

Centura School Board Committee of the Whole  
Monday, February 9, 2026 5:00 PM  
Centura Public Schools: District Board Room  
201 N. Hwy 11  
Cairo, NE 68824

## **Agenda**

1. Opening The Meeting:
  - 1.1. Call to order: The Committee of the Whole Meeting of the Centura Public Schools' Board of Education is called to order on Monday, February 9, 2026 at \_\_\_\_\_ P.M. in the Board Room 201 Highway 11, Cairo, NE 68824.
  - 1.2. Pledge of Allegiance and Recognition of Nebraska Open Meetings Act.
  - 1.3. Roll Call of Board Members:
    - 1.3.1. Motion to excuse or not excuse Board Members not in attendance.
  - 1.4. Centura Vision Statement: A Community About Students, Excellence and Innovation!
  - 1.5. Centura Mission Statement: Centura and its collaborative partners are an innovative community empowering all students to be successful today and in the future.
2. Approval of the Agenda.
3. Recognition of visitors and public comment per Centura Public Schools Policy No. 2009.
4. Committee of the Whole Discussion/Information Items:
  - 4.1. Review services and programs offered by ALICAP. An ALICAP representative will present information about the service, support, and how the program works.
  - 4.2. Policy Review Process: Policies to be reviewed 4022-4064
5. Meeting Adjournment.



# EDUCATIONAL SESSION

# CENTURA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Sheri Shonka, Managing Partner, Public Risk Management, Inc., [sheri.shonka@prmne.com](mailto:sheri.shonka@prmne.com)

Daniel Shonka, Account Executive, Public Risk Management, Inc., [daniel.shonka@prmne.com](mailto:daniel.shonka@prmne.com)

# WHY ALICAP?

## **Philosophical decision to pool total cost of risk**

- Schools joined together to reduce the total cost of their risk
  - No separate wind/hail deductible
  - \$2,500 property deductible – per occurrence
- Become an owner of their own insurance company
  - Team who treats you like an owner with exceptional service!
- Control expenses and retain “insurance company profits”
  - Expenses 6% and share \$1.7 mil dividend distribution
- Obtain “school coverage” for every member
  - Broader coverage & higher limits
- Managed by a team who understands NE Schools
  - NASB, PRM, Loss Control Ambassadors & Sedgwick

# ADVANTAGES & DISADVANTAGES

Enhanced coverage through group purchasing

Claims Coordination – Sedgwick

Dedicated Unit for all schools

Nurse Case Hotline for WC

Customized Loss Control

7 Retired Superintendents

Vector Solutions SafeSchools Online Safety Training

Building Appraisals within 90 days

No Endorsements or Invoices

Members Portal

Members OWN the Pool

Surplus/Investment Income returned to the Members

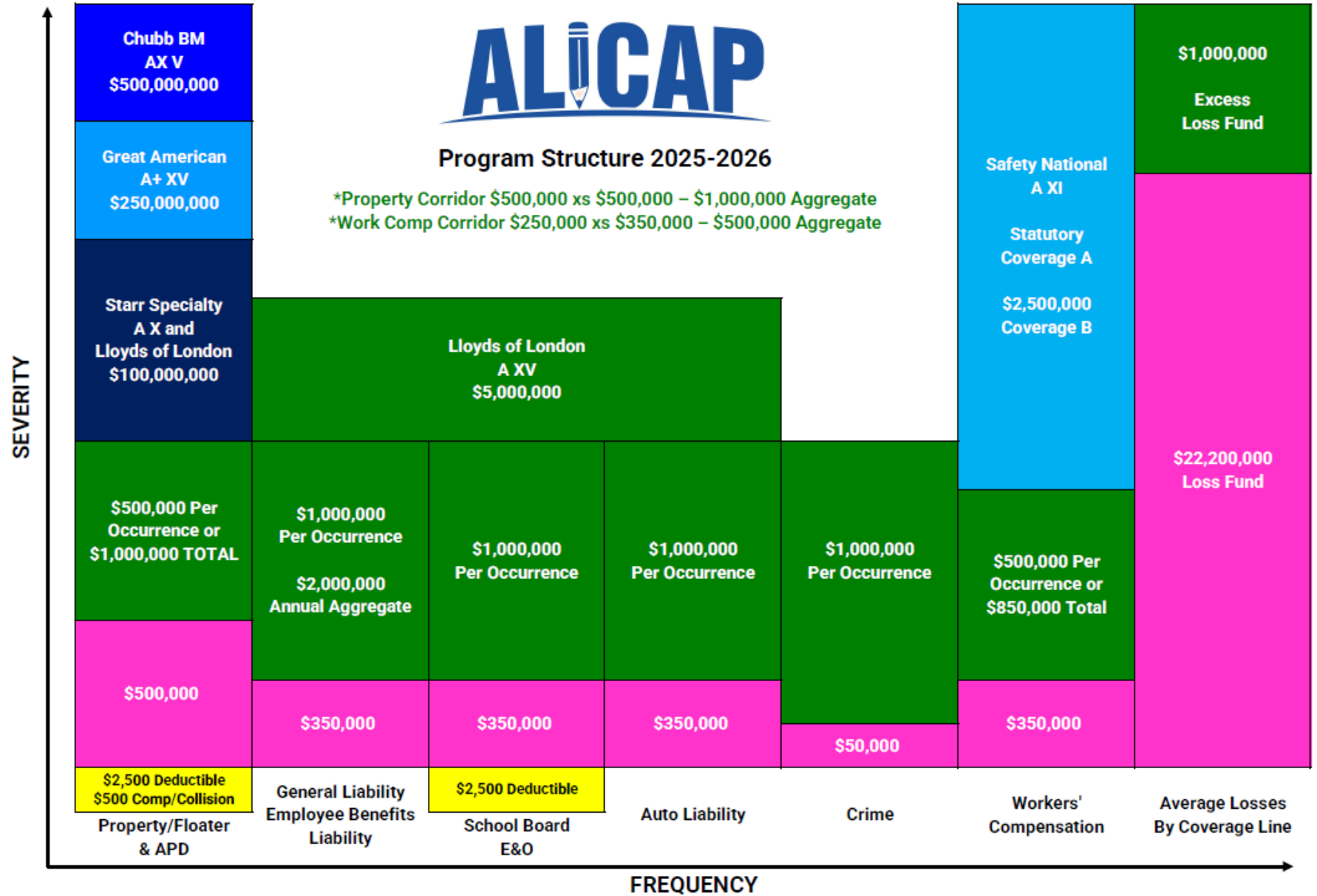
Long Term Commitment

Assessment

Procedure to Exit

# GRAPH DESCRIPTION

- Horizontal – **FREQUENCY** of Losses
- Vertical – **SEVERITY** of Losses
- **Yellow** – School’s Deductible
  - \$2,500 Property
  - \$ 500 Auto Phys Damage
  - \$2,500 E&O
- **Pink** – Pools Retentions
- **Green** – Reinsurance
  - Up to \$5mil State Tort
- **Blue** – Reinsurance
  - Up to \$500mil Property
  - Statutory for WC
- **Loss Fund** – Maximum ALICAP will payout in 2025-2026 policy year
- **Excess Loss Fund** – Caps Losse



# HISTORICAL RENEWAL RATE CHANGES AND DIVIDENDS

<u>Year</u>	<u>Rate Increase/Decrease</u>	<u>Dividend</u>
2025	1.83% Increase	\$1,700,000
2024	3.33% Increase	\$1,500,000
2023	20.14% Increase	\$1,500,000
2022	15.35% Increase	\$2,600,000
2021	5.73% Increase	\$2,750,000
2020	16.21% Increase	\$2,400,000
2019	2.23% Increase	\$2,150,000
2018	4.71% Increase	\$1,680,000
2017	1.22% Decrease	\$1,400,000
2016	1.00% Increase	\$1,400,000
2015	0.75% Decrease	\$1,300,000

# BROADER COVERAGE, HIGHER LIMITS, FEWER DEDUCTIBLES

Blanket Building, Contents & Property in the Open \$500,000,000

- Property deductible is \$2,500 with no separate wind/hail deductible

Building Ordinance, Debris Removal \$50,000,000

Extra Expense \$50,000,000

Builders Risk – Course of Construction available

Earthquake & Flood (excluding Zone A) \$100,000,000

- Flood Zone A (100 year) \$25,000,000 Aggregate

Replacement Cost on losses of 2 or more busses

Sexual Abuse/Molestation Coverage \$5,000,000 limit

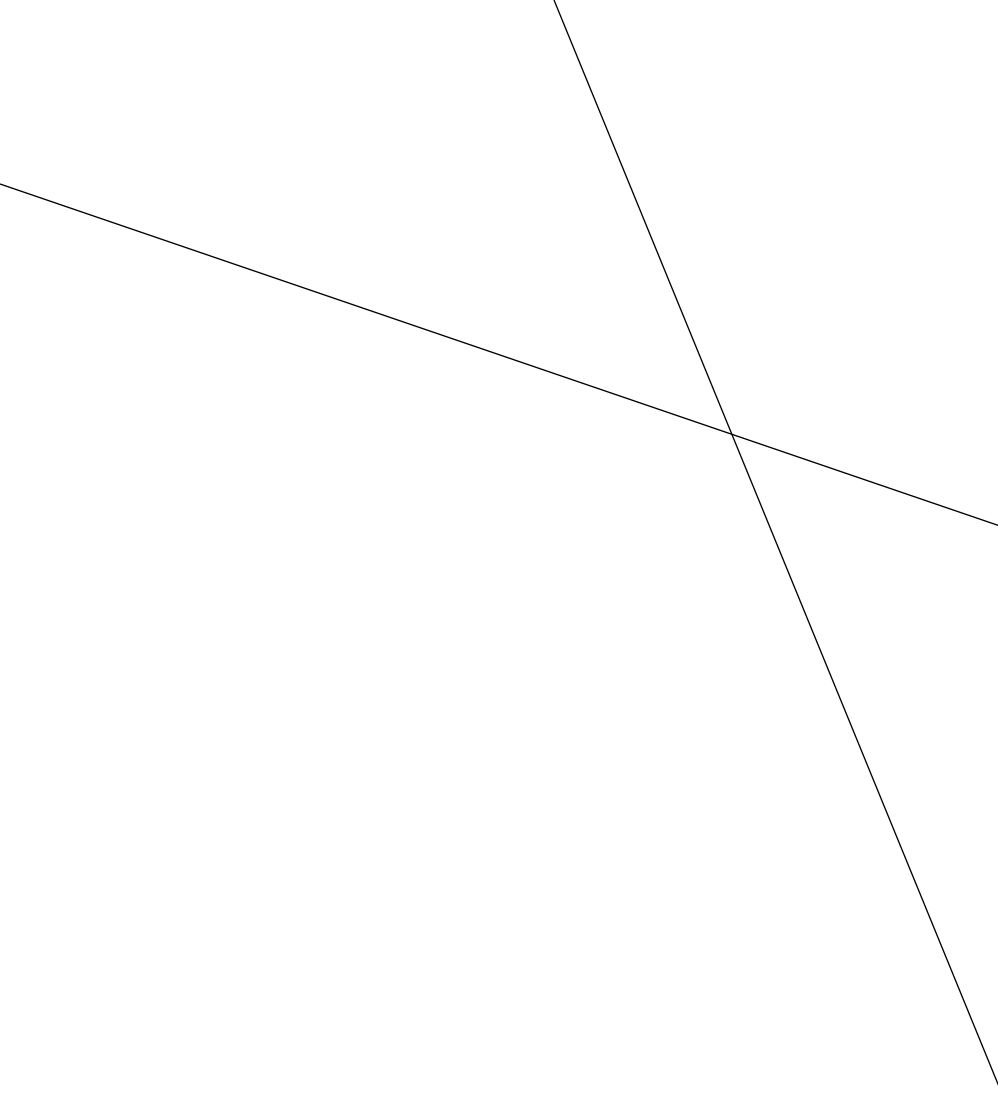
Treasurer's Bonding requirements included

Pollution Coverage included effective 9/1/2017

Cyber Liability and Ransomware – Must Qualify

# ALICAP BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Name	Position	Member
Steve Koch	School Board Member	Hershey Public Schools
Amy Sines	School Board Member	Cambridge Public Schools
Brian Maschmann	ESU Administrator	Educational Service Unit 6
Chip Kay	Superintendent	Columbus Public Schools
Jeff Rippe	Superintendent	Bellevue Public Schools
Lisa Wagner	School Board Member	Central City Public Schools
Nicole Regan	Superintendent	Gering Public Schools
Ronda Burbach	School Board Member	Norris School District 160
Tom Menke	School Board Member	Chadron Public Schools
Virgil Harden	Business Manager	Grand Island Public Schools
John Spatz	Executive Director	Nebraska Association of School Boards



**QUESTIONS?**

**4022**  
**Certification and Endorsements**

All educators must be duly certified by the Nebraska Department of Education in accordance with the Department's rules and the laws of Nebraska. They must file copies of their teaching certificates, including endorsements, with the superintendent of schools, and must promptly file any changes in certification or endorsements. Certified employees are required to maintain all their endorsements, and may not permit any endorsement to lapse or remove it from their certificates. The board or superintendent may require a certified employee to obtain a new endorsement when it is deemed necessary for the benefit of the school district and/or to comply with federal or state requirements.

Adopted on: June 17, 2024

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

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

**4023**  
**Professional Ethics**

The Regulations and Standards for Professional Practices Criteria, commonly known as Rule 27 of the Nebraska Department of Education, are the minimum standards for all certificated staff members of the school district. All certificated employees are responsible for reading, understanding, and complying with these standards.

Adopted on: June 17, 2024

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

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

## **4024**

### **Teachers' Rights, Responsibilities and Duties**

All certificated employees shall assume the duties and responsibilities assigned by the superintendent or designee. Teachers' professional responsibilities involve considerably more than merely classroom instruction. They include, but are not limited to, study and research to keep abreast of new knowledge and instructional techniques; assessment of students' work; record-keeping; lesson planning and preparation; conferences with students, parents and administrators; in-service meetings; and supervision of pupils outside the classroom.

Teachers must be in their classrooms or assigned areas as instructed by the building principal. All duty time is necessary for educational planning, preparation, and conferences with students, parents and faculty members.

All teachers must maintain a standard of dress, personal appearance, general decorum, moral standards and behavior that reflects their professional status in the community.

Adopted on: June 17, 2024

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

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

**4025**  
**Superintendent**

The superintendent is hired by and shall report directly to the board of education. The superintendent will be the chief administrative officer of the board of education and shall keep the board informed on important issues. The board delegates to the superintendent the general power and authority to make necessary decisions to ensure the efficient and effective operations of the school.

The superintendent is charged with timely preparing, presenting, and filing an annual school budget, subject to the approval of the board at the annual budget hearing.

All school employees shall be under the direct and/or delegated supervision of the superintendent. The board delegates to the superintendent the authority to hire and terminate the employment of all classified staff. He or she shall review all certified and non-certified employees applying for vacancies and shall make recommendations regarding these employees.

All of the grounds and buildings are supervised by the superintendent, including necessary repairs and improvements unless the board is required to approve such repairs or improvements.

The superintendent's other duties shall be included in his or her job description, contract, or as otherwise assigned by the board.

Adopted on: June 17, 2024

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

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

## **4027 Part-Time Certified Employees**

**Percentage of Time.** The percentage of time that a teacher works will be determined by calculating the amount of time that the teacher is required to be at school to teach or supervise classes, plus any assigned preparation time, as a percentage of the entire school day. Extracurricular assignments shall not be considered in determining a teacher's percentage of time. Part-time and temporary teachers may or may not be assigned preparation time, at the sole discretion of the board of education, upon the recommendation of the superintendent of schools.

**Acquiring Permanent Status.** A part-time teacher may become a permanent certificated employee pursuant to the provisions of state statutes.

**Salary.** The salary, benefits and leave entitlement of a part-time teacher shall be determined by multiplying the percentage of time the individual works by his or her placement on the full-time salary schedule contained in each academic year's negotiated agreement. The percentage of time a part-time teacher is required to be on duty shall be determined by the board of education upon the recommendation of the superintendent of schools.

**Horizontal Movement on the Salary Schedule.** A part-time teacher may qualify for movement horizontally on the salary schedule by earning graduate hours of college credit as set forth in the guidelines of the school district's salary schedule, and according to the applicable district policies.

**Attendance at In-service Meetings, Faculty Meetings, and School Activities.** A part-time teacher is responsible for attending in-service meetings, faculty meetings, and school activities that take place outside the teacher's assigned duty hours without additional compensation. A part-time teacher is responsible for performing such tasks as selling or taking tickets, and will be compensated for such tasks pursuant to the policy, practice or negotiated agreement of the school district.

**Continuation of Employment.** The school district administration and board will deal with the continuation of a part-time teacher's employment pursuant to state statute and the procedures prescribed for full-time employees in these policies.

Adopted on: June 17, 2024

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

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

**4028**  
**Substitute Teachers**

A substitute teacher is an educator who possesses the required certification from the Nebraska Department of Education and is employed to fill a teaching position on a temporary basis. The board shall establish the pay and benefits for substitute teachers.

Adopted on: June 17, 2024

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

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

**4029**  
**Salary Schedule for Certificated Employees**

The board of education recognizes the "salary schedule" and related provisions for compensation currently in effect resulting from negotiations between the board and the education association. This policy is intended to supplement the terms and conditions contained in the collective bargaining agreement. If there is any conflict between the terms of this policy and the collective bargaining agreement, the terms of the negotiated agreement shall control.

**Horizontal Advancement.** Teachers who wish to advance horizontally on the salary schedule must notify and seek approval from the superintendent in writing prior to the last staff contract day of the preceding school year. The teacher must furnish the superintendent with college transcripts by September 1 for the teacher to qualify to move horizontally on the salary schedule. If an institution will not issue an official transcript by September 1, the teacher must provide the superintendent with written confirmation by September 1 from a college official attesting that the teacher has satisfactorily completed the courses.

**Movement Past the BA/MA Column.** Teachers who wish to advance beyond the MA column must be enrolled in course work that relates to their teaching field, as determined by the superintendent. Teachers must inform the superintendent of their enrollment prior to the beginning of their class to discuss its work-related objectives.

**Superintendent's Review.** The superintendent shall review all requests for advancement on the salary schedule resulting from a teacher's acquiring additional teaching experience or for completion of college courses, and shall report all changes to the board of education annually.

**Vertical Advancement.** A teacher may advance only one step vertically on the schedule in any year.

Adopted on: June 17, 2024

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

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

## **4030 Evaluation of Certificated Employees**

All certificated employees to be evaluated shall be notified annually in writing of the evaluation process. A certificated administrator, with the exception of the local board of education when it is evaluating the superintendent, will observe and evaluate each probationary certificated employee for a full instructional period once each semester and each permanent certificated employee for a full instructional period once each school year. If the probationary certificated employee is a superintendent, he or she shall be evaluated twice during the first year of employment and at least once annually thereafter. The evaluation will include, but not be limited to evaluating the employee's instructional performance, classroom organization and management, personal conduct, and professional conduct. Evaluation of instructional performance and classroom organization and management is applicable to teachers only. The administrator will provide the employee with a written list of deficiencies, suggestions and a timeline for correcting the deficiencies and improving performance, and sufficient time to improve. The evaluation form will include notice that the employee may respond to the evaluation in writing.

The school district will train administrators in evaluation annually through meetings with the superintendent or other administrator, attendance at regional, state or national workshops, or any other method approved by the superintendent.

For the purposes of this policy, the terms "actual classroom observation" and "entire instructional period" are defined as follows:

**Entire Instructional Period.** For certificated employees whose classes are held during defined periods of time (e.g., senior high classes), an entire instructional period consists of one such time period. For those whose time periods are not so defined (e.g., elementary classroom teachers), an entire instructional period consists of 40 minutes. The instructional period for those whose work does not necessarily involve continuous instruction for 40-minute periods (e.g., librarians or speech therapists) consists of no less than 40 minutes total during the semester. The entire instructional period for administrators cannot be defined in terms of an instructional period and shall be satisfied by the actual observation of an administrator's work during the semester for no less than 40 minutes.

**Actual Classroom Observation.** Actual classroom observation consists of observing the certificated employee in any activities in a classroom setting. When a certificated employee does not have classroom responsibility (e.g., administrators or librarians), the requirement of "actual classroom observation" will be satisfied by observing the certificated employee performing activities that are typical of his or her position.

This policy and the evaluation instrument shall be included in the teacher handbook which will be distributed to staff members upon their employment and annually thereafter.

Adopted on: June 17, 2024

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

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

**4031**  
**Evaluation of Probationary Certified Employees**

A certificated administrator will observe and evaluate each probationary certified employee for a full instructional period once each semester. The administrator will provide each employee with a written list of deficiencies, concrete suggestions for improvement, and sufficient time to improve.

For the purposes of this policy, the terms "actual classroom observation" and "entire instructional period" are defined as follows:

**Entire Instructional Period.** For certified employees whose classes are held during defined periods of time (e.g., senior high classes), an entire instructional period consists of one such time period. For those whose time periods are not so defined (e.g., elementary classroom teachers), an entire instructional period consists of 40 minutes. The instructional period for those whose work does not necessarily involve continuous instruction for 40-minute periods (e.g., librarians or speech therapists) consists of no less than 40 minutes total during the semester. The entire instructional period for administrators cannot be defined in terms of an instructional period and shall be satisfied by the actual observation of an administrator's work during the semester for no less than 40 minutes.

**Actual Classroom Observation.** Actual classroom observation consists of observing the certified employee in any activities in a classroom setting. When a certified employee does not have classroom responsibility (e.g., administrators or librarians), the requirement of "actual classroom observation" will be satisfied by observing the certified employee performing activities that are typical of his or her position.

Adopted on: June 17, 2024

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

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

**4032**  
**Professional Growth**

Every six years, permanent certificated employees shall give evidence of professional growth. Six semester hours of college credit shall be accepted as evidence of professional growth.

The board of education believes the goal of professional self-improvement to be inherent in the responsibilities of each certificated district employee.

Other professional growth activities which may count toward the six-year requirement include non-credit courses, lecture series, workshops, conferences, study groups, local in-service courses, committee service, supervising a student teacher, serving with professional groups, travel of significant educational value, and membership in professional organizations. The employee must receive prior approval from the building principal for any of these activities to count toward professional growth.

No professional growth units will be awarded if the applicant has been paid for a non-college activity either by released time or by an additional amount paid by the school district.

One unit of professional growth credit will generally be equivalent to ten hours of personal time spent on an educational activity.

Adopted on: June 17, 2024

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

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

**4034**  
**Staff Handbook**

The superintendent or designee shall annually formulate, review and revise a staff handbook that will contain information about the district's employment policies and practices. The staff handbook is an extension of these policies and has the force and effect of board policy when approved by the board of education.

Adopted on: June 17, 2024

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

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

## **4037 Reduction In Force**

The board of education may determine that a reduction in force of certificated staff members is appropriate due to declining enrollment in a grade or grades, changes in financial support, changes in curricular programs, a decline in the taxable value of property located within the school district, increased costs of operating the school district, or another change or changes in circumstances. If the board, in its sole discretion, determines that a reduction of certificated staff is necessary, the superintendent shall notify those employees whose contracts may be reduced. However, the employment of a permanent employee may not be terminated through a reduction in force while a probationary employee is retained to render a service that the permanent employee is qualified to perform by reason of certification and endorsement, or when certification is not applicable, by reason of college credits in the teaching area.

1. **Definition of Reduction in Force.** A reduction in force shall consist of a reduction of one or more positions or a reduction in the percentage of employment of one or more certificated staff members, even if the number or percentage of employment of the certificated staff overall may be increased by other hirings or increases in the percentage of employment of other employees. Reduction in force may result in the termination of employment or an amendment to an employee's contract reducing the extent of the employee's employment.
2. **Restriction of Right to Administrative Position.** Due to the confidential and unique personal working relationship necessary between the administration and the board of education, a certificated employee who is not currently serving in a predominantly administrative capacity shall have no rights under this policy to any administrative position within the school system.
3. **Criteria for Reduction in Force.** The criteria set forth below shall be considered in selecting the personnel to be reduced. The criteria are not listed in any order of priority, and shall be given the weight that the board considers appropriate.
  - a. Programs to be offered;
  - b. Areas of endorsement that are of present or future value to the district. This criterion shall be based upon the

endorsement(s) shown on each teacher's Nebraska Teaching Certificate;

- c. State and federal laws or regulations that may mandate certain employment practices;
- d. Involvement in the programs and activities sponsored by the school district;
- e. Special or advanced training consisting of college credit or other training that would be of present or future value to the district;
- f. The organizational and educational effect caused by multiple part-time certificated employees;
- g. Formal and informal evaluation of staff performance by supervising administrators and if evaluations will be used as a criterion for a given reduction-in-force, the evaluation procedures shall be those adopted by board policy in effect at the time of the reduction and the evaluation forms shall be those on file with the Nebraska Department of Education for the district;
- h. Any other reasons that are rationally related to the instruction in or administration of the school district.

4. **Consideration of Uninterrupted Service.** If, after consideration of the criteria listed above, it is the opinion of the superintendent that there is no significant difference between or among certificated employees being considered for reduction, the employee(s) with the longest uninterrupted service to the district shall be retained.

- a. Uninterrupted length of service is defined as the number of continuous full-time equivalent years of employment in the district as a teacher.
- b. A full-time equivalent year is defined as employment on a full-time basis for an entire school year.
- c. Less than full-time employment reduces the teacher's full-time equivalent employment for a school year. For example, a teacher employed on a half-time basis would be credited with half a year full-time equivalent employment.
- d. A break in service will terminate a teacher's seniority and length of service under this provision. That period of time when a teacher is on a leave of absence shall not constitute a break in service; however, any years of absences or fractions of years of leave of absence will not count as years of employment for the purposes of determining the length of a teacher's uninterrupted service.

5. **Rights of Recall.**

- a. Any certificated employee whose contract has been terminated shall be considered to have been dismissed with honor and shall, upon request, be provided a letter to that effect.
- b. Such employee shall have preferred rights to re-employment for a period of 24 months commencing at the end of the contract year, and the employee shall be recalled on the basis of length of service to the district to any position that he or she is qualified to teach by endorsement or college preparation.
- c. Upon re-employment, a recalled employee shall be placed on the salary schedule and provided fringe benefits based on existing district policies and the current negotiated agreement. Any year of years of absence from employment shall not be considered as a year or years of employment by the district.
- d. An employee under contract to another education institution may waive recall, but such waiver shall not deprive the employee of his or her right to subsequent recall.

6. **Current Teaching Certificate.**

- a. Upon initial employment with the district, each certificated employee shall file a copy of his or her teaching certificate, including endorsements with the superintendent of schools.
- b. The employee shall be responsible for filing any changes in certification or endorsements with the superintendent.

7. **Address Records.**

- a. A certificated employee whose employment contract has been terminated because of a reduction in force shall, during the period which he or she is eligible for recall, be responsible for reporting any change of address to the superintendent of schools.
- b. If there is a vacancy to which a former employee has a right of recall, the district may communicate an offer of re-employment by telephone, by e-mail, or by United States mail sent to the former employee's last known address. If the school district does not receive written acceptance of the offer within seven days, the former employee shall be deemed to have waived his or her rights to be recalled to the employment position.

Adopted on: June 17, 2024

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

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

**4038**  
**Classified Staff Defined**

The term "classified staff" means all employees other than certificated teachers and administrators. Classified staff employees are employed at will, and their employment may be amended or terminated at any time and without any cause.

Adopted on: June 17, 2024

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

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

**4039**  
**Employment of Classified Staff**

The superintendent or designee shall hire classified staff to meet personnel needs consistent with the district's budget, instructional needs, and non-instructional operations. The superintendent or designee will always conduct a criminal background check on any classified staff applicant, provided that such check shall occur only after the school district has determined that the applicant meets the minimum employment qualifications. This policy shall not prevent the school district from requiring an applicant to disclose his or her criminal record or history relating to sexual or physical abuse prior to any minimum employment qualification determination.

The superintendent or designee shall discipline and discharge classified staff as appropriate.

Adopted on: June 17, 2024

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

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

## **4041 Staff Dress and Appearance**

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.

### **I. Staff Expectations in Dress and Appearance**

#### **A. General Expectations in Dress and Appearance**

1. Certified staff, paraeducators, and office staff should generally dress in business casual attire that is clean and professional.
2. Custodial, maintenance, and transportation staff should dress in attire appropriate to the work they are performing.

#### **B. Unacceptable Forms of Dress and Appearance**

1. 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.

## **II. Enforcement**

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.

Adopted on: June 17, 2024

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

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

**4042**  
**Employee Social Security Numbers**

Nebraska law prohibits employers from using or publishing an employee's social security number except under certain specified circumstances. This district shall comply with this law and take reasonable steps to protect the confidentiality of employees' social security numbers. However, neither state law nor this policy prohibits the district from using the last four digits of an employee's social security number as an employee identification number or in any other reasonable manner.

Adopted on: June 17, 2024

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

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

## 4043

### **Professional Boundaries and Appropriate Relationships Between Employees and Students**

School district employees and student teachers or interns (“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. Employees are required to establish and maintain professional boundaries with students and must have appropriate relationships with students. They may be friendly with students, but they are the students’ teachers, not their friends, and they must take care to see that this line does not become blurred. This applies to employees’ conduct and interactions with students and to material they post on personal web sites and other social networking sites including, but not limited to, Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter. The posting or publication of messages or pictures or other images that diminish an employee’s professionalism or ability to maintain the respect of students and parents may impair his or her ability to be an effective employee. Employees are expected to behave at all times in a manner supportive of the best interests of students.

**Sexual Relationships Prohibited.** Employees are prohibited from engaging in any relationship that involves sexual contact or sexual penetration with a student while the student is a current student and for a minimum of one year after the date of the student's graduation or the date the student otherwise ceases enrollment. Sexual contact has the same meaning as in section 28-318, and sexual penetration has the same meaning as in section 28-318.

**Grooming Prohibited.** Employees are prohibited from engaging in grooming with students. Grooming means building trust with a student and individuals close to the student in an effort to gain access to and time alone with the student, with the ultimate goal of engaging in sexual contact or sexual penetration with the student, regardless of when in the student’s life the sexual contact or sexual penetration would take place.

Unless an employee can clearly and convincingly demonstrate a legitimate educational purpose, grooming behaviors and related conduct that are a violation of this policy include, but are not limited to:

- Communicating about sex when the discussion is not required by a specific aspect of the curriculum.

- Joking about matters involving sex, using double entendre or making suggestive remarks of a sexual nature.
- Displaying sexually inappropriate material or objects.
- Making any sexual advance, whether written, verbal, or physical or engaging in any activity of a sexual or romantic nature.
- Kissing of any kind.
- Dating a student or a former student within one year of the student graduating or otherwise leaving the district.
- Intruding on a student's personal space (e.g. by touching unnecessarily, moving too close, staring at a portion of the student's body, or engaging in other behavior that makes the student uncomfortable).
- Initiating unwanted physical contact with a student.
- Communicating electronically (e.g. by e-mail, text messaging, or through social media) on a matter that does not pertain to school.
- Playing favorites or permitting a specific student to engage in conduct that is not tolerated from other students.
- Discussing the employee's personal issues or problems that should normally be discussed with adults.
- Giving a student a gift of a personal nature.
- Giving a student a ride in the employee's vehicle without first obtaining the express permission of the student's parents or a school administrator.
- Taking a student on an outing without first obtaining the express permission of the student's parents or a school administrator.
- Inviting a student to the employee's residence without first obtaining the express permission of the student's parents and a school administrator.
- Going to a student's home when the student's parent or a proper chaperone is not present.
- Repeatedly seeking to be alone with a student.
- Being alone in a room with an individual student at school with the door closed.
- Any after-school hours activity with only one student.

- Any other behavior which exploits the special position of trust and authority between an employee and student.

This list is not exhaustive. Any behavior which exploits a student is unacceptable. If in doubt, ask yourself, "Would I be doing this if my family or colleagues were standing next to me?"

**Communication Between Employees and Students.** The preferred methods for employees to communicate with students are in person and school e-mail accounts. Employees may use the following personal communication systems to communicate with students: school e-mail accounts, SeeSaw, Google Classroom, Scoology, and other approved personal communication systems. A personal communication system is a device or software that provides for communication between two or more parties and is capable of receiving, displaying, or transmitting communication. Personal communication system includes, but is not limited to, a mobile or cellular telephone, an email service, or a social media platform.

Employee communications with students through a communication system generally are to be sent simultaneously to multiple recipients and not just to one student. The burden to demonstrate the appropriateness of a communication with a student only shall rest with the employee.

**Reporting a Policy Violation.** Anyone may report suspected grooming, other unacceptable employee conduct, or any violation of this policy as follows:

School District. Reports may be made to a principal, the superintendent, or the Title IX Coordinator in person, by mail, by telephone, or email.

Nebraska Department of Education. Reports may be made at: Nebraska Department of Education, Attn: Certification Investigations' Office, P.O. Box 94933, Lincoln NE 68509 or [Nde.investigations@nebraska.gov](mailto:Nde.investigations@nebraska.gov).

Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services. Reports may be made by calling the Child Abuse and Neglect Hotline at (800) 652-1999.

Law Enforcement. Reports may be made to the county sheriff at (308) 754-5433 or the Nebraska State Patrol at (800) 525-5555.

An employee is required to make a report to a principal or the superintendent if the employee reasonably believes that another employee

has violated or may have violated this policy. Minor concerns or violations shall be reported within 24 hours. Major concerns or violations shall be reported immediately. Violations committed by or concerns about the superintendent shall be reported to the school board president.

A student who feels his or her boundaries have been violated should directly inform the offender that the conduct or communication is offensive and must stop. If the student does not wish to communicate directly with the offender or if direct communication has been ineffective, the student should report the conduct or communication to a teacher, administrator, counselor, the Title IX coordinator, or other school employee with whom she or he feels comfortable.

**Retaliation Prohibited.** Retaliation for good faith reports or complaints made as a result of this policy is prohibited. Individuals who knowingly and intentionally make a false report shall be subject to discipline as provided by district policy and state law.

**Policy Violations.** Any violation of this policy by an employee may result in disciplinary action up to and including dismissal from employment and/or referral to the Nebraska Department of Education, which may result in the suspension or revocation of the employee's certificate. Any violation involving sexual or other abuse will result in referral to the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services, law enforcement, or both.

**Policy Verification.** Employees shall verify that they have received, reviewed, and understood this policy by signing an acknowledgment document indicating the same.

**No Limits on Reports to NDE.** Nothing in this policy shall be construed to limit any certificated employee's duty to report any known violation of the standards of professional practices (Title 92, Nebraska Administrative Code, Chapter 27, commonly known as Rule 27) adopted by the Nebraska Board of Education.

Adopted on: June 17, 2024  
Revised on: \_\_\_\_\_  
Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_

## **4044 Political Activity by Staff Members**

The Board recognizes its individual employees' rights of citizenship, including, but not limited to, engaging in political activities. An employee of the District may seek 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.

The following activities are prohibited during an employee's work time (including duty-free lunch and planning periods):

1. Soliciting votes or contributions for or against a particular candidate or ballot proposition.
2. Discussing with students opinions regarding a political candidate or ballot proposition unless the topic is part of the approved curriculum.
3. Preparing, displaying, wearing or distributing campaign literature, materials, or signs for or against a candidate or ballot proposition (this prohibition does not apply to bumper stickers on personal vehicles).
4. Soliciting volunteers to assist with a campaign for or against a political candidate or ballot proposition.
5. Preparing for, organizing, or participating in any political meeting, petition, rally, or event.
6. Other prohibited political activity as defined by state law.

The following activities are prohibited at all times:

1. Using any school district resources including, but not limited to, facsimile machines, copy machines, computers or e-mail accounts, for political campaign activities.
2. Using school district property or facilities for any political campaign activities, unless such use is approved pursuant to school board rules or policy.

3. Spending district funds to urge votes to vote for or against a candidate or ballot proposition
4. Requiring employees to engage in political campaign activities as part of their job duties.
5. Providing employees with additional compensation or benefits for engaging in political activities.
6. Representing an employee's personal political position as the position of the school district or the board of education.
7. Engaging in any other activity prohibited by state law.

Adopted on: June 17, 2024

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

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

**4045**  
**Milk Expression**

The district will provide reasonable break time for an employee who wishes to express breast milk for her nursing child in a place, other than a bathroom, which is shielded from view and free from intrusion from co-workers and the public for one year after the child's birth.

Adopted on: June 17, 2024

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

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

## 4046

### Internet Searches Regarding Potential Employees

Members of the administrative team or of a hiring committee (hereinafter "the committee") will conduct internet research about job applicants by using the following protocol, except that no criminal history record information check shall be made until the school district has determined that the applicant meets the minimum employment qualifications:

1. The committee may conduct internet searches using candidates' full names and any aliases. The committee may also search candidates' full names and any aliases on Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, Twitter, YouTube, and other social networking websites.
2. All applicants or all finalists must have the same research conducted about them. For example, if the committee conducts a search on Google using the name of one applicant in order to determine whether to include that applicant in the list of finalists, the committee must also conduct an identical search of all applicants' names.
3. The committee may not use deception to gain access to applicants' social networking pages, blogs, or other on-line media and will not require applicants for employment to provide the district with their username or password to personal social media accounts.
4. The committee must take reasonable steps to verify the reliability of the information obtained in the search, including consulting with the applicant for confirmation of accuracy, if appropriate.
5. The committee will consider the following information to be relevant in making hiring decisions about an applicant based on information obtained through internet research:
  - a. Disparaging remarks made about current or former co-workers, supervisors, or employers;
  - b. Discriminatory, harassing, or demeaning behavior or comments;
  - c. Unprofessional, lewd, or obscene behavior or remarks;
  - d. Criminal activity;

- e. Information which indicates the applicant will or will not be able to perform the essential functions of the position sought; and
  - f. Information which indicates that the applicant is particularly suited or unsuited to the position sought.
6. The committee will retain documents to demonstrate its compliance with this policy with other documentation relevant to the job search.

Adopted on: June 17, 2024

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

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

## 4048

### Assessment Administration and Security

The purpose of all testing and assessments is to measure students' knowledge, skills or abilities in the area tested. All staff members are prohibited from engaging in any behavior that adversely affects the validity of test scores as a measure of student achievement. This policy applies to all national, state, and local assessments, including both standardized and general classroom assessments.

#### 1. Assessment Responsibilities

- a. Each building principal, in consultation with the Superintendent and classroom teachers, will be responsible for:
  - overseeing the scheduling of state administered assessments, training all staff who administer assessments, and ensuring that all assessments, including make-up testing, is completed within required testing windows;
  - obtaining Standards, Assessment and Accountability Updates from the Department of Education and circulating the relevant portions of those updates to other staff members;
  - informing the board of education of changes to the Nebraska Student-Centered Assessment System Security Procedures; and
  - signing and enforcing the Nebraska Student-Centered Assessment System Security Agreement.
- b. Every classroom teacher or other staff member who administers assessments is responsible for:
  - complying with the Nebraska Student-Centered Assessment System Security Procedures;

- taking all reasonable and prudent steps to ensure the accuracy and integrity of all academic testing, including statewide assessments; and

- ensuring the security of all test materials.

## **2. Security Violations and Cheating**

### **a. Classroom assessments**

Staff members who suspect students of having cheated on a classroom assessment should conduct a reasonable inquiry and impose consequences on the student consistent with classroom rules and the student handbook.

### **b. State Accountability Tests**

Staff members who suspect a breach of security on State Accountability Tests, must promptly report their suspicions to the building principal or superintendent. The superintendent must notify the Department of Education's Statewide Assessment Office and follow the Department's protocol for Reporting and Investigating Test Security Violations.

Staff members who engage in or enable students to engage in academic dishonesty in any testing or assessment will be subject to discipline up to and including the immediate cancellation of their employment contract.

Adopted on: June 17, 2024

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

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

**4050**  
**Overtime and Compensatory Time**

Employees who are "non-exempt" under the Fair Labor Standards Act and who work more than 40 hours in a workweek will be paid at the rate of time-and-one-half (1½) times their regular rate of pay for all overtime hours or will be provided compensatory time. All overtime must be approved in advance by the employee's supervisor. Scheduled holidays, vacation days, time off for jury duty, and time off for sickness, emergencies or other personal reasons will not be considered hours worked for overtime purposes.

The district may grant compensatory time in lieu of overtime pay at a rate of one and one-half (1½) hours off for each hour of overtime the employee worked. Employees may accrue a maximum of 240 hours of compensatory time, which represents 160 hours of actual overtime worked. When an employee has accrued 240 hours of compensatory time, the district shall pay him/her at the rate of one and one-half (1½) times his/her regular rate of pay for each additional hour of overtime. An employee who asks to use compensatory time shall be permitted to use it within a reasonable period after the request if its use does not unduly disrupt the district's operations.

Upon termination of employment, an employee shall be paid for unused compensatory time at a rate of compensation not less than: (1) the average regular hourly rate paid to the employee during the last three years of his/her employment, or (2) the final regular hourly rate paid to the employee, whichever is higher.

Payment for unused compensatory time shall be at the employee's regular rate of pay for each hour of compensatory time, not one and one-half (1½) times the regular rate of pay.

Adopted on: June 17, 2024  
Revised on: \_\_\_\_\_  
Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_

**4051**  
**Staff and District Social Media Use**

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. This policy is intended to ensure (1) appropriate use of social media by staff and (2) appropriate control of social media accounts belonging to or affiliated with the district. Staff should also refer to the district's policy on Staff Computer and Internet Usage.

**I. Personal Versus School-Affiliated Social Media Use**

**A. Personal Social Media Use**

1. The school district will not require staff members or applicants for employment to provide the district with their username and password to personal social media accounts.
2. The district will not require staff to add anyone to the list of contacts associated with the staff member's personal social media accounts or require a staff member to change the settings on his or her personal social media accounts so that others can or cannot view their accounts.
3. Staff members whose personal social media use interferes with the orderly operation of the school or who use social media in ways that are not protected by the First Amendment may be subject to discipline by the district.
4. Staff members who wish to begin using or to continue using the school district name, programs, mascot, image or likeness as part of any social media profile must notify their supervising administrator of the use, and must secure the administrator's permission to do so.

**B. School-Affiliated Social Media Use**

1. Any social media account which purports to be “the official” account of the school district (e.g., “Centurion Wrestling”), or any of its programs, classes or entities will be considered to be an account that is used exclusively for the school district’s business purpose. Staff members may not use “official” accounts for personal use.
2. Staff are required to provide their supervising administrator with the username and password to school-affiliated social media accounts.
3. Staff may be required to interact with specified individuals on school-affiliated social media accounts.
4. When staff use school-affiliated social media accounts to comment on school-related matters, they do not do so as private citizens and are therefore not entitled to First Amendment protections. They are also not allowed to make any press releases or other official communications on behalf of the district without prior administrative approval. In other words, staff do not speak “for the district” directly or indirectly unless specifically authorized and directed to do so.

## **II. Staff Expectations in Use of Social Media – Applicable to Both Personal and School-Affiliated Use**

### **A. General Use and Conditions**

Staff must comply with all board policies, contract provisions, and applicable rules of professional conduct in their social media usage. They must comply with the board’s policy on professional boundaries between staff and students at all times and in both physical and digital environments.

Staff must obtain the consent of their building principal or the superintendent prior to posting any student-related information in order to make sure that the publication does not violate the Federal Education Records Privacy Act or any other laws. Staff must also comply with all applicable state and federal record retention requirements, even with regard to personal social media usage.

Staff must comply with all applicable laws prohibiting the use or disclosure of impermissible content, such as copyright laws, accountability and disclosure laws, and any other law governing the use of resources of a political subdivision. Questions about appropriate content should be referred to the staff member's supervising administrator.

## **B. Acceptable Use**

1. Staff may use social media for school-related communication with fellow educators, parents, and patrons. Student communication must be consistent with the district's professional boundaries policies and expectations.
2. Teachers should integrate the use of electronic resources, which may include social media, into the classroom. As the quality and integrity of content on social media 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. This includes spotting AI-generated content, fakes, spoofs, and discerning the quality and reliability of content.

## **C. Unacceptable Use**

1. Staff shall never access obscene or pornographic material while at school, on school-owned device or on school-affiliated social media accounts.
2. Staff shall not engage in any illegal activities, including the downloading and reproduction of copyrighted materials.
3. Staff shall not access social media networking sites such as Facebook, X, Instagram, Snapchat, and TikTok on school-owned devices or during school time unless permitted by district policy or preapproved by the staff member's immediate supervisor. This prohibition extends to using chat rooms, message boards, or instant messaging in social media

applications and includes posting on social networking sites using personal electronic devices.

### **III. School-Affiliated Digital Content**

#### **A. General Use and Conditions for School-Affiliated Accounts**

Staff must obtain the permission of their supervising administration prior to creating, publishing, or using any school-affiliated web pages, blogs, microblogs, social media pages or handles, or any other digital content which represents itself to be school-related, or which could be reasonably understood to be school-related. This includes any content which identifies the school district by name in the account name or which uses the school's mascot name or image.

Staff must provide administrators with the username and password for all school-affiliated accounts and must only publish content appropriate for the school setting. Staff may not provide the username and password to school-affiliated accounts to any unauthorized individual, including students and volunteers.

#### **B. Moderation of Third Party Content**

The purpose of school-related social media accounts is to disseminate information. No school-related or school-affiliated social media account covered by this policy shall permit comments by the public unless otherwise approved by the superintendent. All comment functions for applications such as Facebook and Instagram must be turned to "off" without this approval.

In the event the superintendent permits content created by anyone other than the administrator of the account to appear on the account's pages, such as comments made by students, parents, and patrons, the account administrator must monitor the content to ensure it complies with this policy. Posts, comments, or any other content made on the account's pages or tags or links to official school accounts on another account may be removed when the content meets any of the following conditions:

1. Is obscene, lewd, lascivious, true threat, or appeals to prurient interests;

2. Contains information relating to a student matter or personnel matter which is protected under or prohibited by state or federal law;
3. Contains fighting words or content that is threatening, harassing, or discriminatory;
4. Advocates, promotes, or encourages the use of drugs, alcohol, or other prohibited substances;
5. Incites or is reasonably anticipated to incite violence, illegal activity, or a material and substantial disruption to school operations or activities; or
6. Contains any other threat to the safety of students and staff.

The district may restrict access to its official accounts for violations of these rules, such as deleting comments or prohibiting comments. Accounts that are not official school accounts are those owned and operated by board members and employees for their personal use, even if they discuss school matters.

Every official school account administrator must keep a copy of any removed content or banned/blocked individual account and must provide a copy to the superintendent along with written notification for the reason the post has been removed. All questions about the appropriateness of removal must be directed to the superintendent.

Adopted on: June 9, 2025

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

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

**4052**  
**Job References to Prospective Employers**

All requests for employment-related references or employment history by prospective employers of current or former employees must be referred to a member of the administrative team. The administrator will either provide a reference in compliance with this policy or will forward the request to the superintendent.

If the school district is subject to a written separation agreement regarding a particular employee, the terms of that agreement will govern the district's response to requests for information, regardless of any written consent provided to the school district.

If the school district is not bound by a separation agreement and receives a legally enforceable written consent to release information, the district may provide the information authorized by that document. The school district may provide additional truthful information to prospective employers of current and former employees in accordance with this policy.

**Employees Suspected of Sexual Misconduct Against a Minor or Student**

Apart from the routine transmission of administrative and personnel files or unless otherwise permitted by law, the district and any employee, contractor, or agent of the school district is prohibited from providing any employee any assistance in obtaining a new job if the school district or the individual acting for the school district has probable cause to believe said employee has engaged in sexual misconduct with a student or minor in violation of the law.

Adopted on: June 17, 2024

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

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

## **4053 Conflict of Interest**

Any school district employee who meets the conditions set forth in this policy shall be deemed to have a business or financial conflict of interest.

1. Definitions. For the purposes of this policy:
  - a. Business with which an employee is associated shall include the following:
    - (1) A business in which the employee or a member of his or her immediate family is a partner, a limited liability company, or serves as a director or an officer.
    - (2) A business in which the employee or a member of his or her immediate family is a stockholder in a closed corporation with stock worth one thousand dollars or more, or he or she, or his or her immediate family owns more than a five percent equity interest or is a stockholder of publicly traded stock worth more than ten thousand dollars or more at fair market value, or which represents more than ten percent equity interest. This shall not apply to publicly traded stock under a trading account if the employee reports the name and address of the company and stockbroker.
  - b. A business association shall be defined to include an individual as a partner, limited liability company member, director or officer, or a business in which the individual or member of the immediate family is a stockholder.
  - c. Immediate family member or member of the immediate family shall mean a child residing in an individual's household, a spouse of an individual, or an individual claimed by that individual or that individual's spouse as a dependent for federal income tax purposes
2. Contracts with the School District.
  - a. No employee or member of his or her immediate family shall enter into a contract valued at two thousand dollars or more, in any one year, with this school district unless the contract is

awarded through an open and public process that (1) includes prior public notice and (2) allows the public to inspect during the school district's regular business hours the proposals considered and the contract awarded.

- b. The existence of any conflict of interest in any contract in which the employee has an interest and in which the school district is a party, or the failure to make public the employee's interest known, may render a contract null and void.
- c. The prohibition of a conflict of interest or requirement for public notice shall apply when the employee, or his or her immediate family (parent, spouse, or child) has a business association with the business involved in the contract or will receive a direct pecuniary fee or commission as a result of the contract.

3. Employing Members of the Immediate Family.

- a. An employee may employ or recommend or supervise the employment of an immediate family member if:
  - (1) The employee does not abuse his or her position.
    - (a) Abuse of official position shall include, but not be limited to, employing an immediate family member:
      - (i) who is not qualified for and able to perform the duties of the position;
      - (ii) for any unreasonably high salary;
      - (iii) who is not required to perform the duties of the position.
  - (2) The employee makes a reasonable solicitation and consideration of applications for employment.
  - (3) The employee makes a full disclosure on the record to the governing body of the school district and to the secretary of the board.
  - (4) The board approves the employment or supervisory position.

- b. The employee shall not terminate the employment of another employee so as to make funds or a position available for the purpose of hiring an immediate family member.
4. Gifts, Loans, Contributions, Rewards, or Promises of Future Employment
- a. No employee shall offer or give to the following persons anything of value, including a gift, loan, contribution, reward, or promise of future employment, based upon an agreement that a vote, official action, or judgment would be influenced thereby:
    - (1) a public official, public employee, or candidate.
    - (2) a member of the immediate family of an individual listed in Subparagraph 'a' above.
    - (3) a business with which an individual listed in Subparagraph (1) or (2) above is associated.
  - b. 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.
  - c. An employee shall not use or authorize the use of his or her public employment or any confidential information received through the public employment to obtain financial gain, other than compensation provided by law, for himself or herself or a member of his or her immediate family, or a business with which he or she is associated.
  - d. An employee shall not use or authorize the use of personnel, resources, property, or funds under that person's official care and control other than in accordance with prescribed constitutional, statutory, and regulatory procedures or use such items for personal financial gain, other than compensation provided by law.
5. Conflict of Interest Relating to Campaigning or Political Issues

- a. Except as provided below, an employee shall not authorize the use of school district personnel, property, resources, or funds for the purpose of campaigning for or against the nomination or election of a candidate or the qualification, passage, or defeat of a ballot question.
  - b. This does not prohibit an employee from making school district facilities available to a person for campaign purposes if the identity of the candidate or the support for or opposition to the ballot question is not a factor in making the facilities available or a factor in determining the cost or conditions for use.
  - c. This does not prohibit an employee from discussing and voting upon a resolution supporting or opposing a ballot question.
  - d. This does not prohibit an employee under the direct supervision of a public official from responding to specific inquiries by the press or the public as to the board's opinion regarding a ballot question or from providing information in response to a request for information.
  - e. An employee may present his or her personal opinion regarding a ballot question or respond to a request for information related to a ballot question; but in so doing, the person should clearly state that the information being presented is his or her personal opinion and is not to be considered as the official position or opinion of the school district. However, this shall not be done during a time that the individual is engaged in his or her official duties.
6. Additional Procedures Applicable to Employees With An Annual Salary and Benefits of More than \$150,000 Per Year
- a. Staff whose annual salary and benefits exceed one hundred fifty thousand dollars should assess whether they have a conflict of interest before taking any action or making any decision.
  - b. Employees have a conflict of interest pursuant to this subdivision of the policy when their actions or decisions may cause financial benefit or detriment to themselves, a business with which they are associated or a member of their immediate family.

- i. When assessing whether a conflict of interest exists, qualifying staff members should assess whether the benefit or detriment identified is distinguishable from the effects of such action on the public generally or a broad segment of the public.
    - ii. If qualifying employees are unsure as to whether a conflict of interest exists, they may apply to the Nebraska Political Accountability and Disclosure Commission for an opinion as to whether they have a conflict of interest.
  - c. Qualifying employees who determine that a conflict of interest does exist under this policy shall:
    - i. Prepare a written statement describing the matter requiring action or decision and the nature of the potential conflict;
    - ii. Deliver a copy of the statement to the secretary of the board of education, who shall enter the statement onto the public records of the school district; and
    - iii. Abstain from participating in the matter in which the employee has a conflict of interest.
- 7. Conflict. To the extent that there is a conflict between this policy and the Nebraska Political Accountability and Disclosure Act ("Act"), the Act shall control.

Adopted on: June 17, 2024

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

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

## **4054 Reporting Child Abuse or Neglect**

Because of their daily contact with school-age children, educators and other school employees are in a unique position to identify abused and/or neglected children. Nebraska law defines child abuse or neglect as knowingly, intentionally, or negligently causing or permitting a minor child 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; or (6) sexually exploited by allowing, encouraging, or forcing such person to solicit for or engage in prostitution, debauchery, public indecency, or obscene or pornographic photography, films, or depictions.

**Reporting Procedure.** 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.

**Contents of the Report.** The report to authorities shall contain the following information to the extent it is available: (1) name and position of reporting person; (2) name, address, and age of abused or neglected person; (3) address of the person or persons having custody of the abused or neglected person; (4) the nature and extent of the abuse or neglect, or the conditions and circumstances which would reasonably result in such abuse or neglect; and (5) any other information that may be useful in establishing the identity of the persons involved and cause of the abuse or neglect.

**Legal Immunity.** Nebraska statutes give legal immunity from any civil or criminal liability to any person who makes a good faith report of child abuse or neglect or participates in a judicial proceeding resulting from such a report.

Adopted on: June 17, 2024

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.

Staff members who submit their resignations to the board of education by March 15th 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. Staff members who refuse to fulfill their contractual obligations will be reported to the Professional Practices Committee of the Nebraska Department of Education.

Adopted on: June 17, 2024

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

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

## **4057 Superintendent Evaluation**

The board shall observe and evaluate the superintendent based upon actual classroom observations for an entire instructional period at least twice during his first year of employment and at least once each year thereafter. Additional evaluations may be conducted at the discretion of the board. For the purposes of this policy, "actual classroom observation" shall mean observing the superintendent performing activities that are typical of his or her position. An "entire instructional period" for administrators cannot be defined in terms of an instructional period and shall be satisfied by the actual observation of some aspect of the superintendent's work during the semester for no less than 40 minutes.

**Purpose.** The purposes of the formal job evaluation are:

1. To provide a means of rational, structured communication between the board and superintendent to create a more constructive and effective working relationship.
2. To provide a basis for commending, rewarding, and reinforcing good work, as well as identifying areas where the superintendent needs to improve.
3. To clarify the superintendent's role and inform the superintendent of the board's expectations.

**Dates.** Unless otherwise provided for in the superintendent's employment contract, the first year evaluations should take place (1) at or prior to the October board meeting, and (2) at or prior to the January board meeting. Annual evaluations shall generally take place during the month before the date in the superintendent's employment contract by which the board must notify the superintendent of its intention to consider the nonrenewal or amendment of the contract. In the absence of such a contract provision, the annual evaluation should take place at or prior to the March board meeting. The Superintendent shall remind the Board members in writing at least 45 days before the date of each upcoming evaluation and shall make his evaluation an agenda item for the board meeting.

**Evaluation Document.** The superintendent shall submit a recommended evaluation document to the board. The board shall meet and discuss the proposed document with the superintendent. The board may amend and adopt the proposed evaluation document. The board may amend the document or adopt a new document without amending this policy. The superintendent shall submit the evaluation document to the Nebraska Department of Education.

**Evaluation Procedures.** Each board member shall have the opportunity to complete a draft evaluation document. The board president shall compile the individual draft evaluations into a single and final evaluation, provide a copy to the superintendent, and discuss it with him or her. If the superintendent's evaluation is conducted at a board meeting, the superintendent's evaluation may be conducted in closed session if it is necessary to prevent needless injury to the superintendent's reputation and if he or she has not requested it be done in open session.

**Deficiencies.** If deficiencies are noted in the superintendent's work performance, the board shall provide the superintendent at the time of the observation with a list of deficiencies and a list of suggestions for improvement and assistance in overcoming the deficiencies. The board shall also provide the superintendent with follow-up evaluations and assistance when deficiencies remain, a timeline for improvement, and sufficient time to improve. In the alternative, the board may rely upon the superintendent's education, training, and expertise and require him or her to submit a "list of suggestions for improvement" or plan of improvement for the board's consideration.

**Personnel File.** The evaluation shall be signed by the board president (or other member of the board) and the superintendent. The superintendent shall place a copy of the evaluation in his or her personnel file. The superintendent may provide a written response to the evaluation to the board. A copy of the response shall also be placed in the superintendent's personnel file. The board may meet with the superintendent to discuss the written response.

**Policy Limitation.** The evaluation procedures are included in this policy as a result of the board's statutory obligation to evaluate the superintendent and do not give the superintendent any rights not provided by statute. The board's failure to comply with any procedures provided in this policy but not required by law shall not prohibit the board from taking any action regarding the superintendent's employment, up to and including the nonrenewal, amendment, or cancellation of the employment contract.

Adopted on: June 9, 2025

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

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

**4058**  
**Confidentiality in Counseling and Guidance**

The school district provides students with a certificated school guidance counselor. Information that students provide to counselors is confidential but not legally privileged. The counselor will attempt to respect the privacy of student disclosures, but will share all relevant information with other education professionals as appropriate or as directed. The counselor will also contact parents and law enforcement officials as appropriate.

Records of the counseling relationship, including interview notes, test data, correspondence, tape recordings and other documents, are to be considered professional information for use in counseling, not part of the student's education record.

When a counselor is in doubt about what information to release, he or she should discuss the matter with the building principal or with the superintendent.

Adopted on: June 17, 2024

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

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

**4059**  
**Behavioral and Mental Health Training**

All public school employees who interact with students and any other appropriate personnel are required to complete behavioral and mental health training with a focus on suicide awareness and prevention training every year. The training may include, but need not be limited to, topics such as identification of early warning signs and symptoms of behavioral and mental health issues in students, appropriate and effective responses for educators to student behavioral and mental health issues, trauma-informed care, and procedures for making students and parents and guardians aware of services and supports for behavioral and mental health issues.

The superintendent will determine the appropriate personnel required to receive the training. The training materials for this training must be included in the Nebraska Department of Education’s list of approved training materials. The length of the training shall be a reasonable amount as determined by the school board.

These employees must complete the training designated by the school district or superintendent no later than October 31 of each school year or within 30 days of their initial employment, whichever is later. Failure to complete this training may subject the employee to employment-related discipline.

Adopted on: June 9, 2025

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

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

## **4060 School Vehicle Use**

**Pupil Transportation Vehicles.** 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. See Title 92, Nebraska Administrative Code, Chapter 91 – Regulations Governing Driver Qualifications and Operational Procedures for Pupil Transportation Vehicles ("Rule 91") Title 92, Nebraska Administrative Code, Chapter 92 – Regulations Governing the Minimum Equipment Standards and Safety Inspection Criteria for Pupil Transportation Vehicles ("Rule 92"), available on NDE's website ([www.education.ne.gov](http://www.education.ne.gov)). A pupil transportation vehicle is any vehicle utilized to carry school children as sponsored and approved by the school board and that conforms to the Nebraska Department of Education definitions of pupil transportation vehicles listed as School Bus, Activity Bus, Small Vehicle, or Coach Bus.

**School Vehicles Other Than Those Transporting Students.** School district employees, board members, and other elected or appointed school district officials (collectively "school personnel") 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. School district vehicles may not be used for personal purposes unless the vehicle, or the use of it, is provided to an employee as a condition of an employment contract or it is leased to school personnel as allowed by law. School personnel must operate school vehicles in accordance with all applicable federal, state, and local laws.

**Driver Qualifications.** School personnel who wish to use a vehicle owned or leased by the school district and who are not transporting students must:

- Possess and provide a copy of a valid Motor Vehicle operator's license.
- Be able to read and comprehend driving regulations and written test questions.
- Obtain and provide a copy of his or her current driving record from the department of motor vehicles at least one time per school year to the superintendent or his or her designee.
- Be at least 19 years of age.

School personnel must notify the superintendent or his or her designee about any change in their driving status or eligibility.

School personnel who have been convicted of any of the following or who meet any of the following conditions will not be allowed to drive a school district vehicle:

- If the citation or conviction occurred at any time—Motor vehicle homicide or driving under the influence – 3<sup>rd</sup> or subsequent offense;
- If the citation or conviction occurred within the last 3 years - Driving under the influence of drugs or alcohol, failure to render aid in accident you are involved in, speeding 15 miles per hour or more above the posted speed limit, reckless driving (willful or otherwise), careless driving, leaving the scene of an accident, failure to yield to a pedestrian with bodily injury to the pedestrian, or negligent driving; or
- Have accumulated 10 points or more under an operator’s license point system within the last 2 years.

The superintendent or his or her designee has the discretion to prohibit school personnel from driving a school vehicle for a citation or arrest for the above offenses or any other offense or reason. The superintendent or his or her designee will make the final determination about the use of school district vehicles.

**Electronic Communication While Driving.** Unless the superintendent or a principal grants an exception to allow verbal communication on an as needed basis for specific district-related work based upon an employee’s duties and responsibilities, 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. This prohibition includes but is not limited to answering or making telephone calls, engaging in telephone conversations, and reading or responding to e-mails, instant messages, text messages or other visual media.

**Tobacco, Alcohol, and Controlled Substances.** The use of any tobacco product, including the use of vapor products, alternative nicotine products, or any other such look-alike product, is not permitted in a school vehicle at any time. The use or possession of any alcohol or controlled substance (unless legally prescribed to school personnel by a physician) is not permitted in a school vehicle at any time. All drivers shall follow and be subject to Drug Free Workplace Policy and Drug Policy Regarding Drivers Policy.

**Traffic Accidents, Infractions, Violations, or Citations.** School personnel who receive a citation or warning citation from a law enforcement officer or are involved in an accident while operating a school vehicle must report the citation to the superintendent or his or her designee as soon as practicable,

but no later than 24 hours of receipt. The superintendent must report his or her accidents, infractions, violations, or citations to the board president.

Adopted on: June 17, 2024

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

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

## 4061

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

**Reporting Workplace Injuries.** Staff members who are injured while performing duties or who witness workplace injuries must report them to the superintendent or superintendent's designee as soon as possible after being injured or witnessing an injury. Staff members must prepare written statements regarding the injuries they sustained or witnessed when they are asked to do so by the school district. Failure to report a workplace injury as a witness will constitute insubordination and neglect of duty and may result in adverse employment action up to and including termination or cancellation of employment. Failure to report workplace injuries may also result in delayed or forfeited benefits to which an employee may otherwise be entitled.

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

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

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

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

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

Adopted on: June 17, 2024

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

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

## **4062 Locker Room Supervision**

Staff members, coaches, sponsors, and students must comply with the requirements of this policy while using locker rooms at the school district or at other locations.

Staff members, coaches, and sponsors must appropriately supervise students in locker rooms and other locations where students dress, change, or engage in similar activities. This supervision must occur at all times during curricular and extracurricular activities and includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- Entering and walking through the entire locker room at regular and irregular intervals to provide direct supervision and to assess student behavior.
- Maintaining an orderly locker room free from “horseplay” and other prohibited conduct.
- Maintaining a visual presence.
- Adequately addressing any misbehaviors.
- Escorting students to and from the locker room and the activity or instructional area.
- Unlocking the locker room so that students may enter, and locking the locker room after all students have exited the locker room.
- Searching the locker room to determine that all students have exited the locker room before locking it.
- Ensuring that the locker room remains locked during any activity.

If a student is found missing during an activity, the staff member, coach, or sponsor or adult designee shall check the locker room for the missing student.

The locker room must be locked at all times when unsupervised.

Only students whose team or activity is currently playing or are in-season or who are involved in a school-sponsored activity that requires or allows presence in the locker room are allowed access to the locker room before or after the regular school day.

Students are not allowed to enter or reenter the locker room without appropriate supervision.

If the staff member, coach, or sponsor is the opposite sex of the students, he or she may designate another adult of the same sex as the students to provide the required locker room supervision. This delegation does not remove ultimate responsibility from the staff member, coach, or sponsor who is subject to the obligations under this policy to ensure that such obligations are

met. By allowing their students to participate in an activity with a cross-gender coach, parents/guardians consent to the entry of the staff member or his or her designee into the locker room at any time as necessary to maintain student safety and order.

Staff members, coaches, and sponsors must remain with students until they are picked up by the parent, guardian, or other authorized person or the student leaves in his or her own transportation. Students must never be left unattended after a game, practice, or other school-sponsored activity. In other words, the staff member, coach, or sponsor should be the first one to arrive at the activity and the last one to leave.

Cell phones and other devices with visual or auditory recording capability may not be used in the locker room at any time or for any reason.

Under no circumstance may a staff member, coach, or sponsor delegate any responsibility under this policy to a student or other minor.

School administrators or their designees may make random checks to assess policy compliance.

Adopted on: June 17, 2024

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

Amended on: \_\_\_\_\_

## **4063**

### **Extra Duty Assignments for Certificated Staff**

Certificated staff members may be assigned extra duties such as coaching a sport, sponsoring a student club, or directing other extracurricular activities. Extra duty assignments shall be assigned at the discretion of the administration.

Full time certificated staff who are anticipated to work more than 1100 hours each school year are expected to work additional hours each month of the contract year in fulfillment of their extra duty assignments. Part-time certificated staff who are anticipated to spend fewer than 1100 hours in their regular teaching assignments each school year must track the hours they spend on extra duty assignments and submit those hours to the district bookkeeper monthly.

Certificated staff covered by the collective bargaining agreement between the board and the local education association will be paid the salary amounts set in that contract for performance of their extra duties.

Subject to the other provisions of this policy, certificated employees assigned to extra duty assignments shall be paid in 12 equal installments beginning with the first regular pay period of the contract year in which the services will be rendered. The payment for exempt employees assigned extra duty sponsorship duties after the beginning of their contract for a given school year shall be distributed evenly across the remaining pay periods for the school year beginning with the first pay period following the assignment.

Certificated employees who are assigned extra duties will be informed of that assignment in an assignment letter.

In addition to their regular teaching duties, teachers with extra duty will render service hours toward the performance of each of their extra duty assignments throughout the entirety of the contract year. This time should include tasks such as: continuously reviewing best practices for coaching/sponsoring your extra duty; determining any off-season professional development or meetings which you should attend; determining any pre-season or pre-event camps or activities which students should attend; supervising selected pre-season camps or activities; creating records and completing paperwork related to the extra duty; communicating with selected media outlets about the extra duty; training and preparing students prior to the beginning of the competition/activity/event schedule; reviewing or planning the competition/event schedule; studying film, selecting music or scripts, designing sets and costumes, arranging choreography and otherwise

preparing for the competition or season; scheduling student meetings and events; actively supervising participating students before, during and after the season/event; study of best practices in sportsmanship and student character growth; and any other identified duties.

In the event a certificated staff member is assigned an extra duty assignment after the beginning of the school year in which the activity occurs, the district will report the extra duty pay and hours to the Nebraska State Retirement System beginning in the month when the teacher undertakes his/her assignment.

In the event a certificated staff member's overall employment and/or extra duty assignment is terminated prior to the end of the school year, he/she will not be paid any remaining amounts for extra duty service and those hours will not be reported to the Nebraska State Retirement System.

Adopted on: June 17, 2024  
Revised on: \_\_\_\_\_  
Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_

## **4064**

### **Transporting Students in Employee Vehicles**

School employees shall not use their personal vehicle to transport students except for those students who reside in the employee's own household or if an emergency exists. If an emergency occurs, the employee will contact the administration and parents whenever practicable before providing the emergency transportation.

Adopted on: September 9, 2024

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

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

## THERAPY ANIMAL REQUEST FORM

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
School Building

\_\_\_\_\_  
Employee/Owner

Type of Animal: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Animal: \_\_\_\_\_

Is the animal certified?  Yes  No

Has the animal received any training or certification (such as AKC Canine Good Citizen)?  Yes  
 No

If yes, please provide details (attach any certifications or proof of training):

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Is the animal current on all required immunizations and vaccinations?

Yes  No

Does the animal have an ID that indicates it is a therapy animal?

Yes  No

I have attached the following documentation:

- Proof of current licensure
- Proof of current vaccinations and immunizations from a licensed veterinarian
- Declaration page indicating adequate liability insurance coverage

I have read and understand the school district's Animal Policy. I will abide by the terms of that Policy. I understand that if the therapy animal is out of control, not housebroken, presents a threat to others in the school, or otherwise interferes with the educational process, the school district may exclude or remove my therapy animal from school district property.

I agree to be responsible for any damage to school property or injury to personnel, students, or others caused by the animal. I agree to indemnify, defend, and hold harmless the school district from and against any and all claims, actions, suits, judgments and demands brought by any party arising on account of, or in connection with, any activity of or damage caused by my therapy animal.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Owner Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

## APPROVAL

\_\_\_\_\_  
School Official Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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

**Note:** This form is valid until the end of the current school year. It must be renewed prior to the start of each subsequent school year or whenever a different therapy animal will be used.