

**NORTH BRANCH INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 138
 NORTH BRANCH AREA EDUCATION CENTER, BOARD ROOM, ROOM C120
 38705 GRAND AVENUE
 NORTH BRANCH, MN 55056
 REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
 OCTOBER 9, 2025
 5:30 PM**

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order
- II. Roll Call
- III. Pledge of Allegiance
- IV. Approval of Agenda
- V. Superintendent’s Report 5
- VI. Removal of Consent Items for Discussion
- VII. Approval of Consent Items
 - A. Minutes of September 11, 2025 Policy Committee Meeting 16
 - B. Minutes of September 11, 2025 Regular School Board Meeting 17
 - C. Minutes of September 25, 2025 Work Session 23
 - D. Authorization of Payments, Transfers, and Investment Activity 24
 - E. Personnel
 - 1. Kyle Joos, resignation effective October 3, 2025, as Schoolkeeper at North Branch Area Public Schools
 - 2. Robert Lacey, resignation effective September 3, 2025, as Behavior Interventionist at North Branch Area High School
 - 3. Ashley Diederichs, leave request effective October 22, 2025 returning on October 22, 2025, as Community Education Office Clerk at North Branch Area Education Center
 - 4. Danielle Laszcwski, leave request effective approximately January 10, 2026 for 10 weeks, as Special Education Assistant at North Branch Area Middle School
 - 5. Kaitlin Turner, leave request effective approximately March 27, 2026 through the end of the 2025-26 school year, as Speech Language Pathologist at Sunrise River Elementary School
 - 6. Karlina Zimmerman, resignation effective September 19, 2025, as Pre-Apprentice at North Branch Area Public Schools
 - 7. Angelena Marazzo, leave request effective September 12, 2025 through September 23, 2025, as Special Education Assistant at Sunrise River Elementary School
 - 8. Amy Segelstrom, leave request effective September 22, 2025 through October 3, 2025, as Special Education Assistant at Sunrise River Elementary School
 - 9. Katherine Hammond, termination effective October 1, 2025, as School Age Care Adult Assistant at North Branch Area Education Center

10. Sarah Krosschell, BS, Step 5, long-term substitute for Samantha Stoesz, effective approximately November 10, 2025, through February 2, 2026, as English Teacher at North Branch Area Middle School
11. Cydnie Brown, employment effective September 8, 2025, as Lunchroom/Playground Assistant at North Branch Area Education Center
12. Michale Carroll, employment effective August 28, 2025, as Schoolkeeper at North Branch Area Public Schools
13. Lauren Larsen, employment effective September 2, 2025, as Special Education Assistant at Sunrise River Elementary School
14. Jaime Jorgenson, employment effective August 26, 2025, as Special Education Assistant at North Branch Area Middle School
15. Isabelle Joseph, employment effective August 26, 2025, as Lunchroom/Playground Assistant at North Branch Area Education Center
16. Danielle Laszcwski, employment effective August 26, 2025, as Special Education Assistant at North Branch Area Middle School
17. Angelena Marazzo, employment effective September 2, 2025, as Special Education Assistant at Sunrise River Elementary School
18. Hannah Leuch, employment effective August 26, 2025, as Early Childhood Assistant at North Branch Area Education Center
19. Jennifer Pate, employment effective August 26, 2025, as Special Education Assistant at Sunrise River Elementary School
20. Theresa Running, employment effective August 26, 2025, as Lunchroom/Playground Assistant at Sunrise River Elementary School
21. Sadie Robinson, employment effective September 3, 2025, as Lunchroom/Playground Assistant at Sunrise River Elementary School
22. Lisa Vang, employment effective September 4, 2025, as Special Education Assistant at Life Work Center
23. Deborah Varnado, employment effective September 2, 2025, as Special Education Assistant at Sunrise River Elementary School
24. 2025–26 Extracurricular Fall Coach Positions
 - a. Kevin Grote, Class 9, Step 10, Coach for Fall Season Clay Target
 - b. Rachel Wurdemann, Class 5, Step 2, Assistant Coach for Girls Tennis
 - c. Brandon Hunter, Class 5, Step 2, Assistant Coach for Girls Tennis
 - d. Brent Lundgren, as Volunteer Coach for Football
25. 2025-26 Activities Advisor Positions
 - a. Jenna Battaglia, Class 10, Step 1, as Prom Advisor
 - b. Jonny Bodell, Class 6, Step 2, as DECA Advisor
 - c. Jonny Bodell, Class 7, Step 3, as Yearbook Advisor
 - d. Kelly Doohen, Class 8, Step 3, as the Middle School Math League Advisor
 - e. Becky Leuer, Class 6, Step 7, as the 7-9 FTC Robotics Coordinator
 - f. Amanda Cook, Class 6, Step 8, as FFA Advisor
 - g. Pakou Lee, Class 8, Step 2, as All Culture Club Advisor
 - h. Gavin Lien, Class 9, Step 3, as Knowledge Bowl Assistant Advisor
 - i. Sam Lubs, Class 4, Step 2, as Vocals (Harmonaires) Advisor
 - j. Sam Lubs, Class 10, Step 2, as Middle School Show Choir Advisor
 - k. Emily Miller, Class 6, step 2, as Student Council Advisor
 - l. Samantha Nuthak, Class 8, Step 5, as Knowledge Bowl Advisor
 - m. James Pope, Class 8, Step 10, as High School Pep Band Advisor

- n. James Pope, Class 4, Step 10, as High School Jazz Band Advisor
- o. Ben Paro, Class 3, Step 1, as Auditorium/Technology Coordinator
- p. Ben Paro, Class 10, Step 7, as Middle School Jazz Band Advisor
- q. Amy Randall, Class 8, Step 5, as Middle School Student Council Advisor
- r. Hannah Rawleigh, Class 6, Step 7, as ProStart Advisor
- s. Jessica Richter, Class 7, Step 9, as Middle School Yearbook Advisor
- t. Laura Rothe, Class 8, Step 10, as National Honor Society Advisor

F. Seniority List

- 1. NBEA (North Branch Education Association) 25
- 2. Community Education Early Childhood Teacher 34
- 3. NBSSA (North Branch Support Staff Association) 35
- 4. SEIU Local 284 (Custodial) 43

G. Policies

- 1. Policy 526 - Hazing Prohibition (no MSBA changes since 2014) 44
- 2. Policy 531 - The Pledge of Allegiance (no MSBA changes since 2003) 49
- 3. Policy 535 - Service Animals in Schools (MSBA minor changes 2024) 50

H. Acceptance of Donations 55

Minnesota Statute 123B.02 permits school boards to "...receive, for the benefit of the district, bequests, donations, or gifts for any proper purpose and apply the same to the purpose designated. In that behalf, the board may act as trustee of any trust created for the benefit of the district, and for the benefit of pupils thereof."

Therefore, the Superintendent recommends the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED by the School Board of Independent School District No. 138 that the School Board accept with appreciation the following contributions and permit their use as designated by the donors.

VIII. **Open Mic:** Open mic is a time for public comment. However, it is not a means to have issues added to this evening's agenda. It is also not a means to discuss specific individuals negatively in public, either by name or position. If you would like district follow up to comments, please leave appropriate contact information on the open mic sign-in sheet. Please limit your comments to three minutes.

IX. Old Business

A. Consider Second Reading of the Following Policies

- 1. Policy 413 - Harassment and Violence 56
- 2. Policy 414 - Mandated Reporting of Child Neglect or Physical or Sexual Abuse 74
- 3. Policy 415 - Mandated Reporting of Maltreatment of Vulnerable Adults 87
- 4. Policy 416 - Drug, Alcohol and Cannabis Testing 92

X. New Business

- A. Consider First Reading of the 2026-27 School Year Calendar 138
- B. Consider First Reading for the Following Policies

1.	Policy 204 - School Board Meeting Minutes (MSBA minor revision 6.2024)	143
2.	Policy 511 NB - Fundraising	149
3.	Policy 524 NB - Internet Acceptable Use and Safety Policy (MSBA minor revision 6.2025)	154
4.	Policy 606 - Textbooks and Instructional Materials (MSBA minor revision 11.2024)	167
XI.	Addendum	
XII.	Information	
XIII.	Board Requests	
XIV.	Committee Reports	
XV.	Dates to Remember	
A.	October 22, 2025 at 4:00 PM - Negotiations Committee Meeting, North Branch Area Education Center	
B.	October 22, 2025 at 4:30 PM - Negotiations Committee Meeting, North Branch Area Education Center, DO Conference Room B122	
C.	October 23, 2025 at 5:30 PM - School Board Work Session, North Branch Area Education Center, Board Room C120	
D.	November 6, 2025 at 5:30 PM - School Board Work Session, North Branch Area Education Center, Board Room C120	
E.	November 13, 2025 at 4:30 PM - Policy Committee Meeting, North Branch Area Education Center, DO Conference Room B122	
F.	November 13, 2025 at 5:30 PM - Regular School Board Meeting, North Branch Area Education Center, Board Room C120	
XVI.	Motion to Close Meeting for a Closed Session on Negotiations	
	The School Board will close the meeting pursuant Minn. Stat. § 13D.03 to consider strategy for labor negotiations, including negotiation strategies or developments or discussion and review of labor negotiation proposals concerning the teachers' contract and the custodial contract.	
XVII.	Motion to Reopen Regular Meeting	
XVIII.	Adjournment	

Superintendent Update

October 9, 2025

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At the forefront of educational excellence



WHAT WE INTEND TO CREATE

Inspire dreams, build integrity and instill hope in our students, our staff, our families and our communities.

OUR PURPOSE

Partner with students, staff, families and communities to challenge all students to achieve their greatest potential and become informed and engaged citizens.

Learning through Service



Viking students are using the skills learned in Autos 3 to make repairs to trikes from Sunrise. Trikes are an important tool for the elementary students with special needs. They help students develop motor skills, build muscle, improve coordination, and provide low impact exercise.



7



Top fan

Christine 

Good job boys. I heard they were fixing them from my daughter's spec ed teacher. We appreciate you guy's doing that.

Vikings on the road for Manufacturing Tours

- Over 50 Viking students attended.
- Visited manufacturing companies across Chisago County.
 - Andersen Windows, Plastech, Artifex Millwork and Rosenbauer.
 - At each facility, students met with professionals in the field, received behind-the-scenes tours, and learned about the products and processes at each company.
 - Afterwards, all students attended a panel discussion and a career expo at Splitrocks, featuring vendors and prize opportunities.

8



Vikings bring perspectives to Statewide CTE Forum



Principal Link is a MACTE Fellow this year. The MACTE Career and Technical Education Policy and Leadership Fellowship is a year-long leadership fellowship focusing on state and federal education policy through the lens of Career and Technical Education (CTE). He brought Viking students to the statewide CTE Forum to ensure student voice guides policy.

Vikings Make History: *Girls Tennis Advances to Section Finals*



- First section finals appearance in school history
- Team on a record-breaking run this fall
- Strong team chemistry and coaching driving success
- Players showing grit and clutch performances in key matches
- Community pride high- SKOL! Vikings!

10



An Inspiring Homecoming



Vikings Walked and Rolled



Power in Partnership



House Capital Investment Committee Visit

Highlights:

- Presentations by Mayor Schieber, City Administrator Hill, Community Development Director Sondrol, Chief Meyer, Lakes Region EMS Operations Manager Huber and Superintendent Paul. 13
- Emphasized school zone safety, faster emergency response, and safe growth.
- Legislators toured key sites and saw strong local investment (\$4M).

Takeaway:

United message: North Branch is ready to move forward with infrastructure that keeps students safe and fuels community progress.

Annual Family Satisfaction Survey



- An online survey was created to gather feedback from families regarding their satisfaction with NBAPS.
- Two messages have been sent out so far. Each school will send out the link as part of their newsletters this Friday, and a final reminder will go out next Tuesday. ¹⁴
- The survey window opened September 26 and will close on October 15.

[Survey Link](#)



NORTH BRANCH INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 138
NORTH BRANCH AREA EDUCATION CENTER, ROOM B122
POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING
September 11, 2025

The Policy Committee met on Thursday, September 11, 2025 at 4:30 p.m. in Room B122 at the North Branch Area Education Center.

Members in Attendance: Sarah Grovender, Pakou Lee, Tim MacMillan, Superintendent Paul, Taylor Swanson, and Todd Tetzlaff

Absent: Heather Naegele and David Treichel

The following policies were discussed and will move to October 9, 2025 board consent agenda.

Policy 526 - Hazing Prohibition (no MSBA changes since 2014)

Policy 531 - The Pledge of Allegiance (no MSBA changes since 2003)

Policy 535 - Service Animals in Schools (MSBA minor changes 2024)

The following policies were reviewed following the regular review process and will move to a first reading at the October 9, 2025 school board meeting.

Policy 204 - School Board Meeting Minutes (MSBA Minor rev. 6.2024)

Policy 524 NB - Internet Acceptable Use and Safety Policy (MSBA minor revision 6.2025)

Policy 606 - Textbooks and Instructional Materials (MSBA minor rev.11.2024)

Policy 511 NB - Fundraising

The following policy was reviewed following the regular review process and will not move to a first reading at the October 9, 2025 school board meeting.

Policy 806 - Crisis Management (MSBA rev. 6/2025)

Need further discussion.

The meeting concluded at 5:20 PM.

**NORTH BRANCH INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO.
138 REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
NORTH BRANCH AREA EDUCATION CENTER,
BOARDROOM September 11, 2025**

The School Board of Independent School District 138 met in regular session on Thursday, September 11, 2025, at 5:30 p.m. in the Boardroom at the North Branch Area Education Center.

Chair MacMillan called the meeting to order.

Roll Call: Sarah Grovender, Shelly Johnson, Jesse LaValla, Tim MacMillan,, Superintendent Paul, and Adam Trampe

Absent: Heather Naegele

Others in attendance: Pakou Lee, Pat Tepoorten, Todd Tetzlaff

Approval of Agenda:

Motion by Grovender, seconded by LaValla and carried unanimously to approve the agenda.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Paul reported on Welcome Days and the importance of safety through shared responsibility. She also provided reminders of upcoming events: Walk and Roll on October 8, 2025; the NBACE Arts Fest on November 22, 2025, at North Branch Area High School; and an Early Childhood event featuring new pre-preschool class opportunity.

Removal of Consent Items for Discussion: None

Consent Items:

Motion by Trampe, seconded by LaValla and carried unanimously to approve the consent agenda.

- A. Minutes of August 14, 2025 Policy Committee Meeting
- B. Minutes of August 14, 2025 Regular School Board Meeting
- C. Minutes of August 28, 2025 Work Session
- D. Authorization of Payments, Transfers, and Investment Activity
 - Accounts Payable, Bank 07 – \$774,262.55
 - Auxiliary, Bank 12 - \$23,886.89

- Payroll, Bank 13 - \$1,721,544.42
- Scholarship, Bank 18 - \$3,000.00
- High School Student Activities, Bank 31 - \$2,459.70
- Middle School Student Activities, Bank 32 - \$0.00

E. Personnel

1. Barbara Brittany Bah Moulonda, termination effective August 14, 2025, as Schoolkeeper at North Branch Area Public Schools
2. Christine Christine Jones, termination effective August 18, 2025, as School Age Care Adult Assistant at North Branch Area Education Center
3. Rachel Fox-Ledo, resignation effective August 4, 2025, as Special Education Assistant at Sunrise River Elementary School
4. Kayla Gearin, resignation effective August 8, 2025, as School Age Care Adult Assistant at North Branch Area Education Center
5. Nancy Hackler, resignation effective August 7, 2025, as Lunchroom Assistant at North Branch Area Middle School
6. Diana Lind, resignation effective August 22, 2025, as Special Education Assistant at Sunrise River Elementary School
7. Leah Palmer, resignation effective August 11, 2025, as Special Education Teacher at Norse Area Learning Center
8. Britney Heisick, leave request effective August 25, 2025, returning on September 30, 2025, as Spanish Teacher at North Branch Area Middle School and High School
9. Kristi Johnson, leave request effective approximately December 28, 2025 for 12 weeks, as Kindergarten Teacher at North Branch Area Education Center
10. Lori Tiegen, leave request effective October 24, 2025, returning on January 5, 2026, as Grade 3 Teacher at Sunrise River Elementary School
11. Rebecca Springman, effective 2025-26 school year, change from Tier 2 license to a Continuing Contract as Science Teacher at North Branch Area High School
12. Marsena Ames, position change effective August 26, 2025 from Lunchroom/Playground Assistant at North Branch Area Education Center

to Lunchroom/Playground Assistant at Sunrise River Elementary School

13. Debra Beyatt, effective August 26, 2025, position change from Behavior Interventionist at Norse Area Learning Center to Behavior Interventionist at North Branch Area High School
14. Kate Gillis, effective August 26, 2025, position change from temporary Transition Job Coach to permanent Transition Job Coach at Life Work Center
15. Kari Harnasz, effective August 25, 2025, position change from Transition Job Coach at Life Work Center to Special Education Assistant at Sunrise River Elementary School
16. Brent Lundgren, effective August 25, 2025, position change from Elementary Teacher at Sunrise River Elementary School to Special Education Teacher at North Branch Area Middle School
17. Malia Emerson, employment effective August 25, 2025, as School Age Care Adult Assistant at North Branch Area Education Center
18. Celeste Kohler, employment effective September 2, 2025, as Data Assessment Administrative Assistant at North Branch Area Public Schools
19. Dena Norring, employment effective August 26, 2025, as Speech Language Pathology Assistant at North Branch Area Education Center
20. Laura O'Donnell, employment effective August 26, 2025, as Lunchroom/Playground Assistant at North Branch Area Education Center
21. Rachel Roggemann, employment effective August 20, 2025, as Office Clerk at North Branch Area High School
22. Elizabeth Scully, employment effective August 20, 2025, as School Age Care Adult Assistant at North Branch Area Education Center
23. Markell Anderson, BA+15, Step 13, beginning with the 2025-2026 school year, as Spanish Teacher at North Branch Area Middle School and High School
24. Nathan Appleby, BA, Step 14, beginning with the 2025-2026 school year, as Special Education Teacher at North Branch Area High School
25. Angela Biondo, MA, Step 13, beginning with the 2025-2026 school year, as Special Education Teacher at Sunrise River Elementary School

26. Kristin Mayne, BES, Step 17, one-year contract for the 2025-26 school year, as FACS/Work Based Learning Teacher at North Branch Area High School

27. Dillon Raborn, MA, Step 7, beginning with the 2025-2026 school year, as English Teacher at North Branch Area High School

28. 2025-26 Extracurricular Fall Coach Positions

- a. Erika Duffy, Class 6, Step 1, as Coach for Middle School Volleyball
- b. Cindy Heil-Berg Class 6, Step 10, as Coach for Middle School Volleyball
- c. Samantha Pederson, Class 3, Step 4, as Coach for Middle School Volleyball
- d. Galytea Pierce, Class 3, Step 4, as Assistant Coach for Volleyball
- e. Nathan Appleby, Class 3, Step 5, as an Assistant Coach for Football
- f. Tyler Johnson, Class 4, Step 3, as Assistant Coach for Girls Soccer
- g. Jessica Audette, Class 4, Step 8, as an Assistant Coach for Boys Soccer
- h. Max Johnson, as a Volunteer Coach for Boys Soccer
- i. Lisa Wurdemann, as a Volunteer Coach for Girls Tennis

29. 2025-26 Activity Advisor Positions

- a. Jessica Konrad, Class 10, Step 3, Fall Clay Target Advisor

F. Acceptance of Donations

DATE	DONATION FROM	DONATION TO	AMOUNT	USE
7/10/25	Edelstein Family Foundation, c/o Victoria Keller, 1034 Portland Ave, Minneapolis, MN 55404	NBHS Scholarship A/C	\$60,702.00	Scholarship Donation
7/10/25	VFW Post 6424, PO Box 373, North Branch, MN 55056-0373	NBHS Athletics	\$100.00	FRC Robotics Program Donation
7/14/25	Anonymous	Sunrise River Elem.	\$64.00	Fun Run Donation
7/18/25	Cyber Grants/US Bank (Matching Gift-D. Cash)	Sunrise River Elem.	\$64.00	Fun Run Donation
7/25/25	East Central Energy, PO Box 39, Braham, MN 55006-0039	Community Ed	\$100.00	E-Sports Donation
			\$61,030.00	
JUL	Fleet Farm, 2324 3rd Ave NE, Cambridge, MN 55008	NBHS		*Donated 3 Trailer Tires, 100 Valve Stems & Remover to the Auto Shop Class

Open Mic
None

New Business

- A. Approval of Certification of the Proposed Property Tax Levy 2025 Payable 2026
Motion by Trampe, seconded by LaValla and carried unanimously to approve the Certification of the Proposed Property Tax Levy 2025 Payable 2026

- B. Approval of Setting December 11, 2025 for the Truth In Taxation Hearing to Certify the Property Tax Levy 2025 Payable 2026
Motion by Trampe, seconded by LaValla and carried unanimously to approve setting December 11, 2025 for the Truth In Taxation Hearing to Certify the Property Tax Levy 2025 Payable 2026.

- C. Approval of First Reading of the Following Policies
Motion by Grovender, seconded by LaValla and carried unanimously to approve First Reading of the Following Policies.
 - 1. Policy 413 – Harassment and Violence last reviewed 05.09.24
 - 2. Policy 413 FORM - Harassment and Violence (no changes from MSBA)
 - 3. Policy 414 - Mandated Reporting of Child Neglect or Physical or Sexual Abuse last reviewed 1/9/2025 with no MSBA Changes
 - 4. Policy 414 FORM - Mandated Reporting of Child Neglect or Physical or Sexual Abuse (no changes)
 - 5. Policy 415 - Mandated Reporting of Maltreatment of Vulnerable Adults reviewed 1/9/2025 with no MSBA changes
 - 6. Policy 416 - Drug, Alcohol, and Cannabis Testing revised 4/11/2024
 - 7. Policy 416 FORM - Drug, Alcohol, and Cannabis Testing - no MSBA change

Addendum

None

Information

Superintendent Paul reported that she and member Trampe reviewed the fundraising policy, which was returned to the Policy Committee and will appear on the October board agenda for a first reading.

Board Requests

None

Committee Reports

Member Grovender reported in SCRED

Dates to Remember

- A. September 24, 2025 at 4:00 PM - Negotiations Committee Meeting, North Branch Area Education Center
- B. September 24, 2025 at 4:30 PM - NBEA Negotiation Session, North Branch Area Education Center, DO Conference Room B122
- C. September 25, 2025 at 5:30 PM - School Board Work Session, North Branch Area Education Center, Board Room C120
- D. October 8, 2025 at 4:00 PM - Negotiations Committee Meeting, North Branch Area Education Center
- E. October 8, 2025 at 4:30 PM - Custodian Negotiations Session, North Branch Area Education Center, DO Conference Room B122
- F. October 9, 2025 at 4:30 PM - Policy Committee Meeting, North Branch Area Education Center, DO Conference Room B122
- G. October 9, 2025 at 5:30 PM - Regular School Board Meeting, North Branch Area Education Center, Board Room C120

Adjournment

Motion by Grovender, seconded by LaValla and carried unanimously to adjourn the regular meeting at 6:05 PM.

Heather Naegele, Clerk

NORTH BRANCH INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 138
NORTH BRANCH AREA EDUCATION CENTER, BOARDROOM
SCHOOL BOARD WORK SESSION
September 25, 2025

The School Board of Independent School District 138 met in a Work Session on Thursday, September 25, 2025, at 5:30 p.m. in the Boardroom at the North Branch Area Education Center.

Vice Chair Grovender called the meeting to order.

Roll Call: Sarah Grovender, Shelly Johnson, Jesse LaValla, Heather Naegele, Superintendent Paul and Adam Trampe

Absent: Tim MacMillan

Others in Attendance: Pakou Lee, Pat Tepoorten, Todd Tetzlaff, David Treichel

The Pledge of Allegiance was said by all.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Paul reported that the Annual Family Satisfaction Survey will be open from September 26 – October 15, 2025. Survey was reviewed and discussed with the board.

She highlighted shared responsibilities for safety and Walk and Roll on October 8, 2025 starting at St. Gregory's Church.

Work Session Topics

School Calendar for the 2026-27 School Year

The 2026-27 school year calendar draft was presented to the school board and feedback was provided by the school board.

Facilities Study Review

Facilities study has been conducted with a focus on space utilization. Through the courses of study with ATS&R, there's room for growth in some areas. Communication will be made with all staff of planning and changes.

Board members adjourned the meeting at 6:32 PM

Heather Naegele, Clerk

ELECTRONIC FUND TRANSFERS
September 2025

Direct Dep Cks	\$1,001,860.74		
ACHS	<u>\$10,065.00</u>		
	\$1,011,925.74		
Other Electronic Fund Transfers:			
Federal/FICA Taxes		9/8/2025	\$2,632.28
(Also reflected in P/R info)		9/8/2025	\$55,521.15
		9/9/2025	\$95,502.32
		9/22/2025	\$69,246.25
		9/22/2025	<u>\$103,019.72</u>
			\$325,921.72
Minnesota Withholding Taxes		9/8/2025	\$348.91
(Also reflected in P/R info)		9/9/2025	\$148.93
		9/9/2025	\$8,862.55
		9/10/2025	\$16,712.21
		9/22/2025	\$348.91
		9/23/2025	\$10,772.37
		9/23/2025	<u>\$18,146.17</u>
			\$55,340.05
Economic Service (EBC)		9/8/2025	\$12,513.25
(Also reflected in P/R info)		9/9/2025	\$20,314.38
		9/22/2025	\$12,513.25
		9/22/2025	<u>\$20,485.22</u>
			\$65,826.10
MII LIFE-F S A		PEIP	9/3/2025
		PEIP	9/3/2025
		PEIP	9/11/2025
		PEIP	9/23/2025
		PEIP Admin Inv	9/25/2025
		PEIP	9/26/2025
			\$15.18
			\$36.65
			\$140.00
			\$51.00
			\$388.25
			<u>\$252.76</u>
			\$883.84
MII LIFE-M S A		9/8/2025	\$766.17
		9/8/2025	\$3,010.31
		9/9/2025	\$4,257.46
		9/22/2025	\$766.17
		9/22/2025	<u>\$7,387.77</u>
			\$16,187.88
Minnesota Teachers Retirement		9/5/2025	\$2,804.84
		9/5/2025	\$10,990.14
		9/8/2025	\$79,112.70
		9/19/2025	\$10,909.34
		9/19/2025	<u>\$84,891.74</u>
			\$188,708.76
PERA		9/5/2025	\$25,241.15
		9/19/2025	<u>\$36,100.26</u>
			\$61,341.41
Delta Dental Plan		9/23/2025	\$25,548.06
MN Sales Tax		9/18/2025	\$120.00

**Independent School District
North Branch, Minnesota**

**Teacher Seniority List
2025-2026**

Name	Date of Employment	Qualification	Subject Matter or Field
Solberg, Diane	08-28-91	Mathematics Elementary Education	Mathematics Middle School Elementary Education 1-6
Bense, Joan	09-02-92	Elementary Education	Elementary Education 1-6
Johnson, Kristen Buysse	09-02-92	Elementary Education	Elementary Education K-6
Pierce, Deborah	10-05-92	Elementary Education	Elementary Education 1-6
Golden, Rebecca	08-30-95	Elementary Education	Elementary Education 1-6 Coaching 7-12
Moeller, Lisa	08-30-95	Elementary Education	Elementary Education 1-6
Jensen, Lynelle	02-01-96	Elementary Education	Elementary Education 1-6
Bednarczyk, Laurie	08-21-96	Elementary Education Media Specialist	Elementary Education 1-6 Library Media Specialist K-12
Christen, Julie	08-21-96	English/Language Arts Health	English/Language Arts 7-12 Health K-12 Coaching 7-12
Gryte, David	08-21-96	Elementary Education	Elementary Education 1-6
Van Dyke, Jennifer	08-21-96	English/Language Arts	English/Language Arts 7-12
Summer, Juli	08-30-96	Elementary Education	Elementary Education K-6 Pre-Kindergarten Pre K Reading K-12
Joyal, Jennifer	08-21-97	Social Studies	Social Studies 7-12
Kolstad, Trena	08-21-97	Elementary Education	Elementary Education K-6
Kozar-Gryte, Lynn	08-21-97	Elementary Education	Elementary Education K-6
Kleschult, Melissa	10-06-97	Elementary Education	Elementary Education 1-6 Library Media Specialist K-12
Korkowski, Jenel	08-11-99	Elementary Education	Elementary Education 1-6 English/Language Arts Middle School
McWilliams, Ian	08-25-99	Special Education	Emotional Behavior Disorders K-12
Randall, Amy	08-25-99	Elementary Education	Elementary Education 1-6
Weinand, Rachelle	08-25-99	Media Specialist	Library Media Specialist K-12 Elementary Education K-6 Reading K-12
McWilliams, Holly	03-06-00	Elementary Education	Elementary Education K-6

**Independent School District
North Branch, Minnesota**

**Teacher Seniority List
2025-2026**

Name	Date of Employment	Qualification	Subject Matter or Field
Becker, Cheryl	08-16-00	Special Education	Learning Disabilities K-12 Emotional Behavior Disorders K-12 Elementary Education 1-6 Coaching 7-12
Newbauer, Pamela	08-16-00	Social Studies Reading	Social Studies 7-12 Reading K-12
Rothe, Laura	08-16-00	Social Studies	Social Studies 5-12
Tiegen, Lori	08-16-00	Elementary Education	Elementary Education K-6
Backus, Roberta	08-15-01	School Counselor	School Counselor K-12
Hilber, Rebecca	08-15-01	Elementary Education	Elementary Education K-6
Lattimore, Mindy	08-15-01	English/Language Arts	English/Language Arts 7-12 Principal K-12
Van Eerden, James	08-15-01	Physical Education Adaptive Physical Education	Physical Education K-12 DAPE Pre K-12
MacKenzie, Megan	08-20-02	English/Language Arts	Communication Arts/Literature 5-12
Nowak, Lisa	08-20-02	Special Education Health Elementary Education	Emotional Behavior Disorders K-12 Learning Disabilities K-12 Health K-12 Elementary Education K-6
Groen, Sara	08-20-03	Early Childhood Special Education Special Education	Early Childhood Special Education B-Age 6 Moderate to Severe K-12
Schraufnagel, Scott	08-20-03	Special Education	Emotional Behavior Disorders K-12 Learning Disorders K-12
Zerwas, Dejah	08-20-03	Elementary Education	Elementary Education 1-6
Minke, Tammi	02-17-04	Early Childhood Special Education Elementary Education	Early Childhood Special Education B-Age 6 Pre-Primary Age 3- Pre K Elementary Education K-6
Grund, John	08-18-04	Adaptive Physical Education Physical Education	DAPE Pre K-12 Physical Education K-12 Coaching 7-12
Heil-Berg, Cindy	08-18-04	Physical Education	Physical Education K-12 Coaching 7-12
Maurer, Lisa	08-18-04	Reading Special Education	Reading K-12 Emotional Behavior Disorders K-12 Communication Arts/Literature 5-8 Elementary Education K-6

**Independent School District
North Branch, Minnesota**

**Teacher Seniority List
2025-2026**

Name	Date of Employment	Qualification	Subject Matter or Field
Wilzbacher, Lynne	08-18-04	Elementary Education	Elementary Education 1-6
Schmidt, Sara	01-10-05	Early Childhood Special Education	Early Childhood Special Education B-Age 6 Autism Spectrum Disorders B-Age 6
Christensen, Stephen	08-24-05	Mathematics Social Studies	Elementary Education K-6 Mathematics 5-8 Social Studies 5-8
Santjer, Joel	08-24-05	Social Studies	Social Studies 5-12
Fortuna, Lisa	08-23-06	Elementary Education	Elementary Education K-6
Rafferty, Melissa	08-20-08	English/Language Arts	English/Language Arts 7-12
Heisick, Britney	08-26-09	Spanish	Spanish K-12
Kahl, Kyle	08-26-09	Elementary Education	Elementary Education 1-6
Trampe, Alison	08-30-11	Elementary Education	Elementary Education K-6 Social Studies 5-8
Redding, Stacy	09-09-11	School Counselor	School Counselor K-12
Pope, James	08-21-12	Instrumental Music	Instrumental and Classroom Music K-12
Sanders, Amy	08-21-12	Speech Language	Speech Language Pathologist Pre K-12
Bartz, Samantha	08-20-13	Elementary Education	Elementary Education K-6
Heath, Jennifer	08-20-13	Elementary Education	Elementary Education K-6 Pre-Primary Age 3-PreK
Johnson, Daniel	08-20-13	Special Education Social Studies	Learning Disabilities K-12 Social Studies 5-12
Wilson, Adam	08-20-13	Science	Science 5-8 Life Science 9-12 Earth and Space Science 9-12
Gillquist, Johannah	10-22-13	Elementary Education	Elementary Education K-6 Communication Arts/Literature 5-8
Anderson, Reid	08-20-14	Spanish ELL	English as a Second Language K-12 Spanish K-12
Brinkman, Shelley	08-20-14	Spanish Elementary Education	Elementary Education 1-6 Spanish K-8
Carlson, Chad	08-20-14	Social Studies	Reading K-12 Social Studies 5-12
Funke, Cristina	08-20-14	Elementary Education	Elementary Education K-6 Pre-Primary Age 3-PreK

**Independent School District
North Branch, Minnesota**

**Teacher Seniority List
2025-2026**

Name	Date of Employment	Qualification	Subject Matter or Field
Johnson, Kelly	08-20-14	Elementary Education	Elementary Education K-6
Lundgren, Brent	08-20-14	Special Education Elementary Education	Elementary Education K-6 Emotional Behavior Disorders K-12 Learning Disabilities K-12
McCann, Jennifer	08-20-14	Elementary Education	Elementary Education K-6 Early Childhood Education B-Grade 3
Reistad, Joshua	08-20-14	Elementary Education Science	Elementary Education K-6 Science 5-8
Christopherson, Mary	08-26-15	Science	Science 5-8 Earth and Space Science 9-12 Reading K-12
Crudo, Katherine	08-26-15	Physical Education Adaptive Physical Education	Physical Education K-12 DAPE Pre K-12
DeSmet, Andrea	08-26-15	Elementary Education	Elementary Education K-6
Keller, Sherri	08-26-15	Elementary Education Media Specialist	Elementary Education K-6 Library Media Specialist K-12 Social Studies 5-12 Communications Technology Career 7-12
Lien, Kelsey	08-24-16	Early Childhood Special Education	Early Childhood Education B-Grade 3 Early Childhood Special Education B-Age 6
Twait, Ashley	08-24-16	Mathematics	Mathematics 5-12
Voss, Justin	08-24-16	Special Education Elementary Education	Elementary Education K-6 Emotional Behavior Disorders K-12 Learning Disabilities K-12
Hanegraaf, Meghan	08-23-17	Elementary Education	Elementary Education K-6
Worthley, Juanita	08-23-17	Science	Science 5-8 Life Science 9-12 Chemistry 9-12 Principal K-12
Masso, Lynn	08-22-18	Special Education	Mild to Moderate Mentally HDCP K-12
Meysembourg, Molly	08-22-18	Art	Visual Arts K-12
Rawleigh, Hannah	08-22-18	FACS	Family and Consumer Sciences 5-12
Larson, James	08-21-19	Special Education	Emotional Behavior Disorders K-12
Molde, Rochelle	08-21-19	Special Education	Elementary Education 1-6 Academic and Behavioral Strategist K-12

**Independent School District
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**Teacher Seniority List
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Name	Date of Employment	Qualification	Subject Matter or Field
Moore, LeAnn	08-21-19	Special Education	Elementary Education K-6 Emotional Behavior Disorders K-12 Academic and Behavioral Strategist K-12 Social Studies 5-8
Turner, Kaitlin	08-21-19	Speech Language	Speech Language Pathologist Pre K-12
Halseth, Chelsea	08-26-20	Early Childhood Special Education	Early Childhood Education B-Grade 3 Early Childhood Special Education B-Age 6
Rydberg-Engel, Sydney	08-26-20	Art	Visual Arts K-12
Harren, Jake	08-24-21	Elementary Education	Elementary Education K-6
Kahl, Amy	08-24-21	Elementary Education	Elementary Education K-6 Pre-primary Age 3-PreK
Klatt, Natalie	08-24-21	Elementary Education	Elementary Education K-6
Konrad, Jessica	08-24-21	Social Studies	Social Studies 5-12
Mellem, Rachel	08-24-21	Elementary Education	Elementary Education K-6 Pre-primary Age 3-PreK
Neil, Taylor	08-24-21	Music	Instrumental and Classroom Music K-12
Nelson, Alyssa	08-24-21	Special Education	Academic and Behavioral Strategist K-12
Nuthak, Samantha	08-24-21	Spanish	Spanish K-12
Paro, Benjamin	08-24-21	Instrumental Music	Instrumental and Classroom Music K-12
Bailey, Rachel	08-30-21	Special Education	Learning Disabilities K-12 Emotional Behavior Disorders K-12
Gibbs, Jennifer	08-30-21	Elementary Education	Elementary Education K-6
Cook, Amanda	09-07-21	Agriculture	Agricultural Education 5-12 Teacher Coordinator Work Based Learning 9-12
Grund, Alan	09-07-21	Elementary Education	Elementary Education K-6
Falen, Lee Ann	08-24-22	Art	Visual Arts K-12
Groh, Kyle	08-24-22	Physical Education Adaptive Physical Education	Physical Education K-12 Health 5-12 DAPE Pre K-12
Hanna, Katelyn	08-24-22	Elementary Education	Pre-Primary Age 3-Pre K Elementary Education K-6
Osterhues, Kennedy	08-24-22	Elementary Education	Elementary Education K-6 Academic and Behavioral Strategist K-12

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North Branch, Minnesota**

**Teacher Seniority List
2025-2026**

Name	Date of Employment	Qualification	Subject Matter or Field
Schramm, Marcee	08-24-22	Science	Life Science 9-12
Wavra, Jacob	08-24-22	Elementary Education	Elementary Education K-6
Swalboski, Kristen	08-29-22	Licensed School Nurse	School Nurse Pre K-12
Johnson, Kristi	09-06-22	Elementary Education	Elementary Education K-6
Anderson, Theresa	08-23-23		Social Studies 5-12 Business 5-12 Principal K-12
Hanson, Joshua	08-23-23	Elementary Education	Elementary Education K-6
Minor, Marissa	08-23-23	Elementary Education	Elementary Education K-6
Peters, Rebecca	08-23-23	Elementary Education	Elementary Education 1-6
VanHorn, Amber	08-23-23	Elementary Education	Social Studies 5-8 Elementary Education K-6
Seekon, Jennifer	08-21-24	Special Education	Elementary Education K-6 Academic and Behavioral Strategist K-12
Stoesz, Samantha	08-21-24	English/Language Arts	Communication Arts/Literature 5-12
Tlusty, Kendra	08-21-24	Elementary Education	Reading K-12 Elementary Education 1-6
Tessmer, Amanda	11-06-24	School Counselor	School Counselor K-12

NONTENURED TEACHERS AND TEACHERS ON LONG TERM SUBSTITUTE CONTRACTS

This list is for record keeping only. Seniority is not generated by non-tenured staff according to Article X, Section 2, Subd. 5.

Fairbanks, Annette	02-15-23	ECFE	Elementary Education K-6
Anderson, Maxwell	08-23-23	English/Language Arts	Communication Arts/Literature 5-12
Berg, Jennifer	08-23-23	Elementary Education	Elementary Education K-6
Berg, Olivia	08-23-23	Elementary Education	Elementary Education K-6
Bodell, Jonathan	08-23-23	Business	Business 5-12
Brandel, Hunter	08-23-23	Social Studies	Social Studies 5-12
Lien, Gavin	08-23-23	Mathematics	Mathematics 5-12
Nysse, Megan	08-23-23	Elementary Education	Elementary Education K-6

**Independent School District
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**Teacher Seniority List
2025-2026**

Name	Date of Employment	Qualification	Subject Matter or Field
			Science 5-8
Pirrie, David	08-23-23	English/Language Arts	Communication Arts/Literature 5-12
Quinehan, Gracia	08-23-23	Science	Life Science 9-12 Science 5-8
Springman, Rebecca	08-23-23	Science	Physics 9-12
Wood, Courtney	08-23-23	Elementary Education	Elementary Education K-6
Horsfall, Jules	03-18-24	Social Studies	Social Studies 5-12
Anderson, Britta	08-21-24	Speech Language	Speech Language Pathologist Pre K-12
Anderson, Lily	08-21-24	Elementary Education	Elementary Education K-6 Early Childhood Education B-Grade 3
Antilla, Jordan	08-21-24	Special Education	Learning Disabilities K-12 Developmental Disabilities K-12 Autism Spectrum Disorders K-12
Bristol, Natalie	08-21-24	Elementary Education	Elementary Education K-6
Carlson, Megan	08-21-24	Elementary Education	Elementary Education K-6 Social Studies 5-8
Glenna, Allison	08-21-24	Elementary Education	Elementary Education K-6
Hoffman, Samantha	08-21-24	Special Education	Early Childhood Special Education B-Age 6 Early Childhood Education B-Grade 3
Lubs, Samuel	08-21-24	Vocal Music	Vocal and Classroom Music K-12
Miller, Emily	08-21-24	Mathematics	Mathematics 5-12
Nelson, Madeline	08-21-24	Early Childhood Special Education	Early Childhood Special Education B-Age 6
Porter, Danica	08-21-24	Science	Science 5-8 Life Science 9-12 Physics 9-12
Towns, Rebekah	08-21-24	Elementary Education	Elementary Education K-6
Daas, Jennifer	08-22-24	Elementary Education	Elementary Education K-6
Sorgert, Tylor	08-22-24	Mathematics	Mathematics 5-12
Edson, Lucas	03-04-25	Industrial Technology	Technology 5-12
Anderson, Kayla	08-20-25	Elementary Education	Elementary Education K-6
Anderson, Markell	08-20-25	Spanish	Spanish K-12

**Independent School District
North Branch, Minnesota**

**Teacher Seniority List
2025-2026**

Name	Date of Employment	Qualification	Subject Matter or Field
Beckmann, Sarah	08-20-25	School Counselor	School Counselor K-12
Biondo, Angela	08-20-25		Early Childhood Special Education B-Age 6
Dreon, Kristina	08-20-25	Licensed School Nurse	School Nurse Pre K-12
Duffy, Erika	08-20-25	Elementary Education	Pre-Primary Age 3-Pre K Elementary Education K-6
Ehalt, Jaide	08-20-25	Elementary Education	Elementary Education K-6
Glines, Alissa	08-20-25	Elementary Education	Elementary Education K-6
Patterson, Claire	08-20-25	Mathematics	Mathematics 5-12
Raborn, Dillon	08-20-25	English/Language Arts	Communication Arts/Literature 7-12
Red, Richard	08-20-25	Agriculture	Agriculture Education 7-12 School Counselor K-12 Principal K-12
Salow, Ashton	08-20-25	Mathematics	Mathematics 5-12
Schlender, Nicholas	08-20-25	Mathematics	Mathematics 5-12
Studier, Sebastian	08-20-25	English/Language Arts	Communication Arts/Literature 5-12
Weeks, Riley	08-20-25	Mathematics	Elementary Education K-6 Mathematics 5-8
Wilson, Eric	08-20-25	Elementary Education	Early Childhood Education B-Grade 3
Wolff, Kaitlyn	08-20-25		Elementary Education K-6
Appleby, Nathan	08-25-25		Physical Education K-12 Health 5-12

TEACHERS ON SPECIAL ASSIGNMENT

This list is for record keeping only.

Weinand, Rachelle	08-25-1999	Technology Integration	Library/Media Specialist Elementary Education K-6 Reading K-12
Keller, Sherri	08-26-2015	Technology Integration	Elementary Education K-6 Media Generalist K-12 Social Studies 5-12
Bense, Joan	09-02-1992	Instructional Strategies ²² each	Elementary Education 1-6

**Independent School District
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**Teacher Seniority List
2025-2026**

Name	Date of Employment	Qualification	Subject Matter or Field
Kleschult, Melissa	10-06-1997	Technology Integration	Elementary Education 1-6
Newbauer, Pam	08-16-2000	Instructional Strategies Coach	Social Studies 7-12 Reading K-12
Anderson, Theresa	08-23-2023	Instructional Strategies Coach	Social Studies 5-12 Business 5-12 Principal K-12
Bailey, Rachel	08-30-2021	Special Education TOSA	Learning Disabilities K-12 Emotional Behavior Disorders K-12
Lundgren, Brent	08-20-2014	Special Education TOSA	Elementary Education K-6 Emotional Behavior Disorders K-12 Learning Disabilities K-12

**Independent School District
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**Community Education Early Childhood Teacher Seniority List
2025-2026**

Hubbling, Maggie	08-20-14	Elementary Education K-6 Pre-Primary Age 3-K
Petrik, Lorie	08-07-18	Elementary Education K-6

NONTENURED TEACHERS

This list is for record keeping only. Seniority is not generated by non-tenured staff according to Article XVII, Section 2

Webster, Abigale	02-07-23	Elementary Education K-6 Early Childhood Education B-Grade 3
Houle, Sophia	08-01-23	Elementary Education K-6
Carlson, Jessica	08-23-23	
Rivard, Ashley	08-07-24	Elementary Education K-6 Pre-Primary Age 3-PreK
Money, Carmen	08-23-24	

**NBSSA SENIORITY LIST
2025-2026**

PS	Primary School	HS	High School	DO	District Office
MSS	Main Street School	CE	Community Ed	BM	Buildings-Maintenance
SR	Sunrise River	ALC	Area Learning Center	ED	Education District
MS	Middle School	BB	Brooker Building	LWC	Life Work Center
EC	Education Center				

		POSITIONS HELD	LOCATIONS WORKED
Sletten, Jane	11-10-98	Special education assistant Special education assistant Special education assistant Special education assistant Transition job coach	PS MS MSS HS LWC
Hischer, Kathy	09-25-00	Special education assistant Behavior technician-building Behavior technician-building Special education assistant Transition job coach	PS MSS SR SR LWC
Kaczrowski, Nancy	08-27-02	Special education assistant Special education assistant	MS HS
Kreitz, Joanne	08-27-02	Special education assistant Behavior interventionist	MS MS
Young, Shelly	12-10-07	Lunchroom/playground assistant Lunchroom/playground assistant Special education assistant	SR EC LWC
Hammes, Bryan	09-07-10	Lunchroom/playground assistant Special education assistant	SR SR
Carlson, Denise	09-01-11	Special education assistant	SR
Olson-Wahlroos, Tristan	12-06-11	Lunchroom/playground assistant Special education assistant	SR SR
Smith, Nichol	12-06-11	Lunchroom/playground assistant Teacher assistant Assessment secretary Office clerk	SR SR SR SR
Turner, Stacy	09-18-12	Special education assistant	HS
Hals, Amanda	10-14-13	Special education assistant	SR

**NBSSA SENIORITY LIST
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		POSITIONS HELD	LOCATIONS WORKED
Russell, Brooke	11-19-13	Special education assistant	SR
Roske, Tonya	03-12-14	Special education assistant	SR
Wille, Becky	08-28-14	Assessment secretary Assessment support secretary Media clerk Media clerk	HS EC SR MS
Dufour, Kristina	03-25-15	SAC adult assistant Lunchroom/playground assistant Lunchroom/playground assistant Special education assistant	CE SR EC MS
Carr, Laurie	09-02-15	Special education assistant	SR
Richter, Jessica R	09-02-15	Special education assistant Office clerk	MS SPED
Delougherty, Lisa	01-19-16	Special education assistant	MS
Dworshak, Cynthia	01-26-16	Special education assistant Office clerk	MS MS
Olson, Jackie	08-31-16	ADSIS behavior assistant	SR
George, Brittany	09-15-16	Special education assistant Special education assistant Central printing operator	SR EC DO
Reich, Rebecca	05-08-19	Lunchroom/playground assistant Health office clerk	MS MS
Beyatt, Debra	08-27-19	Education assistant Behavior technician-building Behavior interventionist Behavior interventionist	ALC ALC ALC HS
Pribyl, Stephanie	08-28-19	Special education assistant	HS

**NBSSA SENIORITY LIST
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		POSITIONS HELD	LOCATIONS WORKED
Tilbury, Kathleen	09-19-19	SAC adult assistant Special education assistant	CE HS
Rainer, Patricia	02-24-20	Lunchroom/playground assistant	MS
Gillis, Kate	09-02-20	Special education assistant Transition job coach	LWC LWC
Jenkins, Christine	09-02-20	Special education assistant Health office clerk	EC HS
Peters-Hutchins, Yvette	09-02-20	Special education assistant	SR
Oswell, Tena	09-08-20	Special education assistant	SR
Harmasz, Kari	02-16-21	Special education assistant Transition job coach Special education assistant	LWC LWC SR
Connett, Xiu Lan	09-01-21	Early childhood assistant	EC
Mitchell, Michelle	09-01-21	Lunchroom/playground assistant Early childhood assistant Special education assistant	EC EC EC
Iverson, Elaina	09-02-21	Special education assistant	HS
Jelberg, McKayla	09-13-21	Special education assistant	SR
Arnold, Kristie	09-20-21	Special education assistant Behavior technician-building Behavior interventionist	HS HS HS
Nelson, Tracey	09-20-21	Special education assistant	HS
Nelson, Tiffany	10-18-21	Lunchroom/playground assistant Office clerk Early childhood assistant	EC EC EC
Cain, Bridgette	10-26-21	Special education assistant	EC

*As negotiated

**NBSSA SENIORITY LIST
2025-2026**

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		POSITIONS HELD	LOCATIONS WORKED
Gilles, Catherine	01-03-22	Special education assistant	SR
		Behavior interventionist	SR
Breaw, Cassie	08-31-22	Special education assistant	EC
Dennis, Victoria	08-31-22	Special education assistant	EC
Tribbett, Katherine	08-31-22	Special education assistant	EC
Wessel, Kathleen	09-06-22	Special education assistant	EC
Williams, Cassie	09-19-22	Special education assistant	MS
Lemmerman, Morgan	09-26-22	Health office clerk	SR
Williams, Abby	09-26-22	Special education assistant	EC
		Lunchroom/playground assistant	EC
Meyer, Kacee	10-25-22	Special education assistant	HS
Glaser, Amanda	12-19-22	Special education assistant	MS
		Behavior interventionist	MS
Bjork, Michelle	01-02-23	SAC adult assistant	EC
Erickson, Geri	02-06-23	Special education assistant	EC
		Early childhood assistant	EC
Niemi, Kristin	04-24-23	Special education assistant	LWC
Volk, Sarah	08-23-23	Media/health clerk	EC
Altier, Jacqueline	08-29-23	Special education assistant	SR
Meyer, Seire	08-29-23	Special education assistant	LWC
Noakes, Victoria	08-29-23	Special education assistant	MS
Anderson, Kari	09-06-23	Lunchroom/playground assistant	SR

*As negotiated

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		POSITIONS HELD	LOCATIONS WORKED
Sieracki, Licia	09-06-23	Special education assistant	SR
Snyder, Danielle	09-11-23	Special education assistant	SR
Oare, Maria	09-18-23	Special education assistant	HS
Prouty, Tabitha	10-09-23	Lunchroom/playground assistant	EC
		Special education assistant	EC
Winters, Kathleen	10-09-23	Special education assistant	MS
Yarusso, Krystle	10-10-23	Special education assistant	MS
Volner, Nicole	11-20-23	Special education assistant	SR
Peterson, Angela	11-21-23	Special education assistant	LWC
Beckwith, Kelly	12-11-23	Behavior interventionist	SR
Meinz, Thuy	12-11-23	Early childhood assistant	EC
		Lunchroom/playground assistant	EC
Ybarra-Schultz, Pallas	12-13-23	Behavior interventionist	HS
Roggemann, John	12-18-23	Special education assistant	HS
Prettner, Jody	02-26-24	Special education assistant	HS
Stevenson, Paige	02-26-24	Career center clerk	HS
Luczynski, Marisa	03-18-24	Special education assistant	MS
Ames, Marsena	08-27-24	Lunchroom/playground assistant	SR
Bjerke, Hannah	08-27-24	Special education assistant	SR
Clemons, Dawn	08-27-24	EL assistant	DW
Meyers, Leila	08-27-24	Special education assistant	EC

*As negotiated

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		POSITIONS HELD	LOCATIONS WORKED
Mullin, Sidney	08-27-24	Special education assistant	SR
Tagg, Samantha	08-27-24	Speech language pathology assistant	EC
Claflin, Jessica	09-03-24	Special education assistant	SR
Matheson, Sherri	09-04-24	Lunchroom/playground assistant	SR
Lonnee, Britney	09-16-24	Lunchroom/playground assistant Special education assistant	SR SR
O'Day, Jamie	09-16-24	Special education assistant	HS
Scheurer, Cindy	09-16-24	Lunchroom/playground assistant	SR
Bloomquist, Maria	09-30-24	Lunchroom/playground assistant Special education assistant	MS MS

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*PROBATIONARY:
This list is for recordkeeping only. Seniority is not generated by probationary employees according to Article XIII, section 2.*

***This list is for record keeping only.
Seniority is not generated until the employee has completed the probationary period according to Article X,
Section 1.***

Thurmer, Kysa	11-04-24	Special education assistant	LWC
Carlson, Teresa	12-11-24	Education assistant	DW
Dufeck, Gina	01-06-25	Special education assistant	SR

*As negotiated

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		POSITIONS HELD	LOCATIONS WORKED
Weinkauf, Tina	01-16-25	Lunchroom/playground assistant	SR
Pufall, Robert	02-10-25	Special education assistant	EC
Blake, Sandra	03-03-25	Special education assistant	HS
Nagel, Norm	03-03-25	Lunchroom assistant	MS
Kessler, Paola	03-17-25	Lunchroom/playground assistant SAC adult assistant	EC EC
Christensen, Molly	04-07-25	Lunchroom/playground assistant	SR
Swager, Theresa	04-07-25	Special education assistant	HS
Stilwell-Brandt, Heather	05-12-25	SAC adult assistant	EC
Bleecker, Kandi	05-19-25	SAC adult assistant	EC
Hartgers, Christine	05-19-25	SAC adult assistant	EC
Schulze, Shirle	05-27-25	SAC adult assistant	EC
Roggemann, Rachel	08-20-25	Office clerk	HS
Scully, Elizabeth	08-20-25	SAC adult assistant	EC
Emerson, Malia	08-25-25	SAC adult assistant	EC
Jorgenson, Jaime	08-26-25	Special education assistant	MS
Joseph, Isabelle	08-26-25	Lunchroom/playground assistant	EC
Laszcwski, Danielle	08-26-25	Special education assistant	MS
Leuch, Hannah	08-26-25	Early childhood assistant	EC
Norring, Dena	08-26-25	Speech language pathology assistant	EC

**NBSSA SENIORITY LIST
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		POSITIONS HELD	LOCATIONS WORKED
O'Donnell, Laura	08-26-25	Lunchroom/playground assistant	EC
Pate, Jennifer	08-26-25	Special education assistant	SR
Running, Theresa	08-26-25	Lunchroom/playground assistant	SR
Kohler, Celeste	09-02-25	Data & assessment administrative assistant	DW
Larsen, Lauren	09-02-25	Special education assistant	SR
Marazzo, Angelena	09-02-25	Special education assistant	SR
Varnado, Deborah	09-02-25	Special education assistant	SR
Robinson, Sadie	09-03-25	Lunchroom/playground assistant	SR
Brown, Cydnie	09-08-25	Lunchroom/playground assistant	EC
Newton, Dawn	09-22-25	Lunchroom/playground assistant	MS
Felt, Jessica	10-06-25	Special education assistant	HS
Wieczorek, Megan	10-06-25	Special education assistant	SR

**SENIORITY LIST
2025- 2026**

CUSTODIANS

<u>NAME</u>	<u>EMPLOYMENT DATE</u>
Lucker, William	12-28-98
Romo, Jean	05-06-02
Nelson, Jenny	07-05-05
Sletten, Justin	02-14-12
Sletten, Anthony	10-20-14
House, Kimberly	10-26-20
Tjomsland, Joanie	09-01-21
Sletten, Laura	08-15-22
Anderson, Shuani	10-30-23

SCHOOLKEEPERS

Johnson, Charles	04-04-95
Hughes, Margaret	05-06-02
Siedlecki, Tamara	12-08-04
Dow, Carie	05-22-07
Fortier, Ann	08-24-07
Seiler, Daniel	08-27-18
Persaud, Brandon	11-27-23
Guerrette, Mathew	12-05-23
Guerrette, Samantha	07-15-24
Baker, Amber	08-26-24
Ricard, Lovinsky	10-28-24
Rossmann, Katrina	10-06-25

GROUNDSKEEPERS

Canfield, Terry	10-03-05
Axling, Debora	06-08-15
Mortensen, Bryan	09-28-20

STUDENTS

Hazing Prohibition

526

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to maintain a safe learning environment for students and staff that is free from hazing. Hazing activities of any type are inconsistent with the educational goals of the school district and are prohibited at all times.

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

- A. No student, teacher, administrator, volunteer, contractor, or other employee of the school district shall plan, direct, encourage, aid, or engage in hazing.
- B. No teacher, administrator, volunteer, contractor, or other employee of the school district shall permit, condone, or tolerate hazing.
- C. Apparent permission or consent by a person being hazed does not lessen the prohibitions contained in this policy.
- D. Retaliation against a victim, good faith reporter, or a witness of hazing is prohibited.
- E. False accusations or reports of hazing against a student, teacher, administrator, volunteer, contractor, or other employee are prohibited.
- F. A person who engages in an act of hazing, reprisal, retaliation, or false reporting of hazing or permits, condones, or tolerates hazing shall be subject to discipline or other remedial responses for that act in accordance with the school district's policies and procedures.

Consequences for students who commit, tolerate, or are a party to prohibited acts of hazing may range from remedial responses or positive behavioral interventions up to and including suspension and/or expulsion.

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

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

- G. This policy applies to hazing that occurs during and after school hours, on or off school premises or property, at school functions or activities, or on school transportation.
- H. A person who engages in an act that violates school policy or law in order to be initiated into or affiliated with a student organization shall be subject to discipline for that act.

North Branch Independent School District No. 138: Policy #526

Adopted: 12/11/97

Last Reviewed: 6/10/21, 9/11/25

Revised: 4/10/03, 12/11/14, 4/14/16

Effective: 12/11/97, 4/10/03, 12/11/14, 4/14/16, 9/11/25

STUDENTS

Hazing Prohibition

526

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

III. DEFINITIONS

- A. "Hazing" means committing an act against a student, or coercing a student into committing an act, that creates a substantial risk of harm to a person, in order for the student to be initiated into or affiliated with a student organization, or for any other school-related purpose. The term hazing includes, but is not limited to:
 1. Any type of physical brutality such as whipping, beating, striking, branding, electronic shocking, or placing a harmful substance on the body.
 2. Any type of physical activity such as sleep deprivation, exposure to weather, confinement in a restricted area, calisthenics, or other activity that subjects the student to an unreasonable risk of harm or that adversely affects the mental or physical health or safety of the student.
 3. Any activity involving the consumption of any alcoholic beverage, drug, tobacco product, or any other food, liquid, or substance that subjects the student to an unreasonable risk of harm or that adversely affects the mental or physical health or safety of the student.
 4. Any activity that intimidates or threatens the student with ostracism, that subjects a student to extreme mental stress, embarrassment, shame, or humiliation, that adversely affects the mental health or dignity of the student or discourages the student from remaining in school.
 5. Any activity that causes or requires the student to perform a task that involves violation of state or federal law or of school district policies or regulations.
- B. "Immediately" means as soon as possible but in no event longer than 24 hours.
- C. "On school premises or school district property, or at school functions or activities, or on school transportation" means all school district buildings, school grounds, and school property or property immediately adjacent to school grounds, school bus stops, school buses, school vehicles, school contracted vehicles, or any other vehicles approved for school district purposes, the area of entrance or departure from school grounds, premises, or events, and all school-related functions, school-sponsored activities, events, or trips. School district property also may mean a student's walking route to or from school for purposes of attending school or school-related functions, activities, or events. While prohibiting hazing at these locations and events, the school district does not represent that it will provide supervision or assume liability at these locations and events.

North Branch Independent School District No. 138: Policy #526

Adopted: 12/11/97

Last Reviewed: 6/10/21, 9/11/25

Revised: 4/10/03, 12/11/14, 4/14/16

Effective: 12/11/97, 4/10/03, 12/11/14, 4/14/16, 9/11/25

STUDENTS

Hazing Prohibition

526

- D. "Remedial response" means a measure to stop and correct hazing, prevent hazing from recurring, and protect, support, and intervene on behalf of a student who is the target or victim of hazing.
- E. "Student" means a student enrolled in a public school or a charter school.
- F. "Student organization" means a group, club, or organization having students as its primary members or participants. It includes grade levels, classes, teams, activities, or particular school events. A student organization does not have to be an official school organization to come within the terms of this definition.

IV. REPORTING PROCEDURES

- A. Any person who believes he or she has been the target or victim of hazing or any person with knowledge or belief of conduct which may constitute hazing shall report the alleged acts immediately to an appropriate school district official designated by this policy. A person may report hazing anonymously. However, the school district may not rely solely on an anonymous report to determine discipline or other remedial responses.
- B. The school district encourages the reporting party to use the report form available from the principal or building supervisor of each building or available from the school district office, but oral reports shall be considered complaints as well.

The building principal, the principal's designee, or the building supervisor (hereinafter the "building report taker") is the person responsible for receiving reports of hazing at the building level. Any adult school district personnel who receives a report of hazing prohibited by this policy shall inform the building report taker immediately. Any person may report hazing directly to a school district human rights officer or to the superintendent. If the complaint involves the building report taker, the complaint shall be made or filed directly with the superintendent or the school district human rights officer by the reporting party or complainant.

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

- C. A teacher, administrator, volunteer, contractor, and other school employees shall be particularly alert to possible situations, circumstances, or events which might include hazing. Any such person who witnesses, observes, receives a report of, or has other knowledge or belief of conduct which may constitute hazing shall make reasonable efforts to address and resolve the hazing and shall inform the building report taker immediately. School district personnel who fail to inform the building report taker of conduct that may constitute hazing or who fail to make reasonable efforts to address and resolve the hazing in a timely manner may be subject to disciplinary action.
- D. Submission of a good faith complaint or report of hazing will not affect the complainant or reporter's future employment, grades, or work assignments, or educational or work environment.

North Branch Independent School District No. 138: Policy #526

Adopted: 12/11/97

Last Reviewed: 6/10/21, 9/11/25

Revised: 4/10/03, 12/11/14, 4/14/16

Effective: 12/11/97, 4/10/03, 12/11/14, 4/14/16, 9/11/25

STUDENTS

Hazing Prohibition

526

- E. Reports of hazing are classified as private educational and/or personnel data and/or confidential investigative data and will not be disclosed except as permitted by law. The building report taker, in conjunction with the responsible authority, shall be responsible for keeping and regulating access to any report of hazing and the record of any resulting investigation.
- F. The school district will respect the privacy of the complainant(s), the individual(s) against whom the complaint is filed, and the witnesses as much as possible, consistent with the school district's legal obligations to investigate, to take appropriate action, and to comply with any discovery or disclosure obligations.

V. SCHOOL DISTRICT ACTION

- A. Within three (3) days of the receipt of a complaint or report of hazing, the school district shall undertake or authorize an investigation by school district officials or a third party designated by the school district.
- B. The building report taker or other appropriate school district officials may take immediate steps, at their discretion, to protect the target or victim of the hazing, the complainant, the reporter, and students or others pending completion of an investigation of alleged hazing prohibited by this policy.
- C. The alleged perpetrator of the hazing shall be allowed the opportunity to present a defense during the investigation or prior to the imposition of discipline or other remedial responses.
- D. Upon completion of an investigation that determines hazing has occurred, the school district will take appropriate action. Such action may include, but is not limited to, warning, suspension, exclusion, expulsion, transfer, remediation, termination, or discharge. Disciplinary consequences will be sufficiently severe to try to deter violations and to appropriately discipline prohibited behavior. School district action taken for violation of this policy will be consistent with the requirements of applicable collective bargaining agreements; applicable statutory authority, including the Minnesota Pupil Fair Dismissal Act; and applicable school district policies and regulations.
- E. The school district is not authorized to disclose to a victim private educational or personnel data regarding an alleged perpetrator who is a student or employee of the school district. School officials will notify the parent(s) or guardian(s) of students who are targets or victims of hazing and the parent(s) or guardian(s) of alleged perpetrators of hazing who have been involved in a reported and confirmed hazing incident of the remedial or disciplinary action taken, to the extent permitted by law.
- F. In order to prevent or to respond to hazing committed by or directed against a child with a disability, the school district shall, where determined appropriate by the child's individualized education program (IEP) team or Section 504 team, allow the child's IEP or Section 504 plan to

be drafted to address the skills and proficiencies the child needs as a result of the child's disability to allow the child to respond to or not to engage in hazing.

VI. RETALIATION OR REPRISAL

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

VII. DISSEMINATION OF POLICY

- A. This policy shall appear in each school's student handbook and in each school's building and staff handbooks.
- B. The school district will develop a method of discussing this policy with students and employees.

Legal References: Minn. Stat. § 121A.031 (School Student Bullying Policy)
Minn. Stat. § 121A.0311 (Notice of the Rights and Responsibilities of Students and Parents Under the Safe and Supportive Minnesota Schools Act)
Minn. Stat. § 121A.40-121A.56 (Pupil Fair Dismissal Act)
Minn. Stat. § 121A.69 (Hazing Policy)

Cross References: NB Policy 403 (Discipline, Suspension, and Dismissal of School District Employees)
NB Policy 413 (Harassment and Violence)
NB Policy 506 (Student Discipline)
NB Policy 514 (Bullying Prohibition Policy)
NB Policy 525 (Violence Prevention [Applicable to Students and Staff])

STUDENTS

The Pledge of Allegiance

531

I. PURPOSE

The school board recognizes the need to display an appropriate United States flag and to provide instruction to students in the proper etiquette, display, and respect of the flag. The purpose of this policy is to provide for recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance and instruction in school to help further that end.

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

Students in this school district shall recite the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States of America one or more times each week. The recitation shall be conducted:

- A. By each individual classroom teacher or the teacher's surrogate; or
- B. Over a school intercom system by a person designated by the school principal or other person having administrative control over the school.

III. EXCEPTIONS

Anyone who does not wish to participate in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance for any personal reasons may elect not to do so. Students and school personnel must respect another person's right to make that choice.

IV. INSTRUCTION

Students will be instructed in the proper etiquette toward, correct display of, and respect for the flag, and in patriotic exercises.

Legal References: Minn. Stat. § 121A.11, Subd. 3 (Pledge of Allegiance)
Minn. Stat. § 121A.11, Subd. 4 (Instruction)

Cross References:

STUDENTS

Service Animals in Schools

535

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to establish parameters for the use of service animals by students, employees, and visitors within school buildings and on school grounds.

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

Individuals with disabilities shall be permitted to bring their service animals into school buildings or on school grounds in accordance with, and subject to, this policy.

III. DEFINITIONS

A. Service Animal

A “service animal” is a dog (regardless of breed or size) or miniature horse that is individually trained to perform “work or tasks” for the benefit of an individual with a disability, including an individual with a physical, sensory, psychiatric, intellectual, or mental disability. Other species of animals, whether wild or domestic, trained or untrained, are not service animals. Service animals are working animals that perform valuable functions; they are not pets. The work or tasks performed by the service animal must be directly related to the individual’s disability. An animal accompanying an individual for the sole purpose of providing emotional support, therapy, comfort, or companionship is not a service animal.

B. Handler

A “handler” is an individual with a disability who uses a service animal. In the case of an individual who is unable to care for and supervise the service animal for reasons such as age or disability, “handler” means the person who cares for and supervises the animal on that individual’s behalf. School district personnel are not responsible for the care, supervision, or handling responsibilities of a service animal.

C. Work or Tasks

1. “Work or tasks” are those functions performed by a service animal.
2. Examples of “work or tasks” include, but are not limited to, assisting individuals who are blind or have low vision with navigation and other tasks, alerting individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing to the presence of people or sounds, providing non-violent protection or rescue work, pulling a wheelchair, assisting an individual during a seizure, alerting individuals to the presence of allergens, retrieving items such as medicine or the telephone, providing physical support and assistance with balance and stability to individuals with mobility disabilities, and helping persons with psychiatric and neurological disabilities by preventing or interrupting impulsive or destructive behaviors.

STUDENTS

Service Animals in Schools

535

3. The crime deterrent effects of an animal's presence and the provision of emotional support, well-being, comfort, or companionship are not "work or tasks" for the purposes of this policy.

D. Trainer

A "trainer" is a person who is training a service animal and is affiliated with a recognized training program for service animals.

IV. ACCESS TO PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES; PERMITTED INQUIRIES

- A. In general, handlers (i.e., individuals with disabilities or trainers) are permitted to be accompanied by their service animals in all areas of school district properties where members of the public, students, and employees are allowed to go. A handler has the right to be accompanied by a service animal whenever and to the same extent that the handler has the right: (a) to be present on school district property or in school district facilities; (b) to attend or participate in a school-sponsored event, activity, or program; or (c) to be transported in a vehicle that is operated by or on behalf of the school district.
- B. It is an unfair discriminatory practice to prohibit a person with a disability from taking a service animal into the public place or conveyance to aid persons with disabilities, and if the service animal is properly harnessed or leashed so that the person with a disability may maintain control of the service animal.
- C. The school district shall not require a person with a disability to make an extra payment or pay an additional charge when taking a service animal into any school district building.
- D. When an individual with a disability brings a service animal to a school district property, school district employees shall not ask about the nature or extent of a person's disability, but may make the following two inquiries to determine whether the animal qualifies as a service animal:
 1. Is the service animal required because of a disability; and
 2. What work or tasks is the service animal trained to perform.
- E. School district employees shall not make these inquiries of an individual with a disability bringing a service animal to school district property when it is readily apparent that an animal is trained to do work or perform tasks for an individual with a disability. However, school district employees may inquire whether the individual with a disability has completed and submitted the request form described in Part VI., below.
- F. An individual with a disability may not be required to provide documentation such as proof that the animal has been certified, trained, or licensed as a service animal.

V. REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL SERVICE ANIMALS

- A. The service animal must be required for the individual with a disability.
- B. The service animal must be individually trained to do work or tasks for the benefit of the individual with a disability.
- C. A service animal must have a harness, leash, or other tether, unless either the handler is unable, because of a disability, to use a harness, leash, or other tether, or the use of a harness, leash, or other tether would interfere with the service animal's safe, effective performance of work or tasks, in which case, the service animal must be otherwise under the handler's control (e.g., voice control, signals, or other effective means).
- D. The service animal must be housebroken.
- E. The service animal must be under the control of its handler at all times. The handler is responsible for the care and supervision of a service animal, including walking the service animal, feeding the service animal, grooming the service animal, providing veterinary care to the service animal, and responding to the service animal's need to relieve itself, including the proper disposal of the service animal's waste.
- F. The school district is not responsible for providing a staff member to walk the service animal or to provide any other care or assistance to the animal.
- G. In the case of a student who is unable to care for and/or supervise his or her service animal, the student's parent/guardian is responsible for arranging for such care and supervision. In the case of an employee or other individual who is unable to care for and/or supervise his or her service animal, the employee or other individual's authorized representative is responsible for arranging for a service animal's care and supervision.
- H. The service animal must be properly licensed and vaccinated in accordance with applicable state laws and local ordinances.

VI. REQUESTING THE USE OF A SERVICE ANIMAL AT SCHOOL

- A. Students with a disability seeking to be accompanied by a service animal are requested to submit the Approval Request Form to the building principal of the school the student attends. The principal will notify the superintendent or the administrator designated with responsibility to address such requests. School district employees seeking to be accompanied by a service animal are requested to submit the Approval Request Form to the superintendent or the administrator designated with responsibility to address such requests.
- B. Students or employees seeking to bring a service animal onto district premises are requested to identify whether the need for the service animal is required because of a disability and to describe

the work or tasks that the service animal is trained to perform.

- C. The owner of the service animal shall provide written evidence that the service animal has received all vaccinations required by state law or local ordinance.

VII. REMOVAL OR EXCLUSION OF A SERVICE ANIMAL

- A. A school official may require a handler to remove a service animal from school district property, a school building, or a school-sponsored program or activity, if:
 - 1. Any of the requirements described in Part V., above, are not met.
 - 2. The service animal is out of control and/or the handler does not effectively control the animal's behavior;
 - 3. The presence of the service animal would fundamentally alter the nature of a service, program or activity; or
 - 4. The service animal behaves in a way that poses a direct threat to the health or safety of others, has a history of such behavior, or otherwise poses a significant health or safety risk to others that cannot be eliminated by reasonable accommodations.
- B. If the service animal is properly excluded, the school district shall give the individual with a disability the opportunity to participate in the service, program, or activity without the service animal, unless such individual has violated a law or school rule or regulation that would warrant the removal of the individual.

VIII. ADDITIONAL LIMITATIONS FOR MINIATURE HORSES

In assessing whether a miniature horse may be permitted in a school building or on school grounds as a service animal, the following factors shall be considered:

- A. The type, size, and weight of the miniature horse and whether the facility can accommodate these features;
- B. Whether the handler has sufficient control of the miniature horse;
- C. Whether the miniature horse is housebroken; and
- D. Whether the miniature horse's presence in a specific building or on school grounds compromises legitimate health and safety requirements.

IX. ALLERGIES; FEAR OF ANIMALS

If a student or employee notifies the school district that he or she is allergic to a service animal, the school district will balance the rights of the individuals involved. In general, allergies that are not life threatening are not a valid reason for prohibiting the presence of a service animal. Fear of animals is generally not a valid reason for prohibiting the presence of a service animal.

X. NON-SERVICE ANIMALS FOR STUDENTS WITH INDIVIDUALIZED EDUCATION PROGRAMS (IEPS) OR SECTION 504 PLANS

If a special education student or a student with a Section 504 plan seeks to bring an animal onto school property that is not a service animal, the request shall be referred to the student's IEP team or Section 504 team, as appropriate, to determine whether the animal is necessary for the student to receive a free appropriate public education (FAPE) or, in the case of a Section 504 student, to reasonably accommodate the student's access to the school district's programs and activities.

XI. NON-SERVICE ANIMAL AS AN ACCOMMODATION FOR EMPLOYEES

If an employee seeks to bring an animal onto school property that is not a service animal, the request shall be referred to the superintendent or the administrator designated to handle such requests. A school district employee who is a qualified individual with a disability will be allowed to bring such animal onto school property when it is determined that such use is required to enable the employee to perform the essential functions of his or her position or to enjoy the benefits of employment in a manner comparable to those similarly situated non-disabled employees.

XII. LIABILITY

- A. The owner of the service animal is responsible for any harm or injury to an individual and for any property damage caused by the service animal while on school district property.
- B. An individual who, directly or indirectly through statements or conduct, intentionally misrepresents an animal in that person's possession as a service animal may be subject to criminal liability.

Legal References: Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973
28 C.F.R. § 35.104, 28 C.F.R. § 35.130(b)(7), and 28 C.F.R. § 35.136 (ADA Regulations)
20 U.S.C. § 1400 *et seq.* (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act)
Minn. Stat. § 256C.02 (Public Accommodations for Persons with Disabilities)
Minn. Stat. § 363A.19 (Discrimination Against Disabilities Prohibited)
Minn. Stat. § 609.226 (Harm Caused by Dog)
Minn. Stat. § 609.833 (Misrepresentation of Service Animal)

Cross References: NB Policy 402 (Disability Nondiscrimination Policy)
NB Policy 521 (Student Disability Nondiscrimination)

North Branch Independent School District No. 138: District Policy #535

Adopted: February 13, 2020
Revised: 10/9/25
Effective: 2/13/20, 10/9/25

SEPTEMBER 2025

DATE	DONATION FROM	DONATION TO	AMOUNT	USE
9/4/2025	Anonymous	Sunrise River Elem.	\$96.00	Field Trip Fund Donation
9/17/2025	Cyber Grants/US Bank (Matching Gift-D. Cash)	Sunrise River Elem.	\$64.00	Field Trip Fund Donation
9/17/2025	Nicole Mauch (Dollars for Doing)	Sunrise River Elem.	\$65.00	Field Trip Fund Donation
9/18/2025	Sandra Harvey	Sunrise River Elem.	\$200.00	Supplies for Students in Need
9/24/2025	American Legion Post 139, PO Box 21, Harris, MN 55032	NBHS Athletics	\$500.00	JROTC Program Donation
9/24/2025	Revive Chiropratic, PO Box 94, North Branch, MN 55056	NBHS Athletics	\$50.00	Boys Soccer Program-Sports Physical Donation
9/24/2025	Revive Chiropratic, PO Box 94, North Branch, MN 55056	NBHS Athletics	\$200.00	Cross Country Program-Sports Physical Donation
9/24/2025	Revive Chiropratic, PO Box 94, North Branch, MN 55056	NBHS Athletics	\$400.00	Football Program-Sports Physical Donation
9/24/2025	Revive Chiropratic, PO Box 94, North Branch, MN 55056	NBHS Athletics	\$350.00	Volleyball Program-Sports Physical Donation
9/24/2025	Revive Chiropratic, PO Box 94, North Branch, MN 55056	NBHS Athletics	\$50.00	Wrestling Program-Sports Physical Donation
9/24/2025	Anderson Heating, 1446 7th St, Houlton, WI 54082	NBHS Athletics	\$200.00	Girls Golf Tournament Sponsor Donation
9/24/2025	NB Viking Volleyball	NBHS Athletics	\$100.00	Girls Golf Tournament Sponsor Donation
9/24/2025	Olde Brick Inn, PO Box 626, North Branch, MN 55056	NBHS Athletics	\$100.00	Girls Golf Tournament Sponsor Donation
9/24/2025	Olson Power & Equipment, PO Box 39, North Branch, MN 55056	NBHS Athletics	\$100.00	Girls Golf Tournament Sponsor Donation
9/24/2025	Kim Theis, 4715 384th St, North Branch, MN 55056	NBHS Athletics	\$300.00	Girls Golf Tournament Sponsor Donation
			\$2,775.00	

Adopted: _____

MSBA/MASA Model Policy 413

Orig. 1995

Revised: _____

Rev. 2025

413 HARASSMENT AND VIOLENCE

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

I. PURPOSE

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

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

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

III. DEFINITIONS

- A. "Assault" is:
 - 1. an act done with intent to cause fear in another of immediate bodily harm or death;

2. the intentional infliction of or attempt to inflict bodily harm upon another; or
 3. the threat to do bodily harm to another with present ability to carry out the threat.
- B. "Harassment" prohibited by this policy consists of physical or verbal conduct, including, but not limited to, electronic communications, relating to an individual's or group of individuals' race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, age, marital status, familial status, status with regard to public assistance, sexual orientation, including gender identity or expression, or disability, when the conduct:
1. has the purpose or effect of creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working or academic environment;
 2. has the purpose or effect of substantially or unreasonably interfering with an individual's work or academic performance; or
 3. otherwise adversely affects an individual's employment or academic opportunities.

[NOTE: In 2023, the Minnesota legislature amended the definition of "sexual orientation" in the Minnesota Human Rights Act as reflected in subpart 6 below.]

- C. "Immediately" means as soon as possible but in no event longer than 24 hours.
- D. Protected Classifications
1. "Disability" means, with respect to an individual who
 - a. has a physical sensory or mental impairment that materially limits one or more major life activities of such individual;
 - b. has a record of such an impairment; ~~or~~
 - c. is regarded as having such an impairment; or
 - d. has an impairment that is episodic or in remission and would materially limit a major life activity when active.
 2. "Familial status" means the condition of one or more minors having legal status or custody with:
 - a. the minor's parent or parents or the minor's legal guardian or guardians; or
 - b. the designee of the parent or parents or guardian or guardians with the written permission of the parent or parents or guardian or guardians. Familial status also means residing with and caring for one or more individuals who lack the ability to meet essential requirements for physical health, safety, or self-care because the individual or individuals are unable to receive and evaluate information or make or communicate decisions. The protections afforded against harassment or discrimination on the basis of family status apply to any person who is pregnant or is in the process of securing legal custody of an individual who has not attained the age of majority.

[NOTE: The 2024 Minnesota legislature revised the definition of "familial status."]

3. "Marital status" means whether a person is single, married, remarried, divorced, separated, or a surviving spouse and, in employment cases, includes protection against harassment or discrimination on the basis of the identity, situation, actions, or beliefs of a spouse or former spouse.
4. "National origin" means the place of birth of an individual or of any of the individual's lineal ancestors.
5. "Sex" includes, but is not limited to, pregnancy, childbirth, and disabilities related to pregnancy or childbirth.
6. "Sexual orientation" means to whom someone is, or is perceived of as being, emotionally, physically, or sexually attracted to based on sex or gender identity. A person may be attracted to men, women, both, neither, or to people who are genderqueer, androgynous, or have other gender identities.

[NOTE: The 2023 Minnesota legislature redefined 'sexual orientation' in the Minnesota Human Rights Act.]

7. "Status with regard to public assistance" means the condition of being a recipient of federal, state, or local assistance, including medical assistance, or of being a tenant receiving federal, state, or local subsidies, including rental assistance or rent supplements.
- E. "Remedial response" means a measure to stop and correct acts of harassment or violence, prevent acts of harassment or violence from recurring, and protect, support, and intervene on behalf of a student who is the target or victim of acts of harassment or violence.

F. Sexual Harassment

1. Sexual harassment includes unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, sexually motivated physical conduct, or other verbal or physical conduct or communication of a sexual nature when:
 - a. submission to that conduct or communication is made a term or condition, either explicitly or implicitly, of obtaining employment or an education; or
 - b. submission to or rejection of that conduct or communication by an individual is used as a factor in decisions affecting that individual's employment or education; or
 - c. that conduct or communication has the purpose or effect of substantially interfering with an individual's employment or education, or creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive employment or educational environment.
2. Sexual harassment may include, but is not limited to:
 - a. unwelcome verbal harassment or abuse;
 - b. unwelcome pressure for sexual activity;
 - c. unwelcome, sexually motivated, or inappropriate patting, pinching, or physical contact, other than necessary restraint of student(s) by teachers, administrators, or other school district personnel to avoid physical harm to persons or property;
 - d. unwelcome sexual behavior or words, including demands for sexual

favors, accompanied by implied or overt threats concerning an individual's employment or educational status;

- e. unwelcome sexual behavior or words, including demands for sexual favors, accompanied by implied or overt promises of preferential treatment with regard to an individual's employment or educational status; or
- f. unwelcome behavior or words directed at an individual because of sexual orientation, including gender identity or expression.

G. Sexual Violence

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

H. Violence

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

IV. REPORTING PROCEDURES

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

D. In Each School Building

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

E. A teacher, school administrator, volunteer, contractor, or other school employee shall be particularly alert to possible situations, circumstances, or events that might include acts of harassment or violence. Any such person who witnesses, observes, receives a report of, or has other knowledge or belief of conduct that may constitute harassment or violence shall make reasonable efforts to address and resolve the harassment or violence and shall inform the building report taker immediately. School district personnel who fail to inform the building report taker of conduct that may constitute harassment or violence or who fail to make reasonable efforts to address and resolve the harassment or violence in a timely manner may be subject to disciplinary action.

F. Upon receipt of a report, the building report taker must notify the school district human rights officer immediately, without screening or investigating the report. The building report taker may request, but may not insist upon, a written complaint. A written statement of the facts alleged will be forwarded as soon as practicable by the building report taker to the human rights officer. If the report was given verbally, the building report taker shall personally reduce it to written form within 24 hours and forward it to the human rights officer. Failure to forward any harassment or violence report or complaint as provided herein may result in disciplinary action against the building report taker.

G. In the District

The school board hereby designates _____ as the school district human rights officer(s) to receive reports or complaints of harassment or violence prohibited by this policy. If the complaint involves a human rights officer, the complaint shall be filed directly with the superintendent.¹

H. The school district shall conspicuously post the name of the human rights officer(s), including mailing addresses and telephone numbers.

I. Submission of a good faith complaint or report of harassment or violence prohibited by this policy will not affect the complainant or reporter's future employment, grades, work assignments, or educational or work environment.

J. Use of formal reporting forms is not mandatory.

K. Reports of harassment or violence prohibited by this policy are classified as private educational and/or personnel data and/or confidential investigative data and will not be disclosed except as permitted by law.

L. The school district will respect the privacy of the complainant(s), the individual(s) against whom the complaint is filed, and the witnesses as much as possible, consistent with the school district's legal obligations to investigate, to take appropriate action, and to comply with any discovery or disclosure obligations.

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

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

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

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

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

V. INVESTIGATION

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

VI. SCHOOL DISTRICT ACTION

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

VII. RETALIATION OR REPRISAL

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

VIII. RIGHT TO ALTERNATIVE COMPLAINT PROCEDURES

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

IX. HARASSMENT OR VIOLENCE AS ABUSE

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

X. DISSEMINATION OF POLICY AND TRAINING

- A. This policy shall be conspicuously posted throughout each school building in areas

accessible to students and staff members.

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

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

Cross References: MSBA/MASA Model Policy 102 (Equal Educational Opportunity)
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 401 (Equal Employment Opportunity)
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 402 (Disability Nondiscrimination Policy)
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 403 (Discipline, Suspension, and Dismissal of School District Employees)
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 406 (Public and Private Personnel Data)
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 414 (Mandated Reporting of Child Neglect or Physical or Sexual Abuse)
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 415 (Mandated Reporting of Maltreatment of Vulnerable Adults)
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 506 (Student Discipline)
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 514 (Bullying Prohibition Policy)
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 515 (Protection and Privacy of Pupil Records)
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 521 (Student Disability Nondiscrimination)
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 522 (Title IX Sex Nondiscrimination, Grievance Procedures and Process)
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 524 (Internet Acceptable Use and Safety Policy)
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 525 (Violence Prevention)
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 526 (Hazing Prohibition)
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 528 (Student Parental, Family, and Marital Status Nondiscrimination)

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I. PURPOSE

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

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

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

III. DEFINITIONS

- A. "Assault" is:

North Branch Independent School District No. 138: Policy #413

Adopted: 2/12/98

Replaced: Policy #5141 Sexual, Religious, and Racial Harassment and Violence

Last Reviewed: 4/8/21, 12/8/22, 5/9/24, 10/9/25

Revised: 6/12/02, 2/11/16, 11/10/16, 11/8/18, 10/9/25

Effective: 2/12/98, 6/12/02, 2/11/16, 11/10/16, 11/8/18, 10/9/25

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1. an act done with intent to cause fear in another of immediate bodily harm or death;
 2. the intentional infliction of or attempt to inflict bodily harm upon another; or
 3. the threat to do bodily harm to another with present ability to carry out the threat.
- B. "Harassment" prohibited by this policy consists of physical or verbal conduct, including, but not limited to, electronic communications, relating to an individual's or group of individuals' race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, age, marital status, familial status, status with regard to public assistance, sexual orientation, including gender identity or expression, or disability when the conduct:
1. has the purpose or effect of creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working or academic environment;
 2. has the purpose or effect of substantially or unreasonably interfering with an individual's work or academic performance; or
 3. otherwise adversely affects an individual's employment or academic opportunities.
- C. "Immediately" means as soon as possible but in no event longer than 24 hours.
- D. Protected Classifications
1. "Disability" , with respect to an individual who
 - a. has a physical, sensory, or mental impairment which materially limits one or more major life activities of such individuals;
 - b. has a record of such an impairment
 - c. is regarded as having such an impairment
 - d. has an impairment that is episodic or in remission and would materially limit major life activity when active.
 2. "Familial status" means the condition of one or more minors being domiciled with:
 - a. their parent or parents or the minor's legal guardian; or
 - b. the designee of the parent or parents or guardian with the written permission of the parent or parents or guardian. The protections afforded against harassment on the basis of family status apply to any person who is pregnant or is in the process of securing legal custody of an individual who has not

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attained the age of majority.

3. "Marital status" means whether a person is single, married, remarried, divorced, separated, or a surviving spouse and, in employment cases, includes protection against harassment on the basis of the identity, situation, actions, or beliefs of a spouse or former spouse.
 4. "National origin" means the place of birth of an individual or of any of the individual's lineal ancestors.
 5. "Sex" includes, but is not limited to, pregnancy, childbirth, and disabilities related to pregnancy or childbirth.
 6. "Sexual orientation" means having or being perceived as having an emotional, physical, or sexual attachment to another person without regard to the sex of that person or having or being perceived as having an orientation for such attachment, or having or being perceived as having a self-image or identity not traditionally associated with one's biological maleness or femaleness. "Sexual orientation" does not include a physical or sexual attachment to children by an adult.
 7. "Status with regard to public assistance" means the condition of being a recipient of federal, state, or local assistance, including medical assistance, or of being a tenant receiving federal, state, or local subsidies, including rental assistance or rent supplements.
- E. "Remedial response" means a measure to stop and correct acts of harassment or violence, prevent acts of harassment or violence from recurring, and protect, support, and intervene on behalf of a student who is the target or victim of acts of harassment or violence.
- F. Sexual Harassment; Definition
1. Sexual harassment consists of unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, sexually motivated physical conduct or other verbal or physical conduct or communication of a sexual nature when:
 - a. submission to that conduct or communication is made a term or condition, either explicitly or implicitly, of obtaining employment or an education; or
 - b. submission to or rejection of that conduct or communication by an individual is used as a factor in decisions affecting that individual's employment or education; or
 - c. that conduct or communication has the purpose or effect of substantially or unreasonably interfering with an individual's employment or education, or creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive employment or educational

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environment.

2. Sexual harassment may include, but is not limited to:
 - a. unwelcome verbal harassment or abuse;
 - b. unwelcome pressure for sexual activity;
 - c. unwelcome, sexually motivated, or inappropriate patting, pinching, or physical contact, other than necessary restraint of student(s) by teachers, administrators, or other school district personnel to avoid physical harm to persons or property;
 - d. unwelcome sexual behavior or words, including demands for sexual favors, accompanied by implied or overt threats concerning an individual's employment or educational status;
 - e. unwelcome sexual behavior or words, including demands for sexual favors, accompanied by implied or overt promises of preferential treatment with regard to an individual's employment or educational status; or
 - f. unwelcome behavior or words directed at an individual because of sexual orientation, including gender identity or expression.

G. Sexual Violence

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

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H. Violence

Violence prohibited by this policy is a physical act of aggression or assault upon another or group of individuals because of, or in a manner reasonably related to, race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, age, marital status, familial status, status with regard to public assistance, sexual orientation, including gender identity or expression, or disability.

IV. REPORTING PROCEDURES

- A. Any person who believes he or she has been the target or victim of harassment or violence on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, age, marital status, familial status, status with regard to public assistance, sexual orientation, including gender identity or expression, or disability by a student, teacher, administrator, or other school district personnel, or any person with knowledge or belief of conduct which may constitute harassment or violence prohibited by this policy toward a student, teacher, administrator, or other school district personnel or group of students, teachers, administrators, or other school district personnel should report the alleged acts immediately to an appropriate school district official designated by this policy. A person may report conduct which may constitute harassment or violence anonymously. However, the school district may not rely solely on an anonymous report to determine discipline or other remedial responses.
- B. The school district encourages the reporting party or complainant to use the report form available from the principal or building supervisor of each building or available from the school district office, but oral reports shall be considered complaints as well.
- C. Nothing in this policy shall prevent any person from reporting harassment or violence directly to a school district human rights officer or to the superintendent. If the complaint involves the building report taker, the complaint shall be made or filed directly with the superintendent or the school district human rights officer by the reporting party or complainant.
- D. In Each School Building. The building principal, the principal's designee, or the building supervisor (hereinafter the "building report taker") is the person responsible for receiving oral or written reports of harassment or violence prohibited by this policy at the building level. Any adult school district personnel who receives a report of harassment or violence prohibited by this policy shall inform the building report taker immediately. If the complaint involves the building report taker, the complaint shall be made or filed directly with the superintendent or the school district human rights officer by the reporting party or complainant. The building report taker shall ensure that this policy and its procedures, practices, consequences, and sanctions are fairly and fully implemented and shall serve as a primary contact on policy and procedural matters.
- E. A teacher, school administrator, volunteer, contractor, or other school employee shall be particularly alert to possible situations, circumstances, or events that might include acts of harassment or violence. Any such person who witnesses, observes, receives a report of, or has other knowledge or belief of conduct that may constitute harassment or violence shall make

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reasonable efforts to address and resolve the harassment or violence and shall inform the building report taker immediately. School district personnel who fail to inform the building report taker of conduct that may constitute harassment or violence or who fail to make reasonable efforts to address and resolve the harassment or violence in a timely manner may be subject to disciplinary action.

- F. Upon receipt of a report, the building report taker must notify the school district human rights officer immediately, without screening or investigating the report. The building report taker may request, but may not insist upon, a written complaint. A written statement of the facts alleged will be forwarded as soon as practicable by the building report taker to the human rights officer. If the report was given verbally, the building report taker shall personally reduce it to written form within 24 hours and forward it to the human rights officer. Failure to forward any harassment or violence report or complaint as provided herein may result in disciplinary action against the building report taker.
- G. In the District. The school board hereby designates Director of Finance and Human Resources as the school district human rights officer(s) to receive reports or complaints of harassment or violence prohibited by this policy. If the complaint involves a human rights officer, the complaint shall be filed directly with the superintendent.¹
- H. The school district shall conspicuously post the name of the human rights officer(s), including mailing addresses and telephone numbers.
- I. Submission of a good faith complaint or report of harassment or violence prohibited by this policy will not affect the complainant or reporter's future employment, grades, work assignments, or educational or work environment.
- J. Use of formal reporting forms is not mandatory.
- K. Reports of harassment or violence prohibited by this policy are classified as private educational and/or personnel data and/or confidential investigative data and will not be disclosed except as permitted by law.
- L. The school district will respect the privacy of the complainant(s), the individual(s) against whom the complaint is filed, and the witnesses as much as possible, consistent with the school district's legal obligations to investigate, to take appropriate action, and to comply with any discovery or disclosure obligations.
- M. Retaliation against a victim, good faith reporter, or a witness of violence or harassment is prohibited.

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

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

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

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

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

V. INVESTIGATION

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

North Branch Independent School District No. 138: Policy #413

Adopted: 2/12/98

Replaced: Policy #5141 Sexual, Religious, and Racial Harassment and Violence

Last Reviewed: 4/8/21, 12/8/22, 5/9/24, 10/9/25

Revised: 6/12/02, 2/11/16, 11/10/16, 11/8/18, 10/9/25

Effective: 2/12/98, 6/12/02, 2/11/16, 11/10/16, 11/8/18, 10/9/25

remedial responses.

- F. The investigation will be completed as soon as practicable. The school district human rights officer shall make a written report to the superintendent upon completion of the investigation. If the complaint involves the superintendent, the report may be filed directly with the school board. The report shall include a determination of whether the allegations have been substantiated as factual and whether they appear to be violations of this policy.

VI. SCHOOL DISTRICT ACTION

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

VII. RETALIATION OR REPRISAL

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

North Branch Independent School District No. 138: Policy #413

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Revised: 6/12/02, 2/11/16, 11/10/16, 11/8/18, 10/9/25

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VIII. RIGHT TO ALTERNATIVE COMPLAINT PROCEDURES

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

IX. HARASSMENT OR VIOLENCE AS ABUSE

- A. Under certain circumstances, alleged harassment or violence may also be possible abuse under Minnesota law. If so, the duties of mandatory reporting under Minn. Stat. § 626.556 may be applicable.
- B. Nothing in this policy will prohibit the school district from taking immediate action to protect victims of alleged harassment, violence, or abuse.

X. DISSEMINATION OF POLICY AND TRAINING

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

Legal References: Minn. Stat. § 120B.232 (Character Development Education)
Minn. Stat. § 120B.234 (Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Education)
Minn. Stat. § 121A.03, Subd. 2 (Sexual, Religious, and Racial Harassment and Violence Policy)
Minn. Stat. § 121A.031 (School Student Bullying Policy)
Minn. Stat. Ch. 363A (Minnesota Human Rights Act)
Minn. Stat. § 609.341 (Definitions)
Minn. Stat. § 626.556 *et seq.* (Reporting of Maltreatment of Minors)

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20 U.S.C. §§ 1681-1688 (Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972)
29 U.S.C. § 621 *et seq.* (Age Discrimination in Employment Act)
29 U.S.C. § 794 (Rehabilitation Act of 1973, § 504)
42 U.S.C. § 1983 (Civil Action for Deprivation of Rights)
42 U.S.C. § 2000d *et seq.* (Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964)
42 U.S.C. § 2000e *et seq.* (Title VII of the Civil Rights Act)
42 U.S.C. § 12101 *et seq.* (Americans with Disabilities Act)

Cross References:

NB Policy 102 (Equal Educational Opportunity)
NB Policy 401 (Equal Employment Opportunity)
NB Policy 402 (Disability Nondiscrimination Policy)
NB Policy 403 (Discipline, Suspension, and Dismissal of School District Employees)
NB Policy 406 (Public and Private Personnel Data)
NB Policy 414 (Mandated Reporting of Child Neglect or Physical or Sexual Abuse)
NB Policy 415 (Mandated Reporting of Maltreatment of Vulnerable Adults)
NB Policy 506 (Student Discipline)
NB Policy 514 (Bullying Prohibition Policy)
NB Policy 515 (Protection and Privacy of Pupil Records)
NB Policy 521 (Student Disability Nondiscrimination)
NB Policy 522 (Student Sex Nondiscrimination)
NB Policy 524 (Internet Acceptable Use and Safety Policy)
NB Policy 525 (Violence Prevention)
NB Policy 526 (Hazing Prohibition)
NB Policy 528 (Student Parental, Family, and Marital Status Nondiscrimination)

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Adopted: _____

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MSBA/MASA Model Policy 414
Orig. 1995
Rev.
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414 MANDATED REPORTING OF CHILD NEGLECT OR PHYSICAL OR SEXUAL ABUSE

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

I. PURPOSE

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

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

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

III. DEFINITIONS

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

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

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

- G. "Nonmaltreatment mistake" occurs when: (1) at the time of the incident, the individual was performing duties identified in the center's child care program plan required under Minnesota Rules, part 9503.0045; (2) the individual has not been determined responsible for a similar incident that resulted in a finding of maltreatment for at least seven years; (3) the individual has not been determined to have committed a similar nonmaltreatment mistake under this paragraph for at least four years; (4) any injury to a child resulting from the incident, if treated, is treated only with remedies that are available over the counter, whether ordered by a medical professional or not; and (5) except for the period when the incident occurred, the facility and the individual providing services were both in compliance with all licensing requirements relevant to the incident. This definition only applies to child care centers licensed under Minnesota Rules, chapter 9503.
- H. "Person responsible for the child's care" means (1) an individual functioning within the family unit and having responsibilities for the care of the child such as a parent, guardian, or other person having similar care responsibilities, or (2) an individual functioning outside the family unit and having responsibilities for the care of the child such as a teacher, school administrator, other school employee or agent, or other lawful custodian of a child having either full-time or short-term care responsibilities including,

but not limited to, day care, babysitting whether paid or unpaid, counseling, teaching, and coaching.

- I. "Physical abuse" means any physical injury, mental injury (under subdivision 13), or threatened injury (under subdivision 23), inflicted by a person responsible for the child's care on a child other than by accidental means; or any physical or mental injury that cannot reasonably be explained by the child's history of injuries, or any aversive or deprivation procedures, or regulated interventions, that have not been authorized by Minnesota Statutes, section 125A.0942 or 245.825.

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

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

- J. "Report" means any communication received by the local welfare agency, police department, county sheriff, or agency responsible for child protection pursuant to this section that describes maltreatment of a child and contains sufficient content to identify the child and any person believed to be responsible for the maltreatment, if known.
- K. "School personnel" means professional employee or professional's delegate of the school district who provides health, educational, social, psychological, law enforcement, or child care services.
- L. "Sexual abuse" means the subjection of a child by a person responsible for the child's care, by a person who has a significant relationship to the child (as defined in Minnesota Statutes, section 609.341, subdivision 15), or by a person in a current or recent position of authority (as defined in Minnesota Statutes, section 609.341, subdivision 10) to any act which constitutes a violation of Minnesota statutes prohibiting criminal sexual conduct. Such acts include sexual penetration, sexual contact, solicitation of children to engage in sexual conduct, and communication of sexually explicit materials to children. Sexual abuse also includes any act involving a minor that constitutes a violation of Minnesota statutes prohibiting prostitution or use of a minor in a sexual performance. Sexual abuse includes all reports of known or suspected child sex trafficking involving a child who is identified as a victim of sex trafficking. Sexual abuse includes threatened sexual abuse which includes the status of a parent or household member who has committed a violation that requires registration under Minnesota Statutes, section 243.166, subdivision 1b(a) or (b).
- M. "Threatened injury" means a statement, overt act, condition, or status that represents a substantial risk of physical or sexual abuse or mental injury. Threatened injury includes, but is not limited to, exposing a child to a person responsible for the child's

care who has (1) subjected the child to, or failed to protect a child from, an overt act or condition that constitutes egregious harm under Minnesota Statutes, section 260E.03, subdivision 5, or a similar law of another jurisdiction; (2) been found to be palpably unfit under Minnesota Statutes, section 260C.301, subdivision 1, paragraph (b), clause 3, or a similar law of another jurisdiction; (3) committed an act that resulted in an involuntary termination of parental rights under Minnesota Statutes, section 260C.301, or a similar law of another jurisdiction; or (4) committed an act that resulted in the involuntary transfer of permanent legal and physical custody of a child to a relative or parent under Minnesota Statutes, section 260C.515, subdivision 4, or a similar law of another jurisdiction.

IV. REPORTING PROCEDURES

- A. A mandated reporter shall immediately report the information to the local welfare agency, agency responsible for assessing or investigating the report, police department, county sheriff, tribal social services agency, or tribal police department. The reporter will include his or her name and address in the report.
- B. An oral report shall be made immediately by telephone or otherwise. The oral report shall be followed by a written report within 72 hours (exclusive of weekends and holidays) to the appropriate police department, the county sheriff, local welfare agency, or agency responsible for assessing or investigating the report. Any report shall be of sufficient content to identify the child, any person believed to be responsible for the maltreatment of the child if the person is known, the nature and extent of the maltreatment, and the name and address of the reporter.
- C. Regardless of whether a report is made, as soon as practicable after a school receives information regarding an incident that may constitute maltreatment of a child in a school facility, the school shall inform the parent, legal guardian, or custodian of the child that an incident has occurred that may constitute maltreatment of the child, when the incident occurred, and the nature of the conduct that may constitute maltreatment.
- D. A mandated reporter who knows or has reason to know of the deprivation of custodial or parental rights or the kidnapping of a child shall report the information to the local police department or the county sheriff.
- E. With the exception of a health care professional or a social service professional who is providing the woman with prenatal care or other health care services, a mandated reporter shall immediately report to the local welfare agency if the person knows or has reason to believe that a woman is pregnant and has used a controlled substance for a nonmedical purpose during the pregnancy, including, but not limited to, tetrahydrocannabinol, or has consumed alcoholic beverages during the pregnancy in any way that is habitual or excessive.
- F. A person mandated by Minnesota law and this policy to report who fails to report may be subject to criminal penalties and/or discipline, up to and including termination of employment.
- G. An employer of a mandated reporter shall not retaliate against the person for reporting in good faith maltreatment against a child with respect to whom a report is made, because of the report.
- H. Any person who knowingly or recklessly makes a false report under the provisions of applicable Minnesota law or this policy shall be liable in a civil suit for any actual damages suffered by the person or persons so reported and for any punitive damages set by the court or jury, plus costs and reasonable attorney fees. Knowingly or recklessly making a false report also may result in discipline.

[NOTE: The Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) is responsible for assessing or investigating allegations of child maltreatment in schools. Although a report may be

made to any of the agencies listed in Section IV. A., above, and there is no requirement to file more than one report, if the initial report is not made to MDE, it would be helpful to MDE if schools also report to MDE.]

V. INVESTIGATION

- A. The responsibility for assessing or investigating reports of suspected maltreatment rests with the appropriate state, county, or local agency or agencies. The agency responsible for assessing or investigating reports of maltreatment has the authority to interview the child, the person or persons responsible for the child's care, the alleged offender, and any other person with knowledge of the maltreatment for the purpose of gathering facts, assessing safety and risk to the child, and formulating a plan. The investigating agency may interview the child at school. The interview may take place outside the presence of the alleged offender or parent, legal guardian, or school official. The investigating agency, not the school, is responsible for either notifying or withholding notification of the interview to the parent, guardian, or person responsible for the child's care. School officials may not disclose to the parent, legal custodian, or guardian the contents of the notification or any other related information regarding the interview until notified in writing by the local welfare or law enforcement agency that the investigation or assessment has been concluded.
- B. When the investigating agency determines that an interview should take place on school property, written notification of intent to interview the child on school property must be received by school officials prior to the interview. The notification shall include the name of the child to be interviewed, the purpose of the interview, and a reference to the statutory authority to conduct an interview on school property.
- C. Except where the alleged offender is believed to be a school official or employee, the time and place, and manner of the interview on school premises shall be within the discretion of school officials, but the local welfare or law enforcement agency shall have the exclusive authority to determine who may attend the interview. The conditions as to time, place, and manner of the interview set by the school officials shall be reasonable, and the interview shall be conducted not more than 24 hours after the receipt of the notification unless another time is considered necessary by agreement between the school officials and the local welfare or law enforcement agency. Every effort must be made to reduce the disruption of the educational program of the child, other students, or school employees when an interview is conducted on school premises.
- D. Where the alleged offender is believed to be a school official or employee, the school district shall conduct its own investigation independent of MDE and, if involved, the local welfare or law enforcement agency.
- E. Upon request by MDE, the school district shall provide all requested data that are relevant to a report of maltreatment and are in the possession of a school facility, pursuant to an assessment or investigation of a maltreatment report of a student in school. The school district shall provide the requested data in accordance with the requirements of the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act, Minnesota Statutes, chapter 13, and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, 20 United States Code, section 1232g.

VI. MAINTENANCE OF SCHOOL RECORDS CONCERNING ABUSE OR POTENTIAL ABUSE

- A. When a local welfare or local law enforcement agency determines that a potentially abused or abused child should be interviewed on school property, written notification of the agency's intent to interview on school property must be received by school officials prior to the interview. The notification shall include the name of the child to be interviewed, the purpose of the interview, and a reference to the statutory authority to conduct the interview. The notification shall be private data. School officials may not disclose to the parent, legal custodian, or guardian the contents of the notice or any other related information regarding the interview until notified in writing by the local

welfare or law enforcement agency that the investigation has been concluded.

- B. All records regarding a report of maltreatment, including any notification of intent to interview which was received by the school as described above in Paragraph A., shall be destroyed by the school only when ordered by the agency conducting the investigation or by a court of competent jurisdiction.

VII. PHYSICAL OR SEXUAL ABUSE AS SEXUAL HARASSMENT OR VIOLENCE

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

VIII. DISSEMINATION OF POLICY AND TRAINING

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

Legal References: Minn. Stat. Ch. 13 (Minnesota Government Data Practices Act)
Minn. Stat. § 121A.58 (Corporal Punishment)
Minn. Stat. § 121A.582 (Student Discipline; Reasonable Force)
Minn. Stat. § 125A.0942 (Standards for Restrictive Procedures)
Minn. Stat. § 243.166, Subd. 1b(a)(b) (Registration of Predatory Offenders)
Minn. Stat. § 245.825 (Use of Aversive or Deprivation Procedures)
Minn. Stat. § 260C.007, Subd. 6, Clause (5) (Child in Need of Protection)
[Minn. Stat. § 260C.301 \(Termination of Parental Rights\)](#)
Minn. Stat. § 260C.451 (Foster Care Benefits Past Age 18)
Minn. Stat. Ch. 260D (Child in Voluntary Foster Care for Treatment)
Minn. Stat. Ch. 260E (Reporting of Maltreatment of Minors)
Minn. Stat. § 609.02, Subd. 6 (Definitions – Dangerous Weapon)
Minn. Stat. § 609.341, Subd. 10 (Definitions – Position of Authority)
Minn. Stat. § 609.341, Subd. 15 (Definitions – Significant Relationship)
Minn. Stat. § 609.379 (Reasonable Force)
20 U.S.C. § 1232g (Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act)

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

EMPLOYEES/PERSONNEL

Mandated Reporting of Child Neglect or Physical or Sexual Abuse 414

I. PURPOSE

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

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

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

III. DEFINITIONS

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

NORTH BRANCH INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 138: Policy #414

Adopted: 5/5/03

Replaces: Policy 5141.4 Maltreatment of Minors

Last Reviewed: 4/8/21, 12/9/21, 5/9/24, 1/9/25, 10/9/2025

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EMPLOYEES/PERSONNEL

Mandated Reporting of Child Neglect or Physical or Sexual Abuse 414

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

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

- G. "Nonmaltreatment mistake" occurs when: (1) at the time of the incident, the individual was performing duties identified in the center's child care program plan required under Minnesota Rules part 9503.0045; (2) the individual has not been determined responsible for a similar incident that resulted

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in a finding of maltreatment for at least seven years; (3) the individual has not been determined to have committed a similar nonmaltreatment mistake under this paragraph for at least four years; (4) any injury to a child resulting from the incident, if treated, is treated only with remedies that are available over the counter, whether ordered by a medical professional or not; and (5) except for the period when the incident occurred, the facility and the individual providing services were both in compliance with all licensing requirements relevant to the incident. This definition only applies to child care centers licensed under Minnesota Rules chapter 9503.

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

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

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

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- J. "Report" means any communication received by the local welfare agency, police department, county sheriff, or agency responsible for child protection pursuant to this section that describes maltreatment of a child and contains sufficient content to identify the child and any person believed to be responsible for the maltreatment, if known.
- K. "School personnel" means professional employee or professional's delegate of the school district who provides health, educational, social, psychological, law enforcement, or child care services.
- L. "Sexual abuse" means the subjection of a child by a person responsible for the child's care, by a person who has a significant relationship to the child (as defined in Minn. Stat. § 609.341, Subd. 15), or by a person in a current or recent position of authority (as defined in Minn. Stat. § 609.341, Subd. 10) to any act which constitutes a violation of Minnesota statutes prohibiting criminal sexual conduct. Such acts include sexual penetration, sexual contact, solicitation of children to engage in sexual conduct, and communication of sexually explicit materials to children. Sexual abuse also includes any act involving a minor that constitutes a violation of Minnesota statutes prohibiting prostitution or use of a minor in a sexual performance. Sexual abuse includes all reports of known or suspected child sex trafficking involving a child who is identified as a victim of sex trafficking. Sexual abuse includes threatened sexual abuse which includes the status of a parent or household member who has committed a violation that requires registration under Minnesota Statutes section 243.166, Subd. 1b(a) or (b).
- M. "Threatened injury" means a statement, overt act, condition, or status that represents a substantial risk of physical or sexual abuse or mental injury. Threatened injury includes, but is not limited to, exposing a child to a person responsible for the child's care who has (1) subjected the child to, or failed to protect a child from, an overt act or condition that constitutes egregious harm under Minnesota Statutes, section 260E.03, subdivision 5, or a similar law of another jurisdiction; (2) been found to be palpably unfit under Minnesota Statutes, section 260C.301, subdivision 1, paragraph (b), clause 3, or a similar law of another jurisdiction; (3) committed an act that resulted in an involuntary termination of parental rights under Minnesota Statutes, section 260C.301, or a similar law of another jurisdiction; or (4) committed an act that resulted in the involuntary transfer of permanent legal and physical custody of a child to a relative or parent under Minnesota Statutes, section 260C.515, subdivision 4, or a similar law of another jurisdiction.

IV. REPORTING PROCEDURES

- A. A mandated reporter shall immediately report the information to the local welfare agency, agency responsible for assessing or investigating the report, police department, county sheriff, tribal social services agency, or tribal police department. The reporter will include his or her name and address in the report.
- B. An oral report shall be made immediately by telephone or otherwise. The oral report shall be followed

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by a written report within 72 hours (exclusive of weekends and holidays) to the appropriate police department, the county sheriff, local welfare agency, or agency responsible for assessing or investigating the report. Any report shall be of sufficient content to identify the child, any person believed to be responsible for the maltreatment of the child if the person is known, the nature and extent of the maltreatment, and the name and address of the reporter.

- C. Regardless of whether a report is made, as soon as practicable after a school receives information regarding an incident that may constitute maltreatment of a child in a school facility, the school shall inform the parent, legal guardian, or custodian of the child that an incident has occurred that may constitute maltreatment of the child, when the incident occurred, and the nature of the conduct that may constitute maltreatment.
- D. A mandated reporter who knows or has reason to know of the deprivation of custodial or parental rights or the kidnapping of a child shall report the information to the local police department or the county sheriff.
- E. With the exception of a health care professional or a social service professional who is providing the woman with prenatal care or other health care services, a mandated reporter shall immediately report to the local welfare agency if the person knows or has reason to believe that a woman is pregnant and has used a controlled substance for a nonmedical purpose during the pregnancy, including, but not limited to, tetrahydrocannabinol, or has consumed alcoholic beverages during the pregnancy in any way that is habitual or excessive.
- F. A person mandated by Minnesota law and this policy to report who fails to report may be subject to criminal penalties and/or discipline, up to and including termination of employment.
- G. An employer of a mandated reporter shall not retaliate against the person for reporting in good faith maltreatment against a child with respect to whom a report is made, because of the report.
- H. Any person who knowingly or recklessly makes a false report under the provisions of applicable Minnesota law or this policy shall be liable in a civil suit for any actual damages suffered by the person or persons so reported and for any punitive damages set by the court or jury, plus costs and reasonable attorney fees. Knowingly or recklessly making a false report also may result in discipline.

V. INVESTIGATION

- A. The responsibility for assessing or investigating reports of suspected maltreatment rests with the appropriate state, county, or local agency or agencies. The agency responsible for assessing or investigating reports of maltreatment has the authority to interview the child, the person or persons responsible for the child's care, the alleged offender, and any other person with knowledge of the maltreatment for the purpose of gathering facts, assessing safety and risk to the child, and

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formulating a plan. The investigating agency may interview the child at school. The interview may take place outside the presence of the alleged offender or parent, legal guardian, or school official. The investigating agency, not the school, is responsible for either notifying or withholding notification of the interview to the parent, guardian, or person responsible for the child's care. School officials may not disclose to the parent, legal custodian, or guardian the contents of the notification or any other related information regarding the interview until notified in writing by the local welfare or law enforcement agency that the investigation or assessment has been concluded.

- B. When the investigating agency determines that an interview should take place on school property, written notification of intent to interview the child on school property must be received by school officials prior to the interview. The notification shall include the name of the child to be interviewed, the purpose of the interview, and a reference to the statutory authority to conduct an interview on school property.
- C. Except where the alleged offender is believed to be a school official or employee, the time and place, and manner of the interview on school premises shall be within the discretion of school officials, but the local welfare or law enforcement agency shall have the exclusive authority to determine who may attend the interview. The conditions as to time, place, and manner of the interview set by the school officials shall be reasonable, and the interview shall be conducted not more than 24 hours after the receipt of the notification unless another time is considered necessary by agreement between the school officials and the local welfare or law enforcement agency. Every effort must be made to reduce the disruption of the educational program of the child, other students, or school employees when an interview is conducted on school premises.
- D. Where the alleged offender is believed to be a school official or employee, the school district shall conduct its own investigation independent of MDE and, if involved, the local welfare or law enforcement agency.
- E. Upon request by MDE, the school district shall provide all requested data that are relevant to a report of maltreatment and are in the possession of a school facility, pursuant to an assessment or investigation of a maltreatment report of a student in school. The school district shall provide the requested data in accordance with the requirements of the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act, Minnesota Statutes chapter 13, and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, 20 United States Code section 1232g.

VI. MAINTENANCE OF SCHOOL RECORDS CONCERNING ABUSE OR POTENTIAL ABUSE

- A. When a local welfare or local law enforcement agency determines that a potentially abused or abused child should be interviewed on school property, written notification of the agency's intent to interview on school property must be received by school officials prior to the interview. The notification shall include the name of the child to be interviewed, the purpose of the interview, and a reference to the statutory authority to conduct the interview. The notification shall be private data.

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School officials may not disclose to the parent, legal custodian, or guardian the contents of the notice or any other related information regarding the interview until notified in writing by the local welfare or law enforcement agency that the investigation has been concluded.

- B. All records regarding a report of maltreatment, including any notification of intent to interview which was received by the school as described above in Paragraph A., shall be destroyed by the school only when ordered by the agency conducting the investigation or by a court of competent jurisdiction.

VII. PHYSICAL OR SEXUAL ABUSE AS SEXUAL HARASSMENT OR VIOLENCE

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

VIII. DISSEMINATION OF POLICY AND TRAINING

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

Legal References: Minn. Stat. Ch. 13 (Minnesota Government Data Practices Act)
Minn. Stat. § 121A.58 (Corporal Punishment)
Minn. Stat. § 121A.582 (Student Discipline; Reasonable Force)
Minn. Stat. § 125A.0942 (Standards for Restrictive Procedures)
Minn. Stat. § 243.166, Subd. 1b(a)(b) (Registration of Predatory Offenders)
Minn. Stat. § 245.825 (Use of Aversive or Deprivation Procedures)
Minn. Stat. § 260C.007, Subd. 6, Clause (5) (Child in Need of Protection)
Minn. Stat. § 260C.301 (Termination of Parental Rights)
Minn. Stat. § 260C.451 (Foster Care Benefits Past Age 18)
Minn. Stat. Ch. 260D (Child in Voluntary Foster Care for Treatment)
Minn. Stat. Ch. 260E (Reporting of Maltreatment of Minors)
Minn. Stat. § 609.02, Subd. 6 (Definitions – Dangerous Weapon)
Minn. Stat. § 609.341, Subd. 10 (Definitions – Position of Authority)
Minn. Stat. § 609.341, Subd. 15 (Definitions – Significant Relationship)
Minn. Stat. § 609.379 (Reasonable Force)
20 U.S.C. § 1232g (Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act)

Cross References: NB Policy 415 (Mandated Reporting of Maltreatment of Vulnerable Adults)

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I. PURPOSE

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

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

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

III. DEFINITIONS

- A. "Abuse" means:
 - 1. An act against a vulnerable adult that constitutes a violation of, an attempt to violate, or aiding and abetting a violation of: (1) assault in the first through fifth degrees as defined in Minnesota Statutes sections 609.221 to 609.224; (2) the use of drugs to injure or facilitate crime as defined in Minnesota Statutes section 609.235; (3) the solicitation, inducement, and promotion of prostitution as defined in Minnesota Statutes section 609.322; and (4) criminal sexual conduct in the first through fifth degrees as defined in Minnesota Statutes sections 609.342 to 609.3451. A violation includes any action that meets the elements of the crime, regardless of whether there is a criminal proceeding or conviction.
 - 2. Conduct which is not an accident or therapeutic conduct as defined in Minnesota Statutes section 626.5572 which produces or could reasonably be expected to produce physical pain or injury or emotional distress including, but not limited to, the following: (1) hitting, slapping, kicking, pinching, biting, or corporal punishment of a vulnerable adult; (2) use of repeated or malicious oral, written, or gestured language toward a vulnerable adult or the treatment of a vulnerable adult which would be considered by a reasonable person to be disparaging, derogatory, humiliating, harassing, or threatening; (3) use of any aversive or deprivation procedure, unreasonable confinement, or involuntary seclusion, including the forced separation of the vulnerable adult from other persons against the will of the vulnerable adult or the legal representative of the vulnerable adult; and (4) use of any aversive or deprivation procedures for persons with developmental disabilities or related conditions not authorized under Minnesota Statutes section 245.825.
 - 3. Any sexual contact or penetration as defined in Minn. Stat. § 609.341 between a facility staff

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person or a person providing services in the facility and a resident, patient, or client of that facility.

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

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

- B. "Caregiver" means an individual or facility who has responsibility for the care of a vulnerable adult as a result of a family relationship, or who has assumed responsibility for all or a portion of the care of a vulnerable adult voluntarily, by contract, or by agreement.
- C. "Common entry point" means the entity responsible for receiving reports of alleged or suspected maltreatment of a vulnerable adult and designated by the Commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Human Services as the MN Adult Abuse Reporting Center (MAARC).
- D. "Financial Exploitation" means a breach of a fiduciary duty by an actor's unauthorized expenditure of funds entrusted to the actor for the benefit of the vulnerable adult or by an actor's failure to provide food, clothing, shelter, health care, therapeutic conduct or supervision, the failure of which results or is likely to result in detriment to the vulnerable adult. Financial exploitation also includes: the willful use, withholding or disposal of funds or property of a vulnerable adult; the obtaining of services for wrongful profit or advantage which results in detriment to the vulnerable adult; the acquisition of a vulnerable adult's funds or property through undue influence, harassment, duress, deception or fraud; and the use of force, coercion, or enticement to cause a vulnerable adult to perform services against the vulnerable adult's will for the profit or advantage of another.
- E. "Immediately" means as soon as possible, but no longer than 24 hours from the time initial knowledge that the incident occurred has been received.
- F. "Mandated reporter" means a professional or professional's delegate while engaged in education.
- G. "Maltreatment" means the neglect, abuse, or financial exploitation of a vulnerable adult.
- H. "Neglect" means the failure or omission by a caregiver to supply a vulnerable adult with care or services, including but not limited to, food, clothing, shelter, health care, or supervision which is: (1) reasonable and necessary to obtain or maintain the vulnerable adult's physical or mental health or safety, considering the physical and mental capacity or dysfunction of the vulnerable adult; and (2) which is not the result of an accident or therapeutic conduct.
- I. Neglect also means the absence or likelihood of absence of care or services, including but not limited to, food, clothing, shelter, health care, or supervision necessary to maintain the physical and mental

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

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

IV. REPORTING PROCEDURES

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

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provide all the material circumstances surrounding the reported incident may be guilty of a misdemeanor.

- E. Retaliation against a person who makes a good faith report under Minnesota law and this policy, or against vulnerable adult who is named in a report is prohibited.
- F. Any person who intentionally makes a false report under the provisions of applicable Minnesota law or this policy shall be liable in a civil suit for any actual damages suffered by the person or persons so reported and for any punitive damages set by the court or jury. The intentional making of a false report may result in discipline.

V. INVESTIGATION

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

VI. DISSEMINATION OF POLICY AND TRAINING

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

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

Cross References: NB Policy 103 (Complaints – Students, Employees, Parents, Other Persons)
NB Policy 211 (Criminal or Civil Action Against School District, School Board Member,

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Employee, or Student)

NB Policy 403 (Discipline, Suspension, and Dismissal of School District Employees)

NB Policy 406 (Public and Private Personnel Data)

NB Policy 414 (Mandated Reporting of Child Neglect or Physical or Sexual Abuse)

NB Policy 515 (Protection and Privacy of Pupil Records)

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416 DRUG, ALCOHOL, AND CANNABIS TESTING

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

I. PURPOSE

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

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

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

- D. The use, possession, sale, purchase, transfer, or dispensing of alcohol or cannabis is prohibited on school district property (which includes school district vehicles), while operating school district vehicles or equipment, and at any school-sponsored program or event. Use of alcohol or cannabis is also prohibited throughout the school or work day, including lunch or other breaks, whether or not the employee is on or off school district property. Employees under the influence of alcohol or cannabis are prohibited from entering or remaining on school district property.
- E. Any employee who violates this section shall be subject to discipline that includes, but is not limited to, immediate suspension without pay and immediate discharge.
- F. The school district may discipline, discharge, or take other adverse personnel action against an employee for cannabis flower, cannabis product, lower-potency hemp edible, or hemp-derived consumer product use, possession, impairment, sale, or transfer while an employee is working, on school district premises, or operating a school district vehicle, machinery, or equipment as follows:
 - 1. if, as the result of consuming cannabis flower, a cannabis product, a lower-potency hemp edible, or a hemp-derived consumer product, the employee does not possess that clearness of intellect and control of self that the employee otherwise would have;
 - 2. if cannabis testing verifies the presence of cannabis flower, a cannabis product, a lower-potency hemp edible, or a hemp-derived consumer product following a confirmatory test;
 - 3. as provided in the school district's written work rules for cannabis flower, cannabis products, lower-potency hemp edibles, or hemp-derived consumer products and cannabis testing, provided that the rules are in writing and in a written policy that contains the minimum information required by Minnesota Statutes, section 181.952; or
 - 4. as otherwise authorized or required under state or federal law or regulations, or if a failure to do so would cause the school district to lose a monetary or licensing-related benefit under federal law or regulations.

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

A. General Statement of Policy

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

B. Definitions

- 1. "Actual Knowledge" means actual knowledge by the school district that a driver has used alcohol or controlled substances based on: (a) direct observation of the employee's use (not observation of behavior sufficient to warrant reasonable suspicion testing); (b) information provided by a previous employer; (c) a traffic citation; or (d) an employee's admission, except when made in connection with a qualified employee self-admission program.
- 2. "Alcohol Screening Device" (ASD) means a breath or saliva device, other than an Evidential Breath Testing Device (EBT), that is approved by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and placed on its Conforming Products List for such devices.

3. "Breath Alcohol Technician" (BAT) means an individual who instructs and assists individuals in the alcohol testing process and who operates the EBT.
4. "Commercial Motor Vehicle" (CMV) includes a vehicle that is designed to transport 16 or more passengers, including the driver.
5. "Designated Employer Representative" (DER) means an employee authorized by the school district to take immediate action to remove employees from safety-sensitive duties, or cause employees to be removed from these covered duties, and to make required decisions in the testing and evaluation process. The DER receives test results and other communications for the school district.
6. "Department of Transportation" (DOT) means United States Department of Transportation.
7. "Direct Observation" means observation of alcohol or controlled substances use and does not include observation of employee behavior or physical characteristics sufficient to warrant reasonable suspicion testing.
8. "Driver" is any person who operates a CMV, including full-time, regularly employed drivers, casual, intermittent, or occasional drivers, leased drivers, and independent owner-operator contractors.
9. "Evidential Breath Testing Device" (EBT) means a device approved by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration for the evidentiary testing of breath for alcohol concentration and placed on its Conforming Products List for such devices.
10. "Licensed Medical Practitioner" means a person who is licensed, certified, and/or registered, in accordance with applicable Federal, State, local, or foreign laws and regulations, to prescribe controlled substances and other drugs.
11. "Medical Review Officer" (MRO) means a licensed physician responsible for receiving and reviewing laboratory results generated by the school district's drug testing program and for evaluating medical explanations for certain drug tests.
12. "Refusal to Submit" (to an alcohol or controlled substances test) means that a driver: (a) fails to appear for any test within a reasonable time, as determined by the school district, consistent with applicable DOT regulations, after being directed to do so; (b) fails to remain at the testing site until the testing process is complete; (c) fails to provide a urine specimen or an adequate amount of saliva or breath for any DOT drug or alcohol test; (d) fails to permit the observation or monitoring of the driver's provision of a specimen in the case of a directly observed or monitored collection in a drug test; (e) fails to provide a sufficient breath specimen or sufficient amount of urine when directed and a determination has been made that no adequate medical explanation for the failure exists; (f) fails or declines to take an additional test as directed by the school district or the collector; (g) fails to undergo a medical examination or evaluation, as directed by the MRO or the DER; (h) fails to cooperate with any part of the testing process (e.g., refuses to empty pockets when so directed by the collector, behaves in a confrontational way that disrupts the collection process, fails to wash hands after being directed to do so by the collector, fails to sign the certification on the forms); (i) fails to follow the observer's instructions, in an observed collection, to raise the driver's clothing above the waist, lower clothing and underpants, and to turn around to permit the observer to determine if the driver has any type of prosthetic or other device that could be used to interfere with the collection process; (j) possesses or wears a prosthetic or other device that could be used to interfere with the collection process; (k) admits to the collector or MRO that the driver adulterated or substituted the specimen; or (l) is reported by the MRO as having a verified

adulterated or substituted test result. An applicant who fails to appear for a pre-employment test, who leaves the testing site before the pre-employment testing process commences, or who does not provide a urine specimen because he or she has left before it commences is not deemed to have refused to submit to testing.

13. "Safety-Sensitive Functions" are on-duty functions from the time the driver begins work or is required to be in readiness to work until relieved from work and all responsibility for performing work, and include such functions as driving, loading and unloading vehicles, or supervising or assisting in the loading or unloading of vehicles, servicing, repairing, obtaining assistance to repair, or remaining in attendance during the repair of a disabled vehicle.
14. "Screening Test Technician" (STT) means anyone who instructs and assists individuals in the alcohol testing process and operates an ASD.
15. "Stand Down" means the practice of temporarily removing an employee from performing safety-sensitive functions based only upon a laboratory report to the MRO of a confirmed positive test for a drug or drug metabolite, an adulterated test, or a substituted test before the MRO completes the verification process.
16. "Substance Abuse Professional" (SAP) means a qualified person who evaluates employees who have violated a DOT drug and alcohol regulation and makes recommendations concerning education, treatment, follow-up testing, and aftercare.

C. Policy and Educational Materials

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

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

[NOTE: The federal regulations require a school district to obtain a signed statement from each driver certifying that he or she received a copy of these

materials (49 Code of Federal Regulations, section 382.601(d)). The original signed certificate must be maintained by the school district and a copy may be provided to the driver.]

D. Alcohol and Controlled Substances Testing Program Manager

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

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

E. Specific Prohibitions for Drivers

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

1. Alcohol Concentration

No driver shall report for duty or remain on duty requiring the performance of safety-sensitive functions while having an alcohol concentration of 0.04 or greater. Drivers who test greater than 0.04 will be taken out of service and will be subject to evaluation by a professional and retesting at the driver's expense.

2. Alcohol Possession

No driver shall be on duty or operate a CMV while the driver possesses alcohol.

3. On-Duty Use

No driver shall use alcohol while performing safety-sensitive functions.

4. Pre-Duty Use

No driver shall perform safety-sensitive functions within four (4) hours after using alcohol.

5. Use Following an Accident

No driver required to take a post-accident test shall use alcohol for eight (8) hours following the accident, or until the driver undergoes a post-accident alcohol test, whichever occurs first.

6. Refusal to Submit to a Required Test

No driver shall refuse to submit to an alcohol or controlled substances test required by post-accident, random, reasonable suspicion, return-to-duty, or follow-up testing requirements. A verified adulterated or substituted drug test shall be considered a refusal to test.

7. Use of Controlled Substances

No driver shall report for duty or remain on duty requiring the performance of safety-sensitive functions when the driver uses any controlled substance, except when the use is pursuant to instructions (which have been presented to the school district) from a licensed medical practitioner who is familiar with the driver's medical history and has advised the driver that the substance does not adversely affect the driver's ability to safely operate a CMV. Controlled substance includes medical cannabis, regardless of whether the driver is enrolled in the state registry program.

8. Positive, Adulterated, or Substituted Test for Controlled Substance

No driver shall report for duty, remain on duty, or perform a safety-sensitive function if the driver tests positive for controlled substances, including medical cannabis, or has adulterated or substituted a test specimen for controlled substances.

9. General Prohibition

Drivers are also subject to the general policies and procedures of the school district that prohibit possession, transfer, sale, exchange, reporting to work under the influence of drugs or alcohol, and consumption of drugs or alcohol while at work or while on school district premises or operating any school district vehicle, machinery, or equipment.

F. Other Alcohol-Related Conduct

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

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

G. Prescription Drugs/Cannabinoid Products

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

H. Testing Requirements

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

Regulations.]

1. Pre-Employment Testing

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

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

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

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

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

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

substance in violation of federal law. The applicant must give specific written or electronic consent for the school district to conduct the Clearinghouse full query (see Attachment C to this policy). The school district shall retain the consent for three (3) years from the date of the query.

2. Post-Accident Testing

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

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

3. Random Testing

[NOTE: 49 Code of Federal Regulations, section 382.305 governs random testing of drivers.]

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

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

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

4. Reasonable Suspicion Testing

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

- a. The school district shall require a driver to submit to an alcohol test and/or controlled substances, including medical cannabis, test when a supervisor or school district official, who has been trained in accordance with the regulations, has reasonable suspicion to believe that the driver has used alcohol and/or controlled substances, including medical cannabis, on duty, within four (4) hours before coming on duty, or just after the period of the work day. The test shall be done as soon as practicable following the observation of the behavior indicative of the use of controlled substances or alcohol.
- b. The reasonable suspicion determination must be based on specific, contemporaneous, articulable observations concerning the driver's appearance, behavior, speech, or body odors. The required observations for reasonable suspicion of a controlled substances violation may include indications of the chronic and withdrawal effects of controlled substances.
- c. Alcohol testing shall be administered within two (2) hours following a determination of reasonable suspicion. If it is not done within two (2) hours, the school district shall prepare and maintain a record explaining why it was not promptly administered and continue to attempt to administer the alcohol test within eight (8) hours. If an alcohol test is not administered within eight (8) hours following the determination of reasonable suspicion, the school district shall cease attempts to administer the test and state in the record the reasons for not administering the test.
- d. The supervisor or school district official who makes observations leading to a controlled substances reasonable suspicion test shall make and sign a written record of the observations within twenty-four (24) hours of the observed behavior or before the results of the drug test are released, whichever is earlier.

[NOTE: 49 Code of Federal Regulations, sections 382.309, 40.23(d), and

40.305 govern return-to-duty testing.]

5. Return-To-Duty Testing

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

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

6. Follow-Up Testing

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

7. Refusal to Submit and Attendant Consequences

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

- a. A driver or driver applicant may refuse to submit to drug and alcohol testing.
- b. Refusal to submit to a required drug or alcohol test subjects the driver or driver applicant to the consequences specified in federal regulations as well as the civil and/or criminal penalty provisions of 49 United States Code, section 521(b). In addition, a refusal to submit to testing establishes a presumption that the driver or driver applicant would test positive if a test were conducted and makes the driver or driver applicant subject to discipline or disqualification under this policy.
- c. A driver applicant who refuses to submit to testing shall be disqualified from further consideration for the conditionally offered position.
- d. An employee who refuses to submit to testing shall not be permitted to perform safety-sensitive functions and will be considered insubordinate and subject to disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal. If an employee is offered an opportunity to return to a DOT safety-sensitive duty, the employee will be evaluated by an SAP and must submit to a return-to-duty test prior to being considered for reassignment to safety-sensitive functions.
- e. Drivers or driver applicants who refuse to submit to required testing will be required to sign Attachment D to this policy.

I. Testing Procedures

1. Drug Testing

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

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

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

2. Alcohol Testing

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

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

J. Driver/Driver Applicant Rights

- 1. All drivers and driver applicants subject to the controlled substances testing provisions of this policy who receive a confirmed positive test result for the use of controlled substances have the right to request, at the driver's or driver applicant's expense, a confirming retest of the split urine sample. If the confirming retest is negative, no adverse action will be taken against the driver, and a driver applicant will be considered for employment.

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

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

K. Testing Laboratory

The testing laboratory for controlled substances will be [***name, address, telephone number***], which is a laboratory certified by the Department of Health and Human Services – SAMHSA to perform controlled substances testing pursuant to federal regulations.

L. Confidentiality of Test Results

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

M. Recordkeeping Requirements and Retention of Records

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

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

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

Basic records	5 years
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"Basic records" includes records of: (a) alcohol test results with concentration of 0.02 or greater; (b) verified positive drug test results; (c) refusals to submit to required tests (including substituted or adulterated drug test results); (d) SAP reports; (e) all follow-up tests and schedules for follow-up tests; (f) calibration documentation; (g) administration of the testing programs; and (h) each annual calendar year summary.

Information obtained from previous employers	3 years
Alcohol and controlled substance collection procedures	2

years	
Negative and cancelled controlled substance tests	1 year
Alcohol tests with less than 0.02 concentration	1 year
Education and training records	indefinite

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

3. Personal Information

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

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

N. Training

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

O. Consequences of Prohibited Conduct and Enforcement

1. Removal

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

2. Referral, Evaluation, and Treatment

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

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

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

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

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

- c. Drivers are responsible for payment for SAP evaluations and services unless a collective bargaining agreement or employee benefit plan provides otherwise.
- d. Drivers who engage in prohibited conduct also are required to comply with follow-up testing requirements.

3. Disciplinary Action

- a. Any driver who refuses to submit to post-accident, random, reasonable suspicion, or follow-up testing not only shall not perform or continue to perform safety-sensitive functions, but also may be subject to disciplinary action, which may include immediate suspension without pay and/or immediate discharge.
- b. Drivers who test positive with verification of a confirmatory test or are otherwise found to be in violation of this policy or the federal regulations shall be subject to disciplinary action, which may include immediate suspension without pay and/or immediate discharge.
- c. Nothing in this policy limits or restricts the right of the school district to discipline or discharge a driver for conduct which not only constitutes prohibited conduct under this policy but also violates the school district's other rules or policies.

P. Other Testing

The school district may request or require that drivers submit to cannabis testing or

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

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

Q. Report to Clearinghouse

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

R. Annual Clearinghouse Query

1. The school district must conduct a query of the Clearinghouse record at least once per year for information for all employees subject to controlled substance and alcohol testing related to CMV operation to determine whether information exists in the Clearinghouse about those employees. In lieu of a full query, the school district may obtain the individual driver's consent to conduct a limited query to satisfy the annual query requirement. The limited query will tell the employer whether there is information about the driver in the Clearinghouse but will not release that information to the employer. If the limited query shows that information exists in the Clearinghouse about the driver, the school district must conduct a full query within twenty-four (24) hours or must not allow the driver to continue to perform any safety-sensitive function until the employee conducts the full query and the results confirm the driver's Clearinghouse record contains no prohibitions showing the driver has a verified positive, adulterated or substitute controlled substance test, no alcohol confirmation test with a concentration of 0.04 or higher, refuses to submit to a test, or was reported to have used alcohol on duty, before duty, following an accident or otherwise used a controlled substance in violation of the regulations except where the driver completed the SAP evaluation, referral and education/treatment process as required by the regulations. The school district shall comply with the query requirements set forth in 49 Code of Federal Regulations, section 382.701.
2. The school district may not access an individual's Clearinghouse record unless the school district (1) obtains the individual's prior written or electronic consent for access to the record; and (2) submits proof of the individual's consent to the Clearinghouse. The school district must retain the consent for three (3) years from the date of the last query. The school district shall retain for three (3) years a record of each request for records from the Clearinghouse and the information received pursuant to the request.
3. The school district shall protect the individual's privacy and confidentiality of each Clearinghouse record it receives. The school district shall ensure that information contained in a Clearinghouse record is not divulged to a person or entity not directly involved in assessing and evaluating whether a prohibition applies with respect to the individual to operate a CMV for the school district.

4. The school district may use an individual's Clearinghouse record only to assess and evaluate whether a prohibition applies with respect to the individual to operate a CMV for the school district.

IV. CANNABIS TESTING OR DRUG AND ALCOHOL TESTING FOR OTHER EMPLOYEES

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

A. Definitions

1. "Cannabis testing" means the analysis of a body component sample according to the standards established under one of the programs listed in Minnesota Statutes, section 181.953, subdivision 1, for the purpose of measuring the presence or absence of cannabis flower, as defined in Minnesota Statutes, section 342.01, subdivision 16, cannabis products, as defined in section 342.01, subdivision 20, lower-potency hemp edibles as defined in section 342.01, subdivision 50, hemp-derived consumer products as defined in section 342.01, subdivision 37, or cannabis metabolites in the sample tested. The definitions in this section apply to cannabis testing unless stated otherwise.
2. "Confirmatory test" and "confirmatory retest" mean a drug or alcohol test that uses a method of analysis allowed under one of the programs listed in Minnesota Statutes, section 181.953, subdivision 1.
3. "Drug" means a controlled substance as defined in Minnesota Statutes, section 152.01, subdivision 4, but does not include marijuana, tetrahydrocannabinols, cannabis flower as defined in section 342.01, subdivision 16, cannabis products as defined in section 342.01, subdivision 20, lower-potency hemp edibles as defined in section 342.01, subdivision 50, and hemp-derived consumer products as defined in section 342.01, subdivision 37.
4. "Drug and Alcohol Testing," "Drug or Alcohol Testing," and "Drug or Alcohol Test" mean analysis of a body component sample by a testing laboratory that meets one of the criteria listed in Minnesota Statutes, section 181.953, subdivision 1, for the purpose of measuring the presence or absence of drugs, alcohol, or their metabolites in the sample tested. "Drug and alcohol testing," "drug or alcohol testing," and "drug or alcohol test" do not include cannabis or cannabis testing, unless stated otherwise.
5. "Employee" means a person, independent contractor, or person working for an independent contractor who performs services for compensation, in whatever form, for an employer.
6. "Initial screening test" means a drug or alcohol test or cannabis test which uses a method of analysis under one of the programs listed in Minnesota Statutes, section 181.953, subdivision 1.
7. "Job Applicant" means a person, independent contractor, or person working for an independent contractor who applies to become an employee of the school district in a position that does not require a commercial driver's license, and includes a person who has received a job offer made contingent on the person's passing drug or alcohol testing. Job applicants for positions requiring a commercial driver's license are governed by the provisions of the school

district's drug and alcohol testing policy relating to school bus drivers (Section III).

8. "Oral fluid test" means analysis of a saliva sample for the purpose of measuring the presence of the same substances as drug and alcohol testing and cannabis testing that:
 - a. can detect drugs, alcohol, cannabis, or their metabolites in levels at or above the threshold detection levels contained in the standards of one of the programs listed in Minnesota Statutes, section 181.953, subdivision 1; and
 - b. does not require the services of a testing laboratory under section 181.953, subdivision 1.

[NOTE: The 2024 Minnesota legislature added oral fluid tests.]

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

B. Circumstances Under Which Cannabis Testing or Drug or Alcohol Testing May Be Requested or Required; Exceptions

1. General Limitations

- a. The school district may not request or require an employee or job applicant whose position does not require a commercial driver's license to undergo drug or alcohol testing or cannabis testing, unless the testing is done pursuant to this policy; and either (1) is conducted by a testing laboratory that meets one of the criteria listed in Minnesota Statutes, section 181.953, subdivision 1; or (2) complies with the oral fluid test

procedures under section 181.953, subdivision 5a.

[NOTE: The 2024 Minnesota legislature amended this provision.]

- b. The school district will not request or require an employee or job applicant whose position does not require a commercial driver's license to undergo drug and alcohol testing or cannabis testing on an arbitrary and capricious basis.

2. Cannabis Testing Exceptions

For the following positions, cannabis and its metabolites are considered a drug and subject to the drug and alcohol testing provisions in Minnesota Statutes, sections 181.950 to 181.957:

- a. a safety-sensitive position, as defined in Minnesota Statutes, section 181.950, subdivision 13;
- b. a position requiring face-to-face care, training, education, supervision, counseling, consultation, or medical assistance to children;
- c. a position requiring a commercial driver's license or requiring an employee to operate a motor vehicle for which state or federal law requires drug or alcohol testing of a job applicant or an employee;
- d. a position of employment funded by a federal grant; or
- e. any other position for which state or federal law requires testing of a job applicant or an employee for cannabis.

3. Job Applicant Testing

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

- a. The school district must not request or require a job applicant to undergo cannabis testing solely for the purpose of determining the presence or absence of cannabis as a condition of employment unless otherwise required by state or federal law.
- b. Unless otherwise required by state or federal law, the school district must not refuse to hire a job applicant solely because the job applicant submits to a cannabis test or a drug and alcohol test authorized by Minnesota law and the results of the test indicate the presence of cannabis.
- c. The school district must not request or require an employee or job applicant to undergo cannabis testing on an arbitrary or capricious basis.
- d. Cannabis testing authorized under paragraph (d) must comply with the safeguards for testing employees provided in Minnesota Statutes, sections 181.953 and 181.954.

4. Oral fluid testing

- a. When drug and alcohol testing or cannabis testing is otherwise authorized under Minnesota Statutes, section 181.951, the school district may request an employee or job applicant to undergo oral fluid testing according to the procedures under Minnesota Statutes, section 181.953, subdivision 5a as an alternative to using the services of a testing laboratory under Minnesota Statutes, section 181.953, subdivision 1.
- b. The employee must be informed of the test result at the time of the oral fluid test. Within 48 hours of an oral fluid test that indicates a positive test result or that is inconclusive or invalid, the employee or job applicant may request drug or alcohol testing or cannabis testing at no cost to the employee or job applicant using the services of a testing laboratory under Minnesota Statutes, section 181.953, subdivision 1, and according to the existing laboratory testing standards in subdivisions 1 to 5. The rights, notice, and limitations in Minnesota Statutes, section 181.953, subdivision 6, paragraph (b), and subdivisions 7 to 8 and 10 to 11 apply to an employee or job applicant and a laboratory test conducted pursuant to this paragraph.
- c. If the laboratory test under paragraph (b) above indicates a positive result, any subsequent confirmatory retest, if requested by the employee or job applicant, must be conducted following the retest procedures provided in Minnesota Statutes, section 181.953, subdivision 6, paragraph (c), and subdivision 9 at the employee's or job applicant's own expense.
- d. Nothing in this subdivision is intended to modify the existing requirements for drug and alcohol testing or cannabis testing in the workplace under Minnesota Statutes, sections 181.950 to 181.957, unless stated otherwise.

[NOTE: The 2024 Minnesota legislature enacted this provision.]

5. Random Testing

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

6. Reasonable Suspicion Testing

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

- a. is under the influence of cannabis, drugs, or alcohol;
- b. has violated the school district's written work rules prohibiting the use, possession, sale, or transfer of drugs or alcohol, cannabis flower, cannabis products, lower-potency hemp edibles, or hemp-derived consumer products while the employee is working or while the employee is on the school district's premises or operating the school district's vehicles, machinery, or equipment;
- c. has sustained a personal injury, as that term is defined in Minnesota Statutes, section 176.011, subdivision 16, or has caused another

employee to sustain a personal injury; or

- d. has caused a work-related accident or was operating or helping to operate machinery, equipment, or vehicles involved in a work-related accident.

7. Treatment Program Testing

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

8. Routine Physical Examination Testing

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

C. No Legal Duty to Test

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

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

1. Right of Other Employee or Job Applicant to Refuse Drug and Alcohol Testing

Any employee or job applicant whose position does not require a commercial driver's license has the right to refuse drug and alcohol testing subject to the provisions contained in Paragraphs 2. and 3. of Section IV.D.

2. Consequences of an Employee's Refusal to Undergo Drug and Alcohol Testing

Any employee in a position that does not require a commercial driver's license who refuses to undergo drug and alcohol testing in the circumstances set out in the Random Testing, Reasonable Suspicion Testing, and Treatment Program Testing provisions of this policy may be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including immediate discharge.

3. Consequences of a Job Applicant's Refusal to Undergo Drug and Alcohol Testing

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

E. Reliability and Fairness Safeguards

1. Pretest Notice

Before requesting an employee or job applicant whose position does not require

a commercial driver's license to undergo drug or alcohol testing or requesting cannabis testing, the school district shall provide the employee or job applicant with a Pretest Notice in the form of Attachment D to this policy on which to acknowledge that the employee or job applicant has received the school district's drug and alcohol testing or cannabis testing policy.

2. Notice of Test Results

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

3. Notice of and Right to Test Result Report

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

4. Notice of and Right to Explain Positive Test Result

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

5. Notice of and Right to Request Confirmatory Retests

- a. If an employee or job applicant has a positive test result on a confirmatory test, the school district shall provide the individual with notice of the test results and, at the same time, written notice of the right to request a confirmatory retest of the original sample at his or her expense.
- b. An employee or job applicant may request a confirmatory retest of the

original sample at his or her own expense after notice of a positive test result on a confirmatory test. Within five (5) working days after notice of the confirmatory test result, the employee or job applicant shall notify the school district in writing of his or her intention to obtain a confirmatory retest. Within three (3) working days after receipt of the notice, the school district shall notify the original testing laboratory that the employee or job applicant has requested the laboratory to conduct the confirmatory retest or to transfer the sample to another laboratory licensed under Minnesota Statutes, section 181.953, subdivision 1 to conduct the confirmatory retest. The original testing laboratory shall ensure that appropriate chain-of-custody procedures are followed during transfer of the sample to the other laboratory. The confirmatory retest must use the same drug, alcohol, or cannabis threshold detection levels as used in the original confirmatory test. If the confirmatory retest does not confirm the original positive test result, no adverse personnel action based on the original confirmatory test may be taken against the employee or job applicant.

6. If an employee or job applicant has a positive test result on a confirmatory test, the school district, at the time of providing notice of the test results, shall also provide written notice to inform the individual of other rights provided under Sections F. or G., below, whichever is applicable.

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

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

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

confirmatory retest, provided the school district believes that it is reasonably necessary to protect the health or safety of the employee, co-employees or the public. An employee who has been suspended without pay must be reinstated with back pay if the outcome of the confirmatory test or requested confirmatory retest is negative.

5. The school district may not discharge, discipline, discriminate against, request, or require rehabilitation of an employee on the basis of medical history information or the employee's status as a patient enrolled in the medical cannabis registry program revealed to the school district, unless the employee was under an affirmative duty to provide the information before, upon, or after hire, or failing to do so would violate federal law or regulations or cause the school district to lose money or licensing-related benefit under federal law or regulations.
6. The school district may not discriminate against any employee in termination, discharge, or any term of condition of employment or otherwise penalize an employee based upon an employee registered patient's positive drug test for cannabis components or metabolites, unless the employee used, possessed, or was impaired by medical cannabis on school district property during the hours of employment.
7. An employee must be given access to information in the individual's personnel file relating to positive test result reports and other information acquired in the drug and alcohol testing process or cannabis testing process and conclusions drawn from and actions taken based on the reports or other acquired information.

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

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

H. Chain-of-Custody Procedures

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

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

I. Privacy, Confidentiality and Privilege Safeguards

1. Privacy Limitations

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

2. Confidentiality Limitations

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

3. Exceptions to Privacy and Confidentiality Disclosure Limitations

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

4. Privilege

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

J. Notice of Testing Policy to Affected Employees

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

V. POSTING

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

Legal References:

Minn. Stat. Ch. 13 (Minnesota Government Data Practices Act)
Minn. Stat. Ch. 43A (State Personnel Management)
Minn. Stat. § 151.72 (Sale of Certain Cannabinoid Products)
Minn. Stat. § 152.01 (Definitions)
Minn. Stat. § 152.22 (Definitions; Medical Cannabis)
Minn. Stat. § 152.23 (Limitations; Medical Cannabis)
Minn. Stat. § 152.32 (Protections for Registry Program Participation)
Minn. Stat. § 176.011, subd. 16 (Definitions; Personal Injury)
Minn. Stat. §§ 181.950-181.957 (Drug and Alcohol Testing in the Workplace)
Minn. Stat. § 221.031 (Motor Carrier Rules)
49 U.S.C. § 31306 (Omnibus Transportation Employee Testing Act of 1991)
49 U.S.C. 31306a (National Clearinghouse for Controlled Substance and Alcohol

Test Results of Commercial Motor Vehicle Operators)
49 U.S.C. § 521(b) (Civil and Criminal Penalties for Violations)
49 C.F.R. Parts 40 (Department of Transportation Rules Implementing Omnibus
Transportation Employee Testing Act of 1991)
49 C.F.R. Part 382 (Controlled Substances and Alcohol Use and Testing)

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

EMPLOYEES/PERSONNEL

Drug, Alcohol, and Cannabis Testing

416

I. PURPOSE

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

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

- A. All school district employees and job applicants whose positions require a commercial driver's license will be required to undergo drug and alcohol testing and cannabis testing in accordance with federal law and the applicable provisions of this policy. The school district also may request or require that drivers submit to drug and alcohol testing and cannabis testing in accordance with the provisions of this policy and as provided in Minnesota Statutes, sections 181.950-181.957.
- B. The school district may request or require that any school district employee or job applicant, other than an employee or applicant whose position requires a commercial driver's license, submit to drug and alcohol testing and cannabis testing in accordance with the provisions of this policy and as provided in Minnesota Statutes, sections 181.950-181.957.
- C. The use, possession, sale, purchase, transfer, or dispensing of any drugs not medically prescribed, including medical cannabis, whether or not it has been prescribed for the employee, is prohibited on school district property (which includes school district vehicles), while operating school district vehicles or equipment, and at any school-sponsored program or event. Use of drugs that are not medically prescribed, including medical cannabis, whether or not it has been prescribed for the employee, is also prohibited throughout the school or work day, including lunch or other breaks, whether or not the employee is on or off school district property. Employees under the influence of drugs that are not medically prescribed are prohibited from entering or remaining on school district property.
- D. The use, possession, sale, purchase, transfer, or dispensing of alcohol or cannabis is prohibited on school district property (which includes school district vehicles), while operating school district vehicles or equipment, and at any school-sponsored program or event. Use of alcohol or cannabis is also prohibited throughout the school or work day, including lunch or other breaks, whether or not the employee is on or off school district property. Employees under the influence of alcohol or cannabis are prohibited from entering or remaining on school district property.
- E. Any employee who violates this section shall be subject to discipline that includes, but is not limited to, immediate suspension without pay and immediate discharge.
- F. The school district may discipline, discharge, or take other adverse personnel action against an employee for cannabis flower, cannabis product, lower-potency hemp edible, or hemp-derived consumer product use, possession, impairment, sale, or transfer while an employee is working, on school district premises, or operating a school district vehicle, machinery, or equipment as follows:
 - 1. if, as the result of consuming cannabis flower, a cannabis product, a lower-potency hemp edible, or a hemp-derived consumer product, the employee does not possess that clearness of intellect and control of self that the employee otherwise would have;
 - 2. if cannabis testing verifies the presence of cannabis flower, a cannabis product, a lower-potency hemp edible, or a hemp-derived consumer product following a confirmatory test;

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3. as provided in the school district's written work rules for cannabis flower, cannabis products, lower-potency hemp edibles, or hemp-derived consumer products and cannabis testing, provided that the rules are in writing and in a written policy that contains the minimum information required by section 181.952; or
4. as otherwise authorized or required under state or federal law or regulations, or if a failure to do so would cause the school district to lose a monetary or licensing-related benefit under federal law or regulations.

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

A. General Statement of Policy

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

B. Definitions

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

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and other drugs.

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

C. Policy and Educational Materials

1. The school district shall provide a copy of this policy and procedures to each driver prior to the start of its alcohol and drug testing program and to each driver subsequently hired or transferred into a position requiring driving of a CMV.
2. The school district shall provide to each driver information required under Title 49 of the Code of Federal Regulations, including information concerning the effects of alcohol and controlled substances use on an individual's health, work, and personal life; signs and symptoms of an alcohol or controlled substance

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problem (the driver's or a coworker's); and available methods of intervening when an alcohol or controlled substance problem is suspected, including confrontation, referral to an employee assistance program, and/or referral to management.

3. The school district shall provide written notice to representatives of employee organizations that the information described above is available.
4. The school district shall require each driver to sign a statement certifying that the driver received a copy of the policy and materials. This statement should be in the form of Attachment A to this policy. The school district will maintain the original signed certificate and will provide a copy to the driver if the driver so requests.

D. Alcohol and Controlled Substances Testing Program Manager

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

E. Specific Prohibitions for Drivers

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

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9. General Prohibition. Drivers are also subject to the general policies and procedures of the school district that prohibit possession, transfer, sale, exchange, reporting to work under the influence of drugs or alcohol, and consumption of drugs or alcohol while at work or while on school district premises or operating any school district vehicle, machinery, or equipment.

F. Other Alcohol-Related Conduct

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

G. Prescription Drugs/Cannabinoid Products

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

H. Testing Requirements

1. Pre-Employment Testing

- a. A driver applicant shall undergo testing for [alcohol and] controlled substances, including medical cannabis, before the first time the driver performs safety-sensitive functions for the school district.
- b. Tests shall be conducted only after the applicant has received a conditional offer of employment.
- c. To be hired, the applicant must test negative and must sign an agreement in the form of Attachment B to this policy, authorizing former employers to release to the school district all information on the applicant's alcohol tests with results of blood alcohol concentration of 0.04 or higher, or verified positive results for controlled substances, including medical cannabis, or refusals to be tested (including verified adulterated or substituted drug test results), or any other violations of DOT agency drug and alcohol testing regulations, or, if the applicant violated the testing regulations, documentation of the applicant's successful completion of DOT return-to-duty requirements (including follow-up tests), within the preceding two (2) years.
- d. The applicant also must be asked whether he or she has tested positive, or refused to test, on any pre-employment drug or alcohol test administered by an employer to which the employee, during the last two (2) years, applied for, but did not obtain, safety-sensitive transportation work covered by DOT testing rules.
- e. Before employing a driver subject to controlled substances and alcohol testing, the school district must conduct a full pre-employment query of the federal Commercial Driver's License (CDL) Drug and Alcohol Clearinghouse ("Clearinghouse") to obtain information about whether the driver (1) has a verified positive, adulterated, or substituted controlled substances test result; (2) has an alcohol confirmation test with a concentration of 0.04 or higher; (3) has refused to submit to a test in violation of federal law; or (4) that an employer has reported actual knowledge that

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the driver used alcohol on duty, before duty, or following an accident in violation of federal law or used a controlled substance in violation of federal law. The applicant must give specific written or electronic consent for the school district to conduct the Clearinghouse full query (see Attachment C to this policy). The school district shall retain the consent for three (3) years from the date of the query.

2. Post-Accident Testing

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

3. Random Testing

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

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however, that if the driver is performing a safety-sensitive function, other than driving, at the time of notification, the driver shall cease to perform the function and proceed to the collection site as soon as possible.

4. Reasonable Suspicion Testing
 - a. The school district shall require a driver to submit to an alcohol test and/or controlled substances, including medical cannabis, test when a supervisor or school district official, who has been trained in accordance with the regulations, has reasonable suspicion to believe that the driver has used alcohol and/or controlled substances, including medical cannabis, on duty, within four (4) hours before coming on duty, or just after the period of the work day. The test shall be done as soon as practicable following the observation of the behavior indicative of the use of controlled substances or alcohol.
 - b. The reasonable suspicion determination must be based on specific, contemporaneous, articulable observations concerning the driver's appearance, behavior, speech, or body odors. The required observations for reasonable suspicion of a controlled substances violation may include indications of the chronic and withdrawal effects of controlled substances.
 - c. Alcohol testing shall be administered within two (2) hours following a determination of reasonable suspicion. If it is not done within two (2) hours, the school district shall prepare and maintain a record explaining why it was not promptly administered and continue to attempt to administer the alcohol test within eight (8) hours. If an alcohol test is not administered within eight (8) hours following the determination of reasonable suspicion, the school district shall cease attempts to administer the test and state in the record the reasons for not administering the test.
 - d. The supervisor or school district official who makes observations leading to a controlled substances reasonable suspicion test shall make and sign a written record of the observations within twenty-four (24) hours of the observed behavior or before the results of the drug test are released, whichever is earlier.
5. Return-To-Duty Testing. A driver found to have violated this policy shall not return to work until an SAP has determined the employee has successfully complied with prescribed education and/or treatment and until undergoing return-to-duty tests indicating an alcohol concentration of less than 0.02 and a confirmed negative result for the use of controlled substances. The school district is not required to return a driver to safety-sensitive duties because the driver has met these conditions; this is a personnel decision subject to collective bargaining agreements or other legal requirements.
6. Follow-Up Testing. When an SAP has determined that a driver is in need of assistance in resolving problems with alcohol and/or controlled substances, the driver shall be subject to unannounced follow-up testing as directed by the SAP for up to sixty (60) months after completing a treatment program.
7. Refusal to Submit and Attendant Consequences
 - a. A driver or driver applicant may refuse to submit to drug and alcohol testing.
 - b. Refusal to submit to a required drug or alcohol test subjects the driver or driver applicant to the consequences specified in federal regulations as well as the civil and/or criminal penalty provisions of 49 United States Code, section 521(b). In addition, a refusal to submit to testing establishes a presumption that the driver or driver applicant would test positive if a test were conducted and makes the driver or driver applicant subject to discipline or disqualification under this policy.

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- c. A driver applicant who refuses to submit to testing shall be disqualified from further consideration for the conditionally offered position.
 - d. An employee who refuses to submit to testing shall not be permitted to perform safety-sensitive functions and will be considered insubordinate and subject to disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal. If an employee is offered an opportunity to return to a DOT safety-sensitive duty, the employee will be evaluated by an SAP and must submit to a return-to-duty test prior to being considered for reassignment to safety-sensitive functions.
 - e. Drivers or driver applicants who refuse to submit to required testing will be required to sign Attachment D to this policy.
- I. Testing Procedures
- 1. Drug Testing
 - a. Drug testing is conducted by analyzing a donor's urine specimen. Split urine samples will be collected in accordance with federal regulations. The donor will provide a urine sample at a designated collection site. The collection site personnel will then pour the sample into two sample bottles, labeled "primary" and "split," seal the specimen bottles, complete the chain of custody form, and prepare the specimen bottles for shipment to the testing laboratory for analysis. The specimen preparation shall be conducted in sight of the donor.
 - b. If the donor is unable to provide the appropriate quantity of urine, the collection site person shall instruct the individual to drink up to forty (40) ounces of fluid distributed reasonably through a period of up to three (3) hours to attempt to provide a sample. If the individual is still unable to provide a complete sample, the test shall be discontinued and the school district notified. The DER shall refer the donor for a medical evaluation to determine if the donor's inability to provide a specimen is genuine or constitutes a refusal to test. For pre-employment testing, the school district may elect to not have a referral made, and revoke the employment offer.
 - c. Drug test results are reported directly to the MRO by the testing laboratory. The MRO reports the results to the DER. If the results are negative, the school district is informed and no further action is necessary. If the test result is confirmed positive, adulterated, substituted, or invalid, the MRO shall give the donor an opportunity to discuss the test result. The MRO will contact the donor directly, on a confidential basis, to determine whether the donor wishes to discuss the test result. The MRO shall notify each donor that the donor has seventy-two (72) hours from the time of notification in which to request a test of the split specimen at the donor's expense. No split specimen testing is done for an invalid result.
 - d. If the donor requests an analysis of the split specimen within seventy-two (72) hours of having been informed of a confirmed positive test, the MRO shall direct, in writing, the laboratory to provide the split specimen to another Department of Health and Human Services – SAMHSA certified laboratory for analysis. If the donor has not contacted the MRO within seventy-two (72) hours, the donor may present the MRO information documenting that serious illness, injury, inability to contact the MRO, lack of actual notice of the confirmed positive test, or other circumstances unavoidably prevented the donor from timely making contact. If the MRO concludes that a legitimate explanation for the donor's failure to contact him/her within seventy-two (72) hours exists, the MRO shall direct the analysis of the split specimen. The MRO will review the confirmed positive test result to determine whether an acceptable medical reason for the positive result exists. The MRO shall confirm and report a positive test result to the DER and the employee when no legitimate medical reason for a positive test result as received from the testing laboratory exists.

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

2. Alcohol Testing

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

J. Driver/Driver Applicant Rights

- 1. All drivers and driver applicants subject to the controlled substances testing provisions of this policy who receive a confirmed positive test result for the use of controlled substances have the right to request, at the driver’s or driver applicant’s expense, a confirming retest of the split urine sample. If the confirming retest is negative, no adverse action will be taken against the driver, and a driver applicant will be considered for employment.
- 2. The school district will not discharge a driver who, for the first time, receives a confirmed positive drug or alcohol test UNLESS:
 - a. The school district has first given the employee an opportunity to participate in, at the employee’s own expense or pursuant to coverage under an employee benefit plan, either a drug or alcohol counseling or rehabilitation program, whichever is more appropriate, as determined by the school district after consultation with the SAP; and
 - b. The employee refuses to participate in the recommended program, or fails to successfully

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

- c. This limitation on employee discharge does not bar discharge of an employee for reasons independent of the first confirmed positive test result.

K. Testing Laboratory

The testing laboratory for controlled substances will be Occupational Medicine Consultants, 6515 Barrie Road, Suite 150, Edina, MN 55435, 952-920-5663, which is a laboratory certified by the Department of Health and Human Services – SAMHSA to perform controlled substances testing pursuant to federal regulations.

L. Confidentiality of Test Results

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

M. Recordkeeping Requirements and Retention of Records

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

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

Basic records	5 years
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"Basic records" includes records of: (a) alcohol test results with concentration of 0.02 or greater; (b) verified positive drug test results; (c) refusals to submit to required tests (including substituted or adulterated drug test results); (d) SAP reports; (e) all follow-up tests and schedules for follow-up tests; (f) calibration documentation; (g) administration of the testing programs; and (h) each annual calendar year summary.

Information obtained from previous employers	3 years
Alcohol and controlled substance collection procedures	2 years
Negative and cancelled controlled substance tests	1 year
Alcohol tests with less than 0.02 concentration	1 year
Education and training records	indefinite

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

- 3. Personal Information

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

- a. The name of the person tested;
- b. Any verified positive, adulterated, or substituted drug test result;
- c. Any alcohol confirmation test with a BAC concentration of 0.04 or higher;

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- d. Any refusal to submit to any test required hereunder;
- e. Any report by a supervisor of actual knowledge of use as follows
 - i. Any on-duty alcohol use;
 - ii. Any pre-duty alcohol use;
 - iii. Any alcohol use following an accident; and
 - iv. Any controlled substance use.
- f. Any report from a substance abuse professional certifying successful completion of the return-to-work process;
- g. Any negative return-to-duty test; and
- h. Any employer's report of completion of follow-up testing.

N. Training

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

O. Consequences of Prohibited Conduct and Enforcement

1. Removal. The school district shall remove a driver who has engaged in prohibited conduct from safety-sensitive functions. A driver shall not be permitted to return to safety-sensitive functions until and unless the return-to-duty requirements of federal DOT regulations have been completed.
2. Referral, Evaluation, and Treatment
 - a. A driver or driver applicant who has engaged in prohibited conduct shall be provided a listing of SAPs readily available to the driver or applicant and acceptable to the school district.
 - b. If the school district offers a driver an opportunity to return to a DOT safety-sensitive duty following a violation, the driver must be evaluated by an SAP and the driver is required to successfully comply with the SAP's evaluation recommendations (education, treatment, follow-up evaluation(s), and/or ongoing services). The school district is not required to provide an SAP evaluation or any subsequent recommended education or treatment.
 - c. Drivers are responsible for payment for SAP evaluations and services unless a collective bargaining agreement or employee benefit plan provides otherwise.
 - d. Drivers who engage in prohibited conduct also are required to comply with follow-up testing requirements.
3. Disciplinary Action
 - a. Any driver who refuses to submit to post-accident, random, reasonable suspicion, or follow-up testing not only shall not perform or continue to perform safety-sensitive functions, but also may be subject to disciplinary action, which may include immediate suspension without pay and/or immediate discharge.

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- b. Drivers who test positive with verification of a confirmatory test or are otherwise found to be in violation of this policy or the federal regulations shall be subject to disciplinary action, which may include immediate suspension without pay and/or immediate discharge.
- c. Nothing in this policy limits or restricts the right of the school district to discipline or discharge a driver for conduct which not only constitutes prohibited conduct under this policy but also violates the school district's other rules or policies.

P. Other Testing

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

Q. Report to Clearinghouse

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

R. Annual Clearinghouse Query

1. The school district must conduct a query of the Clearinghouse record at least once per year for information for all employees subject to controlled substance and alcohol testing related to CMV operation to determine whether information exists in the Clearinghouse about those employees. In lieu of a full query, the school district may obtain the individual driver's consent to conduct a limited query to satisfy the annual query requirement. The limited query will tell the employer whether there is information about the driver in the Clearinghouse but will not release that information to the employer. If the limited query shows that information exists in the Clearinghouse about the driver, the school district must conduct a full query within twenty-four (24) hours or must not allow the driver to continue to perform any safety-sensitive function until the employee conducts the full query and the results confirm the driver's Clearinghouse record contains no prohibitions showing the driver has a verified positive, adulterated or substitute controlled substance test, no alcohol confirmation test with a concentration of 0.04 or higher, refuses to submit to a test, or was reported to have used alcohol on duty, before duty, following an accident or otherwise used a controlled substance in violation of the regulations except where the driver completed the SAP evaluation, referral and education/treatment process as required by the regulations. The school district shall comply with the query requirements set forth in 49 Code of Federal Regulations 382.701.
2. The school district may not access an individual's Clearinghouse record unless the school district (1) obtains the individual's prior written or electronic consent for access to the record; and (2) submits proof of the individual's consent to the Clearinghouse. The school district must retain the consent for three (3) years from the date of the last query. The school district shall retain for three (3) years a record of each request for records from the Clearinghouse and the information received pursuant to the request.
3. The school district shall protect the individual's privacy and confidentiality of each Clearinghouse record it receives. The school district shall ensure that information contained in a Clearinghouse record is not divulged to a person or entity not directly involved in assessing and evaluating whether a prohibition applies with respect to the individual to operate a CMV for the school district.
4. The school district may use an individual's Clearinghouse record only to assess and evaluate whether a prohibition applies with respect to the individual to operate a CMV for the school district.

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IV. CANNABIS TESTING OR DRUG AND ALCOHOL TESTING FOR OTHER EMPLOYEES

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

A. Definitions

1. "Cannabis testing" means the analysis of a body component sample according to the standards established under one of the programs listed in Minnesota Statutes, section 181.953, subdivision 1, for the purpose of measuring the presence or absence of cannabis flower, as defined in Minnesota Statutes, section 342.01, subdivision 16, cannabis products, as defined in section 342.01, subdivision 20, lower-potency hemp edibles as defined in section 342.01, subdivision 50, hemp-derived consumer products as defined in section 342.01, subdivision 37, or cannabis metabolites in the sample tested. The definitions in this section apply to cannabis testing unless stated otherwise.
2. "Confirmatory test" and "confirmatory retest" mean a drug or alcohol test that uses a method of analysis allowed under one of the programs listed in Minnesota Statutes, section 181.953, subdivision 1.
3. "Drug" means a controlled substance as defined in Minnesota Statutes, section 152.01, subdivision 4, but does not include marijuana, tetrahydrocannabinols, cannabis flower as defined in section 342.01, subdivision 16, cannabis products as defined in section 342.01, subdivision 20, lower-potency hemp edibles as defined in section 342.01, subdivision 50, and hemp-derived consumer products as defined in section 342.01, subdivision 37.
4. "Drug and Alcohol Testing," "Drug or Alcohol Testing," and "Drug or Alcohol Test" mean analysis of a body component sample by a testing laboratory that meets one of the criteria listed in Minnesota Statutes, section 181.953, subdivision 1, for the purpose of measuring the presence or absence of drugs, alcohol, or their metabolites in the sample tested. "Drug and alcohol testing," "drug or alcohol testing," and "drug or alcohol test" do not include cannabis or cannabis testing, unless stated otherwise.
5. "Employee" means a person, independent contractor, or person working for an independent contractor who performs services for compensation, in whatever form, for an employer.
6. "Initial screening test" means a drug or alcohol test or cannabis test which uses a method of analysis under one of the programs listed in Minnesota Statutes, section 181.953, subdivision 1.
7. "Job Applicant" means a person, independent contractor, or person working for an independent contractor who applies to become an employee of the school district in a position that does not require a commercial driver's license, and includes a person who has received a job offer made contingent on the person's passing drug or alcohol testing. Job applicants for positions requiring a commercial driver's license are governed by the provisions of the school district's drug and alcohol testing policy relating to school bus drivers (Section III).
8. "Other Employees" means any persons, independent contractors, or persons working for an independent contractor who perform services for the school district for compensation, either full time or part time, in whatever form, except for persons whose positions require a commercial driver's license, and includes both professional and nonprofessional personnel. Persons whose positions require a commercial driver's

license are primarily governed by the provisions of the district's drug and alcohol testing policy relating to school bus drivers (Section III.). To the extent that the drug and alcohol testing of persons whose positions

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require a commercial driver's license is not mandated by federal law and regulations, such testing shall be governed by Section IV. of this policy and the drivers shall fall within this definition of "other employees."

9. "Positive Test Result" means a finding of the presence of drugs, alcohol, or their metabolites in the sample tested in levels at or above the threshold detection levels contained in the standards of one of the programs listed in Minnesota Statutes, section 181.953, subdivision 1.
10. "Random Selection Basis" means a mechanism for selection of employees that:
 - a. results in an equal probability that any employee from a group of employees subject to the selection mechanism will be selected; and
 - b. does not give the school district discretion to waive the selection of any employee selected under the mechanism.
11. "Reasonable Suspicion" means a basis for forming a belief based on specific facts and rational inferences drawn from those facts.
12. "Safety-Sensitive Position" means a job, including any supervisory or management position, in which an impairment caused by drug, alcohol, or cannabis usage would threaten the health or safety of any person.

B. Circumstances Under Which Cannabis Testing or Drug or Alcohol Testing May Be Requested or Required; Exceptions

1. General Limitations

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

2. Cannabis Testing Exceptions

For the following positions, cannabis and its metabolites are considered a drug and subject to the drug and alcohol testing provisions in Minnesota Statutes, sections 181.950 to 181.957:

- a. a safety-sensitive position, as defined in Minnesota Statutes, section 181.950, subdivision 13;
- b. a position requiring face-to-face care, training, education, supervision, counseling, consultation, or medical assistance to children;
- c. a position requiring a commercial driver's license or requiring an employee to operate a motor vehicle for which state or federal law requires drug or alcohol testing of a job applicant or an employee;
- d. a position of employment funded by a federal grant; or
- e. any other position for which state or federal law requires testing of a job applicant or an employee for cannabis.

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3. Job Applicant Testing

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

- a. The school district must not request or require a job applicant to undergo cannabis testing solely for the purpose of determining the presence or absence of cannabis as a condition of employment unless otherwise required by state or federal law.
- b. Unless otherwise required by state or federal law, the school district must not refuse to hire a job applicant solely because the job applicant submits to a cannabis test or a drug and alcohol test authorized by Minnesota law and the results of the test indicate the presence of cannabis.
- c. The school district must not request or require an employee or job applicant to undergo cannabis testing on an arbitrary or capricious basis.
- d. Cannabis testing authorized under paragraph (d) must comply with the safeguards for testing employees provided in Minnesota Statutes, sections 181.953 and 181.954.

4. Random Testing

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

5. Reasonable Suspicion Testing

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

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

6. Treatment Program Testing

The school district may request or require any employee to undergo cannabis testing and drug and alcohol testing if the employee has been referred by the school district for chemical dependency treatment or evaluation or is participating in a chemical dependency treatment program under an employee benefit plan, in which case the employee may be requested or required to undergo cannabis testing and drug and alcohol

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testing without prior notice during the evaluation or treatment period and for a period of up to two (2) years following completion of any prescribed chemical dependency treatment program.

7. Routine Physical Examination Testing

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

C. No Legal Duty to Test

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

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

1. Right of Other Employee or Job Applicant to Refuse Drug and Alcohol Testing

Any employee or job applicant whose position does not require a commercial driver's license has the right to refuse drug and alcohol testing subject to the provisions contained in Paragraphs 2. and 3. of Section IV.D.

2. Consequences of an Employee's Refusal to Undergo Drug and Alcohol Testing

Any employee in a position that does not require a commercial driver's license who refuses to undergo drug and alcohol testing in the circumstances set out in the Random Testing, Reasonable Suspicion Testing, and Treatment Program Testing provisions of this policy may be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including immediate discharge.

3. Consequences of a Job Applicant's Refusal to Undergo Drug and Alcohol Testing

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

E. Reliability and Fairness Safeguards

1. Pretest Notice

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

2. Notice of Test Results

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

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3. Notice of and Right to Test Result Report

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

4. Notice of and Right to Explain Positive Test Result

a. If an employee or job applicant has a positive test result on a confirmatory test, the school district shall provide the individual with notice of the test results and, at the same time, written notice of the right to explain the results and to submit additional information (see Attachment G to this policy).

b. The school district may request that the employee or job applicant indicate any over-the-counter or prescription medication that the individual is currently taking or has recently taken and any other information relevant to the reliability of, or explanation for, a positive test result.

c. The employee may present verification of enrollment in the medical cannabis patient registry or of enrollment in a Tribal medical cannabis program as part of the employee's explanation.

d. Use of nonintoxicating cannabinoids or edible cannabinoid products is not a legitimate medical explanation for a confirmed positive test result for cannabis. MROs will verify a drug test confirmed as positive, even if an employee claims to have only used nonintoxicating cannabinoids or edible cannabinoid product.

e. Within three (3) working days after notice of a positive test result on a confirmatory test, an employee or job applicant may submit information (in addition to any information already submitted) to the school district to explain that result.

5. Notice of and Right to Request Confirmatory Retests

a. If an employee or job applicant has a positive test result on a confirmatory test, the school district shall provide the individual with notice of the test results and, at the same time, written notice of the right to request a confirmatory retest of the original sample at his or her expense.

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

6. If an employee or job applicant has a positive test result on a confirmatory test, the school district, at the time of providing notice of the test results, shall also provide written notice to inform the individual of other rights provided under Sections F. or G., below, whichever is applicable.

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

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

1. The school district may not discharge, discipline, discriminate against, request, or require rehabilitation of an employee on the basis of a positive test result from an initial screening test that has not been verified by a confirmatory test.
2. In the case of a positive test result on a confirmatory test, the employee shall be subject to discipline which includes, but is not limited to, immediate suspension without pay and immediate discharge, pursuant to the provisions of this policy.
3. The school district may not discharge an employee for whom a positive test result on a confirmatory test was the first such result for the employee on a drug or alcohol test or cannabis test requested by the school district, unless the following conditions have been met:
 - a. The school district has first given the employee an opportunity to participate in, at the employee's own expense or pursuant to coverage under an employee benefit plan, either a drug, alcohol, or cannabis counseling or rehabilitation program, whichever is more appropriate, as determined by the school district after consultation with a certified chemical abuse counselor or a physician trained in the diagnosis and treatment of chemical dependency; and
 - b. The employee has either refused to participate in the counseling or rehabilitation program or has failed to successfully complete the program, as evidenced by withdrawal from the program before its completion or by a positive test result on a confirmatory test after completion of the program.
4. Notwithstanding Paragraph 1., the school district may temporarily suspend the tested employee or transfer that employee to another position at the same rate of pay pending the outcome of the confirmatory test and, if requested, the confirmatory retest, provided the school district believes that it is reasonably necessary to protect the health or safety of the employee, co-employees or the public. An employee who has been suspended without pay must be reinstated with back pay if the outcome of the confirmatory test or requested confirmatory retest is negative.
5. The school district may not discharge, discipline, discriminate against, request, or require rehabilitation of an employee on the basis of medical history information or the employee's status as a patient enrolled in the medical cannabis registry program revealed to the school district, unless the employee was under an affirmative duty to provide the information before, upon, or after hire, or failing to do so would violate federal law or regulations or cause the school district to lose money or licensing-related benefit under federal law or regulations.
6. The school district may not discriminate against any employee in termination, discharge, or any term of condition of employment or otherwise penalize an employee based upon an employee registered patient's positive drug test for cannabis components or metabolites, unless the employee used, possessed, or was impaired by medical cannabis on school district property during the hours of employment.
7. An employee must be given access to information in the individual's personnel file relating to positive test result reports and other information acquired in the drug and alcohol testing process or cannabis testing process and conclusions drawn from and actions taken based on the reports or other acquired information.

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

If a job applicant has received a job offer made contingent on the applicant's passing drug and alcohol testing, the

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school district may not withdraw the offer based on a positive test result from an initial screening test that has not been verified by a confirmatory test. In the case of a positive test result on a confirmatory test, the school district may withdraw the job offer.

H. Chain-of-Custody Procedures

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

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

I. Privacy, Confidentiality and Privilege Safeguards

1. Privacy Limitations

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

2. Confidentiality Limitations

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

3. Exceptions to Privacy and Confidentiality Disclosure Limitations

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

4. Privilege

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

J. Notice of Testing Policy to Affected Employees

The school district shall provide written notice of this drug, alcohol, and cannabis testing policy to all affected employees upon adoption of the policy, to a previously non-affected employee upon transfer to an affected position

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under the policy, and to a job applicant upon hire and before any testing of the applicant if the job offer is made contingent on the applicant's passing drug and alcohol testing. Affected employees and applicants will acknowledge receipt of this written notice in the form of Attachment H to this policy.

V. POSTING

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

Legal References: Minn. Stat. Ch. 13 (Minnesota Government Data Practices Act)
Minn. Stat. Ch. 43A (State Personnel Management)
Minn. Stat. § 151.72 (Sale of Certain Cannabinoid Products)
Minn. Stat. § 152.01 (Definitions)
Minn. Stat. § 152.22 (Definitions; Medical Cannabis)
Minn. Stat. § 152.23 (Limitations; Medical Cannabis)
Minn. Stat. § 152.32 (Protections for Registry Program Participation)
Minn. Stat. § 176.011, subd. 16 (Definitions; Personal Injury)
Minn. Stat. §§ 181.950-181.957 (Drug and Alcohol Testing in the Workplace)
Minn. Stat. § 221.031 (Motor Carrier Rules)
49 U.S.C. § 31306 (Omnibus Transportation Employee Testing Act of 1991)
49 U.S.C. 31306a (National Clearinghouse for Controlled Substance and Alcohol Test Results of Commercial Motor Vehicle Operators)
49 U.S.C. § 521(b) (Civil and Criminal Penalties for Violations)
49 C.F.R. Parts 40 (Department of Transportation Rules Implementing Omnibus Transportation Employee Testing Act of 1991)
49 C.F.R. Part 382 (Controlled Substances and Alcohol Use and Testing)

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

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2026-27 School Calendar

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Making calendar decisions is one critical element of designing for student success



Shifting instructional time by earlier start of school year

- We propose beginning the school year prior to Labor Day, as permitted by recent changes in Minnesota statute.
- Shifting instructional days to the front of the year maximizes learning by providing more time before key assessments, including statewide MCAs in the spring and local FAST assessments in the fall and spring. It also strengthens success in the approximately 20 College in the Schools courses we offer, ensuring students have additional weeks to master foundational content before college-level pacing accelerates.
- Research shows that late-spring days are less productive due to higher absence rates and competing commitments, while earlier starts improve pacing for interventions and support stronger growth measures.
- This change aligns with our purpose: partnering with students, staff, families, and communities to challenge every student to achieve their greatest potential and become informed, engaged citizens.



Timeline for Approval

First Reading: October 9, 2025

Second Reading: November 13, 2025

DRAFT 2026-2027 NBAPS Calendar - First Day on 9/1 Modified Spring Break

July 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

August 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

S=2 T=6

September 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

S=20 T=21

October 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

S=19 T=20

November 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

S=17 T=18

December 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

S=16 T=16

North Branch Area Public Schools

38705 Grand Avenue
651-674-1000
North Branch, MN. 55056

- July 6** Summer Targeted Services/ESY Begins
- July 30** Summer Targeted Services/ESY Ends
- Aug 19-20** New Teacher PD
- Aug 21** New and 2nd Year Teacher PD
- Aug 24, 25 & 27** No School - PD
- Aug 26 & 31** Welcome Conferences K-8 & DLA
NBAHS, ALC, CCSLWC Welcome Events
Aug 31 9th grade student orientation
- Sept 1** First Day of School
- Sept 7** School Closed/Holiday
- Sept 28** No School - PD
- Oct 15-16** School Closed/Holiday
- Oct 19** No School - PD
- Nov 19** Conferences K-12+ 3:30-7:00 pm
- Nov 24** Conferences K-12+ 3:30-7:00 pm
- Nov 25** No School - Conferences 7:30-11:00am/PD
- Dec 23-31** School Closed/Holiday
- Jan 1** School Closed/Holiday
- Jan 18** School Closed/Holiday
- Jan 19** No School - PD
- Feb 15** School Closed/Holiday
- March** Conferences K-12+ dates TBD
- Mar 22-26** School Closed/Holiday
- May 28** Last Day of School
- May 31** School Closed/Holiday
- June 1-2** No School - PD

S=172 T=184

January 2027						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

S=18 T=19

February 2027						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28						

S=19 T=19

March 2027						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

S=23 T=23

April 2027						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

S=22 T=22

May 2027						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

S=20 T=20

June 2027						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

S=0 T=2

- First & Last Day of School
- No School - PD
- School Closed/Holiday

- New Teacher PD
- New & 2nd Year Teacher PD
- First & Last Day of Targeted Services and ESY

- Welcome Conferences
- CCSLWC All Students in Session
- Graduation

Adopted: _____

MSBA/MASA Model Policy 204

Orig. 1995

Revised: _____

Rev. 2024

204 SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES

[NOTE: The provisions of this policy are required by statute.]

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to establish procedures relating to the maintenance of records of the school board and the publication of its official proceedings.

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

It is the policy of the school district to maintain its records so that they will be available for inspection by members of the general public and to provide for the publication of its official proceedings in compliance with law.

III. MAINTENANCE OF MINUTES AND RECORDS

A. The clerk shall keep and maintain permanent records of the school board, including records of the minutes of school board meetings and other required records of the school board. All votes taken at meetings required to be open to the public pursuant to the Minnesota Open Meeting Law must be recorded in a journal or minutes kept for that purpose. Public records maintained by the school district must be available for inspection by members of the public during the regular business hours of the school district. Minutes of meetings shall be available for inspection at the administrative offices of the school district after they have been prepared. Minutes of a school board meeting shall be approved or modified by the school board at a subsequent meeting, which action shall be reflected in the official proceedings of that subsequent meeting.

B. Recordings of Closed Meetings

1. All closed meetings, except those closed as permitted by the attorney-client privilege, must be electronically recorded at the school district's expense. Recordings of closed meetings shall be made separately from the recordings of an open meeting to the extent such meetings are recorded. If a meeting is closed to discuss more than one (1) matter, each matter shall be separately recorded.
2. Recordings of closed meetings shall be preserved by the school district for the following time periods:
 - a. Meetings closed to discuss labor negotiations strategy shall be preserved for two (2) years after the contract is signed.
 - b. Meetings closed to discuss security matters shall be preserved for at least four (4) years.
 - c. Meetings closed to discuss the purchase or sale of property shall be preserved for at least eight (8) years after the date of the meeting.
 - d. All other closed meetings shall be preserved by the school district for at least three (3) years after the date of the meeting.
 - e. Following the expiration of the above time periods, recordings of closed meetings shall be maintained as set forth in the school district's Records

Retention Schedule.

3. Recordings of closed meetings shall be classified by the school district as protected non-public data that is not accessible by the public or any subject of the data, with the following exceptions:
 - a. Recordings of labor negotiations strategy meetings shall be classified as public data and made available to the public after all labor contracts are signed by the school district for the current budget period.
 - b. Recordings of meetings related to the purchase or sale of property shall be classified as public data and made available to the public after all real or personal property discussed at the meeting has been purchased or sold or the school district has abandoned the purchase or sale.
 - c. Recordings of any other closed meetings shall be classified and/or released as required by court order.
4. Recordings of closed meetings shall be maintained separately from recordings of open meetings, to the extent recordings of open meetings are maintained by the school district, with the exception of recordings that have been classified as public data as set forth in Section III.B.3. above. Recordings of closed meetings classified as non-public data also shall be maintained in a secure location, separate from recordings classified as public data.
5. Recordings of closed meetings shall be maintained in a manner to easily identify the data classification of the recording. The recordings shall be identified with at least the following information:
 - a. The date of the closed meeting;
 - b. The basis upon which the meeting was closed (i.e.: labor negotiations strategy, purchase or sale of real property, educational data, etc.); and
 - c. The classification of the data.
6. Recordings of closed meetings related to labor negotiations strategy and the purchase or sale of property shall be maintained and monitored in a manner that reclassifies the recording as public upon the occurrence of an event reclassifying that data as set forth in Section III.B.3. above.

IV. PUBLICATION OF OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS

- A. The school board shall cause its official proceedings to be published once in the official newspaper of the school district within thirty (30) days of the meeting at which the proceedings occurred; however, if the school board conducts regular meetings not more than once every thirty (30) days, the school board need not publish the minutes until ten (10) days after they have been approved by the school board.

[NOTE: In 2024, the Minnesota legislature enacted two laws regarding publication of school board minutes. Under Chapter 109 (2024), five school districts are authorized to publish their minutes on their websites; this section expires on August 1, 2026.]

Under Chapter 115 (2024), the Minnesota legislature enacted the following:
(a) Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, when a qualified newspaper designated by a school district ceases to exist for any reason except consolidation with another newspaper, the school district may publish its proceedings on the school district's website instead of publishing the proceedings in a newspaper. The school district must

also request that the same information be posted at each public library located within the school district for the notice's publication period. This section expires August 1, 2026.

(b) If, before August 1, 2026, there is a newspaper located within a school district's boundaries that is qualified to be designated as the school district's official newspaper pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, section 331A.04, then the exemption provided in this section shall not apply, provided that the qualified newspaper's legal rate is not more than ten percent above the rate charged by the school district's previous official newspaper and the qualified newspaper provides some coverage of the activities of the school district that is publishing the notice.

[NOTE: MSBA has not inserted paragraph (a) into this model policy because its application is limited to specific circumstances and for a defined period. School districts that meet the conditions in paragraph (a) may choose to publish on the school district's website.]

- B. The proceedings to be published shall be sufficiently full to fairly set forth the proceedings. They must include the substance of all official actions taken by the school board at any regular or special meeting, and at minimum must include the subject matter of a motion, the persons making and seconding the motion, a listing of how each member present voted on the motion, the character of resolutions offered including a brief description of their subject matter and whether adopted or defeated. The minutes and permanent records of the school board may include more detail than is required to be published with the official proceedings. If the proceedings have not yet been approved by the school board, the proceedings to be published may reflect that fact.
- C. The proceedings to be published may be a summary of the essential elements of the proceedings, and/or of resolutions and other official actions of the school board. Such a summary shall be written in a clear and coherent manner and shall, to the extent possible, avoid the use of technical or legal terms not generally familiar to the public. When a summary is published, the publication shall clearly indicate that the published material is only a summary and that the full text is available for public inspection at the administrative offices of the school district and that a copy of the proceedings, other than attachments to the minutes, is available without cost at the offices of the school district or by means of standard or electronic mail.

Legal References: Minn. Stat. § 13D.01, Subds. 4-6 (Meetings Must be Open to the Public; Exceptions~~Open Meeting Law~~)

Minn. Stat. § 123B.09, Subd. 10 (Boards of Independent School Districts)

Minn. Stat. § 123B.14, Subd. 7 (Officers of Independent School Districts)

Minn. Stat. § 331A.01 (Definitions)

Minn. Stat. § 331A.05, Subd. 8 (Form of Public Notices)

Minn. Stat. § 331A.08, Subd. 3 (Computation of Time)

Op. Atty. Gen. 161-a-20, December 17, 1970

Ketterer v. Independent School District No. 1, 248 Minn. 212, 79 N.W.2d 428 (1956)

Cross References: MSBA/MASA Model Policy 205 (Open Meetings and Closed Meetings)

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to establish procedures relating to the maintenance of records of the school board and the publication of its official proceedings.

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

It is the policy of the school district to maintain its records so that they will be available for inspection by members of the general public and to provide for the publication of its official proceedings in compliance with law.

III. MAINTENANCE OF MINUTES AND RECORDS

A. The clerk shall keep and maintain permanent records of the school board, including records of the minutes of school board meetings and other required records of the school board. All votes taken at meetings required to be open to the public pursuant to the Minnesota Open Meeting Law shall be recorded in a journal kept for that purpose. Public records maintained by the school district shall be available for inspection by members of the public during the regular business hours of the school district. Minutes of meetings shall be available for inspection at the administrative offices of the school district after they have been prepared. Minutes of a school board meeting shall be approved or modified by the school board at a subsequent meeting, which action shall be reflected in the official proceedings of that subsequent meeting.

B. Recordings of Closed Meetings

1. All closed meetings, except those closed as permitted by the attorney-client privilege, must be electronically recorded at the expense of the school district. Recordings of closed meetings shall be made separately from the recordings of an open meeting, to the extent such meetings are recorded. If a meeting is closed to discuss more than one (1) matter, each matter shall be separately recorded.
2. Recordings of closed meetings shall be preserved by the school district for the following time periods:
 - a. Meetings closed to discuss labor negotiations strategy shall be preserved for two (2) years after the contract is signed.
 - b. Meetings closed to discuss security matters shall be preserved for at least four (4) years.
 - c. Meetings closed to discuss the purchase or sale of property shall be preserved for at least eight (8) years after the date of the meeting.

North Branch Independent School District No. 138: Policy #204**Adopted:** 7/14/16**Replaced:****Last Reviewed:** 2025**Revised:** 4/11/24, 2025**Effective:** 7/14/16, 4/11/24, 2025

- d. All other closed meetings shall be preserved by the school district for at least three (3) years after the date of the meeting.
 - e. Following the expiration of the above time periods, recordings of closed meetings shall be maintained as set forth in the school district's Records Retention Schedule.
 3. Recordings of closed meetings shall be classified by the school district as protected non-public data that is not accessible by the public or any subject of the data, with the following exceptions:
 - a. Recordings of labor negotiations strategy meetings shall be classified as public data and made available to the public after all labor contracts are signed by the school district for the current budget period.
 - b. Recordings of meetings related to the purchase or sale of property shall be classified as public data and made available to the public after all real or personal property discussed at the meeting has been purchased or sold or the school district has abandoned the purchase or sale.
 - c. Recordings of any other closed meetings shall be classified and/or released as required by court order.
 4. Recordings of closed meetings shall be maintained separately from recordings of open meetings, to the extent recordings of open meetings are maintained by the school district, with the exception of recordings that have been classified as public data as set forth in Section III.B.3. above. Recordings of closed meetings classified as non-public data also shall be maintained in a secure location, separate from recordings classified as public data.
 5. Recordings of closed meetings shall be maintained in a manner to easily identify the data classification of the recording. The recordings shall be identified with at least the following information:
 - a. The date of the closed meeting;
 - b. The basis upon which the meeting was closed (i.e.: labor negotiations strategy, purchase or sale of real property, educational data, etc.); and
 - c. The classification of the data.
 6. Recordings of closed meetings related to labor negotiations strategy and the purchase or sale of property shall be maintained and monitored in a manner that reclassifies the

North Branch Independent School District No. 138: Policy #204**Adopted:** 7/14/16**Replaced:****Last Reviewed:** 2025**Revised:** 4/11/24, 2025**Effective:** 7/14/16, 4/11/24, 2025

recording as public upon the occurrence of an event reclassifying that data as set forth in Section III.B.3. above.

IV. PUBLICATION OF OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS

- A. The school board shall cause its official proceedings to be published once in the official newspaper of the school district within thirty (30) days of the meeting at which the proceedings occurred; however, if the school board conducts regular meetings not more than once every thirty (30) days, the school board need not publish the minutes until ten (10) days after they have been approved by the school board.
- B. The proceedings to be published shall be sufficiently full to fairly set forth the proceedings. They must include the substance of all official actions taken by the school board at any regular or special meeting, and at minimum must include the subject matter of a motion, the persons making and seconding the motion, a listing of how each member present voted on the motion, the character of resolutions offered including a brief description of their subject matter and whether adopted or defeated. The minutes and permanent records of the school board may include more detail than is required to be published with the official proceedings. If the proceedings have not yet been approved by the school board, the proceedings to be published may reflect that fact.
- C. The proceedings to be published may be a summary of the essential elements of the proceedings, and/or of resolutions and other official actions of the school board. Such a summary shall be written in a clear and coherent manner and shall, to the extent possible, avoid the use of technical or legal terms not generally familiar to the public. When a summary is published, the publication shall clearly indicate that the published material is only a summary and that the full text is available for public inspection at the administrative offices of the school district and that a copy of the proceedings, other than attachments to the minutes, is available without cost at the offices of the school district or by means of standard or electronic mail.

Legal References: Minn. Stat. § 13D.01, Subds. 4-6 (Meetings Must be Open to the Public; Exceptions)
Minn. Stat. § 123B.09, Subd. 10 (Boards of Independent School Districts)
Minn. Stat. § 123B.14, Subd. 7 (Officers of Independent School Districts)
Minn. Stat. § 331A.01 (Definitions)
Minn. Stat. § 331A.05, Subd. 8 (Form of Public Notices)
Minn. Stat. § 331A.08, Subd. 3 (Computation of Time)
Op. Atty. Gen. 161-a-20, December 17, 1970
Ketterer v. Independent School District No. 1, 248 Minn. 212, 79 N.W.2d 428 (1956)

Cross References: NB Policy 205 (Open Meetings and Closed Meetings)
MSBA Service Manual, Chapter 1, School District Governance, Powers and Duties

North Branch Independent School District No. 138: Policy #204

Adopted: 7/14/16

Replaced:

Last Reviewed: 2025

Revised: 4/11/24, 2025

Effective: 7/14/16, 4/11/24, 2025

Adopted: _____

MSBA/MASA Model Policy 511
Orig. 1995
Rev. 2003

Revised: _____

511 STUDENT FUNDRAISING

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to address student fundraising efforts.

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

The school board recognizes a desire and a need by some student organizations for fundraising. The school board also recognizes a need for some constraint to prevent fundraising activities from becoming too numerous and overly demanding on employees, students, and the general public.

III. RESPONSIBILITY

- A. The building administrators shall be responsible for developing recommendations to the superintendent that will result in a level of activity deemed acceptable by employees, parents, and students. Fundraising must be conducted in a manner that will not result in embarrassment on the part of individual students, employees, or the school.
- B. All fundraising activities must be approved, in advance, by the administration. Participation in nonapproved activities shall be considered a violation of school district policy.
- C. The superintendent shall be responsible for providing coordination of student fundraising throughout the school district as deemed appropriate.
- D. The school district expects all students who participate in approved fundraising activities to represent the school, the student organization, and the community in a responsible manner. All rules pertaining to student conduct and student discipline extend to student fundraising activities.
- E. The school district expects all employees who plan, supervise, coordinate, or participate in student fundraising activities to act in the best interests of the students and to represent the school, the student organization, and the community in a responsible manner.

IV. ANNUAL REPORT

The superintendent shall report to the school board, at least annually, on the nature and scope of student fundraising activities approved pursuant to this policy.

Legal References: Minn. Stat. § 120A.20 (Admission to Public School)
Minn. Stat. § 123B.09, Subd. 8 (Boards of Independent School Districts)
Minn. Stat. § 123B.36 (Authorized Fees)

Cross References: MSBA/MASA Model Policy 506 (Student Discipline)
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 713 (Student Activity Accounting)

STUDENTS

Fund-Raising and Solicitation

511-NB

I. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to address fund raising for the district including student fund-raising as well as the solicitation of funds from students, parents and staff.

II. General Statement of Policy

The school board recognizes a desire and a need for fund-raising to support district programs or student activities. The school board also recognizes a need for some constraint to prevent fund-raising activities from becoming too numerous and overly demanding on employees, students, and the general public.

While the school board encourages students and staff to participate in their financial support as a social and community project, students, staff, parent groups and individuals or groups outside of the school district will not be permitted to conduct fund-raising drives or activities on behalf of non-school agencies or for non-school activities on school district property or during school hours unless expressly authorized by the principal or appropriate administrator.

III. Definitions

- A. School fund-raisers are approved fund-raisers conducted by students, staff, or parent groups. These fund-raisers fall under the provisions of Section IV.
- B. Non-school fund-raisers are fund-raisers conducted by groups outside the jurisdiction of the schools. Non-school fund-raisers may or may not be for the benefit of the school district, its students or staff.

IV. School Fund-Raising

- A. All school fund-raising must be approved in advance by the principal or appropriate administrator. The purpose of each fund-raiser must be identified and approved in advance. A form shall be available for this approval.
- B. Fund-Raising during the school day is not allowed unless expressly authorized by the principal or appropriate administrator.
- C. School fund-raising shall not be conducted for the purpose of hiring licensed or support staff with the exception of the fund-raising coordinator.
- D. Individual student participation is optional. Students shall not be pressured to sell products or solicit funds and will not be required to meet a sales quota to participate in an activity or field trip. Staff shall not use their positions of influence to pressure students to participate nor shall students who do not participate in any way be penalized.

North Branch Independent School District No. 138: Policy 511-NB

Adopted: June 2004

Replaces: 1325 Advertising, 1230 Recognition as an Official School Sponsored Organization, 1324 Soliciting Funds from Students, and 4137 Soliciting and Selling

Reviewed: April 14, 2011, July 10, 2014

Revised: December 8, 2005; April 14, 2011, July 10, 2014

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STUDENTS

Fund-Raising and Solicitation

511-NB

- E. Whenever possible, local businesses will be given opportunities to provide fund-raising services or products.
- F. The school district expects all students who participate in approved fund-raising activities to represent the school, the student organization, and the community in a responsible manner. All rules pertaining to student conduct and discipline extend to student fund-raising activities.
- G. Door-to-door sales are discouraged but, if approved by the principal or appropriate administrator, students may be allowed to sell according to the following guidelines:
 - 1. K-5 No door-to-door sales allowed
 - 2. 6-8 Allowed only if parent or guardian is with student
 - 3. 9-12 Allowed only if two or more students work together.
- H. The school district will provide alternative ways for people to donate money to schools without purchasing fund-raiser products.
- I. Funds raised at grades K-8 must not create inequities within buildings. Proceeds shall be distributed based on approval from the building principal(s) or appropriate administrator(s).
- J. Information explaining the district's fund-raising policy will be summarized in fund-raising materials and the full policy will be available on the school district website or from the school offices.
- K. Each school will submit to the School Board annually a report detailing fund-raising activities, the amount earned, and how the funds were utilized.

V. Non-School Fund-Raising

- A. Non-school groups who conduct fund-raisers to benefit school programs independently will be treated in accordance with Policy 706 (Acceptance of Gifts).
- B. Any employee or student of the School District involved in fund-raising with a non-school group must maintain a clear separation between the group and the school by:
 - 1. Communicating to staff, students and parents that the fund-raiser is a non-school effort;
 - 2. Clearly stating to staff and students that their participation is optional and that there is no penalty for not participating;
 - 3. Meeting the provisions of Policy 505 (Distribution of Nonschool-Sponsored Materials on School Premises by Students and Employees) when the fund-raiser is sponsored or promoted by the school district or Policy 904 (Distribution of Materials on School District Property by

North Branch Independent School District No. 138: Policy 511-NB

Adopted: June 2004

Replaces: 1325 Advertising, 1230 Recognition as an Official School Sponsored Organization, 1324 Soliciting Funds from Students, and 4137 Soliciting and Selling

Reviewed: April 14, 2011, July 10, 2014

Revised: December 8, 2005; April 14, 2011, July 10, 2014

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STUDENTS

Fund-Raising and Solicitation

511-NB

Nonschool Personnel) when the fund-raiser is sponsored or promoted by individuals or groups outside of the school district;

4. Ensuring that no fundraising costs are incurred by the District.
- C. Non-school groups may conduct fund-raisers to support school activities on school property if they meet the following conditions:
1. It is made clear that the fund-raiser is not a school-affiliated event. A disclaimer stating such must be included on printed materials. Materials may not include any emblem, logo, mascot or other design associating the materials with the school district except in accordance with Policy 905 (Advertising).
 2. Pre-approval of the fund-raising activity is received from the building principal or appropriate administrator.
 3. The purpose of the fund-raiser has been approved by the building principal or appropriate administrator and is clearly communicated to all participants.
 4. No cost associated with the fund-raiser is incurred by the District.
- D. Non-school groups, students and staff may conduct fund-raisers on school district property to support non-school activities that do not otherwise directly benefit the school district if the purpose of the fund-raiser does not conflict with school district purposes, is approved by the building principal or appropriate administrator and complies with District policies and procedures and any other conditions imposed by the building principal or appropriate administrator.
- E. Non-school groups or individuals must comply with the Policy 903 (Visitors to School District Buildings and Sites) when conducting activities on school district property.

VI. Solicitation

- A. Solicitation of students and staff on school district property for the sale of products and services not related to an approved fundraising effort is prohibited. This prohibition applies to students and staff as well as non-school individuals, groups or businesses. Exceptions will be made when such services and products directly relate to a school district activity or are directly sponsored or provided on behalf of the school district and are approved in advance by the superintendent. Such activities include, but are not limited to, the sale of yearbooks, class rings, graduation announcements, school pictures, etc.
- B. Salespeople are prohibited from visiting employees during school hours for the purpose of soliciting the sale of products or services for use by the school district, students and staff for educational purposes unless prior approval is obtained from the building principal or appropriate administrator.

North Branch Independent School District No. 138: Policy 511-NB

Adopted: June 2004

Replaces: 1325 Advertising, 1230 Recognition as an Official School Sponsored Organization, 1324 Soliciting Funds from Students, and 4137 Soliciting and Selling

Reviewed: April 14, 2011, July 10, 2014

Revised: December 8, 2005; April 14, 2011, July 10, 2014

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STUDENTS

Fund-Raising and Solicitation

511-NB

- C. Students and employees are prohibited from using school time or school facilities in connection with any personal activity for personal financial profit outside of the regular school program.
- D. Commercial advertising shall not be announced, distributed or otherwise promoted in or through the schools except as provided in Policy 904 (Distribution of Materials by Non-School Personnel and Policy 905 (Advertising)).
- E. No student, employee or other entity acting on behalf of or for the benefit of the school district may request a candidate or committee to contribute to the school district, buy tickets for or pay space in a publication unless:
 - 1. The solicitation is for a business advertisement in a periodical in which the candidate was a regular contributor before candidacy;
 - 2. The contribution relates to ordinary business advertisements;
 - 3. The contribution is a regular payment made to the school district by a candidate, of which the school district was a member, or to which the candidate was a contributor for more than six months before candidacy.

Legal References: Minn. Stat. § 120A.20 (Age Limitations; Pupils)
Minn. Stat. § 123B.09, Subd. 8
Minn. Stat. § 123B.36 (Authorized Fees)
Minn. Stat. § 211B.08 (Solicitation of Contributions Prohibited)

Cross References: Policy 505 (Distribution of Nonschool-Sponsored Materials on School Premises by Students and Employees)
Policy 706 (Acceptance of Gifts)
Policy 903 (Visitors to School District Buildings and Sites)
Policy 904 (Distribution of Materials on School District Property by Nonschool Personnel)
Policy 905 (Advertising)

North Branch Independent School District No. 138: Policy 511-NB

Adopted: June 2004

Replaces: 1325 Advertising, 1230 Recognition as an Official School Sponsored Organization, 1324 Soliciting Funds from Students, and 4137 Soliciting and Selling

Reviewed: April 14, 2011, July 10, 2014

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I. PURPOSE

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

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

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

III. LIMITED EDUCATIONAL PURPOSE

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

IV. USE OF SYSTEM IS A PRIVILEGE

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

V. UNACCEPTABLE USES

A. While not an exhaustive list, the following uses of the school district system and Internet resources or accounts are considered unacceptable:

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

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access codes or passwords, labeled photographs, or other information that would make the individual's identity easily traceable, and will not repost a message that was sent to the user privately without permission of the person who sent the message.

- a. This paragraph does not prohibit the posting of employee contact information on school district webpages or communications between employees and other individuals when such communications are made for education-related purposes (i.e., communications with parents or other staff members related to students).
- b. Employees creating or posting school-related webpages may include personal contact information about themselves on a webpage. However, employees may not post personal contact information or other personally identifiable information about students unless:
 - (1) such information is classified by the school district as directory information and verification is made that the school district has not received notice from a parent/guardian or eligible student that such information is not to be designated as directory information in accordance with Policy 515; or
 - (2) such information is not classified by the school district as directory information but written consent for release of the information to be posted has been obtained from a parent/guardian or eligible student in accordance with Policy 515.

In addition, prior to posting any personal contact or personally identifiable information on a school-related webpage, employees shall obtain written approval of the content of the postings from the building administrator.

- c. These prohibitions specifically prohibit a user from utilizing the school district system to post personal information about a user or another individual on social networks, including, but not limited to, social networks such as "Facebook," "Twitter," "Instagram," "Snapchat," "TikTok," "Reddit," and similar websites or applications.
7. Users must keep all account information and passwords on file with the designated school district official. Users will not attempt to gain unauthorized access to the school district system or any other system through the school district system, attempt to log in through another person's account, or use computer accounts, access codes, or network identification other than those assigned to the user. Messages and records on the school district system may not be encrypted without the permission of appropriate school authorities.

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8. Users will not use the school district system to violate copyright laws or usage licensing agreements, or otherwise to use another person's property without the person's prior approval or proper citation, including the downloading or exchanging of pirated software or copying software to or from any school computer, and will not plagiarize works they find on the Internet.
 9. Users will not use the school district system for conducting business, for unauthorized commercial purposes, or for financial gain unrelated to the mission of the school district. Users will not use the school district system to offer or provide goods or services or for product advertisement. Users will not use the school district system to purchase goods or services for personal use without authorization from the appropriate school district official.
 10. Users will not use the school district system to engage in bullying or cyberbullying in violation of the school district's Bullying Prohibition Policy. This prohibition includes using any technology or other electronic communication off school premises to the extent that student learning or the school environment is substantially and materially disrupted.
- B. The school district has a special interest in regulating off-campus speech that materially disrupts classwork or involves substantial disorder or invasion of the rights of others. A student or employee engaging in the foregoing unacceptable uses of the Internet when off school district premises also may be in violation of this policy as well as other school district policies. Examples of such violations may include, but are not limited to, serious or severe bullying or harassment targeting particular individuals, threats aimed at teachers or other students, failure to follow rules concerning lessons, the writing of papers, the use of computers, or participation in other online school activities, and breaches of school security devices. If the school district receives a report of an unacceptable use originating from a non-school computer or resource, the school district may investigate such reports to the best of its ability. Students or employees may be subject to disciplinary action for such conduct, including, but not limited to, suspension or cancellation of the use or access to the school district computer system and the Internet and discipline under other appropriate school district policies, including suspension, expulsion, exclusion, or termination of employment.
- C. If a user inadvertently accesses unacceptable materials or an unacceptable Internet site, the user shall immediately disclose the inadvertent access to an appropriate school district official. In the case of a school district employee, the immediate disclosure shall be to the employee's immediate supervisor and/or the building administrator. This disclosure may serve as a defense against an allegation that the user has intentionally violated this policy. In certain rare instances, a user also may access otherwise unacceptable materials if necessary to complete an

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assignment and if done with the prior approval of and with appropriate guidance from the appropriate teacher or, in the case of a school district employee, the building administrator.

VI. FILTER

- A. With respect to any of its computers with Internet access, the school district will monitor the online activities of both minors and adults and employ technology protection measures during any use of such computers by minors and adults. The technology protection measures utilized will block or filter Internet access to any visual depictions that are:
1. Obscene;
 2. Child pornography; or
 3. Harmful to minors.
- B. The term "harmful to minors" means any picture, image, graphic image file, or other visual depiction that:
1. Taken as a whole and with respect to minors, appeals to a prurient interest in nudity, sex, or excretion; or
 2. Depicts, describes, or represents, in a patently offensive way with respect to what is suitable for minors, an actual or simulated sexual act or sexual contact, actual or simulated normal or perverted sexual acts, or a lewd exhibition of the genitals; and
 3. Taken as a whole, lacks serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value as to minors.
- C. Software filtering technology shall be narrowly tailored and shall not discriminate based on viewpoint.
- D. An administrator, supervisor, or other person authorized by the Superintendent may disable the technology protection measure, during use by an adult, to enable access for bona fide research or other lawful purposes.
- E. The school district will educate students about appropriate online behavior, including interacting with other individuals on social networking websites and in chat rooms and cyberbullying awareness and response.

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VII. CONSISTENCY WITH OTHER SCHOOL POLICIES

Use of the school district computer system and use of the Internet shall be consistent with school district policies and the mission of the school district.

VIII. LIMITED EXPECTATION OF PRIVACY

- A. By authorizing use of the school district system, the school district does not relinquish control over materials on the system or contained in files on the system. Users should expect only limited privacy in the contents of personal files on the school district system.
- B. Routine maintenance and monitoring of the school district system may lead to a discovery that a user has violated this policy, another school district policy, or the law.
- C. An individual investigation or search will be conducted if school authorities have a reasonable suspicion that the search will uncover a violation of law or school district policy.
- D. Parents may have the right at any time to investigate or review the contents of their child's files and e-mail files in accordance with the school district's Protection and Privacy of Pupil Records Policy. Parents have the right to request the termination of their child's individual account at any time.
- E. School district employees should be aware that the school district retains the right at any time to investigate or review the contents of their files and e-mail files. In addition, school district employees should be aware that data and other materials in files maintained on the school district system may be subject to review, disclosure or discovery under Minnesota Statutes Chapter 13 (Minnesota Government Data Practices Act).
- F. The school district will cooperate fully with local, state and federal authorities in any investigation concerning or related to any illegal activities or activities not in compliance with school district policies conducted through the school district system.

IX. INTERNET USE AGREEMENT

- A. The proper use of the Internet, and the educational value to be gained from proper Internet use, is the joint responsibility of students, parents, and employees of the school district.
- B. This policy requires the permission of and supervision by the school's designated professional staff before a student may use a school account or resource to access the Internet.

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X. LIMITATION ON SCHOOL DISTRICT LIABILITY

Use of the school district system is at the user's own risk. The system is provided on an "as is, as available" basis. The school district will not be responsible for any damage users may suffer, including, but not limited to, loss, damage, or unavailability of data stored on school district diskettes, tapes, hard drives, or servers, or for delays or changes in or interruptions of service or misdeliveries or nondeliveries of information or materials, regardless of the cause. The school district is not responsible for the accuracy or quality of any advice or information obtained through or stored on the school district system. The school district will not be responsible for financial obligations arising through unauthorized use of the school district system or the Internet.

XI. USER NOTIFICATION

- A. All users shall be notified of the school district policies relating to Internet use.
- B. This notification shall include the following:
 1. Notification that Internet use is subject to compliance with school district policies.
 2. Disclaimers limiting the school district's liability relative to:
 - a. Information stored on school district diskettes, hard drives, or servers.
 - b. Information retrieved through school district computers, networks, or online resources.
 - c. Personal property used to access school district computers, networks, or online resources.
 - d. Unauthorized financial obligations resulting from use of school district resources/accounts to access the Internet.
 3. A description of the privacy rights and limitations of school sponsored/managed Internet accounts.
 4. Notification that, even though the school district may use technical means to limit student Internet access, these limits do not provide a foolproof means for enforcing the provisions of this acceptable use policy.
 5. Notification that goods and services can be purchased over the Internet that could potentially result in unwanted financial obligations and that any financial obligation

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incurred by a student through the Internet is the sole responsibility of the student and/or the student's parents.

6. Notification that the collection, creation, reception, maintenance, and dissemination of data via the Internet, including electronic communications, is governed by Public and Private Personnel Data Policy, and Protection and Privacy of Pupil Records Policy.
7. Notification that, should the user violate the school district's acceptable use policy, the user's access privileges may be revoked, school disciplinary action may be taken and/or appropriate legal action may be taken.
8. Notification that all provisions of the acceptable use policy are subordinate to local, state, and federal laws.

XII. PARENTS' RESPONSIBILITY; NOTIFICATION OF STUDENT INTERNET USE

- A. Outside of school, parents bear responsibility for the same guidance of Internet use as they exercise with information sources such as television, telephones, radio, movies, and other possibly offensive media. Parents are responsible for monitoring their student's use of the school district system and of the Internet if the student is accessing the school district system from home or a remote location.
- B. Parents will be notified that their students will be using school district resources/accounts to access the Internet and that the school district will provide parents the option to request alternative activities not requiring Internet access. This notification should include:
 1. A copy of the user notification form provided to the student user.
 2. A description of parent/guardian responsibilities.
 3. A notification that the parents have the option to request alternative educational activities not requiring Internet access and the material to exercise this option.
 4. A statement that the school district's acceptable use policy is available for parental review.

XIII. NOTIFICATION REGARDING TECHNOLOGY PROVIDERS

- A. "Technology provider" means a person who:
 1. contracts with the school district, as part of a one-to-one program or otherwise, to provide a school-issued device for student use; and

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2. creates, receives, or maintains educational data pursuant or incidental to a contract with the school district.
- B. "Parent" means a parent of a student and includes a natural parent, a guardian, or an individual acting as a parent in the absence of a parent or a guardian.
- C. Within 30 days of the start of each school year, the school district must give parents and students direct and timely notice, by United States mail, e-mail, or other direct form of communication, of any curriculum, testing, or assessment technology provider contract affecting a student's educational data. The notice must:
 1. identify each curriculum, testing, or assessment technology provider with access to educational data;
 2. identify the educational data affected by the curriculum, testing, or assessment technology provider contract; and
 3. include information about the contract inspection and provide contact information for a school department to which a parent or student may direct questions or concerns regarding any program or activity that allows a curriculum, testing, or assessment technology provider to access a student's educational data.
- D. The school district must provide parents and students an opportunity to inspect a complete copy of any contract with a technology provider.
- E. A contract between a technology provider and the school district must include requirements to ensure appropriate security safeguards for educational data. The contract must require that:
 1. the technology provider's employees or contractors have access to educational data only if authorized; and
 2. the technology provider's employees or contractors may be authorized to access educational data only if access is necessary to fulfill the official duties of the employee or contractor.
- F. All educational data created, received, maintained, or disseminated by a technology provider pursuant or incidental to a contract with a public educational agency or institution are not the technology provider's property.

XIV. SCHOOL-ISSUED DEVICES

- A. "School-issued device" means hardware or software that the school district, acting independently

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or with a technology provider, provides to an individual student for that student's dedicated personal use. A school-issued device includes a device issued through a one-to-one program.

- B. Except as provided in paragraph C, the school district or a technology provider must not electronically access or monitor:
1. any location-tracking feature of a school-issued device;
 2. any audio or visual receiving, transmitting, or recording feature of a school-issued device; or
 3. student interactions with a school-issued device, including but not limited to keystrokes and web-browsing activity.
- C. The school district or a technology provider may only engage in activities prohibited by paragraph B if:
1. the activity is limited to a noncommercial educational purpose for instruction, technical support, or exam-proctoring by school district employees, student teachers, staff contracted by the school district, a vendor, or the Minnesota Department of Education, and notice is provided in advance;
 2. the activity is permitted under a judicial warrant;
 3. the school district is notified or becomes aware that the device is missing or stolen;
 4. the activity is necessary to respond to an imminent threat to life or safety and the access is limited to that purpose;
 5. the activity is necessary to comply with federal or state law, including but not limited to Minnesota Statutes section 121A.031; or
 6. the activity is necessary to participate in federal or state funding programs, including but not limited to the E-Rate program.
- D. If the school district or a technology provider interacts with a school-issued device as provided in paragraph C, clause 4, it must, within 72 hours of the access, notify the student to whom the school-issued device was issued or that student's parent and provide a written description of the interaction, including which features of the device were accessed and a description of the threat. This notice is not required at any time when the notice itself would pose an imminent threat to life or safety, but must instead be given within 72 hours after that imminent threat has ceased.

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XV. CELL PHONE USE AND OTHER ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION DEVICES

For the purposes of this policy, instructional day is defined as:

- The PreK-8 instructional day is defined from the start to the end of the school day. See Parent/Student handbook for start and end times for each building.
 - The grade 9 - 12 instructional day is defined from the start of each class period to the end of each class period. See Parent/Student handbook for each building's bell schedule.
1. Students are prohibited from using cell phones and other electronic communication devices during the instructional day. Students also are prohibited from using a cell phone or other electronic communication device to engage in conduct prohibited by school district policies including, but not limited to, cheating, bullying, harassment, and malicious and sadistic conduct.
 2. If the school district has a reasonable suspicion that a student has violated a school policy, rule, or law by use of a cell phone or other electronic communication device, the school district may search the device. The search of the device will be reasonably related in scope to the circumstances justifying the search.
 3. Students who use an electronic communication device during the school day and/or in violation of school district policies may be subject to disciplinary action pursuant to the school district's discipline policy. In addition, a student's cell phone or electronic communication device may be confiscated by the school district and, if applicable, provided to law enforcement. Cell phones or other electronic communication devices that are confiscated and retained by the school district will be returned in accordance with school building procedures.

[Note: This language aligns with the provisions found in the MSBA Model Student Handbook. As an alternative to stating specific cell phone rules in a school district policy, a school board could choose to direct school administration to establish cell phone rules. This approach enables administrators to craft flexible and specific rules that are specific to grade levels and buildings.]

XVI. LIMIT ON SCREEN TIME FOR CHILDREN IN PRESCHOOL AND KINDERGARTEN

A child in a publicly funded preschool or kindergarten program may not use an individual-use screen, such as a tablet, smartphone, or other digital media, without engagement from a teacher or other students. This section does not apply to a child for whom the school has an individualized family service plan, an individualized education program, or a 504 plan in effect.

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XVI. IMPLEMENTATION; POLICY REVIEW

- A. The school district administration may develop appropriate user notification forms, guidelines, and procedures necessary to implement this policy for submission to the school board for approval. Upon approval by the school board, such guidelines, forms, and procedures shall be an addendum to this policy.
- B. The administration shall revise the user notifications, including student and parent notifications, if necessary, to reflect the adoption of these guidelines and procedures.
- C. The school district Internet policies and procedures are available for review by all parents, guardians, staff, and members of the community.
- D. Because of the rapid changes in the development of the Internet, the school board shall conduct an annual review of this policy.

Legal References: Minn. Stat. Ch. 13 (Minnesota Government Data Practices Act)
Minn. Stat. § 13.32 (Educational Data)
15 U.S.C. § 6501 *et seq.* (Children's Online Privacy Protection Act)
17 U.S.C. § 101 *et seq.* (Copyrights)
20 U.S.C. § 1232g (Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act)
47 U.S.C. § 254 (Children's Internet Protection Act of 2000 (CIPA))
47 C.F.R. § 54.520 (FCC rules implementing CIPA)
Minn. Stat. § 121A.031 (School Student Bullying Policy)
Minn. Stat. § 125B.15 (Internet Access for Students)
Minn. Stat. § 125B.26 (Telecommunications/Internet Access Equity Act)
Mahanoy Area Sch. Dist. v. B.L., 594 U.S. ___, 141 S. Ct. 2038 (2021)
Tinker v. Des Moines Indep. Cmty. Sch. Dist., 393 U.S. 503 (1969)
United States v. Amer. Library Assoc., 539 U.S. 194 (2003)
Sagehorn v. Indep. Sch. Dist. No. 728, 122 F.Supp.2d 842 (D. Minn. 2015)
R.S. v. Minnewaska Area Sch. Dist. No. 2149, 894 F.Supp.2d 1128 (D. Minn. 2012)
Tatro v. Univ. of Minnesota, 800 N.W.2d 811 (Minn. App. 2011), *aff'd* on other grounds
816 N.W.2d 509 (Minn. 2012)
S.J.W. v. Lee's Summit R-7 Sch. Dist., 696 F.3d 771 (8th Cir. 2012)
Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays, Inc. v. Camdenton R-III Sch. Dist.,
853 F.Supp.2d 888 (W.D. Mo. 2012)
M.T. v. Cent. York Sch. Dist., 937 A.2d 538 (Pa. Commw. Ct. 2007)

Cross References: NB Policy 403 (Discipline, Suspension, and Dismissal of School District Employees)
NB Policy 406 (Public and Private Personnel Data)
NB Policy 505 (Distribution of Nonschool-Sponsored Materials on School Premises by Students and Employees)
NB Policy 506 (Student Discipline)

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NB Policy 514 (Bullying Prohibition Policy)
NB Policy 515 (Protection and Privacy of Pupil Records)
NB Policy 519 (Interviews of Students by Outside Agencies)
NB Policy 521 (Student Disability Nondiscrimination)
NB Policy 522 (Title IX Sex Nondiscrimination Grievance Procedures and Process)
NB Policy 603 (Curriculum Development)
NB Policy 604 (Instructional Curriculum)
NB Policy 606 (Textbooks and Instructional Materials)
NB Policy 806 (Crisis Management Policy)
NB Policy 904 (Distribution of Materials on School District Property by Nonschool Persons)

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Effective: 3/12/98, 5/11/00, 8/10/00, 5/9/02, 6/10/04, 1/8/09, 6/14/12, 6/11/15, 2/8/18, 5/9/19, 1/9/20, 12/9/21, 9/8/22, 7/11/24

Adopted: _____

MSBA/MASA Model Policy 606

Orig. 1995

Revised: _____

Rev. 2024

606 TEXTBOOKS AND INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to provide direction for selection of textbooks and instructional materials.

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

The school board recognizes that selection of textbooks and instructional materials is a vital component of the school district's curriculum. The school board also recognizes that it has the authority to make final decisions on selection of all textbooks and instructional materials.

III. RESPONSIBILITY OF SELECTION

- A. While the school board retains its authority to make final decisions on the selection of textbooks and instructional materials, the school board recognizes the expertise of the professional staff and the vital need of such staff to be primarily involved in the recommendation of textbooks and instructional materials. Accordingly, the school board delegates to the superintendent the responsibility to direct the professional staff in formulating recommendations to the school board on textbooks and other instructional materials.
- B. In reviewing textbooks and instructional materials during the selection process, the professional staff shall select materials that:
1. support the goals and objectives of the education programs;
 2. consider the needs, age, and maturity of students;
 3. foster respect and appreciation for cultural diversity and varied opinion;
 4. fit within the constraints of the school district budget;
 5. are in the English language. Another language may be used, pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, sections [124D.59 to 124D.61](#);
 6. permit grade-level instruction for students to read and study America's founding documents, including documents that contributed to the foundation or maintenance of America's representative form of limited government, the Bill of Rights, our free-market economic system, and patriotism; and
 7. do not censor or restrain instruction in American or Minnesota state history or heritage based on religious references in original source documents, writings, speeches, proclamations, or records.
- C. The superintendent shall be responsible for developing procedures and guidelines to establish an orderly process for the review and recommendation of textbooks and other instructional materials by the professional staff. Such procedures and guidelines shall provide opportunity for input and consideration of the views of students, parents, and other interested members of the school district community. This procedure shall be coordinated with the school district's curriculum development effort and may utilize advisory committees.

IV. SELECTION OF TEXTBOOKS AND OTHER INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS

- A. The superintendent shall be responsible for keeping the school board informed of progress on the part of staff and others involved in the textbook and other instructional materials review and selection process.
- B. The superintendent shall present a recommendation to the school board on the selection of textbooks and other instructional materials after completion of the review process as outlined in this policy.

V. RECONSIDERATION OF TEXTBOOKS OR OTHER INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS

- A. The school board recognizes differences of opinion on the part of some members of the school district community relating to certain areas of the instruction program. Interested persons may request an opportunity to review materials and submit a request for reconsideration of the use of certain textbooks or instructional materials.
- B. The superintendent shall be responsible for the development of guidelines and procedures to identify the steps to be followed to seek reconsideration of textbooks or other instructional materials.
- C. The superintendent shall present a procedure to the school board for review and approval regarding reconsideration of textbooks or other instructional materials. When approved by the school board, such procedure shall be an addendum to this policy.

Legal References: Minn. Stat. § 120A.22, Subd. 9 (Compulsory Instruction)
Minn. Stat. § 120B.235 (American Heritage Education)
Minn. Stat. § 123B.02, Subd. 2 (General Powers of Independent School Districts)
Minn. Stat. § 123B.09, Subd. 8 (School Board Responsibilities)
Minn. Stat. § 124D.59-124D.61 (Education for English Learners Act)
Minn. Stat. § 127A.10 (State Officials and School Board Members to be Disinterested; Penalty)
Hazelwood Sch. Dist. v. Kuhlmeier, 484 U.S. 260 (1988)
Pratt v. Independent Sch. Dist. No. 831, 670 F.2d 771 (8th Cir. 1982)

Cross References: MSBA/MASA Model Policy 603 (Curriculum Development)
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 604 (Instructional Curriculum)

EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Textbooks and Instructional Materials

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North Branch Independent School District No. 138: District Policy 606

Adopted: August 10, 2000

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EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Textbooks and Instructional Materials

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