may also add additional requirements before an absence will be excused (e.g. require funeral card to verify family funeral, etc.)

- 6. Appearance at court or for other legal matters
- 7. Observance of religious holidays of the student's own faith
- 8. College planning visits
- 9. Personal or family vacations

**Excessive Absenteeism**

When a student receives 5 unexcused absences or the hourly equivalent in any semester, the Attendance Officer will follow the attached procedure for addressing barriers to the student’s attendance.

**Commented [2]:** The board may select any number of unexcused absences to trigger the meeting requirements.

When a student is absent more than twenty days per year or the hourly equivalent and any portion of the absences is unexcused, the Attendance Officer may/must file a report with the county attorney of the county in which the student resides. For example, if the student accumulates 23 days of excused absences due to documented illness and is tardy one time, the Attendance Officer may file a report with the appropriate county attorney.

**Commented [3]:** The board can require the attendance officer to report to the county attorney by changing "may" to "shall"

Adopted on: \_\_\_\_\_  
Revised on: \_\_\_\_\_  
Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_

**5003**  
**Admission of Part-Time Students**

A student may be permitted to enroll on a part-time basis pursuant to this policy and applicable curricular practices when enrollment is appropriate for reasons that include but are not limited to the following: the student receives alternative instruction on a part-time basis; is enrolled for a limited number of credit hours needed to graduate; has a modified schedule because of a disability or as part of an individualized education plan; or is a student who resides in the school district but attends a private, denominational, or parochial school or a school that elects not to meet accreditation or approval requirements.

**Placement of Students.** Part-time students shall be placed in courses for which they have adequate preparation and which are determined to be educationally appropriate based on criteria that include, but are not limited to the student's age, achievement test scores, academic record, evaluation by school personnel and any other standards used by the district for the placement of students. Students who are enrolled at least half-time are required to take the same academic achievement tests administered to full-time students.

**Grades and Academic Honors.** Part-time students shall receive grades, report cards, and transcripts, but shall not be eligible to graduate, receive a diploma or qualify for class ranking unless they meet all district requirements for such including earning a sufficient number of credit hours and semesters of attendance.

**Transportation.** Part-time school students are not entitled to transportation or reimbursement for transportation by virtue of their status as part-time students.

**Open Enrollment.** Students may not enroll on a part-time basis pursuant to the school's open enrollment program.

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

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

Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_

## 5004 Option Enrollment

The board of education supports the concept embodied in the Enrollment Option Program that parents and legal guardians have the primary responsibility for ensuring that their children receive the best education possible. Accordingly, the school district will participate in the option enrollment program and receive option students as provided herein.

### 1. Definitions

- a. **Option Student Defined.** Option student ~~shall~~ means a nonresident student who has chosen to attend the school district under the provisions of the option enrollment program.
- b. **Resident School District Defined.** Resident school district ~~shall~~ means the school district in which a student resides or in which the student is admitted as a resident of the school district pursuant to state law.
- c. **Option School District Defined.** Option school district ~~shall~~ means the school district that a student chooses to attend other than his or her resident school district.
- d. **Elementary School Defined.** Elementary school means grades K - 6.
- e. **Middle School Defined.** Middle school means grades 7-8.
- e.f. **High School Defined.** High school means grades 9 through 12.

2. **Persons Entitled to Apply for Option Enrollment of Students.** Only parents and legal guardians may apply for option enrollment of students. Applications filed by foster parents and adults acting *in loco parentis* are not authorized and will be automatically denied.

3. **Duties, Entitlements and Rights of Option Students.** Except as otherwise provided herein, once an option student's option enrollment application has been accepted he/she shall be treated as a resident student of the school district.

### 4. Standards for Acceptance or Rejection of Option Students.

- a. **Special Education Capacity.** Capacity for special education services will be determined on a case-by-case basis. If an

application for option enrollment received by the school district indicates that the student has an individualized education program under the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, 20 U.S.C. 1400 et seq., or has been diagnosed-identified as a student with a disability as defined in section 79-1118.01, the application will be evaluated by the director of special education services or the director's designee who must determine if the school district and the appropriate class, grade level, or school building has the capacity to provide the applicant the appropriate services and accommodations. The Federal Educational Rights and Privacy Rights Act (FERPA) (20 U.S.C. § 1232g) permits the release of education records when a student seeks or intends to enroll in a different school district.

- b. Numeric Capacity.** The board of education may set the numeric capacity of programs, classes, grade levels, or school buildings by operation of this policy or through freestanding action by the board. Numeric Capacity will be determined based upon available staff, facilities, projected enrollment of resident students, and projected number of students with which the option school district will contract based on existing contractual arrangements. Individuals seeking information about the numeric capacity set by the board may contact the superintendent for a copy of that resolution.
- c. Programmatic Capacity.** In addition to the numeric capacity standards referred to above, the board may, by resolution, prior to October 15 of each school year, declare a program, a class, or a school unavailable for the next school year to option students due to lack of capacity. Individuals seeking information about the programs that have been declared to be unavailable due to lack of capacity may contact the superintendent for a copy of the board's resolution.
- d. Other Standards for Acceptance or Rejection of Option Enrollment Applications.** In addition to the numeric and programmatic capacity standards outlined above, the school district shall not accept an option student when acceptance of the student:
  - i.** Would increase the operating costs of the school district, such as by requiring the hiring of new staff or contracting with outside entities to provide services to the student;

- ii. Would require the procurement of new equipment, technology, or furnishings;
- iii. Would cause or require the rearrangement of caseloads for staff and contracted professionals;
- iv. Is reasonably deemed by appropriate school staff to pose a potential risk to the health or safety of students or staff;
- v. May pose a risk of adversely affecting the quality of educational services being provided to resident students, as determined by appropriate school staff.

**e. Prohibited Standards.** The school district shall not base the decision to accept or reject an option student on the student's previous academic achievement, athletic or other extracurricular ability, disabling condition(s), proficiency in the English language, or previous disciplinary proceedings.

**f. Order of Acceptance.** If there are more option student applicants for any program, class, grade level or school building than can be accepted into such program, class, grade level or school building, applicants shall be accepted in the following order:

- i. students with brothers or sisters attending the school district, either as resident students or as option students, shall be granted first priority;
- ii. thereafter, option students shall be accepted into such program, class, grade level or school building in the order in which written applications were received by the school district.

**g. Maximum Capacity Report.** The school district will annually establish, publish, and report the capacity for each school building under the district's control pursuant to procedures, criteria, and deadlines established by the Nebraska Department of Education.

**5. False or Misleading Option Applications.** If, prior to the student's attendance as an option student, the school district discovers that a previously accepted option application contained false or substantively misleading information, the option application will be rejected.

**6. Academic Credits and Graduation.** The school district shall accept credits toward graduation that were awarded by another school district,

and shall award a diploma to an option student if the student meets the graduation requirements of the school district.

**7. Information Regarding Schools, Programs, Policies and Procedures.** The school district, its officers and employees, shall make information about the school district and its schools, programs, policies and procedures available to all interested people.

**8. Procedure for Students Optioning Into or Out of the School District.**

**a.** The parent or legal guardian of any student desiring to option into or out of the school district shall submit a proper and timely application to the board of education and the other affected school district for enrollment during the following and subsequent school years. Any application requiring the approval of the school district shall be deemed submitted when the application is actually received in the school district's business office.

**b.** On or before April 1<sup>st</sup>, the school district shall notify the parent or legal guardian of any student who has submitted an application to option into the school district and the resident school district, in writing, whether the application is accepted or rejected. If an application is rejected, the reason for such rejection shall be stated in the notification. This written notice shall be sent via certified mail to the address listed on the option application.

**9. Late Applications and Requests for Release**

**a.** The board of education may refuse a request of a student seeking to option out of the school district when the option application is submitted after March 15<sup>th</sup> under the following conditions:

i. When the district has already entered into contracts with teaching staff for the following school year;

ii. When the district has already contracted for the performance of specific services for the student;

iii. When the release of the student would have a negative financial impact or loss of revenue for the district.

**b.** The board of education will approve late applications to option into the district under the following conditions:

- i. When the resident district has released the student, or if the student is an option student at the time of such application and applying to become an option student at a subsequent option school district, a release approval from the option school district the student is attending at the time of such application;
- ii. When the student's late enrollment into the district meets the standards for acceptance or rejection of option students contained elsewhere in this policy;

## **9. Students Who Do Not Need a Release from the Resident District**

- a. A student does not need to be released from his/her resident district or the option school district the student is attending at the time of application under the following circumstances:
  - i. When the student has relocated to a different resident school district after February 1
  - ii. When a student's option school district merges with another district effective after February 1
- b. The school district shall accept or reject an application from a student under this paragraph using the criteria set forth in this policy and will accept or reject the application within forty-five days.

## **11. Cancellation of Option.**

Students who option either into or out of the school district shall:

- a. Attend the option school district until graduation or relocation/re-option in a different resident school district unless the student chooses to return to the resident school district, in which case the student's parent or legal guardian shall timely submit a cancellation form to the school board or board of education of the option school district and the resident school district for approval for the following year.
- b. Attend an option school district for not less than one school year unless the student relocates to a different resident school district, completes requirements for graduation prior to the end the school year, transfers to a parochial or private school, or upon mutual

agreement of the resident and option school districts cancels the enrollment option and returns to the resident school district.

**12. Authority of Superintendent.**

The board of education authorizes the superintendent of schools to make decisions on its behalf pursuant to and to apply the criteria articulated by this policy in determining whether to grant or deny option enrollment applications.

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

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

Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_

**[NOTE TO BE DELETED: THERE ARE THREE CHOICES FOR  
OPTION TRANSPORTATION BELOW; SELECT ONE AND DELETE  
THE OTHERS]**

**5005**

**~~Option~~ Transportation**

The school district will provide free transportation, partially provide free transportation, or pay an allowance for transportation in lieu of free transportation on each day school is in session to the students who reside in the district and qualify for transportation according to the district's transportation plan. The families of students who will not be provided transportation pursuant to the district's plan or who must drive students to a pick-up point will be reimbursed according to statute if they qualify for such reimbursement. Parents seeking mileage reimbursement must submit requests to the district on forms which may be obtained from the office of the Superintendent of Schools.

When a student who has been attending the district is placed into foster care, school district staff will collaborate with state and local child welfare agencies to determine whether transportation is required under state law when it is in the child's best interest that their school of origin be maintained. The district will only provide transportation to students placed in foster care when the responsible child welfare agency agrees to reimburse the school district for the cost of transportation or when transportation is otherwise required by law. The board designates the **Superintendent of Schools** as the initial point of contact for child welfare agency representatives to discuss transportation issues related to children in foster care.

Students who are homeless will be provided with transportation pursuant to Board Policy 5014.

The district will provide transportation to tuition students in accordance with the contract provisions, if any, for services from the contracting districts.

The use of buses for class parties, field trips, and similar purposes shall require the prior approval of the superintendent or appropriate principal.

**[OPTION 1]. Option Transportation.** The board of education does not provide transportation services or mileage reimbursement for option-enrolled students unless otherwise required by law

**[OPTION 2] Option Transportation.** The board of education provides transportation to option students only if the option student makes arrangements to be picked up and dropped off at preexisting stops along an existing bus route. The district does not provide mileage reimbursement for option-enrolled students unless otherwise required by law.

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

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

Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_

## **5008 Pregnant or Parenting Students**

The District will not discriminate in its education program or activity against any student based on the student's current, potential, or past pregnancy. Students who are pregnant or parenting are encouraged to continue participating in the district's educational and extracurricular programs.

### **I. Accommodations Regarding Attendance and Participation**

#### **A. Generally**

Students who anticipate deviations from their regular school experience or accrue absences due to pregnancy or parenting should notify their building principal as early as possible to discuss their educational programming. The building principal will work with the student to develop a plan to assist the student in participating in district curriculum and extra-curricular activities. Such a plan may include:

1. If the student cannot regularly attend classes, the provision of online courses;
2. The arrangement of meeting times with teachers;
3. If the student has not identified appropriate childcare, the identification of child care providers that meet statutory requirements for quality and care; and
4. All other curricular adjustments, modifications, and means of supplementing classroom attendance deemed appropriate by the school administrators including, but not limited to, modification of attendance policies.

#### **B. Students with Disabilities**

For students with disabilities who have an IEP or Section 504 plan, the administrators, student's parents or guardians, and student if appropriate will collaborate with the student's educational team to coordinate accommodations consistent with state and federal law. As permitted by law, students may be entitled to accommodations as a result of pregnancy.

#### **C. Title IX**

When a student, or a person with a legal right to act on a student's behalf, informs a District employee of the student's pregnancy or related conditions, the District will inform the student of the Title IX Coordinator's contact information. The employee will also inform the

student that the Title IX Coordinator can coordinate actions to prevent sex discrimination and ensure the student's equal access to the District's education program or activity.

The District will make reasonable accommodations to the District's policies, practices, and procedures as necessary to prevent sex discrimination and ensure equal access to the District's education program or activity. The District will coordinate reasonable modifications based on the student's individualized need. The District will consult with the student when determining what reasonable modifications may be appropriate, and the student has the discretion to accept or decline the reasonable modifications offered by the District.

The District will allow the student to voluntarily access any separate and comparable portion of the District's education program or activity. The District will allow the student to voluntarily take a leave of absence from the District's education program or activity to cover, at a minimum, the period of time deemed medically necessary by the student's licensed healthcare provider. Upon the student's return, the student will be reinstated to the student's academic status, and as practicable, to the extracurricular status that the student held when the voluntary leave began.

## **II. Accommodations Regarding Lactation and Breastfeeding**

### **A. Accommodations**

1. In order to accommodate lactating and breastfeeding students, the district will provide reasonable opportunities to express breast milk or breastfeed in a place, other than a bathroom, which is shielded from view and free from intrusion from district students, employees, and the public.
2. Students who wish or need to express breast milk on a regular schedule will work with school administrators to create a schedule which accommodates the student's needs while facilitating education to the maximum extent possible.
3. The district will provide a location for students to store expressed breast milk in or near the location designated for students to express milk to create the least amount of disruption to the student's participation in class or activities.

### **B. Educational Process**

In order to prevent interference with the educational process, no student shall express breast milk within school classrooms or buses. Nothing in this policy limits the authority of the administration to impose consequences consistent with the Student Discipline Act and other state and federal law.

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

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

Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_

**5026**

**Acquisition and Administration of Nasal Glucagon**

The school district may acquire and maintain nasal glucagon from a prescription prescribed by a licensed health care provider. The prescription will be for use on a student experiencing severe hypoglycemia. If a school district acquires nasal glucagon, it will store the nasal glucagon in a secure location, accessible by the school nurse or other trained employee of the school district, and maintained in accordance with the manufacturer’s instructions.

The school nurse or other trained employee of the school district may administer nasal glucagon if a student is experiencing severe hypoglycemia if: (1) the student’s parent or guardian has provided documentation to the school, from the student’s physician, that the student is diagnosed with diabetes, (2) the student’s parent or guardian has consented to the administration of nasal glucagon, and (3) the student’s prescribed glucagon is not available onsite or has expired. The Board may authorize an employee, in addition to a school nurse, if applicable, to administer nasal glucagon if the employee completes training provided by a licensed health care provider. The school district will maintain documentation of each employee who is trained and authorized to administer nasal glucagon. The school district and any of its employees, agents, or personnel will not be held liable for any death, injury, or damage that results from the administration or failure to administer nasal glucagon if the action or inaction constitutes ordinary negligence.

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

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

Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_

## **5035 Student Discipline**

Administrative and teaching personnel may take actions regarding student behavior, other than those specifically provided in this policy and the Student Discipline Act, which are reasonably necessary to aid the student, further school purposes, or prevent interference with the educational process. Such actions may include, but need not be limited to, counseling of students, parent conferences, referral to restorative justice practices or services, rearrangement of schedules, requirements that a student remain in school after regular hours to do additional work, restriction of extracurricular activity, or requirements that a student receive counseling, psychological evaluation, or psychiatric evaluation upon the written consent of a parent or guardian to such counseling or evaluation. Disciplinary consequences may also include in-school suspension, Saturday School, and any other consequence authorized by law. District administrators may develop building-specific protocols for the imposition of student discipline.

Any disciplinary action taken by staff must be consistent with the requirements of other applicable laws, including but not limited to the IDEA, Section 504, and Title IX.

In this policy, references to "Principal" shall include building principals, the principal's designee, or other appropriate school district administrators.

Any statement, notice, recommendation, determination, or similar action specified in this policy shall be effectively given at the time written evidence thereof is delivered personally to or upon receipt of certified or registered mail or upon actual knowledge by a student or his or her parent or guardian.

Any student who is suspended or expelled from school pursuant to this policy may not participate in any school activity during the duration of that exclusion including adjacent school holidays and weekends. The student activity eligibility of a student who is mandatorily reassigned shall be determined on a case-by-case basis by the principal of the building to which the student is reassigned.

### **Pre-Kindergarten through Second Grade Students**

Notwithstanding any other provision of this policy, an elementary school shall not suspend a student in pre-kindergarten through second grade unless the student brings a deadly weapon as defined in section 28-109 on school grounds, in a vehicle owned, leased, or contracted by a school being used for a school purpose or in a vehicle being driven for a school purpose by a school

employee or his or her designee, or at a school-sponsored activity or athletic event. As an alternative to suspension, the school district may take any action authorized by law, including those provided in section 79-258.

### **Makeup Work for Suspended Students**

Any student who is suspended must be given an opportunity to complete any classwork and homework missed during the period of suspension, including, but not limited to, examinations ("makeup work"). Any makeup work must be completed and turned in within 2 school days after completion of the suspension. This makeup guideline shall be provided to the student and a parent or guardian at the time of suspension. Suspended students may not be required to attend the school's alternative program for expelled students in order to complete classwork or homework.

### **Short-Term Suspension**

The Principal may exclude students from school or any school function for a period of up to five school days (short-term suspension) on the following grounds:

1. Conduct constituting grounds for expulsion as hereinafter set forth; or,
2. Other violations of rules and standards of behavior adopted by the Board of Education or the administrative or teaching staff of the school, that occur on or off school grounds, if such conduct interferes with school purposes or there is a connection between such conduct and school.

The following process applies to short-term suspension:

1. The Principal shall make a reasonable investigation of the facts and circumstances. Short-term suspension shall be imposed only after a determination that the suspension is necessary to help any student, to further school purposes, or to prevent an interference with school purposes.
2. Prior to commencement of the short-term suspension, the student will be given oral or written notice of the charges against the student. The student will be advised of what he or she is accused of having done, be given an explanation of the evidence the authorities have, and be given an opportunity to explain the student's version of the facts.
3. Within 24 hours or such additional time as is reasonably necessary, not to exceed an additional 48 hours, following the suspension, the Principal will send a written statement to the student, and the student's parent or guardian, describing the student's conduct, misconduct or violation of the rule or standard and the reasons for the action taken. An

opportunity will be given to the student, and the student's parent or guardian, to have a conference with the Principal ordering the short-term suspension before or at the time the student returns to school and shall document such effort in writing. The Principal shall determine who, in addition to the parent or guardian, is to attend the conference.

4. Students who are short-term suspended must be given the opportunity to complete classwork and homework missed during the period of suspension, including but not limited to examinations, as provided herein.

### **Emergency Exclusion**

Students may be emergency excluded from school pursuant to the board's separate policy on emergency exclusion or state law.

### **Weapons and/or Firearms**

~~Students may be disciplined for the possession of weapons and/or firearms pursuant to the board's separate policy on weapons and firearms or state law.~~

~~**Weapons.** No student may possess, handle, or transmit any weapon while on school grounds, in a school vehicle, or at any school activity or event off school grounds except as permitted by this policy. *Definition of Weapon.* The term "weapon" means any object, device, instrument, material, or substance which is capable of causing injury in the manner it is used or intended to be used.~~

~~**Firearms.** No student may bring, possess, handle or transmit a firearm on school grounds, in a school owned vehicle, or at a school activity or event off school grounds, except as permitted by this policy. *Definition of Firearm.* The term "firearm, as defined in 18 U.S.C. 921, means any weapon (including a starter gun) which will or is designed to or may readily be converted to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive, the frame or receiver of any such weapon, any firearm muffler or firearm silencer, or any destructive device (excluding an antique firearm).~~

~~**Exceptions Regarding Firearms and Weapons.** The only exceptions for a student to bring or possess a weapon, including a firearm, are as follows:~~

- ~~1. The issuance of firearms to or possession of firearms by members of the Reserve Officers Training Corps when training or~~
- ~~2. Firearms which may lawfully be possessed by the person receiving instruction under the immediate supervision of an adult instructor who may lawfully possess firearms.~~

**Consequences - Firearm.** Any student who brings a firearm, as that term is defined in 18 United States Code 921, to school will be expelled from school for one calendar year. The superintendent of schools and the board of education shall have the authority to modify the expulsion requirement on a case-by-case basis.

**Consequences – Weapon.** State law and this policy provide that any student who violates this policy by knowingly bringing, possessing, handling or transmitting a weapon, other than a firearm, on school grounds, in a school owned vehicle, or at a school activity or event off school grounds may be suspended on a long-term basis, mandatorily reassigned, or expelled for the remainder of the school year in which the expulsion takes effect (if the misconduct occurs during the first semester) or the remainder of the second semester, summer school, and the first semester of the following school year (if the misconduct occurs during the second semester).

**Confiscation of Firearms and Weapons.** Administrative and teaching personnel are statutorily authorized, without a warrant, to confiscate any firearm or weapon possessed in violation of this policy. Any firearm that is confiscated by school personnel shall be delivered to a peace officer as soon as practicable. Such firearms are subject to being destroyed by law enforcement authorities.

**Report to Law Enforcement Authorities.** All school personnel are required to report any violation of this policy to a principal or the superintendent of schools. Pursuant to state and federal law, school personnel are required to report to law enforcement authorities when a student brings a firearm to school.

## **Long-Term Suspension**

Students may be excluded by the Principal from school or any school function for a period of more than five school days but less than twenty school days (long-term suspension) for any conduct constituting grounds for expulsion as hereinafter set forth. The process for long-term suspension is set forth below.

## **Expulsion**

1. **Meaning of Expulsion.** Expulsion means exclusion from attendance in all schools, grounds and activities of or within the system for a period not to exceed the remainder of the semester in which it took effect unless the misconduct occurred (a) within ten school days prior to the end of the first semester, in which case the expulsion shall remain in effect through the second semester, or (b) within ten school days prior

to the end of the second semester, in which case the expulsion shall remain in effect for summer school and the first semester of the following school year, or (c) unless the expulsion is for conduct specified in these rules or in law as permitting or requiring a longer removal, in which case the expulsion shall remain in effect for the period specified therein. Such action may be modified or terminated by the school district at any time during the expulsion period.

2. **Summer Review.** Any expulsion that will remain in effect during the first semester of the following school year will be automatically scheduled for review before the beginning of the school year. The review will be conducted by the hearing officer who conducted the initial expulsion hearing, or a hearing officer appointed by the Superintendent in the event no hearing was previously held or the initial hearing officer is no longer available or willing to serve, after the hearing officer has given notice of the review to the student and the student's parent or guardian. This review shall be limited to newly discovered evidence or evidence of changes in the student's circumstances occurring since the original hearing. This review may lead to a recommendation by the hearing officer that the student be readmitted for the upcoming school year. If the school board or board of education or a committee of such board took the final action to expel the student, the student may be readmitted only by action of the board. Otherwise the student may be readmitted by action of the Superintendent.
3. **Suspension of Enforcement of an Expulsion:** Enforcement of an expulsion action may be suspended (i.e., "stayed") for a period of not more than one full semester in addition to the balance of the semester in which the expulsion takes effect, and as a condition of such suspended action, the student may be assigned to a school, class, or program/plan and to such other consequences which the school district deems appropriate.
4. **Alternative School or Pre-expulsion Procedures.** The school shall either provide an alternative school, class or educational program for expelled students, or shall follow the pre-expulsion procedures outlined in NEB. REV. STAT. 79-266.
5. **Conclusion of Expulsion.** At the conclusion of an expulsion, the school district will reinstate the student and accept nonduplicative, grade-appropriate credits earned by the student during the term of expulsion from any Nebraska accredited institution or institution accredited by one of the six regional accrediting bodies in the United States.

**Grounds for Long-Term Suspension, Expulsion or Mandatory Reassignment:**

The following conduct constitutes grounds for long-term suspension, expulsion, or mandatory reassignment, subject to the procedural provisions of the Student Discipline Act, NEB. REV. STAT. § 79-254 through 79-296, when such activity occurs on school grounds, in a vehicle owned, leased, or contracted by a school being used for a school purpose or in a vehicle being driven for a school purpose by a school employee or by his or her designee, or at a school-sponsored activity or athletic event:

1. Use of violence, force, coercion, threat, intimidation, or similar conduct in a manner that constitutes a substantial interference with school purposes.; The board has determined that the use of synthetic media such as deepfakes may constitute "similar conduct";
2. Willfully causing or attempting to cause substantial damage to property, stealing or attempting to steal property of substantial value, or repeated damage or theft involving property;
3. Causing or attempting to cause personal injury to a school employee, to a school volunteer, or to any student. Personal injury caused by accident, self-defense, or other action undertaken on the reasonable belief that it was necessary to protect some other person shall not constitute a violation of this subdivision;
4. Threatening or intimidating any student for the purpose of or with the intent of obtaining money or anything of value from such student;
5. Knowingly possessing, handling, or transmitting any object or material that is ordinarily or generally considered a weapon (*see also board policy on weapons and firearms*);
6. Engaging in the unlawful possession, selling, dispensing, or use of a controlled substance or an imitation controlled substance, as defined in section 28-401, a substance represented to be a controlled substance, or alcoholic liquor as defined in section 53-103.02 or being under the influence of a controlled substance or alcoholic liquor (*note: the term "under the influence" for school purposes has a less strict meaning than it does under criminal law; for school purposes, the term means any level of impairment and includes even the odor of alcohol on the breath or person of a student; also, it includes being impaired by reason of the abuse of any material used as a stimulant*);
7. Public indecency as defined in section 28-806, except that this prohibition shall apply only to students at least twelve years of age but less than nineteen years of age;
8. Engaging in bullying as defined in section 79-2,137 and in these policies;
9. Sexually assaulting or attempting to sexually assault any person if a complaint has been filed by a prosecutor in a court of competent jurisdiction alleging that the student has sexually assaulted or attempted to sexually assault any person, including sexual assaults or attempted sexual assaults which occur off school grounds not at a school

function, activity, or event. For purposes of this subdivision, sexual assault means sexual assault in the first degree as defined in section 28-319, sexual assault in the second degree as defined in section 28-320, sexual assault of a child in the second or third degree as defined in section 28-320.01, or sexual assault of a child in the first degree as defined in section 28-319.01, as such sections now provide or may hereafter from time to time be amended;

10. Engaging in any other activity forbidden by the laws of the State of Nebraska which activity constitutes a danger to other students or interferes with school purposes; or
11. A repeated violation of any of the following rules if such violations constitute a substantial interference with school purposes:
  - a. The use of language, written or oral, or conduct, including gestures, which is profane or abusive to students or staff members. Profane or abusive language or conduct includes, but is not limited to, that which is commonly understood and intended to be derogatory toward a group or individual based upon race, gender, national origin, or religion;
  - b. Dressing or grooming in a manner which violates the school district's dress code and/or is dangerous to the student's health and safety, a danger to the health and safety of others, or which is disruptive, distracting or indecent to the extent that it interferes with the learning and educational process;
  - c. Violating school bus rules as set by the school district or district staff;
  - d. Possessing, using, selling, or dispensing tobacco, drug paraphernalia, an electronic nicotine delivery system, or a tobacco imitation substance or packaging, regardless of form, including cigars, cigarettes, chewing tobacco, and any other form of tobacco, tobacco derivative product or imitation or electronic cigarettes, vapor pens, etc.;
  - e. Possessing, using, selling, or dispensing any drug paraphernalia or imitation of a controlled substance regardless of whether the actual substance possessed is a controlled substance by Nebraska law;
  - f. Possession of pornography, including creation, possession, dissemination, accessing, sale, or any other use of synthetic media, such as deepfakes;
  - g. Sexting or the possession of sexting images (a combination of sex and texting - the act of sending sexually explicit messages or photos electronically), including creation, possession, dissemination, accessing, sale, or any other use of synthetic media, such as deepfakes;

- h. Engaging in hazing, defined as any activity expected of someone joining a group, team, or activity that humiliates, degrades or risks emotional and/or physical harm, regardless of the person's willingness to participate. Hazing activities are generally considered to be: physically abusive, hazardous, and/or sexually violating and include but are not limited to the following: personal servitude; sleep deprivation and restrictions on personal hygiene; yelling, swearing and insulting new members/newbies; being forced to wear embarrassing or humiliating attire in public; consumption of vile substances or smearing of such on one's skin; branding; physical beatings; binge drinking and drinking games; sexual simulation and sexual assault;
- i. Bullying which shall include cyberbullying, defined as the use of the internet, including but not limited to social networking sites such as Facebook, cell phones or other devices to send, post or text message images and material intended to hurt or embarrass another person. This may include, but is not limited to; continuing to send e-mail to someone who has said they want no further contact with the sender; sending or posting threats, sexual remarks or pejorative labels (i.e., hate speech); ganging up on victims by making them the subject of ridicule in forums, and posting false statements as fact intended to humiliate the victim; disclosure of personal data, such as the victim's real name, address, or school at websites or forums; posing as the identity of the victim for the purpose of publishing material in their name that defames or ridicules them; sending threatening and harassing text, instant messages or emails to the victims; and posting or sending rumors or gossip to instigate others to dislike and gang up on the target;
- j. Violations of the district's acceptable computer use policy;
- k. Knowingly possessing, handling, or transmitting any object or material that is ordinarily or generally considered a simulated or "look-a-like" weapon;
- l. Using any object to simulate possession of a weapon;
- m. Knowingly making a false statement or knowingly submitting false information during the Title IX grievance process or any other school investigation or making a materially false statement in bad faith in the course of a Title IX grievance proceeding or any other school investigation;
- n. Violation of the school's audio and video recording policy; and
- o. Any other violation of any board policy, handbook provision, or rule or regulation established by a school district staff member pursuant to authority delegated by the board.

## **Due Process Afforded to Students Facing Long-term Suspension or Expulsion**

The following procedures shall be followed regarding any long-term suspension, expulsion, or mandatory reassignment:

1. The decision to recommend discipline shall be made within two school days after learning of the alleged student misconduct. On the date of the decision to discipline, the Principal shall file with the Superintendent a written charge and a summary of the evidence supporting such charge.
2. The Principal shall serve the student and the student's parents or guardian with a written notice by registered or certified mail or personal service within two school days of the date of the decision to recommend long-term suspension or expulsion. The notice shall include the following:
  - a. The rule or standard of conduct allegedly violated and the acts of the student alleged to constitute a cause for long-term suspension, expulsion, or mandatory reassignment, including a summary of the evidence to be presented against the student;
  - b. The penalty, if any, which the principal has recommended in the charge and any other penalty to which the student may be subject;
  - c. A statement that, before long-term suspension, expulsion, or mandatory reassignment can be invoked, the student has a right to a hearing, upon request, and that if the student is suspended pending the outcome of the hearing, the student may complete classwork and homework, including, but not limited to, examinations, missed during the period of suspension pursuant to district guidelines which shall not require the student to attend the school district's alternative programs for expelled students in order to complete classwork or;
  - d. A description of the hearing procedures provided by the act, along with procedures for appealing any decision rendered at the hearing;
  - e. A statement that the principal, legal counsel for the school, the student, the student's parent, or the student's representative or guardian has the right (i) to examine the student's academic and disciplinary records and any affidavits to be used at the hearing concerning the alleged misconduct and (ii) to know the identity of the witnesses to appear at the hearing and the substance of their testimony; and
  - f. A form on which the student, the student's parent, or the student's guardian may request a hearing, to be signed by such parties and

delivered to the principal or superintendent in person or by registered or certified mail to the address provided on the form.

3. When a notice of intent to discipline a student by long-term suspension, expulsion, or mandatory reassignment is filed with the superintendent, the student may be suspended by the principal until the date the long-term suspension, expulsion, or mandatory reassignment takes effect, if the principal determines that the student must be suspended immediately to prevent or substantially reduce the risk of (a) interference with an educational function or school purpose or (b) a personal injury to the student himself or herself, other students, school employees, or school volunteers.
4. Nothing in this policy shall preclude the student, student's parents, guardian or representative from discussing and settling the matter with appropriate school personnel prior to the time the long-term suspension, expulsion, or mandatory reassignment takes effect.
5. If a hearing is requested within five days after receipt of the notice, the Superintendent shall recommend appointment of a hearing examiner within two school days after receipt of the hearing request. The student or the student's parent or guardian may request designation of a hearing examiner other than the hearing examiner recommended by the superintendent if notice of the request is given to the superintendent within two school days after receipt of the superintendent's recommended appointment. Upon receiving such request, the superintendent must provide one alternative hearing examiner who is not an employee of the school district or otherwise currently under contract with the school district and whose impartiality may not otherwise be reasonably questioned. The student or the student's parent or guardian must, within five school days, select a hearing examiner to conduct the hearing who was recommended or provided as an alternative hearing examiner, and shall notify the superintendent in writing of the selection. The superintendent must appoint the selected hearing examiner upon receipt of such notice.
6. The hearing examiner must, within two school days after being appointed, give written notice to the principal, the student, and the student's parent or guardian of the time and place for the hearing.
7. The hearing shall be held within a period of five school days after appointment of the hearing examiner, but such time may be changed by the hearing examiner for good cause with consent of the parties. No hearing shall be held upon less than two school days' actual notice to the principal, the student, and the student's parent or guardian, except with the consent of all the parties.
8. The principal or legal counsel for the school, the student, and the student's parent, guardian, or representative have the right to receive

a copy of all records and written statements referred to in the Student Discipline Act as well as the statement of any witness in the possession of the school board or board of education no later than forty-eight hours prior to the hearing.

9. If a hearing is requested more than five school days following the receipt of the written notice, but not more than thirty calendar days after receipt, the Superintendent shall appoint a hearing examiner. The hearing will be held according to the requirements of section 79-269. The student shall be entitled to a hearing but the consequence imposed may continue in effect pending final determination.
10. If a request for hearing is not received within thirty calendar days following the mailing or delivery of the written notice, the student shall not be entitled to a hearing.

In the event a hearing is requested, the hearing, hearing procedures, the student's rights and any appeals or judicial review permitted by law shall be governed by the applicable provisions of the Nebraska Student Discipline Act (NEB. REV. STAT. § 79-254 to 79-294).

### **Reporting Requirement to Law Enforcement**

Violations of this section will result in a report to law enforcement if:

1. The violation includes possession of a firearm;
2. The violation results in child abuse;
3. It is a violation of the Nebraska Criminal Code that the administration believes cannot be adequately addressed solely by discipline from the school district;
4. It is a violation of the Nebraska Criminal Code that endangers the health and welfare of staff or students;
5. It is a violation of the Nebraska Criminal Code that interferes with school purposes;
6. The report is required or requested by law enforcement or the county attorney.

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

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

Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_

## 5049

### **Firearms and Weapons - Students**

[Intentionally Left Blank]

**Weapons.** ~~No student may possess, handle, or transmit any weapon while on school grounds or at any school activity or event off school grounds except as permitted by this policy. No visitor under the age of 18 may possess, handle, or transmit any weapon while on school grounds or at any school activity or event off school grounds except as permitted by this policy.~~

**Definition of Weapon.** ~~The term "weapon" means any object, device, instrument, material, or substance which is capable of causing injury in the manner it is used or intended to be used.~~

**Firearms.** ~~No person student may bring, possess, handle or transmit a firearm on school grounds, in a school owned vehicle, or at a school activity or event off school grounds, except as permitted by this policy.~~

**Definition of Firearm.** ~~The term "firearm, as defined in 18 U.S.C. 921, means any weapon (including a starter gun) which will or is designed to or may readily be converted to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive, the frame or receiver of any such weapon, any firearm muffler or firearm silencer, or any destructive device (excluding an antique firearm).~~

**Exceptions Regarding Firearms.** ~~The prohibition against firearms does not apply to:~~

- ~~1. The issuance of firearms to or possession by members of the armed forces of the United States, active or reserve, National Guard of this State, or Reserve Officers Training Corps or peace officers or other duly authorized law enforcement officers when on duty or training; or~~
- ~~2. Firearms that may lawfully be possessed by a person who is receiving instruction at the school under the immediate supervision of an adult instructor;~~
- ~~3. Firearms which may lawfully be possessed by a person for the purpose of using them, with the approval of the school, in a historical reenactment, in a hunter education program, or as part of an honor guard;~~
- ~~4. Firearms contained within a private vehicle **operated by a nonstudent adult** that are not loaded **and** are encased or are in a locked firearm rack that is on a motor vehicle; or~~

~~5. A handgun carried as a concealed handgun by a nonstudent adult who holds a valid permit issued under the Concealed Handgun Permit Act in a vehicle or on his or her person while riding in or on a vehicle into or onto any parking area, which is open to the public and used by the school if, prior to exiting the vehicle, the handgun is locked inside the glove box, trunk, or other compartment of the vehicle, a storage box securely attached to the vehicle, or, if the vehicle is a motorcycle, a hardened compartment securely attached to the motorcycle while the vehicle is in or on such parking area, except as prohibited by federal law.~~

~~**Definition of Encased.** The term "encased" means enclosed in a case that is expressly made for the purpose of containing a firearm and that is completely zipped, snapped, buckled, tied, or otherwise fastened with no part of the firearm exposed.~~

~~**Exceptions for Students.** The only exceptions for a student to bring or possess a weapon, including a firearm, are as follows:~~

~~The issuance of firearms to or possession of firearms by members of the Reserve Officers Training Corps when training or~~  
~~1. Firearms which may lawfully be possessed by the person receiving instruction under the immediate supervision of an adult instructor who may lawfully possess firearms.~~

- ~~1. The firearm or weapon has been brought to school grounds or to an activity or event off school grounds for some educational purpose;~~
- ~~2. The person bringing the firearm or weapon has requested and received the prior approval of both the instructor and the building principal to do so; and~~
- ~~3. All arrangements to use and store the firearm or weapon safely while it is on school premises have been agreed to and carried out.~~

~~**Consequences - Firearm.** Any student who brings a firearm, as that term is defined in 18 United States Code 921, to school will be expelled from school for one calendar year. The superintendent of schools and the board of education shall have the authority to modify the expulsion requirement on a case-by-case basis.~~

~~**Consequences - Weapon.** State law and this policy provide that any student who violates this policy by knowingly bringing, possessing, handling~~

~~or transmitting a weapon, other than a firearm, on school grounds, in a school owned vehicle, or at a school activity or event off school grounds may be suspended on a long-term basis, mandatorily reassigned, or expelled for the remainder of the school year in which the expulsion takes effect (if the misconduct occurs during the first semester) or the remainder of the second semester, summer school, and the first semester of the following school year (if the misconduct occurs during the second semester).~~

~~**Confiscation of Firearms.**— Administrative and teaching personnel are statutorily authorized, without a warrant, to confiscate any firearm possessed in violation of this policy. By statute, any firearm that is confiscated by school personnel shall be delivered to a peace officer as soon as practicable. Such firearms are subject to being destroyed by law enforcement authorities.~~

~~**Report to Law Enforcement Authorities.** All school personnel are required to report any violation of this policy to a principal or the superintendent of schools. Pursuant to state and federal law, school personnel are required to report to law enforcement authorities when a student brings a firearm or weapon to school.~~

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

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

Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_

## **5052 School Wellness**

The school district is committed to providing a school environment that enhances learning and the development of lifelong wellness. The goals outlined in this policy were determined and selected after reviewing and considering evidence-based strategies.<sup>1</sup>

### **Goals for Nutrition Promotion and Education**

- The district will promote healthy food and beverage choices for all students, as well as encourage participation in school meal programs by such methods as implementing evidence-based healthy food promotion techniques through the school meal programs and promoting foods and beverages that meet or exceed the USDA Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards.
- The health curriculum will include information on good nutrition and healthy living habits. Teachers will incorporate information on nutrition and wellness into the classroom curriculum as appropriate.
- The district will collaborate with public and private entities to promote student wellness.
- Water will be made available to students throughout the school day.

### **Goals for Physical Activity**

- The school district's curriculums shall include instruction on physical activity and habits for healthy living.
- Students will be encouraged to engage in physical activities throughout the school day and will be provided with opportunities to do so.

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<sup>1</sup> These strategies include, but are not necessarily limited to, those cited in the Alliance for a Healthier Generation's Model Wellness Policy (Updated 9/2016 to Reflect the USDA Final Rule) found at [https://www.healthiergeneration.org/asset/wtqdwu/14-6372\\_ModelWellnessPolicy.doc](https://www.healthiergeneration.org/asset/wtqdwu/14-6372_ModelWellnessPolicy.doc).

- The district encourages parents and guardians to support their children's participation in physical activity, to be physically active role models, and to include physical activity in family events.

### **Goals for Other School-Based Activities Designed to Promote Student Wellness**

- The district will participate in state and federal child nutrition programs as appropriate.
- The district will provide professional development, support, and resources for staff about student wellness.
- Students will be provided sufficient time in which to eat school-provided meals.
- The district's lunchrooms will be attractive and well-lighted.
- The district will allow other health-related entities to use school facilities for activities such as health clinics and screenings so long as the activities meet the district's requirements and criteria for the use of facilities.
- The district may partner with other individuals or entities in the community to support the implementation of this policy.
- The district will strive to provide physical activity breaks for all students, recess for elementary students, and before and after school activities, as well as encourage students to use active transport (walking, biking, etc.)
- The district will use evidence-based strategies to develop, structure, and support student wellness.

### **Standards and Nutrition Guidelines for All Foods and Beverages Sold to Students on the School Campus and During the School Day**

- The district will ensure that student access to foods and beverages meet federal, state and local laws and guidelines including, but not limited to:

- USDA National School Lunch and School Breakfast nutrition standards
- USDA Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards.
- The district will offer students a variety of age-appropriate, healthy food and beverage selections with plenty of fruits, vegetables, and whole grains aimed at meeting the nutrition needs of students within their calorie requirements in order to promote student health and reduce childhood obesity.

**Standards for All Foods and Beverages Provided, But Not Sold to Students During the School Day**

The district may provide a list of healthy party ideas or food and beverage alternatives to parents, teachers, and students for classroom parties, rewards and incentives, or classroom snacks. The district discourages the use of food and beverages as a reward or incentive for performance or behavior.

**Food and Beverage Marketing**

Marketing and advertising is only allowed on school grounds or at school activities for foods and beverages that meet or exceed the USDA Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards, except as follows:

- This requirement does not apply to marketing that occurs at events outside of school hours such as after school sporting or any other events, including school fundraising events.
- The district will not immediately replace menu boards, coolers, tray liners, beverage cups, and other food service equipment with depictions of noncompliant products or logos to comply with the new USDA Smart Snacks in Schools nutrition requirements. All previously purchased products will be used, and all existing contracts honored.
- All equipment that currently displays noncompliant marketing materials will not be removed or replaced (e.g., a score board with a Coca-Cola logo). However, as the district reviews and considers new contracts, and as scoreboards or other such durable equipment are replaced or updated over time, any products that are marketed and advertised will meet or exceed the USDA Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards

## Public Participation

Parents, students, representatives of the school food authority, teachers, school health professionals, board members, school administrators, and members of the general public shall be allowed to provide their input to the school district during the wellness policy adoption and review process.

## Competitive Foods (Includes Food and Beverages Sold in Vending Machines, School Stores, and Fundraisers ~~or in Competition with the National School Lunch and Breakfast Programs~~)

- Definitions. “Competitive food” means all food and beverages other than meals reimbursed under programs authorized by the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act and the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 available for sale to students on the school campus during the school day. For the purpose of competitive food standards implementation, “school day” means the period from the midnight before to 30 minutes after the end of the official school day.
- Applicability. Except as otherwise allowed by the South Dakota Department of Education or applicable law, all competitive foods ~~and beverages~~ sold during the school day ~~as part of a fundraiser or for any other purpose in competition with the National School Lunch and Breakfast Programs~~ must meet the USDA Smart Snacks Standards and the nutrition standards found in 7 CFR § 210.11. nutrition standards of those programs. The competitive food restrictions do not apply to food sold during non-school day hours, weekends, and off-campus fundraising events such as concessions during after-school sporting events, school plays or concerts; or to bulk food items that are sold for consumption at home. (Ex: frozen pizzas, cookie dough tubs, etc.)
- Fundraiser food or beverages are NOT exempt from the USDA Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards. Therefore, if food is sold as a fundraiser:
  - It shall not be sold in competition with school meals in the food service area during the meal service.

- It shall not be sold or otherwise made available to students anywhere on school premises during the period beginning one half hour prior to the serving period for breakfast and/or lunch and lasting until one half hour after the serving of breakfast and/or lunch.
- The sale of food items during the school day shall meet the USDA Smart Snacks in School nutrition requirements
- This restriction does not apply to food sold during non-school hours, weekends, and off-campus fundraising events such as concessions during after-school sporting events, school plays or concerts; or to bulk food items that are sold for consumption at home. (Ex: frozen pizzas, cookie dough tubs, etc.)

### **Triennial Assessment**

The school board shall assess and review this policy at least every three years to determine:

- Compliance with this policy;
- How this policy compares to South Dakota DOE model wellness policies;
- Progress made in attaining the goals of this policy.

The school board will update or modify this policy as appropriate.

### **Public Notice**

The school district will provide notice of this policy at least annually to the public and other stakeholders identified in this policy by one or more of the following methods: on its webpage, in its newsletter, in the student and employee handbooks, newspaper advertisements, direct mailings, electronic mail, and public postings.

The school district will provide notice of the Triennial Assessment and progress reports towards meeting the goals in this policy using one or more of those same methods.

### **Recordkeeping**

The District will retain records to document compliance with the requirements of the wellness policy at its central office.

**Operational Responsibility**

The superintendent is responsible for coordinating the implementation of this policy and for monitoring the district’s progress in meeting the goals established by this policy. The superintendent will periodically report to the board on the district’s progress in implementing this policy.

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

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

Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_

**6025**  
**Student Cell Phone and Other Electronic Devices**

Students may use cell phones or other electronic devices while at school, so long as they do so safely, responsibly and respectfully and comply with all other school rules while using these devices.

By bringing their cell phones and other electronic communication devices to school, students consent to the search of said devices by school staff when permitted by law.

Students may not have cell phones or electronic devices on while they are in locker rooms, restrooms, or any other area in which others may have a reasonable expectation of privacy.

The taking, disseminating, transferring, or sharing of obscene, pornographic, lewd, or otherwise illegal images or photographs, whether by electronic data transfer or otherwise (including things like texting, sexting, emailing, etc.) may constitute a crime under state and/or federal law. Any person engaged in these activities while on school grounds, in a school vehicle or at a school activity will be subject to the disciplinary procedures of the student code of conduct.

While on school property, at a school activity, or in a school vehicle, students may not use their cell phones or electronic devices to bully, harass, or intimidate any other person as governed by the student code of conduct.

Students shall be personally and solely responsible for the security of their electronic devices. The district is not responsible for theft, loss or damage of any electronic device, including any calls or downloads.

Students who violate this policy may have their cell phones or electronic devices confiscated immediately. The administration will return confiscated devices to the parent or guardian of the offending student, after meeting with the parent or guardian to discuss the rule violation. Students who violate this policy may, at the discretion of the school's administration, be subject to additional discipline, up to and including suspension or expulsion.

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

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

Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_

## 6032 Selection and Review of Library Media

The board approves curriculum and curriculum-related materials for the district with input from administrators and staff. Those processes are covered in other board policies. Staff members seeking to procure materials for use during instruction must follow board policy, practices, and directives. Those items are not covered by this policy.

The district procures library books and other media available to students that are not part of a specific class or curriculum. For purposes of this policy, those will be called library materials. This policy addresses the selection and review of library materials, regardless of their source. This policy applies regardless of whether library materials are purchased using district funds, donated, or shared at no cost to the district.

**Protection from Obscenity.** The Board has implemented a web filter on its server to limit students' ability to access obscene material on the internet. Further, the Board has implemented the following selection and review processes to limit potential obscene materials that could be located in hard copy format in school libraries.

**No Right to Materials.** The board supports having excellent educational opportunities for students, including availability of library materials used to enrich the educational experience. However, the board and administration are responsible for considering materials based on a variety of factors and legal obligations. There is no right to force any material to be included or excluded. Staff requesting library materials do so only within the course and scope of their employment with the district.

**Selection Process.** The selection and approval of new library materials must comply with the district's general requisition, donation, and budgeting requirements. To ensure materials selected are appropriate for the district's students and consistent with the district's legal obligations, the following process applies to selection of library materials.

**[OPTION 1: PRINCIPAL OR SUPERINTENDENT REVIEW]** The school librarian, media specialist, or any individual requesting library materials is responsible for submitting the request in writing to the building principal or to superintendent if there is no principal assigned to the building. The request must include the following

1. Name of the book, material, or resource;
2. The author, publisher, and supplier of the material;
3. The physical medium (*i.e.*, book, magazine, video, game, digital subscription, etc.);
4. The cost of the material;
5. A summary of the content of the material, including how it supports age-appropriate learning objectives, enriches the curriculum, and/or supports student development and learning;
6. The material's accolades, such as presence on best seller lists, awards won, and recommendations from professional library journals and organizations with a focus on K-12 school library materials; and
7. Whether any of the content in the material represents a perspective that may not be universal, such as a political, religious, or social perspective for which disagreement or differences of opinion exist. The summary should include a description of these items.

The building principal or superintendent will review the library material request and inform the requester whether the material will be accepted or denied. Materials which require expenditure of district funds will be processed consistently with the district's purchasing and procurement policies and practices. There is no appeal from this determination.

**[OPTION 2: COMMITTEE REVIEW]** The superintendent will establish a library material review committee on an as-needed basis, consisting of at least one administrator, one teacher, and the librarian or media specialist. If the district has no assigned librarian or media specialist, then the committee will include two administrators and a teacher. The superintendent may appoint any teacher he or she deems appropriate based on availability and expertise related to the requested materials.

The school librarian, media specialist, or any individual requesting inclusion of library materials is responsible for submitting the request in writing to the library material review committee. The request must include the following

1. Name of the book, material, or resource;
2. The author, publisher, and supplier of the material;
3. The physical medium (*i.e.*, book, magazine, video, game, digital subscription, etc.);
4. The cost of the material;
5. A summary of the content of the material, including how it supports age-appropriate learning objectives, enriches the curriculum, and/o supports student development and learning;

6. The material's accolades, such as presence on best seller lists, awards won, and recommendations from professional library journals and organizations with a focus on K-12 school library materials; and
7. Whether any of the content in the material represents a perspective that may not be universal, such as a political, religious, or social perspective for which disagreement or differences of opinion exist. The summary should include a description of these items.

The committee will review the requested materials within the timeframe established by the superintendent. In the event the committee does not agree on a particular request, the administrator makes the final determination. There is no appeal from this determination.

**Requested Review of Library Materials.** A concerned parent of a current student or patron living within the school district boundaries may request the review of a specific library material (*i.e.*, a specific book, magazine, etc.) or portion of a specific library material. The parent or patron must first discuss their concern with the building principal and explain their concern regarding the library material. If there is no principal assigned to that building, the parent or patron should discuss their concern with the superintendent. The board believes most concerns will be resolved in this manner.

[**OPTION 1: SUPERINTENDENT REVIEW**] If the parent or patron is dissatisfied after the informal review and discussion with the relevant administrator, they may request a review in writing. To request a review, the individual must complete the Library Material Review Request form and submit it to the superintendent.

The superintendent will review the request within a reasonable time after receiving it. The superintendent may consult with the school's librarian or media specialist, staff, and legal counsel at his or her discretion. The superintendent may decide to remove the material, keep the material, restrict access to the material to students based on age or grade level, or make any other determination the superintendent deems appropriate. The superintendent's decision regarding the review will be communicated to the requester in writing.

The decision of the superintendent is final, and the board will not hear any appeal regarding the review of library material.

## **Additional Rules for Library Media Review.**

Additional Rules for Library Media Review. The following rules will apply to the entire review procedure:

- This review procedure is limited to children enrolled in the district and to parents of students enrolled in the district.
- Unless the superintendent decides otherwise, the library material will remain in circulation while a review is pending.
- Unless otherwise required by law, no library material will be reviewed again within 5 years after a requested review is completed.
- This policy can only be used by an individual once a year.
- Any parent or patron requesting review of multiple library materials may only request a maximum of 5 materials to be reviewed at one time, and a new request cannot be submitted until the prior review is completed and notice of the determination is provided to the requesting party.

Nothing in this policy prohibits the superintendent or their designee from reviewing library material outside of the review process contained in this policy and taking any action the superintendent or their designee deems appropriate.~~Unless the superintendent decides otherwise, the library material will remain in circulation while a review is pending. Unless otherwise required by law, no library material will be reviewed again within 4 years after a requested review is completed. Any parent or patron requesting review of multiple library materials may only request a maximum of 5 materials to be reviewed at one time, and a new request cannot be submitted until the prior review is completed and notice of the determination is provided to the requesting party. Nothing in this policy prohibits the superintendent or their designee from reviewing library material outside of the review process contained in this policy and taking any action the superintendent or their designee deems appropriate.~~

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

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

Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_

**6036**  
**Reading Instruction and Intervention Services**

The purpose of this policy is to facilitate reading instruction and intervention services to address student reading needs, including, but not limited to, dyslexia. It is the school district's goal that each student be able to read at or above grade level by third grade.

**Effective Reading Teachers.** It is the intent of the school district to employ teachers for kindergarten through third grade who are effective reading teachers as evidenced by (a) evaluations based on classroom observations and student improvement on reading assessments or (b) specialized training in reading improvement.

**Reading Assessment.** The school district will administer a reading assessment approved by the Nebraska Department of Education three times during the school year to all students in kindergarten through third grade. Exceptions to this requirement include:

- Any student receiving specialized instruction for limited English proficiency who has been receiving such instruction for less than two years;
- Any student receiving special education services for whom such assessment would conflict with the individualized education plan; and
- Any student receiving services under a plan pursuant to the requirements of section 504 of the federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 29 U.S.C. 794, or Title II of the federal Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, 42 U.S.C. 12131 to 12165, as such acts and sections existed on January 1, 2018, for whom such assessment would conflict with such section 504 or Title II plan.

The first assessment for kindergarten students must occur within the first 45 calendar days that school is in session of each school year. For all other grades, the first assessment must occur within the first 30 calendar days that school is in session of each school year.

Diagnostic assessments used within a supplemental reading intervention program do not require Nebraska Department of Education approval.

**Deficiency Identification.** Any student in kindergarten through third grade performing below the threshold level as determined by the Nebraska Department of Education shall be identified as having a reading deficiency for purposes of the Nebraska Reading Improvement Act and this policy. A student who is identified as having a reading deficiency shall remain identified as having a reading deficiency until the student performs at or above the

threshold level on an approved reading assessment. Nothing in the Nebraska Reading Improvement Act or this policy shall prohibit a school district from identifying any other student as having a reading deficiency.

**Supplemental Reading Intervention Program.** The school district will provide a supplemental reading intervention program to ensure that students can read at or above grade level at the end of third grade. The school district may work collaboratively with a reading specialist at the Nebraska Department of Education, with educational service units, with learning communities, or through interlocal agreements to develop and provide such supplemental reading intervention programs. Each supplemental reading intervention program must be:

- Provided to any student identified as having a reading deficiency;
- Implemented during regular school hours in addition to regularly scheduled reading instruction unless otherwise agreed to by a parent or guardian; and
- Made available as a summer reading program between each summer for any student who has been enrolled in grade one, grade two, or grade three or in a higher grade and is identified as continuing to have a reading deficiency at the conclusion of the school year preceding such summer reading program. The summer reading program may be held in conjunction with existing summer programs in the school district or in a community reading program not affiliated with the school district or offered online.

The supplemental reading intervention program may also include:

- Reading intervention practices that are evidence-based;
- Diagnostic assessments to identify specific skill-based strengths and weaknesses a student may have;
- Frequent monitoring of student progress throughout the school year with instruction adjusted accordingly;
- Intensive intervention using strategies selected from the following list to match the weaknesses identified in the diagnostic assessment:
  - Development in phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, and reading comprehension;
  - Explicit and systematic instruction with detailed explanations, extensive opportunities for guided practice, and opportunities for error corrections and feedback; or
  - Daily targeted individual or small-group reading intervention based on student needs as determined by diagnostic assessment data subject to planned extracurricular school activities;

- Strategies and resources to assist with reading skills at home, including parent-training workshops and suggestions for parent-guided home reading; or
- Access to before-school or after-school supplemental reading intervention with a teacher or tutor who has specialized training in reading intervention.

**Parent/Guardian Notification.** The school will give notice in writing or by electronic communication to the parent(s) or guardian(s) of any student identified as having a reading deficiency within 15 working days of such identification that the student has been identified as having a reading deficiency and that an individual reading improvement plan will be established and shared with the parents or guardians.

**Reading Improvement Plan.** Any student who is identified as having a reading deficiency will receive an individualized reading improvement plan, that shall include a supplemental reading intervention program, no later than 30 days after the identification of the reading deficiency. The reading improvement plan may be created by the teacher, the principal, other pertinent school personnel, and the parents or guardians of the student and shall describe the reading intervention services the student will receive through the supplemental reading intervention program to remedy the reading deficiency. The student must receive reading intervention services through the supplemental reading intervention program until the student is no longer identified as having a reading deficiency.

**Reading Progress.** Each student in kindergarten through third grade and his or her parent(s) or guardian(s) will be informed of the student's reading progress within a reasonable time after the school district receives the results from the student's approved reading assessment.

**NDE Professional Learning System.** The Nebraska Department of Education provides a professional learning system. The elementary school(s) and early childhood education programs approved by the State Board of Education will ensure that teachers who teach children from four years of age through third grade are aware of the professional learning system and are adequately trained regarding evidence-based reading instruction to effectively instruct students in reading.

**NDE Report.** On or before July 1 of each year, the school district will provide the required information relating to dyslexia to the Nebraska Department of Education.

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

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

Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_

# **TWIN RIVER PUBLIC SCHOOL**

## **STUDENT HANDBOOK**

**2024-25 Edition**

Twin River Public School  
PO Box 640  
816 Willard Avenue  
Genoa, NE 68640

Phone: (402) 993-2274

## WELCOME

Dear Students and Parents:

On behalf of the faculty, administration, and board of education, we welcome you to another school year. We are looking forward to helping your children reach their learning potential and achieve their educational goals in the upcoming year.

**Please read this handbook carefully. Students and their parents are responsible for knowing the rules, regulations, and procedures covered in this handbook. The student handbook is an extension of school policies and has the force and effect of board policy when approved by the board of education.**

**There are several forms at the end of this handbook that you must read, sign, and return no later than August 23, 2024.**

This handbook contains information of value to every student and parent. It contains explanations of school regulations and procedures necessary for our school to run smoothly and efficiently. If you are ever in doubt about what is the right thing to do, ask a classroom teacher, speak with the building principal, or contact my office.

Sincerely,

Chris Lecher  
Superintendent

## **Intent of Handbook**

This handbook is intended to be used by students, parents, and staff as a guide to the rules, procedures, and general information about this school district. Students and their parents must become familiar with the handbook, and parents should use it as a resource and assist their children in following the rules contained in it. The use of the word "parents" refers to any adult who has the responsibility for making education-related decisions about a child, including, but not limited to biological parents, adoptive parents, legal guardians, and adults acting in loco parentis.

Although the information in this handbook is detailed and specific on many topics, it is not intended to be all-encompassing or to cover every situation and circumstance that may arise during a school day or school year. This handbook does not create a "contract" with parents, students, or staff, and the administration may make decisions and rule revisions at any time to implement the educational program and to assure the well-being of all students. The administration is responsible for interpreting the rules contained in the handbook. If a situation or circumstance arises that is not specifically covered in this handbook, the administration will make a decision based on applicable school district policies, and state and federal statutes and regulations.

## **Notice of Nondiscrimination**

The school district does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age in its programs and activities and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The school district prohibits sex discrimination in any education program or activity in any education program or activity that it operates.

Students who believe that they have been the subject of unlawful discrimination or harassment due to their disability, or that have other related concerns or questions, should contact the following Section 504 Coordinator: Brenda Buhl at 402-993-2274, [bbuhl@twinriver.esu7.org](mailto:bbuhl@twinriver.esu7.org) or in person at school.

Students who believe that they have been the subject of unlawful discrimination or harassment due to their sex, or that have other related concerns or questions, should contact the Title IX Coordinator:

Name: Mr. Andy Banahan  
Title: Title IX Coordinator  
Address: 816 Willard Ave., PO Box 640, Genoa, NE 68640

Telephone: 402-993-2274  
E-mail: abanahan@twinriver.esu7.org

The School District's specific Notice of Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Sex may be accessed at the following link:  
<https://www.twinriverschools.org/page/nondiscrimination-notice>

For additional prohibited discrimination and related information, please review school district Policy 3053–Nondiscrimination and Policy 3057 Title IX.

### **MISSION STATEMENT**

As an innovative educational system, the mission of the Twin River Public Schools is to provide opportunities for individuals to become lifelong learners.

### **VISION STATEMENT**

Providing educational excellence for a changing tomorrow

### **BELIEF STATEMENTS**

- ❖ Education is a partnership among school, family and community.
- ❖ Students need to develop respect for all people and their surroundings.
- ❖ Students need to develop skills to critically, creatively, and ethically make decisions and solve problems in a global and technological society.
- ❖ Students need to be able to read with comprehension, write and communicate with clarity and compute with accuracy.
- ❖ A safe and comfortable environment promotes student learning.
- ❖ Students need to share responsibility for their education.
- ❖ Students need to develop social responsibility.

## **SECTION ONE**

### **BASIC SCHOOL RULES AND GENERAL PRACTICES**

#### **Attendance**

##### **Required Attendance**

Every person residing in the school district who has legal or actual charge or control of any child who is of mandatory attendance age shall cause that child to attend a public or private school regularly unless the child has graduated from high school or has been allowed to disenroll pursuant to this policy.

##### **Mandatory Attendance Age**

All children who are or will turn six years old before January 1 of the current school year are of mandatory attendance age. Children who have not turned eighteen years of age are of mandatory attendance age.

##### **Exceptions**

This policy does not apply when attendance is made impossible or impracticable by severe weather conditions or by the mental or physical illness of the student or a child whom the student is parenting.

A child who will not reach age 7 before January 1 of the current school year may be excused from mandatory attendance if the child's parent or guardian completes an affidavit affirming that alternative educational arrangements have been made for the child. A copy of the required affidavit is attached to this policy.

##### **Discontinuing Enrollment – 5 Year Old Students**

The person seeking to discontinue the enrollment of a student who will not reach six years of age prior to January 1 of the current school year shall submit a signed, written request to the superintendent using the form which is attached to this policy. The school district may request written verification or documentation that the person signing the form has legal or actual charge or control of the student. The school district shall discontinue the enrollment of any student who satisfies these requirements. Any student whose enrollment is discontinued under this subsection shall not be eligible to reenroll in this school district until the beginning of the following school year unless otherwise required by law.

##### **Discontinuing Enrollment – 16 and 17 Year Old Students**

Only children who are at least 16 years of age may be disenrolled from the district. The person seeking to discontinue the child's enrollment shall

submit a signed, written request that demonstrates that the student meets the district's legal criteria allowing for disenrollment to the superintendent using the applicable district form. The district will follow the procedures outlined on the attached form in considering requests to disenroll.

Only children disenrolling to attend a non-accredited school may be exempt from this policy. The person with legal or actual charge or control of the child must provide the superintendent with a copy of the signed request submitted to the State Department of Education for attending non-accredited schools. The superintendent may confirm the validity of the submission with the State Department of Education.

### **Attendance Officer**

Each building principal is designated as an attendance officer for the district. Each building principal, at his or her discretion, may delegate these responsibilities to any other qualified individual. The attendance officer is responsible for enforcing the provisions of state law relating to compulsory attendance. This responsibility includes but is not limited to filing a report with the county attorney of the county in which a student resides. Compensation for the duties of attendance officer is included in the salary for the superintendent or designee.

### **Excused Absences**

The following absences will be considered excused if they are confirmed by communication to the school from the student's parent/guardian:

1. Physical or mental illness of the student or of a child whom the student is parenting (a physician's verification is required after four (4) consecutive days of absence for illness)
2. Severe weather
3. Medical appointments for the student or for a child whom the student is parenting.
4. Death or serious illness of the student's family member
5. Attending a funeral, wedding or graduation
6. Appearance at court or for other legal matters
7. Observance of religious holidays of the student's own faith
8. College planning visits

### **Excessive Absenteeism**

When a student receives seven (7) unexcused absences or the hourly equivalent in any semester, the Attendance Officer will follow the district's policy to address barriers to the student's attendance.

When a student is absent ten (10) days per year, the following intervention steps may be taken. Intervention services shall include, but not be limited to:

(a) Verbal or written communication by school officials with the person or persons who have legal or actual charge or control of any child; and

(b) One or more meetings between, at a minimum, a school attendance officer, a school social worker, or a school administrator or his or her designee, the person who has legal or actual charge or control of the child, and the child, when appropriate, to attempt to address the barriers to attendance. The result of the meeting or meetings shall be to develop a collaborative plan to reduce barriers identified to improve regular attendance. The plan shall consider, but not be limited to:

(i) The physical, mental, or behavioral health of the child;

(ii) Educational counseling;

(iii) Educational evaluation;

(iv) Referral to community agencies for economic services;

(v) Family or individual counseling;

(vi) Assisting the family in working with other community services; and

(vii) Referral to restorative justice practices or services.

When a student is absent more than twenty (20) days per year or the hourly equivalent and any portion of the absences is unexcused, the Attendance Officer shall file a report with the county attorney of the county in which the student resides. For example, if the student accumulates twenty (20) days of excused absences due to documented illness and is tardy one time, the Attendance Office must file a report with the appropriate county attorney.

### **Absences due to illness**

The school district will contact parents if a student becomes ill at school. A student who is absent due to illness has two days for every day of absence to complete missed assignments.

### **Planned absences**

Parents who know in advance that a student will be absent must call the school or send a written note at the earliest possible date. Students who will be absent for reasons that can be anticipated, such as routine medical appointments and school activities, must complete any work required by the teacher before the absence. Parents should make every attempt to schedule medical and other appointments after school hours when possible.

### **Students are obligated to:**

- 1) Complete all class work in advance for any absence that can be anticipated.
- 2) Attend school a full day before attending practice or participating in a scheduled student activity except in cases of family emergencies or prearranged absences.
- 3) Check out of school at the office if leaving school during the school day.
- 4) Make up any and all work that is assigned by teachers as make-up work for the instructional time that has been missed.

### **Parents are obligated to:**

- 1) Call the appropriate building office to inform the school of the reason for each absence.
- 2) Submit a doctor's statement, if requested, for each period of absence due to illness that exceeds five days.

### **Pregnant and Parenting Students**

The District will not discriminate in its education program or activity against any student based on the student's current, potential, or past pregnancy. Students who are pregnant or parenting are encouraged to continue participating in the district's educational and extracurricular programs. Students who anticipate deviations from their regular school experience or accrue absences due to pregnancy or parenting should notify their building principal as early as possible to discuss their educational programming in collaboration with the Title IX Coordinator.

### **Aiding/Abetting**

Any student who aids, abets (encourages inappropriate behavior), or causes another to commit any offense may receive consequences as if he/she were the principal offender. The student could also face criminal charges if the offense merits a report to law enforcement officials. For example, a student who records a student altercation with a cell phone instead of reporting it to staff, is aiding and abetting the offending individuals.

### **Band**

Students may participate in the elementary band and begin taking band lessons in the 5th grade. Students in grades 7-8 may participate in the middle school band; grades 9-12 may participate in the high school band. Instruments will be provided by students or the school as provided by school policy. Fees may be charged as allowed or provided in the Public Elementary and Secondary Student Fee Authorization Act and the school's student fee policy or other applicable policy.

### **Bikes**

All students will be allowed to ride a bike to school. All bikes are to be placed in the bike rack upon arrival and remain there until dismissal. Bikes should be walked to the bike racks and should not be ridden on school grounds. Students who do not adhere to safety rules will be asked to leave their bikes at home. Please caution your student about the danger involved in crossing the highway and encourage your student to use the street crossings where the signal lights are located.

### **Bills**

Students should pay bills for supplies, fines, shop materials, clothing orders, etc. in the school bookkeeper's office. Any check for these payments should be made out to Twin River Public Schools unless otherwise instructed. Pursuant to board policy, the district will assess an additional penalty of \$30 for any check returned from the bank for insufficient funds.

When students purchase items of significant value, such as class rings and letter jackets, they must make payment at the time of purchase or when the order is placed.

### **Books and Supplies**

Students must take care of books and other supplies provided by the district. The school will assess fines for damage to books and school property.

Students must supply their own consumable items such as pens, pencils, tablets, notebooks, erasers, and crayons. Each classroom teacher will prepare a supply list for students at the beginning of the school year.

### **Breastfeeding and Lactation**

In order to accommodate lactating and breastfeeding students, the district will provide reasonable opportunities to express breast milk or breastfeed in a place, other than a bathroom, which is shielded from view and free from intrusion from district students, employees, and the public. The district will also provide a location for students to store expressed breast milk in or near the location designated for students to express milk to create the least amount of disruption to the student's participation in class or activities.

Students who wish or need to express breast milk on a regular schedule must work with school administrators to create a schedule that accommodates the student's needs while facilitating education to the maximum extent possible.

In order to prevent interference with the educational process, no student shall express breast milk within school classrooms or buses. Nothing in this policy limits the authority of the administration to impose consequences consistent with the Student Discipline Act and other state and federal law.

### **Bulletin Boards**

Bulletin boards are maintained throughout the building to communicate general information, material, and school announcements. Students should check the bulletin boards carefully each school day. A written copy of daily announcements will be posted on the main bulletin board by the offices.

Bulletin board or electronic publishing space may be provided for the use of students and student organizations for notices relating to matters of general interest to students. The following general limitations apply to all posting or publishing:

1. All postings must be approved by the appropriate building principal or designee. Students may not post any material containing any statement or expression that is libelous, obscene, or vulgar; that would violate board of education policies, including the student code of conduct; or that is otherwise inappropriate for the school environment.
2. All postings must identify the student or the student organization posting or publishing the notice.

3. Material shall be removed after a reasonable time to assure full access to the bulletin boards or electronic publishing media.

### **Bullying**

Students are prohibited from engaging in any form of bullying. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention defines bullying as “any unwanted aggressive behavior(s) by another youth or group of youths who are not siblings or current dating partners that involves an observed or perceived power imbalance and is repeated multiple times or is highly likely to be repeated.” Nebraska statute defines bullying as “an ongoing pattern of physical, verbal or electronic abuse.” The District’s administrators will consider these definitions when determining whether any specific situation constitutes bullying. Both of these definitions include both in-person and cyberbullying behaviors.

The disciplinary consequences for bullying will depend on the severity, frequency, duration, and effect of the behavior and may result in sanctions up to and including suspension or expulsion. Students who believe they are being bullied should immediately inform a teacher or the building principal.

### **Reporting Bullying**

Students who experience or observe bullying behavior must immediately report what happened to a teacher or administrator. Students can use the district’s anonymous platform to make this report. Students may always confer with their parents or guardians about bullying they experience or witness, but the students must also ultimately report the situation to a teacher or administrator.

### **Bullying Investigations**

School district staff will investigate allegations of bullying using the same practices and procedures that the district observes for student disciplinary matters. In no circumstance will school district staff be deliberately indifferent to allegations of bullying.

### **Cafeteria Rules**

1. All food must be consumed in the areas designated by the school.
2. After students have eaten, they must return trays to the kitchen. All straws, papers, milk cartons should be deposited in the trash cans. All leftover food should be scraped off the tray on to the correct container. Forks and spoons should be placed in the pan with water, NOT THROWN AWAY!
3. Students are to use proper manners including eating quietly.
4. Students may not throw food or other items.

5. Second servings are available to those who have made an effort to clean their trays and have requisite funds as required by board policy.
6. Students should remain at their tables until they are dismissed.
7. Parents who wish their child to eat lunch away from school must provide a written authorization to the student's building principal.
8. Students must treat lunch personnel with respect.
9. Students who violate the above rules will be disciplined.

### **Candy and Gum**

Students may not bring candy or gum to school unless they have prior permission from their classroom teacher or the administration.

### **Cell Phones and Other Electronic Devices**

Students may not use cell phones or other electronic devices while at school, except as permitted in this handbook.

Students may use cell phones or other electronic devices on the school sidewalks and in the common areas of the school before and after school, so long as they do not create a distraction or a disruption. Students may not use cell phones or other electronic devices while they are in locker rooms or restrooms. Students must comply with each teacher's classroom rules regarding cell phone use in class.

Students may not use cell phones or other electronic devices while riding in a school vehicle unless they have express permission to do so from the vehicle's driver.

Students are personally and solely responsible for the security of their cell phones and other electronic devices. The school district is not responsible for theft, loss, or damage of a cell phone or any calls made on a cell phone.

Students who violate this policy will have their cell phones or other electronic devices confiscated immediately. The administration will return confiscated devices to the offending student's parent or guardian after meeting with the parent or guardian to discuss the violation. Students who violate this policy may, at the discretion of the school's administration, be subject to additional discipline, up to and including suspension or expulsion.

The taking, disseminating, transferring, or sharing of obscene, pornographic, lewd, or otherwise illegal images or photographs, whether by electronic data transfer or otherwise may constitute a crime under state and/or federal law. Any person engaged in these activities while on school grounds, in a school vehicle or at a school activity will be subject to the disciplinary procedures of the student code of conduct. Any student found to be in possession of

obscene, pornographic, lewd, or otherwise illegal images or photographs will be promptly referred to law enforcement and/or other state or federal agencies, which may result in arrest, criminal prosecution, and possible inclusion on sex offender registries.

Refer to policy 6025-Student Cell Phone and Other Electronic Devices

### **Cheating, Plagiarism, and Academic Dishonesty**

Students may not cheat, plagiarize, or otherwise participate in any academic dishonesty in any form. Prohibited behavior includes:

- Obtaining, attempting to obtain, or aiding another person to obtain credit for work by any dishonest or deceptive means.
- Lying.
- Copying another person's work or answers.
- Discussing the answers or questions on a test or assignment unless specifically authorized by the teacher.
- Taking or receiving copies of a test without the permission of the teacher.
- Using or displaying notes, "cheat sheets," or other sources of unauthorized information.
- Using the ideas or work of another person as if they were your own without giving proper credit to the source.
- Submitting work or any portion of work completed by another person.
- Failing to give credit for ideas, statements, facts, or conclusions which rightfully belong to another person.
- Failing to use quotation marks or other appropriate means of attribution when quoting directly from another person or source.

A student who cheats, plagiarizes, or otherwise participates in any academic dishonesty is subject to discipline, up to and including expulsion.

### **Child Abuse and Neglect**

School employees will report suspected abuse or neglect of a child as required by state law and school policy. Nebraska law defines abuse or neglect as knowingly, intentionally, or negligently causing or permitting a minor child or an incompetent or disabled person to be (1) placed in a situation that endangers his or her life or physical or mental health; (2) cruelly confined or cruelly punished; (3) deprived of necessary food, clothing, shelter or care; (4) left unattended in a motor vehicle, if such child is six years of age or younger; (5) sexually abused; (6) placed in a situation to be sexually exploited through sex trafficking of a minor as defined in state law or by allowing, encouraging, or forcing such person to engage in debauchery, public indecency, or obscene or pornographic photography,

films, or depictions; or (7) placed in a situation to be a trafficking victim as defined in state law.

### **Class Dismissal**

Classes are in session from the ringing of the tardy bell until the teacher dismisses the class. The bell at the end of the period is not a dismissal bell, and students may not leave their classrooms until they have been excused by their classroom teacher.

### **Classroom Behavior**

Student behavior and attitude in the classroom must be cooperative and serious. All students must:

- arrive to class on time;
- not have book bags, athletic/other large bags, drawstring bags, lanyards with zipper pouches (unless clear) or blankets in the classroom;
- prepare for class with all necessary materials;
- be considerate of others;
- respond promptly to all directions of the teacher; and
- take care of school property and the property of others.

Teachers will establish classroom conduct rules that students must obey.

### **Closed Campus**

Students in grades Kindergarten through 9th grade will not be allowed to leave during the noon break.

Students in 10th through 12th grade may leave campus during the noon break if they wish, if they are NOT on the ICU list. Students must walk; they will not be allowed to drive, ride, or sit in any motorized vehicles during the school day without authorized permission from the Principal or his designee.

### **Coats and Boots**

Elementary students must wear coats outdoors when the weather makes it advisable. The staff will decide when coats are required for recess.

Elementary students may choose to wear overshoes or boots when the playground is wet or muddy. Waterproof boots worn to school should be taken off and regular shoes worn during the day. Boots worn to school must be marked with the student's name.

### **Communicable Diseases**

Any student who has contracted a contagious disease may be restricted from attendance at school until the student is no longer contagious. The school

district uses the Title 173- Nebraska Health and Human Services/Control of Communicable Disease, Chapter 3 of the Nebraska Administrative Code as a "best practice" guideline for contagious and infectious diseases. If there are questions regarding the communicability of your child's health condition or if you know your child has contracted a contagious or communicable disease or condition not otherwise specified in board policy or this handbook, please call the school nurse at (402) 993-2274.

### **Communicating with Parents**

Parents shall be kept informed of student progress, grades, and attendance through report cards, progress reports, and parent/teacher conferences. The school district will notify parents if their students are failing or close to failing. The school district will endeavor to notify parents of failing students prior to entry of the failing grade on the student's report card. Parents will also be notified of their student's possible failure to meet graduation requirements. Other pertinent information will be communicated to parents by mail or by personal contact. Official transcripts of student progress, grades, and attendance will be sent to other school systems upon the student's transfer when the district receives a written request signed by the student's parent or guardian or upon being notified that the student has enrolled in another school.

### **Complaint Procedure**

Good communication helps to resolve many misunderstandings and disagreements. This complaint procedure applies to board members, patrons, students and school staff, unless the staff member is subject to a different grievance procedure pursuant to policy or contract. Individuals who have a complaint should discuss their concerns with appropriate school personnel in an effort to resolve problems. When such efforts do not resolve matters satisfactorily, including matters involving discrimination or harassment on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, marital status, disability, or age, a complainant should follow the procedures set forth below.

A preponderance of the evidence will be required to discipline a party accused of misconduct. This means that the investigator must conclude that it is more likely than not that misconduct occurred.

### **Complaint and Appeal Process.**

1. The first step is for the complainant to speak directly to the person(s) with whom the complainant has a concern. For example, a parent who is unhappy with a classroom teacher should initially discuss the matter with the teacher. However, the complainant should skip the first step if

complainant reasonably believes speaking directly to the person would subject complainant or complainant's student to discrimination or harassment.

2. The second step is for the complainant to speak to the building principal, coordinator, superintendent of schools, or president of the board of education, as set forth below. Anyone with questions about the appropriate person to speak with may request clarification from the superintendent.
  - a) Complaints about the operation, decisions, or personnel within a building should be submitted to the principal of the building.
  - b) Complaints about the operations of the school district or a building principal should be submitted in writing to the superintendent of schools.
  - c) Complaints about the superintendent of schools should be submitted in writing to the president of the board of education.
  - d) Complaints involving discrimination or harassment on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, marital status, disability, or age may also be submitted at any time during the complaint procedure to the applicable coordinator. Complaints involving discrimination or harassment may also be submitted at any time to the Office for Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Education: by email at [OCR.KansasCity@ed.gov](mailto:OCR.KansasCity@ed.gov); by telephone at (816) 268-0550; or by fax at (816) 268-0599.
3. When a complainant submits a complaint to an administrator or coordinator, the administrator or coordinator shall first determine whether another applicable procedure is required by policy or law and if so, direct the complaint to the appropriate person to follow that procedure. If not, the administrator or coordinator will promptly and thoroughly investigate the complaint, and shall:
  - a) Determine whether the complainant has discussed the matter with the respondent.
    - 1) If the complainant has not, urge the complainant to discuss the matter directly with the respondent, if appropriate.

- 2) If the complainant refuses to discuss the matter with the respondent, the administrator or coordinator shall, in his or her sole discretion, determine whether the complaint should or must be pursued further.
  - b) Strongly encourage the complainant to reduce his or her concerns to writing.
  - c) Interview the complainant and, if necessary, the respondent against whom the complaint is filed, to determine:
    - 1) All relevant details of the complaint;
    - 2) All witnesses and documents which the complainant believes support the complaint;
    - 3) The action or solution which the complainant seeks.
  - d) Respond to the complainant. If the complaint involves discrimination or harassment, the response shall be in writing and shall be submitted within 180 calendar days after the administrator or coordinator receives the complaint.
4. If either the complainant or the respondent is not satisfied with the decision he or she may appeal the decision to the superintendent. The superintendent may assign a qualified designee to hear any appeal. This provision applies to appeals under the board's policies governing complaints of discrimination or harassment, including Title IX and any other policy with a separate grievance or complaint procedure, unless that other procedure includes its own appeal process. All requirements for appeals within any other policy apply, and in addition to those requirements, the following also apply.
  - a) The appeal must be in writing.
  - b) This appeal must be received by the superintendent no later than three (3) calendar days from the date of the decision.
  - c) For complaints addressed through other applicable procedures that do not include a separate investigatory process, the superintendent will investigate as he or she deems appropriate.
  - d) The superintendent will prepare a written decision and provide it to the complainant and any other person entitled by law to

receive the appeal decision. For complaints involving discrimination or harassment, the superintendent shall submit the decision within 180 calendar days after the superintendent received complainant's written appeal. Appeals to the superintendent from complaints involving discrimination or harassment are final once the superintendent delivers the written decision, as are all other appeals/complaints to the superintendent unless the complaint can be appealed on the limited grounds to appeal to the board below.

5. The board's role is to set policy, establish and implement a budget, and evaluate the superintendent. The board does not manage the daily operations of the school district entrusted to its administration unless required by law or policy. Because of the board's statutory roles, it does not hear complaints or appeals that may involve oversight or discipline of students, staff, or others, unless those involve the superintendent as discussed below. The board does not hear complaints or appeals based on allegations of discrimination or harassment unless otherwise required by law. The board will hear appeals only in the following circumstances:
  - a) When the complaint is about a board policy, not implementation of the policy;
  - b) When the complaint involves the budget or school expenditures that have been or must be approved by the board; or
  - c) When the board is required by law, policy, or contract to hear a complaint or appeal.
6. If a complaint involves those limited grounds and a party is not satisfied with the superintendent's decision regarding the complaint or appeal, he or she may appeal the decision to the board.
  - a) This appeal must be in writing.
  - b) This appeal must be received by the board president no later than ten (10) calendar days from the date the superintendent communicated his/her decision to the complainant.
  - c) This policy allows, but does not require the board to receive statements from interested parties and witnesses relevant to the complaint appeal. However, all matters involving discrimination or harassment allegations against the superintendent shall be

promptly and thoroughly investigated by the board president or a designee.

- d) The board president will notify the complainant and any other person legally required to receive the decision in writing of its decision. If the complaint involves discrimination or harassment allegations against the Superintendent, the board president shall submit the decision within 180 calendar days after receiving the written appeal.
  - e) There is no appeal from any decision of the board unless authorized by law.
7. Formal complaints about the superintendent shall be filed with the president of the board. However, complaints about the superintendent do not include disagreement with the superintendent's decision on appeal based on a complaint of discrimination, harassment, or action of any other employee who is not the superintendent. Upon receipt of a complaint, the board president or his or her designee shall promptly and thoroughly investigate the complaint, and shall:
- a) Coordinate with school district staff, other than the superintendent, to determine if another procedure in policy or law requires the complaint against the superintendent to follow another procedure. If so, the board president will coordinate handling the complaint through that procedure. If another procedure applies, such as in the case of allegations of sex discrimination against the superintendent, the board president or, at his or her discretion, the full board will serve only to hear any appeal by a party to the complaint.
  - b) Determine whether the complainant has discussed the matter with the superintendent.
    - 1) If the complainant has not, the board president or designee will urge or require the complainant to discuss the matter directly with the superintendent, if appropriate or required.
    - 2) If the complainant refuses to discuss the matter with the superintendent, the board president shall, in his or her sole discretion, determine whether the complaint should or must be pursued further.

- c) Determine, in his or her sole discretion, whether to place the matter on the board agenda for consideration at a regular or special meeting by the full board.
- d) Respond to the complainant or appeal. If the complaint or appeal involves discrimination or harassment, the response shall be in writing and shall be submitted within 180 calendar days after the president received the complaint.
- e) Appoint or contract with other individuals qualified to assist the board through this process or any other applicable procedure used to address allegations against the superintendent.

**No Retaliation.** The school district prohibits retaliation against any person for filing a complaint or for participating in the complaint procedure in good faith.

**Special Rules Regarding Educational Services and Related Services to Students with Disabilities.** Students with disabilities and their families have specific rights outlined in state and federal law, including administrative processes by which they may challenge the educational services being provided by the school district. Therefore, the appeal process contained in this policy may not be used to challenge decisions made by a student's individualized education plan (IEP) team or 504 team.

Complaints about the educational services provided a student with a disability, including but not limited to services provided to a student with an IEP, access to curricular and extracurricular activities, and educational placement must be submitted to the school district's Director of Special Education. The Director of Special Education will address the complaint in a manner that he/she deems appropriate and will provide the complainant with a copy of the Notice of IDEA Parental Rights promulgated by the Nebraska Department of Education.

Complaints about the educational services provided a student with a disability pursuant to a Section 504 plan must be submitted to the school district's 504 Coordinator. The 504 Coordinator will address the complaint in a manner that he/she deems appropriate and will provide the complainant with a copy of the Notice of Section 504 Parental Rights adopted by the board of education.

Complaints about the educational services provided to a student who is suspected of having a disability must be submitted in writing to the school

district's Director of Special Education or to the district's 504 Coordinator. The Director of Special Education or 504 Coordinator will either refer the student for possible verification as a student with a disability or will provide prior written notice of the district's refusal to do so.

**Bad Faith or Serial Filings.** The purpose of the complaint procedure is to resolve complaints at the lowest level possible within the chain of command. Individuals who file complaints (a) without a good faith intention to attempt to resolve the issues raised; (b) for the purpose of adding administrative burden; (c) at a volume unreasonable to expect satisfactory resolution; or (d) for purposes inconsistent with the efficient operations of the district may be dismissed by the superintendent without providing final resolution other than noting the dismissal. There is no appeal from dismissals made pursuant to this section.

### **Computer Network Use by Students**

Students are expected to use computers and the Internet as an educational resource. The following procedures and guidelines govern the use of computers and the Internet at school.

#### **I. Student Expectations in the Use of the Internet**

##### **A. Acceptable Use**

1. Students may use the Internet to conduct research assigned by teachers.
2. Students may use the Internet to conduct research for classroom projects.
3. Students may use the Internet to gain access to information about current events.
4. Students may use the Internet to conduct research for school-related activities.
5. Students may use the Internet for appropriate educational purposes.

##### **B. Unacceptable Use**

1. Students shall not use school computers to gain access to material that is obscene, pornographic, harmful to minors, or otherwise inappropriate for educational uses.
2. Students shall not engage in any illegal or inappropriate activities on school computers, including the downloading and copying of copyrighted material.
3. Students shall not use e-mail, chat rooms, instant messaging, or other forms of direct electronic communications on school computers for any unauthorized or unlawful purpose or in violation of any school policy or directive.

4. Students shall not use school computers to participate in on-line auctions, on-line gaming or mp3 sharing systems including, but not limited to Aimster or Freenet and the like.
5. Students shall not disclose personal information, such as their names, school, addresses, or telephone numbers outside the school network.
6. Students shall not use school computers for commercial advertising or political advocacy of any kind without the express written permission of the system administrator.
7. Students shall not publish web pages that purport to represent the school district or the work of students at the school district without the express written permission of the system administrator.
8. Students shall not erase, rename, or make unusable anyone else's computer files, programs or disks.
9. Students shall not share their passwords with fellow students, school volunteers or any other individuals, and shall not use, or try to discover, another user's password.
10. Students shall not copy, change or transfer any software or documentation provided by the school district, teachers or another student without permission from the system administrator.
11. Students shall not write, produce, generate, copy, propagate, or attempt to introduce any computer code designed to self-replicate, damage, or otherwise hinder the performance of any computer's memory, file system, or software. Such software is often called, but is not limited to, a bug, virus, worm, or Trojan Horse.
12. Students shall not configure or troubleshoot computers, networks, printers or other associated equipment, except as directed by a teacher or the system administrator.
13. Students shall not take home technology equipment (hardware or software) without permission of the system administrator.
14. Students shall not falsify electronic mail messages or web pages.

## **II. Enforcement**

### **A. Methods of Enforcement**

1. The district monitors all Internet communications, Internet usage, and patterns of Internet usage. Students have no right of privacy to any Internet communications or other electronic files. The computer system is owned by the school district. As with any school property, any electronic

files on the system are subject to search and inspection at any time.

2. The school district uses a technology protection measure that blocks access to some Internet sites that are not in accordance with the policy of the school district. Standard use of the Internet utilizes a proxy server-based filter that screens for non-curriculum related pages.
3. Due to the nature of filtering technology, the filter may at times filter pages that are appropriate for student research. The system administrator may override the technology protection measure for the student to access a site with legitimate educational value that is wrongly blocked.
4. The school district staff will monitor students' use of the Internet through direct supervision and by monitoring Internet use history to ensure enforcement of the policy.

**B. Consequences for Violation of this Policy**

1. Access to the school's computer system and to the Internet is a privilege, not a right. Any violation of school policy and rules may result in:
  - a. Loss of computer privileges;
  - b. Short-term suspension;
  - c. Long-term suspension or expulsion in accordance with the Nebraska Student Discipline Act; and
  - d. Other discipline as school administration and the school board deem appropriate.
2. Students who use school computer systems without permission and for non-school purposes may be guilty of a criminal violation and will be prosecuted.

**III. Protection of Students**

**A. Children's Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA)**

1. The school will not allow companies to collect personal information from children under 13 for commercial purposes. The school will make reasonable efforts to disable advertising in educational computer applications.
2. This policy allows the school to act as an agent for parents in the collection of information within the school context. The school's use of student information is solely for education purposes.

**B. Education About Appropriate On-Line Behavior**

1. School district staff will educate students about appropriate online behavior, both in specific computer usage units and in the general curriculum.
2. Staff will specifically educate students on

- a. Appropriate interactions with other individuals on social networking websites and in chat rooms.
  - b. Cyberbullying awareness and response.
3. The building principal shall inform staff of this educational obligation and shall keep records of the instruction which occurs in compliance with this policy

### **Conferences**

Students' academic success has been closely linked to parental involvement in school. The school district has formal parent-teacher conferences at the end of the first quarter and during the third quarter.

In addition to formal conferences, classroom teachers will communicate with parents as necessary. Parents are encouraged to communicate with their student's teacher or the building principal to discuss parental concerns, student needs or any other issue.

### **Copyright and Fair Use**

The school district complies with federal copyright laws. Students must comply with copyright laws when using school equipment or working on school projects and assignments. Federal law prohibits the unauthorized reproduction of works of authorship, regardless of the medium in which they were created.

The "fair use" doctrine allows limited reproduction of copyrighted works for educational and research purposes. "Fair use" of a copyrighted work includes reproduction for purposes such as criticism, news reporting, teaching (including multiple copies for classroom use), scholarship, or research. Students who are unsure whether their proposed reproduction of copyrighted material constitutes "fair use" should consult with their teacher or building principal, review the school district's copyright compliance policy, and review *Copyright for Students* found at <https://www.whoishostingthis.com/resources/student-copyright/>. You can find more information on copyright compliance requirements and permitted uses from the U.S. Copyright Office and the Library of Congress at the following site:  
<http://www.loc.gov/teachers/usingprimarysources/copyright.html>.

### **Damage to School Property**

Students who damage school property either intentionally or unintentionally may be required to pay to replace or restore the property, at the discretion of the administration.

## **Dating Violence**

Dating violence, as that term is defined by Nebraska law, will not be tolerated by the school district. Students who engage in dating violence on school grounds, in a school vehicle or at a school activity or that otherwise violates the Nebraska Student Discipline Act will receive consequences consistent with the Act and the district's student discipline policies.

The school district shall provide dating violence training to staff deemed appropriate by the administration and in accordance with Nebraska law.

## **Discrimination and Harassment**

The school district prohibits discrimination and harassment based upon or related to race, color, national origin, sex, religion, marital status, disability, age or any other unlawful basis that (1) has the purpose or effect of creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive school environment, (2) has the purpose or effect of substantially or unreasonably interfering with a student's school performance, or (3) otherwise adversely affects a student's school opportunities. Students who believe that they have been the subject of unlawful discrimination or harassment due to their disability should contact the following Section 504 Coordinator: Mrs. Brenda Buhl for elementary complaints at (402) 993 - 2274, [bbuhl@twinriver.esu7.org](mailto:bbuhl@twinriver.esu7.org) or Mr. Andy Banahan for secondary complaints at (402) 993 - 2911, [abanahan@twinriver.esu.org](mailto:abanahan@twinriver.esu.org) or in person at school.

Students who believe that they have been the subject of unlawful discrimination or harassment due to their sex should contact the following Title IX Coordinator: Mr. Andy Banahan at (402) 993-2274, [abanahan@twinriver.esu7.org](mailto:abanahan@twinriver.esu7.org) or in person at school. Students who believe that they have been the subject of any other unlawful discrimination or harassment should contact the building principal: Elementary, Mrs. Brenda Buhl at (402) 993-2274, [bbuhl@twinriver.esu7.org](mailto:bbuhl@twinriver.esu7.org) or Mr. Andy Banahan for secondary at (402) 993-2274, [abanahan@twinriver.esu7.org](mailto:abanahan@twinriver.esu7.org) or in person at school. Students may report discrimination or harassment to any staff member who will then forward it on to the appropriate coordinator or administrator. The staff member will follow school district policies to respond to the report.

## **Dress Code**

Students must come to school dressed in clean, neat, and appropriate clothing to conform to educational standards.

Students are prohibited from wearing the following attire:

1. Clothing displaying indecent, suggestive or profane writing, pictures or slogans

2. Clothing that advertises or displays alcohol, tobacco or any illegal substance
3. Caps, hats and bandannas during the school day or at school-sponsored events
4. Bare feet (some type of footwear must be worn)
5. Short-shorts (less than 4-inch inseam)
6. Hairstyles which distract from the learning process or the health and safety for either the student or others
7. Any clothing that could cause damage to others or school property
8. Shirts, blouses, or other clothing worn unbuttoned, unzipped, or otherwise purposely unfastened
9. Costumes and/or those clothes intended only for leisure, entertaining or special occasions
10. Bare "midriff" (belly button) styles, see-through and low cut blouses, halters, tank tops or thin-strapped tops (spaghetti straps)
11. Pants and shorts worn below the waist so as to expose undergarments
12. Pants that drag on the floor
13. Chains hanging or attached to pants or shorts
14. Coats during school hours unless the student has permission from a faculty member
15. Clothing with tears or holes that are deemed inappropriate by administration.

Students who violate dress code guidelines will be required to correct the violation by changing into something appropriate at school or returning home to change. A detention or suspension may be given to make up the time away from school. Repeated dress code violations may result in more severe consequences.

### **Driving and Parking Personal Vehicles**

Students who drive privately owned motor vehicles to school must obey the following rules:

1. Students may not move their vehicles during the school day without the permission of the building principal or superintendent. Students will not be allowed to sit in or be around their vehicles during the school day, without administrative permission.
2. Students must drive with care to ensure the safety of the pedestrians. Students may not drive carelessly or with excessive speed.
3. By driving personal vehicles to school and parking on school grounds, students consent to having that vehicle searched by school officials when they have reasonable suspicion that such a search will reveal a violation of school rules.

### **Drug Free Schools**

The board of education has adopted policies to comply with the Federal Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act. Students are prohibited from using, possessing, or selling any drug, alcohol, or tobacco while on school grounds, at a school activity or in a school vehicle. In addition, students who participate in the school's activities program should refer to the Activities Handbook which prohibits the use or possession of alcohol, controlled substances and tobacco at all times.

Any student who violates any school policy regarding drug, alcohol, and tobacco use will be disciplined, up to and including short-term suspension, long-term suspension, or expulsion from school and/or referral to appropriate authorities for criminal prosecution.

### **Emergency Contact Information**

Parents must complete an emergency information card for each child enrolled in the district. The card should list the family physician's name, where parents or a responsible adult can be located, and any necessary emergency instructions. Parents must promptly inform the school if this contact information changes during the school year.

### **Evacuations**

The school district will hold routine evacuation drills throughout the school year. Classroom teachers will provide students with detailed instructions on building evacuations.

### **Eye Exams**

All students enrolling in kindergarten or transferring into the school district from out of state must undergo a visual examination by a physician, a physician assistant, an advanced practice registered nurse, or an optometrist, which consists of testing for amblyopia, strabismus, and internal and external eye health, with testing sufficient to determine visual acuity, except that no such physical examination or visual evaluation shall be required of any child whose parent or guardian objects in writing. They must provide evidence of the vision examination within six months prior to entrance. The cost of such physical examination and visual evaluation shall be borne by the parent or guardian of each child who is examined.

### **Fighting/Assaults**

Students may not engage in verbal or physical altercations in school buildings, on school grounds, or when traveling in school vehicles/buses or at school-sponsored events. Students hitting, striking, kicking or in any other way harming another student or school personnel will be suspended and may be recommended for expulsion. Students may be liable for

suspension or expulsion if they bring into the schools any object or substance which, when reasonable standards are applied and circumstances warrant, it is determined that the primary purpose is to cause bodily harm or property damage. Twin River High School will comply with Nebraska State Statute relative to assaults by reporting incidents to law enforcement officials. Legal Reference: Neb. Rev. Stat. § 79-267.

### **Food Service Program**

The school district provides a food service program that is designed to provide adequate nutrition and an educational experience for students.

#### **Breakfast**

The school will serve breakfast daily from 7:30 a.m. until 7:50 a.m. Students who qualify for free or reduced-price lunch also qualify for free or reduced-price breakfast. The school district charges students \$2.10.

#### **Lunch**

Lunch prices depend on the federal funding that the program receives. Lunch for K-6 is \$2.75. Lunch for 7-12 lunch is \$3.00 for students.

#### **Milk break**

The school will offer a milk program to students in grades K-2. All milk served to a student (except the initial carton served with lunch) will cost \$0.43 per half pint. The price for milk may change during the school year. Milk will be served at the morning recess. Teachers will record the number of cartons of milk each child consumes and give the information to the office at the end of the month where it will be added to the family account.

#### **Payment for Meals**

Students are encouraged to pay for meals several weeks in advance. Payment should be made to the bookkeeper in the office.

[Note to be deleted: The following is a list of 4 options which correspond with the 4 options listed in the 2017 wellness update to policy 3012. Please select the option which corresponds with that which your board adopted.]

#### **[Option A]**

If a student has no funds available to pay for a meal, no food will be provided.

Students who qualify for free meals will not be denied a reimbursable meal, even if they have accrued a negative balance from other food purchases. School staff may prohibit any students from charging a la carte or extra

items if they do not have cash in hand or their account has a negative balance.

If a student repeatedly lacks funds to purchase a meal, has not brought a meal from home, and is not enrolled in a free meal program, the district will use its resources and contacts to protect the health and safety of the student. Failure or refusal of parents or guardians to provide meals for students may require mandatory reporting to child protection agencies as required by law.

#### [Option B]

If a student has no funds available to pay for a meal, the student will be permitted to charge up to five meals. Thereafter, if a student has no funds available to pay for a meal, no food will be provided.

Students who qualify for free meals will not be denied a reimbursable meal, even if they have accrued a negative balance from other food purchases. School staff may prohibit any students from charging a la carte or extra items if they do not have cash in hand or their account has a negative balance.

If a student repeatedly lacks funds to purchase a meal, has not brought a meal from home, and is not enrolled in a free meal program, the district will use its resources and contacts to protect the health and safety of the student. Failure or refusal of parents or guardians to provide meals for students may require mandatory reporting to child protection agencies as required by law.

#### [Option C]

If a student has no funds available to pay for a meal, the student will be provided and charged for a limited "courtesy meal" option, such as a plain sandwich.

Students who qualify for free meals will not be denied a reimbursable meal, even if they have accrued a negative balance from other food purchases. School staff may prohibit any students from charging a la carte or extra items if they do not have cash in hand or their account has a negative balance.

If a student repeatedly lacks funds to purchase a meal, has not brought a meal from home, and is not enrolled in a free meal program, the district will use its resources and contacts to protect the health and safety of the student. Failure or refusal of parents or guardians to provide meals for

students may require mandatory reporting to child protection agencies as required by law.

#### **[Option D]**

If a student has no funds available to pay for a meal, the student will be provided and charged for up to five limited "courtesy meals," such as a plain sandwich. Thereafter, if a student has no funds available to pay for a meal, no food will be provided.

Students who qualify for free meals will not be denied a reimbursable meal, even if they have accrued a negative balance from other food purchases. School staff may prohibit any students from charging a la carte or extra items if they do not have cash in hand or their account has a negative balance.

If a student repeatedly lacks funds to purchase a meal, has not brought a meal from home, and is not enrolled in a free meal program, the district will use its resources and contacts to protect the health and safety of the student. Failure or refusal of parents or guardians to provide meals for students may require mandatory reporting to child protection agencies as required by law.

#### **Collection of Delinquent Meal Charge Debt**

The school district is required to make reasonable efforts to collect unpaid meal charges. The building principal or his or her designee will contact households about unpaid meal charges and notify them again of the availability of the free and reduced meal program and/or establish payment plans and due dates by telephone, e-mail, or other written or oral communication. If these collection efforts are unsuccessful, the school district may pursue any other methods to collect delinquent debt as allowed by law.

Collection efforts may continue into a new school year.

#### **Notice of Non-discrimination**

In accordance with federal law and U.S. Department of Agriculture policy, this institution is prohibited from discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA. To file a program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, (AD-3027) found online at: [http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint\\_filing\\_cust.html](http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html), and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

- (1) Mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410
- (2) Fax: (202) 690-7442; or
- (3) Email: [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov)

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g. Braille, large print, audiotope, American Sign Language, etc.), should contact the school district. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

### **Field Trips**

Classes occasionally take field trips off school property for educational enrichment. A student's parent, or "caregiver" as that term is defined in the Nebraska Strengthening Families Act, must authorize a student to participate in a field trip by signing a permission slip and providing it to the school before the field trip. Students who have not completed classroom work on time may not be allowed to attend field trips. Students must comply with the student code of conduct, any applicable extracurricular conduct codes, and all directives by trip chaperones.

### **First-Aid**

First-aid items may only be used by school staff. Students who need first aid should ask for assistance from their classroom teacher or the nearest staff member.

### **Head Lice**

Students found to have live head lice or louse eggs will not be permitted at school and will be sent home. Upon discovering the presence of any indication of lice or louse eggs the student's parent(s) or guardian(s) will be notified, and if appropriate will be asked to pick up the student from school immediately.

Students will not be permitted to return to school until the district finds that no live lice or eggs can be detected. The parent(s) or guardian(s) will be required to treat the student and accompany the student to school to be examined.

The student cannot ride the school bus until the district has cleared the student to return to school.

### **Health Problems Limiting Activities**

Parents who do not want their children to play outdoors or participate in physical education for health reasons must send a written request to school. If a student persistently requests to be excused from these activities, the building principal or classroom teacher may require a doctor's verification.

Parents should notify principal or superintendent if their student has any special health problems such as diabetes, asthma, or the like.

### **Homebound Instruction**

The school district may provide a student with instruction in his or her home and under parental supervision if the student is physically or mentally ill or injured and unable to attend regular classes for an extended period of time. Homebound instruction shall be provided when the student's physical and mental condition are such that the student can benefit from instruction and no other provision will meet the student's educational needs. If you believe that homebound instruction is appropriate for your child, please contact the building principal to initiate the appropriate process to determine eligibility.

### **Homeless Children and Youth**

Homeless students generally include children who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence, as further defined by applicable state and federal law.

It is the school's policy not to stigmatize or segregate homeless students on the basis of their status of being homeless. Transportation for homeless students who enroll in the district shall be furnished by the district under the same guidelines applying to other students or if such transportation is necessary for compliance with federal law.

Each homeless child shall be provided services for which the child is eligible comparable to services provided to other students in the school selected regardless of residency. Homeless children shall be provided access to education and other services that such children need to ensure that they have an opportunity to meet the same student performance standards to which all students are held.

If a homeless child registered to attend school in the district is receiving family reconciliation services pursuant to state law, the district will work in cooperation with any county or department of social services in the district to jointly develop an educational program for the child. The district's homeless coordinator is Brenda Buhl, who may be contacted at 402-993-2274.

### **Illness or Injury at School**

Students who feel ill or are hurt while at school should seek immediate assistance from their classroom teacher or the nearest staff member. The school will contact parents to pick students up from school whenever necessary. When school officials determine that a student needs immediate medical attention but the parents cannot be reached by phone, emergency services will be summoned or the student will be taken directly to the doctor and/or hospital. Parents must complete an emergency information card for each child enrolled in the district. The card should list the family physician's name, where parents or a responsible adult can be located, and any necessary emergency instructions.

### **Immunizations**

All students must furnish one of the following to school officials:

- proof of adequate immunizations for mumps, measles, rubella; diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus; polio; and hepatitis B series; or
- a signed parental statement of refusal to provide the immunization history. Homeless students who are in need of immunizations will be referred to the homeless coordinator, who shall assist in obtaining necessary immunizations or medical records.

**Provisional Enrollment.** Students who meet the statutory requirements for provisional enrollment shall be allowed to attend school for sixty days without the necessary immunizations.

Students who are excepted from the immunization requirement may be excluded from school in the event of an outbreak of any contagious disease in the school population.

### **Initiations and Hazing**

Initiations and hazing by members of classes, clubs, athletic teams, or any other organization affiliated with the district are prohibited except as otherwise permitted by this policy. Any student engaging in hazing or non-approved initiations is subject to discipline as permitted by policy and law.

Initiations are defined as any ritualistic expectations, requirements, or activities placed upon new members of a school organization for the purpose of admission into the organization, even if those activities do not rise to the level of "hazing" as defined below. Initiations are prohibited except by permission of the superintendent.

Hazing is defined as any activity by which a person intentionally or recklessly endangers the physical or mental health or safety of an individual for the

purpose of initiation into, admission into, affiliation with, or continued membership in any school organization. Hazing activities include, but are not limited to, whipping, beating, branding, an act of sexual penetration, an exposure of the genitals of the body done with the intent to affront or alarm any person, a lewd fondling or caressing of the body of another person, forced and prolonged calisthenics, prolonged exposure to the elements, forced consumption of any food, liquor, beverage, drug, or harmful substance not generally intended for human consumption, prolonged sleep deprivation, or any brutal treatment or the performance of any unlawful act that endangers the physical or mental health or safety of any person.

### **Lockers and Other School Property**

The school district owns and exercises exclusive control over student lockers, desks, computer equipment, and other such property. Students should not expect privacy regarding usage of or items placed in or on school property, because school property is subject to search at any time by school officials. Periodic, random searches of lockers, desks, computers, and other such property may be conducted at the discretion of the administration. The assignment of a locker is on a temporary basis and may be revoked at any time. School officials may inspect student lockers without any particularized suspicion or reasonable cause.

### **Lost and Found**

All lost and found articles are to be taken to the school office. Students may claim lost articles there. Unclaimed articles will be donated to a local charity or otherwise disposed of at the conclusion of each semester.

### **Medications**

Whenever possible, parents should arrange medication schedules to eliminate the need for giving medication during school hours. When it is necessary for school personnel to administer medication to students, the school district will comply with the Nebraska Medication Aide Act, the requirements of Title 92, Nebraska Administrative Code, Chapter 59, (promulgated by the Nebraska Department of Education and entitled *Methods of Competency Assessment of School Staff Who Administer Medication*), and all state and federal regulations. Parents and guardians who wish to have their child receive medication from school personnel must comply with the following procedures:

**Prescription medication.** (1) Parents/guardians must provide a physician's written authorization for the administration of the medication. (2) Parents/guardians must provide their own written permission for the administration of the medication. (3) The medication must be brought to school in the prescription container and must be properly labeled with the

student's name, the physician's name, and directions for administering the medication.

**Non-prescription medication.** (1) Parents/guardians must provide written permission for the administration of the medication. (2) The medication must be brought to the school in the manufacturer's container. (3) The container must be labeled with the child's name and with directions for provision or administration of the medication

The district reserves the right to review and decline requests to administer or provide medications that are not consistent with standard pharmacological references, are prescribed in doses that exceed those recommended in standard pharmacological references, or that could be taken in a manner that would eliminate the need for giving them during school hours. The district may request parental authorization to consult with the student's physician regarding any medication prescribed by such physician.

### **Media Center**

Students must check out materials from the librarian on duty. Each borrower is responsible for all books checked out in his/her name. A fine of five cents per day per book may be charged for overdue books. Each student is responsible for any fine that accumulated on a book charged to him/her. If a book is lost and not found by the end of the semester, the student must pay for it. Students must also pay for any damage they cause to library books.

### **Memorials**

Memorials or plaques honoring deceased students are generally not allowed in or on the school grounds unless authorized by board policy. Dedications to students will not be allowed.

Scholarships in the deceased person's name will not be set up by the school. Scholarships set up by outside organizations or individuals, such as a foundation, will be allowed.

### **Opting Out of Assessments**

The Board of Education has adopted a policy on approval and denial of state and federal assessment opt-out requests, which is based on requirements in law. The policy can be requested by contacting The policy can be requested by contacting the Superintendent of Schools at (402) 993-2274 or clecher@twinriver.esu7.org

### **Parental Involvement**

The school district recognizes the unique needs of students who are being served in its Title I program, and the importance of parent and family engagement in the Title I program. Parent and family engagement in the Title I Program shall include, but is not limited to:

1. An annual meeting to which all parents of participating children will be invited to inform parents of their school's participation under this part, to explain the requirements of this part, and the right of the parents to be involved. Invitations may take the form of notes sent with students or announcements in the school newsletter. Additional meetings may be scheduled, based upon need and interest for such meetings.
2. An explanation of the details for the child's and parents' participation, including but not limited to: curriculum objectives, the forms of academic assessment used to measure student progress and the achievement levels of the challenging State academic standards, type and extent of participation, parental input in educational decisions, coordination, and integration with other Federal, State, and district programs, and evaluations of progress.
3. Opportunities for participation in parent involvement activities, such as training to help parents work with their children to improve achievement. A goal of these parent activities is to provide parents with opportunities to participate in decisions relating to the education of their students, where appropriate.
4. The district will, to the extent practicable, provide parents of limited English proficiency, parents with disabilities, parents with limited literacy, are economically disadvantaged, are of a racial or minority background or parents of migratory children with opportunities for involvement in the Title I Program. Communication to parents about student progress and the district's other Title I Program communications will be provided in the language used in the home to the extent practicable. Responses to parent concerns will be provided in a timely manner.
5. Opportunities for parent-teacher conferences, in addition to those regularly scheduled by the school district, if requested by the parents or as deemed necessary by school district staff.
6. The district will coordinate and integrate parental involvement programs and activities with other programs in the community.

These may include cooperation with other community programs such as Head Start and preschools and other community services such as the public library.

7. The district will educate teachers, specialized instructional support personnel, principals, and other school leaders, with the assistance of parents in the value and utility of contributions of parents, how to reach out to, communicate with and work with parents as equal partners.

### **Parties**

Elementary classes may have seasonal parties during the year. Parents shall communicate with their student's classroom teacher for the teacher's rules regarding birthday and holiday parties. Invitations for private parties and non-school-sponsored events may not be distributed at school.

### **Personal Items**

The school provides the necessary equipment for classroom and school day activities. **Students should not bring items such as athletic equipment, electronic devices, toys, or other similar personal items to school unless they have the prior permission of their classroom teacher or a school administrator. The school is not responsible for damaged or lost personal items or equipment.**

### **Physical Education**

The school district requires students to receive physical education to assist them in developing gross and fine motor skills. Students are not required to wear P.E. uniforms, but are encouraged to wear tennis shoes for P.E.

### **Physical Exam**

Students entering kindergarten and the seventh grade, and those entering school from another state, are statutorily required to show evidence that they have had a physical examination within six months prior to the date of entering school.

### **Pictures**

The school district arranges for a photographer to be present at school in the fall to take class pictures. Parents will be notified of the date. Included in the individual packet is a class composite. Parents who want pictures of their students or of their student's class composite may purchase them directly from the photographer.

### **Playground Rules**

Students must follow these rules to keep the playground safe when they are using the playground as part of the school day:

1. Students must obey the playground supervisor at all times.
2. Students may not enter the street/highway to retrieve a ball unless given permission by the playground supervisor.
3. Students must play away from the school windows.
4. Touch and flag football are permitted, but tackle football is prohibited. Students may only play football on grassy areas.
5. Students may throw balls and other authorized play equipment. They may not throw rocks, gravel, snowballs, and clothing.
6. Students must use the playground equipment properly and in a safe manner.
7. Students may not leave the playground after they have arrived at school for the day.

Students who violate these rules will be disciplined with the loss of recess or other privileges, detention, and/or other consequences.

The school's playgrounds, equipment, and surrounding areas are generally not supervised. Staff will supervise students when the students are using these areas as part of the school day or as part of a school activity. At all other times and in all other circumstances, the school district does not provide supervision of its playgrounds, equipment, and surrounding areas.

### **Police Questioning and Apprehension**

Police or other law enforcement officers may be called to the school at the request of school administration, or may initiate contact with the school in connection with a criminal investigation. The school district shall inform parents when law enforcement officers seek access to their student prior to the student being questioned unless the officers are investigating charges that the student has been the victim of abuse or neglect. Members of the school district staff will comply with board policy regarding police questioning of students.

### **Protection of Student Rights**

The Board of Education respects the rights of parents and their children and has adopted a Protection of Pupil Rights policy in consultation with parents to comply with the Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA). The policy is available on the district's website or upon request from the district's administrative office. Parents may opt their child out of participation in activities identified by the Protection of Pupil Rights policy by submitting a written request to the superintendent. The approximate dates during the school year when a survey requesting personal information as defined in the Protection of Pupil Rights policy is scheduled are as follows: Life Track Survey, usually given to Seniors in May. Parents may have access to any

survey or other material described in the Protection of Pupil Rights policy by submitting a written request to the superintendent.

### **ACT Exam**

Students taking the ACT Exam will be prompted to complete a short, optional questionnaire addressing a number of topics. If you wish to review this questionnaire prior to the administration of the exam, please submit a written request to the superintendent.

### **Public Displays of Affection**

Students may not engage in public displays of affection that are disruptive to the school environment or distracting to others. Prohibited conduct includes hugging, kissing, touching or any other display of affection that a staff member determines to be inappropriate.

### **Reasonable Suspicion Testing**

Students may be required to submit to drug or alcohol testing if there is a reasonable suspicion that the student is under the influence of drugs or alcohol.

### **Rights of Custodial and Non-Custodial Parents**

The school district will honor the parental rights of natural and adoptive parents unless those rights have been altered by a court.

The term "custodial parent" refers to a biological or adoptive parent to whom a court has given primary physical and legal custody of a child, and a person such as a caseworker or foster parent to whom a court has given legal custody of a child.

The district will not restrict the access of custodial and non-custodial parents to their students and their students' records, unless the district has been provided a copy of a court order that limits those rights. If the district is provided such a court order, school officials will follow the directives set forth in the order.

The district will provide the custodial parent with routine information about his or her child, including notification of conferences. The district will not provide the non-custodial parent with such information on a routine basis, but will provide it upon the non-custodial parent's request unless it has been denied by the courts.

A non-custodial parent who wishes to attend conferences regarding his or her child will be provided information about conference times so both parents may attend a single conference. The district is not required to

schedule separate conferences if both parents have been previously informed of scheduled conference times.

If either or both parents' behavior is disruptive, staff members may terminate a conference and reschedule it with appropriate modifications or expectations.

### **Secret Organizations**

Secret organizations are prohibited. School officials shall not allow any person or representative of any such organization to enter upon school grounds or school buildings for the purpose of rushing or soliciting students to participate in any secret fraternity, society, or association.

### **School Day**

The school day typically begins at 8:00 a.m. and ends at 3:30 p.m. Students are to leave the school grounds after dismissal. School staff will provide supervision for students on school grounds 15 minutes before the school day begins and 15 minutes after the school day ends. **There will be no supervision provided by the school before or after these times.** Parents must arrange for their children to leave school promptly at the end of the day.

### **Self Management of Diabetes or Asthma/Anaphylaxis**

Subject to school policy, the school district will work with the parent or guardian in consultation with appropriate medical professionals to develop a medical management plan for a student with diabetes, asthma, or anaphylaxis. Parents desiring to develop such a plan should contact Tara Urkoski, school nurse, at (402) 993-2274.

### **Smoking and Tobacco**

The use or possession of any tobacco product, including cigarettes, cigars, or other tobacco or tobacco derivative products; vapor products or electronic nicotine delivery systems; alternative nicotine products; or any other such look-alike or imitation product, is not permitted on school property at any time.

### **Sniffer (Drug) Dogs**

The administration is authorized to use sniffer dogs to minimize the presence of illicit items on school grounds. Students and staff are specifically notified of the following:

1. Lockers may be sniffed by sniffer dogs at any time.
2. Vehicles parked on school property may be sniffed by sniffer dogs at any time.
3. Classrooms and other common areas may be sniffed by sniffer dogs at

any time students and staff are not present.

4. If contraband of any kind is found, the student or staff member shall be subject to appropriate disciplinary action.

### **Student Assistance**

Parents who believe their students have any learning, behavior, or emotional needs that they believe are not being addressed by the school district should contact the student's teacher. If appropriate, the teacher may convene the Student Assistance Team (SAT). The SAT can explore possibilities and strategies that will best meet the educational needs of the student.

### **Student Fee Policy**

The school district shall provide free instruction in accordance with the Nebraska State Constitution and Nebraska state law. The district also provides activities, programs, and services that extend beyond the minimum level of constitutionally required free instruction. Under the Public Elementary and Secondary Student Fee Authorization Act, the district is permitted to charge students fees for these activities or to require students to provide specialized equipment and attire for certain purposes. This policy is subject to further interpretation or guidance by administrative or board regulations. Students are encouraged to contact their building administration, their teachers or their coaches, and sponsors for further specifics.

#### **Definitions.**

1. "Students" means students, their parents, guardians or other legal representatives.
2. "Extracurricular activities" means student activities or organizations that (1) are supervised or administered by the district; (2) do not count toward graduation or advancement between grades; and (3) are not otherwise required by the district.
3. "Post-secondary education costs" means tuition and other fees associated with obtaining credit from a post-secondary educational institution.

#### **Listing of Fees Charged by this District.**

1. **Clothing Required for Specified Courses and Activities.** Students are responsible for complying with the district's grooming and attire guidelines and for furnishing all clothing required for any special programs, courses, or activities in which they participate. The teacher, coach, or sponsor of the activity will provide students with written guidelines that detail any special clothing requirements and explain why

the special clothing is required for the specific program, course, or activity.

2. **Safety Equipment and Attire.** The district will provide students with all safety equipment and attire that is required by law. Building administrators will assure that (a) such equipment is available in the appropriate classes and areas of the school buildings, (b) teachers are directed to instruct students in the use of such devices, and (c) students use the devices as required. Students are responsible for using the devices safely and as instructed.
3. **Personal or Consumable Items.** The district does not provide students with personal or consumable items for participation in courses and activities including, but not limited to, pencils, paper, pens, erasers, and notebooks. Students who wish to supply their own personal or consumable items may do so, as long as those items comply with the requirements of the district. The district will provide students with facilities, equipment, materials, and supplies, including books. Students are responsible for the careful and appropriate use of such property. Students will be charged for damage to school property caused by the student and will be held responsible for the reasonable replacement cost of any school property that they lose.
4. **Materials Required for Course Projects.** The school district will provide students with the materials necessary to complete all basic curricular projects. In courses where students choose to produce a project that requires materials beyond the basic materials provided by the district, the students will either furnish the materials, purchase the materials from the school, or purchase the materials from an outside vendor with an order form provided by the school.
5. **Technological Devices.** The district will provide students with the technological devices necessary to complete all basic curricular projects. To the extent that a student is not required by the district's curriculum to utilize a device off district property, the district may charge students a convenience fee to take the device off district property.
6. **Extracurricular Activities.** The school district may charge students a fee to participate in extracurricular activities to cover the district's reasonable costs in offering such activities. The district may require students to furnish specialized equipment and clothing that is required for participation in extracurricular activities, or may charge a reasonable fee for the use of district-owned equipment or attire. Attached to this policy is a list of the fees charged for particular activities. The coach or

sponsor will provide students with additional written guidelines detailing the fees charged, the equipment and/or clothing required, or the usage fee charged. The guidelines will explain the reasons that fees, equipment, and/or clothing are required for the activity.

The following list details the maximum dollar amount of all extracurricular activities fees and the specifications for any equipment or attire required for participation in extracurricular activities:

- Student Activity Card: No Charge
  - Free admission to all extracurricular events
- Future Business Leaders of America: \$14.00
- Cheerleading, Drill Team, Flag Corps:
  - Students must purchase uniforms and shoes selected by the sponsor and/or student group. The maximum dollar amount charged by the school district for these items will be: \$700
- Football:
  - Students must provide their own football shoes, undergarments, and mouthguards
- Golf:
  - Students must provide their own golf shoes, undergarments, and clubs
- Softball and Baseball:
  - Team specific hats: No more than \$20
  - Students must provide their own shoes, gloves, and undergarments
- Track, Volleyball, and Wrestling:
  - Students must provide their own shoes and undergarments
- Future Farmers of America: \$20
  - Students must purchase their own jackets and pay dues
- FCCLA: \$13.00

7. **Post-Secondary Education Costs.** Some students enroll in post-secondary courses while still enrolled in high school. As a general rule, students must pay all costs associated with such post-secondary courses. However, for a course in which students receive high school credit or a course being taken as part of an approved accelerated or differentiated curriculum program, the district shall offer the course without charge for tuition, transportation, books, or other fees. Students who chose to apply for post-secondary education credit for these courses must pay tuition and all other fees associated with obtaining credits from a post-secondary educational institution.

8. **Transportation Costs.** The district will charge students reasonable fees for district-provided transportation services to the extent permitted by federal and state statutes and regulations. The maximum dollar amount of the transportation fee charged by this district shall be the allowable I.R.S. rate per mile.
9. **Copies of Student Files or Records.** The school district will charge a fee for making copies of a student's files or records for the student's parents or guardians. The Superintendent or the Superintendent's designee shall establish a schedule of student record fees. Students' parents have the right to inspect and review the students' files or records without the payment of a fee, and the district shall not charge a fee to search for or retrieve any student's files or records. The district will charge a fee of 15 cents per page for reproduction of student records.
10. **Participation in Before-School, After-School or Pre-Kindergarten Services.** The district will charge reasonable fees for participation in before-school, after-school or pre-kindergarten services offered by the district pursuant to statute.
11. **Participation in Summer School or Night School.** The district will charge reasonable fees for participation in summer school or night school and may charge reasonable fees for correspondence courses.
12. **Charges for Food Consumed by Students.** The district will charge for items that students purchase from the district's breakfast and lunch programs. The fees charged for these items will be set according to applicable federal and state statutes and regulations. The district will charge students for the cost of food, beverages, and the like that students purchase from a school store, vending machine, booster club or from similar sources. Students may be required to bring money or food for field trip lunches and similar activities.

The maximum dollar amount charged by the district for the breakfast and lunch programs is as follows:

The maximum dollar amount charged by the district for the breakfast and lunch programs is as follows:

- Breakfast Program
  - Regular Price \$2.10
  - Reduced Price \$0.60
- Lunch Program – Grades K-6
  - Regular Price \$2.75
  - Reduced Price \$0.70
- Lunch Program – Grades 7-12

Regular Price \$3.00

Reduced Price \$0.60

- Milk \$0.43
- Extra main \$1.50

13. **Charges for Musical Extracurricular Activities.** Students who qualify for fee waivers under this policy will be provided, at no charge, the use of a musical instrument in optional music courses that are not extracurricular activities. For musical extracurricular activities, the school district will require students to provide the following equipment and/or attire:

- Band students must provide their own instruments.
- Swing choir students must purchase outfits and shoes selected by the sponsor and/or student group.

14. **Contributions for Class Extracurricular Activities.** Students are eligible to participate in a number of extracurricular activities during their years in Junior/ Senior High school, including prom, various senior recognitions, and graduation. In order to fund these extracurricular activities, the school district will ask each student to make a contribution to their class's fund beginning in seventh grade. This contribution is completely voluntary. Students who chose not to contribute to the class fund are still eligible to participate in the extra activities.

### **Waiver Policy.**

Students who qualify for free or reduced-price lunches under United States Department of Agriculture child nutrition programs shall be provided a fee waiver or be provided the necessary materials or equipment without charge for (1) participation in extracurricular activities, (2) materials for course projects, and (3) the use of a musical instrument in optional music courses that are not extracurricular activities. Students are not required to participate in the free or reduced-price lunch program to qualify for the waivers provided in this section. The district is not obligated to provide any particular type or quality of equipment or other material to eligible students. Students who wish to be considered for waiver of a particular fee must submit a completed fee waiver application to their building principal. Application forms are available in each school building office.

### **Voluntary Contributions to Defray Costs.**

When appropriate, the district will request donations of money, materials, equipment, or attire from parents, guardians and other members of the community to defray the costs of providing certain services and activities to students. These requests are not requirements, and staff members of the district are directed to communicate that fact clearly to students, parents, and patrons.

### **Fund-Raising Activities**

Students may be permitted or required to engage in fund-raising activities to support various curricular and extracurricular activities in which they participate. Students who decline to participate in fund-raising activities are not eligible under this policy for waiver of the costs or fees which the fund-raising activity was meant to defray.

### **Student Illness**

Students who suffer from a significant illness which has an actual or expected duration of six months or more may be eligible for accommodations and supports under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act or under the Individuals with Disabilities in Education Act. The school will provide accommodations to students who are returning to school after a prolonged absence due to illness, including pediatric cancer, through a 504 plan or an IEP, as appropriate. The student's plan will include informal or formal accommodations, modifications of curriculum and monitoring by medical or academic staff as determined by the student's IEP team or 504 committee. Parents and staff will engage in ongoing communication about the needs of a student who is facing these circumstances.

Students who become ill at school will be sent to the building office where the school nurse or other school employee will determine the appropriate response. When a child is too ill to remain at school, a school employee will contact the child's parent(s) and arrange for the child to be picked up or sent home. If an illness or injury requires immediate medical attention, school officials shall attempt to contact the child's parent(s) regarding treatment for the child. If the parents cannot be contacted, school officials may have the child treated by an available physician. Students who show symptoms of a contagious disease may be sent home, and the district may require a physician's statement before allowing such students to return to school.

### **Student Government**

Students are encouraged to formulate and participate in elective and representative student government activities. The organization, operation, and scope of the student government shall be administered by the superintendent or designee.

### **Student Records**

The Family Education Rights and Privacy Act ("FERPA") provides parents certain rights with respect to their student's education records. These rights include the right to inspect and review the student's education records within 45 days of the date the school receives a request for access; and the right to

request the amendment of the student's education records that you believe to be inaccurate.

If parents believe one of their student's records is inaccurate, they should write to the school principal, clearly identify the part of the record they want changed, and specify why they believe it is inaccurate. If the school decides not to amend the record as requested, it will notify the parents of the decision and advise them of their right to a hearing regarding the request for amendment.

**Directory Information.** FERPA and the Nebraska Public Records Law authorize school districts to make "directory information" available for review at the request of non-school individuals. These laws also give parents and guardians a voice in the decision-making process regarding the disclosure of directory information regarding their children. The school district has designated the following as directory information:

name and grade, name of parent and/or guardian, address, telephone number, including the student's cell phone number, e-mail address, date and place of birth, dates of attendance, the image or likeness of students in pictures, videotape, film or other medium, major field of study, participation in activities and sports, degrees and awards received, social media usernames and handles, weight and height of members of athletic teams, most recent previous school attended, certain class work which may be published onto the Internet, classroom assignment and/or home room teacher, student ID number, user ID, or other unique personal identifier used by the student for purposes of accessing or communicating in electronic systems (but only if the identifier cannot be used to gain access to education records except when used in conjunction with one or more factors that authenticate the user's identity, such as a personal identification number (PIN), password, or other factor known or possessed only the authorized user). Directory information does not include a student's social security number.

Directory information about students may be disclosed to outside organizations without a parent's prior written consent. Outside organizations include, but are not limited to, companies that market or manufacture class rings, sell student photographs or publish student yearbooks.

Federal law requires school districts to provide military recruiters and institutions of higher education with the names, addresses, and telephone listings of high school students unless parents have notified the school district in writing that they do not want this information disclosed without

prior written parental consent. Military recruiters will be granted the same access to a student in a high school grade as is provided to postsecondary educational institutions or to prospective employers of such students.

Parents who **OBJECT** to the disclosure of any directory information about their student should write a letter to the principal. This letter should specify the particular categories of directory information that the parents do not wish to have released about their child or the particular types of outside organizations to which they do not wish directory information to be released. This letter must be received by the school district no later than **August 23, 2024**.

### **Non-Directory Information**

All of the other personally identifiable information about students that is maintained in the school district's education records will generally not be disclosed to anyone outside the school system except under one of two circumstances: (1) in accordance with the provisions of the FERPA statutes and related administrative regulations, or (2) in accordance with the parent's written instructions.

One FERPA exception permits disclosure to school officials with legitimate educational interests without consent. A school official includes, but is not necessarily limited to, a teacher or other educator, administrator, supervisor, instructor, or support staff member (including health or medical staff and law enforcement unit personnel); school board member; volunteer; contractor or consultant who, while not employed by the school, performs an institutional service or function for which the school would otherwise use its own employees and who is under the direct control of the school with respect to the use and maintenance of PII from education records, such as an attorney, representative of the district's insurance providers, auditor, medical consultant, therapist, or a third-party website operator who has contracted with the school district or its agent to offer online programs for the benefit of students and/or the district; members of law enforcement acting on behalf of the school district; a parent or student volunteering to serve on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee; or a parent, student, or other volunteer assisting another school official in performing his or her tasks. A school official typically has a "legitimate educational interest" if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill a school-related professional, contractual, statutory, or regulatory responsibility.

The district will share information with the Department of Education necessary to comply with the requirement of state law that all third-year high school students take a college entrance exam. Any redisclosure of information related to the administration of this exam shall be governed by

the agreement between the Nebraska Department of Education and the third-party testing company.

### **Transfer of Records Upon Student Enrollment**

Upon request, the school discloses education records without consent to officials of another school district in which a student seeks or intends to enroll. The school is not obligated to inform parents when it makes a disclosure under this provision.

### **Complaints**

Individuals who wish to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the School to comply with the requirements of FERPA may contact the Office that administers FERPA:

Family Policy Compliance Office  
U.S. Department of Education  
400 Maryland Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20202-4605

### **Student Schedule Changes**

Student schedule changes may be made without penalty during the first three days of each semester. Drop and Add slips are to be obtained from the office of the Guidance Counselor and must be signed by the guidance counselor, teacher of the class that is to be added or dropped, and parent/guardian approval given before they are presented to the building principal.

### **Tardiness**

A student who does not have a valid excuse for being tardy to any class may be required to serve detention. After four tardies to school, the student and parents will be required to meet with the principal to discuss the situation.

### **Telephone Calls**

The school's telephone may be used only with permission of staff.

### **Threat Assessment and Response**

The board of education is committed to providing a safe environment for members of the school community. Students, staff and patrons are urged to immediately report any statements or behavior that makes the observer fearful or uncomfortable about the safety of the school environment.

## **1. Definitions**

- a. A **threat** is an expression of a willful intent to physically or sexually harm someone or to damage property in a way that indicates that an individual poses a danger to the safety of school staff, students or other members of the school community.
  - i. The threat may be expressed/communicated behaviorally, orally, visually, in writing, electronically, or through any other means.
  - ii. A **transient threat** is an expression of anger or frustration that can be quickly or easily resolved.
  - iii. A **substantive threat** is an expression of serious intent to harm others which includes, but is not limited to, any threat which involves a detailed plan and means.
- b. A **threat assessment** is a fact-based process emphasizing an appraisal of observed (or reasonably-observable) behaviors to identify potentially dangerous or violent situations, to assess them and to manage/address them. Threat assessment is the process of identifying and responding to serious threats in a systematic, data-informed way.
  - i. The threat assessment process is distinct from student disciplinary procedures. The mere fact that the district is conducting a threat assessment does not by itself necessitate suspension, expulsion or emergency exclusion without complying with state law and board policy related governing those actions.
  - ii. The threat assessment process is distinct from specialized instruction which a student with a disability may receive from the school district. The school district will not change a student's educational placement as that term is used in the Individuals with Disabilities in Education Act *solely* as part of a threat assessment.

## **2. Obligation to Report Threatening Statements or Behaviors.**

All staff and students must report any threatening statements or behavior to a member of the administration. Staff and students must make such reports regardless of the nature of the relationship between the individual who initiated the threat or threatening behavior and the person(s) who were threatened or who were the focus of the threatening behavior. Staff and

students must also make such reports regardless of where or when the threat was made or the threatening behavior occurred.

THREATS OR ASSAULTS WHICH REQUIRE IMMEDIATE INTERVENTION SHOULD BE REPORTED TO THE POLICE AT 911.

### **3. Threat Assessment Team**

The threat assessment team shall consist of the superintendent, high school principal, elementary principal, school counselor, school nurse, mental health practitioner or social worker, and local law enforcement. Not every team member needs to participate in every threat assessment. If the threat has been made by or is directed towards, a student with a disability, the threat assessment team must include a staff member who is knowledgeable about special education services or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, as appropriate. Neither the student nor their student's family members are part of the threat assessment team.

The team is responsible for investigating all reported threats to school safety, evaluating the significance of each threat, and devising an appropriate response. The threat assessment team shall work closely with the crisis team in planning for crisis situations. The threat assessment team shall be familiar with mental health resources available to students, staff and patrons and shall collaborate with local mental health service providers as appropriate.

### **4. Threat Assessment Investigation and Response**

All reports of violent, threatening, stalking, or other behavior or statements which could be interpreted as posing a threat to school safety will immediately be forwarded to the superintendent. Upon receipt of the initial report of any threat, the superintendent will take steps to verify the information, make an initial assessment, and document any decision involving further action. This investigation may include interviews with the person who made the statement(s) or engaged in the behavior of concern, interviews with the target(s) of the threatening statements or behavior, interviews of family members, physical searches of the individual or person of concern, possessions, and home (as allowed by law and in cooperation with law enforcement), and any other investigatory methods that the superintendent determines to be reasonable and useful.

At the conclusion of the investigation, the superintendent will determine what, if any, response to the threat is appropriate. The superintendent is authorized to disclose the results of the investigation to law enforcement and to the target(s) of any threatened acts. The superintendent may refer the individual of concern to the appropriate school administrator for consequences under the school's student discipline policy or, if appropriate, report the results of the investigation to the student's individualized education plan team.

Regardless of threat assessment activities, disciplinary action and referral to law enforcement will occur consistent with board policy and Nebraska law.

## **5. Communication with the Public about Reported Threats**

The team will keep members of the school community appropriately informed about substantive threats and about the team's response to those threats. This communication may include oral announcements, written communication sent home with students, or communication through print or broadcast media. However, the team will not reveal the identity of the individual of concern or of any target(s) of threatened violence unless permitted by law.

## **6. Coordination with the Crisis Team After Resolution of Threat**

The threat assessment team will confer with the district's crisis team after a threat has been investigated to provide the crisis team with information that the crisis team may use in assessing or revising the district's All-Hazard School Safety Plan.

## **Transportation Services**

The district operates school buses as a convenience for students and parents. They represent a substantial investment, and students are expected to care for and respect them.

### **Transportation to School**

Students who ride the bus to school will arrive in time for them to eat breakfast at school. Parents must contact their bus driver if a student will not ride the bus on a given day. Bus drivers endeavor to adhere to their schedule, and will wait for riders only a short period of time so as not to jeopardize the time remaining for the rest of their schedule.

It is the policy (5005) of the District not to provide transportation to an option student except upon the mutual agreement with the parent or legal guardian and the district. In that case such transportation will be provided to such option student on the same basis as provided for resident students.

The Superintendent or his/her designee will schedule bus routes, and questions concerning them should be directed to that office.

### **Bus Regulations**

Riding school vehicles is a privilege, not a right. The bus drivers have the same authority as teachers while transporting students. Students must comply with the following rules and all school conduct rules and directives while riding in school vehicles. In addition, students must also comply with the student code of conduct while riding in school vehicles. If misconduct is recurring, the student will not be allowed to ride the bus.

#### **a) Rules of Conduct on School Vehicles:**

- 1) Students must obey the driver promptly.
- 2) Students must wait in a safe place for the bus to arrive, clear of traffic and away from where the vehicle stops.
- 3) Students are prohibited from fighting, engaging in bullying, harassment, or horseplay.
- 4) Students must enter the bus without crowding or disturbing others and go directly to their assigned seats.
- 5) Students must remain seated and keep aisles and exits clear while the vehicle is moving.
- 6) Students are prohibited from throwing or passing objects on, from, or into vehicles.
- 7) Students may not use profane language, obscene gestures, tobacco, alcohol, drugs, or any other controlled substance on the vehicles.
- 8) Students may not carry weapons, look-a-like weapons, hazardous materials, nuisance items, or animals onto the vehicle.
- 9) Students may carry on conversations in ordinary tones, but may not be loud or boisterous and should avoid talking to the driver while the vehicle is in motion. Students must be absolutely quiet when the vehicle approaches a railroad crossing and any time the driver calls for quiet.
- 10) Students may not open windows without permission from the driver. Students may not dangle any item (e.g. legs, arms, backpacks) out of the windows.
- 11) Student must secure any item or items that could break or produce injury if tossed about the inside of the vehicle if the vehicle were involved in an accident
- 12) Student must respect the rights and safety of others at all times.
- 13) Students must help keep the vehicle clean, sanitary, and orderly. Students must remove all personal items and trash upon exiting.

- 14) Students may not leave or board the vehicle at locations other than the assigned stops at home or school unless approved prior to departure by the superintendent or designee.
- 15) Video cameras may be placed on buses, at random, to monitor student behavior on the bus.

**b) Consequences**

Drivers must promptly report all student misconduct to the administration. These reports may be oral or written. Students who violate the Rules for Conduct will be referred to their building principal for discipline. Disciplinary consequences may include a note home to parents, suspension of bus riding privileges, exclusion from extracurricular activities, in-school suspension, short term or long term suspension from school, and/or expulsion.

These consequences are not progressive, and school officials have discretion to impose any listed punishment they deem appropriate, in accordance with state and federal law and board policy.

**c) Records**

Records of vehicle misconduct will be forwarded to the appropriate building principal and will be maintained in the same manner as other student discipline records. Reports of serious misconduct may be forwarded to law enforcement.

Requests to be dropped off at a point **not** on the regular route will not be accommodated, unless extenuating circumstances arise and the request is approved by the transportation director or administration.

Students who are not regular route riders may not ride the bus home with a friend, unless the parent of the non-route student presents written permission to the bus driver ahead of time. The written permission should include the date, the non-route rider's name, the signature of the non-rider's parent, and the place approved for drop off. Such requests may not be granted if they cause overcrowding of the vans or buses (Vans-10 riders only, plus driver).

**Transportation to Activities**

The school district provides transportation to students who are participating in school-sponsored events and they must ride to those events in a school vehicle. Students who wish to take private transportation home from a

school event must submit a release form to the sponsor that has been signed by that student's parent.

### **Video Surveillance, Recordings, and Photographs**

The Board of Education has authorized the use of video cameras on school district property to ensure the health, welfare, and safety of all staff, students and visitors, and to safeguard District facilities and equipment. Video cameras may be used in locations deemed appropriate by the Superintendent. If a video surveillance recording captures a student or other building user violating school policies or rules or local, state, or federal laws, it may be used in appropriate disciplinary proceedings against the student or other building user and may also be provided to law enforcement agencies.

#### **Recordings Made by Parents/Guardians and Patrons.**

Parents/guardians and patrons may make recordings of school activities intended to be public in a non-disruptive manner including things like athletic contests and school board meetings to the extent permitted by law unless otherwise lawfully restricted by the administration. Parents/guardians or patrons may not make recordings if they are volunteering or visiting school during the school day without permission of the administration or supervising staff member and subject to this policy, such as recording their child's classroom activities or recess. Parents may not record meetings with administrators or staff, including meetings related to a student's IEP or 504 Plan. Violation of this policy will result in immediate termination of any meeting that is being recorded and may be grounds for exclusion from school property, loss of volunteer privileges, or other restrictions deemed appropriate by the administration.

**Recordings Made by Students.** This policy applies to students during the school day on school grounds; when being transported to and from school activities or programs in a vehicle owned, leased, or contracted by a school being used for a school purpose by a school employee or by his or her designee; or at a school-sponsored activity or athletic event. Students may make recordings of school activities in a non-disruptive manner including things like athletic contests and other extracurricular performances to the extent permitted by law. Students generally are not permitted to record classroom instruction or members of the school community during the school day without the express consent of a staff member or as required by the student's education plan. Student use of assistive technology that has the capacity to record and/or transmit recordings (e.g. AngelSense) must be approved by the student's education team or administration. Students remain subject to all other district policies and rules. In no event shall recordings be taken or made in restrooms, locker rooms, or other areas

where there is a reasonable expectation of privacy. Students who violate this policy may be subject to discipline up to and including expulsion.

### **Weather-Related School Closing**

The Superintendent will occasionally announce an emergency early school dismissal, late start, or cancellation of school due to extreme heat, snow, or ice. The primary mode for alerting families about closings and early or late starts will be through the phone messaging system. School closings will be announced on radio stations KTTT – 1510 AM and 93.5 FM, KLIR 101.1 FM, and KZEN 100.3 FM. Television stations KOLN/KGIN Channels 10 and 11, KHAS Channel 5, KLKN Channel 8 and KHGI Channel 13. This district will provide alerts via its social media outlets, as well. Parents should assume that school is open and a regular schedule is being followed if there is no announcement concerning the school district. Please do not call the school or individual staff members to find out whether school is being canceled. Parents who do not believe it is safe to transport their students to school may keep their students home after contacting the district office.

If schools are closed due to severe weather conditions, all after-school activities will be canceled.

### **Withdrawal From School**

Students who are moving from the district must notify the school office.

### **Work Permits**

The building principal or other authorized school official shall be responsible for the issuance of work permits for children in accordance with state law.

## **SECTION TWO**

### **ACADEMIC INFORMATION**

#### **Academic Lettering**

A student in grades 9-12 is eligible for an academic letter if he/she achieves Honor Roll status any three of the four quarters in a year.

#### **Class Rank**

Student class rank shall be determined by using a numeric grade point average derived from all classes graded on a numeric basis. To be included in the class ranking, a student must have received a numeric grade for each core curriculum class in which he/she was enrolled. For the purposes of this policy, core curriculum shall include all courses in the areas of language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies.

Students who transfer into the school district will be eligible to be included in class ranking after two semesters of attendance.

Students who transfer into the school district in middle of their senior year will be eligible to be included in class ranking, although a mid-year transfer will not displace the ranking of a student who has not transferred mid-year. In those circumstances there will be two students holding the relevant class ranking. Mid-year transfer students will not be eligible to receive senior awards such as valedictorian and salutatorian unless the student has been enrolled in the district's high school for the last two semesters.

#### **Credit for Non-Academic Work**

Credit is not awarded for participation in extracurricular activities such as sports, speech, drama, etc. However, all such activities in which the student participates, as well as honors earned, are noted on the student's permanent record.

#### **Correspondence and Online Courses**

Under certain circumstances, the school district will reimburse students for the cost of tuition, textbooks, and other mandatory class materials for high school correspondence or online courses that are not part of the school district's regular curriculum. To receive reimbursement, the student must: 1) pay all initial course costs when he/she registers for the course; 2) select a course that is not available in the school curriculum, nor is any comparable course available; 3) register for the course during a specific school period; 4) have a faculty member designated as course monitor; and 5) complete the course during the regular school semester(s).

The district will not be liable for the costs of such courses until the student has successfully completed the course according to the established timelines. After the student has completed the course and the district has reimbursed the student for these costs, the textbooks and class materials shall become the property of the district.

## **Grades**

Students will receive letter grades for their academic core classes.

The middle and high school grading system is as follows:

95-100 A+/A 4.00	93-94 A- 3.67-3.99	
90-92 B+ 3.33-3.66	87-89 B 3.00-3.32	85-86 B- 2.67-2.99
82-84 C+ 2.33-2.66	79-81 C 2.00-2.32	77-78 C- 1.67-1.99
74-76 D+ 1.33-1.66	72-73 D 1.00-1.32	70-71 D- 0.67-0.99
0-69 F 0.00-0.66		

A student may earn an incomplete when he or she fails to complete classroom assignments. Any student in grades 7-11 who receives an incomplete will have this grade recorded on his/her permanent record until the required work is completed to the teacher's satisfaction. If a student does not remove an incomplete by completing the minimum classroom assignments, the incomplete will be calculated as a failing grade in determining the student's grade point average.

If a student does not remove an incomplete by completing the necessary work within two weeks of the end of the grading period, the incomplete will become a failing grade that the student may make up only by taking the entire course again. The two-week period may be extended by mutual agreement of the teacher, principal, and student.

A student who receives an incomplete during his/her senior year must satisfactorily complete the classroom assignments to participate in the graduation ceremony. Seniors with incompletes will not be dismissed from school attendance until the classroom assignments are completed to the teacher's satisfaction.

**Graduation Awards**

Graduating seniors will be awarded for their academic achievements during the annual awards night program. The winners of these awards will be determined on the basis of student academic achievement in the core curriculum: English, mathematics, science, social studies, business education, foreign language, and computer science.

**Graduation Requirements**

Students must earn 250 total credit hours in order to graduate from Twin River High School.

Required courses and credit hours that students must complete in order to qualify for the Twin River High School Diploma are:

<b>COURSE REQUIREMENTS</b>	<b>CREDIT HOURS</b>
<b>English</b> .....	40 credit hours
English I, English II and Speech	
<b>Social Science</b> .....	30 credit hours
Civics/Geography, World History, American History	
<b>Science</b> .....	30 credit hours
Physical Science, Biology	
<b>Math</b> .....	30 credit hours
<b>Business</b> .....	10 credit hours
Computer Science, Personal Finance	
<b>Electives</b> .....	110 credit hours

\*Substitutions may be made for deficiencies in required courses, if unable to complete any required course in the event of failure and inability to fit into succeeding schedules. All substitutions for credit must be approved by the building Principal.

Transfer students must meet the minimum hour requirement for graduation both in terms of total number and specific subject areas. Substitutions may be made for deficiencies in required courses, provided that it was not possible to include the courses on the student's schedule while enrolled at this school district.

Students who receive special education services are mainstreamed into the regular education curriculum when appropriate. The curriculum content of regular education classes may be modified to accommodate the individual needs and abilities of verified special education students. Each curriculum modification will be included on the student's Individual Education Plan by the Multi-Disciplinary Team and/or school staffing teams composed of special

and regular education staff. Hours in special education will be counted toward a high school diploma.

Parents of students who may not qualify for their high school diploma because of academic deficiencies will be notified of this possibility by the beginning of the second semester of the student's senior year.

\*\* It is imperative that students and parents work with the counselor, Mr. Koziol, each year prior to registration to keep abreast of college requirements for the colleges the student may choose to attend after graduation from Twin River Schools. College entrance requirements change on a regular basis and each college has different requirements for incoming freshmen. For example, some colleges and universities require four years of math and three years of science, while others may only require three years of math and two years of science. Foreign language and English requirements are other curricular areas where entrance requirements vary from institution to institution.

### **Mid-Term Graduation**

Students are generally required to attend four years of high school (minimum of seven semesters) to be eligible to receive a diploma from the school district.

The Board of Education, upon receiving administrative recommendation, may grant mid-term exit from high school to students who have completed the requirements for graduation. To be considered for mid-term exit from high school, the student and his/her parents or guardian should apply during the first quarter of the student's senior year. The Board of Education will act on all requests. Any student who is granted mid-term exit from high school forfeits all privileges of high school enrollment, except the right to participate in commencement exercises.

### **ICU Study Plan**

**Problem:** We have students who are struggling and failing classes when they have the potential to be successful. Some of the reasons for these struggles could be: lack of organizational skills, lack of out-of-school time to complete work, a home environment that is not conducive to homework, lack of people available at home who can assist with homework, and lack of motivation to complete homework.

**Solution:** Students may be required to attend ICU sessions before, during and/or after school. Teachers may have students come in before or stay after school to offer instruction and assistance in completing assignments. Teachers will contact parents/guardians to make arrangements for these times.

## **SCHOOL COUNSELING DEPARTMENT**

The school counseling department is a very important place for each of you. The school counselor provides many services, including counseling on personal/social issues, career services, and academic planning.

**Counseling:** The school counseling office is a good place to go when you need an "ear". Confidentiality is the "number one" priority here, so you can feel free to come in and discuss whatever is on your mind. We all have problems, and it can often help to talk them over with someone who cares. Don't be afraid to seek counseling from your teachers, principal or counselor.

**Career Planning:** A wide range of career information is available in the school counselor's office. As you finish your post-secondary education or military training it's important to have a career plan following this time. The school counselor offers an abundance of resources in helping you to get started in exploring your career and education path. As you go through high school, take the time to explore as many career avenues as you possibly can. The resources in the counselor's office will be helpful in this process.

**School Records:** The school counselor houses your complete school records. Please keep in mind that these are your records. You are encouraged to have the counselor explain them to you. You may be surprised how much you can learn about yourself.

**Scheduling of Classes:** The school counselor helps you schedule your classes each year. Your counselor will attempt to help you select classes which will best meet your needs and prepare you for your future. Class selection is very important, and you should discuss it with your parents, teachers, and counselors.

**Testing:** The school counselor also coordinates the testing program in your school. Testing is a good way to gain a better understanding of you and your needs. Remember that it can also help you understand yourself, since you have access to all test results. Many of the tests are useful career planning tools, especially those classes you take during your junior and senior years.

Throughout junior and senior high school, you may be taking the following tests:

### **Grades 7-11:**

**Resource Testing:** We will test any student that has difficulty in learning to see if they may need the Student Assistance Team or if they have a Learning Disability. This may lead to a MDT referral (Multidisciplinary

Team) and an IEP meeting to determine the student's Individual Education Plan.

**Achievement Testing:** used to determine an individual's achievement in seven areas of study. Comparisons are made locally and nationally with others in the same grade. The Achievement tests are given in the spring of the school year. Twin River gives the MAPS-NWEA norm-referenced test.

**State Standards Assessment Testing:** The Nebraska State Standards implemented and utilized by all public schools identify what students are to know and be able to do in each content area at the benchmarks of grades third through, eighth and eleventh grades. These challenging and rigorous standards are intended to guide school districts and the communities they serve in setting high goals and expectations for all students. Assessments taken by the students are scored and rated in one of three four categories. These categories are: Developing, On-Track, CCR Benchmark. Twin River's goal is to get all students to the On Track and CCR Benchmark levels.

#### **Grade 10:**

**PreACT** The PreACT Empowers 10th-grade Students with a Unique Practice Experience for Taking the ACT Test. **Structured testing environment**—similar to what the student will experience when taking the ACT test. **ACT test-quality questions**—answers to which can be used to predict student performance on the ACT. **Student reports**—a visual depiction of students' educational and career journey based on academic and career interests. The choices a student makes in high school help chart a course for life after it. Educators can use insights from PreACT report data to help students prepare for success—and start making informed choices well before graduation.

#### **Grade 11:**

**PSAT-NMSQT** (Personal Student Assessment Test - National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test) - helps familiarize the student with college-entrance type examinations. The test is also used for scholarship purposes and students receiving high final scores may become semi-finalists and finalists for a National Merit Scholarship. The test is optional and students must pay a test fee of about \$12.00.

**ASVAB** (Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery): helps the student learn about his/her occupational aptitudes and abilities. The test is given during the first semester. Grades 11-12 may elect to take the ASVAB Test when Grade 10 is taking the test. Provided for student at no cost--paid for by the Armed Services.

**Grade 12:**

**ACT** (American College Testing Program): This test is for college bound seniors and is used for entrance and placement purposes. Results of this test are used in consideration for a number of scholarships. Most colleges require this test. The fee for this will cost a minimum of \$35.00. Students should check with the counselor to be certain what your college requires and about registering for the tests.

**SAT** (Scholastic Aptitude Test): This test is used mostly on the East and West coast colleges but also is used by certain other colleges for entrance and placement purposes. The cost for the student will be a minimum of \$45.00. Students should check with the counselor to be certain what your college requires and about registering for the tests.

**Accuplacer** is a Free Web-based assessment tool to determine skills in reading, writing, and math. It is untimed. Students can normally complete it in less than 90 minutes. All questions must be answered, and students cannot go back over a previous question once they answer it. Accuplacer test scores become available as soon as the student completes the exam. Accuplacer may determine whether a student goes directly into a college-level course or a remedial class. Preparation for the exam can help assure proper placement of students.

## **ACADEMIC AWARDS**

**'A' HONOR ROLL AWARD:** All students achieving a cumulative GPA of 93% and above, with no grade below an 86% will be eligible for this recognition. (Must be in grades 7-12)

**ACADEMIC ALL-STATE:** All Junior or Senior students who are a starter or 1st sub on a Varsity Team, having a 3.5 GPA (91% or above) on the 4 pt. Scale, are selected by the Coach and the Lincoln Journal Star will be eligible for this recognition. (Must be a Junior or Senior) Students will receive a certificate.

**ACADEMIC ALL-STATE:** The Nebraska School Activities Association has implemented the NSAA Awards Program recognizing students who meet the criteria form nomination by their school in the season their activity takes place. The following leadership and scholarship guidelines apply:

1. A nominated student must be a varsity player or organizational leader who has played a significant role on the team or in the organizational activity during the seasons for which nominations are accepted.

2. A nominated student must have a minimum cumulative Grade Point Average, in all curricular subjects, of 3.7 on a 4.0 scale or the equivalent. (93% or A-, etc.)

3. A school may nominate two students for each NSAA-sponsored activity during the school year. Students who meet these requirements and are nominated by their school administrator are awarded the NSAA Academic All-State Award for that activity.

**BEST OF THE CLASS AWARD:** Using the combination of GPA and ACT scores, seniors may receive gold, silver or bronze medals for academic achievement.

### **Honor Roll**

**Honor Roll with Distinction** - All students achieving an average of 93% and above with no grade below 86% in their solid courses will be eligible for this recognition.

**Honor Roll** - All Students achieving an average of 90% and above with no grade below 80 % in their solid courses will be eligible for this recognition.

### **Report Cards**

Report cards are sent home the week following the end of the grade-level specific reporting period.

### **Schoolwide Title I**

The federal government provides funding to each state that submits a Title I plan describing what students are expected to know and be able to do. The state then sends money to school districts based on the number of families below a set income level. Our school district then uses the money to provide support to students in reaching the standards of performance that all students are expected to meet.

A Schoolwide Title I program allows schools that qualify to use Title I money to pay for educational programs for the whole school, not just for selected services and programs that can help improve your child's education. Title I money may be combined with other funds to pay for new programs. All students are held to the same high standards. A schoolwide program is based on the district and state standards for what students in each grade should know in reading, math, social studies, and science. Goals are set to help all students reach the standards. The schoolwide plan is revised annually to determine if there has been improvement in student achievement. Successful Schoolwide Title I programs are a result of schools and parents working together.

\*Twin River Public Schools is in compliance with Title I requirements for all teachers and paraprofessionals as required by Section 1111, Section 1112 and Section 1115 of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). You may request information regarding the qualifications of your child's teacher. This information can be viewed in the superintendent's office. Quality teaching is the most important component in assisting children to learn and achieve in school. At Twin River Public Schools we are committed to selecting and keeping quality staff.

### **Twin River Public Schools---Compact for Learning**

The staff, students and families of Twin River Elementary have high expectations. Our mission is to provide opportunities for individuals to become lifelong learners. In order to provide the highest quality instruction and to support our goal we pledge to work together through this compact.

#### **Teacher:**

*I agree to the following:*

1. Provide high-quality curriculum and instruction to enable children to meet the challenging state academic achievement standards.
2. Keep families informed of the students' progress and needs in each subject area on an ongoing basis.
3. Provide engaging lessons in an effective and positive learning environment.
4. Encourage parent involvement to support their children's learning.

**Parent / Caring Adult:**

*I agree to the following:*

1. Communicate and work with teachers and school staff to support and challenge my child.
2. Attend all parent teacher conferences.
3. Make sure my child is at school every day on time, unless he/she is ill.
4. Provide a quiet area, assist when needed and check homework.
5. Read to and/or listen to my child.

**Student:**

*I agree to the following:*

1. Be a Titan by being respectful, responsible and safe.
2. Attend school every day, unless I am ill.
3. Demonstrate a positive attitude.
4. Accept responsibility for my behavior.
5. Talk to my teacher and family about my progress and ask for help when needed.
6. Return completed homework on time.
7. Read every day at home.

**Title I Parent and Family Engagement Policy**

Twin River Public Schools intends to follow the Title I Parent and Family Engagement Policy guidelines in accordance with federal law, Section 1116(a-f) ESSA, (Every Student Succeeds Act) of 2015.

**In General:**

The written District parent and family engagement policy has been developed jointly with, updated periodically and distributed to parents and family members of participating children and the local community in an understandable and uniform format. This policy agreed on by such parents describes the means for carrying out the requirements as listed below.

- Parents and family members of all students are welcomed and encouraged to become involved with their child's school and education; this includes parents and family members that have limited English proficiency, limited literacy, are economically disadvantaged, have disabilities, racial or ethnic minority background or are migratory children. Information related to school and parent programs, meetings, school reports and other activities are sent to the parents of participating children in a format, and to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand.

- Parents are involved in the planning, review, evaluation and improvement of the Title I program, Parent and Family Engagement Policy and the School-Parent Compact at an annual parent meeting scheduled at a

convenient time. This would include the planning and implementation of effective parent and family involvement activities.

- Conduct, with meaningful parent and family involvement, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of the Parent and Family Engagement Policy.

- Use the evaluation findings to design evidence-based strategies for more effective parental involvement, and to revise the Parent and Family Engagement Policy.

- Opportunities are provided for parents and family members to participate in decisions related to the education of their child/children. The school and local educational agency shall provide other reasonable support for parental involvement activities.

- Parents of participating children will be provided timely information about programs under this part, a description and explanation of the curriculum in use, the forms of academic assessment used to measure student progress and the achievement levels of the challenging State academic standards. The school will provide assistance, opportunities, and/or materials and training to help parents work with their children to improve their children's academic achievement in a format, and when feasible, in a language the parents and family members can understand.

- Educate teachers, specialized instructional support personnel, principals, and other school leaders, with the assistance of parents in the value and utility of contributions of parents, how to reach out to, communicate with and work with parents as equal partners.

- Coordinate and integrate parental involvement programs and activities with other Federal, State and local programs, including preschool programs that encourage and support parents in more fully participating in the education of their children.

\*Twin River Public Schools is in compliance with Title I requirements for all teachers and paraprofessionals as required by Section 1111, Section 1112 and Section 1115 of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). You may request information regarding the qualifications of your child's teacher. This information can be viewed in the superintendent's office. Quality teaching is the most important component in assisting children to learn and achieve in school. At Twin River Public Schools we are committed to selecting and keeping quality staff.

## **SECTION THREE**

### **STUDENT DISCIPLINE**

#### **General Discipline Philosophy**

The school district has the authority to discipline students who behave inappropriately on the way to school, at school, during lunch, on the way home, and at all school activities (home and away or any time while on school or district property).

The school district's discipline is guided by the following principles:

1. The school district's discipline policy is intended to ensure that students take responsibility for their behavior.
2. Behavior expectations and the consequences for failing to meet those expectations will be clearly communicated to all students and their parents.
3. The severity of consequences for violating behavior expectations will generally be progressive in nature. That is, sanctions will increase with each instance of misconduct; however, each instance will be assessed on its own facts, and sanctions will be imposed based on the severity of the misconduct.
4. Parents play a vital role in supporting and reinforcing the school district's expectations of their students.
5. Behavior expectations apply to all students; consequences are enforced consistently without regard to a student's academic record or achievement.

Extracurricular activities including athletics, cheerleading, band, chorus, and club activities, are governed by the Student Activity Handbook. Students who are involved in extracurricular activities may face consequences related to the activity in addition to the consequences discussed in this handbook.

The school district reserves the right to refer to the appropriate non-school agency any act or conduct of its students which may constitute a crime under federal, state, county, or local law. The administration will cooperate with these agencies in their investigations.

#### **Forms of School Discipline**

Administrative and teaching personnel may take actions regarding student behavior that are reasonably necessary to aid the student, further school purposes, or prevent interference with the educational process. Such actions may include, but need not be limited to, counseling of students, parent conferences, referral to restorative justice practices or services, rearrangement of schedules, requirements that a student remain in school

after regular hours to do additional work, restriction of extracurricular activity, or requirements that a student receive counseling, psychological evaluation, or psychiatric evaluation upon the written consent of a parent or guardian to such counseling or evaluation. The actions may also include in-school suspensions during the day or mandatory attendance at Saturday school. When in-school suspensions, after-school assignments, Saturday School, or other disciplinary measures are assigned, the student is responsible for complying with such disciplinary measures; a failure to serve such assigned discipline as directed will serve as grounds for further discipline, up to expulsion from school. District administrators may develop building-specific protocols for the imposition of student discipline.

In this section, references to "Principal" shall include building principals, the principal's designee, or other appropriate school district administrators.

Any statement, notice, recommendation, determination, or similar action specified in this section shall be effectively given at the time written evidence thereof is delivered personally to or upon receipt of certified or registered mail or upon actual knowledge by a student or his or her parent or guardian.

Any student who is suspended or expelled from school pursuant to this section may not participate in any school activity during the duration of that exclusion including adjacent school holidays and weekends. The student activity eligibility of a student who is mandatorily reassigned shall be determined on a case-by-case basis by the principal of the building to which the student is reassigned.

### **After School Sessions and Detentions**

Teachers and administrators may require students to stay after school or to serve a detention when the student violates any of the rules contained in this handbook or violates classroom-specific conduct rules set by individual teachers.

Students who ride the bus home from school will be given a 24-hour notice of after-school time or a detention so that the parents may make plans to pick up the student the following day.

- After-school sessions will not exceed 30 minutes from the time of dismissal and are to be served in the teacher's room. A student who fails to attend an after school session may be given a detention by the teacher or may face additional disciplinary consequences up to and including long-term suspension and/or expulsion. A student who has a conflict with an after-school session is responsible for working it out with the teacher.

- Detentions are 30 minutes, served in the central office or the detention room designated by the building principal.

### **Saturday School**

The building administrator may require a student to attend Saturday School for four hours on Saturday morning. Saturday School is held from 8:30 AM to 12:30 PM in a classroom staffed by teachers. Students follow strict rules and must work on assignments the entire time, except for short breaks. Students who do not follow Saturday School rules will be removed from the classroom and will face further disciplinary action.

### **In-School Suspension**

The building administrator may require a student to serve in-school suspension. Students may be required to attend up to six hours per day of school-sponsored suspension a day at a designated location where they will study and participate in campus clean up. There will be zero tolerance for behavior problems from students placed in in-school suspension. Students not completing their In-School Suspension will face further disciplinary action.

### **Emergency Exclusion**

Students may be emergency excluded from school pursuant to the board's separate policy on emergency exclusion or state law.

### **Short-Term Suspension**

The Principal or the Principal's designee may exclude a student from school or any school function for a period of up to five school days (short-term suspension) on the following grounds:

1. Conduct constituting grounds for expulsion as hereinafter set forth; or
2. Other violations of rules and standards of behavior adopted by the board of education or the administrative or teaching staff of the school, which occur on or off school grounds, if such conduct interferes with school purposes or there is a nexus between such conduct and school.

The following process will apply to short-term suspensions:

1. The Principal shall make a reasonable investigation of the facts and circumstances. Short-term suspension shall be imposed only after a determination that the suspension is necessary to help any student, to further school purposes, or to prevent an interference with school purposes.

2. Prior to commencement of the short-term suspension, the student will be given oral or written notice of the charges against the student. The student will be advised of what he/she is accused of having done, an explanation of the evidence the authorities have, and an opportunity to explain his/her version of the facts.
3. Within 24 hours or such additional time as is reasonably necessary following the suspension (not to exceed an additional 48 hours), the Principal will send a written statement to the student and the student's parent or guardian, describing the student's conduct, misconduct, or violation of the rule or standard and the reasons for the action taken. An opportunity will be given to the student, and the student's parent or guardian, to have a conference with the Principal ordering the short-term suspension before or at the time the student returns to school. The Principal shall determine who, in addition to the parent or guardian, is to attend the conference.
4. Students who are short-term suspended will be given the opportunity to complete classwork.

### **Weapons and/or Firearms**

Students may be disciplined for the possession of weapons and/or firearms pursuant to the board's separate policy on weapons and firearms or state law.

**Firearms.** No student may bring, possess, handle or transmit a firearm on school grounds, in a school owned vehicle, or at a school activity or event off school grounds, except as permitted by this policy.

**Definition of Firearm.** The term "firearm, as defined in 18 U.S.C. 921, means any weapon (including a starter gun) which will or is designed to or may readily be converted to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive, the frame or receiver of any such weapon, any firearm muffler or firearm silencer, or any destructive device (excluding an antique firearm).

**Exceptions Regarding Firearms.** The only exceptions for a student to bring or possess a weapon, including a firearm, are as follows:

1. The issuance of firearms to or possession of firearms by members of the Reserve Officers Training Corps when training or
2. Firearms which may lawfully be possessed by the person receiving instruction under the immediate supervision of an adult instructor who may lawfully possess firearms.

**Consequences - Firearm.** Any student who brings a firearm, as that term is defined in 18 United States Code 921, to school will be expelled from school for one calendar year. The superintendent of schools and the board of education shall have the authority to modify the expulsion requirement on a case-by-case basis.

### **Long-Term Suspension**

Students may be excluded by the Principal from school or any school function for a period of more than five school days but less than twenty school days (long-term suspension) for any conduct constituting grounds for expulsion as hereinafter set forth. The process for long-term suspension is set forth below.

### **Pre-Kindergarten through Second Grade Students**

An elementary school shall not suspend a student in pre-kindergarten through second grade unless the student brings a deadly weapon as defined in section 28-109 on school grounds, in a vehicle owned, leased, or contracted by a school being used for a school purpose or in a vehicle being driven for a school purpose by a school employee or his or her designee, or at a school-sponsored activity or athletic event. As an alternative to suspension, the school district may take any action authorized by law, including those provided in section 79-258.

### **Expulsion**

- 1. Meaning of Expulsion.** Expulsion means exclusion from attendance in all schools, grounds and activities of or within the system for a period not to exceed the remainder of the semester in which it took effect unless the misconduct occurred (a) within ten school days prior to the end of the first semester, in which case the expulsion shall remain in effect through the second semester, or (b) within ten school days prior to the end of the second semester, in which case the expulsion shall remain in effect for summer school and the first semester of the following school year, or (c) unless the expulsion is for conduct specified in these rules or in law as permitting or requiring a longer removal, in which case the expulsion shall remain in effect for the period specified therein. Such action may be modified or terminated by the school district at any time during the expulsion period.
- 2. Summer Review.** Any expulsion that will remain in effect during the first semester of the following school year will be automatically scheduled for review before the beginning of the school year. The review will be conducted by the hearing officer who conducted the initial expulsion hearing, or a hearing officer appointed by the Superintendent in the event no hearing was previously held or the initial hearing officer is no longer available or willing to serve, after the hearing officer has given notice of

the review to the student and the student's parent or guardian. This review shall be limited to newly discovered evidence or evidence of changes in the student's circumstances occurring since the original hearing. This review may lead to a recommendation by the hearing officer that the student be readmitted for the upcoming school year. If the school board or board of education or a committee of such board took the final action to expel the student, the student may be readmitted only by action of the board. Otherwise, the student may be readmitted by action of the Superintendent.

3. **Suspension of Enforcement of an Expulsion:** Enforcement of an expulsion action may be suspended (i.e., "stayed") for a period of not more than one full semester in addition to the balance of the semester in which the expulsion takes effect, and as a condition of such suspended action, the student may be assigned to a school, class, or program/plan and to such other consequences which the school district deems appropriate.
4. **Alternative School or Pre-expulsion Procedures.** The school shall provide either an alternative school, class or educational program for expelled students or shall follow the pre-expulsion procedures outlined in Neb. Rev. Stat. 79-266.

**Grounds for Long-Term Suspension, Expulsion, or Mandatory Reassignment:**

The following conduct constitutes grounds for long-term suspension, expulsion, or mandatory reassignment, subject to the procedural provisions of the Student Discipline Act, Neb. Rev. Stat. § 79-254 through 79-296, when such activity occurs on school grounds, in a vehicle owned, leased, or contracted by a school being used for a school purpose or in a vehicle being driven for a school purpose by a school employee or by his or her designee, or at a school-sponsored activity or athletic event:

1. Use of violence, force, coercion, threat, intimidation, or similar conduct in a manner that constitutes a substantial interference with school purposes. The board has determined that the use of synthetic media such as deepfakes may constitute "similar conduct";
2. Willfully causing or attempting to cause substantial damage to property, stealing or attempting to steal property of substantial value, or repeated damage or theft involving property;
3. Causing or attempting to cause personal injury to a school employee, to a school volunteer, or to any student. Personal injury caused by accident, self-defense, or other action undertaken on the reasonable belief that it was necessary to protect some other person shall not constitute a violation of this subdivision;

4. Threatening or intimidating any student for the purpose of or with the intent of obtaining money or anything of value from such student;
5. Knowingly possessing, handling, or transmitting any object or material that is ordinarily or generally considered a weapon (*see also board policy on weapons and firearms*);
6. Engaging in the unlawful possession, selling, dispensing, or use of a controlled substance or an imitation controlled substance, as defined in section 28-401, a substance represented to be a controlled substance, or alcoholic liquor as defined in section 53-103.02 or being under the influence of a controlled substance or alcoholic liquor (*note: the term "under the influence" for school purposes has a less strict meaning than it does under criminal law; for school purposes, the term means any level of impairment and includes even the odor of alcohol on the breath or person of a student; also, it includes being impaired by reason of the abuse of any material used as a stimulant*);
7. Public indecency as defined in section 28-806, except that this prohibition shall apply only to students at least twelve years of age but less than nineteen years of age;
8. Engaging in bullying as defined in section 79-2,137 and in these policies;
9. Sexually assaulting or attempting to sexually assault any person if a complaint has been filed by a prosecutor in a court of competent jurisdiction alleging that the student has sexually assaulted or attempted to sexually assault any person, including sexual assaults or attempted sexual assaults that occur off school grounds not at a school function, activity, or event. For purposes of this subdivision, sexual assault means sexual assault in the first degree as defined in section 28-319, sexual assault in the second degree as defined in section 28-320, sexual assault of a child in the second or third degree as defined in section 28-320.01, or sexual assault of a child in the first degree as defined in section 28-319.01, as such sections now provide or may hereafter from time to time be amended;
10. Engaging in any other activity forbidden by the laws of the State of Nebraska which activity constitutes a danger to other students or interferes with school purposes; or
11. A repeated violation of any of the following rules, or a single violation if the conduct amounts to a criminal act, if such violations constitute a substantial interference with school purposes:
  - a. The use of language, written or oral, or conduct, including gestures, which is profane or abusive to students or staff members. Profane or abusive language or conduct includes, but is not limited to, that which is commonly understood and intended to be derogatory toward a group or individual based upon race, sex, national origin, or religion;

- b. Dressing or grooming in a manner which violates the school district's dress code and/or is dangerous to the student's health and safety, a danger to the health and safety of others, or which is disruptive, distracting or indecent to the extent that it interferes with the learning and educational process;
- c. Violating school bus rules as set by the school district or district staff;
- d. Possessing, using, selling, or dispensing tobacco, drug paraphernalia, an electronic nicotine delivery system, or a tobacco imitation substance or packaging, regardless of form, including cigars, cigarettes, chewing tobacco, and any other form of tobacco, tobacco derivative product or imitation, or electronic cigarettes, vapor pens, etc.;
- e. Possessing, using, selling, or dispensing any drug paraphernalia or imitation of a controlled substance regardless of whether the actual substance possessed is a controlled substance by Nebraska law;
- f. Possession of pornography, including creation, possession, dissemination, accessing, sale, or any other use of synthetic media, such as deepfakes;
- g. Sexting or the possession of sexting images (a combination of sex and texting - the act of sending sexually explicit messages or photos electronically), including creation, possession, dissemination, accessing, sale, or any other use of synthetic media, such as deepfakes;
- h. Engaging in initiations, defined as any ritualistic expectations, requirements, or activities placed upon new members of a school organization for the purpose of admission into the organization, even if those activities do not rise to the level of "hazing" as defined below. Initiations are prohibited except by permission of the superintendent;
- i. Engaging in hazing as defined by state law and this policy. Hazing is defined as any activity by which a person intentionally or recklessly endangers the physical or mental health or safety of an individual for the purpose of initiation into, admission into, affiliation with, or continued membership in any school organization. Under state criminal law, hazing activities include, but are not limited to, whipping, beating, branding, an act of sexual penetration, an exposure of the genitals of the body done with the intent to affront or alarm any person, a lewd fondling or caressing of the body of another person, forced and prolonged calisthenics, prolonged exposure to the elements, forced consumption of any food, liquor, beverage, drug, or harmful substance not generally intended for human consumption, prolonged sleep deprivation, or any brutal treatment or the

performance of any unlawful act that endangers the physical or mental health or safety of any person. For purposes of school rules, hazing also includes any activity expected of someone joining a group, team, or activity that humiliates, degrades or risks emotional and/or physical harm, regardless of the person's willingness to participate; personal servitude; restrictions on personal hygiene; yelling, swearing and insulting new members/rookies; being forced to wear embarrassing or humiliating attire in public; consumption of vile substances or smearing of such on one's skin; binge drinking and drinking games; sexual simulation and sexual assault;

- j. Bullying which shall include cyber-bullying, defined as the use of the internet, including but not limited to social networking sites such as Facebook, cell phones or other devices to send, post or text message images and material intended to hurt or embarrass another person. This may include, but is not limited to; continuing to send e-mail to someone who has said they want no further contact with the sender; sending or posting threats, sexual remarks or pejorative labels (i.e., hate speech); ganging up on victims by making them the subject of ridicule in forums, and posting false statements as fact intended to humiliate the victim; disclosure of personal data, such as the victim's real name, address, or school at websites or forums; posing as the identity of the victim for the purpose of publishing material in their name that defames or ridicules them; sending threatening and harassing text, instant messages or emails to the victims; and posting or sending rumors or gossip to instigate others to dislike and gang up on the target;
- k. Violation of the district's computer acceptable computer use policy are subject to discipline, up to and including expulsion;
- l. Knowingly possessing, handling, or transmitting any object or material that is ordinarily or generally considered a simulated or "look-a-like" weapon;
- m. Using any object to simulate possession of a weapon;
- n. Knowingly making a false statement or knowingly submitting false information during the Title IX grievance process or any other school investigation or making a materially false statement in bad faith in the course of a Title IX grievance proceeding or any other school investigation; and
- o. Any other violation of a rule or regulation established by a school district staff member pursuant to authority delegated by the board.

The length of any suspension, expulsion, or mandatory reassignment shall be as provided or allowed by law.

## **Reporting Requirement to Law Enforcement**

Violations of this section will result in a report to law enforcement if:

1. The violation includes possession of a firearm;
2. The violation results in child abuse;
3. It is a violation of the Nebraska Criminal Code that the administration believes cannot be adequately addressed by discipline from the school district;
4. It is a violation of the Nebraska Criminal Code that endangers the health and welfare of staff or students; or
5. It is a violation of the Nebraska Criminal Code that interferes with school purposes.

## **Due Process Afforded to Students Facing Long-term Suspension or Expulsion**

The following procedures shall be followed regarding any long-term suspension, expulsion, or mandatory reassignment:

1. The decision to recommend discipline shall be made within two school days after learning of the alleged student misconduct. On the date of the decision to discipline, the Principal shall file with the Superintendent a written charge and a summary of the evidence supporting such charge.
2. The Principal shall serve the student and the student's parents or guardian with a written notice by registered or certified mail or personal service within two school days of the date of the decision to recommend long-term suspension or expulsion. The notice shall include the following:
  - a. The rule or standard of conduct allegedly violated and the acts of the student alleged to constitute a cause for long-term suspension, expulsion, or mandatory reassignment, including a summary of the evidence to be presented against the student;
  - b. The penalty, if any, which the principal has recommended in the charge and any other penalty to which the student may be subject;
  - c. A statement that, before long-term suspension, expulsion, or mandatory reassignment can be invoked, the student has a right to a hearing, upon request, and that if the student is suspended pending the outcome of the hearing, the student may complete classwork and homework, including, but not limited to, examinations, missed during the period of suspension pursuant

- to district guidelines which shall not require the student to attend the school district's alternative programs for expelled students in order to complete classwork or;
- d. A description of the hearing procedures provided by the act, along with procedures for appealing any decision rendered at the hearing;
  - e. A statement that the principal, legal counsel for the school, the student, the student's parent, or the student's representative or guardian has the right (i) to examine the student's academic and disciplinary records and any affidavits to be used at the hearing concerning the alleged misconduct and (ii) to know the identity of the witnesses to appear at the hearing and the substance of their testimony; and
  - f. A form on which the student, the student's parent, or the student's guardian may request a hearing, to be signed by such parties and delivered to the principal or superintendent in person or by registered or certified mail to the address provided on the form.
3. When a notice of intent to discipline a student by long-term suspension, expulsion, or mandatory reassignment is filed with the superintendent, the student may be suspended by the principal until the date the long-term suspension, expulsion, or mandatory reassignment takes effect, if the principal determines that the student must be suspended immediately to prevent or substantially reduce the risk of (a) interference with an educational function or school purpose or (b) a personal injury to the student himself or herself, other students, school employees, or school volunteers.
  4. Nothing in this policy shall preclude the student, student's parents, guardian or representative from discussing and settling the matter with appropriate school personnel prior to the time the long-term suspension, expulsion, or mandatory reassignment takes effect.
  5. If a hearing is requested within five days after receipt of the notice, the Superintendent shall recommend appointment of a hearing examiner within two school days after receipt of the hearing request. The student or the student's parent or guardian may request designation of a hearing examiner other than the hearing examiner recommended by the superintendent if notice of the request is given to the superintendent within two school days after receipt of the superintendent's recommended appointment. Upon receiving such request, the superintendent must provide one alternative hearing examiner who is not an employee of the school district or otherwise currently under contract with the school district and whose impartiality may not otherwise be reasonably questioned. The student or the student's parent or guardian must, within five school days, select a

- hearing examiner to conduct the hearing who was recommended or provided as an alternative hearing examiner, and shall notify the superintendent in writing of the selection. The superintendent must appoint the selected hearing examiner upon receipt of such notice.
6. The hearing examiner must, within two school days after being appointed, give written notice to the principal, the student, and the student's parent or guardian of the time and place for the hearing.
  7. The hearing shall be held within a period of five school days after appointment of the hearing examiner, but such time may be changed by the hearing examiner for good cause with consent of the parties. No hearing shall be held upon less than two school days' actual notice to the principal, the student, and the student's parent or guardian, except with the consent of all the parties.
  8. The principal or legal counsel for the school, the student, and the student's parent, guardian, or representative have the right to receive a copy of all records and written statements referred to in the Student Discipline Act as well as the statement of any witness in the possession of the school board or board of education no later than forty-eight hours prior to the hearing.
  9. If a hearing is requested more than five school days following the receipt of the written notice, but not more than thirty calendar days after receipt, the Superintendent shall appoint a hearing examiner. The hearing will be held according to the requirements of section 79-269. The student shall be entitled to a hearing but the consequence imposed may continue in effect pending final determination.
  10. If a request for hearing is not received within thirty calendar days following the mailing or delivery of the written notice, the student shall not be entitled to a hearing.

In the event a hearing is requested, the hearing, hearing procedures, the student's rights and any appeals or judicial review permitted by law shall be governed by the applicable provisions of the Nebraska Student Discipline Act (NEB. REV. STAT. § 79-254 to 79-294).

## **SECTION FOUR**

The school district is committed to providing a school environment that enhances learning and the development of lifelong wellness. The goals outlined in this policy were determined and selected after reviewing and considering evidence-based strategies.\*

### **1. Goals for Nutrition Promotion and Education**

- a. The district will promote healthy food and beverage choices for all students, as well as encourage participation in school meal programs by such methods as implementing evidence-based healthy food promotion techniques through the school meal programs and promoting foods and beverages that meet or exceed the USDA Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards.
- b. The health curriculum will include information on good nutrition and healthy living habits.
- c. Teachers will incorporate information on nutrition and wellness into the classroom curriculum as appropriate.
- d. The district will collaborate with public and private entities to promote student wellness.
- e. Water will be made available to students throughout the school day.

### **2. Goals for Physical Activity**

- a. The school district's curriculums shall include instruction on physical activity and habits for healthy living.
- b. Students will be encouraged to engage in physical activities throughout the school day and will be provided with opportunities to do so.
- c. The district encourages parents and guardians to support their children's participation in physical activity, to be physically active role models, and to include physical activity in family events.

### **3. Goals for Other School-Based Activities Designed to Promote Student Wellness**

- a. The district will participate in state and federal child nutrition programs as appropriate.
- b. The district will provide professional development, support, and resources for staff about student wellness.
- c. Students will be provided sufficient time in which to eat school-provided meals.
- d. The district's lunchrooms will be attractive and well-lighted.
- e. The district will allow other health-related entities to use school facilities for activities such as health clinics and screenings so long as the activities meet the district's requirements and criteria for the use of facilities.
- f. The district may partner with other individuals or entities in the community to support the implementation of this policy.
- g. The district will strive to provide physical activity breaks for all students, recess for elementary students, and before and after school activities, as well as encourage students to use active transport (walking, biking, etc.)
- h. The district will use evidence-based strategies to develop, structure, and support student wellness.

**4. Standards and Nutrition Guidelines for All Foods and Beverages Sold to Students on the School Campus and During the School Day**

- a. The district will ensure that student access to foods and beverages meet federal, state and local laws and guidelines including, but not limited to:
  - i. USDA National School Lunch and School Breakfast nutrition standards
  - ii. USDA Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards.
- b. The district will offer students a variety of age-appropriate, healthy food and beverage selections with plenty of fruits, vegetables, and whole grains aimed at meeting the nutrition

needs of students within their calorie requirements in order to promote student health and reduce childhood obesity.

## **5. Standards for All Foods and Beverages Provided, But Not Sold to Students During the School Day**

The district may provide a list of healthy party ideas or food and beverage alternatives to parents, teachers, and students for classroom parties, rewards and incentives, or classroom snacks. The district discourages the use of food and beverages as a reward or incentive for performance or behavior.

## **6. Food and Beverage Marketing**

Marketing and advertising is only allowed on school grounds or at school activities for foods and beverages that meet or exceed the USDA Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards, except as follows:

- a. This requirement does not apply to marketing that occurs at events outside of school hours such as after school sporting or any other events, including school fundraising events.
- b. The district will not immediately replace menu boards, coolers, tray liners, beverage cups, and other food service equipment with depictions of noncompliant products or logos to comply with the new USDA Smart Snacks in Schools nutrition requirements. All previously purchased products will be used, and all existing contracts honored.
- c. All equipment that currently displays noncompliant marketing materials will not be removed or replaced (e.g., a score board with a Coca-Cola logo). However, as the district reviews and considers new contracts, and as scoreboards or other such durable equipment are replaced or updated over time, any products that are marketed and advertised will meet or exceed the USDA Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards

## **7. Public Participation**

Parents, students, representatives of the school food authority, teachers, school health professionals, board members, school administrators, and members of the general public shall be allowed to provide their input to the school district during the wellness policy adoption and review process.

## **8. Competitive Foods (Includes Food and Beverages Sold in Vending Machines, School Stores, and Fundraisers)**

- a. Definitions. "Competitive food" means all food and beverages other than meals reimbursed under programs authorized by the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act and the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 available for sale to students on the school campus during the school day. For the purpose of competitive food standards implementation, "school day" means the period from the midnight before to 30 minutes after the end of the official school day.
- b. Applicability. Except as otherwise allowed by the Nebraska Department of Education (NDE) or applicable law, all competitive food sold during the school day must meet the USDA Smart Snacks Standards and the nutrition standards found in 7 CFR § 210.11. The competitive food restrictions do not apply to food sold during non-school day hours, weekends, and off-campus fundraising events such as concessions during after-school sporting events, school plays or concerts; or to bulk food items that are sold for consumption at home. (Ex: frozen pizzas, cookie dough tubs, etc.)
- c. Fundraiser Exemptions. A special exemption is allowed for the sale of food and/or beverages that do not meet the competitive food standards as required in this section for the purpose of conducting an infrequent school-sponsored fundraiser. The specially exempted fundraisers must not take place more than the frequency specified by NDE during such periods that schools are in session. No specially exempted fundraiser foods or beverages may be sold in competition with school meals in the food service area during the meal service.
- d. Other Exemptions. The only other nutrition exemptions from the competitive food requirements are those found in 7 CFR § 210.11.
- e. Other Limitations. No competitive food can be sold to children anywhere on school premises beginning one half hour before breakfast and/or lunch service until one half hour after meal service unless all proceeds earned during these time periods go to the school nutrition program.

## **9. Triennial Assessment**

The school board shall assess and review this policy at least every three years to determine:

- a. Compliance with this policy;

- b. How this policy compares to NDE model wellness policies;
- c. Progress made in attaining the goals of this policy.

The school board will update or modify this policy as appropriate.

## **10. Public Notice**

In addition to identifying the topic on its meeting agenda as required by the Open Meetings Act, the school district will provide notice of this policy at least annually to the public and other stakeholders identified in this policy by one or more of the following methods: on its webpage, in its newsletter, in the student and employee handbooks, newspaper advertisements, direct mailings, electronic mail, and public postings.

In addition to identifying the topic on its meeting agenda as required by the Open Meetings Act, the school district will provide notice of the Triennial Assessment and progress reports towards meeting the goals in this policy using one or more of those same methods.

## **11. Recordkeeping**

The District will retain records to document compliance with the requirements of the wellness policy at its central office.

## **12. Operational Responsibility**

The superintendent is responsible for coordinating the implementation of this policy and for monitoring the district's progress in meeting the goals established by this policy. The superintendent will periodically report to the board on the district's progress in implementing this policy.

\* These strategies include, but are not necessarily limited to, those cited in the Alliance for a Healthier Generation's Model Wellness Policy (Updated June 2020 to Reflect the USDA Final Rule) found at <https://api.healthiergeneration.org/resource/2>.

## **STAFF DIRECTORY**

### **Members of the Board of Education:**

President - Jennifer Swantek

Vice President - John Nelson

Treasurer - David Baxa

Secretary - John Reeg

Member - Chelsa Thompson

Member - Jeremy Vetick

### **Administration**

Chris Lecher - Superintendent

Andy Banahan - Secondary Principal/Activities Director

Brenda Buhl - Elementary Principal

### **School Counselor**

Dan Koziol

### **Licensed Independent Mental Health Practitioner**

Chelsa Thompson

### **Secretaries and Bookkeeper**

Lori Swantek - Business Manager

Tania Kershaw - Jr. High/High School Secretary

Chris Parry - Elementary Secretary

Brooke Kruse - Administrative Assistant

### **Grades 7-12 Faculty**

Jonathan Anderson

Lori McIntosh

Katie Shanle

Britton Andreasen

Jesse Nelson

Ryan Sidwell

Mick Bubak

Cheryl Percival

Gabe Stalder

Stephanie Carlson

Matthew Quick

Mindy Swanson

Denise Hebda

Mindi Reardon

Kara Thompson

Kalin Koch

Joshua Reiff

Mitchel Tracy

Mark Koch

Sam Robb

Dylan Loewe

Blakely Schroeder

## **Elementary Faculty**

Pre-kindergarten - Kristan Connelly

Kindergarten - Taylor Jones

1st Grade - Lisa Matthes

2nd Grade - Tara Hill and Madison Smith

3rd Grade - Crystal Hughes and Cassandra Fisher

4th Grade - Julie Strain and Sydney Cunningham

5th Grade - Emily Thomas and Amanda Lund

6th Grade - Kris Rogers and Sheridan Eisenmenger

Title I - Reading - Brenda Cuba

Reading - MTSS - Tracie Beller

Reading - MTSS - Cheryl Percival

Physical Education - Renae VanDriel

Physical Education - Matthew Quick

Vocal Music - Jesse Nelson

Instrumental Music - Joshua Reiff

Special Education - Gabrielle Lanxon

English Language Learner Coordinator - Laura Rodriguez

Art - Lori McIntosh

Media/Computers - Jackie Rosno

## **SECTION FIVE**

### **FORMS**

This section contains forms that students and their parents must complete and return to the school office **NO LATER THAN** August 23, 2024.

# RECEIPT

This Student Handbook is distributed in accordance with Nebraska State Law, Section 79-262, paragraph three which states in part: "Rules and Standards which form the basis for discipline shall be distributed to students and parents at the beginning of each school year or at the time of enrollment..."

**Parents (or guardians) and students are required to sign & return the receipt form below before August 23, 2024.**

## PARENT/STUDENT AGREEMENT

I have received and read the Student Handbook that describes the Twin River School District's discipline policies, regulations, rules, and expectations to be followed by students enrolled in the Twin River Public Schools, including the Drug Free School Policy. My child and I have discussed these policies and understand that we must comply with them.

## RECOGNITION OF POTENTIAL AMENDMENTS OR SUPPLEMENTS

The rules and information provided in this handbook may be supplemented or amended by the School District's administration at any time, consistent with applicable law and board policy. All parents shall be provided notice of any such changes by the district's regular means of contact. By signing below, you agree that you will read any such information and communications, discuss them with your child, and recognize that you must comply with all rules, procedures, and requirements as they apply at that time.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student's Signature                      Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian's Signature      Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Cell Phone Number (Optional)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Cell Phone Number (Optional)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent's Email Address (Optional)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent's Email Address (Optional)

**EMERGENCY INFORMATION:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student's Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian's Name(s)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mailing Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
Home Phone

\_\_\_\_\_  
Father's Employer

\_\_\_\_\_  
Business Phone

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mother's Employer

\_\_\_\_\_  
Business Phone

\_\_\_\_\_  
Other Person Who May Be Contacted in Case of Emergency

\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone

\_\_\_\_\_  
Choice of Doctor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone

# **Twin River Public School Activities Handbook**

**Rules and Regulations  
2024 - 2025**

## **Introduction**

Student participation in extracurricular activities has been linked to improved attendance, higher academic achievement, and greater student self-confidence and self-esteem. Twin River Public Schools provides students with the opportunity to participate in a comprehensive activities program that includes athletics, fine arts, and select clubs or organizations associated with academic areas.

Although the school district believes strongly in the value of student activities, participation in the activities program is a privilege, not a right. Students must obey the rules set out in this handbook and any additional rules created by their coach or activity sponsor. This handbook is advisory and does not create a "contract" with parents, students, or staff. The administration reserves the right to make decisions and make rule revisions at any time to implement the educational program and to assure the well-being of all students. The administration is responsible for interpreting the rules contained in the handbook. If a situation or circumstance arises that is not specifically covered in this handbook, the administration will make a decision based upon all applicable school district policies, and state and federal statutes and regulations.

**Please read this handbook carefully. Students and their parents are responsible for complying with all of the rules and procedures detailed in this booklet.**

**Parents must sign the acknowledgement and permission to participate form at the end of this handbook before their student will be permitted to participate in the activity programs of the district.**

The provisions in this handbook are subject to change at the sole discretion of the Board of Education. From time to time, you may receive updated information concerning changes in the handbook. These updates should be kept within the handbook so that it is up to date. If you have any questions regarding this handbook, please contact the Superintendent for assistance.

## Notice of Nondiscrimination

The school district does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age in its programs and activities and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The school district prohibits sex discrimination in any education program or activity in any education program or activity that it operates.

Students who believe that they have been the subject of unlawful discrimination or harassment due to their disability, or that have other related concerns or questions, should contact the Section 504 Coordinator: **Brenda Buhl** at **(402) 993-2274**, **bbuhl@twinriver.esu7.org** or in person at school.

Students who believe that they have been the subject of unlawful discrimination or harassment on the basis of sex, or that have other related concerns or questions, should contact the following Title IX Coordinator: **Chris Lecher** at **(402) 993-2274**, **clecher@twinriver.esu7.org**, **PO Box 640 Genoa, NE 68640** or in person at school. The School District's specific Notice of Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Sex may be accessed at the following link: <https://www.twinriverschools.org/page/nondiscrimination-notice>

Students who believe that they have been the subject of unlawful discrimination or harassment due to their race, color, or national origin, or that have other related concerns or questions, should contact the following Title VI Coordinator: **Chris Lecher** at **(402) 993-2274**, **clecher@twinriver.esu7.org**, **PO Box 640 Genoa, NE 68640** or in person at school.

Students who believe that they have been the subject of any other unlawful discrimination or harassment should contact the **Superintendent** at (402) 993-2274, **clecher@twinriver.esu7.org** or in person at school. Students may report discrimination or harassment to any staff member who will then forward it on to the appropriate coordinator or administrator. The staff member will follow school district policies to respond to the report.

For additional prohibited discrimination and related information, please review school district Policy **3053** – Nondiscrimination.

## **SECTION ONE: GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE ACTIVITIES PROGRAM**

### **Academic Eligibility**

To be eligible to participate in the school's activity programs, each student must (1) meet Nebraska State Activities Association (NSAA) requirements concerning scholastic eligibility, (2) meet the requirements of board policy including all rules applicable to the activity, and (3) have not less than a 70% grade in two or more classes for a period of one week to remain eligible to participate in any portion of the activities program. Participants must attend practices and participate in all conditioning during any period of ineligibility.

The school district will notify a participant and his or her parents whenever the participant is declared academically ineligible.

Students may not participate in any activity, performance or practice while serving a short-term suspension, long-term suspension, or expulsion from school.

### **Attendance at Practices and Contests**

Participants in the activities program are expected to attend and be on time at all practices and meetings scheduled by the coach or sponsor. Participants may be excused for absences resulting from a participant's illness, a death in the family, a doctor's appointment, a court appearance, or other absences that are arranged in advance. The coach, sponsor, or director of an activity may require a participant who has an excused absence to complete an alternate assignment for missing a practice, meeting, event, performance, or contest. A participant who is unable to attend a scheduled practice, meeting, or game must contact the coach or sponsor in advance. Students who are absent from school due to illness are not required to provide the coach or sponsor with additional notification of the student's absence from practice.

Students who are absent from school for any part of the day will not be permitted to practice or participate in an athletic contest or activity performance unless the student has the building principal's prior permission to participate despite the absence.

If a participant misses a scheduled contest or performance, the coach or sponsor may impose discipline up to and including suspension of the participant from the activity for the remainder of the season or length of the activity.

## **Closings**

Unless the administration determines that it is permissible for the activity to continue as scheduled, all activities will be cancelled or postponed in the event that school has been called off for inclement weather or any other reason as determined by the administration. Unless the administration determines that it is permissible for the activity to continue as scheduled.

## **Colors**

The Twin River School colors are blue, white, black and silver

## **Complaint Procedure**

To reduce conflicts in the school's activities program, students and/or their parents should use district's formal complaint procedure to manage conflicts about the program. The complaint procedure is printed in the school's student handbook and may be found on the district's web site: <https://www.twinriverschools.org/>.

## **Concussion Awareness**

The Nebraska Unicameral has found that concussions are one of the "most commonly reported injuries in children and adolescents who participate in sports and recreational activities and that the risk of catastrophic injury or death is significant when a concussion or brain injury is not properly evaluated and managed."

The School District will:

- a. Require all coaches and trainers to complete one of the following on-line courses on how to recognize the symptoms of a concussion or brain injury and how to seek proper medical treatment for a concussion or brain injury:
  - Heads UP Concussions in Youth Sports
  - Concussion in Sports—What You Need to Know
  - Sports Safety International
  - ConcussionWise
  - ACTive™ Athletic Concussion Training for Coaches; and
- b. On an annual basis provide concussion and brain injury information to students and their parents or guardians prior to such students initiating practice or competition. This information will include:
  - 1 The signs and symptoms of a concussion;
  - 2 The risks posed by sustaining a concussion; and

- 3 The actions a student should take in response to sustaining a concussion, including the notification of his or her coaches.

A student who participates on a school athletic team must be removed from a practice or game when he/she is reasonably suspected of having sustained a concussion or brain injury in such practice or game after observation by a coach or a licensed health care professional who is professionally affiliated with or contracted by the school. The student will not be permitted to participate in any school supervised team athletic activities involving physical exertion, including practices or games, until the student:

- a. has been evaluated by a licensed health care professional;
- b. has received written and signed clearance to resume participation in athletic activities from the licensed health care professional; and
- c. has submitted the written and signed clearance to resume participation in athletic activities to the school accompanied by written permission to resume participation from the student's parent or guardian.

If a student is reasonably suspected after observation of having sustained a concussion or brain injury and is removed from an athletic activity, the parent or guardian of the student will be notified by the school of:

- a. the date and approximate time of the injury suffered by the student,
- b. the signs and symptoms of a concussion or brain injury that were observed, and
- c. any actions taken to treat the student.

The school district will not provide for the presence of a licensed health care professional at any practice or game.

School officials shall deem the signature of an individual who represents that he/she is a licensed health care professional on a written clearance to resume participation that is provided to the school to be conclusive and reliable evidence that the individual who signed the clearance is a licensed health care professional. The school will not take any additional or independent steps to verify the individual's qualifications.

## **Dances**

School dances are part of the district's extracurricular activity program. Students who wish to participate in school dances must comply with the activity code. Students may be prohibited from participating in school dances as a consequence for violating school rules or these activity rules.

### **Junior High/Middle School Dances**

Junior high/middle school (6-8) dances are restricted to students currently enrolled in the junior high school and will be sponsored by junior high teachers and parents. Any organization wishing to sponsor a junior high dance must obtain permission from the principal regarding date and times. Each dance must be sponsored by at least two faculty members and one additional adult couple. Students who leave the dance will not be readmitted. Students who are academically ineligible will not be allowed to attend school dances.

### **High School Dances**

All high school dances are restricted to Twin River High School students and their guests. Any organization wishing to sponsor a dance must obtain permission from the principal regarding date and times. Each dance must be sponsored by at least two faculty members and one additional adult couple. Once admitted to the dance, students must remain until the close of the dance. Students who leave the dance will not be readmitted. Students who are academically ineligible will not be allowed to attend school dances.

### **Homecoming and Prom**

The Homecoming dance is open to students and guests of Twin River High School.

The Junior/Senior Prom is open to students and guests of the Twin River High School junior and senior classes. Guests must follow all rules that the students must follow. Each student is responsible for his/her guest's conduct. Appropriate attire is required for these dances. No blue jeans, shorts, or T-shirts will be allowed at the banquet or dance for Prom. Black dress jeans will be acceptable.

### **Electronic Communication**

The school board supports the use of technology by coaches, extracurricular sponsors, and other staff members to communicate with students for legitimate educational, extracurricular, and other school-related purposes. However, electronic communication between students and teachers, sponsors, and coaches shall be appropriate at all times and shall not violate any law, district policies, or the Regulations and Standards for Professional Practices Criteria, commonly known as Rule 27 of the Nebraska Department

of Education ("Rule 27"). Please see the Social Media Policy For School District Employees for further explanation.

### **Equipment**

Each participant in the athletic portion of the activities program will be issued a locker to store his/her personal belongings and school equipment that has been checked out. Students should secure their athletic lockers with combination locks.

School-owned clothing or equipment that is checked out to individual students remains the property of the school. The clothing or equipment is not to be used or worn by the student except for the intended use. Each piece of equipment or clothing is to be returned to the instructor or coach when the season or the use for such clothing or equipment is over. Each participant is responsible for all equipment checked out to him/her. Students will be assessed the replacement cost for school equipment that has been check out to him/her and is lost or stolen.

### **Fundraising**

All school-sponsored fundraising activities must be approved by a member of the school district administration. Fundraising for any activity must comply with the district's policies, including applicable provisions specifically pertaining to Booster Clubs and PTOs for non-school-sponsored fundraising. Use of the school mascot shall not be permitted unless approved by the superintendent.

### **Individual Training Rules and Rules of Conduct**

Head coaches or sponsors may develop additional training rules or rules of conduct for their activity. Students are responsible for knowing these rules and complying with them.

### **Initiations and Hazing**

Initiations and hazing by members of classes, clubs, athletic teams, or any other organization affiliated with the district are prohibited except as otherwise permitted by this policy. Any student engaging in hazing or non-approved initiations is subject to discipline as permitted by policy and law.

Initiations are defined as any ritualistic expectations, requirements, or activities placed upon new members of a school organization for the purpose of admission into the organization, even if those activities do not rise to the level of "hazing" as defined below. Initiations are prohibited except by permission of the superintendent.

Hazing is defined as any activity by which a person intentionally or recklessly endangers the physical or mental health or safety of an individual for the purpose of initiation into, admission into, affiliation with, or continued membership in any school organization. Hazing activities include, but are not limited to, whipping, beating, branding, an act of sexual penetration, an exposure of the genitals of the body done with the intent to affront or alarm any person, a lewd fondling or caressing of the body of another person, forced and prolonged calisthenics, prolonged exposure to the elements, forced consumption of any food, liquor, beverage, drug, or harmful substance not generally intended for human consumption, prolonged sleep deprivation, or any brutal treatment or the performance of any unlawful act that endangers the physical or mental health or safety of any person.

### **Injuries**

Participants who suffer any type of injury while involved in extracurricular activities must notify the coach or sponsor immediately. The coach or sponsor will then evaluate the injury and, if necessary, notify the participant's parents or seek immediate medical treatment.

If at any time during participation a doctor removes an athlete from participation because of an illness or injury, the athlete must have a written release from a doctor before participating again. The written release must be given to the coach or sponsor of the activity.

Note: The release requirement will be satisfied if the initial doctor's order specifies the duration of the student's restriction from participation and/or competition. Also see Concussion Awareness above.

### **Insurance**

The school district does not provide medical or other insurance coverage for students who participate in athletic contests or other activities. It is the parents' responsibility to provide adequate insurance to cover any medical expenses that may be incurred while the student is participating in athletics or other activities.

The school district makes an accident insurance plan available for purchase by participants and their families through an authorized insurance agent. Information about policies which families may purchase will be available prior to each sports season and at fall registration.

### **Lettering Requirements**

The following guidelines will be used in determining students' eligibility for lettering:

**Football:** The athlete must participate in twelve quarters of varsity play, complete the season, and/or have the recommendation of the head coach.

**Volleyball:** The athlete must participate in 33% of the total games, complete the season, and/or have the recommendation of the head coach.

**Basketball:** The athlete must participate in 25% of the total games, complete the season, and/or have the recommendation of the head coach.

**Golf:** The athlete must participate in at least 3 varsity golf meets, complete the season, and/or have the recommendation of the head coach.

**Track:** The athlete must average 1.5 points per meet scheduled, participate in 50% of all the meets, or place in an individual event at the conference or district meets, or be a member of a relay team which places third or higher in the conference or district meets, or participate as a member of a relay team at the state meet, complete the season, and/or have the head coach's recommendation.

**Wrestling:** The athlete must accumulate 15 varsity team points, or place in a major varsity tournament (eight teams or more), or wrestle in at least five varsity competitions, complete the season and/or have the recommendation of the head coach.

**Student Managers:** The student manager must complete the season and have the recommendation of the head coach of the sport involved.

### **Instrumental and Vocal Music**

1. Participants must have a current average of 94% or better, and have had a 94% or better for the previous 3 quarters. Criteria for earning an "A" are posted in the music room and/or are available from the instructor.
2. Participants must demonstrate high quality rehearsal and performance habits, exhibit and encourage a positive attitude toward the music program, and demonstrate strong positive leadership skills.

3. Participants must attend all scheduled rehearsals, performances, and contests unless previously excused by the director.
4. Participants who have one "B" in any one of the previous 3 quarters may, at the discretion of the director, be allowed to make up for the "B" by earning 20 points in the fourth quarter. A list of approved activities and corresponding point values is available from the director.
5. Participants with any quarter of a "C" or more than one quarter with a "B" will not be eligible to letter in the activity.

**Speech:** The criteria for receiving a letter for Speech Competition will be based on the participant's commitment to preparation and participation. In order to letter, a participant must earn a minimum of 200 points. Points can be earned in the following ways:

1. Practice / Rehearsal with Speech Coach - up to 10 points per practice session; extemporaneous speakers must verify prep time equivalent to 10 practice sessions.
2. Performance - 20 points for performing at each speech meet, including invitationals, conference, district, and state.
3. If a participant attends a meet but scratches for any reason, no points will be earned and 10 points will be deducted from his/her point total.
4. If a participant does not show up for a meet for which he/she has been entered, 50 points will be deducted from his/her point total unless a parent or guardian has notified the Speech Coach with a valid excuse for the reason that the participant missed the meet.
5. If one person of an OID or Duet Acting group does not attend a meet for which he/she has been entered, he or she will lose 10 points. The remaining members of the group will be awarded 10 points for attendance even though they cannot perform.
6. Novice speech team members will earn 10 points for attending speech meets with the team, even though they are not competing, providing they support and encourage team members by watching their events.
7. Any participant who is reprimanded by a contest director for improper behavior at a speech meet will be penalized 50 points. If this happens more than once during any part of the season, the participant will be removed from the team. Parents of removed team members will be notified of the removal and the reasons for the removal.

## **Mascot**

The official emblem for boys' and girls' athletic teams is the **Titans**. The mascot cannot be used for non-school-sponsored purposes unless approved by the **superintendent**.

## **Practices**

The individual head coach or sponsor, in cooperation with the high school principal, will schedule all starting times of practices. All participants are expected to be ready at the time set by the coach or sponsor.

To be eligible to practice, a participant must satisfy the following requirements:

1. Submit to the coach or sponsor a signed physical form and Activities Code that verifies that a physical examination has been completed and that the student and parent(s) understand the school's position regarding the use or possession of alcohol, tobacco, and other related drugs.
2. Furnish the high school principal with proof of insurance.

## **Secret Organizations**

Secret organizations are prohibited. School officials shall not allow any person or representative of any such organization to enter upon school grounds or school buildings for the purpose of rushing or soliciting students to participate in any secret fraternity, society, or association.

## **Student Manager, Helpers, or Activity Aids**

Students wishing to serve as student volunteers for extracurricular activities must gain the permission of the activity coach or sponsor. Student volunteers must comply with all of the rules and procedures contained in this handbook.

## **Sunday and Wednesday Night Activities**

In order to provide students sufficient time away from school for family-related activities, the school will endeavor not to schedule activities on Wednesday evenings or on Sundays. Practices will be organized so that all participants are showered, dressed, and/or leave the facilities by 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday nights. An exception to this guideline would be when a team, group of students, or an individual may be required to participate in an activity sponsored by the conference, district, or state on a Wednesday night.

The school does not allow Sunday practice sessions, except when a varsity team, group of students, or individual is scheduled to compete or perform on a Monday. Practices scheduled for a Sunday must have the prior approval of the activities director or building principal.

### **Transportation**

All participants are expected to ride to and from away activities by means of approved school transportation.

A participant may ride home with his or her parent/guardian only if the parent/guardian personally contacts the sponsor at the activity. A participant may ride home with an adult if the participant's parent/guardian has personally contacted the principal prior to the activity and the adult personally contacts the sponsor at the activity prior to leaving with the student. Parents are discouraged from requesting to take their children home after an away contest or performance. Travel to and from an event provides time for the students to further develop a strong team concept.

### **Weight Room**

The weight room has been developed to help each athlete, student, or adult in the community maintain a level of physical fitness. No one may use the weight room or equipment without proper supervision. The school will develop a schedule for use of the weight room by athletes during the school year and during the summer months.

The weight room is a high demand area within the school facilities. The following guidelines will help determine the priorities in reference to use if more than one group desires to use the facility at the same time:

1. Physical education instruction
2. By the team sports, which are in season
3. Conditioning programs for athletes not currently out for a sport
4. Summer conditioning programs
5. Adult education

## **SECTION TWO: AVAILABLE ACTIVITIES**

### **Athletic Teams**

- Baseball
- Basketball (boys and girls)
- Cross County
- Football
- Golf
- Tennis
- Track (boys and girls)
- Soccer
- Softball
- Volleyball
- Wrestling

### **Art Club**

Membership is open to those students who wish to work on out of class projects such as painting windows in classrooms and painting pictures and designs on the art room walls.

### **Band**

The school district sponsors marching band, pep band, and jazz band in addition to concert band. Participants must be enrolled in band class in order to be eligible to participate in these groups.

### **Cheer Squad**

Participants are selected by the sponsor(s) or judges appointed by the sponsor. Members of the cheer squad will attend all home and selected away athletic contests.

### **Community Service Club**

The Community Service Club, sponsored by the Kiwanis Club, promotes clean speech, clean sports, scholarship, and community service. Membership is open to all students by application.

### **Drama Club**

The Drama Club is open to all students interested in any aspect of theater and offers varying levels of involvement. The main focus of this club is to produce the fall and spring plays, and the winter musical (in cooperation with the Vocal Music Department).

### **Family Career and Community Leadership of America (FCCLA)**

FCCLA is an integral part of the Family and Consumer Sciences department. Members should have taken or presently be taking a family and consumer sciences class. Program emphasis for FCCLA is on leadership development, family cooperation and communication, community service and peer education.

### **Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA)**

FBLA is an integral part of the vocational business department and membership is limited to those students with at least one semester of work in the business education field. One of the primary objectives of FBLA is developing leadership and responsibility.

### **Future Farmers of America (FFA)**

FFA is an integral part of the agricultural education department and all students of that department are urged to belong. The activities include training in leadership, opportunities for travel and recreation, and safety and community service activities. Students may participate in field trips, conventions, judging contests, and hands-on experience.

### **Letter Club**

Any student who has lettered in any sport is eligible for membership. The purpose of the Club is to stimulate and encourage sportsmanship and to assist in bringing about a closer bond between students in all sports.

### **National Honor Society**

The National Honor Society is a national organization that recognizes student character, scholarship, leadership, and service to the school.

Student members shall be selected from the junior and senior classes by the high school faculty. Ten percent of the Junior and Senior classes will be selected each year. The results of the selection will be announced at an honors convocation.

[Include any other information regarding your specific Honor Society chapter/program as you deem appropriate. The National Association recommends several details be included about your program in the [National Honor Society Handbook](#).]

### **Quill and Scroll**

Quill and Scroll is a national honor society for student journalists. Students must be a sophomore, junior or senior and be in the upper third of the class scholastically. The student must also have shown superior work in some

phase of high school journalism (that is, writing, editing, photography, art, business, broadcasting, management, or design) and must be recommended by the adviser of the publication.

### **Science Club**

The purpose of the science club is to support students involved in student research projects. The club members include students enrolled in physical science honors, biology honors, and science independent study. The club encourages student participation in competitions, seminars, training camps, and research programs.

### **Student Government**

The purpose of student government is to arouse the spirit of loyalty toward the school, to promote good citizenship, to sponsor school activities, to extend the spirit of good fellowship throughout the student body, to foster a spirit of cooperation between the students and faculty, and to seek to develop a spirit of cooperation, good will, and better understanding with other schools. The organization, operation, and scope of the student government shall be administered by the Superintendent or designee.

### **Spanish Club**

The Spanish Club is designed to give students an opportunity to develop their knowledge of different Spanish speaking cultures. Members of the club are also interested in becoming involved with the Spanish speaking community in the area.

### **Speech & Debate Team**

Students compete in 12 different categories of competition. These include debate, current events speaking, and several theater-type acting events.

### **Student Publications**

The yearbook is published by the Journalism class along with the help of its teacher. The annual is financed partially by funds raised from the sale of the books.

The school paper is "Titan Tidings." It is published by the journalism classes and their teacher. It is financed in part by advertising and subscription.

## **SECTION THREE: CODE OF CONDUCT**

All students associated with **Twin River** Public Schools and participating in extracurricular or school sponsored activities (including all NSAA activities) are required to avoid conduct that is detrimental to the integrity of, and public confidence in, the school. Rules promoting lawful, ethical, and responsible conduct serve the interests of all people associated with the school. Illegal and irresponsible conduct puts people at risk, tarnishes the reputation of the offender and everyone else associated with the school, and undermines the public support and respect of the school district.

**Standard of Conduct.** Participation in school-sponsored or extracurricular activities is a privilege and not a right. Participants must follow board policy, this code, and all the training rules and rules of conduct of the coaches and/or activity sponsors. Students participating in school-sponsored or extracurricular activities are held to a high standard. Students are expected to conduct themselves in a way that is lawful, responsible, promotes the values upon which the school is based, and that brings credit to themselves and the school. Students who fail to live up to the required standard of conduct are guilty of detrimental conduct and subject to discipline under all school policies, the general student code of conduct, and these Activity Participation Rules.

**Coach and Sponsor Rules.** Coaches and/or activity sponsors shall establish training rules or rules of conduct for participation in or attendance at the activity or event. General training rules or rules of conduct shall be established prior to the activity or event. This Code shall control in the event that there is a conflict with coach or sponsor rules.

**Prohibited Conduct.** Students in school-sponsored and/or extracurricular activities may not engage in the following conduct:

1. Receipt of a criminal citation by law enforcement for any reason.
2. Conviction of a crime in adult court or the adjudication of a criminal charge in juvenile court.
3. Any behavior that is illegal under the laws of Nebraska or the United States of America regardless of whether it results in a criminal charge or conviction.
4. Any conduct that substantially interferes with the educational process or disrupts the activity or event.
5. Possession, consumption, use, distribution, or being under the influence of alcohol, illicit drugs, tobacco, controlled substances, or any lookalike or imitations thereof; or being in the presence of alcohol,

illicit drugs, controlled substances, or any lookalike or imitations thereof that are being possessed, consumed, used, or distributed by any person under twenty-one (21) years of age without parental supervision. "Lookalike or imitations" means substances such as K2 and products like electronic nicotine delivery systems, vapor pens, etc. (Note: the term "under the influence" for school purposes has a less strict meaning than it does under criminal law; for school purposes, the term means any level of impairment and includes even the odor of alcohol on the breath or person of a student; also, it includes being impaired by reason of the use or abuse of any substance for the purpose of inducing a condition of intoxication, stupefaction, depression, giddiness, paralysis, inebriation, excitement, or irrational behavior, or in any manner changing, distorting, or disturbing the auditory, visual, mental, or nervous processes).

6. Engaging in initiations, defined as any ritualistic expectations, requirements, or activities placed upon new members of a school organization for the purpose of admission into the organization, even if those activities do not rise to the level of "hazing" as defined below. Initiations are prohibited except by permission of the superintendent.
7. Engaging in hazing as defined by state law and this policy. Hazing is defined as any activity by which a person intentionally or recklessly endangers the physical or mental health or safety of an individual for the purpose of initiation into, admission into, affiliation with, or continued membership in any school organization. Under state criminal law, hazing activities include, but are not limited to, whipping, beating, branding, an act of sexual penetration, an exposure of the genitals of the body done with the intent to affront or alarm any person, a lewd fondling or caressing of the body of another person, forced and prolonged calisthenics, prolonged exposure to the elements, forced consumption of any food, liquor, beverage, drug, or harmful substance not generally intended for human consumption, prolonged sleep deprivation, or any brutal treatment or the performance of any unlawful act that endangers the physical or mental health or safety of any person. For purposes of school rules, hazing also includes any activity expected of someone joining a group, team, or activity that humiliates, degrades or risks emotional and/or physical harm, regardless of the person's willingness to participate; personal servitude; restrictions on personal hygiene; yelling, swearing and insulting new members/newcomers; being forced to wear embarrassing or humiliating attire in public; consumption of vile substances or smearing of such on one's skin; binge drinking and drinking games; sexual simulation and sexual assault.
8. Bullying which shall include cyber-bullying, defined as the use of the internet, including but not limited to social networking sites such as

Facebook, cell phones or other devices to send, post, or text message images and material intended to hurt or embarrass another person. This may include, but is not limited to; continuing to send e-mail to someone who has said they want no further contact with the sender; sending or posting threats, sexual remarks, or pejorative labels (i.e., hate speech); ganging up on victims by making them the subject of ridicule in forums; posting false statements as fact intended to humiliate the victim; disclosure of personal data, such as the victim's real name, address, or school at websites or forums; posing as the identity of the victim for the purpose of publishing material in their name that defames or ridicules them; sending threatening and harassing text, instant messages, or emails to the victims; and posting or sending rumors or gossip to instigate others to dislike and gang up on the target.

9. Using any Internet or social networking websites to make statements, post pictures, or take any other actions that are indecent, vulgar, lewd, slanderous, abusive, threatening, harassing, or terrorizing.
10. Violating any school policy, handbook provision, or a coach's or activity sponsor's training rules or rules of conduct.
11. Dressing or grooming in a manner which is (A) dangerous to the student's health and safety or a danger to the health and safety of others, (B) lewd, indecent, vulgar, or plainly offensive, (C) materially and substantially disruptive to the work and discipline of the school or an extracurricular activity, (D) interpreted to advocate the use of illegal drugs or other substances by a reasonable observer.
12. Failing to report for an activity at the beginning of a season unless excused by the coach or activity sponsor.
13. Failing to attend scheduled practices and meetings unless excused by the coach or activity sponsor.

Such conduct is prohibited during the school year, regardless of whether it occurs on-campus or off-campus. School year means the period commencing on the first day of fall sports practice through the last day of spring sports practice, events, or attendance at school for a given school year.

**Discipline.** Students who violate any provision of these Activity Participation Rules may be subject to discipline up to and including expulsion from extracurricular activities and school sponsored events. (including but not limited to graduation ceremony and related activities). These disciplinary consequences and this Activity Code of Conduct are in addition to and do not prejudice, diminish, impede, or reduce any discipline that is authorized by the Nebraska Student Discipline Act, NEB. REV. STAT. §§ 79-254

to 79-294, Board Policy, or the Student Handbook. Disciplinary action may include a probationary period and conditions that must be satisfied prior to or following reinstatement. Administrators and coaches will take the following into consideration when making disciplinary decisions:

1. Any prior or additional misconduct;
2. The nature and seriousness of the offense;
3. The motivation for the offense;
4. The amount of violence involved;
5. The student's demeanor and attitude regarding the violation;
6. The actual, threatened, or potential risk to the student and others due to the student's behavior;
7. Whether the student has compensated or will compensate the victim in the event of property damage or personal injury;
8. Whether the circumstances of the violation are likely to recur;
9. The student's willingness to participate in evaluations, counseling, or other programs;
10. Any mitigating factors;
11. Any other relevant factors.

If suspended, the student must continue to participate in practices and conditioning during the suspension if required by the coach or activity sponsor. The failure to comply with the practice and conditioning requirement will make the student ineligible for reinstatement to the activity.

**Evaluation, Counseling, and Treatment.** Apart from any other disciplinary procedures, students who violate any provision of these rules may be required to undergo a formal clinical evaluation at the **administration's/coach's/sponsor's** discretion. Based upon the results of that evaluation, the student may be encouraged or required to participate in an education program, counseling, or other treatment deemed appropriate by the evaluating professional.

**Reporting of Incident.** Students shall report any violation of these rules to the coach, principal, or superintendent no later than 30 minutes after the beginning of the next school day after the violation has occurred. Failure to report an incident will constitute a violation of these rules and will be taken into consideration in making disciplinary determinations under this policy.

**Discipline Procedures.** Prior to any disciplinary action under this activities code, the following procedures shall be followed:

As used in this "Discipline Procedures" section, "Investigator" means the coach or activity sponsor of the team or activity in which the student is participating, or any teacher, school official, or school representative whom the Principal or the Superintendent has authorized to perform the duties and responsibilities of "Investigator" as described below.

1. The Investigator shall make an investigation of alleged violation and provide an opportunity for the student to present his or her version of the facts surrounding the alleged violation.
2. The Investigator shall consider all information obtained as a result of the investigation, including information obtained from the student, and shall render a decision regarding disciplinary action. Within a reasonable period of time of the Investigator's decision, the student and his/her parent or guardian shall be given written notice of the disciplinary action taken by the Investigator.

**Review of Investigator's Decision.** A student or the student's parents may, within five (5) school days of the notice of disciplinary action from the Investigator, notify the **superintendent** in writing of their request for a review of the coach or activity sponsor's determination. The **superintendent** or his or her designee shall review the situation and render a decision within three (3) school days from the date of the request for review. The superintendent's decision shall be in writing and shall be final.

**Misrepresentations.** Any misrepresentation of fact by a student regarding any alleged violation of these rules shall be considered a separate violation of these rules, and the student shall be subject to additional disciplinary action.

**Questions.** Any parent or student who has questions about board policy, this code, training rules, or rules of conduct of coaches or activity sponsors, or their interpretation or application shall consult with the activities director and/or the superintendent.

**Assistance.** Students are encouraged to consult with their coach, an administrator, a counselor, or a teacher to obtain access to educational, counseling, and other programs and resources that may be available to help avoid misconduct that may result in discipline under this policy.

## **A Parent's Guide to Concussions**

### **WHAT IS A CONCUSSION?**

A concussion is a brain injury that results in a temporary disruption of normal brain function. A concussion occurs when the brain is violently rocked back and forth or twisted inside the skull as a result of a blow to the head or body. An athlete does not have to lose consciousness ("knocked-out") to suffer a concussion.

### **CONCUSSION FACTS**

- It is estimated that more than 140,000 high school athletes across the United States suffer a concussion each year. (Data from NFHS Injury Surveillance System).
- Concussions occur most frequently in football, but girls' lacrosse, girls' soccer, boys' lacrosse, wrestling, and girls' basketball follow closely behind. All athletes are at risk.
- A concussion is a traumatic injury to the brain.
- Concussion symptoms may last from a few days to several months.
- Concussions can cause symptoms that interfere with school, work, and social life.
- Athletes who have symptoms from a concussion should not return to sports because they are still at risk for prolonging symptoms and further injury.
- A concussion may cause multiple symptoms. Many symptoms appear immediately after the injury, while others may develop over the next several days or weeks. The symptoms may be subtle and are often difficult to fully recognize.

### **WHAT ARE THE SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS OF A CONCUSSION?**

#### Signs Observed by Parents or Guardians

- Appears dazed or stunned
- Is confused about assignment or position
- Forgets an instruction
- Is unsure of game, score, or opponent
- Moves clumsily
- Answers questions slowly
- Loses consciousness (even briefly)
- Shows behavior or personality changes

- Can't recall events prior to hit or fall
- Can't recall events after hit or fall

### Symptoms Reported by Athlete

- Headache or “pressure” in head
- Nausea or vomiting
- Balance problems or dizziness
- Double or blurry vision
- Sensitivity to light or noise
- Feeling sluggish, hazy, foggy, or groggy
- Concentration or memory problems
- Confusion
- Does not “feel right”

## **WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I THINK MY CHILD HAS HAD A CONCUSSION?**

An athlete who is suspected of having a concussion must be removed from play immediately, whether it is in a game or practice. Continuing to participate in physical activity after a concussion can lead to worsening concussion symptoms, increased risk of further injury, and even death. Parents and coaches are not expected to be able to “diagnose” a concussion, as that is the job of a medical professional. However, they must be aware of the signs and symptoms of a concussion and if they are suspicious, the child must stop playing:

### **WHEN IN DOUBT – SIT THEM OUT!**

Every athlete who sustains a concussion needs to be evaluated by a health care professional who is familiar with sports concussions. Parents should call their child’s physician, explain what has happened, and follow the physician’s instructions. A child who is vomiting, has a severe headache, or has difficulty staying awake or answering simple questions should be taken to the parent’s doctor or emergency room immediately.

## **WHEN MAY AN ATHLETE RETURN TO PLAY FOLLOWING A CONCUSSION?**

No athlete who has suffered a concussion should return to play or practice the same day. Previously, athletes were allowed to return to play if their symptoms resolved within 15 minutes of the injury. Studies have shown that the young brain does not recover quickly enough for an athlete to return to activity in such a short time.

Concerns about athletes who return to play too quickly have led state lawmakers in Oregon and Washington to pass laws stating that **no athlete shall return to play on the day he or she suffered a concussion and the athlete must be cleared by an appropriate health care professional before he or she are allowed to return to play in games or practices.** The laws also mandate that coaches receive education on recognizing the signs and symptoms of concussion.

Once an athlete is free of symptoms of a concussion and is cleared to return to play by a health care professional knowledgeable in the care of sports concussions, he or she should proceed with activity in a step-wise fashion to allow the brain to readjust to exertion. On average, the athlete will complete a new step each day. The return-to-play schedule should proceed as below following medical clearance:

*Step 1:* Light exercise, including walking or riding an exercise bike. No weight-lifting.

*Step 2:* Running in the gym or on the field. No helmet or other equipment.

*Step 3:* Non-contact training drills in full equipment. Weight training can begin.

*Step 4:* Full contact practice or training.

*Step 5:* Game play.

If symptoms occur at any step, the athlete should cease activity and be re-evaluated by a health care provider.

## **HOW CAN A CONCUSSION AFFECT SCHOOLWORK?**

Following a concussion, many athletes will have difficulty in school. These problems may last from days to months and often involve difficulties with short and long-term memory, concentration, and organization.

In many cases, it is best to reduce the athlete's class load after the injury. This may include staying home from school for a few days, followed by a lightened schedule for a few days or perhaps a longer period of time if needed. Decreasing the stress on the brain soon after a concussion may reduce symptoms and shorten the recovery period.

## **WHAT CAN YOU DO?**

- Both you and your child should learn to recognize the "Signs and Symptoms" of a concussion as listed above.
- Emphasize to administrators, coaches, teachers, and other parents your concerns and expectations about concussion and safe play.
- Teach your child to tell the coaching staff if he or she experiences such symptoms.
- Teach your child to tell the coaching staff if he or she suspects that a teammate has a concussion.
- Monitor sports equipment for safety, fit, and maintenance.
- Ask teachers to monitor any decrease in grades or changes in behavior that could indicate concussion.
- Report concussions that occurred during the school year to appropriate school staff. This will help in monitoring injured athletes as they move to the next season's sports.

## **OTHER FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:**

## **Why is it so important that an athlete not return to play until they have completely recovered from a concussion?**

An athlete who has not fully recovered from an initial concussion is very vulnerable to recurrent, cumulative, and even catastrophic consequences of a second concussive injury. Such difficulties are prevented if the athlete is allowed time to recover from the concussion and return-to-play decisions are carefully made. No athlete should return to sport or other at-risk participation when symptoms of a concussion are present and recovery is ongoing.

## **Is a "CT scan" or MRI needed to diagnose a concussion?**

Diagnostic testing which includes CT ("CAT") and MRI scans are rarely needed following a concussion. While these are helpful in identifying life-threatening brain injuries (e.g., skull fracture, bleeding, swelling), they are not normally used, even by athletes who have sustained severe concussions. A concussion is diagnosed based upon the athlete's story of the injury and the health care provider's physical examination.

## **What is the best treatment to help my child recover more quickly from a concussion?**

The best treatment for a concussion is rest. There are no medications that can speed the recovery from a concussion. Exposure to loud noises, bright lights, computers, video games, television, and phones (including text messaging) may exacerbate the symptoms of a concussion. You should allow your child to rest as much as possible in the days following a concussion. As the symptoms decrease, you may allow increased use of computers, phone, video games, etc., but the access must be reduced if symptoms worsen.

## **How long do the symptoms of a concussion usually last?**

The symptoms of a concussion will usually go away within one week of the initial injury. You should anticipate that your child will likely be out of sports for about two weeks following a concussion. However, in some cases, symptoms may last for several weeks or even months. Symptoms such as headache, memory problems, poor concentration, and mood changes can interfere with school, work, and social interactions. The potential for such long-term symptoms indicates the need for careful management of all concussions.

## **How many concussions can an athlete have before he or she should stop playing sports?**

There is no “magic number” of concussions that determine when an athlete should give up playing contact or collision sports. The circumstances surrounding each individual injury, such as the way the injury happened and length of symptoms following the concussion are very important and must be considered when assessing the athlete’s risk for further and potentially more serious concussions. The decision to “retire” from sports is a decision best reached following a complete evaluation by your child’s primary care provider and consultation with a physician or neuropsychologist who specializes in treating sports concussion.

## **I’ve read recently that concussions may cause long-term brain damage in professional football players. Is this a risk for high school athletes who have had a concussion?**

The issue of “chronic encephalopathy” in several former NFL players has received a great deal of media attention lately. Very little is known about what may be causing dramatic abnormalities in the brains of these unfortunate retired football players. At this time, we have very little knowledge of the long-term effects of concussions that happen during high school athletics.

In the cases of the retired NFL players, it appears that most had long careers in the NFL after playing in high school and college. In most cases, they played football for over 20 years and suffered multiple concussions in addition to hundreds of other blows to their heads. Alcohol and steroid use may also be contributing factors in some cases. Obviously, the average high school athlete does not come close to suffering the total number or sheer force of head trauma seen by professional football players. However, the fact that we know very little about the long-term effects of concussions in young athletes is further reason to carefully manage each concussion.

Adapted from [A Parent’s Guide to Concussion in Sports](#), National Federation of High School Associations.

Some of this information has been adapted from the CDC’s “Heads Up: Concussion in High School Sports” materials by the NFHS’s Sports Medicine Advisory Committee. See [www.cdc.gov/ncipc/tbi/Coaches\\_Tool\\_Kit.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/ncipc/tbi/Coaches_Tool_Kit.htm) for more information.

## **AUTHORIZATION AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

### **WARNING: SERIOUS CATASTROPHIC AND PERHAPS FATAL INJURY MAY RESULT FROM ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION**

Many forms of athletic competition result in violent physical contact among players, the use of equipment that may result in accidents, strenuous physical exertion, and numerous other exposures to risk of injury. Students and parents must assess the risks involved in such participation and make their choice to participate in spite of those risks. No amount of instruction, precaution, or supervision will eliminate these risks. Students have suffered accidents resulting in death, paraplegia, quadriplegia, and other very serious permanent physical impairment while playing sports. By granting permission for your student to participate in athletic competition, you, the parent or guardian, acknowledge that such risk exists. Students will be instructed in proper techniques to be used in athletic competition and in the proper utilization of all equipment worn or used in practice and competition. Students must adhere to that instruction and utilization and must refrain from improper uses and techniques.

I understand the statement above and I understand that by allowing my student to participate in athletic events, I assume the risk that he/she may be injured, perhaps severely.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Parent

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name of Parent

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF CONDUCT CODE**

I understand that as a student representing the school district in activities, I am obligated to comply with the athletic handbook, including the code of conduct. **This means that I may not possess, use, or be at parties in the presence of alcohol, illicit drugs, or controlled substances at any time during the school term.** I understand that if I violate the code of conduct or other rules in this handbook, I may be suspended from participation in all co-curricular activities and/or school sponsored activities or events.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Student

Printed Name of Student

Date

I understand that my student is obligated by this handbook, including the statements above.

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Signature of Parent

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Printed Name of Parent

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Date

# **Twin River Public School Staff Handbook**

**2024-25**

## **INTRODUCTION**

This handbook provides information to persons who are employed by the school district and are referred to in this handbook as employees, staff, or staff members. It is designed to provide practical information about the daily operation of the schools in the district and contains building and district directories, safety and emergency information, as well as district policies and procedures. Each staff member should carefully review this handbook. The administration and the board of education continually review policies and procedures, so staff members should discuss comments, concerns, or suggestions about this handbook with their building principal or another member of the administrative staff.

This handbook does not create a "contract" of employment. Staff positions and assignments that do not require a teaching certificate or are not otherwise governed by the teacher tenure laws may be ended or changed on an at-will basis notwithstanding anything in this handbook or any other publication or statement, except a contract approved by the board of education.

Many situations may arise that are not covered by this handbook. In those instances, staff members should use their own good judgment or consult with the administration. If any information contained in this handbook conflicts with board policy or state statute, the policy or statute will govern.

The provisions in this handbook are subject to change at the sole discretion of the Superintendent and the Board of Education. From time to time, you may receive updated information concerning changes in the handbook. These updates should be kept within the handbook so that all procedures can be kept up to date. If you have any questions regarding this handbook, please ask your supervisor or the Superintendent for assistance.

Your suggestions about ways to improve the school are welcome and will always be considered.

## **Notice of Nondiscrimination**

The school district does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age in its programs and activities and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The school district prohibits sex discrimination in any education program or activity in any education program or activity that it operates.

Individuals who believe that they have been the subject of unlawful discrimination or harassment due to their disability, or that have other related concerns or questions, should contact the ADA/Title II Coordinator: Chris Lecher at (402) 993-2274, clecher@twinriver.esu7.org (e-mail address) or in person at school.

Individuals who believe that they have been the subject of unlawful discrimination or harassment due to their sex, or that have other related concerns or questions, should contact the Title IX Coordinator: Andy Banahan at (402) 993-2274, abanahan@twinriver.esu7.org (e-mail address), PO Box 640, Genoa, NE 68640 or in person at school. The School District's specific Notice of Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Sex may be accessed at the following link: <https://www.twinriverschools.org/page/nondiscrimination-notice>

Individuals who believe that they have been the subject of unlawful discrimination or harassment due to their race, color, or national origin, or that have other related concerns or questions, should contact the Title VI Coordinator: Chris Lecher at (402) 993-2274, clecher@twinriver.esu7.org, PO Box 640, Genoa, NE 68640 or in person at school.

Individuals who believe that they have been the subject of any other unlawful discrimination or harassment should contact the superintendent at (402) 993-2274, clecher@twinriver.esu7.org or in person at school. Students may report discrimination or harassment to any staff member who will then forward it on to the appropriate coordinator or administrator. The staff member will follow school district policies to respond to the report.

For additional prohibited discrimination and related information, please review school district Policy 3053 – Nondiscrimination.

## **DRUG-FREE WORKPLACE REQUIREMENTS**

It is vitally important to have a healthy workforce that is free from the effects of illegal drugs. The use or possession of unlawful drugs in the workplace has a very detrimental effect upon safety and morale of the affected employee, coworkers, and the public at large; and on productivity and the quality of work.

Federal law requires this school district, as a recipient of federal funds, to maintain a drug-free workplace. The unlawful manufacture, distribution, dispensing, possession, or use of a controlled substance in the district's workplace is prohibited. The term "workplace" includes every location where district employees may be found during their working hours or while they are on duty, regardless of whether the location is within the geographic boundaries of the district. Any employee who violates this policy will be disciplined with measures up to and including discharge. The district may, in its sole discretion, require or allow an employee who violates this policy to participate in and satisfactorily complete a drug abuse assistance or rehabilitation program.

The district shall provide every current employee with a copy of this policy, and shall provide each newly hired employee with a copy upon hiring. Every employee shall be required to signify receipt of a copy of the policy in writing. All district employees must abide by this policy, including those who are not directly engaged in the performance of work pursuant to a federal grant.

An employee must notify his/her supervisor of any conviction of a criminal drug statute for a violation occurring in the workplace within five days. The failure to report such a conviction will be grounds for dismissal. If the employee convicted of such an offense is engaged in the performance of work pursuant to the provisions of a federal grant, the district shall notify the grant agency within 10 days of receiving notice of a conviction from the affected employee or of receiving actual notice of such a conviction.

## **POLICIES AND PROCEDURES REGARDING ALL STAFF**

### **Accidents and Injuries**

Staff must inform the building office immediately of all accidents and/or injuries to students or staff, and complete the appropriate accident form that is available from the office secretary. The accident form must be returned to the office within twenty-four hours.

### **Activity Accounts and Fundraising**

Activity accounts are handled through the superintendent's office. No student or sponsor may make any purchase without a signed purchase order from the superintendent. **Purchases made without permission are the personal obligation and responsibility of the purchaser.**

The superintendent is responsible for authorizing any fundraising on the part of student activities. **No fundraising may occur without express administrative permission.**

### **Activity Tickets**

All staff, spouses, and their school-age children will be admitted to home games free of charge. Activity tickets will be issued to staff through the building offices.

### **Agents, Salesmen and Other Business Representatives**

All business representatives calling on school matters must obtain permission from the superintendent or building principal before conferring with staff. Staff must determine whether the business representative has been granted permission before discussing business matters. Classroom teachers may not interrupt class work to confer with such representatives.

Staff may not use school time or school facilities for any personal activity for personal financial gain or confer with any business representative for personal business during school time.

### **Announcements and Circulars**

No announcements shall be made before any school group without authorization of the principal or superintendent.

Any circulars or advertising displayed within the school shall have the approval of the building principal or superintendent before posting.

## **Board Policies, Rules, and Directives**

The board of education has adopted policies that govern the operation of the school district. A complete policy manual is available on the district's website or in the main administrative office. These manuals will be updated as the board adopts new policies or modifies existing policies. In particular, the 4000 series deals with policies that affect personnel. Additionally, the Board has authorized the Superintendent and his or her designee to adopt rules and directives regarding the conduct of students, staff, and other persons. Many of these rules and directives are published in the Student Handbook, Staff Handbook, and Activity Handbook, respectively. Each of these handbooks are available on the district's website and in the main administrative office. **By signing below, you agree that you have read and understood these policies, handbooks, rules, and directives, their application to you, and that you have had an opportunity to discuss any questions with the administration.**

## **Child Abuse**

School employees who have reasonable cause to believe that a child has been subjected to child abuse or neglect or observe a child being subjected to conditions or circumstances which reasonably would result in child abuse or neglect will report the suspected abuse or neglect according to the following procedure.

1. Any school employee who has reasonable cause to believe that a child has been abused or neglected shall report the suspicion to the building principal immediately. Employees shall also personally report or cause a report to be made to local law enforcement or to the Department of Health and Human Services.
2. When the principal makes a report of suspected child abuse or neglect, he/she shall inform the employee(s) who made the initial report.
3. Nothing in the paragraph above shall hinder a school employee from fulfilling his/her/their obligation to report suspected abuse or neglect if he, she or they have reasonable cause to believe that a child has been abused or neglected.
4. Any doubt or question in reporting such cases shall be resolved in the favor of reporting the suspected abuse or neglect. Consultation between the administrator and school employee is encouraged, keeping in mind that prompt reporting is essential.

## **Complaint Procedure**

Good communication helps to resolve many misunderstandings and disagreements. This complaint procedure applies to complaints unless the complaint is subject to a different procedure required by law, policy or contract. Individuals who have a complaint should discuss their concerns with appropriate school personnel in an effort to resolve problems at the lowest level of the chain of command. When those efforts do not resolve matters satisfactorily, including matters involving discrimination or harassment on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, marital status, disability, or age, a complainant should follow the procedures set forth in any specific policy addressing those areas or the procedures set forth below. Allegations of sex discrimination covered by Title IX will be addressed through the board's Title IX policy.

References to "coordinator" in this policy refer to the board-designated coordinator for the applicable area, such as the Section 504 Coordinator for allegations of disability-based discrimination.

A preponderance of the evidence will be required to discipline a party accused of misconduct. This means that the investigator must conclude that it is more likely than not that misconduct occurred.

### **Complaint and Appeal Process.**

1. The first step is for the complainant to speak directly to the person(s) with whom the complainant has a concern. For example, a parent who is unhappy with a classroom teacher should initially discuss the matter with the teacher. However, the complainant should skip the first step if complainant reasonably believes speaking directly to the person would subject complainant or complainant's student to discrimination or harassment.
2. The second step is for the complainant to speak to the building principal, coordinator, superintendent of schools, or president of the board of education, as set forth below. Anyone with questions about the appropriate person to speak with may request clarification from the superintendent.
  - a) Complaints about the operation, decisions, or personnel within a building should be submitted to the principal of the building.

- b) Complaints about the operations of the school district or a building principal should be submitted in writing to the superintendent of schools.
  - c) Complaints about the superintendent of schools should be submitted in writing to the president of the board of education.
  - d) Complaints involving discrimination or harassment on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, marital status, disability, or age may also be submitted at any time during the complaint procedure to the applicable coordinator. Complaints involving discrimination or harassment may also be submitted at any time to the Office for Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Education: by email at [OCR.KansasCity@ed.gov](mailto:OCR.KansasCity@ed.gov); by telephone at (816) 268-0550; or by fax at (816) 268-0599.
3. When a complainant submits a complaint to an administrator or coordinator, the administrator or coordinator shall first determine whether another applicable procedure is required by policy or law and if so, direct the complaint to the appropriate person to follow that procedure. If not, the administrator or coordinator will promptly and thoroughly investigate the complaint, and shall:
- a) Determine whether the complainant has discussed the matter with the respondent.
    - 1) If the complainant has not, urge the complainant to discuss the matter directly with the respondent, if appropriate.
    - 2) If the complainant refuses to discuss the matter with the respondent, the administrator or coordinator shall, in his or her sole discretion, determine whether the complaint should or must be pursued further.
  - b) Strongly encourage the complainant to reduce his or her concerns to writing.
  - c) Interview the complainant and, if necessary, the respondent against whom the complaint is filed, to determine:
    - 1) All relevant details of the complaint;

- 2) All witnesses and documents which the complainant believes support the complaint;
  - 3) The action or solution which the complainant seeks.
  - d) Respond to the complainant. If the complaint involves discrimination or harassment, the response shall be in writing and shall be submitted within 180 calendar days after the administrator or coordinator receives the complaint.
4. If either the complainant or the respondent is not satisfied with the decision he or she may appeal the decision to the superintendent. The superintendent may assign a qualified designee to hear any appeal. This provision applies to appeals under the board's policies governing complaints of discrimination or harassment, including Title IX and any other policy with a separate grievance or complaint procedure, unless that other procedure includes its own appeal process. All requirements for appeals within any other policy apply, and in addition to those requirements, the following also apply.
  - a) The appeal must be in writing.
  - b) This appeal must be received by the superintendent no later than three (3) calendar days from the date of the decision.
  - c) For complaints addressed through other applicable procedures that do not include a separate investigatory process, the superintendent will investigate as he or she deems appropriate..
  - d) The superintendent will prepare a written decision and provide it to the complainant and any other person entitled by law to receive the appeal decision. For complaints involving discrimination or harassment, the superintendent shall submit the decision within 180 calendar days after the superintendent received complainant's written appeal. Appeals to the superintendent from complaints involving discrimination or harassment are final once the superintendent delivers the written decision, as are all other appeals/complaints to the superintendent unless the complaint can be appealed on the limited grounds to appeal to the board below.
5. The board's role is to set policy, establish and implement a budget, and evaluate the superintendent. The board does not manage the daily operations of the school district entrusted to its administration

unless required by law or policy. Because of the board's statutory roles, it does not hear complaints or appeals that may involve oversight or discipline of students, staff, or others, unless those involve the superintendent as discussed below. The board does not hear complaints or appeals based on allegations of discrimination or harassment unless otherwise required by law. The board will hear appeals only in the following circumstances:

- a) When the complaint is about a board policy, not implementation of the policy;
- b) When the complaint involves the budget or school expenditures that have been or must be approved by the board; or
- c) When the board is required by law, policy, or contract to hear a complaint or appeal.

If a complaint involves those limited grounds and a party is not satisfied with the superintendent's decision regarding the complaint or appeal, he or she may appeal the decision to the board.

- d) This appeal must be in writing.
  - e) This appeal must be received by the board president no later than ten (10) calendar days from the date the superintendent communicated his/her decision to the complainant.
  - f) This policy allows, but does not require the board to receive statements from interested parties and witnesses relevant to the complaint appeal. However, all matters involving discrimination or harassment allegations against the superintendent shall be promptly and thoroughly investigated by the board president or a designee.
  - g) The board president will notify the complainant and any other person legally required to receive the decision in writing of its decision. If the complaint involves discrimination or harassment allegations against the Superintendent, the board president shall submit the decision within 180 calendar days after receiving the written appeal.
  - h) There is no appeal from any decision of the board unless authorized by law.
6. Formal complaints about the superintendent shall be filed with the president of the board. However, complaints about the superintendent do not include disagreement with the superintendent's decision on

appeal based on a complaint of discrimination, harassment, or action of any other employee who is not the superintendent. Upon receipt of a complaint, the board president or his or her designee shall promptly and thoroughly investigate the complaint, and shall:

- a) Coordinate with school district staff, other than the superintendent, to determine if another procedure in policy or law requires the complaint against the superintendent to follow another procedure. If so, the board president will coordinate handling the complaint through that procedure. If another procedure applies, such as in the case of allegations of sex discrimination against the superintendent, the board president or, at his or her discretion, the full board will serve only to hear any appeal by a party to the complaint.
- b) Determine whether the complainant has discussed the matter with the superintendent.
  - 1) If the complainant has not, the board president or designee will urge or require the complainant to discuss the matter directly with the superintendent, if appropriate or required.
  - 2) If the complainant refuses to discuss the matter with the superintendent, the board president shall, in his or her sole discretion, determine whether the complaint should or must be pursued further.
- c) Determine, in his or her sole discretion, whether to place the matter on the board agenda for consideration at a regular or special meeting by the full board.
- d) Respond to the complainant or appeal. If the complaint or appeal involves discrimination or harassment, the response shall be in writing and shall be submitted within 180 calendar days after the president received the complaint.
- e) Appoint or contract with other individuals qualified to assist the board through this process or any other applicable procedure used to address allegations against the superintendent.

**No Retaliation.** The school district prohibits retaliation against any person for filing a complaint or for participating in the complaint procedure in good faith.

**Special Rules Regarding Educational Services and Related Services to Students with Disabilities.** Students with disabilities and their families have specific rights outlined in state and federal law, including administrative processes by which they may challenge the educational services being provided by the school district. Therefore, the appeal process contained in this policy may not be used to challenge decisions made by a student's individualized education plan (IEP) team or 504 team.

Complaints about the educational services provided a student with a disability, including but not limited to services provided to a student with an IEP, access to curricular and extracurricular activities, and educational placement must be submitted to the school district's Director of Special Education. The Director of Special Education will address the complaint in a manner that he/she deems appropriate and will provide the complainant with a copy of the Notice of IDEA Parental Rights promulgated by the Nebraska Department of Education.

Complaints about the educational services provided a student with a disability pursuant to a Section 504 plan must be submitted to the school district's 504 Coordinator. The 504 Coordinator will address the complaint in a manner that he/she deems appropriate and will provide the complainant with a copy of the Notice of Section 504 Parental Rights adopted by the board of education.

Complaints about the educational services provided to a student who is suspected of having a disability must be submitted in writing to the school district's Director of Special Education or to the district's 504 Coordinator. The Director of Special Education or 504 Coordinator will either refer the student for possible verification as a student with a disability or will provide prior written notice of the district's refusal to do so.

**Bad Faith or Serial Filings.** The purpose of the complaint procedure is to resolve complaints at the lowest level possible within the chain of command. Individuals who file complaints (a) without a good faith intention to attempt to resolve the issues raised; (b) for the purpose of adding administrative burden; (c) at a volume unreasonable to expect satisfactory resolution; or (c) for purposes inconsistent with the efficient operations of the district may be dismissed by the superintendent without providing final resolution other than noting the dismissal. There is no appeal from dismissals made pursuant to this section.

### **Computers and the Internet: Acceptable Use by Staff**

Internet access is an important tool for communicating, keeping up-to-date with current developments in education, and for conducting research to enhance management, teaching, and learning skills. Staff members must refer to and comply with the board policy regarding Staff Internet and Computer Use. A copy of this policy is attached below. Staff should also refer to and comply with the board policy regarding Staff and District Social Media Use.

### **Conflict of Interest**

All staff members are subject to the board's policy governing conflict of interest. That policy provides, in part, that no employee shall solicit or accept anything of value, including a gift, loan, contribution, reward, or promise of future employment based on an agreement that the vote, official action, or judgment of the employee would thereby be influenced.

### **Contact Information**

Staff are required to keep the district informed of any change in their name, address, telephone or other contact information. Contact the building secretary to report a change.

### **Copyright and Fair Use**

The school district complies with federal copyright laws. Staff members must comply with copyright laws when using school equipment or working on behalf of the district. Federal law prohibits the unauthorized reproduction of works of authorship, regardless of the medium in which they were created.

The "fair use" doctrine allows limited reproduction of copyrighted works for educational and research purposes. "Fair use" of a copyrighted work includes reproduction for purposes such as criticism, news reporting, teaching (including multiple copies for classroom use), scholarship, or research. Staff who are unsure whether their proposed reproduction of copyrighted material constitutes "fair use" should consult with their building principal, review the school district's copyright compliance policy, and review *Reproduction of Copyrighted Works by Educators and Librarians* from the U.S. Copyright Office found at <https://www.copyright.gov/circs/circ21.pdf> and *Copyright for Students* found at <https://www.whoishostingthis.com/resources/student-copyright/>. You can find more information on copyright compliance requirements and permitted uses from the U.S. Copyright Office and the Library of Congress at the following site: <http://www.loc.gov/teachers/usingprimarysources/copyright.html>.

### **Corporal Punishment**

Corporal punishment is the infliction of bodily pain as a penalty for disapproved behavior, and is prohibited by law. Some physical contact is inevitable, and most of it is appropriate. Corporal punishment does not include the use of physical force that is reasonable and necessary to (1) protect school employees; (2) protect students or property; or (3) remove a student from a situation that endangers the student, persons, or property. Staff members should promptly report any event that required the use of physical force to their building principal.

### **Crisis Response Team**

Any staff member appointed by the district administration will serve on the Crisis Response Team as outlined in the board policies. The Crisis Response Team serves a vital role in supporting the district's staff and students. It is the responsibility of the appointed staff member to discuss with the district administration any circumstances that may affect the staff member's ability to perform the tasks required by board policy.

### **Disability Leave (Short-Term)**

Short-term disability leave will be treated in the manner required by state and federal law and consistent with the negotiated agreement with the school district's local education association. Short-Term Disability leave will run concurrently with FMLA leave.

### **Discrimination and Harassment**

The school district prohibits discrimination and harassment based upon or related to race, color, national origin, sex, religion, marital status, disability, age or any other unlawful basis that (1) has the purpose or effect of creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive school environment, (2) has the purpose or effect of substantially or unreasonably interfering with an employee's school performance, or (3) otherwise adversely affects an employee's employment opportunities. Employees who believe that they have been the subject of unlawful discrimination or harassment due to their disability should contact the following Section 504 Coordinator: **Brenda Buhl at (402) 993-2274, [bbuhl@twinriver.esu7.org](mailto:bbuhl@twinriver.esu7.org)** or in person at school. Employees who believe that they have been the subject of unlawful discrimination or harassment due to their sex should contact the following Title IX Coordinator: **Andy Banahan at (402) 993-2274, [abanahan@twinriver.esu7.org](mailto:abanahan@twinriver.esu7.org)**, PO Box 640, Genoa, NE 68640, or in person at school. Employees who believe that they have been the subject of any other unlawful discrimination or harassment should contact the **superintendent at (402) 993-2274, [clecher@twinriver.esu7.org](mailto:clecher@twinriver.esu7.org)** or in person

at school. Employees may report discrimination or harassment to any staff member who will then forward it on to the appropriate coordinator or administrator. The staff member will follow school district policies to respond to the report.

### **Driving (both school and personal vehicles)**

Staff members who drive school vehicles or volunteer to use their personal automobile to transport students must have a valid driver's license and proof of insurance. Staff members will be provided a Driver's Certification form to verify this information. Staff members who drive school vehicles or transport students in their personal vehicles are responsible for following safe driving practices, including use of seat belts by all occupants, and are responsible for any injury or accident. Staff members are not to use cell phones while driving a school vehicle or while transporting students. Please see the school district's policy on school vehicle use for further information.

Drivers for the school district must be free from drug and alcohol use or abuse. The school district will test drivers as permitted under state and federal law and in accordance with board policy.

### **Dress Code**

Staff should dress in a manner that reflects the honorable profession of education. Certified staff, paraeducators and office staff should generally dress in business casual attire. Custodial, maintenance and transportation staff should dress in attire appropriate to the work they are performing.

The superintendent or principal shall maintain the discretion to make determinations on staff dress and appearance. Administrators may temporarily suspend all or a portion of the dress code when other factors support a lower dress expectation for school employees (e.g., special "casual days" or field days). Any violation of school policy and rules may result in disciplinary action.

### **Drug and Alcohol Testing**

School district administrators who suspect that drugs or alcohol may be present in a staff member's system may require the staff member to provide a body fluid or breath sample as provided in Nebraska law. Staff members who refuse a lawful directive to provide a body fluid or breath sample may be subject to disciplinary or administrative action by the employer, including denial of continued employment.

### **Duty to Report**

School personnel shall self-report any of the following to the District's Superintendent within 24 hours of its occurrence or at the beginning of the next school day, whichever is earlier:

- Any criminal citation if the alleged offense is a misdemeanor or felony under federal or Nebraska law or in the state in which the alleged offense occurred;
- Any arrest for any reason;
- Any criminal conviction;
- Any sentence of incarceration;
- Any criminal or civil filing or Department of Health and Human Services or law enforcement investigation for child abuse and/or neglect;
- Any complaint or other administrative that could impact any certificate or professional license held by the employee;
- Any action or threat of action by any entity against the employee's driver's license or ability or authority to operate a motor vehicle if the employee's job duties may require the operation of a motor vehicle.

The failure to make a report required by this section may result in disciplinary action up to and including cancellation, termination, and non-renewal.

### **Electronic Communication While Driving**

Except as provided below, school personnel shall not use any electronic communication device to read a written communication, manually type a written communication, send a written communication, verbally communicate with others, or otherwise communicate with others while operating a school vehicle or while using a school-issued electronic communication device while operating a private vehicle. This prohibition includes but is not limited to answering or making telephone calls not related to the transportation and reading or responding to e-mails, instant messages, or text messages.

The superintendent or building principal may grant exceptions and allow verbal communication on an as needed basis for specific district-related work based upon employees' duties and responsibilities.

## **Expenses**

The board will reimburse staff for all approved expenses incurred in attending to school business. Reimbursement for mileage, supplies, overnight travel expense, and credit course reimbursement fees are processed on an expense report form that is available from each building secretary. Appropriate receipts must be attached.

To be reimbursed for an item or for personal vehicle use, staff members must complete a reimbursement claim form, attach receipts and submit it to the Superintendent for approval.

All claims for reimbursement must be approved by the board, so some delay is probable. Mileage reimbursement will be denied if a school vehicle was available.

## **Family and Medical Leave (FMLA)**

Qualified employees will be provided leave under the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) as provided in board policy. The school district will utilize the "rolling" 12-month period measured backward from the date an employee uses any FMLA leave.

## **In-School Communication**

Every staff member will be assigned a mailbox in the building where he or she works. Staff members are expected to check their mailboxes for messages in the morning upon arrival at school, at lunch time, and at the end of the day before departing.

A great deal of information is distributed to staff via the school's e-mail system. Each staff member must check his or her e-mail account frequently throughout the school day. Staff members are allowed to use their school e-mail accounts for a moderate amount of personal e-mail correspondence.

However, sending or receiving personal e-mail during class time is prohibited, regardless of whether that personal e-mail is received on the staff member's school e-mail account or a personal account.

## **Intellectual Property**

All written or artistic works, instructional materials, inventions, procedures, ideas, innovations, systems, programs, or other work product created or developed by any employee in the course and scope of performance of his or her employment duties on behalf of the district, whether published or not, shall be the exclusive property of the district. The district has the sole right

to sell, license, assign, or transfer any and all right, title, or interest in and to such property.

### **Jury and Witness Duty Leave**

An employee who has been called to serve as a juror will be granted paid leave. Employees must sign over to the district the compensation they receive for jury duty, but not compensation for expenses.

An employee who has been subpoenaed to testify as a witness in a court proceeding shall be entitled to one day of paid leave. To receive paid leave, the employee must sign over to the district his or her witness fee.

### **Keys**

Staff will not lend or have any duplicate keys made of any school key. Staff will make sure all doors are locked when they enter or leave the building other than regular school hours and are responsible for setting the security system after hours.

Staff members are responsible at all times for all keys issued to them and must keep their keys in a secure location or on the employee's person. Each classroom teacher must check that the doors and windows in his or her room are closed and locked at the end of the school day. Staff must report lost or stolen keys to the building principal immediately.

### **Locker Room Supervision**

Staff members must review and comply with the board's policy regarding locker room supervision.

### **Maintenance & Cleaning Request Forms**

Staff members should fill out maintenance requests forms just as soon as they need or see a maintenance problem. These forms must be turned into the **Superintendent** or administration.

### **Meals Program**

Staff may take advantage of meals offered through the district's foods program. Staff may purchase lunches from the school cafeteria for \$4.55 per day. The lunch price includes one carton of milk. Extra cartons cost \$0.45 cents. Staff members must deposit funds in their lunch accounts before purchasing meals. Staff members will not be allowed to run a deficit in their lunch accounts.

### **Military Leaves of Absence**

Leaves of absence without pay for military or Reserve duty are granted to all employees as required by law. An employee who is called to active military

duty or to Reserve or National Guard training or who volunteers for the same should submit copies of the military orders to the Superintendent as soon as is practicable. An administrator, at his or her discretion, may require an employee who requests leave under the Nebraska Family Military Leave Act to provide certification from the proper military authority to verify the employee's eligibility for the leave requested.

Military Leave under the Federal Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) and the Nebraska Family Military Leave Act will be governed by the board's policies.

### **Milk Expression**

Except as otherwise provided by law, the district will provide reasonable break time for an employee who wishes to breastfeed or express breast milk for her nursing child each time such employee has the need to do so. The district will provide a place, other than a bathroom, which is shielded from view and free from intrusion from co-workers and the public. These accommodations will be provided for one year after the child's birth, unless otherwise required by law.

### **News and Press Releases**

Only individuals who have prior administrative approval may issue press releases or other official communications regarding school activities and events in furtherance of the individual's official responsibilities. The superintendent may delegate responsibility for communicating with the media to building principals, the activities director, event sponsors, and other staff on an ad hoc basis.

Activity sponsors and other staff who are involved in newsworthy activity should submit typed press releases to the office for distribution to the media when noteworthy events have occurred. Coaches must communicate with local TV, radio, and print media promptly after matches or games to disseminate the results.

### **Newsletters**

The district secretary will inform staff of the relevant deadlines for each newsletter. Staff members are encouraged to submit articles for the newsletter that reports recent classroom activities and emphasizes positive aspects of the district's mission.

### **Obligations Related to American Civics Instruction**

All staff members shall be familiar with, and comply with, the requirements of state law, board policy, and district curriculum to properly instruct

students regarding American Civics, Social Studies, American History, and appropriate patriotic exercises on particular days of the year. Neglect of any such responsibilities by any employee may be considered just cause for dismissal.

### **Outside Employment**

No full-time staff member may accept any other employment or carry on any business or activity for profit that interferes with the complete and competent discharge of his or her responsibilities to the school district.

### **Political Activities**

District employees retain all rights of citizenship, including, but not limited to, engaging in political activities. An employee of the District may participate in the political process, including seeking an elective office, provided that the staff member does not campaign on school property during working hours, and provided all other legal requirements are met. The District assumes no obligation beyond making such opportunities available.

While the District supports its employees by allowing them to exercise their rights, any impact on the employee's ability to perform his or her functions as required by the district is grounds for discipline. For further guidance regarding political conduct on school grounds, contact the superintendent and consult the board policies.

### **Pregnant or Parenting Students**

The school district encourages students who are pregnant or parenting are encouraged to continue to participate in the district's educational and extracurricular programs. Students who anticipate deviations from their regular school experience or accrue absences due to pregnancy or parenting have been told to notify their building principal as early as possible to discuss their educational programming. The building principal will work with the student and appropriate district staff to develop a plan to assist the student in participating in district curriculum and extra-curricular activities. Such a plan may include:

1. If the student cannot regularly attend classes, the provision of online courses;
2. The arrangement of meeting times with teachers;
3. If the student has not identified appropriate childcare, the identification of child care providers that meet statutory requirements for quality and care; and
4. All other curricular adjustments, modifications, and means of supplementing classroom attendance deemed appropriate by the

school administrators including, but not limited to, modification of attendance policies.

### **Professional Boundaries Between Staff and Students**

All district employees must follow board policy when interacting with students in any way. School district employees are responsible for conducting themselves professionally and for teaching and modeling high standards of behavior and civic values, both at and away from school. District employees must be aware of professional boundaries between students and staff, and they must never blur the boundaries. These standards of behavior apply to social networking sites, such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc., along with communications and interactions of any kind between staff and students.

Examples of unprofessional misconduct include: inappropriate sexual communications or interactions with students, meeting with students in private outside of school, and intruding on a student's personal space. These are a few examples of inappropriate behavior, not an exhaustive list. For further guidance, refer to the district's policies regarding professionalism and staff-student interactions.

Any teacher or student who witnesses or knows information about a district employee violating board policy should report the violation to the district administration *immediately*. Minor violations and questionable violations should be reported as soon as possible, but always within 24 hours.

A violation of board policies for professionalism will form the basis for employee discipline up to and including termination or cancellation of employment, filing a report with law enforcement officials, and filing a report with the Commissioner of Education.

### **Professional Growth**

All employees must complete the equivalent of six (6) semester hours of college and shall be provided opportunities for the development of increased competence beyond that which they may attain through the performance of their assigned duties.

In addition to this requirement, the superintendent will select in-service programming to provide additional professional growth activities for certified and classified staff.

Professional Growth Points are calculated as follows:

Every six years permanent certificated employees shall give evidence of professional growth. Six semester hours of college credit shall be accepted as evidence of professional growth or, in the alternative, such other activities as are approved by the School Board, which may be included but are not limited to, educational committees.

College credits which are to be used for advancement on the horizontal levels on the salary schedule shall receive advanced approval by the school administration and board of education no later than May 10th.

#### PROFESSIONAL GROWTH PERIOD:

Refers to the six-year period during which a permanent certificated employee is required to give evidence of professional growth. For persons who had achieved permanent/tenured status as of September 1, 1982. The professional growth period ends September 1, 1988. A new professional growth period begins in 1988 and each successive 6-year period thereafter shall constitute the applicable professional growth period. The Board also recognizes those activities of educators which are of value to the school and to the individual as evidence of professional growth. These activities must receive advanced approval by the Superintendent.

These activities include:

1. Participation at workshops and in-service.
2. Educational travel.
3. Work on professional committees either at federal, state, or local level.
4. Professional publications.
5. Sponsorship of school activities which have a direct relationship to curricular offerings (ie: FFA, FCCLA, FBLA, and others).

OTHER PROFESSIONAL GROWTH ACTIVITIES: Evidence of professional growth may also be demonstrated by earning twenty-four (24) professional growth points per six (6) year period by completing any combination of activities as set forth below. The required twenty-four (24) points may be earned in a single year or over a period of six (6) years.

Any change in the number of professional growth points required, the type of activities allowed for the purposes of professional growth, or any limitations as to the applicability of activities following the adoption of these provisions shall not be retroactive with regard to work already begun.

Implementation of any changes in the professional requirements shall be in such manner as to cause no penalty to those staff members who are currently working on professional growth activities earned pursuant to these

provisions shall be accepted by the Board of Education as evidence of professional growth.

PROFESSIONAL GROWTH ACTIVITIES: Listed below are the activities for which growth points may be earned:

I. Formal Classwork

- A. college or university credit (one semester hour equals four (4) points) - (maximum twenty-four (24) points)
- B. technical community college credit (one semester equals four (4) points (maximum twenty-four (24) points)
- C. College credit earned in specialized areas, (i.e. foreign language institutes, business schools, etc.) - (one semester hour equals four (4) growth points) - (maximum twenty-four (24) points)
- D. Auditing a college class (one semester hour equals two (2) points) - (maximum twelve (12) points)

II. Professional Meetings and Activities

- A. Curriculum conferences and conventions (one (1) point per day) - (maximum six (6) points)
- B. Workshops either school district designed or externally sponsored (one (1) point per day) - (maximum six (6) points)
- C. Activities and conventions sponsored by NSEA and/or state academic associations which are instructional in nature (one (1) point per day) - (maximum six (6) points)
- D. Service on Nebraska Department of Education Advisory Committees, the Nebraska Council on Teacher Education, the Professional Practices Commission or other related commissions or committees (four (4) points per year) - (maximum eight (8) points)
- E. Service on school or college accreditation teams (one (1) point per day) - maximum four (4) points.
- F. Service on district curriculum committees or board or administrative advisory committees (one (1) point per three (3) hours of committee work) - (maximum four (4) points)

G. Demonstration teaching and/or presenting in-service programs to colleagues within or without the district (one (1) point per day of in-service presentation) - (maximum six (6) points)

H. School visitation (one (1) point per day) - (maximum four (4) points)

I. University or college teaching (four (4) points per semester hour taught) - (maximum twelve (12) points)

III. Other Activities as Approved:

To receive growth point credit for the items listed below, the employee shall submit a written proposal to the superintendent or his designee for prior approval. The employee and administrator shall agree on the follow-up activities and/or verification process and the number of points to be earned upon completion of the activity.

A. Research and curricular development: district or classroom related research, production of curriculum materials or learning packets, completion of a thesis, dissertation, or collaboration with a research project

B. Education travel

C. Community service: including service with community organizations, service in a political or appointive office, etc.

D. Service as an appointive or elective officer of a professional organization

E. Contributions to professional journals and other educationally related publications

F. Special voluntary school district activities and/or in-service programs which occur before or after the school day or year.

G. Summer employment related to professional assignment or work.

APPROVAL AND VERIFICATION OF PROFESSIONAL GROWTH ACTIVITIES  
OTHER THAN COLLEGE HOURS

At least five (5) days prior to attending or participating in a professional growth activity, the employee shall notify the superintendent or his designee of the employee's intent to participate in that activity by completing a

"Professional Growth Activity Form". Unless notified to the contrary, prior to the start of the activity, the activity as set forth on the form will qualify for professional growth as provided for in this policy and where the attendance and participation was actually completed. Any activity requiring absence from school during a school or contract day shall be governed by the professional and personal leave policies of the school district.

### **Purchasing**

All requisitions for books and school supplies must be filed with the building principal. The requisition must include the name of the article being requested, where it may be purchased, how many articles are required and their cost. Requisition forms are available from the office. Orders should not be placed until the district office has issued a printed purchase order. Once an order has been received, the staff member must notify the building secretary so payment can be processed. Failure to follow the procedure for requisitions may prevent the staff member from receiving the items requisitioned. All orders or supplies must be authorized by the administration. Staff may be personally liable for any orders placed without such authorization.

When routine supplies are needed for immediate use, staff should contact the building secretary. When it is necessary to make a special or emergency requisition for supplies or equipment, staff should contact the principal for the necessary forms. The superintendent will either approve or disapprove the request through the principal.

### **Records and Reports**

Staff members must refer to and comply with Board Policy No. 5016 regarding the management and maintenance of student records.

All staff members shall promptly furnish the administration with any information relating to their professional training, experience, activities or work required for reports to county, state or federal officials or for official school records. Personal information will be treated confidentially by school officials.

### **Recordings of Students and Classrooms**

Staff members may make audio and video recordings of classroom instruction and school activities upon authorization of the superintendent or supervising administrator. Staff should refer to Board Policy 3059 for information on recording by students.

### **School Calendar**

The official school calendar is maintained in each building office. All activities and events must be scheduled and approved by the building principal. To avoid conflict, a sponsor should not call a meeting of any activity until the schedule has been checked and the meeting approved by the office.

### **School Property**

School property is not to be lent to individuals except by permission of the superintendent.

Staff or groups who wish to use school facilities should make requests to the building principal as early as possible so that they may be placed on the school calendar.

Staff must inform the building principal of any school property that needs repair or that is lost, stolen, or damaged beyond repair. Matters regarding custodial service in the building should be handled through the principal's office.

### **School Vehicle Use**

The transportation of students in a pupil transportation vehicle is governed by the rules of the Nebraska Department of Education and the district's safe pupil transportation plan or safety and security plan. School district employees, board members, and other elected or appointed school district officials who are not transporting children are authorized to use a school district vehicle to travel to a designated location or to their home when the primary purpose of the travel serves a school district purpose. Staff should refer to the board policy regarding the use of school vehicles.

### **Security**

Each staff member is responsible for the security of his/her own classroom or work area. Staff must lock the doors and windows of their classrooms and/or other work areas each night.

Staff members who use the building after it has been locked by the custodian or on weekends are responsible for turning off all lights and locking all windows and doors that they or students under their supervision may have used.

Under no circumstances are pupils to be allowed in the building after school hours without faculty supervision. Keys to any school areas are not to be loaned to students under any circumstances.

### **Smoking on School Premises or at School Activities**

The use or possession of any tobacco product, including cigarettes, cigars, or other tobacco or tobacco derivative products; vapor products or electronic nicotine delivery systems; alternative nicotine products; or any other such look-alike or imitation product, is not permitted on school property at any time.

### **Sniffer (Drug) Dogs**

The administration is authorized to use sniffer dogs to minimize the presence of illicit items on school grounds. Students and staff are specifically notified that:

1. Lockers may be sniffed by sniffer dogs at any time.
2. Vehicles parked on school property may be sniffed by sniffer dogs at any time.
3. Classrooms and other common areas may be sniffed by sniffer dogs at any time students and staff are not present.
4. If contraband of any kind is found, the student or staff member shall be subject to appropriate disciplinary action.

### **Social Media Usage by Staff**

Social media is an important tool for communicating, keeping up-to-date with current developments in education, and for conducting research to enhance management, teaching, and learning skills. The district also uses social media accounts to provide information to district stakeholders. All staff members must refer to and comply with **the board's policies** regarding Staff Internet and Computer Use and Staff and District Social Media Use. Staff members who are uncertain about the applicability of **board policy** to a particular situation must confer with their supervising administrator prior to posting on social media.

### **Solicitation and Distribution of Merchandise**

In the interest of maintaining a proper school environment and preventing interference school purposes, employees may not sell merchandise, solicit financial contributions, solicit, or distribute literature or printed material for any non-school related cause during working time or on school grounds.

### **Staff Room/Office Rooms**

The staff room is maintained for the exclusive use and convenience of the staff. It is not for student use and staff members should not hold student conferences there. Each staff member will assume responsibility in keeping the staff room in an orderly and presentable condition.

### **Student Interviews**

Employees shall refer any police officer, child protective service worker, or

other similar individual seeking to speak to or interview a student to an administrator.

## **Telephones**

School telephones are maintained for the primary purpose of conducting school business. Staff members should limit their use of school phones to brief conversations. Teachers will not be called to the telephone during class time except in the case of an emergency.

Staff members may not use personal cell phones to make or receive calls or to send or receive text messages during instructional time.

## **Threat Assessment and Response**

The board of education is committed to providing a safe environment for members of the school community. Students, staff and patrons are urged to immediately report any statements or behavior that makes the observer fearful or uncomfortable about the safety of the school environment.

### **1. Definitions**

- a. A **threat** is an expression of a willful intent to physically or sexually harm someone or to damage property in a way that indicates that an individual poses a danger to the safety of school staff, students or other members of the school community.
  - i. The threat may be expressed/communicated behaviorally, orally, visually, in writing, electronically, or through any other means.
  - ii. A **transient threat** is an expression of anger or frustration that can be quickly or easily resolved.
  - iii. A **substantive threat** is an expression of serious intent to harm others which includes, but is not limited to, any threat which involves a detailed plan and means.
- b. A **threat assessment** is a fact-based process emphasizing an appraisal of observed (or reasonably-observable) behaviors to identify potentially dangerous or violent situations, to assess them and to manage/address them. Threat assessment is the process of identifying and responding to serious threats in a systematic, data-informed way.

- i. The threat assessment process is distinct from student disciplinary procedures. The mere fact that the district is conducting a threat assessment does not by itself necessitate suspension, expulsion or emergency exclusion without complying with state law and board policy related governing those actions.
- ii. The threat assessment process is distinct from specialized instruction which a student with a disability may receive from the school district. The school district will not change a student's educational placement as that term is used in the Individuals with Disabilities in Education Act *solely* as part of a threat assessment.

## **2. Obligation to Report Threatening Statements or Behaviors.**

All staff and students must report **substantive threats** to a member of the administration immediately and comply with any other mandatory reporting obligations. Staff and students who are unsure whether a threat is substantive or transient should report the situation. Staff and students must make such report regardless of the nature of the relationship between the individual who initiated the threat or threatening behavior and the person(s) who were threatened or who were the focus of the threatening behavior. Staff and students must also make such reports regardless of where or when the threat was made or the threatening behavior occurred.

THREATS OR ASSAULTS WHICH REQUIRE IMMEDIATE INTERVENTION SHOULD BE REPORTED TO THE POLICE AT 911.

## **3. Threat Assessment Team**

The threat assessment team (team) shall consist of, but not all inclusive, the Superintendent, Principals, school counselor, school nurse, law enforcement, and LIMHP if applicable . Not every team member need participate in every threat assessment. If the threat has been made by or is directed towards, a student with a disability, the threat assessment team must include a staff member who is knowledgeable about special education services or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, as appropriate. Neither the student nor their student's family members are part of the threat assessment team.

The team is responsible for investigating all reported threats to school safety, evaluating the significance of each threat, and devising an appropriate response. The threat assessment team shall work closely with

the crisis team in planning for crisis situations. The threat assessment team shall be familiar with mental health resources available to students, staff and patrons and shall collaborate with local mental health service providers as appropriate.

#### **4. Threat Assessment Investigation and Response**

When a threat is reported, the school administrator shall initiate an initial inquiry/triage and, in consultation with members of the threat assessment team, make a determination of the seriousness of the threat as expeditiously as possible. The school administrator must contact law enforcement if the administrator believes that an individual poses a clear and immediate threat of serious violence.

If there is no reasonably apparent imminent threat present or once such an imminent threat is contained, the threat assessment team will meet to evaluate and respond to the threatening behavior. The team may, but is not required to, review the following types of information:

- Review of the threatening behavior and/or communication;
- Interviews with the individuals involved including students, staff members, and family members as necessary and/or appropriate;
- Review of school and other records for any prior history or interventions with the students involved;
- Any other investigatory methods that the team determines to be reasonable and useful.

At the conclusion of the investigation, the team will determine what, if any, response to the threat is appropriate. The team is authorized to disclose the results of its investigation to law enforcement and to the target(s) of any threatened acts. The team may refer the individual of concern to the appropriate school administrator for consequences under the school's student discipline policy or, if appropriate, report the results of its investigation to the student's individualized education plan team.

Regardless of threat assessment activities, disciplinary action and referral to law enforcement will occur consistent with board policy and Nebraska law.

#### **5. Communication with the Public about Reported Threats**

The team will keep members of the school community appropriately informed about substantive threats and about the team's response to those threats. This communication may include oral announcements, written communication sent home with students, or communication through print or broadcast media. However, the team will not reveal the identity of the

individual of concern or of any target(s) of threatened violence unless permitted by law.

## **6. Coordination with the Crisis Team After Resolution of Threat**

The threat assessment team will confer with the district's crisis team after a threat has been investigated to provide the crisis team with information that the crisis team may use in assessing or revising the district's All-Hazard School Safety Plan.

### **Ticket Taking**

**All staff will be expected to take tickets at one time or another at home events.** Staff members who coach a sport may take tickets at an event they do not coach. Staff members who are unavailable to take tickets at the event they are assigned to work must find their own replacements and notify the building principal of who will be taking their place.

### **Transportation Request Forms**

Staff members must complete transportation request forms or notify the activity director or secretary as soon as they know they need school-provided transportation to allow the activities director adequate time to schedule drivers and vehicles.

### **Visitors**

Staff should welcome members of the public who wish to visit school, but should ensure that visitors follow the district's requirements.

All visitors must report to the building office before visiting any classroom or other areas of the building.

Visitors must comply with the following guidelines:

- if a visitor wishes to observe a specific skill or subject, he or she will be asked to observe during a specified time period
- children under the age of 10 years must be accompanied by a parent or guardian
- all visitors must have the prior approval of the principal or superintendent
- salespeople and other such agents will not be allowed to solicit staff members during school hours
- visitors must wear the visitor's badge supplied by the building office

### **Wage and Salary Payments**

Staff members are paid on or about the 20th of each month. The district provides direct deposit of paychecks to designated financial institutions. Otherwise, paychecks will be delivered personally at school or mailed to the address on file in the district office. Staff who wish to activate or modify

their direct deposits or who wish to have paychecks mailed to a different address must contact the district office. The school district will mail staff paychecks to the last address on file for each employee during months when school is not in session. Employees shall not be paid in advance under any circumstances.

All required deductions, such as for federal, state, and local taxes, retirement contributions, and all authorized voluntary deductions, such as for insurance or union dues, will be withheld automatically from your paychecks. Garnishments are legal proceedings imposed by a court of law upon the school district requiring payment to a third party of monies earned by district employees. The school district will accept all legal garnishments and tax levies against wages in compliance with state and federal law. An employee's pay will be held upon receipt of a garnishment until a court order is issued indicating satisfaction of the indebtedness or until ordered to surrender the monies to the court or its agent. The school district prohibits improper pay deductions, and employees shall be reimbursed for any improper pay deductions. If you believe that an improper deduction has been made to your pay, you should immediately report this information to your direct supervisor, payroll personnel, or the Superintendent.

Staff members, by their signature on the acknowledgement page of this handbook, authorize the school district to withhold such sums from their paychecks as necessary to cover property damage, cash shortages or other amounts owed to the school district by the employee.

### **Weather-Related Closings**

If school is called off because of bad weather or for any other reason, it will be announced on the District's website, Facebook and Twitter accounts, phone messaging system, and various media outlets.

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

### **Workplace Searches**

To safeguard the property and interests of our students, employees, and patrons; to help prevent the possession, sale, and use of illegal drugs on school grounds, and in keeping with the spirit and intent of the district's

drug-free workplace policy and other policies, the school district reserves the right to question employees and all other persons entering and leaving our premises, and to inspect any packages, parcels, purses, handbags, briefcases, lunch boxes, or any other possessions or articles carried to and from school when it has reasonable grounds to do so. The school also reserves the right to search any employee's office, desk, files, locker, or any other area or article on school grounds. All offices, desks, files, lockers, and so forth, are school district property and are issued or provided for the use of employees only during their employment with the district. Inspections may be conducted at any time at the discretion of the administration. Employees who refuse to cooperate with this provision will be subject to disciplinary action up to and including discharge.

## **POLICIES AND PROCEDURES REGARDING CERTIFIED STAFF**

### **Absences**

The accumulation of leave for teaching staff is governed by the Negotiated Agreement between the Board of Education and the Education Association. This handbook sets forth the process for using that leave

#### **1. Sick Leave**

Certified staff members who are too ill to perform their teaching duties must contact their building principal by **6:00 a.m.**

#### **2. Personal Leave**

Certified staff who wish to take personal leave must submit a leave request to their building principal at least seven (7) days in advance of the proposed leave. Building principals may deny personal leave requests if the school district is unable to secure the services of a qualified substitute teacher on the day of the proposed leave. Staff members may not take personal leave adjacent to a school break. For example, if school is not in session on a Monday, certified staff may not take personal leave the preceding Friday or following Tuesday.

#### **3. Professional Leave**

The board and administration recognize the value of continuing education and encourage certified staff to participate in seminars, workshops and other activities which will continue their professional growth. Certified staff members who wish to take professional leave must submit a leave request to their building principal, along with a description of the proposed event and any written materials about the event. Building principals may deny requests for professional leave if they are unable to secure the services of a qualified substitute or if the principal determines that the activity will not enhance the certified staff member's effectiveness as an employee of the district. Certified staff members who feel they have been unfairly denied professional leave may grieve the principal's decision, pursuant to the grievance procedure contained in the district's Negotiated Agreement.

#### **4. Substitute Folders**

Each teacher must prepare a substitute folder and keep the completed folder in the upper right-hand drawer of his/her desk. The folder must contain:

- a.) the current seating chart for each class;
- b.) the daily routine followed by each class;
- c.) all schedules (fire drill procedures, lunch schedule, etc.);
- d.) a copy of this handbook; and

- e.) plans for the day if the teacher's absence was anticipated. (These plans are in addition to the teacher's regular lesson plan book.)

Certified staff members may make arrangements to find their own substitute and shall notify the secretary when found. However, certified staff may not make arrangements to in-house their own substitute.

### **Assemblies**

Classroom teachers must attend assemblies and pep rallies and sit with students to help maintain order.

All certified staff members should attend school assemblies and should try to attend as many of the school functions as possible regardless of whether they have specific assigned duties or not.

### **Assignment Notebooks**

Assignment Notebooks function as students' make-up slips, as well as a pass out of class or to see another instructor. They can also be used as a communication tool home to parents. Students may not be in the hallways during class time without his/her assignment notebook signed by the instructor. Every time a student leaves class during class time, it should be signed. This way, other staff can ascertain where the student has permission to be.

Students may not go to another classroom without a signed pass obtained from that teacher. No student may be in the halls during class or study time without a signed pass for a specific destination. If a teacher retains a student after the period ends, staff must write a note in the student's assignment book stating why the student was late, rather than sending the student to the office for a tardy slip.

### **Assignment of Teachers**

The administration will assign certified staff to individual duties. Certified staff will also be assigned for various forms of hall, extracurricular, recess, traffic, lunch period and other noontime duties, and athletic events.

### **Certificates, Teacher Contracts, Salary Information**

Teaching certificates must be registered with the Superintendent before they may legally be paid. It is the certified staff member's responsibility to make sure this is done.

Each certified staff member must provide the superintendent's office with the following information:

- a. social security number,
- b. retirement number,
- c. withholding form W-4, and
- d. authorization to withhold for insurance benefits.

Each new certified staff member must fill out forms for retirement benefits before the first pay day as well as the family coverage of the district hospital/medical insurance program.

It is the sole responsibility of the certified staff member to inform the superintendent of any changes, including but not limited to changes in certification, endorsements, benefits plans, and salary payment information.

### **Cheating**

Students caught cheating (including plagiarizing) may be sent to the building principal for administrative discipline.

### **Check-out Forms**

All certified staff must complete a check-out form and obtain the building principal's signature on the form prior to departing for the summer. Classrooms must be tidy to allow the custodial staff to clean classrooms and work areas. Certified staff members who do not clean their work area before departing for the summer will not receive their paychecks until the work is completed.

### **Class Record Books**

A class record book is the school's official record of matters relating to each student in each teacher's class. It may be maintained in paper or electronic form and must be complete in scope and accurately maintained. All classroom teachers are required to keep class record books which list students in each class in alphabetical order and show the attendance and all grades earned by each student. At the end of each school year, classroom teachers must turn their record books into the building office. Record books are subject to examination by the building principal or superintendent at any time.

### **Classroom Management and Student Discipline**

Classroom discipline is first and foremost the responsibility of the classroom teacher. Individual teachers are expected to assume responsibility for good discipline throughout the school system. However, if a certified staff member needs assistance with student discipline, they should seek the advice and counsel of the principal or superintendent.

Classroom teachers may not leave their classrooms unless the students are

supervised by a competent adult.

Classroom teachers may not close the door to their rooms until they have left the building or unless they are sponsoring some other group in other areas.

Classroom teachers should have a well-defined discipline plan that is known to the students. Rules and consequences should be stated clearly and posted where appropriate.

Each building has its own specific procedures concerning student discipline. Classroom teachers should consult with their building principal for more information.

Teachers may remove a student from the classroom for failure to comply with established rules of conduct. Only an administrator can suspend or expel students from class or school and due process must be followed.

Students may be kept after school for matters relating to discipline or to assist in their academic progress. Certified staff should allow all elementary students and junior/senior high students who ride the bus to arrange parental transportation for the next day with their parents. Students who do not have transportation concerns may be kept without delay. Students may not avoid being kept after school because they have an after school practice or other school activity.

Both elementary and secondary certified staff are responsible for assisting with hallway discipline between classes and in the school lunchroom.

Classes should begin on time and end promptly. Work should continue throughout the period assigned for it. Classroom teachers have no right to waste the pupils' time. Classroom teachers may not dismiss classes early except by permission of the building principal.

Staff members may never send a student off school grounds without the authorization of the building principal.

Classroom teachers may not admit tardy students to class without an admit slip from the principal or the student's teacher from the previous period.

## **Classroom Sanitation**

### **1. Handling of Body Fluids**

All body fluids of all persons should be considered to potentially contain infectious agents (germs). Hand washing after contact with a school child is

recommended if physical contact has been made with any child's blood or body fluids. The term "body fluids" includes: blood, semen, drainage from scrapes and cuts, tears, feces, urine, vomit, respiratory secretions, and saliva.

## **2. Infectious Diseases**

Certified staff should promptly report any indication of an infectious or contagious disease to the school nurse or building principal. Certified staff should report to the school nurse or the student's parents any pupil whom they suspect of having been exposed to any infectious or contagious disease.

### **Coaching Supplies**

Coaching supplies will be distributed by the athletic director. Such items include tape, prewrap, heel pads, band aids, ankle braces, game balls, etc. Coaches should request additional supplies from the activities directory only when they have run out of supplies.

Coaches must fill out and submit inventory forms to the activities director immediately after the season is complete.

### **Collection of Student Money**

Staff members must comply with the school district's student fee policy before collecting any funds from students.

Money collected from students should be turned into the office on the day it is collected for deposit in the proper activity or school district fund. Any checks written by students or parents for various payments should be made out to Twin River Public Schools, unless otherwise instructed. Certified staff must submit a financial accountability form when they turn funds into the office.

When students purchase items such as coats, rings, etc., through the school district, they must pay for these and other major items before the order is sent. The sponsor of any school organization is not to give merchandise to students; items will be distributed by the office after proper payment.

### **Community Involvement**

Certified staff are encouraged to take part in civic affairs in the community and must do so when required by state law and board policy.

### **Computer Lab**

Students and staff who use computers owned by the district must abide by the district's acceptable use policies. Students may use the computer lab during lunch and after school. Classroom teachers may not send students to the computer lab during study halls or class unless they have made prior

arrangements with the lab coordinator.

Classroom teachers who wish to bring classes to the computer lab must sign up as far in advance as possible with the lab coordinator. Absolutely no food or drink is allowed in the computer lab.

### **Display of Classroom Work in the School and the Community**

Classroom teachers are encouraged to display student work for public viewing. Students and parents enjoy viewing the display and may be even more supportive of their school because the display shows them many of the things the students do. Classroom teachers may use the window area of the central office or the commons area to display student work or they may use during a night activity. Certified staff must contact the principal before displaying student work at an evening activity.

### **Duties of Certified Staff**

The duties of certified staff include, but are not limited to, the following:

- a) Becoming acquainted with board policies, district rules and regulations, and the state laws concerning teachers and pupils.
- b) Attending such education conferences as are required by law or administrative directives.
- c) Attending school assemblies unless excused by the principal.
- d) Instructing pupils in the proper use of equipment and instructional supplies.
- e) Reporting in writing to the principal any injury to any child while under the jurisdiction of the school, including athletic injuries.
- f) Complying with the Teachers Professional Code of Ethics which has been promulgated by the Nebraska Department of Education (92 Neb. Admin. Code § 27) and adopted by the Board of Education of the district.
- g) Discussing a student only with the child's parents and the superintendent, principal, guidance counselor or classroom teachers who may know the circumstances and have a need to know. It is unprofessional and inappropriate to discuss student or other staff members in the staff lounge.
- h) Being responsible for students whom they keep in school at times other than during regular school time. Certified staff will be responsible for any special work done by their students, including field trips, joint assemblies, school programs, etc.
- i) Refraining from joining book clubs or film clubs using the school name.
- j) Turning in all monies collected to the main office by the end of the school day.
- k) Clearing all class meetings or trips through the principal's office.

- l) Participating in Student Assistance Teams pursuant to board policy.
- m) Assisting with the administration of standardized testing as assigned by the administration.
- n) Provide homebound instruction as assigned by the administration.
- o) Performing additional duties as assigned by the administration.

### **Eligibility Grades 7-12**

In order to represent Twin River Jr.-Sr. High School in interscholastic competition, a student must abide by the eligibility rules of the Nebraska School Activities Association. Consult the principal or Activities Director with any questions regarding the academic eligibility policy.

1. High School students shall have credit on the school records for 20 semester hours of schoolwork for the immediate preceding semester (NSAA requirement).
2. Students in grades 7-12 failing (below 70%) two or more subjects at the end of any given week will be declared ineligible for the following school week (Monday through Saturday). Grades will be pulled from the student information system beginning the third Monday of each semester and each Monday thereafter. Eligibility for each week will be determined on Monday of that week at 11:00 am. In the event of an all-day Monday event, eligibility will be determined on Friday morning of the preceding week.
3. Academically ineligible students will not be permitted to participate in school-sponsored activities as listed below:
  - Football, Volleyball, Softball, Basketball, Baseball games
  - Cross Country, Wrestling, Track, Golf meets
  - FBLA, FFA, FCCLA conventions, workshops, contests, or conferences
  - Student Council- conventions, workshops, or conferences
  - Speech, One-Act contests and productions
  - Conference Honor Band and Choir
  - Music contests and performances
  - Quiz Bowl competitions
  - Cheerleading
0. Academically ineligible students will not represent the school by suiting up or participating in athletic contests; however, they are expected to travel and sit with the team provided they do not miss school time to do so. Students are still expected to attend and participate in practice or study sessions as deemed appropriate by the coach/sponsor during the period of ineligibility.

0. The Principal's office will release the failing grades list each week. Reports will be e-mailed to instructors and are deemed confidential.
0. Students in special programs will have their academic eligibility determined by an I.E.P. written by the Special Education instructor in conjunction with the Principal or Counselor.
0. These regulations shall also apply to junior high eligibility.

Students that miss performances due to ineligibility status of any type will not be nominated for Academic All-State status. NOTE: Expectations listed under #2 have been approved by the Twin River Board of Education and exceed the minimum state requirements in this area.

### **Extracurricular Activities**

Staff must schedule all events and other extracurricular activities at the activity director's office to avoid conflicts. Activities must be put on the school calendar located in the activity director's office at least one week before the activity. Staff should avoid or shorten practices and activities on Wednesday evenings and Sundays, in order to give students sufficient time away from school for family-related activities.

Certain activities require time be scheduled outside regular school hours. Any school sponsored activity involving students must have approval of the principal prior to the activity, including all fund raising activities.

Regular classroom work in all grades will have precedence over any other activity. Students will not be dismissed from classes to participate in extra-curricular activities without permission from the principal. Make up slips must be completely signed and returned to the sponsor of the activity prior to dismissal from class. All evening activities, except practices, must have no less than two school sponsors. Non school sponsors must be approved by the administration. If vehicles are used for transportation, the drivers must be adults who have been approved by the school.

The activities director has the responsibility for all activities. Therefore, any ruling or handbook decision he/she makes will be school regulation in lieu of further board action.

No student may participate in a field trip off school property without written permission of his or her parent or guardian.

### **Evacuations**

Early in the semester, classroom teachers should review instructions for leaving the classroom with all of their students. Classroom teachers should

also periodically review with each class what to do in case of fire, tornado or other emergency.

### **1. Fire Drills**

Fire drills will be held on a regular basis. Certified staff may or may not be notified in advance. These drills are important exercises that help ensure the safety of students in case of an emergency.

When the fire alarm is sounded, all students and staff immediately must cease the activity in which they are engaged and leave the building at once, following these regulations:

- a) Students nearest the windows will close them before leaving.
- b) The classroom teacher will be the last to leave the room. He or she will turn out all lights and close the door as he or she leaves.
- c) Classroom teachers will take their fire drill packets and class grade books with them when they leave their classrooms.
- d) The first two students reaching the exit doors will hold the doors wide open until everyone has filed out.
- e) Staff and students will move far enough away from the building to avoid possible injury from fire and falling embers, and also, to remain clear of emergency vehicle traffic.
- f) Once outside, each teacher must account for every student in the class. Classroom teachers will take roll for their class and;
  - 1) hold up a Green Card (all students accounted for)
  - 2) hold up a Red Card (missing student (s) listed)
  - 3) hold up a White Card (extra students listed)

The signal to return to the school building will be the short bell. It will be sounded upon completion of the drill. Students will return in an orderly manner.

### **2. Tornado Drills**

When a tornado warning has been issued, the school will evacuate classrooms and move students to the designated tornado shelters. Tornado alerts will be given via the intercom system. When a tornado alert is given, all students and staff immediately must cease the activity in which they are engaged immediately and seek shelter, following these regulations:

- a) All students and staff should proceed to the designated tornado shelter.
- b) Once in the basement, each teacher must account for every student in the class.
- c) Classroom teachers should be sure that each student is sitting with his or her back to the wall, their knees up and their heads should be between their legs.

### **3. Protocol for all Evacuations**

Upon evacuation signals, all students and staff must exit each building. Classroom teachers should do the following:

- 1) Take the class roster;
- 2) Lock the classroom door after all occupants have exited the room;
- 3) Keep the class together and move promptly in an orderly fashion; and
- 4) Upon arriving at the evacuation point, take roll, maintain order, and supervise students.

### **Evaluations**

The appropriate district administrator will evaluate tenured and probationary teachers as required by law and district policy. Additional evaluations, both formal and informal, may be conducted as the district administration deems appropriate.

### **Examinations**

Semester examinations will be given in all classes Tests and final exams will not be given ahead of time. Students are not to type tests or grade any major tests.

### **Faculty Meetings**

The superintendent and principals will call meetings as needed. Certified staff are required to be present at all faculty meetings unless excused by the administration.

### **Field Trip Request Forms**

Certified staff who wish to take students off school property must submit a request to the superintendent at least ten calendar days prior to the date of the requested activity.

Elementary grades will be limited to one field trip per year. Additional requests may be granted on a case by case basis.

### **Grading Policy**

Grades need to be updated on or before 11:00 A.M. on Mondays.

Grades are given as letter or percentage as requested by the building principal. Incompletes or condition grades may be given, but all work must be completed within the first two weeks of the next term. If a student fails the first semester and passes the second semester, a classroom teacher may pass a student for the full year.

A student is to be graded on academic performance. **A student's grade is not to be reduced for discipline.** Prejudice or favoritism has no place in grading a student. All grading should be explained in simple, understandable terms to the student.

Classroom teachers should provide students and parents with frequent updates regarding the student's progress during the quarter. At the conclusion of each quarter, students will receive an end-of-quarter report card. Classroom teachers should use the following symbols for each subject area:

<b><u>School Grade</u></b>	<b><u>Equivalent Letter Grade</u></b>	<b><u>4.0 Scale Grade</u></b>
95 – 100	A+/A	4.00
93 – 94	A-	3.67 – 3.99
90 – 92	B+	3.33 – 3.66
87 – 89	B	3.00 – 3.32
85 – 86	B-	2.67 – 2.99
82 – 84	C+	2.33 – 2.66
79 – 81	C	2.00 – 2.32
77 – 78	C-	1.67 – 1.99
74 – 76	D+	1.33 – 1.66
72 – 73	D	1.00 – 1.32
70 – 71	D-	0.67 – 0.99
0 – 69	F	0.00 – 0.66

### **Guest Lecturers**

Guest lecturers must be approved by the administration before they are asked to address a class. The guest lecturer must have a specific, relatable objective in his/her lecture.

### **Hall Duty**

Every classroom teacher is on hall duty before school in the morning and between classes. Classroom teachers are responsible especially for the part of the hall adjacent to their classrooms.

### **Homework Policy**

Homework is an important part of student learning. When parents, teachers, and students work together, out-of-class assignments are a valuable part of the instructional program. Homework should provide opportunities for students to practice acquired skills, develop initiative, form independent study habits, and use community resources.

### **Instructional Materials**

Instructional materials are made available through the Education Service Unit. A catalog and order forms will be made available to all members. Films should be used as instructional materials. All media must be previewed for suitability by the classroom teacher before being shown to students.

### **Lesson Plans**

Each teacher will prepare and complete a proper lesson plan on Friday for the following week. These plans must be written so that they are clear to any substitute teacher and readily available to any teacher. An up-to-date seating chart of the class or classes shall be part of the lesson plan book. Other regulations relative to lesson plans will be made by individual building principals. The lesson plans of all classroom teachers are subject to review of the building principal or other members of the school district's administration at any time.

Lesson plans must **identify major instructional objectives and show page assignments and general direction that might be followed by anyone who might be called upon to teach the classes.**

Lesson plans for the upcoming week must be submitted by 4:00 p.m. on Friday of each week or the last day of the week if it ends earlier.

### **Media Center**

The Media Center is set up to serve the needs of certified staff and students. Certified staff who need assistance with textbooks, literature sets, magazines and other reference materials should consult with the media specialist assigned to their building.

Students may use the media center during study halls, at lunch, after school and in the evenings. Classroom teachers may send individual students to use the media center during class time, but should contact the media staff before sending a group of students during class. The media staff may send disruptive students back to class or study hall, or may exclude unruly students from the media center for a specified period of time. Classroom teachers who send their entire class to the media center must accompany and supervise the students, unless prior arrangements have been made with the media specialist.

Audiovisual materials are available to certified staff through the media center. Certified staff may obtain these materials by filling out the required requisition form and sending it to the media specialist in their building. When certified staff return media, they should complete the film report card and return it to the media specialist.

## **Paraeducators**

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

## **Parent-Teacher Communication**

Students' academic success has been closely linked to parental involvement in school. Certified staff should strive to develop open and supportive relationships with parents and guardians. Each classroom teacher is responsible for keeping a student's parents informed about the student's progress. This may be done by letter, telephone, e-mail, or personal conference. Certified staff must attend parent teacher conferences, promptly return phone calls, participate in teacher events for students and parents, and where necessary utilize a planner as a communication tool. Certified staff who need additional support in communicating with parents should contact their building principal or guidance counselor.

## **Parking**

Staff members have parking spots reserved for them in the main parking lot. **Students are not to park their cars in the staff lot.** Staff members may not allow students to park in the staff lot when groups leave early in the morning on a school day for field trips or athletic events.

## **Parties**

1. No activities or picnics shall be held by an organization of the school without the presence of the sponsor or sponsors.
2. The number of activities and the closing hour for activities will be determined by the building principal and organization sponsor.
3. In making arrangements for activities and picnics, staff must avoid disturbing the routine of the school.
4. Cleaning up after the activity is the responsibility of the sponsor.

## **Planning Time**

Each classroom teacher is provided with duty-free time for planning, preparation of school-related materials, and a brief respite from the duties of the day.

The Board defines planning time as time for educational planning and other task-related functions that cannot normally be accomplished during instructional periods. Planning time should not be confused with personal time. **Planning time is not to be used for running personal errands, conducting personal business, or pursuing non-school hobbies and/or interests.**

## **Infinite Campus**

All teachers/classroom aides will be required to use Infinite Campus. Attendance will be taken as follows: Elementary – at the beginning of the morning; and Secondary – at the beginning of every period. Attendance must be taken within the first five minutes of each period / beginning session.

A "comment bank" will be developed for comments on progress reports, report cards, and discipline reports at a later date. You may use the "comment bank" or enter your own free-form comment.

Classroom teachers are not permitted to install Infinite Campus on their home computer.

Certified staff who have trouble/problems with Infinite Campus, should contact Chris Parry.

## **Private Tutoring**

Classroom teachers must provide individual assistance to students as a part of their duties. Any certified staff member who engages in private tutoring for pay (compensation of any kind from a source other than the District) is subject to the following rules:

- Certified staff may not arrange to provide private tutoring for any child enrolled in the staff member's class.
- Certified staff are not to provide private tutoring in a school building.
- Certified staff are not to provide private tutoring during duty time.
- Certified staff are prohibited from advertising or promoting the private tutoring services in the school or in the school's communications systems except with the express permission of the Superintendent or designee.

## **Projection Maps**

The school district will only use the Gall-Peters projection map or a similar cylindrical equal-area projection map or the AuthaGraph projection map for display or use in the classroom. Use of the Mercator projection map is prohibited unless:

1. The Mercator projection map is used in conjunction with other projection maps in a teaching exercise to demonstrate that all maps are flawed in some way and different map projections serve different functions and may affect how individuals view the world; or
2. The Mercator projection map is part of any:
  - a. book or material obtained prior to July 19, 2024; or geographic information system; or computer program that renders a three-dimensional representation of Earth based primarily on satellite imagery, such as Google Earth or similar software; and
  - b. a Gall-Peters projection map or similar cylindrical equal-area projection map or an AuthaGraph projection map is displayed in the classroom or shown to students during the lesson in which a Mercator projection map is used.

## **Pupils' Records**

1. Each classroom teacher must keep a set of records in the daily class record book of the class recitations, tests, exams, daily work, notebook, etc. This serves as a justification of the final grade in case of dispute between teacher and pupil, or teacher and parent, and assists in making out the final grades. This book must be turned into the principal at the end of each school year.
2. Report cards will be issued within one week following the end of the quarter unless otherwise announced.
  - a) Reports should be conscientiously and accurately made because they are a serious estimate of the degree of success of the pupil.
  - b) Each classroom teacher should be adequately prepared to defend all decisions given on the report card.
  - c) Each classroom teacher is responsible for distribution of class cards on time.
  - d) Classroom teachers must confer with the principal before recording any incomplete, failing, or conditional grades on report cards.

## **Rights of Certified and Probationary Teachers**

Certified and probationary teachers are entitled to the legal and procedural rights outlined in the board policies and state and federal law with regard to

the amendment, cancellation, or termination of the teacher's employment contract. For specific questions relating to those procedural or legal rights, please refer to the district's board policies.

### **School Day**

All certified staff must be at school or on duty between the hours of 7:45am a.m. and 3:45 p.m., Monday through Friday. Under special circumstances, certified staff may seek permission from their building principal to vary these duty hours. In addition, certified staff may be assigned responsibilities at other hours by the principal or superintendent for supervising or directing school activities or affairs or for participation in affairs under the direct sponsorship of the school. Staff members may be permitted to leave after the students are dismissed as determined by the superintendent.

Each teacher will be in his or her classroom and ready to teach at 7:55 a.m. each day. Classroom teachers will stand at their doors when class is dismissed and must be outside their classroom doors before each class period. Classroom teachers must be physically present in their classrooms at all times during class periods and conference periods.

Personal work may not be done on school time.

### **Sponsors**

Certified staff members are assigned by the superintendent as class and club sponsors. Sponsors must be present at all meetings and activities of the sponsored group. The procedure for activity accounts and meetings can be found in the student manual. Purchasing of supplies must be approved by the Superintendent.

### **Student Activities**

Staff members who sponsor extracurricular activities such as athletics, class plays, and class activities may leave the school building only after making sure that all students and other individuals have left the building. No student is to be left unattended in the school building at any time.

School-owned clothing or equipment that is checked out to students remains the property of the school. The clothing or equipment is not to be used or worn by the student except for its intended use. Each piece of equipment or clothing is to be returned to the instructor or coach when the season or the use for such clothing or equipment is over. Certified staff will be held responsible for clothing and equipment that is not returned.

### **Student Aides**

Student aides are to be directly supervised by the certified staff member and

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

### **Student Attendance**

Students are expected to arrive at each class, be seated and ready for instruction prior to the beginning of the class day or class period, as appropriate. Student tardiness is the classroom teacher's professional responsibility. Classroom teachers must insist that students be on time.

Each teacher must maintain an accurate record of student attendance each day. Classroom teachers must carefully check and record attendance information at the beginning of each school day and, in upper grades, at the beginning of each period. Students and student assistants are not permitted to check attendance. Excessive absenteeism should be reported to the building principal or guidance counselor.

Students returning from an absence must report to the office prior to going to class. A returning absentee must show each classroom teacher the admittance pass that was issued by the school office. No student should be accepted back into class after an absence without this pass.

A student who departs school during the school day must report to the office and sign out before leaving the building. A student who returns during the school day must sign in at the building office before returning to class.

### **Student Attire**

The responsibility for proper daily grooming and dress is primarily the responsibility of students and parents/guardians. However, certified staff members must insist that students do not remain in school while wearing attire that violates the dress code set forth in the Student Handbook.

Classroom teachers must report students who are not in compliance with the dress code to the building principal. The final decision on what is considered proper grooming and appearance is the responsibility of the building principal.

### **Student Illness**

In the event of student illness or injury, classroom teachers should notify the building principal or superintendent immediately. Staff should never send a

pupil home without notifying school officials and checking to see if his/her parents are home.

### **Student Medication**

Student medications should not be dispensed by staff members unless they follow the following procedures.

No staff members other than the school nurse may dispense medications (prescription or over-the-counter) to students at any time. Students may, with written parental or guardian permission, self-administer medications such as aspirin and cough syrup or cough drops.

Staff members are not authorized to dispense prescription medicine without an agreement with a parent or guardian to provide a prescription container for the medicine that includes a pharmaceutical label, the physician's name, a child guard cap and directions for administering the medication.

After receiving the medication, the school employee should lock the medication in a cabinet or place it in an area where access is restricted to school employees only.

### **Student Searches**

Certified staff members may not search students or their belongings. If a staff member suspects that a student is in possession of contraband, he/she should immediately contact a member of the administration and supervise the student until the administrator arrives. Students who are suspected of having an item in violation of school rules may be directed to wait with a staff member.

### **Substitute Teaching During Planning Period**

Certified staff may be required to substitute during their planning period.

### **Teaching Controversial Issues**

Teachers may teach or lead discussions about controversial issues if they comply with the following criteria:

- The issues discussed must be relevant to the curriculum and be part of a planned educational program.
- Students must have free access to appropriate materials and information for analysis and evaluation of the issues.
- The teacher must encourage students to consider and discuss a variety of viewpoints.
- The topic and materials used must be within the range, knowledge, maturity, and competence of the students.

- The teacher must inform parents and the building principal before discussing sensitive or controversial issues.
- The teacher must keep detailed, documentary evidence to prove that both sides and/or all facts available were presented.
- Teachers must refrain from advocating partisan causes, sectarian religious views, or selfish propaganda through any classroom or a school device; however, a teacher shall not be prohibited from expressing a personal opinion as long as the student is encouraged to reach his/her own decision independently.

### **Textbooks**

Classroom teachers will issue textbooks to the pupils, keeping a record of the number and condition of the book assigned to each pupil. If the books are new, classroom teachers must make sure the books are stamped and numbered before distribution.

Textbooks are to be stored in the classroom or storeroom. Textbooks are to be checked out to the students with teachers keeping an accurate record of each book by number in the place provided in grade books. Pupils are to pay for lost or damaged books. Student textbooks must be covered with a book cover.

Workbooks do not become the property of the students and in most cases should be retained by the school.

## **POLICIES AND PROCEDURES REGARDING CLASSIFIED STAFF**

### **At-Will Employment**

Classified staff members are employed "at-will." Either you or the school district may terminate your employment at any time, for any reason, with or without cause or notice. This handbook is not a contract, express or implied, guaranteeing employment for any specific duration.

### **Bereavement Leave**

Classified employees will be granted up to 3 days off from work with pay in the event of the death of your spouse, child, parent, or sibling; up to 3 days in the event of the death of your grandparents, father-in-law, mother-in-law, son-in-law, or daughter-in-law; and 3 days in the event of the death of a relative not a member of your immediate family as defined above. All requests for bereavement leave should be submitted to the Superintendent.

### **Holidays**

Nine-month, classified employees will receive paid time off on the following holidays: New Year's Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving, Good Friday, and Christmas Day.

Twelve-month, employees will receive paid time off on the following holidays: New Year's Day, Good Friday, the Monday following Easter, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day, the day after Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve Day and Christmas Day.

Holidays falling on a Saturday are normally observed on the preceding Friday. Holidays falling on a Sunday are normally observed on the following Monday.

Classified employees will generally be required to work their regularly scheduled hours the workday preceding and workday following the holiday in order to be eligible to receive holiday pay.

### **Hours**

Work hours vary with the classified staff member's department and position. Meetings will occasionally be scheduled before or after normal working hours.

It is vital that the district's employees arrive at work punctually and consistently. Staff members who are chronically late or excessively absent will be disciplined, up to and including discharge.

### **Overtime and Compensatory Time**

All classified staff members must keep an accurate record of all hours worked for the district. The only exceptions are those who have been notified in writing that they are exempt from this time-keeping requirement. Classified staff should not work more than forty hours in a given week without the express permission of their immediate supervisor. Those who accrue more than forty hours in a given workweek will receive overtime or compensatory time, pursuant to board policy.

### **Personal Leave**

Classified employees will receive up to 2 days of paid personal leave each school year for personal business that cannot be taken care of outside regular business hours and other events of personal significance. Personal leave must be approved in advance by the employee's immediate supervisor or the Superintendent. There shall be no carryover of personal days from year to year. Classified employees shall be paid for any unused personal days at the end of the school year or in the event of termination of employment.

### **Reporting When School is Closed**

Unless the superintendent directs otherwise, staff shall not be required to report when school is canceled due to inclement weather.

### **Sick Leave**

Classified employees will receive 10 days of sick leave. A staff member who is too ill to come to work, or who has a qualifying family member who is too ill to be left alone, must notify his or her immediate supervisor at least three hours prior to the time he/she regularly reports to work. Sick leave does not accumulate from year to year. Classified employees shall not be paid for accrued unused sick days at the end of the school year or in the event of termination of employment.

### **Vacation**

Eligible classified employees (12-month only) will receive paid vacation each school year. Employees should consult with their immediate supervisor for vacation information.

New employees will not be entitled to any vacation leave for the first six months of employment. After the completion of the last day of the sixth month of employment, new employees will be awarded one-half of the total vacation days provided for their job assignment. After the completion of the last day of the ninth month of employment, new employees will receive the remaining days of vacation provided for their job assignment.

Employees may accrue up to 10 days of vacation. After 10 years of continual employment, employees will receive 15 days of vacation. After 15 years of continual employment, employees will receive 20 days of vacation. In no event shall the employee receive any additional days beyond the maximum accrual cap listed above. Classified employees shall be paid for any unused vacation days in the event of termination of employment.

### **Use of Leave**

Classified employees must use their personal, vacation and/or applicable leave prior to taking days without pay or docking their pay. 12-month classified employees scheduled to work on days without students or days assigned to be present at work must use leave to be absent from their assigned duties. Following the exhaustion of all applicable leave, classified employees will be subject to leave without pay/docked pay. Employees abusing days without pay will be subject to termination.

## **STAFF DIRECTORY**

### **BOARD of EDUCATION**

Jennifer Swantek, President  
John Nelson, Vice-President  
John Reeg, Secretary  
David Baxa, Treasurer  
Chelsea Thompson, Member  
Jeremy Vetick, Member

### **ADMINISTRATION**

Chris Lecher, Superintendent  
Andy Banahan, 7-12 Principal/Activities Director  
Brenda Buhl, Elementary Principal

### **School Counselor**

Dan Koziol

### **Licensed Independent Mental Health Practitioner**

Chelsa Thompson

### **Secretaries and Bookkeeper**

Lori Swantek - Business Manager  
Tania Kershaw - Jr. High/High School Secretary  
Chris Parry - Elementary Secretary  
Brooke Kruse - Administrative Assistant

### **Grades 7-12 Faculty**

Jonathan Anderson	Jesse Nelson	Ryan Sidwell
Britton Andreasen	Cheryl Percival	Gabe Stalder
Mick Bubak	Matthew Quick	Mindy Swanson
Stephanie Carlson	Mindi Reardon	Kara Thompson
Denise Hebda	Joshua Reiff	Mitchel Tracy
Kalin Koch	Sam Robb	
Mark Koch	Blakely Schroeder	
Lori McIntosh	Katie Shanle	

## **Elementary Faculty**

Pre-kindergarten	Kristan Connelly
Kindergarten	Taylor Jones
1st Grade	Lisa Matthes
2nd Grade	Tara Hill and Madison Smith
3rd Grade	Crystal Hughes and Cassandra Fisher
4th Grade	Julie Strain and Sydney Cunningham
5th Grade	Emily Thomas and Amanda Lund
6th Grade	Kris Rogers and Sheridan Eisenmenger
Title I - Reading	Brenda Cuba
Reading - MTSS	Tracie Beller
Reading - MTSS	Cheryl Percival
Physical Education	Renaë VanDriel
Physical Education	Matthew Quick
Vocal Music	Jesse Nelson
Instrumental Music	Joshua Reiff
Special Education	Gabrielle Lanxon
English Language Learner Coordinator	Laura Rodriguez
Art	Lori McIntosh
Media - Computers	Jackie Rosno

### **School Aides**

*Sharon Swantek – HS Media Aide*  
Barb Engebretson  
Linda Kush  
Sara Moeller  
Stephanie Paulsen  
Tina Reeg  
Amanda Yrkoski

**Custodians/Maintenance**

Dave Andreasen

Eve Gehring

Jon Kava

Tracy Kava

Tim Mohrmann

Tim Oberhauser

Internet access is an important tool for communicating, keeping up-to-date with current developments in education, and for conducting research to enhance management, teaching and learning skills. The following procedures and guidelines are intended to ensure appropriate use of the Internet at the school by the district's faculty and staff. Staff should also refer to the district's policy on Staff and District Social Media Use.

## **I. Staff Expectations in Use of the Internet**

### **A. Acceptable Use While on Duty or on School Property**

1. Staff shall be restricted to use the Internet to conduct research for instructional purposes.
2. Staff may use the Internet for school-related e-mail communication with fellow educators, students, parents, and patrons.
3. Staff may use the Internet in any other way which serves a legitimate educational purpose and that is consistent with district policy and good professional judgment.
4. Teachers should integrate the use of electronic resources into the classroom. As the quality and integrity of content on the Internet is not guaranteed, teachers must examine the source of the information and provide guidance to students on evaluating the quality of information they may encounter on the Internet.

### **B. Unacceptable Use While on Duty or on School Property**

1. Staff shall not access obscene or pornographic material.
2. Staff shall not engage in any illegal activities on school computers, including the downloading and reproduction of copyrighted materials.
3. Staff shall not use school computers or district internet access to use peer-to-peer sharing systems such as BitTorrent, or participate in any activity which interferes with the staff member's ability to perform their assigned duties.

4. The only political advocacy allowed by staff on school computers or district internet access is that which is permitted by the Political Accountability and Disclosure Act and complies with district policy.
5. Staff shall not share their passwords with anyone, including students, volunteers or fellow employees.

## **II. School Affiliated Websites/Digital Content**

Staff must obtain the permission of the administration prior to creating or publishing any school-affiliated web page which represents itself to be school-related, or which could be reasonably understood to be school-related. This includes any website which identifies the school district by name or which uses the school's mascot name or image.

Staff must provide administrators with the username and password for all school-affiliated web pages and must only publish content appropriate for the school setting. Staff must also comply with all board policies in their school-affiliated websites and must comply with the board's policy on professional boundaries between staff and students at all times and in all contexts.

Publication of student work or personality-identifiable student information on the Internet may violate the Federal Education Records Privacy Act. Staff must obtain the consent of their building principal or the superintendent prior to posting any student-related information on the Internet.

## **III. Enforcement**

### **A. Methods of Enforcement**

The district owns the computer system and monitors e-mail and Internet communications, Internet usage, and patterns of Internet usage. Staff members have no right of privacy in any electronic communications or files, which are stored or accessed on or using school property and these are subject to search and inspection at any time.

1. The district uses a technology protection measure that blocks access to some sites that are not in accordance with the district's policy. Standard use of the Internet utilizes a proxy server-based filter that screens for non-curriculum related pages.

2. Due to the nature of technology, the filter may sometimes block pages that are appropriate for staff research. The system administrator may override the technology protection measures that blocks or filters Internet access for staff access to a site with legitimate educational value that is wrongly blocked.
3. The district will monitor staff use of the Internet by monitoring Internet use history to ensure enforcement of this policy.

**B. Any violation of school policy and rules may result in that staff member facing:**

1. Discharge from employment or such other discipline as the administration and/or the board deem appropriate;
2. The filing of a complaint with the Commissioner of Education alleging unprofessional conduct by a certified staff member;
3. When appropriate, the involvement of law enforcement agencies in investigating and prosecuting wrongdoing.

#### **IV. Off-Duty Personal Use**

School employees may use the internet, school computers, and other school technology while not on duty for personal use as long as such use is (1) consistent with other district policies, (2) consistent with the provisions of Title 92, Nebraska Administrative Code, Chapter 27 (Nebraska Department of Education "Rule 27"), and (3) is reported as compensation in accordance with the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, and taxes, if any, are paid. All of the provisions of Rule 27 will apply to non-certificated staff for the purposes of this policy. In addition, employees may not use the school's internet, computers, or other technology to access obscene or pornographic material, sext, or engage in any illegal activities.

**ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF RECEIPT**

I acknowledge that I have received a copy of the \_\_\_\_\_ School District Staff Handbook which includes the district's drug-free workplace policy statement. I understand that, as a condition of my employment, I am required to read and abide by the provisions of the handbook and by all board policies governing my employment. Further, if I have any questions about any provision of this handbook or any board policy, I should confer with my supervisor or building principal.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**Twin River Board of Education**  
**Monday, June 17, 2024**

- Summer Schedule with ESU7
  - June 4 - Staff professional development for 2024-2025
  - June 13 - MTSS Team
  - June 25 - Leadership inservice in Norfolk
  - June 26 - MANDT Training/Recertification
  
- Central Honors Institute (CHI) and Central Community College
  - June 23 - June 26
  - Selection based on academics
  - Five 6th grade students, One 7th grade student