Wilcox-Hildreth Public School
Board of Education Regular Meeting
Monday, July 20, 2026
Conference Room - Wilcox - 8:00 PM

1. Call to Order. Roll Call

2. Announce location of posted Open Meetings Act

   2.A. Pledge

   2.B. Open Student Fees Hearing (Policy #5045). As per Nebraska Rev. Stat. 79-2-134

   2.C. Open Parent Involvement Hearing (Policy #5018) as per Nebraska Rev. Stat. 79-533 and review the District Title I Parent and Family Engagement Policy #5057

3. Consent Agenda

   3.A. Approval of Agenda

   3.B. Approval of minutes of Regular June 15, 2026 Board Meeting

   3.C. Approval of Claims

   3.D. Financial Report

4. Visitors and communication from the public

5. Action Items

5.A. Discuss, consider and take all necessary action to approve/review board policies: 5001, 5018, 5045, 5054, 5057, 6004, 2008, 3003, 3003.1, 3004.1, 3048, 3061, 4017, 4019, 4056, 4065, 5001, 5003, 5004, 5035, 5048, 6009, 6038, 6046.

5.B. Discuss, consider and take all necessary action to approve the student, activities, staff, and non-certified handbooks for the 2026-2027 school year

5.C. Discuss, consider and take all necessary action to approve the transportation rates for the 2026-2027 year.

5.D. Discuss, consider and take all necessary action to approve the rate schedule for 2026-2027.

6. Discussion Items

6.A. Facility Updates

6.B. Facility Advocates Report

7. Administrator Report

7.A. Superintendent Report

7.B. Principal Report

8. Next Board Meeting: 8:00pm Monday, August 17, 2026 in the Wilcox conference room

9. Adjourn

5045
Student Fees

The school district shall provide free instruction in accordance with the Nebraska State Constitution and the Nebraska statutes. The district also provides activities, programs, and services that extend beyond the minimum level of constitutionally required free instruction. Under the Public Elementary and Secondary Student Fee Authorization Act, the district is permitted to charge students fees for these activities or to require students to provide specialized equipment and attire for certain purposes. This policy is subject to further interpretation or guidance by administrative or board regulations. Students are encouraged to contact their building administration, their teachers or their coaches, and sponsors for further specifics.

A. Definitions.

1. "Students" means students, their parents, guardians or other legal representatives.

2. "Extracurricular activities" means student activities or organizations that (1) are supervised or administered by the district; (2) do not count toward graduation or advancement between grades; and (3) are not otherwise required by the district.

3. "Post-secondary education costs" means tuition and other fees associated with obtaining credit from a post-secondary educational institution.

B. Listing of Fees Charged by this District.

1. Guidelines for Clothing Required for Specified Courses and Activities.

Students are responsible for complying with the district's grooming and attire guidelines and for furnishing all clothing required for any special programs, courses or activities in which they participate. The teacher, coach, or sponsor of the activity will provide students with written guidelines that detail any special clothing requirements and explain why the special clothing is required for the specific program, course or activity.

2. Safety Equipment and Attire.

The district will provide students with all safety equipment and attire that is required by law. Building administrators will assure that (a) such equipment is available in the appropriate classes and areas of the school buildings, (b) teachers are directed to instruct students in the use of such devices, and (c) students use the devices as required. Students are responsible for using the devices safely and as instructed.

3. Personal or Consumable Items.

The district does not provide students with personal or consumable items for participation in courses and activities including, but not limited to, pencils, paper, pens, erasers and notebooks. Students who wish to supply their own personal or consumable items may do so, as long as those items comply with the requirements of the district. The district will provide students with facilities, equipment, materials and supplies, including books. Students are responsible for the careful and appropriate use of such property. Students will be charged for damage to school property caused by the student and will be held responsible for the reasonable replacement cost of any school property that they lose.

4. Materials Required for Course Projects.

The district will provide students with the materials necessary to complete all basic curricular projects. In courses where students choose to produce a project that requires materials beyond the basic materials provided by the district, the students will furnish the materials, purchase the materials from the school, or purchase the materials from an outside vendor with an order form provided by the school.

5. Technological Devices

The district will provide students with the technological devices necessary to complete all basic curricular projects. To the extent that a student is not required by the district's curriculum to utilize a device off district property, the district may charge students a convenience fee to take the device off district property. The maximum dollar amount of this convenience fee charged by the district will be $100.

As with all school property, students may be charged for damage to such devices. To protect against such potential losses, students and parents may, but are not required, to purchase insurance coverage for the devices. The

maximum dollar amount of this insurance coverage facilitated by the district will be $1000. The district may also charge a damage deposit which will be returned or may be rolled to cover the damage deposit for the next year if it is not needed to cover the costs of any damage to the device. The maximum dollar amount of this damage deposit will be $100.

6. Extracurricular Activities.

The district may charge students a fee to participate in extracurricular activities to cover the district's reasonable costs in offering such activities. The district may require students to furnish specialized equipment and clothing that is required for participation in extracurricular activities, or may charge a reasonable fee for the use of district-owned equipment or attire. Attached to this policy is a list of the fees charged for particular activities. The coach or sponsor will provide students with additional written guidelines detailing the fees charged, the equipment and/or clothing required, or the usage fee charged. The guidelines will explain the reasons that fees, equipment and/or clothing are required for the activity.

The following list details the maximum dollar amount of all extracurricular activities fees and the specifications for any equipment or attire required for participation in extracurricular activities:

- Student Activity Card: $30
  - Covers admission to all extracurricular events
- Student Participation Fee: $30
  - Required of all students who participate in athletics and/or other extracurricular activities
- Future Business Leaders of America: $100
- National Honor Society: $No Fee
- Cheerleading: $900
  - Students must purchase uniforms and shoes selected by the sponsor and/or student group. The maximum dollar amount charged by the school district for these items will be: $900
- Football: No Fee
  - Students must provide their own football shoes, undergarments, and mouthguards
- Golf: No Fee
  - Students must provide their own golf shoes, undergarments, and clubs
- Track, Volleyball, and Wrestling: No Fee
  - Students must provide their own shoes and undergarments
- Future Farmers of America: $100

- Students must purchase their own jackets and pay dues

7. Post-Secondary Education Costs.

Some students enroll in postsecondary courses while still enrolled in the district's high school. As a general rule, students must pay all costs associated with such post-secondary courses. However, for a course in which students receive high school credit or a course being taken as part of an approved accelerated or differentiated curriculum program, the district shall offer the course without charge for tuition, transportation, books, or other fees. Students who choose to apply for post-secondary education credit for these courses must pay tuition and all other fees associated with obtaining credits from a post-secondary educational institution. The costs of these items will naturally vary, but the maximum dollar amount of the fee is anticipated to be $_____ per course.

8. Transportation Costs.

The district will charge students reasonable fees for transportation services provided by the district to the extent permitted by federal and state statutes and regulations.

The maximum dollar amount of the transportation fee charged by this district shall be $_____.

9. Copies of Student Files or Records.

The district will charge a fee for making copies of a student's files or records for the parents or guardians of such student. The Superintendent or the Superintendent's designee shall establish a schedule of student record fees. Parents of students have the right to inspect and review the students' files or records without the payment of a fee, and the district shall not charge a fee to search for or retrieve any student's files or records.

The district will charge a fee of $____ per page for reproduction of student records.

10. Participation in Before-and-After-School or Pre-Kindergarten Services.

The district will charge reasonable fees for participation in before-and-after school or pre-kindergarten services offered by the district pursuant to statute.

The maximum dollar amount charged by the district for these services shall be $_____.

11. Participation in Summer School or Night School.

The district will charge reasonable fees for participation in summer school or night school and may charge reasonable fees for correspondence courses.

The maximum dollar amount charged by the district for summer and night school shall be $_____.

12. Charges for Food Consumed by Students.

The district will charge for items that students purchase from the district's breakfast and lunch programs. The fees charged for these items will be set according to applicable federal and state statutes and regulations. The district will charge students for the cost of food, beverages, and the like that students purchase from a school store, vending machine, booster club or from similar sources. Students may be required to bring money or food for field trip lunches and similar activities.

The maximum dollar amount charged by the district for the breakfast and lunch programs is as follows:

- Breakfast Program – Grades K-12
  - Regular Price $2.25
  - Reduced Price $.30
- Lunch Program – Grades K-5
  - Regular Price $3.20
  - Reduced Price $.40
- Lunch Program – Grades 6-12
  - Regular Price $3.45
  - Reduced Price $.40

13. Charges for Musical Extracurricular Activities.

Students who qualify for fee waivers under this policy will be provided, at no charge, the use of a musical instrument in optional music courses that are not extracurricular activities. The following list details the maximum dollar amount of all musical extracurricular activities fees and the equipment or attire required for participation in musical extracurricular activities:

- Band: No charge

- Students must provide their own instruments and marching band shoes, which must be white, rubber-soled sneakers
- Choir: No charge
  - Students must purchase outfits and shoes selected by the sponsor and/or student group. The maximum dollar amount charged by the district for these materials will be $0

14. Contributions for Junior and Senior Class Extracurricular Activities.

Students are eligible to participate in a number of unique extracurricular activities during their last two years in high school, including prom, various senior recognitions, and graduation. In order to fund these extracurricular activities, the school district will ask each student to make a contribution to their class's fund. This contribution is completely voluntary. Students who chose not to contribute to the class fund are still eligible to participate in the extra activities. The suggested donation to the class fund will be $100.

C. Waiver Policy.

Students who qualify for free or reduced-price lunches under United States Department of Agriculture child nutrition programs shall be provided a fee waiver or be provided the necessary materials or equipment without charge for (1) participation in extracurricular activities, (2) materials for course projects, and (3) the use of a musical instrument in optional music courses that are not extracurricular activities. Actual participation in the free or reduced-price lunch program is not required to qualify for the waivers provided in this section. The district is not obligated to provide any particular type or quality of equipment or other material to eligible students. Students who wish to be considered for waiver of a particular fee must submit a completed fee waiver application to their building principal.

D. Distribution of Policy.

This policy will be published in the Student Handbook or its equivalent that will be provided to students at no cost.

E. Voluntary Contributions to Defray Costs.

The district will, when appropriate, request donations of money, materials, equipment or attire from parents, guardians and other members of the community to defray the costs of providing certain services and activities to students. These requests are not requirements and staff members of the

district are directed to clearly communicate that fact to students, parents and patrons.

F. Fund-Raising Activities

Students may be permitted or required to engage in fund-raising activities to support various curricular and extracurricular activities in which they participate. Students who decline to participate in fund-raising activities are not eligible under this policy for waiver of the costs or fees which the fund-raising activity was meant to defray.

G. Student Fee Fund.

The school board hereby establishes a Student Fee Fund. The Student Fee Fund shall be a separate school district fund that will not be funded by tax revenue, and that will serve a depository for all monies collected from students for (1) participation in extracurricular activities, (2) post-secondary education costs, and (3) summer school or night school courses. Monies in the Student Fee Fund shall be expended only for the purposes for which they were collected from students.

Adopted on: December 17, 2018
Revised on: July 17, 2023
Reviewed on: _____

5018
Parent Involvement in Education Practices

For purposes of this policy, "parent" includes a parent, guardian, or educational decisionmaker (a person designated or ordered by a court to make educational decisions on behalf of a student).

The school district recognizes the importance of parental involvement in the education of their children. To the extent practicable, the school district will make a reasonable effort to make any learning materials, including original materials, available for inspection by a parent upon request.

The school district will take the following steps to ensure that the rights of parents to participate in the education of their children are preserved.

1. Parents will be provided access to textbooks, tests, activities information; digital materials; websites or applications used for learning; training materials for teachers, administrators, and staff; procedures for the review and approval of training materials, learning materials, and activities; and other curriculum materials ("curricular materials") as follows:

    a. A parental request to review specific curricular materials (written, visual, or audio) should be made to the principal of the building where the curricular materials are used.
    b. The building principal will assess the request and determine the allowable volume and time frame of the review to prevent disruption to the efficient operations of the district.
    c. The purpose of this provision is to allow reasonable access to the extent practicable. Individuals who make requests (a) for the purpose of adding staff burden; (b) at an unreasonable frequency or volume; or (c) for purposes inconsistent with the efficient operations of the district may be denied access to materials.
    d. A parental request to review specific standardized and criterion-referenced tests used in the district should be made in writing to the building principal. Copies of the most recent tests used in the district will be available for parent review. Parents wishing to review statewide assessments will be provided with sample questions and a copy of a practice test, but will not be provided with copies of the actual assessment due to testing security. In

the case of other secure tests such as the ACT, parents must contact the publisher to obtain copies of the test.

2. Parents will be permitted, within district procedures, to attend and observe courses, assemblies, counseling sessions, and other instructional activities.

    a. Parents are invited to make appointments with the building principal to visit classes, assemblies, and other instructional activities. The principal shall give permission after determining that parental observation would not disrupt the activity. Observations that last more than 60 minutes or occur on consecutive days are typically disruptive and will not be permitted absent unusual circumstances, in the sole discretion of the building principal.

    b. Parents may contact the building principal to request permission to attend counseling sessions in which their child is involved.

3. Parents may request that their children be excused from testing (except as provided below), classroom instruction, learning materials, activities, guest speaker events, and other school experiences ("school events") that parents find objectionable.

    a. Parents must submit this request in writing to the building principal for consideration.

    b. Building principals may excuse a student from any school events at the parent's written request if, in the principal's professional judgment, excusal from the activity would not result in diminution of the student's educational experience.

    c. When the building principal determines it appropriate, alternative experiences may be provided for the student by the school.

4. Parents will be informed through the student handbook and district policies of the manner that the district will provide access to records of students.

5. Parents will be informed of the standardized and criterion-referenced district testing program. Parents may request additional information from the building principal.

6. Parents will be informed of the circumstances under which they may opt-out of state and federal assessments.

   a. In accordance with federal law, at the beginning of the school year, the District shall provide notice of the right to request a copy of this policy to parents of students attending schools receiving Title I funds. The District will provide a copy of this policy to a requesting parent in a timely manner.

   b. State Assessments

      State and federal law simultaneously require students to take state assessments, with few exceptions, but also permit parents to request to opt their students out of these assessments. Approval of opt out requests is contrary to the mandatory testing laws, so the District cannot "approve" the request. Parents who do not present their child for testing will result in the child receiving the lowest score possible on the assessment.

   c. National Assessment of Educational Progress

      As a condition of receiving federal funds, the District participates in the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP). To help ensure that the District has a representative sample of students taking the NAEP, which will allow the District to assess the quality and effectiveness of its programming on a national level, the District strongly encourages all eligible students to participate. However, student participation in NAEP is voluntary.

      The District shall provide parents of eligible students with reasonable notice prior to the exam being administered. Parents wishing to opt their students out of the NAEP assessment must notify the district in writing at least three days prior to the exam date to ensure that the District can coordinate supervision and alternative activities for students who have opted out.

7. Parents will be notified of their right to remove their children from surveys prior to district participation in surveys.

a. The principal must approve all surveys intended to gather information from students before they are administered to students.

b. Students' participation in surveys is voluntary. Parents may restrict their child from participating in any survey.

c. If the school administers (1) a survey requesting that students provide sexual information, mental health information, medical information, information on health-risk behaviors, religious information, information of political affiliation, or any other information that the school board deems to be sensitive in nature or (2) a non-anonymous survey requesting students provide information relating to drug, vape, alcohol, or tobacco use, the school district shall, at least fifteen days prior to the administration of the survey, notify parents, guardians, and educational decisionmakers of students that are to receive such survey. The notice will be made through the school's electronic notification system or by physical mail to the address on file for the student. The notice will describe the nature and types of questions included in the survey, the purposes and age-appropriateness of the survey, how information collected by the survey will be used, who will have access to such information, the steps that will be taken to protect student privacy, and whether and how any findings or results of such survey will be disclosed.

d. Parents have the right to: (1) request that a copy of the survey be sent through the school's electronic notification system or physical mail to the address on file for the student, (2) review the survey in person at the school, and (3) exempt their child from participating in the survey.

e. Unless required by federal or state law or regulation, school personnel administering any survey shall not disclose personally identifiable information of a child.

f. No survey requesting sexual information of a student shall be administered to any student in kindergarten through grade six.

g. The district will also comply with any survey requirements found in the district's policy on Protection of Pupil Rights.

8. The district will make this policy accessible by a prominently displayed link on its public website. Any amended policy will be made accessible within a reasonable time of its amendment.

Adopted on: December 17, 2018
Revised on: June 16, 2025
Reviewed on: _____

5057 District Title I Parent and Family Engagement Policy

The school district will jointly develop with parents a School-Parent-Student Compact that outlines how the parents, 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.

The written District Parent and Family Engagement Policy will be jointly developed and distributed to parents and family members of participating children and the local community in an understandable format and to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand. An annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of the Parent and Family Engagement Policy will be used to design evidence-based strategies for more effective parental involvement, to revise the Parent and Family Engagement Policy, and to remove barriers to participation.

The school district recognizes the unique needs of students who are being served in its Title I program, and the importance of parent and family engagement in the Title I program. Parent and family engagement in the Title I Program shall include, but is not limited to:

1. An annual meeting to which all parents of participating children will be invited to inform parents of their school's participation under this part, to explain the requirements of this part, and the right of the parents to be involved. Invitations may take the form of notes sent with students or announcements in the school newsletter. Additional meetings may be scheduled, based upon need and interest for such meetings.

2. An explanation of the details for the child's and parents' participation, including but not limited to: curriculum objectives, the forms of academic assessment used to measure student progress and the achievement levels of the challenging State academic standards, type and extent of participation, parental input in educational decisions, coordination and integration with other Federal, State, and district programs, and evaluations of progress.

3. Opportunities for participation in parent involvement activities such as training to help parents work with their children to improve achievement. A goal of ~~these~~ parent activities is to

provide parents with opportunities to participate in decisions relating to the education of their students, where appropriate.

4. The district will, to the extent practicable, provide parents of limited English proficiency, parents with disabilities, parents with limited literacy, are economically disadvantaged, are of a racial or minority background or—parents of migratory children with opportunities for involvement in the Title I Program. Communication to parents about student progress and the district's other Title I Program communications will be provided in the language used in the home to the extent practicable. Responses to parent concerns will be provided in a timely manner.

5. Opportunities for parent-teacher conferences, in addition to those regularly scheduled by the school district, if requested by the parents or as deemed necessary by school district staff.

6. The district will coordinate and integrate parental involvement programs and activities with other programs in the community. These may include cooperation with other community programs such as Head Start and preschools and other community services such as the public library.

7. Educate teachers, specialized instructional support personnel, principals, and other school leaders, with the assistance of parents in the value and utility of contributions of parents, how to reach out to, communicate with and work with parents as equal partners.

This policy shall be reviewed annually at the annual meeting where concerned parties can have a conversation about possible changes to the Parent and Family Engagement Policy.

Adopted on: December 17, 2018
Revised on: _____
Reviewed on: July 17, 2023

Wilcox-Hildreth Public School
Board of Education Regular Meeting
Monday, June 15, 2026 ~ 8:00 PM
Posting Locations:
Minden Courier Posting Date 06/04/2026
Franklin Chronicle Posting Date 06/03/2026
Conference Room - Wilcox
404 Sapp Street
Wilcox, NE 68982-0190

1. Call to Order. Roll Call

2. Announce location of posted Open Meetings Act

2.A. Pledge

3. Consent Agenda

Motion by Alan Casper, seconded by Chris Stuehm, to approve the consent agenda. Motion Passed.
Teresa Carey: Yea, Alan Casper: Yea, Kert Hansen: Yea, Ryan Knaus: Absent, Kirk Nelson: Yea, Chris Stuehm: Yea
Yea: 5, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

3.A. Approval of Agenda

3.B. Approval of minutes of Regular May 18, 2026 Board Meeting

3.C. Approval of Claims

3.D. Financial Report

4. Visitors and communication from the public

Joe Fouts was a visitor in attendance.

4.A. Americanism Committee Hearing

Mr. Glenn updatred the Board and the Public about the lessons that were taught throught the year that were required under the Americanism requirements.

5. Action Items

5.A. Discuss, consider, and take all necessary action to adopt resolution increasing the school district's base growth percentage used to determine the school district's property tax request authority by up to seven percent (7%)

Motion by Chris Stuehm, seconded by Kert Hansen, to adopt resolution increasing the school district's base growth percentage used to determine the school district's property tax request authority by up to seven percent (7%). Motion Passed.
Teresa Carey: Yea, Alan Casper: Yea, Kert Hansen: Yea, Ryan Knaus: Absent, Kirk Nelson: Yea, Chris Stuehm: Yea
Yea: 5, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

5.B. Discuss, consider and take all necessary action to approve non-certified wages for the 26-27 school year.

Motion by Teresa Carey, seconded by Chris Stuehm, to approve non-certified wages for the 26-27 school year. Motion Passed.
Teresa Carey: Yea, Alan Casper: Yea, Kert Hansen: Yea, Ryan Knaus: Yea, Kirk Nelson: Yea, Chris Stuehm: Yea
Yea: 6, Nay: 0

5.C. Discuss, consider and take all necessary action to revise/review board policies 4002, 4004,4006,4007,4009, 4022, 4032, 4034

Superintendent Patterson reviewed the policies with the Board.

Motion by Kert Hansen, seconded by Ryan Knaus, to revise/review board policies 4002, 4004, 4006, 4007, 4009, 4022, 4032, 4034. Motion Passed.
Teresa Carey: Yea, Alan Casper: Yea, Kert Hansen: Yea, Ryan Knaus: Yea, Kirk Nelson: Yea,

Chris Stuehm: Yea
Yea: 6, Nay: 0

6. Discussion Items

6.A. Discuss options for completing facility updates

- **Financial Options**
  - **Bond Issue**
  - **Lease Purchase**
  - **District Funds**
- **Company Options**
  - **Architect/Builder**
  - **ESCO (Energy Service Company)**

Superintendent Patterson reviewed known needs of the district's facilities, which included:

- Window replacements in the Hildreth location
- The water intrusion issues at the Wilcox facility, which included removal of the windows in the weight room
- Electrical needs at the Hildreth location are needed to support an HVAC system to replace a 1980s boiler system and a building without AC throughout.
- Track replacement at the Wilcox site

Superintendent Patterson introduced the Board to possibly utilizing an Energy Efficiancy Company to help identify and plan for the known and unknown facility needs of the district as the Board plans for Phase Two of construction/renovation plans for the district. He also reviewed ways to financially plan for facility needs projects for the District as the district paid off the lease purchase for the last project a year ahead of schedule. He discussed with the Board that when the district has identified the facility needs of the district with cost projections, the Board may want to start holding community meetings in the district to update the public on the estimated cost and how the Board may plan to address those identified needs and at that time receive public comment on those ideas.

6.B. Community engagment meetings for facilities

7. Administrator Report

7.A. Superintendent Report

Superintendent Patterson reported:

- Monthly Financial Report
- Facility Needs Planning

7.B. Principal Report

Principal Muhlbach reported:

- NSCAS Scores

Principal Glenn Reported:

- Americanism Act Hearing Update
- 25-26 Attendance Recap

8. Next Board Meeting: Monday, July 20, 2026 at 8pm in the Wilcox Conference Room.

9. Adjourn

Motion by Alan Casper, seconded by Ryan Knaus, to adjourn meeting at 8:45 p.m. Motion Passed.
Teresa Carey: Yea, Alan Casper: Yea, Kert Hansen: Yea, Ryan Knaus: Yea, Kirk Nelson: Yea, Chris Stuehm: Yea
Yea: 6, Nay: 0

Vendor Name	Invoice Number	Description	Amount
Checking Account ID 1	Fund Number 01	GENERAL FUND	
AED Authority	66095	Lifepak CR2 WIFI AED	2,219.00
Total AED Authority			2,219.00
Amazon Capital Services, Inc.	17MT-1GV9-4WN9	TItle 1/PK Supplies	36.67
Amazon Capital Services, Inc.	1KWY-C1PG-47GH	Pool Supplies	98.61
Amazon Capital Services, Inc.	1MM3-TFWM-6F7X	Grade 2 Classroom Supplies	39.98
Amazon Capital Services, Inc.	1NP3-JXVK-CGK1	Green House Supplies	198.75
Amazon Capital Services, Inc.	1QWF-44QQ-7WKK	One Act Supplies 27	54.02
Amazon Capital Services, Inc.	1WR6-FVTJ-4YV3	Patterson-Supplies	39.68
Total Amazon Capital Services, Inc.			467.71
American Association of School Administrators	1007671	Patterson-Small School Dist. Leader-Dues	241.00
Total American Association of School Administrators			241.00
Black Hills Energy	4456237296-0085	613 Nelson Street	203.49
Black Hills Energy	4694971507-0085	102 N Stockton Street	1,175.52
Black Hills Energy	5673345098-0084	208 Stockton Street	52.49
Black Hills Energy	8027394935-0086	404 E Sapp Street	79.89
Total Black Hills Energy			1,511.39
BTS Communications	35906	6 New Phones-SuperVision5	2,124.00
BTS Communications	35911-0001	Remote Support	54.00
Total BTS Communications			2,178.00
Central Nebraska Bobcat	KR14449	Rental Equipment	205.20
Total Central Nebraska Bobcat			205.20
Central States Lab Inc	10070	Pool Supplies	581.50
Total Central States Lab Inc			581.50
Classic Spa & Tub Co.	231398-1	Pool Supplies-Reagent/PH Indicator	142.18
Classic Spa & Tub Co.	231576-1	BioGuard Pool Magnet Plus-Supplies	406.89
Classic Spa & Tub Co.	232238-1	Pool Complete-Supplies	41.99
Classic Spa & Tub Co.	232430-1	Pool Supplies-Chlorine	68.39
Total Classic Spa & Tub Co.			659.45
Clearfly	INV834621-0001	Phone Services	99.70
Total Clearfly			99.70
Computer Hardware	170094	Lenovo Chromebooks	17,212.05
Total Computer Hardware			17,212.05
Cooperative Producers Inc	June2026Fuel/Fertliz	Fertilizer/Fuel	2,723.62
Total Cooperative Producers Inc			2,723.62
Cornerstone Electric	6250	Green House Irrigation ControllerInstall	202.50
Total Cornerstone Electric			202.50
D&S Ag Sales, Inc.	33221	Sprayer Parts	23.94
Total D&S Ag Sales, Inc.			23.94
DAS State Accounting-Central Finance	1527222-0001	Interregional Fees April/May 2026	635.74

Vendor Name	Invoice Number	Description	Amount
Total DAS State Accounting-Central Finance			635.74
Eakes Office Solutions	9330542-1	Paper	99.90
Eakes Office Solutions	9341548-1	Principal Supplies-UE	32.40
Eakes Office Solutions	9347334-0	UE Office Supplies	1.26
Eakes Office Solutions	9350635-0	Rolls of Paper	196.68
Eakes Office Solutions	9354361-0	Colored Paper	48.14
Eakes Office Solutions	9355625-0	Desk Mat	50.25
Eakes Office Solutions	9357413-0	Science Room Supplies	28.99
Eakes Office Solutions	9357414-0	Elem/HS Office Supplies	559.88
Eakes Office Solutions	9364043-0	Red Folders-Office	71.29
Eakes Office Solutions	C9355739-0	COA-Paper	(169.08)
Total Eakes Office Solutions			919.71
Educational Service Unit 9	C44844	UFLI Foundations Reg Fee-Fouts	65.00
Educational Service Unit 9	C44845	UFLI Foundations Reg Fee-Lunsford	65.00
Educational Service Unit 9	C44847	UFLI Foundations Reg Fee-Winz	65.00
Educational Service Unit 9	C45360	UFLI Foundations Reg Fee-Picquet	65.00
Educational Service Unit 9	C45366	UFLI Foundations Reg Fee-Crowley	65.00
Total Educational Service Unit 9			325.00
Esu #10	27575-1	Herrick-UFLI Training Reg Fee	20.00
Total Esu #10			20.00
ESU #11	2526-3-13	3rd Qtr Sped Billing 25-26	64,629.82
ESU #11	5018	M. Crowley Lamination/IXL 26-27 Subscrip	3,539.85
Total ESU #11			68,169.67
ESU Coordinating Council	COOP003426	WB-PP	130.20
Total ESU Coordinating Council			130.20
Family Physical Therapy & Sports Center	3897	PT Services Birth-3. SA	283.50
Total Family Physical Therapy & Sports Center			283.50
Franklin County Chronicle	June26Publications	June 2026 Publications	253.51
Franklin County Chronicle	May2026Invoices	May 2026 Invoices	130.29
Total Franklin County Chronicle			383.80
Fritz's Market	June2026GFCharges	Custodial Supplies-Hildreth Site	7.90
Total Fritz's Market			7.90
Global Industrial	124534465	Elementary Desks	9,547.89
Total Global Industrial			9,547.89
Go Physical Therapy	WHPS62026	Birth-2 Physical Therapy Services	626.40
Total Go Physical Therapy			626.40
Great Plains Communications	50365-0076	Wilcox Site Phone Bill	292.97
Total Great Plains Communications			292.97
HD Supply Facilities Maintenance, Ltd.	0883001600	Window Air Conditioner-UE	1,168.00
HD Supply Facilities Maintenance, Ltd.	0883015807	Custodial Supplies	20.90
HD Supply Facilities Maintenance, Ltd.	0883015808	Custodial Supplies-Wilcox	255.16

Vendor Name	Invoice Number	Description	Amount
HD Supply Facilities Maintenance, Ltd.	0883020976	Custodial Supplies	29.27
HD Supply Facilities Maintenance, Ltd.	0883049220	Light Bulbs	94.98
Total HD Supply Facilities Maintenance, Ltd.			1,568.31
Hometown Leasing	1280109876-0001	Copy Machine Lease Payment	894.00
Total Hometown Leasing			894.00
iCEV Multimedia, LLC	INV-19891	Curriculum	2,887.50
Total iCEV Multimedia, LLC			2,887.50
Jaymar Business Forms, Inc.	066551	Activity Fund Checks Replenishment	411.35
Total Jaymar Business Forms, Inc.			411.35
KSB School Law PC LLO	21884	Legal Services	661.00
Total KSB School Law PC LLO			661.00
Larsen's Ace Hardware	57925	Pool Supplies	42.98
Larsen's Ace Hardware	58543	Custodial Supplies	8.94
Larsen's Ace Hardware	59412	Hildreth Site - Grounds Supplies	51.75
Larsen's Ace Hardware	59522	Custodial Supplies-Hildreth Site	59.98
Total Larsen's Ace Hardware			163.65
Masters True Value	2606-139122	Mower Parts - Hildreth Site	134.83
Total Masters True Value			134.83
Matheson Tri-Gas Inc	0033475393-0001	Oxygen-IA Arts Supplies	150.68
Total Matheson Tri-Gas Inc			150.68
Menards - Kearney	10178	BandRoom/Custodial/Trans. Supplies	115.51
Menards - Kearney	9174	Custodial Supplies	17.38
Menards - Kearney	9423	Supplies-Custodial-Wilcox Site	35.84
Total Menards - Kearney			168.73
Mid-America Research Chemical	0876511-IN	Custodial Supplies-Hildreth Site	611.02
Total Mid-America Research Chemical			611.02
Minden Courier	1264	BOE Legal Notice 6/15/26	8.51
Minden Courier	1285	BOE Minutes Publication 6/15/26	79.18
Minden Courier	1351	BOE Meeting Notice 7/20/26	7.53
Total Minden Courier			95.22
NCSA	91755	NCE Conference-Haley Marsh	300.00
NCSA	91756	NCE Conference Reg Fee-Abigail Meyer	300.00
Total NCSA			600.00
NRCSA	1813	NRCSA Dues Renewal 26-27	850.00
Total NRCSA			850.00
OneSource The Background Check Company, LLC	2022209570	Background Check-Jestes/Swanson	100.00
Total OneSource The Background Check Company, LLC			100.00
Oriental Trading Company	74258242401	Spanish Supplies	96.18
Total Oriental Trading Company			96.18

Vendor Name	Invoice Number	Description	Amount
Playground Boss LLC	071326-49914-IN	Plastic Landscape Timbers-Wilcox Site	2,076.00
Total Playground Boss LLC			2,076.00
PowerSchool Group LLC	INV502399	PowerSchool SIS Hosting/SSL Certificate	2,686.05
Total PowerSchool Group LLC			2,686.05
Presto-X Company	97417450	Monthly Pest Control Services - Wilcox	117.44
Total Presto-X Company			117.44
Pro Quest LLC	70948837	SIRS Isses/Discoverer	1,599.06
Total Pro Quest LLC			1,599.06
Protex Central, Inc.	172332	Fire Alarm Service Repair-Hildreth Site	110.00
Protex Central, Inc.	172333	Wilcox Site-Fire Alarm Repair/Testing	165.00
Total Protex Central, Inc.			275.00
Really Good Stuff	9220792	Kindergarten Supplies	39.98
Total Really Good Stuff			39.98
S & W Auto Parts	027700	Van #4 & #5 Supplies	45.98
Total S & W Auto Parts			45.98
Savvas Learning Company, LLC	7029301502	6th Grade Science Curriculum	923.40
Total Savvas Learning Company, LLC			923.40
Software Unlimited, Inc	20260628-108	Annual Renewal Fee 9/1/26-8/31/27	11,450.00
Total Software Unlimited, Inc			11,450.00
University of Nebraska at Kearney	57-16042	Pistulka-Bus Training	50.00
Total University of Nebraska at Kearney			50.00
Village Of Hildreth	099-0075	613 Nelson Street Utilities	1,647.26
Village Of Hildreth	100-0075	WH Upper Elem. - Bus	8.17
Village Of Hildreth	164	Advertising Fee-Village Web Page	75.00
Village Of Hildreth	249A FB Fi-0075	Football Field	108.17
Total Village Of Hildreth			1,838.60
Village Of Wilcox	10600-0079	102 N Stockton	1,463.56
Village Of Wilcox	15500-0079	105 North Stockton/Greenhouse	67.68
Village Of Wilcox	23000-0079	102 North Stockton-Kitchen	192.50
Village Of Wilcox	23400-0070	Water-102 N. Stockton	208.52
Village Of Wilcox	23700-0079	308 East Sapp Street/Ag Building	160.19
Village Of Wilcox	24300-0079	Wilcox Site Water-South West	62.92
Village Of Wilcox	24400-0079	102 North Stockton-School Office	55.00
Village Of Wilcox	24500-0079	Wilcox Site-South East	55.00
Village Of Wilcox	24700-0079	Wilcox Site-FB Field	165.52
Village Of Wilcox	25600-0079	208 N Stockton Street-Bus Barn	29.81
Total Village Of Wilcox			2,460.70
VISA	BennettsJuly26GF	StepNWash/Postage	956.88
VISA	MuhlbachJuly26GF	AnnaBellGardenMotel/Muhlbach	270.30
VISA	WHSJuly26GF	Brashear-Counselor Dues	174.00
Total VISA			1,401.18

Vendor Name	Invoice Number	Description	Amount
Wage Works	INV9155024-0001	FSA Admin Fee	128.75
Total Wage Works			128.75
Weathercraft	8719	Repair Damage on Building Roof	713.48
Total Weathercraft			713.48
Woodward's Disposal Service	NO9335-192-0001	Destruction Services-Shredding of Docs	55.00
Total Woodward's Disposal Service			55.00
Yanda's Music And Pro Audio	815055	Clarinet Repair-School Instrument	75.25
Yanda's Music And Pro Audio	815074	Clarinet Repair-School Instrument	33.50
Yanda's Music And Pro Audio	815168	Saxophone Repair-School Instrument	92.05
Total Yanda's Music And Pro Audio			200.80
Fund Number 01			145,121.73
Checking Account ID 1			145,121.73

GENERAL FUND

	6/30/2026
Taxes Levied/County Receipts-1100	$135,687.94
Public Power Dist Sales Tax/In-Lieu-1120	$195.47
Motor Vehicle Taxes-1125	$8,015.72
Interest Earned-1140/1510	$8,613.51
Other County Sources-1190	
Local License Fees-1911	$150.00
Misc Receipts-1990	$23,397.26
County Fines & Licenses-2110	$798.80
ESU11 Receipts-2210	
State Aid-3110	$38,520.00
Special Education SA-3120	$62,663.00
Homestead Exemption-3130	$4,199.60
Property Tax Credit-3131	
Nameplate Capacity Tax-3133	
Pers. Prop Tax Credit-3134	
State Reimbursement-Nutrition-3150	
Pro Rate Motor Vehicles-3180	
State Apportionment-3400	
High Ability Learners-3535	
Career Education-3551	
Title I, Part A-4505	
Title II, Part A-4509	
IDEA Base (619)-4516	
IDEA Base (611)-4518	
U.S. Fish & Wildlife-4524	
Medicaid Admin Activities-4709	
Title IV, Part A-4969	
Proceeds from Sale of Property-5300	$60.00
Non-Program Receipts-9000	$2,379.93
Inter-Fund Loan (SP. Building)-9003	
Misc Receipts-Reimb to Expense Accts.	$1,545.84
TOTAL RECEIPTS	**$286,227.07**

Instructional Services-1100	$186,988.73
SPED Service-1200	$36,201.80
Summer School-1300	$383.34
Student Support Service-2100	$12,484.05
Support Services - Staff 2200	$16,986.15
Executive Admin/Superin-2300	$21,045.49
Principal-2400	$35,681.47
Business-2500	$11,981.12
Operation-Maintenance-2600	$45,701.23
Regular Transportation-2700	$118,689.32
Community Service -3300	$2,261.29
Grants 3400/3500	$6,893.58
Architech & Engineering-4300	
Building Improvements-4700	
Debt Services-5000	
Federal Funds/Title 1-6200	$6,761.94
IDEA - 6400	
Fed Voc (Perkins) - 6700	
Emerg. Relief-ESSER-6900	
Transfers-8000	
TOTAL EXPENDITURES:	**$502,059.51**

ACCOUNT BALANCES: **6/30/2026**

Depreciation	$971,975.10
General	$3,724,283.69
Lunch	$30,534.93
ADA	$692,359.54
Employee Benefit	$6,503.81
HS Activity	$542,563.82
Gen Fund Clearing	$5,298.25
Student Fee	$8,823.33
URM Fund	$24,274.93
Falcon Team Account	
Special Building Fund	$900,280.65
Total Funds	**$6,906,898.05**

Account Balance as of: **June 30, 2026**

DEPRECIATION FUND BREAKDOWN:

Charter Reimb	$0.00
Transportation	$304,927.48
Building	$316,422.90
Track	$200,000.00
Interest	$26,568.52
Computer Hardware	$124,056.20
Total:	**$971,975.10**

New CD - 6 Month **$342,302.21**

Combined 8 Smalls CD's + $250,000.00 from Depr. Fund

GENERAL FUND BANK RECONCILIATION:

Bank Balance as of June 30, 2026	$3,737,754.50
Outstanding Checks:	$13,470.81
Ending Balance:	**$3,724,283.69**

Report Date 7/1/2026

GENERAL FUND

	6/30/25
County Receipts	$210,050.01
Motor Vehicle Taxes	$9,773.93
Local License Fees	
Interest Earned	$8,389.42
Other Local Receipts	
County Fines & Licenses	$674.66
Homestead Exemption	$3,345.15
Nameplate Capacity Tax	
Other County Sources	
High Ability Learners	
State Aid	$38,743.00
SPED Programs	$129,276.00
State Apportionment	
Pers. Prop Tax Credit	
Property Tax Relief	
Pro Rata Motor Vehicles	
In Lieu of Taxes	$219.67
Medicaid	
Title I	
Title IIA	
Title IV	
IDEA Base (611)	
IDEA Base (619)	
Misc Receipts	
Grant-C4K/Swimming Pool	
High Ability Learners	
Perkins Grant	$900.00
U.S. Fish & Wildlife	
Lunch Tax/Retire	$2,207.76
Federal Grant (CTE-Career Ed)	
TOTAL RECEIPTS	**$403,579.60**

Instructional Services-1100	$185,443.18
SPED Service-1200	$36,713.28
Summer School-1300	$762.29
Student Support Service-2100	$63,204.44
Support Services - Staff 2200	$17,662.70
Executive Admin/Superin-2300	$20,728.12
Principal-2400	$35,407.61
Business-2500	$11,392.23
Operation-Maintenance-2600	$45,126.84
Regular Transportation-2700	$17,392.51
Community Service -3300	$2,326.65
Grants 3400/3500	$49,137.39
Architech & Engineering-4300	
Federal Funds/Title I-6200	$9,304.74
Building Improvement/4700	
Debt Serivices-5000	
IDEA - 6400	$10,561.66
Fed Voc (Perkins) - 6700	$300.00
Emerg. Relief-ESSER-6900	
Transfers-8000	$40,000.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURES:	**$545,463.64**

ACCOUNT BALANCES: **30-Jun-25**

Depreciation	$496,565.82
General	$3,374,539.15
Lunch	$45,011.47
ADA	$475,456.11
Employee Benefit	$6,494.07
HS Activity	$523,660.42
Gen Fund Clearing	$4,306.37
Student Fee	$14,787.48
URM Fund	$18,251.37
Falcon Team Account	
Special Building Fund	$935,114.84
Total Funds	**$5,894,187.10**

Account Balance as of: **June 30, 2025**

DEPRECIATION FUND BREAKDOWN:

Charter Reimb	$0.00
Transportation	$205,627.48
Building	$116,422.90
Track	$0.00
Interest	$2,348.49
Computer Hardware	$172,166.95
Total:	**$496,565.82**

New CD - 6 Month **$335,048.77**

Combined 8 Smalls CD's + $250,000.00 from Depr. Fund

GENERAL FUND BANK RECONCILIATION:

Bank Balance as of June 30, 2025	$3,417,443.57
Outstanding Checks:	$42,904.42
Ending Balance:	**$3,374,539.15**

Report Date 6/1/2025

Monthly Category Expenses:																
		Bdgt 22-26	Sept Exp	Oct Exp	Nov Exp	Dec Exp	Jan Exp	Feb Exp	Mar Exp	Apr Exp	May Exp	June Exp	July Exp	Aug Exp	Total	Balance
1100's	Instruction	**$2,628,400**	$172,994	$185,728	$173,035	$174,369	$170,924	$171,248	$176,537	$178,038	$189,804	$188,535	$181,686		$1,962,899	$665,501
1200's	SPED	**$555,300**	$33,674	$39,784	$42,171	$43,388	$37,332	$40,041	$45,473	$37,733	$41,300	$36,202	$26,773		$423,870	$131,430
1300's	Summer School	**$7,000**										$383	$1,701		$2,084	$4,916
2100's	Sup Ser Pupils	**$371,300**	$12,846	$12,794	$11,512	$62,862	$11,495	$10,266	$61,227	$11,870	$13,740	$12,484	$66,872		$287,969	$83,331
2200's	Sup Ser Staff	**$255,950**	$19,417	$28,576	$15,370	$16,907	$25,616	$15,158	$15,172	$18,401	$22,312	$16,986	$17,836		$211,751	$44,199
2310's	General Admin	**$296,700**	$19,218	$21,699	$20,040	$21,410	$29,026	$18,534	$18,431	$19,716	$19,886	$21,045	$20,329		$229,335	$67,365
																$0
2400's	Principal	**$515,600**	$34,534	$36,378	$36,889	$36,364	$44,495	$37,619	$35,794	$37,098	$37,145	$35,681	$34,064		$406,061	$109,539
2500's	Super/Business	**$245,100**	$21,916	$25,090	$22,840	$15,945	$11,607	$15,832	$11,526	$12,620	$11,848	$11,981	$25,493		$186,698	$58,402
2600's	Main & Oper	**$1,027,000**	$73,159	$51,386	$44,876	$41,278	$59,364	$54,809	$47,301	$65,502	$53,023	$45,701	$41,204		$577,603	$449,397
2700's	Reg Trans	**$528,000**	$17,233	$27,989	$32,752	$20,605	$23,282	$28,410	$24,165	$34,120	$28,882	$118,689	$3,511		$359,639	$168,361
2712's	SPED Trans															$0
3000's	Community	**$98,100**	$1,046	$192	$21,220	$163	$1,240	$79		$200	$4,394	$2,261	$8,630		$39,425	$58,675
3500's	HAL/State Categorical	**$110,400**	$251	$251	$10,326	$20,994	$2,183	$8,022	$10,296	$1,741	$1,551	$6,894	$250		$62,760	$47,640
4000's	Architecture/Engin	**$140,000**		$4,215			$13,753								$17,968	$122,032
6000's	Federal	**$208,675**	$6,690		$2,379	$10,545	$2,232	$5,284	$12,172	$4,456	$4,482	$6,762	$30,177		$85,180	$123,495
5000's	Debt Services	**$0**													$0	
8000's	Transfers	**$152,114**								$40,000					$40,000	$112,114
9000's	Non-Program														$0	
Total		**$7,139,639**	$412,978	$434,082	$433,412	$464,832	$432,550	$405,301	$458,094	$461,495	$428,366	$503,605	$458,526	$0	$4,893,241	$2,246,398
Total Monthly Expenses:																
General		**$6,118,264**	$372,615	$389,832	$378,535	$389,906	$377,049	$351,954	$390,153	$417,566	$381,033	$453,365	$399,625	$0	$4,301,631	$1,816,633
SPED		**$555,300**	$33,674	$39,784	$42,171	$43,388	$37,332	$40,041	$45,473	$37,733	$41,300	$36,202	$26,773	$0	$423,870	$131,430
Federal		**$208,675**	$6,690		$2,379	$10,545	$2,232	$5,284	$12,172	$4,456	$4,482	$6,762	$30,177		$85,180	$123,495
Total		**$6,882,239**	$412,978	$429,616	$423,086	$443,838	$416,613	$397,279	$447,798	$459,754	$426,815	$496,328	$456,575	$0	$4,810,681	$2,071,558
Total Yearly Expenses:																
General		**$5,966,150**	$372,615	$762,446	$1,140,982	$1,530,887	$1,907,936	$2,259,890	$2,650,042	$3,067,608	$3,448,641	$3,902,006	$4,301,631	$4,301,631	$4,301,631	$1,664,519
SPED		**$555,300**	$33,674	$73,458	$115,629	$159,017	$196,349	$236,390	$281,863	$319,596	$360,896	$397,097	$423,870	$423,870	$423,870	$131,430
Federal		**$208,675**	$6,690	$6,690	$9,069	$19,614	$21,846	$27,130	$39,303	$43,758	$48,240	$55,002	$85,180	$85,180	$85,180	$123,495
Total		**$6,730,125**	$412,978	$842,594	$1,265,679	$1,709,518	$2,126,131	$2,523,410	$2,971,208	$3,430,962	$3,857,777	$4,354,105	$4,810,681	$4,810,681	$4,810,681	$1,919,444
Total Unencumbered:																
General		**$6,118,264**	$5,745,649	$5,355,818	$4,977,282	$4,587,377	$4,210,328	$3,858,374	$3,468,222	$3,050,656	$2,669,623	$2,216,258	$1,816,633	$1,816,633		
SPED		**$555,300**	$521,626	$481,842	$439,671	$396,283	$358,951	$318,910	$273,437	$235,704	$194,404	$158,203	$131,430	$131,430		
Federal		**$208,675**	$201,985	$201,985	$199,606	$189,061	$186,829	$181,545	$169,372	$164,917	$160,435	$153,673	$123,495	$123,495		
Total		**$6,882,239**	$6,469,261	$6,039,645	$5,616,560	$5,172,721	$4,756,108	$4,358,829	$3,911,031	$3,451,277	$3,024,462	$2,528,134	$2,071,558	$2,071,558		
Gen Budget Avg Spend Down			$5,608,613	$5,098,349	$4,588,698	$4,078,435	$3,568,783	$3,059,132	$2,549,481	$2,039,217	$1,529,566	$1,019,915	$509,651	$0		
Total Budget Avg Spend Down			$6,544,907	$5,949,461	$5,354,729	$4,759,283	$4,164,551	$3,569,820	$2,975,088	$2,379,642	$1,784,910	$1,190,178	$594,732	$0		

2008
Meetings

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

1. Types of Meetings

    a. The board shall hold its regular meetings on or before the third Monday of each month.

    b. Special and emergency meetings may be called as provided by law.

    c. The board may schedule work sessions and retreats in order to provide board members and administrators with the opportunity to plan, research, and engage in discussion.

2. Notice

Method of Publishing Notice of Meetings. The board will publish reasonable advanced notice of all meetings on its website. The notice will contain a statement that the current agenda is available for inspection at the Superintendent's office during normal business hours. The Superintendent or designee may but is not required to provide information about meetings in other ways, such as social media or posting notices in physical locations in the district.

Publication of Notice Method and Regular Meeting Schedule. Four times per year, in a newspaper of general circulation, the board will publish its regular meeting schedule, location of regular meetings, and the designated method of publishing meeting notices.

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

3. Minutes

a. The board shall keep minutes of all meetings showing the time, place, members present and absent, the method(s) and date(s) of the meeting notice, and the substance of all matters discussed.

b. Any action taken on any question or motion duly moved and seconded shall be by roll call vote of the board in open session, and the record shall state how each member voted, or if the member was absent or not voting.

c. The meeting minutes shall be published on the school district's website within ten working days of the last meeting or prior to the next convened meeting, whichever occurs earlier. The minutes shall be available on the website for at least six months.

The Superintendent will make a copy of the Open Meetings Act available at all meetings.

Adopted on: _____
Revised on: _____
Reviewed on: _____

3003
Bidding for Construction, Remodeling, Repair, or Site Improvement

I. Applicability of this policy.

Construction and contracts undertaken with federal funds, whether those funds are derived directly from the federal government (e.g. award of a federal grant) or are derived by pass-through awards from the Nebraska Department of Education (e.g. special education funds, school lunch funds, Title I funds) are subject to the policy on Construction with Federal Funds, which is found elsewhere in this section.

This policy applies to all other purchases and contracts made by the school district for construction, remodeling, repair and other site improvements.

II. Projects with an Estimated Cost of Less than $136,000

A. The school district will solicit quotes and/or estimates for all projects with an estimated cost of less than $136,000.
B. Prior to solicitation of the quotes and/or estimates, the superintendent will determine whether the district will accept oral submissions.
C. Quotes and/or estimates may be solicited by the superintendent or his/her designee without board action.
D. The terms of any construction project undertaken pursuant to this policy will be memorialized in a written contract which has been reviewed by the district's legal counsel and approved by the board.
E. The district may use a Nebraska state-wide cooperative purchasing program in lieu of obtaining quotes or bids under this policy to the extent such a bid or quote is not otherwise independently required by law.
F. Nothing in this subsection prohibits or requires the use of the formal bidding procedures. If the district is going to solicit formal bids for projects of less than $136,000 they must follow the formal procedures outlined in this policy.

III. Formal Bidding for Major Purchases and Construction

A. Pursuant to section 73-106 of the Nebraska statutes, the board will advertise for bids when the contemplated expenditure of the project exceeds $136,000 for the construction, remodeling or repair of a

school-owned building or for site improvement.

B. In projects that involve professional engineering or architecture, the board will have a registered professional engineer or architect prepare the plans, specifications, and estimates when the anticipated cost of the project exceeds $144,000.

C. Advertising for Bids

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

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

D. Bid Documents

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

2. The invitation for bids will be sufficiently certain and specific, will include any specifications and pertinent attachments, and will define the items or services in order to allow the bidder to properly respond.

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

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

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

6. Sealed bids will be opened in a place and at the specific time stated in the bid form. Bidders shall be notified of the opening

and invited to be present.

7. The board shall have discretion in determining which bidders are responsible and responsive and shall award the contract to the lowest, responsible, and responsive bidder whose bid meets the bid specifications.

E. Any or all bids may be rejected if there is a sound documented reason

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

Adopted on: _____
Revised on: _____
Reviewed on: _____

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

I. Applicability of the Policy

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

The District will also comply with the requirements of the public lettings laws (NEB. REV. STAT. §§ 73-101 through 73-106) when the contemplated expenditure for the complete project exceeds $136,000, the Political Subdivisions Construction Alternatives Act (NEB. REV. STAT. §§ 13-2901 through 13-2914), energy financing contracts (NEB. REV. STAT. §§ 66-1062 through 66-1066), other applicable state laws, and the board's general policy on Bidding for Construction and Related Projects. In addition, all procurement and construction shall comply with the rules and requirements of 2 CFR part 200.317 through 200.327 and 34 CFR sections 75.601 through 75.615. In the event of a conflict between state and federal law, the more stringent requirement shall apply.

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

A. A bid guarantee from each bidder equivalent to five percent of the bid price. The "bid guarantee" must consist of a firm commitment such as a bid bond, certified check, or other negotiable instrument accompanying a bid as assurance that the bidder will, upon acceptance of the bid, execute such contractual documents as may be required within the time specified.

B. A performance bond on the part of the contractor for 100 percent of the contract price. A "performance bond" is one executed in

connection with a contract to secure fulfillment of all the contractor's obligations under such contract.

C. A payment bond on the part of the contractor for 100 percent of the contract price. A "payment bond" is one executed in connection with a contract to assure payment as required by law of all persons supplying labor and material in the execution of the work provided for in the contract.

III. Construction Projects with an Anticipated Cost of Under $350,000

A. Methods of Bidding/Soliciting Quotations or Estimates

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

1. Construction with an Anticipated Cost of up to $15,000 (Micro-Purchases)

Micro-purchase means an individual procurement transaction for supplies or services using simplified acquisition procedures, the annual aggregate amount of which does not exceed $15,000. Micro-purchases may be made or awarded without soliciting competitive quotations, to the extent district staff determine that the cost of the purchase is reasonable. For purposes of this policy "reasonable" means the purchase is comparable to market prices for the geographic area.

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

2. Construction with an Anticipated Cost of between $15,000 and $350,000 (Simplified Acquisition Procedures)

For construction projects subject to this policy, simplified acquisitions are purchases that, in the aggregate amount, is more than $15,000 and less than $350,000 annually. For simplified acquisitions, price or rate quotes shall be obtained in advance from a reasonable number of qualified sources as detailed in the district's standard policies on purchasing and on bid letting and contracts.

B. Construction Projects with an estimated cost of between $136,000 and $349,999 will be made pursuant to the District's Policy on Bid Letting and Contracts.

Pursuant to Nebraska law, construction projects which have an anticipated aggregate cost of $136,000 or more are subject to state public lettings laws (NEB. REV. STAT. §§ 73-101 through 73-106). The board will follow its standard policy on bid letting and contracts for construction projects financed with federal funds which have an anticipated aggregate cost of between $136,000 and $350,000.

IV. Construction Projects with an Anticipated Cost Over $350,000

A. Sealed Bids: All constructions projects subject to this policy with an anticipated cost of $350,000 or more will be publicly solicited using the sealed bid method

1. Bids must be solicited from an adequate number of known suppliers, providing them sufficient response time prior to the date set for opening the bids, for state, local, and tribal governments, the invitation for bids must be publicly advertised;

2. The invitation for bids, which will include any specifications and pertinent attachments, must define the items or services in order for the bidder to properly respond;

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

4. The contract will be awarded to the lowest responsive and responsible bidder.

a) Where specified in bidding documents, factors such as discounts, transportation cost, and life cycle costs must be considered in determining which bid is lowest.

b) Payment discounts will only be used to determine the low bid when prior experience indicates that such discounts are usually taken advantage of.

c) Any or all bids may be rejected if there is a sound documented reason.

5. The board shall have discretion in determining which bidders are responsible and responsive and shall award the contract to the

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

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

B. Advertising for Bids.

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

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

C. Bid Documents

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

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

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

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

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

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

and submitted to the board for approval.

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

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

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

V. Other Contract Matters.

A. Required Terms

The non-Federal entity's contracts must contain the applicable provisions required by section 200.327 and described in Appendix II to Part 200—Contract Provisions for non-Federal Entity Contracts Under Federal Awards. This includes a "Buy American" provision that provides that as appropriate and to the extent consistent with law, the District and contractor should, to the greatest extent practicable under a Federal award, provide a preference for the purchase, acquisition, or use of goods, products, or materials produced in the United States (including but not limited to iron, aluminum, steel, cement, and other manufactured products). The requirements of the Buy American provision must be included in all subawards including all contracts and purchase orders for work or products under this award.

B. Contracting with Certain Vendors

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

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

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

C. Full and Open Competition

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

D. Debarment and Suspension

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

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

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

E. Settlements of Issues Arising Out of Contract

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

F. Record Keeping

1. Record Retention

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

b) The U.S. Department of Education is authorized to recover any federal funds misspent within 5 years before the receipt of a program determination letter. 34 C.F.R. § 81.31(c). Schedule 10 (Local School Districts) and Schedule 24 (Local Agencies General Records) of the Nebraska Records Management Division as approved by the Nebraska Secretary of State/State Records Administrator requires the District to maintain records regarding construction projects for a minimum of five (5) years after the sale or demolition of the building. However, if any litigation, claim, or audit is started before the expiration of the record retention period, the records will be retained until all litigation, claims, or audit findings involving the records have been resolved and final action taken. 2 C.F.R. § 200.334.

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

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

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

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

VI. Conflict of Interest and Code of Conduct

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

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

1. Employees, officers, and agents engaged in the selection, award, and/or administration of district contracts which are prohibited from engaging in such actions if a real or apparent conflict of interest is present.

2. Such a conflict of interest would arise when the employee, officer, or agent, any member of his or her immediate family, his or her partner, or an organization which employs or is about to employ any of the parties indicated herein, has a financial or other interest in or a tangible personal benefit from a firm considered for a contract.

3. The board may determine at its discretion that a financial interest is not substantial enough to give rise to a conflict of interest.

C. Favors and Gifts

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

D. Enforcement

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

VII. Financial Management

A. Identification.

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

B. Financial Reporting

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

C. Accounting Records

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

D. Internal Controls

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

District adequately safeguards all such property and assures that it is used solely for authorized purposes.

E. Budget Control

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

F. Payment Methods

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

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

G. Allowability of Costs

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

When determining how the District will spend its grant funds, the Superintendent or his/her designee will review the proposed cost to determine whether it is an allowable use of federal grant funds before obligating and spending those funds on the proposed good or service. All costs supported by federal education funds must meet the standards outlined in EDGAR, 2 CFR Part 3474 and 2 CFR Part 200, Subpart E. The Superintendent or his/her designee must consider these factors when making an allowability determination.

The Superintendent or his/her designee will consider Part 200's cost guidelines when federal grant funds are expended. The Superintendent or his/her

designee will also consider whether all state - and District-level requirements and policies regarding expenditures have been followed.

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

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

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

I. Cost Sharing or Matching

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

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

J. Documentation of Personnel Expenses

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

VIII. Other Contract Matters.

A. Required Terms

The non-Federal entity's contracts must contain the applicable provisions required by section 200.327 and described in Appendix II to Part 200—Contract Provisions for non-Federal Entity Contracts Under Federal Awards.

B. Contracting with Certain Vendors

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

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

C. Record Keeping

1. Record Retention

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

b) The U.S. Department of Education is authorized to

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

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

2. Maintenance of Procurement Records

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

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

D. Privacy

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

individual requesting access to records has the right to the documentation.

Adopted on: _____
Revised on: _____
Reviewed on: _____

3004.1
Fiscal Management for Purchasing and Procurement Using Federal Funds

I. Applicability of Policy

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

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

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

II. Procurement System

The District maintains the following purchasing procedures.

A. Responsibility for Purchasing

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

B. Methods of Purchasing

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

1. Purchases up to $15,000 (Micro-Purchases)

Micro-purchase means an individual procurement transaction for supplies or services using simplified acquisition procedures, the annual aggregate amount of which does not exceed $15,000. Micro-purchases may be made or awarded without soliciting competitive quotations, to the extent district staff determine that the cost of the purchase is reasonable. For purposes of this policy "reasonable" means the purchase is comparable to market prices for the geographic area.

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

2. Purchases between $15,000 and $350,000 (Simplified Acquisition Procedures)

Simplified acquisitions are purchases that, in the aggregate amount, are more than $15,000 and less than $350,000 annually. For simplified acquisitions, price or rate quotes shall be obtained in advance from a reasonable number of qualified sources as detailed in the district's standard policies on purchasing and on bid letting and contracts, which can be found earlier in this subsection.

3. Purchases Over $350,000

a) Sealed Bids (Formal Advertising)

For purchases over $350,000, the district will generally follow the bidding process outlined in the board's policy on Bidding for Construction, Remodeling, Repair or Site Improvement. If sealed bids are not accepted for a purchase of over $350,000, the district will retain an explanation for that decision.

b) Contract/Price Analysis

The District performs a cost or price analysis in connection with every procurement action in excess of $350,000, including contract modifications. The district will make an independent estimate of costs prior to receiving bids or proposals.

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

a) Procurement by noncompetitive proposals is procurement through solicitation of a proposal from only one source and may be used only when one or more of the following circumstances apply:

1) The procurement transaction can only be fulfilled by a single source;

2) The public exigency or emergency for the requirement will not permit a delay resulting from providing public notice of a competitive solicitation;

3) The federal awarding agency or pass-through entity expressly authorizes written approval of noncompetitive proposals in response to a written request from the District; or

4) After solicitation of a number of sources, competition is determined inadequate.

b) Noncompetitive proposals may only be solicited with the approval of the superintendent or the board. Sufficient and appropriate documentation that justifies the sole sourcing decision must be maintained by the superintendent or designee.

c) A cost or price analysis will be performed for noncompetitive proposals when the price exceeds $350,000.

5. **Competitive Proposals.**

a) The technique of competitive proposals is normally conducted with more than one source submitting an offer, and either a fixed price or cost-reimbursement type contract is awarded. It is generally used when conditions are not appropriate for the use of sealed bids. If this method is used, the following requirements apply:

1) Requests for proposals must be publicized and identify all evaluation factors and their relative importance. Any response to publicized requests for proposals must be considered;

2) Proposals must be solicited from an adequate number of qualified sources; and

3) Contracts must be awarded to the responsible firm whose proposal is most advantageous to the program, with price and other factors considered.

b) The District may use competitive proposal procedures for qualifications-based procurement of architectural/engineering (A/E) professional services whereby competitors' qualifications are evaluated and the most qualified competitor is selected, subject to negotiation of fair and reasonable compensation. The method, where price is not used as a selection factor, can only be used to procure A/E professional services. The method may not be used to purchase other services provided by A/E firms are a potential source to perform the proposed effort.

c) The District may select a proposal that offers the best value and that is based upon the proposer's responsiveness to the proposal, experience, reputation, staff qualifications, ability and capacity to carry on the work, price, honesty, integrity, skills, business judgment, financial stability, past performance, and other relevant factors. The evaluation may be conducted by the school board, a designated committee, or another designee of the school board.

C. Use of Purchase (Debit & Credit) Cards

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

D. Federal Procurement System Standards

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

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

E. Debarment and Suspension

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

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

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

F. Settlements of Issues Arising Out of Procurements

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

III. Conflict of Interest and Code of Conduct

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

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

1. Employees, officers, and agents engaged in the selection, award, and/or administration of district contracts which are prohibited from engaging in such actions if a real or apparent conflict of interest is present.

2. Such a conflict of interest would arise when the employee, officer, or agent, any member of his or her immediate family, his or her partner, or an organization which employs or is about to employ any of the parties indicated herein, has a financial or other interest in or a tangible personal benefit from a firm considered for a contract.

3. The board may determine at its discretion that a financial interest is not substantial enough to give rise to a conflict of interest.

C. Favors and Gifts

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

D. Enforcement

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

IV. Property Management Systems

A. Property Classifications

1. Equipment means tangible personal property (including information technology systems) having a useful life of more than one year and a per-unit acquisition cost that equals or exceeds the lesser of the capitalization level established by the District for financial statement purposes, or $10,000.

2. Supplies means all tangible personal property other than those described in §200.33 Equipment. A computing device is a supply if the acquisition cost is less than the lesser of the

capitalization level established by the District for financial statement purposes or $10,000, regardless of the length of its useful life. 2 C.F.R. §200.94.

3. Computing Devices means machines that acquire, store, analyze, process, and publish data and other information electronically, including accessories (or "peripherals") for printing, transmitting and receiving, or storing electronic information. 2 C.F.R. §200.20.

4. Capital Assets means tangible or intangible assets used in operations having a useful life of more than one year which are capitalized in accordance with GAAP. Capital assets include:

    a) Land, buildings (facilities), equipment, and intellectual property (including software) whether acquired by purchase, construction, manufacture, lease-purchase, exchange, or through capital leases; and

    b) Additions, improvements, modifications, replacements, rearrangements, reinstallations, renovations or alterations to capital assets that materially increase their value or useful life (not ordinary repairs and maintenance). 2 C.F.R. §200.12.

B. Inventory Procedure

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

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

C. Inventory Records

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

1. Serial number;
2. District identification number;
3. Manufacturer;

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

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

D. Physical Inventory

1. A physical inventory of the property must be taken and the results reconciled with the property records at least once every two years.

2. The Superintendent or his/her designee will ensure that the physical inventory is performed. The physical inventory will generally occur during the months of June or July, but may be conducted during other time periods with the approval of the superintendent.

E. Maintenance

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

F. Lost or Stolen Items

The District maintains a control system that ensures adequate safeguards are in place to prevent loss, damage, or theft of the property. The District will notify the Federal agency or pass-through entity of any loss, damage, or theft of equipment that will have an impact on the program.

G. Use of Equipment

Equipment must be used in the program or project for which it was acquired as long as needed, whether or not the project or program continues to be supported by the federal award, and the District will not encumber the

property for any non-federal program use without prior approval of the federal awarding agency and the pass-through entity.

H. Disposal of Equipment

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

If the item has a current fair market value of $10,000 or less, it may be retained, sold, or otherwise disposed of with no further obligation to the federal awarding agency or pass-through entity. The Superintendent or his/her designee will utilize sales procedures which ensure the highest possible return on the disposal of the equipment.

I. Equipment Retention

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

J. Equipment and Capital Expenditures

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

K. Depreciation

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

L. Reporting and Recording Federal Property Interest

The district will comply with federal interest reporting and submit annual reports, if required, regarding a real property interest due to a renovation, major remodeling, construction, or real property project funded by federal grant funds.

V. Financial Management

A. Identification

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

B. Financial Reporting

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

C. Accounting Records

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

D. Internal Controls

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

E. Budget Control

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

F. Payment Methods

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

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

G. Allowability of Costs

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

When determining how the District will spend its grant funds, the Superintendent or his/her designee will review the proposed cost to determine whether it is an allowable use of federal grant funds before obligating and spending those funds on the proposed good or service. All costs supported by federal education funds must meet the standards outlined in EDGAR, 2 CFR Part 3474 and 2 CFR Part 200, Subpart E. The Superintendent or his/her designee must consider these factors when making an allowability determination.

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

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

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

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

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

I. Cost Sharing or Matching

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

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

J. Documentation of Personnel Expenses

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

VI. Written Compensation Policies

A. Time and Effort Standards

All employees who are paid in full or in part with federal funds must keep specific documents to demonstrate the amount of time they spent on grant activities. This includes an employee whose salary is paid with state or local

funds but is used to meet a required "match" in a federal program. These documents, known as time and effort records, are maintained in order to charge the costs of personnel compensation to federal grants. Charges to federal awards for salaries and wages must be based on records that accurately reflect the work performed. These records must:

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

B. Time and Effort Procedures

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

C. Fringe Benefits

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

D. Leave

The cost of fringe benefits in the form of regular compensation paid to employees during periods of authorized absences from the job, such as for annual leave, family-related leave, sick leave, holidays, court leave, military leave, administrative leave, and other similar benefits, are allowable if they are provided under established written District leave policies.

E. Unexpected or Extraordinary Circumstances

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

F. Documentation for Personnel Expenses

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

VII. Other Contract Matters.

A. Required Terms

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

B. Contracting with Certain Vendors

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

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

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

C. Record Keeping

1. Record Retention

    a) The District maintains all records that fully show (1) the amount of funds under the grant or subgrant; (2) how the subgrantee uses those funds; (3) the total cost of each project; (4) the share of the total cost of each project provided from other sources; (5) other records to

facilitate an effective audit; and (6) other records to show compliance with federal program requirements. 34 C.F.R. §§ 76.730-.731 and §§ 75.730-.731. The District also maintains records of significant project experiences and results. 34 C.F.R. § 75.732. These records and accounts must be retained and made available for programmatic or financial audit.

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

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

2. Maintenance of Procurement Records

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

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

D. Privacy

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

E. Travel Costs

All travel expenses paid with federal grant funds shall meet the federal requirements such as:

(1) All travel costs must be reasonable and necessary;
(2) All travel costs must be consistent with District policy; and
(3) All travel costs must be directly related to the grant award.

In addition, all travel expenses funded with federal grant funds must be preapproved by the Superintendent or designee. The state per diem rates for lodging shall be used to determine that maximum amount charged to a federal grant. For reimbursement of meals, the per diem rate and rules set by the State of Nebraska through the Nebraska Department of Administrative Service's Expense Reimbursement Document "ERD" Guidelines will apply. There will be no reimbursement for breakfast if the staff member's lodging provides continental breakfast at no cost. For reimbursement for mileage or fuel, the State of Nebraska mileage rate will apply. If a District-owned vehicle is available for travel, the District-owned vehicle must be utilized unless preapproved by the Superintendent or designee. All expenditures claimed by staff must include receipts and a completed voucher.

Adopted on: _____
Revised on: _____
Reviewed on: _____

3048
Communicable Disease

The district strives to provide a safe environment for both students and staff while safeguarding the rights of all students and employees, including those with communicable diseases. The district complies with Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 79-217 to 79-223 and Title 173 Nebraska Administrative Code, Chapter 3.

Definitions. Terms used in this policy have the meanings given in 173 NAC 3-002. A "reportable communicable disease" means a disease that must be reported under 173 NAC, Chapter 1.

Signs and Symptoms; Sending Students Home. Staff will watch for signs and symptoms of contagious or infectious disease. These signs and symptoms include fever, flushed face, headache, body aches, unexplained tiredness, loss of appetite, stomachache, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, convulsions, sore throat, nasal congestion or discharge, unexplained skin eruption, and sore or inflamed eyes. The district will notify the parent or guardian of the student's signs or symptoms. Upon notice, the parent or guardian must immediately cooperate with the district to arrange safe transportation home or another appropriate caregiver for the student. The district will report any failure to reasonably cooperate with the district to the Department of Health and Human Services or local law enforcement as appropriate.

Notice to School Authority. When the district sends a student home for a suspected contagious or infectious disease, the principal or school nurse will notify the superintendent or designee without delay.

Reports to Public Health. The school nurse, or a person acting in the capacity of a school nurse, will report each case or suspected case of a reportable communicable disease. The report must go to the local public health department or the Nebraska DHHS Division of Public Health as provided in 173 NAC 1-007.04.

Exclusion From School. The district will exclude a student with a confirmed communicable disease for at least the minimum isolation period in Attachment 1 to 173 NAC, Chapter 3. The student must be free of acute signs and symptoms. The student must be fever-free for 24 hours without fever-reducing medication before returning to school.

School Attendance and Participation in School Sponsored Activities. The district will provide educational services to a student diagnosed with a communicable disease as required by law. The district will restrict the student as needed to prevent the spread of disease, to protect the student's health and privacy, and to protect others. Participation in Nebraska School Activities Association (NSAA) events is subject to NSAA rules and the provisions of the district activity handbook.

Infection and Exposure Control Procedures/Universal Precautions. The district will monitor the information available through the Federal Centers for Disease Control, the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services, and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration. This policy and any procedures, universal precautions, or exposure control plans will be modified, if appropriate, based upon the best new medical information provided by the above sources.

Outbreaks. In an outbreak or epidemic of a communicable disease, the superintendent may exclude students, reassign students, or close one or more schools. The superintendent will coordinate with the local health department and the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services as needed.

Confidentiality. The district will keep information about a person's communicable disease confidential. The district will share information only with staff on a need-to-know basis. When the district must inform a person about another person's condition, the district will inform that person of the duty to keep the information confidential. The district will communicate about a student's communicable disease consistent with the student's IEP or Section 504 Plan, if any.

Staff Training. Staff will receive training regarding communicable diseases and the requirements of this policy and any adopted procedures as part of the training received under the Workplace Injury Prevention and Safety Committee policy.

Adopted on: _____
Revised on: _____
Reviewed on: _____

3061
ACH Originator

The District sends electronic payments through the ACH (Automated Clearing House) Network such as payroll direct deposits and/or vendor payments. Because of these payments, the District is classified as an ACH Originator. As an ACH Originator, the District complies with the National Automated Clearing House Association (NACHA) Operating Rules which govern the ACH Network. The District's bank requires compliance with the Rules as a condition of the District's ability to send ACH Payments.

Responsibilities. The District follows all terms of its Originating Depository Financial Institution/Originator Agreement with its bank. The District obtains a written authorization before sending any ACH payment. The District meets all processing deadlines set by the bank and NACHA. The District gives authorization records to the bank upon request within NACHA's required timeframes. The District keeps all sensitive banking information secure. When the District receives a Notification of Change, it updates the payment record before the next ACH transaction. When the District receives a return due to an error or unauthorized activity, it stops all related subsequent payments until instructions are received from the Bank. The District keeps its computer systems and network secure in line with its bank agreement. The District uses procedures to spot unauthorized payments. All employees with ACH duties will complete training, if required by the Bank or NACHA, and respond to audit requests. The District will implement internal controls and procedures to mitigate errors and risk of unauthorized ACH entries.

Fraud Monitoring. The District reviews ACH transactions for unusual patterns or amounts before submitting each file. If the District suspects an error or unauthorized ACH transaction, the District will: determine whether the problem is fraud, a scam, or an internal error; notify the bank right away; contact law enforcement if needed; and stop all related future ACH transactions.

Employee Training. All employees with ACH duties will complete any ACH origination training required by the District's designated bank(s).

Adopted on: _____
Revised on: _____
Reviewed on: _____

4017
Relations with Employee Collective Bargaining Associations

The board of education recognizes the right of staff members to belong to professional employee organizations. The board will negotiate with organizations that have been certified or recognized in accordance with public employee bargaining statutes. The board or administration will coordinate with certified or recognized organizations for purposes of collective bargaining.

The district will allow professional employee organizations to make reasonable use of district facilities for meetings outside the district's and the employees' work hours. With administrative approval, organizations may use district resources, post notices of meetings, and provide other information on bulletin boards designated for this purpose, and use district email and mailboxes for delivery of information specific to the organization. Organizations must pay for all supplies used, damage caused, or the loss or theft of borrowed property.

For purposes of recruiting new members, organizations may host or attend certain meetings of certificated staff outside the district's and the employees' work hours. Attendance at any staff meetings does not include all-staff, building-level, committee, or other meetings called by the district, unless those meetings are open to other organizations or if required by law.

Unless otherwise specified in this policy or permitted law, organizations will be treated equally, and the district will not designate any day or break by reference to any specific organization.

Adopted on: _____
Revised on: _____
Reviewed on: _____

4019
Workplace Injury Prevention and Safety Committee

The school district is committed to providing and maintaining a safe work environment, and to taking reasonable precautions for the safety of the students, employees, visitors, and all others having business with this school district. Every employee should show concern for the safety of fellow employees, students, and members of the public. The district shall have a safety committee as required by Nebraska law. Members of the safety committee may be established through the collective bargaining process.

The committee will adopt and maintain a written injury prevention program. The committee will participate in the development of safety education, training, and the establishment of safety rules, policies and procedures pursuant to this policy, the district's written injury prevention program, or as otherwise provided by law. Training for employees will be conducted annually.

The workplace injury prevention and safety committee will maintain minutes of all meetings and file them in the district office. The committee will implement accident investigation, record keeping procedures, safety rules, safety and health training, and policies. The district will maintain records for at least three years, or longer if directed by the Department of Labor.

The committee will meet at least once every three months or more frequently in the event of an employee complaint or of a job-related injury or death. The workplace injury prevention and safety committee will keep written minutes of all meetings and provide a copy to the superintendent or designee who will maintain the minutes in the district's administrative offices for a period of at least three years, unless otherwise instructed by the Department of Labor.

The workplace injury prevention and safety committee will develop an injury prevention plan and present it to the board. The plan should be developed and presented in the spirit of employees working together in a cooperative, non-adversarial effort to promote safety at the work sites within the district.

The superintendent or designee will assure that the safety training for employees is reviewed annually or more frequently, if needed. He or she will provide the following, as set forth in the initial written Employer's Injury Prevention Plan:

1. Initial safety orientation on rules, policies, and job specific procedures for new employees or employees who are assuming new and different duties within the school district, if appropriate.
2. Job specific training for employees before they perform potential hazardous work.
3. Periodic refresher training and dissemination of information on an annual basis, or more frequently if so designated by the administrator, for employees regarding the injury prevention plan of the unit and safety rules, policies, and procedures pertaining to safety within the school district.

In the event of a death in the workplace, the workplace injury prevention and safety committee will forward to the Department of Labor within 15 working days a copy of any review of the matter made by the workplace injury prevention and safety committee.

The superintendent or designee will establish or cause to be established record-keeping procedures to control and maintain all accident and injury records pertaining to accidents and injuries within the district or activities under the control of the district. Such records will be kept for at least three years, or longer if so advised by the Department of Labor.

The workplace injury prevention and safety committee will confer with the district's crisis team and will review the district's All-Hazard School Safety Plan upon its adoption by the crisis team.

Adopted on: _____
Revised on: _____
Reviewed on: _____

4056
Resignation of Certificated Staff

Certificated staff members who know they will not be returning to employment at the school district for the following school year are encouraged to submit their resignations as early as possible, to enable the board to find suitable replacements. Unless otherwise required by law or contract, the following resignation requirements apply.

Staff members who submit their resignations to the board of education after September 1 but before March 15 will be released from the next school year's contract so long as the board is able to obtain the services of a suitable replacement. Suitability determinations will be made solely by the district and will be based upon, but not limited to, experience, quality, availability of adequate candidates, effect on extracurricular programs, class offerings, and effect on students. Staff members who refuse to fulfill their contractual obligations will be reported to the Commissioner of Education.

Adopted on: _____
Revised on: _____
Reviewed on: _____

4065
Staff Use of AI Tools

As used in this policy, artificial intelligence tools ("AI Tools") means machine-based resources that use computer science, algorithms, large language models, and/or machine learning to perform tasks, answer questions, collect information, and respond to human-directed tasks, queries, and objectives. AI Tools include, but are not necessarily limited to, commercially-available resources like ChatGPT, Gemini, Claude, and similar technologies. The board wants to encourage staff to use AI tools to support student learning in safe and lawful ways.

This policy works together with the district's policies on Student Use of AI Tools, Staff Internet and Computer Use, and Staff and District Social Media Use.

Tool Approval. Staff may not use an AI Tool with students or with student information unless a member of the district's administration has approved it. To use a new tool, staff must request approval from his/her supervising administrator first. Before approving a tool, the district will review the vendor's privacy and security practices, the kind of student information the tool would use, and whether a written data-sharing agreement with the vendor is required. The district will keep a list of approved AI Tools and the allowed uses for each.

I. Staff Expectations for Use of AI Tools in Education

A. Acceptable Use of AI Tools. Staff members must use their own professional oversight for any task they use AI Tools to complete and must carefully review the outputs of all AI Tools. Staff may use approved AI Tools to help with things like:

1. Drafting lesson plans, learning goals, and activities;
2. Assisting in initial review and feedback of student work;
3. Making reading passages or practice problems at different levels;
4. Drafting general messages like newsletters or announcements;
5. Finding resources or summarizing public information;
6. Drafting routine communications.

B. Protecting Student Information. Staff may upload student information into an AI Tool only when (a) the tool is district-approved, and (b) the vendor is bound by a written data-sharing agreement with terms that meet FERPA, COPPA, PPRA, and applicable state student data privacy laws. For this purpose, student information includes student names, ID numbers, education records, IEPs, Section 504 plans, evaluations, health records, and discipline records. This rule applies whether the staff member uses a district account, a personal account, a free version, or a paid version.

C. Recording and Transcription Tools. Staff may use AI recording or transcription tools only if:

1. The transcription tool has been approved by an administrator for use in the school context; and
2. All participants to the meeting are informed that the staff member is recording or transcribing the meeting.

The resulting recording or transcript may be subject to the district's retention and confidentiality policies.

D. Unacceptable Use of AI Tools in Education. Staff may never use AI tools to:

1. Upload FERPA-protected information about students without the express, written authorization from administrators who have assured themselves that such disclosure is lawful;
2. Relying solely on an AI Tool to grade student work that counts toward a grade or transcript or otherwise evaluate student academic progress;
3. Make or share deepfakes or fake images, audio, or video of any real person.
4. Make or share sexual or intimate images of any real person—even if the image is AI-generated;
5. Use AI to harass, bully, threaten, or impersonate any student, staff member, parent, board member, or community member;
6. Use AI to watch, track, or scan faces of students or staff outside of systems the board has approved;
7. Upload materials to AI if the copyright or license does not allow it;

8. Share district AI accounts or passwords with students or others;
9. Use district AI accounts for personal or business reasons; or
10. Use AI to bypass district network security, content filters, or device controls.

If any staff member is uncertain about the application of this policy to any AI Tool use, the staff member will check with a supervising administrator before use.

Adopted on: _____
Revised on: _____
Reviewed on: _____

5001
Compulsory Attendance and Excessive Absenteeism

"School success is 90 percent showing up; the other half is mental." Yogi Berra

Research on policies and practices that effectively encourage regular student attendance share some key components:

1. Education of parents regarding school attendance requirements.
2. Effective policies and practices to monitor attendance.
3. Clear definition of excessive absenteeism and a two-stage response to excessive absences.

The board has considered this educational research and used it to create the following policy on Compulsory Attendance and Excessive Absenteeism.

Required Attendance

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

Mandatory Attendance Age

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

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

Discontinuing Enrollment – 5 Year Old Students

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

school district until the beginning of the following school year unless otherwise required by law.

Discontinuing Enrollment – 16 and 17 Year Old Students

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

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

Prohibition on Discontinuing Enrollment – Abuse or Neglect Investigation

Upon notice from the Department of Health and Human Services, the District shall not facilitate the transfer or disenrollment of a student whose parent, guardian, or educational decisionmaker is subject to an active investigation by the Department for fourteen days or until further notice from the Department, whichever occurs first.

Attendance Officer

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

Excused Absences – Physical or Mental Illness

Absences shall be excused by a parent, guardian, or educational decision maker, as defined in section 79-530, of the child for physical or mental illness and as documented by a credentialed health professional, provided the

documentation supports such absence. In the instance of chronic illness, documentation shall be reviewed each semester.

Expectations for Regular Attendance:

1. Students are expected to attend every class, every day.
2. The only "excused" absences shall be:
   a.) absences when the Nebraska State Patrol confirms in writing that weather conditions have made the roads impassable so that the student's attendance impracticable or impossible;
   b.) student attendance at a school-sponsored activity;
   c.) student has been suspended or expelled from school by the school district; and
   d.) absences required by law enforcement, child protective services or a court of competent jurisdiction, confirmed in writing to the school district.
3. All other absences, including absences for minor physical or mental illnesses, family events, routine medical appointments are simply "absences."
4. Upon return from every absence or partial-day absence, students must remain after school for 30 minutes to meet with teachers, work on missed assignments or simply to study. The location and supervision of the student will be determined by the building principal in consultation with the student's classroom teacher(s).
5. Students must not be absent from any course more than seven days in any given quarter in order to earn academic credit for that course for that quarter. Students who lose credit in any given course due to absences may appeal that loss of credit to his/her building principal.

Attendance Incentives:

Building principals will establish attendance incentives for their students. Those may include:

- Special Recognition of students who have 95% or greater attendance each quarter
- Excusal from certain classroom assignments (final exam, written report) for students with 95% or greater attendance each semester
- Special rewards (movie day, field day, extra recess) for students who have 95% or greater attendance

At the conclusion of each quarter building principals report to the board what incentives were implemented and the effectiveness of the incentive in improving student attendance and engagement.

When students are absent from school, district staff will respond as follows:

First Stage Response to Absences

1. A member of district staff will contact parent via telephone for every absence if the parent has not contacted the school in advance.
2. After a student's fifth absence, and every fifth absence thereafter excluding school activities~~,~~ the school's attendance officer will contact parents via phone and may schedule a meeting with the student's parents or guardians. That meeting will be documented on the attached form.
    a. This meeting must be attended by attendance officer, parents. Principal, school counselor and the student may also be in attendance when appropriate.
    b. The meeting shall be documented
    c. The meeting shall develop a collaborative plan to assist the student in improving his/her attendance

Second Stage Response to Absences

1. Students who miss 10 days in a semester may lose credit and a parent meeting will be scheduled with the attendance officer.

Third Stage Response to Absences

Students who accrue more than 20 absences in a school year may be referred to the county attorney for action under NEB. REV. STAT. § 43-247(3)(a) and (b).

Making Up Absences

When a student receives 10 absences, excluding school activities, or the hourly equivalent in any semester, the student may be required to make-up those absences through attendance in summer school. Absences shall be made up at a rate of two days of summer school equals one day of regular school.

Adopted on: _____
Revised on: _____
Reviewed on: _____

5003
Admission of Part-Time Students

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

Eligibility and Application for Enrollment. A student may be eligible for part-time enrollment if the student:

1. is of appropriate age to attend school;
2. is a resident of this school district;
3. is a resident of another school district attending a private, denominational, parochial, or exempt school, but only if
    a. this school district is the closest to the student's residence that offers the extracurricular sport or activity they desire to participate in, and their resident school district does not offer that sport or activity; or
    b. the school building the student would attend if accepted for part-time enrollment is closer than the school building the student attends or would attend at the resident district;
4. has not graduated from high school; and
5. has not received a graduate equivalency diploma.

The parent or guardian must meet all of the district's admission requirements and file an application for enrollment on forms provided by the school district by May 1 prior to the year of enrollment. For second semester high school courses, the application must be filed by September 1. For students who move into the district mid-semester, the application must be filed within 20 days of moving into the district. The administration shall review the application, determine whether to approve or deny it, notify the parent or guardian, and schedule enrollment at an educationally appropriate time in the building or attendance center of the administration's choice. Enrollment does not carry over from one school year to the next, and the parent or guardian must apply for enrollment each school year.

Limitations Based on Resources. The part-time enrollment of students is subject to limitations for grades, classes, courses, and programs based on the

limited resources available to the school district. Full-time students shall be given priority for enrollment in grades, classes, courses, and programs.

Placement of Students. Students accepted for part-time enrollment shall be placed in courses for which they have adequate preparation and which are determined to be educationally appropriate based on criteria that include, but are not limited to the student's age, achievement test scores, academic record, evaluation by school personnel and any other standards used by the district for the placement of students.

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

Applicability of School Rules. Students accepted for part-time enrollment are subject to all rules and standards of the board of education and administration as set forth in policy, handbooks or other communications, as well as the rules and directives of the building administration and staff. They must remain on the school campus during scheduled classes but must leave the school campus when not engaged in a course, course-related activity, or an extracurricular activity or sport, unless the building principal approves their presence. Students who violate school policies, rules, or directives shall be subject to disciplinary procedures up to and including suspension and expulsion.

Extracurricular Sports and Activities.

Students who are enrolled in a private, denominational, or parochial school may not participate in extracurricular sports and activities sponsored by the school district if they participate in extracurricular sports and activities at any other public, private, denominational, or parochial school. Any such students who desire to participate in extracurricular sports and activities at the school district must enroll in the following number of credit hours from the school district:

1. For extracurricular sports and activities regulated by an athletics or activities association in which this school district is a member: 5 credit hours.
2. For extracurricular sports and activities governed by a national or state organization other than an athletics or activities association, such as FFA: the minimum number of credit hours offered by the school district as required by that national or state organization.

3. For extracurricular sports and activities not regulated or governed by any such entity: 5 credit hours.

Exempt school students may only participate in extracurricular sports and activities if they are enrolled in at least 20 total credit hours per semester, when combining the exempt school credit hours and credit hours taken on a part-time basis at the school district. Exempt school students are not eligible to participate in extracurricular sports and activities sponsored by the school district if they participate in any sport or activity sponsored by any other public, private, denominational, or parochial school. Any such students who desire to participate in extracurricular sports and activities at the school district must enroll in the following number of credit hours from the school district:

1. For extracurricular sports and activities regulated by an athletics or activities association in which this school district is a member: 5 credit hours.
2. For extracurricular sports and activities governed by a national or state organization other than an athletics or activities association, such as FFA: the minimum number of credit hours offered by the school district as required by that national or state organization.
3. For extracurricular sports and activities not regulated or governed by any such entity: 5 credit hours.

All students permitted to participate in extracurricular sports and activities under this policy must also meet all other eligibility requirements set by the board, administration, and coach/sponsor prior to participating and for continued participation in the sport or activity. This includes but is not limited to rules for completing courses; up/down lists for deficient grades and/or incompletes; and all eligibility and other requirements of the Nebraska School Activities Association and any other governing bodies for the activity or sport.

Transportation. Part-time school students are not entitled to transportation or reimbursement for transportation to and from the school for class attendance purposes, unless required by law. Eligible part-time students are entitled to transportation to and from practices and extracurricular events to the same extent as the school district's full-time students, but part-time students must arrange their own transportation and arrive timely to the designated pick-up point for such transportation.

Option Enrollment. Students may not enroll on a part-time basis pursuant to the school's option enrollment program.

Adopted on: _____
Revised on: _____
Reviewed on: _____

5004
Option Enrollment

The board of education supports the concept embodied in the Enrollment Option Program that parents and legal guardians have the primary responsibility for ensuring that their children receive the best education possible. Accordingly, the school district will participate in the option enrollment program and receive option students as provided herein.

1. Definitions

a. Option Student Defined. Option student means a nonresident student who has chosen to attend the school district under the provisions of the option enrollment program.

b. Resident School District Defined. Resident school district means the school district in which a student resides or in which the student is admitted as a resident of the school district pursuant to state law.

c. Option School District Defined. Option school district means the school district that a student chooses to attend other than his or her resident school district.

d. Elementary School Defined. Elementary school means grades K - 5.

e. Middle School Defined. Middle school means grade 6 - 8.

f. High School Defined. High school means grades 9 through 12.

g. Individual Student Defined. Individual Student means the individual person seeking to begin attendance as an option student in the school district and who such person's parent or legal guardian has identified in a written application for option enrollment submitted to the school board.

h. Applicants Defined. Applicants means the Individual Student together with all siblings of the Individual Student.

i. Siblings Defined. Siblings means all children residing in the same household on a permanent basis who have the same mother or father or who are stepbrother or stepsister to each other who have not received a high school diploma or its equivalent.

2. **Persons Entitled to Apply for Option Enrollment of Students.** Only parents and legal guardians may apply for option enrollment of students. Applications filed by foster parents and adults acting *in loco parentis* are not authorized and will be automatically denied.

3. **Duties, Entitlements and Rights of Option Students.** Except as otherwise provided herein, once an option student's option enrollment application has been accepted he/she shall be treated as a resident student of the school district.

4. **Automatic Acceptance.** The option school district must automatically accept applications of Individual Students under the following circumstances:

   a. The Individual Student relocates in a different school district but wants to continue attending his or her original resident school district and the Individual Student has been enrolled in his or her original resident school district for the immediately preceding two years (in which case the time deadlines are waived);

   b. The Individual Student relocates in a different school district but wants to continue attending the option school district (in which case the time deadlines are waived); or

   c. The Individual Student is a sibling of an option student enrolled in the option school district.

5. **Standards for Acceptance or Rejection of All Other Option Students.** For Individual Students not entitled to automatic acceptance as described in the preceding section, no application for option enrollment may be accepted if enrollment in the school district if any of the Applicants would exceed the school district's capacity as described in this section.

   a. Special Education Capacity. Capacity for special education services will be determined on a case-by-case basis. If an application for option enrollment received by the school district indicates that any of the Applicants has an individualized education program under the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, 20 U.S.C. 1400 et seq., or has been identified as a student with a disability as defined in section 79-1118.01, the application will be evaluated by the director of special education services or the director's designee who must determine if the

school district and the appropriate class, grade level, or school building has the capacity to provide all of the Applicants the appropriate services and accommodations. The Federal Educational Rights and Privacy Rights Act (FERPA) (20 U.S.C. § 1232g) permits the release of education records when a student seeks or intends to enroll in a different school district.

b. **Numeric Capacity**. The board of education may set the numeric capacity of programs, classes, grade levels, or school buildings by operation of this policy or through freestanding action by the board. Numeric Capacity will be determined based upon available staff, facilities, projected enrollment of resident students, and projected number of students with which the option school district will contract based on existing contractual arrangements. Individuals seeking information about the numeric capacity set by the board may contact the superintendent for a copy of that resolution.

c. **Programmatic Capacity.** In addition to the numeric capacity standards referred to above, the board may, by resolution, prior to October 15 of each school year, declare a program, a class, or a school unavailable for the next school year to option students due to lack of capacity. Individuals seeking information about the programs that have been declared to be unavailable due to lack of capacity may contact the superintendent for a copy of the board's resolution.

d. **Other Standards for Acceptance or Rejection of Option Enrollment Applications.** In addition to the numeric and programmatic capacity standards outlined above, the school district shall not accept any application for option enrollment when enrollment of any of the Applicants:

i. Would increase the operating costs of the school district, such as by requiring the hiring of new staff or contracting with outside entities to provide services to any of the Applicants;
ii. Would require the procurement of new equipment, technology, or furnishings;
iii. Would cause or require the rearrangement of caseloads for staff and contracted professionals;
iv. Is reasonably deemed by appropriate school staff to pose a potential risk to the health or safety of students or staff;

v. May pose a risk of adversely affecting the quality of educational services being provided to resident students, as determined by appropriate school staff.

e. Prohibited Standards. The school district shall not base the decision to accept or reject the application of the Individual Student on any of the Applicants' previous academic achievement, athletic or other extracurricular ability, disabling condition(s), proficiency in the English language, or previous disciplinary proceedings.

f. Order of Acceptance. If there are more option student applicants for any program, class, grade level or school building than can be accepted into such program, class, grade level or school building, applicants shall be accepted

i. in the order in which written applications were received by the school district.

g. Maximum Capacity Report. The school district will annually establish, publish, and report the capacity for each school building under the district's control pursuant to procedures, criteria, and deadlines established by the Nebraska Department of Education.

6. False or Misleading Option Applications. If, prior to the Individual Student's attendance as an option student, the school district discovers that a previously accepted option application contained false or substantively misleading information about any of the Applicants, the option application will be rejected.

7. Academic Credits and Graduation. The school district shall accept credits toward graduation that were awarded by another school district, and shall award a diploma to an option student if the student meets the graduation requirements of the school district.

8. Information Regarding Schools, Programs, Policies and Procedures. The school district, its officers and employees, shall make information about the school district and its schools, programs, policies and procedures available to all interested people.

9. Procedure for Students Optioning Into or Out of the School District.

a. The parent or legal guardian of any student desiring to option into or out of the school district shall submit a proper and timely application to the board of education and the other affected school district for enrollment during the following and subsequent school years. Any application requiring the approval of the school district shall be deemed submitted when the application is actually received in the school district's business office.

b. On or before April 1st, the school district shall notify the parent or legal guardian of any Individual Student who has submitted an application to option into the school district and the resident school district, in writing, whether the application is accepted or rejected. If an application is rejected, the reason for such rejection shall be stated in the notification. This written notice shall be sent via certified mail to the address listed on the option application.

10. Late Applications and Requests for Release

a. The board of education may refuse a request of a student seeking to option out of the school district when the option application is submitted after March 15th under the following conditions:

i. When the district has already entered into contracts with teaching staff for the following school year;

ii. When the district has already contracted for the performance of specific services for the student;

iii. When the release of the student would have a negative financial impact or loss of revenue for the district.

b. The board of education will approve late applications to option into the district under the following conditions:

i. When the resident district has released the student, or if the student is an option student at the time of such application and applying to become an option student at a subsequent option school district, a release approval from the option school district the student is attending at the time of such application;

ii. When the student's late enrollment into the district meets the standards for acceptance or rejection of option students contained elsewhere in this policy;

b. The superintendent will notify parents or guardians who have submitted properly completed option applications after March 15th no later than 60 days following submission of the application of the board's acceptance or rejection of the application.

11. Students Who Do Not Need a Release from the Resident District

a. A student does not need to be released from his/her resident district or the option school district the student is attending at the time of application under the following circumstances:

i. When the student has relocated to a different resident school district after February 1

ii. When a student's option school district merges with another district effective after February 1

b. The school district shall accept or reject an application from a student under this paragraph using the criteria set forth in this policy and will accept or reject the application within forty-five days.

11. Cancellation of Option.

Students who option either into or out of the school district shall:

a. Attend the option school district until graduation or relocation/re-option in a different resident school district unless the student chooses to return to the resident school district, in which case the student's parent or legal guardian shall timely submit a cancellation form to the school board or board of education of the option school district and the resident school district for approval for the following year.

b. Attend an option school district for not less than one school year unless the student relocates to a different resident school district, completes requirements for graduation prior to the end the school year, transfers to a parochial or private school, or upon mutual agreement of the resident and option school districts cancels the enrollment option and returns to the resident school district.

12. Authority of Superintendent.

The board of education authorizes the superintendent of schools to make decisions on its behalf pursuant to and to apply the criteria articulated by this policy in determining whether to grant or deny option enrollment applications.

Adopted on: _____
Revised on: _____
Reviewed on: _____

5035
Student Discipline

Administrative and teaching personnel may take actions regarding student behavior, other than those specifically provided in this policy and the Student Discipline Act, which are reasonably necessary to aid the student, further school purposes, or prevent interference with the educational process. Such actions may include, but need not be limited to, counseling of students, parent conferences, referral to restorative justice practices or services, rearrangement of schedules, requirements that a student remain in school after regular hours to do additional work, restriction of extracurricular activity, or requirements that a student receive counseling, psychological evaluation, or psychiatric evaluation upon the written consent of a Parent to such counseling or evaluation. Disciplinary consequences may also include in-school suspension, Saturday School, and any other consequence authorized by law. District administrators may develop building-specific protocols for the imposition of student discipline.

Any disciplinary action taken by staff must be consistent with the requirements of other applicable laws, including but not limited to the IDEA, Section 504, and Title IX.

In this policy, references to "Principal" shall include building principals, the principal's designee, or other appropriate school district administrators.

"Parent" means parent, guardian, or educational decisionmaker of the student. "Educational decisionmaker" means a person designated or ordered by a court to make educational decisions on behalf of a child.

Any statement, notice, recommendation, determination, or similar action specified in this policy shall be effectively given at the time written evidence thereof is delivered personally to or upon receipt of certified or registered mail or upon actual knowledge by a student or his or her Parent.

Any student who is suspended or expelled from school pursuant to this policy may not participate in any school activity during the duration of that exclusion including adjacent school holidays and weekends. The student activity eligibility of a student who is mandatorily reassigned shall be determined on a case-by-case basis by the principal of the building to which the student is reassigned.

Pre-Kindergarten through Second Grade Students

Notwithstanding any other provision of this policy, an elementary school shall not suspend a student in pre-kindergarten through second grade unless the student:

1. Brings a deadly weapon as defined in section 28-109 onto school grounds, into a vehicle owned, leased, or contracted by a school being used for a school purpose or into a vehicle being driven for a school purpose by a school employee or his or her designee, or at a school-sponsored activity or athletic event; or
2. Engages in violent behavior capable of causing physical harm to another student or school employee.

As an alternative to suspension, the school district may take any action authorized by law, including those provided in section 79-258.

Makeup Work for Suspended Students

Any student who is suspended must be given an opportunity to complete any classwork and homework missed during the period of suspension, including, but not limited to, examinations ("makeup work"). Any makeup work must be completed and turned in within 2 school days after completion of the suspension. This makeup guideline shall be provided to the student and a Parent at the time of suspension. Suspended students may not be required to attend the school's alternative program for expelled students in order to complete classwork or homework.

Short-Term Suspension

The Principal may exclude students from school or any school function for a period of up to five school days (short-term suspension) on the following grounds:

1. Conduct constituting grounds for expulsion as hereinafter set forth; or,
2. Other violations of rules and standards of behavior adopted by the Board of Education or the administrative or teaching staff of the school, that occur on or off school grounds, if such conduct interferes with school purposes or there is a connection between such conduct and school.

The following process applies to short-term suspension:

1. The Principal shall make a reasonable investigation of the facts and circumstances. Short-term suspension shall be imposed only after a

determination that the suspension is necessary to help any student, to further school purposes, or to prevent an interference with school purposes.

2. After the principal has determined that a short-term suspension is necessary, but prior to commencement of the short-term suspension, the student and the Parent will be given oral and written notice of the charges against the student. They will be advised of what the student is accused of having done, be given an explanation of the evidence the authorities have, and be given an opportunity to present evidence of the student's version of the facts.
3. Within 24 hours or such additional time as is reasonably necessary, not to exceed an additional 48 hours, following the suspension, the Principal will send a written statement to the student, and the student's Parent, describing:
    a. The student's conduct, misconduct or violation of the rule or standard;
    b. The reasons for the action taken;
    c. The actions made by the school to try to discontinue or alleviate the behavior of the student prior to considering suspension;
    d. Resources the school is able to provide or recommend to assist the student; and
    e. How the school plans to handle such behavior in the future, including an actionable plan aimed at maximizing strategies to keep the student in school.
4. An opportunity will be given to the student, and the student's Parent, to have a conference with the Principal ordering the short-term suspension before or at the time the student returns to school and shall document such effort in writing. The Principal shall determine who, in addition to the Parent, is to attend the conference. If no conference has been held, a Parent may submit a written request to the suspending principal before the student returns to school.
5. Students who are short-term suspended must be given the opportunity to complete classwork and homework missed during the period of suspension, including but not limited to examinations, as provided herein.

Emergency Exclusion

Students may be emergency excluded from school pursuant to the board's separate policy on emergency exclusion or state law.

Weapons and/or Firearms

Weapons. No student may possess, handle, or transmit any weapon while on school grounds, in a school vehicle, or at any school activity or event off school grounds except as permitted by this policy. ***Definition of Weapon.*** The term "weapon" means any object, device, instrument, material, or substance which is capable of causing injury in the manner it is used or intended to be used.

Firearms. No student may bring, possess, handle or transmit a firearm on school grounds, in a school owned vehicle, or at a school activity or event off school grounds, except as permitted by this policy. ***Definition of Firearm.*** The term "firearm, as defined in 18 U.S.C. 921, means any weapon (including a starter gun) which will or is designed to or may readily be converted to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive, the frame or receiver of any such weapon, any firearm muffler or firearm silencer, or any destructive device (excluding an antique firearm).

Exceptions Regarding Firearms and Weapons. The only exceptions for a student to bring or possess a weapon, including a firearm, are as follows:

1. The issuance of firearms to or possession of firearms by members of the Reserve Officers Training Corps when training or
2. Firearms which may lawfully be possessed by the person receiving instruction under the immediate supervision of an adult instructor who may lawfully possess firearms.

Consequences - Firearm. Any student who brings a firearm, as that term is defined in 18 United States Code 921, to school will be expelled from school for one calendar year. The superintendent of schools and the board of education shall have the authority to modify the expulsion requirement on a case-by-case basis.

Consequences – Weapon. State law and this policy provide that any student who violates this policy by knowingly bringing, possessing, handling or transmitting a weapon, other than a firearm, on school grounds, in a school owned vehicle, or at a school activity or event off school grounds may be suspended on a long-term basis, mandatorily reassigned, or expelled for the remainder of the school year in which the expulsion takes effect (if the misconduct occurs during the first semester) or the remainder of the second semester, summer school, and the first semester of the following school year (if the misconduct occurs during the second semester).

Confiscation of Firearms and Weapons. Administrative and teaching personnel are statutorily authorized, without a warrant, to confiscate any firearm or weapon possessed in violation of this policy. Any firearm that is confiscated by school personnel shall be delivered to a peace officer as soon as practicable. Such firearms are subject to being destroyed by law enforcement authorities.

Report to Law Enforcement Authorities. All school personnel are required to report any violation of this policy to a principal or the superintendent of schools. Pursuant to state and federal law, school personnel are required to report to law enforcement authorities when a student brings a firearm to school.

Long-Term Suspension

Students may be excluded by the Principal from school or any school function for a period of more than five school days but less than twenty school days (long-term suspension) for any conduct constituting grounds for expulsion as hereinafter set forth. The process for long-term suspension is set forth below.

Expulsion

1. **Meaning of Expulsion.** Expulsion means exclusion from attendance in all schools, grounds and activities of or within the system for a period not to exceed the remainder of the semester in which it took effect unless the misconduct occurred (a) within ten school days prior to the end of the first semester, in which case the expulsion shall remain in effect through the second semester, or (b) within ten school days prior to the end of the second semester, in which case the expulsion shall remain in effect for summer school and the first semester of the following school year, or (c) unless the expulsion is for conduct specified in these rules or in law as permitting or requiring a longer removal, in which case the expulsion shall remain in effect for the period specified therein. Such action may be modified or terminated by the school district at any time during the expulsion period.
2. **Summer Review**. Any expulsion that will remain in effect during the first semester of the following school year will be automatically scheduled for review before the beginning of the school year. The review will be conducted by the hearing officer who conducted the initial expulsion hearing, or a hearing officer appointed by the Superintendent in the event no hearing was previously held or the initial hearing officer is no longer available or willing to serve, after the hearing officer has given notice of the review to the student and the student's Parent. This review shall be limited to newly discovered evidence or evidence of

changes in the student's circumstances occurring since the original hearing. This review may lead to a recommendation by the hearing officer that the student be readmitted for the upcoming school year. If the school board or board of education or a committee of such board took the final action to expel the student, the student may be readmitted only by action of the board. Otherwise the student may be readmitted by action of the Superintendent.

3. **Suspension of Enforcement of an Expulsion**: Enforcement of an expulsion action may be suspended (i.e., "stayed") for a period of not more than one full semester in addition to the balance of the semester in which the expulsion takes effect, and as a condition of such suspended action, the student may be assigned to a school, class, or program/plan and to such other consequences which the school district deems appropriate.
4. **Alternative School or Pre-expulsion Procedures.** The school shall either provide an alternative school, class or educational program for expelled students, or shall follow the pre-expulsion procedures outlined in NEB. REV. STAT. 79-266.
5. **Conclusion of Expulsion.** At the conclusion of an expulsion, the school district will reinstate the student and accept nonduplicative, grade-appropriate credits earned by the student during the term of expulsion from any Nebraska accredited institution or institution accredited by one of the six regional accrediting bodies in the United States.

Grounds for Long-Term Suspension, Expulsion or Mandatory Reassignment:

The following conduct constitutes grounds for long-term suspension, expulsion, or mandatory reassignment, subject to the procedural provisions of the Student Discipline Act, NEB. REV. STAT. § 79-254 through 79-296, when such activity occurs on school grounds, in a vehicle owned, leased, or contracted by a school being used for a school purpose or in a vehicle being driven for a school purpose by a school employee or by his or her designee, or at a school-sponsored activity or athletic event:

1. Use of violence, force, coercion, threat, intimidation, or similar conduct in a manner that constitutes a substantial interference with school purposes. The board has determined that the use of synthetic media such as deepfakes may constitute "similar conduct";
2. Willfully causing or attempting to cause substantial damage to property, stealing or attempting to steal property of substantial value, or repeated damage or theft involving property;
3. Causing or attempting to cause personal injury to a school employee, to a school volunteer, or to any student. Personal injury caused by

accident, self-defense, or other action undertaken on the reasonable belief that it was necessary to protect some other person shall not constitute a violation of this subdivision;

4. Threatening or intimidating any student for the purpose of or with the intent of obtaining money or anything of value from such student;
5. Knowingly possessing, handling, or transmitting any object or material that is ordinarily or generally considered a weapon (*see also board policy on weapons and firearms*);
6. Engaging in the unlawful possession, selling, dispensing, or use of a controlled substance or an imitation controlled substance, as defined in section 28-401, a substance represented to be a controlled substance, or alcoholic liquor as defined in section 53-103.02 or being under the influence of a controlled substance or alcoholic liquor (*note: the term "under the influence" for school purposes has a less strict meaning than it does under criminal law; for school purposes, the term means any level of impairment and includes even the odor of alcohol on the breath or person of a student; also, it includes being impaired by reason of the abuse of any material used as a stimulant*);
7. Public indecency as defined in section 28-806, except that this prohibition shall apply only to students at least twelve years of age but less than nineteen years of age;
8. Engaging in bullying as defined in section 79-2,137 and in these policies;
9. Sexually assaulting or attempting to sexually assault any person if a complaint has been filed by a prosecutor in a court of competent jurisdiction alleging that the student has sexually assaulted or attempted to sexually assault any person, including sexual assaults or attempted sexual assaults which occur off school grounds not at a school function, activity, or event. For purposes of this subdivision, sexual assault means sexual assault in the first degree as defined in section 28-319, sexual assault in the second degree as defined in section 28-320, sexual assault of a child in the second or third degree as defined in section 28-320.01, or sexual assault of a child in the first degree as defined in section 28-319.01, as such sections now provide or may hereafter from time to time be amended;
10. Engaging in any other activity forbidden by the laws of the State of Nebraska which activity constitutes a danger to other students or interferes with school purposes; or
11. A repeated violation of any of the following rules if such violations constitute a substantial interference with school purposes:
    a. The use of language, written or oral, or conduct, including gestures, which is profane or abusive to students or staff members. Profane or abusive language or conduct includes, but is not limited to, that which is commonly understood and intended

to be derogatory toward a group or individual based upon race, gender, national origin, or religion;

b. Dressing or grooming in a manner which violates the school district's dress code and/or is dangerous to the student's health and safety, a danger to the health and safety of others, or which is disruptive, distracting or indecent to the extent that it interferes with the learning and educational process;
c. Violating school bus rules as set by the school district or district staff;
d. Possessing, using, selling, or dispensing tobacco, drug paraphernalia, an electronic nicotine delivery system, or a tobacco imitation substance or packaging, regardless of form, including cigars, cigarettes, chewing tobacco, and any other form of tobacco, tobacco derivative product or imitation or electronic cigarettes, vapor pens, etc.;
e. Possessing, using, selling, or dispensing any drug paraphernalia or imitation of a controlled substance regardless of whether the actual substance possessed is a controlled substance by Nebraska law;
f. Possession of pornography, including creation, possession, dissemination, accessing, sale, or any other use of synthetic media, such as deepfakes;
g. Sexting or the possession of sexting images (a combination of sex and texting - the act of sending sexually explicit messages or photos electronically), including creation, possession, dissemination, accessing, sale, or any other use of synthetic media, such as deepfakes;
h. Engaging in hazing, defined as any activity expected of someone joining a group, team, or activity that humiliates, degrades or risks emotional and/or physical harm, regardless of the person's willingness to participate. Hazing activities are generally considered to be: physically abusive, hazardous, and/or sexually violating and include but are not limited to the following: personal servitude; sleep deprivation and restrictions on personal hygiene; yelling, swearing and insulting new members/rookies; being forced to wear embarrassing or humiliating attire in public; consumption of vile substances or smearing of such on one's skin; branding; physical beatings; binge drinking and drinking games; sexual simulation and sexual assault;
i. Bullying which shall include cyberbullying, defined as the use of the internet, including but not limited to social networking sites such as Facebook, cell phones or other devices to send, post or text message images and material intended to hurt or embarrass another person. This may include, but is not limited to; continuing

to send e-mail to someone who has said they want no further contact with the sender; sending or posting threats, sexual remarks or pejorative labels (i.e., hate speech); ganging up on victims by making them the subject of ridicule in forums, and posting false statements as fact intended to humiliate the victim; disclosure of personal data, such as the victim's real name, address, or school at websites or forums; posing as the identity of the victim for the purpose of publishing material in their name that defames or ridicules them; sending threatening and harassing text, instant messages or emails to the victims; and posting or sending rumors or gossip to instigate others to dislike and gang up on the target;

j. Violations of the district's acceptable computer use policy;
k. Knowingly possessing, handling, or transmitting any object or material that is ordinarily or generally considered a simulated or "look-a-like" weapon;
l. Using any object to simulate possession of a weapon;
m. Knowingly making a false statement or knowingly submitting false information during the Title IX grievance process or any other school investigation or making a materially false statement in bad faith in the course of a Title IX grievance proceeding or any other school investigation;
n. Violation of the school's audio and video recording policy; and
o. Any other violation of any board policy, handbook provision, or rule or regulation established by a school district staff member pursuant to authority delegated by the board.

Due Process Afforded to Students Facing Long-term Suspension or Expulsion

The following procedures shall be followed regarding any long-term suspension, expulsion, or mandatory reassignment:

1. The decision to recommend discipline shall be made within two school days after learning of the alleged student misconduct. On the date of the decision to discipline, the Principal shall file with the Superintendent a written charge and a summary of the evidence supporting such charge.
2. The Principal shall serve the student and the student's Parent with a written notice by registered or certified mail or personal service within two school days of the date of the decision to recommend long-term suspension or expulsion. The notice shall include the following:

a. The rule or standard of conduct allegedly violated and the acts of the student alleged to constitute a cause for long-term suspension, expulsion, or mandatory reassignment, including a summary of the evidence to be presented against the student;
b. The penalty, if any, which the principal has recommended in the charge and any other penalty to which the student may be subject;
c. Resources the school is able to provide or recommend to assist the student;
d. How the school plans to handle such behavior in the future, including an actionable plan aimed at maximizing strategies to keep the student in school;
e. A statement that, before long-term suspension, expulsion, or mandatory reassignment can be invoked, the student has a right to a hearing, upon request, and that if the student is suspended pending the outcome of the hearing, the student may complete classwork and homework, including, but not limited to, examinations, missed during the period of suspension pursuant to district guidelines which shall not require the student to attend the school district's alternative programs for expelled students in order to complete classwork or;
f. A description of the hearing procedures provided by the act, along with procedures for appealing any decision rendered at the hearing;
g. A statement that the principal, legal counsel for the school, the student, the student's Parent, or the student's representative has the right (i) to examine the student's academic and disciplinary records and any affidavits to be used at the hearing concerning the alleged misconduct and (ii) to know the identity of the witnesses to appear at the hearing and the substance of their testimony; and
h. A form on which the student, the student's Parent may request a hearing, to be signed by such parties and delivered to the principal or superintendent in person or by registered or certified mail to the address provided on the form.

3. When a notice of intent to discipline a student by long-term suspension, expulsion, or mandatory reassignment is filed with the superintendent, the student may be suspended by the principal until the date the long-term suspension, expulsion, or mandatory reassignment takes effect, if the principal determines that the student must be suspended immediately to prevent or substantially reduce the risk of (a) interference with an educational function or school purpose or (b) a

personal injury to the student himself or herself, other students, school employees, or school volunteers.

4. Nothing in this policy shall preclude the student, the student's Parent, or representative from discussing and settling the matter with appropriate school personnel prior to the time the long-term suspension, expulsion, or mandatory reassignment takes effect.
5. If a hearing is requested within five days after receipt of the notice, the Superintendent shall recommend appointment of a hearing examiner within two school days after receipt of the hearing request. The student or the student's Parent may request designation of a hearing examiner other than the hearing examiner recommended by the superintendent if notice of the request is given to the superintendent within two school days after receipt of the superintendent's recommended appointment. Upon receiving such request, the superintendent must provide one alternative hearing examiner who is not an employee of the school district or otherwise currently under contract with the school district and whose impartiality may not otherwise be reasonably questioned. The student or the student's Parent must, within five school days, select a hearing examiner to conduct the hearing who was recommended or provided as an alternative hearing examiner, and shall notify the superintendent in writing of the selection. The superintendent must appoint the selected hearing examiner upon receipt of such notice.
6. The hearing examiner must, within two school days after being appointed, give written notice to the principal, the student, and the student's Parent of the time and place for the hearing.
7. The hearing shall be held within a period of five school days after appointment of the hearing examiner, but such time may be changed by the hearing examiner for good cause with consent of the parties. No hearing shall be held upon less than two school days' actual notice to the principal, the student, and the student's Parent, except with the consent of all the parties.
8. The principal or legal counsel for the school, the student, the student's Parent, or representative have the right to receive a copy of all records and written statements referred to in the Student Discipline Act as well as the statement of any witness in the possession of the school board or board of education no later than forty-eight hours prior to the hearing.
9. If a hearing is requested more than five school days following the receipt of the written notice, but not more than thirty calendar days after receipt, the Superintendent shall appoint a hearing examiner. The hearing will be held according to the requirements of section 79-269. The student shall be entitled to a hearing but the consequence imposed may continue in effect pending final determination.

10. If a request for hearing is not received within thirty calendar days following the mailing or delivery of the written notice, the student shall not be entitled to a hearing.

In the event a hearing is requested, the hearing, hearing procedures, the student's rights and any appeals or judicial review permitted by law shall be governed by the applicable provisions of the Nebraska Student Discipline Act (NEB. REV. STAT. § 79-254 to 79-294).

Reporting Requirement to Law Enforcement

Violations of this section will result in a report to law enforcement if:

1. The violation includes possession of a firearm;
2. The violation results in child abuse;
3. It is a violation of the Nebraska Criminal Code that the administration believes cannot be adequately addressed solely by discipline from the school district;
4. It is a violation of the Nebraska Criminal Code that endangers the health and welfare of staff or students;
5. It is a violation of the Nebraska Criminal Code that interferes with school purposes;
6. The report is required or requested by law enforcement or the county attorney.

Adopted on: _____
Revised on: _____
Reviewed on: _____

5048
Emergency Response to Life Threatening Asthma or Systemic Allergic Reactions (Anaphylaxis)

School employees will comply with the requirements of the NDE Rule 59 protocol entitled, "Emergency Response to Life Threatening Asthma or Systemic Allergic Reactions (Anaphylaxis)" (Protocol) to address incidents of anaphylaxis involving students at school when those students do not have existing response plans. For students with individual self-management plans, Section 504 plans, or Individualized Education Programs (IEP) addressing asthma or anaphylaxis responses, school employees will comply with those plans. The district shall procure and maintain the equipment and medication necessary to implement the Protocol.

The superintendent shall obtain the required signature(s) of one or more Prescribing Health Care Practitioners on the Protocol form. The superintendent shall publish this policy and Protocol in each student and employee handbook.

The superintendent shall arrange to have a qualified medical professional train employees, and for training updates as necessary. This may be a medical doctor, qualified school nurse, or other person qualified to train staff on the medication of students.

Adopted on: _____
Revised on: _____
Reviewed on: _____

6009
Grade Placement and Academic Credits of Transfer Students

The district will use the criteria outlined below to determine both the grade-level placement and the academic credit awarded to transfer students. The administration is the final decision-maker and decisions made pursuant to this policy may not be appealed to the board of education.

Transfer from an Accredited School District

A student transferring from an accredited school generally will be placed at the grade level that is comparable to the placement in the school from which the student is transferring. Temporary placement may be made until a student's records are received to verify the placement.

The student's building principal may place a student into a grade level that is different from the accredited school from which the student is transferring after considering the following information:

- Student's chronological age
- Previous school experience
- Academic transcript received from the accredited school of origin
- Testing data from the accredited school of origin, including but not limited to, standardized achievement test data, criterion-referenced test data, classroom testing data, and diagnostic test data
- Testing data from any tests or assessments conducted by the school district

All credits awarded to a student by an accredited institution will be counted towards applicable graduation requirements for the transferring student.

Transfer From a Non-Accredited School

A student or a parent/guardian of a student who is transferring into the district from a non-accredited school must provide the district with copies of all materials that have been used to provide instruction to the student that the family would like the district to consider in determining the appropriate grade level at which to place the student and credits to be awarded to the student. The student's building principal will then consider those materials and the following factors in determining the grade level placement for the student:

- Student's chronological age
- Previous school experience
- Materials submitted by the student or family pursuant to this policy

- Testing data from any tests or assessments conducted by the school district

The district will only award credit toward graduation from courses while the student was in a non-accredited school if the student can demonstrate mastery of the concepts required for completion of that course. Mastery will be assessed by standard and nonstandardized testing, at the discretion of the administration.

Multiple Enrollments and Re-enrollments In the Same Semester

Students from non-accredited schools who disenroll and then re-enroll in the district multiple times during the same semester will be permitted to resume the grade placement that the student was in at the time of the prior enrollment. However, students who fail to attend the total number of days per semester required of enrolled students will not be eligible to receive credit for the partial semester of enrollment.

The district will not retroactively award credit for time spent in exempt or non-accredited status.

A student's eligibility to participate in extracurricular activities upon re-entry is subject to all eligibility rules and the district's policies governing extracurricular eligibility.

Placement of International Students.

The district administration, in conjunction with the building principal, will determine the appropriate grade level/credit status of a student transferring from a country other than the US.

Graduation Requirements

Regardless of the school(s) previously attended, a student transferring into the school district in grades 9-12 will be responsible for meeting all graduation requirements to be awarded a diploma from the district.

Adopted on: _____
Revised on: _____
Reviewed on: _____

6038
Student Use of AI Tools

As used in this policy, artificial intelligence tools ("AI Tools") mean machine-based resources that use computer science, algorithms, large language models, and/or machine learning to perform tasks, answer questions, collect information, and respond to human-directed tasks, queries, and objectives. AI Tools include, but are not necessarily limited to, commercially-available resources like ChatGPT, Gemini, Claude and similar programs.

AI Tools may be useful to student learning. However, students and staff must ensure that student use of AI Tools should focus on using such tools as a resource and for background material, rather than using the AI Tools to complete the assignment. Therefore, AI Tools may only be used by students in accordance with the following requirements:

1. Students may not use AI tools on any assignment, test, or project unless the staff member has given express permission for the student to do so. Staff Member permission to use an AI tool on one assignment does not carry over to other assignments. Individual staff members will decide for each individual assignment the extent to which students may use AI Tools.

2. If a student uses any AI Tools in connection with a school assignment, the student must:

    a. Give proper attribution to the specific AI Tool(s) used to the same extent that students are expected to give proper attribution to other sources of information such as books, texts, encyclopedias, secondary sources, and other traditional media. Such attribution may include, but is not necessarily limited to, accurate quotations, citations, footnotes, endnotes, and/or bibliography entries.
    b. Never copy and paste the output from the AI Tool into the student's work as if the student wrote such section himself or herself.

3. Students may never use AI Tools to:

    a. Cheat on any assignment, test, or quiz;
    b. Help answer questions on a test or quiz without staff member permission;
    c. Make or share deepfakes or fake images, audio, or video of any real person;

d. Make or share sexual, nude, or intimate images of any real person—even if the image is fake or AI-made;
e. Bully, harass, threaten, intimidate or impersonate any person;
f. Place another student or staff member name, photo, voice, or personal information into an AI Tool without staff member authorization;
g. Use AI Tools to bypass accommodations, content filers, or school security.

4. A student may use AI Tools as an accommodation if his/her IEP team or Section 504 committee has approved use of the tool. The student must disclose the use of AI Tools to the staff member grading the assignment.

5. A student's failure to meet the requirements stated in this policy will constitute a violation of the district's prohibitions against cheating plagiarism and/or academic dishonesty, including but not necessarily limited to such prohibitions stated in the Student Handbook, which violation will subject the student to discipline up to and including expulsion.

6. The student requirements stated above are the minimum requirements for any student assignment. An individual teacher may impose more stringent requirements for any specific academic assignment or coursework.

Adopted on: _____
Revised on: _____
Reviewed on: _____

6046
Right to Access to School Library Materials

Definitions. As used in this policy,

- "Parent" means the parent, guardian, or educational decisionmaker of any student currently attending the school district; and
- "Educational decisionmaker" means a person designated or ordered by a court to make educational decisions on behalf of a child.

Catalog of Library Books. The superintendent or designee shall create and maintain a catalog of all books in the school district's library, categorized by school building, that shall be accessible by a Parent.

Opportunity for Notification. A Parent shall have the opportunity to be notified when the Parent's student checks out a book from the school library, which notification shall include the title of the book, the author(s) of the book, and the date the book is due to be returned to the school library. The administration may elect to allow a Parent to exercise the opportunity to receive such notifications by means of a website, application notification, or by opting into email notifications.

Nothing in this policy shall be construed to create any rights of access or rights to notification in favor of any person that does not meet the definition of Parent stated above.

Adopted on: _____
Revised on: _____
Reviewed on: _____

5018
Parent Involvement in Education Practices

For purposes of this policy, "parent" includes a parent, guardian, or educational decisionmaker (a person designated or ordered by a court to make educational decisions on behalf of a student).

The school district recognizes the importance of parental involvement in the education of their children. To the extent practicable, the school district will make a reasonable effort to make any learning materials, including original materials, available for inspection by a parent upon request.

The school district will take the following steps to ensure that the rights of parents to participate in the education of their children are preserved.

1. Parents will be provided access to textbooks, tests, activities information; digital materials; websites or applications used for learning; training materials for teachers, administrators, and staff; procedures for the review and approval of training materials, learning materials, and activities; and other curriculum materials ("curricular materials") as follows:

    a. A parental request to review specific curricular materials (written, visual, or audio) should be made to the principal of the building where the curricular materials are used.
    b. The building principal will assess the request and determine the allowable volume and time frame of the review to prevent disruption to the efficient operations of the district.
    c. The purpose of this provision is to allow reasonable access to the extent practicable. Individuals who make requests (a) for the purpose of adding staff burden; (b) at an unreasonable frequency or volume; or (c) for purposes inconsistent with the efficient operations of the district may be denied access to materials.
    d. A parental request to review specific standardized and criterion-referenced tests used in the district should be made in writing to the building principal. Copies of the most recent tests used in the district will be available for parent review. Parents wishing to review statewide assessments will be provided with sample questions and a copy of a practice test, but will not be provided with copies of the actual assessment due to testing security. In

the case of other secure tests such as the ACT, parents must contact the publisher to obtain copies of the test.

2. Parents will be permitted, within district procedures, to attend and observe courses, assemblies, counseling sessions, and other instructional activities.

    a. Parents are invited to make appointments with the building principal to visit classes, assemblies, and other instructional activities. The principal shall give permission after determining that parental observation would not disrupt the activity. Observations that last more than 60 minutes or occur on consecutive days are typically disruptive and will not be permitted absent unusual circumstances, in the sole discretion of the building principal.

    b. Parents may contact the building principal to request permission to attend counseling sessions in which their child is involved.

3. Parents may request that their children be excused from testing (except as provided below), classroom instruction, learning materials, activities, guest speaker events, and other school experiences ("school events") that parents find objectionable.

    a. Parents must submit this request in writing to the building principal for consideration.

    b. Building principals may excuse a student from any school events at the parent's written request if, in the principal's professional judgment, excusal from the activity would not result in diminution of the student's educational experience.

    c. When the building principal determines it appropriate, alternative experiences may be provided for the student by the school.

4. Parents will be informed through the student handbook and district policies of the manner that the district will provide access to records of students.

5. Parents will be informed of the standardized and criterion-referenced district testing program. Parents may request additional information from the building principal.

6. Parents will be informed of the circumstances under which they may opt-out of state and federal assessments.

   a. In accordance with federal law, at the beginning of the school year, the District shall provide notice of the right to request a copy of this policy to parents of students attending schools receiving Title I funds. The District will provide a copy of this policy to a requesting parent in a timely manner.

   b. State Assessments

      State and federal law simultaneously require students to take state assessments, with few exceptions, but also permit parents to request to opt their students out of these assessments. Approval of opt out requests is contrary to the mandatory testing laws, so the District cannot "approve" the request. Parents who do not present their child for testing will result in the child receiving the lowest score possible on the assessment.

   c. National Assessment of Educational Progress

      As a condition of receiving federal funds, the District participates in the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP). To help ensure that the District has a representative sample of students taking the NAEP, which will allow the District to assess the quality and effectiveness of its programming on a national level, the District strongly encourages all eligible students to participate. However, student participation in NAEP is voluntary.

      The District shall provide parents of eligible students with reasonable notice prior to the exam being administered. Parents wishing to opt their students out of the NAEP assessment must notify the district in writing at least three days prior to the exam date to ensure that the District can coordinate supervision and alternative activities for students who have opted out.

7. Parents will be notified of their right to remove their children from surveys prior to district participation in surveys.

a. The principal must approve all surveys intended to gather information from students before they are administered to students.

b. Students' participation in surveys is voluntary. Parents may restrict their child from participating in any survey.

c. If the school administers (1) a survey requesting that students provide sexual information, mental health information, medical information, information on health-risk behaviors, religious information, information of political affiliation, or any other information that the school board deems to be sensitive in nature or (2) a non-anonymous survey requesting students provide information relating to drug, vape, alcohol, or tobacco use, the school district shall, at least fifteen days prior to the administration of the survey, notify parents, guardians, and educational decisionmakers of students that are to receive such survey. The notice will be made through the school's electronic notification system or by physical mail to the address on file for the student. The notice will describe the nature and types of questions included in the survey, the purposes and age-appropriateness of the survey, how information collected by the survey will be used, who will have access to such information, the steps that will be taken to protect student privacy, and whether and how any findings or results of such survey will be disclosed.

d. Parents have the right to: (1) request that a copy of the survey be sent through the school's electronic notification system or physical mail to the address on file for the student, (2) review the survey in person at the school, and (3) exempt their child from participating in the survey.

e. Unless required by federal or state law or regulation, school personnel administering any survey shall not disclose personally identifiable information of a child.

f. No survey requesting sexual information of a student shall be administered to any student in kindergarten through grade six.

g. The district will also comply with any survey requirements found in the district's policy on Protection of Pupil Rights.

8. The district will make this policy accessible by a prominently displayed link on its public website. Any amended policy will be made accessible within a reasonable time of its amendment.

Adopted on: December 17, 2018
Revised on: June 16, 2025
Reviewed on: _____

5045
Student Fees

The school district shall provide free instruction in accordance with the Nebraska State Constitution and the Nebraska statutes. The district also provides activities, programs, and services that extend beyond the minimum level of constitutionally required free instruction. Under the Public Elementary and Secondary Student Fee Authorization Act, the district is permitted to charge students fees for these activities or to require students to provide specialized equipment and attire for certain purposes. This policy is subject to further interpretation or guidance by administrative or board regulations. Students are encouraged to contact their building administration, their teachers or their coaches, and sponsors for further specifics.

A. Definitions.

1. "Students" means students, their parents, guardians or other legal representatives.

2. "Extracurricular activities" means student activities or organizations that (1) are supervised or administered by the district; (2) do not count toward graduation or advancement between grades; and (3) are not otherwise required by the district.

3. "Post-secondary education costs" means tuition and other fees associated with obtaining credit from a post-secondary educational institution.

B. Listing of Fees Charged by this District.

1. Guidelines for Clothing Required for Specified Courses and Activities.

Students are responsible for complying with the district's grooming and attire guidelines and for furnishing all clothing required for any special programs, courses or activities in which they participate. The teacher, coach, or sponsor of the activity will provide students with written guidelines that detail any special clothing requirements and explain why the special clothing is required for the specific program, course or activity.

2. Safety Equipment and Attire.

The district will provide students with all safety equipment and attire that is required by law. Building administrators will assure that (a) such equipment is available in the appropriate classes and areas of the school buildings, (b) teachers are directed to instruct students in the use of such devices, and (c) students use the devices as required. Students are responsible for using the devices safely and as instructed.

3. Personal or Consumable Items.

The district does not provide students with personal or consumable items for participation in courses and activities including, but not limited to, pencils, paper, pens, erasers and notebooks. Students who wish to supply their own personal or consumable items may do so, as long as those items comply with the requirements of the district. The district will provide students with facilities, equipment, materials and supplies, including books. Students are responsible for the careful and appropriate use of such property. Students will be charged for damage to school property caused by the student and will be held responsible for the reasonable replacement cost of any school property that they lose.

4. Materials Required for Course Projects.

The district will provide students with the materials necessary to complete all basic curricular projects. In courses where students choose to produce a project that requires materials beyond the basic materials provided by the district, the students will furnish the materials, purchase the materials from the school, or purchase the materials from an outside vendor with an order form provided by the school.

5. Technological Devices

The district will provide students with the technological devices necessary to complete all basic curricular projects. To the extent that a student is not required by the district's curriculum to utilize a device off district property, the district may charge students a convenience fee to take the device off district property. The maximum dollar amount of this convenience fee charged by the district will be $100.

As with all school property, students may be charged for damage to such devices. To protect against such potential losses, students and parents may, but are not required, to purchase insurance coverage for the devices. The

maximum dollar amount of this insurance coverage facilitated by the district will be $1000. The district may also charge a damage deposit which will be returned or may be rolled to cover the damage deposit for the next year if it is not needed to cover the costs of any damage to the device. The maximum dollar amount of this damage deposit will be $100.

6. Extracurricular Activities.

The district may charge students a fee to participate in extracurricular activities to cover the district's reasonable costs in offering such activities. The district may require students to furnish specialized equipment and clothing that is required for participation in extracurricular activities, or may charge a reasonable fee for the use of district-owned equipment or attire. Attached to this policy is a list of the fees charged for particular activities. The coach or sponsor will provide students with additional written guidelines detailing the fees charged, the equipment and/or clothing required, or the usage fee charged. The guidelines will explain the reasons that fees, equipment and/or clothing are required for the activity.

The following list details the maximum dollar amount of all extracurricular activities fees and the specifications for any equipment or attire required for participation in extracurricular activities:

- Student Activity Card: $30
  - Covers admission to all extracurricular events
- Student Participation Fee: $30
  - Required of all students who participate in athletics and/or other extracurricular activities
- Future Business Leaders of America: $100
- National Honor Society: $No Fee
- Cheerleading: $900
  - Students must purchase uniforms and shoes selected by the sponsor and/or student group. The maximum dollar amount charged by the school district for these items will be: $900
- Football: No Fee
  - Students must provide their own football shoes, undergarments, and mouthguards
- Golf: No Fee
  - Students must provide their own golf shoes, undergarments, and clubs
- Track, Volleyball, and Wrestling: No Fee
  - Students must provide their own shoes and undergarments
- Future Farmers of America: $100

- Students must purchase their own jackets and pay dues

7. Post-Secondary Education Costs.

Some students enroll in postsecondary courses while still enrolled in the district's high school. As a general rule, students must pay all costs associated with such post-secondary courses. However, for a course in which students receive high school credit or a course being taken as part of an approved accelerated or differentiated curriculum program, the district shall offer the course without charge for tuition, transportation, books, or other fees. Students who choose to apply for post-secondary education credit for these courses must pay tuition and all other fees associated with obtaining credits from a post-secondary educational institution. The costs of these items will naturally vary, but the maximum dollar amount of the fee is anticipated to be $_____ per course.

8. Transportation Costs.

The district will charge students reasonable fees for transportation services provided by the district to the extent permitted by federal and state statutes and regulations.

The maximum dollar amount of the transportation fee charged by this district shall be $_____.

9. Copies of Student Files or Records.

The district will charge a fee for making copies of a student's files or records for the parents or guardians of such student. The Superintendent or the Superintendent's designee shall establish a schedule of student record fees. Parents of students have the right to inspect and review the students' files or records without the payment of a fee, and the district shall not charge a fee to search for or retrieve any student's files or records.

The district will charge a fee of $____ per page for reproduction of student records.

10. Participation in Before-and-After-School or Pre-Kindergarten Services.

The district will charge reasonable fees for participation in before-and-after school or pre-kindergarten services offered by the district pursuant to statute.

The maximum dollar amount charged by the district for these services shall be $_____.

11. Participation in Summer School or Night School.

The district will charge reasonable fees for participation in summer school or night school and may charge reasonable fees for correspondence courses.

The maximum dollar amount charged by the district for summer and night school shall be $_____.

12. Charges for Food Consumed by Students.

The district will charge for items that students purchase from the district's breakfast and lunch programs. The fees charged for these items will be set according to applicable federal and state statutes and regulations. The district will charge students for the cost of food, beverages, and the like that students purchase from a school store, vending machine, booster club or from similar sources. Students may be required to bring money or food for field trip lunches and similar activities.

The maximum dollar amount charged by the district for the breakfast and lunch programs is as follows:

- Breakfast Program – Grades K-12
  - Regular Price $2.25
  - Reduced Price $.30
- Lunch Program – Grades K-5
  - Regular Price $3.20
  - Reduced Price $.40
- Lunch Program – Grades 6-12
  - Regular Price $3.45
  - Reduced Price $.40

13. Charges for Musical Extracurricular Activities.

Students who qualify for fee waivers under this policy will be provided, at no charge, the use of a musical instrument in optional music courses that are not extracurricular activities. The following list details the maximum dollar amount of all musical extracurricular activities fees and the equipment or attire required for participation in musical extracurricular activities:

- Band: No charge

- Students must provide their own instruments and marching band shoes, which must be white, rubber-soled sneakers
- Choir: No charge
  - Students must purchase outfits and shoes selected by the sponsor and/or student group. The maximum dollar amount charged by the district for these materials will be $0

14. Contributions for Junior and Senior Class Extracurricular Activities.

Students are eligible to participate in a number of unique extracurricular activities during their last two years in high school, including prom, various senior recognitions, and graduation. In order to fund these extracurricular activities, the school district will ask each student to make a contribution to their class's fund. This contribution is completely voluntary. Students who chose not to contribute to the class fund are still eligible to participate in the extra activities. The suggested donation to the class fund will be $100.

C. Waiver Policy.

Students who qualify for free or reduced-price lunches under United States Department of Agriculture child nutrition programs shall be provided a fee waiver or be provided the necessary materials or equipment without charge for (1) participation in extracurricular activities, (2) materials for course projects, and (3) the use of a musical instrument in optional music courses that are not extracurricular activities. Actual participation in the free or reduced-price lunch program is not required to qualify for the waivers provided in this section. The district is not obligated to provide any particular type or quality of equipment or other material to eligible students. Students who wish to be considered for waiver of a particular fee must submit a completed fee waiver application to their building principal.

D. Distribution of Policy.

This policy will be published in the Student Handbook or its equivalent that will be provided to students at no cost.

E. Voluntary Contributions to Defray Costs.

The district will, when appropriate, request donations of money, materials, equipment or attire from parents, guardians and other members of the community to defray the costs of providing certain services and activities to students. These requests are not requirements and staff members of the

district are directed to clearly communicate that fact to students, parents and patrons.

F. Fund-Raising Activities

Students may be permitted or required to engage in fund-raising activities to support various curricular and extracurricular activities in which they participate. Students who decline to participate in fund-raising activities are not eligible under this policy for waiver of the costs or fees which the fund-raising activity was meant to defray.

G. Student Fee Fund.

The school board hereby establishes a Student Fee Fund. The Student Fee Fund shall be a separate school district fund that will not be funded by tax revenue, and that will serve a depository for all monies collected from students for (1) participation in extracurricular activities, (2) post-secondary education costs, and (3) summer school or night school courses. Monies in the Student Fee Fund shall be expended only for the purposes for which they were collected from students.

Adopted on: December 17, 2018
Revised on: July 17, 2023
Reviewed on: _____

5054
Student Bullying

Definition of Bullying. Nebraska statute defines bullying as "an ongoing pattern of physical, verbal or electronic abuse." The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention defines bullying as "any unwanted aggressive behavior(s) by another youth or group of youths who are not siblings or current dating partners that involves an observed or perceived power imbalance and is repeated multiple times or is highly likely to be repeated." The school district's administrators will consider these definitions when determining whether any specific situation constitutes bullying. These definitions include both in-person and cyberbullying behaviors.

Bullying Prohibited. Students are prohibited from engaging in any form of bullying behavior.

Reporting Bullying. Students who experience or observe bullying behavior must immediately report what happened to a teacher or administrator. Students may always confer with their parents or guardians about bullying they experience or witness, but the students must also ultimately report the situation to a teacher or administrator.

Bullying Investigations. School district staff will investigate allegations of bullying using the same practices and procedures that the district observes for student disciplinary matters. In no circumstance will school district staff be deliberately indifferent to allegations of bullying.

Disciplinary Consequences. The disciplinary consequences for bullying behavior will depend on the frequency, duration, severity and effect of the behavior.

A student who engages in bullying behavior on school grounds, in a vehicle owned, leased, or contracted by a school being used for a school purpose by a school employee or his or her designee, or at school- sponsored activities or school-sponsored athletic events may be subject to disciplinary consequences including but not limited to long-term suspension, expulsion, or mandatory reassignment.

Without limiting the foregoing, a student who engages in bullying behavior that materially and substantially interferes with or disrupts the educational environment, the district's day-to-day operations, or the education process, regardless of where the student is at the time of

engaging in the bullying behavior, may be subject to discipline to the extent permitted by law.

Bullying Based on Protected Class Status. Bullying based on protected class status is unique and may require additional investigation. The appropriate district staff member or coordinator will promptly investigate bullying complaints that violate the district's antidiscrimination policies.

Support for Students Who Have Experienced Bullying. Regardless of where the bullying occurred, the district will consider whether victims of bullying are suffering an adverse educational impact and, if appropriate, will refer those students to the district's student assistance team.

Bullying Prevention and Education. Students and parents are encouraged to inform teachers or administrators orally or in writing about bullying behavior or suspected bullying behavior. School employees are required to inform the administrator of all such reports. The appropriate administrator shall promptly investigate all such reports. Each building shall engage in activities which educate students about bullying, bullying prevention and digital citizenship.

Policy Review. The school district shall review this policy annually.

Adopted on: July 20, 2020
Revised on: _____
Reviewed on: July 17, 2023

5057 District Title I Parent and Family Engagement Policy

The school district will jointly develop with parents a School-Parent-Student Compact that outlines how the parents, 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.

The written District Parent and Family Engagement Policy will be jointly developed and distributed to parents and family members of participating children and the local community in an understandable format and to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand. An annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of the Parent and Family Engagement Policy will be used to design evidence-based strategies for more effective parental involvement, to revise the Parent and Family Engagement Policy, and to remove barriers to participation.

The school district recognizes the unique needs of students who are being served in its Title I program, and the importance of parent and family engagement in the Title I program. Parent and family engagement in the Title I Program shall include, but is not limited to:

1. An annual meeting to which all parents of participating children will be invited to inform parents of their school's participation under this part, to explain the requirements of this part, and the right of the parents to be involved. Invitations may take the form of notes sent with students or announcements in the school newsletter. Additional meetings may be scheduled, based upon need and interest for such meetings.

2. An explanation of the details for the child's and parents' participation, including but not limited to: curriculum objectives, the forms of academic assessment used to measure student progress and the achievement levels of the challenging State academic standards, type and extent of participation, parental input in educational decisions, coordination and integration with other Federal, State, and district programs, and evaluations of progress.

3. Opportunities for participation in parent involvement activities such as training to help parents work with their children to improve achievement. A goal of ~~these~~ parent activities is to

provide parents with opportunities to participate in decisions relating to the education of their students, where appropriate.

4. The district will, to the extent practicable, provide parents of limited English proficiency, parents with disabilities, parents with limited literacy, are economically disadvantaged, are of a racial or minority background or—parents of migratory children with opportunities for involvement in the Title I Program. Communication to parents about student progress and the district's other Title I Program communications will be provided in the language used in the home to the extent practicable. Responses to parent concerns will be provided in a timely manner.

5. Opportunities for parent-teacher conferences, in addition to those regularly scheduled by the school district, if requested by the parents or as deemed necessary by school district staff.

6. The district will coordinate and integrate parental involvement programs and activities with other programs in the community. These may include cooperation with other community programs such as Head Start and preschools and other community services such as the public library.

7. Educate teachers, specialized instructional support personnel, principals, and other school leaders, with the assistance of parents in the value and utility of contributions of parents, how to reach out to, communicate with and work with parents as equal partners.

This policy shall be reviewed annually at the annual meeting where concerned parties can have a conversation about possible changes to the Parent and Family Engagement Policy.

Adopted on: December 17, 2018
Revised on: _____
Reviewed on: July 17, 2023

6004
Curriculum Development

The board of education jealously guards its right, prerogative, and discretion to exercise local control of the curriculum development of the district to the greatest extent permitted by state and federal law, and has no intention of ceding such right, prerogative, or discretion.

The superintendent or his/her designee shall be responsible for providing and directing system-wide planning for curriculum, instruction, assessment and staff development.

The curriculum shall be standards-driven and accountability-based. The district's academic content standards shall be those required by the Nebraska State Board of Education in the subject areas of reading and writing (language arts), mathematics, and science only. The curriculum shall be articulated to include all programs and grade levels offered within the district, K-12 and, if applicable, shall include a preschool program. The curriculum shall reflect the comprehensive plan of the school district. All professional staff members are responsible for implementing the curriculum.

The superintendent or his/her designee will present this curriculum to the board for approval or modification.

The superintendent shall be responsible for establishing curriculum guides to articulate and coordinate the written curriculum, and to provide consistency of the written curriculum from one level of the district to the next. Curriculum guides shall provide for the development of the school district's curriculum and shall set academic standards, identify essential educational outcome criteria, and provide for the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of student learning.

Teachers are responsible for following the curriculum guides and teaching the written curriculum. Principals are responsible for monitoring the curriculum and evaluating teachers to ensure that they are teaching in compliance with the curriculum guides and written curriculum. The superintendent and his/her designee shall ensure that principals monitor the curriculum and evaluate teachers.

Curriculum and Textbook Adoption Schedule

The district will review curriculum and adopt associated textbooks on the following schedule.

SUBJECT AREAS	REVIEW	ADOPTION
Foreign Language Fine Arts/Music	2022-2023	2023-2024
K-12 Language Arts	2021-2022	2022-2023
Math	2022-2023	2023-2024
Technology	NA	NA
7-12 Science	2019-2020	2020-2021
K-6 Science	2019-2020	2020-2021
Physical Ed/Health	2016-2017	2017-2018
Vocational	2010-2011	2011-2012
Social Studies	2020-2021	2021-2022
Financial Literacy	2017-2018	2018-2019
Computer Science and Technology	2018-2019	2019-2020

Adopted on: July 17, 2023
Revised on: _____
Reviewed on: _____

Wilcox-Hildreth Public School
2026-2027



Handbook For
Classified Employees

Contents

INTRODUCTION	3
TIME CARDS AND PAY DATES	4
EMPLOYMENT	4
COMPLAINT PROCEDURES	5
INCLEMENT WEATHER CONDITIONS	5
403(b) Eligibility	5
MEAL/LUNCH BREAKS	5
WORKERS COMPENSATION INSURANCE	5
NON-CERTIFICATED PERSONNEL BENEFITS	5
PERSONAL LEAVE	6
SICK LEAVE	6
BEREAVEMENT	7
FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE POLICY	7
VACATION DAYS	7
OVERTIME	8
MILITARY AND FAMILY MILITARY LEAVE	8
JURY DUTY	8
OTHER LEAVE	8
MILEAGE AND EXPENSES	8
HOLIDAY PAY	8
RETIREMENT BENEFITS	9
INSURANCE	9
COBRA BENEFITS	9
CELL PHONE/CAMERA CELL PHONE/CAMERA USAGE	10
COMPUTER AND EMAIL USAGE	10
INTERNET USAGE	11
ATTACHMENT	13

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to Wilcox-Hildreth Public Schools. This handbook is intended to be used by classified employees to provide general information and to serve as a guide to policies, rules, and regulations, benefits of employment, and performance expectations.

Wilcox-Hildreth Schools employs support personnel in order to carry out the operation of the School District. Non-certificated departments include: para-educators, custodial/maintenance, secretarial, and bus drivers.

It is important to remember that non-certificated employees have an impact on the lives of our students, just as teachers and other professional members of the staff. Without the proper completion of tasks by the non-certificated employees, the children in our community will not receive a quality education.

The purpose of this booklet is to provide the non-certificated employees, both new and present, with a set of guidelines concerning the benefits and procedures of Wilcox-Hildreth Public Schools. In writing this booklet, the use of legal words and phrases has been avoided as much as possible. It is not a contract, and it is not intended as a set of binding rules and obligations as might be defined in a legal contract. Rather, it provides useful information which, hopefully, will contribute to the harmonious and efficient operation of Wilcox-Hildreth Public Schools.

Should questions arise, please feel free to contact the Superintendent's Office or Central Office's Office for additional information (308-478-5265).

TIME CARDS AND PAY DATES

Each non-certificated employee paid on an hourly rate must use time clock (if available) or fill out a timecard (if time clock is not available) for each week. The pay period consists of one month worked to be paid the 10th day of the following month. Payments will be deposited electronically by the district office on the 10th of each month. If the 10th falls on a holiday or weekend, payments will be deposited on the previous working day.

The employee may view their time card on the online TMS program. All discrepancies MUST be reported to district office PRIOR to payment. In addition, all timesheets must be approved by a supervisor and submitted to district office. Failure to get approval may result in delay of payment until the next time period.

Time Cards (used only if Time Clock system is not available)
It is possible that some employees may not have access to the Time Clock program. Employees will complete a timecard in this case. Be sure to fill in your name, school/position, and the work week dates. Write down on time cards **only actual** hours worked, just as if you had punched a time clock. Time will be figured by the District Office staff.

Hourly employees are not to "volunteer" time in any circumstance. They are to "clock-in" when they arrive and "clock out" when they leave while remaining within the predetermined number of hours.

If an employee takes a one-day job related trip, all the time spent traveling between cities is counted as hours worked. However, time spent traveling between home and other public conveyance is not compensated. If the travel requires an overnight stay, time spent traveling to and from another city is counted as hours worked only to the extent that it falls within the employee's regular work hours, even on days which are not normal work days.

Timesheets and Time Cards are to be accurate, signed, approved by your supervisor, and submitted to District Office prior to payment.

A staff absence report must be filed if leave is used.

Direct any questions regarding your paycheck to the District Office (478-5265).

EMPLOYMENT

All non-certificated employees shall be required to sign an "at will" employment contract with the school district as a condition precedent to employment or continued employment. Non-certificated employees shall have no property right in continued employment and need not be accorded a hearing or any other procedural or substantive due process, prior to termination of their employment.

Classified employees may be terminated at any time by the school district. Notice of termination may be delivered by the administration or Board of Education. If at all possible, employees are expected to give two week notice of intention to terminate employment. Written notice of resignation should be addressed to the appropriate administrator or supervisor.

COMPLAINT PROCEDURES

The normal procedure to be followed by each employee regarding a personal complaint related to his/her employment is to discuss the matter in a personal conference with the school principal or with the supervisory officer directly in charge. When the nature of the complaint dictates otherwise, the employee is entitled to present the complaint to any higher supervisory officer. An unsatisfactory result with the school principal or with the supervisory officer may be taken to the superintendent.

INCLEMENT WEATHER CONDITIONS

Non-certificated employees who do not report for work on days of inclement weather will not be paid for the time missed.

403(b) Eligibility

If an employee chooses to participate in the school's 403(b) plan, the district will withhold employee elected deferrals from the employee's paycheck at a participation rate determined by the employee. A variety of investment options may exist based upon current plan information.

Eligibility to participate is determined by current plan rules. Paperwork to begin deferrals is available in the district office.

MEAL/LUNCH BREAKS

Non-certificated employees who work an entire day are required to take a 30 minute lunch break per day.

The lunch break is to be scheduled so as not to disrupt building or departmental functions.
Rest breaks are subject to departmental needs and are not guaranteed on a day-to-day basis. If rest breaks are approved, the breaks should be no longer than 15 minutes for each half-day worked.

WORKERS COMPENSATION INSURANCE

All employees of the School District are covered by liability and indemnity insurance for any injury occurring during the course of employment and are entitled to benefits provided by the Worker's Compensation Law.

A report of every accident occurring on the job must be completed in the building where the employee is based, and filed with the Central Office within 24 hours of the accident, Workers Comp. Insurance claims should only be made on reported accidents.

NON-CERTIFICATED PERSONNEL BENEFITS

Employees filling regularly scheduled positions are eligible for benefits when specific criteria is met per benefit. Temporary employees are not eligible for benefits. Summer employment performed by 9 month employees is considered temporary employment and not eligible for any benefits during that period of employment. The payment of $8.00 per month towards Long Term Disability is provided by the school district, if taken by the employee.

SICK LEAVE

Beginning **Para professionals** will accrue 1 sick leave day per month, accumulated up to 10 days during the first year of employment. Unused Sick Leave will be carried over to the following year to a maximum of 30 days. After the first year of employment, 10 days will be added each year up to a maximum of 30 days. Sick leave days may be used on snow days or on days that the district closed for school activities.

Cooks and Cafeteria will accrue 1 sick leave day per month, accumulated up to 10 days during the first year of employment. Unused Sick Leave will be carried over to the following year to a maximum of 30 days. After the first year of employment, 10 days will be added each year up to a maximum of 30 days. Sick leave days may be used on snow days or on days that the district closed for school activities.

Building secretaries (10 ½ month employees) begin their career with 10 Sick Leave Days. Unused Sick Leave will be carried over to the following year to a maximum of 30 days. After the first year of employment, 10 days will be added each year up to a maximum of 30 days. Sick leave days may be used on snow days or on days that the district closed for school activities.

Secretaries (12 month employees) begin their career with 10 sick days, for mid-year hires a proportionate amount of days based on the date of hire. After the first year of employment, 10 days will be added each year up to a maximum of 40 days. Unused Sick Leave will be carried over to the following year. Sick Leave will never be less than 10 days at the start of each school year. Sick leave days may be used on snow days or on days that the district closed for school activities.

Head Cook, Custodians and Maintenance employees (12 month employees) begin their career with 10 sick days, or for mid-year hires a proportionate amount of days based on the date of hire. After the first year of employment, 10 days will be added each year up to a maximum of 40 days. Unused Sick Leave will be carried over to the following year. Sick Leave will never be less than 10 days at the start of each school year.

A "Day" of such leave with pay shall be defined as the average number of hours worked by the employee not to exceed 8 hours. i.e. an employee normally working 4 hours daily would receive 4 hours of pay at the regular hourly rate for each day of leave. An individual shall not be eligible for the full 10 days of leave or any portion thereof until such time as it becomes "earned".

Seasonal or temporary employees shall not be eligible for such leave. Accumulated Leave may be used for serious illness or death in the employee's immediate family. Immediate family shall mean husband, wife, mother, father, son or daughter, and in-laws, grandchildren and grandparents.

BEREAVEMENT

Secretaries, Paras, Head Cook, Custodians and Maintenance employees will be allowed to use Sick Leave Days for Bereavement.

FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE POLICY

Family and medical leaves shall be allowed under the terms and conditions of the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 (FMLA).

The "leave year" for purposes of the FMLA shall be the School District's fiscal year.

Substitution of accrued paid leave for otherwise unpaid FMLA leave may be required in the discretion of the Superintendent of the Board of Education. Employees shall be required to submit medical certification to support a request for FMLA leave because of a serious health condition, or a sick leave, when such leave is for a duration in excess of five (5) successive days, and in such other cases as deemed appropriate by the Superintendent or the Board of Education based on the nature of the illness or other circumstances surrounding the leave. Second and third medical opinions may, at the Superintendent's or the School Board's discretion, be required. Employees shall be required to submit a fitness-for-duty certification from their health care provider as a condition of returning to work from a FMLA leave taken because of the employee's serious health condition or from sick leave taken by reason of the employee illness, when such leave was of a duration in excess of five (5) successive days, and upon request of the Superintendent or the Board of Education based upon the nature of the illness or other circumstances surrounding the leave.

An "equivalent position" for FMLA restoration purposes shall, in the case of non-certificated employees or positions, be it a position with or at equivalent pay, benefits, and working conditions, involving similar or related duties, as determined by the Superintendent or the Board of Education.

VACATION DAYS

Each employee who is employed by the Wilcox-Hildreth Public Schools on a regular twelve month basis will be eligible for 10 days of vacation with pay at the conclusion of one 12 month period of employment, and an additional day after each 5 years of employment. (Seasonal or temporary employees shall not be eligible for vacation or holiday leave). Vacation Days will not accrue and must be used during the calendar year in which they were earned.

A day for vacation leave shall be defined as the average number of daily hours worked, but shall not exceed a normal eight hour day. Vacation schedules shall be arranged with the immediate supervisor and approved by the Superintendent.

Twelve-month employees, who have completed continuous employment with the District as twelve-month employees, shall be granted additional days on the following schedule:

Continuous employment	extra vacation days	total vacation days
5 years	1 day	11 days
10 years	2 days	12 days
15 years	3 days	13 days
20 years	5 days	15 days

MILITARY AND FAMILY MILITARY LEAVE

Military leave shall be granted as defined in Board Policy 4038. A copy of this policy is available in the district office.

JURY DUTY

Salaried employees selected to serve on jury duty will be paid the difference daily from what the courts allow them and what they would have earned in a regular working day. All employees paid on an hourly basis may keep all money allowed them by the courts for daily duties and expenses and mileage. Hourly employees will not be paid for the time missed from work.

All School district employees shall report back to their school as soon as it is practically possible. Example: If jury members are dismissed in the middle of the day they should report back to their school on that day within a short time after they have been dismissed.

OTHER LEAVE

All other employees who wish leave to attend meetings, which pertain to their school position, must receive prior approval from their supervisor.

MILEAGE AND EXPENSES

All convention, conferences, meetings, schools, clinics and school business trips when approved by the Superintendent, Administrator and/or Board of Education shall be reimbursed at the current approved rate per mile if a private car is used in the event a school vehicle is not available. All normal expenses will also be allowed.

HOLIDAY PAY

Each 10 ½ month building secretary shall be compensated for 6 holidays with pay each year. The holidays shall be New Year's Day, Good Friday, Memorial Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day. Each full time, 12 month classified employee shall be compensated for 7 holidays with pay each year. The holidays shall be New Year's Day, Good Friday, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day. 12-month classified employees will have one floating holiday each year. A "day" for vacation and holiday leave shall be defined as the average number of daily hours worked, but shall not exceed a normal eight hour day. The rate of pay for such leave shall be the regular hourly rate.

OVERTIME

All overtime must be approved by a building administrator prior to any hourly employee working overtime hours. Overtime hours for emergency snow removal is allowed with prior approval.

RETIREMENT BENEFITS

Working twenty hours per week or more requires a deduction from your earnings at the current rate, with the District paying an additional amount equivalent to 101% of your contribution. Retirement funds may be recovered if the employee leaves the school system. A member who terminates employment with Wilcox-Hildreth Public Schools may:

A. Leave the account on an inactive basis in order to draw a retirement benefit (the employee must have five years of creditable service).

OR

B. Receive a refund of the account. An application must be filed with the Nebraska Retirement System.

Nebraska School Retirement System
P.O. Box 94816
Lincoln, NE 68509
1-800-245-5712 or
1-402-471-2053

INSURANCE

Insurance

A premium payment for Nebraska Educators Health Alliance Family Blue Preferred $1050 Deductible Plan pre-admission certification medical, hospital and single dental insurance shall be provided monthly for each employee who is approved and assigned at least 35 hours per week when hired as a twelve month employee.

If insurance selections are not made prior to 30 days of employment, it may either carry stipulations or not be available.

COBRA BENEFITS

Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act
Public Law 99-272

Continuation of health coverage for 18 months is available to:
(The employee will incur the cost of the coverage)

1. Employees terminated for reasons other than gross misconduct.
2. Employees who are laid off for economic reasons.
3. Employees with reduced work hours.
4. Employees who voluntarily quit.

Continuation of health coverage for 36 months is available to:

1. Surviving spouses and children of deceased employees.
2. Separated or divorced spouses and children of current employees.
3. Eligible dependents of current employees who would lose their coverage because of age.

Each covered employee or eligible dependent/spouse should notify the Wilcox-Hildreth Public Schools Business Office of a qualifying event, within 30 days of the event which triggers the continuation offer. Wilcox-Hildreth Public Schools will send the notice which explains the person's rights within ten days. The person eligible for continuation coverage has 60 days from the later of: A) receipt of the notice or B) the date on which Plan coverage terminates because of the qualifying event, in which to elect to continue coverage under the Plan. The person electing continuation coverage has 45 days from the date of the election to pay for the coverage during the period preceding the election. The premium shall be paid by the person electing the continuation coverage.

The continuation coverage shall expire at the earliest of the following:

1. At the end of the Specified Period (Cobra coverage 18 or 36 months).
2. On the date coverage ceases because of the person's failure to pay the premium.
3. On the date the person becomes eligible for Medicare.
4. On the date the person remarries and qualifies for another group health plan.
5. On the date the person becomes covered under another group health plan.
6. On the date the employer terminates the group health plan.
7. On the date the person exercises a conversion privilege.

When the continuation coverage expires because the maximum time has expired, the Plan will provide the option of enrollment under a conversion health plan then available under the Plan.

CELL PHONE/CAMERA CELL PHONE/ CAMERA USAGE

The District prohibits employees from using cellphones while instructing students or when driving on official District business. Employees may use their own cell and/or camera phone during their lunch breaks only. Photos may not be taken on District property without the specific permission of District administrators. This prohibition applies to cameras of all types including camera cell phones.

COMPUTER AND EMAIL USAGE

Computers, computer files, the email system, and software furnished to employees are District property intended for business use. Employees should not use a password, access a file, or retrieve any stored communication without authorization. To ensure compliance with this policy, computer and email usage may be monitored.

The District strives to maintain a workplace free of harassment and sensitive to the diversity of its employees. Therefore, the District prohibits the use of computers and the e-mail system in ways that are disruptive, offensive to others, or harmful to morale.

Email may not be used to solicit others for commercial ventures, religious or political causes, outside organizations, or other non-business matters.

INTERNET USAGE

Internet access to global electronic information resources on the World Wide Web is provided by the District to assist employees in obtaining work related data and technology. The following guidelines have been established to help ensure responsible and productive Internet usage. All Internet usage is limited to job-related activities. Personal use of the Internet is not permitted.

All Internet data that is composed, transmitted, or received via our computer communications systems is considered to be part of the official records of the District and, as such, is subject to disclosure to law enforcement or other third parties. Consequently, employees should always ensure that the business information contained in Internet e-mail messages and other transmissions is accurate, appropriate, ethical, and lawful.

The equipment, services, and technology provided to access the Internet remain at all times the property of the District. As such, the District reserves the right to monitor Internet traffic, and retrieve and read any data composed, sent, or received through our online connections and stored in our computer systems.

Data that is composed, transmitted, accessed, or received via the Internet must not contain content that could be considered discriminatory, offensive, obscene, threatening, harassing, intimidating, or disruptive to any employee or other person. Examples of unacceptable content may include, but are not limited to, sexual comments or images, racial slurs, gender-specific comments, or any other comments or images that could reasonably offend someone on the basis of race, age, sex, religious or political beliefs, national origin, disability, sexual orientation, or any other characteristic protected by law.

Abuse of the Internet access provided by the District in violation of law or District policies will result in disciplinary action, up to and including termination of employment. Employees may also be held personally liable for any violations of this policy. The following behaviors are examples of previously stated or additional actions and activities that are prohibited and can result in disciplinary action:

- Sending or posting discriminatory, harassing, or threatening messages or images;
- Using the organization's time and resources for personal gain;
- Stealing, using, or disclosing someone else's code or password without authorization;
- Copying, pirating, or downloading software and electronic files without permission;
- Sending or posting confidential material, trade secrets, or proprietary information outside of the organization;
- Violating copyright law;
- Failing to observe licensing agreements;
- Engaging in unauthorized transactions that may incur a cost to the organization or initiate unwanted Internet services and transmissions;
- Sending or posting messages or material that could damage the organization's image or reputation;
- Participating in the viewing or exchange of pornography or obscene materials;
- Sending or posting messages that defame or slander other individuals;
- Attempting to break into the computer system of another organization or person;
- Refusing to cooperate with a security investigation;
- Sending or posting chain letters, solicitations, or advertisements not related to business purposes or activities;
- Using the Internet for political causes or activities, religious activities, or any sort of gambling;
- Jeopardizing the security of the organization's electronic communications systems;

- Sending or posting messages that disparage another organization's products or services;
- Sending anonymous email messages;
- Engaging in any other illegal activities.

Wilcox-Hildreth Public School
At-Will Employment Agreement

This at-will employment agreement is made by and between Wilcox-Hildreth Public School, District #50-0001, Kearney County, State of Nebraska, herein after called the "District" and **Name** hereinafter referred to as Custodian. The District agrees to employ said individual for **Custodian** duties on an annual basis beginning on or about July 1, 2020 and ending on or about June 30, 2021. The employee is to perform duties assigned by the Superintendent or Principal of the school in conformity with policies of the Board of Education.

For these services the District is to remunerate the employee with the following wages and benefits:

Compensation: 2080 hours of regular time at $ per hour
Overtime (hours in excess of 40 per work week) as part of the regular work week during the 36 week school year term will be paid at the rate of 1 ½ times the basic rate set above with prior approval of the Superintendent.

Work Hours: The Custodian will work all school days unless excused by the Superintendent or his/her designee for illness or emergency. The Custodian also agrees to work weekends and or nights of school activities when mutually agreeable and in cooperation with other custodial employees or when directed to do so by the Superintendent or his/her designee.

Fringe Benefits: Ten (10) paid vacation days per year will be received after the first year of employment. One additional day will be earned for every five years of employment.
Seven (7) paid holidays (Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, New Year's Day, Good Friday, Memorial Day) at eight (8) hour day rate
Ten (10) paid sick days per year cumulative to a maximum of 40 days
Bereavement leave may be deducted from sick leave
Employee/family health and single dental insurance coverage through the District's plan as negotiated with certified staff. Must participate in the District sponsored health insurance to receive this benefit.
$8.00 per month toward the L.T.D. insurance coverage if taken by employee

Duties: The duties of the Custodian include providing proper care for the District's buildings and grounds. The Custodian is expected to work cooperatively with other employees of the District so as to provide effective performance of duties as assigned or as necessary to meet unusual and/or emergency situations.

Requirements: The custodian is directly responsible to the Director of Maintenance and is expected to comply with all policies established by the District and all rules and regulations established by the school administration. The employee is responsible for informing the Director or Maintenance of illnesses or emergencies which will necessitate absence from assigned duties.

Notice: The Wilcox-Hildreth Public School uses a Federal immigration verification system to determine the work eligibility status of new employees who physically work within the State of Nebraska.

The Custodian understands and agrees he/she is employed on an at will basis. This agreement creates no property right in continued employment and may be terminated at any time for any lawful reason.

_____ _____

At-Will Employee/Date Superintendent/Date

ATTACHMENT

EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT Form A - Indefinite Term

This employment agreement is made by and between Wilcox-Hildreth Public Schools, (Kearney County School District 1), hereinafter referred to as the "District," and _____,"Employee." hereinafter referred to as the Employee."

WITNESSETH: Wilcox-Hildreth Public Schools hereby agrees to employ the Employee and the Employee hereby agrees to accept such employment subject to the following terms and conditions:

SECTION 1. Term of Contract. This contract shall commence on the _____ day of _____, ____.

SECTION 2. Duties of Employee. The Employee is hired as an "at will" employee and the compensation and duties of the Employee are subject to assignment by the Superintendent of Schools and by the Employee's supervisor. The Employee agrees at all times to perform all of the duties that may be required of him or her faithfully, industriously and to the best of his or her ability, experience and talents.

SECTION 3. Days and Hours of Employment. The days and hours of employment shall be as assigned by the Superintendent of Schools or the Employee's supervisor.

SECTION 4. Compensation. The wage of the Employee shall be $_____ per hour, payable in the following manner: on the 10th day of each month. Hours in excess of 40 per week shall be paid at the rate of time and one-half of the regular hourly rate.

SECTION 5. Policies, Rules and Regulations. The Employee agrees to be governed by the policies of the Board of Education, the rules and regulations of the District and the directives of supervisors. The employee agrees that the policies of the Board of Education and rules and regulations of the District may be changed at any time, with or without notice to the Employee.

SECTION 6. Termination of Employment. This agreement creates no property right in continued employment and may be terminated by either party, with or without cause or hearing, upon giving two (2) calendar weeks' notice. The Superintendent of Schools may, acting upon his own initiative, terminate the Employee's employment and such termination will be effective two (2) calendar weeks from the date of the issuance of the Superintendent's notice.

SECTION 7. Compensation Upon Termination. The Employee agrees that, upon termination of employment for any reason, any portion of compensation, whether in the form of wages or fringe benefits, paid or provided but not earned prior to the date of termination of this contract shall be refunded to the District by the Employee. Vacation days do not carry forward from one year to another and, upon termination, the district shall not be obligated to pay the employee for any unused sick leave or vacation days.

SECTION 8. Deductions. The Employee authorizes the district to deduct or withhold from each and every period of pay any amounts necessary to offset any damages caused by the Employee or owed by the Employee to the District during the course of the Employee's employment.

SECTION 9. Entirety of Agreement and Amendments. The Employee certifies that he or she has read the foregoing Employment Agreement, fully understands its terms and conditions and agrees that the foregoing Employment Agreement constitutes the entire agreement and that no representations, promises, agreements or undertakings, written or oral, not herein contained shall be of any force or effect. It is specifically agreed that this Employment Agreement shall be subject to modification only by a written instrument signed by the Employee and the Superintendent.

SECTION 10. Applicable Law. This agreement shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of Nebraska.

_____ _____

Employee Date

_____ _____

Superintendent Date

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF RECEIPT

I acknowledge that I have received a copy of the Wilcox-Hildreth Public School District Classified Handbook which includes the district's drug-free workplace policy statement. I understand that, as a condition of my employment, I am required to read and abide by the provisions of the handbook and by all board policies governing my employment. Further, if I have any questions about any provision of this handbook or any board policy, I should confer with my supervisor or building principal.

_____ _____

Signature Date

ROUTE PAY RATES			
A	Per Route	**$58.00**	Bus Route
B	Per Route	**$48.00**	Van Route
C	Per Route	**$36.00**	Shuttle bus
DAY ACTIVITY TRIPS			
D	First Hour	$58.00	If the bus driver is a regular route driver and will miss a route that day
	Per Hour after	$20.00	
OVERNIGHT ACTIVITY TRIPS			
E	Per Hour	$20.00	The greater value of hours worked, or $240
		TRAINING	
F	Per Hour	$15.00	

	2013-2014	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026	2026-2027
Breakfast												K-12 Free	K-12 Free	K-12 Free
Student	$1.80	$1.85	$1.90	$1.95	$2.00	$2.00	$2.10	$2.10	$2.10	$2.20	$2.25	$2.35	$2.35	$2.35
Adult	$1.95	$2.00	$2.05	$2.10	$2.15	$2.15	$2.25	$2.25	$2.30	$2.40	$2.75	$2.80	$2.85	$2.85
Lunch											1st year with K-5	K-12 Free	K-12 Free	K-12 Free
K-5	$2.45	$2.50	$2.55	$2.60	$2.65	$2.65	$2.85	$2.85	$2.85	$3.10	$3.20	$3.35	$3.35	$3.35
6-12	$2.75	$2.80	$2.85	$2.90	$2.95	$2.95	$3.05	$3.05	$3.05	$3.30	$3.45	$3.60	$3.60	$3.60
Adults	$3.45	$3.50	$3.55	$3.60	$3.65	$3.65	$3.75	$3.75	$3.80	$4.25	$4.60	$4.95	$5.00	$5.05
Adult Salad Bar					$3.00	$3.00	$3.05	$3.05	$3.10	$3.25	$3.30	$3.45	$3.50	$3.55
Substitute Teacher Pay														
Single Day	$100.00	$105.00	$105.00	$105.00	$110.00	$110.00	$120.00	$120.00	$125.00	$135.00	$145.00	$150.00	$155.00	$160.00
Long Term*	$135.00	$135.00	$140.00	$140.00	$140.00	$140.00	$150.00	$150.00	$155.00	$165.00	$175.00	$180.00	$185.00	$190.00
Sub-Mileage	$3.00	$3.00	$3.00	$3.00	$3.00	$3.00	$3.00	$3.00	$3.00	$3.00	$3.00	$3.00	$3.00	$5.80
Summer School Teacher Pay														
Hourly pay													$25.00/hr	$25.00/hr
Before/After School Teacher Tutor Pay														
Hourly pay													$25.00/hr	$25.00/hr
Per diem for Faculty/coaches/athletes														
Breakfast	$5.00	$5.00	$5.00	$5.00	$5.00	$5.00	$5.00	$7.00	$7.00	$7.00	$7.00	$10.00	$11.00	$11.00
Lunch	$7.00	$7.00	$7.00	$7.00	$7.00	$7.00	$7.00	$10.00	$10.00	$10.00	$10.00	$12.00	$13.00	$13.00
Dinner	$12.00	$12.00	$12.00	$12.00	$12.00	$12.00	$12.00	$14.00	$14.00	$14.00	$14.00	$16.00	$17.00	$17.00
Admission Prices for games *set by FKC														
Students	$3.00	$3.00	$3.00	$3.00	$3.00	$4.00	$4.00	$5.00	$5.00	$6.00	$6.00	$6.00	$6.00	$6.00
Adults	$4.00	$4.00	$4.00	$4.00	$4.00	$5.00	$5.00	$5.00	$5.00	$6.00	$6.00	$6.00	$6.00	$6.00
Activity Passes														
Single Student	$30.00	$30.00	$30.00	$30.00	$30.00	$30.00	$30.00	$30.00	$30.00	$30.00	$30.00	$30.00	$30.00	$30.00
Single Adult	$40.00	$40.00	$40.00	$40.00	$40.00	$40.00	$40.00	$40.00	$40.00	$40.00	$50.00	$50.00	$50.00	$50.00
Family	$100.00	$100.00	$100.00	$100.00	$100.00	$100.00	$100.00	$100.00	$100.00	$100.00	$125.00	$125.00	$125.00	$125.00
Senior Citizen	15	15	15	NC- Over 65	NC- Over 65	NC- Over 65	NC- Over 65	NC- Over 65	NC- Over 65	NC- Over 65	NC- Over 65	NC- Over 65	NC- Over 65	NC- Over 66
Per diem rates for new teachers attending district trainings														
											Daily Substitute Rate	Daily Substitute Rate	Daily Substitute Rate	Daily Substitute Rate

Wilcox-Hildreth Public Schools
Monthly Board Notes
Prepared for the Wilcox-Hildreth Public Schools Board of Education

July 20, 2026

To: Wilcox-Hildreth Board of Education
From: Justin Patterson, Superintendent

Superintendent's Report:

A. FINANCES

- 69.15% of the budget is spent compared to
  i. July 2025- 70.5%
  ii. July 2024- 65.81%
  iii. July 2023- 68.82%
  iv. July 2022- 66.35%
  v. July 2021- 74.99%
  vi. July 2020- 78.41%
  vii. July 2019- 77%
  viii. July 2018- 72%
  ix. July 2017- 57%
  x. 92% of the year complete
- General Fund Cash Balance on June 30 was $3,724,283.69 compared to
  i. July 2025- $3,374,539.15
  ii. July 2024- $2,734,406.03
  iii. July 2023- $2,220,827.44
  iv. July 2022- $2,027,178.64
  v. July 2021- $1,493,373.54
  vi. July 2020- $2,207,883.76
  vii. July 2019- $3,293,616.53
  viii. July 2018- $4,480,624
  ix. July 2017- $4.0 million
  x. July 2016- approximately $2.8 million.
- Right now we could be close to having about $2.3-2.5 million in GF cash balance (after transfers) at the end of the fiscal year compared to
  i. July 2025- $2.2 million (after transfers)
  ii. July 2024- $1.5 million (after transfers)
  iii. July 2023- 1.7 million
  iv. July 2022- $1.7 million
  v. July 2021- $600,000
  vi. July 2020- $1.7 million
  vii. July 2019- $3.7 million
  viii. July 2018 $3.1 million
  ix. July 2017- $2.4 million
- Through July 2026 we have spent $4,896,696.58 compared to
  i. July 2025- $4,924,620.29
  ii. July 2024- $4,543,136.47
  iii. July 2023- $4,568,156.00
  iv. July 2022- $4,263,103.00
  v. July 2021- $4,486,468.05
  vi. July 2020- $4,429,538.59

vii. July 2019- $4,221,818.18
viii. July 2018- $3,789,969
ix. July 2017- $3.7 million
x. July 2016- $4.0 million
xi. July 2015- $3.7 million

- ❖ Our expenditures should be about $6.3 million this fiscal year, including end of year transfers.
- ❖ Payroll will account for approximately 67% of expenditures this year

B. Transportation

- ❖ Bus Drivers- All positions filled. John Carey should be completed with his requirements by the time school starts. He will be an am/pm daily driver.

C. Custodial Staff

- ❖ We have had some turn over this summer. Michael Connors is no longer working for us. We have hired Chris Winters.

D. Kitchen Staff

- ❖ We are still in the process of hiring our open kitchen position.

WILCOX-HILDRETH PUBLIC SCHOOL

ACTIVITY HANDBOOK



2026-2027
Rules and Regulations

P.O. BOX 190
404 E. SAPP
WILCOX, NE 68982

Phone: (308) 478-5265
Fax: (308) 478-5260

Table of Contents

	Page
Introduction	5
Non-Discrimination	6
Section One	
General Information:	
Academic Eligibility	8
Attendance at Practices and Contests	8
Closings	9
Colors	9
Complaint Procedure	9
Concussion Awareness	9
High School Dances	10
Electronic Communication	11
Eligibility Requirements	11
Equipment	11
Fundraising	11
Individual Training Rules and Rules of Conduct	12
Initiations and Hazing	12
Injuries	12
Insurance	13
Lettering	13
Lettering Requirements	13
Mascot	15
Practices	15
Secret Organizations	15
Student Managers, Helpers, or Activity Aids	15
Sunday and Wednesday Night Activities	16
Transportation	16
Weight Room	16
Section Two	
Available Activities:	17
Athletic Teams	17
Academic Quiz Bowl	17
Band	17
Cheerleading	17
Esports	17
FBLA	18
FFA	18
High Ability Learners	18
NHS	18
Play Production	18

Speech 18
Spelling Bee 18
Student Government 19
Student Publications 19
Summer Honors 19
Youth Leadership 19

Section Three

Code of Conduct: Standard of Conduct 20
Coach and Sponsor Rules 20
Conduct Rules 20
Prohibited Conduct 20
Evaluation, Counseling, and Treatment 23
Reporting of Incident 23
Discipline Procedures 24
Review of Investigator's Decision 24
Misrepresentations 24
Questions 24
Assistance 24
A Parent's Guide to Concussions: 25
What is a Concussion 25
Concussion Facts 25
Signs and Symptoms 25
What Should Parents Do 26
When in Doubt 26
Return to Play 26
Effect on Schoolwork 26
What Can You Do 26
FAQ 27
Authorization and Acknowledgement, Drug Testing Signature Pages 30-31

Introduction

Student participation in extracurricular activities has been linked to improved attendance, higher academic achievement, and greater student self-confidence and self-esteem. Wilcox-Hildreth Public Schools provides students with the opportunity to participate in a comprehensive activities program that includes athletics, fine arts, and select clubs or organizations associated with academic areas.

Although the school district believes strongly in the value of student activities, participation in the activities program is a privilege, not a right. Students must obey the rules set out in this handbook and any additional rules created by their coach or activity sponsor. This handbook is advisory and does not create a "contract" with parents, students, or staff. The administration reserves the right to make decisions and make rule revisions at any time to implement the educational program and to assure the well-being of all students. The administration is responsible for interpreting the rules contained in the handbook. If a situation or circumstance arises that is not specifically covered in this handbook, the administration will make a decision based upon all applicable school district policies, and state and federal statutes and regulations.

Please read this handbook carefully. Students and their parents are responsible for complying with all of the rules and procedures detailed in this booklet.

Parents must sign the acknowledgement and permission to participate form at the end of this handbook before their student will be permitted to participate in the activity programs of the district.

The provisions in this handbook are subject to change at the sole discretion of the Board of Education. From time to time, you may receive updated information concerning changes in the handbook. These updates should be kept within the handbook so that it is up to date. If you have any questions regarding this handbook, please contact the Superintendent for assistance.

Sincerely,
Justin Patterson
Superintendent

Notice of Nondiscrimination

The school district does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age in its programs and activities and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The school district prohibits sex discrimination in any education program or activity in any education program or activity that it operates.

Students who believe that they have been the subject of unlawful discrimination or harassment due to their disability, or that have other related concerns or questions, should contact the following Section 504 Coordinator:

Name: Justin Patterson
Title: 504 Coordinator
Address: 404 Sapp St. Wilcox, NE 68982
Telephone: 1-308-478-5265
E-mail: justin.patterson@whfalcons.org

Students who believe that they have been the subject of unlawful discrimination or harassment due to their sex, or that have other related concerns or questions, should contact the Title IX Coordinator:

Name: Joee Muhlbach
Title: Title IX Coordinator/Investigator
Address: 404 Sapp St. Wilcox, NE 68982
Telephone: 1-308-478-5265
E-mail: joee.muhlbach@whfalcons.org

The School District's specific Notice of Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Sex may be accessed at the following link: 4001 Nondiscrimination

Students who believe that they have been the subject of unlawful discrimination or harassment due to their race, color, or national origin, or that have other related concerns or questions, should contact the following Title VI Coordinator:

Name: Joee Muhlbach
Title: Title VI Coordinator
Address: 404 Sapp St. Wilcox, NE 68982
Telephone: 1-308-478-5265
E-mail: joee.muhlbach@whfalcons.org

Students who believe that they have been the subject of any other unlawful discrimination or harassment should contact the principal at 308-478-5265, joee.muhlbach@whfalcons.org or in person at school. Students may report discrimination or harassment to any staff member who will then forward it

on to the appropriate coordinator or administrator. The staff member will follow school district policies to respond to the report.

For additional prohibited discrimination and related information, please review school district Policy 4001 – Nondiscrimination.

SECTION ONE:
GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE ACTIVITIES PROGRAM

Academic Eligibility

To be eligible to participate in the school's activity programs, each student must (1) meet Nebraska State Activities Association (NSAA) requirements concerning scholastic eligibility, (2) meet the requirements of board policy including all rules applicable to the activity, and (3) have not less than a 70% grade in two or more classes for a period of one week to remain eligible to participate in any portion of the activities program. Participants must attend practices and participate in all conditioning during any period of ineligibility.

The school district will notify a participant and his or her parents whenever the participant is declared academically ineligible.

Students may not participate in any activity, performance or practice while serving a short-term suspension, long-term suspension, or expulsion from school.

Attendance at Practices and Contests

Participants in the activities program are expected to attend and be on time at all practices and meetings scheduled by the coach or sponsor. Participants may be excused for absences resulting from a participant's illness, a death in the family, a doctor's appointment, a court appearance, or other absences that are arranged in advance. The coach, sponsor, or director of an activity may require a participant who has an excused absence to complete an alternate assignment for missing a practice, meeting, event, performance, or contest. A participant who is unable to attend a scheduled practice, meeting, or game must contact the coach or sponsor in advance. Students who are absent from school due to illness are not required to provide the coach or sponsor with additional notification of the student's absence from practice.

Students who are absent from school for any part of the day will not be permitted to practice or participate in an athletic contest or activity performance unless the student has the building principal's prior permission to participate despite the absence.

If a participant misses a scheduled contest or performance, the coach or sponsor may impose discipline up to and including suspension of the participant from the activity for the remainder of the season or length of the activity.

Closings

Unless the administration determines that it is permissible for the activity to continue as scheduled, all activities will be cancelled or postponed in the event that school has been called off for inclement weather or any other reason as determined by the administration. Unless the administration determines that it is permissible for the activity to continue as scheduled.

Colors

The Wilcox-Hildreth Public School colors are Black, Silver, and Columbia Blue.

Complaint Procedure

To reduce conflicts in the school's activities program, students and/or their parents should use district's formal complaint procedure to manage conflicts about the program. The complaint procedure is printed in the school's student handbook and may be found on the district's web site: https://www.whfalcons.org/

Concussion Awareness

The Nebraska Unicameral has found that concussions are one of the "most commonly reported injuries in children and adolescents who participate in sports and recreational activities and that the risk of catastrophic injury or death is significant when a concussion or brain injury is not properly evaluated and managed."

The School District will:

a. Require all coaches and trainers to complete a training course approved by the Chief Medical Officer on how to recognize the symptoms of a concussion or brain injury and how to seek proper medical treatment for a concussion or brain injury.

b. On an annual basis provide concussion and brain injury information to students and their parents or guardians prior to such students initiating practice or competition. This information will include:
    1 The signs and symptoms of a concussion;
    2 The risks posed by sustaining a concussion; and
    3 The actions a student should take in response to sustaining a concussion, including the notification of his or her coaches.

A student who participates on a school athletic team must be removed from a practice or game when he/she is reasonably suspected of having sustained a concussion or brain injury in such practice or game after observation by a coach or a licensed health care professional who is professionally affiliated with or contracted by the school. The student will not be permitted to participate in any school supervised team athletic activities involving physical exertion, including practices or games, until the student:

a. has been evaluated by a licensed health care professional;

b. has received written and signed clearance to resume participation in athletic activities from the licensed health care professional; and

c. has submitted the written and signed clearance to resume participation in athletic activities to the school accompanied by written permission to resume participation from the student's parent or guardian.

If a student is reasonably suspected after observation of having sustained a concussion or brain injury and is removed from an athletic activity, the parent or guardian of the student will be notified by the school of:

a. the date and approximate time of the injury suffered by the student,

b. the signs and symptoms of a concussion or brain injury that were observed, and

c. any actions taken to treat the student.

The school district will not provide for the presence of a licensed health care professional at any practice or game.

School officials shall deem the signature of an individual who represents that he/she is a licensed health care professional on a written clearance to resume participation that is provided to the school to be conclusive and reliable evidence that the individual who signed the clearance is a licensed health care professional. The school will not take any additional or independent steps to verify the individual's qualifications.

High School Dances

All high school dances are restricted to 9th-12th grade Wilcox-Hildreth High School students and their guests. Any organization wishing to sponsor a dance must obtain permission from the principal regarding date and times.

Each dance must be sponsored by at least two faculty members or two other adults. Once admitted to the dance, students must remain until the close of the dance. Students who leave the dance will not be readmitted. Students who wish to participate in school dances must comply with the activity code. Students may be prohibited from participating in school dances as a consequence for violating school rules or these activity rules.

Homecoming and Prom

The Homecoming dance is open to students and guests of Wilcox-Hildreth High School. The Junior/Senior Prom is open to students and guests of the Wilcox-Hildreth High School junior and senior classes. Guests must follow all rules that the students must follow. Each student is responsible for his/her guest's conduct. Appropriate attire is required for these dances. No blue jeans, shorts, or T-shirts will be allowed at the banquet or dance for Prom. Black dress jeans will be acceptable.

Electronic Communication

The school board supports the use of technology by coaches, extracurricular sponsors, and other staff members to communicate with students for legitimate educational, extracurricular, and other school-related purposes. However, electronic communication between students and teachers, sponsors, and coaches shall be appropriate at all times and shall not violate any law, district policies, or the Regulations and Standards for Professional Practices Criteria, commonly known as Rule 27 of the Nebraska Department of Education ("Rule 27"). Please see the Social Media Policy For School District Employees for further explanation.

Equipment

Each participant in the athletic portion of the activities program will be issued a locker to store his/her personal belongings and school equipment that has been checked out. Students should secure their athletic lockers with combination locks.

School-owned clothing or equipment that is checked out to individual students remains the property of the school. The clothing or equipment is not to be used or worn by the student except for the intended use. Each piece of equipment or clothing is to be returned to the instructor or coach when the season or the use for such clothing or equipment is over. Each participant is responsible for all equipment checked out to him/her. Students will be assessed the replacement cost for school equipment that has been check out to him/her and is lost or stolen.

Fundraising

All school-sponsored fundraising activities must be approved by a member of the school district administration. Fundraising for any activity must comply with the district's policies, including applicable provisions specifically pertaining to Booster Clubs and PTOs for non-school-sponsored fundraising. Use of the school mascot shall not be permitted unless approved by the superintendent.

Individual Training Rules and Rules of Conduct

Head coaches or sponsors may develop additional training rules or rules of conduct for their activity. Students are responsible for knowing these rules and complying with them.

Initiations and Hazing

Initiations and hazing by members of classes, clubs, athletic teams, or any other organization affiliated with the district are prohibited except as otherwise permitted by this policy. Any student engaging in hazing or non-approved initiations is subject to discipline as permitted by policy and law.

Initiations are defined as any ritualistic expectations, requirements, or activities placed upon new members of a school organization for the purpose of admission into the organization, even if those activities do not rise to the level of "hazing" as defined below. Initiations are prohibited except by permission of the superintendent.

Hazing is defined as any activity by which a person intentionally or recklessly endangers the physical or mental health or safety of an individual for the purpose of initiation into, admission into, affiliation with, or continued membership in any school organization. Hazing activities include, but are not limited to, whipping, beating, branding, an act of sexual penetration, an exposure of the genitals of the body done with the intent to affront or alarm any person, a lewd fondling or caressing of the body of another person, forced and prolonged calisthenics, prolonged exposure to the elements, forced consumption of any food, liquor, beverage, drug, or harmful substance not generally intended for human consumption, prolonged sleep deprivation, or any brutal treatment or the performance of any unlawful act that endangers the physical or mental health or safety of any person.

Injuries

Participants who suffer any type of injury while involved in extracurricular activities must notify the coach or sponsor immediately. The coach or sponsor will then evaluate the injury and, if necessary, notify the participant's parents or seek immediate medical treatment.

If at any time during participation a doctor removes an athlete from participation because of an illness or injury, the athlete must have a written release from a doctor before participating again. The written release must be given to the coach or sponsor of the activity.

Note: The release requirement will be satisfied if the initial doctor's order specifies the duration of the student's restriction from participation and/or competition. Also see Concussion Awareness above.

Insurance

The school district does not provide medical or other insurance coverage for students who participate in athletic contests or other activities. It is the parents' responsibility to provide adequate insurance to cover any medical expenses that may be incurred while the student is participating in athletics or other activities.

The school district makes an accident insurance plan available for purchase by participants and their families through an authorized insurance agent. Information about policies which families may purchase will be available prior to each sports season and at fall registration.

Lettering

Each time an individual letters in a senior high sport (activity), he/she will be awarded a letter certificate by the coach of that sport/activity at the conclusion of the season. The first time that an individual letters in any sport/activity, he/she will be awarded by the Athletic Director the standard WH chenille letter representative of athletics for Wilcox - Hildreth High School. Any letters that are earned after the first year in that sport/activity will earn the student a gold bar and certificate for each year that he/she letters. To be awarded a letter in a particular sport/activity the athlete must meet the coach/sponsor's specific criteria listed below, be in good academic standing and complete the entire season. Coaches/Sponsors do have the authority to award or to withhold letters according to individual circumstances. A participant may also receive special consideration from the coaching staff for extraordinary conditions that may exist, such as prolonged absence due to injury or illness.

Lettering Requirements

The following guidelines will be used in determining students' eligibility for lettering:

Cross Country (Girls & Boys): A letter will be earned for the following: Medal in any major meet of four(4) or more teams.

If team qualifies for State all team members will receive a letter. If team finishes as District Champions or runners up all team members will receive a letter.

Football: A letter will be earned when an athlete participates in ten quarters of varsity football. Participation shall be considered to be more than three plays. If team qualifies for State all team members will receive a letter.

Volleyball: A girl must participate in one half of all varsity matches and must play in one of the two or three sets for any amount of time that constitutes participation. If team qualifies for State all team members will receive a letter.

Basketball (Girls & Boys): An Athlete must play in at least half of the total number of varsity quarters played throughout the season. Play consists of any amount of time in a quarter. If team qualifies for State all team members will receive a letter.

Wrestling (Girls & Boys): A letter will be earned for participating at a varsity level in ten (10) matches. A letter will also be earned by placing in the conference or district tournament. If a team finishes as Conference or District Champion or Runner Up all team members will receive a letter. If team qualifies for State Duals all team members will receive a letter.

Boys Golf: A letter will be earned by participating in every varsity golf meet during the season. If a team finishes as Conference or District Champion or Runner Up all team members will receive a letter.

Track (Girls & Boys): A letter will be earned for the following: Medal in any major meet of four(4) or more teams. This will include the 9-10 Meet if four(4) or more teams. If a team finishes as Conference or District Champion or Runner Up all team members will receive a letter.

Instrumental Music: Students must participate in band for a full year. They must attend all concerts, marching band competitions, and 80% of pep band opportunities unless excused by the director. Students must earn a 94% in the previous 3 quarters and no grade below a "B". Students must do one or more of the following:

- Participate in an auditioned Honor Band (UNK, Doane, Hastings, Etc.)
- Perform a Solo, Duet, or Small Group Song for Competition (FKC & District Music)
- Play the National Anthem for one or more sporting events (solo, Duet, trio, or quartet)

Vocal Music: Students must participate in choir for a full year. They must attend all concerts and competitions unless excused by the

director. Students must earn a 94% in the previous 3 quarters and no grade below a "B". Students must do one or more of the following:

- Participate in an auditioned Honor Choir (UNK, Doane, Hastings, Etc.)
- Perform a Solo, Duet, or Small Group Song for Competition (FKC & District Music)
- Play the National Anthem for one or more sporting events (solo, Duet, trio, or quartet)

Speech and Drama: Students must place in any speech or one-act competition at any level of competition.

High School Student Managers: The student manager must complete the season and have the recommendation of the head coach of the sport involved.

Senior Letters: Any senior who has participated all four years and who has not previously lettered will receive a letter. All varsity members of a championship team will letter.

Mascot

The official emblem for boys' and girls' athletic teams is the Falcon. The mascot cannot be used for non-school-sponsored purposes unless approved by the superintendent.

Practices

The individual head coach or sponsor, in cooperation with the high school principal, will schedule all starting times of practices. All participants are expected to be ready at the time set by the coach or sponsor.

To be eligible to practice, a participant must satisfy the following requirements:

1. Completed Physical Form
2. Parental Consent to Participate Form
3. Parental Confirmation of Insurance Form
4. Athlete's Signature (Knowledge of Rules and Regulations)
5. Medical Consent Form.

Secret Organizations

Secret organizations are prohibited. School officials shall not allow any person or representative of any such organization to enter upon school grounds or school buildings for the purpose of rushing or soliciting students to participate in any secret fraternity, society, or association.

Student Manager, Helpers, or Activity Aids

Students wishing to serve as student volunteers for extracurricular activities must gain the permission of the activity coach or sponsor. Student volunteers must comply with all of the rules and procedures contained in this handbook.

Sunday and Wednesday Night Activities

In order to provide students sufficient time away from school for family-related activities, the school will endeavor not to schedule activities on Wednesday evenings or on Sundays. Practices will be organized so that all participants are showered, dressed, and/or leave the facilities by 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday nights. An exception to this guideline would be when a team, group of students, or an individual may be required to participate in an activity sponsored by the conference, district, or state on a Wednesday night.

The school does not allow Sunday practice sessions, except when a varsity team, group of students, or individual is scheduled to compete or perform on a Monday. Practices scheduled for a Sunday must have the prior approval of the activities director or building principal.

Transportation

All participants are expected to ride to and from away activities by means of approved school transportation.

A participant may ride home with his or her parent/guardian only if the parent/guardian personally contacts the sponsor at the activity. A participant may ride home with an adult if the participant's parent/guardian has personally contacted the principal prior to the activity and the adult personally contacts the sponsor at the activity prior to leaving with the student. Parents are discouraged from requesting to take their children home after an away contest or performance. Travel to and from an event provides time for the students to further develop a strong team concept.

Weight Room

The weight room has been developed to help each athlete, student, or adult in the community maintain a level of physical fitness. No one may use the weight room or equipment without proper supervision. The school will

develop a schedule for use of the weight room by athletes during the school year and during the summer months.

The weight room is a high demand area within the school facilities. The following guidelines will help determine the priorities in reference to use if more than one group desires to use the facility at the same time:

1. Physical education instruction
2. By the team sports, which are in season
3. Conditioning programs for athletes not currently out for a sport
4. Summer conditioning programs
5. Adult education

SECTION TWO:
AVAILABLE ACTIVITIES

Athletic Teams

Basketball (boys and girls)
Cross County (boys and girls)
Football (boys)
Golf (boys)
Track (boys and girls)
Volleyball (girls)
Wrestling (boys and girls)

Academic Quiz Bowl

Quiz Bowl is an academic competition between 2 teams over a variety of academically challenging questions in the areas of history, literature, science, current events, fine arts, sports, popular culture, and more. Teams participate in tournaments throughout the ESU and conference.

Band

The school district sponsors marching band, pep band, and concert band. Participants must be enrolled in band class in order to be eligible to participate in these groups.

Cheerleaders

Cheerleaders have been established at our school to stimulate school spirit and to provide appropriate service to support our school. The following criteria involve the selection process. Any other items regarding cheerleading will be found in the constitution, which is on file in the office, and with the sponsor. Each cheerleader for the 2025-2026 school year also has a copy of the Cheerleader Constitution.Tryouts for cheerleaders will be conducted each spring by the cheerleader sponsor(s). A panel of impartial judges chosen by the sponsor(s) will select cheerleaders. A tryout will consist of performing designated skills in front of judges and sponsor(s). A majority decision by the judges for acceptance will be taken. However, the sponsor(s) have the right to accept or veto this vote. The format of the tryouts will be decided by the sponsor(s) and will be held in a fair and open manner conducive to allowing each candidate to show his/her best abilities and potential. All students trying out must turn in a release form, have read the constitution and signed the demerit system/disciplinary sheet.

Esports

Esports, short for electronic sports, is a form of competition using video games. Esports often takes the form of organized, multiplayer video game

competitions, individually or as teams. Teams compete against teams throughout the state.

Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA)

FBLA is an integral part of the vocational business department and membership is limited to those students with at least one semester of work in the business education field. One of the primary objectives of FBLA is developing leadership and responsibility.

Future Farmers of America (FFA)

FFA is an integral part of the agricultural education department and all students of that department are urged to belong. The activities include training in leadership, opportunities for travel and recreation, and safety and community service activities. Students may participate in field trips, conventions, judging contests, and hands-on experience.

High Ability Learners (HAL)

Our High Ability Learner program is for students who show evidence of high-performance in such areas as intellectual, creative or artistic capacity, or specific academic fields. Students may qualify by scoring above the 95th percentile on their MAPs test or assessments administered by the Gifted Education Coordinator.

National Honor Society

The National Honor Society is a national organization that recognizes student character, scholarship, leadership, and service to the school.

Student members shall be selected from the junior and senior classes by the high school faculty. The results of the selection will be announced at an honors convocation.

Play Production

The Drama Club is open to all students interested in any aspect of theater and offers varying levels of involvement. The main focus of this activity is to produce the fall One-Act play for conference, district, and state competition.

Speech

Students compete in 12 different categories of competition. These include debate, current events speaking, and several theatre-type acting events.

Spelling Bee

Students in grades 4-8 have the opportunity to compete in local, county, state, and national competitions. Students take a test and compete against their classmates. Winners advance to the next level by achieving a certain

level in each competition. Students take written tests to qualify for an oral competition where students take turns spelling words given to them by a judge.

Student Government

The purpose of student government is to arouse the spirit of loyalty toward the school, to promote good citizenship, to sponsor school activities, to extend the spirit of good fellowship throughout the student body, to foster a spirit of cooperation between the students and faculty, and to seek to develop a spirit of cooperation, good will, and better understanding with other schools. The organization, operation, and scope of the student government shall be administered by the Superintendent or designee.

Student Publications

The yearbook is published by the Journalism class along with the help of its teacher. The annual is financed partially by funds raised from the sale of the books.

Summer Honors

Summer Honors is an accelerated summer school program sponsored by ESU 11. Students have the opportunity to learn advanced subject matter with instructors who can take them beyond most high school curricula.

Students are selected through teacher nominations and performance on an exam or work samples.

Youth Leadership

Students participate in student led community service projects throughout the school year. Examples of past activities and projects include: visiting care homes, community wide garage sale, singing Christmas carols, and assembling Christmas boxes for needy youth.

SECTION THREE:
CODE OF CONDUCT

All students associated with Wilcox-Hildreth Public Schools and participating in extracurricular or school sponsored activities (including all NSAA activities) are required to avoid conduct that is detrimental to the integrity of, and public confidence in, the school. Rules promoting lawful, ethical, and responsible conduct serve the interests of all people associated with the school. Illegal and irresponsible conduct puts people at risk, tarnishes the reputation of the offender and everyone else associated with the school, and undermines the public support and respect of the school district.

Standard of Conduct. Participation in school-sponsored or extracurricular activities is a privilege and not a right. Participants must follow board policy, this code, and all the training rules and rules of conduct of the coaches and/or activity sponsors. Students participating in school-sponsored or extracurricular activities are held to a high standard. Students are expected to conduct themselves in a way that is lawful, responsible, promotes the values upon which the school is based, and that brings credit to themselves and the school. Students who fail to live up to the required standard of conduct are guilty of detrimental conduct and subject to discipline under all school policies, the general student code of conduct, and these Activity Participation Rules.

Coach and Sponsor Rules. Coaches and/or activity sponsors shall establish training rules or rules of conduct for participation in or attendance at the activity or event. General training rules or rules of conduct shall be established prior to the activity or event. This Code shall control in the event that there is a conflict with coach or sponsor rules.

Prohibited Conduct. Students in school-sponsored and/or extracurricular activities may not engage in the following conduct:

1. Receipt of a criminal citation by law enforcement for any reason.
2. Conviction of a crime in adult court or the adjudication of a criminal charge in juvenile court.
3. Any behavior that is illegal under the laws of Nebraska or the United States of America regardless of whether it results in a criminal charge or conviction.
4. Any conduct that substantially interferes with the educational process or disrupts the activity or event.
5. Possession, consumption, use, distribution, or being under the influence of alcohol, illicit drugs, tobacco, controlled substances, or any lookalike or imitations thereof; or being in the presence of alcohol,

illicit drugs, controlled substances, or any lookalike or imitations thereof that are being possessed, consumed, used, or distributed by any person under twenty-one (21) years of age without parental supervision. "Lookalike or imitations" means substances such as K2 and products like electronic nicotine delivery systems, vapor pens, etc. (Note: the term "under the influence" for school purposes has a less strict meaning than it does under criminal law; for school purposes, the term means any level of impairment and includes even the odor of alcohol on the breath or person of a student; also, it includes being impaired by reason of the use or abuse of any substance for the purpose of inducing a condition of intoxication, stupefaction, depression, giddiness, paralysis, inebriation, excitement, or irrational behavior, or in any manner changing, distorting, or disturbing the auditory, visual, mental, or nervous processes).

6. Engaging in initiations, defined as any ritualistic expectations, requirements, or activities placed upon new members of a school organization for the purpose of admission into the organization, even if those activities do not rise to the level of "hazing" as defined below. Initiations are prohibited except by permission of the superintendent.
7. Engaging in hazing as defined by state law and this policy. Hazing is defined as any activity by which a person intentionally or recklessly endangers the physical or mental health or safety of an individual for the purpose of initiation into, admission into, affiliation with, or continued membership in any school organization. Under state criminal law, hazing activities include, but are not limited to, whipping, beating, branding, an act of sexual penetration, an exposure of the genitals of the body done with the intent to affront or alarm any person, a lewd fondling or caressing of the body of another person, forced and prolonged calisthenics, prolonged exposure to the elements, forced consumption of any food, liquor, beverage, drug, or harmful substance not generally intended for human consumption, prolonged sleep deprivation, or any brutal treatment or the performance of any unlawful act that endangers the physical or mental health or safety of any person. For purposes of school rules, hazing also includes any activity expected of someone joining a group, team, or activity that humiliates, degrades or risks emotional and/or physical harm, regardless of the person's willingness to participate; personal servitude; restrictions on personal hygiene; yelling, swearing and insulting new members/rookies; being forced to wear embarrassing or humiliating attire in public; consumption of vile substances or smearing of such on one's skin; binge drinking and drinking games; sexual simulation and sexual assault.
8. Bullying which shall include cyber-bullying, defined as the use of the internet, including but not limited to social networking sites such as

Facebook, cell phones or other devices to send, post, or text message images and material intended to hurt or embarrass another person. This may include, but is not limited to; continuing to send e-mail to someone who has said they want no further contact with the sender; sending or posting threats, sexual remarks, or pejorative labels (i.e., hate speech); ganging up on victims by making them the subject of ridicule in forums; posting false statements as fact intended to humiliate the victim; disclosure of personal data, such as the victim's real name, address, or school at websites or forums; posing as the identity of the victim for the purpose of publishing material in their name that defames or ridicules them; sending threatening and harassing text, instant messages, or emails to the victims; and posting or sending rumors or gossip to instigate others to dislike and gang up on the target.

9. Using any Internet or social networking websites to make statements, post pictures, or take any other actions that are indecent, vulgar, lewd, slanderous, abusive, threatening, harassing, or terrorizing.
10. Violating any school policy, handbook provision, or a coach's or activity sponsor's training rules or rules of conduct.
11. Dressing or grooming in a manner which is (A) dangerous to the student's health and safety or a danger to the health and safety of others, (B) lewd, indecent, vulgar, or plainly offensive, (C) materially and substantially disruptive to the work and discipline of the school or an extracurricular activity, (D) interpreted to advocate the use of illegal drugs or other substances by a reasonable observer.
12. Failing to report for an activity at the beginning of a season unless excused by the coach or activity sponsor.
13. Failing to attend scheduled practices and meetings unless excused by the coach or activity sponsor.

Such conduct is prohibited during the school year, regardless of whether it occurs on-campus or off-campus. School year means the period commencing on the first day of fall sports practice through the last day of spring sports practice, events, or attendance at school for a given school year. Activity season means that period commencing on the first day of an activity practice through the last day of the season or the last scheduled event.

Discipline. Students who violate any provision of these Activity Participation Rules may be subject to discipline up to and including expulsion from extracurricular activities and school sponsored events. (including but not limited to graduation ceremony and related activities). These disciplinary consequences and this Activity Code of Conduct are in addition to and do not prejudice, diminish, impede, or reduce any discipline that is

authorized by the Nebraska Student Discipline Act, NEB. REV. STAT. §§ 79-254 to 79-294, Board Policy, or the Student Handbook. Disciplinary action may include a probationary period and conditions that must be satisfied prior to or following reinstatement. Administrators and coaches will take the following into consideration when making disciplinary decisions:

1. Any prior or additional misconduct;
2. The nature and seriousness of the offense;
3. The motivation for the offense;
4. The amount of violence involved;
5. The student's demeanor and attitude regarding the violation;
6. The actual, threatened, or potential risk to the student and others due to the student's behavior;
7. Whether the student has compensated or will compensate the victim in the event of property damage or personal injury;
8. Whether the circumstances of the violation are likely to recur;
9. The student's willingness to participate in evaluations, counseling, or other programs;
10. Any mitigating factors;
11. Any other relevant factors.

If suspended, the student must continue to participate in practices and conditioning during the suspension if required by the coach or activity sponsor. The failure to comply with the practice and conditioning requirement will make the student ineligible for reinstatement to the activity.

Evaluation, Counseling, and Treatment. Apart from any other disciplinary procedures, students who violate any provision of these rules may be required to undergo a formal clinical evaluation at the administration's discretion. Based upon the results of that evaluation, the student may be encouraged or required to participate in an education program, counseling, or other treatment deemed appropriate by the evaluating professional.

Reporting of Incident. Students shall report any violation of these rules to the coach, principal, or superintendent no later than 30 minutes after the beginning of the next school day after the violation has occurred. Failure to report an incident will constitute a violation of these rules and will be taken into consideration in making disciplinary determinations under this policy.

Discipline Procedures. Prior to any disciplinary action under this activities code, the following procedures shall be followed:

As used in this "Discipline Procedures" section, "Investigator" means the coach or activity sponsor of the team or activity in which the student is participating, or any teacher, school official, or school representative whom the Principal or the Superintendent has authorized to perform the duties and responsibilities of "Investigator" as described below.

1. The Investigator shall make an investigation of alleged violation and provide an opportunity for the student to present his or her version of the facts surrounding the alleged violation.

2. The Investigator shall consider all information obtained as a result of the investigation, including information obtained from the student, and shall render a decision regarding disciplinary action. Within a reasonable period of time of the Investigator's decision, the student and his/her parent or guardian shall be given written notice of the disciplinary action taken by the Investigator.

Review of Investigator's Decision. A student or the student's parents may, within five (5) school days of the notice of disciplinary action from the Investigator, notify the superintendent in writing of their request for a review of the coach or activity sponsor's determination. The superintendent or his or her designee shall review the situation and render a decision within three (3) school days from the date of the request for review. The superintendent's decision shall be in writing and shall be final.

Misrepresentations. Any misrepresentation of fact by a student regarding any alleged violation of these rules shall be considered a separate violation of these rules, and the student shall be subject to additional disciplinary action.

Questions. Any parent or student who has questions about board policy, this code, training rules, or rules of conduct of coaches or activity sponsors, or their interpretation or application shall consult with the activities director and/or the superintendent.

Assistance. Students are encouraged to consult with their coach, an administrator, a counselor, or a teacher to obtain access to educational, counseling, and other programs and resources that may be available to help avoid misconduct that may result in discipline under this policy.

A Parent's Guide to Concussions

WHAT IS A CONCUSSION?

A concussion is a brain injury that results in a temporary disruption of normal brain function. A concussion occurs when the brain is violently rocked back and forth or twisted inside the skull as a result of a blow to the head or body. An athlete does not have to lose consciousness ("knocked-out") to suffer a concussion.

CONCUSSION FACTS

- It is estimated that more than 140,000 high school athletes across the United States suffer a concussion each year. (Data from NFHS Injury Surveillance System).
- Concussions occur most frequently in football, but girl's lacrosse, girls' soccer, boy's lacrosse, wrestling, and girls' basketball follow closely behind. All athletes are at risk.
- A concussion is a traumatic injury to the brain.
- Concussion symptoms may last from a few days to several months.
- Concussions can cause symptoms that interfere with school, work, and social life.
- Athletes who have symptoms from a concussion should not return to sports because they are still at risk for prolonging symptoms and further injury.
- A concussion may cause multiple symptoms. Many symptoms appear immediately after the injury, while others may develop over the next several days or weeks. The symptoms may be subtle and are often difficult to fully recognize.

WHAT ARE THE SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS OF A CONCUSSION?

<u>Signs Observed by Parents or Guardians</u>

- Appears dazed or stunned
- Is confused about assignment or position
- Forgets an instruction
- Is unsure of game, score, or opponent
- Moves clumsily
- Answers questions slowly
- Loses consciousness (even briefly)
- Shows behavior or personality changes
- Can't recall events prior to hit or fall
- Can't recall events after hit or fall

Symptoms Reported by Athlete

- Headache or "pressure" in head
- Nausea or vomiting
- Balance problems or dizziness
- Double or blurry vision
- Sensitivity to light or noise
- Feeling sluggish, hazy, foggy, or groggy
- Concentration or memory problems
- Confusion
- Does not "feel right"

WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I THINK MY CHILD HAS HAD A CONCUSSION?

An athlete who is suspected of having a concussion must be removed from play immediately, whether it is in a game or practice. Continuing to participate in physical activity after a concussion can lead to worsening concussion symptoms, increased risk of further injury, and even death. Parents and coaches are not expected to be able to "diagnose" a concussion, as that is the job of a medical professional. However, they must be aware of the signs and symptoms of a concussion and if they are suspicious, the child must stop playing:

WHEN IN DOUBT – SIT THEM OUT!

Every athlete who sustains a concussion needs to be evaluated by a health care professional who is familiar with sports concussions. Parents should call their child's physician, explain what has happened, and follow the physician's instructions. A child who is vomiting, has a severe headache, or has difficulty staying awake or answering simple questions should be taken to the parent's doctor or emergency room immediately.

WHEN MAY AN ATHLETE RETURN TO PLAY FOLLOWING A CONCUSSION?

No athlete who has suffered a concussion should return to play or practice the same day. Previously, athletes were allowed to return to play if their symptoms resolved within 15 minutes of the injury. Studies have shown that the young brain does not recover quickly enough for an athlete to return to activity in such a short time.

Concerns about athletes who return to play too quickly have led state lawmakers in Oregon and Washington to pass laws stating that **no athlete shall return to play on the day he or she suffered a concussion and the athlete must be cleared by an appropriate health care professional before he or she are allowed to return to play in games or practices**. The laws also mandate that coaches receive education on recognizing the signs and symptoms of concussion.

Once an athlete is free of symptoms of a concussion and is cleared to return to play by a health care professional knowledgeable in the care of sports concussions, he or she should proceed with activity in a step-wise fashion to allow the brain to readjust to exertion. On average, the athlete will complete a new step each day. The return-to-play schedule should proceed as below following medical clearance:

Step 1: Light exercise, including walking or riding an exercise bike. No weight-lifting.
Step 2: Running in the gym or on the field. No helmet or other equipment.
Step 3: Non-contact training drills in full equipment. Weight training can begin.
Step 4: Full contact practice or training.
Step 5: Game play.

If symptoms occur at any step, the athlete should cease activity and be re-evaluated by a health care provider.

HOW CAN A CONCUSSION AFFECT SCHOOLWORK?

Following a concussion, many athletes will have difficulty in school. These problems may last from days to months and often involve difficulties with short and long-term memory, concentration, and organization.

In many cases, it is best to reduce the athlete's class load after the injury. This may include staying home from school for a few days, followed by a lightened schedule for a few days or perhaps a longer period of time if needed. Decreasing the stress on the brain soon after a concussion may reduce symptoms and shorten the recovery period.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- Both you and your child should learn to recognize the "Signs and Symptoms" of a concussion as listed above.
- Emphasize to administrators, coaches, teachers, and other parents your concerns and expectations about concussion and safe play.
- Teach your child to tell the coaching staff if he or she experiences such symptoms.
- Teach your child to tell the coaching staff if he or she suspects that a teammate has a concussion.
- Monitor sports equipment for safety, fit, and maintenance.
- Ask teachers to monitor any decrease in grades or changes in behavior that could indicate concussion.
- Report concussions that occurred during the school year to appropriate school staff. This will help in monitoring injured athletes as they move to the next season's sports.

OTHER FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

Why is it so important that an athlete not return to play until they have completely recovered from a concussion?

An athlete who has not fully recovered from an initial concussion is very vulnerable to recurrent, cumulative, and even catastrophic consequences of a second concussive injury. Such difficulties are prevented if the athlete is allowed time to recover from the concussion and return-to-play decisions are carefully made. No athlete should return to sport or other at-risk participation when symptoms of a concussion are present and recovery is ongoing.

Is a "CT scan" or MRI needed to diagnose a concussion?

Diagnostic testing which includes CT ("CAT") and MRI scans are rarely needed following a concussion. While these are helpful in identifying life-threatening brain injuries (e.g., skull fracture, bleeding, swelling), they are not normally used, even by athletes who have sustained severe concussions. A concussion is diagnosed based upon the athlete's story of the injury and the health care provider's physical examination.

What is the best treatment to help my child recover more quickly from a concussion?

The best treatment for a concussion is rest. There are no medications that can speed the recovery from a concussion. Exposure to loud noises, bright lights, computers, video games, television, and phones (including text messaging) may exacerbate the symptoms of a concussion. You should allow your child to rest as much as possible in the days following a concussion. As the symptoms decrease, you may allow increased use of computers, phone, video games, etc., but the access must be reduced if symptoms worsen.

How long do the symptoms of a concussion usually last?

The symptoms of a concussion will usually go away within one week of the initial injury. You should anticipate that your child will likely be out of sports for about two weeks following a concussion. However, in some cases, symptoms may last for several weeks or even months. Symptoms such as headache, memory problems, poor concentration, and mood changes can interfere with school, work, and social interactions. The potential for such long-term symptoms indicates the need for careful management of all concussions.

How many concussions can an athlete have before he or she should stop playing sports?

There is no "magic number" of concussions that determine when an athlete should give up playing contact or collision sports. The circumstances surrounding each individual injury, such as the way the injury happened and length of symptoms following the concussion are very important and must be considered when assessing the athlete's risk for further and potentially more serious concussions. The decision to "retire" from sports is a decision best reached following a complete evaluation by your child's primary care provider and consultation with a physician or neuropsychologist who specializes in treating sports concussion.

I've read recently that concussions may cause long-term brain damage in professional football players. Is this a risk for high school athletes who have had a concussion?

The issue of "chronic encephalopathy" in several former NFL players has received a great deal of media attention lately. Very little is known about what may be causing dramatic abnormalities in the brains of these unfortunate retired football players. At this time, we have very little knowledge of the long-term effects of concussions that happen during high school athletics.

In the cases of the retired NFL players, it appears that most had long careers in the NFL after playing in high school and college. In most cases, they played football for over 20 years and suffered multiple concussions in addition to hundreds of other blows to their heads. Alcohol and steroid use may also be contributing factors in some cases. Obviously, the average high school athlete does not come close to suffering the total number or sheer force of head trauma seen by professional football players. However, the fact that we know very little about the long-term effects of concussions in young athletes is further reason to carefully manage each concussion.

Adapted from A Parent's Guide to Concussion in Sports, National Federation of High School Associations.

Some of this information has been adapted from the CDC's "Heads Up: Concussion in High School Sports" materials by the NFHS's Sports Medicine Advisory Committee. See www.cdc.gov/ncipc/tbi/Coaches_Tool_Kit.htm for more information.

Title IX Policy

As required by Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, it is the policy of the district that no person shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subject to discrimination under any of the district's programs or activities, or in regards to admission or employment. Any person may report sex discrimination, including sexual harassment. This report must be made by any means to the district's Title IX Coordinator whose contact information can be found on the district's website and in the district's student and staff handbooks. Any other inquiries regarding the application of this policy should be referred to the Title IX Coordinator.

EMERGENCY RESPONSE TO LIFE-THREATENING ASTHMA OR SYSTEMIC ALLERGIC REACTIONS (ANAPHYLAXIS)

DEFINITION: Life-threatening asthma consists of an acute episode of worsening airflow obstruction. Immediate action and monitoring are necessary.

A systemic allergic reaction (anaphylaxis) is a severe response resulting in cardiovascular collapse (shock) after the injection of an antigen (e.g. bee or other insect sting), ingestion of a food or medication, or exposure to other allergens, such as animal fur, chemical irritants, pollens or molds, among others. The blood pressure falls, the pulse becomes weak, **AND DEATH CAN OCCUR.** Immediate allergic reactions may require emergency treatment and medications.

LIFE-THREATENING ASTHMA SYMPTOMS: Any of these symptoms may occur:

- Chest tightness
- Wheezing
- Severe shortness of breath
- Retractions (chest or neck "sucked in")
- Cyanosis (lips and nail beds exhibit a grayish or bluish color)
- Change in mental status, such as agitation, anxiety, or lethargy
- A hunched-over position
- Breathlessness causing speech in one-to-two word phrases or complete inability to speak

ANAPHYLACTIC SYMPTOMS OF BODY SYSTEM: Any of the symptoms may occur within seconds. The more immediate the reaction, the more severe the reaction may become. Any of the symptoms present require several hours of monitoring.

- **Skin:** warmth, itching, and/or tingling of underarms/groin, flushing, hives
- **Abdominal:** pain, nausea and vomiting, diarrhea
- **Oral/Respiratory:** sneezing, swelling of face (lips, mouth, tongue, throat), lump or tightness in the throat, hoarseness, difficulty inhaling, shortness of breath, decrease in peak flow meter reading, wheezing reaction
- **Cardiovascular:** headache, low blood pressure (shock), lightheadedness, fainting, loss of consciousness, rapid heart rate, ventricular fibrillation (no pulse)
- **Mental status:** apprehension, anxiety, restlessness, irritability

EMERGENCY PROTOCOL:

1. CALL 911.
2. Summon school nurse if available. If not, summon designated trained, non-medical staff to implement an emergency protocol.
3. Check airway patency, breathing, respiratory rate, and pulse.
4. Administer medications (epinephrine auto injector and nebulized albuterol) per standing order.
5. Determine cause as quickly as possible.
6. Monitor vital signs (pulse, respiration, etc.).
7. Contact parents immediately and prescribing health care practitioner as soon as possible.
8. Any individual treated for symptoms with epinephrine at a school will be transferred to a medical facility.

STANDING ORDERS FOR RESPONSE TO LIFE-THREATENING ASTHMA OR ANAPHYLAXIS:

- Administer epinephrine auto injector junior for any child less than 60 pounds or adult epinephrine auto injector for any individual over 60 pounds into the muscle towards the front and outer side of the thigh.
- Follow with nebulized albuterol while awaiting EMS.
- If symptoms persist, repeat epinephrine auto injector followed by nebulized albuterol every fifteen minutes while awaiting EMS arrival.
- Administer CPR, if indicated.

AUTHORIZATION AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

WARNING: SERIOUS CATASTROPHIC AND PERHAPS FATAL INJURY MAY RESULT FROM ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION

Many forms of athletic competition result in violent physical contact among players, the use of equipment that may result in accidents, strenuous physical exertion, and numerous other exposures to risk of injury. Students and parents must assess the risks involved in such participation and make their choice to participate in spite of those risks. No amount of instruction, precaution, or supervision will eliminate these risks. Students have suffered accidents resulting in death, paraplegia, quadriplegia, and other very serious permanent physical impairment while playing sports. By granting permission for your student to participate in athletic competition, you, the parent or guardian, acknowledge that such risk exists. Students will be instructed in proper techniques to be used in athletic competition and in the proper utilization of all equipment worn or used in practice and competition. Students must adhere to that instruction and utilization and must refrain from improper uses and techniques.

I understand the statement above and I understand that by allowing my student to participate in athletic events, I assume the risk that he/she may be injured, perhaps severely.

_____

Signature of Parent

_____ _____

Printed Name of Parent Date

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF CONDUCT CODE

I understand that as a student representing the school district in activities, I am obligated to comply with the athletic handbook, including the code of conduct. **This means that I may not possess, use, or be at parties in the presence of alcohol, illicit drugs, or controlled substances at any time during the school term.** I understand that if I violate the code of conduct or other rules in this handbook, I may be suspended from participation in all co-curricular activities and/or school sponsored activities or events.

_____

Signature of Student

_____ _____

Printed Name of Student Date

I understand that my student is obligated by this handbook, including the statements above.

_____
Signature of Parent

_____ _____
Printed Name of Parent Date

CONSENT TO PERFORM RANDOM DRUG TESTING

2026-2027

Student Name _____ Grade _____

As a student and parent:

- We understand and agree that participation in extracurricular activities is a privilege that may be withdrawn for violations of the Extracurricular Drug Testing Policy.
- We have read the Extracurricular Drug Testing Policy and understand the responsibilities and consequences as an activity participant if the student violates the policy.
- We understand that when students participate in any extracurricular activity, they will be subjected to random drug testing, and if they refuse, will not be allowed to practice or participate in any extracurricular activity. We have read this consent statement and agree to its terms.
- We understand this is binding while a student is enrolled in Wilcox-Hildreth Public School District.

CONSENT TO PERFORM DRUG TESTING

We hereby consent to allow the student named on this form to undergo drug testing for the presence of drugs, alcohol, and tobacco/nicotine in accordance with the Extracurricular Drug Testing Program adopted by the Board of Education. We understand that any samples will be sent only to a qualified laboratory for actual testing. We hereby give our consent to the medical vendor selected by the school board, their Medical Review Office (MRO), laboratory, doctors, employees, or agents, together with any clinic, hospital, or laboratory designated by the selected medical vendor to perform testing for the detection of drugs and to release the results of those tests as provided in the policy. We understand these results will be forwarded to school district officials and will also be made available to us. We agree to sign any necessary releases if requested to do so.

We understand that consent pursuant to this Consent to Perform Random Drug Testing will be effective for all extracurricular activities in which this student might participate during the current school year.

We hereby release the Wilcox-Hildreth Board of Education and its employees from any legal responsibility or liability for the release of such information and records, pursuant to the policy.

Student Signature _____ Date_____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date_____

WILCOX-HILDRETH PUBLIC SCHOOL

STAFF HANDBOOK

2026-2027 Edition

P.O. BOX 190
404 E. SAPP
WILCOX, NE 68982

Phone: (308) 478-5265
Fax: (308) 478-5260

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
Introduction	7
Nondiscrimination in Education Programs & Activities	8
Drug-Free Workplace Requirements	10
Policies & Procedures Regarding All Staff	
Accidents & Injuries	11
Activity Accounts & Fundraising	11
Activity Tickets	11
Agents, Salesmen & Other Business Representatives	11
Announcements & Circulars	11
Board Policies, Rules and Directives	12
Child Abuse	12
Complaint Procedure	13
Complaint & Appeal Process	13
Computers & the Internet: Acceptable Use by Staff	19
Conflict of Interest	19
Contact Information	19
Copyright and Fair Use	19
Corporal Punishment	20
Crisis Response Team	20
Disability Leave (Short-Term)	20
Discrimination & Harassment	21
Driving (both school & personal vehicles)	21
Dress Code	22
Drug & Alcohol Testing	23
Duty to Report	23
Electronic Communication While Driving	23
Expenses	24
Family & Medical Leave Act (FMLA)	24
In-School Communication	24
Intellectual Property	25
Jury & Witness Duty Leave	25
Keys	25
Locker Room Supervision	25
Maintenance & Cleaning Request Forms	25
Meals Program	26
Military Leaves of Absence	26
Milk Expression	26
News & Press Releases	26
Newsletters	27

Obligations Related to American Civics Instruction 27
Outside Employment 27
Political Activities 27
Pregnant or Parenting Students 27
Professional Boundaries Between Staff & Students 28
Professional Growth 29
Purchasing 29
Records & Reports 29
Recordings of Students & Classrooms 30
School Calendar 35
School Property 35
School Vehicle Use 35
Security 35
Smoking on School Premises or at School Activities 36
Sniffer (Drug) Dogs 36
Social Media Usage by Staff 36
Solicitation & Distribution of Merchandise 36
Staff Room 37
Student Interviews 37
Telephones 37
Threat Assessment & Response 37
Ticket Taking 40
Transportation Request Forms 40
Visitors 40
Wage & Salary Payments 40
Weather-Related Closings 41
Workplace Searches 41

Policies & Procedures Regarding Certified Staff

Page
Absences 43
  Sick Leave 43
  Personal Leave 43
  Professional Leave 43
  Substitute Folders 43
Assemblies 44
Assignment of Teachers 44
Certificates Teacher Contracts, Salary Information 44
Cheating 45
Check-out Forms 45

Class Record Books 45
Classroom Management & Student Discipline 45
Classroom Sanitation 46
  Handling of Body Fluids 46
  Infectious Diseases 47
Coaching Supplies 47
Collection of Student Money 47
Community Involvement 47
Display of Classroom Work in the School and the Community 47
Duties of Certified Staff 48
Eligibility Grades 7-12 49
Extracurricular Activities 49
Evacuations 50
  Fire Drills 50
  Tornado Drills 51
  Protocol for all Evacuations 51
Evaluations 51
Examinations 52
Faculty Meeting 52
Field Trip Request Forms 52
Grading Policy 52
Guest Lecturers 53
Hall Duty 53
Homework Policy 53
Instructional Materials 54
Lesson Plans 54
Media Center 54
Para-Educators 55
Parent-Teacher Communication 55
Parties 55
Planning Time 56
PowerSchool 56
Private Tutoring 56
Projection Maps 56
Pupils' Records 57
Rights of Certified and Probationary Teachers 57
School Day 58
Sponsors 58
Student Activities 58
Student Aides 59
Student Attendance 59
Student Attire 59
Student Passes 60

Student Illness 60
Student Medication 60
Student Searches 60
Substitute Teaching During Planning Period 61
Teaching Controversial Issues 62
Textbooks 62

Policies and Procedures Regarding Classified Staff:
At-Will Employment 63

Staff Directory 64
Staff Internet & Computer Use 66
Staff Expectations in Use of the Internet 66
Unacceptable Use While on Duty or on School Property 66
School Affiliated Websites 67
Methods of Enforcement 67
Off-Duty Personal Use 68
Title IX Policy 70
School Calendar 71
Teacher/Educational Specialist Formative/Summative Evaluation 72

Acknowledgement of Receipt 77

INTRODUCTION

This handbook provides information to persons who are employed by the school district and are referred to in this handbook as employees, staff, or staff members. It is designed to provide practical information about the daily operation of the schools in the district and contains building and district directories, safety and emergency information, as well as district policies and procedures. Each staff member should carefully review this handbook. The administration and the board of education continually review policies and procedures, so staff members should discuss comments, concerns, or suggestions about this handbook with their building principal or another member of the administrative staff.

This handbook does not create a "contract" of employment. Staff positions and assignments that do not require a teaching certificate or are not otherwise governed by the teacher tenure laws may be ended or changed on an at-will basis notwithstanding anything in this handbook or any other publication or statement, except a contract approved by the board of education.

Many situations may arise that are not covered by this handbook. In those instances, staff members should use their own good judgment or consult with the administration. If any information contained in this handbook conflicts with board policy or state statute, the policy or statute will govern.

The provisions in this handbook are subject to change at the sole discretion of the Superintendent and the Board of Education. From time to time, you may receive updated information concerning changes in the handbook. These updates should be kept within the handbook so that all procedures can be kept up to date. If you have any questions regarding this handbook, please ask your supervisor or the Superintendent for assistance.

Your suggestions about ways to improve the school are welcome and will always be considered.

Sincerely,
Justin Patterson
Superintendent

Notice of Nondiscrimination

The school district does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age in its programs and activities and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The school district prohibits sex discrimination in any education program or activity in any education program or activity that it operates.

Individuals who believe that they have been the subject of unlawful discrimination or harassment due to their disability, or that have other related concerns or questions, should contact the ADA/Title II Coordinator:

Name: Justin Patterson
Title: 504 Coordinator
Address: 404 Sapp St. Wilcox, NE 68982
Telephone: 1-308-478-5265
E-mail: justin.patterson@whfalcons.org

Individuals who believe that they have been the subject of unlawful discrimination or harassment due to their sex, or that have other related concerns or questions, should contact the Title IX Coordinator:

Name: Joee Muhlbach
Title: Title IX Coordinator/Investigator
Address: 404 Sapp St. Wilcox, NE 68982
Telephone: 1-308-478-5265
E-mail: joee.muhlbach@whfalcons.org

The School District's specific Notice of Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Sex may be accessed at the following link: 4001 Nondiscrimination

Individuals who believe that they have been the subject of unlawful discrimination or harassment due to their race, color, or national origin, or that have other related concerns or questions, should contact the Title VI Coordinator:

Name: Joee Muhlbach
Title: Title VI Coordinator
Address: 404 Sapp St. Wilcox, NE 68982
Telephone: 1-308-478-5265
E-mail: joee.muhlbach@whfalcons.org

Individuals who believe that they have been the subject of any other unlawful discrimination or harassment should contact the principal at 308-478-5265 or e-mail joee.muhlbach@whfalcons.org or in person at school. Students may report discrimination or harassment to any staff member who will then forward it on to the appropriate coordinator or

administrator. The staff member will follow school district policies to respond to the report.

For additional prohibited discrimination and related information, please review school district Policy 4001 – Nondiscrimination.

DRUG-FREE WORKPLACE REQUIREMENTS

It is vitally important to have a healthy workforce that is free from the effects of illegal drugs. The use or possession of unlawful drugs in the workplace has a very detrimental effect upon safety and morale of the affected employee, coworkers, and the public at large; and on productivity and the quality of work.

Federal law requires this school district, as a recipient of federal funds, to maintain a drug-free workplace. The unlawful manufacture, distribution, dispensing, possession, or use of a controlled substance in the district's workplace is prohibited. The term "workplace" includes every location where district employees may be found during their working hours or while they are on duty, regardless of whether the location is within the geographic boundaries of the district. Any employee who violates this policy will be disciplined with measures up to and including discharge. The district may, in its sole discretion, require or allow an employee who violates this policy to participate in and satisfactorily complete a drug abuse assistance or rehabilitation program.

The district shall provide every current employee with a copy of this policy, and shall provide each newly hired employee with a copy upon hiring. Every employee shall be required to signify receipt of a copy of the policy in writing. All district employees must abide by this policy, including those who are not directly engaged in the performance of work pursuant to a federal grant.

An employee must notify his/her supervisor of any conviction of a criminal drug statute for a violation occurring in the workplace within five days. The failure to report such a conviction will be grounds for dismissal. If the employee convicted of such an offense is engaged in the performance of work pursuant to the provisions of a federal grant, the district shall notify the grant agency within 10 days of receiving notice of a conviction from the affected employee or of receiving actual notice of such a conviction.

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES REGARDING ALL STAFF

Accidents and Injuries

Staff must inform the building office immediately of all accidents and/or injuries to students or staff, and complete the appropriate accident form that is available from the office secretary. The accident form must be returned to the office within twenty-four hours.

Activity Accounts and Fundraising

Activity accounts are handled through the superintendent's office. No student or sponsor may make any purchase without a signed purchase order from the superintendent. **Purchases made without permission are the personal obligation and responsibility of the purchaser.**

The superintendent is responsible for authorizing any fundraising on the part of student activities. **No fundraising may occur without express administrative permission.**

Activity Tickets

All staff, spouses, and their school-age children will be admitted to home games free of charge. Activity tickets will be issued to staff through the building offices.

Agents, Salesmen and Other Business Representatives

All business representatives calling on school matters must obtain permission from the superintendent or building principal before conferring with staff. Staff must determine whether the business representative has been granted permission before discussing business matters. Classroom teachers may not interrupt class work to confer with such representatives.

Staff may not use school time or school facilities for any personal activity for personal financial gain or confer with any business representative for personal business during school time.

Announcements and Circulars

No announcements shall be made before any school group without authorization of the principal or superintendent.

Any circulars or advertising displayed within the school shall have the approval of the building principal or superintendent before posting.

Board Policies, Rules, and Directives

The board of education has adopted policies that govern the operation of the

school district. A complete policy manual is available on the district's website or in the main administrative office. These manuals will be updated as the board adopts new policies or modifies existing policies. In particular, the 4000 series deals with policies that affect personnel. Additionally, the Board has authorized the Superintendent and his or her designee to adopt rules and directives regarding the conduct of students, staff, and other persons. Many of these rules and directives are published in the Student Handbook, Staff Handbook, and Activity Handbook, respectively. Each of these handbooks are available on the district's website and in the main administrative office. **By signing below, you agree that you have read and understood these policies, handbooks, rules, and directives, their application to you, and that you have had an opportunity to discuss any questions with the administration**.

Child Abuse

School employees who have reasonable cause to believe that a child has been subjected to child abuse or neglect or observe a child being subjected to conditions or circumstances which reasonably would result in child abuse or neglect will report the suspected abuse or neglect according to the following procedure.

1. Any school employee who has reasonable cause to believe that a child has been abused or neglected shall report the suspicion to the building principal immediately. Employees shall also personally report or cause a report to be made to local law enforcement or to the Department of Health and Human Services.

2. When the principal makes a report of suspected child abuse or neglect, he/she shall inform the employee(s) who made the initial report.

3. Nothing in the paragraph above shall hinder a school employee from fulfilling his/her/their obligation to report suspected abuse or neglect if he, she or they have reasonable cause to believe that a child has been abused or neglected.

4. Any doubt or question in reporting such cases shall be resolved in the favor of reporting the suspected abuse or neglect. Consultation between the administrator and school employee is encouraged, keeping in mind that prompt reporting is essential.

Complaint Procedure

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

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

Under this policy, factual conclusions will be based on a preponderance of the evidence.

Complaint and Appeal Process.

1. The first step is for the complainant to speak directly to the person(s) with whom the complainant has a concern. For example, a parent who is unhappy with a classroom teacher should initially discuss the matter with the teacher. However, the complainant should skip the first step if complainant reasonably believes speaking directly to the person would subject complainant or complainant's student to discrimination or harassment.

2. The second step is for the complainant to speak to the building principal, coordinator, superintendent of schools, or president of the board of education, as set forth below. Anyone with questions about the appropriate person to speak with may request clarification from the superintendent.

    a) Complaints about the operation, decisions, or personnel within a building should be submitted to the principal of the building.

    b) Complaints about the operations of the school district or a building principal should be submitted in writing to the superintendent of schools.

c) Complaints about the superintendent of schools should be submitted in writing to the president of the board of education.

d) Complaints involving discrimination or harassment on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, marital status, disability, or age may also be submitted at any time during the complaint procedure to the applicable coordinator. Complaints involving discrimination or harassment may also be submitted at any time to the Office for Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Education: by email at OCR.KansasCity@ed.gov; by telephone at (816) 268-0550; or by fax at (816) 268-0599.

3. When a complainant submits a complaint to an administrator or coordinator, the administrator or coordinator shall first determine whether another applicable procedure is required by policy or law and if so, direct the complaint to the appropriate person to follow that procedure. If not, the administrator or coordinator will promptly and thoroughly investigate the complaint, and shall:

a) Determine whether the complainant has discussed the matter with the respondent.

1) If the complainant has not, urge the complainant to discuss the matter directly with the respondent, if appropriate.

2) If the complainant refuses to discuss the matter with the respondent, the administrator or coordinator shall, in his or her sole discretion, determine whether the complaint should or must be pursued further.

b) Strongly encourage the complainant to reduce his or her concerns to writing.

c) Interview the complainant and, if necessary, the respondent against whom the complaint is filed, to determine:

1) All relevant details of the complaint;

2) All witnesses and documents which the complainant believes support the complaint;

3) The action or solution which the complainant seeks.

d) Respond to the complainant. If the complaint involves discrimination or harassment, the response shall be in writing and shall be submitted within 180 calendar days after the administrator or coordinator receives the complaint.

4. If either the complainant or the respondent is not satisfied with the decision he or she may appeal the decision to the superintendent. The superintendent may assign a qualified designee to hear any appeal.

   a) The appeal must be in writing.

   b) This appeal must be received by the superintendent no later than three (3) calendar days from the date of the decision.

   c) For complaints addressed through other applicable procedures that do not include a separate investigatory process, the superintendent will investigate as he or she deems appropriate..

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

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

b) When the complaint involves the budget or school expenditures that have been or must be approved by the board; or
c) When the board is required by law, policy, or contract to hear a complaint or appeal.

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

d) This appeal must be in writing.

e) This appeal must be received by the board president no later than ten (10) calendar days from the date the superintendent communicated his/her decision to the complainant.

f) This policy allows, but does not require the board to receive statements from interested parties and witnesses relevant to the complaint appeal. However, all matters involving discrimination or harassment allegations against the superintendent shall be promptly and thoroughly investigated by the board president or a designee.

g) The board president will notify the complainant and any other person legally required to receive the decision in writing of its decision. If the complaint involves discrimination or harassment allegations against the Superintendent, the board president shall submit the decision within 180 calendar days after receiving the written appeal.

h) There is no appeal from any decision of the board unless authorized by law.

6. Formal complaints about the superintendent shall be filed with the president of the board. However, complaints about the superintendent do not include disagreement with the superintendent's decision on appeal based on a complaint of discrimination, harassment, or action of any other employee who is not the superintendent. Upon receipt of a complaint, the board president or his or her designee shall promptly and thoroughly investigate the complaint, and shall:

a) Coordinate with school district staff, other than the superintendent, to determine if another procedure in policy or law requires the complaint against the superintendent to follow

another procedure. If so, the board president will coordinate handling the complaint through that procedure. If another procedure applies, such as in the case of allegations of sex discrimination against the superintendent, the board president or, at his or her discretion, the full board will serve only to hear any appeal by a party to the complaint.

b) Determine whether the complainant has discussed the matter with the superintendent.

   1) If the complainant has not, the board president or designee will urge or require the complainant to discuss the matter directly with the superintendent, if appropriate or required.

   2) If the complainant refuses to discuss the matter with the superintendent, the board president shall, in his or her sole discretion, determine whether the complaint should or must be pursued further.

c) Determine, in his or her sole discretion, whether to place the matter on the board agenda for consideration at a regular or special meeting by the full board.

d) Respond to the complainant or appeal. If the complaint or appeal involves discrimination or harassment, the response shall be in writing and shall be submitted within 180 calendar days after the president received the complaint.

e) Appoint or contract with other individuals qualified to assist the board through this process or any other applicable procedure used to address allegations against the superintendent.

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

Special Rules Regarding Educational Services and Related Services to Students with Disabilities. Students with disabilities and their families have specific rights outlined in state and federal law, including administrative processes by which they may challenge the educational services being provided by the school district. Therefore, the appeal process contained in

this policy may not be used to challenge decisions made by a student's individualized education plan (IEP) team or 504 team.

Complaints about the educational services provided a student with a disability, including but not limited to services provided to a student with an IEP, access to curricular and extracurricular activities, and educational placement must be submitted to the school district's Director of Special Education. The Director of Special Education will address the complaint in a manner that he/she deems appropriate and will provide the complainant with a copy of the Notice of IDEA Parental Rights promulgated by the Nebraska Department of Education.

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

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

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

Computers and the Internet: Acceptable Use by Staff

Internet access is an important tool for communicating, keeping up-to-date with current developments in education, and for conducting research to enhance management, teaching, and learning skills. Staff members must refer to and comply with the (Board Policy 4012) regarding Staff Internet and Computer Use. Staff should also refer to the district's policy on Staff and District Social Media Use (Board Policy 4051).

Conflict of Interest

All staff members are subject to the board's policy governing conflict of interest. That policy provides, in part, that no employee shall solicit or accept anything of value, including a gift, loan, contribution, reward, or promise of future employment based on an agreement that the vote, official action, or judgment of the employee would thereby be influenced.

Contact Information

Staff are required to keep the district informed of any change in their name, address, telephone or other contact information. Contact the building secretary to report a change.

Copyright and Fair Use

The school district complies with federal copyright laws. Staff members must comply with copyright laws when using school equipment or working on behalf of the district. Federal law prohibits the unauthorized reproduction of works of authorship, regardless of the medium in which they were created.

The "fair use" doctrine allows limited reproduction of copyrighted works for educational and research purposes. "Fair use" of a copyrighted work includes reproduction for purposes such as criticism, news reporting, teaching (including multiple copies for classroom use), scholarship, or research. Staff who are unsure whether their proposed reproduction of copyrighted material constitutes "fair use" should consult with their building principal, review the school district's copyright compliance policy, and review *Reproduction of Copyrighted Works by Educators and Librarians* from the U.S. Copyright Office found at https://www.copyright.gov/circs/circ21.pdf and *Copyright for Students* found at https://www.whoishostingthis.com/resources/student-copyright/. You can find more information on copyright compliance requirements and permitted uses from the U.S. Copyright Office and the Library of Congress at the following site: http://www.loc.gov/teachers/usingprimarysources/copyright.html.

Corporal Punishment

Corporal punishment is the infliction of bodily pain as a penalty for disapproved behavior, and is prohibited by law. Some physical contact is inevitable, and most of it is appropriate. Corporal punishment does not include the use of physical force that is reasonable and necessary to (1) protect school employees; (2) protect students or property; or (3) remove a student from a situation that endangers the student, persons, or property.

Staff members should promptly report any event that required the use of physical force to their building principal.

Crisis Response Team

Any staff member appointed by the district administration will serve on the Crisis Response Team as outlined in the board policies. The Crisis Response Team serves a vital role in supporting the district's staff and students. It is the responsibility of the appointed staff member to discuss with the district administration any circumstances that may affect the staff member's ability to perform the tasks required by board policy.

Disability Leave (Short-Term)

Short-term disability leave will be treated in the manner required by state and federal law and consistent with the negotiated agreement with the school district's local education association. Short-Term Disability leave will run concurrently with FMLA leave.

Discrimination and Harassment

The school district prohibits discrimination and harassment based upon or related to race, color, national origin, sex, religion, marital status, disability, age or any other unlawful basis that (1) has the purpose or effect of creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive school environment, (2) has the purpose or effect of substantially or unreasonably interfering with an employee's school performance, or (3) otherwise adversely affects an employee's employment opportunities. Employees who believe that they have been the subject of unlawful discrimination or harassment due to their disability should contact the following Section 504 Coordinator: Justin Patterson, Superintendent of schools at (308) 478-5265, justin.patterson@whfalcons.org (or designee) or in person at school. Employees who believe that they have been the subject of unlawful discrimination or harassment due to their sex should contact the following Title IX Coordinator: Joee Muhlbach, Principal (308) 478-5265, joee.muhlbach@whfalcons.org (or designee) or in person at school. Employees who believe that they have been the subject of any other unlawful discrimination or harassment should contact Joee Muhlbach, Principal (308) 478-5265, joee.muhlbach@whfalcons.org (or designee) or in person at school. Employees may report discrimination or harassment to any staff member who will then forward it on to the appropriate coordinator or administrator. The staff member will follow school district policies to respond to the report.

Driving (both school and personal vehicles)

Staff members who drive school vehicles or volunteer to use their personal

automobile to transport students must have a valid driver's license and proof of insurance. Staff members will be provided a Driver's Certification form to verify this information. Staff members who drive school vehicles or transport students in their personal vehicles are responsible for following safe driving practices, including use of seat belts by all occupants, and are responsible for any injury or accident. Staff members are not to use cell phones while driving a school vehicle or while transporting students. Please see the school district's policy on school vehicle use for further information.

Drivers for the school district must be free from drug and alcohol use or abuse. The school district will test drivers as permitted under state and federal law and in accordance with board policy.

Dress Code

The attire worn by staff members conveys an important image to students and the general public. The appearance of professional staff members shall be appropriate to their assigned duties and indicative of their professional standing in the school and community.

Certified staff, paraeducators, and office staff should generally dress in business casual attire that is clean and professional.

The following are examples of unprofessional attire which should not be worn by classroom staff during the traditional school day, when students or visitors are in attendance, or when the employee is supervising, directing, or coaching students when the public is in attendance:

- For men: shirts without collars, unless the shirt can be deemed professional by other standards.
- Athletic wear, including sweat, jogging and wind suits, except when teaching a physical education activity in the gymnasium, on a playing field, or at athletic or other activity practices.
- Shorts, except when teaching physical education class or at athletic or other activity practices.
- Blue jeans, except at athletic or other activity practices, or on days considered to be "dress down" days.
- Hats, except when worn outside for sun coverage.
- Rubber soled 'flip flop' thong sandals.
- Any attire which is excessively wrinkled or torn, so that it is no longer neat and professional.
- Any attire which is immodest or may distract other employees or students in the learning environment.

Custodial, maintenance, and transportation staff should dress in attire appropriate to the work they are performing.

The superintendent or principal shall maintain the discretion to make determinations on staff dress and appearance. Administrators may temporarily suspend all or a portion of the dress code when other factors support a lower dress expectation for school employees (e.g., special "casual days" or field days). Any violation of school policy and rules may result in disciplinary action.

Drug and Alcohol Testing

School district administrators who suspect that drugs or alcohol may be present in a staff member's system may require the staff member to provide a body fluid or breath sample as provided in Nebraska law. Staff members who refuse a lawful directive to provide a body fluid or breath sample may be subject to disciplinary or administrative action by the employer, including denial of continued employment.

Duty to Report

School personnel shall self-report any of the following to the District's Superintendent within 24 hours of its occurrence or at the beginning of the next school day, whichever is earlier:

- Any criminal citation if the alleged offense is a misdemeanor or felony under federal or Nebraska law or in the state in which the alleged offense occurred;
- Any arrest for any reason;
- Any criminal conviction;
- Any sentence of incarceration;
- Any criminal or civil filing or Department of Health and Human Services or law enforcement investigation for child abuse and/or neglect;
- Any complaint or other administrative that could impact any certificate or professional license held by the employee;
- Any action or threat of action by any entity against the employee's driver's license or ability or authority to operate a motor vehicle if the employee's job duties may require the operation of a motor vehicle.

The failure to make a report required by this section may result in disciplinary action up to and including cancellation, termination, and non-renewal.

Electronic Communication While Driving

Except as provided below, school personnel shall not use any electronic communication device to read a written communication, manually type a written communication, send a written communication, verbally communicate with others, or otherwise communicate with others while operating a school vehicle or while using a school-issued electronic communication device while operating a private vehicle. This prohibition includes but is not limited to answering or making telephone calls not related to the transportation and reading or responding to e-mails, instant messages, or text messages.

The superintendent or building principal may grant exceptions and allow verbal communication on an as needed basis for specific district-related work based upon employees' duties and responsibilities.

Expenses

The board will reimburse staff for all approved expenses incurred in attending to school business. Reimbursement for mileage, supplies, overnight travel expense, and credit course reimbursement fees are processed on an expense report form that is available from each building secretary. Appropriate receipts must be attached.

To be reimbursed for an item or for personal vehicle use, staff members must complete a reimbursement claim form, attach receipts and submit it to the Superintendent for approval.

All claims for reimbursement must be approved by the board, so some delay is probable. Mileage reimbursement will be denied if a school vehicle was available.

Family and Medical Leave (FMLA)

Qualified employees will be provided leave under the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) as provided in board policy. The school district will utilize the "rolling" 12-month period measured backward from the date an employee uses any FMLA leave.

In-School Communication

Every staff member will be assigned a mailbox in the building where he or she works. Staff members are expected to check their mailboxes for messages in the morning upon arrival at school, at lunch time, and at the end of the day before departing.

A great deal of information is distributed to staff via the school's e-mail system. Each staff member must check his or her e-mail account frequently

throughout the school day. Staff members are allowed to use their school e-mail accounts for a moderate amount of personal e-mail correspondence. However, sending or receiving personal e-mail during class time is prohibited, regardless of whether that personal e-mail is received on the staff member's school e-mail account or a personal account.

Intellectual Property

All written or artistic works, instructional materials, inventions, procedures, ideas, innovations, systems, programs, or other work product created or developed by any employee in the course and scope of performance of his or her employment duties on behalf of the district, whether published or not, shall be the exclusive property of the district. The district has the sole right to sell, license, assign, or transfer any and all right, title, or interest in and to such property.

Jury and Witness Duty Leave

An employee who has been called to serve as a juror will be granted paid leave. Employees must sign over to the district the compensation they receive for jury duty, but not compensation for expenses.

An employee who has been subpoenaed to testify as a witness in a court proceeding shall be entitled to one day of paid leave. To receive paid leave, the employee must sign over to the district his or her witness fee.

Keys

Staff will not lend or have any duplicate keys made of any school key. Staff will make sure all doors are locked when they enter or leave the building other than regular school hours and are responsible for setting the security system after hours.

Staff members are responsible at all times for all keys issued to them and must keep their keys in a secure location or on the employee's person. Each classroom teacher must check that the doors and windows in his or her room are closed and locked at the end of the school day. Staff must report lost or stolen keys to the building principal immediately.

Locker Room Supervision

Staff members must review and comply with the board's policy regarding locker room supervision.

Maintenance & Cleaning Request Forms

Staff members should fill out maintenance requests forms just as soon as they need or see a maintenance problem. These forms must be turned into

the Maintenance Supervisor.

Meals Program

Staff may take advantage of meals offered through the district's foods program. Staff may purchase lunches from the school cafeteria for $___ per day or $___ per week. The lunch price includes one carton of milk. Extra cartons cost __ cents. Staff members must deposit funds in their lunch accounts before purchasing meals. Staff members will not be allowed to run a deficit in their lunch accounts.

Military Leaves of Absence

Leaves of absence without pay for military or Reserve duty are granted to all employees as required by law. An employee who is called to active military duty or to Reserve or National Guard training or who volunteers for the same should submit copies of the military orders to the Superintendent as soon as is practicable. An administrator, at his or her discretion, may require an employee who requests leave under the Nebraska Family Military Leave Act to provide certification from the proper military authority to verify the employee's eligibility for the leave requested.

Military Leave under the Federal Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) and the Nebraska Family Military Leave Act will be governed by the board's policies.

Milk Expression

Except as otherwise provided by law, the district will provide reasonable break time for an employee who wishes to breastfeed or express breast milk for her nursing child each time such employee has the need to do so. The district will provide a place, other than a bathroom, which is shielded from view and free from intrusion from co-workers and the public. These accommodations will be provided for one year after the child's birth, unless otherwise required by law.

News and Press Releases

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

Activity sponsors and other staff who are involved in newsworthy activity should submit typed press releases to the office for distribution to the media

when noteworthy events have occurred. Coaches must communicate with local TV, radio, and print media promptly after matches or games to disseminate the results.

Newsletters

The district secretary will inform staff of the relevant deadlines for each newsletter. Staff members are encouraged to submit articles for the newsletter that reports recent classroom activities and emphasizes positive aspects of the district's mission.

Obligations Related to American Civics Instruction

All staff members shall be familiar with, and comply with, the requirements of state law, board policy, and district curriculum to properly instruct students regarding American Civics, Social Studies, American History, and appropriate patriotic exercises on particular days of the year. Neglect of any such responsibilities by any employee may be considered just cause for dismissal.

Outside Employment

No full-time staff member may accept any other employment or carry on any business or activity for profit that interferes with the complete and competent discharge of his or her responsibilities to the school district.

Political Activities

District employees retain all rights of citizenship, including, but not limited to, engaging in political activities. An employee of the District may participate in the political process, including seeking an elective office, provided that the staff member does not campaign on school property during working hours, and provided all other legal requirements are met. The District assumes no obligation beyond making such opportunities available.

While the District supports its employees by allowing them to exercise their rights, any impact on the employee's ability to perform his or her functions as required by the district is grounds for discipline. For further guidance regarding political conduct on school grounds, contact the superintendent and consult the board policies.

Pregnant or Parenting Students

The school district encourages students who are pregnant or parenting are encouraged to continue to participate in the district's educational and extracurricular programs. Students who anticipate deviations from their regular school experience or accrue absences due to pregnancy or parenting

have been told to notify their building principal as early as possible to discuss their educational programming. The building principal will work with the student and appropriate district staff to develop a plan to assist the student in participating in district curriculum and extra-curricular activities. Such a plan may include:

1. If the student cannot regularly attend classes, the provision of online courses;
2. The arrangement of meeting times with teachers;
3. If the student has not identified appropriate childcare, the identification of child care providers that meet statutory requirements for quality and care; and
4. All other curricular adjustments, modifications, and means of supplementing classroom attendance deemed appropriate by the school administrators including, but not limited to, modification of attendance policies.

Professional Boundaries Between Staff and Students

All district employees must follow board policy when interacting with students in any way. School district employees are responsible for conducting themselves professionally and for teaching and modeling high standards of behavior and civic values, both at and away from school. District employees must be aware of professional boundaries between students and staff, and they must never blur the boundaries. These standards of behavior apply to social networking sites, such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc., along with communications and interactions of any kind between staff and students.

Examples of unprofessional misconduct include: inappropriate sexual communications or interactions with students, meeting with students in private outside of school, and intruding on a student's personal space. These are a few examples of inappropriate behavior, not an exhaustive list. For further guidance, refer to the district's policies regarding professionalism and staff-student interactions.

Any teacher or student who witnesses or knows information about a district employee violating board policy should report the violation to the district administration *immediately*. Minor violations and questionable violations should be reported as soon as possible, but always within 24 hours.

A violation of board policies for professionalism will form the basis for employee discipline up to and including termination or cancellation of employment, filing a report with law enforcement officials, and filing a report with the Commissioner of Education.

Professional Growth

All employees must complete 24 professional growth points each 6 year cycle and shall be provided opportunities for the development of increased competence beyond that which they may attain through the performance of their assigned duties.

In addition to this requirement, the superintendent will select in-service programming to provide additional professional growth activities for certified and classified staff.

Purchasing

All requisitions for books and school supplies must be filed with the building principal. The requisition must include the name of the article being requested, where it may be purchased, how many articles are required and their cost. Requisition forms are available from the office. Orders should not be placed until the district office has issued a printed purchase order. Once an order has been received, the staff member must notify the building secretary so payment can be processed. Failure to follow the procedure for requisitions may prevent the staff member from receiving the items requisitioned. All orders or supplies must be authorized by the administration. Staff may be personally liable for any orders placed without such authorization.

When routine supplies are needed for immediate use, staff should contact the building secretary. When it is necessary to make a special or emergency requisition for supplies or equipment, staff should contact the principal for the necessary forms. The superintendent will either approve or disapprove the request through the principal.

Records and Reports

Staff members must refer to and comply with Board Policy No. 5016 regarding the management and maintenance of student records.

All staff members shall promptly furnish the administration with any information relating to their professional training, experience, activities or work required for reports to county, state or federal officials or for official school records. Personal information will be treated confidentially by school officials.

Recordings of Students and Classrooms

Staff members may make audio and video recordings of classroom instruction and school activities upon authorization of the superintendent or

supervising administrator. Staff should refer to Board Policy 3059 for information on recording by students.

Schedules

ADD IN!

School Calendar

The official school calendar is maintained in each building office. All activities and events must be scheduled and approved by the building principal. To avoid conflict, a sponsor should not call a meeting of any activity until the schedule has been checked and the meeting approved by the office.

School Property

School property is not to be lent to individuals except by permission of the superintendent.

Staff or groups who wish to use school facilities should make requests to the building principal as early as possible so that they may be placed on the school calendar.

Staff must inform the building principal of any school property that needs repair or that is lost, stolen, or damaged beyond repair. Matters regarding custodial service in the building should be handled through the principal's office.

School Vehicle Use

The transportation of students in a pupil transportation vehicle is governed by the rules of the Nebraska Department of Education and the district's safe pupil transportation plan or safety and security plan. School district employees, board members, and other elected or appointed school district officials who are not transporting children are authorized to use a school district vehicle to travel to a designated location or to their home when the primary purpose of the travel serves a school district purpose. Staff should refer to the board policy regarding the use of school vehicles.

Security

Each staff member is responsible for the security of his/her own classroom or work area. Staff must lock the doors and windows of their classrooms and/or other work areas each night.

Staff members who use the building after it has been locked by the custodian or on weekends are responsible for turning off all lights and

locking all windows and doors that they or students under their supervision may have used.

Under no circumstances are pupils to be allowed in the building after school hours without faculty supervision. Keys to any school areas are not to be loaned to students under any circumstances.

Smoking on School Premises or at School Activities

Smoking, including the use of cigarettes, cigars, or other tobacco or tobacco derivative products; vapor products or electronic nicotine delivery systems; alternative nicotine products; or any other such look-alike or imitation product, is permitted on school property only in specifically designated areas.

Sniffer (Drug) Dogs

The administration is authorized to use sniffer dogs to minimize the presence of illicit items on school grounds. Students and staff are specifically notified that:

1. Lockers may be sniffed by sniffer dogs at any time.
2. Vehicles parked on school property may be sniffed by sniffer dogs at any time.
3. Classrooms and other common areas may be sniffed by sniffer dogs at any time students and staff are not present.
4. If contraband of any kind is found, the student or staff member shall be subject to appropriate disciplinary action.

Social Media Usage by Staff

Social media is an important tool for communicating, keeping up-to-date with current developments in education, and for conducting research to enhance management, teaching, and learning skills. The district also uses social media accounts to provide information to district stakeholders. All staff members must refer to and comply with (Board Policy 4012) regarding Staff Internet and Computer Use. This policy applies to both personal and school-affiliated social media use. Staff members who are uncertain about the applicability of (Board Policy 4051) to a particular situation must confer with their supervising administrator prior to posting on social media.

Solicitation and Distribution of Merchandise

In the interest of maintaining a proper school environment and preventing interference school purposes, employees may not sell merchandise, solicit financial contributions, solicit, or distribute literature or printed material for any non-school related cause during working time or on school grounds

except as approved by the administration.

Staff Room

The staff room is maintained for the exclusive use and convenience of the staff. It is not for student use and staff members should not hold student conferences there. Each staff member will assume responsibility in keeping the staff room in an orderly and presentable condition.

Staff Use of AI Tools

As used in this section, artificial intelligence tools ("AI Tools") means machine-based resources that use computer science, algorithms, large language models, and/or machine learning to perform tasks, answer questions, collect information, and respond to human-directed tasks, queries, and objectives. AI Tools include, but are not necessarily limited to, commercially-available resources like ChatGPT, Gemini, Claude, and similar technologies. The board wants to encourage staff to use AI tools to support student learning in safe and lawful ways.

This policy works together with the district's policies on Student Use of AI Tools, Staff Internet and Computer Use, and Staff and District Social Media Use.

Tool Approval. Staff may not use an AI Tool with students or with student information unless a member of the district's administration has approved it. To use a new tool, staff must request approval from his/her supervising administrator first. Before approving a tool, the district will review the vendor's privacy and security practices, the kind of student information the tool would use, and whether a written data-sharing agreement with the vendor is required. The district will keep a list of approved AI Tools and the allowed uses for each.

Staff Expectations for Use of AI Tools in Education

A. Acceptable Use of AI Tools. Staff members must use their own professional oversight for any task they use AI Tools to complete and must carefully review the outputs of all AI Tools. Staff may use approved AI Tools to help with things like:

1. Drafting lesson plans, learning goals, and activities;
2. Assisting in initial review and feedback of student work;
3. Making reading passages or practice problems at different levels;

4. Drafting general messages like newsletters or announcements;
5. Finding resources or summarizing public information;
6. Drafting routine communications.

B. Protecting Student Information. Staff may upload student information into an AI Tool only when (a) the tool is district-approved, and (b) the vendor is bound by a written data-sharing agreement with terms that meet FERPA, COPPA, PPRA, and applicable state student data privacy laws. For this purpose, student information includes student names, ID numbers, education records, IEPs, Section 504 plans, evaluations, health records, and discipline records. This rule applies whether the staff member uses a district account, a personal account, a free version, or a paid version.

C. Recording and Transcription Tools. Staff may use AI recording or transcription tools only if:

1. The transcription tool has been approved by an administrator for use in the school context; and
2. All participants to the meeting are informed that the staff member is recording or transcribing the meeting.

The resulting recording or transcript may be subject to the district's retention and confidentiality policies.

D. Unacceptable Use of AI Tools in Education. Staff may never use AI tools to:

1. Upload FERPA-protected information about students without the express, written authorization from administrators who have assured themselves that such disclosure is lawful;
2. Relying solely on an AI Tool to grade student work that counts toward a grade or transcript or otherwise evaluate student academic progress;
3. Make or share deepfakes or fake images, audio, or video of any real person.
4. Make or share sexual or intimate images of any real person—even if the image is AI-generated;
5. Use AI to harass, bully, threaten, or impersonate any student, staff member, parent, board member, or community member;

6. Use AI to watch, track, or scan faces of students or staff outside of systems the board has approved;
7. Upload materials to AI if the copyright or license does not allow it;
8. Share district AI accounts or passwords with students or others;
9. Use district AI accounts for personal or business reasons; or
10. Use AI to bypass district network security, content filters, or device controls.

If any staff member is uncertain about the application of this policy to any AI Tool use, the staff member will check with a supervising administrator before use.

Student Interviews

Employees shall refer any police officer, child protective service worker, or other similar individual seeking to speak to or interview a student to an administrator.

Telephones

School telephones are maintained for the primary purpose of conducting school business. Staff members should limit their use of school phones to brief conversations. Teachers will not be called to the telephone during class time except in the case of an emergency.

Staff members may not use personal cell phones to make or receive calls or to send or receive text messages during instructional time.

Threat Assessment and Response

The board of education is committed to providing a safe environment for members of the school community. Students, staff and patrons are urged to immediately report any statements or behavior that makes the observer fearful or uncomfortable about the safety of the school environment.

1. **Definitions**
   - **a.** A **threat** is an expression of a willful intent to physically or sexually harm someone or to damage property in a way that indicates that an individual poses a danger to the safety of school staff, students or other members of the school community.
     i. The threat may be expressed/communicated behaviorally, orally, visually, in writing, electronically, or through any other means.

ii. A **transient threat** is an expression of anger or frustration that can be quickly or easily resolved.
iii. A **substantive threat** is an expression of serious intent to harm others which includes, but is not limited to, any threat which involves a detailed plan and means.

b. A **threat assessment** is a fact-based process emphasizing an appraisal of observed (or reasonably-observable) behaviors to identify potentially dangerous or violent situations, to assess them and to manage/address them. Threat assessment is the process of distinguishing "transient" threats from serious ones in a systematic, data-informed way.

c. The threat assessment process is distinct from student disciplinary procedures. The mere fact that the district is conducting a threat assessment does not by itself necessitate suspension, expulsion or emergency exclusion without complying with state law and board policy related governing those actions.
i. The threat assessment process is distinct from specialized instruction which a student with a disability may receive from the school district. The school district will not change a student's educational placement as that term is used in the Individuals with Disabilities in Education Act *solely* as part of a threat assessment.

2. Obligation to Report threatening Statements or Behaviors.

All staff and students must report **substantive threats** to a member of the administration immediately and comply with any other mandatory reporting obligations. Staff and students who are unsure whether a threat is substantive or transient should report the situation. Staff and students must make such reports regardless of the nature of the relationship between the individual who initiated the threat or threatening behavior and the person(s) who were threatened or who were the focus of the threatening behavior. Staff and students must also make such reports regardless of where or when the threat was made or the threatening behavior occurred.
THREATS OR ASSAULTS WHICH REQUIRE IMMEDIATE INTERVENTION SHOULD BE REPORTED TO THE POLICE AT 911.

3. Threat Assessment Investigation and Response

When a threat is reported, the school administrator shall initiate an initial inquiry/triage and, in consultation with members of the threat assessment team, make a determination of the seriousness of the threat as expeditiously as possible. The school administrator must contact law enforcement if the administrator believes that an individual poses a clear and immediate threat

of serious violence.
If there is no reasonably apparent imminent threat present or once such an imminent threat is contained, the threat assessment team will meet to evaluate and respond to the threatening behavior. The superintendent may, but is not required to, review the following types of information:

- Review of the threatening behavior and/or communication;
- Interviews with the individuals involved including students, staff members, and family members as necessary and/or appropriate;
- Review of school and other records for any prior history or interventions with the students involved;
- Any other investigatory methods that the law enforcement unit determines to be reasonable and useful.
- The superintendent must confer with at least one member of the school's guidance counseling staff as part of his/her investigation. If the threat has been made by, or is directed towards, a student with a disability, the superintendent must confer with a staff member who is knowledgeable about special education services or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, as appropriate.

At the conclusion of the investigation, the superintendent will determine what, if any, response to the threat is appropriate. The superintendent is authorized to disclose the results of his/her investigation to law enforcement and to the target(s) of any threatened acts. The superintendent may refer the individual of concern to the appropriate school administrator for consequences under the school's student discipline policy or, if appropriate, report the results of his/her investigation to the student's individualized education plan team. Regardless of threat assessment activities, disciplinary action and referral to law enforcement will occur consistent with board policy and Nebraska law.

4. Communication with the Public about Reported Threats

To the extent possible, the superintendent will keep members of the school community informed about substantive threats and about the District's response to those threats. This communication may include oral announcements, written communication sent home with students, and communication through print or broadcast media. However, the superintendent will not reveal the identity of the individual of concern or of any target(s) of threatened violence unless permitted by law.

5. Coordination with the Crisis Team After Resolution of Threat

The superintendent will confer with the district's crisis team after a threat has been investigated to provide the crisis team with information that the crisis team may use in assessing or revising the district's All-Hazard School's Safety Plan.

Ticket Taking

All staff will be expected to take tickets at three home events. Staff members who coach a sport may take tickets at an event they do not coach. Staff members who are unavailable to take tickets at the event they are assigned to work must find their own replacements and notify the activities director of who will be taking their place.

Transportation Request Forms

Staff members must contact the transportation supervisor as soon as they know they need school-provided transportation to allow the transportation supervisor and activities director adequate time to schedule drivers and vehicles. Staff members must supply the date of the activity, the group participating, the event and location, any special equipment going, the starting time, number of people riding, and the type of transportation preferred. Please use the Google Form shared with you.

Visitors

Staff should welcome members of the public who wish to visit school, but should ensure that visitors follow the district's requirements.

All visitors must report to the building office before visiting any classroom or other areas of the building.
Visitors must comply with the following guidelines:

- if a visitor wishes to observe a specific skill or subject, he or she will be asked to observe during a specified time period
- children under the age of 10 years must be accompanied by a parent or guardian
- all visitors must have the prior approval of the principal or superintendent
- salespeople and other such agents will not be allowed to solicit staff members during school hours
- visitors must wear the visitor's badge supplied by the building office

Wage and Salary Payments

Staff members are paid on the 10th of each month. The district provides direct deposit of paychecks to designated financial institutions. Otherwise, paychecks will be delivered personally at school or mailed to the address on file in the district office. Staff who wish to activate or modify their direct deposits or who wish to have paychecks mailed to a different address must contact the district office. The school district will mail staff paychecks to the last address on file for each employee during months when school is not in session. Employees shall not be paid in advance under any circumstances.

All required deductions, such as for federal, state, and local taxes,

retirement contributions, and all authorized voluntary deductions, such as for insurance or union dues, will be withheld automatically from your paychecks. Garnishments are legal proceedings imposed by a court of law upon the school district requiring payment to a third party of monies earned by district employees. The school district will accept all legal garnishments and tax levies against wages in compliance with state and federal law. An employee's pay will be held upon receipt of a garnishment until a court order is issued indicating satisfaction of the indebtedness or until ordered to surrender the monies to the court or its agent. The school district prohibits improper pay deductions, and employees shall be reimbursed for any improper pay deductions. If you believe that an improper deduction has been made to your pay, you should immediately report this information to your direct supervisor, payroll personnel, or the Superintendent.

Staff members, by their signature on the acknowledgement page of this handbook, authorize the school district to withhold such sums from their paychecks as necessary to cover property damage, cash shortages or other amounts owed to the school district by the employee.

Weather-Related Closings

If school is called off because of bad weather or for any other reason, it will be announced on BrightArrow calling system and social media.

Parents may decide to keep their children at home in inclement weather because of personal circumstances. Students absent because of severe weather when school is in session will be marked absent. Staff members should treat the absence like any other absence for legitimate causes provided parents properly notify the school of their decision. Parents may pick up their children in inclement weather (except in case of a tornado) at any time during the school day. Students will not normally be dismissed from school during severe weather on the basis of a telephone request.

Workplace Searches

To safeguard the property and interests of our students, employees, and patrons; to help prevent the possession, sale, and use of illegal drugs on school grounds, and in keeping with the spirit and intent of the district's drug-free workplace policy and other policies, the school district reserves the right to question employees and all other persons entering and leaving our premises, and to inspect any packages, parcels, purses, handbags, briefcases, lunch boxes, or any other possessions or articles carried to and from school when it has reasonable grounds to do so. The school also reserves the right to search any employee's office, desk, files, locker, or any other area or article on school grounds. All offices, desks, files, lockers, and

so forth, are school district property and are issued or provided for the use of employees only during their employment with the district. Inspections may be conducted at any time at the discretion of the administration. Employees who refuse to cooperate with this provision will be subject to disciplinary action up to and including discharge.

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES REGARDING CERTIFIED STAFF

Absences

The accumulation of leave for teaching staff is governed by the Negotiated Agreement between the Board of Education and the Education Association. This handbook sets forth the process for using that leave

1. Sick Leave

Certified staff members who are too ill to perform their teaching duties must contact Michelle Konert before 6:00 a.m. or use the Red Rover App. After 6:00 a.m. you will need to contact Michelle Konert 308-991-2887

2. Personal Leave

Certified staff who wish to take personal leave must submit a leave request to their building principal at least three days in advance of the proposed leave. Building principals may deny personal leave requests if the school district is unable to secure the services of a qualified substitute teacher on the day of the proposed leave. Staff members may not take personal leave adjacent to a school break. For example, if school is not in session on a Monday, certified staff may not take personal leave the preceding Friday or following Tuesday.

3. Professional Leave

The board and administration recognize the value of continuing education and encourage certified staff to participate in seminars, workshops and other activities which will continue their professional growth. Certified staff members who wish to take professional leave must submit a leave request to their building principal, along with a description of the proposed event and any written materials about the event. Building principals may deny requests for professional leave if they are unable to secure the services of a qualified substitute or if the principal determines that the activity will not enhance the certified staff member's effectiveness as an employee of the district. Certified staff members who feel they have been unfairly denied professional leave may grieve the principal's decision, pursuant to the grievance procedure contained in the district's Negotiated Agreement.

4. **Substitute Folders**

Each teacher must prepare a substitute folder and keep the completed folder in the upper right-hand drawer of his/her desk. The folder must contain:

a.) the current seating chart for each class;
b.) the daily routine followed by each class;
c.) all schedules (fire drill procedures, lunch schedule, etc.);
d.) a copy of this handbook; and
e.) plans for the day if the teacher's absence was anticipated. (These plans are in addition to the teacher's regular lesson plan book.)
f.) Accommodations for students with IEP and 504 Plans

Certified staff members **may not** make arrangements for their own substitute without first consulting with administration.

Assemblies

Classroom teachers must attend assemblies and pep rallies and sit with students to help maintain order.

All certified staff members should attend school assemblies and should try to attend as many of the school functions as possible regardless of whether they have specific assigned duties or not.

Assignment of Teachers

The administration will assign certified staff to individual duties. Certified staff will also be assigned for various forms of hall, extracurricular, recess, traffic, lunch period and other noontime duties, and athletic events.

Certificates, Teacher Contracts, Salary Information

Teaching certificates must be registered with the Superintendent before they may legally be paid. It is the certified staff member's responsibility to make sure this is done.

Each certified staff member must provide the superintendent's office with the following information:

a. social security number,
b. retirement number,
c. withholding form W-4, and
d. authorization to withhold for insurance benefits.

Each new certified staff member must fill out forms for retirement benefits before the first pay day as well as the family coverage of the district hospital/medical insurance program.

It is the sole responsibility of the certified staff member to inform the superintendent of any changes, including but not limited to changes in

certification, endorsements, benefits plans, and salary payment information.

Cheating

A student who cheats, plagiarizes, or otherwise participates in any academic dishonesty is subject to failure of assignment/assessment, and/or discipline, up to and including expulsion. The classroom teacher will give the cheating student a zero grade for the test or assignment. The classroom teacher will notify parents and principal.

Check-out Forms

All certified staff must complete a check-out form, meet with their building principal, and obtain the building principal's signature on the form prior to departing for the summer. Classrooms must be tidy to allow the custodial staff to clean classrooms and work areas. Certified staff members who do not clean their work area before departing for the summer will not receive their paychecks and will be asked to report for summer hours until the work is completed.

Class Record Books

A class record book is the school's official record of matters relating to each student in each teacher's class. It may be maintained in paper or electronic form and must be complete in scope and accurately maintained. All classroom teachers are required to keep class record books which list students in each class in alphabetical order and show the attendance and all grades earned by each student. Record books are subject to examination by the building principal or superintendent at any time. Grades need to be updated weekly and need to be completed by the end of the weekend. (Sunday at midnight)

Classroom Management and Student Discipline

Classroom discipline is first and foremost the responsibility of the classroom teacher. Individual teachers are expected to assume responsibility for good discipline throughout the school system. However, if a certified staff member needs assistance with student discipline, they should seek the advice and counsel of the principal or superintendent.

Classroom teachers may not leave their classrooms unless the students are supervised by a competent adult.

Classroom teachers should have a well-defined discipline plan that is known to the students. Rules and consequences should be stated clearly and posted where appropriate.

Each building has its own specific procedures concerning student discipline. Classroom teachers should consult with their building principal for more information.

Teachers may remove a student from the classroom for failure to comply with established rules of conduct. Only an administrator can suspend or expel students from class or school and due process must be followed.

Students may be kept after school for matters relating to discipline or to assist in their academic progress. Certified staff should allow all elementary students and junior/senior high students who ride the bus to arrange parental transportation for the next day with their parents. Students who do not have transportation concerns may be kept without delay. Students may not avoid being kept after school because they have an after school practice or other school activity.

Both elementary and secondary certified staff are responsible for assisting with hallway discipline between classes and in the school lunchroom.

Classes should begin on time and end promptly. Work should continue throughout the period assigned for it. Classroom teachers have no right to waste the pupils' time. Classroom teachers may not dismiss classes early except by permission of the building principal.

Staff members may never send a student off school grounds without the authorization of the building principal.

Classroom Sanitation

1. **Handling of Body Fluids**

All body fluids of all persons should be considered to potentially contain infectious agents (germs). Hand washing after contact with a school child is recommended if physical contact has been made with any child's blood or body fluids. The term "body fluids" includes: blood, semen, drainage from scrapes and cuts, tears, feces, urine, vomit, respiratory secretions, and saliva.

2. **Infectious Diseases**

Certified staff should promptly report any indication of an infectious or contagious disease to the school nurse or building principal. Certified staff should report to the school nurse or the student's parents any pupil whom they suspect of having been exposed to any infectious or contagious disease.

Coaching Supplies

Coaching supplies will be distributed by the athletic director. Such items include tape, prewrap, heel pads, band aids, ankle braces, game balls, etc. Coaches should request additional supplies from the activities directory only when they have run out of supplies.

Coaches must fill out and submit inventory forms to the activities director immediately after the season is complete.

Collection of Student Money

Staff members must comply with the school district's student fee policy before collecting any funds from students.

Money collected from students should be turned into the office on the day it is collected for deposit in the proper activity or school district fund. Any checks written by students or parents for various payments should be made out to Wilcox-Hildreth Public School, unless otherwise instructed. Certified staff must submit a financial accountability form when they turn funds into the office.

When students purchase items such as coats, rings, etc., through the school district, they must pay for these and other major items before the order is sent. The sponsor of any school organization is not to give merchandise to students; items will be distributed by the office after proper payment.

Community Involvement

Certified staff are encouraged to take part in civic affairs in the community and must do so when required by state law and board policy.

Display of Classroom Work in the School and the Community

Classroom teachers are encouraged to display student work for public viewing. Students and parents enjoy viewing the display and may be even more supportive of their school because the display shows them many of the things the students do. Classroom teachers may use the window area of the central office or the commons area to display student work or they may use during a night activity. Certified staff must contact the principal before displaying student work at an evening activity.

Duties of Certified Staff

The duties of certified staff include, but are not limited to, the following:

a) Becoming acquainted with board policies, district rules and regulations, and the state laws concerning teachers and pupils.
b) Attending such education conferences as are required by law or administrative directives.

c) Attending school assemblies unless excused by the principal.
d) Instructing pupils in the proper use of equipment and instructional supplies.
e) Reporting in writing to the principal any injury to any child while under the jurisdiction of the school, including athletic injuries.
f) Complying with the Teachers Professional Code of Ethics which has been promulgated by the Nebraska Department of Education (92 Neb. Admin. Code § 27) and adopted by the Board of Education of the district.
g) Discussing a student only with the child's parents and the superintendent, principal, guidance counselor or classroom teachers who may know the circumstances and have a need to know. It is unprofessional and inappropriate to discuss student or other staff members in the staff lounge.
h) Being responsible for students whom they keep in school at times other than during regular school time. Certified staff will be responsible for any special work done by their students, including field trips, joint assemblies, school programs, etc.
i) Refraining from joining book clubs or film clubs using the school name.
j) Turning in all monies collected to the main office by the end of the school day.
k) Clearing all class meetings or trips through the principal's office.
l) Participating in Student Assistance Teams pursuant to board policy.
m) Assisting with the administration of standardized testing as assigned by the administration.
n) Provide homebound instruction as assigned by the administration.
o) Performing additional duties as assigned by the administration.

Eligibility Grades 7-12

Student academic eligibility for participation in extracurricular activities will be determined on a weekly basis. A student will become ineligible by maintaining an average of less than seventy percent (70%) in two or more classes weekly, or by maintaining an average of less than seventy percent (70%) in one class for two consecutive weeks. Eligibility will be based on the weekly cumulative quarter mathematical average of each student. The grading period will end at the conclusion of school on the last school day of the week. At the discretion of the sponsor and principal, ineligible students will be allowed to participate in practice. This does not apply to activities or events that are part of a student's grade requirements. Activities affected by the eligibility rule are:

1. All interscholastic contests, including but not limited to, athletics, FFA, FBLA, Esports, athletics, speech contests, and similar organizations or events.
2. Cheerleading.
3. Music competition, performances (except Christmas and Spring concerts), and clinics.
4. All school dances.
5. Other activities deemed appropriate by the principal.

Extracurricular Activities

Staff must schedule all events and other extracurricular activities at the activity director's office to avoid conflicts. Activities must be put on the school calendar located in the activity director's office at least one week before the activity. Staff should avoid or shorten practices and activities on Wednesday evenings and Sundays, in order to give students sufficient time away from school for family-related activities.

Certain activities require time be scheduled outside regular school hours. Any school sponsored activity involving students must have approval of the principal prior to the activity, including all fund raising activities.

Regular classroom work in all grades will have precedence over any other activity. Students will not be dismissed from classes to participate in extra-curricular activities without permission from the principal. Make up slips must be completely signed and returned to the sponsor of the activity prior to dismissal from class. All evening activities, except practices, must have no less than two school sponsors. Non school sponsors must be approved by the administration. If vehicles are used for transportation, the drivers must be adults who have been approved by the school.

The activities director has the responsibility for all activities. Therefore, any ruling or handbook decision he/she makes will be school regulation in lieu of further board action.

No student may participate in a field trip off school property without written permission of his or her parent or guardian.

Evacuations

Early in the semester, classroom teachers should review instructions for leaving the classroom with all of their students. Classroom teachers should also periodically review with each class what to do in case of fire, tornado or other emergency.

1. **Fire Drills**

Fire drills will be held on a regular basis. Certified staff may or may not be notified in advance. These drills are important exercises that help ensure the safety of students in case of an emergency.

When the fire alarm is sounded, all students and staff immediately must cease the activity in which they are engaged and leave the building at once, following these regulations:

a) Students nearest the windows will close them before leaving.
b) The classroom teacher will be the last to leave the room. He or she will turn out all lights and close the door as he or she leaves.
c) Classroom teachers will take their fire drill packets and class grade books with them when they leave their classrooms.
d) The first two students reaching the exit doors will hold the doors wide open until everyone has filed out.
e) Staff and students will move far enough away from the building to avoid possible injury from fire and falling embers, and also, to remain clear of emergency vehicle traffic.
f) Once outside, each teacher must account for every student in the class. Classroom teachers will take roll for their class and;
    1) hold up a Green Card (all students accounted for)
    2) hold up a Red Card (missing student (s) listed)

The signal to return to the school building will be the short bell. It will be sounded upon completion of the drill. Students will return in an orderly manner.

2. Tornado Drills

When a tornado warning has been issued, the school will evacuate classrooms and move students to the designated tornado shelters. Tornado alerts will be given via the intercom system. When a tornado alert is given, all students and staff immediately must cease the activity in which they are engaged immediately and seek shelter, following these regulations:

a) All students and staff should proceed to the designated tornado shelter.
b) Once in the basement, each teacher must account for every student in the class.
c) Classroom teachers should be sure that each student is sitting with his or her back to the wall, their knees up and their heads should be between their legs.

3. Protocol for all Evacuations

Upon evacuation signals, all students and staff must exit each building. Classroom teachers should do the following:

1) Take the class roster;
2) Lock the classroom door after all occupants have exited the room;
3) Keep the class together and move promptly in an orderly fashion; and
4) Upon arriving at the evacuation point, take roll, maintain order, and supervise students.

Evaluations

The appropriate district administrator will evaluate tenured and probationary teachers as required by law and district policy. Additional evaluations, both formal and informal, may be conducted as the district administration deems appropriate. Copies of the district's evaluation forms are contained at the end of this handbook.

Examinations

Semester examinations will be given in some classes at the senior high level. Tests and final exams will not be given ahead of time. Students are not to type tests or grade any major tests.

Faculty Meetings

The superintendent and principals will call meetings as needed. Certified staff are required to be present at all faculty meetings unless excused by the administration. Communication should be made to an administrator before the time of the meeting. This information is important and needs to be heard by all certified staff.

Field Trip Request Forms

Certified staff who wish to take students off school property must submit a request to the superintendent at least ten calendar days prior to the date of the requested activity.

Elementary grades will be limited to one field trip per year. Additional requests may be granted on a case by case basis.

Grading Policy

Updated grades for Jr.-Sr. High School students must be submitted to powerschool no later than Sunday at midnight. **There must be at least two grades put in per week for Jr-Sr grades.** Grades are given as a letter or percentage as requested by the building principal. No incomplete or condition grades will be given, but grades may be changed by request of the

classroom teacher to the principal. If a student fails the first semester and passes the second semester, a classroom teacher may pass a student for the full year.

A student is to be graded on academic performance. **A student's grade is not to be reduced for discipline.** Prejudice or favoritism has no place in grading a student. All grading should be explained in simple, understandable terms to the student.

Classroom teachers should provide students and parents with frequent updates regarding the student's progress during the quarter. Teachers will notify building principals of parent communications. At the conclusion of each quarter, students will receive an end-of-quarter report card. 6-12 Classroom teachers should use the following symbols for each subject area:

Report Cards	Numerical Scale for Report Cards
A=	93-100 = A
B+ =	91-92= B+
B=	86-90 = B
C+ =	84-85= C +
C=	78-83 = C
D+ =	76-77 = D+
D=	70-75 = D
F= Failing	69 and below = F
S= Satisfactory Progress	
U= Unsatisfactory Progress	

In the K-5 elementary grades, students will receive a rating on selected standards in the areas below. Elementary teachers should report student progress on grade reports using the following system:

Kindergarten – 5th Grade

Standards Based	***S/U***
Eng.Lang. Arts	Penmanship (K-3rd only)
Math	PE
Science	Art
Social Studies	Music
Behavioral	Band (4th/5th only)

Guest Lecturers

Guest lecturers must be approved by the administration before they are asked to address a class. The guest lecturer must have a specific, relatable objective in his/her lecture.

Hall Duty

Every classroom teacher is on hall duty before school in the morning and between classes. Classroom teachers are responsible especially for the part of the hall adjacent to their classrooms.

Homework Policy

Homework is an important part of student learning. When parents, teachers, and students work together, out-of-class assignments are a valuable part of the instructional program. Homework should provide opportunities for students to practice acquired skills, develop initiative, form independent study habits, and use community resources.

Instructional Materials

Instructional materials are made available through the Education Service Unit. A catalog and order forms will be made available to all members. Films should be used as instructional materials. All media must be previewed for suitability by the classroom teacher before being shown to students.

Lesson Plans

Each teacher will prepare and complete a proper lesson plan and post to the school website by midnight on Sunday for the upcoming week. Lesson plans will be made available to parents and students on the school website and to the building principal upon request.

Lesson plans must **identify major instructional objectives and show page assignments and general direction that might be followed by anyone who might be called upon to teach the classes.**

Lesson plans for substitutes must be written so that they are clear to any substitute teacher and readily available to any teacher. An up-to-date seating chart of the class or classes shall be part of the lesson plan book. Other regulations relative to lesson plans will be made by individual building principals. The lesson plans of all classroom teachers are subject to review of the building principal or other members of the school district's administration at any time.

Media Center

The media center is set up to serve the needs of certified staff and students. Certified staff who need assistance with textbooks, literature sets, magazines and other reference materials should consult with the media specialist assigned to their building.

Students may use the media center after school until 4:00 p.m. Classroom teachers may not send students to the Media Center during study halls or class unless they have made prior arrangements with the Media Specialist.

Classroom teachers who wish to bring classes to the Media Center must sign up as far in advance as possible with the Media Specialist. Absolutely no food or drink is allowed in the Media Center. The media staff may send disruptive students back to class or may exclude unruly students from the media center for a specified period of time. Classroom teachers who send their entire class to the media center must accompany and supervise the students, unless prior arrangements have been made with the media specialist.

Audiovisual materials are available to certified staff through the media center. Certified staff may obtain these materials by filling out the required requisition form and sending it to the media specialist in their building. When certified staff return media, they should complete the film report card and return it to the media specialist.

Paraeducators

Paraeducators provide valuable assistance in the educational process and allow teachers to carry out their responsibilities in a more efficient and effective manner. A paraeducator must not, however, assume teaching responsibilities. The classroom teacher must maintain the role of leadership and responsibility for the students, with the teacher aide in a supportive role. Paraeducators may be used to assist the classroom teacher by, among other tasks, assisting with instructional activities under the direction of the teacher, helping to supervise students, copying tests and other written material, organizing class materials, preparing bulletin boards, grading tests or class work, and calculating and recording grades. Paraeducators are to work only on and within their assigned work days. If the classroom teacher desires the paraeducator to work hours other than the assigned work hours or assigned work day, he or she must contact the administration for approval.

Parent-Teacher Communication

Students' academic success has been closely linked to parental involvement in school. Certified staff should strive to develop open and supportive relationships with parents and guardians. Each classroom teacher is responsible for keeping a student's parents informed about the student's progress. This may be done by letter, telephone, e-mail, or personal conference. Certified staff must attend parent teacher conferences,

promptly return phone calls, participate in teacher events for students and parents, and where necessary utilize a planner as a communication tool. Certified staff who need additional support in communicating with parents should contact their building principal or guidance counselor.

Parties

No activities or picnics shall be held by an organization of the school without the presence of the sponsor or sponsors.
The number of activities and the closing hour for activities will be determined by the building principal and organization sponsor.
In making arrangements for activities and picnics, staff must avoid disturbing the routine of the school.
Cleaning up after the activity is the responsibility of the sponsor.

Planning Time

Each classroom teacher is provided with duty-free time for planning, preparation of school-related materials, and a brief respite from the duties of the day.

The Board defines planning time as time for educational planning and other task-related functions that cannot normally be accomplished during instructional periods. Planning time should not be confused with personal time. **Planning time is not to be used for running personal errands, conducting personal business, or pursuing non-school hobbies and/or interests.**

PowerSchool and PowerGrade

All teachers will be required to use PowerSchool. Attendance will be taken as follows: Elementary – at the beginning of the morning, and right after lunch; and Secondary – at the beginning of every period. Attendance must be taken within the first five minutes of each period / beginning session. Lunch count will also be taken with PowerSchool. Certified staff who have trouble/problems with PowerSchool should contact Mackenzie Maul.

Private Tutoring

Classroom teachers must provide individual assistance to students as a part of their duties. Any certified staff member who engages in private tutoring for pay (compensation of any kind from a source other than the District) is subject to the following rules:

- Certified staff may not arrange to provide private tutoring for any child enrolled in the staff member's class.
- Certified staff are not to provide private tutoring in a school building.
- Certified staff are not to provide private tutoring during duty time.

- Certified staff are prohibited from advertising or promoting the private tutoring services in the school or in the school's communications systems except with the express permission of the Superintendent or designee.

Projection Maps

The school district will only use the Gall-Peters projection map or a similar cylindrical equal-area projection map or the AuthaGraph projection map for display or use in the classroom. Use of the Mercator projection map is prohibited unless:

1. The Mercator projection map is used in conjunction with other projection maps in a teaching exercise to demonstrate that all maps are flawed in some way and different map projections serve different functions and may affect how individuals view the world; or

2. The Mercator projection map is part of any:

    a. book or material obtained prior to July 19, 2024; or geographic information system; or computer program that renders a three-dimensional representation of Earth based primarily on satellite imagery, such as Google Earth or similar software; and
    b. a Gall-Peters projection map or similar cylindrical equal-area projection map or an AuthaGraph projection map is displayed in the classroom or shown to students during the lesson in which a Mercator projection map is used.

Pupils' Records

1. Each classroom teacher must keep a set of records in the daily class record book of the class recitations, tests, exams, daily work, notebook, etc. This serves as a justification of the final grade in case of dispute between teacher and pupil, or teacher and parent, and assists in making out the final grades. This book must be turned into the principal at the end of each school year.
2. Report cards will be issued within one week following the end of the quarter unless otherwise announced.
    a) Reports should be conscientiously and accurately made because they are a serious estimate of the degree of success of the pupil.
    b) Each classroom teacher should be adequately prepared to defend all decisions given on the report card.
    c) Each classroom teacher is responsible for distribution of class cards on time.

d) Classroom teachers must confer with the principal before recording any incomplete, failing, or conditional grades on report cards.

Rights of Certified and Probationary Teachers

Certified and probationary teachers are entitled to the legal and procedural rights outlined in the board policies and state and federal law with regard to the amendment, cancellation, or termination of the teacher's employment contract. For specific questions relating to those procedural or legal rights, please refer to the district's board policies.

School Day

All certified staff must be at school or on duty between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. On Fridays and days preceding certain holidays or vacation periods, certified staff are permitted to leave thirty minutes after the students are dismissed. Under special circumstances, certified staff may seek permission from their building principal to vary these duty hours. In addition, certified staff may be assigned responsibilities at other hours by the principal or superintendent for supervising or directing school activities or affairs or for participation in affairs under the direct sponsorship of the school.

Each teacher will be in his or her classroom and ready to teach at 8:00 a.m. each day. Classroom teachers will stand at their doors when class is dismissed and must be outside their classroom doors before each class period. Classroom teachers must be physically present in their classrooms at all times during class periods and conference periods.

Personal work may not be done on school time.

Sponsors

Certified staff members are assigned by the superintendent as class and club sponsors. Sponsors must be present at all meetings and activities of the sponsored group. The procedure for activity accounts and meetings can be found in the student manual. Purchasing of supplies must be approved by the Superintendent.

Student Activities

Staff members who sponsor extracurricular activities such as athletics, class plays, and class activities may leave the school building only after making sure that all students and other individuals have left the building. No student is to be left unattended in the school building at any time.

School-owned clothing or equipment that is checked out to students remains the property of the school. The clothing or equipment is not to be used or worn by the student except for its intended use. Each piece of equipment or clothing is to be returned to the instructor or coach when the season or the use for such clothing or equipment is over. Certified staff will be held responsible for clothing and equipment that is not returned.

Student Aides

Student aides are to be directly supervised by the certified staff member and are not to leave the building or be in the halls or anywhere they are not being supervised. Student aides are not to be used to assist the certified staff member by helping supervise another student, grade tests or class work, calculate student grades, or record grades. Keys are NEVER to be given to students, whether they are student aides or not. A student aide should not be present and assisting a certified staff member without another adult present after the end of regular teacher duty hours.

Student Attendance

Students are expected to arrive at each class, be seated and ready for instruction prior to the beginning of the class day or class period, as appropriate. Student tardiness is the classroom teacher's professional responsibility. Classroom teachers must insist that students be on time.

Each teacher must maintain an accurate record of student attendance each day. Classroom teachers must carefully check and record attendance information at the beginning of each school day and, in upper grades, at the beginning of each period. Students and student assistants are not permitted to check attendance. Excessive absenteeism should be reported to the building principal or guidance counselor.

Students returning from an absence must report to the office prior to going to class. A returning absentee must show each classroom teacher the admittance pass that was issued by the school office. No student should be accepted back into class after an absence without this pass.

A student who departs school during the school day must report to the office and sign out before leaving the building. A student who returns during the school day must sign in at the building office before returning to class.

Student Attire

The responsibility for proper daily grooming and dress is primarily the responsibility of students and parents/guardians. However, certified staff members must insist that students do not remain in school while wearing

attire that violates the dress code set forth in the Student Handbook.

Classroom teachers must report students who are not in compliance with the dress code to the building principal. The final decision on what is considered proper grooming and appearance is the responsibility of the building principal.

Student Passes

Students may not go to another classroom without a signed pass obtained from that teacher. No student may be in the halls during class or study time without a signed pass for a specific destination. If a staff member retains a student after the period ends, staff must write a note or contact the other staff member stating why the student was late, rather than sending the student to the office for a tardy slip.

Student Illness

In the event of student illness or injury, classroom teachers should notify the building principal or superintendent immediately. Staff should never send a pupil home without notifying school officials and checking to see if his/her parents are home.

Student Medication

Student medications should not be dispensed by staff members unless they follow the following procedures.

No staff members other than the school nurse may dispense medications (prescription or over-the-counter) to students at any time. Students may, with written parental or guardian permission, self-administer medications such as aspirin and cough syrup or cough drops.

Staff members are not authorized to dispense prescription medicine without an agreement with a parent or guardian to provide a prescription container for the medicine that includes a pharmaceutical label, the physician's name, a child guard cap and directions for administering the medication.

After receiving the medication, the school employee should lock the medication in a cabinet or place it in an area where access is restricted to school employees only.

Student Searches

Certified staff members may not search students or their belongings. If a staff member suspects that a student is in possession of contraband, he/she should immediately contact a member of the administration and supervise

the student until the administrator arrives. Students who are suspected of having an item in violation of school rules may be directed to wait with a staff member.

Substitute Teaching During Planning Period

Certified staff may be required to substitute during their planning period. Teachers will be paid $15.00 per period for substituting for another teacher during their planning period if (a) the teacher is requested by the administration to perform substitute duties, and (b) the planning period used for substituting is the teacher's only planning period. The $15.00 substituting fee will not be paid when the substituting teacher does not have students during a class period that they would normally be teaching.

Teaching Controversial Issues

Teachers may teach or lead discussions about controversial issues if they comply with the following criteria:

- The issues discussed must be relevant to the curriculum and be part of a planned educational program.
- Students must have free access to appropriate materials and information for analysis and evaluation of the issues.
- The teacher must encourage students to consider and discuss a variety of viewpoints.
- The topic and materials used must be within the range, knowledge, maturity, and competence of the students.
- The teacher must inform parents and the building principal before discussing sensitive or controversial issues.
- The teacher must keep detailed, documentary evidence to prove that both sides and/or all facts available were presented.
- Teachers must refrain from advocating partisan causes, sectarian religious views, or selfish propaganda through any classroom or a school device; however, a teacher shall not be prohibited from expressing a personal opinion as long as the student is encouraged to reach his/her own decision independently.

Textbooks

Classroom teachers will issue textbooks to the pupils, keeping a record of the number and condition of the book assigned to each pupil. If the books are new, classroom teachers must make sure the books are stamped and numbered before distribution.

Textbooks are to be stored in the classroom or storeroom. Textbooks are to be checked out to the students with teachers keeping an accurate record of each book by number in the place provided in grade books. Pupils are to

pay for lost or damaged books. Student textbooks must be covered with a book cover.

Workbooks do not become the property of the students and in most cases should be retained by the school.

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES REGARDING CLASSIFIED STAFF

At-Will Employment

Classified staff members are employed "at-will." Either you or the school district may terminate your employment at any time, for any reason, with or without cause or notice. This handbook is not a contract, express or implied, guaranteeing employment for any specific duration.

At-Will Employees need to refer to the Classified handbook for policies and procedures.

STAFF DIRECTORY

Members of the Board of Education:

Kirk Nelson..... President
Kert Hansen..... Vice-President
Ryan Knaus..... Secretary
Alan Casper..... Treasurer
Chris Stuehm..... Member
Teresa Carey..... Member

Administrative Staff:

Justin Patterson.....Superintendent
Joee Muhlbach.....Pre-K-12 Principal
Luke Glenn.....Assistant Principal

Teaching Staff:

Elaine Arehart.....K-12 Music
Mackenzie Maul..... Tech Coordinator
Alyssa Carey..... Preschool
Abigail Meyer..... Ag Education/FFA
Tiana Gibb.....Elementary Counselor
Gavin Harold..... 7-12 Social Sciences
Mitchell Sloggett.....K-12 Physical Education
Taylor Herrick..... K-6 Title I
Carolyn Hance..... HS English/Speech
Madison Felt.....6-12 Special Education
Macy Crowley..... 3rd Grade
Haley Marsh..... FCS
Andrew Warner.....HS Math
Kiersten Lubke.....7-12 Foreign Language
Brandy Lunsford..... K-5 Special Education
Wade Brashear.....7-12 Counselor/English
Mary Martin.....7-12 Business
Jordan Volk.....6th Grade
Ashlynn Grafton.....2nd Grade
Jordan Richardson..... JR High English/Math
Chantel Winz..... Kindergarten
Kelly Sheen .....4th Grade
Laurette Simon.....7-12 Science
Raegen Brenn..... 5th Grade
Cody Whipkey.....7-12 Social Sciences/AD
Michelle Fouts.....1st Grade
Cassandra Brandt ..... K-12 Media

Greg Yochum..... K-12 Art

Support Staff:

Julie Ehlers..... Para
Brad Stithem..... Para
Jennifer Martin..... Para
Ronda Gellermann.....Para
Sharon Jensen.....Para
Jessica Blagg.....Para
Brooke Jestes..... Para
Nicole Swanson.....Para

Office Staff:

Rogene Hinrichs ..... Bookkeeper
Michelle Konert ..... Secretary
Julie Rahmann ..... Secretary

Child Nutrition Program

Nicole Dunker..... Food Service Director
Bonnie Butler... ..... Head Cook
Bambe Poppert ..... Cook
Kay Lieb..... Cook Sub
Emma Sisk ..... Cook

Custodians and Grounds

Robert Bennetts.....Head of Maintenance, Custodians, and Transportation
Todd Bebensee ..... Custodian
Tracy Carr ..... Custodian
Gary Davis..... Custodian

Transportation Department

Robert Bennetts.....Head of Maintenance, Custodians, and Transportation
Ryan Jurgens ..... Route Driver
Sidney Fouts..... Route Driver
John Carey .....Route Driver
Brent Hinrichs..... Route Driver
Ryan Knaus .....Bus Driver

4012
Staff Internet and Computer Use

Internet access is an important tool for communicating, keeping up-to-date with current developments in education, and for conducting research to enhance management, teaching and learning skills. The following procedures and guidelines are intended to ensure appropriate use of the Internet at the school by the district's faculty and staff. Staff should also refer to the district's policy on Staff and District Social Media Use.

I. Staff Expectations in Use of the Internet

a) Acceptable Use While on Duty or on School Property

1) Staff shall be restricted to use the Internet to conduct research for instructional purposes.
2) Staff may use the Internet for school-related e-mail communication with fellow educators, students, parents, and patrons.
3) Staff may use the Internet in any other way which serves a legitimate educational purpose and that is consistent with district policy and good professional judgment.
4) Teachers should integrate the use of electronic resources into the classroom. As the quality and integrity of content on the Internet is not guaranteed, teachers must examine the source of the information and provide guidance to students on evaluating the quality of information they may encounter on the Internet.

b) Unacceptable Use While on Duty or on School Property

1) Staff shall not access obscene or pornographic material.
2) Staff shall not engage in any illegal activities on school computers, including the downloading and reproduction of copyrighted materials.
3) Staff shall not use school computers or district internet access to use peer-to-peer sharing systems such as BitTorrent, or participate in any activity which interferes with the staff member's ability to perform their assigned duties.
4) The only political advocacy allowed by staff on school computers or district internet access is that which is permitted by the Political Accountability and Disclosure Act and complies with district policy.

5) Staff shall not share their passwords with anyone, including students, volunteers or fellow employees.

II. School Affiliated Websites

Staff must obtain the permission of the administration prior to creating or publishing any school-affiliated web page which represents itself to be school-related, or which could be reasonably understood to be school-related. This includes any website which identifies the school district by name or which uses the school's mascot name or image.

Staff must provide administrators with the username and password for all school-affiliated web pages and must only publish content appropriate for the school setting. Staff must also comply with all board policies in their school-affiliated websites and must comply with the board's policy on professional boundaries between staff and students at all times and in all contexts.

Publication of student work or personality-identifiable student information on the Internet may violate the Federal Education Records Privacy Act. Staff must obtain the consent of their building principal or the superintendent prior to posting any student-related information on the Internet.

III. Enforcement

c) Methods of Enforcement

The district owns the computer system and monitors e-mail and Internet communications, Internet usage, and patterns of Internet usage. Staff members have no right of privacy in any electronic communications or files, which are stored or accessed on or using school property and these are subject to search and inspection at any time.

1) The district uses a technology protection measure that blocks access to some sites that are not in accordance with the district's policy. Standard use of the Internet utilizes a proxy server-based filter that screens for non-curriculum related pages.
2) Due to the nature of technology, the filter may sometimes block pages that are appropriate for staff research. The system administrator may override the technology protection measures that blocks or filters Internet access for staff access to a site with legitimate educational value that is wrongly blocked.

3) The district will monitor staff use of the Internet by monitoring Internet use history to ensure enforcement of this policy.

d) **Any violation of school policy and rules may result in that staff member facing:**
   1) Discharge from employment or such other discipline as the administration and/or the board deem appropriate;
   2) The filing of a complaint with the Commissioner of Education alleging unprofessional conduct by a certified staff member;
   3) When appropriate, the involvement of law enforcement agencies in investigating and prosecuting wrongdoing.

IV. Off-Duty Personal Use

School employees may use the internet, school computers, and other school technology while not on duty for personal use as long as such use is (1) consistent with other district policies, (2) consistent with the provisions of Title 92, Nebraska Administrative Code, Chapter 27 (Nebraska Department of Education "Rule 27"), and (3) is reported as compensation in accordance with the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, and taxes, if any, are paid. All of the provisions of Rule 27 will apply to non-certificated staff for the purposes of this policy. In addition, employees may not use the school's internet, computers, or other technology to access obscene or pornographic material, sext, or engage in any illegal activities.

3057
Title IX Policy

As required by Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, it is the policy of the district that no person shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subject to discrimination under any of the district's programs or activities, or in regards to admission or employment. Any person may report sex discrimination, including sexual harassment. This report must be made by any means to the district's Title IX Coordinator whose contact information can be found on the district's website and in the district's student and staff handbooks. Any other inquiries regarding the application of this policy should be referred to the Title IX Coordinator.

EMERGENCY RESPONSE TO LIFE-THREATENING ASTHMA OR SYSTEMIC ALLERGIC REACTIONS (ANAPHYLAXIS)

DEFINITION: Life-threatening asthma consists of an acute episode of worsening airflow obstruction. Immediate action and monitoring are necessary.

A systemic allergic reaction (anaphylaxis) is a severe response resulting in cardiovascular collapse (shock) after the injection of an antigen (e.g. bee or other insect sting), ingestion of a food or medication, or exposure to other allergens, such as animal fur, chemical irritants, pollens or molds, among others. The blood pressure falls, the pulse becomes weak, **AND DEATH CAN OCCUR.** Immediate allergic reactions may require emergency treatment and medications.

LIFE-THREATENING ASTHMA SYMPTOMS: Any of these symptoms may occur:

- Chest tightness
- Wheezing
- Severe shortness of breath
- Retractions (chest or neck "sucked in")
- Cyanosis (lips and nail beds exhibit a grayish or bluish color)
- Change in mental status, such as agitation, anxiety, or lethargy
- A hunched-over position
- Breathlessness causing speech in one-to-two word phrases or complete inability to speak

ANAPHYLACTIC SYMPTOMS OF BODY SYSTEM: Any of the symptoms may occur within seconds. The more immediate the reaction, the more severe the reaction may become. Any of the symptoms present require several hours of monitoring.

- **Skin:** warmth, itching, and/or tingling of underarms/groin, flushing, hives
- **Abdominal:** pain, nausea and vomiting, diarrhea
- **Oral/Respiratory:** sneezing, swelling of face (lips, mouth, tongue, throat), lump or tightness in the throat, hoarseness, difficulty inhaling, shortness of breath, decrease in peak flow meter reading, wheezing reaction
- **Cardiovascular:** headache, low blood pressure (shock), lightheadedness, fainting, loss of consciousness, rapid heart rate, ventricular fibrillation (no pulse)
- **Mental status:** apprehension, anxiety, restlessness, irritability

EMERGENCY PROTOCOL:

1. CALL 911.

2. Summon school nurse if available. If not, summon designated trained, non-medical staff to implement an emergency protocol.
3. Check airway patency, breathing, respiratory rate, and pulse.
4. Administer medications (epinephrine auto injector and nebulized albuterol) per standing order.
5. Determine cause as quickly as possible.
6. Monitor vital signs (pulse, respiration, etc.).
7. Contact parents immediately and prescribing health care practitioner as soon as possible.
8. Any individual treated for symptoms with epinephrine at a school will be transferred to a medical facility.

STANDING ORDERS FOR RESPONSE TO LIFE-THREATENING ASTHMA OR ANAPHYLAXIS:

- Administer epinephrine auto injector junior for any child less than 60 pounds or adult epinephrine auto injector for any individual over 60 pounds into the muscle towards the front and outer side of the thigh.
- Follow with nebulized albuterol while awaiting EMS.
- If symptoms persist, repeat epinephrine auto injector followed by nebulized albuterol every fifteen minutes while awaiting EMS arrival.
- Administer CPR, if indicated.

Wilcox-Hildreth Public School

2026-2027

School Calendar

August

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					

September

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			

October

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

November

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					

December

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		

Aug. 10	Fall sports practice begins
Aug. 10-12	NO SCHOOL - Teacher Inservice
Aug. 13	**School begins 1:00 dismiss**
Sept. 7	NO SCHOOL - Labor Day
Sept. 24	P/T Conf 2:00-8:00 1:00 dismiss
Sept. 25	No School
Oct. 5	NO SCHOOL - Teacher Inservice
Oct 16	1st quarter ends (44 days)
Nov. 25-27	NO SCHOOL -Thanksgiving break
Dec. 22	2nd Qtr Ends (44 days)
Dec. 22	End of first semester (88 days)
Dec. 23-Jan. 4	Christmas Break
Dec. 23-27	NSAA Moritorium
Jan. 4	NO SCHOOL - Teacher Inservice
Jan. 5	School Begins
Feb. 11	P/T Conf 2:00-8:00 1:00 dismissal
Feb. 12	No School
Mar. 5	End of 3rd QTR. (43 Days)
Mar. 8-9	NO SCHOOL- TEACHER INSERVICE
Mar. 8-12	NO SCHOOL - Spring break
March 26-29	NO SCHOOL - Easter Break
April 30	NO SCHOOL- TEACHER INSERVICE
May 8	Commencement
May 18	**End of Year 1:00 Dismissal**
May 18	End of Qtr 4 (44 days) Sem. 2 (87 days)
May 19	NO SCHOOL - Teacher Inservice
	Staff Inservice-No School
	Students Return
	End of Qtr.or Sem.
	No School

January

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						

February

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						

March

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			

April

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	

May

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					

Total Student Days	**175**
Total Teacher Days	**184**
First Semester Days	**88**
Second Semester Day	**87**

Quarter 1	Teacher-48	Student-44
Quarter 2	Teacher-44	Student-44
Quarter 3	Teacher-44	Student-43
Quarter 4	Teacher-49	Student-44

Student Days by Month

Aug	13	Jan	19
Sept	20	Feb	19
Oct	21	Mar	16
Nov	18	Apr	21
Dec	16	May	12

TEACHER/EDUCATIONAL SPECIALIST FORMATIVE/SUMMATIVE EVALUATION

District Name: Wilcox-Hildreth Public Schools

TEACHER/SPECIALIST INFORMATION:

Teacher/Specialist Name: Click here to enter text.
School(s)
1. Wilcox-Hildreth Lower Elementary
2. Wilcox-Hildreth Upper Elementary
3. Wilcox-Hildreth Jr/High School

Grade/Subject Area: Click here to enter text.
Evaluator: Click here to enter text.
School Year: Click here to enter text.

☐ Probationary
☐ Year 1 ☐ Year 2 ☐ Year 3 (locally determined)
☐ Semester 1 (Formative-Ratings required)
☐ Semester 2 (Summative-Ratings required)

☐ Permanent
☐ Formative (Ratings optional)
☐ Summative (Ratings required)

Part I: Nebraska Effective Practices. Probationary teachers/educational specialists are rated on the Effective Practices each semester based on at least one formal observation for a full instructional period and such other observation data or artifacts as may have been collected. Permanent teachers/specialists are rated on the Effective Practices at the end of the summative year.

EFFECTIVE PRACTICE: (1) Foundational Knowledge. The teacher demonstrates a comprehensive knowledge of content, pedagogy, students, and standards needed to provide each student with effective opportunities for learning, development, and achievement.

Evaluator Rating	Description
☐ Exemplary	The teacher demonstrates a current and comprehensive knowledge of content, pedagogy, students, and standards needed to provide each student with effective opportunities for learning, development and achievement
☐ Proficient	The teacher demonstrates a comprehensive knowledge of content, pedagogy, students, and standards needed to provide each student with effective opportunities for learning, development, and achievement.
☐ Basic	The teacher demonstrates limited knowledge of content, pedagogy, students, or standards needed to provide each student with effective opportunities for learning, development and achievement.
☐ Unsatisfactory	The teacher demonstrates a lack of knowledge of content, pedagogy, students, or standards needed to provide each student with effective opportunities for learning, development, and achievement.

Comments (Required for Basic or Unsatisfactory rating):

Click here to enter text.

EFFECTIVE PRACTICE: (2) Planning and Preparation. The teacher integrates knowledge of content, pedagogy, students, and standards with the established curriculum to set high expectations and develop rigorous instruction for each student that supports the growth of student learning, development, and achievement.

Evaluator Rating	Description
☐ Exemplary	The teacher purposefully and consistently integrates a comprehensive knowledge of content, pedagogy, students, and standards with the established curriculum to develop units, lessons, and other learning experiences that support the growth of individual student learning, development, and achievement.
☐ Proficient	The teacher consistently integrates knowledge of content, pedagogy, students, and standards with the established curriculum to develop coherent and rigorous units, lessons, and activities that support the growth of student learning, development, and achievement.
☐ Basic	The teacher demonstrates a basic knowledge of content, pedagogy, students, and curriculum standards, but fails to integrate them consistently to develop units, lessons, and learning activities.
☐ Unsatisfactory	The teacher displays a very limited knowledge of content, pedagogy, students, or curriculum standards, and/or fails to develop coherent and rigorous units, lessons, and learning activities.

Comments (Required for Basic or Unsatisfactory rating):

Click here to enter text.

EFFECTIVE PRACTICE: (3) The Learning Environment. The teacher creates and maintains a learning environment that fosters positive relationships and promotes active student engagement in learning, development, and achievement.

Evaluator Rating	Description
☐ Exemplary	The teacher creates and consistently maintains an exceptional learning environment that fosters positive relationships and promotes active student engagement in learning, development, and achievement.
☐ Proficient	The teacher creates and maintains an effective learning environment that fosters positive relationships and promotes active student engagement in learning, development, and achievement.
☐ Basic	The teacher strives to create and maintain a learning environment that fosters positive relationships and promotes active student engagement in learning, development and achievement; however, the results are not consistent.
☐ Unsatisfactory	The teacher fails to create and/or maintain an effective or engaging learning environment.

Comments (Required for Basic or Unsatisfactory rating):

Click here to enter text.

EFFECTIVE PRACTICE: (4) Instructional Strategies. The teacher uses effective instructional strategies to ensure growth in student achievement.

Evaluator Rating	Description
☐ Exemplary	The teacher consistently uses highly effective instructional strategies that result in continuous growth in learning for each student.
☐ Proficient	The teacher regularly uses effective instructional strategies to ensure growth in student achievement.
☐ Basic	The teacher strives to use effective instructional strategies to ensure growth in student achievement, but has inconsistent results.
☐ Unsatisfactory	The teacher fails to use effective instructional strategies and growth in student achievement is below expectations.
Comments (Required for Basic or Unsatisfactory rating):	
Click here to enter text.	

EFFECTIVE PRACTICE: (5) Assessment. The teacher systematically uses multiple methods of formative and summative assessment to measure student progress and to inform ongoing planning, instruction, and reporting.

Evaluator Rating	Description
☐ Exemplary	The teacher is viewed as an assessment leader for the building/district. He/she consistently and systematically creates and uses multiple methods of formative and summative assessment to measure student progress. The teacher disaggregates data for use in planning, preparing for instruction, and reporting.
☐ Proficient	The teacher consistently and systematically develops and uses multiple methods of formative and summative assessment to measure student progress. The teacher uses assessment results when planning, preparing for instruction, and reporting.
☐ Basic	The teacher has limited understanding of the various methods of assessment, and/or the teacher uses assessment results inconsistently.
☐ Unsatisfactory	The teacher has little or no understanding of assessment methods and uses them inconsistently or incorrectly. Assessment results are ignored or not used appropriately.
Comments (Required for Basic or Unsatisfactory rating):	
Click here to enter text.	

EFFECTIVE PRACTICE: (6) Professionalism. The teacher acts as an ethical and responsible member of the professional community.

Evaluator Rating	Description
☐ Exemplary	The teacher serves as a role model for ethical and responsible behavior and serves as a leader in the professional community.
☐ Proficient	The teacher consistently models ethical and responsible behavior as a member of the professional community.
☐ Basic	The teacher understands ethical and responsible behavior, but is inconsistent in demonstrating a high level of professional practice
☐ Unsatisfactory	The teacher fails to act in an ethical and/or professional responsible manner.
Comments (Required for Basic or Unsatisfactory rating):	
Click here to enter text.	

EFFECTIVE PRACTICE: (7) Vision and Collaboration. The teacher contributes to and promotes the vision of the school and collaborates with students, families, colleagues, and the larger community to share responsibility for the growth of student learning, development and achievement.	
Evaluator Rating	**Description**
☐ Exemplary	The teacher takes a leadership role in contributing to and promoting the vision of the school and continuously collaborates with students, families, colleagues, and the larger community to share responsibility for the growth of student learning, development, and achievement.
☐ Proficient	The teacher contributes to and promotes the vision of the school and collaborates with students, families, colleagues, and the larger community to share responsibility for the growth of student learning, development, and achievement.
☐ Basic	The teacher strives to promote the vision of the school and to collaborate with students, families, colleagues, and the larger community to share responsibility for the growth of student learning, development, and achievement, but with limited or inconsistent results.
☐ Unsatisfactory	The teacher fails to contribute to and promote the vision of the school. The teacher fails to recognize his/her responsibility to collaborate with students, families, colleagues, and the larger community, and to share responsibility for the growth of student learning, development, and achievement.
Comments (Required for Basic or Unsatisfactory rating):	
Click here to enter text.	

SUMMARY OF EFFECTIVE PRACTICES:

Areas of Strength
Click here to enter text.
Areas of Development
Click here to enter text.

☐ Plan for Improvement attached (Optional)

☐ Plan for Assistance attached (required for rating "Unsatisfactory" on any of the Effective Practices)

Part II: Overall Rating. An overall rating is provided in the second semester conference only for probationary teachers/ specialists. For permanent teachers/specialists, an overall rating is provided at the final conference of the summative year.

Evaluator Rating	Description
☐ Exemplary	In the judgment of the evaluator based on a review of the evidence collected, the teacher/educational specialist meets district performance standards for all evaluative criteria and exceeds expected performance in many respects. He/she takes a leadership role in professional development and school leadership activities.
☐ Proficient	In the judgment of the evaluator based on a review of the evidence collected, the teacher/educational specialist meets district performance standards for the evaluative criteria on an overall basis and is actively engaged in professional development and school leadership efforts.
☐ Basic	In the judgment of the evaluator based on a review of the evidence collected, the teacher/educational specialist meets district performance standards for most evaluative criteria and is satisfactorily participating in an improvement plan for those criteria rated below "Proficient."
☐ Unsatisfactory	In the judgment of the evaluator based on a review of the evidence collected, the teacher/educational specialist does not meet district performance standards for a significant segment of the evaluative criteria and improvement efforts have been inadequate.
Comments (Required for Basic or Unsatisfactory rating):	
Click here to enter text.	

Narrative Feedback
Areas of Strength
Click here to enter text.
Areas of Development
Click here to enter text.

☐ Plan for Improvement (Optional)

☐ Plan for Assistance

Teacher/Specialist Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Evaluator Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

My signature certifies that the evaluation results have been discussed with me. I understand my signature does not necessarily indicate agreement and that I may respond in writing to any issues contained in the evaluation.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF RECEIPT

I acknowledge that I have received a copy of the Wilcox-Hildreth Public School District Staff Handbook which includes the district's drug-free workplace policy statement. I understand that, as a condition of my employment, I am required to read and abide by the provisions of the handbook and by all board policies governing my employment. Further, if I have any questions about any provision of this handbook or any board policy, I should confer with my supervisor or building principal.

_____ _____

Signature Date

WILCOX-HILDRETH PUBLIC SCHOOL

STUDENT HANDBOOK



2026-2027 Edition

P.O. BOX 190
404 E. SAPP
WILCOX, NE 68982

Phone: (308) 478-5265
Fax: (308) 478-5260

STUDENT HANDBOOK OF
WILCOX-HILDRETH PUBLIC SCHOOLS
2025-2026

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
Welcome	8
Intent of Handbook	9
Notice of Non-Discrimination	9
Vision, Mission, Beliefs Values	11

Section One - Basic School Rules and General Practices

Attendance	13
Required Attendance	13
Mandatory Attendance Age	13
Discontinuing Enrollment – 5-year-old students	13
Discontinuing Enrollment – 16 and 17-year-old students	13
Attendance Officer	14
Attendance Incentives	15
District Responses to Attendance	15
Making Up Absences	16
Pregnant and Parenting Students	16
Band	16
Bills	16
Books and Supplies	17
Breastfeeding and Lactation	17
Bulletin Boards	17
Bullying	18
Cafeteria Rules	18
Candy and Gum	19
Cell Phones and Other Electronic Devices	19
Cheating, Plagiarism, and Academic Dishonesty	20
Child Abuse and Neglect	21
Class Dismissal	21
Classroom Behavior	21
Closed Campus	21
Coats and Boots	22
Communicable Diseases	22
Communicating with Parents	22
Complaint Procedure	22
Computer Network Use by Students	28
I. Student Expectations in the Use of the Internet	28
II. Enforcement	30
III. Protection of Students	30

Conferences 31
Copyright and Fair Use 31
Damage to School Property 32
Dating Violence 32
Discrimination and Harassment 32
Dress Code 32
Driving and Parking Personal Vehicles 33
Drug Free Schools 33
Emergency Contact Information 34
Evacuations 34
Eye Exams 34
Food Service Program 34
Field Trips 36
First-Aid 36
Head Lice 36
Health Problems Limiting Activities 37
Homebound Instruction 37
Homeless Children and Youth 37
Illness or Injury at School 38
Immunizations 38
Provisional Enrollment 38
Initiations and Hazing 38
Lockers and Other School Property 39
Lost and Found 39
Medications 39
Media Center 40
Memorials 40
Opting Out of Assessments 40
Parental Involvement 41
Parties 42
Personal Items 42
Physical Education 42
Physical Exam 42
Pictures 42
Playground Rules 42
Police Questioning and Apprehension 43
Protection of Student Rights 43
ACT Exam 44
Public Displays of Affection 44
Reasonable Suspicion Testing 44
Rights of Custodial and Non-Custodial Parents 44
Secret Organizations 45
School Day 45
Self-Management of Diabetes or Asthma/Anaphylaxis 45

Smoking and Tobacco 45
Sniffer (Drug) Dogs 45
Standardized Testing 46
Student Assistance 46
Student Fee Policy 46
Listing of Fees Charged by this District
1. Clothing Required for Specified Courses and Activities 47
2. Safety Equipment and Attire 47
3. Personal or Consumable Items 47
4. Materials Required for Course Projects 47
5. Technological Devices 48
6. Extracurricular Activities 48
7. Post-Secondary Education Costs 49
8. Copies of Student Files or Records 49
9. Participation in Before-School, After-School or Pre-Kindergarten Services 49
10. Participation in Summer School or Night School 49
11. Charges for Food Consumed by Students 49
12. Charges for Musical Extracurricular Activities 50
13. Contributions for Class Extracurricular Activities 50
Waiver Policy 50
Voluntary Contributions to Defray Costs 51
FundRaising Activities 51
Student Illness 51
Student Government 51
Student Records 52
Directory Information 52
Non-Directory Information 53
Transfer of Records Upon Student Enrollment 54
Complaints 54
Student Schedule Changes 54
Tardiness 55
Telephone Calls 55
Threat Assessment and Response 56
Transportation Services 57
Transportation to School 57
Bus Regulations 58
Rules of Conduct on School Vehicles 59
Consequences 59
Records 59
Transportation to Activities 60
Video Surveillance and Photographs 60
Weather Related School Closing 61
Withdrawal from School 61

Work Permits 61

Section Two - Academic Information

Certificate of Attendance 62
Class Rank 62
Credit for Non-Academic Work 62
Correspondence and Online Courses 62
Grades 63
Graduation Awards 64
Graduation Requirements 64
Homework 65
Honor Roll 65
National Honor Society 65
Mid-Term Graduation 66
Report Cards 66

Section Three - Student Discipline

General Discipline Philosophy 67
Forms of School Discipline 67
Detentions 68
In-School Suspension 69
Emergency Exclusion 69
Short-Term Suspension 69
Weapons and/or Firearms 70
Expulsion 70
Grounds for Long-Term Suspension, Expulsion, or Mandatory Reassignment 70
Reporting Requirements to Law Enforcement 75
Due Process Afforded to Students Facing Long-Term Suspension or Expulsion 76

Section Four - Wellness Policy

Goals for Nutrition and Promotion of Education 79
Goals for Physical Activity 79
Goal for other School-Based Activities Designed to Promote Student Wellness 79
Standards and Nutrition Guidelines for All Foods and Beverages Sold to Students on the School Campus and During the School Day 80
Standards for All Foods and Beverages Provided, But Not Sold to Students During the School Day 80
Food and Beverage Marketing 80
Public Participation 81
Competitive Foods 81
Triennial Assessment 82

Public Notice 82
Recordkeeping 82
Operational Responsibility 82

Title IX Policy 84

Section Five - Staff Directory

Staff Directory 85
25-26 District Calendar 87

Section Six - Forms

Receipt 89

WELCOME

Dear Students and Parents:

On behalf of the faculty, administration, and board of education, we welcome you to another school year. We are looking forward to helping your children reach their learning potential and achieve their educational goals in the upcoming year.

Please read this handbook carefully. Students and their parents are responsible for knowing the rules, regulations, and procedures covered in this handbook. The student handbook is an extension of school policies and has the force and effect of board policy when approved by the board of education.

There are several forms at the end of this handbook that you must read, sign, and return no later than August 21, 2026.

This handbook contains information of value to every student and parent. It contains explanations of school regulations and procedures necessary for our school to run smoothly and efficiently. If you are ever in doubt about what is the right thing to do, ask a classroom teacher, speak with the building principal, or contact my office.

Sincerely,
Justin Patterson
Superintendent

Intent of Handbook

This handbook is intended to be used by students, parents, and staff as a guide to the rules, procedures, and general information about this school district. Students and their parents must become familiar with the handbook, and parents should use it as a resource and assist their children in following the rules contained in it. The use of the word "parents" refers to any adult who has the responsibility for making education-related decisions about a child, including, but not limited to biological parents, adoptive parents, legal guardians, and adults acting in loco parentis.

Although the information in this handbook is detailed and specific on many topics, it is not intended to be all-encompassing or to cover every situation and circumstance that may arise during a school day or school year. This handbook does not create a "contract" with parents, students, or staff, and the administration may make decisions and rule revisions at any time to implement the educational program and to assure the well-being of all students. The administration is responsible for interpreting the rules contained in the handbook. If a situation or circumstance arises that is not specifically covered in this handbook, the administration will make a decision based on applicable school district policies, and state and federal statutes and regulations.

Notice of Nondiscrimination

The school district does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age in its programs and activities and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The school district prohibits sex discrimination in any education program or activity in any education program or activity that it operates.

Students who believe that they have been the subject of unlawful discrimination or harassment due to their disability, or that have other related concerns or questions, should contact the following Section 504 Coordinator:

Name: Justin Patterson
Title: 504 Coordinator
Address: 404 Sapp St. Wilcox, NE 68982
Telephone: 1-308-478-5265
E-mail: justin.patterson@whfalcons.org

Students who believe that they have been the subject of unlawful discrimination or harassment due to their sex, or that have other related concerns or questions, should contact the Title IX Coordinator:

Name: Joee Muhlbach
Title: Title IX Coordinator/Investigator
Address: 404 Sapp St. Wilcox, NE 68982
Telephone: 1-308-478-5265
E-mail: joee.muhlbach@whfalcons.org

The School District's specific Notice of Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Sex may be accessed at the following link: 4001 Nondiscrimination

Students who believe that they have been the subject of unlawful discrimination or harassment due to their race, color, or national origin, or that have other related concerns or questions, should contact the following Title VI Coordinator:

Name: Joee Muhlbach
Title: Title VI Coordinator
Address: 404 Sapp St. Wilcox, NE 68982
Telephone: 1-308-478-5265
E-mail: joee.muhlbach@whfalcons.org

Students who believe that they have been the subject of any other unlawful discrimination or harassment should contact the principal at 308-478-5265, joee.muhlbach@whfalcons.org or in person at school. Students may report discrimination or harassment to any staff member who will then forward it on to the appropriate coordinator or administrator. The staff member will follow school district policies to respond to the report.

For additional prohibited discrimination and related information, please review school district Policy 4001 – Nondiscrimination.

Wilcox-Hildreth Public School

Vision

Empowering Excellence.
Building Community.

Mission

Our mission is to educate all, by supporting academic growth, fostering respectful relationships, and promoting our positive culture.

We Believe

- everyone is a positive role model.
- in taking ownership of our actions and learning.
- in providing clear and consistent communication and support.
- relationships are the foundation of learning and leadership.
- in expressing appreciation and recognizing contributions.

Values

Family • Respect • Faith

SECTION ONE

BASIC SCHOOL RULES AND GENERAL PRACTICES

Attendance

Required Attendance

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

Mandatory Attendance Age

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

Exceptions

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

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

Discontinuing Enrollment – 5- Year- Old Students

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

Discontinuing Enrollment – 16- and 17- Year- Old Students

Only children who are at least 16 years of age may be disenrolled from the district. The person seeking to discontinue the child's enrollment shall

submit a signed, written request that demonstrates that the student meets the district's legal criteria allowing for disenrollment to the superintendent using the applicable district form. The district will follow the procedures outlined on the attached form in considering requests to disenroll.

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

Prohibition on Discontinuing Enrollment – Abuse or Neglect Investigation
Upon notice from the Department of Health and Human Services, the District shall not facilitate the transfer or disenrollment of a student whose parent, guardian, or educational decisionmaker is subject to an active investigation by the Department for fourteen days or until further notice from the Department, whichever occurs first.

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

Excessive Absenteeism
When a student has accrued 20 days of absences, or the hourly equivalent, the district may report the matter to the county attorney in the county where the student resides.

Absences due to illness
The school district will contact parents if a student becomes ill at school. A student who is absent due to illness has two days for every day of absence to complete missed assignments.

Planned absences
Parents who know in advance that a student will be absent must call the school or send a written note at the earliest possible date. Students who will be absent for reasons that can be anticipated, such as routine medical

appointments and school activities, must complete any work required by the teacher before the absence. Parents should make every attempt to schedule medical and other appointments after school hours when possible.

Students are obligated to:

1) Complete all class work in advance for any absence that can be anticipated.
2) Attend school a full day before attending practice or participating in a scheduled student activity except in cases of family emergencies or prearranged absences.
3) Check out of school at the office if leaving school during the school day.
4) Make up any and all work that is assigned by teachers as make-up work for the instructional time that has been missed.

Parents are obligated to:

1) Call the appropriate building office to inform the school of the reason for each absence.

Attendance Incentives:

Building principals will establish attendance incentives for their students. Those may include:

- Special Recognition of students who have 95% or greater attendance each quarter
- Excusal from certain classroom assignments (final exam, written report) for students with 95% or greater attendance each semester
- Special rewards (movie day, field day, extra recess) for students who have 95% or greater attendance

At the conclusion of each quarter building principals report to the board what incentives were implemented and the effectiveness of the incentive in improving student attendance and engagement.

When students are absent from school, district staff will respond as follows:

First Stage Response to Absences

1. A member of district staff will contact parent via telephone for every absence if the parent has not contacted the school in advance.
2. After a student's fifth absence, and every fifth absence thereafter excluding school activities~~,~~ the school's attendance officer will contact parents via phone and may schedule a meeting with the student's parents or guardians. That meeting will be documented on the attached form.

a. This meeting must be attended by attendance officer, parents. Principal, school counselor and the student may also be in attendance when appropriate.
b. The meeting shall be documented
c. The meeting shall develop a collaborative plan to assist the student in improving his/her attendance

Second Stage Response to Absences

1. Students who miss 10 days in a semester may lose credit and a parent meeting will be scheduled with the attendance officer.

Third Stage Response to Absences

Students who accrue more than 20 absences in a school year may be referred to the county attorney for action under Neb. Rev. Stat. § 43-247(3)(a) and (b).

Making Up Absences

When a student receives 10 absences, excluding school activities, or the hourly equivalent in any semester, the student may be required to make-up those absences through attendance in summer school. Absences shall be made up at a rate of two days of summer school equals one day of regular school.

Pregnant and Parenting Students

The District will not discriminate in its education program or activity against any student based on the student's current, potential, or past pregnancy. Students who are pregnant or parenting are encouraged to continue participating in the district's educational and extracurricular programs. Students who anticipate deviations from their regular school experience or accrue absences due to pregnancy or parenting should notify their building principal as early as possible to discuss their educational programming in collaboration with the Title IX Coordinator.

Band

Students will participate in an exploratory instrument class in 4th grade. Students may participate in the elementary band in the 5th and 6th grade. Students in grades 7-12 may participate in the high school band. Instruments will be provided by students or the school as provided by school policy. Fees may be charged as allowed or provided in the Public Elementary and Secondary Student Fee Authorization Act and the school's student fee policy or other applicable policy.

Bills

Students should pay bills for supplies, fines, shop materials, clothing orders, etc. in the school bookkeeper's office. Any check for these payments should be made out to Wilcox-Hildreth Public Schools Public Schools unless otherwise instructed. Pursuant to board policy, the district will assess an additional penalty of $30 for any check returned from the bank for insufficient funds.

When students purchase items such as coats, rings, etc., through the school district, they must pay for these and other major items before the order is sent. The sponsor of any school organization is not to give merchandise to students; items will be distributed by the office after proper payment.

Books and Supplies

Students must take care of books and other supplies provided by the district. The school will assess fines for damage to books and school property.

Students must supply their own consumable items such as pens, pencils, tablets, notebooks, erasers, and crayons. Each classroom teacher will prepare a supply list for students at the beginning of the school year.

Breastfeeding and Lactation

In order to accommodate lactating and breastfeeding students, the district will provide reasonable opportunities to express breast milk or breastfeed in a place, other than a bathroom, which is shielded from view and free from intrusion from district students, employees, and the public. The district will also provide a location for students to store expressed breast milk in or near the location designated for students to express milk to create the least amount of disruption to the student's participation in class or activities.

Students who wish or need to express breast milk on a regular schedule must work with school administrators to create a schedule that accommodates the student's needs while facilitating education to the maximum extent possible.

In order to prevent interference with the educational process, no student shall express breast milk within school classrooms or buses. Nothing in this policy limits the authority of the administration to impose consequences consistent with the Student Discipline Act and other state and federal law.

Bulletin Boards

Bulletin board or electronic publishing space may be provided for the use of students and student organizations for notices relating to matters of general

interest to students. The following general limitations apply to all posting or publishing:

1. All postings must be approved by the appropriate building principal or designee. Students may not post any material containing any statement or expression that is libelous, obscene, or vulgar; that would violate board of education policies, including the student code of conduct; or that is otherwise inappropriate for the school environment.

2. All postings must identify the student or the student organization posting or publishing the notice.

3. Material shall be removed after a reasonable time to assure full access to the bulletin boards or electronic publishing media.

Bullying

Students are prohibited from engaging in any form of bullying. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention defines bullying as "any unwanted aggressive behavior(s) by another youth or group of youths who are not siblings or current dating partners that involves an observed or perceived power imbalance and is repeated multiple times or is highly likely to be repeated." Nebraska statute defines bullying as "an ongoing pattern of physical, verbal or electronic abuse." The District's administrators will consider these definitions when determining whether any specific situation constitutes bullying. Both of these definitions include both in-person and cyberbullying behaviors.

The disciplinary consequences for bullying will depend on the severity, frequency, duration, and effect of the behavior and may result in sanctions up to and including suspension or expulsion. Students who believe they are being bullied should immediately inform a teacher or the building principal.

Reporting Bullying

Students who experience or observe bullying behavior must immediately report what happened to a teacher or administrator. Students can use the district's anonymous platform **Safe2HelpNE** to make this report. Students may always confer with their parents or guardians about bullying they experience or witness, but the students must also ultimately report the situation to a teacher or administrator.

Bullying Investigations

School district staff will investigate allegations of bullying using the same practices and procedures that the district observes for student disciplinary

matters. In no circumstance will school district staff be deliberately indifferent to allegations of bullying.

Cafeteria Rules

1. All food must be consumed in the areas designated by the school.
2. After students have eaten, they must return trays to the kitchen. All straws, papers, milk cartons should be deposited in the trash cans. All leftover food should be scraped off the tray on to the correct container. Forks and spoons should be placed in the pan with water, NOT THROWN AWAY!
3. Students are to use proper manners including eating quietly.
4. Students may not throw food or other items.
5. Second servings are available to those who have made an effort to clean their trays and have requisite funds as required by board policy.
6. Students should remain at their tables until they are dismissed.
7. Students must treat lunch personnel with respect.
8. Students who violate the above rules will be disciplined.

Candy and Gum

Students may not bring candy or gum to school unless teacher discretion allows so.

Cell Phones and Other Electronic Devices

Students may NOT use cellular phones or other electronic devices while at school during school hours. Students may use cell phones or other electronic devices after school, so long as they do not create a distraction or a disruption. Students may not use cell phones or other electronic devices while they are in locker rooms or restrooms.

Any student who is found to be in possession of any cellular phone, or other electronic device (Smart watches, AirPods, personally-owned tablet, gaming device, etc.) during school hours is in violation of this policy and the student code of conduct.

Staff who discover students in possession of a cellular phone or electronic device while at school during the school day will immediately confiscate the device and turn it into the administration.

Students are personally and solely responsible for the security of their cell phones and other electronic devices. The school district is not responsible for theft, loss, or damage of a cell phone or any calls made on a cell phone.

In addition to the disciplinary consequences imposed, a parent or legal guardian of the offending student must pick up the confiscated devices from

the office in person. The administration will return the device to the parent or guardian, after meeting with the parent or guardian to discuss the rule violation.

Students who repeatedly violate this policy may, at the discretion of the school's administration, be subject to additional discipline, up to and including expulsion.

When students violate the Cell Phone and Other Electronic Devices Policy, district staff will respond as follows: (These *arrangements are subject to review based on the student's behavioral conduct)*

First Stage Response to Device Usage:

- Device confiscated and turned into the office
- Principal/Student Conference
- Device(s) returned to student at the end of the day

Second Stage Response to Device Usage:

- Device confiscated and turned into the office
- 30 min detention
- Parent Contact
- Device returned to parent at the end of the day

Third Stage Response to Device Usage:

- Device confiscated and turned into the office
- 30 min Detention
- Parent Contact
- Device returned to parent at the end of the day
- Daily device check-ins at the office will occur for additional days

Additional Response to Excessive Device Usage:

- Repeated Offenses may consist of any of the previously stated and/or the following: (*This list is not exhaustive)*
    - Daily device check-ins at the office will occur for duration of quarter/semester
    - Team Meeting
    - SAT Referral
    - Counseling Referral

- Disciplinary Action

The taking, disseminating, transferring, or sharing of obscene, pornographic, lewd, or otherwise illegal images or photographs, whether by electronic data transfer or otherwise may constitute a crime under state and/or federal law. Any person engaged in these activities while on school grounds, in a school vehicle or at a school activity will be subject to the disciplinary procedures of the student code of conduct. Any student found to be in possession of obscene, pornographic, lewd, or otherwise illegal images or photographs will be promptly referred to law enforcement and/or other state or federal agencies, which may result in arrest, criminal prosecution, and possible inclusion on sex offender registries.

Cheating, Plagiarism, and Academic Dishonesty

Students may not cheat, plagiarize, or otherwise participate in any academic dishonesty in any form. Prohibited behavior includes:

- Obtaining, attempting to obtain, or aiding another person to obtain credit for work by any dishonest or deceptive means.
- Lying.
- Copying another person's work or answers.
- Discussing the answers or questions on a test or assignment unless specifically authorized by the teacher.
- Taking or receiving copies of a test without the permission of the teacher.
- Using or displaying notes, "cheat sheets," or other sources of unauthorized information.
- Using the ideas or work of another person as if they were your own without giving proper credit to the source.
- Submitting work or any portion of work completed by another person.
- Failing to give credit for ideas, statements, facts, or conclusions which rightfully belong to another person.
- Failing to use quotation marks or other appropriate means of attribution when quoting directly from another person or source.

A student who cheats, plagiarizes, or otherwise participates in any academic dishonesty is subject to failure of assignment/assessment, and/or discipline, up to and including expulsion.

Child Abuse and Neglect

School employees will report suspected abuse or neglect of a child as required by state law and school policy. Nebraska law defines abuse or neglect as knowingly, intentionally, or negligently causing or permitting a minor child or an incompetent or disabled person to be (1) placed in a situation that endangers his or her life or physical or mental health; (2)

cruelly confined or cruelly punished; (3) deprived of necessary food, clothing, shelter or care; (4) left unattended in a motor vehicle, if such child is six years of age or younger; (5) sexually abused; (6) placed in a situation to be sexually exploited through sex trafficking of a minor as defined in state law or by allowing, encouraging, or forcing such person to engage in debauchery, public indecency, or obscene or pornographic photography, films, or depictions; or (7) placed in a situation to be a trafficking victim as defined in state law.

Class Dismissal

The bell at the end of the period is not a dismissal bell, and students may not leave their classrooms until they have been excused by their classroom teacher.

Classroom Behavior

Student behavior and attitude in the classroom must be cooperative and serious. All students must:

- arrive to class on time;
- prepare for class with all necessary materials;
- be considerate of others;
- respond promptly to all directions of the teacher; and
- take care of school property and the property of others.

Teachers will establish classroom conduct rules that students must obey.

Closed Campus

Students may not leave the building without permission from the administration.

Coats and Boots

Elementary students must wear coats outdoors when the weather makes it advisable. The staff will decide when coats are required for recess.

Elementary students may choose to wear overshoes or boots when the playground is wet or muddy. Waterproof boots worn to school should be taken off and regular shoes worn during the day. Boots worn to school must be marked with the student's name.

Communicable Diseases

Any student who has contracted a contagious disease may be restricted from attendance at school until the student is no longer contagious. The school district uses the Title 173- Nebraska Health and Human Services/Control of Communicable Disease, Chapter 3 of the Nebraska Administrative Code as a "best practice" guideline for contagious and infectious diseases. If there are

questions regarding the communicability of your child's health condition or if you know your child has contracted a contagious or communicable disease or condition not otherwise specified in board policy or this handbook, please call 308-478-5265.

Communicating with Parents

Parents shall be kept informed of student progress, grades, and attendance through report cards, progress reports, and parent/teacher conferences. The school district will notify parents if their students are failing or close to failing. The school district will endeavor to notify parents of failing students prior to entry of the failing grade on the student's report card. Parents will also be notified of their student's possible failure to meet graduation requirements. Other pertinent information will be communicated to parents by mail or by personal contact. Official transcripts of student progress, grades, and attendance will be sent to other school systems upon the student's transfer when the district receives a written request signed by the student's parent or guardian or upon being notified that the student has enrolled in another school.

Complaint Procedure

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

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

Under this policy, factual conclusions will be based on a preponderance of the evidence.

Complaint and Appeal Process.

1. The first step is for the complainant to speak directly to the person(s) with whom the complainant has a concern. For example, a parent who

is unhappy with a classroom teacher should initially discuss the matter with the teacher. However, the complainant should skip the first step if complainant reasonably believes speaking directly to the person would subject complainant or complainant's student to discrimination or harassment.

2. The second step is for the complainant to speak to the building principal, coordinator, superintendent of schools, or president of the board of education, as set forth below. Anyone with questions about the appropriate person to speak with may request clarification from the superintendent.

    a) Complaints about the operation, decisions, or personnel within a building should be submitted to the principal of the building.

    b) Complaints about the operations of the school district or a building principal should be submitted in writing to the superintendent of schools.

    c) Complaints about the superintendent of schools should be submitted in writing to the president of the board of education.

    d) Complaints involving discrimination or harassment on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, marital status, disability, or age may also be submitted at any time during the complaint procedure to the applicable coordinator. Complaints involving discrimination or harassment may also be submitted at any time to the Office for Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Education: by email at OCR.KansasCity@ed.gov; by telephone at (816) 268-0550; or by fax at (816) 268-0599.

3. When a complainant submits a complaint to an administrator or coordinator, the administrator or coordinator shall first determine whether another applicable procedure is required by policy or law and if so, direct the complaint to the appropriate person to follow that procedure. If not, the administrator or coordinator will promptly and thoroughly investigate the complaint, and shall:

    a) Determine whether the complainant has discussed the matter with the respondent.

        1) If the complainant has not, urge the complainant to discuss the matter directly with the respondent, if appropriate.

2) If the complainant refuses to discuss the matter with the respondent, the administrator or coordinator shall, in his or her sole discretion, determine whether the complaint should or must be pursued further.

b) Strongly encourage the complainant to reduce his or her concerns to writing.

c) Interview the complainant and, if necessary, the respondent against whom the complaint is filed, to determine:

1) All relevant details of the complaint;

2) All witnesses and documents which the complainant believes support the complaint;

3) The action or solution which the complainant seeks.

d) Respond to the complainant. If the complaint involves discrimination or harassment, the response shall be in writing and shall be submitted within 180 calendar days after the administrator or coordinator receives the complaint.

4. If either the complainant or the respondent is not satisfied with the decision, he or she may appeal the decision to the superintendent. The superintendent may assign a qualified designee to hear any appeal.

a) The appeal must be in writing.

b) This appeal must be received by the superintendent no later than three (3) calendar days from the date of the decision.

c) For complaints addressed through other applicable procedures that do not include a separate investigatory process, the superintendent will investigate as he or she deems appropriate.

d) The superintendent will prepare a written decision and provide it to the complainant and any other person entitled by law to receive the appeal decision. For complaints involving discrimination or harassment, the superintendent shall submit the decision within 180 calendar days after the superintendent received complainant's written appeal. Appeals to the

superintendent from complaints involving discrimination or harassment are final once the superintendent delivers the written decision, as are all other appeals/complaints to the superintendent unless the complaint can be appealed on the limited grounds to appeal to the board below.

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

   a) When the complaint is about a board policy, not implementation of the policy;

   b) When the complaint involves the budget or school expenditures that have been or must be approved by the board; or

   c) When the board is required by law, policy, or contract to hear a complaint or appeal.

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

   a) This appeal must be in writing.

   b) This appeal must be received by the board president no later than ten (10) calendar days from the date the superintendent communicated his/her decision to the complainant.

   c) This policy allows, but does not require the board to receive statements from interested parties and witnesses relevant to the complaint appeal. However, all matters involving discrimination or harassment allegations against the superintendent shall be promptly and thoroughly investigated by the board president or a designee.

d) The board president will notify the complainant and any other person legally required to receive the decision in writing of its decision. If the complaint involves discrimination or harassment allegations against the Superintendent, the board president shall submit the decision within 180 calendar days after receiving the written appeal.

e) There is no appeal from any decision of the board unless authorized by law.

7. Formal complaints about the superintendent shall be filed with the president of the board. However, complaints about the superintendent do not include disagreement with the superintendent's decision on appeal based on a complaint of discrimination, harassment, or action of any other employee who is not the superintendent. Upon receipt of a complaint, the board president or his or her designee shall promptly and thoroughly investigate the complaint, and shall:

a) Coordinate with school district staff, other than the superintendent, to determine if another procedure in policy or law requires the complaint against the superintendent to follow another procedure. If so, the board president will coordinate handling the complaint through that procedure. If another procedure applies, such as in the case of allegations of sex discrimination against the superintendent, the board president or, at his or her discretion, the full board will serve only to hear any appeal by a party to the complaint.

b) Determine whether the complainant has discussed the matter with the superintendent.

1) If the complainant has not, the board president or designee will urge or require the complainant to discuss the matter directly with the superintendent, if appropriate or required.

2) If the complainant refuses to discuss the matter with the superintendent, the board president shall, in his or her sole discretion, determine whether the complaint should or must be pursued further.

c) Determine, in his or her sole discretion, whether to place the matter on the board agenda for consideration at a regular or special meeting by the full board.

d) Respond to the complainant or appeal. If the complaint or appeal involves discrimination or harassment, the response shall be in writing and shall be submitted within 180 calendar days after the president received the complaint.

e) Appoint or contract with other individuals qualified to assist the board through this process or any other applicable procedure used to address allegations against the superintendent.

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

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

Complaints about the educational services provided a student with a disability, including but not limited to services provided to a student with an IEP, access to curricular and extracurricular activities, and educational placement must be submitted to the school district's Director of Special Education. The Director of Special Education will address the complaint in a manner that he/she deems appropriate and will provide the complainant with a copy of the Notice of IDEA Parental Rights promulgated by the Nebraska Department of Education.

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

Complaints about the educational services provided to a student who is suspected of having a disability must be submitted in writing to the school district's Director of Special Education or to the district's 504 Coordinator.

The Director of Special Education or 504 Coordinator will either refer the student for possible verification as a student with a disability or will provide prior written notice of the district's refusal to do so.

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

Computer Network Use by Students

Students are expected to use computers and the Internet as an educational resource. The following procedures and guidelines govern the use of computers and the Internet at school.

I. **Student Expectations in the Use of the Internet**

A. **Acceptable Use**

1. Students may use the Internet to conduct research assigned by teachers.
2. Students may use the Internet to conduct research for classroom projects.
3. Students may use the Internet to gain access to information about current events.
4. Students may use the Internet to conduct research for school-related activities.
5. Students may use the Internet for appropriate educational purposes.

B. **Unacceptable Use**

1. Students shall not use school computers to gain access to material that is obscene, pornographic, harmful to minors, or otherwise inappropriate for educational uses.
2. Students shall not engage in any illegal or inappropriate activities on school computers, including the downloading and copying of copyrighted material.
3. Students shall not use e-mail, chat rooms, instant messaging, or other forms of direct electronic communications on school computers for any unauthorized or unlawful purpose or in violation of any school policy or directive.
4. Students shall not use school computers to participate in

on-line auctions, on-line gaming or mp3 sharing systems including, but not limited to Aimster or Freenet and the like.

5. Students shall not disclose personal information, such as their names, school, addresses, or telephone numbers outside the school network.
6. Students shall not use school computers for commercial advertising or political advocacy of any kind without the express written permission of the system administrator.
7. Students shall not publish web pages that purport to represent the school district or the work of students at the school district without the express written permission of the system administrator.
8. Students shall not erase, rename, or make unusable anyone else's computer files, programs or disks.
9. Students shall not share their passwords with fellow students, school volunteers or any other individuals, and shall not use, or try to discover, another user's password.
10. Students shall not copy, change or transfer any software or documentation provided by the school district, teachers or another student without permission from the system administrator.
11. Students shall not write, produce, generate, copy, propagate, or attempt to introduce any computer code designed to self-replicate, damage, or otherwise hinder the performance of any computer's memory, file system, or software. Such software is often called, but is not limited to, a bug, virus, worm, or Trojan Horse.
12. Students shall not configure or troubleshoot computers, networks, printers or other associated equipment, except as directed by a teacher or the system administrator.
13. Students shall not take home technology equipment (hardware or software) without permission of the system administrator.
14. Students shall not falsify electronic mail messages or web pages.

II. **Enforcement**

A. Methods of Enforcement

1. The district monitors all Internet communications, Internet usage, and patterns of Internet usage. Students have no right of privacy to any Internet communications or other electronic files. The computer system is owned by the school district. As with any school property, any electronic files on the system are subject to search and inspection at

any time.

2. The school district uses a technology protection measure that blocks access to some Internet sites that are not in accordance with the policy of the school district. Standard use of the Internet utilizes a proxy server-based filter that screens for non-curriculum related pages.
3. Due to the nature of filtering technology, the filter may at times filter pages that are appropriate for student research. The system administrator may override the technology protection measure for the student to access a site with legitimate educational value that is wrongly blocked.
4. The school district staff will monitor students' use of the Internet through direct supervision and by monitoring Internet use history to ensure enforcement of the policy.

B. Consequences for Violation of this Policy

1. Access to the school's computer system and to the Internet is a privilege, not a right. Any violation of school policy and rules may result in:
   a. Loss of computer privileges;
   b. Short-term suspension;
   c. Long-term suspension or expulsion in accordance with the Nebraska Student Discipline Act; and
   d. Other discipline as school administration and the school board deems appropriate.
2. Students who use school computer systems without permission and for non-school purposes may be guilty of a criminal violation and will be prosecuted.

III. Protection of Students

A. Children's Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA)

1. The school will not allow companies to collect personal information from children under 13 for commercial purposes. The school will make reasonable efforts to disable advertising in educational computer applications.
2. This policy allows the school to act as an agent for parents in the collection of information within the school context. The school's use of student information is solely for education purposes.

B. Education About Appropriate On-Line Behavior

1. School district staff will educate students about appropriate online behavior, both in specific computer usage units and in the general curriculum.
2. Staff will specifically educate students on
   a. Appropriate interactions with other individuals on

social networking websites and in chat rooms.

b. Cyberbullying awareness and response.

3. The School District's technology coordinator shall inform staff of this educational obligation and shall keep records of the instruction which occurs in compliance with this policy

Conferences

Students' academic success has been closely linked to parental involvement in school. The school district has formal parent-teacher conferences at the end of the first quarter and during the third quarter.

In addition to formal conferences, classroom teachers will communicate with parents as necessary. Parents are encouraged to communicate with their student's teacher or the building principal to discuss parental concerns, student needs or any other issue.

Copyright and Fair Use

The school district complies with federal copyright laws. Students must comply with copyright laws when using school equipment or working on school projects and assignments. Federal law prohibits the unauthorized reproduction of works of authorship, regardless of the medium in which they were created.

The "fair use" doctrine allows limited reproduction of copyrighted works for educational and research purposes. "Fair use" of a copyrighted work includes reproduction for purposes such as criticism, news reporting, teaching (including multiple copies for classroom use), scholarship, or research. Students who are unsure whether their proposed reproduction of copyrighted material constitutes "fair use" should consult with their teacher or building principal, review the school district's copyright compliance policy, and review *Copyright for Students* found at https://www.whoishostingthis.com/resources/student-copyright/. You can find more information on copyright compliance requirements and permitted uses from the U.S. Copyright Office and the Library of Congress at the following site: http://www.loc.gov/teachers/usingprimarysources/copyright.html.

Damage to School Property

Students who damage school property either intentionally or unintentionally may be required to pay to replace or restore the property, at the discretion of the administration.

Dating Violence

Dating violence, as that term is defined by Nebraska law, will not be tolerated by the school district. Students who engage in dating violence on school grounds, in a school vehicle or at a school activity or that otherwise violates the Nebraska Student Discipline Act will receive consequences consistent with the Act and the district's student discipline policies.

The school district shall provide dating violence training to staff deemed appropriate by the administration and in accordance with Nebraska law.

Discrimination and Harassment

Students who believe that they have been the subject of unlawful discrimination or harassment due to their disability should contact the following Section 504 Coordinator: Justin Patterson at (308-478-5265), justin.patterson@whfalcons.org or in person at school. Students who believe that they have been the subject of unlawful discrimination or harassment due to their sex should contact the following Title IX Coordinator: Joee Muhlbach at 308-478-5265, joee.muhlbach@whfalcons.org PO Box 190, Wilcox NE 68982 or in person at school. Students who believe that they have been the subject of any other unlawful discrimination or harassment should contact Joee Muhlbach at 308-478-5265, joee.muhlbach@whfalcons.org or in person at school. Students may report discrimination or harassment to any staff member who will then forward it on to the appropriate coordinator or administrator. The staff member will follow school district policies to respond to the report.

Dress Code

The District prohibits student attire or appearance that:

- Causes or is likely to cause a material and substantial disruption to the District's programs and activities.
- Promotes, depicts, or refers to violence, drugs, alcohol, vulgarity, obscenity, illegal activity, hate speech, bullying speech, or harassing speech.
- Includes words, gestures, or images that contain or imply sexual content or innuendo.
- Otherwise undermines the District's mission to inculcate the habits, manners, and values fundamental to civility, community, and the educational environment.

Violations of the dress code shall be addressed in a manner consistent with the Student Code of Conduct. The District reserves the right to request immediate attire changes from students. The District will require students to

adhere to uniform standards and/or wear district approved or issued uniforms in order to participate in activities.

Students may be required to wear protective clothing or equipment or otherwise modify their attire or secure their hair to ensure the safety of themselves and others. In such cases, a good faith effort to reasonably accommodate students will be made to ensure safety without compromising religious beliefs, grooming practices, or requiring students to permanently alter their appearance. The least restrictive means appropriate to address the identified health or safety concern shall be used.

Driving and Parking Personal Vehicles

Students who drive privately owned motor vehicles to school must obey the following rules:

1. Students may not move their vehicles during the school day without the permission of the building principal or superintendent. Students will not be allowed to sit in or be around their vehicles during the school day, without administrative permission.
2. Students must drive with care to ensure the safety of the pedestrians. Students may not drive carelessly or with excessive speed.
3. By driving personal vehicles to school and parking on school grounds, students consent to having that vehicle searched by school officials when they have reasonable suspicion that such a search will reveal a violation of school rules.

Drug Free Schools

The board of education has adopted policies to comply with the Federal Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act. Students are prohibited from using, possessing, or selling any drug, alcohol, or tobacco while on school grounds, at a school activity or in a school vehicle. In addition, students who participate in the school's activities program should refer to the Activities Handbook which prohibits the use or possession of alcohol, controlled substances and tobacco at all times.

Any student who violates any school policy regarding drug, alcohol, and tobacco use will be disciplined, up to and including short-term suspension, long-term suspension, or expulsion from school and/or referral to appropriate authorities for criminal prosecution.

Emergency Contact Information

Parents must complete an emergency information card for each child enrolled in the district. The card should list the family physician's name, where parents or a responsible adult can be located, and any necessary

emergency instructions. Parents must promptly inform the school if this contact information changes during the school year.

Evacuations

The school district will hold routine evacuation drills throughout the school year. Classroom teachers will provide students with detailed instructions on building evacuations.

Eye Exams

All students enrolling in kindergarten or transferring into the school district from out of state must undergo a visual examination by a physician, a physician assistant, an advanced practice registered nurse, or an optometrist , which consists of testing for amblyopia, strabismus, and internal and external eye health, with testing sufficient to determine visual acuity, except that no such physical examination or visual evaluation shall be required of any child whose parent or guardian objects in writing. They must provide evidence of the vision examination within six months prior to entrance. The cost of such physical examination and visual evaluation shall be borne by the parent or guardian of each child who is examined.

Food Service Program

The school district provides a food service program that is designed to provide adequate nutrition and an educational experience for students.

Breakfast

The school will serve breakfast daily from 7:30 a.m. until 8:00 a.m. The school district will provide free breakfast for K-12 students. There will be fees charged for a la carte purchases like a second entrée or milk.

Lunch

All milk served to a student (except the initial carton served with lunch) will cost $.55 per half pint. The price for milk may change during the school year.

Milk break

The school will offer a milk program to students in kindergarten. All milk served to a student (except the initial carton served with lunch) will cost $.55 per half pint. The price for milk may change during the school year. Milk will be served at the morning recess. Teacher will record the number of cartons of milk each child consumes and give the information to the office at the end of the month where it will be added to the family account.

Payment for Meals

Students are encouraged to pay for meals several weeks in advance. Payment should be made to the secretary in the office. While using the CEP Food Program students will **not** be able to purchase a la carte items or extra milk if there is no money in their account. This policy applies to both Breakfast and Lunch. Students must take the full meal to receive free food. Students who bring their lunch, must pay for a la carte items and milk. PK students do not qualify for the CEP program.

While using the CEP program Wilcox-Hildreth Public schools will not be collecting financial needs information using the free and reduced meal application. **Parents need to complete the Family Economic Data Survey that is included in this packet if they wish to apply for financial assistance.**

Collection of Delinquent Meal Charge Debt

The school district is required to make reasonable efforts to collect unpaid meal charges. The building principal or his or her designee will contact households about unpaid meal charges and notify them again of the availability of the free and reduced meal program and/or establish payment plans and due dates by telephone, e-mail, or other written or oral communication. If these collection efforts are unsuccessful, the school district may pursue any other methods to collect delinquent debt as allowed by law. Collection efforts may continue into a new school year.

Notice of Non-discrimination

In accordance with federal law and U.S. Department of Agriculture policy, this institution is prohibited from discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA. To file a program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, (AD-3027) found online at: http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

(1) Mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410
(2) Fax: (202) 690-7442; or
(3) Email: program.intake@usda.gov

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g. Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign

Language, etc.), should contact the school district. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

Field Trips

Classes occasionally take field trips off school property for educational enrichment. A student's parent, or "caregiver" as that term is defined in the Nebraska Strengthening Families Act, must authorize a student to participate in a field trip by signing a permission slip and providing it to the school before the field trip. Students who have not completed classroom work on time may not be allowed to attend field trips. Students must comply with the student code of conduct, any applicable extracurricular conduct codes, and all directives by trip chaperones.

First-Aid

First-aid items may only be used by school staff. Students who need first aid should ask for assistance from their classroom teacher or the nearest staff member.

Head Lice

Students found to have live head lice or louse eggs will not be permitted at school and will be sent home. Upon discovering the presence of any indication of lice or louse eggs the student's parent(s) or guardian(s) will be notified, and if appropriate will be asked to pick up the student from school immediately.

Students will not be permitted to return to school until the district finds that no live lice or eggs can be detected. The parent(s) or guardian(s) will be required to treat the student and accompany the student to school to be examined.

The student cannot ride the school bus until the district has cleared the student to return to school.

Health Problems Limiting Activities

Parents who do not want their children to play outdoors or participate in physical education for health reasons must send a written request to school. If a student persistently requests to be excused from these activities, the building principal or classroom teacher may require a doctor's verification.

Parents should notify principal or superintendent if their student has any special health problems such as diabetes, asthma, or the like.

Homebound Instruction

The school district may provide a student with instruction in his or her home and under parental supervision if the student is physically or mentally ill or injured and unable to attend regular classes for an extended period of time. Homebound instruction shall be provided when the student's physical and mental condition are such that the student can benefit from instruction and no other provision will meet the student's educational needs. If you believe that homebound instruction is appropriate for your child, please contact the building principal to initiate the appropriate process to determine eligibility.

Homeless Children and Youth

Homeless students generally include children who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence, as further defined by applicable state and federal law.

It is the school's policy not to stigmatize or segregate homeless students on the basis of their status of being homeless. Transportation for homeless students who enroll in the district shall be furnished by the district under the same guidelines applying to other students or if such transportation is necessary for compliance with federal law.

Each homeless child shall be provided services for which the child is eligible comparable to services provided to other students in the school selected regardless of residency. Homeless children shall be provided access to education and other services that such children need to ensure that they have an opportunity to meet the same student performance standards to which all students are held.

If a homeless child registered to attend school in the district is receiving family reconciliation services pursuant to state law, the district will work in cooperation with any county or department of social services in the district to jointly develop an educational program for the child. The district's homeless coordinator is Justin Patterson, Superintendent, who may be contacted at 308-478-5265.

Illness or Injury at School

Students who feel ill or are hurt while at school should seek immediate assistance from their classroom teacher or the nearest staff member. The school will contact parents to pick students up from school whenever necessary. When school officials determine that a student needs immediate medical attention but the parents cannot be reached by phone, emergency services will be summoned or the student will be taken directly to the doctor and/or hospital. Parents must complete an emergency information card for each child enrolled in the district. The card should list the family physician's

name, where parents or a responsible adult can be located, and any necessary emergency instructions.

Immunizations

All students must furnish one of the following to school officials:

- proof of adequate immunizations for mumps, measles, rubella; diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus; polio; and hepatitis B series; or
- a signed parental statement of refusal to provide the immunization history. Homeless students who are in need of immunizations will be referred to the homeless coordinator, who shall assist in obtaining necessary immunizations or medical records.

Provisional Enrollment. Students who meet the statutory requirements for provisional enrollment shall be allowed to attend school for sixty days without the necessary immunizations.

Students who are excepted from the immunization requirement may be excluded from school in the event of an outbreak of any contagious disease in the school population.

Initiations and Hazing

Initiations and hazing by members of classes, clubs, athletic teams, or any other organization affiliated with the district are prohibited except as otherwise permitted by this policy. Any student engaging in hazing or non-approved initiations is subject to discipline as permitted by policy and law.

Initiations are defined as any ritualistic expectations, requirements, or activities placed upon new members of a school organization for the purpose of admission into the organization, even if those activities do not rise to the level of "hazing" as defined below. Initiations are prohibited except by permission of the superintendent.

Hazing is defined as any activity by which a person intentionally or recklessly endangers the physical or mental health or safety of an individual for the purpose of initiation into, admission into, affiliation with, or continued membership in any school organization. Hazing activities include, but are not limited to, whipping, beating, branding, an act of sexual penetration, an exposure of the genitals of the body done with the intent to affront or alarm any person, a lewd fondling or caressing of the body of another person, forced and prolonged calisthenics, prolonged exposure to the elements, forced consumption of any food, liquor, beverage, drug, or harmful substance not generally intended for human consumption, prolonged sleep

deprivation, or any brutal treatment or the performance of any unlawful act that endangers the physical or mental health or safety of any person.

Lockers and Other School Property

The school district owns and exercises exclusive control over student lockers, desks, computer equipment, and other such property. Students should not expect privacy regarding usage of or items placed in or on school property, because school property is subject to search at any time by school officials. Periodic, random searches of lockers, desks, computers, and other such property may be conducted at the discretion of the administration. The assignment of a locker is on a temporary basis and may be revoked at any time. School officials may inspect student lockers without any particularized suspicion or reasonable cause.

Lost and Found

All lost and found articles are to be taken to the office. Students may claim lost articles there. Unclaimed articles will be donated to a local charity or otherwise disposed of at the conclusion of each semester.

Medications

Whenever possible, parents should arrange medication schedules to eliminate the need for giving medication during school hours. When it is necessary for school personnel to administer medication to students, the school district will comply with the Nebraska Medication Aide Act, the requirements of Title 92, Nebraska Administrative Code, Chapter 59, (promulgated by the Nebraska Department of Education and entitled *Methods of Competency Assessment of School Staff Who Administer Medication*), and all state and federal regulations. Parents and guardians who wish to have their child receive medication from school personnel must comply with the following procedures:

Prescription medication. (1) Parents/guardians must provide a physician's written authorization for the administration of the medication. (2) Parents/guardians must provide their own written permission for the administration of the medication. (3) The medication must be brought to school in the prescription container and must be properly labeled with the student's name, the physician's name, and directions for administering the medication.

Non-prescription medication. (1) Parents/guardians must provide written permission for the administration of the medication. (2) The medication must be brought to the school in the manufacturer’s container. (3) The container must be labeled with the child’s name and with directions for provision or administration of the medication

The district reserves the right to review and decline requests to administer or provide medications that are not consistent with standard pharmacological references, are prescribed in doses that exceed those recommended in standard pharmacological references, or that could be taken in a manner that would eliminate the need for giving them during school hours. The district may request parental authorization to consult with the student's physician regarding any medication prescribed by such physician.

Media Center

Students must check out materials from the librarian on duty. Each borrower is responsible for all books checked out in his/her name. Each student is responsible for any fine that accumulated on a book charged to him/her. If a book is lost and not found by the end of the semester, the student must pay for it. Students must also pay for any damage they cause to library books. Students may use the media center after school until 4:00 p.m.

Memorials

Memorials or plaques honoring deceased students are generally not allowed in or on the school grounds unless authorized by board policy. Dedications to students will not be allowed.

Scholarships in the deceased person's name will not be set up by the school. Scholarships set up by outside organizations or individuals, such as a foundation, will be allowed.

Opting Out of Assessments

The Board of Education has adopted a policy on approval and denial of state and federal assessment opt-out requests, which is based on requirements in law. The policy can be requested by contacting the Superintendent of Schools at 308-478-5265 [or can be viewed online by visiting: {hyperlink}].

Parental Involvement

The school district recognizes the unique needs of students who are being served in its Title I program, and the importance of parent and family engagement in the Title I program. Parent and family engagement in the Title I Program shall include, but is not limited to:

1. An annual meeting to which all parents of participating children will be invited to inform parents of their school's participation under this part, to explain the requirements of this part, and the right of the parents to be involved. Invitations may take the form of notes sent with students or announcements in the school

newsletter. Additional meetings may be scheduled, based upon need and interest for such meetings.

2. An explanation of the details for the child's and parents' participation, including but not limited to: curriculum objectives, the forms of academic assessment used to measure student progress and the achievement levels of the challenging State academic standards, type and extent of participation, parental input in educational decisions, coordination, and integration with other Federal, State, and district programs, and evaluations of progress.

3. Opportunities for participation in parent involvement activities, such as training to help parents work with their children to improve achievement. A goal of these parent activities is to provide parents with opportunities to participate in decisions relating to the education of their students, where appropriate.

4. The district will, to the extent practicable, provide parents of limited English proficiency, parents with disabilities, parents with limited literacy, are economically disadvantaged, are of a racial or minority background or parents of migratory children with opportunities for involvement in the Title I Program. Communication to parents about student progress and the district's other Title I Program communications will be provided in the language used in the home to the extent practicable. Responses to parent concerns will be provided in a timely manner.

5. Opportunities for parent-teacher conferences, in addition to those regularly scheduled by the school district, if requested by the parents or as deemed necessary by school district staff.

6. The district will coordinate and integrate parental involvement programs and activities with other programs in the community. These may include cooperation with other community programs such as Head Start and preschools and other community services such as the public library.

7. The district will educate teachers, specialized instructional support personnel, principals, and other school leaders, with the assistance of parents in the value and utility of contributions of parents, how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners.

Parties

Elementary classes may have seasonal parties during the year. Parents shall communicate with their student's classroom teacher for the teacher's rules regarding birthday and holiday parties. Invitations for private parties and non-school-sponsored events may not be distributed at school.

Personal Items

The school provides the necessary equipment for classroom and school day activities. **Students should not bring items such as athletic equipment, electronic devices, toys, or other similar personal items to school unless they have the prior permission of their classroom teacher or a school administrator. The school is not responsible for damaged or lost personal items or equipment.**

Physical Education

The school district requires students to receive physical education to assist them in developing gross and fine motor skills. Students are not required to wear P.E. uniforms, but are encouraged to wear tennis shoes for P.E.

Physical Exam

Students entering kindergarten and the seventh grade, and those entering school from another state, are statutorily required to show evidence that they have had a physical examination within six months prior to the date of entering school.

Pictures

The school district arranges for a photographer to be present at school in the fall to take class pictures. Parents will be notified of the date. Included in the individual packet is a class composite. Parents who want pictures of their students or of their student's class composite may purchase them directly from the photographer.

Playground Rules

Students must follow these rules to keep the playground safe when they are using the playground as part of the school day:

1. Students must obey the playground supervisor at all times.
2. Students may not enter the street/highway to retrieve a ball unless given permission by the playground supervisor.
3. Students must play away from the school windows.
4. Touch and flag football are permitted, but tackle football is prohibited. Students may only play football on grassy areas.
5. Students may throw balls and other authorized play equipment. They may not throw rocks, gravel, snowballs, and clothing.

6. Students must use the playground equipment properly and in a safe manner.
   a) Go down slides feet first in a sitting position. Do not climb up slides.
   b) Only one person going across monkey bars at a time. Don't sit or climb on top of bars.
   c) Sit on the merry go round. Keep body parts inside the merry go round area when it is moving.
8. When the playground supervisor signals, students are to line up immediately and safely.
9. Return school equipment to its proper location.
10. Students may not leave the playground after they have arrived at school for the day until they are dismissed from school that day.
11. Teachers and paras will use discretion as to other areas of the playground.

Students who violate these rules will be disciplined with the loss of recess or other privileges, detention, and/or other consequences.

The school's playgrounds, equipment, and surrounding areas are generally not supervised. Staff will supervise students when the students are using these areas as part of the school day or as part of a school activity. At all other times and in all other circumstances, the school district does not provide supervision of its playgrounds, equipment, and surrounding areas.

Police Questioning and Apprehension

Police or other law enforcement officers may be called to the school at the request of school administration, or may initiate contact with the school in connection with a criminal investigation. The school district shall inform parents when law enforcement officers seek access to their student prior to the student being questioned unless the officers are investigating charges that the student has been the victim of abuse or neglect. Members of the school district staff will comply with board policy regarding police questioning of students.

Protection of Student Rights

The Board of Education respects the rights of parents and their children and has adopted a Protection of Pupil Rights policy in consultation with parents to comply with the Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA). The policy is available on the district's website or upon request from the district's administrative office. Parents may opt their child out of participation in activities identified by the Protection of Pupil Rights policy by submitting a written request to the superintendent. Parents will be notified prior to any survey that requests personal information. Parents may have access to any

survey or other material described in the Protection of Pupil Rights policy by submitting a written request to the superintendent.

ACT Exam

Students taking the ACT Exam will be prompted to complete a short, optional questionnaire addressing a number of topics. If you wish to review this questionnaire prior to the administration of the exam, please submit a written request to the superintendent.

Public Displays of Affection

Students may not engage in public displays of affection that are disruptive to the school environment or distracting to others. Prohibited conduct includes hugging, kissing, touching or any other display of affection that a staff member determines to be inappropriate.

Reasonable Suspicion Testing

Students may be required to submit to drug or alcohol testing if there is a reasonable suspicion that the student is under the influence of drugs or alcohol.

Rights of Custodial and Non-Custodial Parents

The school district will honor the parental rights of natural and adoptive parents unless those rights have been altered by a court.

The term "custodial parent" refers to a biological or adoptive parent to whom a court has given primary physical and legal custody of a child, and a person such as a caseworker or foster parent to whom a court has given legal custody of a child.

The district will not restrict the access of custodial and non-custodial parents to their students and their students' records, unless the district has been provided a copy of a court order that limits those rights. If the district is provided such a court order, school officials will follow the directives set forth in the order.

The district will provide the custodial parent with routine information about his or her child, including notification of conferences. The district will not provide the non-custodial parent with such information on a routine basis, but will provide it upon the non-custodial parent's request unless it has been denied by the courts.

A non-custodial parent who wishes to attend conferences regarding his or her child will be provided information about conference times so both parents may attend a single conference. The district is not required to

schedule separate conferences if both parents have been previously informed of scheduled conference times.

If either or both parents' behavior is disruptive, staff members may terminate a conference and reschedule it with appropriate modifications or expectations.

Secret Organizations

Secret organizations are prohibited. School officials shall not allow any person or representative of any such organization to enter upon school grounds or school buildings for the purpose of rushing or soliciting students to participate in any secret fraternity, society, or association.

School Day

The school day typically begins at 8:20 a.m. and ends at 3:30 p.m. Students are to leave the school grounds after dismissal. School staff will provide supervision for students on school grounds 50 minutes before the school day begins and 15 minutes after the school day ends. **There will be no supervision provided by the school before or after these times**. Parents must arrange for their children to leave school promptly at the end of the day.

Self-Management of Diabetes or Asthma/Anaphylaxis

Subject to school policy, the school district will work with the parent or guardian in consultation with appropriate medical professionals to develop a medical management plan for a student with diabetes, asthma, or anaphylaxis. Parents desiring to develop such a plan should contact principal.

Smoking and Tobacco

The use or possession of any tobacco product, including cigarettes, cigars, or other tobacco or tobacco derivative products; vapor products or electronic nicotine delivery systems; alternative nicotine products; or any other such look-alike or imitation product, is not permitted on school property at any time.

Sniffer (Drug) Dogs

The administration is authorized to use sniffer dogs to minimize the presence of illicit items on school grounds. Students and staff are specifically notified of the following:

1. Lockers may be sniffed by sniffer dogs at any time.
2. Vehicles parked on school property may be sniffed by sniffer dogs at any time.
3. Classrooms and other common areas may be sniffed by sniffer dogs at any time students and staff are not present.

4. If contraband of any kind is found, the student or staff member shall be subject to appropriate disciplinary action.

Standardized Testing

The MAP Growth assessment is administered two times a year in grades K-11 to determine the students' achievement probability for individual success. Eleventh graders will be exempt from the spring MAP assessment as they prepare for the ACT. Tests are administered in Winter and Spring, and the results are sent home.

Student Assistance

Parents who believe their students have any learning, behavior, or emotional needs that they believe are not being addressed by the school district should contact the student's teacher. If appropriate, the teacher may convene the Student Assistance Team (SAT). The SAT can explore possibilities and strategies that will best meet the educational needs of the student.

Student Fee Policy

The school district shall provide free instruction in accordance with the Nebraska State Constitution and Nebraska state law. The district also provides activities, programs, and services that extend beyond the minimum level of constitutionally required free instruction. Under the Public Elementary and Secondary Student Fee Authorization Act, the district is permitted to charge students fees for these activities or to require students to provide specialized equipment and attire for certain purposes. This policy is subject to further interpretation or guidance by administrative or board regulations. Students are encouraged to contact their building administration, their teachers or their coaches, and sponsors for further specifics.

Definitions.

1. "Students" means students, their parents, guardians, or other legal representatives.

2. "Extracurricular activities" means student activities or organizations that (1) are supervised or administered by the district; (2) do not count toward graduation or advancement between grades; and (3) are not otherwise required by the district.

3. "Post-secondary education costs" means tuition and other fees associated with obtaining credit from a post-secondary educational institution.

Listing of Fees Charged by this District.

1. **Clothing Required for Specified Courses and Activities**. Students are responsible for complying with the district's grooming and attire guidelines and for furnishing all clothing required for any special programs, courses, or activities in which they participate. The teacher, coach, or sponsor of the activity will provide students with written guidelines that detail any special clothing requirements and explain why the special clothing is required for the specific program, course, or activity.

2. **Safety Equipment and Attire**. The district will provide students with all safety equipment and attire that is required by law. Building administrators will assure that (a) such equipment is available in the appropriate classes and areas of the school buildings, (b) teachers are directed to instruct students in the use of such devices, and (c) students use the devices as required. Students are responsible for using the devices safely and as instructed.

3. **Personal or Consumable Items**. The district does not provide students with personal or consumable items for participation in courses and activities including, but not limited to, pencils, paper, pens, erasers, and notebooks. Students who wish to supply their own personal or consumable items may do so, as long as those items comply with the requirements of the district. The district will provide students with facilities, equipment, materials, and supplies, including books. Students are responsible for the careful and appropriate use of such property. Students will be charged for damage to school property caused by the student and will be held responsible for the reasonable replacement cost of any school property that they lose.

4. **Materials Required for Course Projects.** The school district will provide students with the materials necessary to complete all basic curricular projects. In courses where students choose to produce a project that requires materials beyond the basic materials provided by the district, the students will either furnish the materials, purchase the materials from the school, or purchase the materials from an outside vendor with an order form provided by the school.

5. **Technological Devices.** The district will provide students with the technological devices necessary to complete all basic curricular projects. To the extent that a student is not required by the district's curriculum to utilize a device off district property, the district may charge students a convenience fee to take the device off district property. The maximum dollar amount of this convenience fee charged by the district will be $30. If the laptop or parts are lost, stolen, damaged, or not returned while in the student's possession, the student/parent is responsible for

the cost of the replacement or repairs. Please review the rights and responsibilities of students in regards to technology as detailed in the computer loan agreement.

6. **Extracurricular Activities**. The school district may charge students a fee to participate in extracurricular activities to cover the district's reasonable costs in offering such activities. The district may require students to furnish specialized equipment and clothing that is required for participation in extracurricular activities, or may charge a reasonable fee for the use of district-owned equipment or attire. Attached to this policy is a list of the fees charged for particular activities. The coach or sponsor will provide students with additional written guidelines detailing the fees charged, the equipment and/or clothing required, or the usage fee charged. The guidelines will explain the reasons that fees, equipment, and/or clothing are required for the activity.

The following list details the maximum dollar amount of all extracurricular activities fees and the specifications for any equipment or attire required for participation in extracurricular activities:

- Student Activity Card: $30
  - Covers admission to all extracurricular events
- Student Participation Fee: $30
  - Required of all students who participate in athletics and/or other extracurricular activities
- Future Business Leaders of America: $100
- Cheerleading: $900
  - Students must purchase uniforms and shoes selected by the sponsor and/or student group. This is the maximum dollar amount charged by the school district for these items.
- Football: Students must provide their own football shoes, undergarments, and mouthguards
- Golf: Students must provide their own golf shoes, undergarments, and clubs
- Track, Volleyball, and Wrestling, Basketball: Students must provide their own shoes and undergarments
- Future Farmers of America: $100
  - Students must purchase their own jackets and pay dues

7. **Post-Secondary Education Costs**. Some students enroll in post-secondary courses while still enrolled in high school. As a general rule, students must pay all costs associated with such post-secondary

courses. However, for a course in which students receive high school credit or a course being taken as part of an approved accelerated or differentiated curriculum program, the district shall offer the course without charge for tuition, transportation, books, or other fees. Students who chose to apply for post-secondary education credit for these courses must pay tuition and all other fees associated with obtaining credits from a post-secondary educational institution. The costs of these items will naturally vary, but the maximum dollar amount of the fee is anticipated to be $1500.00 per course.

8. **Transportation Costs**. The district will charge students reasonable fees for district-provided transportation services to the extent permitted by federal and state statutes and regulations. The maximum dollar amount of the transportation fee charged by this district shall be $100.00 per mile.

9. **Copies of Student Files or Records**. The school district will charge a fee for making copies of a student's files or records for the student's parents or guardians. The Superintendent or the Superintendent's designee shall establish a schedule of student record fees. Students' parents have the right to inspect and review the students' files or records without the payment of a fee, and the district shall not charge a fee to search for or retrieve any student's files or records. The district will charge a fee of 10 cents per page for reproduction of student records.

10. **Participation in Before-School, After-School or Pre-Kindergarten Services**. The district will charge reasonable fees for participation in before-school, after-school or pre-kindergarten services offered by the district pursuant to statute.

11. **Participation in Summer School or Night School.** The district will charge reasonable fees for participation in summer school or night school and may charge reasonable fees for correspondence courses. The maximum dollar amount for summer and night school shall be $150.

12. **Charges for Food Consumed by Students**. The district will charge for items that students purchase from the district's breakfast and lunch programs. The fees charged for these items will be set according to applicable federal and state statutes and regulations. The district will charge students for the cost of food, beverages, and the like that students purchase from a school store, vending machine, booster club or from similar sources. Students may be required to bring money or food for field trip lunches and similar activities.

- The maximum dollar amount charged by the district for the breakfast and lunch programs is as follows:
- The school district will provide free breakfast for K-12 students. There will be fees charged for a la carte purchases like a second entrée or milk.
- Second milk or second entrée (each) $.55/$1.25

13. **Charges for Musical Extracurricular Activities.** Students who qualify for fee waivers under this policy will be provided, at no charge, the use of a musical instrument in optional music courses that are not extracurricular activities. For musical extracurricular activities, the school district will require students to provide the following equipment and/or attire:
    - Band students must provide their own instruments.

14. **Contributions for Class Extracurricular Activities.** Students are eligible to participate in a number of extracurricular activities during their years in Junior/ Senior High school, including prom, various senior recognitions, and graduation. In order to fund these extracurricular activities, the school district will ask each student to make a contribution to their class's fund beginning in seventh grade. This contribution is completely voluntary. Students who chose not to contribute to the class fund are still eligible to participate in the extra activities. The suggested donation to the class fund will be $5.00 to $50.00 per year.

Waiver Policy.
Students who qualify for free or reduced-price lunches under United States Department of Agriculture child nutrition programs shall be provided a fee waiver or be provided the necessary materials or equipment without charge for (1) participation in extracurricular activities, (2) materials for course projects, and (3) the use of a musical instrument in optional music courses that are not extracurricular activities. Students are not required to participate in the free or reduced-price lunch program to qualify for the waivers provided in this section. The district is not obligated to provide any particular type or quality of equipment or other material to eligible students. Students who wish to be considered for waiver of a particular fee must submit a completed fee waiver application to their building principal. Application forms are available in each school building office.

Voluntary Contributions to Defray Costs.
When appropriate, the district will request donations of money, materials, equipment, or attire from parents, guardians and other members of the community to defray the costs of providing certain services and activities to students. These requests are not requirements, and staff members of the

district are directed to communicate that fact clearly to students, parents, and patrons.

Fund-Raising Activities

Students may be permitted or required to engage in fund-raising activities to support various curricular and extracurricular activities in which they participate. Students who decline to participate in fund-raising activities are not eligible under this policy for waiver of the costs or fees which the fund-raising activity was meant to defray.

Student Illness

Students who suffer from a significant illness which has an actual or expected duration of six months or more may be eligible for accommodations and supports under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act or under the Individuals with Disabilities in Education Act. The school will provide accommodations to students who are returning to school after a prolonged absence due to illness, including pediatric cancer, through a 504 plan or an IEP, as appropriate. The student's plan will include informal or formal accommodations, modifications of curriculum and monitoring by medical or academic staff as determined by the student's IEP team or 504 committee. Parents and staff will engage in ongoing communication about the needs of a student who is facing these circumstances.

Students who become ill at school will be sent to the building office where the school nurse or other school employee will determine the appropriate response. When a child is too ill to remain at school, a school employee will contact the child's parent(s) and arrange for the child to be picked up or sent home. If an illness or injury requires immediate medical attention, school officials shall attempt to contact the child's parent(s) regarding treatment for the child. If the parents cannot be contacted, school officials may have the child treated by an available physician. Students who show symptoms of a contagious disease may be sent home, and the district may require a physician's statement before allowing such students to return to school.

Student Government

Students are encouraged to formulate and participate in elective and representative student government activities. The organization, operation, and scope of the student government shall be administered by the superintendent or designee.

Student Records

The Family Education Rights and Privacy Act ("FERPA") provides parents certain rights with respect to their student's education records. These rights include the right to inspect and review the student's education records within

45 days of the date the school receives a request for access; and the right to request the amendment of the student's education records that you believe to be inaccurate.

If parents believe one of their student's records is inaccurate, they should write to the school principal, clearly identify the part of the record they want changed, and specify why they believe it is inaccurate. If the school decides not to amend the record as requested, it will notify the parents of the decision and advise them of their right to a hearing regarding the request for amendment.

Directory Information. FERPA and the Nebraska Public Records Law authorize school districts to make "directory information" available for review at the request of non-school individuals. These laws also give parents and guardians a voice in the decision-making process regarding the disclosure of directory information regarding their children. The school district has designated the following as directory information:

> name and grade, name of parent and/or guardian, address, telephone number, including the student's cell phone number, e-mail address, date and place of birth, dates of attendance, the image or likeness of students in pictures, videotape, film or other medium, major field of study, participation in activities and sports, degrees and awards received, social media usernames and handles, weight and height of members of athletic teams, most recent previous school attended, certain class work which may be published onto the Internet, classroom assignment and/or home room teacher, student ID number, user ID, or other unique personal identifier used by the student for purposes of accessing or communicating in electronic systems (but only if the identifier cannot be used to gain access to education records except when used in conjunction with one or more factors that authenticate the user's identity, such as a personal identification number (PIN), password, or other factor known or possessed only the authorized user). Directory information does not include a student's social security number.

Directory information about students may be disclosed to outside organizations without a parent's prior written consent. Outside organizations include, but are not limited to, companies that market or manufacture class rings, sell student photographs or publish student yearbooks.

Federal law requires school districts to provide military recruiters and institutions of higher education with the names, addresses, and telephone listings of high school students unless parents have notified the school

district in writing that they do not want this information disclosed without prior written parental consent. Military recruiters will be granted the same access to a student in a high school grade as is provided to postsecondary educational institutions or to prospective employers of such students.

Parents who ***OBJECT*** to the disclosure of any directory information about their student should write a letter to the principal. This letter should specify the particular categories of directory information that the parents do not wish to have released about their child or the particular types of outside organizations to which they do not wish directory information to be released. This letter must be received by the school district no later than August 28, 2026.

Non-Directory Information

All of the other personally identifiable information about students that is maintained in the school district's education records will generally not be disclosed to anyone outside the school system except under one of two circumstances: (1) in accordance with the provisions of the FERPA statutes and related administrative regulations, or (2) in accordance with the parent's written instructions.

One FERPA exception permits disclosure to school officials with legitimate educational interests without consent. A school official includes, but is not necessarily limited to, a teacher or other educator, administrator, supervisor, instructor, or support staff member (including health or medical staff and law enforcement unit personnel); school board member; volunteer; contractor or consultant who, while not employed by the school, performs an institutional service or function for which the school would otherwise use its own employees and who is under the direct control of the school with respect to the use and maintenance of PII from education records, such as an attorney, representative of the district's insurance providers, auditor, medical consultant, therapist, or a third-party website operator who has contracted with the school district or its agent to offer online programs for the benefit of students and/or the district; members of law enforcement acting on behalf of the school district; a parent or student volunteering to serve on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee; or a parent, student, or other volunteer assisting another school official in performing his or her tasks. A school official typically has a "legitimate educational interest" if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill a school-related professional, contractual, statutory, or regulatory responsibility.

The district will share information with the Department of Education necessary to comply with the requirement of state law that all third- year high school students take a college entrance exam. Any redisclosure of

information related to the administration of this exam shall be governed by the agreement between the Nebraska Department of Education and the third-party testing company.

Transfer of Records Upon Student Enrollment
Upon request, the school discloses education records without consent to officials of another school district in which a student seeks or intends to enroll. The school is not obligated to inform parents when it makes a disclosure under this provision.

Complaints
Individuals who wish to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the School to comply with the requirements of FERPA may contact the Office that administers FERPA:

Family Policy Compliance Office
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20202-4605

Student Schedule Changes

Student schedule changes may be made without penalty during the first week of each semester. There will be no changes made to a schedule after the first week of each semester. Drop and Add slips are to be obtained from the office of the Guidance Counselor and must be signed by the guardian and classroom teacher before they are presented to the counselor for change.

After the first week of the semester, students who insist on dropping a class, except for instances of an extended illness, will receive a "0" on their permanent records, and that grade will be averaged into the student's cumulative grade point average. If an extended illness makes it impossible or impracticable for a student to successfully complete a class or classes, the student may be allowed to withdraw from a class or classes as (WP)-Withdraw Passing or (WF)-Withdraw Failing. If permission to withdraw as WP or WF is given by the building principal and guidance counselor, the grade(s) will not be averaged into the cumulative grade point average of the student.

Before students are allowed to withdraw from a class as WP or WF, the student, the parents of the student, the guidance counselor, and the building principal must meet and review the circumstances of the situation. All available means that could be utilized to allow the student to successfully complete the course(s) must be reviewed before permission to withdraw as WP or WF is given by the building principal and guidance counselor.

Student Use of AI Tools

As used in this section, artificial intelligence tools ("AI Tools") mean machine-based resources that use computer science, algorithms, large language models, and/or machine learning to perform tasks, answer questions, collect information, and respond to human-directed tasks, queries, and objectives. AI Tools include, but are not necessarily limited to, commercially-available resources like ChatGPT, Gemini, Claude and similar programs.

AI Tools may be useful to student learning. However, students and staff must ensure that student use of AI Tools should focus on using such tools as a resource and for background material, rather than using the AI Tools to complete the assignment. Therefore, AI Tools may only be used by students in accordance with the following requirements:

1. Students may not use AI tools on any assignment, test, or project unless the staff member has given express permission for the student to do so. Staff Member permission to use an AI tool on one assignment does not carry over to other assignments. Individual staff members will decide for each individual assignment the extent to which students may use AI Tools.

2. If a student uses any AI Tools in connection with a school assignment, the student must:
    a. Give proper attribution to the specific AI Tool(s) used to the same extent that students are expected to give proper attribution to other sources of information such as books, texts, encyclopedias, secondary sources, and other traditional media. Such attribution may include, but is not necessarily limited to, accurate quotations, citations, footnotes, endnotes, and/or bibliography entries.
    b. Never copy and paste the output from the AI Tool into the student's work as if the student wrote such section himself or herself.

3. Students may never use AI Tools to:
    a. Cheat on any assignment, test, or quiz;
    b. Help answer questions on a test or quiz without staff member permission;
    c. Make or share deepfakes or fake images, audio, or video of any real person;
    d. Make or share sexual, nude, or intimate images of any real person—even if the image is fake or AI-made;
    e. Bully, harass, threaten, intimidate or impersonate any person;

f. Place another student or staff member name, photo, voice, or personal information into an AI Tool without staff member authorization;
g. Use AI Tools to bypass accommodations, content filers, or school security.

4. A student may use AI Tools as an accommodation if his/her IEP team or Section 504 committee has approved use of the tool. The student must disclose the use of AI Tools to the staff member grading the assignment.

5. A student's failure to meet the requirements stated in this policy will constitute a violation of the district's prohibitions against cheating plagiarism and/or academic dishonesty, including but not necessarily limited to such prohibitions stated in the Student Handbook, which violation will subject the student to discipline up to and including expulsion.

6. The student requirements stated above are the minimum requirements for any student assignment. An individual teacher may impose more stringent requirements for any specific academic assignment or coursework.

Tardiness

After every five tardies to school or classes, the student will be required to serve a 30 min detention.

Telephone Calls

The school's telephone may be used only with permission of staff.

Threat Assessment and Response The board of education is committed to providing a safe environment for members of the school community. Students, staff and patrons are urged to immediately report any statements or behavior that makes the observer fearful or uncomfortable about the safety of the school environment.

1. Definitions

a. A **threat** is an expression of willful intent to physically or sexually harm someone or to damage property in a way that indicates that an individual poses a danger to the safety of school staff, students or other members of the school community.

i. The threat may be expressed/communicated behaviorally, orally, visually, in writing, electronically, or through any other means.

ii. A **transient threat** is an expression of anger or frustration that can be quickly or easily resolved.

iii. A **substantive threat** is an expression of serious intent to harm others which includes, but is not limited to, any threat which involves a detailed plan and means

b. A **threat assessment** is a fact-based process emphasizing an appraisal of observed (or reasonably-observable) behaviors to identify potentially dangerous or violent situations, to assessment them and to manage/address them. Threat assessment is the process of distinguishing "transient" threats from serious ones in a systematic, data-informed way.

i. The threat assessment process is distinct from student disciplinary procedures. The mere fact that the district is conducting a threat assessment does not by itself necessitate suspension, expulsion or emergency exclusion without complying with state law and board policy related governing those actions.

ii. The threat assessment process is distinct from specialized instruction which a student with a disability may receive from the school district. The school district will not change a student's educational placement as that term is used in the Individuals with Disabilities in Education Act *solely* as part of a threat assessment.

2. Obligation to Report Threatening Statements or Behaviors.

All staff and students must report **substantive threats** to a member of the administration immediately and comply with any other mandatory reporting obligations. Staff and students who are unsure whether a threat is substantive or transient should report the situation. Staff and students must make such report regardless of the nature of the relationship between the individual who initiated the threat or threatening behavior and the person(s) who were threatened or who were the focus of the threatening behavior. Staff and students must also make such reports regardless of where or when the threat was made or the threatening behavior occurred.

THREATS OR ASSAULTS WHICH REQUIRE IMMEDIATE INTERVENTION SHOULD BE REPORTED TO THE POLICE AT 911.

3. Threat Assessment Investigation and Response

When a threat is reported, the school administrator shall initiate an initial inquiry/triage and, in consultation with members of the threat assessment team, make a determination of the seriousness of the threat as expeditiously as possible. The school administrator must contact law enforcement if the administrator believes that an individual poses a clear and immediate threat of serious violence.

If there is no reasonably apparent imminent threat present or once such an imminent threat is contained, the threat assessment team will meet to evaluate and respond to the threatening behavior. The superintendent may, but is not required to, review the following types of information:

- Review of the threatening behavior and/or communication;
- Interviews with the individuals involved including students, staff members, and family members as necessary and/or appropriate;
- Review of school and other records for any prior history or interventions with the students involved;
- Any other investigatory methods that the law enforcement unit determines to be reasonable and useful.
- The superintendent must confer with at least on member of the school's guidance counseling staff as part of his/her investigation. If the threat has been made by, or is directed towards, a student with a disability, the superintendent must confer with a staff member who is knowledgeable about special education services or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, as appropriate.

At the conclusion of the investigation, the superintendent will determine what, if any, response to the threat is appropriate. The superintendent is authorized to disclose the results of his/her investigation to law enforcement and to the target(s) of any threatened acts. The superintendent may refer the individual of concern to the appropriate school administrator for consequences under the school's student discipline policy or, if appropriate, report the results of his/her investigation to the student's individualized education plan team.

Regardless of threat assessment activities, disciplinary action and referral to law enforcement will occur consistent with board policy and Nebraska law.

4. Communication with the Public about Reported Threats

To the extent possible, the superintendent will keep members of the school community informed about substantive threats and about the District's response to those threats. This communication may include oral announcements, written communication sent home with students, and

communication through print or broadcast media. However, the superintendent will not reveal the identity of the individual of concern or of any target(s) of threatened violence unless permitted by law.

5. Coordination with the Crisis Team After Resolution of Threat

The superintendent will confer with the district's crisis team after a threat has been investigated to provide the crisis team with information that the crisis team may use in assessing or revising the district's All-Hazard School's Safety Plan.

Transportation Services

The district operates school buses as a convenience for students and parents. They represent a substantial investment, and students are expected to care for and respect them.

Transportation to School

Students who ride the bus to school will arrive in time for them to eat breakfast at school. **Parents must contact the school secretary if a student will not ride the bus on a given day.** Bus drivers endeavor to adhere to their schedule, and will wait for riders only a short period of time so as not to jeopardize the time remaining for the rest of their schedule.

Non-resident or option enrollment students may ride the buses, but they will be charged a fee to be established by the board of education. The Superintendent will schedule bus routes, and questions concerning them should be directed to that office.

Bus Regulations

Riding school vehicles is a privilege, not a right. The bus drivers have the same authority as teachers while transporting students. Students must comply with the following rules and all school conduct rules and directives while riding in school vehicles. In addition, students must also comply with the student code of conduct while riding in school vehicles. If misconduct is recurring, the student will not be allowed to ride the bus.

a) **Rules of Conduct on School Vehicles:**

1) Students must obey the driver promptly.
2) Students must wait in a safe place for the bus to arrive, clear of traffic and away from where the vehicle stops.
3) Students are prohibited from fighting, engaging in bullying, harassment, or horseplay.
4) Students must enter the bus without crowding or disturbing others and go directly to their assigned seats.
5) Students must remain seated and keep aisles and exits clear while the vehicle is moving.

6) Students are prohibited from throwing or passing objects on, from, or into vehicles.
7) Students may not use profane language, obscene gestures, tobacco, alcohol, drugs, or any other controlled substance on the vehicles.
8) Students may not carry weapons, look-a-like weapons, hazardous materials, nuisance items, or animals onto the vehicle.
9) Students may carry on conversations in ordinary tones, but may not be loud or boisterous and should avoid talking to the driver while the vehicle is in motion. Students must be absolutely quiet when the vehicle approaches a railroad crossing and any time the driver calls for quiet.
10) Students may not open windows without permission from the driver. Students may not dangle any item (e.g. legs, arms, backpacks) out of the windows.
11) Student must secure any item or items that could break or produce injury if tossed about the inside of the vehicle if the vehicle were involved in an accident
12) Student must respect the rights and safety of others at all times.
13) Students must help keep the vehicle clean, sanitary, and orderly. Students must remove all personal items and trash upon exiting.
14) Students may not leave or board the vehicle at locations other than the assigned stops at home or school unless approved prior to departure by the superintendent or designee.
15) Video cameras may be placed on buses, at random, to monitor student behavior on the bus.

b) **Consequences**

Drivers must promptly report all student misconduct to the administration. These reports may be oral or written. Students who violate the Rules for Conduct will be referred to their building principal for discipline. Disciplinary consequences may include a note home to parents, suspension of bus riding privileges, exclusion from extracurricular activities, in-school suspension, short- term or long-term suspension from school, and/or expulsion.

These consequences are not progressive, and school officials have discretion to impose any listed punishment they deem appropriate, in accordance with state and federal law and board policy.

c) Records

Records of vehicle misconduct will be forwarded to the appropriate building principal and will be maintained in the same manner as other student discipline records. Reports of serious misconduct may be forwarded to law enforcement.

Requests to be dropped off at a point **not** on the regular route will not be accommodated, unless extenuating circumstances arise and the request is approved by the transportation director or administration.

Students who are not regular route riders may not ride the bus home with a friend, unless the parent of the non-route student presents written permission to the transportation director ahead of time. The written permission should include the date, the non-route rider's name, the signature of the non-rider's parent, and the place approved for drop off. Such requests may not be granted if they cause overcrowding of the vans or buses (Vans-10 riders only, plus driver).

Transportation to Activities

The school district provides transportation to students who are participating in school-sponsored events and they must ride to those events in a school vehicle. Students who wish to take private transportation home from a school event must submit a release form to the sponsor that has been signed by that student's parent.

Video Surveillance, Recordings, and Photographs

The Board of Education has authorized the use of video cameras on school district property to ensure the health, welfare, and safety of all staff, students and visitors, and to safeguard District facilities and equipment. Video cameras may be used in locations deemed appropriate by the Superintendent. If a video surveillance recording captures a student or other building user violating school policies or rules or local, state, or federal laws, it may be used in appropriate disciplinary proceedings against the student or other building user and may also be provided to law enforcement agencies.

Recordings Made by Parents/Guardians and Patrons. Parents/guardians and patrons may make recordings of school activities intended to be public in a non-disruptive manner including things like athletic contests and school board meetings to the extent permitted by law unless otherwise lawfully restricted by the administration. Parents/guardians or patrons may not make recordings if they are volunteering or visiting school during the school day without permission of the administration or supervising staff member and subject to this policy, such as recording their

child's classroom activities or recess. Parents may not record meetings with administrators or staff, including meetings related to a student's IEP or 504 Plan. Violation of this policy will result in immediate termination of any meeting that is being recorded and may be grounds for exclusion from school property, loss of volunteer privileges, or other restrictions deemed appropriate by the administration.

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

Weather-Related School Closing

The Superintendent will occasionally announce an emergency early school dismissal, late start, or cancellation of school due to extreme heat, snow, or ice. School closings will be announced through different media outlets and the school's "Bright Arrow" (All Call) information system. Parents should assume that school is open and a regular schedule is being followed if there is no announcement concerning the school district. Please do not call the school or individual staff members to find out whether school is being canceled. Parents who do not believe it is safe to transport their students to school may keep their students home after contacting the district office.

If schools are closed due to severe weather conditions, all after-school activities will be canceled.

Withdrawal From School

Students who are moving from the district must notify the school office.

Work Permits

The building principal or other authorized school official shall be responsible for the issuance of work permits for children in accordance with state law.

SECTION TWO

ACADEMIC INFORMATION

Academic Lettering

A student in grades 9-12 is eligible for an academic letter if he/she achieves Honor Roll status any three of the four quarters in a year.

Class Rank

Student class rank shall be determined by using a numeric grade point average derived from all classes graded on a numeric basis. To be included in the class ranking, a student must have received a numeric grade for each core curriculum class in which he/she was enrolled. For the purposes of this policy, core curriculum shall include all courses in the areas of language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies.

Students who transfer into the school district will be eligible to be included in class ranking after two semesters of attendance.

Students who transfer into the school district in middle of their senior year will be eligible to be included in class ranking, although a mid-year transfer will not displace the ranking of a student who has not transferred mid-year. In those circumstances there will be two students holding the relevant class ranking. Mid-year transfer students will not be eligible to receive senior awards such as valedictorian and salutatorian unless the student has been enrolled in the district's high school for the last two semesters.

Credit for Non-Academic Work

Credit is not awarded for participation in extracurricular activities such as sports, speech, drama, etc. However, all such activities in which the student participates, as well as honors earned, are noted on the student's permanent record.

Correspondence and Online Courses

Under certain circumstances, the school district will reimburse students for the cost of tuition, textbooks, and other mandatory class materials for high school correspondence or online courses that are not part of the school district's regular curriculum. To receive reimbursement, the student must: 1) pay all initial course costs when he/she registers for the course; 2) select a course that is not available in the school curriculum, nor is any comparable course available; 3) register for the course during a specific school period; 4) have a faculty member designated as course monitor; and 5) complete the course during the regular school semester(s).

The district will not be liable for the costs of such courses until the student has successfully completed the course according to the established timelines. After the student has completed the course and the district has reimbursed the student for these costs, the textbooks and class materials shall become the property of the district.

Grades

Students will receive letter grades for their academic core classes.

The junior high and high school grading system is as follows:

A=	93-100
B+ =	91-92
B=	86-90
C+ =	84-85
C=	78-83
D+ =	76-77
D=	70-75
F= Failing	69 and below
S= Satisfactory Progress	
U= Unsatisfactory Progress	
I= Incomplete	

A student may earn an incomplete when he or she fails to complete classroom assignments. Any student in grades 7-11 who receives an incomplete will have this grade recorded on his/her permanent record until the required work is completed to the teacher's satisfaction. If a student does not remove an incomplete by completing the minimum classroom assignments, the incomplete will be calculated as a failing grade in determining the student's grade point average.

If a student does not remove an incomplete by completing the necessary work within two weeks of the end of the grading period, the incomplete will become a failing grade that the student may make up only by taking the entire course again. The two-week period may be extended by mutual agreement of the teacher, principal, and student.

A student who receives an incomplete during his/her senior year must satisfactorily complete the classroom assignments to participate in the graduation ceremony. Seniors with incompletes will not be dismissed from school attendance until the classroom assignments are completed to the teacher's satisfaction.

Graduation Awards

Graduating seniors will be awarded for their academic achievements during the annual commencement activities. The winners of these awards will be determined on the basis of student academic achievement in the core curriculum: English, mathematics, science, social studies, business education, foreign language, and computer science.

The valedictorian and salutatorian of the graduating class shall be the students with the highest and second highest cumulative percentage grade point averages respectively in core curriculum course work completed in grades nine through twelve. These students will receive their awards during commencement exercises.

Students whose cumulative grade point average in core curriculum course work completed in grades nine through twelve ranks them in the top twenty-five percent of their class and will be recognized during commencement exercises.

Graduation Requirements

Students must earn _____ (___) total credit hours in order to graduate from high school.

Required courses and credit hours that students must complete in order to qualify for the Wilcox-Hildreth High School Diploma are:

COURSE REQUIREMENTS	CREDIT HOURS
English	40 Credits
Social Studies	40 Credits
(American History and American Government is required)	
Mathematics	30 Credits
Science	30 Credits
Speech/Computers	10 Credits
Physical Education and Health	10 Credits
Electives (Personal Finance required)	80 Credits

Transfer students must meet the minimum hour requirement for graduation both in terms of total number and specific subject areas. Substitutions may be made for deficiencies in required courses, provided that it was not possible to include the courses on the student's schedule while enrolled at this school district.

Students who receive special education services are mainstreamed into the regular education curriculum when appropriate. The curriculum content of regular education classes may be modified to accommodate the individual needs and abilities of verified special education students. Each curriculum modification will be included on the student's Individual Education Plan by the Multi-Disciplinary Team and/or school staffing teams composed of special and regular education staff. Hours in special education will be counted toward a high school diploma.

Parents of students who may not qualify for their high school diploma because of academic deficiencies will be notified of this possibility by the beginning of the second semester of the student's senior year.

Homework

Classroom teachers will often assign homework. Parents who have questions about homework or concerns about class work should contact the teacher. Questions not resolved by the teacher should be referred to the administration.

Each student is expected to spend some time preparing for studies outside of school hours. The amount of time that is needed will depend upon each student. Students who struggle to complete assignments or who must spend an inordinate amount of time completing an assignment should seek the help and advice of their teachers and consult with the principal and/or the guidance counselor.

Honor Roll

To qualify for the honor roll, students must be enrolled in a minimum of seven (7) classes, four of which must be from the core curriculum of English, mathematics, science, social studies, business education, foreign language, and computer science. Students who earn a quarter or semester academic average of 94% or better with no grade in any class lower than 90% will qualify for the honor roll.

Mid-Term Graduation

Students are generally required to attend four years of high school (minimum of seven semesters) to be eligible to receive a diploma from the school district.

The Board of Education, upon receiving administrative recommendation, may grant mid-term exit from high school to students who have completed the requirements for graduation. To be considered for mid-term exit from high school, the student and his/her parents or guardian should apply during the first quarter of the student’s senior year. The Board of Education will act on all requests. Any student who is granted mid-term exit from high school

forfeits all privileges of high school enrollment, except the right to participate in commencement exercises.

National Honor Society

The National Honor Society chapter of Wilcox-Hildreth High School is a duly chartered and affiliated chapter of this prestigious national organization.

Selection to the National Honor Society

To be eligible for membership in the National Honor Society students must be a full time junior or senior with at least 4 semesters completed. Transfer students must follow the same guidelines plus they must have attended school at Wilcox-Hildreth the entire previous academic and current semester immediately preceding the semester of their consideration for their selection. Students must have a **cumulative** scholastic average of B+ (3.5 on 4.0 scale). Students with a B+ cumulative average are then evaluated on the basis of service, leadership, and character. Selection of each member to the chapter shall be a majority vote of the Faculty Council. The National Honor Society Induction Ceremony will occur in November.

Dismissal from the National Honor Society

Members who fall below the standards which were the basis for their selection shall be promptly warned in writing and given a reasonable amount of time to correct the deficiency, except in the case of flagrant violation of school rules or civil laws, a member does not necessarily have to be warned.

In all cases of impending dismissal, a member shall have a right to a hearing before the Faculty Council. A member who has been dismissed may appeal the decision of the Faculty Council under the same rules for disciplinary appeals in the school district.

Report Cards

Report cards are sent home within 2 weeks following the end of the nine-week reporting period. Mid-quarter reports are also sent to parents of students who are having difficulty in an academic subject.

SECTION THREE

STUDENT DISCIPLINE

General Discipline Philosophy

The school district has the authority to discipline students who behave inappropriately on the way to school, at school, during lunch, on the way home, and at all school activities (home and away or any time while on school or district property).

The school district's discipline is guided by the following principles:

1. The school district's discipline policy is intended to ensure that students take responsibility for their behavior.
2. Behavior expectations and the consequences for failing to meet those expectations will be clearly communicated to all students and their parents.
3. The severity of consequences for violating behavior expectations will generally be progressive in nature. That is, sanctions will increase with each instance of misconduct; however, each instance will be assessed on its own facts, and sanctions will be imposed based on the severity of the misconduct.
4. Parents play a vital role in supporting and reinforcing the school district's expectations of their students.
5. Behavior expectations apply to all students; consequences are enforced consistently without regard to a student's academic record or achievement.

Extracurricular activities, including athletics, cheerleading, band, chorus, and club activities, are governed by the Student Activity Handbook. Students who are involved in extracurricular activities may face consequences related to the activity in addition to the consequences discussed in this handbook.

The school district reserves the right to refer to the appropriate non-school agency any act or conduct of its students which may constitute a crime under federal, state, county, or local law. The administration will cooperate with these agencies in their investigations.

Forms of School Discipline

Administrative and teaching personnel may take actions regarding student behavior that are reasonably necessary to aid the student, further school purposes, or prevent interference with the educational process. Such actions may include, but need not be limited to, counseling of students, parent conferences, referral to restorative justice practices or services, rearrangement of schedules, requirements that a student remain in school after regular hours to do additional work, restriction of extracurricular

activity, or requirements that a student receive counseling, psychological evaluation, or psychiatric evaluation upon the written consent of a parent or guardian to such counseling or evaluation. The actions may also include in-school suspensions during the day or mandatory attendance at Saturday school. When in-school suspensions, after-school assignments, Saturday School, or other disciplinary measures are assigned, the student is responsible for complying with such disciplinary measures; a failure to serve such assigned discipline as directed will serve as grounds for further discipline, up to expulsion from school. District administrators may develop building-specific protocols for the imposition of student discipline.

In this section, references to "Principal" shall include building principals, the principal's designee, or other appropriate school district administrators.

For purposes of this section, "Parent" means parent, guardian, or educational decisionmaker of the student. "Educational decisionmaker" means a person designated or ordered by a court to make educational decisions on behalf of a child.

Any statement, notice, recommendation, determination, or similar action specified in this section shall be effectively given at the time written evidence thereof is delivered personally to or upon receipt of certified or registered mail or upon actual knowledge by a student or his or her Parent.

Any student who is suspended or expelled from school pursuant to this section may not participate in any school activity during the duration of that exclusion including adjacent school holidays and weekends. The student activity eligibility of a student who is mandatorily reassigned shall be determined on a case-by-case basis by the principal of the building to which the student is reassigned.

After School Sessions and Detentions

Teachers and administrators may require students to stay after school or to serve a detention when the student violates any of the rules contained in this handbook or violates classroom-specific conduct rules set by individual teachers.

Students who ride the bus home from school will be given a 24-hour notice of after-school time or a detention so that the parents may make plans to pick up the student the following day.

- Detentions will not exceed 30 minutes from the time of dismissal and are to be served in the teacher's room. A student who fails to attend detention may be given an office referral and may face additional disciplinary consequences up to and including long-term suspension

and/or expulsion. A student who has a conflict with an after-school session is responsible for working it out with the teacher.

In-School Suspension
The building administrator may require a student to serve in-school suspension. Students may be required to attend up to six hours per day of school-sponsored suspension a day at a designated location where they will study and participate in campus clean up. There will be zero tolerance for behavior problems from students placed in in-school suspension. Students not completing their In-School Suspension will face further disciplinary action.

Emergency Exclusion
Students may be emergency excluded from school pursuant to the board's separate policy on emergency exclusion or state law.

Short-Term Suspension
The Principal or the Principal's designee may exclude a student from school or any school function for a period of up to five school days (short-term suspension) on the following grounds:

1. Any of the conduct described in the subsections under "Grounds for Long-Term Suspension, Expulsion, or Mandatory Reassignment" below irrespective of the location at which such misconduct; or

2. Other violations of rules and standards of behavior adopted by the board of education or the administrative or teaching staff of the school, which occur on or off school grounds, if such conduct interferes with school purposes or there is a nexus between such conduct and school.

The following process will apply to short-term suspensions:

1. The Principal shall make a reasonable investigation of the facts and circumstances. Short-term suspension shall be imposed only after a determination that the suspension is necessary to help any student, to further school purposes, or to prevent an interference with school purposes.

2. After the principal has determined that a short-term suspension is necessary, but prior to commencement of the short-term suspension, the student and the Parent will be given oral and written notice of the charges against the student. They will be advised of what the student is accused of having done, an explanation of the evidence the authorities have, and an opportunity to present evidence of the student's version of the facts.

3. Within 24 hours or such additional time as is reasonably necessary following the suspension (not to exceed an additional 48 hours), the Principal will send a written statement to the student and the student's Parent, describing: the student's conduct, misconduct, or violation of the rule or standard; the reasons for the action taken; the actions made by the school to try to discontinue or alleviate the behavior of the student prior to considering suspension; resources the school is able to provide or recommend to assist the student; and how the school plans to handle such behavior in the future, including an actionable plan aimed at maximizing strategies to keep the student in school.

An opportunity will be given to the student, and the student's Parent, to have a conference with the Principal ordering the short-term suspension before or at the time the student returns to school and shall document such effort in writing. The Principal shall determine who, in addition to the Parent, is to attend the conference. If no conference has been held, a Parent may submit a written request to the suspending principal before the student returns to school.

Students who are short-term suspended will be given the opportunity to complete classwork, including but not limited to examinations.

Firearms. No student may bring, possess, handle, or transmit a firearm on school grounds, in a school owned vehicle, or at a school activity or event off school grounds, except as permitted by this policy.

Definition of Firearm. The term "firearm," as defined in 18 U.S.C. 921, means any weapon (including a starter gun) which will or is designed to or may readily be converted to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive, the frame or receiver of any such weapon, any firearm muffler or firearm silencer, or any destructive device (excluding an antique firearm).

Exceptions Regarding Firearms. The only exceptions for a student to bring or possess a weapon, including a firearm, are as follows:

1. The issuance of firearms to or possession of firearms by members of the Reserve Officers Training Corps when training or
2. Firearms which may lawfully be possessed by the person receiving instruction under the immediate supervision of an adult instructor who may lawfully possess firearms.

Consequences - Firearm. Any student who brings a firearm, as that term is defined in 18 United States Code 921, to school will be expelled from school for one calendar year. The superintendent of schools and the board of education shall have the authority to modify the expulsion requirement on a case-by-case basis.

Long-Term Suspension
Students may be excluded by the Principal from school or any school function for a period of more than five school days but less than twenty school days (long-term suspension) for any conduct constituting grounds for expulsion as hereinafter set forth. The process for long-term suspension is set forth below.

Pre-Kindergarten through Second Grade Students
An elementary school shall not suspend a student in pre-kindergarten through second grade unless the student:
1. Brings a deadly weapon as defined in section 28-109 on school grounds, in a vehicle owned, leased, or contracted by a school being used for a school purpose or in a vehicle being driven for a school purpose by a school employee or his or her designee, or at a school-sponsored activity or athletic event; or
2. Engages in violent behavior capable of causing physical harm to another student or school employee

As an alternative to suspension, the school district may take any action authorized by law, including those provided in section 79-258.

Expulsion
1. **Meaning of Expulsion.** Expulsion means exclusion from attendance in all schools, grounds and activities of or within the system for a period not to exceed the remainder of the semester in which it took effect unless the misconduct occurred (a) within ten school days prior to the end of the first semester, in which case the expulsion shall remain in effect through the second semester, or (b) within ten school days prior to the end of the second semester, in which case the expulsion shall remain in effect for summer school and the first semester of the following school year, or (c) unless the expulsion is for conduct specified in these rules or in law as permitting or requiring a longer removal, in which case the expulsion shall remain in effect for the period specified therein. Such action may be modified or terminated by the school district at any time during the expulsion period.

2. **Summer Review**. Any expulsion that will remain in effect during the first semester of the following school year will be automatically scheduled for review before the beginning of the school year. The review will be conducted by the hearing officer who conducted the initial expulsion hearing, or a hearing officer appointed by the Superintendent in the event no hearing was previously held or the initial hearing officer is no longer available or willing to serve, after the hearing officer has given notice of the review to the student and the student's parent or guardian. This

review shall be limited to newly discovered evidence or evidence of changes in the student's circumstances occurring since the original hearing. This review may lead to a recommendation by the hearing officer that the student be readmitted for the upcoming school year. If the school board or board of education or a committee of such board took the final action to expel the student, the student may be readmitted only by action of the board. Otherwise, the student may be readmitted by action of the Superintendent.

3. **Suspension of Enforcement of an Expulsion**: Enforcement of an expulsion action may be suspended (i.e., "stayed") for a period of not more than one full semester in addition to the balance of the semester in which the expulsion takes effect, and as a condition of such suspended action, the student may be assigned to a school, class, or program/plan and to such other consequences which the school district deems appropriate.

4. **Alternative School or Pre-expulsion Procedures.** The school shall provide either an alternative school, class or educational program for expelled students or shall follow the pre-expulsion procedures outlined in Neb. Rev. Stat. 79-266.

Grounds for Long-Term Suspension, Expulsion, or Mandatory Reassignment:

The following conduct constitutes grounds for long-term suspension, expulsion, or mandatory reassignment, subject to the procedural provisions of the Student Discipline Act, Neb. Rev. Stat. § 79-254 through 79-296, when such activity occurs on school grounds, in a vehicle owned, leased, or contracted by a school being used for a school purpose or in a vehicle being driven for a school purpose by a school employee or by his or her designee, or at a school-sponsored activity or athletic event:

1. Use of violence, force, coercion, threat, intimidation, or similar conduct in a manner that constitutes a substantial interference with school purposes. The board has determined that the use of synthetic media such as deepfakes may constitute "similar conduct";
2. Willfully causing or attempting to cause substantial damage to property, stealing or attempting to steal property of substantial value, or repeated damage or theft involving property;
3. Causing or attempting to cause personal injury to a school employee, to a school volunteer, or to any student. Personal injury caused by accident, self-defense, or other action undertaken on the reasonable belief that it was necessary to protect some other person shall not constitute a violation of this subdivision;

4. Threatening or intimidating any student for the purpose of or with the intent of obtaining money or anything of value from such student;
5. Knowingly possessing, handling, or transmitting any object or material that is ordinarily or generally considered a weapon (*see also board policy on weapons and firearms*);
6. Engaging in the unlawful possession, selling, dispensing, or use of a controlled substance or an imitation controlled substance, as defined in section 28-401, a substance represented to be a controlled substance, or alcoholic liquor as defined in section 53-103.02 or being under the influence of a controlled substance or alcoholic liquor (*note: the term "under the influence" for school purposes has a less strict meaning than it does under criminal law; for school purposes, the term means any level of impairment and includes even the odor of alcohol on the breath or person of a student; also, it includes being impaired by reason of the abuse of any material used as a stimulant*);
7. Public indecency as defined in section 28-806, except that this prohibition shall apply only to students at least twelve years of age but less than nineteen years of age;
8. Engaging in bullying as defined in section 79-2,137 and in these policies;
9. Sexually assaulting or attempting to sexually assault any person if a complaint has been filed by a prosecutor in a court of competent jurisdiction alleging that the student has sexually assaulted or attempted to sexually assault any person, including sexual assaults or attempted sexual assaults that occur off school grounds not at a school function, activity, or event. For purposes of this subdivision, sexual assault means sexual assault in the first degree as defined in section 28-319, sexual assault in the second degree as defined in section 28-320, sexual assault of a child in the second or third degree as defined in section 28-320.01, or sexual assault of a child in the first degree as defined in section 28-319.01, as such sections now provide or may hereafter from time to time be amended;
10. Engaging in any other activity forbidden by the laws of the State of Nebraska which activity constitutes a danger to other students or interferes with school purposes; or
11. A repeated violation of any of the following rules, or a single violation if the conduct amounts to a criminal act, if such violations constitute a substantial interference with school purposes:
    a. The use of language, written or oral, or conduct, including gestures, which is profane or abusive to students or staff members. Profane or abusive language or conduct includes, but is not limited to, that which is commonly understood and intended to be derogatory toward a group or individual based upon race, sex, national origin, or religion;

b. Dressing or grooming in a manner which violates the school district's dress code and/or is dangerous to the student's health and safety, a danger to the health and safety of others, or which is disruptive, distracting or indecent to the extent that it interferes with the learning and educational process;
c. Violating school bus rules as set by the school district or district staff;
d. Possessing, using, selling, or dispensing tobacco, drug paraphernalia, an electronic nicotine delivery system, or a tobacco imitation substance or packaging, regardless of form, including cigars, cigarettes, chewing tobacco, and any other form of tobacco, tobacco derivative product or imitation, or electronic cigarettes, vapor pens, etc.;
e. Possessing, using, selling, or dispensing any drug paraphernalia or imitation of a controlled substance regardless of whether the actual substance possessed is a controlled substance by Nebraska law;
f. Possession of pornography, including creation, possession, dissemination, accessing, sale, or any other use of synthetic media, such as deepfakes;
g. Sexting or the possession of sexting images (a combination of sex and texting - the act of sending sexually explicit messages or photos electronically), including creation, possession, dissemination, accessing, sale, or any other use of synthetic media, such as deepfakes;
h. Engaging in initiations, defined as any ritualistic expectations, requirements, or activities placed upon new members of a school organization for the purpose of admission into the organization, even if those activities do not rise to the level of "hazing" as defined below. Initiations are prohibited except by permission of the superintendent;
i. Engaging in hazing as defined by state law and this policy. Hazing is defined as any activity by which a person intentionally or recklessly endangers the physical or mental health or safety of an individual for the purpose of initiation into, admission into, affiliation with, or continued membership in any school organization. Under state criminal law, hazing activities include, but are not limited to, whipping, beating, branding, an act of sexual penetration, an exposure of the genitals of the body done with the intent to affront or alarm any person, a lewd fondling or caressing of the body of another person, forced and prolonged calisthenics, prolonged exposure to the elements, forced consumption of any food, liquor, beverage, drug, or harmful substance not generally intended for human consumption, prolonged sleep deprivation, or any brutal treatment or the

performance of any unlawful act that endangers the physical or mental health or safety of any person. For purposes of school rules, hazing also includes any activity expected of someone joining a group, team, or activity that humiliates, degrades or risks emotional and/or physical harm, regardless of the person's willingness to participate; personal servitude; restrictions on personal hygiene; yelling, swearing and insulting new members/rookies; being forced to wear embarrassing or humiliating attire in public; consumption of vile substances or smearing of such on one's skin; binge drinking and drinking games; sexual simulation and sexual assault;

j. Bullying which shall include cyber-bullying, defined as the use of the internet, including but not limited to social networking sites such as Facebook, cell phones or other devices to send, post or text message images and material intended to hurt or embarrass another person. This may include, but is not limited to; continuing to send e-mail to someone who has said they want no further contact with the sender; sending or posting threats, sexual remarks or pejorative labels (i.e., hate speech); ganging up on victims by making them the subject of ridicule in forums, and posting false statements as fact intended to humiliate the victim; disclosure of personal data, such as the victim's real name, address, or school at websites or forums; posing as the identity of the victim for the purpose of publishing material in their name that defames or ridicules them; sending threatening and harassing text, instant messages or emails to the victims; and posting or sending rumors or gossip to instigate others to dislike and gang up on the target;
k. Violation of the district's computer acceptable computer use policy are subject to discipline, up to and including expulsion;
l. Knowingly possessing, handling, or transmitting any object or material that is ordinarily or generally considered a simulated or "look-a-like" weapon;
m. Using any object to simulate possession of a weapon;
n. Knowingly making a false statement or knowingly submitting false information during the Title IX grievance process or any other school investigation or making a materially false statement in bad faith in the course of a Title IX grievance proceeding or any other school investigation; and
o. Any other violation of a rule or regulation established by a school district staff member pursuant to authority delegated by the board.

The length of any suspension, expulsion, or mandatory reassignment shall be as provided or allowed by law.

Reporting Requirement to Law Enforcement

Violations of this section will result in a report to law enforcement if:

1. The violation includes possession of a firearm;
2. The violation results in child abuse;
3. It is a violation of the Nebraska Criminal Code that the administration believes cannot be adequately addressed by discipline from the school district;
4. It is a violation of the Nebraska Criminal Code that endangers the health and welfare of staff or students; or
5. It is a violation of the Nebraska Criminal Code that interferes with school purposes.

Due Process Afforded to Students Facing Long-term Suspension or Expulsion

The following procedures shall be followed regarding any long-term suspension, expulsion, or mandatory reassignment:

1. The decision to recommend discipline shall be made within two school days after learning of the alleged student misconduct. On the date of the decision to discipline, the Principal shall file with the Superintendent a written charge and a summary of the evidence supporting such charge.
2. The Principal shall serve the student and the student's Parent with a written notice by registered or certified mail or personal service within two school days of the date of the decision to recommend long-term suspension or expulsion. The notice shall include the following:

    a. The rule or standard of conduct allegedly violated and the acts of the student alleged to constitute a cause for long-term suspension, expulsion, or mandatory reassignment, including a summary of the evidence to be presented against the student;
    b. The penalty, if any, which the principal has recommended in the charge and any other penalty to which the student may be subject;
    c. Resources the school is able to provide or recommend to assist the student;
    d. How the school plans to handle such behavior in the future, including an actionable plan aimed at maximizing strategies to keep the student in school;
    e. A statement that, before long-term suspension, expulsion, or mandatory reassignment can be invoked, the student has a right

to a hearing, upon request, and that if the student is suspended pending the outcome of the hearing, the student may complete classwork and homework, including, but not limited to, examinations, missed during the period of suspension pursuant to district guidelines which shall not require the student to attend the school district's alternative programs for expelled students in order to complete classwork or;

f. A description of the hearing procedures provided by the act, along with procedures for appealing any decision rendered at the hearing;
g. A statement that the principal, legal counsel for the school, the student, the student's Parent, or the student's representative has the right (i) to examine the student's academic and disciplinary records and any affidavits to be used at the hearing concerning the alleged misconduct and (ii) to know the identity of the witnesses to appear at the hearing and the substance of their testimony; and
h. A form on which the student, the student's Parentmay request a hearing, to be signed by such parties and delivered to the principal or superintendent in person or by registered or certified mail to the address provided on the form.

3. When a notice of intent to discipline a student by long-term suspension, expulsion, or mandatory reassignment is filed with the superintendent, the student may be suspended by the principal until the date the long-term suspension, expulsion, or mandatory reassignment takes effect, if the principal determines that the student must be suspended immediately to prevent or substantially reduce the risk of (a) interference with an educational function or school purpose or (b) a personal injury to the student himself or herself, other students, school employees, or school volunteers.
4. Nothing in this policy shall preclude the student, student's Parent or representative(s) from discussing and settling the matter with appropriate school personnel prior to the time the long-term suspension, expulsion, or mandatory reassignment takes effect.
5. If a hearing is requested within five days after receipt of the notice, the Superintendent shall recommend appointment of a hearing examiner within two school days after receipt of the hearing request. The student or the student’s Parent may request designation of a hearing examiner other than the hearing examiner recommended by the superintendent if notice of the request is given to the superintendent within two school days after receipt of the superintendent’s recommended appointment. Upon receiving such request, the superintendent must provide one alternative hearing examiner who is not an employee of the school district or otherwise

currently under contract with the school district and whose impartiality may not otherwise be reasonably questioned. The student or the student's Parent must, within five school days, select a hearing examiner to conduct the hearing who was recommended or provided as an alternative hearing examiner, and shall notify the superintendent in writing of the selection. The superintendent must appoint the selected hearing examiner upon receipt of such notice.

6. The hearing examiner must, within two school days after being appointed, give written notice to the principal, the student, and the student's Parent of the time and place for the hearing.
7. The hearing shall be held within a period of five school days after appointment of the hearing examiner, but such time may be changed by the hearing examiner for good cause with consent of the parties. No hearing shall be held upon less than two school days' actual notice to the principal, the student, and the student's Parent, except with the consent of all the parties.
8. The principal or legal counsel for the school, the student, and the student's Parentor representative have the right to receive a copy of all records and written statements referred to in the Student Discipline Act as well as the statement of any witness in the possession of the school board or board of education no later than forty-eight hours prior to the hearing.
9. If a hearing is requested more than five school days following the receipt of the written notice, but not more than thirty calendar days after receipt, the Superintendent shall appoint a hearing examiner. The hearing will be held according to the requirements of section 79-269. The student shall be entitled to a hearing but the consequence imposed may continue in effect pending final determination.
10. If a request for hearing is not received within thirty calendar days following the mailing or delivery of the written notice, the student shall not be entitled to a hearing.

In the event a hearing is requested, the hearing, hearing procedures, the student's rights and any appeals or judicial review permitted by law shall be governed by the applicable provisions of the Nebraska Student Discipline Act (Neb. Rev. Stat. § 79-254 to 79-294).

SECTION FOUR

The school district is committed to providing a school environment that enhances learning and the development of lifelong wellness. The goals outlined in this policy were determined and selected after reviewing and considering evidence-based strategies.*

1. Goals for Nutrition Promotion and Education

a. The district will promote healthy food and beverage choices for all students, as well as encourage participation in school meal programs by such methods as implementing evidence-based healthy food promotion techniques through the school meal programs and promoting foods and beverages that meet or exceed the USDA Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards.

b. The health curriculum will include information on good nutrition and healthy living habits.

c. Teachers will incorporate information on nutrition and wellness into the classroom curriculum as appropriate.

d. The district will collaborate with public and private entities to promote student wellness.

e. Water will be made available to students throughout the school day.

2. Goals for Physical Activity

a. The school district’s curriculums shall include instruction on physical activity and habits for healthy living.

b. Students will be encouraged to engage in physical activities throughout the school day and will be provided with opportunities to do so.

c. The district encourages parents and guardians to support their children's participation in physical activity, to be physically active role models, and to include physical activity in family events.

3. Goals for Other School-Based Activities Designed to Promote Student Wellness

a. The district will participate in state and federal child nutrition programs as appropriate.

b. The district will provide professional development, support, and resources for staff about student wellness.

c. Students will be provided sufficient time in which to eat school-provided meals.

d. The district's lunchrooms will be attractive and well-lighted.

e. The district will allow other health-related entities to use school facilities for activities such as health clinics and screenings so long as the activities meet the district's requirements and criteria for the use of facilities.

f. The district may partner with other individuals or entities in the community to support the implementation of this policy.

g. The district will strive to provide physical activity breaks for all students, recess for elementary students, and before and after school activities, as well as encourage students to use active transport (walking, biking, etc.)

h. The district will use evidence-based strategies to develop, structure, and support student wellness.

4. Standards and Nutrition Guidelines for All Foods and Beverages Sold to Students on the School Campus and During the School Day

a. The district will ensure that student access to foods and beverages meet federal, state and local laws and guidelines including, but not limited to:

   i. USDA National School Lunch and School Breakfast nutrition standards

   ii. USDA Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards.

b. The district will offer students a variety of age-appropriate, healthy food and beverage selections with plenty of fruits, vegetables, and whole grains aimed at meeting the nutrition needs of students within their calorie requirements in order to promote student health and reduce childhood obesity.

5. Standards for All Foods and Beverages Provided, But Not Sold to Students During the School Day

The district may provide a list of healthy party ideas or food and beverage alternatives to parents, teachers, and students for classroom parties, rewards and incentives, or classroom snacks. The district discourages the use of food and beverages as a reward or incentive for performance or behavior.

6. Food and Beverage Marketing

Marketing and advertising is only allowed on school grounds or at school activities for foods and beverages that meet or exceed the USDA Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards, except as follows:

a. This requirement does not apply to marketing that occurs at events outside of school hours such as after school sporting or any other events, including school fundraising events.

b. The district will not immediately replace menu boards, coolers, tray liners, beverage cups, and other food service equipment with depictions of noncompliant products or logos to comply with the new USDA Smart Snacks in Schools nutrition requirements. All previously purchased products will be used, and all existing contracts honored.

c. All equipment that currently displays noncompliant marketing materials will not be removed or replaced (e.g., a score board with a Coca-Cola logo). However, as the district reviews and considers new contracts, and as scoreboards or other such durable equipment are replaced or updated over time, any products that are marketed and advertised will meet or exceed the USDA Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards

7. Public Participation

Parents, students, representatives of the school food authority, teachers, school health professionals, board members, school administrators, and members of the general public shall be allowed to provide their input to the school district during the wellness policy adoption and review process.

8. Competitive Foods (Includes Food and Beverages Sold in Vending Machines, School Stores, and Fundraisers)

a. Definitions. "Competitive food" means all food and beverages other than meals reimbursed under programs authorized by the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act and the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 available for sale to students on the school campus during the school day. For the purpose of competitive food standards implementation, "school day" means the period from the midnight before to 30 minutes after the end of the official school day.
b. Applicability. Except as otherwise allowed by the Nebraska Department of Education (NDE) or applicable law, all competitive food sold during the school day must meet the USDA Smart Snacks Standards and the nutrition standards found in 7 CFR § 210.11. The competitive food restrictions do not apply to food sold during non-school day hours, weekends, and off-campus fundraising events such as concessions during after-school sporting events, school plays or concerts; or to bulk food items that are sold for consumption at home. (Ex: frozen pizzas, cookie dough tubs, etc.)
c. Fundraiser Exemptions. A special exemption is allowed for the sale of food and/or beverages that do not meet the competitive food standards as required in this section for the purpose of conducting an infrequent school-sponsored fundraiser. The specially exempted fundraisers must not take place more than the frequency specified by NDE during such periods that schools are in session. No specially exempted fundraiser foods or beverages may be sold in competition with school meals in the food service area during the meal service.
d. Other Exemptions. The only other nutrition exemptions from the competitive food requirements are those found in 7 CFR § 210.11.
e. Other Limitations. No competitive food can be sold to children anywhere on school premises beginning one half hour before breakfast and/or lunch service until one half hour after meal service unless all proceeds earned during these time periods go to the school nutrition program.

9. Triennial Assessment

The school board shall assess and review this policy at least every three years to determine:

a. Compliance with this policy;

b. How this policy compares to NDE model wellness policies;

c. Progress made in attaining the goals of this policy.

The school board will update or modify this policy as appropriate.

10. Public Notice

In addition to identifying the topic on its meeting agenda as required by the Open Meetings Act, the school district will provide notice of this policy at least annually to the public and other stakeholders identified in this policy by one or more of the following methods: on its webpage, in its newsletter, in the student and employee handbooks, newspaper advertisements, direct mailings, electronic mail, and public postings.

In addition to identifying the topic on its meeting agenda as required by the Open Meetings Act, the school district will provide notice of the Triennial Assessment and progress reports towards meeting the goals in this policy using one or more of those same methods.

11. Recordkeeping

The District will retain records to document compliance with the requirements of the wellness policy at its central office.

12. Operational Responsibility

The superintendent is responsible for coordinating the implementation of this policy and for monitoring the district's progress in meeting the goals established by this policy. The superintendent will periodically report to the board on the district's progress in implementing this policy.

* These strategies include, but are not necessarily limited to, those cited in the Alliance for a Healthier Generation's Model Wellness Policy (Updated June 2020 to Reflect the USDA Final Rule) found at https://api.healthiergeneration.org/resource/2.

Title IX Policy

As required by Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, it is the policy of the district that no person shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subject to discrimination under any of the district's programs or activities, or in regards to admission or employment. Any person may report sex discrimination, including sexual harassment. This report must be made by any means to the district's Title IX Coordinator whose contact information can be found on the district's website and in the district's student and staff handbooks. Any other inquiries regarding the application of this policy should be referred to the Title IX Coordinator.

EMERGENCY RESPONSE TO LIFE-THREATENING ASTHMA OR SYSTEMIC ALLERGIC REACTIONS (ANAPHYLAXIS)

DEFINITION: Life-threatening asthma consists of an acute episode of worsening airflow obstruction. Immediate action and monitoring are necessary.

A systemic allergic reaction (anaphylaxis) is a severe response resulting in cardiovascular collapse (shock) after the injection of an antigen (e.g. bee or other insect sting), ingestion of a food or medication, or exposure to other allergens, such as animal fur, chemical irritants, pollens or molds, among others. The blood pressure falls, the pulse becomes weak, **AND DEATH CAN OCCUR.** Immediate allergic reactions may require emergency treatment and medications.

LIFE-THREATENING ASTHMA SYMPTOMS: Any of these symptoms may occur:

- Chest tightness
- Wheezing
- Severe shortness of breath
- Retractions (chest or neck "sucked in")
- Cyanosis (lips and nail beds exhibit a grayish or bluish color)
- Change in mental status, such as agitation, anxiety, or lethargy
- A hunched-over position
- Breathlessness causing speech in one-to-two word phrases or complete inability to speak

ANAPHYLACTIC SYMPTOMS OF BODY SYSTEM: Any of the symptoms may occur within seconds. The more immediate the reaction, the more severe the reaction may become. Any of the symptoms present require several hours of monitoring.

- **Skin:** warmth, itching, and/or tingling of underarms/groin, flushing, hives
- **Abdominal:** pain, nausea and vomiting, diarrhea
- **Oral/Respiratory:** sneezing, swelling of face (lips, mouth, tongue, throat), lump or tightness in the throat, hoarseness, difficulty inhaling, shortness of breath, decrease in peak flow meter reading, wheezing reaction
- **Cardiovascular:** headache, low blood pressure (shock), lightheadedness, fainting, loss of consciousness, rapid heart rate, ventricular fibrillation (no pulse)
- **Mental status:** apprehension, anxiety, restlessness, irritability

EMERGENCY PROTOCOL:

1. CALL 911.
2. Summon school nurse if available. If not, summon designated trained, non-medical staff to implement an emergency protocol.

3. Check airway patency, breathing, respiratory rate, and pulse.
4. Administer medications (epinephrine auto injector and nebulized albuterol) per standing order.
5. Determine cause as quickly as possible.
6. Monitor vital signs (pulse, respiration, etc.).
7. Contact parents immediately and prescribing health care practitioner as soon as possible.
8. Any individual treated for symptoms with epinephrine at a school will be transferred to a medical facility.

STANDING ORDERS FOR RESPONSE TO LIFE-THREATENING ASTHMA OR ANAPHYLAXIS:

- Administer epinephrine auto injector junior for any child less than 60 pounds or adult epinephrine auto injector for any individual over 60 pounds into the muscle towards the front and outer side of the thigh.
- Follow with nebulized albuterol while awaiting EMS.
- If symptoms persist, repeat epinephrine auto injector followed by nebulized albuterol every fifteen minutes while awaiting EMS arrival.
- Administer CPR, if indicated.

STAFF DIRECTORY

Members of the Board of Education:

Kirk Nelson..... President
Kert Hansen..... Vice-President
Ryan Knaus..... Secretary
Alan Casper..... Treasurer
Chris Stuehm..... Member
Teresa Carey..... Member

Administrative Staff:

Justin Patterson.....Superintendent
Joee Muhlbach.....Pre-K-12 Principal
Luke Glenn.....Assistant Principal

Teaching Staff:

Elaine Arehart.....K-12 Music
Mackenzie Maul..... Tech Coordinator
Alyssa Carey..... Preschool
Abigail Meyer..... Ag Education/FFA
Tiana Gibb.....Elementary Counselor
Gavin Harold..... 7-12 Social Sciences
Mitchell Sloggett.....K-12 Physical Education
Taylor Herrick..... K-6 Title I
Carolyn Hance..... HS English/Speech
Madison Felt.....6-12 Special Education
Macy Crowley..... 3rd Grade
Haley Marsh..... FCS
Andrew Warner.....HS Math
Kiersten Lubke.....7-12 Foreign Language
Brandy Lunsford..... K-5 Special Education
Wade Brashear.....7-12 Counselor/English
Mary Martin.....7-12 Business
Jordan Volk.....6th Grade
Ashlynn Grafton.....2nd Grade
Jordan Richardson..... JR High English/Math
Chantel Winz..... Kindergarten
Kelly Sheen .....4th Grade
Laurette Simon.....7-12 Science
Raegen Brenn..... 5th Grade
Cody Whipkey.....7-12 Social Sciences/AD
Michelle Fouts.....1st Grade
Cassandra Brandt ..... K-12 Media
Greg Yochum..... K-12 Art

Support Staff:

Julie Ehlers..... Para
Brad Stithem..... Para
Jennifer Martin..... Para
Ronda Gellermann.....Para
Sharon Jensen.....Para
Jessica Blagg.....Para
Brooke Jestes..... Para
Nicole Swanson.....Para

Office Staff:

Rogene Hinrichs ..... Bookkeeper
Michelle Konert ..... Secretary
Julie Rahmann ..... Secretary

Child Nutrition Program

Nicole Dunker..... Food Service Director
Bonnie Butler... ..... Head Cook
Bambe Poppert ..... Cook
Kay Lieb..... Cook Sub
Emma Sisk ..... Cook

Custodians and Grounds

Robert Bennetts.....Head of Maintenance, Custodians, and Transportation
Todd Bebensee ..... Custodian
Tracy Carr ..... Custodian
Gary Davis..... Custodian

Transportation Department

Robert Bennetts.....Head of Maintenance, Custodians, and Transportation
Ryan Jurgens ..... Route Driver
Sidney Fouts..... Route Driver
John Carey .....Route Driver
Brent Hinrichs..... Route Driver
Ryan Knaus .....Bus Driver

Wilcox-Hildreth Public School

2026-2027

School Calendar

August

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					

September

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			

October

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

November

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					

December

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		

Aug. 10	Fall sports practice begins
Aug. 10-12	NO SCHOOL - Teacher Inservice
Aug. 13	**School begins 1:00 dismiss**
Sept. 7	NO SCHOOL - Labor Day
Sept. 24	P/T Conf 2:00-8:00 1:00 dismiss
Sept. 25	No School
Oct. 5	NO SCHOOL - Teacher Inservice
Oct 16	1st quarter ends (44 days)
Nov. 25-27	NO SCHOOL -Thanksgiving break
Dec. 22	2nd Qtr Ends (44 days)
Dec. 22	End of first semester (88 days)
Dec. 23-Jan. 4	Christmas Break
Dec. 23-27	NSAA Moritorium
Jan. 4	NO SCHOOL - Teacher Inservice
Jan. 5	School Begins
Feb. 11	P/T Conf 2:00-8:00 1:00 dismissal
Feb. 12	No School
Mar. 5	End of 3rd QTR. (43 Days)
Mar. 8-9	NO SCHOOL- TEACHER INSERVICE
Mar. 8-12	NO SCHOOL - Spring break
March 26-29	NO SCHOOL - Easter Break
April 30	NO SCHOOL- TEACHER INSERVICE
May 8	Commencement
May 18	**End of Year 1:00 Dismissal**
May 18	End of Qtr 4 (44 days) Sem. 2 (87 days)
May 19	NO SCHOOL - Teacher Inservice
	Staff Inservice-No School
	Students Return
	End of Qtr.or Sem.
	No School

January

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						

February

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						

March

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			

April

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	

May

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					

Total Student Days	**175**
Total Teacher Days	**184**
First Semester Days	**88**
Second Semester Day	**87**

Quarter 1	Teacher-48	Student-44
Quarter 2	Teacher-44	Student-44
Quarter 3	Teacher-44	Student-43
Quarter 4	Teacher-49	Student-44

Student Days by Month

Aug	13	Jan	19
Sept	20	Feb	19
Oct	21	Mar	16
Nov	18	Apr	21
Dec	16	May	12

SECTION FIVE

FORMS

This section contains the receipt and list of additional forms that students and their parents must complete and return to the school office **NO LATER THAN** August 21, 2026.

Included in your back to school packet:

Administration of Non-Prescription Drugs to Students Parental Authorization and Release Forms
Receipt of Student Handbook (This is also attached below)

Available Upon Parent Request:

Parental Authorization and Release Form (Administration of Prescription Drugs to students)

RECEIPT

This Student Handbook is distributed in accordance with Nebraska State Law, Section 79-262, paragraph three which states in part: "Rules and Standards which form the basis for discipline shall be distributed to students and parents at the beginning of each school year or at the time of enrollment…"

Parents (or guardians) and students are required to sign & return the receipt form below before August 21, 2026.

PARENT/STUDENT AGREEMENT

I have received and read the Student Handbook that describes the Wilcox-Hildreth Public School District's discipline policies, regulations, rules, and expectations to be followed by students enrolled in the Wilcox-Hildreth Public Schools, including the Drug Free School Policy. My child and I have discussed these policies and understand that we must comply with them.

RECOGNITION OF POTENTIAL AMENDMENTS OR SUPPLEMENTS

The rules and information provided in this handbook may be supplemented or amended by the School District's administration at any time, consistent with applicable law and board policy. All parents shall be provided notice of any such changes by the district's regular means of contact. By signing below, you agree that you will read any such information and communications, discuss them with your child, and recognize that you must comply with all rules, procedures, and requirements as they apply at that time.

_____ _____

Student's Signature Date Parent/Guardian's Signature Date

_____ _____

Cell Phone Number (Optional) Cell Phone Number (Optional)

_____ _____

Parent's Email Address (Optional) Parent's Email Address (Optional)