

July Public Hearing
Monday, July 15, 2019 6:00 PM
Ashland-Greenwood Public Schools, MSHS,
Conference Room, 1842 Furnas Street, Ashland
NE 68003
1842 Furnas Street

1. Call to Order. Roll Call
2. Acknowledge of Open Meetings Law posting
3. Pledge of Allegiance
4. Public Hearing on Parental Involvement Policy 1240 and review of Title I Parental involvement policy 5800
5. Public Hearing on Student Fee Policy 5500
6. Bullying Policy 5415
7. Attendance Policy 5008
8. Adjournment

BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING INFORMATION:

The Ashland-Greenwood Public Schools Board of Education is empowered to act on any item listed on the agenda at any time during the meeting, irrespective of the time or order listed. Pages listed, or further detail, are available upon request. The Open Meetings Act requires and the intention of the Board is that agenda items be sufficiently descriptive to give the public reasonable notice of the matters to be considered at the meeting. The Ashland-Greenwood Board of Education releases its agenda well in advance of most meetings and desires that all interested persons are fully informed. Any interested person who has a question or needs

clarification about the sufficiency of a descriptive item should contact the Office of the Superintendent of Schools.

COPY OF OPEN MEETINGS ACT: *The Board of Education makes available at least one current copy of the Open Meetings Act posted in the meeting room at a location accessible to members of the public. The Act is posted on the North wall of the meeting room west of the main entrance.*

INSTRUCTIONS FOR THOSE WHO WISH TO SPEAK DURING PUBLIC FORUM:

Getting Started: *When it is your turn to speak during the public forum portion of the agenda, please come forward, sign your name and address on the sign-in sheet and state your name to the Board of Education.*

Time Limit: *You may speak only one time and must limit comments to 5 minutes or less.*

Personnel or Student Topic: *If you are planning to speak about a personnel or student matter involving an individual, please understand that our policies require that such concerns initially be directed to the administration for consideration. Board members will generally not respond to any questions you ask or comments you make about individual staff members or students. You are cautioned that slanderous comments are not protected just because they are made at a Board meeting.*

General Rules: *Please remember that this is a meeting of the Board of Education held in public for conducting the business of the Board of Education. Offensive language, personal attacks and hostile conduct will not be tolerated.*

REQUEST FOR CLOSED SESSIONS:

The Ashland-Greenwood Public Schools is authorized by state statute to hold closed sessions. Closed sessions may be held when clearly necessary for the protection of the public interest or for the prevention of needless injury to the reputation of an individual. Reasons that meet this standard include but are not limited to: a) strategy sessions with respect to collective bargaining, real estate matters, pending litigation, or litigation which is imminent as evidenced by communication of a claim or threat of litigation to or by the public body; b) discussion regarding deployment of security personnel or devices; c) investigative proceedings regarding allegations of criminal misconduct; (d) evaluation of the job performance of a person when necessary to prevent needless injury to the reputation of a person and if such person has not requested a public meeting; and e) legal advice.

Community Relations

PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT IN SCHOOLS

It is the policy of this school district to foster and facilitate, to the extent appropriate, parental information about, and involvement in, the education of their children. Along these lines:

A. Textbooks, tests, and other curriculum materials used in this school district are, and shall be, available for review by parents at school upon request. Since textbooks, tests, and other curriculum materials constantly change, and may be discarded when no longer needed by school district, parents wishing to review such items must govern their requests accordingly.

B. Parents are welcome to visit school. Parents wishing to attend and monitor courses, assemblies, counseling sessions and other instructional activities must obtain prior approval of and from the proper teacher, counselor, and administrator, or they may be asked to leave. Parents attending or monitoring courses, assemblies, counseling sessions, and other instructional activities with prior approval who, by their conduct or presence interfere with the educational process or constitute an interference with school purposes, will be asked to leave.

C. The school district may excuse students from testing, classroom instruction, and other school experiences, upon parental request, when the testing, classroom instruction or other school experience interferes with sincerely held family or religious beliefs. Parental requests must be in writing and submitted to the proper teacher and administrator a reasonable time prior to the testing, classroom instruction, or other school experience and must be accompanied by written reasons acceptable to the school district or for which an excuse is mandated by law. A plan for an acceptable alternative shall be approved by the proper teacher and administrator prior to, or as a part of, the granting of any parental request.

D. Parents and others will be provided access to records of students according to law (e.g.1 Family Educational Rights & Privacy Act, 20 U.S.C. Section 1232g or Section 79-4, 157, R.R.S.1 et seq.);

E. Testing shall occur in this school district as determined appropriate from time to time by district staff to assure proper measurement of educational progress and achievement.

F. Participation in surveys by students shall occur in this district from time to time when determined appropriate by district staff for educational purposes. Students may decline to participate in surveys. Parents may request in advance that their child not participate in a survey. Surveys shall consist of those instruments in which students are asked questions in which they provide an opinion and which are not graded by staff. District staff shall notify parents and shall seek approval from their building principal when surveying students on topics which may be deemed sensitive. Sensitive topics shall include but not be limited to political affiliations, mental or psychological problems, sex behavior or attitudes, illegal, antisocial or self-incriminating behavior, critical appraisals of individuals with whom the child has close family relationship; religious practices and affiliations; or questions about income.

R.R.S. 79-530 through 79-533; Parental Involvement, Legislative Findings

Adopted: June 19, 1995

Revised: August 18, 2003

STUDENTS

Title I Parental Involvement Policy

This Title I Parental Involvement Policy is established in compliance with the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001. Ashland-Greenwood Schools has a parental involvement policy applicable to parents of all children. The parental involvement policy applicable to parents of all children is not replaced by this Title I Parental Involvement Policy and shall continue to be applicable to all parents, including parents participating in Title I programs.

It is the policy of Ashland-Greenwood Schools to implement programs, activities, and procedures for the involvement of parents in Title I programs consistent with the Title I law. Such programs, activities, and procedures shall be planned and implemented with meaningful consultation with parents of participating children.

Expectations for Parental Involvement

It is the expectation of Ashland-Greenwood Schools that parents of participating children will have opportunities available for parental involvement in the programs, activities, and procedures of the District's Title I program. The term "parental involvement" means the participation of parents in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities, including ensuring-(A) that parents play an integral role in assisting their child's learning; (B) that parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education at school; (C) that parents are full partners in their child's education and are included, as appropriate, in decision making and on advisory committees to assist in the education of their child; and (D) the carrying out of other activities, such as those described in this parental involvement policy. The District intends to meet this expectation through the following activities:

A. Involving parents in the joint development of the District's Title I plan and the processes of school review and school improvement.

B. Providing coordination, technical assistance, and other support necessary to assist participating schools in planning and implementing effective parent involvement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance.

C. Building the schools' and parents' capacity for strong parental involvement.

D. Coordinating and integrating parental involvement strategies under Title I with parental involvement strategies under other programs.

E. Conducting, with the involvement of parents, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of the parental involvement policy in improving the academic quality of the schools served under the Title I program, including identifying barriers to greater participation by parents in Title I programs, with particular attention to parents who are economically disadvantaged, are disabled, have limited English proficiency, have limited literacy, or are of any racial or ethnic minority background, and use the findings of such evaluation to design strategies for more effective parental involvement, and to revise, if necessary, the parental involvement policies of the District.

F. Involving parents in the activities of the schools served under Title I.

Policy Involvement

Each school served under the Title I program shall:

A. Convene an annual meeting, at a convenient time, to which all parents of participating children shall be invited and encouraged to attend, to inform parents of their school's participation under the Title I program and to explain the requirements of the Title I program.

B. Offer a flexible number of meetings, such as meetings in the morning or evening. If sufficient funds are provided for this purpose, the District may assist parental involvement in such meetings by offering transportation, childcare, or home visits.

C. Involve parents, in an organized, ongoing, and timely way, in the planning, review, and improvement of Title I programs.

D. Provide parents of participating children-(1) timely information about programs under Title I, (2) a description and explanation of the curriculum in use at the school, the forms of academic assessment used to measure student progress, and the proficiency levels students are expected to meet; and (3) if requested by parents, opportunities for regular meetings to formulate suggestions and to participate, as appropriate, in decisions relating to the education of their children, and respond to any such suggestions as soon as practicably possible.

E. If the District operates a school wide program under Title I and such plan is not satisfactory to the parents of participating children, submit any parental comments on the plan when the school makes the plan available to the District.

Shared responsibilities for High Student Academic Achievement

As a component of the District's parental involvement policy, each school served under the Title I program shall jointly develop with parents for all children served under the Title I program a school-parent compact that outlines how parents, the entire school staff, and students will share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement and the means by which the school and parents will build and develop a partnership to help children achieve the State's high standards. Such compact shall-(1) describe the school's responsibility to provide high-quality curriculum and instruction in a supportive and effective learning environment that enables the children served under Title I to meet the State's student academic achievement standards and the ways in which each parent will be responsible for supporting their children's learning, such as monitoring attendance, homework completion, and television watching; volunteering in their child's classroom; and participating, as appropriate, in decisions relating to the education of their children and positive use of extracurricular time; and (2) address the importance of communication between teachers and parents on an ongoing basis through, at a minimum:(A) parent-teacher conferences in elementary schools, at least annually, during which the compact shall be discussed as the compact relates to the individual child's achievement; (B) frequent reports to parents on their children's progress; and (C) reasonable access to staff, opportunities to volunteer and participate in their child's class, and observation of classroom activities.

Building Capacity for Involvement

To ensure effective involvement of parents and to support a partnership among the District, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement, each school participating in the Title I program and the District-(1) shall provide assistance to participating parents, as appropriate, in understanding such topics as the State's academic content standards and State student academic achievement standards, State and local academic assessments, the requirements of Title I and how to monitor a child's progress and work with educators to improve the achievement of their children; (2) shall provide materials and training to help parents to work with their children to improve their children's achievement, such as literacy training and using technology, as appropriate, to foster parental involvement; (3) shall educate teachers, student service personnel, principals, and other staff, with the assistance of parents, in the value and utility of contributions of parents, and in how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners, implement and coordinate parent programs, and build ties between parents and the school; (4) shall, to the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinate and integrate parent involvement programs and activities with Head Start, Reading First, Early Reading First, Even Start, the Home Instruction Programs for Preschool Youngsters, the Parents as Teacher Program, and public preschool and other programs, and conduct other activities, such as parent resource centers, that encourage and support parents in more fully participating in the education of their children; (5) shall ensure that information related to school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities is sent to the parents of participating children in a format, and to the extent

practicable, in a language the parents can understand; (6) may involve parents in the development of training for teachers, principals, and other educators to improve the effectiveness of such training; (7) may provide necessary literacy training from funds received under Title I if the District has exhausted all other reasonably available sources of funding for such training; (8) may pay reasonable and necessary expenses associated with parental involvement activities, including transportation and child care costs, to enable parents to participate in school-related meetings and training sessions; (9) may train parents to enhance the involvement of other parents; (10) may arrange school meetings at a variety of times, or conduct in-home conferences between teachers or other educators, who work directly with participating children, with parents who are unable to attend such conferences at school, in order to maximize parental involvement and participation; (11) may adopt and implement model approaches to improving parental involvement; (12) may establish a district-wide parent advisory council to provide advice for all matters related to parental involvement in programs supported under Title I; (13) may develop appropriate roles for community-based organizations and businesses in parent involvement activities; and (14) shall provide such other reasonable support for parental involvement activities under Title I as parents may request.

Accessibility

In carrying out the parental involvement activities for this Title I Parental Involvement policy the District shall provide full opportunities for the participation of parents with limited English proficiency, parents with disabilities, and parents of migratory children, including providing information and school reports required under Title I in a format and, to the extent practicable, in a language such parents understand.

Use, Distribution, and Updating of this Policy

This Title I Parental Involvement Policy shall be incorporated into the District's Title I plan, shall be distributed to parents of participating children, shall be made available to the local community, and shall be updated periodically to meet the changing needs of the parents and the school.

Ashland-Greenwood Schools

Date of Adoption: August 18, 2003

Legal Authorities: No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, Sections 1118 and 9201(32);
20 U.S.C. §§6318 and 7801(32)

Student Fee Schedule 2019-20
Student Fee Fund
Ashland-Greenwood Public Schools

School Activity Participation Fee **\$25**
(Students in Grades 7-12)
Entitles student to free admission to all school activities, participation in school activities, \$5 discount a student yearbook)

Graduation Cap and Gown Fee **\$30**
(Students in 12th Grade Only)
Entitles the student to a Cap & Gown to wear at Graduation.

Graduate Course Withdraw Fee **\$50**

Admission Fees

Varsity Athletic Events, School Plays, School Dances

Adults	\$5
Students	\$4 *

Non-Varsity Athletic Events

Adults	\$3
Students	\$2

* Admission Fee waived for students who have paid or had waived the student participation fee.

School Records

Per Page Copy Charge **\$0.50**

*Fee waived for sending records to other educational institutions although fee may be assessed by Docufide.

STUDENTS

STUDENT FEES POLICY

The Board of Education of Ashland-Greenwood Public Schools adopts the following student fees policy in accordance with the Public Elementary and Secondary Student Fee Authorization Act.

The District's general policy is to provide for the free instruction in school in accordance with the Nebraska Constitution. This generally means that the District's policy is to provide free instruction for courses which are required by state law or regulation and to provide the staff, facility, equipment, and materials necessary for such instruction, without charge or fee to the students.

The District does provide activities, programs, and services to children that extend beyond the minimum level of constitutionally required free instruction. Students and their parents have historically contributed to the District's efforts to provide such activities, programs, and services.

The District's general policy is to continue to encourage and to require, to the extent permitted by law, such student and parent contributions to enhance the educational program provided by the District.

Under the Public Elementary and Secondary Student Fee Authorization Act, the District is required to set forth in a policy its guidelines or policies for specific categories of student fees. The District does so by setting forth the following guidelines and policies: this policy is subject to further interpretation or guidance by administrative or Board regulations which may be adopted from time to time. The Policy includes Addendix "1". This provides further specifics of student fees and materials required of students for the upcoming school year. Parents, guardians, and students are encouraged to contact their building administration or their teachers or activity coaches and sponsors for further specifics.

(1) Guidelines for non-specialized attire required for specified courses and activities

Students have the responsibility to furnish and wear non-specialized attire meeting general District grooming and attire guidelines, as well as grooming and attire guidelines established for the building or programs attended by the students or in which the students participate. Students also have the responsibility to furnish and wear non-specialized attire reasonably related to the programs, courses and activities in which the students participate where the required attire is specified in writing by the administrator or teacher responsible for the program, course or activity.

The District will provide or make available to students such safety equipment and attire as may be required by law, specifically including appropriate industrial-quality eye protective devices for courses of instruction in vocational, technical, industrial arts, chemical or chemical-physical classes which involve exposure to hot molten metals or other molten materials, milling, sawing, turning, shaping, cutting, grinding, or stamping of any solid materials, heat treatment, tempering, or kiln firing of any metal or other materials, gas or electric arc welding or other forms of welding processes, repair or servicing of any vehicle, or caustic or explosive materials, or for laboratory classes involving caustic or explosive materials, hot liquids or solids, injurious radiations, or other similar hazards. Building administrators are directed to assure that such equipment is available in the appropriate classes and areas of the school buildings, teachers are directed to instruct students in the usage of such devices and to assure that students use the devices as required, and students have the responsibility to follow such instructions and use the devices as instructed.

(2) Personal or consumable items and miscellaneous items

Extra-Curricular Activities

Students have the responsibility to furnish any personal or consumable items for participation in the extra-activities provided by the District.

Courses

(i) General Course Materials

Items necessary for students to benefit from courses will be made available by the District for the use of students during the school day. Students may be encouraged, but not required, to bring minor personal or consumable items including, but not limited to, pencils, paper, pens, erasers, protractors, math calculators and notebooks. A student supply list shall be established annually for each grade, course and activity and shall be distributed to students and parents annually as a part of the student handbook or as an addendum to the student handbook. Such supply list shall be approved as part of the review of this policy and shall be considered a part of this policy. The list may include refundable damage or loss deposits required for usage of certain District property.

(ii) Damage

Students are responsible for the careful and appropriate use of school property. Students and their parents or guardian will be held responsible for damages to school property caused or aided by the student and will also be held responsible for the reasonable replacement cost of school property which is placed in the care of and lost by the student.

(iii) Materials required for course projects

Students are permitted to and may be encouraged to supply materials for course projects. Some course projects (such as projects in art and shop classes) may be kept by the student upon completion. In the event the completed project has more than minimal value, the student may be required, as a condition of the student keeping the completed project, to reimburse the District for the reasonable value the materials used in the project. Standard project materials will be made available by the District. If a student wants to create a project other than the standard course project, or to use materials other than standard project materials, the student will be responsible for furnishing or paying the reasonable cost of any such materials for the project.

(iv) Music Course Materials

Students must furnish musical instruments for participation in optional music courses that are not extracurricular activities. Use of a musical instrument without charge is available under the District's fee waiver policy (Section 12); however, the District is not required to provide for the use of a particular type of musical instrument for any student.

(v) Parking

Students may be required to pay for parking on school grounds or at school-sponsored activities, and may be subject to payment of fines or damages for

damages caused with or to vehicles or for failure to comply with school parking rules.

(3) Extracurricular Activities Specialized Equipment or attire

Extracurricular activities means student activities or organizations which are supervised or administered by the District, which do not count toward graduation or advancement between grades, and in which participation is not otherwise required by the District.

The District will generally furnish students with specialized equipment and attire for participation in extracurricular activities. The District is not required to provide for the use of any particular type of equipment or attire. Students may furnish their own specialized equipment and/or attire rather than that which is provided by the district provided that equipment and/or attire meets standards established by the district and has the approval of the coach, leader, conductor or sponsor.

Students have the responsibility to furnish personal or consumable equipment or attire for participation in extra curricular activities or for paying a reasonable usage cost for such equipment or attire. For music courses that are extracurricular activities, students may be required to provide specialized equipment, such as musical instruments, or specialized attire, or for paying a reasonable usage cost for such equipment or attire.

(4) Extracurricular Activities-Fees for Participation

The District charges a fee established annually for participation in extra-curricular activities except those activities which are a required part of a curricular class that leads to earning credit towards graduation or grade promotion. Such fee schedule shall be established annually by the Board of Education, shall be published in the student handbook and such fee schedule shall be considered to be a part of this policy. Any fee for participation in extra-curricular activities collected shall be used for the purpose for which it is collected and shall be kept separate and apart from all other funds in a student fee fund. The Board of Education shall establish annually as a part of the fee schedule the purpose of the fee and approve all disbursement of monies from such fund. Fees collected under the fee schedule shall permit the student to take part in school activities as a participant or as a spectator. Fees shall be waived for free and reduced lunch students in accordance with the waiver policy. (Section 12).

Admission fees for extracurricular activities and events may be charged by the district at a rate established by the board of education as a part of the student fee schedule.

(5) Postsecondary education costs

Students are responsible for postsecondary education costs. The phrase "postsecondary education costs" means tuition and other fees associated with obtaining credit from a postsecondary educational institution. For a course in which students receive both high school and postsecondary education credit or a course being taken as part of an approved accelerated or differentiated curriculum program, the course shall be offered without charge for tuition, transportation, books, or other fees, except tuition and other fees associated with obtaining credits from a postsecondary educational institution.

(6) Transportation costs

Students are responsible for fees established for transportation services provided by the District as and to the extent permitted by federal and state laws and regulations.

(7) Copies of student files or records

The Superintendent or the Superintendent's designee shall establish a schedule of fees representing a reasonable cost of reproduction for copies of a student's files or records for the parents or guardians of such student. A parent, guardian or students who requests copies of files or records shall be responsible for the cost of copies reproduced in accordance with such fee schedule. The imposition of a fee shall not be used to prevent parents of students from exercising their right to inspect and review the students' files or records and no fee shall be charged to search for or retrieve any student's files or records. The fee schedule shall permit one copy of the requested records be provided for or on behalf of the student without charge and shall allow duplicate copies to be provided without charge to the extent required by federal or state laws or regulations. The district shall also provide duplicates of records for other school districts or post-secondary institutions a student plans to attend at no charge.

(8) Participation in before-and-after-school or Pre-kindergarten services

Students are responsible for fees required for participation in before-and-after-school or pre-kindergarten services offered by the District, except to the extent such services are required to be provided without cost.

(9) Participation in summer school or night school

Students are responsible for fees required for participation in summer school or night school. Students are also responsible for correspondence courses.

(10) Breakfast and lunch Programs

Students shall be responsible for items which students purchase from the District's breakfast and lunch programs. The cost of items to be sold to students shall be consistent with applicable federal and state laws and regulations.

Students are also responsible for the cost of food, beverages, and personal or consumable items which the students purchase from the District or at school, whether from a "school store," a vending machine, a booster club or parent group sale, a book order club, or the like.

(11) Waiver Policy

The District's policy is to provide fee waivers in accordance with the Public Elementary and Secondary Student Fee Authorization Act. Students who qualify for free or reduced-price lunches under the United States Department of Agriculture child nutrition programs shall be provided a fee waiver or be provided the necessary materials or equipment without charge for: (1) participation in extracurricular activities.

Participation in a free-lunch program or reduced-price lunch program is not required to qualify for free or reduced-price lunches for purposes of this section.

(12) Distribution of Policy

The Superintendent or the Superintendent's designee shall publish the District's student fee policy in the Student Handbook or the equivalent (for example, publication may be made in an addendum or a supplement to the student handbook). The Student Handbook or the equivalent shall be provided to students of the District at no cost.

(13) Student Fee Fund

The School Board hereby establishes a Student Fee Fund. The Student Fee Fund shall be a separate school district fund not funded by tax revenue, into which all money collected from students and subject to the Student Fee Fund shall be deposited and from which money shall be

expended for the purposes for which it was collected from students. Funds subject to the Student Fee Fund consist of money collected from students for: (1) participation in extracurricular activities, (2) postsecondary education costs, and (3) summer school or night school.

CERTIFICATION

On the 21st day of June, 2003, the school board held a public hearing at a meeting of the school board on a proposed student fee policy. Such public hearing followed a review of the amount of money collected from students pursuant to, and the use of waivers provided in, the student fee policy for the 2002-03 school year. The foregoing student fee policy was adopted after such public hearing by a majority vote of the school board at an open public meeting in compliance with the public meetings laws. The policy was revisited and approved June 2012.

Legal References:

Laws 2002, LB 1172 (The Public Elementary and Secondary Student Fee Authorization Act) Neb. Constitution, Article VII, section 1.

Neb. Rev. Stat. §§79-241, 79-605, and 79-611(transportation)

Neb. Rev. Stat. §79-2,104 (student files or records)

Neb. Rev. Stat. §79-715 (eye-protective devices)

Neb. Rev. Stat. §79-737 (liability of students for damages to school books)

Neb. Rev. Stat. §79-1104 (before-and-after-school or prekindergarten services)

Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 79-1106 to 79-1108.03 (accelerated or differentiated curriculum program)

Date of Adoption: June 3, 2002

Revised July 21, 2003

Revised June 18th, 2012

StudentsStudent FeesFee Schedule:

7-12 Students - Extra-curricular Activity Fee	\$25
Reproduction of Records	50 cents per page
*Waived to send to other educational institutions.	
Commencement Exercises Participation	\$30

Admission

Varsity Athletic Events/School Plays and Musicals

Adults: \$5
Students: \$4

Non-varsity Athletic Events and other school events.

Adults: \$3
Students: \$2

The building principal or his/her designee may waive admission fees for all spectators at an event at his or her discretion.

Travel

The district shall collect fees for transportation to and from school as permitted by law. The district shall not collect fees for travel to and from school extra-curricular activities or the travel portion of school sponsored trips including those which are considered to over night or long-distance travel under policy 6153.1. Overnight and long distance travel may take place if it meets the criteria of district policies for such travel and provided that the expenses for such travel are borne by the district either through tax supported funds or through student activity funds.

All group travel shall include the entire group or a select portion of the group with a selection process that is not discriminatory based on the district's discrimination policy. The ability of a student to pay shall not be a criteria for participation in school sponsored travel.

Nothing precludes an individual or staff member to travel on his or her own without school sponsorship. Nothing precludes staff from traveling with or without students at their own expense and without be compensated to travel by the district.

Uniforms

The District will generally furnish students with specialized equipment except as stipulated within Policy 5500 and attire for participation in extracurricular activities. The District is not required to provide for the use of any particular type of equipment or attire.

The district shall provide all uniforms that are not fitted to a particular student and the equipment required by the district to be a part of a club, team, organization or squad except for that specified in policy 5500. The district shall not collect funds from free and reduced price lunch students for such uniforms or equipment. Such funds may come from tax supported funds or from student activity funds.

Uniforms that are specially fitted to a particular student and that cannot be reused for others shall become the property of that student. Funds for these types of uniforms shall be paid for by the student or through fundraising by the group or organization. The district shall pay for any specially fitted uniform for a free and reduced lunch student but reserves the right to retain ownership of the uniform upon completion of the activity.

The administration shall approve any uniform prior to final selection in order to consider its appropriateness to school dress codes and its cost to students and the district.

Nothing shall preclude groups or individuals from making donations to a particular club, team or squad provided the donation meets the district criteria for the acceptance of a donation and provided the donation is being made to the benefit of the entire club, team, organization or squad. Nothing precludes a student, with permission from the coach or sponsor, to purchase and provide his or her own equipment and/or specialized attire.

Students have the responsibility to furnish personal or consumable equipment or attire for participation in extracurricular activities. For music courses that are extracurricular activities, students may be required to provide specialized equipment, such as musical instruments, or specialized attire, or for paying a reasonable usage cost for such equipment or attire.

The provision of uniforms and equipment may be limited by the district and in no case shall the funds exceed the available funds on hand unless a reasonable plan has been established to remove any deficit spending.

Organizational and Class Dues

The district shall not charge students dues or fees to participate in a school organization, class, squad, team, club or non-optional school activities except that which is established as a part of the fee schedule.

Students

Anti-Bullying Policy

One of the missions of the District is to provide a physically safe and emotionally secure environment for students and staff.

The administration and staff are to implement strategies and practices to reinforce and encourage positive behaviors by students. Positive behaviors include non-violence, cooperation, teamwork, understanding, and acceptance of others.

The administration and staff are to implement strategies and practices to identify and prevent inappropriate behaviors by all students, including anti-bullying education for all students. Inappropriate behaviors include bullying, intimidation, and harassment. Bullying means any ongoing pattern of physical, verbal, or electronic abuse on school grounds, in a vehicle owned, leased, or contracted by the school being used for a school purpose by a school employee or designee, or at school-sponsored activities or school-sponsored athletic events.

The school district shall review the anti-bullying policy annually.

Legal Reference: Laws 2008, LB 205
 Student Discipline Act, Neb. Rev. Stat. ' ' 79-254 to 79-296
 NDE February 2003 State Board Action; Reaffirmed December 2005

Date of Adoption: June 16, 2008

Students

Student Attendance

Attendance Policy and Excessive Absenteeism

Regular and punctual student attendance is required. The administration is responsible for developing further attendance rules and regulations, and all staff are expected to implement this policy and administrative rules and regulations to encourage regular and punctual student attendance. The Principals and teachers are required to maintain an accurate record of student attendance.

A. **Attendance and Absences.**

1. Circumstances of Absences – Definitions. The circumstances for all absences from school will be identified as School Excused or Not School Excused. Absences should be cleared through the Principal's office in advance whenever possible. All absences, except for illness and/or death in the family, require advance approval.
 - a. School Excused. Any of the following circumstances that lead to an absence will be identified as a *School Excused* absence, provided the required attendance procedures have been followed:
 - (1) Impossible or impracticable barriers outside the control of the parent or child prevent a student from attending school. The parent must provide the school with documentation to demonstrate the absence was beyond the control of the parent or child. This could include, but is not limited to documented illness, court, death of a family member, or suspension.
 - (2) Other absences as determined by the principal or the principal's designee.
 - b. Not School Excused. Absences that are not school excused may result in a report to the county attorney and may be classified as follows:
 - (1) Parent acknowledged absences are those in which the parent communicated with the school in the prescribed manner that the child is absent and is the parent's responsibility for the extent of the school day. This includes, but is not limited to, illness, vacations, and medical appointments.
 - (2) Other absences are those in which the parent has not communicated a reason for the student's absence.
2. Absence Procedure. In its Student Information System, the District may identify many different codes that provide greater definition to the circumstances of a child's absence, but all of the codes need to be identified to parents and students as fitting into one of the above defined absence circumstances.
3. Mandatory Ages of Attendance. A child is of mandatory age if the child will reach age 6 prior to January 1 of the then-current school year and has not reached 18 years of age.

Exceptions for Younger Students. Attendance is not mandatory for a child who has reached 6 years of age prior to January 1 of the then-current school year, but will not

reach age 7 prior to January 1 of such school year, if the child's parent or guardian has signed and filed with the school district in which the child resides an affidavit stating either: (1) that the child is participating in an education program that the parent or guardian believes will prepare the child to enter grade one for the following school year; or (2) that the parent or guardian intends for the child to participate in a school which has elected or will elect pursuant to law not to meet accreditation or approval requirements and the parent or guardian intends to provide the Commissioner of Education with a statement pursuant to section 79-1601(3) on or before the child's seventh birthday.

Exceptions for Older Students. Attendance is also not mandatory for a child who: (1) has obtained a high school diploma by meeting statutory graduation requirements; (2) has completed the program of instruction offered by a school which elects pursuant to law not to meet accreditation or approval requirements; or (3) has reached the age of 16 years and has been withdrawn from school in the manner prescribed by law.

Early Withdrawal for Students Enrolled in Accredited or Approved Schools. A person who has legal or actual charge or control of a child who is at least 16 but less than 18 years of age may withdraw such child from school before graduation and be exempt from the mandatory attendance requirements if an exit interview is conducted and a withdrawal form is signed.

Exit Interview. The process is initiated by a person who has legal or actual charge or control of the child submitting a withdrawal form. The form is to be as prescribed by the Commissioner of Education. Upon submission of the form, the Superintendent or Superintendent's designee shall set a time and place for an exit interview if the child is enrolled in [Name] Public Schools or resides in the [Name] Public School District and is enrolled in a private, denominational, or parochial school.

The exit interview shall be personally attended by:

- The child, unless the withdrawal is being requested due to an illness of the child making attendance at the exit interview impossible or impracticable;
- the person who has legal or actual charge or control of the child who requested the exit interview;
- the Superintendent or Superintendent's designee;
- the child's principal or the principal's designee if the child at the time of the exit interview is enrolled in a school operated by the school district; and
- any other person requested by any of the required parties who agrees to attend the exit interview and is available at the time designated for the exit interview which may include, for example, other school personnel or the child's principal if the child is enrolled in a private school.

At the exit interview, the person making the written request must present evidence that (a) the person has legal or actual charge or control of the child and (b) the child would be withdrawing due to either:

- financial hardships requiring the child to be employed to support the child's family or one or more dependents of the child, or
- an illness of the child making attendance impossible or impracticable.

The Superintendent or Superintendent's designee shall identify all known alternative educational opportunities, including vocational courses of study, that are available to the child in the school district and how withdrawing from school is likely to reduce potential future earnings for the child and increase the likelihood of the child being unemployed in the future. Any other relevant information may be presented and discussed by any of the parties in attendance.

At the conclusion of the exit interview, the person making the written request may sign a withdrawal form provided by the school district agreeing to the withdrawal of the child OR may rescind the written request for the withdrawal.

Withdrawal Form. Any withdrawal form signed by the person making the written request shall be valid only if:

- the child also signs the form, unless the withdrawal is being requested due to an illness of the child making attendance at the exit interview impossible or impracticable, and
- the Superintendent or Superintendent's designee signs the form acknowledging that the interview was held, the required information was provided and discussed at the interview, and, in the opinion of the Superintendent or Superintendent's designee, the person making the written request does in fact have legal or actual charge or control of the child and the child is experiencing either (i) financial hardship, or (ii) an illness making attendance impossible or impracticable.

Early Withdrawal for Students Enrolled in an Exempt School (Home Schools). A person who has legal or actual charge or control of a child who is at least 16 but less than 18 years of age may withdraw such child from school before graduation and be exempt from the mandatory attendance requirements if such child has been enrolled in a school that elects not to meet the accreditation or approval requirements by filing with the State Department of Education a signed notarized release on a form prescribed by the Commissioner of Education.

4. Reporting and Responding to Excessive Absenteeism. Any administrator, teacher, or member of the board of education who knows of any failure on the part of any child of mandatory school attendance age to attend school regularly without lawful reason, shall within three days report such violation to the superintendent or such person(s) who the superintendent designates to be the attendance officer (hereafter, "attendance officer"). The attendance officer shall immediately cause an investigation into any such report to be made. The attendance officer shall also investigate any case when of his or her personal knowledge, or by report or complaint from any resident of the district, the attendance officer believes there is a violation of the compulsory attendance laws. The school shall render all services in its power to compel such child to attend some public, private, denominational, or parochial school, which the person having control of the child shall designate, in an attempt to address the problem of excessive absenteeism. Such services shall include, as appropriate, the services listed below under "Excessive Absenteeism" and "Reporting Excessive Absenteeism."
5. Excessive Absenteeism. Students who accumulate seven (7) unexcused absences in a quarter shall be deemed to have "excessive absences." Such absences shall be determined on a per day basis for elementary students and on a per class basis for secondary students. When a student has excessive absences, the following procedures shall be implemented:
 - a. Verbal or written communication by school officials with the person or persons who have legal or actual charge or control of any child; and
 - b. One or more meetings between the school and the county attendance officer, the child's parent or guardian, and the child, when appropriate, to address the barriers to attendance. The result of the meeting or meetings shall be to develop a collaborative plan to reduce barriers identified to improve regular attendance. The plan shall consider, but not be limited to:
 - (i) Illness related to physical or behavioral health of the child.
 - (ii) Educational counseling;
 - (iii) Educational evaluation;

- (iv) Referral to community agencies for economic services;
- (v) Family or individual counseling; and
- (vi) Assisting the family in working with other community services.

If the parent/guardian refuses to participate in such meeting, the principal shall place documentation of such refusal in the child's attendance records.

6. Reporting Excessive Absenteeism to the County Attorney.

The school may report to the county attorney of the county in which the person resides when the school has documented the efforts to address excessive absences, the collaborative plan to reduce barriers identified to improve regular attendance has not been successful, and the student has accumulated more than twenty (20) absences per year. The school shall notify the child's family in writing prior to referring the child to the county attorney. Illness that makes attendance impossible or impracticable shall not be the basis for referral to the county attorney. A report to the county attorney may also be made when a student otherwise accrues excessive absences as herein defined.

Legal Reference: Neb. Rev. Stat. ' ' 79-201 and 79-209

Date of Adoption: June 18th, 2012

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